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Artistic Inspiration

Scott Phillips talks with some of Phuket's most talented young artists.

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Pilot's on course to fly again

CATHAY Pacific airline pilot Scott McDonald is back on the golf course – and playing better than ever.

Mr McDonald, whose right foot and lower leg were sliced off in a freak motorcycle accident two months ago, had a new prosthetic foot fitted on March 14.

The American has already played six rounds of his favorite sport at the Blue Canyon and Loch Palm courses, amazing friends with the speed his skills have returned.

"I'm playing almost better than I was before," he said. "I'm certainly more consistent."

Scott, whose handicap is 17, took up golf around two and half years ago on Phuket.

"I shot an 89 at Loch Palm and on the back nine I shot a 39 – which is unheard of," he said.

Bangkok Phuket Hospital's Swedish prosthetics specialist Dr

Bengt Soderberg fitted Scott with his new foot, which has been designed to ensure he can resume his career as an airline pilot.

"My employers continue to be really supportive," he said.

In around two months' time Scott will fly to Hong Kong where he will try out Cathay Pacific's simulator for the first time.

If things go well, he should be back in the air "within a few months".

Scott is also close to an informal agreement with the young Thai man who hit him in the accident, which happened on Thepkrasattri Road on January 24.

While the details have not been finalized, it is likely there will not be legal action taken by either party.

For more on the work of Dr Bengt, see pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

– Dan Waites



Photo by Pimwara Choksakulpan

Pilot Scott McDonald lost the lower part of his right leg two months ago. He is already back on the golf course and determined to fly again soon.

Accused sex charge Australian bailed

AN Australian man accused of sexually assaulting a four-year-old boy at an international school in Phuket was released on bail on March 30.

Andrew Clements, 51, from Tasmania, posted 800,000 baht in bail and was released from Phuket Provincial Prison. Mr Clements was arrested at his

house in Chalong on March 19 after a woman told police Mr Clements abused her son at Phuket International Academy (PIA) last year. The boy only told his mother about what took place recently and was unable to specify the date of the incident.

Mr Clements denies the child abuse charges he faces.

Len Peters, head of the

PIA Day School, made the following statement: "We regret to confirm that a former teacher at the Phuket International Academy, Mr Andrew Clements, was arrested and charged with committing an act of child abuse against a student at the school.

"This is profoundly distressing for everyone connected with the school. We have offered

our unconditional cooperation to the family involved, and to the Royal Thai Police.

"It should be noted that Mr Clements was dismissed from the school in December 2009. There is absolutely no connection between his dismissal from the school and the criminal charge which he now faces."

– Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Boo remembered

Ao Chalong Yacht Club Commodore Mick Kealy reflects on the life of Phuket sailing legend Prasarn 'Boo' Meesuk, who died last week

ON Wednesday March 24, Thailand lost one of its most experienced sailors. Boo Meesuk died aged 42 in a hospital in Trengganu, Malaysia.

In his teens, Boo was a decorated windsurfer, once sailing from Sattahip in Chonburi Province to Koh Samui.

At 23, he set foot on his first sailboat in Nai Harn Bay, where he worked on a charter yacht operating out of the Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. The captain of the *Two Too Tango* in Nai Harn took young Boo under his wing, teaching him the ins-and-outs of boat handling, sailing and general maintenance.

That experience sparked an interest in sailing that would see Boo sail on more than 50 yachts over 18 years.

Boo's extensive sailing

career is awash with highlights.

He sailed on the famous *Stormvogel* for over a year as foredeck crew. He also sailed on the well-known *Seraph* and *Kerida*.

Boo once flew to Italy to pick up a classic yacht that was in very bad condition, with holes in the decks. After patching it with plywood, he sailed it across the Indian Ocean to Myanmar for a refit.

High-sea adventure abounded on *Sofong*, which Boo sailed from Europe to Phuket.

About 10 years ago he was offered a permanent job on the racing yacht *Hocux Pocux* where he gained two years of invaluable experience in the racing scene.

From there he pursued a freelance racing career, holding his own on some of the best racing boats in Asia.

Boo sailed in 14 King's Cup Regattas, winning in 2009, as well as a number of Raja Muda Regattas, four Phuket Race Weeks, most Phang Nga Bay Regattas, the Straits Regatta, the China Sea Race, the Koh Samui Regatta and the Top of the Gulf and Hong Kong to Vietnam races.

Between major events he could be found either racing in the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC)'s Sunday races or sailing dinghies in Ao Yon.

The ACYC hosted a fundraiser last Friday for Boo's mother, whom he adored and supported. Around 200 people turned out for the event, which saw donations pour in from 15 different countries.

Boo will be sadly missed by all that knew him as not only a legendary sailor, but as a great friend.



Spate of foreigner deaths marring end of high season

THE past fortnight saw an unusually large number of deaths of foreigners in Phuket, with at least six tourists and expats dying naturally or in accidents.

A number of those who died were elderly, prompting speculation the spate may have been related to the very hot weather which coincided with the fatalities.

On March 19, Dinu Costa, a 71-year-old tourist from Italy, was found lying unconscious on a dinghy in Kamala Bay.

Mr Costa reportedly complained to his Thai girlfriend of chest pains before setting out. Fishermen found him at

around 4pm and towed the boat to Kamala Beach before alerting the Phuket Ruamkatanyu Foundation.

He was rushed to Patong Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

On March 22, 63-year-old William Mann, a retired businessman from England, was found dead at his home in Kathu.

Tung Tong Police found Mr Mann's body on a sofa in the living room with a bloody tissue in one hand and a wound on the right eyebrow.

Investigators found no signs of a struggle. There was blood on the floor next to the sofa and bloody tissues on a nearby table.

An unnamed Thai female

friend told Duty Officer Angkarn Yasanop that the deceased had experienced convulsions earlier in the evening at a friend's house and returned home.

She began to worry when she could not contact Mr Mann so she went to check his house.

Lt Angkarn said he suspected Mr Mann had another convulsion at home, causing him to fall to the floor, resulting in the eyebrow injury.

He then attempted to clean his eyebrow and the floor with tissue before having a final, fatal convulsion while sitting on the sofa, said Lt Angkarn.

In the early hours of March 25 a Frenchman and a Thai man were killed in a motorcycle

accident on Viset Road in Rawai.

Chalong Police found Cyril Chausse, 40, dead at the scene near his smashed motorcycle.

His bike collided with one driven by Loei-native Naphatphol Hongchumphare, 25, who died on the way to hospital.

Mr Naphatphol, who worked as a server at Mai Lay Restaurant in Chalong, was traveling in the wrong lane towards Rawai when he crashed head-on into Mr Chausse and his passenger, Wanphen Saego, in front of Tesco Lotus.

Ms Wanphen was discharged from Vachira Phuket Hospital on March 28.

Later the same day, Danish tourist Svend Aage Schwaback,

69, died while eating pizza in a Kata guesthouse.

A maid at Tik Place in Kata told police she grew suspicious when Mr Schwaback failed to check out on time.

She entered his room and found the Dane lying on the bed with food in his mouth.

A partially eaten pizza was found near the body.

Chalong Police Duty Officer Thapanapat Jaturonpan said he suspected the cause of death was cardiac arrest, but was awaiting the results of hospital tests.

On March 28 an elderly Swedish tourist died in Patong Hospital after collapsing in the shallows of Kata Beach.

The 80-year-old was pulled from the water around 11:30am with a faint pulse. Local municipal workers took her to Patong Hospital but doctors there were unable to revive her.

- Gazette reporters

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Waste crisis: Tesco Lotus goes it alone



Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatwichai receives a cloth bag at the project opening ceremony on March 30.

TESCO Lotus on March 30 launched its own answer to Phuket's long-delayed plastic bag charging scheme.

The UK-based retail chain's "Green Bag Green Point" initiative rewards customers who reuse old shopping bags with points which can be exchanged for cash coupons.

Customers also receive "green points" when they buy certain environmentally friendly products.

The project launched in Bangkok on March 19 before kicking off in Phuket at the Tesco Lotus superstore in Wichit.

Saofang Ekaluckrujee, Senior Corporate Affairs Manager at Tesco Lotus, said the company felt it had a responsibility to do its part in reducing waste, though every organization had different policies on how to achieve this.

Tesco Lotus believes incentives are most effective, she said.

Under the pre-existing Tesco Lotus Club Card scheme,

customers receive one point for every two baht they spend in the company's stores. Two thousand points can be exchanged for a 10-baht cash coupon.

Under the Green Bag Green Point project, customers will be rewarded with one point every time they use their own bag, rather than a new one.

The scheme will essentially reward customers with one *satang* for every bag they reuse.

Customers will also receive 25 points when they buy any of 118 environmentally friendly products, which include light bulbs, garbage bags, mosquito repellent, paper, correction fluid and toilet cleaner.

A Tesco spokesman said the chain had gone forward with an incentive scheme rather than plastic bag charging because this was the policy of its UK-based parent company.

"In the UK, green points have been established for many years - and they work. The vast majority of people [in the UK stores] bring

their own bags," he said.

Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatwichai, who chaired the project opening ceremony, said Phuket was producing around 600 tonnes of trash every day but had the capacity to incinerate just 260 tonnes.

"Thank you to Tesco Lotus for joining the province in reducing the use of plastic bags by launching the project," he said.

An island-wide plastic bag charging scheme, 'Phuket No Shopping Bag', remains on hold because retailers are refusing to go ahead until Tesco Lotus, Carrefour and 7-Eleven agree to take part.

Chief of Phuket Energy Office, Jirasuk Tummawetch, said he still hoped Tesco would sign the MoU promising to charge for plastic bags, despite the launch of its own project.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop is writing to the company's head offices asking for it to participate, Mr Jirasuk said.

Nick Anthony, Managing Director of Indigo Real Estate and one of the driving forces behind 'Phuket No Shopping Bag', said he remained positive that Tesco and other hold-outs could be brought on board "within the next few weeks".

Approaches had been made to Tesco "at multiple levels" with regards to the scheme, he said.

Mr Anthony also suggested individuals who supported the scheme should approach Tesco store managers and make their support for bag charging known.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Carrefour is only willing to join the scheme if Tesco Lotus does.

7-Eleven also refuses to sign the MoU, saying that it already issues biodegradable plastic bags.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew and Dan Waites*



LIGHTS OUT: Mr Suntorn (right) at a police press conference with other suspects last week.

Panwa wire thief caught

ACULPRIT has been nabbed for causing a recent spate of power outages in Cape Panwa.

Suntorn Bantuengkun, 49, was arrested on March 24 while trying to make off with 12 meters of aluminum wire connecting street lights on Ror Por Chor Khao Khad Road, towards Khao Khad Viewpoint.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong said the wire itself did not have much value, but the damage caused and loss of electricity was quite costly.

According to Wichit Municipality Electricity officer Sayan Kongpat, the cost of damages caused by Mr Suntorn's latest theft was around 10,000 baht. The total value of the wire: 612 baht.

"For three months people

have been complaining about the outage of around 20 lights along a 2.3km stretch of road from Soi Kob Koey, past the Khao Khad Viewpoint," he said.

"The thief or thieves were taking between one and 50 meters at a time, refraining from taking wire in front of people's houses. The total estimated cost of damages is between 60,000 and 70,000 baht," said Mr Sayan.

"We are now looking for a company to repair the damage. It needs to happen soon, probably in April, as the road is the only access to the viewpoint," he said.

He added that four officers from Wichit Municipality will be patrolling the area nightly, as it is believed Mr Suntorn was not alone in the power line pilfering.

- *Atchaa Khamlo*



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New lease on life for man

Doctors were stumped when Leif Axelsson was rushed to hospital with a dangerously high fever. Unknown to them at the time, Leif had contracted sepsis, a 'poisoning' of the blood which is usually fatal if not treated immediately.

Nearly killing him, the illness robbed the father of his lower arms and legs as his body began to shut down its extremities to protect vital organs.

Doctors amputated both Leif's hands above the wrists and his legs beneath the knees. Leif also sustained web-like scarring all over his body, another typical effect of sepsis.

Nearly a decade on, Leif's two sons are proud of their active father, whom their school-mates call 'Robo-man'.

Leif (pronounced 'life' in his native Swedish tongue) now walks about on carbon-fiber legs with hydraulic shock absorbers and performs everyday tasks with his artificial hands, which can open and close with varying amounts of pressure, enabling him to pick up anything from eggs to cups or to leaf through a book.

Leif's new limbs and lease on life come from the dedication and craftsmanship of fellow Swede Bengt Soderberg and Helle Moller. Bengt, a prosthetist and orthotist, and Moller treat amputees by crafting custom-made prosthetics at Bangkok Hospital Phuket's recently established Orthopedic Center.

Leif used to be a traveling mobile-phone salesman. With his new legs and arms he can drive again but now his time is mostly spent as president of Koalition for Amputerade (KFA), a Sweden-based support group for amputees, which was formed in 1998 with the aim of encouraging society's acceptance of amputees.

Leif has also become an ambassador for today's advances in prosthetics and an example to other amputees that life is still worth living after losing limbs.

And who could argue with a man who has lost four limbs yet approaches life with the winning attitude of an athlete?

Leif's energy is infectious and he has played a valuable role in helping Bengt and other prosthetists continually adapt



It took amputee Leif Axelsson about two years to learn how to use his prosthetic hands. Photos by FM

and improve artificial limbs.

This visit to Phuket was Leif's first. He promptly engaged Bengt and Moller in a new task:

to create flipper attachments for his arms so he could swim. Leif bought a child's flipper and gave it to Bengt and Moller.

They re-angled the flipper and added Velcro straps which fit around Leif's forearms.

His prosthetic hands fit snugly over his forearms but he

cannot wear them in the shower or when he goes swimming as they contain electronics and are not waterproof.

Leif admitted that he once accidentally short circuited his new hands when he wore them in the shower. That mistake cost him 100,000 Swedish kronor

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who lost his arms and legs



Leif Axelsson with Helle Moller and prosthetist Bengt Soderberg.

(445,000 baht) and a long wait for a new pair.

Leif uses muscles in his forearms to control his robotic

fingers through sensors inside his prosthetic arms.

"It took a long time to learn how to close the hands

slowly and gently," said Leif.

"I would practice picking up eggs but it was a long time before I could do it without breaking them. In fact, the other day I accidentally crushed a glass."

Bengt is keen to establish the orthopedic center at Bangkok Hospital Phuket as a regional hub where amputees can get the treatment they need.

In fact, Bengt said the facilities here for amputees or those at risk of losing limbs were in some ways better than treatment that patients can expect in Sweden, especially with this hospital's hyperbaric chamber; something the Swedish health authorities felt was too expensive to continue supporting.

Bengt has treated amputees all over the world, including in Iraq and Poland, and explained that he'd like to see the same social acceptance of amputees here as he saw come about in Poland.

"When I first went to Poland, there was nothing in place to help amputees. After a few years of fitting people with prosthetics, we saw a complete turnaround in society's attitude.

One leading light was



Bengt Soderberg at work at Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

teenager Jan Mela, a Polish double amputee who lost his limbs in an accident when he was 13 years old.

He became a national hero at 15, in 2004, after skiing to the North and South Poles in under a year. He also broke the record for being the youngest person to reach the North Pole.

"Jan Mela's fame made amputees more socially accepted and the Polish government soon began funding development of prosthetics and making them

more accessible to all amputees.

"We have the same goal here: to increase public awareness and national support to make Phuket an Asian hub for prosthetic treatment.

"Many people think that amputation of a limb is the end of treatment. Actually, it's just the beginning of a long road to recovery."

There are 3,000 amputees in Sweden. No figures were available on the number of amputees in Thailand.

- Nick Davies

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Netting Nai Harn jellies

A schyphozoan jellyfish of the type recently found in the waters off Phuket's Nai Harn Beach.

THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) has found no evidence of deadly jellyfish off Nai Harn Beach.

After the hospitalization of a four-year-old boy on March 19 due to a jellyfish sting, PMBC researchers sampled the area by sweeping the waters with two

nets at depths of 1.1 and 1.4 meters. The operation netted seven jellyfish of the painful but non-life-threatening schyphozoan variety.

"The jellyfish found at Nai Harn are not dangerous like the box jellyfish. They are most commonly found during the rainy season (May-October), but nonetheless are present year-

round," said the director of PMBC Wannakiat Tubtimsang."

He continued, "It is best to be aware and avoid them while swimming. If you get stung, pouring vinegar on the wound and applying mashed 'beach morning glory', which is abundant on the beach, is effective."

- *Atchaa Khamlo*

Canal poisoning riles up residents

VILLAGERS are complaining that shrimp farms in Ban Tha Rua in Phuket are poisoning the canal their livelihoods depend on.

Ten residents of Bang La village said last month that shrimp farm operators were letting chemical wastewater flood into Klong Pak Ka, killing marine life.

Surasak Wahlum, a 55-year-old fisherman, said, "The wastewater kills shellfish and other marine life in the canal, so we cannot do our jobs."

Wirot Suksamrit, also 55, said wastewater was released into the canal twice a year. "It takes a long time for the water to return to normal and for fish to return to the canal," he said.

President of Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) Athipong Kongnam said the TAO had warned the shrimp farmers about the practice before.

"They promised to clean the water before they released it into the canal, but they still do it secretly," he said.



Klong Pak Ka in Pa Khlok (top) and dead marine life found nearby.

Mr Athipong said there was nothing much the TAO could do to stop the operators.

"The farms are located in Tambon Srisoonthorn and there are no organizations there taking responsibility," he said.

"We'll just have to report it to the police," he added.

- *Gazette reporter*

Immigration closed during Songkran

THE Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) will be closed for a week during the Songkran holiday.

The Phuket Town Immigration office will be closed from April 13 until April 18 and any foreigners who need to register with immigration during that period are urged to do so by April 12 or on April 19.

Immigration staff con-

firmed that if a foreigner's scheduled visit to the PPIO falls during the public holiday, he or she could visit on the next working day without penalty - "but only on that first day after the holiday." In this case April 19.

Phuket Immigration is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, with a one-hour break for lunch starting at 12 noon.

- *Gazette reporter*

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Luck of the Irish



It was all smiles at the island's first St Patrick's Day Ball on March 27 at the JW Marriott Resort and Spa in Mai Khao. Celebrating all things Irish, guests joined in the celtic themed fundraiser to support The Life Home Project. Gaelic pride abounded with the night's live music, beer and food.

PIWC elects first Thai president

LAST month Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) members elected their new president for the next two years, Ms Wipa Tanmanatragul, who is the first Thai national to take up the position in the non-profit organization's 20-year history.



Newly appointed PIWC president Wipa Tanmanatragul.

Khun Wipa has played an active role in the PIWC's scholarship-funding projects for more than 15 years and will lead the charitable social network until 2011.

"I am honored to be the first Thai to be elected president of the PIWC and it is a privilege to carry on the good work of the committee in helping provide education to needy and deserving children," said Khun Wipa.

Khun Wipa replaces Sue Arnulphy, who is now the club's treasurer after being president for the past two years.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my two-year term of office. I

Khun Wipa will do a wonderful job as president – as she has been doing in the background for many years. She has experience with the schools, colleges and the local community and her participation as president will be very beneficial for the club," said Ms Arnulphy.

PIWC membership has steadily grown over the past 20 years and so has the number of youngsters leaving school with bright futures thanks to the club's education sponsorship program.

More than 550 scholarships have been offered to girls, and some boys, at primary, secondary and university level since 1990.

The club is currently giving financial assistance to 250 students from kindergarten to university.

For more information visit W:phuketiw.com or email info@phuketiw.com.

- Nick Davies

Jazz orchestra hit all the right notes

THE Stockholm City Jazz Orchestra have been creating a weekend storm playing two entralling charity concerts in aid of Phuket schools.

Scintillating performances were held at the Adamas Resort and Spa on Nai Yang Beach on March 20 and at the Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town on March 27.

All funds raised from ticket sales and the pre-show silent auctions are set to go to three Phuket schools: Koh Lone School in Rawai, Baan Kohnaka school in Thalang and Koh Maprow school in Koh Kaew.

Computers and other learning materials will also be donated to each school.

The popular big band orchestra is led by founder and veteran trumpet player Fredrik Noren.

Orchestra members come from Sweden and beyond, creating a musical mélange of international sounds including jazz, swing, flamenco and bebop.

The original members came together more than 20 years ago to form a rehearsal band allowing local freelance jazz musicians a chance to jam.

However, in 1986 the group formalized their bond, making their debut performance at the Skeppsholmen Jazz and Blues



The Stockholm City Jazz Orchestra have been raising money for Phuket schools.

Festival in Stockholm.

With nine successful albums to their credit, the band consists of some of the best jazz players in Sweden.

Their repertoire of modern swinging jazz music is rooted in tradition, but their albums highlight a variation of old and new styles with titles like Big Band Flamenco Fusion, Tribute to Jaco Pastorius and Tango.

- Gazette reporter

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A mixed canvas of dreams



THE captivating visions of five young Phuket artists went on display recently at the British International School's (BIS) Visual Arts Exhibition.

From March 23 to 26, the International Baccalaureate students, aged between 18 and 20, showcased talent well beyond

their years, exhibiting sculptures, sketches and paintings that embodied their dreams and fears of adolescence.

In a dark homage to their inhibitions and aspirations, the young artists drew inspiration from their daily lives.

Among those present were the student's parents, teachers,

honorary consulates, and government officials.

Opening the exhibition, Head of Secondary School Nick Botting unveiled the students' work with Picasso's famous quote, "One can never learn how to paint".

The reference was used to capture the essence of the school's art curriculum. Driven by teacher Anita Pardo, BIS's art program develops students' expressionist nature, rather than focusing on artistic techniques.

This method allowed the students freedom to explore their thoughts and experiences through their art.

The five young exhibitors succeeded in assembling their innermost feelings on various media.

And the crowds of art enthusiasts who joined the event were not disappointed.

No subject was taboo. Works titled, *Abortion, Sorrow, Dear God, A Valentine Suicide, Fingers of Society,* and

Vulnerability all presented a visual tour of the hardships and difficulties of adolescence.

Despite the dark tone of most of the pieces, each artist was full of energy and eager to discuss the source of their artistic inspiration.

Some artworks were a form of social commentary, such as Pimrat Taecharachkij's *Indian Fusion*.

Inspired by a trip to India, the piece depicted a wash of bright colors flowing through the dark outline of a mother holding her child. Pimrat said *Indian Fusion* reflected life amidst the social and cultural variety of the country.

More personal works from Pimrat came in the form of *Rotation*, a painting of several legs branching from a young girl's torso.

Pimrat said *Rotation* embodies her personal struggle to find her footing in the world.

Also exhibited was Timana Hossack's *Friday, 4pm*.

An intricately textured

close-up of a mouth, the piece showed authentic twine stitching the lips together at one end.

Dark and graphic, the work is a statement on the limitations of free speech Timana has encountered on her adolescent travels.

She is a surprising creator for the piece – animated and articulate, and eager to present the story behind each of her works.

Other work by Timana included several paintings of bruised and battered young faces, which she said shows the consequences of overconfidence and naivety.

A mixed media work titled *Suffocation* displayed a young girl clenching a globe surrounded by various forms of real trash that Timana collected from traveling with her family.

Nostalgia was another subject on display over the three day exhibition, perhaps most vibrantly by Jin Young Park in *Blind Contoured Life*. As the title suggests, Jin Young created the

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and fears of youthful years



Pictured on opposite page, clockwise from top left: Philip Northen and *Nega*, digital media; Jin Young Park and *Blind Contoured Life*, acrylic on canvas; Pimrat Taecharachkij's *My Mother was an Activist*, acrylic on board and *I Dream of Trees II*, mixed media. Pictured above, clockwise from top left: Timana Hossack with *Mute*, *Overconfident*, both oil on canvas, and *Consequences I & II*, both oil and mixed media on canvas; Dan Bee Choi and *The Light and The Dark*, oil on canvas; and Pimrat with *Rotation*, oil on canvas.

acrylic on canvas piece while blindfolded.

Brightly colored and organized like a page from a comic book, the image depicted memories from Jin Young's youth: family trips, images from memorable Songkran celebrations, and her Kindergarten birthday.

The dozens of artworks on display were all dramatic and personalized homages to the young artists visions of the world, but for the author, perhaps the most poignant was Dan Bee Choi's collection.

As she discussed her work, she has an openness and honesty that many seasoned artists struggle to achieve.

Her favorite work is a painting of a girl struggling to reach a bright light floating above a sea of dark figures.

"The graphics present the hopes and dreams of relationships on the top, and the bottom is the sadness and darkness from inside my heart. The person is constantly wondering which way she should go," she said.

Dan Bee further illustrated her thoughts with works on abortion, medical malpractice, and her relationship with her mother.

Bringing in a bit of digital talent was Philip Northen, whose affinity for Japanese animation was sharply illustrated in a series of characters created entirely on a computer.

His work *Pinch Hopper* was an assembly of different plastic and metal parts, creating a curious hybrid of sculpture and robot.

— Story and photos by Scott Phillips

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B. Alan Wallace is a dynamic lecturer, progressive scholar, and one of the most prolific writers and translators of Tibetan Buddhism in the West. Alan has taught Buddhist meditation and philosophy worldwide since 1976 and has served as interpreter for numerous Tibetan scholars and contemplatives, including H.H. the Dalai Lama. After earning his undergraduate degree in physics and the philosophy of science at Amherst College in 1967, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in religious studies at Stanford University in 1995. He is the Chairman of the Phuket International Academy Mind Centre (PIAMC) in Phuket, where he leads intensive, eight-week meditation retreats and shorter weekend retreats. Also the Founder and President of the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies.

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Paradise found

Exploring the lonesome isle of Koh Yao Yai

Koh Yao Yai is regarded by many as Phang Nga Bay's garden isle. While neighboring islands parted with their virginity long ago, Koh Yao Yai is unhurried in its rush to grow up.

DESPITE the captivating beauty of the jewel-encrusted Andaman coast, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find an island that ticks all the boxes.

While neighboring islands parted with their virginity long ago, Koh Yao Yai remains unhurried in the rush to grow up.

Located just 30 minutes by speedboat from Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga and resting in one of Thailand's most developed bays, the island remains pristine.

Approaching the island, visitors first catch sight of the vast quilt of green which covers

the hillside without interruption.

At the pier, a handful of thirty-something travelers eye up the verdant topography.

Tucked away on a secluded bay, down a lane meandering through rice paddies and lush forestland, Koh Yao Yai Village Resort is the ultimate island hideaway.

If Mother Nature created an island resort, this is how it would look. All elements of design pay utmost respect to the natural landscape. From the layout to the materials used, the resort blends seamlessly with the surrounding environment.

Hidden under the dappled shade of the evergreen canopy, the resort consists of 34 generously spaced bungalows.

Despite their spacious 73 square meter dimensions, the tropical modern bungalows make no attempt to dominate the landscape. It is almost as if they sprang up from the forest floor with the rest of the abounding flora.

A myriad of local influences have been woven into each bungalow's design, including splashes of rural-style sarong fabric in the soft furnishings.

The large terrace, with

sunloungers and daybed, is the ideal place to spend balmy evenings listening to the soundtrack of the jungle.

Overlooking a 700 square meter infinity pool, the resort's thatched-roof restaurant enjoys a 180-degree panoramic vista of Phang Nga Bay.

Koh Yao Yai's coast is adorned with gleaming-white, sandy beaches. Within the National Park area, Klong Son is widely considered the island's most attractive beach. However, Haad Laem is the ultimate paradise. Jutting into the sea, this narrow stretch of coconut grove is fringed with two shores that meet and merge into a perfect arc of sand.

Unlike crowded beaches in Railay and Phuket, Koh Yao Yai's shores are deserted and footprint free. Visitors can have their own private beach for the day.

There are many tours on the island which are personalized and casual, so despite delving deep into island culture, there is no intrusion on locals' daily lives.

One tour visits a rubber

plantation, as well as one of the rickety off shore fish farms nearby. These holding bays for lobster, crabs, white snapper and shrimp, form the backbone of the island's economy.

Although fresh flavorsome lobster isn't a major part of the local diet, islanders enjoy the profit made from selling the crustacean to mainland markets.

Tours also stop at Fisherman's Village, where a fresh catch of iridescent anchovies glint in the scorching midday rays as they dry.

It's the simple encounters with nature, such as noticing a fruit-laden cashew nut tree or watching a hermit crab scampering across the shore under a beautiful shell, that enrich the experience of Koh Yao Yai.

Koh Yao Yai is the epitome of 'sabai', in Thai, meaning relaxing, comfortable and carefree.

The island ticks all the boxes, and adds a few more that weren't previously on the list.

— Lesley Chittayanon

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EXPAT GALLERY

Frank Visakay

Frank Visakay is one of Phuket's most successful published writers. He is known for his collection of short stories and travel guides to Cambodia. He published his first short story, *A Perfect Vacation*, a tale about marriage and murder, in the *Phuket Gazette* in 1998.

He was born just outside New York City and worked in Joseph's Restaurant in his native New Jersey after finishing school. He started as a cook's assistant and 15 years later became Head Chef. He then decided to move into the big city.

"I really love New York City. So much is always happening. I took a job managing a very popular restaurant, *Mary's Fancy*, at 57th and 3rd Avenue near Bloomingdale's, almost the center of the city's action. We did over 550 lunches and 500 dinners. Not only did I manage the restaurant, but when the chef would walk out, as he did rather regularly, I'd jump into the kitchen and take over the work there."

Frank's skill both behind and in front of the counter gained him such a reputation that he was offered the chance to run his own restaurant.

"The actor Michael Murphy, offered to finance a restaurant for me along with some other inves-

tors and we opened *Camelback and Central* on the Upper East Side in 1980. I spent ten years presenting excellent food with glowing reviews in the *New York Times* and the *Daily News*. I was on television programs as our restaurant was popular with celebrities like Liza Minnelli, Robert Redford and Placido Domingo."

Frank was given the Best Wine List Award by *New York Magazine*. He built his wine list by carefully studying *Wine Spectator* magazine and consulting with his suppliers.

"It was a white table cloth restaurant with daily specials like roast duck with black current sauce, and filet of sole steamed in basted parchment paper. Though our food was excellent, what made us so popular was our standard of service."

When he wasn't working 20-hour days, Frank would slip off to Europe for holidays. By the early 1990s, he decided to take a long deserved holiday and traveled for two years to Central America, Egypt, India and around Southeast Asia.

"I realized that I could work full time in New York City to support myself or retire in a paradise like Phuket on the dividends from my stock portfolio. I didn't have to think too long to make the

decision to settle on the island."

He moved to Phuket in 1998 and began his writing career. He met Matt Jacobson who had collected travel data about Cambodia and together they convinced Silksworm Books to publish *Adventure Cambodia* which became a best seller on that somewhat esoteric country.

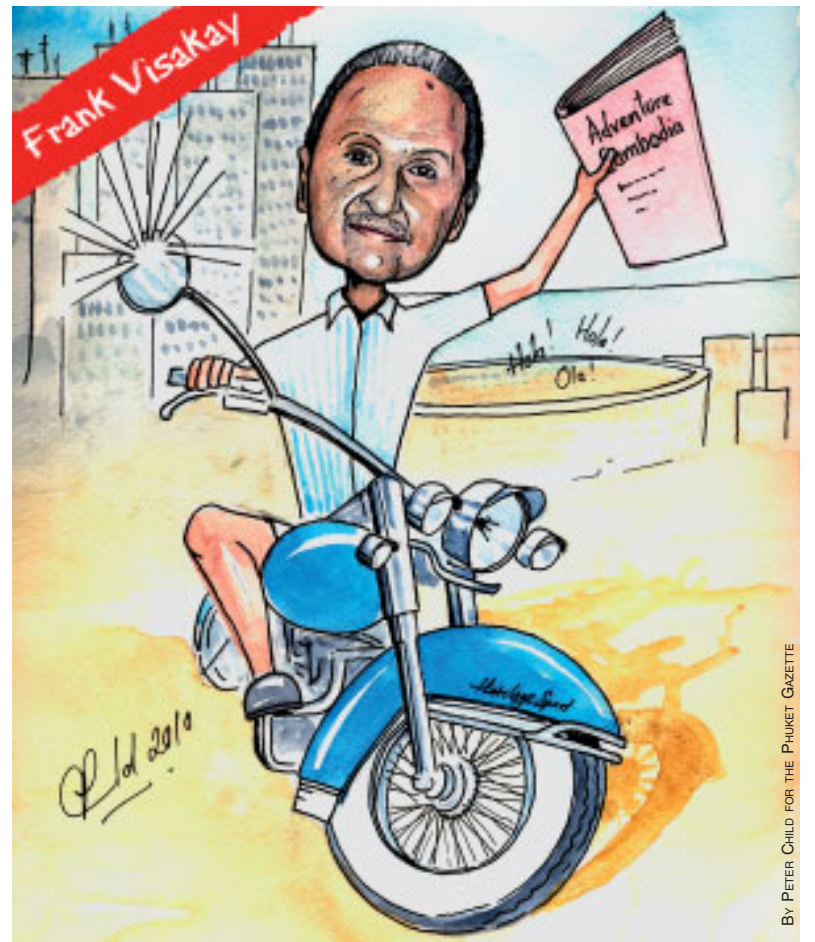
Frank then decided to fulfill two lifelong dreams. The first was to buy a Harley Davidson Heritage Classic motorcycle, which he describes as his major hobby. He joined with fellow expat bike enthusiasts and traveled the region. His second dream was to have a German Shepard, a dog that he had never had the time to care for during the days of his busy restaurant career. He acquired 'Look Chai' when he settled on the island and they had each other's company for twelve years.

"I feel like both of my dreams have come true. Now I travel to Spain every year to watch the bull fights. I love the grandeur and the spectacle of the bull ring."

His career as a writer is still developing. His collection of non-fiction short stories, *Jasmine Nights*, was published in Singapore two years ago and is still 'face out' or prominently displayed in Phuket's and other bookstores around Southeast Asia.

When Frank is not writing books, he enjoys floating in his swimming pool and caring for his young Great Dane pup.

- 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, ahh, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



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NAVAL RECEPTION: Vice Admiral Choomnoom Ardwong, Royal Thai Navy Commander Third Naval Area Command, welcomed Colonel Cheong Joo Leng Joe PP, PBS, Deputy Fleet Commander Headquarters of the Singapore Navy, on March 22. The navy men took a day to relax while the Singapore Naval ship was docked in Makham Bay.



COAST IS CLEAR: Managers and staff from the Ramada Resort Karon Beach Phuket did their part to keep Karon clean by volunteering to clear trash from the beach on March 24. After collecting bags of trash, it was separated and given over to the Karon Municipality.



ECO OUTAGE: In observance of Earth Hour, a worldwide event organized by the World Wildlife Fund on March 27, the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket went dark for the environment. As part of the global event, guests were invited to join a candlelit 'Lights Out' cocktail party at the beachfront restaurant.



PIECE DE RESISTANCE: Michelin star guest Chef Gérard Royant and Mom Tri's Maître Cuisinier de France Jean-Noël Lumineau are pictured during an evening of fine wine and culinary excellence at Mom Tri's Kitchen at Villa Royale on March 25. At the Spring Wine Dinner the French duo presented six courses, including a selection of five paired wines.



CARE BEARS: Impiana Resort & Spa Phuket launched their Sunshine Bear Charity to support the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation. Exclusively designed by the resort, each stuffed bear is priced at 300 baht and is available for purchase at the resort's sales outlets.



CERTIFIED HEROES: Lifeguard and first aid training was held March 27-28 at Phuket International Academy (PIA) in collaboration with the Northern Hotel Marketing Committee (NHMC), a group comprising SALA Phuket Resort & Spa, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa, Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, and the Aleenta Resort & Spa Phang-Nga. Pictured at front is Martin Cote, Assistant Director of the Aquatic Academy at PIA, with certified lifeguard staff from NHMC.

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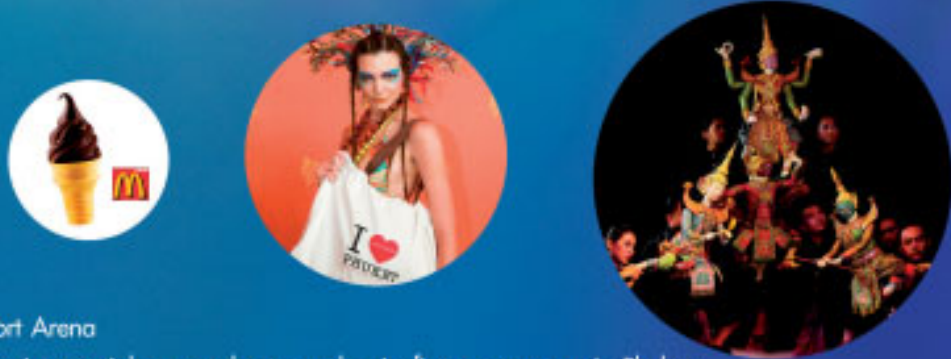
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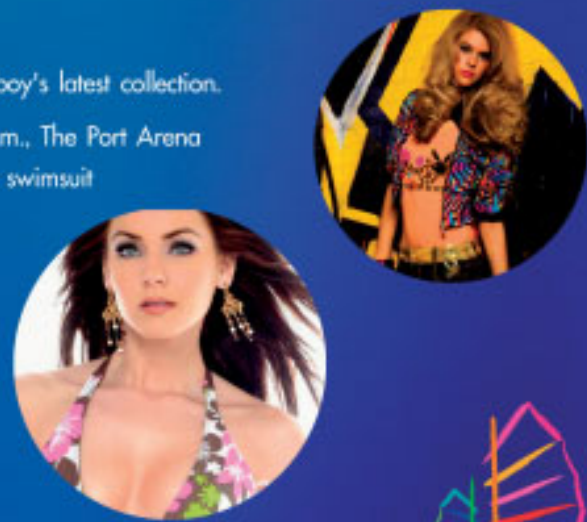
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- **"Spirit of the Sea" Fashion Show with Miss Universe 2005, Natalie Glebova:** 4 April, 7:00 p.m., The Port Arena
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- **Happy Easter Day:** 4 April: starting at 12.30 p.m., The Port Arena
- **1st Phuket International Tattoo Convention:** 6-8 April, 2nd Floor, Sino Phuket Zone
- **16th Annual Phuket Bike Week:** 9-11 April, G Floor
- **Songkran Festival:** 13 April, Sai 2 Road, Jungceylon



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Looking Back

By Anand Singh

Phuket's tantalum tumult

tin mines, some dating back centuries, became highly sought after because of the huge quantities of tin slag that had collected in these places during years of mining activity.

In 1986 a company called Thai Tantalum Industry Corporation proposed a project to the government asking for industrial sponsorship funds to build a tantalum factory on the island. The proposed site was near Thepkasattri Road, on the outskirts of Phuket Town. The factory project was approved and construction got underway.

But as work progressed on the building of the tantalum factory local fears started to mount. It was said that the factory planned to make use of hydrofluoric acid, a highly poisonous chemical, in its production process.

The Phuket tantalum factory's completion also coincided with two major industrial disasters abroad which heightened local fears in Phuket.

Earlier that year, in April 1986, the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine experienced a fatal meltdown, resulting in the worst nuclear disaster in history.

Two years earlier in 1984, another industrial catastrophe hit global headlines when a pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India leaked deadly gases and other toxic chemicals into the air.

The death toll in Bhopal had mounted in the thousands, with over 500,000 people being exposed to the harmful toxins.

During April and May of 1986 a video containing disturbing footage of the Bhopal disaster was anonymously circulated in Phuket, further enraging local opposition to the new tantalum plant.

In June 1986 a demonstration was held to petition the government to halt the construction of the tantalum factory.

Some 50,000 demonstrators showed up in support of closing the refinery. Government opposition leaders in

TIN has been mined in Phuket for hundreds of years. Although many industrial processes that were introduced throughout the 20th century proved detrimental to the island's coastal and marine environment, the tin industry has historically been a source of wealth for locals.

In the process of tin production the separation of tin from its impurities produced quite a lot of slag, or waste products. During the 1970s the Thailand Smelting and Refining Company (THAISARCO) was allowed to mine tin in Phuket. In time the company's research yielded a stunning discovery.

It was found that the slag produced during the tin refining process contained a compound called tantalum pentoxide.

Tantalum by itself is a rare and expensive element. It is highly corrosion resistant and because of this, it is often used as a substitute for platinum in high-tech industrial production.

Tantalum is often needed in the manufacturing of spacecraft, computers and nuclear components.

It was found that as much as 25 percent of the slag generated from tin refinement in Phuket was tantalum compound. Neither the government, nor the locals, knew this precious resource existed on the island at that time.

For a while, THAISARCO was able to exploit the government's ignorance and exported tantalum under the pretense that it was low value tin slag. But when demand for the virtually valueless slag grew relentlessly, it drew the attention of local investors and industrialists.

Suddenly the lands around abandoned



Tantalum is a rare and expensive metal used in the production of high-technology machines such as spacecraft and nuclear warheads.

demanding the closing of the plant and threatening to boycott the next election if the petition went unheeded. The government responded by sending a representative to Phuket in order to clarify the matter with the demonstrators.

The person chosen by the government was the then Industry Minister Dr. Chirayu Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya.

When news reached the demonstrators that the government was sending a representative to negotiate with, they held a peaceful rally in front of the city convention hall in Phuket Town and awaited his arrival.

On the morning of June 23rd, the governor of Phuket went to receive Dr. Chirayu at Phuket airport. But with the protest numbers swelling to over 75,000, the government representative decided he was unprepared to face such a large, emotionally charged crowd, so he refused to show up at the hall. The demonstrators waited until noon with no sign of any official arrival. Tired, hungry and hot, the protesters saw this as a sign that the government had neglected their concerns.

The initially peaceful crowd was pushed to violence as protesters vented their frustration by throwing stones and smashing glass at the city convention hall. Then the crowd started moving towards Phuket Town. The rioting escalated as violent demonstrators began smashing and destroying anything that blocked their path.

The situation got worse when mob leaders led demonstrators to surround the Phuket Merlin hotel where Dr. Chirayu had planned to stay. The mob began hurling things at the hotel, shattering glass and threatening to burn down the hotel. The arson attack was prevented when a negotiator stepped in to quell the crowd.

At the same time another angry mob was moving towards the newly finished Thai Tantalum Industry Corporation's tantalum factory just outside town.

When they reached the building, the rioters began to set fire to the entire complex. As the government sponsored facility burned, angry rioters stood guard and prevented any form of police or fire rescue efforts by blocking access to the factory. Some of the fire trucks that tried to break the siege of rioters were overturned and destroyed.

By day's end, all that was left of Thai Tantalum Industry Corporation's \$25 million tantalum factory was ashes and ruins.

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

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Songkran Dinner and Entertainment at Moevenpick April 13



Moevenpick is making a splash of its own this Songkran with a special Gala Dinner Buffet at the Sand Bar, featuring the best Thai traditional family-style cuisine accompanied by Thai music and a cabaret spectacular. 1,010++ baht per person. The performances start at 8pm; the event runs from 7pm - 10pm at the Sand Bar. For further information contact Mr Teerawat Ratsamee. T: 076-396139. E: teerawat.ratsamee@moevenpick.com. W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

cheeses, cold cuts, fabulous desserts, and much more. Free-flowing wine buffet and soft drinks. Price: 1,500 baht ++. Kids under 12 eat free; max 2 kids per table. From 12pm - 4pm at Burasari Resort Patong. For further information contact Khun Zew. T: 076-292929. E: kurissara@burasari.com.

April 4. Fun Football Day at Royal Phuket Marina
Join RPM for an afternoon of family football. Test your skills on a penalty shootout, enjoy a demonstration of Futebol de Salão, mixed family-sided games and much more. All proceeds will be used to purchase footballs for a local Thai orphanage. Free admission; parents will receive a 20 percent discount at RPM restaurants from 7pm to 9pm. From 4pm to 7pm at the grass lawn near the tennis courts at RPM. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya or Mr Martin Hill. T: 085-331 0295. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

April 4. A Traditional Easter at Moevenpick
All are invited to enjoy a traditional Easter feast with some special surprises. Experience a unique take on the traditional Easter dinner with selections that include favorites such as roasted lamb and fish, Easter eggs and chocolate goodies. Throughout the night, guests will be entertained with a Thai cultural show. 1,300++ baht per person (dinner only). 1,800++ baht per person with liquor, favorite cocktails, wine tasting reception and free-flowing beer. From 7pm - 10pm at the Hotel Lagoon lawn. For further information contact Mr Teerawat Ratsamee. T: 076-396139. E: teerawat.ratsamee@moevenpick.com. W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

April 6. Chakri Day – Public Holiday
Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri Dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 8-11. Phuket Oilfield Classic 2010
The Red Mountain and Loch Palm Golf Courses welcome all competitors to their 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This event attracts international golf pros as well as local competitors. Come join in the fun on the weekend before Songkran and see if you can win some of the fantastic prizes available to all contestants. Lucky contestants will bid for a once-in-a-lifetime collectible at the Charity Auction, such as a framed Carlos Santana Guitar or an F1 Checkered Flag signed by all the F1 Drivers. For further information, contact Mark Cameron. T: 081-882843. E: mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com. W: phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

April 13-15. Songkran Festival – Public Holiday
Songkran, Thailand's biggest holiday, celebrates the beginning of the Thai New Year. Also known as the Water Festival, Songkran is held during the driest months in Thailand, and is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring (traditionally only a little, but these days a lot of) water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year. Celebrations will take place throughout the island.

April 21. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club
The Phuket Punchline team returns with another night of international stand-up comedy. This show welcomes internationally acclaimed novelist and comedian Mark Billingham, author of the hugely successful 'Inspector Thorne' books. Joining Mark are two more Brits in the shape of Mike Gunn and Carl Donnoly. From 8pm - 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong. For further information contact Boom. T: 089-646 9278. E: info@phuketcomedy.com. W: phuketcomedy.com.

April 22 – 26. Passion For Perfume Workshop at The Pavilions
The Pavilions will hold 'Passion For Perfume', a unique three-day experiential program designed specifically for guests to indulge in the sensual pleasures of scent. Created to awaken and arouse the senses, the courses will be hosted by world-renowned Perfumer Stephen V. Dowthwaite, founder of Perfumers World. The three-day workshop is 9,000++ baht, and includes morning and afternoon coffee breaks and a three-course set lunch. From 9am - 5pm at The Pavilions, Phuket. For further information contact K. Or, (Front Office Manager). T: 076-317600. E: fom.phuket@thepavilionsresorts.com. W: thepavilionsresorts.com.

April 22. Phuket Int'l Women's Club lunch at Silk
The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at Silk Restaurant, Andara Resort, Kamala. All are welcome, but please pre-register. 450 baht for members; 600 baht for guests. From 11:30 am - 2pm. For further information contact Carole Dux. T: 076-316711. E: info@phuketiwc.com.

April 28. The Phuket PR Network Free Public Speaking Seminar
Worried About Public Speaking? Help is at hand. The Phuket PR Network is holding a free seminar on public speaking with author Bjorn Turmann, renowned expert on public speaking. From 4pm - 7pm at Silk Restaurant, Andara Resort, Kamala. For further information contact Alastair Carthew of AC PR Counsel. T: 076-317929, 081-7500448. E: alastair.carthew@staralliance.com.

April 29. Writer's Night with Bjorn Turmann
Don't miss Writer's Night at Mom Tri's Boathouse, Phuket's first literary event of Summer 2010. Bjorn Turmann, internationally recognized writer/speaker, will talk about fiction and film, writing novels and developing Oscar nominated ideas. Drinks at reduced prices. From 7pm - 9pm at Mom Tri's Boathouse. For further information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076-330015. E: pr@boathousephuket.com. W: boathousephuket.com.

April 2 – 8. Day-Night and Day Art Exhibition at Royal Phuket Marina

Day-Night and Day will feature the works of renowned Vietnamese artist Nguyen Tan Cuong on mixed-media canvas. The theme of time in 'Day-Night and Day' contains several moments that continuously run around and mingle, opposing the contradicting aspects of the flow of time. The artist has participated in art exhibitions throughout the world. The exhibition runs from 11am to 7pm on weekdays and from 12pm to 6pm on Sunday at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Watinee (Ann) Kaewket. T: 076-360867. E: info@dgallery.co.th. W: dgallery.co.th.

April 4. The Les Anges Easter Sunday Brunch
Join Les Anges for their Easter Sunday Brunch, featuring a sumptuous buffet with all the Easter favorites: lamb, ham, duck, spring chicken and lots of eggs! 999 baht, includes half a bottle of wine per person, Easter eggs for all, games and an egg hunt for the kids. From 12pm - 4pm at Les Anges Restaurant, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Mr Peter Webber. T: 081-968 0738. E: peterw@lesangesphuket.com.

April 4. Easter Sunday Brunch at Floyd's
Celebrate Easter with a traditional Easter Sunday Brunch at Floyd's Brasserie from noon to 4pm. Feast on imported oysters, seafood, special carvery, fresh pasta, European

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On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*

The Indigo Pearl Resort Phuket has appointed **Michael Nurbatlian** as Sales Manager. He holds a bachelor degree in Political Sciences from the American University in Beirut and a post graduate degree in Hospitality Operations from the renowned Glion Hotel School in Switzerland. Prior to joining the Indigo Pearl, Michael was the e-commerce executive at the 5-star Millennium Resort Phuket.



Patong's Il Palazzo restaurant and hotel welcomed German native **Rene Kelbassa** as their Executive Chef. Before coming to work in Phuket, Mr Kelbassa worked for the Hilton Hotels Corporation as a Chef De Parti from 2006-2009. The chef's culinary experience also includes the Kini Restaurant in Germany and the Excelsior Hotel Ernst Cologne.



Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach recently appointed **Peter Schiess** as the General Manager of the resort's 211 rooms, suites and villas. The Swiss national is a highly regarded hotelier who brings over 25 years of hospitality background to his new role. He most recently served as the General Manager of the Radisson Blu Resort Hotel, Tala Bay in Aqaba, Jordan.



Protecting your investments after death



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

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

MANY expatriates living in Phuket have lived in a few countries before coming here. Often, these expats

have acquired assets in several of these countries and have retained them as investments.

Looking after such a geographically spread-out estate may be manageable during a man's lifetime; however, what happens when the owner of those assets dies?

Without proper planning, serious problems can arise for a widow, who may not have any understanding of business, or for offspring, who are still minors.

In many cases, expatriates would be better off using an offshore trust to avoid complications.

But what is an offshore trust? And furthermore, what is a trust and how can it be used to protect an investor's assets after death?

A trust is a legal entity that can hold and manage assets including: companies, property, bank accounts, stocks,

shares and anything else an individual may own.

The trust is governed by trustees who may be individuals, banks, accounting firms, legal firms, insurance companies, trust companies or any of a variety of other entities.

If a trustee is a corporate body, it has a legal obligation to manage assets professionally.

If it does not, then it is liable for any costs or losses due to its negligence.

The advantage of a trust is that it is simple. All the assets of the settlor – the person who sets up the trust – are already held in the trust's name and are not dispersed around the world.

Nearly all offshore trusts are situated in tax havens, for example the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. For non-residents, these are true tax havens and no death duties or tax is paid.

Choosing the right trustee is important with estate planning.

I recently heard a good tale that illustrates this point.

A Thai lady with two young children lost her husband. The deceased husband was originally a Hong Kong resident. He owned property and a business, as well as additional property in Britain.

The husband left a will that put all his assets into a trust after his death. He had wanted all but one of these properties sold by his trustees and the capital invested in a trust that would provide sufficient income for his widow and children.

Although he was an

attorney, he had made a terrible mistake. He gave absolute power over his estate to friends whom he had appointed as trustees.

The dead man owned a nice house in Phuket, but with a large mortgage.

The trustees decided his widow must rent out this house in Thailand and move to one of the houses in Britain.

The trustees were deaf to her pleas she had never been to Britain in her life and couldn't speak very good English. Neither she nor her late husband had ever intended to stay in the UK.

The lesson here is that appointing individuals as trustees is dangerous. Apart from anything else, there is a possibility of fraud. If our attorney had appointed a corporate body as trustees, his wishes would have been carried out faithfully.

Apart from any other considerations, where individuals have been appointed as trustees there is always the potential problem of death or severe illness interrupting their ability to serve as trustees.

Some security may be found in the use of a protector. The protector has veto rights over the trustees. Therefore, trustees must obtain the protector's signed confirmation for their every action.

The drawback is that this can add unnecessary delays. I dealt with one case where the trustees were unable to act for six weeks because the protector was traveling in the US and nobody knew his itinerary.

One of the cheapest ways

to form an offshore trust is by using the services of a trust company that is owned by an offshore insurance company.

This reduces the cost of establishing and maintaining a trust by a very substantial amount, allowing for smaller amounts to be placed into a trust.

Most corporate trustees will otherwise refuse to accept assets worth less than about 250,000 pounds – about 17 million baht.

I recently came across a well known international bank who will not manage a trust unless the underlying assets exceed US\$3 million, which is about 100 million baht.

Apart from the advantages, trusts can be very useful instruments to protect assets in the case of divorce.

With an offshore trust, you retain control of the assets, including the right to withdraw all the funds from the trust.

There are many different types of trusts, but most expats will select an offshore discretionary trust which is the most flexible.

However, as with all aspects of personal financial planning, it all depends on the individual situation.

One of the advantages of an offshore discretionary trust is that the trustees are guided by a Letter of Wishes.

During the lifetime of the settlor, this document can be changed at anytime, to include or exclude beneficiaries or the terms on which they can benefit.

It is not necessary to have this document drafted in legal terminology since trustees simply want clear instructions.



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PUZZLES

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FARRAH FAWCETT (1947-2009)

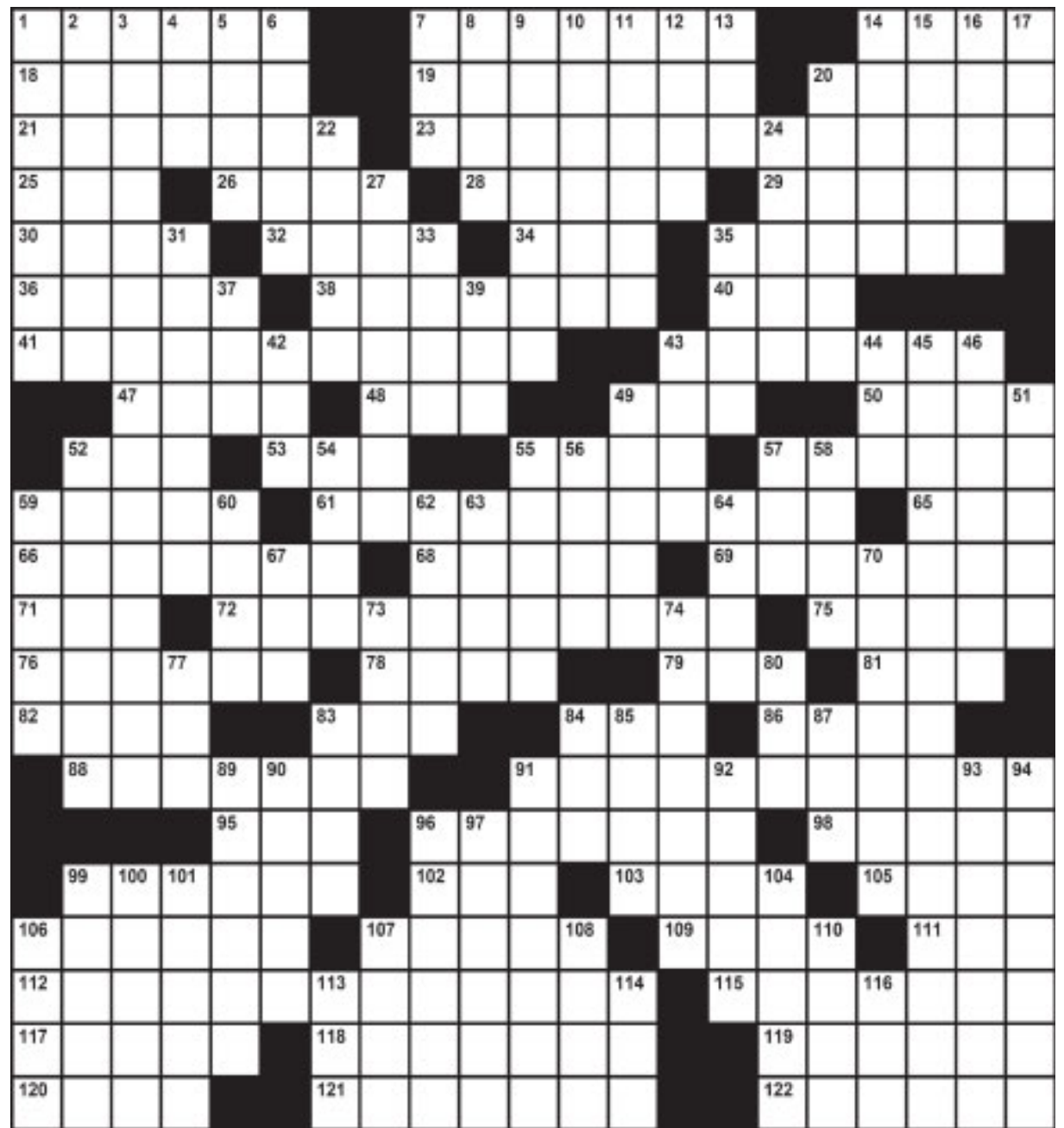
Solution: 6 letters

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

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10/3

Andy, Apostle, Cable, Charlie, Check, Church, Commercials, Doctors, Faberge, Film, French, Hairstyle, Host, Hotel, Hutton, Iconic, Jackson, Jaclyn, James, Kate, Lawsuit, Lee Majors, Life, Lung, Marshall, Munroe, O'Neal, Pose, Read, Redmond, Resolve, Roman, Sacrifices, Show, Smith, Stalker, Star, Story, SWAT, Texas, The Dating Game, Toothpaste, Ultra, Warhol



ACROSS

- 1 Kind of injection or weapon
- 7 Applauded
- 14 Ship's flag holder
- 18 Draw a breath
- 19 Shirley's sitcom partner
- 20 Socialite Mesta
- 21 Full legislative assemblies
- 23 Start of an optimist's saying
- 25 Faux ___ (blunder)
- 26 American Kennel Club outcast
- 28 Adds to the kitty
- 29 Sports legends
- 30 Gets on the nerves of
- 32 Bicuspid base
- 34 Aus. neighbor
- 35 Surgically tie
- 36 Its capital is Cairo
- 38 Certain similar chemical compounds
- 40 "If ___ told you once ..."
- 41 Delving scientists, e.g.
- 43 Bean container
- 47 Graceful seabird
- 48 Admission requirements, perhaps
- 49 Moo ___ pork
- 50 "Hot cross buns, ___ penny, two ..."
- 52 Coveted degree
- 53 Ecclesiastic robe
- 55 "Peek-___, I see you!"
- 57 Arctic feature
- 59 Have awoken
- 61 Clay pots, e.g.
- 65 Historic chapter
- 66 Swallowing greedily
- 68 Directly in front
- 69 Hamburger portions
- 71 Ending for some pastas and magicians
- 72 Busybodies
- 75 ___ & Young (accounting firm)

- 76 "___ fidelis" (Marine Corps motto)
- 78 Flooring for a flat, for short
- 79 The Pointer Sisters' "___ So Shy"
- 81 What to do after being served
- 82 Small music group
- 83 Cincinnati athlete
- 84 "No" to Rob Roy
- 86 Songwriter's poetic meter
- 88 Gluey, gooey stuff
- 91 Pigment mixed with egg yolk
- 95 "Diamonds ___ Forever" (Bond film)
- 96 Slow movements, in music
- 98 Massachusetts town
- 99 Rent check payee
- 102 Horror flick star Chaney
- 103 "Fine" follower
- 105 Congressional VIPs
- 106 "The Picture of ___ Gray"
- 107 "___ Less Ordinary" (1997 film)
- 109 Dipping breads
- 111 "Don't blame ___ voted for ..."
- 112 End of an optimist's saying (see 23-Across)
- 115 Market, as a product
- 117 Cyma ___ (a molding)
- 118 Violence-laden rap, in slang
- 119 Imbeciles
- 120 Airline passenger's table
- 121 Bad-mouths
- 122 Fish-eating sea bird

DOWN

- 1 More impertinent
- 2 Make bigger
- 3 "There are no restrictions!"

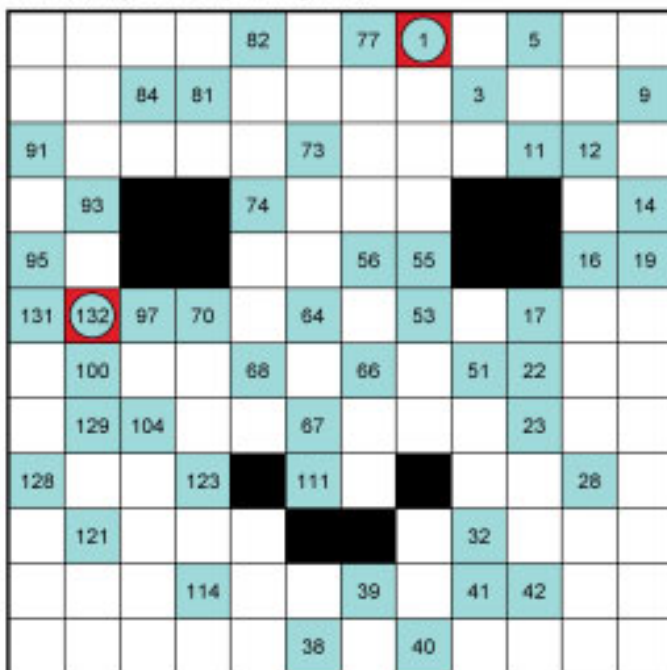
- 4 "Star Wars" character Solo
- 5 '06 class member, e.g.
- 6 Madagascar tree climber
- 7 1995 and '97 AL champs, on scoreboards
- 8 Etna outpouring
- 9 Settles a score
- 10 More irreverent
- 11 See 72-Across
- 12 Abbr. at the bottom of a business letter
- 13 Playa ___ Rey, Calif.
- 14 She helped Jason get the Golden Fleece
- 15 Buddhist in nirvana
- 16 Fred Flintstone's boss
- 17 MacLaine film "Guarding ___"
- 20 Freed (of)
- 22 Impassive
- 24 Rocket's nose
- 27 Sony rival
- 31 Accelerate
- 33 ___ the line (obeyed)
- 35 "In ___ of flowers ..."
- 37 Roofing material
- 39 "___ Miniver"
- 42 Genetic initials
- 43 Broadway production
- 44 "The Tell-Tale Heart" author
- 45 Infrequently
- 46 Adjective for Mommie
- 49 Balloon used in atmospheric probes
- 51 2002 movie "The Man Without ___"
- 52 Tree-trimming tools
- 54 Betty Grable's were insured
- 55 "Billy Don't Be ___" (1974 hit)
- 56 Bird's snout
- 57 Tax-deferred

- 58 plan, for short
- 59 Badgers, collectively
- 60 Disparager of seniors
- 61 Cabin wood
- 62 Like some heartbeats
- 63 "Better late ___ never"
- 64 Area behind an altar
- 67 "... neither the time ___ the place"
- 70 Aftershocks
- 73 Primordial matter of the universe
- 74 Orators
- 77 Dish made with taro
- 80 "To ___ With Love" (1967)
- 83 "Shoulda, woulda, coulda" one
- 84 Christmas drink topped with nutmeg
- 85 Largest continent
- 87 Emulate Olivier
- 89 Edible tropical plant (Var.)
- 90 Denmark's monetary unit
- 91 Perch, for example
- 92 Ban legally
- 93 Free jazz innovator Coleman
- 94 Most optimistic
- 96 "___ day's work"
- 97 Events, happenings, etc.
- 99 Defeated one
- 100 "All My Children" vixen
- 101 Like choked deltas
- 104 Bit of mistletoe or holly
- 106 Bull's-eye sticker
- 107 Banned orchard spray
- 108 ___ en point (heraldic style)
- 110 Coke or Pepsi, e.g.
- 113 Mil. unit
- 114 Krypton or radon, e.g.
- 116 Hr. fragment

HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 132 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



www.hidato.com

Difficulty ★★★★★

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www.whatzit.com

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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BRUTE for four fore

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attitude

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. A dwarf goby is the smallest species of what?
2. King Zog ruled which eastern European country from 1928-1939?
3. Where in the body is the patella located?
4. In 1971, Denis Gabor of Hungary won the Nobel Prize in Physics for what invention?
5. Who donated their land to the UN so they could build their headquarters?
6. What spirit is mixed with ginger beer to make a Moscow mule?
7. What's the oldest monotheistic religion?
8. An aubade is a type of song from the Middle Ages about what?
9. In the Bible, who betrayed Jesus to the Romans?
10. How many colored rings are found on the Olympic flag?
11. The term 'cyber space' was coined by which science fiction novelist in 1984?
12. In Greek mythology Demeter was the Goddess of what?
13. What American film won the Best Picture Award at the Oscars in 1943?
14. How many feet are there in a fathom?
15. Who wrote the classic American novel *Gone With The Wind* in 1936?
16. What was the title of Ian Fleming's first James Bond book?
17. What British composer wrote *The Planets* orchestral suite?
18. What type of animal is a lurcher?
19. In the NATO phonetic alphabet which word is used for U?
20. Who was known as the King of Swing?

Answers below

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Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Fish
2. Albania
3. Knee
4. Holograms
5. John D Rockefeller
6. Vodka
7. Zoroastrianism
8. Lovers separating at dawn
9. Judas
10. Five
11. William Gibson
12. Harvest
13. Casablanca
14. Six
15. Margaret Mitchell
16. Casino Royale
17. Gustav Holst
18. Dog
19. Uniform
20. Benny Goodman

Hidato: How to play

How to Play:
Start with a grid with some cells shaded black. The numbers in the grid indicate the starting and ending points of the paths. The paths must be continuous and cannot cross each other.

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Brute force.
2. Under a cloud.
3. Positive attitude.

Wonderword Solution: Battleship
Solution to this week's crossword:

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

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Do we really need rebranding?

Recent news article reports that a New York advertising man named Peter Arnell wants to rebrand Thailand.

According to the article, Arnell has an impressive record of designing makeovers for existing products. He invented the new design that's now used on all Pepsi cans. For this little favor he reportedly charged a mere ten million dollars.

If that's the same can I see in supermarkets, Pepsi ought to demand its money back.

It looks as if its designer was high on powerful psychedelic substances.

Like many foreigners, Arnell claims to have fallen in love with Thailand. He's full of gratitude and wants to give something

back. To that end, he wants to rebrand Thailand, and has devised a promotional plan to present to the government.

We should be so lucky. Let's hope this act of love doesn't cost the government ten million dollars. True love should give a discount.

"Thailand is not the place of wacky bars or crazy nightlife that most people think it is," Arnell proclaims. "It is a sensible, harmonious, calm, peaceful and respectful country driven by humanity and a soulfulness, unlike any other place in the world."

Whew. He lost me at "sensible." If you were asked to think of one adjective that describes Thailand, I bet the first word to pop into your head would not be "sensible." And...harmonious, calm, peaceful, respectful? Tell it to the red shirts, the yellow shirts, and the southern insurgents. Humanity and soulfulness? Tell it to the Burmese laborers, the Hmong refugees, and the Rohingya boat people.

Arnell laments that Thailand

lacks a national symbol. He wants to devise one - something like the Swiss cross or the Canadian maple leaf. But he wants to base it "on the distinctive temple spires of [Thailand's] classic architecture."

Arnell is a little behind the times. Contemporary Thailand is more fixated on shopping malls than temple spires. He doesn't seem to realize that Thailand already has a multitude of symbols, any one of which could be promoted to national status. Thai Airways International used to have a Thai classical dancer as its logo, and that might fit the bill.

A few years ago somebody designed a cute little elephant named Chaiyo to promote the Asean games. Like the Thai dancer, Chaiyo could easily be resurrected as a symbol of the nation. He won't cost ten million dollars, either. If you want something more classical, there's the three-headed Erawan elephant.

If you want an iconic structure as a symbol, we've got at least two. France has the Eiffel

Tower, England has Big Ben, America has the Statue of Liberty. We've got Wat Arun and the Giant Swing.

If you want a symbol that embodies the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the Thai people, how about the mobile phone? This is a quintessentially Thai symbol: everybody's got one. To emphasize its 'Thainess', imprint it with a Thai flag.

Instead of branding Thailand as an exciting carnival of wacky bars and crazy nightlife, or as a boring Utopia oozing harmony, calm, peace, and respect, Arnell would do better to reach back into the recent past and focus on what Thailand used to be famous for: *sanuk* (fun).

Thailand used to be a fun place. Now it is less so. This may be because of the erosion of the laid-back rural values of yesterday and the creeping takeover by tight-assed urban middle-class values, partly influenced by the West.

This trend was exacerbated by the Calvinistic reign of former

Interior Minister Purachai Piusomboon, during which Bangkok night life was stomped into the ground by a series of draconian restrictions and left writhing in its death throes. There were times in those days of horror when one could easily have imagined that one was living in the late unlamented Soviet Union.

Limiting liquor sales, closing the bars early, and trying to stamp out smoking - paternalistic social-control policies that are still with us - are hardly conducive to a fun-filled society.

So let's bring back the fun, dear readers, and then we won't have to rebrand anything. To attract tourists, I suggest a new motto: "Thailand: Da Fun!" As a logo, a huge, toothy smile set against an idyllic backdrop of beaches and palm trees. With a wacky bar set off in a corner.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's in a wacky bar waiting for Da Fun to begin.

Horoscopes Isla Star



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your skills at analyzing problems are forecast to come in useful this week. An earth sign colleague is likely to need trouble-shooting help on Wednesday and the results should improve your chances of promotion. Where romance is concerned, there are signs that Libra is on the same wavelength, but a Taurean's plans for the future don't coincide with yours. Those with a birthday this week will have stronger focus in the year ahead.

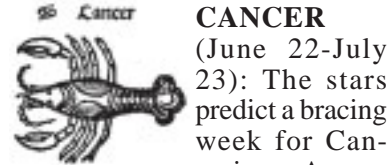


TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those Taureans who are self-employed should be able to add to their list of contacts this week. Someone else's misfortune will be your gain. If you are searching for a job, there are signs that a different career starts to look attractive. The stars suggest that this would be a way to put your creative talents to better use. Tuesday and Wednesday are the hottest days for romance.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis who are ready to eat a slice of humble pie are

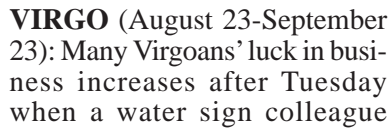
forecast to achieve more satisfaction. Remaining on your high horse is certain to alienate some of the people you wish to keep close to. Where love is concerned, a longstanding partner suddenly shows signs of dissatisfaction. It will be up to you to add some excitement to the relationship.



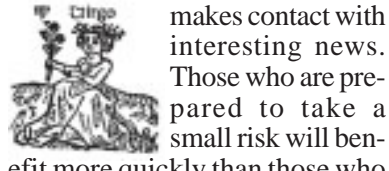
CANCER (June 22-July 23): The stars predict a bracing week for Cancerians. A confusing situation at work on Monday or Tuesday can be resolved more easily if you listen carefully to all sides of the story. A fire sign will probably try to make a mountain out of this molehill, but sensible Virgo can help to set the matter straight. Aquarius would accept a romantic invitation in a heartbeat, but could have a hidden agenda.



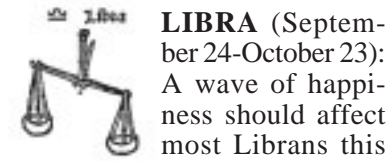
LEO (July 24-August 22): Having done a sterling job last month, many of those born under the sign of Leo could be tempted to give into laziness this week. However, the astral atmosphere will provide opportunities to capitalize on contacts you have made since the start of this year. An earth sign should prove to be particularly useful, but an Aquarian's slow responses will be irritating. Lucky days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.



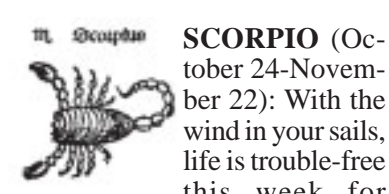
VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Many Virgoans' luck in business increases after Tuesday when a water sign colleague



makes contact with interesting news. Those who are prepared to take a small risk will benefit more quickly than those who are over-cautious. Romance with Leo is forecast to become suddenly more serious when a snap decision has to be made this weekend. Thursday is the most auspicious day for signing agreements relating to finances or property.



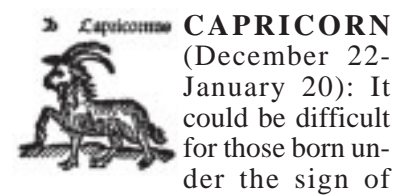
LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A wave of happiness should affect most Librans this week. April is forecast to be a positive month, especially for those who have recently left a negative situation behind. Job-seeking should lead you towards a challenging offer - it would be advisable to consult with someone who has firsthand experience before committing. Those who are single enjoy a flirtatious encounter with a fire sign this weekend.



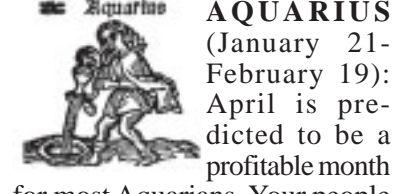
SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): With the wind in your sails, life is trouble-free this week for Scorpios. An energetic start to April should set the scene for a productive month. A possible downside could occur early next week when another water sign backs out at the last minute from a business agreement. This should prove to have a silver lining when you are introduced to a reliable Taurean. Romance is hottest on Sunday.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Something that has been a long time coming finally takes shape this week. Your business outlook is mostly sunny during April; however, personal relationships could take more work than you feel prepared to give. Remembering that romance is a two-way street should help to smooth some ruffled feathers. Finances are well-highlighted this week, with emphasis on a debt dispute being resolved.

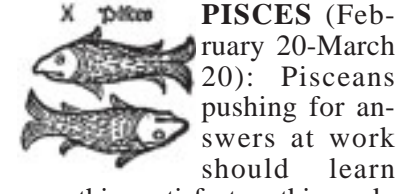


CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): It could be difficult for those born under the sign of Capricorn to get going this week. A Cancerian could show their true colors on Monday or Tuesday, and this may cause you to think twice about a business arrangement. Useful advice can come from a practical Arian friend midweek, but listening to Libra could make matters more complicated. Wearing the color chili pepper red can help to fire up your energy.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): April is predicted to be a profitable month for most Aquarians. Your people skills should be especially useful - schedule business meeting for Tuesday and Wednesday to maximize chances of success. Family dilemmas will demand your attention this week, but you

should also encourage relatives to take more responsibility for their own lives. A new romance could be on the rocks when you realize that the person concerned is carrying excess emotional baggage.



PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans pushing for answers at work should learn something satisfactory this week. The stars suggest that our hard work last month was not the waste of time you suspected. Where love is concerned, a short-term relationship last year could be rekindled soon. If an earth sign is involved, communication will be better than ever, but hooking up with another water sign for a second time should be avoided.

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The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd,
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket
83000. Tel: 076-273555
Fax: 076-615240
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

The carrot or the stick?

What works best: the carrot or the stick?

It's an age-old question, and one brought to the fore here in Phuket with the launch this week of Tesco Lotus's Green Bag Green Point scheme (see page 3).

The retailer will reward shoppers who reuse bags – instead of using new plastic ones – with points exchangeable for store coupons.

So it's clear what Tesco thinks: dangling the carrot of cash in front of Phuket's plastic-addicted thousands is the best way to make them kick the habit.

What this means for 'Phuket No Shopping Bag', the stalled island-wide plastic bag charging scheme, is as yet unclear.

The *Gazette* has already made its support for bag charging – the 'stick' option – very clear.

We believe the project must go ahead, if only to raise awareness of the need for Phuket to live more sustainably.

And plastic bag charges have succeeded where they have been trialled. UK retailer Marks and Spencer said bag use at its stores fell 80 percent within one year of the introduction of a charge.

Nevertheless, the Tesco Lotus 'carrot' approach has its merits.

Charging for bags opens retailers to the accusation they are profiteering over environmental concerns. Consumers are likely to ask why they should put money into retailers' coffers for something they used to get for free.

Tesco's incentive scheme will more easily confound the cynics, even if the company is paying customers just one *satang* per reused plastic bag.

And the retailer says incentive schemes have worked in other countries. In the UK, "the vast majority" of Tesco's customers now reuse their plastic bags, according to a spokesman. We hope the scheme has the same effect in Phuket and the rest of Thailand.

But where does this leave Phuket No Shopping Bag?

A loyalty card scheme of the type Tesco has instigated cannot be copied by all. The beauty of the island-wide bag charging scheme lies in its simplicity. Any retailer – from Central and Jungceylon, down to the smallest mom and pop store, can join in.

There is understandable reluctance among retailers who have already signed the MoU to go ahead with bag charging while major competitors hold out.

But just because Tesco Lotus is offering incentives to consumers who use their own bags does not preclude it charging for bags too.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop is writing to the chain's head office in Bangkok to request it does so. The *Gazette* sincerely hopes Gov Wichai's pleas are answered.

Tesco Lotus has chosen the carrot. That doesn't mean it can't also wield the stick.

– The Editor



Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, fax: 076-213971 or email: to editor@phuketgazette.net

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

Protect your brain

I have been coming to Thailand as a tourist since 1994 and have lived here for nearly three years as a retired expat.

I love staying here as a part of the Thai community.

My hope is that the number of tragic road accidents, especially involving motorbikes, can be reduced.

I worked in my home country of Norway for 35 years in the Motorbike and Traffic Police, specializing in motor accidents for the last 10.

I am very happy to see that the Thai Police have traffic checkpoints in place to inspect for safety belts and motorbike helmets.

But I am sad to say that many of the helmets which are sold are made of very cheap thin plastic, and they will break in a serious collision.

I have myself witnessed three bodies lying on the road with the helmets in pieces, each time just a thin plastic helmet.

I also ask myself if the skulls of motorbike passengers are stronger than those of drivers.

I often see whole families on motorbikes, with up to four people and a little baby standing between grandmother and mother, all without helmets.

Why don't they change the law so that all passengers must wear helmets – and real helmets, not the thin plastic ones that half the riders seem to use.

I think this must have something to do with the skills required to get a license. They must focus more on safety, like they do in Europe.

My wife is not allowed on my bike as a passenger without a helmet, and she

always wears one herself.

I think many people just wear helmets so they don't have to pay fines. The police often have checkpoints in Patong, but when drivers have passed them, the helmets come off again.

They should use the helmet to protect the most important part of their body: their brain.

**Rune Hyll Krantz
Patong**

Does anyone care?

Every day I spend about one hour driving to work and back home again.

Looking through my window I wonder if anybody on this island really cares about ecological issues.

All those piles of rubbish, construction debris and plastic packaging definitely contradict the well known saying that Phuket is the Pearl of the Andaman.

Apparently it used to be a pearl, but nowadays the island is gradually turning into an enormous dumping ground.

Just look around some time and you will notice rubbish everywhere, literally: drains clogged with things tossed out of car windows or from motorbikes, haphazard heaps of household waste, construction debris, even food.

It's time local authorities took some practical action to clean the island and prevent littering, and I would go further and suggest that new legislation should be implemented as well.

I understand that, in theory, the problem of littering is something everybody is aware of, but nothing has been done so far to actually solve it.

Perhaps my plea and internal revolt will remain mine only but I hope that somebody will eventually pay attention to the

contamination issue, and at least attempt to do something

I wish I could drive my car one day and enjoy the pristine nature of Phuket, instead of what I see now.

**Julie
Phuket**

Airfares soar

It seems that the local response to loss of business – "Oh, I have fewer customers; I must charge more money from the ones we have" – is infecting Thai Airways as well [*Gazette online*, Phuket threatened as airfares soar, March 31].

Instead of offering more attractive prices to get more customers, they actually put higher fares into effect. This will mostly affect tourists and potential tourists from abroad since Thai people and resident foreigners will probably opt for the much cheaper competition.

Another blow for the tourist industry, this time inflicted by the national airline. Maybe the government needs a new and more honest motto: "We do only the business we cannot destroy."

**George Yamamoto
Gazette Forum**

Proud of the town

I've never heard a single person "locally", Thai or *farang*, ever call it anything but Phuket Town [*Gazette online*, In defense of Phuket Town, March 30].

The only place I've ever seen it ever called Phuket City is on a few online maps of the area probably drawn by someone in Bangkok.

I think locals know what they prefer to call their home regardless what some numerical statistic categorizes it as.

**John
Gazette Forum**

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Editor: Parichat Utintu
News Editor: Stephen Fein

Editorial Team:

Passara Kaewbumroong, Thanasorn Chookate
Atchaa Khamlo, Kitima Pornmongkhonwat, Pimwara
Chocksakulpan, Sitthipong Nongkaew, Fraser Morton
Marc Mulloy, Scott Phillips, Dan Waites, Elizabeth Branca

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
Production Manager: Suchart Changate
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net
Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net
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Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

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

Witness the death of deference

For many reasons, Red March has been very, very disturbing. It hasn't conformed to expectations. It hasn't confirmed prejudices. It has been new and different.

For a start it has been unsettling for many people because it was simply so big. The crowd did not approach the dreamy promise of a million people, but as the sun-baked BBC correspondent breathlessly exclaimed, it was the biggest political gathering in Thailand for over three decades. This was no small feat given the obstructions. It's not so difficult to stage a rally when attendees only have to change their shirt and take a short taxi hop from the office. The logistics are a lot more difficult and expensive when the rally site is hundreds of kilometers away. Provincial governors were ordered to obstruct the movement of people. Police set up countless checkpoints. Pro-Newin elements in the northeast laid on entertainment and issued threats to deter people from leaving for the capital. The media carried reports about money distributed to protesters to move. None carried reports about the money spent to prevent them moving. Despite all these efforts, downtown Bangkok was a sea of red. The 10-kilometer column from Rajdamnoen to Phaholyothin broke records.

Red March was unsettling also because, so far, it has truly been non-violent. The laborious police searches of buses and trucks turned up next to nothing. The TV news was reduced to showing the shock discovery of a handful of rounds of ammunition. A massive number of people roamed all around the capital for a week with no more than a few

scuffles. Bangkok motorists looked on grumpily, but the sheer carnival atmosphere of the protests tended to keep tempers in check. Partly this orderliness is due to the police who invested enormous efforts in keeping the traffic moving. This effort betrays considerable sympathy within the force for the red-shirt cause – another thing that is unsettling. The lack of violence is all the more remarkable given the disorganized state of the red-shirt leadership. These were supposed to be the rural hordes, the barbarians at the gates, the great unwashed, red in tooth and claw. But there was no sign of plows beaten into swords, let alone barbed wire, gun-toting "guards", or piles of used golf clubs.

Red March was worrying also because of the number of pick-up trucks. The protesters were supposed to be the downtrodden. And the thing about the downtrodden is that they really are trodden down into resignation, passivity, deference. They can usually be ignored or easily managed. But these were the aggrieved with assets. Of course many foot soldiers of the movement do count among the least well off. But the social range of the protesters is much wider than the simple analysis of the poor against the privileged. In the far north and the northeast, it is not just the poor who support the red shirts but just about everybody.

Most of all, Red March was disturbing because of the enormous show of local support in Bangkok. From the moment the columns of pick-ups began arriving in the city, people gathered on the pavement to clap and cheer and wave in welcome. Some of these fans were taxi drivers and motorcycle taxi riders, the movement's staunch allies. But



Leaders of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) addressing the press last year.

others were true-blue Bangkokians. All along the route to Phaholyothin people came out of shops and offices to line the street and cheer. Chang Noi happened on the column after it had left Abhisit's house in Sukhumvit. It was like being at carnival. Jolly *luk thung* music was blaring from loudspeakers, augmented with a lot of extra ching-chap, chanting, and cheering. On the trucks, people were waving, singing, and giving the thumbs-up. Not one unsmiling face. Alongside, people had come to windows, or onto office balconies, or out from shops onto the pavement. Most had snatched up anything red to wave along – a tie, a towel, a hat, a piece of paper. The press and the pundits have played the conflict as the provinces against the city. But how does that analysis fit with these pavement scenes?

In Chang Noi's neighborhood, there's a worker community. They used to be pro-Democrat

because the local Democrat politicians helped them to get residence rights and basic services. They served as Democrat canvassers in several elections. They are now deep red. In the evenings, the kids come out to play on the street. For a year now, one of their favorite games has been "street protest". They march up and down and wave flags. They shout "No more double standards", "Down with amat", and "Abhisit out". They are not in any hurry to move off the road to allow a car to pass. Their average age is around 10.

A decade ago, Chang Noi predicted that the city folk would have to build a wall around Bangkok, or float the city away into the Gulf of Thailand, a bit like Singapore. Of course, that has not happened. Instead they have tended to brick up their own eyes and their ears. While this extraordinary event was unfolding in the city, the mainstream media made

heroic efforts to ignore it. No vox pops. No atmospheric scene painting. Few pictures. Only when the blood campaign caught the eye of the foreign media (and had an implied element of violence) did the coverage get more enthusiastic.

Instead of reportage we got endless predictions of a bad ending. The numbers are increasing, so it will turn violent. The numbers are dropping, so it will turn violent. The temperature is high, so tempers will snap.

Red March has been disturbing because it has messages so striking that they slip through the walls. Despite government efforts using taxpayers' money, it was huge. Despite the chaotic state of the red movement's leadership, it held together through fellow feeling. Despite the conventional analyses, the support spreads far beyond the rural poor. Hard to ignore despite those bricks.



Issues & ANSWERS

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

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasatri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-615240, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Do we have to pay income tax to sell our house?

We bought a house five years ago for 4,500,000 baht. We spent 500,000 baht on the garden and decorating the house.

We're now selling the house for 5,000,000 baht but are set to lose a lot of money in the process. The new owners have told us that we have to pay income tax for the house.

I had never heard of this. I would like to know if this is true and how they calculate it.

Raymond Lukassen
Chalong

An officer at the Phuket Revenue Department replies:

Yes, you have to pay income tax, transfer fees (0.1%) and stamp duty, but you don't have to pay special business tax.

The income tax depends on many things, such as how many years you have owned the house, the selling price and so on. They have to see all the paperwork to calculate how much you have to pay.

For more information contact the Phuket Revenue Department: 23 Narisorn Road, T. Taladyai, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211280, 076-214950 51.

Is it legal to ride big bikes without using red plates?

Many bike dealers selling large cc bikes in Bangkok no longer issue a red plate while the white plate is being issued. They claim it is legal to ride the bike in Thailand with only the purchase invoice, and that a plate is not needed.

Yet the policy of the Phuket police seems to be that no plate means a fine, no excuses. Is it legal to ride on the road with an unplate bike while paperwork is being processed?

Sefton Hanley
Kathu

A motorbike registration officer at Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office replies:

The Provincial Land Transport Office does not provide buyers with red plates. The dealer has to provide plate itself.

It is illegal to drive without a red plate while you are waiting for the white plate. Please ask the dealer to get one for you.

For more information contact Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office: 42/4 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, T. Taladnuea, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211019 ext 13, 076-220792, 076-214930. E: info@phuketlandtransport.th.org

Judo star pins a win

THE second annual Nevertap Asia submission grappling competition took place in Chalong last Saturday, giving competitors from all over the world a chance to test their groundfighting skills against one another.

Participants were given up to three rounds to 'submit' their opponents. A submission involves putting an opponent in a position where they are forced to submit, either verbally or through a tap (hence the name), or risk serious injury.

If neither fighter submits after three rounds, the winner is decided by a panel of judges. Competitors are judged according to their aggressiveness, ability to take the opponent to the ground, resistance to being taken down, and ability to create and take advantage of dominant positions.

Among the competitors who traveled from all over South-east Asia was Phuket's very own Sophie Cox. Cox, a teacher at the Phuket International Academy, once represented Great Britain in Judo at the Olympics.

She is making her Judo comeback in the Thailand National Open this month. Preparing in the best possible fashion, she was the winner of the women's section of the competition.

Judo differs significantly from submission grappling in that in Judo you can win by throwing your opponent or pinning them to the ground.

While these techniques might impress the judges in a submission grappling match, the only way to win conclusively is to



Phuket expat Sophie Cox grappling her way to the win at the Nevertap Asia grappling competition last Saturday.

force your opponent to 'tap' in an actual submission.

Cox was up against Kitty Teppo from Finland in the final. Teppo has a blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, widely regarded as the most effective techniques in submission grappling.

From the outset, Cox showed her superior strength, pinning her opponent to the floor and keeping her there for the entire first round.

The second round followed a similar pattern with Cox picking Teppo up and slamming her to the floor. Teppo showed her groundfighting experience by reversing the position and grappling Cox's back, but she was unable to take advantage and Sophie slipped out. With the round coming to an end, Cox secured an armbar, hyper extending Teppo's arm and forcing her to tap.

Afterwards Cox admitted to being surprised by how effective her Judo skills had proved to be.

"It was my first time competing in a ring so I was pleased to do well, although it is difficult to get a complete picture from just one tournament. I am happy to win and it is a great confidence boost going into the Thailand Judo Open.

In the men's division the winners were as follows: Niti Techottiasnee (Featherweight), Ryuma Kaise (lightweight), Krzysztof Hajtalowicz (welterweight), Martin Lavin (middleweight), Pedro "BB" Schmall (light heavyweight), Javier Rodriguez (heavyweight), Zach Thumb (Superheavyweight) and Chris Cape (open).

For more information visit: W: nevertap.asia.

— James Goyder



An under 19s cricket team from Phuket on their recent trip to the National Youth Games in Petchaboon.

Youth cricketeers take on Thailand

FOLLOWING some spirited games in this season's Island Furniture Senior Cricket League, an under 19s representative team was selected by the Phuket Cricket Group and sent to the National Youth Games in Petchaboon.

Teams from each Sports Association in Thailand were competing, some with many years of youth development experience behind them.

The Phuket team was drawn in a pool with Bangkok and Khon Kaen, one of the gun sides in the country. After a superb bowling performance in game one, Khon Kaen proved too strong for the Phuket team and won the game by nine wickets.

Chonburi were next and after some fine bowling to restrict Chonburi to 107 runs, Somrat and Kitantet from the Phuket team

dominated in the bat to easily reach the total of 108 runs for the loss of only one wicket.

In the final game against Bangkok – a playoff for third place in the tournament – Nattapat managed an impressive 34 runs from 44 balls to help the side reach a strong score of 89 runs.

It was then up to the Phuket bowlers, who didn't disappoint with good line and length bowling, managing to restrict the opposition to only 57 runs. Arthid was the stand out with figures of two for 23.

The playoff for first and second was between Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai, with Chiang Mai eventually winning the game and the competition.

For more information on youth cricket in Phuket visit: W: phuketcricket.com.

— Ian Lenton

Race for the Premiership

THE most dramatic Premiership race in recent years is coming to a conclusion and football fans throughout Thailand can watch all the big games live on TV.

At the top of the table only a point separates league leaders Man Utd from second place Chelsea, with Arsenal four points off the pace in third place.

Saturday's match between Chelsea and Man Utd could go a long way towards deciding the outcome of the title, but with

everything at stake at both ends of the table, there are likely to be plenty more twists and turns between now and May.

The relegation battle looks set to go to the wire.

With a spine consisting of England internationals Robert Green, Matt Upson, Scott Parker and Carlton Cole, West Ham are the personification of the old adage 'too good to go down'.

If they are unable to arrest an alarming slump in form which has resulted in them losing six

consecutive league games, then relegation is a definite possibility and Hull City in particular will appreciate their chances of catching the Hammers.

The race for the fourth spot and Champions League qualification has ramifications for all of the top teams.

In form, Tottenham currently occupies the fourth spot, but still have to play Chelsea, Man Utd and Arsenal. These three fixtures could be key in determining who walks away with the Premiership title.

Despite the embarrassment of riches at their disposal, Man City have had an erratic season, but are still very much in the hunt for the final Champions League

Catch the Premiership matches live

True TV will broadcast the following key Premiership matches live in Thailand:

April 3rd	Man Utd vs Chelsea	6:45pm
April 15th	Tottenham vs Arsenal	2am
April 17th	Man City vs Man Utd	6:45pm
	Tottenham vs Chelsea	11:30pm
April 24th	Man Utd vs Tottenham	6:45pm
	Arsenal vs Man City	11:30pm
May 1st	Liverpool vs Chelsea	9pm

spot. They have three home games against Man Utd, Tottenham and Aston Villa, which will go a long way to deciding the destiny of recently appointed manager Roberto Mancini.

Tipped by many for the title, Liverpool have endured a hugely disappointing campaign.

Failure to qualify for the Champions League would be a disaster for Benitez's men and could severely restrict the budget of a team in urgent need of rebuilding.

With Fernando Torres returning from injury in goalscoring form and a comparatively easy run in, Liverpool will feel that fourth place is still within their grasp.

A home match with Chelsea in the penultimate week

of the season could prove crucial.

Of the top three teams, Arsenal have the easiest run in on paper, but the Gunners have a propensity for dropping unnecessary points and must be ranked as outsiders.

The North London derby with local rivals Tottenham could make or break what has been an impressive season for Wenger's men.

Man Utd have a derby of their own to look forward to and victory over Man City, for whom Carlos Tevez is finding a rich vein of form, could be imperative.

Much will depend on the fitness of talismanic striker Wayne Rooney as Man Utd might struggle to score goals in his absence.

— James Goyder



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Charity race raises millions

RACING FOR A CAUSE: Competitors in the Accor Race to Survive raised over Bt6 million by covering nearly 85km of land and sea over a four day period.

OVER four days of scorching heat, participants of the Accor Race to Survive Phuket 2010 scaled land and water to help raise over US\$206,000 (Bt6 million) to benefit the Yim Kids Foundation. The Phuket-based event was held from March 22-25 with racers running, swimming, cycling and canoeing around the island.



The competitors started at the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong and spent their first day running 5km north before riding 20km south to the All Seasons Hotel in Nai Harn. The following days included a mix of running, bike riding, canoeing and swimming. Athletes covered a total of 84km when the race finished at Novotel on the fourth day. Accor's Yim Kids charity was established to fund sustainable projects throughout Thailand with the goal of improving educational opportunities and child health. The challenge has attracted strong support from leading travel companies around the Asia

Pacific region, including V Australia airlines. V Australia spokesperson Amanda Bolger said, "It's important for companies to be mindful that these efforts are for the long term. It's great to see the Yim Kids Foundation expand its outstanding charity work for the underprivileged children of Thailand." Although the race has drawn to close, the hard work has just begun for event sponsors and participants. Accor and its partners will now take their fund raising efforts to communities in need.



Charitable tee-off

AN INTERNATIONAL array of golfers are set to play two of the island's best courses for the Phuket Oilfield Classic from April 8-11. Sponsors expect over 200 guests to take part in the oil and gas industry's golf outing, which is staged annually to raise awareness and funds for charity. Last year's Oilfield Classic was attended by over 100 guests and raised Bt1.4 million, with most of the proceeds going to a non-profit organization. The golf tournament has proved an ideal opportunity for local companies to tap into the oil and gas executive market segment, which is not often catered to in Phuket.

In 2008, after playing Loch Palm and Red Mountain Golf Courses, 18 golf enthusiasts committed to organizing the island's premier golf tournament for charity. As expected, both courses afford scenic views of Phuket's landscape, with holes sculpted through rugged rock cliffs. The program of events for this year's tournament begins on April 8 with a welcome party and event registration, followed by two full days of golf from April 9-10. Organizers have chosen Phuket Sunshine Village as the event's 2010 beneficiary. For more information visit W: phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

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Am I my brother's keeper?

FOR expats, life in Phuket is sometimes not as ideal as we once imagined. One particular problem – addiction – seems to be frequently left unspoken by those who are in a position to help.

For that reason, my column will stray away from property this week and talk about a responsibility that I think all expats in Phuket share.

Many people think that moving to a tropical island like Phuket will give them a blissful taste of heaven. Unfortunately, reality all too often takes a turn towards the exact opposite, and for some, this place becomes a personalized vision of hell.

While many of us enjoy the easy-going lifestyle that comes along with the business and social opportunities in Phuket, temptation often comes along with it. For many friends and family members, that temptation usually comes in the form of addiction, alcohol being the most common culprit. It proves a fleeting novelty for most, but for others it becomes a one-way ticket to hard times and despair.

As sunny days fill the island's tropical landscape and we all catch up with friends and family, it's usually hard not to take a left turn in conversation to talk about some mutual Phuket acquaintance who's hit the skids.



Addiction is a problem that affects many Phuket expats and, unfortunately, is often not addressed by those in a position to help. Photo: AlcoholRehab247

Sometimes the acquaintance is simply someone you see walking by on the street, clearly troubled and far too inebriated to be ignored. Of course you never make eye contact, but the image burns long and hard some nights; into the dark.

Here I am reminded of a telling exchange between the two lead characters in the classic film *Leaving Las Vegas*: "Is drinking a way of killing yourself?" and the response, "or is killing myself a way of drinking?"

Robert Louis Stevenson might have envisioned one of paradise's lost souls when he wrote, "he passed in retreat among the islands."

Somerset Maugham's novel "The Moon and Sixpence" was a loose interpretation of artist

Paul Gauguin's intrepid self-destruction in Tahiti.

To cut a long story short, history has more than its share of both the triumphs and tribulations of those who moved to foreign lands to create new beginnings or equally desperate ends. Perhaps we've gone a bit too far down the hole and need to come up for air.

Living in Thailand, where the art of *sabai* and *sanook* go hand in hand, the fact remains that cheap booze, pills, and all manner of magic dust and powder are easily found and, for most of us, quite affordable.

It would be almost unimaginable to get into a casual chat with anyone here who hasn't seen ten or more walking disasters. People don't fall from the

graces of Phuket overnight, but as the days, weeks, and even years pass, you sometimes see someone unravel.

The question I find myself asking these days is: When you see someone who you know is headed in the wrong direction, at what point do you step in? Will you be invading a person's privacy, or perhaps become a bit naive to think you could make a difference?

I grew up in wild times – exposed to booze, drugs and more dawns than most people who work the nightshift. Looking back, it's hard to imagine how I even made it through my teens and twenties.

It may seem odd, but perhaps one of my divine saving graces is that ATM machines where not common then. Access to fast cash in the midst of a binge can only bring a bad kind of craziness. There are more of those cash dispensing monsters here than I even care to think about.

There's a saying in the Bible from the rivalry between Cain and Able. When asked if he murdered his brother, Able answered, "I know not, am I my brother's keeper?" In a nutshell, that phrase has come to symbolize a growing unwillingness for people to take responsibility for their fellow citizens.

That is a callous attempt at vindication. When I take a long hard look in the mirror I've come to the conclusion that certain words need to be spoken; and acting with courage is what counts. Silence has no friends.

So next time you come to the crossroad, and think if you should offer help, take the next step, as it may make all the difference in the world. If someone needs help, I hope I can be my brother's keeper, and that someone would do the same for me.

If you or someone you know needs help, Phuket has numerous local groups and people that can help.

Alcoholics Anonymous: T: 081-891-2895, E: phuketaa@yahoo.com; and Narcotics Anonymous: T: 081-737-2246, E: phuket@na-thailand.org.

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With Bill Barnett C9 Hotelworks

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Road plans make a breakthrough

FINAL stages of construction are set to begin on a long awaited road connecting the bypass road near HomeWorks to Ekwanit Road behind Surakul stadium.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop swung the project into action by helping demolish a wall with a sledgehammer on March 24.

The 550-meter-long road, running behind Darasamuth School, was expected to have been finished long ago.

However, a family squatting on land needed for the road held up completion of the last 65 meters.

A meeting was held last December in which Wichit Municipality agreed on building two new houses on adjacent land for Chamnan Rungklin and his family.

Construction of the houses was made possible through donations from private and public organizations, including the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO).

"I'm happy with the houses. Although they are a bit smaller [than our previous house], they are more comfortable and look nicer," Mr Chamnan told the *Gazette*, after moving into the



A backhoe destroys houses which were holding up construction of the new Phuket road. Meanwhile, local residents look on.

new houses recently.

Wichit Municipality Mayor Kreetar Saetan said the Bt4.8-million initial project was

completed last June, and the PPAO will now move forward with the final stretch, costing an additional 800,000 baht.

The mayor also thanked all who helped relocate the Rungklin family.

Governor Wichai said

he expects to see the road completed before the Songkran festival this month.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew*



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Exotic Plants

The amazing world of extravagant ornamentals



The colorful *strelitzia*, commonly known as 'bird of paradise', is one example of the exotic flowers brightening the gardens of Phuket.

I was recently asked to recommend some unusual plants for a lady just starting a garden in Phuket; "something really exotic", to use her phrase.

I was temporarily lost for words, if only because one is so spoiled for choice, especially if you are used to gardening in Europe or, as she was, in North America. But it made me think about plants that are totally different from ones grown in temperate climes: shrubs that stand out on account of their large size, brilliant coloration or extraordinary shape. So here goes.

The first one that came to mind was the so-called 'cup of gold.' At the time I did not know its botanical name – since identified as *Solandra longiflora* – but I did have a couple growing in my own garden, where the plants had produced several enormous trumpet-shaped cream flowers with contrasting dark veins inside the blooms. Very exotic....

There is also a yellow variety [*grandiflora*] which is golden in color, but without the interior markings that characterize the creamy cultivar. While my specimens have not bloomed profusely, *solandra* will oblige in the right conditions, a fact borne out by one mature specimen I have spotted adorning a wall on the road to Ao Makhham.

A veritable mass of blooms (like the oft-praised *allamanda*, to which it is surprisingly not related), the cup of gold is a scandent shrub, which means that it can be leggy and straggly and thus will probably need support. But it grows quickly, has attractive, oval, glossy green leaves and thrives in full sun. I have several cuttings which have already rooted; despite

its opulence, it is not a temperamental shrub to cultivate.

Already mentioned in dispatches, I will bypass the *allamanda*, though it would certainly figure in my personal taxonomy of exotic tropical shrubs, especially the large variety [*cathartica*] which flowers almost continuously and seems to do particularly well in Phuket. If its blooms are not quite as spectacular as those of *solandra*, they are produced in greater profusion.

A plant which I have neglected in these columns, and which certainly deserves the epithet 'exotic', is the *heliconia*, or more properly *heliconias*. This is a huge group of ornamental plants that range from the common or garden variety [*stricta* or dwarf Jamaican] which has either orange or yellow and red bracts, to medium sized cultivars such as *psittacorum* ['golden torch'], or really exotic and often massive varieties such as *rostrata*. The latter has deep red, yellow-edged bracts which hang down in spectacular displays. There is also the *charitacca* ['sexy pink'] which, as its name implies, has unusual pink and pale blue inflorescences. There are literally hundreds of varieties; and there is even a *Heliconia*

International Society. The pity is that all too often in Phuket, we see only the dwarf variety, dragged into unwilling service as a border plant.

The best way to show off *heliconias* – and do choose the exciting cultivars – is to plant them in large island beds, closely grouped together where their foliage and blooms can be utilized for dramatic effect.

A word of warning: *Heliconias* are gross feeders. As denizens of tropical jungles, this means they require plenty of nutrients, and moist soil conditions. And, like canna lilies, they only flower once, which means that they should be cut back to ground level once they have bloomed. Since they are rhizomatous, this draconian treatment will not harm them; the tubers will spread underground and, like the phoenix, the plants will rise again.

Heliconias belong to an even larger genus of plants – the *zingiberales* – a group which also includes the gingers, the huge range of *musas* [bananas] and perhaps the most celebrated of all exotics, the *strelitzia*, or 'bird of paradise' plant.

I first encountered the *strelitzia* in California, where cut flowers formed the centerpiece for floral arrangements in swanky establishments. The best-known variety is *reginae*, a substantial plant with long, sword-like leaves, and – the piece de resistance – magnificent and uniquely shaped orange and blue flowers. While this is the most popular variety, there is an even larger cultivar called *nicolai* that grows several meters high and has eye-catching white and blue flowers.

On the debit side, the plants are fairly hard to come by and relatively expensive. Moreover, *strelitzias* are very slow-growing and may take as much as seven years to bloom. They require rich, well-drained soil and prefer filtered sunlight.

The best specimens I have seen in Thailand were being cultivated on the cool slopes of Doi Inthanon; indeed, I know of only a couple of gardens in Phuket where they are really at home. In the case of my own specimen, I am certainly going to have to wait a few more years for it to flower.

And what about the gingers? Many people assume that the edible ginger [*officinale*], so widely used in Thai cuisine and available as a cut tuber on so many market stalls, is the only variety. But there are numerous exotic flowering forms, of which the torch ginger [*etlingera*] is the most spectacular.

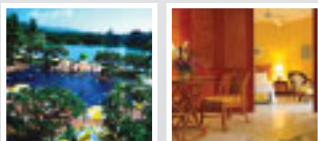
Sometimes sold as a cut flower in local markets, torch ginger possesses huge, fleshy stems at the end of which are large, waxy-looking red or pink and densely packed bracts. When growing, the stems sprout from the ground separately from the huge leaves. Like all the gingers, it will need plenty of rich, moist soil if it is to thrive.

I recently read a piece on exotic plants by Normita Thongtham, gardening correspondent of the *Bangkok Post*. I can't help but note that I have not mentioned any of her recommendations. Not bloody mindedness on my part – just a realization that there are so many plants that qualify for the title. A true 'embarrass de richesse exotique'.

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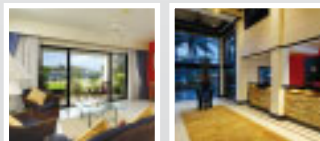
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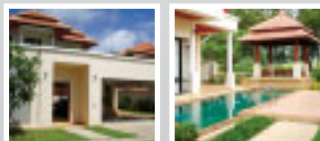
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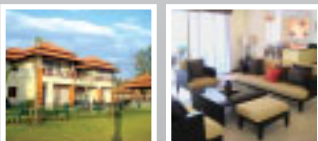
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Construction Update

Koh Kaew

Up and coming concept in Koh Kaew

CONSTRUCTION is set to begin in June on Phumundra The Condo project in Koh Kaew.

Winpro Engineers Company Limited, developers in Phuket for the last nine years, are the project managers with the ISO group heading the architecture for the project.

Blue Planet Design International Limited are serving as the landscape designers.

Construction on the resort-style project is due to be completed in January 2012.

Located behind the Premium Outlet on the bypass road, Phumundra is five minutes drive from the Heroines' Monument and Tesco Lotus, Sam Kong.

Set back from the bypass road on Phumundra Hill, The Condo is set in 138 rai of lush gardens. Communal swimming pools, Wi-Fi, parking, 24 hour security, CCTV and well appointed gardens are some of the services included with purchase of a condo. Starting price for a one bedroom is Bt2.29 million.

Nine condominiums are housed within the 15, three story buildings in the project. Buyers



have two condominium options to choose from, one or two bedrooms.

Phumundra's developers hope to attract a mix of expat and Thai professionals who work nearby.

For more information please contact T: 076-239-959 or visit W: phumundra.com



CONCEPT TO REALITY: Construction is set to begin in June on Phumundra The Condo resort in Koh Kaew.



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Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
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Pruerk-Ampai	91.10	6,350,000	100,000	3,075,000	3,175,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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Property Gazette

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PATONG TOWER URGENT SALE

Freehold, lease hold. Start 4.7 million baht. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: orso.realestate@gmail.com

SEA VIEW CONDO

Sale/rent new condo. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, balcony, pool, WiFi, parking. Tel: 084-851 0703. Email: st@kl.lv

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

At Kok Kien, Takuapa, Phang-Nga. 85,000 baht per rai. Contact Khun Piek. Tel: 081-892 4094, 084-304 9339.

NEW BRAND CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476-9612.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

4 BED BALINESE STYLE VILLA



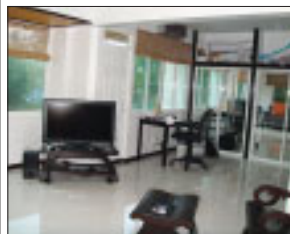
139 T. Wah, 3 baths, fully furnished, awesome western kitchen, large landscaped garden, security system, communal swimming pool, tennis and gated security! Quick sale wanted. 6.6 million baht or good offer. Tel: 089-216 7220, 089-216 6909. Email: julianburgess@myway.com

GOLF VIEW LAND



1,020 sqm, fully serviced, overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course in Kathu. 5 million baht. Tel: 076-321454, 089-7247211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Fax: 076-323724. Email: info@botanvillage.com

2 CONDO RAWAI BEACH



for sale. 54sqm. 1.7 million baht. 27sqm. 1 million baht. 150m. from sea, renovated, credit 1 year. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peach and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 8.3 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

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

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: yaris.vios@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-4729118, 086-709-2933.

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8 sqm. construction area approx. 573 sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1 story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at T. Taimuang, Phang Nga 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

1/2 RAI SEA VIEW PROPERTY

In small private estate fully developed Land for sale or lease. Privat Road to the property! Electric and Drinking water on site! Tel: 081-817 3776 (English). Email: bic1@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



for sale in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.95 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278-0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

PROJECT FOR SALE

50 unit condominium, great seaviews, building and environmental permits issued. Ready to build now. Call Luke. Tel: 085-880 7954. Email: lukeremmers@yahoo.com

www.Phuket-Villa-Property.com
We've got it... 08 72 72 03 03

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view. Hasip Pee Road, 49sqw. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

in Ao Makhram. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

LAND FOR SALE

near the main road to Baan Don - Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

HOUSE SALE OR RENT

7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, swimming pool, kitchen, big hall bar, near Simon. Rent 70,000 per month or sale 19 million baht. Tel: 087-267 7281, 085-243 3878.

CONDO FOR SALE

The newly built The Royal Place condo opposite Tesco Lotus bypass. 45 sqm. 3 Fl. at the corner with swimming pool view. 2 balconies. 1 bedrm, 1 bathrm, kitchen (microwave, washing machine, refrigerator) living room, 2 air cons, TV flatron, telephone, cable TV. Share pool, restaurant, laundry service, key card with 24 security and car park. Tel: 086-476 9612.

NEW HOUSE IN THE BANYAN VILLA



for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

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Property Gazette

POOL VILLA AT PAKLOK



Private pool villas for sale, prices start from 14.8 million baht. Tel: 089-873 1019. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketexclusiveholiday.com>

DETACHED OR SEMI-DETACHED

Large detached 4-bed, 4 bath. Or 2 semi-detached. Live in one, rent one – your choice. Well maintained in quiet Soi in Thalang. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 086-269 7772 (Thai), 081-495 6812 (English). Email: kimera5@yahoo.com

0.5 RAI CHANOTE LAND

Thalang in area of Ton Sai National park, waterfall, Int'l School, and Russian Church. Tel: 081-005 5701 (English), 086-108 2745 (Thai). Email: info@grass-routes.com

TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

PHUKET HOUSE & OFFICE

Living room, 5 bedrooms, 1 Office, 4 WCs with shower, 1 business room, 1 store, 1 garden house. Asking price: 13 million baht. Email: khonkaener@hotmail.ch <http://www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobiliien.0.html?&L=0>

FREEHOLD FINISHED CONDO

2bed, 1 bath, 105sqm furnished condo. Asking 8.49 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

HOUSE & BUSINESS, RAWAI

Land and house with 2 successful businesses (Laundry and Coffee Shop) for sale. Good location between Nai Ham and Rawai in developing area. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388484, 081-891 3264 (English & Thai). Email: bergman.brittmarie@telia.com

LAYAN LAND



for sale. 11 rai, flat land. 3 min from Layan beach, hill and lake view. Price 4.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447.

KATA OCEAN VIEW 4.9 MTB

Luxury, 90sqm. Click link below for more details. Tel: +1-408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

4 BEDROOM POOL VILLA

for sale. Stylish pool villa in Patong. Spacious living, 3 mins to beach. Email: ooy76@hotmail.com

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

NEW HOUSE KAMALA BEACH

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

THE ROYAL PLACE

4th floor unit with 2 balconies. Approx area: 42sqm. Fully furnished, ready to move in. Please email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

KATHU HOUSE


for sale. Kathu area, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, on 2 floors, parking area, chanote, aircon, WiFi. Tel: 081-415 6415.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrung school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

WHITE BEACH



900sqm land plot, 17 meters beachfront, beautiful sunset. Located on Nakha Island, only 3 mins from Phuket's Ao-Por, 25 min to airport and major shopping centers. For sale only 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

OCEANFRONT LAND



Beautiful piece of land, 3.5 rais (can be sub-divided) with over 90m of beach frontage. Opposite Yacht Haven Marina, water, electricity, road access, secure Nor Sor 3 Kor title. For sale direct from owner. Now only 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

POOLSIDE APARTMENT

Top quality, ground floor Poolside apartment at Patong Beach. One bedroom, 85sqm open plan with secure undercover parking and storage room. Very quiet location, but just 2 mins to Beach and town center. Now offered at reduced price. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

LUXURY VILLA-POOL & JACUZZI

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, solar cells, 3-phase electricity. Thai, English, Danish and French. Tel: 081-895 2890 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281487. Email: rafi@huse-phuket.com

LUXURY CONDO

for sale/rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 106sqm. Cape Panwa. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-1798150. Email: davenatland67@yahoo.com

KAMALA LAKE HOUSE

5 years old. European, 2 bedrooms, furnished, quiet, clean. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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.

48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

2.5 MILLION BAHAT

Beautiful 1 bedroom apartment Phuket Country Club, 5th floor, nice view. Contact Ole. Tel: 085-795 4741. Email: ole@phuketinternet.co.th

RAWAI HOUSE

2-story, 3-bed, 3-bath house with self contained Bungalow on 720 sq meters of land in a quiet part of Rawai. 6.8 million baht. No agents, please. Tel: 087-628 3673 (Thai), 081-078 1112 (English). Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.


NEW CONDO PATONG

Brand new one bedroom fully furnished, freehold. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

NATAI LAND FOR SALE

4 rain 1 ngan, 50 square wah (7,000 sqm) of land on main road, 2 km to Natai Beach. 2 million baht per rai. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-6899679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

NEW TOWN HOUSE



in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 airconditioning unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

NEW CONDO PATONG

Brand new one bedroom fully furnished, freehold. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

NATAI LAND FOR SALE

4 rain 1 ngan, 50 square wah (7,000 sqm) of land on main road, 2 km to Natai Beach. 2 million baht per rai. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE KHAO LAK



Near Palm Garden Resort, 3 bedrooms, 4 toilets/shower, 6 rai land. Only 12 million baht. Tel: 081-978 0907 for more info. Email: dao019780907kl@yahoo.com

KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

Land area 320 sqm., 2 bedrooms. 6-7 million baht. Second home with strong rental income. Tel: 087-897 7380. Email: mrxaxelmay@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE

12 mos old, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, kitchen, 1 aircon unit, furniture. Rent: 24,000 baht per month. 3.8 million baht, pay 3.6 million. A bargain! Tel: 080-522 3357 (English), 086-476 2093 (English & Thai). Email: kcoyle@pinn.net

SURIN APARTMENT

150m from the beach. 1 b/r, pool access. Great view. 4.99 million baht. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 02-076350. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

NAI HARN/RAWAI SPACIOUS

1 bedroom, long lease hold apartment with pool, balcony and nice views, 1.75 million baht or 38,000 Euro. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

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Property Gazette

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 111sqm. Start 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com

HOUSE IN SOI SAIYUAN

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with swimming pool fully furnished 9.5 million. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

GIANT DEAL

The island's best buy! Villa with pool in Patong. Highest offer, bid wanted by April 10. Display 5pm-7pm. Tel: 083-176 7676. Email: erik.blodoks@gmail.com

APARTMENT IN NAI HARN

for sale. Palm Beach Resort, 102sqm, private owner free hold, new top floor, 2 bedrooms, swimming pool, fitness, mini tennis club house, security in Nai Harn, minutes to beach. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 089-593 6815. Email: shmaen2006@hotmail.it

ELEVATED SEA VIEW

Patong house, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 5 balconies. 250 sqm. Lock up, garage, 12 million baht. Tel: 076-341618, 086-691 9657.

NEW TEAK HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 84/460sqm, terrace + pool! From 5.9 million baht. Land plot near Boat Lagoon. Construction time: 3 months! Tel: 076-325085, 086-281 1264 (English). Email: ts-teak@contexp Phuket.com

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Cheap land for sale at North end of Patong Beach. Has access road, good water supply, and underground utilities. Very quiet, natural location, 2 mins to beach. Land plots range from 500sqm to 1,400sqm. Part of an existing small development. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

RESORT AT NAI YANG

Approx land size: 6 rai, 71 Sq Wah. Nor Sor Sam. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-279 8050. Email: taan_ty@hotmail.com

NAI HARN/RAWAI SPACIOUS

1 bedroom, long lease hold apartment with pool, balcony and nice views, 1.75 million baht or 38,000 Euro. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



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

SEAVIEW 4/5 BED, PATONG

1-year-old, nice view over sea and town, 4/5 bedrooms/office, 3/4 bathrooms (2 ensuite + 1 separate toilet), 5 aircon units and fans. Laundry, Europe-style timber kitchen, large balcony off living room to seat 8. Quiet area, 2 levels + flat top (135sqm) for outdoor. Ready for Jacuzzi and garden. 1 car + motorbike. Space covered underneath. Possible to separate into 2 living areas with own entrance = 1 or 2 bedrooms + kitchen and bathroom. Priced at 12.5 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-273 1326. Email: jeanwass@yahoo.com.au

BAAN BAI MAI



for sale in Samkong near Bangkok hospital. 2 storey, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car parking space. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

QUICK SALE HOUSE IN CHALONG

94sq wah, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car park, big garden, full furnished. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-886 4208.

KATA CHEAP GUESTHOUSE

Can resale as penthouse, 4 condos, 2 apartments, balconies, garden, near beach, security can extend. Offer over 7 million baht. Good investment. Tel: 086-276 6597.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai of Chanote land. Hard to find better than this, next to 5-star resort. 118m of beach front, stunning property. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

NAI HARN CONDO, SALE / RENT

In a lovely residence of 8 units, 85 sqm, 2 bed, 2 bath with jacuzzi, spacious living area with western kitchen, full aircon, partially furnished, cable TV, DVD. Nice terrace overlooking landscaped garden and swimming pool, parking, walking distance to beach and all facilities. 3.5 million baht or 18,000 baht per month (long term). Tel: 087-281 5795 (English). Email: chasseccyril@yahoo.fr

2 HOUSES KATA HILL SALE

Good investment. Land 920sqm. Fully furnished, quiet, good view. Asking 8.9 million baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

TWIN HOUSE WITH BUSINESS

2 houses with business. Area totals 285 sqm. 5 years. 4,950,000 baht. Tel: 076-281196, 086-045 3139. Email: finale.2001@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

NAI YANG MODERN VILLA

Top spec villa, 600m from beach. 210sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, sala, big shade sail lookout, modern furniture. 10.2 million baht. Tel: 084-653 5863.

FLAT LAND

for sale. 9,312sqm, flat land near Bang Pae waterfall on border with the main road to Mission Hill. Asking price 3.5 million baht per rai = 1,600sqm. Tel: 081-693 4075 (English & Thai). Email: cannanagarden@hotmail.com

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



Manik area, 4.7million baht. Chanote title, good for pool villas. Tel: 081-538 7050 or email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

WESTERN STYLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 powder room, hot water, 4 aircon units, telephone, ADSL, cable TV, washer, dryer, western kitchen, 40" LCD TV & entertainment. 160 m2. For rent or sale. Tel: 02-860 3254, 081-400 0796, 087-895 3555. Email: popeyepsc@hotmail.com

SUPER GUESTHOUSE PATONG

Looking for a guesthouse? Call Real Pro, we have it! 19 rooms, elevator, rent 135,000 baht. Great location 86 Nanai Road. Price 2,900,000 baht. Real Pro Co Ltd. Tel: 076-345 238, 084-078 2753 (Frank). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

MUST SELL EVA NO.1

Eva Rawai fast sale, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, seaview. 17.9 million baht this month only. Tel: 086-272 3217. Email: hariedekort@gmail.com

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3 beds, 2 baths. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

SEA FRONT HOUSE FOR SALE

Large, partly furnished 4 bedrooms, pool side, sea stunning view in Sirae Island only 15 minutes drive to Phuket town. 33,000,000 baht. Tel: 081-535 1269 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketrentalhouse.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketrentalhouse.com/siraehouse.html>

2 BR CONDO, ALANNA YAMU

Luxury 2-bedroom condo with pool at Cape Yamu. Almost complete. An absolute bargain at 7.5 million baht. Tel: 081-894 1530, 081-819 4153 (English). Email: andrew@leemarine.net

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses, furnished Western style, aircon, cable, internet, quiet, security. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

2 HOUSES IN PATONG



for sale. Live in 1 and rent the other or sold separately. 5.1 million baht each, fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner at Tel: 087-279 3312. www.phukethouseapartment.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

KAMALA CONDO

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, internet. 14,000 baht. Minimum 3 months. Tel: 084-716 0502.

NICE HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

In Pasak3, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 086-690 2119. Email: ruangruk27@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 beds, 2 baths, furnished, aircon, Internet, cable. 27,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 081-894 1660 (English), 081-077 0133 (Thai). Email: cottrell@ttmaxnet.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai beach, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, cable TV, ADSL, long-term. Tel: 086-944 4885.

HOUSE AT SAIYUAN

for rent. Soi Nanachart, 5 minutes to Nai Harn. Two bedrooms, 2 baths, some furnishings, phone line, ADSL, big garden. 22,000 baht per month (negotiate). Tel: 076-215367, 081-535 1570.

NEW PATONG APARTMENTS

1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units. WiFi, gym and 2 swimming pools. Rents start at 22,000 baht per month and up. Good location & value. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses, furnished Western style, aircon, cable, internet, quiet, security. 14,000-18,000 baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

BEAUTIFUL LUXURY VILLAS

with private pool, 3 to 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. For rent or sale. Tel: 087-893 8747.

SURIN SUITE CONDO

for rent. Close beach, spa, pool, gym. Rent 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-847 8736.

LUXURY VILLA POOL

Near Laguna, has everything, jacuzzi, ADSL, yard, cable. 27,000 baht per month lease. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LUXURY VILLA SALES & RENTAL

Special offers on now! Email: info@digitalvillas.com See website for more details http://digitalvillas.com

HOUSE IN SOI SAIYUAN

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and swimming pool, fully furnished 50,000/month. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

SERVICED CONDOMINIUM

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, lounge. Tel: 081-892 0038. Visit our web site at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS



3 bedrooms, fully furnished, full services, for short or long term. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN PATONG



- 1.5km from Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town.
- 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 aircon, fully furnished
- Rent: 20,000 baht per month.
- Please contact Khun Somboon at: 081-677 5136, 076 - 274382 (English & Thai).

KATA CONDO



2 and 3 bedroom, 2 bath room, with sea view. 115sqm inside with a huge 50sqm terrace, teak kitchen, furnished, long term preferred, 25,000/month. Tel: 084-840 1262. Or email: north8east98@yahoo.com

CHALONG POOL VILLA

2-bedroom pool villa with cable TV, aircon and telephone. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

MODERN HOUSE NEAR BANGTAO BEACH



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_superitik@yahoo.co.th

GARDEN HOME

3 Bedroom house, aircon, 2 bath, nice kitchen, big rooms, furnished w. covered sitting & parking. Tel: 081-817 3776 (English). Email: bic1@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE FOR RENT IN PATONG

- 1.5km from Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town.
- 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, fully furnished
- Rent: 7,000 baht per month.
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CHALONG VILLA

Pool villa, 3 bed +3 ensuite. Western kitchen, fully furnished + ADSL. 45,000 baht per month, including garden/pool service and cable TV. Tel: +65-94-870726 (English). Email: piyanatmccourt@hotmail.com For further details & Photo, please see our website at http://phuketrenthouse.com/190/chalong-villa-house-3-bedrooms-furnished-45000-baht.

PRETTY BUNGALOW VILLAS 5

2 bed with aircon, 2 bath, living/dining room, kitchen. Bus-stop central, supermarket closeby. Rent 11,000/baht and pay two months advance Tel: 089-2926200.

450,000 BAHT YEARLY LEASE



Rawai pool guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 4 motorbikes, WiFi, cable TV. 300m from sea, brand new. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

PHUKET VILLA DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 aircon, hot shower, free internet, cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Near Chalong Bay, Palai. Tel: 081-8924 311.

PATONG STUDIO CONDO

Spacious studio, only 10min walk to Patong beach. Close to shops, banks and food park. Weekly clean with linen and towels provided. Tel: +852-6-100 4034. Fax +852-2-813 6083. Email: casajope@yahoo.com www.phuket-patong-condo.com/Studio/

4 BEDROOM LUXURY VILLA

For rent 1 year. Private pool near to beach. Laguna area. 120,000 baht per month from April. Tel: 081-895 6267.

SEAVIEW CONDO RAWAI



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, views to Phi-Phi. 50,000 baht per month. Includes water & electric. Tel: 081-090 1805. Email: troyadrian@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

2 storey house in Topland Estate. Fully furnished/equipped, 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, fully airconditioned, cable TV, internet, fenced garden, covered parking space, 5 mins from Tesco Lotus / Central Festival. Tel: 085-690 1955 (English & Thai). Email: mpomel@yahoo.fr

NEW APARTMENT KATA BEACH

for rent. 1 bedroom, full furnished, jacuzzi, kitchen, internet. Tel: 086-595 8512. For more details please email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENTAL

land & house, 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 air & full furniture, security 24hrs. Only 20,000 baht starting rental 1st March 2010. Please contact Tom 082-2886943.

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Pool, ADSL, UBC, maid, quiet. 15,000 baht per month. Short/long-term. Tel: 086-684 5368. Contact for more details email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

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_____ (heading)

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Property Gazette

Property Services

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Property Wanted

LOOKING FOR HOTEL RESORT

Villa over 15 units for management or long term rent option to buy later Rawai, Naiharn beach. Tel: 086-143 7915. Email: hyipme@lire.de

HOME RENTAL

An Aussie couple want to rent a villa or residence, 4-5 beds, furnished or unfurnished, from 1 April 2010 for a minimum of 3 months up to 12 months. From Layan to Surin, but prefer Laguna area. Prepared to pay up to 80,000 baht per month. Tel: +61-7-5444 5612, +61-438-082632 (English). Email: minyama1@gmail.com

HOUSE WANTED

One month holiday let start March 25, Kamala, Kata, Kathu areas, 3-4 bedrooms. Must have pool contact Marcus. Tel: 087-992 8515.

BEACHFRONT LAND

With road access, Kata, Karon, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao. Contact Andy. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-852 0012.

Accommodation Available

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New hotel with nice, clean rooms and lobby bar/cafe with pool table. In the heart of Patong, near Jungceylon and Otop; and only a 10-minute walk to the world famous Bangla Rd and Patong Beach. Tel: 088-444 7840 (English & Thai). Email: azonehotel@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.azonehotel.com

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Upmarket. Promotion rate: 799 baht. Tel: 02-2599 884. Email: mlrathan@hotmail.com Please visit our website: www.mhc-guesthouse.com

KATHU GOLF PENTHOUSE 135SQM

Condo, 5th floor, 2 bedroom with big living room, terrace, complete Western kitchen, partially furnished, nice view around. For long term rent or sale. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385 (English). Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

KATHU GOLF CONDO 62SQM

1 bedroom, 1 bath, living room, Western kitchen, balcony, nice view, fully furnished. For long or short term rent; also for sale. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385 (English). Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

PATONG SEA VIEW CONDO

Studio, 50sqm, Western kitchen. WiFi. 11th floor, nice sea view. Resort pool, long or short term rent. Also for sale. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 800-2,000 baht per night. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com For further details, please see our web site at www.brommathaihouse.com

BUNGALOW FOR RENT IN KARON

Great deals for long term. Fully furnished, WiFi, aircon, near beach. Tel: 081-196 5212. Email: scottkip@hotmail.com

ONE BEDROOM APART

fully furnished, wifi, pool and parking quiet location in Patong 22,000 baht / month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-892 1621.

EDEN RESORT IN KARON

Sale or Rent. 1 bedroom with separate kitchen and dining room, fully furnished, ADSL and satellite TV. Stunning sea views and large swimming pool with access to gymnasium. Sale 6.5 million baht or rent for 30,000 baht per month. Small complex with big views. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

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

SEA VIEW KATA APARTMENTS

Quality, modern 1 bedroom apartments with pool, kitchen, cable TV and Internet—from 14,000 baht per month (min: 6 months). For more info. Tel: 081-270 5374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th

RAWAI APARTMENT

Secure, quiet, aircon, 2nd floor apartment. Available April 1st. On the beach between Rawai and Chalong, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living/dining room, small kitchen, cable TV/ADSL available. No dogs, no children. Call between 9:00-12:00. Tel: 089-729 7622.

FREEDOM APARTMENTS PATONG

Small kitchen, fridge, E-cooker, fully furnished. European style, aircon, fan, internet, TV, safe, bathroom, hot-cold water. 8,000 baht per month. From April 1st, 2010. Tel: 084-845 0541, 081-891 4561

BEACH SERVICED APARTMENT

2-bed apartment at The Sands Resort. Near beach. Fully furnished, equipped. Wifi. Bt 3,500/day, 40,000/month. Tel: 076-396639, 083-648 8820 (English). Email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

HOTEL ROOM FOR 600 BAHT

Brand new hotel type apartments for rent in Rawai (near Tesco Lotus). Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-472 0542 (English). Email: jens@paradiisisaar.ee

STUDIO APARTMENT IN PATONG

for rent. 46sqm, fully furnished, swimming pool. Daily - Monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

ONE BEDROOM APART

fully furnished, wifi, pool and parking quiet location in Patong 22,000 baht / month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-892 1621.

STUDIO W/ POOL, KAMALA



45sqm, kitchen, swimming pool, available from 1 April. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English). Email: pierre@husiphuket.se For further details, please see our website at www.husiphuket.se

APARTMENT AT CHAOPRAYA RIVER VIEW

Fully equipped room with building's amenities @ Baan Chaopraya Condo. Oriental decor! Please contact for more further details. Tel: 076-261025, 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-261025. Email to: zhu@junkseilon.com

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Household Items

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Frosted glass top coffee table. Was 5,000 baht new. Will take 1,250 baht now. Please contact for more information. Tel: 082-829 8701 (English). Email: andygee21@gmail.com

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Grey 3-seater Index sofa. Was 30,000 baht new. In good condition. Will take 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-829 8701. Or send email to: andygee21@gmail.com

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Black & Decker brand. Collects the cut grass. Very effective and inexpensive to use. A new one costs over 7,000 baht. Will sell for 4,500 – and with home delivery in the Chalong/Rawai area. Please contact for more information. Tel: 082-271 3717. Email: perhe.willig@gmail.com

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renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-1935124. Or send email to: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

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Construction, supervision + management, design and build new villas or renovate your existing villa. Contact 2 home. Tel: 081-255 7003. Email: g40kjt@hotmail.com

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Big volume family cruising yacht, 10 berths, Euros 120,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

SUNSEEKER MANHATTAN 58



One-day tour 110,000+ baht. Price includes captain, crew, cook, snorkeling & fishing equipment. Tel: 076-238976, 02-8144070 ext 156. Email: sales@sunnava.com www.sunnava.com

MAXIM 640 POWER CAT 2007

20.5m, 12 berths, would make up market live aboard dive boat or private yacht full a/c US\$1,300,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

MUMBY 48' 2003

Aluminium, catamaran, cruise, charter or win regatta's AU\$449,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

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No nonsense blue water steel yacht, full refit 2007. For further details, please see our website www.boatshedphuket.com

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for diving and snorkel trips, 450 Hp Nissan, 35kw generator. Diving compressor view Ao Chalong. 900,000 baht, cash and 2 million over 2 years. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

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5 shareholders, each @20% ownership. Usage 2 months a year. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

5.8M RIB FOR SALE

115hp Mercury salt water, bimini, trailer, great condition, extras. 580,000 baht or offer. Tel: 076-383785, 089-4745629 (English), 081-537 1704 (Thai). Email: dgsworld@gmail.com

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1 outboard engine Yamaha 85hp, 28 knots complete with highest quality Trailer. Price only 450,000 baht. For future details Tel: 02-814 4070 ext 156, 089-4767443. Email: sales@sunnava.com See our web site at www.sunnava.com

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Qualifications:

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Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakornr@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th
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- Male, 25 - 40 years.
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Satee Phuket School is seeking 10 full time native-speaking teachers to begin in May 2010 to teach Science, Drama & Western Music & Modern Dance, Social Studies, Health and P.E., IT, Maths (3), and English (2) to 11 - 18 year old students.

Salary begins at 35,000 - 40,000 baht with 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan and 3,000 baht housing allowance.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements.

Please email your CV with covering letter to: joeynho@gmail.com; toptip4736@yahoo.com; nong64@live.com; a_pupatanun@windowlive.com; arayaphan@hotmail.com

For more information. Tel: 084-666 3557, 089-647 9085, 089-587 1018, 086-945 9280.

Be prepared to present all original certificates at the interview and give a teaching demonstration.

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Small Real Estate Office requires a Thai woman with good English skills. Your position involves computer data entry, web site management and office duties. Salary 10,000 baht per month. Call Real Pro Co Ltd. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

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Good computer knowledge, accounting and business admin experience required. Marine industry experience an advantage. Tel: 076-206707, 084-844 6246. Email: info@seamarine.com

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- Female 22-26 years old only
- Experience preferred
- Vocational Certificate - Bachelor degree major in business or Accounting
- Good EQ and IQ, good health
- Good computer knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet
- Basic English conversational skills
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All applicants must submit full resume by email: info@octopusasia.com

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Thai national required full-time with exp. in PHP, MySQL, XML and JS. Good English is a must! Good salary. Tel: 076-374125, 085-691 9525, 085-234 7455 (English). Please send resume to: info@mediacake.net. For further details, please see our website at www.mediacake.net

CHEF IN SWEDEN

This is an opportunity for an experienced chef who has worked in the 4-5 star hotel sector and has knowledge about Sushi. A very generous salary is on offer for the right candidate. Tel: 080-696 3183.

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Circus will offer world-class entertainment, live music and south-western food.

Several professionals are needed for various positions:

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Managerial background	Stock control skills
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Menu planning skills	PR & marketing experience
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Work will start in September 2010.

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