



Phuket Gazette

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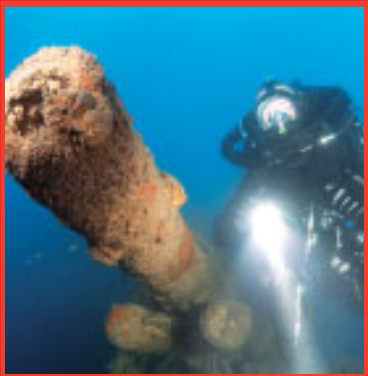
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The Gazette looks at the discovery of the USS Lagarto. Photo by Charles Shaw.

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German teenager still in jail

By Stephen Fein and Dan Waites
PHUKET CITY: Despite efforts by the German Embassy, a teenager arrested on charges of sexually abusing minors remains in detention at the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center almost three months after his arrest.

The youth, who was just 17 when he was arrested on March 9, recently spent his 18th birthday behind bars.

He is accused of conspiring with Briton Dax Young, 41, to molest young schoolboys in Patong.

The arrests followed an investigation by the Department of Special Investigations (DSI) and Kathu Police.

Yet the German diplomatic mission sees the teenager as a victim, not a perpetrator.

German Honorary Consul for Phuket Dirk Naumann told the Gazette he was confident the youth was not sexually attracted to boys, but was forced by dire financial circumstances to do the Briton's bidding as a



The juvenile detention center where the young German is being held.

way of helping his family.

The young man's mother died four weeks ago in hospital. She spent the last few years of her life seriously ill with chronic respiratory disease, requiring expensive hospital treatment on several occasions.

She denied she ever received money from the youth, a claim the German diplomatic mission is skeptical about.

What both parties agreed on is that the boy had himself been abused by Mr Young for several years prior to his arrest.

"I visited the boy last week. He is in good spirits and hoping the Thai prosecutor and police will see it the same way as everyone else, that he is a victim and not a perpetrator," Mr Naumann said.

Dr Hanns Schumacher, the German Ambassador to Thailand, was so concerned about the boy's situation he met former Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong to discuss the case on March 16.

But there has since been little progress in the German diplomatic mission's efforts to expedite the youth's procession through the legal system.

"The boy has now got his own lawyer. He is no longer represented by the same lawyer as the British man [Dax Young]," Mr Naumann said.

A Swiss legal advisor at the Bangkok law firm representing the youth told the Gazette that he was unable to comment on the case because it is still under investigation.

Phi Phi tourist deaths possibly food poisoning

PHUKET CITY: The mysterious deaths of two female tourists on Phi Phi Island earlier this month were possibly caused by food poisoning, preliminary lab findings suggest.

Krabi Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pasin Noksakul told the Gazette on May 25 that researchers at the Police Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bangkok have found signs of microbial infection in blood samples taken from the bodies of 27-year-old Jill St Onge from the US and Norwegian Julie Bergheim, 22.

Gen Pasin said that results from the Forensics Institute were preliminary and not yet official. He was unable to say whether the infectious agent or agents were viral or bacterial, but said

he was told by the institute that both women's blood contained microbes consistent with those that cause food poisoning, likely from contaminated seafood.

The two women, who stayed in adjacent rooms at the Laleena guesthouse on Phi Phi Don Island at the beginning of May, died within hours of each other at Phi Phi Island Hospital after severe vomiting.

In blood samples taken from Ms Bergheim the researchers found three different kinds of potentially harmful microbes, while blood samples from Ms St Onge contained only one, Gen Pasin said.

Although it is not normal procedure to release results until they are official, Gen Pasin said that he wanted to quell wide-

spread speculation over the cause of the deaths on internet blogsites and chat forums.

Such theories have included exposure to toxic gas from a nearby wastewater treatment plant, problems with the air conditioning in the rooms, accidental overdoses of the 4 X 100 drug cocktail that has been gaining popularity in the south over the past year and even murder by poisoning.

Gen Pasin revealed that the Forensics Institute is continuing to study the microbes to positively identify them and test their virility.

"I don't know when the official results will be released, but the commander of the Royal Thai Police has ordered the lab work expedited because the embassies

of the two deceased tourists want to know the cause of death as soon as possible," he said.

Gen Pasin ruled out the possibility that [methane] gas emanating from the nearby wastewater treatment plant might have been the cause, saying the plant had been in the area for a long time with no ill effects on local people or tourists.

"Had a dangerous gas spread into the guesthouse, many more people would have been affected," he said.

Police forensic experts have already collected a variety of samples including tissue paper, air conditioner filters as well as water and soil samples in outside areas near the guesthouse for analysis, he added.

-Kamol Pirat

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Land chief warns foreigners against buying land using Thai nominees

PHUKET CITY: The director general of the Land Department has reiterated that foreigners using Thai nominees to buy land anywhere in the country will have their land title deeds revoked if caught – even if the nominee in question is a lawfully wedded spouse.

Land Office Director Anuwat Meteewiboonwut made the comments during a recent stop in Phuket as part of a nationwide inspection tour of 30 provinces.

The tour is aimed at improving public services by land officials in three areas: dress, conduct when dealing with the public and working harder to eliminate a backlog of work.

Many members of the public have complained that it takes up to a year to complete a transaction that should only take one day, he said.

Mr Anuwat, a former governor of both Phang Nga and Samut Prakan provinces, said he was satisfied on the first two points, but rated the general level of success among land officials

nationwide at speeding up their work rate at “only 30%”.

The next round of inspection tours will come in July, after which time personnel changes will be inevitable if service does not improve, he said.

“We have to keep pressure on them, otherwise the work will not get done,” he said.

As for foreigners seeking to buy homes in Phuket, they can do so through the Condominium Act, which allows foreign ownership of up to 40% of any project, he said.

Foreigners cannot use a Thai spouse as a nominee to buy property in Thailand, however.

“If the Thai spouse has enough money to buy the house that is fine, but if the Thai has no money and uses money given to him or her by a foreigner to acquire property that is evading the law. If we check and find out later that a Thai person has been using money from a foreigner to buy land anywhere in Thailand, we will revoke title deeds,” he said.

Mr Anuwat also said the pro-

visions of [Ministry of Interior] ministerial order 43 makes it difficult to issue land documents quickly, as it requires action from a number of different agencies. Desire for land on the island has also led to encroachment problems here.

As a key market for property companies, Phuket is a constant source of problems and complaints to the director general’s office, he admitted.

“We will try to resolve these problems and develop our personnel continuously in order to provide high quality services. Fortunately the governor of Phuket used to work in the Land Department, so he understands the procedures and can help co-ordinate all the agencies involved to provide better service,” he said.

Mr Anuwat was speaking of Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who served as Land Office director in Nakhon Pathom in 1997 and as deputy director of the Land Department nationwide in 2003.

Source: Siangtai

Phuket PO Box 101 is a hit, says governor

PHUKET CITY: The number 101 is a cinch to remember for those who have read George Orwell’s grim parable of totalitarianism, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, or taken a freshman college class.

Whether this fact figured in Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop’s thinking when he launched PO Box 101 – an address any Phuket resident can use to inform the governor, anonymously, of crimes in their neighborhood – is unclear.

Still, Gov Wichai says PO Box 101 has been a success since its launch on April 27.

“PO Box 101 is great,” he said. “I’ve had lots of people send me letters. They send me full

descriptions of drug operations and other crimes. They even draw me maps.”

The governor said a PO Box 101 tip-off resulted in the arrest of a man he described as “the chief *ya bah* dealer in Phuket” referring to the arrest of three Thai men on May 19 found in possession of 4,670 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets.

The governor claims to read every letter himself. As well as drugs, Gov Wichai said he had received letters about land encroachment and the conduct of government officers.

Gov Wichai employed the very same scheme in Phang Nga and Singburi when he was gov-

ernor of those provinces.

A post box already stands outside the Governor’s Mansion on Narisorn Road, a legacy of the previous governor, Dr Preecha Ruangjan. Members of the public can drop letters into the box by hand.

Including letters, emails and telephone calls from the public transcribed by the governor’s staff, the governor has received 204 letters from the public since April 27. Anyone wishing to inform Gov Wichai of a crime should write to Provincial Governor of Phuket, PO Box 101, Phuket City, 83000.

-*Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachron and Dan Waites*



Hand cleansing lotion distributed by Phuket Public Health Office for passengers at Phuket Municipal Bus Station last week as part of the province’s defense against swine flu.

Government revenue from Phuket real estate deals nosedives

PHUKET CITY: In an indication that the Phuket real estate market is not quite as robust as some like to suggest, statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Land Office reveal that income on land and property sales transactions was down over 70% year-on-year over the first four months of 2009.

There were a total of 1,945 transactions involving land title deeds for the period from January to April.

The total value of land transactions for the period was Bt883.24 billion baht, with the vast majority (Bt881.52bn) for land with pre-existing structures.

Income from transactions from January to April 2008 totaled Bt333.5 million baht.

Income for the same period this year was just Bt97.8m, down almost 71%.

The largest reduction was in business tax collection, which is normally paid for by the seller at a cost of 3.3% of appraised value. This figure fell from Bt132.0m to Bt18.2m year-on-year.

There was a similar downward trend in income from transfer fees, normally paid for by the buyer at 2% of registered value. These plummeted from Bt104.3m to Bt13.6m year-on-year.

Withholding tax, paid for by the seller at 1% of appraised value, fell from Bt85.7m to Bt58.6m year-on-year.

Stamp duty, paid for by the seller at 0.5% of registered value, fell from Bt11.6m to Bt7.5m.

Property analyst Bill Barnett of *thephuketinsider.com* told the *Gazette* that the figures reflect a “wait and see” attitude on the part of Thai investors, many of whom speculate by buying several units at a time without the intention of living in them.

Describing the figures as somewhat volatile, he cautioned that they are not a reliable yardstick for trends in the upscale villa market, where many sales are to foreigners on a leasehold basis or through offshore accounts, and thus not included in the Land Department figures.

-*Gazette staff*

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Young Brit dies in bike accident

PHUKET CITY: A young British teacher died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on Chao Fa East Road on the morning of Thursday May 21.

Phillip Ian Mussell, 24, was returning to his home in the Chalong area following a night out drinking with friends at the Roxy Bar in Phuket City when the accident happened at around 3.45am.

Duty Officer Kitthiphum Thinthalang of Phuket City Police said Mr Mussell's bike lost its grip on the road near the entrance to the Phuket Villa 3 housing estate. It was raining heavily at the time.

The bike smashed into the back of a pickup parked at the side of the road, causing Mr Mussell to sustain severe internal injuries.

"We didn't find any motorcycle helmet at the scene," Capt Kitthiphum said.

The victim was brought to Vachira Hospital Phuket at around 4.10am. Doctors operated on him but were unable to save his life. He died of abdominal injuries at 6:45am.

Mr Mussell had lived in Thailand for at least a year and a half, working as an English teacher for the ECC language school.

Merseyside Police informed Mr Mussell's family in Liverpool of his death later that day.

British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter said, "I've spoken to the people from ECC. They said he was very well liked by all of his colleagues. The lady I spoke to said 'he was such a nice guy'."

On May 24 friends held a remembrance ceremony for Mr Mussell on Nai Harn Beach, his favorite in Phuket. Writing on the *Phuket Gazette*/Thai Visa web forum, one said, "We cried for him, prayed for him and remembered him with his beautiful smile on his face. We will never forget you Phil. Rest in peace mate."

-Dan Waites

Man loses second leg in shop explosion

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod



A police officer inspects the scene of the explosion on May 26.

KOH SIREH: Lightning struck twice for an unfortunate Phuket shop owner who reportedly lost a leg in an explosion on May 26, just two years after a similar accident cost him his other leg.

Mr Wanchai, the store owner, was inside his air-conditioning service shop in Koh Sireh when the explosion ripped through the building, seriously injuring him and another man.

The blast also caused extensive damage to the walls and roof

of the single-story shophouse, which has been operating in Koh Sireh for about three years.

According to police at the scene, a large gas tank used for servicing air-conditioning units exploded in the shop at about 10am. Both the injured men were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

According to a neighbor who rushed to help the victims, the unlucky Mr Wanchai had already lost a leg in a similar accident about two years ago.

Body found on Nai Harn Beach still unidentified



Nai Harn Beach in Rawai, where the decomposing body of an unknown Caucasian washed ashore on May 21.

RAWAI: The heavily tattooed body of an unknown Caucasian man washed up on Nai Harn Beach on May 21.

Police had yet to identify the man as this edition went to print.

Police suspect the man drowned while swimming three or four days before and was brought by currents to Nai Harn Beach, where it washed ashore.

The body was in an advanced state of decomposition, with its skull exposed.

One local newspaper carried a graphic photograph of the body, clothed only in a pair of red underpants, on its front page on May 22.

The body showed signs of severe head injuries, though police believe they were most likely sustained after death.

The man was about 165cm tall, with tattoos covering most of his body.

Chalong Police were on the scene shortly after receiving a report that a body had washed up on the beach that morning.

Rescue workers from the Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation took the body to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination.

Chalong Police are requesting that anyone with knowledge of a missing person that matches the description above contact them immediately and are contacting other police stations on

Phuket to determine if the man has been reported missing or if there have been reports of tourists being lost at sea.

The body showed no outward signs of foul play. Police suspect the man drowned elsewhere off Phuket and was carried into the area by local currents.

Police say an autopsy will need to be performed before they can comment further on possible causes.

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Swede dead of apparent coke overdose

CHALONG: Police have confirmed that a 48-year-old Swedish man found dead in a guesthouse late on the afternoon of May 23 appears to have died of a cocaine overdose.

Mikael Lennart Matsson was found in a room at the Happy

Days guesthouse, located at Chalong Bay.

He was found lying face up on the bed, with saliva coming from his mouth.

Inside a drawer, police found about one gram of cocaine and unspecified drug paraphernalia.

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Star mayor's killers arrested in Songkhla

SONGKHLA: Police have arrested two men, including a serving police officer, for the murder of the mayor of Khlong Hae Municipality.

On May 24, Songkhla Provincial Police Commander Wirun Iamphaichit announced the arrest of Somjai "Ning" Chaithawon, 36, and Sen Sgt Maj Aran "Erp" Thongphun, 39, for the murder of 39-year-old Aphichat Sangkhachat.

Mr Aphichat was shot dead in downtown Haad Yai on May 16.

Police discovered that before the attack, Mr Somjai was seen practising shooting an M-16 assault rifle in a rubber plantation behind his house, Maj Gen Wirun said.

When police searched the home, they found the weapon and 16 empty cartridge cases. Forensic tests showed that the cases matched those found at the crime scene, Gen Wirun said.

Mr Somjai confessed that he was the man who shot Mr Aphichat. The truck used in the killing was driven by a man who he knows only by his nickname, "Odd". The truck was borrowed

from Sen Sgt Maj Aran, a relative of Mr Somjai who is a serving officer at Pak Ro Police Station in Songkhla's Singha Nakhon District, Gen Wirun said.

Mr Somjai said that his wife Anchalee Chaithawon was a member of Khlong Hae municipal council in Mr Aphichat's team. Mr Aphichat recently removed her from a position of council secretary.

Mr Aphichat had also recently removed Santhep Sritriphan, a close friend of Mr Somjai, from his position as secretary of the mayor's office.

Mr Somjai confessed that he killed Mr Aphichat in retaliation for the sackings. Mr Somjai said that when Mr Aphichat had invited Mrs Anchalee to stand for election in his team, he had promised Mr Aphichat that if he later betrayed Mrs Anchalee, he would kill him personally.

Police are still hunting for the driver of the truck used in the murder.

They are also investigating whether anyone else was involved.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Stem cell treatment to be banned

BANGKOK: Starting in September, when a decree to regulate human stem cell study comes into effect, any hospital or medical school found to be carrying out tests in violation of the rules or without permission will face withdrawal of its licence, the Medical Council has announced.

Council chairman Dr Somsak Lohlekha said the decree will not allow treatments based on the use of human stem cells.

"Only studies or research in relation to human stem cells will be allowed, with mandatory approval from a national regulatory body," he added.

The decree will regulate study and research into the use of human stem cells in treating all diseases, especially those involving dermatology, treatment of veins, organ transplants, and all cardiac diseases except for bone marrow transplant and blood disorders.

Source: The Nation

Keigo talks to Japanese dad



DADDY'S BOY: Japanese-Thai boy Keigo Sato smiles after talking to his long-lost father by telephone at the Japanese Embassy on May 22.

BANGKOK: Thai-Japanese boy Keigo Sato got to talk to his Japanese father during a long-distance phone call at the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok for about 50 minutes.

The embassy spokesman told reporters at 4:40 pm that the boy had talked to his father inside a room where the boy's aunt, a Japanese interpreter and officials of Thai Foreign Ministry were also present.

The spokesman declined to disclose what the boy talked to his father about, but the child appeared with red eyes when he came out of the room.

"I am glad to talk to dad but I didn't see him," the boy said.

Keigo's story has been a dominant story in the Thai press ever since he was found approaching Japanese tourists at a temple in Phichit, where he showed them pictures of his long-lost father hoping they could somehow reunite him with his dad.

The child has been at the center of a media frenzy ever since, with cameras following his every movement - including his first day back at school.

Since the story broke, no fewer than three other Thai-Japanese kids have stepped forward to seek assistance in tracking down long-lost Japanese dads.

Source: The Nation

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Queer News

Eggciting find for Phang Nga villagers



NO YOLK: Villagers flocked to burn incense and pay their respects to the egg, on display in front of discoverer Maitree Yaifai's house.

PHANG NGA: A wave of excitement has swept through a village in Phang Nga province over the discovery there of a giant egg of unknown origin.

Maitree Yaifai, of Village 2, Tambon Kheuk Khak in Takua Pa District, said he found the egg in a dry patch of grass not far from his house when he was out fishing.

The giant egg weighs about a kilogram and has a circumference of 16 inches.

On noticing the egg, Mr Maitree tapped it with his knife, but didn't dare pick it up in case it was a giant snake egg. He was worried the mother snake would see him and come to protect its offspring, he said.

When he got back to his house, Mr Maitree consulted his neighbours. They, being somewhat less fearful than him, wanted to go and get the egg so they could find out what kind of animal it came from.

Earlier this month Mr Maitree had the egg on display outside his house for all to see. Villagers were flocking to the egg

to light incense and pay their respects to it. Many were hoping it would bring them good fortune.

Wisut Khwanon, 58, a neighbour who had come to see the egg, said he thought it must have come from an animal with a very big body. He said the egg was found near an old, deep lake where a large beast could be living. Alternatively, a sea creature could have pulled itself out of the depths to lay the egg, Mr Wisut speculated.

Local fishermen occasionally caught massive crocodile-type creatures in their nets, which could have laid the egg, Mr Wisut said. None of the fishermen have ever been able to land the creatures as they always destroyed the nets before being brought to shore, he added.

Wiwon Yingwansiri, from the Phang Nga Livestock Office, said the egg looked very similar to an ostrich egg, but more detailed tests would have to be carried out before she could be sure.

Source: KomChadLuek/Thai Rath

Hunt for killer bear owner

PHATTALUNG: Police are hunting for the owner of a bear that killed one villager and mauled another in Khuan Khanon district on May 20.

The bear was shot dead later that day.

The badly mauled body of 56-year-old Nom Thepnuai was found around 3pm near a lake in tambon Phanang Tung by friends who went searching for him. A large Asiatic black bear was hiding in a grass tussock nearby the body.

On seeing the villagers, it charged out and attacked Charoen Muennu, 42.

Another friend, Phaibun Kaengkong, 28, ran away and alerted police.

Mr Charoen survived the attack, but sustained sever injuries to his right leg.

A team of police, forestry officers and civil defence volunteers led by Khuan Khanon District Chief Pitilert Suwannakasa set out to hunt for the animal.

At 5pm they found the bear in a grassy area by the lake.

The team intended to wait for officers from the Khao Natad Wildlife Breeding Center to come and subdue the bear with a tranquillizer gun. However, the bear was shot when it looked as if it was preparing to charge.

An examination found around 60 bullet wounds in the animal.

Phatthalung Provincial Governor Winon Thongsakul said on May 22 that he had been informed by wildlife officials who had examined the carcass that the bear had previously been kept in captivity. Gov Winon said that he has ordered police to hunt down its owner.

The governor added that he did not believe the incident would have a negative impact on tourism to the Thale Noi Wildlife Sanctuary, Phatthalung's top tourism destination, which is very close to the scene of the attacks.

Source: Kom Chad Luek / MCOT

Gambling abbot goes on the run

KHON KAEN: The top monk in Khon Kaen Province has disappeared after allegedly embezzling more than eight million baht to fund a gambling habit.

The former Phra Racharanuwat, better known as Luangpoo Pakonhas, has not been seen since he voluntarily defrocked before the abbot of a temple in Sakon Nakhon Province on May 1.

Phra Racharanuwat, 65, was abbot of Wat Srichan Phraaramluang in Khon Kaen City.

He also held the position of Provincial Dean of Khon Kaen Province for the Dhamma-yut sect of Buddhism.

On May 19, Phra Thammadilok, Dean of Dhammayut Sangha Region 9 in Isarn, confirmed that Phra Racharanuwat was suspected of having taken more than eight million baht of funds belonging to the monk-hood to fund his gambling habit.

Phra Racharanuwat is believed to have lost millions gambling on football scores and the underground lottery, Phra Thammadilok said.

Phra Racharanuwat allegedly borrowed around three million baht from various religious organizations and embezzled around five million baht from his own temple.

He also skimmed money from donations, car parking fees and rent paid to use temple lands, Phra Thammadilok said.

The Office of National Buddhism is currently investigating the accounts of Wat Srichan Phraaramluang, he said.

A police report has also been filed, he added.

Phra Thammadilok said that he had also heard rumors that Phra Racharanuwat had been dealing *ya bah* (methamphetamine), but had seen no evidence to confirm the allegations.

Phra Racharanuwat's defrocking in Sakon Nakhon province had been done unofficially without the approval of the Sangha authorities, he added.

Both the police and Buddhist authorities are now hunting for Phra Racharanuwat.

Source: Khao Sod

Prison too good for drug dealers, says minister

BANGKOK: Justice Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga said on May 23 that he was thinking of imprisoning drug-dealing prison inmates on some deserted island or old oil rig to part them from their old habit.

"I'm thinking about asking the Royal Thai Navy to find an isolated island or unused old oil-drilling platform, possibly in the Gulf of Thailand, to put these

nasty drug-dealing convicts on so they can't contact anyone to ply their trade," he said.

The justice minister conceded, however, that this would need a change in the law.

Over the years many prison inmates have been caught with drugs and some have continued to run drug rings from behind bars with the help of corrupt wardens.

Source: The Nation

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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC

Here lies planet Earth

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

Mayor Hagedorn recently sent me a plea for planetary protection from a 12-year-old Canadian girl. It's sobering enough to make you cry.

What makes me cry is not the girl's haunting rhetoric, but my realization that I've been singing the same tune for the past 60 years. The ominous warnings started almost 200 years before I was born. Today, the calls for stewardship with sanity are still being totally ignored. Let's hope this young girl – and the "net" – can finally make a difference. Given a total lack of awareness around Phuket and the planet, I worry that our children are doomed.

My Los Angeles childhood was paradise – something like Phuket in January 1989, or Puerto Princesa today. LA was civilized and green; orange groves rather than rubber; clean air and a culture with character. To the west, 10,000 miles of sea; to the east,

thickly wooded mountains, then the endless Mojave desert. There's a reason LA is "Hollyweird" – pick a direction and every conceivable location was within an hour's drive. I grew up playing on the jungle set for the popular TV series Ra-mar of the Jungle.

In 1950, when I was five, my mom presented me with two staggering concepts.

"Johnny, America came out of World War II as the great world empire. Egyptians dominated for 2,000 years; Greece for 500; the Romans 1,000 years, England-France-Spain 500 years. America will be the dominant power for 50 years only," she told me.

How did she know? George Bush hadn't even been born!

Her other concept superseded world domination. "You are blessed with perfect timing. You live in an exciting age of technology and comfort, but you will be the last generation to know perfect nature. Enjoy it while you can," she said.

We did. I was swimming in the sea at six months, camping in the High Sierras at four, wildlife rehabbing at five, and at an Audubon Society drop-house at eight. Los Angeles was exploding, and the Gray family received daily deliveries of the victims of progress.

Burrowing owls are among the cutest animals on Earth, lovable little guys 20 centimeters tall, that build shallow underground burrows and skitter around when on the surface. Whenever a freeway or housing tract was under construction, we received broken burrowing owls by the bucket load. Too seriously damaged to return to nature, several lived out

their lives inside our house.

When I was eight, I learned that in nature versus progress, nature never wins. Every school in Phuket should have a wildlife rehab program. It's a fun way to teach kids to respect nature and all life.

By 1955, LA smog was so thick you could see it between the houses. I once lost a fly ball in the smog during a schoolyard softball game. On Smog Alert days, you couldn't take a deep breath without coughing; and we often spent recess in the schoolroom instead of playing outside.

The consequences of industrial pollution from Dickens's day combined with California's love affair with the automobile and cheap gas were obvious. The planet was dying, and the airborne garbage seemed to congregate in Los Angeles.

The only way out of this poisoning brown cloud was the sea. Go west, young man.

In 1957, at the age of 12, I was a certified diver, discovering the rest of the world. The ocean teemed with life. We drove to La Jolla Cove, picked any parking space, and dived the wondrous California kelp forests. We went albacore tuna fishing, seas frothing horizon-to-horizon with tuna. I picked my fish, dropped in the bait and took home 10 a day. This was totally sustainable until modern tuna clippers came along, then albacore disappeared overnight.

LA was orange groves, Orange County rolling hills, Newport Beach was funky and boat owners captained their own vessels.

Every Phuket school should adopt a tide pool. At Corona Del Mar I learned that life, marvelous and delicate, started in the sea. But sometimes while snorkeling, the smog was so bad I choked in my mouthpiece. This ecosystem did not evolve in pollution, nor could it survive in it.

East moved West and the smog got worse. LA stole water from Northern California and Mexico. Our family marveled at the amazing engineering feat that moved water into LA, while understanding the environmental consequences of our theft.

We explored the Sea of



My younger brother and I feed a pheasant, back in 1955.

Cortez, crossing into Mexico where the last trickle of the mighty Colorado River was diverted 200 meters from Mexico by the improperly named "All American" canal. Americans stole not only the river, but the downstream ocean ecosystem. Lacking the Colorado's supply of fresh water, the northern end of the Sea of Cortez was virtually dead. Even the ocean needs fresh water; especially so this unique closed, shallow ecosystem, but in one generation a mighty river became a trickle. We drove across the dry riverbed several times a year. It was enough to shock even a teenager.

Mom was right. I was born into a marvelous world, just in time to document its death.

In the summer of 1960, we loaded our camper and toured most National Parks west of the Mississippi, no reservations necessary. Erosion at Zion and Bryce; Mesa Verde; trilobites at Green River, Wyoming; and the magic of Yellowstone, where a mega-eruption destroyed life across a continent, showing the importance of water – whether exploding from geysers or dropping from the falls.

Inside Yellowstone Park, wildlife numbers approached natural levels. One night, while walking a dark dirt road to the

sound of a ranger's talk, I asked my 11-year-old brother to move to the middle of the jeep trail. Walking so close to the brush, a grizzly could take him with one swift swipe. Just as Tom moved to my side, a huge male silverback exited the bushes (on Tom's side) and walked straight towards us. "Don't get excited and don't move fast," I whispered. "Keep walking normally." When the grizzly passed between us, its silver shoulders sparkled in the moonlight. It was a majestic albeit tense moment.

No more. After hundreds of attacks thanks to stupid tourists feeding wildlife, bears are now relocated far from humans. Outside the park, sexually inadequate adult boys hunt anything that moves. Yellowstone remains mired in controversy, and nature still doesn't win.

Also in 1960 I read a small newspaper sidebar announcing the world's population hit 3 billion. My mind juggled the maths – it took humanoids two million years to hit one billion in 1800. We made two billion in the next 123 years, and only 37 years to reach 3 billion. By 1960 we had already exceeded the capacity of our planet. I understood the consequences of the curve and decided not to have kids. Forty-nine years later, I still have no children, but I practice a lot. For years I worried that welfare "octo-moms" would dominate the gene pool, but today I realize it doesn't make a difference. In a few generations there won't be a gene pool.

It came together in 1965 when I was hitch-hiking to San Diego, driving the Riverside valley with an old California Indian. "The first time I went to San Diego was 1900. I was 12, and we walked this valley – no roads," he told me. "It was beautiful – the river was wide, the water fast, and forest stretched from ridge to ridge. Now it's a desert," he said. We discussed the stories I've told above and concluded that civilization isn't all it's made

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CITY OF ANGELS: "The planet was dying, and the airborne garbage seemed to congregate in Los Angeles."

out to be.

We *homo sapiens* are smart, but not enough to stop us destroying our home, and too greedy to protect it. As a kayaker, I don't enjoy motors, but I do enjoy "reading" the sea. A slight change of wind, or temperature, makes my bearded cheek consider coming changes.

These days, weather patterns change before my eyes. I don't blame it all on carbon emissions. We just finished an ice age that peaked only 18,000 years ago and the planet is warming on its own – all the more reason

to minimize human impact.

Dickens described industrial pollution in the early 1800s, and John Muir formed the Sierra Club, the world's oldest environmental NGO, in the 1880s. When I came along 65 years later, nobody was listening. another 65 years on, nothing has changed. As a species, we have a death wish.

Twelve-year-old Canadian girls get it, but the environment gets only lip service. Eat brown rice, not white; vegetarian diets are 80% more carbon friendly than meat, 2-cycle engines are

killing your family's future; idling your car while shopping leaves the engine in its most inefficient mode.

At eight degrees latitude, reinforced concrete structures require air con, but how many energy-efficient buildings do you see going up around Phuket? I see lots of reinforced concrete.

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Anyone for a fun ruin?

Fun runners flee from environmental faux pas



This photograph, sent in by a reader, shows part of a long trail of discarded plastic cups along Soi Naya in Nai Harn. The cups were given out to participants of a recent fun run, but the organizers didn't think to tidy up afterwards.

The reader told the *Gazette* that he found similar debris near the windmill overlooking Yanui beach and that digging into the undergrowth by the side of the road revealed more plastic debris from a similar fun run about two years ago.

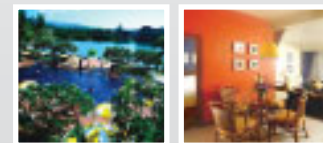
"This is utterly shameful, sloppy and ignorant. When will the organizers of these events be held responsible for clearing up after themselves?" the reader demanded.

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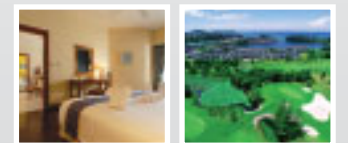
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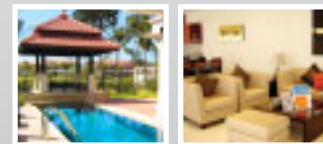
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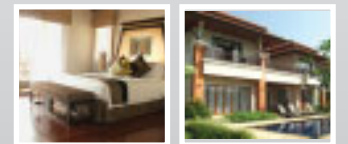
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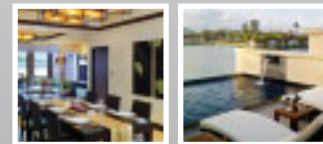
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Sea gypsies celebrate seasonal change

By Decha Promthep

Earlier this month, Phuket's *chao ley* (sea gypsy) communities built ceremonial boats that were pushed out to sea as part of a traditional merit-making ceremony. Known as *loy rua*, the tradition is practiced to appease the spirits of nature – much like Thailand's traditional *Loy Krathong* ceremonies. The *loy rua* ceremony is practiced twice a year, once just before the rainy season begins and again just after it concludes.

The wood-frame boats are hand made by the Urak Lawoi sea gypsy community on Koh Sireh. The boats are then decorated with garlands and laden with gifts for the gods before being pushed out to sea in an early-morning ceremony. The ceremony dates back thousands of years and is based on the sea gypsies' respect for the power of nature and beliefs in aspects of animism. According to tradition, the ceremony promotes fertility in the community and the days immediately after are an auspicious time for couples to be married.

As well as on Phuket, the ethnic group totaling about 3,000 inhabits various islands off the West coast of Thailand, such as Phi Phi, Jum, Bulon, and Lipe. They speak a mixture of mainly Thai and Malay but do not have an official written language. With no written record of their history, historians are unsure of the group's precise origins. However, their culture is rich with legends passed down by word of mouth through the generations.



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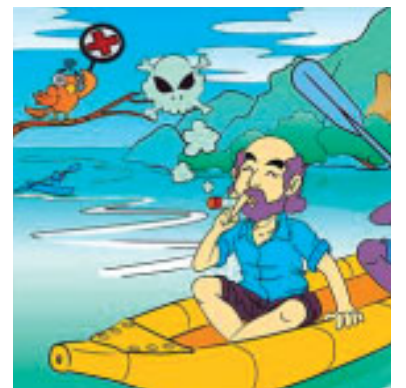
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Squeaking sands and sizable steaks

Karon Beach, Patong's little sister, shares a lot of the traits of big sis. For starters, Patak Rd is a mini version of Soi Bangla, sporting late-night bars where many a male patron enters optimistically and exits misty optically, having filled his trolley at the masculinity supermarket. Karon also plays host to a slew of hotels and guest houses, plus a fair gaggle of restaurants – you've got to admit it, similarities run high.

But Karon Beach has one thing that Patong doesn't – squeaky white sand. Travel writers and holiday brochures – desperate to squeeze out any sense of originality – make a great deal of noise about this sand, but Karon Beach and its squeaky sand doesn't quite appeal as much as, say, photos of Rio's racy Carnival goers or the busty barmaids at Munich's Oktoberfest. Then again, Phuket's always been a quirky place...

But when it comes right down to it, Karon is miles more family orientated than Phuket's own Sin City over the hill and I

guess kids like squeaky sand for the sole reason that jumping up and down on it or indeed just walking along it makes a noise. And kids simply love making noise.

As for shopping, there is the wonderfully bizarre Karon Bazaar along the Beach Road.

There are approximately 150,000 opticians, an army of polyglot Nepalese tailor touts and, unknown to a lot of folks, another back street bazaar between Karon Lake and the sois off Patak Road. Here,

you can buy dodgy watches, DVDs, brand-name clothes and everything you never thought you needed, all at bargain prices!

It's down one of these sois that Karon Café (KC) is located. At 20 years and counting, it's the longest-running restaurant in town. Expats from all over the island converge on KC to enjoy its rich steaks, Mexican food, down-home dishes and wine – all at eye-popping, astonishingly cheap prices. Yup folks, Karon Café has it all.

If you drive to KC, there's roughly an ice-cube-in-a-sauna's chance of finding a



KC isn't among Phuket's flashiest restaurants – it could use a few more lights – but the polished terracotta flooring, plentiful cooling fans and cheerful service are enough to make anyone feel comfortable.



parking space along the accompanying sois or even along Patak Road. It's best to park by the 7-Eleven on the road skirting Karon Lake and then thread your way through the bazaar to Karon Café, bartering on the way for everything you never knew you wanted, but wanted to haggle for any-

way – just to show off your Thai.

KC isn't among the flashiest of Phuket's restaurants – it could use a few more lights – but the polished terracotta flooring, plentiful cooling fans and cheerful service are enough to make us feel comfortable while we're sipping aperitifs and reading the menu.

After a few minutes of munching crispy nachos with guacamole (160 baht) and gorgeously yielding shrimp avocado cocktail (160 baht) while topping up at the free and generous salad bar, we feel right at home. These dishes, compared to the UK and most other overpriced destinations, are rib-ticklingly cheap, as, come to mention it, are the spicy spare ribs (350 baht) and the generous rib-eye steak (600 baht for an almost never-ending portion).

The wine list is modest but there's enough to satisfy most tastes. We enjoy a hearty *South African Goyia Shiraz 2004* (795 baht – a bargain considering it retails for around double that price in most hotel restaurants), robust enough to have me launching myself whole-heartedly into a Thai language conversation a few min-

utes into the dinner. I learn to my chagrin that instead of saying, "I went horse riding today," I splutter out, "I went dog shit today," having mangled my Thai tones – a great way to make new friends in this country and further proof to my better half that I may be wasting my life when out of her sight.

Karon Café's mission statement is to offer the best food at unbeatable prices and, given the restaurant's success and longevity, who can conceivably argue with that? A predominantly "steak and ribs" menu with Mexican influences on the side, it's a hands-down winner for those looking for a satisfying meal at economical prices and a bit of late-night, covert sand-squeaking.

Hint: the northern stretch is the best – go barefoot and release the child within.

Karon Café is located at 526/17 Patak Road, the second soi in front of Centara Karon Resort near Karon traffic circle. Tel: 076-396217 and 076-397001.



A predominantly "steak and ribs" menu with Mexican influences on the side, KC's a hands-down winner for those looking for a satisfying meal at economical prices.



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Diving into the history books



BENEATH THE WAVES

By Diver Dan

In this month's *Beneath the Waves*, I've chosen to look at the discovery of one of the most fascinating shipwrecks located in Thai waters – the World War Two submarine *USS Lagarto*.

A little over four years ago, a group of intrepid divers set out on a voyage that would end with a remarkable discovery and worldwide media interest. It also provided closure for a group of people who never truly knew what had happened to their relatives in the last remaining days of the conflict.

The *USS Lagarto* was built in Manitowoc, Wisconsin by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company. She was launched in May

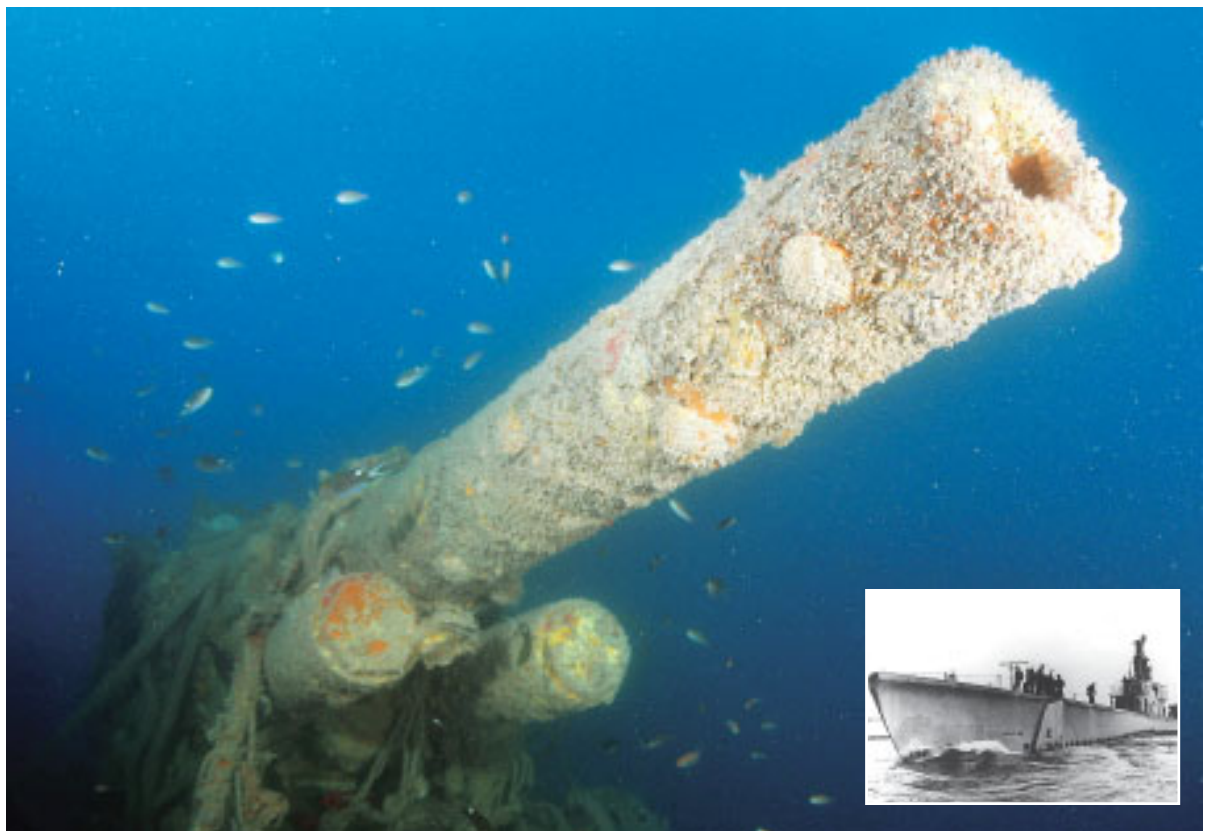
of 1944, commissioned in October of the same year and placed under the command of Commander Frank D. Latta.

The 95m, 1,500-ton Balao class diesel-electric submarine left US waters on November 12 1944 and began the long voyage towards Southeast Asia, where it would ultimately come to rest.

On Christmas Day 1944, the *Lagarto* arrived at Pearl Harbor and underwent some modifications while the crew were put through their paces. By the time she left Pearl Harbor, the *Lagarto* was carrying an additional 5-inch deck gun, its 20mm guns had been replaced by 40mm anti-aircraft guns and a number of topside .50 caliber mounts had been added.

Accompanied by the *USS Haddock*, the *Lagarto* made its way to the South China Sea, where the two vessels would join the *USS Sennet* to form "Latta's Lancers". While in the region, the *Lagarto* engaged enemy vessels on a number of occasions – most notably the *No.8 Kotoshiro Maru*, the *No.3 Showa Maru* and the *No.3 Kanno Maru* – reportedly destroying two vessels.

On April 27, the *Lagarto*



One of the now silent guns of the *USS Lagarto*. The WW2 sub is believed to have sunk two enemy vessels. Photo by Charles Shaw. INSET: The *Lagarto* as she sailed the seas before coming to a tragic end.

and its crew received orders to patrol the waters of the Gulf of Thailand and sadly never returned. A call from the *USS Baya* on May 2 informed the *Lagarto* that its crew had picked up four enemy contacts. The two submarines rendezvoused and the two commanders formulated what would turn out to be the *Lagarto*'s last manoeuvres. The *Lagarto* was to dive on the convoy's track and make contact at 2pm. At 3pm the *Baya* made the first of many contact reports with the *Lagarto* – all of them went unanswered.

Courtesy of Japanese war records, it was eventually believed that the *Lagarto* had been sunk by a depth charge dropped by the Japanese minelayer the *Hatsutaka*. The sub went down with all 86 hands on board and its final resting place remained a mystery for the next 60 years.

In 2005, British tech divers Jamie Macleod and Stewart Oehl boarded the newly acquired MV

Trident in Ranong with a team of experienced divers and began the long journey to the *Lagarto*'s final resting point. The trip took them through the Straits of Malacca – the most pirated waters in the world – past Singapore, through the South China Sea and into the Gulf of Thailand, ultimately heading for Koh Tao.

Knowing that Macleod and Oehl were avid wreck divers and in a position to conduct a search, WW2 submarine veterans had emailed the pair asking them to search for the missing submarine.

The veterans had given them the *Lagarto*'s last known location and they set about comparing the co-ordinates with marks they attained from local fishermen in Narathiwat who had previously lost nets in close proximity to where it was believed the submarine had gone down.

On May 8 2005, almost exactly 60 years after the *Lagarto* went missing, the team from the Trident dropped a shot line down to 73m, enabling them to make a safe descent to the bottom to conduct a search. Macleod and Oehl were the first into the water and descended to the bottom. Upon reaching the sea bed, the pair looked up and stared in awe at the massive outline of a Balao class submarine.

When asked about how he felt when he first encountered the *Lagarto*, Macleod said, "As I looked up at this 60-year-old wreck sitting perfectly upright, I knew that we were looking at the start of something special."

This sentiment was echoed by Oehl. "It was mind-blowing to look upon something that no-one had seen for 60 years. To be part of the group that found it and what has happened subsequently has been life changing," he said.

Once back on Koh Tao, the pair relayed their discovery to the US Embassy in Thailand, believ-

ing that they had found the long lost sub. Two months later, the *Trident* returned to the *Lagarto*'s final resting point with relatives of one of the missing submariners joining the team to pay their respects. Divers returned to the wreck taking video footage and photo stills to help confirm that the sub was indeed the *Lagarto*.

Repeated dives on the sub revealed damage to the port bow, adding further credence to the depth charge theory. However, the team also found that one of the front forward torpedo tubes was open and empty. This raised further questions: had the *Lagarto* gone down because of a Japanese depth charge attack or were lives lost due to a torpedo tube malfunction while the crew tried to defend themselves? Subsequent research has revealed that it was the former that was responsible for the *Lagarto*'s demise and that the brave men who lost their lives had gone down fighting.

In June 2006, the *MV Trident* rendezvoused with the *USN Salvor* at the site and the US Navy formally announced that the submarine was, as everyone believed, the *USS Lagarto*.

May 3 this year was marked as "Lagarto Remembrance Day" in the US and since the discovery, both the *Trident* and the *Lagarto* have featured in a documentary by the "Deep Sea Detectives" John Chatterton and Richie Kohler on the History Channel.

Macleod and Oehl occasionally take trips to this now famous wreck and it was the discovery of this submarine that fueled my desire to become a tech diver and discover what truly lies in the deep.

For more information on the *USS Lagarto* visit www.techthailand.com.



The Stars and Stripes billows proudly once again on the *USS Lagarto*. The flag was attached on a recent commemorative trip. Photo by Charles Shaw

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Oil in a day's work



A masseuse at the Ginnaree Spa comes bearing gifts.



Oil massages can also be used to relax strained muscles and relieve muscle tension. Some of the many Ginnaree options include massages with lavender oil, chamomile oil, rice bran oil, safflower oil, olive oil, vitamin E oil and essential oil – all of which have their own unique qualities.

Joining a long and distinguished list of Phuket spas, the Ginnaree Spa Phuket opened its doors in Phuket Town just two months ago. Like many of the island's spas, Ginnaree offers its clientele a wide variety of massage styles and treatments to help while away a day and escape from reality.

Of the plethora of massages available, few can match the sensual relaxation that an oil massage provides. The oil is the essence of the massage. Not only does it relax you, it also soothes the skin. Unlike Thai massage, where the masseuse uses rough techniques that may be painful to those unaccustomed to such handling, oil massages tend to be more gentle and soothing.

Oil massages can also be used to relax strained muscles and relieve muscle tension. Some of the many Ginnaree options include massages with lavender oil, chamomile oil, rice bran oil, safflower oil, olive oil, vitamin E oil and essential oil – all of which have their own unique qualities in helping the body unwind, relieving tension and improving the skin and overall health.

Lavender oil helps ease body tension by relieving high blood pressure. It is especially good at nullifying the effects of a hang-over and for those experiencing sleeplessness.

Chamomile oil helps reduce skin inflammation, counters headaches and sleeplessness, and relieves tension. It helps prevent the skin from becoming dry and irritable and, more importantly, revitalizes the skin.

Rice bran oil is vaguely aromatic and rich in proteins and vitamins. It helps prevent wrinkles and moisturizes the skin. It is nourishing, light and good for dry skin. It can be used to relieve eczema and irritated skin, acts as a good lubricant and blends well with other oils as an excellent massage base.

Safflower oil is an extremely fine and pure oil. It is so light it is immediately absorbed into the skin. It is good for quickening the penetration rate of essential oils. When used, it leaves a satiny, nonstick coating on the skin.

Olive oil is rich in proteins and vitamins, and, like safflower oil, is rapidly absorbed through the skin. Although it has a strong aroma it is often blended with other oils. Because it is a naturally warming oil, it is useful in cold weather or in treating muscular pain.

Vitamin E oil contains antioxidants that protect you against free radical cells, which are potentially harmful to other cells within the body. Free radicals may also contribute to the development of cardiovascular disease and cancer. Studies are underway to determine whether vitamin E, through its ability to limit production of free radicals, might help prevent or delay the development of those chronic diseases. Vitamin E has also been shown to play a role in immune function, DNA repair and other metabolic processes. It is easily absorbed into the skin and doesn't leave it feeling greasy or tacky. It is an excellent emollient, softening and soothing the skin. It also helps to balance the loss and absorption of moisture.

Essential oils are liquids distilled from the leaves, stems, flowers, bark, roots or other elements of a plant. Essential oils contain the true essence of the plant and can provide valuable psychological and physical therapeutic benefits. These benefits are usually achieved through methods including inhalation and application of the diluted oil to the skin.

With so many choices available, it simply means returning to the Ginnaree Spa Phuket time and time again just to enjoy them all.

-Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

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Thailand's Jedi master



Jedie's music and playlists are heavily influenced by Western soul and funk music, something that might seem unusual to some Thais. He attributes this to the music his father enjoyed when he was growing up.

There's a line from the quintessential clubber's movie *Human Traffic* that must sit well with Thailand's DJ Jedie. "To him it doesn't matter how well you beat mix, you're not a proper DJ unless you can scratch." As reigning Pioneer Scratch Battle Asia champion, there's no doubt about it: Jedi can scratch.

Born in Bangkok, Jedie – aka Thanapong Komalakul Na Nakorn – moved to Melbourne, Australia at a young age and was educated there until he was 18. It was during his school years that a youthful Jedie began to develop an interest in music, learning to play the guitar when he was 12 years old.

Upon completion of his studies, Jedie made the decision to move to the United States and enroll at a university in Seattle – a choice that was largely influenced by his love of Seattle-based grunge band Nirvana. Unfortunately for Jedie, he was denied the opportunity to see his heroes in concert due to Kurt Cobain's suicide.

Jedie's interest in DJing and "turntablism" was piqued on a routine visit to a record shop when

he saw a video of the DMC World DJ Championships. A couple of months later, Jedie had swapped his guitar for a set of Technics turntables. He never looked back.

The flexibility and creativity possible with turntables is central to Jedie's new-found passion. "Turntables are fantastic to use, not to mention great fun," Jedie told the *Gazette*. "I feel they are a part of me. Turntables allow you to take any sound, be it guitar, drums or vocals, and manipulate it," he said.

Jedie's music and playlists are heavily influenced by Western soul and funk music, something that might seem unusual to some Thais. He attributes this to the music his father enjoyed when he was growing up.

"My father always played a lot of soul, disco and funk when I was growing up in the '80s. I was always listening to stuff like Kool and the Gang, Earth Wind & Fire and James Brown and it has stuck with me," he said.

In 2006, just seven years after purchasing his first set of turntables, Jedie became turntable champion of Thailand.

Although initially self-taught,

Jedie puts his rapid rise to the top down to his relationship with friend and mentor DJ Spydamonkee – the first successful scratch DJ in Thailand. He met Spydamonkee in 2000 after completing his studies in Seattle and the two began to work together on a regular basis. The relationship has continued to develop over the years and together they established Thailand's first scratch DJ crew, "Tha Beat Lounge".

"Humans cannot develop without a teacher. I had a solid base from which to grow, but it was Spydamonkee who pushed me in the right direction, allowing me to reach the top," Jedie said.

Following his success in 2006, Jedie successfully defended his title in 2007.

As Thai champion, he was selected to represent his country at the 2008 Pioneer Scratch Battle Asian championships held in Bangkok, where he went head-to-head with the premier scratch DJs from Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China and India.

Knowing that the competition would be fierce, Jedie submitted himself to a grueling train-



In 2006, just seven years after purchasing his first set of turntables, Jedie became turntable champion of Thailand.



ing schedule more commonly associated with top-class international athletes.

"I trained for six months in preparation for the Asian championships and barely had any time to sleep. I had to work so hard to ensure that I was ready. It was like training to compete at the Southeast Asian Games. I didn't know anything about my opponents, so I had to focus on myself. I also didn't know if the judges would like my scratching

style or not, but I must have made a good impression," he said.

"Luckily for me, the Pioneer Scratch Battle Asia 2008 was held in Thailand. A lot of my friends came to support me and it helped me a lot. I was so proud to have won for myself and Thailand, but I wasn't prepared to let it stop there. I want to be the best scratch DJ in the world and I'm working hard to improve my skills," he added.

As Spydamonkee was once a mentor for him, Jedie is now devoting a lot of his time to a new generation of Thai scratch DJs, following the opening of his own DJ school.

Between 200 and 300 students attend his classes, where they can learn the basics or receive advanced tuition from Thailand's master of the turntables himself.

"I'm not a selfish person and I want to be able to pass on my knowledge to others. I want to see the standard of DJing improve in Thailand so we can compete on the world stage," he concluded.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkachorn

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EXPAT GALLERY

Håkan Lange

Håkan Lange has spent most of his life on the sea. His company, Derani Yachts, is based in an elegant office overlooking the wide variety of sailing and power yachts berthed at the Phuket Boat Lagoon.

Today he sits in his beautiful surroundings discussing the pleasures of sailing around Phang Nga Bay, but Håkan has spent most of his entire life driving some of the world's largest cargo ships and working to help prevent ecological disasters from marine oil spills.

"I grew up in a village in the south of Sweden and worked in the local marinas as a kid. When I was 16, I joined the Swedish Merchant Marine and was shipped off to West Africa."

He spent 15 years with the Merchant Marine and achieved Master Mariner status. His main interest was maritime safety, and he studied for, and attained, his Master's of Science in Maritime Safety Administration. Having joined the Merchant Marine as a deck boy, he ended his enlistment as a captain.

By 1990, he was driving fast passenger catamarans between Copenhagen and Malmo at night, and studying at the World Maritime University by day. He became adept at shipping-related

issues such as marine pollution, manning, safety and construction.

He then worked closely with the International Maritime Organization, a regulatory body funded by the United Nations to assist member countries in working to international standards of safety. Håkan was involved mainly in marine pollution in the Asia-Pacific region.

By 1992, he had decided to move to the private sector and began a career as a marine pollution control specialist.

For the next decade he traveled 200 days a year getting contracts to clean up problem marine environments, mostly in Southeast Asia. He worked with the government of Vietnam to develop an oil spill contingency plan.

"The Vietnamese government forced the private oil drillers to control and minimize oil spills and damage to the environment. I recall we had many official meetings on the rooftop of the old American Embassy as the building was still bugged and the sandbags from the forced evacuation were still in place."

Håkan moved to Singapore in 2002 to work on a project where he built a task team that would be ready to respond should a major oil spill occur. He set up protocols that would address

cleaning techniques for various types of oil. But he was still able to find the time for recreational sailing out of Singapore's Royal Selangor Yacht Club.

"I had been joining regattas for many years. I love sailing, and racing more than cruising. I joined Phuket's King's Cup Regatta for the first time in 1996."

In 1998, Håkan bought his first house on Phuket, anticipating future retirement.

"I was very encouraged by the interest shown by the yachting community at the first Phuket boat show (PIMEX). This event, plus the abolition of the import tax on yachts, made me decide to open my own yacht operation."

Håkan opened Derani Yachts in December 2004. He now has arrangements with some of the world's top boat builders, including four of America's leading manufacturers.

"The high end of American built boats is better than anywhere else in the world. As I'm very demanding about quality and performance, I'm proud to represent these fine brands."

Håkan has become involved in helping to improve the lives of local young people on Phuket. He has already adopted three children and is currently helping two others with their education and living expenses.

"I enjoy every moment of my work. It feels more like a hobby. Life is looking good."

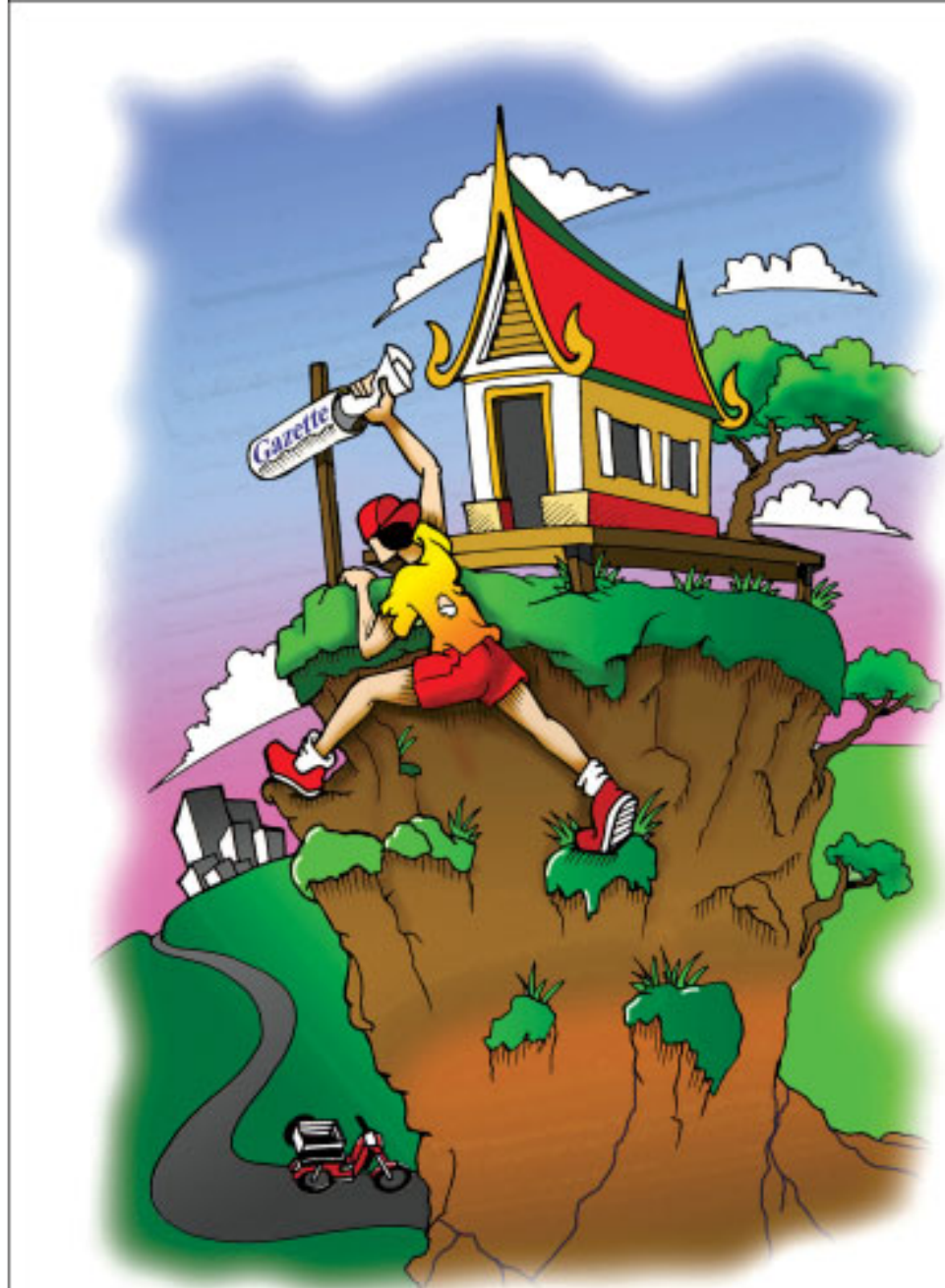
- Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

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, ah, 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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GREEN FINGERS: Two hundred members of Laguna Phuket staff and management volunteered their time to plant 3,300 mangrove saplings at Baan Para, Pa Khlok on May 19. The event was organized in conjunction with Phuket Province as part of National Tree Planting Day 2009. The activity was led by Michael Ayling, Managing Director, Laguna Resorts & Hotels.



LIVE TO GIVE: Marriott staff members pose in front of Wat Phra Baht Num Phu as part of Marriott's "Spirit to Serve" initiative. Marriott executive committees and associates recently donated over 700,000 baht to support Aids patients. The money was raised through a variety of team activities last year aimed at raising money and making a difference to the lives of sufferers of the disease.



WELCOME TO PHUKET: Mrs Oranee Hildebrand, Managing Director of the *Phuket Gazette*, welcomed Mr Pratuang Sornkham, the new Director of Phuket International Airport, to Phuket on May 19.



I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW: The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Thailand Foundation, in association with the Thai Red Cross Society, the Top Charoen chain of optical shops and Bangkok's Phyathai Hospital, gave free eye examinations to hundreds of Phuket students on May 20. The initiative saw RMHC donate 500 pairs of glasses to children who needed them.



SECURITY CONSCIOUS: 27 countries attended the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference meeting at Mövenpick Resort & Spa on May 19. Pictured are General Apichat Penkitti, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Thailand (left) and Mr Thiti Thongbenjamas, Regional Director of Finance and Controlling Asia of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU: White Box staff led by Ms Manatsavinee Racharit, PR Sales & Marketing Manager White Box Restaurant (left), celebrated the birthday of one of their guests during the bar and restaurant's M&F Party on May 23.



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Sculpting Thailand's tribal heritage

The hill tribes of Thailand provide a link to days of yore, offering Thais and tourists alike a glimpse at the interesting and colorful lives of a group who, by and large, have preserved their cultural heritage and live as their forebears did.

On May 22, the &Joy gallery in Cherng Talay hosted an exhibition featuring the work of 20-year-old Thai sculptor Winai Chaso.

The bulk of the exhibition revolved around a collection of sculptures depicting members of each of the seven hill tribes of Chiang Rai.

Winai himself is a member of one of the seven tribes, the Lahu. He was born 20 years ago in a remote village on the top of a Chiang Rai hill bordering Burma.

"I was born near the border of Thailand and Burma. It is an incredibly beautiful area but incredibly remote. When I started my education, I couldn't even speak Thai and it took me two days to get to the school," Winai said.

In 2005, Winai took part in a ceramic project initiated by the Chao Phya Abhai Raja Siammanukulij Foundation, an organization that provides the poorest children with alternative education and supports innovative artistic projects.

Count Gerald van der



The sculptures of Winai Chaso combine the traditional hill tribe cultures of northern Thailand with a contemporary artistic approach. Be it Akha, Hmong, Karen or any of the other tribes, these ceramic figures depict the proud and colorful people of the hills evolving in today's world.

Straten Ponthoz is the creator of the foundation. It is named after one of his ancestors, who was an advisor to HM King Chulalongkorn.

"Connections between Thailand and my family date back over a century, when Gustave Rolin-Jaequemyns, a relation of my grandmother, came to Thailand. He became the Gen-

eral Advisor to HM King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), and received the title of Chao Phya Abhai Raja Siammanukulij.

"King Rama V was a visionary monarch who wanted to improve his country and the wellbeing of its citizens, pioneering the exchange of skills between foreign countries and Siam, to the benefit of the Siamese

people. The Chao Phya Abhai Raja Siammanukulij Foundation follows the vision of King Rama V and the spirit of Gustave in improving the lives of the Thai youngsters," Gerald said.

Winai found a new passion for sculpting during that project and his life took a new turn. Together with Paul Beck-rich, a French sculptor invited to teach

by the foundation, Winai learned the complex technique of working with metallic enamels, eventually mastering the art after a long period of trial and error.

"I was so excited to be given the chance to join the foundation. Once I was there I fell in love with the project. Many people were given the chance, but I was the only person to make it, which makes me incredibly proud," he said.

The sculptures of Winai Chaso combine the traditional hill tribe cultures of northern Thailand with a contemporary artistic approach.

Be it Akha, Hmong, Karen or any of the other tribes, these ceramic figures depict the proud and colorful people of the hills evolving in today's world.

Winai made his first successful solo exhibition last year at Insii Thai House, the home of the Chao Phya Abhai Raja Siammanukulij Foundation, and is currently on a whistle-stop tour of southern Thailand exhibiting his work.

The sculptures of Winai Chaso can already be found in several collections in both Asia and Europe, including those of Privy Counselor MR Thepkamol Devakula, Ambassador HE Mr Jan Matthysen, and HM King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

-Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod



The sculptures of Winai Chaso can already be found in several collections in Asia and Europe.

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Shortboard Division, Longboard Division and Grom Division



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Daoud Hari is a Zaghawa tribesman from the Darfur region of Sudan. Most notably, he guided Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times on the first of his many reporting trips to the killing fields of Darfur. His memoir is titled *The Translator* (Random House, New York, 2008, 204pp). Subtitled "A Tribesman's memoir of Darfur", this slender book was written with the aid of Dennis Michael Burke and Megan M McKenna.

Actually, entitling the book *The Translator* is a great act of modesty. Daoud Hari was much more. Besides interpreting during interviews, he arranged transport, drivers, food, water, map directions, interview subjects and, most importantly, safety through his many contacts in the resistance.

He was what is known in the journalism trade as a "fixer". It would have been a more appropriate title, but *The Fixer* has already been taken by Bernard Malamud for his 1966 novel.

The book opens with a bang. Hari is in the usual mud-splattered Land Cruiser escorting Philip Cox, a young British TV filmmaker, across the border from Chad into Darfur. Suddenly they are held up by a group of rebels.

"These men were clearly rebel troops: their uniforms were nothing but dirty jeans, ammunition belts hung across their chests, their loosely wrapped turbans or shals – head scarves, really – were caked with the dust of many days' fighting. No doctor travels with these troops, who fight almost every day and leave their friends in shallow graves. Emotionally, they are walking dead men who count their future in hours. This makes them often ruthless, as if they think everyone might as well go to the next life with them."

The rebels accuse Hari of

being a spy and threaten to shoot him, but Philip Cox manages to contact their warlord commander on his satellite phone and straighten things out. Driving away toward safety, Hari comments that it was an amazing thing that Cox did.

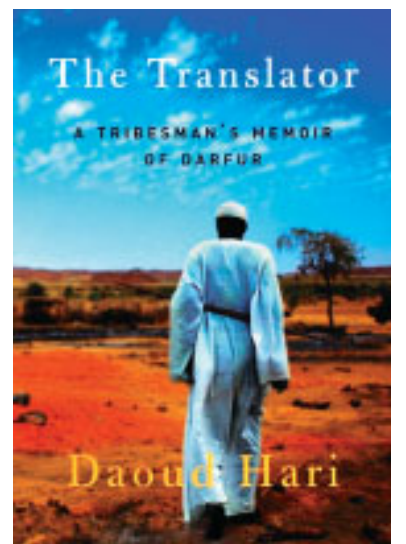
"Amazing, yes. Actually, I've been trying to get through to him for weeks," he said. "Lucky thing, really".

Hari came to his profession in a roundabout way. He grew up in a village in the hinterland of Darfur, finished high school in the provincial town of El Fasher and traveled to Libya and Egypt, continuing his studies and working as a restaurant waiter. He tries to sneak into Israel for the better wages on offer but is arrested and sent back to an Egyptian jail. He bribes his way out and arrives back in his native village just as it is being attacked by Arab militia. His older brother Ahmad leads the defense of the village and is killed in the process, but most of the villagers escape. In Chad, Hari sets himself up as a translator –

Zaghawa, English and Arabic – for visiting officials, journalists and NGO workers. He describes leading a team of genocide investigators into a sprawling refugee camp in Chad.

"Familiar smells and the low rumble of a great crowd greeted us as we rolled down the windows: babies crying but also children laughing and running after us, stretching out their fingers to touch ours; mothers calling for their children to be careful, the crunch of bundles of firewood being unloaded from the backs of donkeys, the braying of those donkeys, the smoke and smell of a thousand fires, of spiced and mint teas brewing, of hot cooking oils and overheated, dirty children. A gauze of this sound, smoke, and dust extended over the tangled nest as far as one cared to look..."

The last third of the book is devoted to his sixth and last trip into Darfur, guiding *National Geographic* journalist Paul Salopek. They are captured by a rebel group that has gone over to



the government of Sudan and are now in big trouble. They are imprisoned and savagely beaten. At one point Hari and the driver talk their way out of being shot by child soldiers. It takes the intervention of a great many friends and finally the personal intercession of New Mexico governor Bill Richardson to get them freed.

Daoud Hari is now living in the United States, a witness to an ongoing genocide.



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

Q: Should it be "two years' probation" or "two years probation"? "Five years' experience" or "five years experience"?

Mark Putnam
Presque Isle, Maine

One-off or one of a kind?

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

Barbara replies: Those apostrophes may look excessive, but they belong there. The reason it's hard to tell that they do is that most plurals (for instance, "years") and their possessive forms ("years'") with an apostrophe after the "s") sound exactly the same. So let's try versions of your phrases in which we can hear a possessive ending if there is one. You'd say "one year's probation," not "one year probation," yes? And "a year's experience," not "a year experience." To make the phrases plural, we need the plural possessive form, with the apostrophe.

Q: People use the term "one-off"

to describe something unique. Should the term not be "one-of," which is a shortened version of "one of a kind"?

Andrew Robb
Kingston, Ontario

Barbara replies: Actually, "one-off" seems to have come from manufacturing, with the "off" originally indicating that the number was how many could be made per mold or machine. For example, a 1935 citation in the Oxford English Dictionary reads, "One off per machine does not give us much opportunity for reducing production costs," and other citations mention "200 or so sets 'off'" and "60 units off."

"One-off" has the same meaning as but a different history from "one of a kind."

Q: Our office is pretty well split on this. A former co-worker recently renewed her acquaintance with a boyfriend from college – someone with whom she hadn't communicated in 23 years. They began e-mailing each other, and to make a long story short, she left work eight months later, married him and moved out of state.

The dispute involves a comment she made in informing a client she was leaving the firm. She said she was getting married. The client said it seemed kind of sudden. She replied, "I have known

him for 25 years."

Hence the dispute. Some in the office claim she knew him for a couple of years 25 years ago. Others claim she has known him for 25 years. We have been having a good chuckle over this and an even better series of discussions. Even the lady in question is curious. What is the answer?

Kevin D. Cantley
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Barbara replies: If you happened to mention someone I was close to in college, I'd probably exclaim, "I know him!" Then if you asked, "How long have you known him?" I'd probably say something like, "Well, we were friends years ago, but we haven't stayed in touch."

To "know" someone can be nothing more than having met him, but to "have known" the person for a period of time implies keeping up with him. Of course your co-worker and her new husband are all caught up now, but they weren't for more than two decades. The usage point here is a subtle, subjective one, so I wouldn't call your co-worker flat-out wrong for saying she'd known the man for 25 years. But I do think it was misleading of her. "We met 25 years ago" would have been more precise.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

TriBallistic Triathlon Race 2 of 4, Indigo Pearl



Registration open from 6am to 8am on May 31.

– 8.20am: Splash 'n' Dash for children aged 5–8 years (Swim, 60m; Bike, 1.5km; Run, 800m)

– 9am: Adults (Swim, 900m; Bike, 20km; Run, 7km)

– 9.20am: Junior Race, ages 8–16 years (Swim, 250m; Bike, 6km; Run, 2km)

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers for each age group, male and female and the teams. Free refreshments on race day, also discounts for overnight stay, spa and food and beverages at the Indigo Pearl Resort for all athletes. TriBallistic will be selling sports nutrition and also TriBallistic merchandise on race day.

From 6am to 12pm at Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai Yang, Phuket.

For further information contact Bier. T: 081-6913285. E: tri@triballisticclub.com.

W: www.triballisticclub.com.

May 31 FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

Is your computer driving you NUTS? Can't get a decent Internet connection? Worried about the latest viruses? Wondering what to do about your pirate software? 3G phones? High Def TV? Hey, you aren't alone. Join "For Dummies" author and Windows gadfly Woody Leonhard in our ongoing FREE Sunday morning Computer Clinics, which rotate among the three Sandwich Shoppe locations on the island.

Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your worry beads. And don't forget your sense of humor. Let's see if we can figure out an answer to your problems. Computer novices most welcome. Co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

June 1. Scuba Cat Diving, 2nd Anniversary of New Ownership

Scuba Cat Diving is celebrating two years of new ownership! Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon with free "Try Dives" in the pool, a free BBQ for all and drinks available. Plus, let's not forget the environment, join us for a clean up on Patong Beach starting at 3pm. There will be special offers available for the following week, but most of all we will be in the mood to party. From 2pm to 6pm at Scuba Cat Diving, Patong. For further information contact Sarah or Andy. T: 076-293120. E: info@scubacat.com. W: www.scubacat.com.

June 7. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich

Shophe Patong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

June 14. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon presented by Nike is Southeast Asia's leading destination marathon. The "family friendly" event offers people a chance to compete in a marathon, half marathon, 10.5k run, 5k "community walk" or 2k kids' run. This year's event will raise money for the Baan Klongsai School in Phang Nga province, a rural school in need of financial assistance. Online registration is open on the event website until 6 June. Registrations will also be accepted at the two-day marathon expo in the big marquee at the Laguna Beach Resort Y-Junction. Every participant will receive a Nike singlet. From 5am to noon at Laguna Phuket. For further information contact Mr Roman Floesser. T: 076-236931. W: www.phuketmarathon.com.

June 14. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

June 20. Phuket Academy of Dance

The Phuket Academy of Dance proudly presents the 2009 "Song and Dance Extravaganza". This is a show not to be missed! From 5pm to 8pm at the Mövenpick Hotel, Karon. For further information contact Linda Cumming. T: 081-8937749. E: lecumming@gmail.com. W: www.phuketdance.com.

June 21. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

June 28. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

July 5. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

July 7. Asarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 8. Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa)

Occurs one day after the full-moon day of the eighth lunar month (*Asarnha Bucha*). *Khao Pansa* marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rain Retreat during which Buddhist monks customarily stay at a particular temple to study and meditate. The monks are not allowed to stay overnight at any other location during this period. A candle festival is held annually on this day. Sculpted beeswax candles, generally depicting mythological creatures, are carried in a ceremonial parade in each province before being presented to local temples.

July 12. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

July 19. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

July 26. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as "Mothers' Day" in Thailand.

October 4. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ork Pansa)

This day marks the culmination of the three-month Rain Retreat for Buddhist Lent (*Khao Pansa*) for the monks.

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Degrees of success: investing in student accommodation funds



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The years of good, easy returns in the British commercial property market came to an abrupt halt in 2007.

How did this happen? Investors increasingly wanted to withdraw funds. This is normal as property funds are often used as a regular income source. However, this time withdrawals were fueled by an increasingly grim financial crisis. By the end of December 2007 even the largest and most professionally managed property funds suspended redemptions.

One group stood out: Brandeaux. The group created and managed various funds, including Student Accommodation, Ground Rent and Mixed Asset Funds, which consist of a mixture of these aforementioned asset classes. However, after the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the resulting "we are starting into the abyss" moments of real panic, one large firm with large client investment in Brandeaux wanted to suddenly withdraw substantial amounts of capital. To avoid, as Brandeaux put it, "selling good assets at fire sale prices", and of course the damage this would have done to investors, on December 16 2008, with ill grace Brandeaux suspended dealings either into or out of its funds.

Brandeaux stressed to investors that it wanted to resume normal operation of its funds as soon as possible. Well, the first to emerge and resume trading both for incoming and outgoing

options was the Student Accommodation Fund.

What a superb fund this has proved to be; it continues to rank number one in the independent Lipper Hindsight ranking of 54 UK property funds. It has returned to investors – after annual management fees of 1.5% – a net return of +10.78% over the past 12 months; +34.52% over three years and +58.04% over the five-year period up to 30 April 2009.

The returns have convinced everyone that Brandeaux will continue to make money. The group itself believes that returns from the Student Accommodation Fund will continue at the high end of its target of between 8% and 10%.

Brandeaux has reported consistent demand from institutions and wealth managers in the Far East, Middle East, South America and Europe and reports strong investment flows. Previously, the Student Accommodation Fund was only available in sterling, however it is now being expanded to include US dollar and euro versions.

The current dual asset funds, the Brandeaux US Dollar Fund and the Brandeaux Euro Fund, were also suspended. They are expected to reopen by mid-July, along with the Brandeaux Sterling Fund.

Brandeaux will continue to give updates on the Ground Rent Funds and is working towards reopening them as soon as possible.

Recessions are obviously bad news for business and investors. However, they are good news for anyone connected to student accommodation. Many students coming to the end of a first university degree are coming to the all-too-rational conclusion that the job market "out there" is a very unpleasant and not a very profitable place to be. Small wonder, when prospective employers are demanding three

to five years of practical experience for students who wish to embark on their first job.

In many cases students are opting to study for a more advanced degree or one with more practical application in the real world. The demand for student accommodation is continuing to rise and as usual there is a shortage.

One new company that has joined the ranks of those in the student accommodation business is Coral Portfolio. Two of its directors are ex-directors of Brandeaux and bring with them a wealth of knowledge of the industry.

Coral Portfolio is different to other participants in this industry; they do not actually manage any student accommodation themselves, but are a "fund of funds", investing in other long-established providers.

The largest group in the UK student accommodation sector is a company called UNITE, but, in common with other long-established companies in this sector, they derive their funding from institutions. The Sovereign Wealth Funds of Singapore are a good example. It is worth noting that none of the large UK student accommodation providers are listed in the Lipper Hindsight tables. There is simply no method for a private investor to be able to access these investments.

Coral Portfolio is a Luxembourg-based fund, which means that it complies with the very high standards imposed by the European Union. Administration of the fund is handled by Deutsche Bank, which is also custodian. The accountants are Ernst & Young.

To digress, when the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in America conducted any of its numerous investigations into



Palestinian students celebrate graduation in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Photo: AFP

Bernard Madoff, the infamous fraudster, it should have simply looked at who the accountants were. In the Madoff case, the answer was a small, three-person firm based in upper New York State, which, obviously, was incapable of auditing a business the size of Madoff's.

The trend is very much for any financial institution or fund manager to use one of the "big four" accounting firms. Coral is no exception.

Coral is, in many respects, fortunate in its timing in launching a student accommodation fund.

While the major companies in this field all have "frozen" funds, their institutional investors are very often open to selling part of their holding, as they frequently need to add to liquidity. This has meant that Coral has been able to acquire these assets at a discount from the market price, normally 10%.

The potential of the student accommodation sector for invest-

ment has not gone unnoticed. There is another new company in the UK, Braemar, with whom I have had discussions.

At this point, I prefer the Coral Portfolio approach. Student accommodation funds require very good day-to-day management. Braemar may well demonstrate this ability in years to come, but, at this stage, I believe it still has to prove itself.

Coral Portfolio, by acquiring holdings in the leading companies in this industry, avoids the need to demonstrate active management. One Coral director said that university students can be difficult tenants to manage.

Coral is accepted by virtually all of the major life companies. Its entrance into the student accommodation industry will give global investors more choice of suppliers and access to previously inaccessible investments. It predicts returns to be in the region of 8% to 10% per annum.

The fund is available in sterling, euros and US dollars.

Gloomy outlook for Phuket tourism

By Suchat Sritama/ The Nation

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Tourism Association (PTA) has forecast that Phuket hotels will see average occupancy rates dip to as low as 30%, compared to 60% in the low season last year.

Citing a number of negative factors, PTA Vice President Bhurit Maswongsa said the spread of the type-A (H1N1) flu virus was one of the main problems hitting the industry at the moment.

"Phuket is already in the summer [low] season, but occupancy rates will fall by about 30% to remain at between 30-35%," he predicted.

Revenues for operators in Phuket would be down 50% compared to last year, he added.

Only tourists from Australia, the Middle East and India are likely to visit the island in strong

numbers at this time of year, he said.

Promotional offers were not enough to tempt tourists back to Thailand as they were trying to avoid the possibility of catching the flu and were also concerned about political instability.

Moreover, occupancy rates in the high season are expected to be down 20%, to between 50% and 60%, he said.

Laguna Resorts and Hotels forecasts the average occupancy rate at its properties will be down 20% to 25% in the second and third quarters of this year.

Average occupancy rate at the region's largest resort complex fell 27% in the first quarter, to 65% because people canceled bookings to Phuket following the closure of the Bangkok airports in November.

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PUZZLES

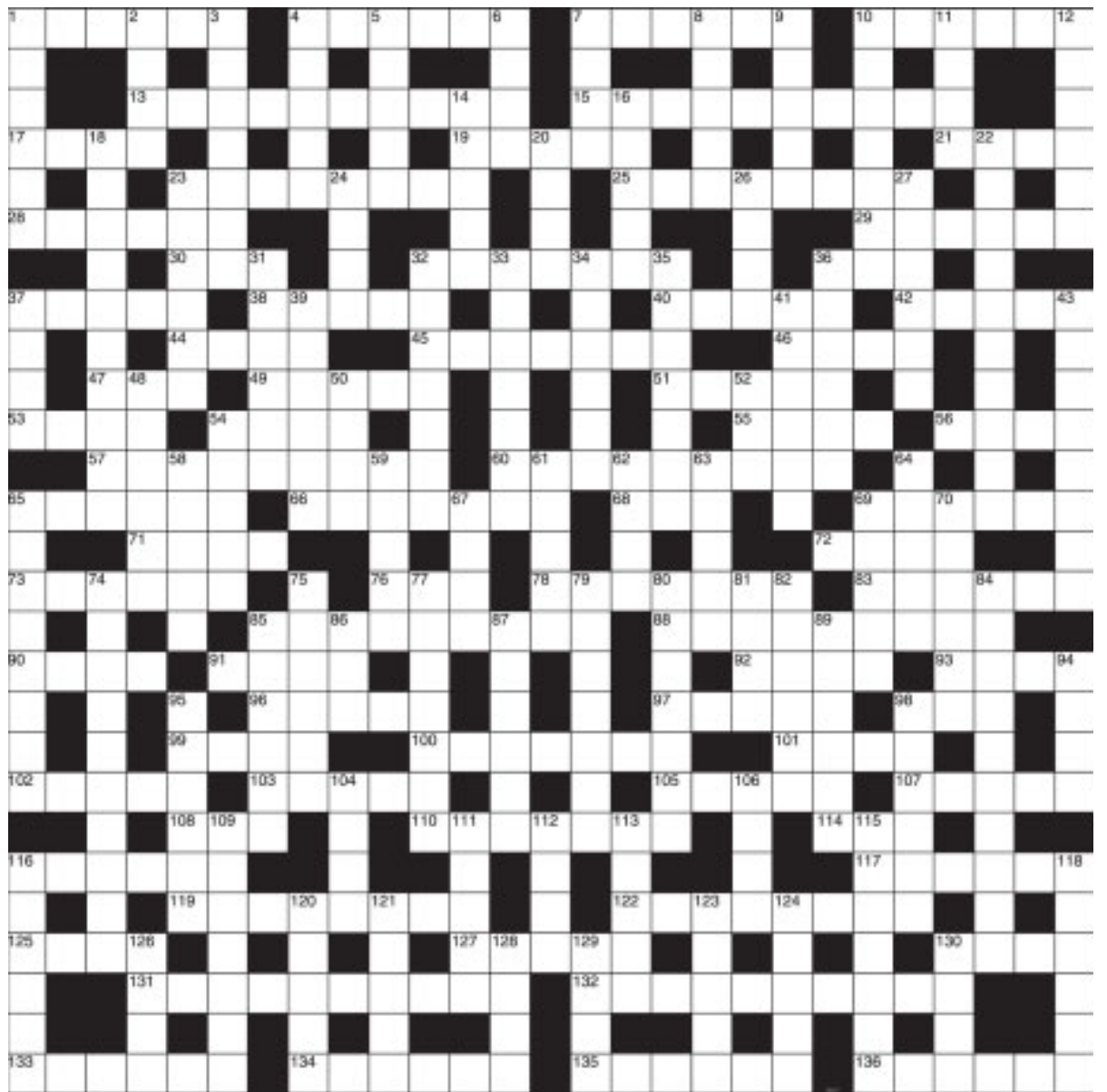
Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are lots of nationalities. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up.

Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

Solution on the next page.

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



The BIG Crossword

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Across

- 1. Fairytale, Hansel & ...
- 4. Ensnare
- 7. Duck calls
- 10. Growing older
- 13. Repeat occurrence
- 15. Runaways
- 17. Prudent
- 19. Reserve, set...
- 21. Capture
- 23. Rids of lice
- 25. Frozen shipping hazards
- 28. Team member
- 29. Canvas supports
- 30. Fitness centre
- 32. Newer versions of film
- 36. Illegal hallucinogen
- 37. African republic
- 38. Red earth colour
- 40. Florida city
- 42. Hang loosely
- 44. Engrave
- 45. String-knotting craft
- 46. Woodwind instrument
- 47. Foot digit
- 49. Actor, ... Costner
- 51. Money, filthy ... 53. Biblical garden 54. Contemplate
- 55. Greasy
- 56. Zone
- 57. Formal party
- 60. Coach stations (3,6)
- 65. Gloomy
- 66. Fitted (in)
- 68. Dedicatory poem
- 69. Covered shopway
- 71. Swedish pop group
- 72. Practise boxing

- 73. Former Yugoslav region
- 76. Poet, Edgar Allan...
- 78. Small embroidery holes
- 83. Baby grands
- 85. Frightening dream
- 88. Haughtiness
- 90. Ark builder
- 91. Bottom of ear
- 92. Spoken
- 93. Philosopher, ... Marx
- 96. Numbers game
- 97. Fibreglass insulation strips
- 98. Egyptian snake
- 99. Temperament
- 100. Singer, ... Etheridge
- 101. Scraped by, ... out a living
- 102. Frilled lace trim
- 103. Leading lady, prima...
- 105. Chicken breed, ... Island Red
- 107. Affray
- 108. Whichever
- 110. Candidate for job
- 114. Relaxation art, ... chi (1'2)
- 116. Sparse
- 117. Radio interference
- 119. Devil-worshipper
- 122. Summer frock
- 125. Spy, ... Hari
- 127. Divide into two
- 130. ... White And The Seven Dwarfs
- 131. Fingertip varnish (4,6)
- 132. Vitality
- 133. Legal decision
- 134. Naturism
- 135. Relate again

Down

- 1. Matured (4,2)
- 2. Make weary
- 3. Lasciviousness
- 4. Firm, Wells, ... & Company
- 5. Ogles, ... at
- 6. Troubles
- 7. Multiple-birth child
- 8. Bike path, ... track
- 9. Burn slightly
- 10. Evens the score for
- 11. Sunrise direction
- 12. Athens natives
- 14. Indian class system
- 16. Fawn shade
- 18. Kills
- 20. Tiny amount
- 22. Chief port of Egypt
- 23. Graduate's award
- 24. US Mormon state
- 26. Second Greek letter
- 27. Depress
- 31. Working model (4-2)
- 32. Leftover
- 33. Germ
- 34. Marsupials
- 35. Sniffed
- 36. Defames in writing
- 37. Nothing
- 39. Sea trunks
- 41. Swiss winter sports resort, St...
- 43. Prison absconders
- 48. Sole performer, ... band (3-3)
- 50. Bride's face cover
- 52. Dove call
- 54. Classic dessert, peach...
- 58. Ship's room

- 59. Enthusiasm
- 61. Goat milk sac
- 62. Medicine measure
- 63. JM Barrie play, ... Pan
- 64. Rail transport
- 65. Suave
- 67. Bucket down
- 69. Greatly dismay
- 70. Breaks sharply
- 74. Astronaut's rocket
- 75. Sex drive
- 77. Sofa footstool
- 79. Former Russian leader, Boris...
- 80. Expose (3,4)
- 81. Horse's gait
- 82. Graded
- 84. Layered ice cream
- 85. No-one
- 86. Info
- 87. Safe haven
- 89. Sealant
- 94. Existence
- 95. Daubs
- 98. Confesses
- 104. Illuminating gas
- 106. Was in debt to
- 109. Moving closer to
- 111. Solemn vows
- 112. Stone god
- 113. SE English county
- 115. Agrees
- 116. Club participant
- 118. Craven person
- 120. Colorado ski resort
- 121. Ticked over
- 123. Lordly
- 124. Rustic
- 126. Opposed to
- 128. Throat-clearing
- 129. Steer off course
- 130. Transmit

Solution on next page

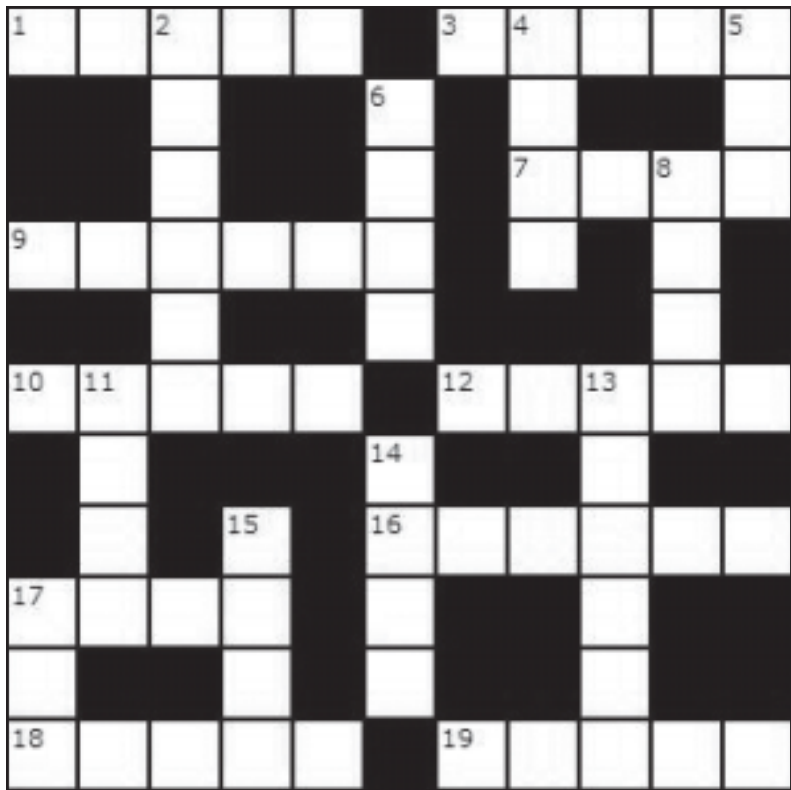
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Mission | 2. Reveal |
| 3. Embarrassed | 4. Fibber |
| 7. Relation | 5. Boiling |
| 9. Roasted | 6. Martial art |
| 10. Ice... | 8. Deaden |
| 12. Possibly | 11. Life... |
| 16. Bourbon | 13. Young people |
| 17. Celestial body | 14. Soviet... |
| 18. Mannequin | 15. Bleak |
| 19. Nightclub | 17. Miserable |

Solution below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

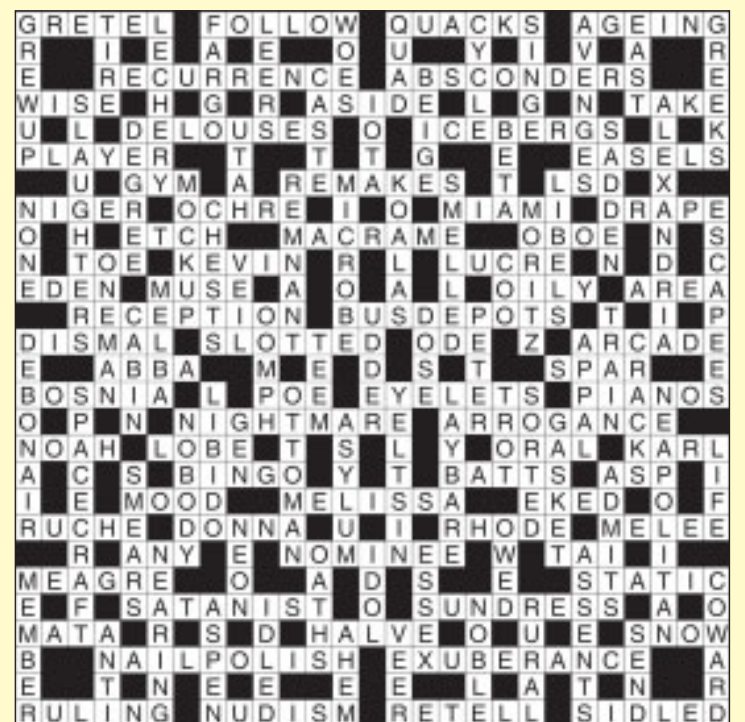
- R.N.L.I. (Royal National Lifeboat Institution);
- Dr Doolittle;
- 2 fish and 5 loaves;
- Laying bricks;
- Official Monster Raving Loony Party;
- Tiddlywinks;
- Pawn;
- Colonel Mustard, Reverend Green and Professor Plum;
- Bishop;
- House of Commons;
- Bury St. Edmunds;
- She was buried alive;
- District;
- Janus;
- 0;
- More than 10 fingers or toes;
- Murphy;
- 7;
- Saga;
- Empty Tomb.

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

- Which organisation has the saying "Train One, Save Many"?
- Which fictional character had a dog named Jip?
- How many loaves and fish did Jesus use to feed 5,000?
- Flemish bond and English bond are methods of doing what?
- Lord David Sutch was the founder of which UK political party?
- What game starts with a squidge off?
- With which piece in chess is the term *en passant* associated?
- Who are the male suspects in Cluedo?
- Which chess piece remains on the same coloured squares?
- What is the one place in Great Britain the Queen cannot enter?
- In which English town is St. Edmund buried?
- What happened to a Vestal Virgin if she broke her vow of chastity?
- Which line on the London Underground stops at more stations than any of the other lines?
- January is named after which Roman God?
- If May 1 is a Saturday, then what is the maximum number of other months in the same year that can begin on Saturday?
- What would a poly-dactyl person have that a normal person wouldn't?
- What is the most common surname in Ireland?
- How many columns are in the game Connect 4?
- What is the name of the holiday company that caters for the over 50s?
- What does the word cenotaph mean?

Answers below

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Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Hidden Words SOLUTION

N H S I L O P K + T + E B + I
 + I + A + + O + H + H E S A + T
 + + R + B R + A + S + E H + A L
 + + + A E U I + I + + N A + L
 + + + A D + R L + + + A S + I
 + + N + + N G O H + + P A + A
 G E R M A N A + Y I + A + + N
 + + + + E + + M + + N J + + I
 S P A N I S H + F P + D + B
 M A L A Y C R + O L + + I + A
 T + + + T U + R + + E + + J
 A + + U S + T + + + M + + N
 M + D S + U + + + + + I + U
 I + I + G H S I K R U T + S P
 L A + U + + + + + + + + H
 N + E I + + + + + + + + +
 + S + L + + + + + + + + +
 E + + + + I + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + H A + + + + + H
 + + + + + A R + + + + C N
 + + + + + W A + + N + U
 + + + + + S B E + + T
 E S E M A N T E I V R I + + E
 + + + + + + + + F + C + T
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Cashing in on Sanskrit chic



My friend Fardley Nerdwell likes to think of himself as an amateur linguist. Recently he drew my attention to a growing trend: many upmarket spas, restaurants, and resorts are now adopting Sanskrit names.

"There is now a spa on Koh Samui called the Kamalaya, a club in Bangkok called Soma, and restaurants in various places called Mahanaga, Mantra, Tantra and Deva," Fardley noted. "Not to mention the Dewa Phuket, a resort that uses a variant spelling of *Deva*, meaning a god. Sanskrit names are now the "in" thing for the luxury playgrounds of the super-rich. You can call it Sanskrit chic, and we can make money from it".

Sanskrit names these places are likely to choose, and copyright them. Then, when one of them adopts one of the names, we sue their socks off for copyright infringement," he replied.

"That's disgusting," I scolded him. "Immoral, in fact. Anyway, I don't think you can copyright a name."

"You can if you set up dummy corporations and give them the names you want to copyright," Fardley rejoined. "Look at McDonald's. Try setting up your own burger joint and calling it McDonald's before McDonald's hears about it and sues your socks off. Or even a minor variation like MacDonaldis or McRonald."

"I wonder why they pick Sanskrit names," I mused.

"Easy," Fardley said. "Luxury spas and resorts want to pamper their guests, relieve their stress and give them all sorts of soothing therapies. They also want to suggest, subliminally, of course, that in addition to getting their bodies rejuvenated, their guests will get some sort of spiritual refreshment out of the experience – a cleansing of the mind, an elevation of the soul, possibly

even enlightenment. So they pick Sanskrit names that suggest such things.

"*Nirvana* is an obvious name, but it's already been overused and sullied by its association with a grunge rock band. *Moksha* would be a perfect name for a spa. It means liberation from the trammels of the flesh."

"I get the impression that most people nowadays would prefer to embrace the trammels of the flesh," I ventured.

"True," Fardley agreed. "But people also like the idea of liberation. Nobody is keen on going through the arduous mental disciplines that have been traditionally prescribed as prerequisites for liberation, though. So the high-end spas promote – subliminally, of course – the illusion of liberation through luxury. It's a fallacious but novel concept that the money sharks will go for in a big way.

"*Mukti* is another name we'll have to copyright. It means the same as *Moksha*."

I was beginning to see his point. "We can have fun with this," I said, warming to his theme. "We can become consult-

ants to the luxury playground industry. We can suggest Sanskrit names whose meaning most people won't know."

"For instance?" Fardley asked.

"*Maithuna*," I breathed. "Beautiful word, isn't it? The Maithuna Luxury Resort."

"Lovely," Fardley agreed. "What does it mean?"

"Sexual intercourse," I replied. "Then there's *Shauchalaya*. The Shauchalaya Wellness Spa and Holistic Center for Cleansing Therapies."

"Sounds fantastic," Fardley said. "What does it mean?"

"*Shauchalaya* literally means the Abode of Cleanliness," I said. "It's the name an Indian philanthropist gave to the hundreds of outdoor privies he constructed for the benefit of impoverished hill people in the Himalayas. In effect, it means shit house."

"I don't think that will fly, spa-wise," Fardley said doubtfully.

"*Kalpataru*," I suggested. "That's a wish-fulfilling tree in Hindu mythology. *Mudra*, a sacred gesture. *Swarga*, meaning heaven. *Devaloka*, the place of the gods. *Vaikuntha*, the abode

of Vishnu. *Kailasa*, the abode of Shiva."

Fardley was scribbling furiously. "Keep talking," he said. "I'm getting all this down."

"*Linga*," I continued. "That's the sacred phallus of Shiva. *Mahalinga*. That's the BIG sacred phallus of Shiva. *Yoni*, which means vagina. *Mahayoni*, the great vagina."

"None of those will fly," Fardley frowned. "We want to avoid tastelessness, not cultivate it. Try to curb your fondness for the raffish and the obscene. Anything else?"

"*Bhoga*," I said. "It means enjoyment, pleasure."

"*Bhoga* won't sell," Fardley objected. "Sounds too much like booger."

"*Lobhalaya*," I concluded. "The perfect name for a high-end pleasure palace. It means the Abode of Greed. Even better, *Mohalaya*. That means the Abode of Delusion."

"I'll contact the copyright office right away," Fardley said.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@ymail.com, except when he's in the shauchalaya.

Horoscopes Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Being in the hot seat early next week may give Geminis the wrong impression of how June is going to be. Once you have successfully negotiated your way through a tricky few days, the rest of the month should be a breeze. Only romance will remain a sensitive issue – your unwillingness to commit to someone is forecast to cause a split. Those celebrating a birthday will gain important knowledge in the year ahead.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who are content with what they have should have an easy ride this week, but others may feel they are banging their heads against a brick wall. The stars suggest that things will improve as June progresses, with a welcome windfall arriving towards the middle of the month. For those seeking a change of location, property matters begin to be better starred – your dream home is closer than you know.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The scent of success becomes stronger for Leos this week, particularly those who remained true to their ideals. Family support is more forthcoming when you share your concerns and this will lower your stress levels. An exchange of words is forecast to put a slight dampener on the start of your week at work – remember that a good workman never blames his tools. Wear sunset shades to encourage a healthier balance of emotions.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Inside information is a priceless pearl for those born under the sign of Virgo at the start of June. If this concerns work, you may need to move quickly before others get wind of this opportunity. Romance with Aries is subject to stormy skies this weekend, but an affair with Libra is sure to progress smoothly. Spending quality time tidying up personal administration can reveal that you are owed money.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Certain Librans will begin to realize that a cherished dream will only come true when elephants can fly. However, your imagination is red hot during the first half of June and another plan is about to spring forth. Those who are work-shy receive a warning when they fail to meet a deadline midweek. The path towards romance with a fire sign is clear, but you should not expect to have it all your way.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The temptation to rub salt in someone's wounds is strong early next week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who find it hard to resist having the last word are advised to think twice. A dream you have this weekend sheds light on a perplexing romantic puzzle, but there are no immediate answers to a work-related matter. Finances look up when you discover that someone's bookkeeping error is in your favor.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): An air sign colleague is likely to twist your words to their advantage midweek. Sagittarians are advised to be on the lookout for this snake in the grass until an ongoing project is finalized. Those who are seeking more lucrative outlets for their creative energy will benefit from meeting an interested Aquarian this weekend. The stars suggest that a recently begun romance starts to bring more trouble than it's worth.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns continue to bloom under auspicious astral conditions during the first half of June. Those who recently embarked on a new career could learn that there are even more possibilities than they dreamed of. The pot of gold at the end of a rainbow is definitely within reach. Romance is subject to a few hiccups when money matters become an issue. The number seven brings some good luck this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Work goes swimmingly for most Aquarians during the month of June. A water sign's disappearance from the business scene leaves the door wide open and your talent for spotting an opportunity should ensure that you are first to take advantage. This weekend, you learn that there can be more joy in giving than receiving when a needy cause is brought to your attention. Wearing the

color electric blue can encourage sharper energy.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Before you pour a bucket of cold water on an earth sign friend's idea, take time to consider whether it's really as silly as it first sounds. Pisceans who are willing to take a chance could see a wealth of possibilities after some practical consideration. In the realm of romance, your chances with Taurus improve when you have an honest conversation this weekend. The number three can bring good fortune this Saturday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your readiness to embrace changes comes in handy this week. Those born under the sign of Aries who have been feeling stale lately are about to see some

much-needed excitement in their lives. This mainly applies to employment, but romance is also indicated to put a smile on your face during June. Another fire sign would like to shower you with affection. Wearing the color sunflower yellow can encourage heightened perception.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans who had a rocky ride during May will be relieved to know that the month of June is forecast to bring a smoother, calmer atmosphere. The only downside this week could occur on Wednesday when someone displays jealousy – ignoring this green-eyed monster is the only answer. Investments are well-starred and Gemini has a promising tip this weekend. A last-minute chance to take a short trip is too good to turn down.



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Climate change threat for Thailand

Over the past few weeks, a flurry of reports has painted a much more dismal picture of the probable impact of climate change on Thailand.

Two years ago, the report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change created shockwaves in the Western world, but hardly raised a single eyebrow in Thailand. That was partly because the report suggested that Thailand would not be affected as badly as many other parts of the world.

Global warming would happen quicker nearer the poles rather than the equator, and over big landmasses rather than by the sea. The Northeast might get a bit hotter, but generally Thailand would get warmer more slowly than elsewhere. Similarly, while much of the world was set to get drier, Thailand also seemed to escape the worst.

But we can now see that these conclusions were a trick of the data. Most of the research and modeling had concentrated on the temperate regions. The relatively benign view of areas like Southeast Asia was a result of ignorance. That ignorance is rapidly being dissipated; scientists have been peer-ing harder at the local data and constructing models of the future that concentrate on tropical and subtropical zones.

It's been getting hotter lately – and in the future it's going to get hotter still. The average temperature in Southeast Asia has risen by 0.1 degree Celsius to 0.3 degree each decade over the past half-century. The trend

has accelerated recently. In Thailand, since 1951, the average minimum temperature has risen by 1.35 degrees and the average maximum by 0.35 degree.

In the near future, this acceleration is probably going to increase. According to models developed locally, the mean daily maximum temperature in Thailand will increase by two to four degrees by 2070. While in the recent past, the greatest warming has been during the cool season, in the future it will happen in the hot season too. There will be more heat waves, and fewer cool days.

That must sound bad for anyone who can recall the baking days before the recent rains. But it's bad in many other ways too. When the temperature rises by one degree, rice yields drop by a tenth. Many other crops suffer the same way. The impact will be severest in the Northeast where jasmine rice grows.

The rainfall picture is also pretty dismal. Over the past few

decades, average annual rainfall has n't changed very much, but the variation from year to year,

and place to place, has become more extreme.

Dry years are drier, wet years are wetter. Some regions are swamped, while others are scorched. Tropical storms have become more intense, though not more frequent.

This trend also appears set to intensify. Overall, the models suggest that average rainfall will decline in the near future, but then begin to pick up. More strikingly, they predict that the varia-



Forest fires have already become a bigger problem and scenes like this could become common in Thailand.

tion from year to year and place to place will become more erratic. Storms will increase in frequency and intensity. That means more floods.

Forest fires have already become a bigger problem. In dry forest areas, they used to occur once a year, and now often occur twice. In moist and evergreen forests, which used to be virtually fire-free, they are becoming more common.

The haze over Chiang Mai in the later part of the cool season has become an annual event. Minimizing deliberate burning of forests has not helped much because the underlying cause is natural.

Landslides and mudslides are also becoming more common. In the past they were mostly confined to the South, with its steep mountainsides and heavy monsoon rains. Over the last decade they have become annual events in the North as well.

The picture on sea levels is also becoming clearer and more disturbing. Until recently, some Thai scientists argued that local sea levels were not rising, unlike the rest of the world. The new

data shows that the sea level in Southeast Asia has risen at a rate of one to three millimeters a year over the past half-century.

This trend is set to continue, but there is great disagreement over the rate. At a minimum, the sea will be 40 centimeters higher than it is now by the end of this century, but that could rise to a meter or more, depending on the melting of ice sheets and glaciers.

The rise of sea levels will swamp coastal areas, particularly on the eastern coast of the peninsula. It will also increase seasonal flooding in Bangkok and other towns.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ranked Bangkok seventh in the world among cities where climate change will affect people and property.

The impact of rising sea levels is magnified by the effect of more intense storms, which destroy coastal mangroves and other natural barriers. The sea-coast along the upper Gulf of Thailand between the Thachin and Bang Pakong rivers has already become severely eroded. In Phra Samut Chedi district of

Samut Prakan, the sea is advancing at 25 meters a year. In Bangkok's Bang Khunthien district, the rate is only fractionally slower. Village settlements and cultivated areas have been abandoned.

In total, some 200 kilometers of coastline are suffering erosion from the upper Gulf down the eastern coast of the peninsula. Some of the other most critical areas are Pak Phanang district of Nakhon Si Thammarat and Tak Bai of Narathiwat.

This flurry of new and more disturbing information has still not fluttered many eyelids in Thailand. In Europe and North America, people woke up to global warming when they could see the changes for themselves. Summers really did feel warmer and winters milder. Different flowers appeared.

For most people here, that's not yet true. But animals may be ahead of us. Birds are beginning to move to new areas. Gibbons in Khao Yai are changing their sites and habits because the distribution of trees on which they feed is changing.

Before long we'll have to change too.



Issues & ANSWERS

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.
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Phuket 83000. Fax 076-
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Retirement Visa

Last year Phuket Immigration approved a one year retirement visa for myself, using a joint bank account with my Thai wife as proof of funds.

On May 20, I ventured to the Immigration office to renew the one year retirement visa, but they refused to issue the visa saying that the bank book needed to be in one name only – my name.

I now have to approach the bank to close this investment account and reopen another account in my own name. This is such a considerable waste of time and money for me.

I asked the immigration officer, could I not lodge an application for a Marriage visa as the account is in both names. That was ignored and I subsequently received a "take it or leave it" gesture. Could someone please explain to me the reasoning be-

hind this sudden change of heart?

Peter Freer
Phuket

Police Captain Rassarin Teerapattanakul, Sub Inspector Visas Extension Immigration Phuket, replies:

Attaining a retirement visa normally requires the applicant to have 800,000 baht in his or her account. Your statement shows that you have 1 million baht in the bank, but it is registered in both you and your wife's names. In this instance, you need 1.6 million baht in your bank account to qualify for a retirement visa if you maintain a joint account with your wife.

To apply for a marriage visa, Immigration will require the following documents: a bank statement from the past three months showing a balance of at least 400,000 baht; if currently em-

ployed a letter from your employer or business detailing your salary; tax details (*PorNgorDor* 91 and 90); your marriage certificate; and a *KorRor* 2 document from the district you live in (Thalang, Muang, Kathu). Once you have all this paperwork, you need to go to Immigration and collect an application form. Once submitted, immigration officers will then check to see if your marriage is legitimate.

Motorbike Taxis

When I was in Phuket in April, to my frustration I found that most of the motorbike taxis were charging whatever they wanted and I could never get a taxi to charge the same price twice.

Some were charging 30 baht, some 40 baht and at night they wanted 50 baht just to travel in and around Patong. Is there a set price that one should pay

while traveling within Patong?

John Spyridonidis
Australia

Mr Somchay Neawnan, Chief of Co-operative Motorcycle Patong Ltd replies:

Co-operative Motorcycle Patong Ltd holds a subcommittee meeting every year, but unfortunately it is never set in stone exactly what the price for taxis – car, motorbike or tuk-tuk – should be. We are still waiting for confirmation from the Phuket municipality, Phuket Police, district chief and other officials. At the last meeting it was said that the first five kilometer should cost 25 baht and every subsequent kilometer is five baht, but a lot depends on what deal can be arranged between the motorbike taxi and the customer. However, you must always agree on a fee before getting on the motorbike.

Sainamyen and BIS to renew old rivalry at Overgaard Phuket 10s

A local sporting rivalry that was established during a small-scale coaching session at the British International School (BIS) earlier this year will be thrust firmly into the limelight this Sunday as part of the Overgaard Phuket Rugby 10s.

On May 31, the Sainamyen School in Patong will go head-to-head with BIS at the Surakul Stadium in front of an anticipated crowd of more than 1,000 people. The match will provide both sets of players – more familiar with playing the game with reduced numbers – with their first taste of 15-a-side rugby.

The last time the schools met was at the culmination of a coaching day at BIS in March. Despite being novices, the two sets of players produced a thrilling game of rugby that Sainamyen clinched with a try in sudden death extra time following a 2-2 draw in normal time.

The BIS boys were devastated by the loss and are eager to avenge it at the Surakul Stadium this weekend. The match promises to be a fascinating clash of styles between the physically stronger BIS team and the agile

and nimble Sainamyen XV. BIS will be hoping to dominate up front and in the tackle, but the smaller Sainamyen side will find plenty of space to run into on the Surakul pitch if they can get the ball moving to their speedy backs.

Pat Cotter, organizer of the Overgaard Phuket Rugby 10s, thinks that both sides will be able to make the transition to 15-a-side rugby.

“For Sainamyen I don’t think it will be a problem as they have played as a team before. They are quick to learn and have a good coach in Khun Phanom. BIS have regular coaching sessions with Paul Redfern and Barry Daniels so the transition for them will be made easier,” he said.

“It should be an entertaining game and the hope is that it will give them the enthusiasm to continue playing the sport and take it to the next level over the coming years,” he added.

Although obviously looking forward to the match, Cotter stopped short of offering an actual prediction.

“I think the team that plays together as a team will win the day. Obviously the BIS kids are



Action from the last encounter between Sainamyen and BIS in March.

bigger and that will make it hard for the Sainamyen team to secure the ball, but Sainamyen’s ball handling and pace out wide is better so it will be a good contest,” he said.

The Phuket Vagabonds are committed to developing youth rugby in Phuket and Pat hopes that this will be another step on that journey.

“It is our hope that we can take youth rugby to the next level in Phuket over the next year and

perhaps hold a separate youth tournament next year on the same weekend as the 10s. We are also hoping to establish the Sainamyen team as the crux of the Phuket provincial team over the coming years,” he said.

When asked about the upcoming encounter, Sainamyen team captain Abhisit Yimorn, 15, said, “I enjoy playing rugby because I like physical sports. We are all looking forward to playing in front of so many people and I

believe we can beat BIS because our backs are quicker.”

13-year-old Paul Mulloy of the BIS team said his side is also confident they can win.

“We were very disappointed to lose against them earlier this year and we will be looking for revenge. This is the first time we have played 15-a-side rugby but we have been practicing a lot and we are all really looking forward to it he said.

-James Goyder

Stage two of PCYC 2009 race series keenly contested

Phuket Yacht Club held its second dinghy race of the 2009 race series, sponsored by Topper Sail Phuket, on Sunday May 24.

With the Phuket sun sitting in an azure sky, the keen and competitive sailors left the beach for the start propelled by a gentle yet steady breeze. The event was split into four classes with racers competing in Optimist, Class 1 –

multihulls, Class 2 or Class 3 categories.

After four races, with no discards, Roger Kingdom took first place in Class 1 sailing a small trimaran- Weta, Andrew and Donna Debruin won Class 2 in a Tasar, and Alex Hamilton emerged victorious in Class 3 on board a Topaz.

The Optimist Class saw three competitors racing for the

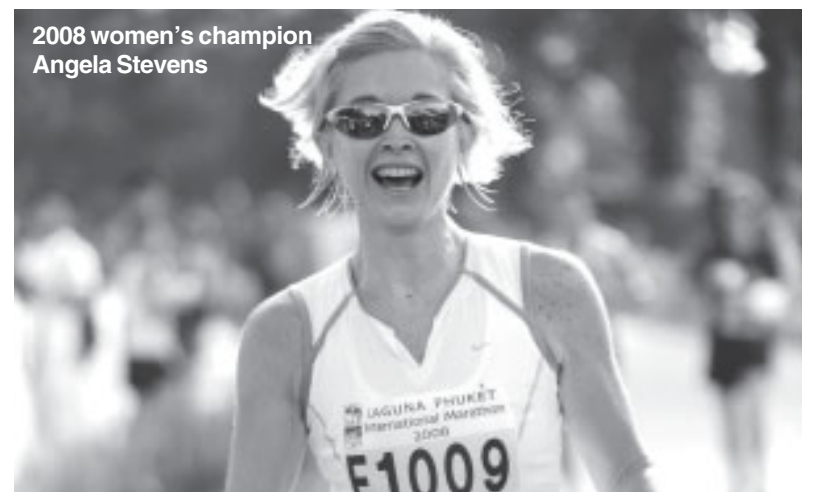
first time – Anuwat Kasa, Angus Hamilton and Chris Thomson – in a field of 10 racers.

After three hotly contested races, again with no discards, Thailand made a clean sweep of the podium positions as Sukanya “Ann” Saimarn took first place with Chalip “Lip” Payatsup and Akapoj “Tik” Kankaew finishing in second and third place respectively.



Action from the PCYC 2009 race series

4,500 runners for marathon expected



2008 women's champion Angela Stevens

Despite the global economic crisis and the slow down in international tourism, participant numbers for the fourth Laguna Phuket International Marathon have risen by 10% compared with 2008. Almost 4,500 participants, including 1,500 international runners from approximately 40 countries, are expected to take part, with organizers reporting that numbers have doubled since the marathon’s inception in 2006.

Raimund Wellenhofer, director of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon, said he was delighted with the forecast figures.

“When we envisioned a marathon in Phuket as early as

2004 we knew that success would not happen overnight. We are excited to see that this hard work is now starting to pay off,” he said.

A series of events will kick off at Laguna Beach Resort on Friday June 12, starting with a two-day expo featuring sponsor booths. The resort will then host a welcome pasta party the evening before the event and a farewell party on race day. Race day on June 14 will comprise a 42k marathon, a 21k half-marathon, a 10.5k run, a 2k “Kids’ Run” and a 5k walk. Online registration is open until 5 June 2009. For further information about the event or to register, please visit www.phuketmarathon.com.

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Howzat! Cherng Talay Wittayakom School crowned junior cricket league champions

The Sawasdee Cricket League, a key part of the Phuket Cricket Union's youth development program, reached an exciting conclusion on May 30 as Cherng Talay Wittayakom School overcame Baan Sapham School in a closely fought final.

While cricket might be the dominant sport in former British colonies such as India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the obsession has yet to spread to Thailand. However, the Phuket Cricket Union is slowly attempting to introduce the game at grass roots level in the hope that future generations of Thai youngsters will come to love the sport that many expats grew up on.

There is also a feeling that unlike rugby and football, where size is important, cricket is one sport in which Thailand could potentially excel.

The Sawasdee Cricket League consisted of six local schools and at the end of the round robin group stage, Baan Sapham and Cherng Talay occupied the top two positions. The two then faced off in the final to determine who would be crowned the inaugural winners.

The rules for matches in the Sawasdee League are adapted from those of conventional cricket in order to give youngsters a chance to hone their skills in a competitive environment. The teams consist of eight players rather than the traditional 11 and the balls are made of lightweight compressed rubber.

Each pair of batsmen start with a combined score of 50 runs and bat for two overs before retiring. If a batsman is out he remains at the crease, but five runs are deducted from his overall score.

The final was held on the football pitch at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School, the current home of cricket in Phuket. Baan Sapham won the toss and elected to bowl. Over the course of the match both teams produced respectable performances with both bat and ball.

In Sawasdee League cricket the umpire is solely responsible for keeping track of the scores, meaning that at the conclusion of the match some hasty arithmetic is required to determine the winner.

After the second innings, both sets of players crowded



The Phuket Cricket Union is slowly attempting to introduce the game at grass roots level in the hope that future generations of Thai youngsters will come to love the sport.

around umpire Michael Way eagerly awaiting the result. After all the calculations were completed, both teams had scored exactly 245 runs and it was decided that the only way to settle the encounter would be a play off.

Both teams would bat for an over each and the destination of the Sawasdee Trophy would be decided by the outcome. Remarkably, the teams proved in-

separable once again, both scoring nine runs to ensure yet another deciding over was required.

This time Cherng Talay struck early, taking a wicket with the opening delivery. Baan Sapham were deducted five runs from their total and given a mountain to climb.

Despite their best efforts, they were unable to overcome this early setback and Cherng

Talay ran out winners by 11 runs.

Both sides played the match in the true spirit of the game, something that was not lost on umpire Michael Way.

"The boys wanted to cut the cup in half, but we decided to settle it with a play off. It was a great way to end a fantastic competition, which will be back next year," he said.

-James Goyder

Sea Dragons slump to defeat yet again

In their final match before the mid-season break, Phuket FC traveled to Narathiwat on Saturday May 23 on the back of two successive home defeats.

The Sea Dragons hadn't managed a win since their second game of the season – a 1-0 victory away at Krabi – and were looking for their first points in the league since securing a battling 0-0 draw at Patthalung.

Unfortunately for the Phuket supporters, their heroes were unable to reverse their current slide and slumped to their third straight defeat, going down 2-0.

At the halfway stage of the competition, Phuket FC have won four points from a possible 21 and, although not bottom, are sitting at the wrong end of the table, having only scored six goals.

Worryingly, in four attempts the Sea Dragons have yet to pick up a single point at Surakul Stadium. The fact that they have performed well on the road is encouraging for manager Somsak, but he will be desperate to turn his side's poor home form around and give the Phuket fans something to cheer about.

For Phuket FC the problem doesn't seem to be a lack of skill, but a lack of fitness. In most home games, the team has started brightly but then faded in the second half and their opponents' su-

perior fitness has made the difference.

With the team now not playing again until July 5, coach Somsak has the opportunity to do fitness work with his players. Many teams have shown in the past that, if fitter than their opponents, they can cancel out the difference in ability.

With the promise of overseas players to join the side following the proposed farang football trial scheduled to take place on June 1, there is every chance that the Sea Dragons can finish the season on a high and firmly establish themselves for a title challenge the following season.

-Dan Ogunshakin

Samui regatta to thrill spectators

With the 2008 King's Cup a distant memory, the Sawadee.com Regatta Samui 2009 held off Chaweng Beach from June 1-6 will provide a welcome week of racing for those awaiting the 2009 installment of Asia's premier yachting event.

Six boat classes – Racing, Premier, IRC, Bareboat, Sports Boats and Multihulls – are scheduled to contest the 2009 regatta and the competition will provide King's Cup adversaries a chance to lock horns once again. Ray Roberts and Neil Pryde, who finished first and second in the 2008 King's Cup on board *Quantum Racing* and *Hi-Fi* respectively, will both be competing in the Racing Class.

The Samui regatta has developed into one of Asia's lead-

ing sailing events. The festival atmosphere provides crews with some time for rest and relaxation before the social events calendar begins on May 31 and the first regatta challenge is held on June 1. In all, more than 40 boats will be competing, which organizers hope will provide a fantastic on-water spectacle.

The regatta is also fast earning itself a name as "the regatta that gives back". The schedule will feature the second running of the Samui Junior Sailing Squadron Challenge – an event that gives island children the opportunity to experience what it's like to be in a yachting race.

The regatta week will see the launch of the Sawadee.com Regatta Samui Bluewater Scholarship – a new scholarship program designed to support educa-

tion at the island's Bluewater School. Donations from crews and spectators and a beach clean-up on the regatta lay day will raise funds that will help give local children a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Callum Laing, Chairman of the Sawadee.com Regatta, commented, "The social and party schedule is sure to make this a memorable Asian sailing event. With the great on-water viewing opportunities, we know that spectators will be in for a real treat.

I'm also particularly happy that we can give back to the community – a community that continues to support this regatta and that has helped make it the great spectacle that it is today," he added.

-James Goyder

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Going Green

By Dr Salvatore Consentino

Getting financial support for going green

It is a little known fact among developers that in Thailand it is possible to get funding from banks to finance the installation of clean and renewable energy technologies.

The Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (ENCON Fund) was launched in Thailand by the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) in January 2003 with the aim of providing financial support for projects using energy efficient technology.

The fund's launch came after the passing of the Energy Conservation Promotion Act (ENCON Act), which designated the types of facilities that would be eligible for funding.

Facilities initially deemed eligible for funding were those with an electrical demand greater than 1MW or annual energy use of more than 20 terajoules per year of electrical energy equivalent. However, the rate of applications for loans was relatively slow, so in May 2004, eligibility to apply for loans from the fund was extended to cover owners of any commercial or industrial facility – making it much easier for small to medium enterprises to access the fund.

In addition, third parties – those who do not own a facility in which an energy efficiency project is to be implemented – are also eligible to apply for loans. This would include energy service companies (ESCOs).

Following the extension, the take up of loans increased. By June 2005, 12 loans had been made to non-designated factories, one to a non-designated building, and one to an ESCO.

Loans from the ENCON Fund can be up to a maximum of

| | Measures | Investment (million baht) | Total Annual Savings (million baht) | Average Payback (year) |
|----|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Energy management and control | 66.4 | 24.39 | 2.71 |
| 2 | Insulation | 6.92 | 7.84 | 0.88 |
| 3 | Process improvement | 168.35 | 66.48 | 2.53 |
| 4 | High efficiency equipment | 400.6 | 392.40 | 1.02 |
| 5 | Renewable energy | 751.80 | 424.84 | 1.77 |
| 6 | Improvement of machinery | 35.69 | 19.90 | 1.79 |
| 7 | Air conditioning | 92.29 | 33.19 | 92.29 |
| 8 | Electrical system | 4.01 | 1.00 | 2.78 |
| 9 | Lighting | 2.3 | 0.91 | 4.01 |
| 10 | Cogeneration | 1055.77 | 265.42 | 3.98 |
| 11 | Boiler | 38.8 | 31 | 1.25 |
| | TOTAL | 2622.3 | 1267.37 | 2.07 |

50 million baht (USD 1.25 million) per project and cover such things as the replacement of air conditioning chillers in a commercial facility or the installation of energy efficient equipment at an industrial site.

In principle, any project that implements "energy conservation" measures is eligible for a loan from the Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund. However, as the concept is still fairly new, some banks are still reluctant to approve the loans because of their lack of knowledge and technical support in this area.

Loans are provided to the bank from the fund with zero interest. The bank then has 10 years to repay each loan.

The bank then lends that money to the operators of energy efficiency projects (customers) at a fixed interest rate of no more than 4% per annum and a mini-

mum of 2.7%, depending on the customer and his or her financial position.

Loans from the fund may be used for the following: Purchase and installation of equipment; engineering design and supervision fees, and any savings guarantee fee payable to an ESCO; the cost of works necessary for installing and operating equipment, such as equipment foundations, gas pipelines, etc; transportation costs, demolition costs, import taxes and duty and any value added tax (VAT) associated with these costs.

The loans can not be used for purchasing land or to cover other related construction costs that are not directly necessary for the installation of energy efficient equipment, such as construction costs associated with an electrical substation, a main transformer or a building.

Applying for an ENCON Fund loan

Stage 1. Identification of an energy efficiency project by a facility's owner or through an energy audit of the facility is carried out by an energy management company or an ESCO. A detailed feasibility study is then carried out, usually with the assistance of a technical adviser, who is either a staff member or an outside consultant. The study focuses on whether the proposed energy efficiency measures are technically feasible, the likely energy savings from the project and whether the loan repayment commitments can be met. The facility owner then makes a request for a loan from the fund through a participating bank.

Stage 2. The bank performs a financial analysis of the project. Some banks with technical staff (engineers) may also carry out a technical analysis of the proposed energy efficiency measures. If the analytical results are acceptable, the bank passes on the application to the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE.)

Stage 3. The DEDE assesses the project and decides whether to approve it according to specified criteria and conditions.

Stage 4. If the project is approved by the DEDE, the bank considers and approves a loan and submits a disbursement and repayment plan to the DEDE so that the it can organize the disbursement of funds from the ENCON Fund to the bank. (The DEDE would normally approve a project within a week but some banks will take more than three months to disburse the funds.)

Stage 5. The borrower uses the loan funds to invest in, and implement, the energy efficiency project.

Stage 6. The borrower makes repayments of loan principal and interest to the bank and also submits reports to the DEDE on the energy savings from the project.

Within seven days of receiving a repayment, the bank repays the principal amount to the DEDE. The DEDE then returns the funds to the ENCON Fund.

While the maximum loan size is specified as 50 million baht per project, there is considerable flexibility in defining what constitutes a project.

A project may comprise several separate energy efficiency measures or it may include only one measure. Because project proponents may apply for

more than one loan from the Fund, several more expensive energy efficiency measures can be structured into a number of separate projects which each fit within the 50-million-baht ceiling.

However, each measure has to be independently implemented to be eligible to qualify as a separate project.

Dr Eng Salvatore Consentino is President of Edicon Co. He can be contacted by email: sconsentino@gmail.com

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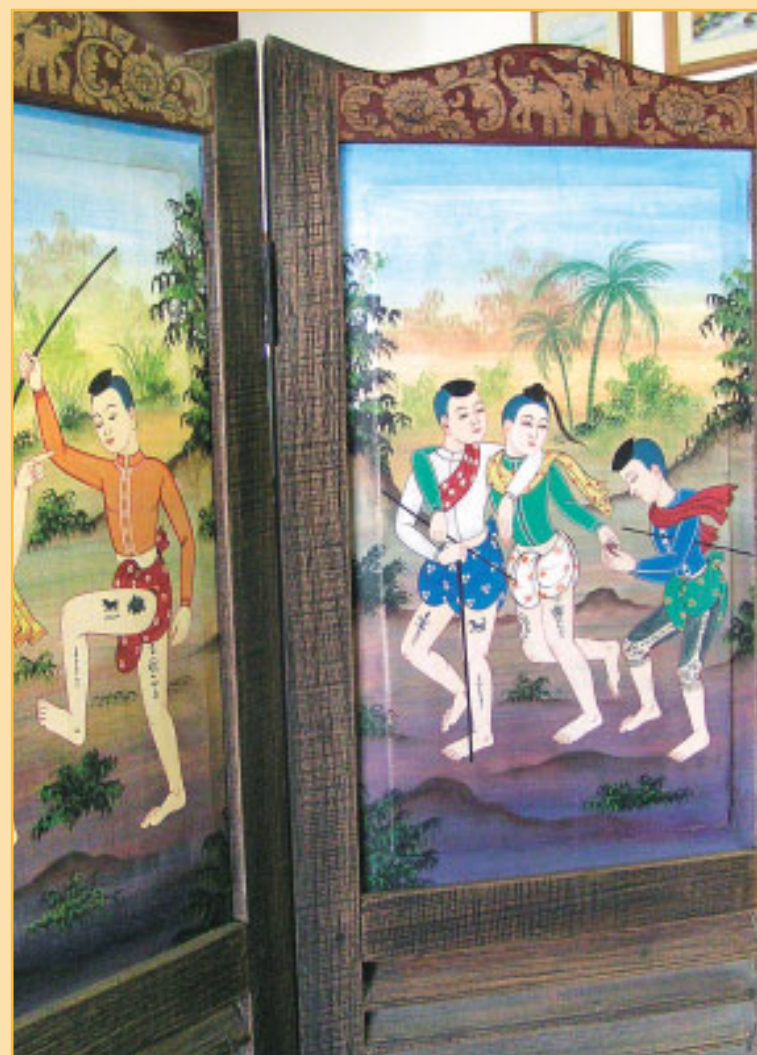
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2007 homes overseas AWARDS

GOLD

Decorative decor delights



These artistic decor items from Honest Decor Furniture Factory & Interiors located on the bypass road are just two of the custom-made pieces available at the factory store. The family-run business specializes in hardwood decor items and furniture, such as beds, dining and coffee tables, shelves and sunbeds that can be tailor made to meet customers' requirements.

The water feature installation pictured above incorporates art and feng shui and is meant to encourage a positive flow of money through the household. The folding screen on the right is painted with scenes reminiscent of Thailand's Ayudhaya period.



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A postcard from London

As I look through a window clouded by spring rain, I see white cherry and crimson crab apple blossom igniting the drab streets. Chestnuts are unfurling their sap green leaves, even the plane trees are beginning to sprout new growth from their truncated limbs. The privet and choisya hedges that border and define the front gardens of neat terraced houses are greening up. Beyond, in the local park, the last daffodils, along with bushes of forsythia and kerria, are making splashes of bright yellow; neat beds of tulips are bursting into bubbles of orange and scarlet.

Can this be Phuket? No way. It's April, not in Paris but London. "Why London?" you may ask. "Aren't you supposed to be writing about Phuket?" Well, yes... My excuse is that I am over here for a few days and the

fleeting visit will give me the chance to make some floral comparisons between temperate Europe and tropical Thailand.

We all know that there is a huge difference in climate and temperature: while global warming means fewer winter frosts in southern England, there are still plenty of freezing nights. Even in midsummer, the barometer rarely goes much above 20 degrees Celsius. In Phuket on the other hand, the temperature hardly ever drops to 20 degrees. Most

days it is over 30. Furthermore the seasons are poles apart. In London there are four clearly defined seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter – each one with its own patterns of growth and decay. In Phuket, only two exist – the wet and the dry; the monsoon or rainy season, and the protracted period from November to April when the vegetation

wears a parched look and most plants go into temporary hibernation.

Nonetheless there are plenty of shrubs and trees that choose to put on their floral displays in the dry season, undeterred by the desert-like conditions – bougainvilleas, oleanders, euphorbias in pots, allamandas, and hibiscus. Around the island, flame trees (poinciana) are ablaze, hedges of orange ixora and avenues of yellow and orange cassia line the road to the airport. The surrounding hills are still mantled in verdant growth.

Not so in Northern Europe. Any Thai unlucky enough to find themselves in London in midwinter will find a landscape of bare, leafless trees, a vegetative world drained of color. Maybe some bright berries of holly and mistletoe to decorate the home over Christmas, but little else. We wait expectantly for the early snowdrops to push through the frosty earth in February, the first sign that Orpheus is returning from his underworld. When Shakespeare wrote, in a late sonnet, of "Bare ruined quires[sic] / Where once the sweet birds sang", he was

Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell



ENGLISH ORDER: Formal parterre on the grounds of Keele University.

thinking of gaunt, skeletal trees devoid of leaves and birdsong. Hunched in his cold pad, these evidences reminded him of his own declining powers. April must have seemed a long way off...

Why then do the English bother growing things? You may well ask. About eighty percent of the world's plants are not reliably hardy, that is to say they will succumb to frost. There is almost nothing that we grow in our Phuket gardens that will survive the vagaries of the English climate. The "Little Englander's" choice is immediately limited. Yet we have always been a nation of gardeners and horticulturalists. The Chelsea Flower Show is an international institution; in summer more than 200 gardens are open to the public – from small cottage gardens to the formal splendors of Blenheim Palace or Longleat with knot gardens bordered by box hedges and parterres set in rolling acres of parkland. These landscapes were designed, inter alia, by "Capability" Brown, perhaps the most celebrated garden architect of them all. Typically, such grand schemes feature specimen evergreen trees and large shrubs such as azaleas, magnolias, rhododendrons and hydrangeas, shrubs which look good in imposing settings.

But we should not forget the smaller picture. Gertrude Jekyll did not. Inspired by the humble cottage garden with its drifts of colorful annuals and perennials, she reinvented the herbaceous border. Now a feature of most country gardens, it consists of perennials – that is to say soft-stemmed, flowering plants that live for two years or more – arranged in long borders or in islands, generally surrounded by a lawn or set against a wall. The main aesthetic principle requires the positioning of the taller flowers – such as delphiniums, michaelmas daisies or lupins at the back, the ground-hugging ones at the front.

Sometimes arranged as formal banks of texture and color, these borders, more often than not, wear a casual or informal air. Nature as nature intended. But in one sense, things are not entirely natural. For the herba-

ceous border is high-maintenance: lots of dead-heading and weeding, the division of plants getting too big for their boots and, most time-consuming of all, the replacement of whole beds after three or four years.

Roses are a different story. Their bushes last for years and years; their showy and fragrant flowers appear at least twice a year. Not for nothing is the rose the quintessentially English flower. It has been cultivated here for many centuries. In the medieval War of the Roses, the House of Lancaster was represented by the red rose, the Yorkists by the white rose. "The Rose" was the name of the London theater where many of Shakespeare's early plays were staged; one of his paramours had a complexion like "damask'd roses". Nowadays, the flower is the symbol of the national rugby team; for a lady to be called an "English rose" is to be given a gracious compliment.

With over 150 species – rambler, shrub, rugosa, floribunda, damask, polyantha, swamp and cluster, for example, and many habits – standard, bush, climber, ground cover, and miniature, it is perhaps the most extensively hybridized of all shrubs. Take the most widely cultivated species, the hybrid tea rose. A feature of most English gardens, there are literally thousand of cultivars to choose from. It has its own society which registers exotic new names every year. In a modest garden of about one rai, my father had 150 different varieties.

If azaleas, hydrangeas and magnolia soulangiana are not normally found here, roses are grown in Phuket, though not with conspicuous success. But as I intimated earlier, gardeners love a challenge. Especially "Little Englanders". I have a friend in Nai Harn whose house and garden are, literally, an Anglophile's home from home. He is fortunate in that he has a very un-English tree, a mature avocado, which provides ample shade for plants that shun the sun.

Even as I write, his roses and hydrangeas are coming into bloom...

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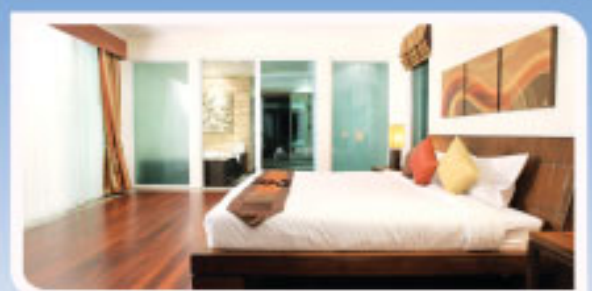
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Phuket takes a pounding, hotel investments flounder



PROPERTY WATCH

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.

At the gathering of top global hotel chains, investors, consultants and fund managers, the attitude towards Thailand – and more importantly Phuket – left me thankful that I was only staying on the fourth floor of the hotel.

Unlike Ricky Hatton, Phuket went into the year still favored as the premium resort destination in Asia – although 2008 saw more capitulations than withdrawals on my ATM card. While the yellow-shirt demonstrations and resulting closure of the airports in Bangkok and Phuket were huge blows, we still managed to pick ourselves up off the canvas and claw our way to the end of the round.

What is now apparent is that the Bangkok riots and attempted assaults on the Prime Minister by the red shirts, together with Pattaya's Asean debacle, were the knock out blow for tourism and the short-term economic environment.

Peering into the dark and unknown future of the year's remaining months, conference organizer Robert Hecker of Horwath International Hotel Tourism and Leisure Group



While Thailand's hotels (Moevenpick Resort pictured) continue to capture the imagination of some, tourists are flocking to Bali for the moment.

Returning from Singapore a few days ago, where I attended the Hotel Investment Conference (HICAP) Update, I was feeling as battered as Ricky Hatton after getting knocked out in the second round by Manny Pacquiao.

summed it up best by saying that perhaps one of the best business models would be sales of "I survived 2009" T-shirts.

The consensus from a variety of experts focused on the entire region was that this year is a write off for all of Asia and that it's best to focus on 2010. Most concede that whether we are in a 'V-' or a bear-run 'W-market' remains to be seen as we are still in murky water preventing us from seeing the bottom.

This brings us to the subject at hand of how Bali is faring in the eternal struggle of destination supremacy. According to figures for the first quarter of 2009 presented by Jonas Ogden of Smith Travel Research, Bali saw leading indicator RevPAR (Revenue per Available Room) increase by 22.3%, while Phuket's RevPAR declined by 36.6%.

The only two major markets in Asia that saw increases were Indonesia's Bali and Jakarta. What's even more telling is that this period was Phuket's high season, whereas Bali's high season is during the upcoming Australian winter season (June 1 to August 31). Average room rates for Bali rose in excess of 40% while Phuket's actually retracted by a similar percentage. Occupancies on the former also registered higher figures than the latter.

One of the key messages from Jonas was on the perils of

discounting and how it can take years to recover once rates have plunged. It was pointed out that hotels set the rates; not the consumers, so ultimately it is controllable by management. After 9/11, it took six years for rates to recover in the United States after panic selling with rate reductions.

Horwath's Robert Hecker also voiced risk management concerns in that a global recession was the least of Thailand's worries at the moment.

The international news of the protests' impact on hotels and airports was a huge blow to the tourist industry. Negative GDP growth of -3% is expected in the region this year. A return to positive growth is not expected until 2010. However, talk of recovery continues to include the 'if' word.

Much of the premise of a recovery is based on the requirement of investment, primarily from overseas institutions, but with debt currently being sidelined and some transactions based on cash – with purchasers looking to leverage the asset once more reasonable terms exist – there looks to be little action on this front.

Mike Batchelor of leading hotel transactional firm Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels pointed out that the volume of sales in Asia Pacific declined from just over US\$12 billion in 2007 to about US\$2 billion in 2008. In 2009 the

market continues to be flat with most transactions taking place in the developed markets of Australia and Japan, though China is seeing activity.

While 'distressed' is becoming a popular term, there are in fact few distressed sales. Full-equity deals are keeping debt limited and perhaps what will stimulate sales is 'stressed' sellers who will move at the right price.

With funds and institutions not currently in play looking into the crystal ball on who investors in hospitality assets will be, it's looking to be the high-net-worth individuals and families in the region who will control conglomerates.

As to the vacuum left by firms such as Lehman's private equity and hedge funds, there is no trend on who, if anyone, is going to enter this sector for the time being.

With all that doom and gloom said and done, it was interesting to attend an IBAP event recently to hear some 'good news' stories of businesses that are actually trading well. Some pointed to a surge of revenue going into golf lessons by bored executives taking time off to hone their game.

While I'm not going to rush out and buy one of those "I survived 2009" T-shirts, I have to say the quicker next year comes around, the happier most of us will be.

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Property Gazette

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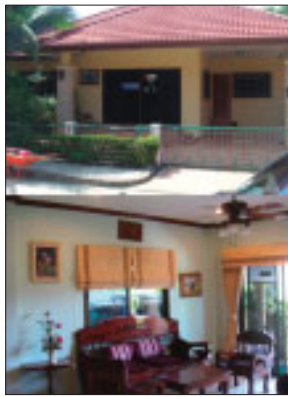
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1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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Beautiful land. 4 rai, 3 ngan and 67sq wah. 140 meters of beach front. Contact owner. Tel: 081-895 4811.

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

2 STORY HOUSE CENTER RAWAI

for sale or lease. 160sqm, 2 bed, 2 bath. 1.5 million baht, close to the beach. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



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

NEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In the project "The Indy", opposite Boat Lagoon, Koh Kaew. 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, western kitchen. Land: 33.4sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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: 081-956 2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

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 PA KHLOK



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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

PERFECT LAND

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

SURIN BEACH

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

50% OFF FOR SALE OR LONG LEASE



Several years ago, this villa could lease for **US\$39000** monthly. The villa is located in Cape Panwa with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa, which similar homes sell 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 13 million baht, 2nd year 17m 3rd year 20m 4th year 23m and 5th year 28m. Or sale for **US\$12 million**.

Email: info@queenmarines.com

DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



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

3-STOREY APARTMENT



for sale. 70sq wah, 14 rooms, motorbike park. Four years old with Chanote title. Currently fully rented out. Good return. Asking price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

POOL VILLA, NAI HARN 3 bedrooms, Thaisala on roof top. Price 9 MB. Tel: 076-289900, 081-9700742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

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/

NAI HARN POOL VILLA SALE!

Only 6 years old pool villa on 1/2 rai, quiet land. Price 5.9 million baht. No brokers!! Tel: 086-682 9709. Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

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Property Gazette

LAND BEHIND LAYAN HILLS ESTATE



Manik-Bangjo area. 4M baht per rai with chanote. Selling half rai - 2 rai. Contact 081-5387050 or talayjan@yahoo.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

PATONG HILL CONDO



As-new, luxury 85sqm 1 bedroom unit with panoramic Patong city and water views. Furniture included. 7 million baht. Tel: +61-2-9904 2073, +61-43021 8110. Email: mbohlsen@gmail.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, 089-588 8818. Email: info@methaya.com

SALE OR RENT VILLA



Below market price (THB). Normally the villa can lease 300,000 to 350,000 monthly. Must sacrifice due to poor global economy. It is the most expensive and most beautiful villa next to Loch Palm golf club. We would like to lease minimum 3 years with the following conditions. First year 2m excluding management, utilities, any extra costs, garden and swimming pool. 2nd year 2.5m and last 3rd year 3m. Must pay in advance each year.

No other deposit required. For sale 45m. For details, please email me your interests at info@queenmarines.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

RARE OPPORTUNITY

Choice 1,100 sqm plot located in Cape Panwa with arguably one of the finest panoramic sea views on the island. The hard works done: cleared and leveled, concrete access road, building permit previously issued. Buy and build! Tel: +971-50-293 2183. Email: email2bill@gmail.com

CHANOTE LAND

Corner plot with all services. 1 rai, chanote title. 5 minutes from Laguna Phuket. Price: 4.75 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-270 9977. Email: sandyeyuan@supanet.com

HOUSE SALE THALANG

2 bedrooms, 1 ensuite, built-in furniture. Gated community, quiet and peaceful. 2.2 million baht. Email: john867332@yahoo.com

LAND, 161SQ WAH

for sale. 19,000 baht per sq wah. Baan Maneekram corner block. Quiet location. Email: john867332@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

renovated freehold 2 room terrace, nice view, pool beach 200m, furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 086-976 0809.

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 2 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Call for more information. Tel: 076-322211, 089-288 8519, 087-885 1567.

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

KOH YAO YAI

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

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


BAR & RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Includes accommodation, aircon, fully furnished, sea view balcony. Turnkey business. For quick sale freehold at 2.5 million baht. Location: Koh Lanta. Tel: +44-798-452 7057. Email: karlayres@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kohlantalife.com/barcode

PATONG STUDIO

2.3 million baht. New decor, pool. 3 min walk to Jungceylon, 5 min to beach. Tel: 081-087 9639.

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.

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/

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



60sq.wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 3.7 million baht. For more details, please call 081-691 2526.

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view, 2-storey house, 60sqw. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093.

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

PATONG CONDO

44sqm, 3.49 million baht. Tel: 081-297 6162. Webisit: www.phuketvillapatong.com

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 80sq wah 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.


BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

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

OPPOSITE JUNGCEYLON

absolute prime location. 3 level shop! Lease for sale or sub-lease. For more info you must book an appointment. Tel: 081-537 9684.

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.

1 RAI GOLF VIEW LAND

for sale. 4.7 million baht. Over looking Loch Palm Golf Course, Nor Sor Sam Kor. Tel: 087-269 8492.

QUICK SALE

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

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB




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

LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



600sqm land, 230sqm living space, garden, 4 bedrooms, golf course view, on main road. Ready in 3 months. Partly custom made, fully furnished. Price all in, only 14 million baht. Email: all services29@gmail.com

OPPOSITE JUNGCEYLON

absolute prime location. 3 level shop! Lease for sale or sub-lease. For more info you must book an appointment. Tel: 081-537 9684.

CHALONG BANYAN VILLA

sale or rent. 3 storey, furnished. 3.2 million baht. Rent 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-633 4994.

LOVELY HOME

Hillside, big pool & shady garden. 3 bed, 4 bath & office. Freehold. Quality. Nice! Best offer. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407. Email: cosmo campbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

SALE KATALAND SEAVIEW

6.5 million baht per rai, Chanote title. Call now. Tel: 087-388 7702.

CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, aircon, big garden. Must see. Price 4.5 million ono. Tel: 081-747 5293.

Live in Patong?

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

KAMALA BEACH VILLAGE

Long-term rental. 100sqm two double bedroom, fully furnished modern apt. Communal pool, restaurant, gym and bar, 50 metres from Kamala Beach. 30,000 baht per month! Tel: +44-845-643 0773, +44-79-7720 8868. Fax +44-845-643 0774. Email: paul.stewart@sasgroup.co.uk

DELUXE 5 BEDROOM HOUSE



for rent. 2 storey villa with loft + guesthouse beside BIS. Large pool & sala. Rent 120,000 baht per month including bills. Sell 26 million baht. Contact Apple. Tel: 089-652 7818. Email: kevinad@netvigator.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room. Carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden, high-speed internet and UBC satellite TV included. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 3 months. Tel: 081-968 2855. Sent email: cathy-khatti panya@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW PENTHOUSE

Large & luxurious. 2 bed / 3 bath. Full kitchen. aircon. large (communal) pool. Free (secure) parking free (satellite) TV. free (WiFi) ADSL, etc. Good (central) location. Special low season rates on offer now. Tel: 076-512259, 085-071 7134. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

BRAND NEW 3 BED HOUSE

for rent. Fully furnished, aircon, communal swimming pool. Near to Boat Lagoon and British International School. Please contact: English: 086-940 5187, Thai: 086-952 2070.

LUXURY TOWNHOUSE for rent in Patong. Seaview, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, Tel: English: 086-940 5187, Thai: 086-952 2070.

SURIN BEACH APARTMENTS

Modern 1 & 2 bedroom. SEA view apartments. Short and long term rents. Tel: 085-888 2022. Email: sleeves@slees.com

KATA HILL HOUSE

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 big mountain-view terraces, 2 carparks and high-speed Internet. Price: 24,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

350,000 BAHT PER YEAR



Rawai beach. New pool guest-house. 5 bed, 5 bath, lease rent, ADSL. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

BOAT LAGOON VILLA



3/4 bedrooms, canal front house for rent. Long- or short-term. Aircon, furnished, WiFi. Tel: 081-891 5546. Email: yamoo555@yahoo.com

4 BEDROOM VILLA RAWAI

Fully furnished, very large villa, 2 kitchens, big garden with private pool. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

CHALONG NEW HOME

Value 2 bedroom town home with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

650,000 BAHT PER YEAR



Rawai Beach. Bar, pizzeria and guesthouse. 700sqm, 5 bed, 5 bath. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH APARTMENTS

Full kitchen, fully furnished. Weekly + monthly. Tel: 086-595 8512. Contact more details. Email: nalumana 2000@yahoo.com

BUSINESS RAWAI BEACH



4 pool apartments to lease or rent. 120,000 baht per year each. Tel: 086-940 8914. Or email: rawai1@yahoo.com

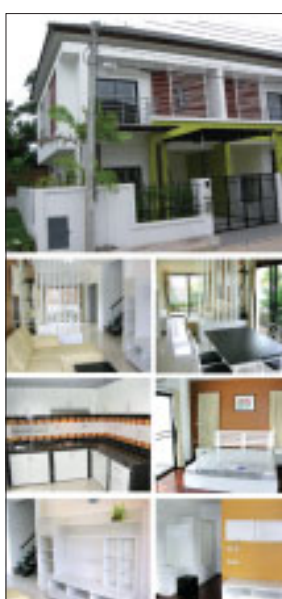
HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent or sale. Long-term 45,000 baht per month. Sale 10.5 million baht. Fully furnished, UBC, pool, ADSL. Tel: 081-925 1730.

LARGE VILLA IN KAMALA

in private estate for rent. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 50" plasma, full size snooker table, free WiFi, TrueVisions, beautiful tropical garden. Set in 3/4 rai, excellent security. 40,000 baht per month, normally 60,000 baht. el: 081-677 9663.

NEW TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



In the Indy project opposite Boat Lagoon, Koh Kaew. 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, western kitchen. Land: 33.4sq wah. For rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9118.

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

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

POOL VILLAS IN NAI HARN

3 beds, 3 bath, furnished, aircon, ADSL, 20,000-40,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Or send email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

in Nai Harn. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Contact more details. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bed, seaview on Beach Road. For further details Tel: 084-847 3304. Please see our website at www.selectphuket.com

LARGE HOUSE KATHU

A large 3 bedroom house in quiet area Safe neighbourhood, fully furnished, large yard, brilliant view from breakfast patio. Contact Bancha. Tel: 084-189 6700.

NEW CONDO

for rent. Phuket Town, Royal Place project. Clean, nice location, fully furnished, communal swimming pool, gym and restaurant. Available on July, Please reserve at 086-476 9612.

PRIVATE SAITAN POOL VILLA

Laguna entry, garden suite. Sleeps 8. New villa. 5 x10m pool. Tel: 080-532 3301, Contact more details at email: sjrose100@earthlink.net

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. Tel: 081-692 3163.

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.

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).

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

for rent or sale. Fully furnished, aircon, kitchen, big garden with private pool, incl cleaning lady. Low season bargain 45,000 baht per month. Without broker. Tel: 085-783 1890.

NAI HARN BUNGALOWS

Long-term rent. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, maid. Only 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris_silana chai@yahoo.com

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

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS



New, fully furnished, 1 bedroom penthouse. 1 bathroom, full aircon, large Western teak kitchen and bath. 130sqm, large sea-view terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available, serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890.

CONDOS AND VILLAS FOR RENT

more information at 081-537 9684. Or see our website at www.aquapropertygroup.com

STUDIO CONDO IN PHUKET TOWN

Fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, pool. 5 minutes to Central. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015.

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, furnished, 2 bedrooms with ensuite. Air conditioned, satellite TV, 500m from Nai Yang Beach, 2km from airport. 14,000baht/mth. Tel: 089-667 1844, 081-837 5774. Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

RENT HOUSE NEAR BEACH

Long-term, fully furnished, safe, quiet, large terrace front, seaview. 1 bedroom, kitchen, hot and cold shower, WC, nice place. Sandy beach just 50 feet away, safe swimming all year. 10 minutes to town. Tel: 081-079 2592. Email: jrbau19@hotmail.com

PATONG 2 BEDROOMS APARTMENT

Unique penthouse, Bangla area, 28,000 baht per month, furnished. See our website at www.shophousephuket.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLA RAWAI

3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, big garden, private pool. For rent or sale. Please contact more information. Tel: 085-783 1890.

PATONG 2 BED TOWNHOUSE

on quiet soi. Bedrooms with aircon, hot shower, kitchen, cable, ADSL, fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-296391, 086-942 0957. Email: jdean@loxinfo.co.th

PALAI GREEN FOR RENT

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

3 BED HOUSE: 20,000 BAHT

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 aircon units. Furnished, kitchen, garden. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 086-668 4166. Or send email: cphotosm@hotmail.com

LUXURY MANSION RAWAI

Over 500 sqm. 4 bedrooms, complete top-end furniture, large private pool, big tropical garden. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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.

HOUSE AT SAIYUAN

for rent. Soi Nanachart, 5 minutes to Nai Harn. Two bedrooms, 2 baths, furnished, phone line, ADSL, big garden. 25,000 baht per month (negotiate). Tel: 081-535 1570.

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. Contact more details. Email: soda611@gmail.com

SUMMER PROMOTION

27 sea view bungalows at Karon Beach. Please see our web site at www.karoncliff.com

HOUSE FOR RENT- 15,000 BAHT

Fully furnished, satellite TV, ADSL, washing machine. Tel: 076-200241, 084-053 6302. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

PRIME LOCATION SHOP

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

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

CHALONG CIRCLE

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

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

URGENT!
We are looking for seaview condominiums in Phuket. Especially from 4 million- to 5 million-baht. Contact us now. Tel: 085-798 4625. Email: phuketfinder@live.com Please visit our webiste: www.phuketfinder.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

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

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

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

URGENT!
We are looking for any resorts, hotels or guesthouses for sale in Phuket and surroundings. Please contact us now, we have buyers for every budget. Please contact for further details. Tel: 085-798 4625. Email: phuketfinder@live.com Visit our website: www.phuketfinder.com

LOOKING FOR HOUSE
apartment, land, or etc for rent or sale in Rawai, Patong? Tel: 081-1517898. Thai and English

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

Accommodation Available

APARTMENTS PATONG
1 bedroom. From 450 baht per night long-term rate. Cable tv, aircon, WiFi. Close to all amenities, quiet soi, short walk to the beach. Tel: 085-0648079. Email: spikesthailand@hotmail.com

ROOM IN KATA 8,000 BAHT MONTH
Hot water, cable TV, aircon, WiFi, on hillside near center. Tel: 081-968 5904. Or send email to: franzzachbauer@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. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-888 5144

NEW 1 BR APARTMENT
Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 cable TVs, kitchenette, Jacuzzi bath, on new road, quiet. 18,000 per month. Tel: 076-296391, 086-942 0957. Email: jdean@loxinfo.co.th

CHEAP, QUIET HILLSIDE ROOMS
King bed, aircon, cable TV, big fridge, WiFi, use of pool. From 499 baht daily, 10,000 baht monthly. Clean, some Patong view. Ideal for short or long stay. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-979 4547. Email: jeanwass@yahoo.com.au

PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO
Studio with kitchenette, cable TV, DVD, WiFi, king bed, balcony and swimming pool. For rent at 16,000 baht per month long term. Tel: +1-808-2834188. Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

LUX 4 BED VILLA W/POOL
Quiet tranquil location yet ideal for beaches, schools and shopping. Daily or monthly rental available. Ask for full details. Tel: 076-378361, 081-676 4849. Fax: 081-772 2300. Email: william.amonoo@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS
Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Email for information and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

APARTMENT IN KATHU
58sqm. 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, pool, fan, telephone line, ADSL. Long-term rent 12,000 baht per month. Short-term 700 baht per day. Tel: 081-891 6632.

2 BEDROOMS APARTMENT PATONG
18,000 baht per month. ADSL, cable TV, washing machine, 2 bathrooms, aircon, pool. Tel: 086-279 0837. Or send email to: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

THE POINT CONDO
Fully furnished studio: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 9447. Email: benjaporn.kk@yahoo.com For further details, please see our web site at http://www.thepointphuket.com

APARTMENT PATONG
1bedroom from 450 baht per night, long term rates, cable TV, aircon, WiFi. Close to all amenities, quiet soi, walk to beach. Tel: 085-064 8079. Email: spikesthailand@hotmail.com

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 tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website: southernfriedrice.com

RAWAI CONDO
Furnished studio, 500m to beach, shopping, dining, nightlife. Kitchen, A/C, internet, cable TV. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: +1-808-283 4188. Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

CHEAP HOTEL ROOMS PATONG!!
Aircon, cable TV, fridge, free WiFi, restaurant, bar, use of pool. Daily: 499 baht, monthly: 8,000 baht. Ideal for short or long stay. Tel: 087-282 5086.

BEACH FRONT HOTEL
Low season long stay promotion. Pool, spa, free WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-345518, 081-892 0038.

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

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allservices29@gmail.com

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Interior design / finishing work for new projects / renovations. Full range of services from basic construction to furniture and interior design solution for property developers and home owners in Phuket. Professional team of architects / sub-trades.
Layan Interiors: Cotact Joe Raess for more information at tel: 081-968 3221. Or send email to: joe@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com Please visit our website at: www.layaninteriors.com

Household Items

MOVING OUT SALE
Everything must go. Mostly from index and six months old. 4 stack cupboards, sofa table, coffee table, TV with cabinet, shag rug with pillows, mattress, blankets, plates, etc. Email: luke_reeder@hotmail.co.uk

BED FOR SALE
Original Performax double bed, including good mattress and top mattress. Good as new, less than half price. Will sell at 25,000 baht ono. Call or email Henrik for more details. Tel: 087-897 1280. Email: gronnekaz@hotmail.com

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

AIRCON FOR SALE
Big aircon unit, 26,000 BTU. All fittings and remote control. In good condition. For sale at only 8,000. baht. Email: patong_mats@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

Household Services

FOR SALE
Brand new top end sanitary ware, designer wallpaper and outside lighting. Great for project or apartments. Cheap! Tel: 085-783 1890.

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: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

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

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

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Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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UNIFLITE 36 FEET



1997 liveaboard. Good for fishing. 320hp, like new. 4 berth, 2 aircon. All renewed in 2007. Thai registration. Quick sale US\$59,000 / 2 million baht. Tel: 081-415 4398, 081-827 6075.

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Mustang 2800. 4 berth, a/c, dvd, surround sound system, fridge, shower etc. Immaculate finish. 3.1 million baht. Will consider P/X for RIB. Tel: 084-778 5652.

PHUKET CHARTER BOAT

Fishing charters, NEW boat, safe & solid returns. Co Ltd established for 10 years. Email for full details. Tel: 083-392 7150. Email: wunchart-thanna wat@hotmail.com

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75 ft Technomarine (Italy). Caterpillar engines, 2 x 1,250hp. 680 hours each. Asking US\$ 1,280,000. Berthed Hong Kong. Exceptional opportunity. For details. Tel: 076-200730, 084-839 4868. Send email to: luxuryyacht75@gmail.com

2009 NEW 11.9 METER YACHT

2X225 hp Honda 4-strokes. Price 3.9 million baht exVAT. LOA: 11.9m. Beam: 3.6m. Material: fiberglass. Max speed 45 knots. Cabin: living space, kitchen with microwave oven, bedroom (king size bed) with 38" flatscreen TV, toilet, shower and small generator. Excludes 50 mile rathyoon radar. Agent welcome. We will also build your fiberglass sports yacht to your specifications. Tel: 086-885 6885. Email: phuketyachtsales@gmail.com

NEW 37FT YACHT CHARTER



The newest, state of the art, first fiberglass yacht in Phuket. Charter it for very affordable price. The cost is 90,000 baht per day (9am to 5pm with 5 hours cruising per day). Additional 60,000 baht for an overnight charter returning in the afternoon the next day. The above costs include National Park fees, dinner, breakfast, simple lunch and crew. Alcoholic drinks are provided at extra cost. Our VIP 37 ft fiberglass boat has two Honda 225 4-stroke engines, a small kitchen with microwave, living space, a cabin with 38 inch flatscreen TV, toilet with shower and a generator. If you want book a charter, please send email to: info@queenmarines.com or call 086-885 6885.

POWER CATAMARAN

Brand new, 36 feet long. All fiberglass composite construction. Forward cabin. Email: jkg24@hotmail.com

ZODIAC 40HP

Includes all equipment, trailer, steering, console, anchor, vest etc. Contact more details. Tel: 087-265 6089.

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Would you like to charter a speed boat? We want you to ask for it. We have 27ft, 35ft, and 45ft. All are available. Please contact more details. at email: info@queenmarines.com

ONLY US\$ 59,000

45 ft new fiberglass sport boat excluding the outboard engines. We are manufacturers of sport boats in Phuket and Pattaya. Tel: 086-885 6885.

SSB TRANSCEIVERS

1 unit KENWOOD TS-430S and 1 unit KENWOOD TS-440S from the estate of a deceased yachtsman. Tel: 081-788 3054. Email: guenter@guenter-bellach.com

20M POWER CATAMARAN

Liveaboard, wood-epoxy composite, no engines. 1.4 million baht. Contact more details. Tel: 087-461 8089.

WANTED

Small dingy, about 3 or 4 meters, suitable for 3.5hp outboard motor for inshore pleasure. Tel: 076-388569, 085-794 6514. Please sent email to: hparkin@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR A MOTOR YACHT

60-70 ft. Owners: please send offer details. Tel: 084-199 3353. Email: kaewkram_5@hotmail.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

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: jo-london@hotmail.co.uk For further details, please see our website at http://web.me.com/eisasia

DOUBLE 'SIT-ON' CANOE

Feel Free double 'sit-on' canoe with paddles. Hardly used. 20,000 baht. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Email: tonygbr@hotmail.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

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5 cabins, 6 bathroom, air conditioned, long-range. Finance available. For more details call. Tel: 080-522 4089. Contact more details. Email: michael@scuba-quest.de

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4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

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 to: andrew@leemarine.net

TROLLING MOTOR

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

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

SHARKCAT 23

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

DOUBLE KAYAK

Feel-free kayak. 18,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Email: tonygbr@hotmail.com

BENETEAU CYCLADES 393

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

WELLCRAFT SCARAB 31

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

HOBIE 16

Very good condition. Price 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

LOOKING FOR A MOTOR YACHT

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

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. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

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Island Job Mart



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 Jirattha Thepkongkham
MALAIWANA CO., LTD.
28/10 Moo 4, T. Sakoo, A. Thalung, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel: 078-316224, 078-316223 Fax: 078-316226
Email: taf@malaiwana.com, www.malaiwana.com



Executive Chef (In charge F&B) 1 Position

Andara Resort and Villas is looking for a positive attitude and service minded individual to join our team on 1st. August 2009.

- Experience in Thailand's Hotel Industry
- Experienced in Pan-Asian and traditional cuisine
- Good Wine and Cocktail Knowledge
- Very Creative and Enthusiastic
- Solid Ethics and Values with focus on employee development

Please send your CV including a recent picture, salary and package expectations (one MS Word File as attachment) to thisana@andaraphuket.com and cc: gm@andaraphuket.com

Human Resources Department
Andara Resort and Villas, 15 M.6, Kamala Kathu, Phuket
Tel: 66 76-386010-2 Fax: 66-76-386014
Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be notified.



Wine Bar & Bistro opening at Jungceylon (Patong)

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sous chef, Chef de partie | 3 positions |
| Cook, Commis | 4 positions |
| Supervisor | 1 position |
| Bartender, Wait staff | 6 positions |
| Cashier | 2 positions |

Qualifications: Thai / Foreigner are welcome

Wine Connection (Phuket)
19/54-57 Moo 8 Chaofa Rd, T.Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-282411-2 Ext 13
Email: hrphuket@wineconnection.co.th
Contact Khun Rotjana




Urgent: Branch Manager

Jardine Schindler (Thai) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the multi-national, Jardine Schindler Group, is one of leading suppliers of lifts, escalators & moving walkways in the region. We are inviting suitably qualified candidates for the above position.

Location: Phuket
Job Purpose: Plan and implement sales and marketing activities in order to achieve the agreed targets. Managing, controlling and monitoring all the field operation both new installation and existing installation, filed operation in order to achieve or exceed targets in financial, scheduling, safety and health including customer satisfaction.

Qualification:

- Bachelor degree in Engineering or related fields
- 5-7 years of experience in sales and marketing of technical products on a project basis (strong background in lift & elevator business is preferable)
- Adapt to technical and commercial aspects
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Office
- Local candidate is preferable

Please submit your CV, expected salary and recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
Jardine Schindler (Thai) Ltd.
20th Floor, Times Square Building, 246 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110
Tel: 0-2685-1600 Fax: 0-2685-1601
E-mail Address: Pariyaorn.Ananpongsuk@th.schindler.com
Website: www.jardineschindler.com

****Shortlisted candidates will be notified****

SALES POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Sales and marketing company requires English speaking sales staff to join existing professional team. High rates of commission per sale, start up package for successful applicants. No experience in sales necessary, full training given. Tel: 076-326292, 089-646 9500. Fax: 076-326293. Email: shane@premierpropertyleisure.com

SALES PROFESSIONAL

Prestige developer and hotelier in Nai Ham requires experienced and motivated sales executive. Excellent English and other languages an advantage. Good prospects please fax CV 076-388565. Or email: anthony@puravarna.com

SHARPSHOOTERS

Able to throw sharp, metal objects accurately, even while under the influence of alcohol. Basic arithmetic ability a definite advantage, but not required. Remuneration, in beer, dependent upon performance. Apply in person at Piccadilly Bar, Soi Kobsup, Patong.

COUPLE WANTED IN PATONG

We are looking for a maid and a gardener/handyman to take care for our house in Patong. We offer a nice salary and a free apartment next to our property. Good knowledge of Thai language is a must and basic skills in English is wanted. Tel: 076-364516, 084-441 9786. Fax: 076-364564. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

EXTRA INCOME

Computer skills required – especially use of the internet – and must be fluent in English. Contact Rick for more details. Tel: 085-473 1629



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

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Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971
Email: editor@phuketgazette.net



Telemarketing staff required

Thailand's leading real estate company, is looking for motivated individuals to work in our telemarketing department. Candidates must have experience working and closing clients on the phone.

We are looking for multilingual speakers. English (essential), Scandinavian, Mandarin, German would be an advantage.

Based in the heart of Patong, excellent working conditions and a good salary package awaits the right candidates. Please submit your resume to the given e-mail address or call for more information

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+ 66 (0) 86 476 7756
E-mail: mark@northshorethailand.com

DREAM SALES OPPORTUNITY

Established holiday ownership company looking for energetic, enthusiastic and motivated ENGLISH speaking sales reps. Or send email to: bigdogphish@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPER-NANNY

We are looking for a full-time housekeeper-nanny near Cherng Talay. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-697 7212. Or send email to: emmanuellemoukarzel@hotmail.com

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

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

VILLA MANAGERESS WANTED

Wanted for a high-end Villa rental property in Patong. Villa or hotel experience, good English and references required. Good salary and prospects. Send resume to info@amazingthaivillas.com

LOOKING FOR FREELANCER

who can modify or improve the websites, we have. The right person should have experience with Dreamweaver and PhotoShop. Ages 25-35. Please contact Khun Sompong for further details. Tel: 081-376 7395. Or send email to: queensmarine@gmail.com

NATIVE ENG / ADMIN ASSISTANT

Part time Admin Assistant required for evening work in a professional UK company based in Phuket. 200 baht an hour - 5 hours a day. Must be a native English speaker. Email: lan@evocation.net

OFFICE STAFF

We require 3 women to work in Kathu office. Must have good spoken English, pleasant telephone manner, and be competent using computer on the internet. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-612801, 084-309 6934. Email: ssknightoflegend@gmail.com

OFFICE BOY WANTED KAMALA

for deliveries around Phuket. 7,000 baht per month plus gasoline. Tel: 076-385221, 089-428 0230. Or send email to: giovannifrova@libero.it

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Good written and spoken English. Relevant experience with established organization preferred. Tel: 076-261857, 081-3674696. Fax: 076-261859. Email: acs@inbreddp.com Website: www.inbreddp.com Email: info@inbreddp.com and acs@inbreddp.com

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: 076-292809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com Website: www.avantika-phuket.com

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.

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

RESERVATION STAFF

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

WEB DEVELOPER

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

PRESCHOOL STAFF NEEDED

Positions open for exciting new child care facility in Chalong. Seeking native speaking English teacher, Thai teacher, cook and nannies. Tel: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com

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-intl.com

CLIENT SERVICING

and Administration Executive:
- 1 year marketing administration experience.
- Independent self-motivated.
- Fluent written and spoken English and Thai.
- Computer literate – Excel and MS word.
- Immediate availability advantageous.
- Attractive salary in line with experience and communication skills.

Interested parties please apply with full resume to Lambert Brothers Insurance Broker Co Ltd, Phuket Boat Lagoon. Contact Gail Tel: 087-9785803. Or send email to: gail@lambertbrothers.co.th

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: cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk Website: http://www.cameronhansen.net

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

REAL ESTATE SALE ASSISTANT

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

2 THAI TEACHERS WANTED

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

SALES JOB LOW SEASON

If you are an experienced sales person and want to earn 50,000 up/month. Please contact for further details. Tel: 083-393 6226. Requirements: good appearance and impeccable English.

RECEPTIONIST & MARKETING

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

TELEPHONE MARKETING

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.

ENGLISH SPEAKING STAFF

We require English speaking Thai and Western staff for a new and unique marketing program. 4-5 hrs p/evening, sun-fri. Full training given, top commission, visa and work permit provided for the right applicant. Tel: 083-633 9193. Fax: 076-326292. Email: paul03oreilly@yahoo.co.uk

ACCOUNT REP

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

THAI TEACHER INT'L NURSERY

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

SALES & MARKETING GRAD NEEDED

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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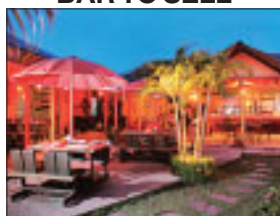
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| Trip To Penang | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>May '09</th> <th>Jun '09</th> <th>Jul '09</th> <th>Aug '09</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wed</td> <td>13, 20, 27</td> <td>3, 10, 17, 24</td> <td>1, 8, 15, 22</td> <td>5, 12, 19, 26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>17, 24, 31</td> <td>7, 14, 21, 28</td> <td>12, 19, 26</td> <td>2, 9, 16, 23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Day | May '09 | Jun '09 | Jul '09 | Aug '09 | Wed | 13, 20, 27 | 3, 10, 17, 24 | 1, 8, 15, 22 | 5, 12, 19, 26 | Sun | 17, 24, 31 | 7, 14, 21, 28 | 12, 19, 26 | 2, 9, 16, 23 |
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June 2007, top model, silver, ABS, airbags. Excellent condition, only 20,000km. 535,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 3490. Email: sjupp@bcis.ac.th

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Manual, super condition, 33,000 km, service history, leather seats. Price: 625,000 baht (12,625 Pound or 13,900 Euro) or nearest offer. Farang owned. Tel: 087-461 5773. Or send email to: joseph hinesbar@hotmail.com

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Manual, 64,000km, one owner, excellent condition. Price: 295,000 baht. No dealers or hagglers. Please call or mail. Tel: 081-958 3695. Email: simon_t_speight@hotmail.com

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70,000 baht or best offer. Please contact for more information at tel: 084-778 1900. Or send email to: peter@mollymalonesthailand.com

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Tel: 083-967 2213.

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yellow and silver. 2005, 22,000km. Beautiful condition. 20,000 baht ono. Call Mel. Tel: 086-687 8806. Email: bathman555@hotmail.com

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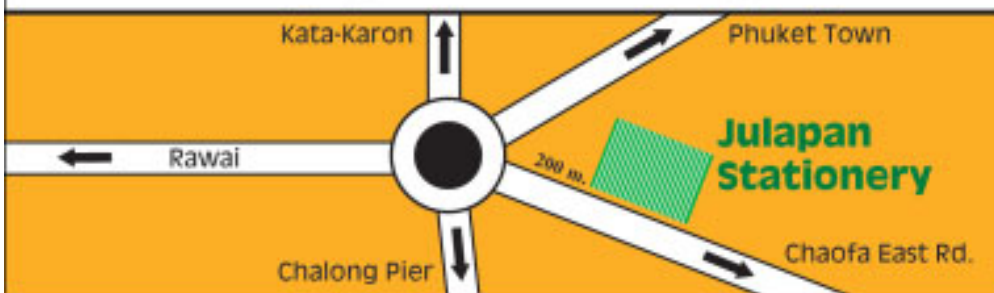
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REFERENDUM ABROGATIVI DI ALCUNI ARTICOLI E COMMI DEL D.P.R. 30 MARZO 1957, N. 361 E DEL DECRETO LEGISLATIVO 20 DICEMBRE 1993, N. 533

I Quesito - Premio di maggioranza alla lista più votata - Camera
II Quesito: Premio di maggioranza alla lista più votata - Senato
III Quesito: Abrogazione candidature multiple

Il voto per i referendum dei cittadini residenti ed iscritti all'AIRE si esprime esclusivamente per corrispondenza negli Stati con i quali il Governo italiano ha concluso apposite intese il cui elenco è pubblicato sul sito www.esteri.it. Negli Stati dove tali intese non sono state concluse gli elettori residenti ed iscritti all'AIRE non potranno esercitare il voto per corrispondenza e pertanto, per votare, dovranno recarsi in Italia avendo diritto al rimborso del 75% del biglietto di viaggio presentando la relativa documentazione al Consolato di competenza.

Anche i cittadini italiani temporaneamente all'estero come militari o appartenenti a forze di polizia in missione internazionale, come dipendenti di amministrazioni pubbliche per motivi di servizio ovvero come professori universitari ed i loro familiari conviventi potranno esprimere il voto per corrispondenza. La possibilità di recarsi a votare in Italia usufruendo del rimborso non riguarda questa tipologia di elettori in quanto, tali categorie, potranno votare anche negli Stati con i quali il Governo italiano non ha concluso apposite intese.

Gli elettori residenti e temporanei all'estero riceveranno a domicilio, da parte del Consolato di riferimento, il plico elettorale contenente le schede e le istruzioni sulle modalità di voto.

Chi non ricevesse il plico elettorale entro il 7 giugno, potrà recarsi di persona all'Ufficio consolare di riferimento per verificare la sua posizione elettorale.

Chi si trovi temporaneamente all'estero e non appartenga alle tre categorie sopraindicate, può votare per i referendum solamente recandosi in Italia per esprimere il voto presso le sezioni istituite nel proprio Comune.

Concluse le operazioni, le schede votate dagli italiani residenti all'estero pervenute ai Consolati entro le ore 16,00 del 18 giugno 2009 saranno trasmesse in Italia, dove avrà luogo lo scrutinio a cura dell'Ufficio Centrale per la Circoscrizione Estero istituito presso la Corte di Appello di Roma.

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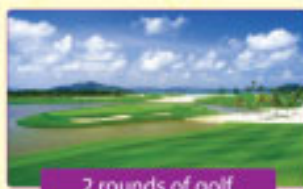
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