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The Phuket Gazette

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Bang Tao site sold to Jakarta giant

By Alasdair Forbes

BANG TAO: A 123-rai plot of land next to the beach at the northern end of Bang Tao Bay has been sold by Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels (HSH) to Indonesian property giant PT Jakarta Setiabudi Internasional Tbk (JSI).

JSI bought the land through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Cayman Islands-based Durham Holdings, for just under 865 million baht – about 7 million baht a rai.

The land, which is just south of the Sirinart Marine National Park, had been owned by HSH subsidiary Siam Chaophraya Land for the past 15 years, but was never developed. That is about to change.

In an exclusive interview with the *Gazette*, JSI's President-Director, Amir Abdul Rachman, confirmed that the land will be used for a hotel or resort, but that no decision has yet been made whether to develop a luxury villa-style resort or a mass-market property.

PENDULUM

Asked whether the land would become home to Phuket's first Hyatt property, Mr Abdul Rachman confirmed that JSI is "very close with Hyatt".

But, he added, "We are still considering all possibilities. We are working with world-class consultants and advisers, and [the scale of the project] will depend very much on who will be the operator. It's too early for us to say.

"We are very keen to [be in] Phuket because we see that every time there is a problem in Bali [where JSI owns two Hyatts] the biggest beneficiary is Phuket.



The beach at the north end of Bang Tao Bay is well away from the crowds and frequented only by those few 'in the know'.

"We have seen the pendulum always swinging this way and that way – Phuket or Bali, Phuket or Bali."

He added that JSI looked at Phuket as long ago as 1986. "That was when we decided to develop the Grand Hyatt in Bali because we came to the conclusion that Bali was ready but Phuket was not.

"Now the infrastructure in Phuket is really there and the reality is that Phuket is only nine hours from Europe, and socially and politically Thailand is more salable."

JSI is a major player in the Indonesian hotel and property industries. Its assets include the Grand Hyatt Bali, the Bali Hyatt, and the Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta, as well as three Mercure hotels. It also owns two large office buildings in Jakarta,

two large shopping malls – one in Bali and one in Jakarta – three apartment blocks in the Indonesian capital, where it also has a considerable land bank that it is developing for housing estates.

In the year to September 30, 2005, it recorded sales and revenues equivalent to 1.7 billion baht and assets equivalent to 10.7 billion baht.

In a statement following the signing of the sale agreement, HSH explained that the funds would be used to reduce debt and as "general working capital".

CEO Clement Kwok was quoted as saying, "The sale of the Phuket land is a further step in the company's strategy of disposing of non-core assets that will allow us to focus our resources on developing and marketing our principal businesses and the Peninsula brand."

Disgraced tycoon survives shooting

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

BANGKOK: Disgraced businessman Boonkeng "Ko Keng" Srisansuchart, evicted in 2004 from land in the Panturat Hills along the bypass road, was wounded in a gun attack in Bangkok on November 19.

An associate of his, Nimit Pokaphol, a former civil servant in the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLLO), was killed in the attack by a round from a .22 firearm.

K. Boonkeng, 57, was hit once in the neck and spent time under police guard in a Bangkok hospital before returning to Phuket two days later.

K. Boonkeng and K. Nimit had traveled to Bangkok to meet with the 80-year-old former Deputy Commander of Police Region 8, Pol Maj Gen Preecha Pakpaiboon. They were shot as they walked through Lad Phrao District to hail a taxi after the meeting.

Although the motive behind the attack is not yet known, Pol Lt Col Teerawat Mungkalasiri, Deputy Superintendent of Chok Chai Police Station in Bangkok, speculated that it may have been linked to a business deal.

He noted that the gunman appeared to have been lying in wait, suggesting that he knew the two men would be walking along the soi after their meeting.

Col Teerawat said he believed that K. Boonkeng was the intended target of the hit. "I believe the gunman had been told about the meeting," he said. K. Nimit, he pointed out, was regularly in Bangkok, but the attack took place only when K. Boonkeng arrived in the capital.

Continued on page 2

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Not for Phuket: the US's Lindsay Davenport.

- Photo EPA/Eddy Risch

Lack of funds kills tennis tournament

PHUKET: A one-day women's international tennis tournament, set to feature such superstars as Serena Williams and Lindsay Davenport playing at the Saphan Hin municipal tennis courts on New Year's Day, has been canceled due to lack of funding.

Chaiyapak Siriwat, Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, made the announcement at a press conference on tsunami anniversary activities at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on November 21.

He explained that the Sports Authority of Thailand, the body responsible for organizing the event, had insufficient funding.

Blues festival program announced

KARON: The organizers of the Phuket International Blues Festival have announced the program for the event, to be hosted by the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on December 16 and 17.

The festival will be officially opened by Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura at 6:25 pm, with the first band, Blue On Blue from Bangkok, taking the stage five minutes later. They will be followed by Pattaya-based Blues Machine, Soi Dog Blues

Band from Bangkok, and, at 11 pm, Victor Brox from the UK.

The following evening's music will begin at 6:30 pm with two Phuket bands, Groove Doctors and Big Fat Blues Band, followed by Cannonball from Bangkok, Kyla Brox from the UK and the Rich Harper Band from the US.

The event is presented by the *Phuket Gazette* and HotelTravel.com.

Hearing date set for monorail proposal

By Anongnat Sartpisut & Sam Wilkinson

PHUKET: A proposal to build a passenger monorail system in Phuket will go through its first public hearing in February. The aim of the hearing is to allow discussion between those likely to be affected by the project and the consultancies responsible for the planning and routing of the monorail.

The proposed system would provide a route between the airport and Phuket City with a west coast route taking in the Patong area.

After ideas are gathered from the February meeting, a second public hearing is scheduled for April to consolidate the results of the initial brainstorming session.

About 80 people are expected to attend each meeting. Tawee Homhuan, Committee Member and Engineer at the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office, commented: "We must ensure that we follow correct town planning regulations and make sure that any construction is done within the correct zones. "The

hearings are set up to host 80 people," he added.

He said, "Really, I think at least 800 people should attend," but added that this was unlikely. In his experience, only a few dozen people would attend hearings, but when actual work started on a project, hundreds would turn out to protest its negative impact on their lives.

He also noted that the greatest potential problem with a project such as the monorail is that it would need to cross private land. He also pointed out that, in Phuket's case and especially in Patong - where one rai of land can fetch up to 40 million baht - the government might not be able to afford to buy the land required.

Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit on November 17 chaired a committee meeting with the three monorail consultancies; Dr Tawatchai Laosirihongthong, Director of the Traffic and Transport Development and Research Center at the King Mongkut University of Technology in Thonburi; EO System Engineering Consultants; and Pyramid Development International Corp (PDIC).

PDIC is the architectural

company responsible for Bangkok's Skytrain and the capital's Subway depot.

At the meeting, public transport specialist Somprasong Satatiamullay explained that a monorail would help solve much of Phuket's traffic congestion, alleviate air pollution and reduce road accidents, as well as cutting tourists' transport costs.

K. Somprasong said that the inception report would be compiled over a period of seven months, ending next May. The report will focus on seven aspects: legal feasibility; funding; planning; architectural design; environmental impact; engineering, and organizations involved in the project.

He also said that, in 2001, a request was sent to the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) to research alternative transport solutions for Phuket and to produce a feasibility study. The three consultancies then studied the PSU report and were drawn to the monorail solution.

He added, "At the moment about 90% of people on the island use their own vehicles, maybe because they feel that public transport is not reliable and possibly because it cannot meet demand."

Dr Tawatchai added, "Phuket's roadsides are lined with parked motorcycles and peddlers selling their wares as well as tuk tuks parked one after the other in Patong. There's no parking space. Phuket is an international city, so visitors have high expectations as to the quality of life and services they will find here."

He explained that, to make the monorail project successful, public and private investment returns would have to be studied, along with careful assessment of the project's environmental impact to ensure minimal damage.

Tycoon survives shooting

From page 1

According to the *Kom Chad Luek* newspaper, a "close relative" of the injured tycoon suggested that a soured land deal was the cause for the attack.

However, another relative of K. Boonkeng said he believed that K. Nimit was the intended target of the attack, suggesting that K. Boonkeng had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time. The investigation continues.

K. Boonkeng has had several ups and downs in the past few years. In June 2004, four plots of land in the Panturat Hills were seized from him by the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) in Bangkok.

AMLO confiscated the land after the Phuket Appeal Court ruled that K. Boonkeng had wrongfully obtained it.

AMLO confirmed that all four plots were SorPorKor land - land owned by the state but allocated to poor, landless farmers for agricultural use only.

It has been alleged that, in 1983, a provincial vice-governor allowed K. Boonkeng to take out a 30-year lease on the four plots, totaling 76 rai and comprising forest and agricultural land.

K. Boonkeng was said to be planning to use the land to collect and store water for a development of prestige homes, but the properties were never built.

AMLO accused K. Boonkeng of obtaining *Chanote* or *NorSor 3 Gor* titles to the land with the help of corrupt staff in the provincial Land Office. AMLO had already confiscated assets worth around 30 million baht from former land officers accused of producing fake land papers.

In March, 2003, K. Boonkeng felt obliged to call a press conference to deny what he said were rumors that he was involved in dealing drugs, had cheated home-buyers and had HIV.



Boonkeng Srisan-suchart: shot in the neck

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Phuket still high in HIV rankings

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The island has the fifth-highest reported number of people infected with HIV in the Thailand, and the second-highest in the South, according to the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO).

Eam-on Kittitornkul, Chief of the Aids Division at the PPHO, said that, at the last count, there were 3,729 known cases in the province: a substantial increase from the roughly 2,000 registered cases registered last year.

The rise in reported cases is not necessarily an indication of a higher rate of infection, K. Eam-on said. "When people learn that we have stocks of medicine to treat HIV, they show up in large numbers at the PPHO, so the statistics soar," she explained.

"Still, if people do not take precautions HIV/Aids could be a serious problem in the next four to five years."

K. Eam-on said that the PPHO offers Aids information knowledge and distributes condoms in areas where teenagers gather.

Most sufferers are between 25 and 39 years old, she said, with 88.6% of cases stemming from sexual relations and 4.28% from sharing syringes.

Another 2.45% of cases consist of children contracting the disease from their mothers, while still in the womb. K. Eam-on did not reveal what the causes of the remaining 4.67% of cases were.

Ranong has the highest number of registered HIV-infected people in Thailand, followed by Chiang Rai, Trat, Phayao and Phuket.



OPPOSITION OUT IN THE OPEN

Hundreds turned out on November 11 to watch strident government opponent Sondhi Limthongkul's weekly broadcast, *Muang Thai Rai Sapda*, at a special screening organized by Sondhi's Manager Group in the car park of 1the Phuket Public Library. The program, which has brought Sondhi into

a tense confrontation with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was dropped by Channel 9 TV, and the Public Relations Department issued a warning on November 16 to cable companies countrywide that they risk having their operating licenses canceled if they broadcast the program.

Happy New Year: Rules on alcohol sales tightened

PHUKET: The hours when alcohol may be sold in shops and supermarkets are to be shortened with effect from January 1.

The shorter hours were announced by the Phuket Provincial Excise Office, after it received the order from Minister of Finance Thanong Bidaya.

From New Year's Day, sales of alcohol in retail outlets will be allowed only between 11 am and 2 pm, and between 5 pm and midnight. Currently, the evening sales hours are 5 pm to 2 am.

In addition, shops at gas stations will be barred from selling alcohol at any time, as will shops "near" schools or places of worship. The term "near" was not defined.

Dinner to celebrate Thai-Chinese links.

PHUKET CITY: A gala dinner to mark 30 years of friendship among Thai and Chinese businesswomen will be held on Saturday (November 26) in the Prapitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole Hotel.

Registration starts at 6:30 pm and Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura is scheduled to give a welcome speech at 7 pm.

There will also be a fashion show featuring Chinese designs.

The event is organized by the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and the Phuket and Phang Nga branch of the National Council of Women of Thailand.

Tickets are 1,000 baht a piece. For further information call the Chamber of Commerce at Tel: 076-217567/8.



Some 150 Swedes attended tsunami memorial services at the Pearl Village Hotel on Nai Yang Beach, on November 11. A larger-scale memorial ceremony will be held on December 26 at Khao Lak.

Minimum day wage may rise by B3

PHUKET: Phuket's minimum daily wage, currently 178 baht, could rise to 181 baht, matching Bangkok, if the Phuket Provincial Labor Committee gets its way.

At a meeting on November 16, the committee - which comprises five provincial officials, five employers and five employees - approved the three-baht increase in principle.

Suthep Therdkiatjorn, an official with the Phuket Provincial Labor Office, said that the proposal will be sent to the Ministry of Labor, which is expected to announce a decision on January 1 next year.

"The minimum wage can vary depending on the cost of living, and taking into account increased fuel prices," K. Suthep added.

Police told to probe further in tsunami aid theft case

PHUKET: Orders for police to conduct further investigations into the theft of 2.05 million baht of tsunami aid money from Phuket Provincial Hall nine months ago have finally arrived in Phuket.

The Special Public Prosecutor in the Phuket State Attorney's Office, Bantoon Thongtan, told the *Gazette* on November 15 that he had just received, from the Regional Director of Prosecutions in Surat Thani, the order for further investigations into the theft and into government official Apichart Nooprod, who is accused of stealing the funds.

The case is in the hands of the Surat Thani office because of procedures dictating that high-profile cases, particularly those involving bureaucrats, must not be handled locally.

In addition, Apichart, who continues to work in the Provincial Treasury Office, requested that Surat Thani handle the case because he feared he would not be treated fairly if the theft were handled by local prosecutors.

Earlier, it had appeared that the order for further investigations had been lost somewhere between Surat Thani and Phuket, stalling the case.



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PHI PHI STILL IN

After the tsunami, the central government handed the Organization for Specific Areas Administration for Sustainable Tourism Promotion (OSA), part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, responsibility for rebuilding Phi Phi.

A backlash from local people – who felt that the OSA’s initial proposal, aimed at transforming the island into an idyllic resort for high-end tourists, was unrealistic – prompted the government to hand the job of rehabilitating Phi Phi to the Public Works Department (PWD) in Bangkok.

The central government then rejected the PWD’s request for 249 million baht to rebuild Phi Phi on the grounds that it was too much money, and in September Cabinet transferred the task of coming up with a redevelopment plan back to the OSA.

In mid-year, when the PWD was still in charge of the project, the government ordered a ban on construction of new buildings, but that order was later rescinded.

Now a ban on all new construction and reconstruction of tsunami-damaged buildings has been imposed, much to the ire of the island’s residents.

Phi Phi native Kasem Ngankhaeng, 40, owns 33 rai but has been denied permission to build a small restaurant on just half a rai so he and his family and relatives can make a living.

“I understand that the President of the *OrBorTor* has to follow the rules, but I would like to ask the OSA to hurry up because we have been waiting 11 months and still cannot do anything,” he told the *Gazette*.

“They should give us the chance to work, and this is my

land. I’m confused and surprised that I cannot do anything on my land. They should think of what people here will eat. We are on an island with only tourism to help us survive.”

Before the tsunami, K. Kasem owned bungalows, a restaurant and a small shop, which supported his family and relatives. The tsunami washed them away, and the government paid 50,000 baht in relief for the loss of what K. Kasem estimates was worth 20 million baht.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

All he has left to provide for his family is income from boats carrying tourists.

“I need to build the small restaurant so I can make enough money for my children to go to school. I do not sleep well; I’ve had nightmares every night since the tsunami. I am always thinking about the new plan and what I can do to help my family and relatives,” he said.

K. Kasem and his family are by no means the only ones suffering. Ao Nang *OrBorTor*

Chairman Phankam Kitithorakul, 48, is caught in the middle, under pressure from the central government to enforce the ban and from local people wanting the OSA to make up its mind.

K. Phankam, now in the second year of his second four-year term as *OrBorTor* Chairman, said the worst thing was that even if a charity foundation wanted to build new homes for tsunami victims – even on the victim’s own land – it could not.

“I don’t have the courage to allow them [to build] because I don’t want to go against the government’s orders. Everything has to wait for the OSA, but I don’t know where they have gone. I have not seen a single person from the OSA for more than six months.

“Sometimes I am under a lot of pressure because people ask to build a house and they have all the correct documents proving that they have complied with the law, yet they are not allowed to build a house on their own land.

“These people ask me whether government policy is now above the law. I have no answers for them. All I can do is tell them to wait for the OSA.”

K. Phankam explained that rumors have started among locals that perhaps a “big guy” wants

to buy land on Phi Phi on the cheap, and move local people somewhere else.

He himself finds the rumors compelling. “I believe the reason the government is working so slowly *may* have something to do with certain people making a profit. Otherwise why don’t they let local people know what they are doing or plan to do?”

‘STOMP ON ME’

“Why is it that local people have to follow what the government decides, yet cannot join any public hearings? There have not been any,” he said.

However, K. Phankam is prepared to sidestep the ban so that the island can get a working wastewater treatment plant. “We have just received 27 million baht from the Danish government to build a new wastewater treatment plant to replace the one destroyed by the tsunami.

“[Krabi] Vice-Governor Chai Vanichpornphan told me to get permission from the OSA first – but I will not. It is not the government’s money.

“Many local people have told me, ‘Please go for it!’ If I don’t they will ‘stomp on me’ because there is no reason not to build a new one where the old one was,” K. Phankam said.



From the air even the tsunami-smashed center of Phi Phi Don is beautiful, but for locals the outlook is far from lovely.

V/Gov Chai, despite recognizing Phi Phi’s current inability to make a hefty contribution to the economy, defended the government.

He explained that, before the tsunami, Phi Phi’s economy was booming with more than a million tourists visiting a year, and that Phi Phi currently has a total of 1,000 to 2,000 day-trippers a day, with about two-thirds coming from Phuket.

V/Gov Chai added that there are about 1,000 rooms currently available for tourists, and these are fully booked most of the time. The current state of the island’s infrastructure could not cope, he argued, if the 20 or so other hotels and small resorts that have remained closed since the tsunami were to open again, adding another 1,000 rooms.

“The basic infrastructure of Phi Phi now could not support it

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built in a day. Please think of the future," he pleaded.

The Vice-Governor also explained that the complete ban has put a stop to people bypassing regulations. "We have to have a complete ban on construction to stop people asking why one person can build and another cannot.

"Before the ban some people asked for permission from the OrBorTor to build 50 houses for just one owner. Should this be allowed?" he asked.

NO DETAILS

Asked whether the Krabi Provincial Government had explained the situation to local people, V/Gov Chai said, "I don't know what to tell them. I have not been told what OSA plans to do; and I have been given no information to pass on to people.

"One thing I do know is that the government wants Phi Phi to be a center for diving. I'm not sure what the design will be, but if we tell people anything they might take it that we have committed ourselves to a plan, when in fact we know nothing yet."

Dr Surachet Chetamas, in charge of drawing up OSA's Phi Phi Island Renovation Plan, was tight-lipped when asked why it is taking so long to come up with a redevelopment plan for Phi Phi.

"I do not want to say anything right now because not everything has been finalized, but I think it will be announced before the end of this year.

"We cannot give any details because the local administration and the local people there still have different ideas from us.

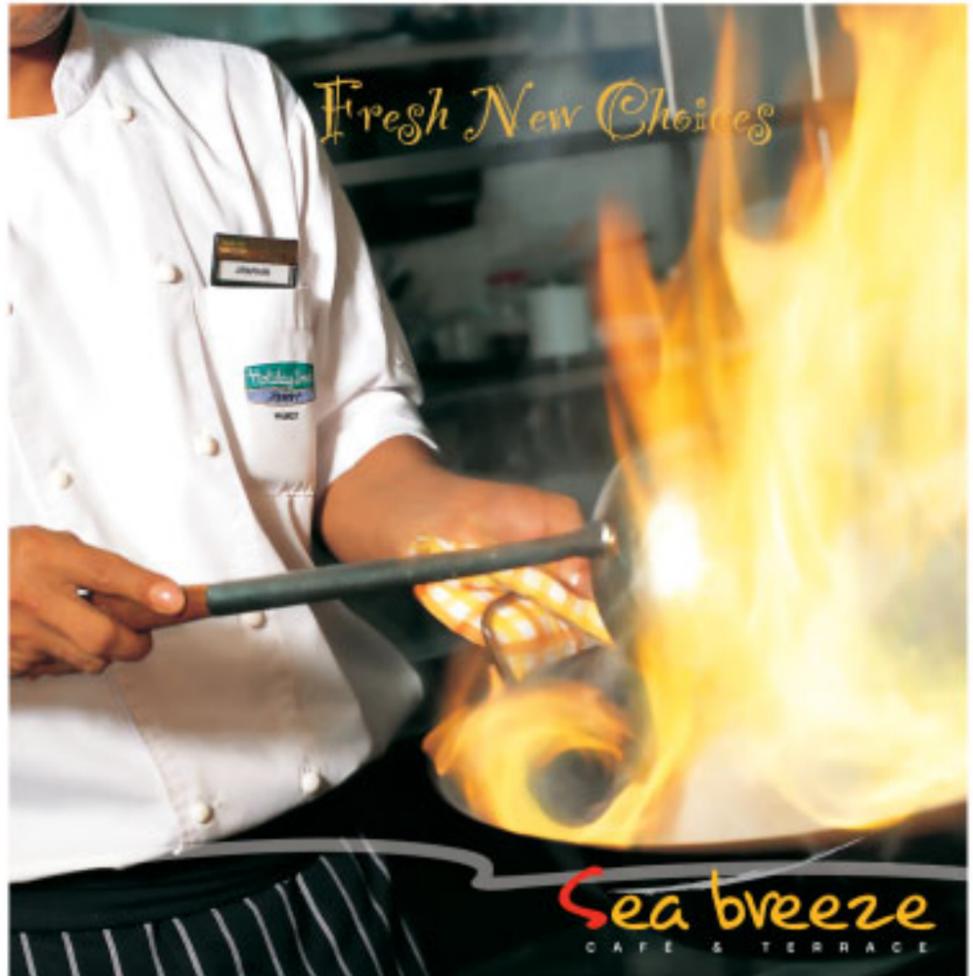
"I have meetings every day about this, and I will go down to see the Governor of Krabi and talk with local people there soon," he said.

if all the hotels were renovated. All the water in the wells is salty, so what water will they use? There is still no water treatment plant and no mains electricity.

"The government has approved [plans] for Phi Phi to have mains electricity supplied by underwater power cables [from the mainland], as well as a reverse-osmosis water-purification system, which alone will cost about 160 million baht.

"I believe the plan will be good but people should please calm down," V/Gov Chai said. "If they wait for just a year or two, they will benefit in the long term.

"I worry that if they build whatever they like now, should there be another tsunami more people will be killed. I understand that they are in trouble, but if you want to build a city, it cannot be



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That's some feat: 8-year-old boy is eating only sole food

The father of an 8-year-old boy who eats nothing but dirty shoes and sandals is worried about his son's health and seeking donations for medical treatment to cure him.

After neighbors brought the existence of the shoe-eating boy to the attention of staff at the TV program *Mun Plak Dee Na*, they went to Hao village in Chiang Mai province on November 10 to investigate for themselves.

There, they met K. Kao (he declined to disclose his surname) and his son Tinoy.

K. Kao told them that his son had launched into strange diets at the age of two – before shoes, he apparently used to enjoy eating paper.

"I'm anxious about his health but I can't do anything because I don't have any money," K. Kao said.

"I hope some kind person will help him."

As he spoke, Tinoy helped himself to a shoe, shocking the TV crew, who immediately offered him various snacks instead. But the boy continued munching on the shoe, oblivious to any of their tasty treats.

Queer News

The boy's teacher, K. Ratchanee Yordsiri, said that Tinoy likes to eat his friends' flip-flops. "At first I didn't believe it; I suspected a dog had chewed on the rubber sandal, but when I saw Tinoy biting into it, I was speechless."

Maliwan Boonma, a doctor from Amphur Mae Jam Hospital, said that Tinoy's behavior is caused by a disease known as Pica. Children suffering from this disease are compulsive eaters of non-food items.

"I have seen many children with this problem eat soil, plastic, even matchsticks. This chronic behavior may disappear in his teenage years, but his physical and mental health may be affected. He is visibly pale and skinny, and he suffers from bloody stools. He needs to improve his eating habits as quickly as possible."

Source: Daily News



Charoen Cheewamaitreewong collects his prize of a voucher for a facial treatment at Jungceylon Clinic from Gazette Desk Editor Shiona Mackenzie, after his Kia car was spotted sporting a 'We Love Phuket' sticker.

'WE LOVE PHUKET' STICKER WINNERS



Satit Tunnimitkool is presented with her prize voucher for dinner for two at the Trisara Resort at Cherg Talay by PGTV Executive Producer Marc Mulloy, for having the sticker on her Ford pickup.

WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

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it can be the start of a friendship.*



Royal request for support in South after massacre

HM Queen Sirikit has expressed concern for residents in Narathiwat's Rangae District following the massacre of an entire family of Muslim villagers, including an eight-year-old child, on November 16.

Col Somkuan Saengphatrananet, spokesman for the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command, said Her Majesty asked the authorities to strengthen the protective role of the village defense volunteers.

Col Somkuan blamed the attack on insurgents, saying the motive could have been that Suding Awaebuesa, father of the family of nine, had defected to the government five months ago.

The victims were gunned down at about 1 am, but authorities did not reach the crime scene until some 11 hours later. Police who arrived at the outskirts of the village refused to enter until top government officials had received assurances from residents that they would be able to carry out their duties uninterrupted.

The Director of the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command, Lt Gen Kwanchart Klaharn, later admitted that the closest military unit had been only 10 minutes away, but defended the decision to delay entering the village on the grounds that the incident might have been a plot by insurgents.

Wild menu: Visitors are to be offered a daily buffet of lion, tiger, elephant and giraffe meat when Chiang Mai's Night Safari officially opens on New Year's Day, project director Plodprasop Suraswadi said. The park's Vareekunchorn restaurant will offer the "Exotic Buffet" for 4,500 baht a head.

According to K. Plodprasop, animals for the buffet would be imported daily and legally to



Anti-riot police and security guards grappled with 500 protesters at Egat (Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand) headquarters. The protest, in which dozens were injured, was against partial privatization of the state authority. The Supreme Administrative Court halted the sale of public shares in Egat Plc on November 15, and a final ruling on privatizing the Kingdom's largest power producer will be announced in January.

the zoo. He said food provided at the restaurant would be fresh daily and cooked by five foreign chefs.

Wildlife Fund Thailand secretary Surapol Duangkae said that although consuming wildlife didn't violate Cites (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), it could fly in the face of moral issues and damage the country's image.

Gagged: Sondhi Limthongkul of Manager Media Group, a critic of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was served a Civil Court order requiring him to stop criticizing the PM immediately. The injunction is pending a court hearing on PM Thaksin's libel suits against K. Sondhi. The court is scheduled to hold its first hearing on the libel suits on February 8.

As a result of the injunction, the Group's news website, visited by more than 100,000 Thai web surfers daily, could be effectively gutted, given that much of its content is critical of the PM. Dusadee Sinjermsiri, Director-Gen-

eral of the Public Relations Department, also told all provincial cable TV operators to stop airing K. Sondhi's controversial weekly TV shows, or risk seeing their contracts suspended.

Thana Benjathikul, the premier's principal lawyer in the libel suits, said that they were not restricting mass media freedom, but wanted to ensure that the premier's reputation is not damaged by libellous statements. K. Thana also said the court order also covers nine other defendants, who are barred from further disseminating K. Sondhi's criticisms of PM Thaksin via newspapers, television shows, video disks or the Internet.

Bird 'flu vaccine ban: The government decided to continue its ban on bird 'flu vaccine for poultry, but fell short of commenting on case-by-case vaccinations for rare birds. The decision was made during a workshop on how to tackle the outbreak of avian influenza, which was attended by representatives from the Public

Health, Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Natural Resources and Environment ministries.

According to Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat, scientific information shows vaccinated fowl - which do not develop symptoms or fall ill - may still carry the bird 'flu virus and may spread the disease to others.

STDoubled: The number of teenage patients infected with sexually transmitted diseases doubled this year, the Public Health Ministry announced. Somyos Kittimankong, head of the HIV/Aids division at the Public Health Ministry's Epidemic Control Department, said the incidence of both HIV/Aids and other venereal diseases had increased, particularly among 18- to 20-year-olds.

Two years ago, about 7% of venereal-disease patients were teenagers; now they make up 30% of the group. "Out-of-the-closet" male homosexuals accounted for 28% of HIV-positive

patients, up from 17% last year. K. Somyos added that infection rates were particularly high for girls between the ages of 15 and 19.

Currently, about 10% of HIV-positive patients have a drug-resistant strain of the disease. K. Somyos said that this group was likely to grow, and it was estimated that in five years Thailand would have to spend about 12 billion baht to take care of people living with HIV/Aids.

Power to the teachers: Two leaders of an umbrella network of teachers' groups fighting the transfer of government schools to the jurisdiction of local administration bodies offered different stances on whether or not teachers would hold a mass rally at the end of the month.

Senator Khamphan Pongparn, who heads the network, said a planned demonstration by 100,000 teachers in Bangkok on November 29 would take place only if the government failed to amend a law to halt the transfer by November 25.

Auychai Watha, chairman of a group representing teachers in the northeast, said the demonstration would take place at Sanaam Luang regardless of whether or not the amendment was completed before the deadline.

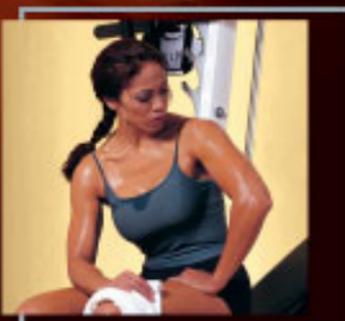
Sen Khamphan said Article 30 of the 1999 Assignments and Steps of Decentralisation of Power to Local Administrative Bodies Act needed the words "except for education affairs" added to it, in order to exclude the administration of education from the public services that local bodies were required to provide.

Around the Nation is sourced from The Nation and Kom Chad Leuk newspapers.



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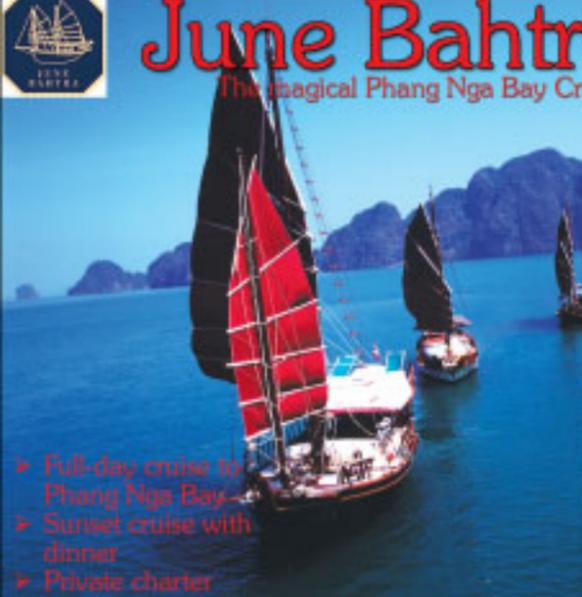
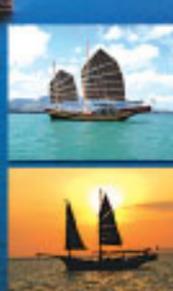
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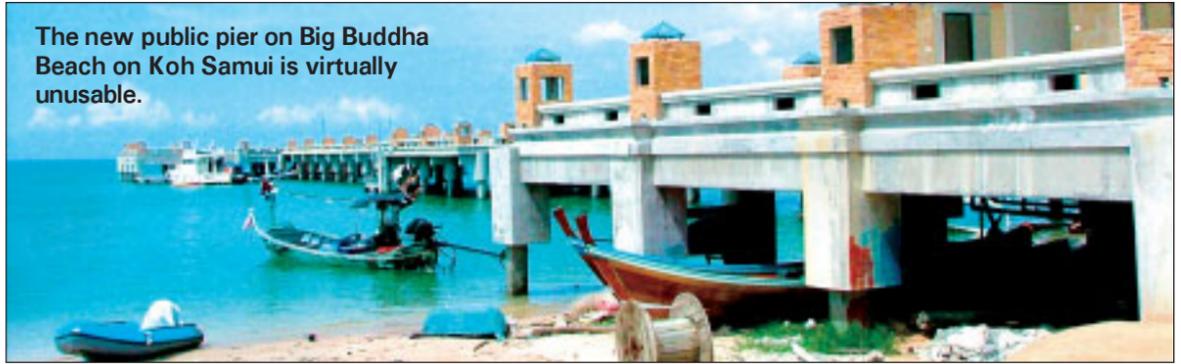
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Clampdown 'would improve safety at sea'



The new public pier on Big Buddha Beach on Koh Samui is virtually unusable.

With two new large public piers due to open on Koh Samui in the next few months, both the local municipality office and the regional harbor department are keen to clamp down on private operators in order to improve safety and security on maritime transport in the Gulf of Thailand.

Waragorn Ratanarak, the island's Mayor, will send out a team to inspect all the island's privately run piers, and those that do not meet the maintenance requirements for a license will be asked to close or face heavy fines.

A brand-new 25-million-baht public tourist pier near the famous Big Buddha temple has now been completed, and a second public pier in Nathon will follow.

Unfortunately, shallow waters around the former structure mean that larger vessels cannot yet use the new facility.

The government hopes to

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

contract out the management of the pier to a private company which will then dredge the surrounding seabed.

Despite the new regulations, some private piers will remain, and many people feel that public piers are best suited to larger passenger ferries.

For example, Petcharat Marina, the largest speedboat operator on the island, plans to build a large new pier to cater specifically to speedboats and sailing craft.

Until natural obstacles are overcome, a policy of total public control seems unlikely.

Traffic controls: Vichit Vihaisarn, the Governor of Surat Thani Province, announced recently that

the Transport Department will set up a special traffic control center on the road to Donsak Port, the departure point for Koh Samui.

It will also establish a number of traffic checkpoints around the province during the coming festive season.

Police will man the posts to ensure that both car and motorcycle drivers adhere to the law, and special attention will be paid to the use of crash helmets and safety belts, with officers also checking for licenses and alcohol use.

The marine police plan to join the campaign also, and will carry out safety checks on boats traveling between the islands in the Thai Gulf.

Passengers on smaller vessels will be required to wear a lifejacket, and boat operators who ignore safety procedures and exceed passenger limits may have their licenses revoked.

In addition to these safety checks, the provincial authority

has assigned special four-person teams to carry out security surveillance at all the arrival and departure points around the islands in response to concerns over the current conflict in the southern provinces.

Sweden likes Samui: The Tourism Authority of Thailand's Samui office and the Tourism Authority of Koh Samui (TAKS), recently hosted a visit by the head of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, Tage Lewit, who is also the editor of one of the country's most popular magazines.

During his week-long visit, Mr Lewit toured many of the island's hotels, spas and attractions, meeting with leading figures in the tourist industry.

He said that Samui suited the Swedish style of travel and promised to write an account of his trip in his magazine.

TAKS head Panuk Woramit said that the visit would certainly boost the number of Swedish visitors coming to the island and also

give Samui a higher profile in the Scandinavian region.

Samui Meditation Centre: On November 16, 40 Buddhist monks and nuns attended the official opening of the Pibok Pawan Meditation Centre on Koh Samui.

The center is run along the same principles as the famous Wat Suan Mok retreat, also in Surat Thani province, which attracts foreigners from all over the world to study meditation and self-improvement.

The new center was built under the supervision of *Ajarn* Poh, the Abbot at Wat Suan Mok.

The center will offer courses in meditation and Buddhist philosophy, based on principles known as "higher heart and spirit".

A large and eclectic group of visitors attended the event, including famous names from the world of Buddhist thought, such as Sansaree Satirasut, one of Thailand's most respected female religious figures.



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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Itthirat Ongsakul, a sanitation official, and Sombat Boonchuay, a teacher, married at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel in Phuket City on November 10.



Srisuda Chengsuwan and Kunmit Wannasri married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on November 12.

Why did Phuket?

After wild exaggeration in the international press about tsunami damage to Phuket, followed by the debacle of Phuket Air (even though there is no connection between the island and the Bangkok-based company), the island's image has taken a severe beating.

"Why on earth would anyone want to go *there*?" many people were asking on Internet forums, only eight months ago.

The result was many more-empty-than-full hotels and financial hard times for the owners of small- to medium-sized businesses.

At the beginning of what now looks like a promising high season, **Suwakon Rakmanee** and **Natcha Yuttaworawit** hit the streets to ask visitors in Patong and Phuket City, "Why did you come to Phuket for your holiday?"

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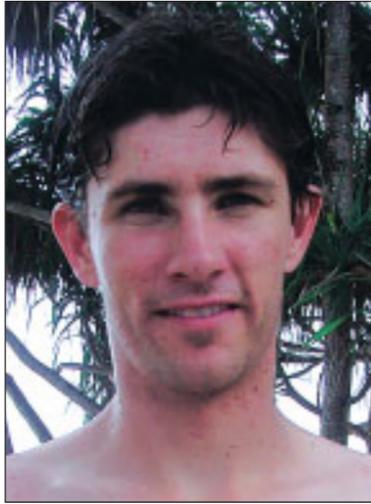
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you come to



Fiona Brown, 27, New Zealand. Childminder.

I came here on holiday last year and really enjoyed it, so I wanted to bring my friend back to see it. We're staying at Karon Beach and it's a beautiful place and the people in this area are lovely. Everything's absolutely amazing. I'm impressed and I really like the people. I've been to Patong for some shopping but I haven't really gone to a pub or a bar. I think it's entertaining enough here without that.



Ty Miller, 28, Australia. Farmer.

I came to relax with a friend and to buy clothes and DVDs. This is the first time I've come here. I heard about Phuket from friends in Australia who told me it has good hotels and that it's a lot cheaper than back home. There's a lot to do here too, such as elephant trekking, canoing and parasailing. I lost one of my friends in the tsunami so yes, it's sad for me, but I'm not afraid. I think Patong has recovered; there are a lot more tourists now.



Maureen Skelton, 67, England. Retired.

I've always wanted to come here. I went shopping in Phuket Town but it was not at all comfortable, as I was constantly approached by salespersons and didn't feel as if I could look at the goods. I much prefer Patong.

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Ken Urayama, 30, Japan. Hairdresser.

I've been in Phuket for four days and although it's the first time for me, my girlfriend has been here before. She told me that Phuket is a popular place with beautiful beaches and that the food is good here. I like Thai food very much. I also like shopping. The people here have such friendly and beautiful smiles.



Liz Tosoni, 56, Canada. Teacher.

I came to Phuket to sail around the waters of southern Thailand. There are interesting things to do here, but I've spent so much time on the boat that I don't know much about the nightlife in Phuket; I like nature more. I went to Phang Nga Bay and stayed there. I really enjoyed it. It's a beautiful place for swimming and meeting people.



Tom Morkin, 54, Canada. Teacher.

Actually, I came to Phuket on a yacht from Malaysia and I intend to stay for a long period. I'm living on board the yacht in Chalong Bay and traveling around from there. I've been to Phang Nga Bay and the Similans, and I really enjoy Nai Harn Beach because it's nice and quiet.



Bimal V Reshamuala, 35, India. Businesswoman.

It's cool and a nice place for tourists. There's clean sand and the sea is beautiful. I don't have a beach near me in India. This place has beautiful sights and the people are also nice. I love to take lots of photos and my family love to see the pictures. I think Phuket is a good place to relax.

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Of course, the term “essential” is open to some debate. A teetotaler will have scant use for a hip flask. A troglodyte will have limited use for a pair of field glasses, and the practicality of giving typewriters to monkeys has yet to be proven.

Essential pieces of kit, although practical, must also have a sense of style about them.

The British Army PLCE (Personal Load-Carrying Equipment), for example, is indeed practical but lacks the style of the pre-World War I equivalent, the Burberry trench coat.

To this day, the Burberry trench coat has a couple of brass D-rings on the belt, to which one can attach a sword, a pistol or a couple of hand grenades, which makes it ideal for surviving the squalid streets of Brazzaville, Boulogne, Bongo-Bongo Land or indeed Bromley.

The practicality of a cigarette case – for the smoker – is obvious.

How often have you withdrawn your packet of fags (NB: a Britishism for cigarettes, not a reference to homosexuals), only to offend your companions with repellent representations of ghosts, discolored teeth or autopsy pictures of blackened lungs?

Remember this also: should you leave your enhanced body armor at home, a cigarette case carried in the inside left breast pocket of one’s dinner jacket offers protection from an assassin’s

A suitable case for treatment



Following last month’s piece on hip flasks, Andy Johnstone turns his gaze on another essential item, in an occasional series he dubs ‘Essential Pieces of Kit’.

stiletto or even from a low-velocity .25 Beretta round. Beyond that, however, it is best to stick to ceramic plates.

I favor a wide, thin cigarette case of black gunmetal with room for fifty of the Balkan and Turkish mixture that used to be made by Morlands of 83 Grosvenor Street, London.

The case is without embellishment, unlike the one the Duke of Wellington presented to the Prince Regent in *Blackadder III: Duel and Duality*.

The Duke: “The men had a whip-round and got you this. Well, what I mean is I had the men roundly whipped until they got you this. It’s a cigarillo case engraved with the regimental crest of two crossed dead Frenchmen,

emblazoned on a mound of dead Frenchmen motif.”

Cigarette cases are not just for gents, though. Ladies, equally offended by spooks and body parts on cigarette packets, also seem to favor popping their fags into cases, and many of these are available in girly pinks and baby blues, or decorated with seashell or tartan patterns.

As with a hip flask, one can fill a cigarette case with the desired brand, although choices are sadly limited in Thailand, and certain brands do have slightly more *élan* to them than others.

Appropriate choices include the Sobranie Cocktail or Pink – for the ladies – and the Sobranie Black Russian – for *la femme fatale*. Ziganov for all other so-

phisticates, unless you can find Treasurer cigarettes, each pack of which comes in its own aluminum case – but at a price.

But soft, what’s that I hear? Criticism that the *Gazette* is promoting smoking? Not at all. Anyway, since when has smoking a cigarette caused a brawl after a football match or led to domestic violence?

Cigarettes should be a pleasure to be savored – like fine coffee, good chocolate or a malt whisky – not a necessity.

The cases shown hold between 10 and 20 cigarettes, and cost a mere 150 to 180 baht from the gadgets and gimmicks stall near Black Canyon Coffee in the Tesco-Lotus superstore, Phuket City.



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This week



SPORTING LIFE: Promchote Traivate (right), Head of the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development, receives an award for outstanding dedication and service to the community 2004-2005 from Woravit Buranasiri, Chairman of the Ratchaprasong Lions Club in Bangkok.



NO KOP OUT: Chris Koppers (seated, right) celebrated his 64th birthday on November 8 at his Margarita Bar & Restaurant in Patong. Joining the celebrations were (seated, from left) Phuket Vice-Governors Niran Kanlayanamit and Pongsak Plaiwech.



ASTRAL TRAVELERS: Thai actors, models and singers (from left) Teerasak Pantujariya, Pakjira Wannasuth, and Watcharabul and Wityabul Leesuwana rest their feet during a recent visit to Phuket Aquarium at Cape Panwa. The celebrities were invited to Phuket by Central Festival Phuket to help promote tourism to the island.



GRACEFUL OPENING: Suchart Hirunkanokkul (2nd from left), MD of Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa, receives a bouquet from Thai Commercial Bank representatives (from left) Sonthichai Sinchaipanich, Suwit Tunsayanon, Sommai Uengsrithong and Thongchai Na Nakorn, at the resort's grand opening.



BOYZ WILL BE BOYZ: Billy Chima (2nd from left), owner of Khanasutra restaurant in Phuket City, smiles with (from left) John Woodger of the Whispering Cock at Tinlay Place in Chermg Talay, Khanasutra Chef Bishnu Sapkota and Seraphina Company Managing Director Stefan Schmitz at the recent Boyz Lunch held at Khanasutra on November 11.



PRIDE OF THE PICKLE: Royal Marine Commando Craig Nelson (right), the 6th great nephew of Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, and "Lord Nelson", portrayed by Patrick Vickers, at Pickle Day on November 4 at the Green Man Pub in Rawai. The event, held to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the news of England's victory and Nelson's death at Trafalgar arriving in England, raised funds for the *Ixdos* hospital schooner, being built on Phuket.

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After careful consideration, I have arrived at the conclusion that reincarnation – alternatively metempsychosis, samsara or rebirth, take your pick – is both real and a Very Good Thing.

What on earth – or indeed in Heaven – could have sparked such a thought? An experience on the road to Damascus? Absinthe, which, if drunk to excess, makes the fart go Honda? Reading the *Poetic Edda* too frequently as a child? Perusing too many Shirley MacLaine books?

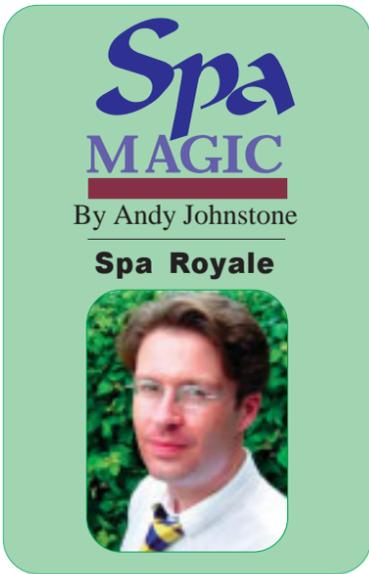
The answer, by a close shave, has slightly more to do with Occam's Razor – the principle that, given two equally predictive theories, choose the simpler – than with matters rather esoteric in nature.

I simply spent a happy hour and a half at Spa Royale and was pampered to bliss under the strangely powerful hands of the diminutive K. Poo, one of the therapists there.

But more of that later. Reincarnation is a Very Good Thing for all sorts of reasons, not least of which is that one might be able to come back as, well, something else.

I'd quite like to come back as a woman, although I'd probably spend all day in bed playing with my "lady lumps".

Or maybe as an eagle, because instead of saying, "Hi honey, I'm home" when arriving back at the eyrie, I could squawk,



By Andy Johnstone
Spa Royale
"The eagle has landed." Going to the bar to espy some dolly birds or chicks would be to go "where eagles dare".

Rebirth as another human might, however, give one the chance to put right some of the mistakes of a previous life.

I made one such mistake at the Spa Royale.

After a hard day at work, I arrived hot and tired – yet smelling still of Donna Karan, the aftershave anyway – and felt that a quick shower would be appropriate. Off I toddled into the shower, emerging refreshed a few short minutes later.

I wrapped the doeskin-soft towel around my nethers like a sarong and stepped back into the massage room with the paper surgical mask, kindly but bizarrely

Brief Encounter

supplied, over my nose and mouth.

"How queer," thought I. "Why have I been given a paper mask to wear, and a reject one at that, with elastic in all the wrong places?"

To be brief, K. Poo's blushes made it abundantly clear to me that the paper "mask" was in fact a pair of disposable pants.

Order now restored to the universe and pants now firmly in the right place, I lay face down on the massage table, although the embarrassment was not yet over. It took a not inconsiderable amount of jiggery-pokery to remove the towel, which I had tightened too securely at the front.

Profuse apologies were issued by this bumbling Brit for his foolishness.

Am I alone in being mesmerized by the small display of flowers placed directly beneath the hole at the head end of a massage table? That little bowl of blooms brings to mind Blake's words: "To see a World in a grain of sand, / And a Heaven in a wild flower, / Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, / And Eternity in an hour."

Well, 90 minutes, anyway.

Ignoring, if one can, the choice of music (the "green"



K. Poo: powerfully delicate.

plinkity-plonk muzak was dreadful; surely there must be better options?), the combination of the powerfully delicate touch of K. Poo's caresses, the scent of jasmine and ylang ylang in the oil and the perfumed air of the room were distinctly nebulous and other-worldly.

The massage room itself is pleasantly free of over-adornment, and a couple of "weathered" paintings and fabrics of muted colors add to, rather than detract from, the experience.

K. Poo, a fairly new recruit to the Spa Royale, told me earlier that she was to perform the Body and Mind Rejuvenation on yours truly.

Sadly jaded, I almost said that I felt this aging, aching body of mine – which has been through more than many that are twice as old – was beyond salvation and a prime candidate for reincarnation.

But I was happily proved wrong, and after dozing off for a short while – I dreamt I was a very well-cared-for cat – I awoke to find myself feeling fighting fit and ready to tackle a Moscow Mule or five.

Perhaps my dream was a foretaste of reincarnation; coming back as a cat wouldn't be bad at all.

If the sensations experienced at Spa Royale were anything to go by, it would, in fact – wait for it – be purrfect.

Ninety minutes under the pleasing hands of K. Poo or the other top-flight therapists at Mom Tri's Spa Royale enjoying a Body and Mind Rejuvenation costs 3,600 baht ++. Tel: 076-333568, email: info@villaroyalephuket.com or visit the website: www.villaroyalephuket.com for more information. The spa is part of Mom Tri's Villa Royale at Kata Noi Beach.



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It's all in the best possible taste

Some friends were arguing the other day about whether a particular wine tasted of violets or raspberries.

As so often happens, they rang me with an urgent plea to adjudicate.

Knowing the superb quality of wines inhabiting this couple's villa I readily obliged.

In cases like this, I cannot lose because taste is always a personal reaction to sensory experience that takes place in the mind, and one that is unique to each individual.

True, give 100 people a banana and most will taste banana; the chemical energy of the food is transmitted to each person's brain in the same way.

So, why were my friends both correct? Putting a name to a taste in wine can be difficult because, unlike the banana example, there is no visual clue to what you are tasting with wine; it's a red or white liquid, and its subtlety is a secret that must be coaxed from the glass by the mind.

Adding to the difficulty, many of wine's manifold flavors are actually caused by the same class of chemical compound, but at different concentrations. "Raspberry" might be a few micrograms worth of one chemical, but at a few milligrams it becomes "violets".

And while we all might be able to taste a flavor, some can taste it at low concentrations that

WINE



By Steven Roberto

others cannot. That is why one person might put 10 grams of sugar into a cup of coffee while another might prefer 50 grams. To each, the coffee tastes sweet

– but one cup contains five times more sugar.

The reason, by the way, that we can taste at all is that taste and smell stimulate our appetites and prepare the body to digest the meal to follow.

Smell and taste lead us to foods we like, and help us to avoid foods that might be dangerous. If we want to abandon common sense we can always adjourn to the gym the next day.

To end on, here is an interesting piece of trivia. As molecules, chemicals in food possess unique shapes. You can think of them as keys that fit a lock, the lock being the receptor in the taste bud on the tongue.

When a particular key goes into the lock and fits, the electri-

cal impulse carried to the brain registers in our mind as a particular flavor, banana, for example.

To taste any food it must physically move across the tongue so that its chemical key enters the tongue's receptor. If you hold a food or drink perfectly still in your mouth, you cannot taste it. Try it at home some time – especially if you are feeling the urge to have an argument.

Steven Roberto is a wine-maker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of en-Vision Phuket, a Phuket-based wine importer and consultant. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com

November 26: Phuket International Women's Club's Annual Gala 2005. This year's gala is titled "An Evening with the Stars", a movie theme. It will be at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, starting at 6:30 pm. Dress as if you were going to the Oscars. Tickets are 2,500 baht each, including a four-course meal and drinks. The Lai Thai orchestra will provide entertainment. There will be many prizes to be won, while other items will be auctioned. All profits will go to the PIWC education fund. For more contact Nor Moorhouse at Tel: 01-9581383 or email: normoorhouse@yahoo.com

November 26: Turtle Fun Run and Beach & Reef Clean-up. The annual five-kilometer run and clean-up – to raise funds and

Phuket Events Diary

awareness about the plight of Phuket's endangered leatherback turtles – will start at 7:30 am and 9:30 am respectively.

They are organized by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa in conjunction with the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation. Registration will be from 6:30 to 7:30 am. Entry costs 100 baht for adults and 50 baht for children and students.

Tickets are on sale at the hotel. For further information, contact Samart Damrongkul or Siripun Petchai at Tel: 076-338000 or email: samart.d@marriott-hotels.com or siripun.petchai@marriott-hotels.com

December 4-10: 19th Phuket King's Cup Regatta. The 2005 Phuket King's Cup Regatta gets under way at Kata Beach Resort on December 4 with registration and the skippers' briefing followed by a practice race off Kata Beach. Race day 1 ends with a candle ceremony at Mom Tri's Boathouse to celebrate HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday, followed by prize giving. More information can be found at: www.kingscup.com

December 4: 12th THAI Airways Laguna Phuket Triathlon. This international sporting event is expected to be the

biggest triathlon on Phuket to date. In addition to the main event starting at 8 am at Laguna Phuket, while the triathletes are completing the cycling course, there will be a fun run starting at 9 am.

As fun-runners must complete one lap of the six-kilometer course before the triathletes return, competitors must be aged 12 or older and the number of entrants is limited to 400. For more information, contact Paula Himel at Tel: 076-324060, or email: triathlon@lagunaphuket.com

December 5: Birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. December 5 is the birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and is a public holiday. Most government offices will be shut.

December 8-11: The Phuket International Marine Expo

(PIMEX) 2005 will be held at Phuket Boat Lagoon. Around 100 marine, property and lifestyle companies are expected to exhibit. Highlights include 30 in-water displays from many top marine companies. The opening day will coincide with the rest day of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta. For more information, see www.phuketboatshow.com

Dec 16-17: Phuket International Blues Festival. Hosted by the Hilton Arcadia Resort, the headliners are the Rich Harper Blues Band (US), and Victor and Kyla Brox (UK). They will be supported by five Thailand-based bands, including Soi Dogs, Cannonball, and The Blues Machine. Tickets are 1,000 baht for one day; 1,600 baht for both days; and 3,000 baht for a two-day VIP pass. The festival is presented by the *Phuket Gazette* and HotelTravel.com. See www.phuketbluesfestival.com for further details, ticket sales outlets, etc.

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www.watermarkphuket.com

Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

Tucked neatly into the south end of Kata Bay, Kata Mama restaurant has been serving tasty, fresh seafood for 35 years. This family business is now run by Somjai "Jai" Wuntong and her husband Jongrit "Heeb" Wuntong.

Because of its location, Kata Mama was badly affected by the tsunami. K. Somjai recalls the dramatic events of that day as clearly as if it were yesterday. "I was cooking and was quite busy as many holidaymakers come to enjoy breakfast right by the sea," she says.

"People noticed that the water was receding fast and then it came back as the first big wave. When I saw this, I told everybody to grab their things and leave right away; not to worry about paying their bills or anything else. I was almost the last person to run up the hill.

"We returned about two hours later and our restaurant was under three meters of water with piles of debris everywhere."

K. Somjai and her husband had lived in a neighboring house which was also damaged beyond repair.

Luckily, many family members were available to help, and Kata Mama restaurant was rebuilt bigger than it was before. It can now accommodate 150 diners.

Somjai and Jongrit did not receive any compensation for their losses: the restaurant, two houses and four cars.

They knew that the only answer to their problems was to reopen the restaurant as quickly as possible, and they succeeded in doing so about two months after the tsunami.

For friendly service, mouth-watering food and the best



Somjai 'Jai' Wuntong and her husband Jongrit 'Heeb' Wuntong with grandson 'Aomsin'.

Phuket's Kata Mama is back

bayside view at Kata Beach, Kata Mama is hard to match. The prices are an added attraction; the fried fish dish is around 300 baht, crabs are about 100 baht per crab, and the tiger prawns work out at about 200 baht each.

Fried Crab with Garlic and Pepper

To serve 2 people

Ingredients

- 2 fresh crabs, total weight around 1kg;
- 3 tablespoons flour;
- 3 cups oil;
- 1 cup chopped garlic;
- 1 tablespoon black pepper;
- 1 teaspoon sugar;
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce;
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce;
- Salad to decorate;
- 3 spring onions, cut into 1-inch lengths.

Method

Wash the crabs well, drain and cover with flour. In very hot oil, fry the crabs for about two minutes. Remove them from the

wok and discard the oil. Put the sugar, fish sauce, black pepper and oyster sauce into a clean wok and heat. Add the crabs and the spring onions and stir well for about a minute. Serve on a bed of salad.

Barbecued Tiger Prawns with Garlic and Pepper

To serve 2 people

Ingredients

- 4 tiger prawns;
- 1 cup chopped garlic;
- 1 teaspoon salt;
- 1 tablespoon black pepper;
- 1 tablespoon butter;
- Salad to decorate.

Method

Wash the prawns well and remove the black strips. Heat half of the butter in a wok and fry the prawns for about two minutes. Add the salt and pepper and cook for a further minute. Cook the chopped garlic separately in the rest of the butter. Place the prawns on a bed of salad and

cover with the fried garlic before serving.

Fried Fish with Chili Sauce

To serve 2 people

Ingredients

- 1 fresh red snapper, weighing around 500gm;
- 2 cups of oil;
- 2 cups sweet chili sauce;
- 1 onion, chopped fairly small;
- 1 teaspoon sugar;
- ½ a fresh lime;
- 1 large red chili pepper, cut into small strips;
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce;
- 2 thin celery stalks;

- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic;
- 3 tablespoons flour;
- Salad to decorate.

Method

Remove the scales from the fish and clean well. Dip in flour and fry in very hot oil for about three minutes. Remove the fish from the pan and put the sweet chili sauce, garlic, chopped onion, lime juice and sugar into the pan. Stir well together for a minute. Place the fish on a bed of salad, pour the sauce over it and serve.

Kata Mama Restaurant, Tel: 076-284301. Open 7 days a week from 8am until midnight.

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There is no air conditioning, no hot water, no phone, no TV and no fridge, and the bungalow is better off for it. The view through the open double windows above the bed stretches over plantations and across Krabi Province, with mountains near and far breaking the horizon.

The patio of the small timber bungalow offers an entirely different view: a small river cuts its way through the valley with a karst towering nearly 600 meters above, while a layer of morning mist hangs half way up the sheer cliff face.

Think of a place where even people living in Krabi Town would go to get away from it all, and this is it – Phanom Bencha Mountain Resort in the foothills of the Phanom Bencha National Park.

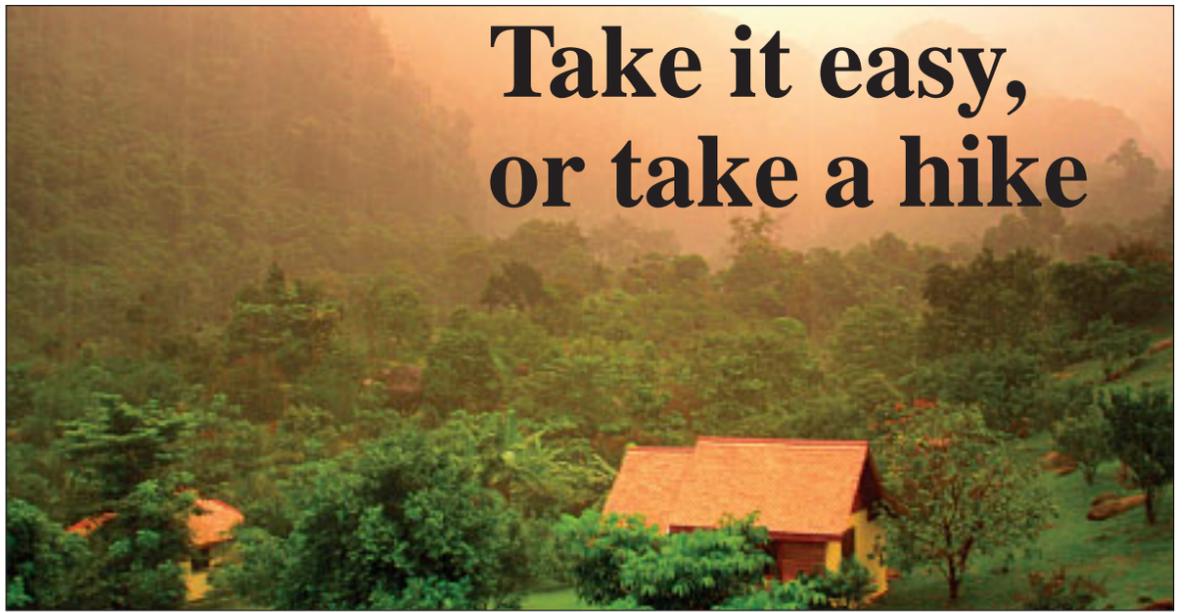
Thailand TRAVELER

By Chris Husted

Currently comprising only 10 bungalows on more than 100 rai of land, the resort has been years in the making, with Britons Jules and Barbara Gore slowly creating their dream.

Although they intended to open January this year, the resort enjoyed its first paying guests in mid-November, Jules says. No thanks to the tsunami, but also, perhaps, the resort is a little too successful as the perfect hide-away.

As a place to relax, it offers a simple choice of things to do: take a swim, take it easy or take a hike.



After heading past small waterfalls and ponds to the foothills bordering the national park, Jules points out the general route

up the west side of the nearest karst, the route taken by those who climb it the “easy” way, a feat he describes as a “hard five hours” with a guide.

As an indication of how steep even the “easy” incline is, the descent takes about only an hour. The only way to come down faster would be to jump.

“The karst would be fantastic for base jumpers, hang gliders and rock climbers,” Jules says.

The more adventurous might take the opportunity to trek up the south-southeast face of the mountain over to the waterfalls on the opposite side.

Jules says this is a journey that takes two days with a national park guide.

Other treks nearby include a four-kilometer walk, taking about three hours, through the Taewada Cave, which follows the Taewada River as it passes from one side of the karst right through to the other.

Further down the road, about 12km away, is the famed attraction, Wat Tham Sua, or Tiger Cave Temple.

Feed or fight the monkeys there as you see fit, or get going on the 1,300-plus steps to the top of the mount, where stunning 360° views over Krabi Province and Phang Nga Bay and its islands,

with Phi Phi standing plain in the distance, await the weary.

Back at the resort, take time out to feed some of the 1,000 or so fish in the lake by the restaurant. The “tyrant of the lake”, as Jules refers to him, is Tyson, a giant Russian catfish weighing in at about seven kilograms and more than a meter long. Jules says that Tyson is popular with Thais and foreigners alike, all riveted by his size – though perhaps for different reasons.

Those wanting to emulate Tyson can sample the swimming pool, created at the top of the sloping resort by damming a small stream. Bathers can lounge up against large rocks or under the shade of trees. No way to do laps here.

At the end of the day, the sun dips behind the mountains to the west, bathing the valley in an eerie orange glow and leaving a couple hours of “artificial twilight” each evening. As the light fades, the nearby mountains shield any ambient light from Krabi Town, leaving clear heavens to create a stargazer’s delight.

The simplicity of Phanom Bencha might not appeal to all, but its balance between comfort and getting back in touch with nature is a rare find.

Phanom Bencha Mountain Resort

How to get there: drive from Phuket

Take Highway 4 off the island and follow the signs to Krabi. Before reaching Krabi Town, look for the signs to turn left for Krabi Airport. About 8km before the airport, turn left at the sign for “Wat Tam Sua” (in Thai) which also has “Tiger Cave Temple” in English. Follow the signs for the resort, which is about 12km away. (At the time of going to press Jules said that new, clearer signs were being posted.)

From Krabi Town or Krabi Airport

On arriving at Krabi Town or Krabi Airport, call Tel: 01-9580742 to arrange for Manager Son Buree

to pick you up. It’s about a 15-minute drive from Krabi Airport, and about 30 minutes from Krabi Town.

Of the 10 bungalows, there are two “family” bungalows, each with four beds, and eight more with either double beds or two singles. Prices range from 700-1,200 baht per night, depending on the time of year.

For the ultimately thrifty, the house tents comfortably sleep two, at 200 baht a night, with common shower and toilets available.

Phanom Bencha Mountain Resort. Tel: 01-9580742. Email: info.pbmr@gmail.com. Website: www.phanombenchamountainresort.com

Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

บจ 6058
ภูเก็ต

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วม 8680
กรุงเทพฯ

Black Mitsubishi G-Wagon

งร 484
ภูเก็ต

Gold Toyota Vios

กก 3848
ภูเก็ต

Green Honda City

กค 505
ภูเก็ต

White Nissan Sunny

กจ 291
พังงา

Blue Honda Motorbike

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a laser tooth whitening at Promjai Dental Clinic at either Patong Beach or the bypass road clinic; or a dinner for two at Watermark Bar & Restaurant; or a two-night, three-day stay in a junior suite at the Laguna Holiday Club.



Please contact the Gazette quickly to ensure you get the prize you want. First come, first served!

Email: LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.Net, or call K. Pam at Tel: 076-236-555.

Offers expire December 6, 2005.

Love Phuket? Put this sticker on your vehicle:



If we spot it, you could win a laser tooth whitening at Promjai Dental Clinic at either Patong Beach or the bypass road clinic; or a dinner for two at Noon Japanese Restaurant at Surin Beach; or a facial treatment with Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic.



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PUZZLES

The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference



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

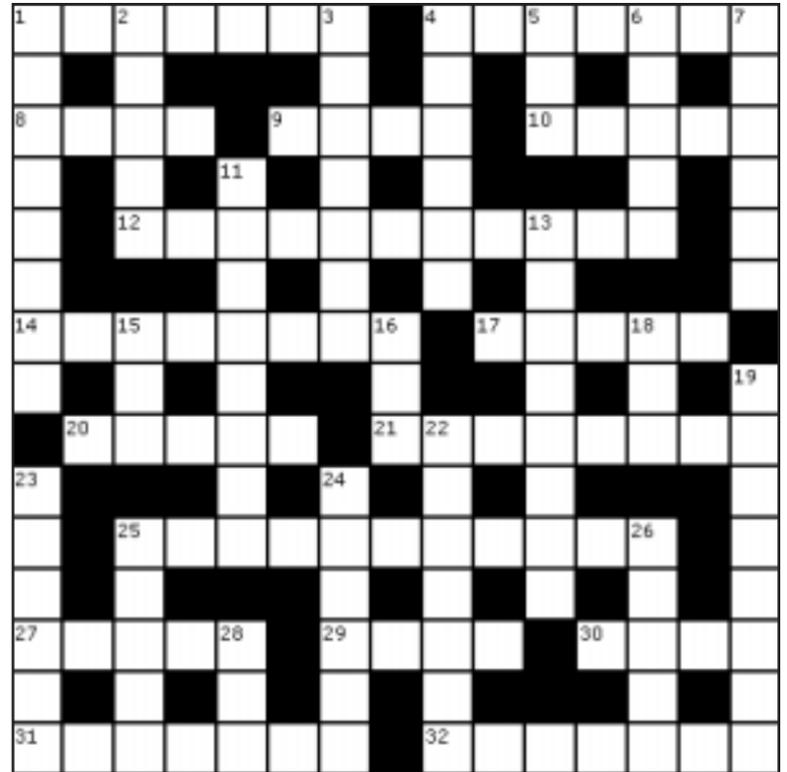


ACROSS

1. Gravity permits deadly apparatus. (7)
4. Quiet air follows north-eastern god. (7)
8. Creeper takes six directions. (4)
9. Felt pain right in shack. (4)
10. Racket I get in part of the face. (5)
12. They love sugared body parts. (11)
14. Works in the theater. (8)
17. Continental, like Ian. (5)
20. Fill to the brim around quiet flood. (5)
21. Flappers tangled up ensign. (8)
23. Can tenth men mess up spelling? (11)
17. In 49AD, I created saga. (5)
29. Adjust air. (4)
30. Thump snail's relative. (4)
31. Girl men transform into evil imp. (7)

DOWN

1. Might this government official limit revolutions? (8)
2. Parts of road have three ways to Los Angeles. (5)
3. Sink a coal container. (7)

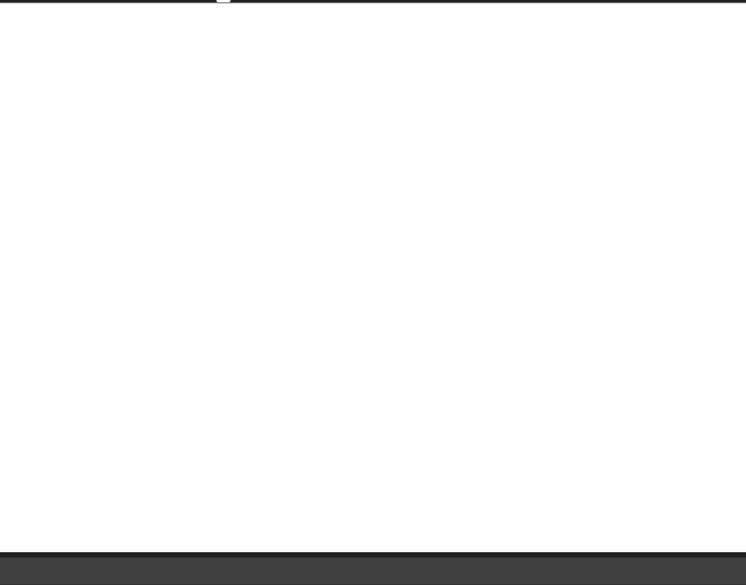


Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

4. Crazy Margaret is a spicy one! (6)
5. Kitchen demigod, perhaps. (3)
6. Parts of United Nations information technologies.
7. Rise from electronic combining of companies, perhaps. (6)
11. Nitpicking is quiet Edward's trick. (8)
13. Quit, but joined up again. (8)
15. Sixth sense is feature of Blithe Spirit. (3)
16. Whack a fool. (3)
18. Jolson and I are greatest combination. (3)
19. Transport turn in time zone is like a snail. (8)
22. Dead letter smelled bad, they say. (7)
23. Arguing on the river? (6)
24. Carnivore may damage 10. (6)
25. Banishment to a former island, it's said. (5)
26. Payments for bell-ringing? (5)
28. Dish found in mashed alligator. (3)

Solution on page 20

Scribble Space



Brain Buster

What is the next letter in the following series?

A C F H K M

Answer on page 20

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

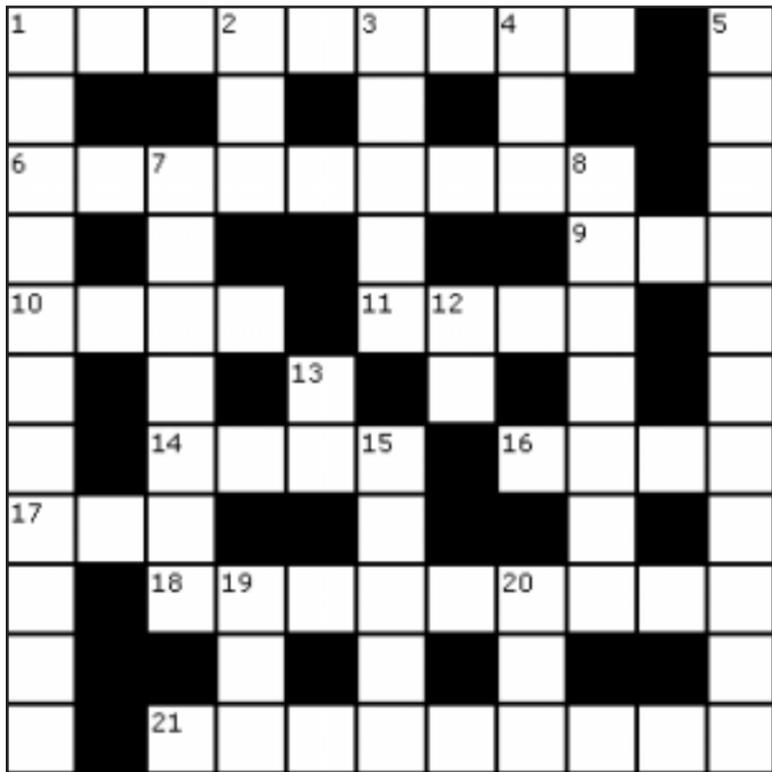
		1			
	3	7	2		8
8				7	
		4		2	9
7	1			6	
			7	1	
	9			5	
			9		1

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

EZ Quiz

1. Which Dutch artist painted a series of pictures called *Sunflowers*?
2. Which gas is used in electric advertising signs?
3. How many red balls are there at the start of a game of snooker?
4. Who wrote the book *Peter Pan*?
5. The Thompson Twins feature in which comic books?
6. What kind of animal is a Persian blue?
7. Which is the city of the seven hills?
8. King William I of Britain came from which part of France?
9. Which Malaysian state borders Satun?
10. What is a third of a third of a third of 1,350?

Answers on page 20



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

1. Scallops or mussels, for example.
6. Disgusting.
9. A little mistress?
10. Natural building material.
11. Short cry of pain.
14. Fork prong.
16. Roman clothing.
17. Frozen water.
18. Becomes less.
21. Begin again (5,4).

DOWN

1. Orange-juice-and-vodka cocktail.
2. *** Gehrig's disease.
3. Suspect.
4. Sport utility vehicle.
5. Unwanted intruder.
7. Conspired.
8. Hires and uses.
12. Alien, in short.
13. World body.
15. Mistake.
19. Consume.
20. Fuss.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which novel features the line "The dog looked up through its hairy yashmak and farted"? 2. What garment comes in styles such as Chesterfield, opera and 7/8? 3. In Norse mythology, Vé and Vili had a more famous brother. Who? 4. The Barri Gòtic, Avinguda de la Catedral and Plaça de Sant Josep Oriol can be found in which city? 5. Which record producer and musician arranged <i>Pieces in a Modern Style</i> in 2000? 6. In which country is Puerto Limón? 7. Which marque of aircraft won the 1934 MacRobertson Trophy Air Race? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. What, precisely, was the aircraft's recognition code and name? 9. Which classic Billy Wilder comedy film ends with the words "Nobody's perfect"? 10. C₄H₁₀ is the molecular formula for which organic compound? 11. What is the name of the governor of Narathiwat Province? 12. What body of water does the French resort of Biarritz lie on? 13. How did Benito Mussolini reach Rome during his 1922 March on Rome? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. What is South America's version of the ostrich? 15. Which British singer-songwriter was born in 1951 in Middlesbrough? 16. What was unusual about Dave Brubeck's jazz chart hit <i>Take Five</i>? 17. What African peak is also known as the Mountain of the Cold Devils? 18. Who is the current Duke of Normandy? 19. Who illustrated Antoine de Saint Exupéry's <i>Le Petit Prince</i>? 20. What cocktail consists of brandy, Cointreau and lemon juice? |
|--|---|--|

Answers below, left.

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Right to an Answer by Anthony Burgess; 2. The coat; 3. Odin; 4. Barcelona; 5. William Orbit; 6. Costa Rica; 7. The de Havilland DH88 Comet; 8. G-ACSS *Grosvenor House*; 9. Some Like It Hot; 10. Butane. 11. Pracha Terat; 12. The Atlantic Ocean; 13. By train; 14. The rhea; 15. Chris Rea; 16. It was the first charting hit that didn't use 3-4 or 4-4 time. (It was written in 5-4 time); 17. Mount Kilimanjaro; 18. Queen Elizabeth II; 19. The author; 20. A sidecar.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



EZ Trivia Answers

1. Vincent Van Gogh; 2. Neon; 3. 15; 4. JM Barrie; 5. Tintin; 6. Cat; 7. Rome; 8. Normandy; 9. Perlis; 10. 50.

Brain Buster Answer

There is one letter between A and C, two between C and F, one between F and H, two between H and K, and one between K and M. So there must be two letters between M and the next letter in the series - P.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution

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

BADGERING ON

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello cybermates. This week we feature bikers, animals not normally associated with Thailand, a round of minigolf and a classic encounter with the boys in tight brown shirts.

On yer bike: Contestants in the Laguna triathlon take note: "Phuket Island is a small, 502-square-mile jungle island ringed mostly by white sand beaches hemmed with graceful palms... The triathlon bike course crosses three of the steepest, the lair of the dreaded 'Tiger's Back' on the outer rim of the rubber plantations. The majority of the course is easy - except that it is contested in the environmental Asian blast furnace that is Phuket in November. Temperatures routinely crack 98-100 degrees Fahrenheit with 100% humidity. There is no breeze through the dense jungle, but stiff sea-headwinds on the roads around the rubber plantations. But to finish the bike course and graduate to the scorching run you must first ride the 'Tiger's Back'." (1)

And a wise word from this travel site. "Renting a bike on Phuket may cost you your life rather than a few Baht." (2)

Speaking of cycling, one needs one to keep up with the best fish & chips locations. Here's a pragmatic blogger: "Solution to the problem!! Jump on your bike, Head around to Simon's order the fish, Tell him you'll be back in a min, Fly around to the other Chip Shop get the proper Chips, Head back around to Simon's and pick up your Fish, And walla." Walla? Wallabies with fish and chips? Surely not. (3)

Doesn't time fly when: "Hello again to everyone. By the time you read this I'll have been here in Thailand for just over three weeks, and time is going very quickly ... Hello again! On Monday it was 4 weeks until I return home, this means I'm half way through my time in Phuket! ... Friday 24th October ... I can't believe I've been here another week! I can't even imagine being at home any more it seems so far away, and just very different to life here! ... Friday 31st October ... Hello again, I can't believe I have less than 2 weeks left here, it's very scary and I can't

say I'm exactly looking forward to coming home ... I got woken up in the middle of the night by a badger, which was quite cool - just a pity I couldn't see it clearly because I didn't have my glasses on!"

A badger in Thailand? What on earth is going on? (4)

Is that a gun in your pocket? Here's a chappie who obviously has some Teutonic blood running through his veins.

"Itinerary for Phuket Tuesday 4 Oct 2005, 05:40 PM 1. Sleep in until about midday 2. Go eat a spicy Thai dish for lunch by the beach 3. Go to toilet several times because of spicy Thai food 4. Relax in the afternoon, eg. play pool, swim, Internet, read a book 5. Have a one or two hour rest 6. Between 6 and 8 go to a bar for a few Singha beers 7. Eat some more Thai food for dinner 8. Go out drinking at bars and nightclubs 9. Go home between 2 and 5am 10. Sleep. Repeat from step 1".

Later, he travels up to Bangkok to buy some DVDs. "On our last night in

BKK we went into a shop and a girl took us up a lift through some corridors and into some room near a carpark. That was no worries. What was a worry was the guys in the room cleaning their automatic rifles (complete with silencers). As per Thailand though, everyone was all smiles. It turned out that place didn't have much of a selection so we left (or more precisely, ran away) and found another place." (5)

Thai logic: "In a minigolf course they started a new campaign and gave out flyers everywhere to tourists. In the front was written: ENTRANCE FREE OF CHARGE (100 THB) We couldn't figure out what it meant so we thought we must try it ourselves. We made several guesses would the entrance be free or it could also cost 100 Thb? The result was surprising: Everyone with that ticket needed to pay 160 Thb entrance fee ...?!?!? We asked about it and they explained to us that normally the entrance fee is 260 Thb but with this special ticket you get 100 Thb discount ... Police check-point in Patong when driving a motorbike Thai-police: MISTER, YOU NO BACK LIGHT! Motorbike driver: YES SORRY, LIGHT BROKEN Thai-police: YOU MOTORBIKE VERY LOUD! Bike driver: YES BUT THIS MOTORBIKE IS MY FRIEND'S Thai-police: MOTORBIKE MY FRIEND? Bike driver: EH... YES?"

"Thai-police to another policeman, pointing at the motorbike: THIS MOTORBIKE MY FRIEND. The second policeman after inspecting the bike: MOTORBIKE MY FRIEND. Thai-police: OK, MOTORBIKE MY FRIEND, YOU CAN GO. Bike driver: THANK YOU?" (6)

Sick humor: "Why had I come so far, only to suffer mercilessly at the hand of microbes and cane whiskey? All my orifices concerted to serve a singular purpose, one I will not name here... Focusing on recovery so that I might actually get some life out of this vacation, we search out a doctor in Patong and after two painful shots in the bum I begin to recover, just in time for the flight back to Bangkok... Maybe the streets are a little crowded and dirty, but Thais are the cleanest of people. Maybe the traffic is insane and dogs run wild in the streets, yet I would trade this all too human condition for the sterility of southern California in a heartbeat." (7)

Heavy classics: And finally, this classic from a lady traveler: "The restaurant is a lovely outdoor garden, fairy lights in the trees and massive penis shaped decorations around. It is very tasteful, really." Later, she takes a train: "Along the Thai-Burma Railway. This photo was taken just before I returned to my seat and it promptly broke under my immense weight." (8)

- 1) <http://www.bikesportmichigan.com/features/thailand.shtml>
- 2) http://www.atsiam.com/travel_guides/phuket_transport.asp
- 3) phuket-info.com/forums/expats/7309-patong-new-delivery-food-options-3.html
- 4) http://www.bbc.co.uk/stoke/features/2003/10/katie_weston.shtml
- 5) <http://sandilands.info/sgordon/personal/seasia2005/>
- 6) www.rayadivers.com/funnystuff/subdiv3_en.htm
- 7) <http://lookatlaos.com/press/wanderlust1/>
- 8) <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/blog-2200.html>



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

As promised last week, I found a copy of Colin Cotterill's first novel, *The Coroner's Lunch*, and it is every much a treat as its sequel, *Thirty-three Teeth*. Here we are first introduced to Dr Siri, Comrade Civilai, Nurse Dtui, Miss Vong, Mr Gueng and Judge Haeng. The time is a year after the Pathet Lao takeover of the capital Vientiane, and Dr Siri has only recently been installed as the Lao national coroner. He is mortally bored.

His third case is that of a fisherman whose legs had been scythed off at the knees by an armor-plated military launch when its drunken crew crashed it into a Mekong pier. The young officious Judge Haeng is interrogating Seri over his autopsy report.

"And what do you put the loss of blood down to?" Judge Haeng asked.

"Well." He considered it for a moment. "The body's inability to keep it in?"

The title refers to the baguette lunch that Siri and his best friend Comrade Civilai share every day, sitting on a log overlooking the Mekong. Siri, 72, keeps pestering his politburo friend to let the government retire him.

"I need to know when I can expect a replacement. When I can stop. God knows, I could keel over any second. What would you do then?"

"Eat the rest of your sandwich."

To force the government to retire him, Civilai suggests that Siri start confusing body parts.

"Confuse body parts?"

"Yes. Send your judge friend a photograph of a brain and tell him it's a liver."

"He wouldn't know. He's got a liver where his brain should be."

Some time later, Civilai tells Siri about a puppet scandal:

"The Party ordered the puppets at Xiang Thong temple in Luang Prabang to stop using royal language, and said they had to start calling each other 'comrade'."

"Quite right, too. We have to show those puppets who's pulling the strings."

Civilai hit him with a lettuce leaf. "What happened?"

"Puppets refused."

"Subversive bastards."

"The local party members locked them up in their box, and they aren't allowed out till they succumb."

"That'll teach 'em."

But then Siri is assigned to an intriguing murder case and his interest is piqued. Suddenly he sees himself as Georges Simenon's Inspector Maigret - a detective series he hugely enjoyed during his 40 insurgent years in the jungle.

Mrs Nitnoy was a high-ranking government cadre. While her equally high-ranking husband Kham was off upcountry, she gave up the ghost during a communal lunch at the Women's Union. Siri suspects poisoning. Kham rushes back to cremate the body and steals Siri's autopsy notes.

Next, Siri is dispatched to the southern province of Khamuan to do an autopsy on the latest of a series of army commanders to die in mysterious circumstances. Corrupt army officers are clearing timber from huge swathes of jungle to sell to the Vietnamese. The land belongs to the animist Hmong people, who tell Siri that the forest spirits are

angry. In the course of a night in the Hmong village, Siri discovers that not only can he speak Hmong, he is also carrying within him the spirit of Ah Ming, a thousand-year-old Chinese shaman. Siri attends a spirit possession ceremony that night and identifies the woman putting a spell on the army commanders.

Then it's back to Vientiane and another mystery: three Vietnamese corpses have surfaced at a prison reservoir: two government officials and a driver who'd been traveling in Laos, all tortured with cigarette burns and electric shocks before their deaths. The case becomes a major diplomatic incident, with the Vietnamese withdrawing their diplomats in protest.

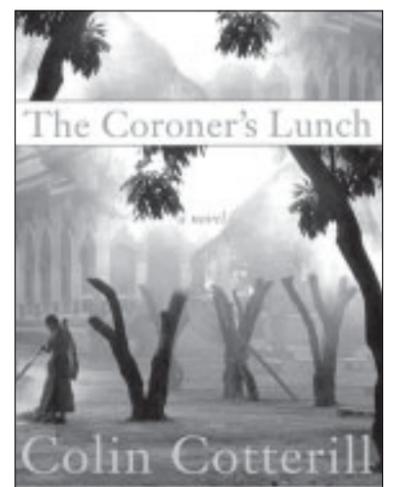
The case, and the three corpses, fall into Siri's lap. What's going on?

The novel ends with Siri and Civilai sitting on their log again. Siri's baguette is made specially for him by Lah, a buxom street vendor. Siri mentions that he has an appointment that night. Civilai yelps and dances up and down.

"Would this 'appointment' be with a stunning bakery girl, by any chance?"

"It's only dinner."

"And the Tet Offensive was only a skirmish. I hope you



remember where everything goes."

"Don't be vulgar. It's dinner. In fact, I'm a bit nervous."

"Don't worry. I'm sure she'll lead."

I can't wait for the next lunch.



Activist tells police about attempted assassination

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of November 15-30, 2000

THALANG: Environmental activist Siripoj Cheechang, severely injured in what appeared to be an assassination attempt on October 4, was well enough by November 1 to make a full statement to officers investigating the incident.

But investigators are having trouble getting witnesses to come forward, and have had to resort to issuing subpoenas to force them to make statements.

K. Siripoj, who is a member of the Pa Khlok Tambon Council, had been campaigning to stop the operation of a 600-rai prawn farm in protected mangrove forest.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

He was knocked off his motorbike by a pickup truck whose driver, it is alleged, turned the vehicle around and ran over him.

Witcharn Busapawanit, Chief Officer of Thalang District, said that K. Siripoj had not been well enough to make a statement before November 1.

He added that until the witnesses came in for questioning, the police would be unable to move the investigation forward.

Asked why the case was moving so slowly, the Governor of Phuket, Pongpayome Vasaputi, told reporters, "There is no question of the police going slow on the investigation.

"They have been waiting for K. Siripoj to recover enough to give evidence.

"And until the witnesses show up, the investigators don't have enough evidence to put together a case [that can be forwarded to the Provincial Prosecutor]."

Meanwhile, the driver of the pickup, Buncha Noppawong from Songkhla, remains in custody, charged with reckless driving and attempted murder. So far, his applications for bail have been denied.

Police to take softer line over traffic violations

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of November 15-30, 2000

PHUKET TOWN: Although they will continue stopping those who break traffic laws, Phuket's police say they will be more systematic about it, and will issue fewer tickets for traffic offenses than before.

The new policy follows riots in the streets of Nakhon Sri Thammarat recently, when motorcycle owners went on the rampage in protest against what they saw as excessively strict enforcement of traffic laws.

"We still go out and catch people who break traffic laws but the number of citations has decreased by 70% [since Nakhon Sri Thammarat]," said Pol Lt Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, deputy su-

perintendent of the Phuket Town Police Station.

He said that the police will probably give simple warnings to those who break minor traffic laws.

But, he added, those who break the law in ways that endanger other peoples' safety will still get tickets.

As examples, he cited those causing accidents or committing violations such as speeding, running reds lights, or not having a license plate (cars without plates are often used by criminals, he explained).

"From now on, the police will set up check points and have an officer with the minimum rank of police sub lieutenant supervising lower-ranking officers.

"The officers will look for people committing a specific of-

fense and give them tickets for that offense only, rather than citing them for every offense they come across, as was the case in the past," said Pol Lt Col Teeraphol.

The police will target violators of certain laws on certain days.

In other words, on Monday, they may look for people riding without helmets, while the next day they may concentrate on people without headlights.

If the police were to stop catching traffic offenders completely, he said, it would be hard to start again because people would get used to breaking the law.

Instead, the police are taking a step back, before gradually working up again to enforcement of all traffic laws.

Seer Is Seized For Taking Felonious Look-See

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of November 1995

PHUKET TOWN: Being a professional seer, (or *Mor Doo*, in

Thai), gives one powers that stop well short of seeing beneath a woman's knickers, so 37-year-old Somchai Boonsool had to resort to more mundane – and illegal – methods of sneaking a peek.

In addition to being a seer, Somchai was also in charge of a rooming house occupied by, among others, a young woman working as a receptionist at a well-known nightspot where pretty girls of dubious singing talent sing, and display such physical assets as may be at their disposal.

Somchai found a way to have a peep at this young lady

while she was showering after returning home from work.

The sight so pleased him that he called a friend to come and have a "bit of a perv" as well.

But the friend, whose name was withheld from the press, was overcome by shame at the thought of spying on a woman in the buff, so he ran to tell the police who then came to query Mr Somchai.

Under questioning, the prurient seer readily admitted what he had seen, and how he had seen it.

He was charged with "peeping" and released on bail.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The year ahead looks promising if it is your birthday this week. Your nearest and dearest will shower you with presents and a surprise visit from overseas could be on the agenda. Make this the moment you decide what you want out of life next year. Wish upon the brightest star and your dream will come true. The color blueberry helps you find confidence.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your emotions are running high this week. Try to maintain an even keel and not jump off at the deep end when you don't like what you hear. This rather prickly atmosphere will pass as the month ends, with December promising to be a more fulfilling time. Career moves appear imminent; start polishing up your résumé ready to jump at a rare opportunity.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Choose your words carefully this week as misunderstandings are highlighted. Business responsibilities can safely be left in the hands of Scorpio, but Pisces does not have the right experience for the job. Your social scene is about to expand; be prepared to go places you've never been before. The number 4 looks promising on Tuesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You have been fishing for answers in the wrong pool. If you can't discover the truth about a burning question, seek expert advice. Gemini has some useful tips to offer, but Leo could lead you on a wild goose chase. This weekend you will discover that true romance is only a heartbeat away. If you are already in a relationship, sensual sparks fly on Saturday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You don't usually take on more than you can reasonably handle, but it appears that you have made one commitment too many. There is still a chance to offload some responsibility if you move quickly. A mystery begins to unravel regarding a close friend; you won't get to the bottom of this until more evidence comes to light. A shaky financial matter may be resolved.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You can look forward to your creative energy flowing more freely from now until the end of the year. Put this to good use by setting aside quality time to finish abandoned projects. Your talent and reliability have been noticed by someone with influence; expect to receive an offer soon that shouldn't be refused. Aries would like to get to know you better and is about to make an interesting move.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A pleasant surprise early next week puts you in a benign mood. The positive vibrations you give out will encourage others to respond accordingly, allowing business progress to be made smoothly. Personal relationships, on the other hand, will suffer from crossed wires. It could be that you made a promise recently that was soon forgotten. The other person has a better memory and will not let this matter fade away into the shadows.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Those of you who are still sitting on the fence regarding a romantic question are about to be pushed off, one way or another. Your indecisive nature is not working to your advantage in other areas either. If you passed by a chance for career progress last month, there will be one more invitation to get on board. Lose this one and you may live to regret it.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Those Leos who have been resisting confrontation regarding a personal issue should get to the point. Pussy-footing around isn't going to resolve anything. Say what you mean and mean what you say; this will be best put into operation on Sunday or Monday when easy communication is highlighted. Aquarius is about to come up with a tempting offer – discuss the pros and cons with your partner before pouncing.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will be pleased to receive an answer relating to a business question that has been simmering away for some weeks. If conditions are not all to your liking, there is still room for discussion. The matter should be settled before the middle of next month, as you will not have the stars on your side after then. Sharing secrets this week is inadvisable.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The lazy among you are about to receive the right motivation to get moving. Until the first week of December, you will be firing on all cylinders – which will come as rather a shock to your nearest and dearest. As long as you don't expect everyone else to keep up with the speed you set, there won't be any problems. On Wednesday, double check money matters – mistakes are likely. The number 2 is lucky on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The sun is about to shine on a dream you've been nurturing, encouraging it to become reality. Scorpios can also look forward to receiving overdue birthday mail from overseas, which could indicate a visit from someone you've been missing. This news will really put a spring in your step. Romance gets hot and steamy this weekend. Wear mellow yellow to further enhance the feelgood factor.



Some body... seize her

Recently there have been movie epics about two great ancient warriors: Achilles (*Troy*) and Alexander the Great (*Alexander*). Somebody should make a movie focusing on a third ancient warrior: Gaius Julius Caesar.

(Scholarly digression: You'll notice that parents never name their sons Gaius any more. I can't imagine why.)

When I was in high school, we read Caesar's book *The Gallic Wars*. In this account of his campaigns in Gaul (now France), we learned that Caesar was not only a great general, he also had fantastic PR skills. Whenever he made a smart decision, Caesar claimed the credit. And whenever he made a dumb one, it was "our men" who screwed up.

I have already written the script for a movie about Caesar, focusing on the Gallic wars. With my usual modesty, I've included a role for myself. I shall play Caesar's trusted aide and sidekick, whom he always affectionately referred to as "Lieutenant T. Labienus". In this case, the 'T' will stand for my Latin name, Tsovius. Here's a sample scene:

Caesar: Behold, Tsovius! Now we face the massed ranks of the Gallic army, led by their fierce chieftains Getchakix, Dirtipix, and Helluvafix. What shall we do?

Tsovius: Let us fight, Caesar.

Caesar: By Jupiter, what a good idea. (Writes: "Caesar bravely decided to fight.")

Tsovius: Wait, Caesar. I have just received a message. The Austrian warrior Schwar-

zeneggerix challenges us to produce a hero to fight him in single combat. If we win, the Gauls will become our slaves. If he wins, we become their slaves.

Caesar: By Hercules, I seem to have heard this story before. Go thou, Tsovius, and fight this Austrian Goliath like a Roman David, with thy little slingshot.

Tsovius: Nay, Caesar. I shall pacify him with my little origami crane.

(Tsovius swiftly makes an origami crane and tosses it at the Gallic army. With a great shout, they all throw down their weapons and fall on their faces.)

Tsovius: I learned this tactic from the famed military strategist Thaksinius Shinawatrus. He successfully quelled a regional insurgency by this method.

(Schwarzeneggerix approaches humbly and drops to his knees, offering his mighty sword in supplication.)

Schwarzeneggerix: Hey, guys. Teach us how you make dem t'ings. Da swan is our totem, da emblem of our nation.

Caesar: That was no swan, barbarian. That was a crane.

Schwarzeneggerix (roaring): What? Ve haff been bamboozled! To arms, men!



(The Gauls retrieve their weapons and charge, bel-lowing fierce war cries.)

Tsovius: That was a stupid thing to say, Caesar. (They fall back, fighting.)

Caesar (writing): "Our men did not have the sense to keep their mouths shut."

(A shout from the rear of the Gallic army stops the attack. The Gauls all turn and fall on their faces. It is Vullva, the Gallic queen, played by Catherine Zeta-Jones. Regal, gorgeous, and voluptuous beyond belief, she strides majestically through the ranks of prostrate soldiers and faces Caesar.)

Vullva: Caesar, there is no need for warfare between us. What do you want?

Caesar: Not much, great queen. Only an annual tribute: half of your entire stock of Beaujolais Nouveau.

Vullva: Ha! Insolent Roman! And what do you offer in return?

Tsovius: Great queen! We offer the greatest invention of the Roman nation: pizza calzone.

Vullva: Ooooh, I have heard of this. You've got a deal. But I require one more thing, Caesar.

Caesar: Speak, queen, and thou shalt have it.

Vullva: I am a widow, yet youthful and ardent. I desire your sidekick Tsovius to be my love-slave.

Caesar (indignantly): Tsovius is not a slave, that he should be traded, sold, or bartered.

Tsovius: Don't be hasty, Caesar. As the price for peace between our great nations, I will nobly sacrifice myself.

Caesar: By Apollo, this is the most generous and most selfless act mine eyes have ever seen. Great Tsovius, Caesar salutes thee. By thy heroic act of sacrifice, thou hast saved Gaul and Rome from endless bloodshed.

Vullva: Come, Tsovius, to my royal tent, that we may slake our lust in frenzied bouts of passion upon the queenly bed.

Tsovius: I shall strive to meet international standards in the performance of my manly duties, great queen. Farewell, Caesar. Take care not to fall into the water while crossing the Rubicon, and beware the Ides of March.

(They leave.)

Caesar: This was the noblest Roman of them all. (Writes.) "I came, I saw, I conquered."

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but not while he's performing manly duties upon the queenly bed. A new collection of his ravings, Thai Lite 2, is now available at bookstores. Get your copy before it's banned.



Are we singing the blues? Yes and no

Many Toon Town hotels have been fully booked during November and are reporting that they will be booked solid during Christmas and New Year. It's just as well that the government's offer of free flights and accommodation for survivors of the tsunami to attend the 1st anniversary commemorations has not been taken up by too many people, because there would not have been enough places for them to stay.

Burning bright and bigger? Tiger Entertainment – the disco – is undergoing redevelopment and adding around 50% more floor-space. Should be done and dusted in the next few weeks.

Sands of time: Soi Seadragon's Sphinx a go-go has gone-gone, to be replaced by Octopus, the first bar on the left as you enter the double soi.

Octopus is known for being a pool bar and music venue, but

some serious signage may get the punters into what must be one of the better-off Soi Bangla locations.

Now if only they remember the golden go-go bar rule: dancers, and lots of them. It doesn't matter how nice the bar is, how good the music is and how reasonable the prices are unless you have a score or more dancers on hand. It simply will not work. Period.

Fun for fin fans? Rumors abound that Shark club may re-open in January. This may put an end to awful din at the end of Soi Bangla caused by the Thai boxing ring blaring out at full blast every night. It might also give poor old Margarita bar's band a chance of being heard for the first time in months.

Firm evidence? Another whisper has it that Rock Hard Café is opening in Patong next year, following the success of branches in Pattaya and Bangkok. It is un-

likely to be situated in Jungceylon, so it may open within a year.

Humor: Latest nickname for Jungceylon: Jokeseelong-time opening. Geddit?

Blues you: Preparations for the first Phuket International Blues Festival – presented by Hotel travel.com and the *Phuket Gazette*, and to be staged at the Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa from December 15 to 18 – are gathering momentum.

Tickets will be on sale at outlets including Central Festival, Kashmir Restaurant in Cherng Talay and the *Gazette* office, about the time this paper appears.

In addition to that, the organizers will send out a bevy of beauties to the various bars in Patong and elsewhere to encourage tourists to attend in the week before the event. It would be wise to allow them into your bars and be nice to them. They will ring the bell in at least one bar per soi on each night they are out

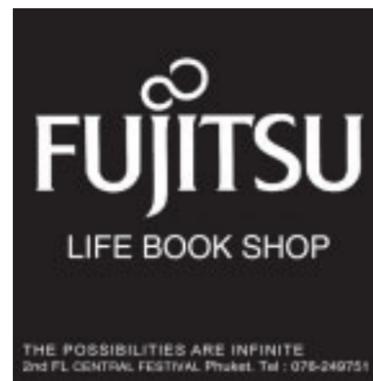
and about, awarding free VIP passes to the owners of the bars in which they sell most tickets.

A new act has been added to the already impressive roster of artists – none other than Kyla Brox, daughter of the Friday night headline act, Victor Brox. Victor is a British blues legend and Kyla is one of the hottest properties on the British blues scene.

The organizers are still looking for a venue to host the festival's "Unplugged Night" on Thursday, December 15 and the jam session finale on Sunday,

December 18. Some sponsorship will secure a part of this top event.

For full details see www.phuketbluesfestival.com



Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

Zero in on high-end, not zero-dollar tourists

The newest major player on Phuket's hotel scene, Indonesian giant JSI, has yet to decide which kind of hotel it will build. Will it be a five-star Grand Hyatt or something aimed more at the mass market?

The *Gazette* hopes it will be the former. Here's why:

Mr A arrives in Phuket with his family for a 10-day vacation at a five-star resort. For the first couple of days they laze around, but on Day 3, they charter a speedboat and head out into Phang Nga Bay for snorkeling and an island picnic. With wine that costs 50,000 baht, not including the rental for the Mercedes-Benz they have hired for the duration of their stay.

In the evening, the family heads for a five-star restaurant where they can sip cocktails, watch the sun go down and have dinner. Cost: around 5,000 baht. Subsequent days are similar.

In the meantime, Mr B arrives with his wife on a package tour. Everything is paid for in advance: flight, hotel, meals and tours. They go everywhere in a tour bus with 70 other people, all on the same package.

The only time they spend money is when the tour agents take them to an OTOP market, a dried-food shop or mall. Their outlay per day is only around 1,500 baht.

As they are in Phuket for just two nights, the only sectors of the local economy that really benefit from their holiday here are the bus companies and hotels that get a slice of the package tour payment.

The math is simple enough. Mr A's contribution to the Phuket economy is probably equivalent to the entire busload of people that rides around with Mr B.

Often ignored, however, are the hidden costs to Phuket of package tourism.

Count the number of showers Mr A and his family take or the number of times they flush the toilet. Compare their effect on our limited water supplies with that of Mr B's tour group.

Then, factor in the number of ice-cream wrappers from each group that have to be processed by the Saphan Hin incinerator. Measure the pollution produced by Mr A's rented car compared with the black exhaust fumes pumped out by Mr B's tour bus, and ponder whether all the current road building would be necessary if Phuket were more concentrated on high-end tourism.

The decision is really a no-brainer, especially if the term "sustainable tourism" is to become something more than just a buzzword on this island.

- The Editor



Letters

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

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

Lack of sense

Isn't it a bit hypocritical that Stuart [*Gazette* Nov 19] said he was in Khao Lak helping families yet at the same was asking for discounts on hotel rates because he would be staying for two to four months and because the hotels are empty?

He also complained that Khao Lak hoteliers were charging high season prices in high season and enforcing their rules about late check-out fees.

It is admirable when anyone volunteers, but I have always been told to do so unconditionally and without expectations.

If Stuart were to stay in an Australian hotel, would he similarly try to bargain down the hotel rate and object to late check-out fees?

It is tourists like him, even if they are helping by "spending money in the village", who will end up hurting Khao Lak's tourism industry by demanding discounts.

If Stuart wants to act like a backpacker, then maybe he should rent a bungalow somewhere. Even though it is Thailand, some prices are fixed and some of us can respect that.

I hope for the sake of Khao Lak that not every tourist will be expecting discounts.

CS
Kata

ADSL - Another Damn Slow Line

I read with interest the reply to your online "Issues & Answers", regarding the slow ADSL speed in Phuket. I myself also had many months of fighting with TT&T to get something done about the speed of my ADSL connection.

It was finally made almost tolerable by [TT&T] giving me "the best line on the estate".

It seems that no matter what the Governor or those responsible try to do about improving Phuket's access to the Internet backbone, nothing will ever really improve simply because the telephone lines themselves are such a mess - just look at them!

The government's plans for Phuket to become an IT hub are just a pipe dream. It would be better to leave IT to the countries where care has been taken to lay down a good infrastructure in the first place.

Ken Sowton
Vietnam

Feeding frenzied

How much sicker can things get than a zoo in Chiang Mai where you can eat wild animals?

What good international promotion for Thailand!

Jennifer
Phuket

Lighten up - or don't

With reference to the Issues & Answers ["Long, winding and dark road", *Gazette*, October 29], frankly, I didn't come to live in a place with streetlights everywhere.

One of the attractions about Phuket was that it had dark, yet safe and atmospheric places. Now the new guys want to make it like New York City. Also, are we not supposed to be saving energy these days?

If money is to be thrown around, there are many other things the island needs apart from lights on the road to Laem Phromthep and Kata.

I have been riding my bike in the dark to Laem Phromthep for 26 years, and now suddenly

we need streetlights for the few cars that drive down that road at night. What a waste!

Andy Greenlay
Rawai

Tsunami is the proof

During the past year there has been much discussion whether or not natural disasters are as bad or worse than man-made disasters - a sort of tsunami vs Bali bombings debate.

Having been to the Loy Krathong celebrations in Patong, the answer was plain to see.

Judging by the number of people who attended the event, Patong is now officially tsunami-proof.

David
Phuket

One-track mind

Strange that a story about restricting the sale of alcohol should come in the same week as one about a proposed monorail. The sales restrictions have clearly come too late.

But if there is so much money to be spent, then why not an escalator to nowhere or a 50-foot magnifying glass?

Roger
Phuket

Coming on holiday

I am shocked to find, after reading in your online Issues & Answers section, that sex toys or marital aids are illegal in Thailand.

Is it also illegal to masturbate in Thailand, or to use some kind of aid to do so?

Please do let me know; I'm not going on holiday anywhere my vibrator can't go!

Denise Watts
UK

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Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editors: Chris Husted, Stephen Myles

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Anongnat Sartpisut, Sam Wilkinson, Ananya Hongsa-ngiam, Shiona Mackenzie

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

General Managers: Oranee Pienprasertkul, Sudjai Suanya

Executive Producer - Television: Mark Mulloy

Marketing Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

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 or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

I think of myself as a government officer and, basically, I agree with the government's plan to transfer supervision of educational services and teachers to local administrative organizations.

I expect the local administration organizations to be better able to support educational recruitment and fund-raising drives than central government is at present.

Schools in Thailand are under the control of the Basic Education Commission Office, which allocates their budgets. However, there has not been enough money to make necessary improvements.

For example, it is the policy of the Education Ministry that high-technology equipment should be available for student use, but schools are cannotomply fully due to the shortage of funds.

If the local administration organizations stepped in to support us, it would be excellent. They could give support that is more appropriate to the specific locality. Local government would be more in touch with and better able to meet the needs of schools.

Nonetheless, many teachers feel uncertain about their future employment status and how their work will be evaluated.

I, too, worry about job security. At present, I am eligible to receive many things from the Education Ministry, including a budget to develop my school, or even a personal loan.

I wonder if I would enjoy the same benefits and opportunities for career advancement under local government administration. I am not sure how my status would be affected by the transfer.

Doctors can help cure patients and people know almost immediately whether a doctor is good; then they admire that doctor. However, the impact of my efforts as a teacher cannot be seen in a matter of days, although

Giving teachers a chance

FIRST PERSON

The transfer of responsibility for the supervision of government schools – currently under the Education Ministry – to local administrative bodies such as the Provincial and Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorJor* and *OrBorTor*), has led disgruntled teachers across Thailand to stage protest rallies.

The pending transfer, which would shut down all of the 175 Provincial Education Area Offices and the Basic Education Commission Office in Bangkok, stems from decentralization laws that many teachers are demanding be changed. Mean-while, education reforms seem to be going nowhere.

Here, **Pramjit Kitprasan**, Deputy Director of Baan Talad Nua School in Phuket City, explains her concerns about the devolution plans.



I do have a sense of whether or not my lessons are effective.

It is not always obvious whether or not a teacher is doing a good job, even though that is a teacher's duty.

A teacher's influence upon students is intangible, and we must take pride in the belief that we have done our best for the benefit of our students.

The personal reputation of a teacher in the community is also important because parents expect a teacher to impart more than knowledge. They also want teachers to be moral role models.

But different students respond differently to any one

teacher because of their personalities and various backgrounds. That makes it difficult for people outside our profession to evaluate our performance.

As a teacher, I am a government official, and there are regulations that underpin my job. Now, I know exactly what I can do at each level and how to develop my abilities to achieve success in my work. But I don't know if [devolution] would offer me opportunities or steps for me to improve my life.

I am not confident that the local organizations, which are overseen by the Ministry of the Interior, would be able to fulfill their obligations to us teachers,

because they have no experience in this area.

Whereas local politicians are concerned with getting votes and providing public services in return, the objective of the Education Ministry is completely different: they simply want to provide a quality education. Education should put students' needs first.

The Thai education system needs to be reformed as quickly as possible. It has been "reformed" a number of times, with little impact on the situation, as schools have not been able to succeed in meeting their objectives due to insufficient funds and personnel.

The Education Ministry needs to reform its personnel policies, because – thanks to early retirement drives – most schools lack experienced, highly knowledgeable teachers. [With devolution] there may be [additional] difficulty recruiting educators who are content not to be government officials.

In order to improve education in Thailand, the Education Ministry should consider sending representatives to observe teachers in action in the classroom. If the government really wants local administrative bodies to manage schools, the Education Ministry should consider giving more power to the teachers themselves.

Now all schools are implementing a school-based management system (SBM) whereby a school can manage itself, without waiting for orders from the Education Ministry. SBM is an alternative administrative system whereby educational decision-making is primarily the role of the school.

Principals, teachers, students, and parents are given greater control over the educational process, with many budgetary, personnel and curriculum decisions being made at the school level.

The participants in SBM are usually members of a committee on school development, including representatives of the parents, the *OrBorTor* and religious leaders in the community.

I don't want the government to treat schools as corporations and approach us with businesslike ruthlessness. I would like the government to give the schools more freedom and power to manage and administer themselves – at grassroots level – with support from local government.

I hope local government will continue to respect educators as professionals and give greater power to teachers.

– *Compiled by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam*

Foreigners and the lottery

Can foreigners claim prizes in the government lottery? Are any taxes payable? How can prizes be claimed and will the winner's identity be kept private?

Eve Patong

Chorthip Samathiwat, Chief, Prize Payment Department, Government Lottery Office (GLO), replies:

Anyone may play and win the state lottery in Thailand.

People who win a prize in the government lottery, results of which are announced on the 1st and 16th of each month, must claim their prize within two years of the draw and pay tax of 0.5% of the winnings.

Winners of the occasional lotteries organized by the GLO to support specific charities must claim their prizes within 10 years of the result being announced.

Tax of 1% of the winnings is deducted.

Those living in Bangkok should go to one of the following three GLO offices in Bangkok:

- Building 1, 3 Rajdamnern Klang Rd, Talad Yod, Phra Nakorn;

- Room 405, 5th floor, Building 4, Siam Commercial Bank, Radchadapisek Rd (Ratchayothin Intersection), Chatuchak; or

- Room 77/27, 2nd floor, Sin Sathorn Tower, Krung Thonburi-Klongsarn Rd, Klongsarn.

Those in other areas should claim their winnings from the local Provincial Treasury Office.

Winners of the three-digit lottery can claim their prize from the shop where they bought the ticket, or from GLO or Provincial Treasury Offices. A tax of 1% will be deducted.

It is GLO policy not to disclose information about winners.

Issues & ANSWERS

Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions?

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

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

Concern over avian 'flu and wandering fowl in Phuket

Although I am not overly worried about avian 'flu, there are too many chickens and fighting cocks running wild on the island. Most workers' camps seem to have several fighting cocks roaming around freely. Are there any rules and regulations about this?

Bjorn Ostrom Patong

Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), replies:

There are no regulations regarding people keeping chickens at home. We concentrate on chicken farms, which are required to be kept up to PPLO sanitary standards.

PPLO staff randomly test

for poultry diseases twice a year, both in farm and at private houses. In addition, if any poultry is found dead, we may check for diseases in that area more frequently.

Anyone finding a dead bird or wanting to get rid of their birds should contact to PPLO at Tel: 076-216934.

ON THE MOVE



Phurida Intrachai, from Chiang Mai, has been made Director of Human Resources and Training at the Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa. She has a wealth of experience in the HR and training industry, having previously worked for a number of luxury 5-star hotels, including Le Meridien, Khao Lak. She also worked for Evason Phuket a few years ago.



Chatree Rongmuang, 28, from Phang Nga, has been appointed Room Division Manager of Sabana Resort at Nai Harn beach. A Sri Nakarinviroj University graduate, he worked for two years as a lecturer in Hotel Management at Sri Prathum University and two years as Assistant Front Office Manager of Amari Atrium Hotel in Bangkok.



Siriluck Sae-Lim, 33, has been appointed Spa Manager for the Paradise Thai Spa at the Royal Paradise Hotel, Patong Beach. She graduated from Phuket Vocational College and has four years of spa experience in Dubai and the Maldives. Before moving to Phuket, she worked as Assistant Spa Manager of Duniye Spa at Meeru Island Resort in the Maldives.

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Why IT ERP?

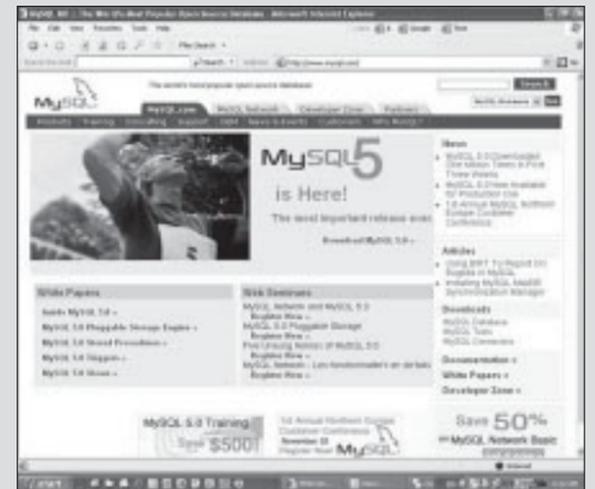
This is the last in a four-part series on my favorite topic known as ERP (enterprise resource planning).

In the first three articles, I focused on how to get a good handle on your business processes and information tracking needs. This included things like identifying UDEs (undesirable effects) and creating a business process flow chart that defines every report, form and data.

From there, I explained how to arrange all of this information into a comprehensive needs analysis that can be presented to multiple software providers and system integrators. After that, I discussed how to get these software vendors to use your sample data to do an installation of their software and demonstrate how it works (or doesn't), using your sample data.

Then I went through conference room testing, where you actually use the program with real data in parallel with your existing software and business processes. Finally, I reviewed how to plan the implementation process, and stressed how important it is to do enough at once without trying to do too much, and that data transfer from your old system to the new can either make or break an ERP implementation.

A well-planned project can make a big difference to your business. Equally, a poorly planned project will also make a big difference, but not the one you want.



This time I explore the options for those who either cannot afford or cannot find a software package that meets their information-tracking needs. This is often the case because, let's face it, most businesses have very specific needs that cannot be altered to fit into a canned software package, right?

Wrong. In fact, it is usually just the opposite: if you can alter your business processes and information needs to fit existing packages with some alterations to the software, then you are better off.

However, even with the best matched software, there are going to be certain processes and data sets that simply cannot be handled by a canned package. This is where custom programming steps in, and there are many

options here. Not only are there hundreds of programming languages to write the software, there are even more options of how and what to use to track these items. Also, keep in mind that whatever custom solution you come up with, it will need to be compatible with some or all of your existing software, such as accounting or inventory.

So, how to proceed? First of all, remember to keep it simple and take it in steps. The first thing is to find a good programmer who writes code in a popular computer language. Why? Often, programmers either do not complete a project or, after they do, they may not be around when the time comes to alter it or add more functionality.

Finding a good programmer is not as difficult as it seems; you

basically have them show you at least five programs they have written and then contact companies that use those programs for a reference.

Also, have them show you the actual programming code so that you can see how well they documented their work. This is important, because someone else will have to make sense of this work at some time in the future.

My suggestion is that you have your custom software written in either PHP or .Net. Java and C++ are also good languages and are well-supported in the programming world. When designing a database, I suggest you use SQL or MySQL for the same reasons: they are popular and well-supported languages.

It is also important to be sure that whatever program is used, you get the actual code that has been written, because programmers frequently keep the actual program code as their copyright and you only get a compressed, compiled version that no one else can work on in the future.

There are several good websites out there that can provide standard software licensing and authoring agreements for free, so take the time to locate a contact that works for your needs.

The most important point is to go through all the steps in my previous three articles so that you can communicate your needs clearly to your programmer. I find

that the best method for non-programmers to develop software is first to make a comprehensive list of all the items you want to track and include a brief description of what each one is.

Then, handwrite all of the input screens and reports that you want to use; this forces you to really understand how your needs and the program will work together. After that, you can add what we call rules – the simple wording used to describe the actual use and requirements of each of the data items in your list.

Finally, always test each function of the program before going on to the next part. This way, you have a chance to make changes as you begin to see how things will work. It also allows you to keep tabs on the programmer to make sure he is working at a good pace that meets your delivery needs.

Just like ERP implementations, a well-planned project can make a big difference to your business. Equally, a poorly planned project will also make a big difference, but not the one you want.

John Seebach has 25 years' consulting experience in Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. For more information send an email to john@islandtechnology.com

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Optimism for the high season and beyond

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Hotel and tourism pundits in Phuket are optimistic about the 2005-2006 high season, with suggestions that hotels could be between 50% and 80% full.

This bullish attitude comes despite figures obtained by the *Gazette* showing a drop in all areas of aircraft, passenger and cargo movements at Phuket International Airport (PIA) for October 2005, compared with the same month last year.

Yet passenger traffic does not obviously equate to *tourism* passenger traffic.

Total passenger traffic last month was 343,176 embarkations and disembarkations, a drop of 23.01% from 2004. Of these 247,202 – down 12.46% on last year – were domestic passengers.

International passenger traffic fell from 163,354 to 95,974. Total aircraft movements – 2,938 in October 2004 – were down to 2,023 last month.

At the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, which has just reopened three

wings that were closed after the tsunami, Director of Sales Laddawan Somniam described occupancy there as “not bad”.

She said, “Of our 700 bedrooms, 50% are currently occupied with what are our ‘typical’ customers: honeymooners, MICE [Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Exhibition] delegates, as well as tourists from Asia and Europe.”

K. Laddawan added that, on average, guests stay for four nights paying around 6,000 baht a day.

She ventured that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has helped Phuket a great deal before saying that the island’s infrastructure needs attention.

“The provincial government must maintain and develop – to a higher standard – the infrastructure, such as the bypass road widening project. Phuket is promoted as an upmarket destination yet the standard of facilities is actually rather poor.”

Wolfgang Meusburger, General Manager at the Holiday Inn Resort, Patong,

told the *Gazette* that the resort, which reopened its 140-room Busakorn Wing on April 1 and its 265-room main wing on November 1, is currently 75% full.

He praised the TAT for its efforts – such as the recent art and sculpture exhibition on Patong and Kamala beaches, street parties and the planned tsunami anniversary ceremonies – to promote Phuket.

“[The TAT] is doing what it should be doing – particularly for Patong – and is doing it well. Patong will only improve when the beachfront is redeveloped next year, probably beginning in April, when the high season is over,” he said.

Mr Meusburger described occupancy rates at the Holiday Inn as “better than expected”.

“I really didn’t think that, after the tsunami, business would come back as strongly as has been the case,” he said.

“Holiday Inn is on track for an occupancy rate of 70%, averaged out over the year, with most tourists coming back to enjoy the Thai hospitality and – of course

– the beach.”

He said that Europeans continue to make up the majority of guests at the hotel and that the Australian market is also burgeoning. Europeans tend to stay the longest at the Holiday Inn at 14 days, while Australians average an eight-night stay. Asian guests stay for just three days.

“But people tend to spend more – proportionally – per day if [holidaying in Phuket] for a short time than for a longer time,” he noted.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), said the tourism industry is “satisfied” with what he says is an island-wide average occupancy rate of between 60% and 70%. He said that the PTA expects hotels to be around 80% full after Christmas.

“Aside from a potential ‘blip’ from the bird ‘flu scare, tourism here will only improve with visitors continuing to be attracted by the convenience of getting to Phuket and the fact that there are no political or religious problems here,” he said.

To anyone reading the financial press or listening to the various television business news channels at the beginning of 2005 the message repeatedly stated was that the US Dollar was about to plunge to new lows. It seemed that everyone was a Dollar “bear”.

Even Warren Buffet, the world’s wealthiest investor, joined in the chorus and through his own conglomerate, Berkshire Hathaway, took out positions to profit from the expected Dollar decline.

Events in the first few months of 2005 seemed to show that the market had read the currency markets well. We saw the Dollar fall to around 1.35 to the Euro and 1.96 to the British Pound. Many currency strategists then predicted that the Dollar would fall to 1.45 to the Euro and beyond.

Certainly, US trade and current account deficits and a huge budget deficit gave a seemingly solid foundation to this view.

However, investors should always be wary of joining the “pack”.

History tells us that when there is overwhelming sentiment being expressed in any direction, be it commodities, stock markets, real estate, fixed income markets or currencies, it is time for any rational investor to become extremely cautious.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

It takes a great deal of stubbornness to go in the opposite direction or even to stay neutral. That is, in reality, the strategy that will bear success 90% of the time.

I freely admit that when Warren Buffet became a US Dollar bear I became uncomfortable with my opposite view. Naturally, many of my clients with US Dollar-based portfolios were strongly urging me to invest heavily in other currencies.

That is not to say that I had not positioned these clients into global assets but, without fail, I made sure that, while the foreign assets were a substantial part of their portfolios, the currency was always “hedged” back into US dollars.

It can be very lonely taking contrary views, but my portfolios had already profited from taking “bear” positions against the Dol-

lar in 2003 and 2004, and, by late 2004, I took the profits and simply went against market thinking.

Instead of the Dollar sinking even further when it reached 1.35 to the Euro, it did the opposite.

In fact, at the time of writing this article, it is now around 1.16 or 1.17 to the Euro. Against the Pound Sterling it is now 1.73 to 1.74. When we look at the Euro/US Dollar exchange rate we find that it has essentially returned to where the Euro was issued in 1999 as a non-paper currency.

Warren Buffet, for whom I have great respect as an outstanding thinker, had to admit defeat. His Berkshire Hathaway group’s foray against the Dollar had registered US\$900 million in losses this year alone and it was time to change positions.

Hugh Hendry, the CEO of Hedge Fund Manager Eclecta, often says that currencies are the

most difficult of all asset classes to assess. He also admits that he often “gets them wrong”.

Readers may well wonder why the US Dollar has performed so well in spite of triple deficits in the US.

There are no easy answers to the whole situation, but the following are some of the reasons. America has continued to attract substantial amounts of foreign investment, in fact substantially more than their current account deficit. Plainly put, foreigners are prepared to fill the financial “hole”.

Oil prices have risen substantially in 2005, but oil is a commodity based on a price in US dollars. Any buyer of oil has to buy US dollars to purchase this commodity. In turn, the major producers, with some exceptions, simply hold on to these dollars and buy US bonds or other dollar assets.

Countries such as China

and Japan with substantial US Dollar trade surpluses place much of their gains into US assets.

The US boom in real estate in parts of America has also drawn in foreign investment at far higher levels than is generally appreciated.

The US economy is still growing at a substantial rate and in turn short term interest rates have now risen to 4% and are destined to move higher.

This is not to say that the US Dollar will not fall in the future, but at the moment foreign exchange markets are fixated by US interest rates and deficits are virtually being ignored.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based financial planning service. He can be contacted at Tel: and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th



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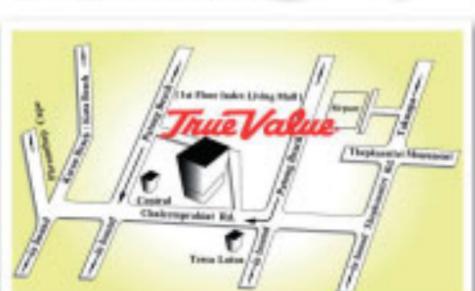
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Thai boxers sweep board at 1st Asian Indoor Games

By Anongnat Sartpisut

SAPHAN HIN: Thai boxers dominated the Amateur Muay Thai competition at the 1st Asian Indoor Games, with nine Thais winning gold and pocketing one million baht each in prize money offered by the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

It will now have to pay out more than 100 million baht following Thailand's third-place overall in the games, with Thai athletes bagging 73 medals – 19 of them gold.

The NSDF also promised 500,000 baht to silver medal winners and 200,000 baht to bronze.

In addition to Phuket, competition took place in Bangkok, Chon Buri and Suphan Buri. In the two Phuket events, amateur Thai boxing and aerobic gymnastics, Thais won nine golds and many more silver and bronze medals.

In amateur Muay Thai, in which combatants wear protective padding, Thai fighters won gold in four of the five lightest weight divisions.

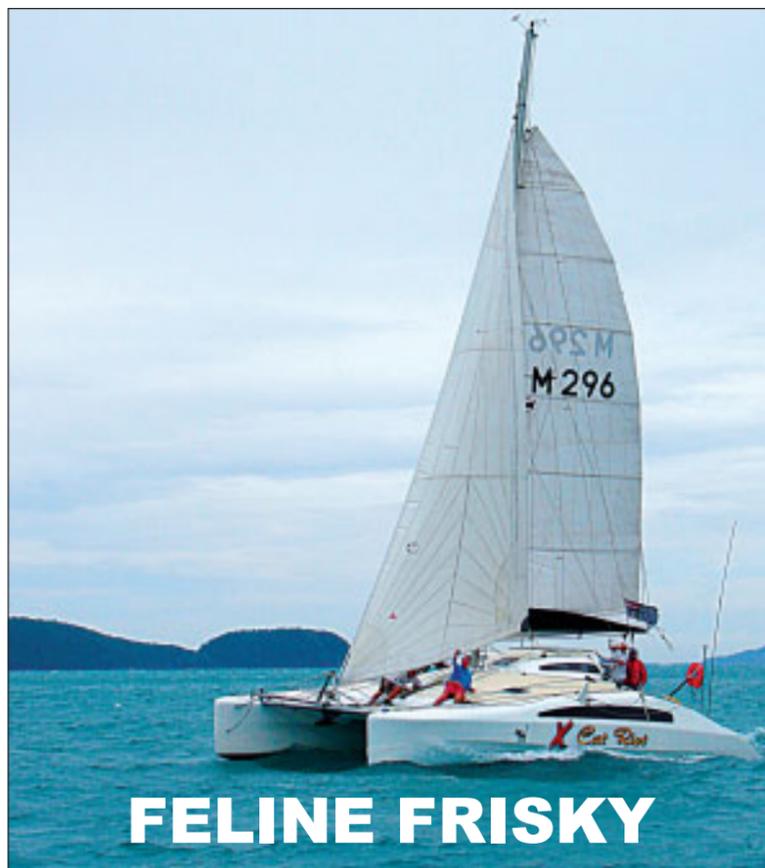
Five Thais also won a million baht each without even having to meet an opponent, winning the *wai khru* competition in their weight divisions.

Normally performed as a prelude to a Muay Thai bouts as a mixture of stretching exercise and rite, at the Games *wai khru* competitors went through the ritual only for a panel of judges.

China, second place overall with 24 golds, 18 silvers and 15 bronze, dominated the aerobic gymnastics, coming first in every event.

Thailand had a respectable finish, with one silver and two bronze medals.

The overall winning team was Kazakhstan with 25 gold, 15 silver and three bronze medals.



PURRING ALONG: *X Cat Riot* steams ahead in 14-knot winds on its way to winning the Multihull Premier Cruising Class in the final Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Series 2005 regatta on November 20. Other winners on the day were *Seraph* in the Classic class, *Four Winds* (Cruising), *Minx* (Racing) and *Charro* (Performance Multihull). The winners for the overall series will be announced at a prizegiving party at the ACYC Clubhouse on December 2, starting at 7 pm.

300 run for Childwatch

KATHU: About 300 runners took part in the 2nd Childwatch Mini Marathon on November 20.

On the 11.9-kilometer route, the winners were (men): under-15, Dusit Tongyam; open, Sittipong Chengla; 30-39, Somjai Putschay; 40-49, Taweesak Suesat; 50+, Craig Edelman. Women: under-15, Sudarat Pandam; open, Karuna Nattra; 30-39, Anong Piriya-preut; 40-49, Ketsaraporn Boonkao.

The 3.5-km run men's winners were: open, Somchock Jangwang; under-12, Bunnam Kanlak. Women: under-12, Tayanut Upatisingha; open, Lena Dewis.

International 7s

PHUKET: The third round of this year's International 7s Tournament will be held at the British Curriculum International School on November 26-27, starting at 8:30 am. More than 40 teams from 12 countries will take part. Spectators are welcome.

500,000 baht target for charity bike Tour de Thailand 2005

The 25-day SangSom Tour de Thailand 2005, an international charity bike ride from Chiang Mai to Phuket, gets under way December 2.

The non-competitive tour, sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Thai Bicycling Association, is intended to raise money for two charities: the Max Foundation, which aids leukemia sufferers; and the North Andaman Tsunami Relief Foundation, which provides assistance to tsunami-affected coastal communities in Phang Nga.

Cyclists on the tour will get a chance not only to see vast stretches of Thai countryside, but also numerous historical sites and other points of interest along the way.

Christopher Byrd, founder of the Tour de Thailand charity

bike ride and Managing Director of Tour De Asia Bicycle Touring Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that the goal of this year's tour is to get as many people involved as possible.

In addition to those paying the US\$200 entry fee, which includes accommodation and meals, local riders are also encouraged to join the tour free of charge as it passes through their areas, said the former US Marine and cancer survivor.

"Although there are some challenging parts, the ride is by no means a competition," he said.

"We stop every 20 kilometers and try to keep the group together with support vehicles at the front and at the rear.

"People can join us absolutely free, with no obligation to pay any fees."

He added that those wishing to make a donation could do

so by buying a T-shirt or cycling jersey.

The December 26 final leg of the ride from Khao Lak in Phang Nga to Patong Beach, a distance of 122km, will be of interest to local riders. During that day, the first anniversary of the tsunami, riders will be able to take part in memorial services.

The tour starts at 7 am on each day.

Mr Byrd hopes to raise 500,000 baht for charity from this year's event, and hopes it will grow even bigger in future years.

Those registering for the entire tour have until the end of November to submit an on-line application. The itinerary and other details are listed at www.tourdethailand.com

For more information, contact Image Impact Co at Tel: 02-2536809-12 (ext.113).

Patong Darts League

Queen Mary coming on strong

After a three-point win at home against Piccadilly, Queen Mary moved into a first-place tie with Amigos on 36 points. With just two weeks to go, it is all Queen Mary's to lose as they enjoy two games in hand against the co-leaders.

Just behind them, and also with two make-up games yet to play, are Nag's Head, who have seemed invincible in recent weeks, and Shakers. In last week's surprise result, Two Black Sheep, playing at home, took all three points off Shakers, who continue to struggle after being at or near the top of the table for much of the season.

Defending champs Off-Shore are also still very much in contention, with three critical make-up games still to play, including head-to-head matches with Nag's Head and Queen Mary.

Last week saw a reversal in the disturbing trend of teams thrashing opponents only to lose beer: all contests were decided by 3-0 final scores.

As usual, whichever team ends up on top will win the right to host the league party and awards ceremony at its venue.

November 15 results: Off-shore* 6 Amigos 3; Queen Mary* 7 Piccadilly 2; Didi's 8 Coyote 1; Nag's Head* 6 African Café 3; Valhalla 3 Dog's Bollocks* 6; Two Black Sheep* 5 Shakers 4. (* = Winners of beer leg)

Standings: 1.= Amigos, Queen Mary (36pts); 3. Nag's Head (35); 4. Shakers (34); 5. Offshore (32); 6. Piccadilly (31); 7. Valhalla (28); 8. Dog's Bollocks (25); 9. African Café (19); 10. Two Black Sheep (18); 11. Didi's (13); 12. Coyote Bar (11).

November 29 (final week) matchups: Two Black Sheep v Nag's Head; Queen Mary v Dog's Bollocks; Amigos v Valhalla; Shakers v Didi's; African Café v Coyote; Piccadilly v Offshore. (Home teams first.)

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Come to the Gardenia, Maud... for a snifter

As my ever-expanding midriff will confirm, I do have rather a healthy appetite. Although I can, perhaps, blame breweries for at least a few of the pounds, it probably boils down to the fact that I'm rather partial to fine victuals – good food – in somewhat generous quantities. (I've been looking for an excuse to use that word for some time.)

I'd love to be able to turn around and lay the blame for my girth on someone in particular. In fact, I have pointed the finger at a few chefs on the island, but the basic problem is that I can't help being a glutton. The fare on offer is just too good.

We're spoiled in that regard here in Phuket, as we can enjoy just about any culinary creation available to man (or woman). The "imported" choices are generally excellent, but my preference has got to be the local cuisine. The stuff that's either caught in the seas off the island or grown on it stands out, far above the rest.

With the exception of durian, (which in my humble opinion is an abomination; a fruit that smells and tastes like a germ warfare experiment), the fruit available here is mouth-wateringly sweet.

There are even plants in Phuket that smell so good that you almost want to eat them. The frangipani, for one, smells a bit like those scented sweets you could buy in a one-penny roll as kids. But the king of scented plants has got to be the gardenia, or *pud-sorn* in Thai.

The gardenia is one of those plants that you'd almost beg to flower; the blooms produce an

incredible scent. It's very much akin to sniffing fresh cream with a couple of spoons of sugar mixed in. Fabulous. Stick a few of these in your garden, and you'll be raiding the fridge every five minutes, shoveling down ice cream.

The amazing smell oozing from the blooms does come at a price, though – the gardenia's a bit moody. I'd almost given up on a gardenia bush in my front garden. For months it just sat there moping, refusing steadfastly to flower. With the appearance of some serious rainfall, it went mental. Flowers suddenly appeared all over it, and the leaves became variegated (two different colors on one leaf) again. It also became bushier, and seemed a lot more content with its lot. If it were human, it would have had a Cheshire-cat grin on its face.

VARIEGATED

The gardenia grows up to three or four feet tall and has either deep green or green and white, shiny, variegated leaves. The genus *Gardenia* is thought to have been named after a physician called Alexander Garden, who was around during colonial days of the US, so the name has absolutely nothing to do with where they are grown. Disappointing really. Gardenias are a member of the family *Rubiaceae*, and there are more than a couple of hundred species of them.

As gardenias are such a fussy lot, they like to be given plenty of water. They prefer being planted in a spot where they get full sun in the morning and some shade in the afternoon.

Plant them in the ground with the crown (the bit where the stem rises out of the ground) raised slightly above the existing soil. This will help to prevent root-rot.

Gardenias don't seem to like their roots disturbed by cultivation, so once they're in the ground, you should probably leave the ground nearby well alone, as the roots are fairly shallow. You wouldn't want them to go off on a hormonal teenager-style strop. If they're upset, the flowers will turn brown. However, once established in a place they like and given proper care, gardenias will bloom away to their hearts' content, providing an abundance of fragrant flowers.

Gardenias can be pruned as far back as you want, but there are a few rules to bear in mind, if you want to keep on the plant's good side. First, cut plants back when they are dormant, which would be the hot, dry season here in Phuket. This will allow the stems to "heal their wounds" when the plants aren't actively growing. This way you can still enjoy flowers the next year.

When pruning, don't cut all the leaves off. Some leaves need to be left so the plant can still produce food for the root system. If you only want your plant to become bushier, just pinch out the tips while the plant is dormant. Pinching will usually promote a heavier bloom the following year.

One other tip: be sure to have a beer in hand when performing the above tasks. It's the best way I can think of to stave off the urge to dash off to the fridge for more ice cream. Well, it usually works for me.

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4. 12' x 6' x 20'	23	11,800
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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut



Construction of the first houses in the project is already well advanced.

Golf course homes offer luxury with lake views

KATHU: Baan Suan Loch Palm, a 700-million-baht, 60-unit contemporary housing project is located on 36 rai on the west side of the Loch Palm Golf Course, overlooking the fairways, with a lake view and next to forested hills.

Panumas Chayentara, Senior Project Manager, explained that construction started in September. Infrastructure will be complete before January next year while the entire project will be finished by June 2007. Show houses will be open by December this year.

He added, "We expected to finish our sales by January 2007."

There will be five types of home. Types A and B are two-story houses, each on 250 square wah (1,000 square meters) of land. Living space will be 388sqm and 458sqm respectively and will comprise four bedrooms, five bathrooms, dining and living rooms, kitchen and three-car garage. Prices start at 16 million baht. These homes will be built only to order.

Types C and D will have living space of 333sqm and 327sqm

respectively, also on two floors. Both types will have three bedrooms, four bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, maid's room and two-car garage. Swimming pools will be built as optional extras. A total of 48 of these houses will be built, priced from 8.6 million and 12 million baht respectively.

Type E, of which there will be 12 units, will be the largest homes, with 604sqm of living space, all on one level, and comprising four bedrooms, five bathrooms, swimming pool, sala, dining and living rooms, maid's quarters and three-car garage. Prices will start at 23 million baht.

The project will have a management company to look after common areas, along with mains electricity and water from the developer's own 1.8-million-cubic-meter supply.

"We can guarantee that there will be no lack of water for our residences and we will charge less than 20 baht a cubic meter," K. Panumas said.

He added, "We want to make these [homes] as comfortable as possible. All the bedrooms

will have a terrace to ensure that they are well ventilated. Owners won't need to turn on the air conditioning all day, every day, as there are enough cool places in semi-outdoor areas on the first floor and each house features wide and spacious areas to relax in."

Each home will have its own land title. Houses are to be sold either freehold or leasehold for non-Thai buyers. Leases will be for 30 years, with two additional 30-year rollovers.

The developer is Plan Estate Co, a subsidiary of the MBK Group of Bangkok, which owns the Loch Palm Golf Course. The contractor is Phuket Ruchchakorn Construction Co.

K. Panumas said, "Eighty percent of our projected customers will be foreigners. The feedback so far is positive; we already have three bookings."

For more information contact Baan Suan Loch Palm at Tel: 076-202863, 01-2734193 Fax: 076-203149 or email: planphuket@planestate.co.th. Web: www.baansuanlochpalm.com

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Home of the Week

Chalong

Nestled in the magnificent hillside area of Chalong, this contemporary-style villa has stunning views from the 205 square meter property. At the front entrance of the house, set in a large, beautifully landscaped garden, the sand-washed steps lead to the inviting living area.

The spacious 170sqm interior has been kept light and airy with beige-coloured floor tiles and wooden earth-toned furniture.

A well laid-out open plan design seamlessly merges the dining area, comfortably seating six to eight people, into the living room. The living room has large, wood-framed, glass sliding doors opening to a 32sqm swimming pool with Jacuzzi and the surrounding sand-washed outdoor area.

The Western-style kitchen with granite counter top, timber cabinets and breakfast bar, has all the amenities a contemporary chef has come to expect: a large refrigerator, double sink, hob and extractor hood, oven and a dishwasher.

A washing machine is fitted as well.

BALCONY

All four generously sized bedrooms, with contemporary-designed teak beds, have built-in wardrobes and walk-in dressing areas. Two have en-suite bathrooms.

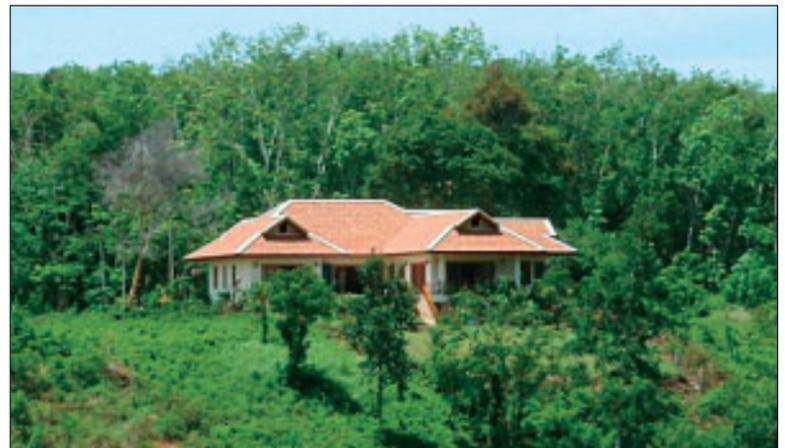
The master bedroom's sliding doors lead to a balcony which wraps around the back of the house and connects with the swimming pool area, so there is no need to disturb other sleepers in the house if you want to go for an early morning or late night swim. There is also a study-cum-office.

Four air-conditioning units and fans throughout the house keep it cool.

A home security system has been installed. Amenities include cable/UBC TV, telephone, broadband connection, water heater, water filtration system,



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For more information contact Richard Lusted of Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or email: info@siamrealestate.com or visit the website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

Are you in the picture?

A picture may paint a thousand words, but if it isn't framed right, nobody will look at it. Good framing to enhance a work of art or a photograph requires more than just measurements. Here are a few tips:

Ready-made frames in standard sizes (4" x 6", 5" x 7" or 8" x 10") are inexpensive options. Remember, they don't always come with a mat, which is vital for separating the surface of a photo from the glass to avoid sticking and mildew.

The color of the mat is important for the overall effect – choose a neutral color that doesn't overpower the art. Allow about three inches around an 11" x 14" image, with an added inch at the bottom. Acid-free mats are best for photographic art.

You may select from "regular" clear glass, the quality of which is, in fact, superior to that of ordinary window glass; ultra-violet-light filtering glass, ideal for protecting valuable artwork from

harmful UV rays in fluorescent lighting and strong sunlight; and non-glare glass.

Pictures are best hung at eye-level on a wall that allows people a close-up look. For frames smaller than 8" x 10", a sawtooth hanger is adequate. However, for frames weighing up to 30 pounds, opt for wire that will not rust or leave marks on the wall.

Andaman Frame offers a custom framing service. There you can find a variety of wooden picture frames, some simple, others ornately carved.

Most wooden frames are made from softwood, which is ideal for the application of paint. Teak, on the other hand, is usually just lacquered to allow the natural beauty of the wood to shine.

The price of a picture frame at Andaman Frame is estimated by the frame size (per square inch). Discounts may be offered for large orders. For more information, contact Rattanachai



Examples from Andaman Frame (above) and Bai Yok Shop (left and below).



Mok-Ngam at Tel: 076-244109, 09-6776068, or 01-7551378. Email: andamanframe@hotmail.com Andaman Frame is located at 5/21 Chaofa Rd.

Specializing in teak frames, Bai Yok Shop at 73 Tilok Uthit 1 Rd. offers rough-hewn textures, shapes and sizes that complement Thai-style home interiors espe-

cially well. These frames cost between 450 baht and 750 baht each. For further details, call Wassana Pawakkaranon at Tel: 076-224341 or 07-8971950.



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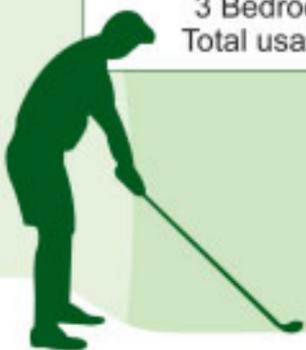
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Managing Director: Mr. Hanchapong Phokai. Registered Capital: 200 Million Baht (200 Million Baht already paid). Title Deed: 9324 (Partial).
Construction Start: June, 2005. Expected Completion: Year 2007. After full payment is completed transference is made within 60 days.



Property Gazette

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RAWAI SHOPHOUSES

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NEW HOUSES IN PATONG

3 new, connected, deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Maneesi, for sale. Ground floor: garage and separate 1-room apartment with toilet. 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms and bathrooms, balcony. 3rd floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. 4th floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$ 155,000). For more details, please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit the website www.phuket-besthomes.com

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG

Brand-new, deluxe house with a swimming pool on a Patong hillside, Soi Maneesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room; guest toilet. 2nd floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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Sri Panwa Pool Villas "Affordable luxury"

- Uninterrupted sea views that capture scenic views of the islands
- Private pool, outdoor shower, cool sea breezes 24/7
- Professional management and rentals by hotel operator
- Private beach. Villas start from 20 million baht

L'Orchidee Residence Unrivalled quality with outstanding views

- every villa has never-to-be-built-out-seaviews, and private pools
- walking distance to the beach
- ideal holiday villa with short-term rentals and management by Knight Frank
- exclusive development with breathtaking views

Allamanda Condominiums freehold title from Phuket's leading developer

- latest release of Allamanda studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments
- prices start from 4.5 million baht
- guaranteed return, backed by public-listed developer
- deferred payment terms, hotel management
- purchase includes Laguna Phuket golf membership

Laguna Townhome Resale "the best of the best"

- 3 bedroom, private pool, sala and pool terrace on the 13th fairway, cool breezes
- Most sought after development in Phuket, excellent lifestyle & investment acquisition
- Purchase includes membership to all Laguna facilities and golf
- Less than 12 months old, includes Laguna building warranties

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stephen@knightfrankthailand.com

Masae Ono +66 (0)1 956 6321
masae@knightfrankthailand.com

RAWAI, 2-STORY

house. 200sqm house with Chanote title, brand new, close to a temple, 450m from the beach; asking 1.8 million baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

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We have over 140 condos, apartments, houses and villas for freehold sale in all locations on Phuket. Email: pkt_re@phukets.info Please see our website for further information at: www.phukets.info/cvh/

PATONG TOWER

A 64sqm, 1-bedroom, sea-view condo with pool for sale on the 14th floor. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-7540200. Email: olegrostkov@yahoo.com

144-RAI PLOT

for sale. This is great land for property development - 400m from the main road and 2km from Heroines' Monument. Asking 1.2 million baht per rai. Please contact K. Dao. Tel: 01-8945012. Email: focke9@hotmail.com

GREAT INVESTMENT

at Bang Tao Beach. 2-bedroom units with landscaping, pool and recreation club. Only 150m to the beach. Price: 8.5 million baht. Open for inspection. Please call for further information. Tel: 06-2806624.

PATONG CONDOS

Condos with nice sea views, 28sqm and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 750,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

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This 175sqm, 2-bedroom home has 3 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, and a huge living room and dining room. Located on a quiet street, it backs onto a beautiful pond and has a shared swimming pool. At only 8 million baht, this is a great home to buy!

This 3-bedroom home is well designed and built for a Western buyer's taste. With 4 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, living room and family room, there is private space for everyone. At only 4.8 million baht, you will not find a better built home. Call now!

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6-BEDROOM HOUSE



Owner is selling an exclusive, top-quality 6-bedroom house in Kamala, located near Phuket FantaSea, 1.5km from the beach and next to a beautiful, natural lake. The house has all the facilities you need – a European-Thai kitchen, large living-dining room with pantry-bar; 2 bedrooms on the ground floor and 4 bedrooms on the 1st floor with en-suite bathroom; a large attic, hot water supplied by solar heating system, own well and drinking water, etc. Large, mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi. Chanote title, total land area: 1,180sqm. 90,000 baht net rental income until August 2006. Asking price: 18 million baht. Please contact Franz Brun in Chalong. Tel: 076-282737, 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

BEST SEA VIEW IN PHUKET



Chanote title, underground electricity, main roads, lots of water all year for pools and home, beside a national park, 10 minutes to airport, 15 minutes to Lotus, 12 minutes from British int'l school and 2 major golf courses, US\$1/2-1.5 million homes being built here, complete view of Phang Nga Bay – considered one of the 7 wonders of the world. Only 3.2 million baht per rai (you don't have to pay too much for class). Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN RAWAI



5 minutes from the beach, in a nice resort. Includes 3 bedrooms, a living room, Western kitchen, 4 bathrooms, 5 air conditioners, DSL, a pool, Jacuzzi and tropical garden. Chanote title. Asking 7 million baht. Tel: 07-8929145. For details, Email: lilianasolunac@hotmail.com

PARICHART LAND & HOUSE



- 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms
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- land area is 200sqm.

Asking 2.35 million baht.
 Tel: 01-7974606, 01-7874289.

LAND FOR SALE
 on the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Tel: 07-2670488.

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS IN PATONG
 New, deluxe 2-bedroom apartments of 85sqm or 96sqm, fully furnished and air-conditioned. Location: Nanai hill in Patong, Soi Thamdee; 60-year lease. Offers starting at 4.1 million baht (US\$102,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. Please see our website at: www.phuketbesthomes.com

SMALL TOWNHOUSE
 1-year-old townhouse with 2 bedrooms in Kathu. Chanote title. Only 780,000 baht. Tel: 09-2908854 (please ask for Tom). Email: verhaeghefranc@hotmail.com

PATONG CONDOTEL
 A foreign freehold seaview condo of 56sqm, 350m from the beach is for sale. Asking 1.6 million baht. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

9 RAI RAWAI AREA
 1.6 million baht per rai for 9 rai, perfect for development of 4 houses per rai only. For details, Tel: 07-2747470. or Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
 A new, detached, house for sale, just 5km to British Curriculum International School. Size: 75 square wah, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Price: 2.15 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-8516115.

HOME OFFICE FOR SALE
 Located along Chao Fa East Rd – opposite Nabon School, next to Phuket Visa. Email for more details. Email: melisa_pm@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE
 located at Boat Lagoon Marina. 200sqm. Asking 9.5 million baht. Please contact for info. Tel: 01-2734000. Email: charly@bonello.de

KATA SEAVIEW HOUSE



A large 250sqm house with a pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western-style teak kitchen, teak doors and ceilings, on good land on a quiet hillside. Asking 10 million baht. Tel: 09-592-6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

66 RAI
 For sale: a mangosteen orchard with Chanote title in Kuraburi, Phang Nga (20 minutes north of Takuapa, along Petchakasem Rd). Tel: 01-8921732.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE
 in Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 132sqm of land, communal swimming pool. Price: 4.1 million baht. Tel: 01-569-7616.

CHERNG TALAY HOUSE
 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 carparks, a garden, a large living room and kitchen. Asking a very good price for quick sale. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-9681164.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE
 in Patong. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 218sqm of land, communal swimming pool. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 01-569-7616.

NEAR BRITISH SCHOOL
 The Woodlands, limited number of Pool Homes available now. Financing available. Tel: 076-380400. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

2-ROOM CONDO
 in Patong for sale. Fully furnished, kitchen, living-bedroom, TV, aircon, renovated, next to the beach, freehold. 1.9 million baht, all inclusive. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-7281887. Email: thaiswiss@gmx.net

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Property Gazette

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT



For sale: 2.2 rai of absolute beachfront with Chanote title, in Khok Kloy, 25 minutes from Phuket airport. For details, please contact Tel: 07-8891717 or Email: wayne_phuket@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW CHALONG

7 rais, most stunning view, unique for a development project; with water and electricity. Asking 1.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-5376866.

AO MAKHAM

3 rais of sea view. Asking 3.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-6525664.

1 RAI IN NAIHARN

Only 1 seaview plot. Asking 5 million baht. Act fast. Tel: 09-6525664.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

So stunning! 1 rai 2 ngan in Rawai. Asking 5.6 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

AO POR SEA VIEW

5 rais with a soft slope; has electricity and access road. Asking 1.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

1 RAI IN RAWAI

Has electricity and access road, within walking distance of the beach. Asking 2.8 million baht. Tel: 06-2670898.

5-BEDROOM HOUSE

A perfect, 5-bedroom house, ready to move into, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Contact Tel: 04-016-9474. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.jikkycar.com

KATA TOWNHOUSE

For sale by owner. A nice, 2-story, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse in safe surroundings in Kata. Fully decorated. Asking 4.5 million baht (90,000 euros). Freehold or leasehold; 50% financing available. Tel: 01-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

1 RAI SEAVIEW PLOT

Located in Rawai; has electricity and access road. Asking 3.7 million baht. Tel: 07-893-8747.

SMALL, BEAUTIFUL PLOT

Suitable for a house, near Rawai Beach. Asking only 500,000 baht. Tel: 06-2670898.

2 LAST PLOTS

In Kamala. The land is 380sqm in total. Ready to build, near beach. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 076-292596, 06-267-8477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

KATHU, 2 STORIES

Brand-new, with Chanote title; 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 air conditioners. Asking 2.5 million baht. Tel: 04-1843484.

NICE 44SQM CONDO

Location: Jomtien. 5 floors, sea view, 3 swimming pools, tennis, gym, sauna, UBC, air conditioning, TV, garden. Walk to the beach. Price: 950,000 baht. Tel: 06-2743060. Email: asiayachting@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

A 2- or 3-bedroom house is for sale, now under construction in a small new development, conveniently located. It has air-conditioned bedrooms, a semi-fitted kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a large living room, a garage area and a private road. Fax: 076-323421. For details, please email. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

NEW KARON VILLA

Just built, 2-story townhouse ready to move into on December 15. Only 2 units still available. Asking 3 million baht (60,000 euros). Kata Beach Property Market. Tel: 01-7888280. Email: info@msa-phuket.com

TOP QUALITY HOME

A combination of modern Thai architecture, fine antique decor and furniture, and stunning landscaping. For more information, see our website at www.phuchaofa.com

KOH YAO NOI

A beautiful plot (10-1-56) on the preferred east coast is for sale. Sloping hillside, spectacular, postcard-like sea views from all sides of the estate and 165m of beach front. NorSor 3 Gor land title, electricity and water on site. Sale price: 29 million baht. No brokers please! Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-388380, 07-2696449. Email: cfmcap@phuket.ksc.co.th

BEACHFRONT LAND

Very cheap. 5.5 rai for 8 million baht. You get ownership, a sea view, island view, a 35m-long beach, road access, electricity, water and a telephone line. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-244562, 01-7979781. Fax: 076-355326. Email: info@jkphukethomes.com Please see our website at: www.jkphukethomes.com

SEA VIEW

750,000 baht per rai. 15+ rai for 11 million baht (740,000 baht per rai). You get ownership, a sea view, road access, electricity, well water and a telephone line. Contact Tel: 076-244562, 01-7979781. Fax: 076-355326. Email: info@jkphukethomes.com For more further details, please see our website at: www.jkphukethomes.com

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Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. 1 bedroom. Long lease preferable; average 12,000 baht per month, Chalong area. Tel: 01-4926883. www.unclechaihome.com

RAWAI RESIDENCE

A fully furnished studio for rent, 400m from the beach. Asking 5,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-4740227.

NEW BUILDING

For long-term rental, in best location on second bypass road, 5 minutes to Lotus, 20 floors, 2 bedrooms. Please call K. Bee for more information. Tel: 01-8951581.

PATONG RESIDENCE

A fully furnished studio for rent, 400m from the beach. Asking 9,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-4740227.

APARTMENTS IN PATONG

Fully finished, for long-term rent, near Patong Temple, 2/56 Soi Khuanyang. They have a small kitchen, refrigerator, a European-style balcony, air conditioner, cable TV, fan, hot water, and one bathroom. Asking 8,300 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

SHOPHOUSE

Prime location shophouse between Chalong Circle and pier. Take over, including furniture, air conditioner and computer. Sale price: 45,000 baht. Monthly rent: 9,000 baht. Call Tel: 01-7975715 or Email: dankwian3@hotmail.com

FOR RENT OR SALE

At Kamala Beach, 3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, walled-in. Has air conditioner, UBC, telephone, garage, garden with swimming pool and mountain view. For 6-month rental at 35,000 baht a month, or for sale at 5.8 million baht. Please contact Boomer. Tel: 05-7816005. Email: bjorn@omnitrips.com

2-STORY HOUSE

With 2 bedrooms. Easy access to PCC/Loch Palm, 5 minutes to Tesco. Tel: 076-254759, 01-5393198. Fax: 076-225543. Email: monica@gajaphuket.com

LUXURY OCEANVIEW

Townhouse for rent in Patong. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Communal swimming pool. Price: 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 06-9405187.

SUPER SEA VIEW, 4 BEDROOMS



Guesthouse with private entrance in the most exclusive, quiet and safe area. It has a deep swimming pool and easy access to newly renovated hotel restaurants. Booked January 3-February 10, 2006. Xmas and New Year's still available. Please contact for further details. Tel: 07-2662424 or email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

FOR RENT OR SALE

A 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with a large lounge, dining room, European-style kitchen, a garden, a swimming pool, jacuzzi, UBC, ADSL, located in the Kamala area. Possible financing for the right person. Please email for info. Tel: 06-952-5071. Email: paul@ukthai.fsnet.co.uk

NEW TOWNHOUSE

For rent. A fully furnished, 2-story townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living room and kitchen, with space to park 2 cars, and its own water well. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-202970, 01-8929923. Email: diabloet@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

OFFICE FOR RENT IN CITY

Size: 4.5 meters x 10 meters. Includes a desk, chairs, telephone ADSL line, and Cable TV. Please call Tel: 01-8957848. Email: dusic389@yahoo.com

450SQM HOME

This large house on a 3-rai plot is located on a quiet soi, 5 minutes from the beach. Facilities include: an enclosed pool, 2 phone lines, a garage and guest house. 45,000 baht per month, including pool and gardening fees. Please call Tel: 01-8942733 (Eng), or 01-7371078 (Thai). Email: jasmnconsulting@gmx.net

SEAVIEW HOUSE

Four, large air-conditioned bedrooms, 300sqm, fully furnished. Asking 35,000 baht per month for a minimum of 6 months; maid service is included. Located on pretty Natai Beach in Khok Kloy, 19km from Phuket Airport. Please contact Mr Vudh. Tel: 06-6902976. Email: info@palm-village.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET CITY

New, furnished house just two minutes' drive to downtown Phuket, on a quiet residential street. It has views at the front and back and catches every breeze. Three bedrooms with air conditioning (possibly four), four bathrooms, a large living room, and a separate kitchen/dining room. Rent for long term at 28,000 baht per month. Contact the owner via email or Tel: 07-8845719 (Thai-speaking only) to view. Email: montha@sunorb.com

SPACIOUS HOUSE

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, detached, Chalong area. 140sqm house + 260sqm garden. 18,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-285211, 04-848-4344.

BIG TOWNHOUSE

for rent. Nearly 170 square meters on two floors. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Bangla Road, the heart of Patong Beach. Tel: 076-340-290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

BRIGHT BACHELOR

suites. Available for long-term rent on Soi Yodsane, Chalong. From 9,500 baht a month. Fully furnished, air-conditioned, with satellite TV, a fridge and a covered car park. Tel: 01-8938592, 06-282-6221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

KAMALA SHOPHOUSE

Located just 200m from the beach. Asking 15,000 baht per month. No key money. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-5385285. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE TO SHARE

Brand-new, 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, pool, in Patong. Minimum 6-month rental: 14,000 baht/month. Please call Paul at Tel: 09-8171060.

Accommodation Available

PATONG OCEANVIEW HOUSE



A 2- or 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, a pool, UBC, ADSL, 43-inch TV and a fantastic sea view. A must-see! Asking 75,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Tel: 07-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM LEASE

Guesthouse near Sheraton Krabi, with rooms, a mini-mart, a restaurant and tour desk. Tel: 04-1929812, 06-6823119.

PATONG BEACH

2 bedrooms with aircon, living room with open kitchen and dining area, and 2 toilets with showers. Around 80sqm. Walking distance to the beach - only 500 meters. Quiet area. For more details and photos. Tel: 06-268-7901. Email: martintwn@yahoo.com

ROOMS TO LET

Lakeview apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished, with air conditioner, fridge, cable TV, hot water, car park. 183 baht per day. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

HOUSE TO LET

2 bedroom house, fully furnished, 400 meters to beach, with garden and car park. Available for long or short term. Email: jctaylor@loxinfo.co.th

KATA BEACH

A brand-new guesthouse just 3 minutes' walk from the beach. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Check out our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

PATONG APARTMENT

Sea view, kitchen, cable TV, 10 minutes to the beach. 500 baht a day, 12,000 a month. Tel: 06-0268145. Email: capnard@excite.com

ROOMS FROM B300

in the low season: your own hot shower, 24-hour security, electricity, laundry, just a 10-minute walk to the beach. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

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PATONG OCEANVIEW

house. A 2- or 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, a pool, UBC, ADSL, 43-inch TV and a fantastic sea view. A must-see! Asking 75,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-882-1963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

HOME OFFICE FOR RENT

Located in Chalong: 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 air conditioners, kitchen. Asking 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8105559.

PATONG LUXURY

Apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Please contact for more info. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

TO BUY

House or land by the sea. Please send prices, pictures, etc. Please contact with details. Email: nicolabellkitchens@hotmail.com

3-6 MONTH LET

wanted. I'm looking for a place to rent for up to 6 months from Jan 20. It should be in the Chalong, Rawai or Kata areas and have 1 or 2 bedrooms with aircon, a good sized living area, and full furniture. Access to local shops and restaurants, but in a reasonably quiet street, would be perfect. Max budget: 15,000 baht + + + per month. Email: photog@fsmail.net

3 BEDROOM HOUSE

Fully furnished in Kathu with telephone line, a/c, required for long term rental. Tel: 01-8934661. Email: valiant@loxinfo.co.th

AIRCON ROOM

I want to rent a room with aircon in Patong, from December 12-19. Must come with cleaning, sleeping clothes and fridge, and be within walking distance to Soi Bangla and the beach. Email: erik_eriksen@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY VILLA

with pool. I am looking for a low-medium priced villa to rent for 1-2 weeks in the first half of February 2006. It must have a private pool and be able to sleep 4-5 people. Tel: 02-6615150, 07-9011242. Email: ashishush@hotmail.com

ACCOMODATION

Urgent. Looking for affordable accommodation not too far from town. Maximum 3,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-228-1528, 06-2670756. Email: jacqueswendy@csloxinfo.com

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KOMATSU PC 30

Excavator 3.2, good condition, privately owned. 240,000 baht. Tel: 01-8946506, 01-376-2920. Email: wbenze@gmx.net

Household Items

MOVING SALE

Moving to Bangkok: must sell small 14" TV, VCD/CD player, and surround-sound speakers. Paid 6,000 baht; asking 4,000 ono. Also have double burner and assorted kitchenware. Tel: 07-881-1765. Email: fogarceos4@hotmail.com

REFRIGERATOR

Samsung, 183 litres, with internal freezer. Good working order. Buyer must pick up. 2,000 baht. Tel: 04-191-7736. Email: mickgave@hotmail.com

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Due to relocation to UK, we have the following for sale: 2 new TVs, refrigerator, settee with 2 chairs, dining table with chairs, DVD player with Dolby sound system, queen sized bed, and wardrobe. Tel: 01-4777246. Email: jochenbaars@yahoo.com

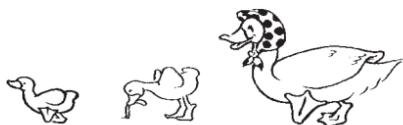
Household Services Needed

NANNY/ HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED

Full-time live-out nanny/housekeeper required by polite and fun expat family with 15-month-old boy. An excellent opportunity for the right person. Starting salary: 10,000 baht per month. Prefer someone who can speak some English and can drive a car or a motorbike. Tel: 04-8492367. Email: mui.tsun@raincatcher.co.uk

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Property Gazette



14 RAI

13 rai 3 ngan 98 talang wah (5.598 acres). Very quiet place, hill and sea views from second floor, just a few minutes' walk to the beach and 3 minutes' drive to the ferry for Phi Phi Islands and surrounding islands. Very cheap price for Phuket: 20 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2.6 RAI WITH SEAVIEW

The size of the plot is 2 rai 2 ngan and 53 talang wah - 4,212sqm - and all the land is under the 80-meter height restriction. This plot is very interesting for a small villa project. Great spot with many opportunities. Price: 30 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



1,500 SQM SEAVIEW PLOT IN PATONG

This great seaview plot is located in Kalim (north of Patong). It has road access, and water and electricity supply are available. The land is 3 ngan 75 talang wah (1,500sqm) with Chanote title. Price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM THAI-STYLE VILLA

Besides the nice landscaped garden, you can enjoy a common pool. There is also space to park at least 3 cars. The living space is 440sqm and the land size 468sqm with Chanote title. Value for money. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Villa comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, kitchen, living and dining room, maid's room, outdoor shower, terrace around the house, pool and a garden. Price: 14 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



6 RAI ON THE BEACH

The plot is located on the east coast at Ao Por and has beautiful views of islands in Phang Nga Bay. The land is flat with a slope at the back. It has road access, and water and electricity supply are available. Price: 40 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



6 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

Only 5 minutes from Mai Khao Beach, 10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from the Blue Canyon Golf Course and 20 minutes from Phuket City and Lotus. It has electricity supply and access road. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



12 BEDROOMS GUESTHOUSE

All rooms are fully furnished with bathroom, air conditioner, safety box, TV and mini bar. Built in 1999, 4 stories, all main maintenance work re-done last year. The land title is Chanote. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

The villa is located in the south of Patong with amazing hill and valley views. It comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, guest toilet, and a pool with sala where you can enjoy great views. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



6 RAI

Includes 200 meters of unspoiled beachfront. This beautiful land is located on the east coast of Koh Naka Yai. All covered by tropical trees and coconut trees. You can reach the plot by boat from Ao Por in 20 minutes. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2-BEDROOM VILLA

Has a nice sea view. Villa comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, balcony with sala, a kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, guest toilet, a car park for 2 cars; surrounded by a garden. All features throughout the house are made from teak. Price 9.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA

Has a sound system throughout the house, plasma TV in the living room with satellite TV. Around the house is a well-designed tropical garden with Buddha image features. Price: 14.9 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2 RAI SEA VIEW

With Chanote title, public road access, water and electricity. Only 2 minutes to Rawai Beach. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



1 RAI

The land, with underground infrastructure, is ready to build on, and the area boasts some of the most expensive housing on the island. A very good investment; a beautiful area with nice, quiet beaches. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2 SHOPHOUSES

There are 4 floors with 6 rooms in each unit and the ground floor is ideal for entertainment. Very good location. Price 18 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA

Beautiful sea view. Located in the southern hills of Patong. Comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, 1 guest bathroom, Western kitchen, living room, dining room, a terrace where you can enjoy the sunset; storeroom and a carport. Price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH SEA VIEW

The villa is surrounded by a tropical garden and has 24-hour security. Comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western kitchen, living-dining room and 2 terraces where you can relax and see the sunset. It is fully furnished. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



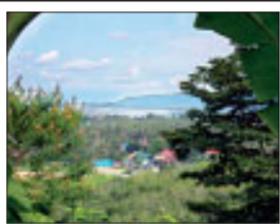
9 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

This 9-rai plot is located in Chalong and has a slight slope with a sea view. It is a nice square plot and has water and electricity supply. Ideal for a villa project. Price: 36 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM THAI-STYLE VILLA

It comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, guest bathroom, Western kitchen and a spacious living-dining room. Besides the nice landscaped garden, you can enjoy a common pool. Price: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



9 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

This plot is located in Chalong and has a slight slope with a sea view. It is a nice square plot and has water and electricity supply. Ideal for a villa project. Price: 36 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



7 RAI SEA VIEW

A good piece of land in a quiet area with public road access, water and electricity supply. Only 10 minutes to Rawai Beach. Price: 38.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



ISLANDS FOR SALE

We have many island properties on our books. Current: 2 complete islands and many land plots of different sizes on islands close to Phuket, such as: Koh Yao Yai, Koh Yao Noi and Koh Racha. Prices from 1 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2-BEDROOM VILLA

With sea view. It comprises a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and Jacuzzi, guest bedroom with en-suite bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, study, guest toilet, 2-car carport, nice garden, solar-heated hot-water system, UBC, phone with Internet. Price 7.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

16 x 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

This 16-unit apartment building is located in a quiet area in Chalong, 5 minutes' drive to Big C and Central, 10 minutes to Phuket City and 15 minutes to Nai Harn, Karon and Kata Beaches. All apartments have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, living and dining room, and are fully furnished. It has an office, manicured gardens and the property is very well maintained. 20 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

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US\$90,000

40ft, 1991 Yanmar 50hp.



Gibsea 372

US\$85,000

37ft 1988 Yanmar 24hp.

Selected Brokerage Listings

Power	Sail
63ft 1977 Thai Design, 2 x 280hp 4 cabins THB8,600,000	63ft 1993 Wooden Perini Ketch, 115hp Isuzu Euro66,000
54ft 1995 Bayliner 4766, 2 x 310hp Hino, game fishing US\$345,000	61ft 1991 Custom sloop Perkins 120hp for charter business Euro430,000
39ft 1994 Island Gypsy Europa, 2 x 225hp Perkins US\$169,000	60ft 1982 Perini Ketch, 175hp Hino Euro45,000
39ft NEW Stoppa, built to order Engine options, 70-250hp US\$96,000	43ft 1994 Beneteau Oceanis 430, 50hp Perkins THB4,500,000
39ft 2003 Marlin 36 2 x 250hp Mercury, Cruising speed 26 knots THB2,500,000	40ft 1991 Steel Sloop, 50hp Yanmar US\$90,000
31ft 1997 Fountain 31, 2 x 225hp Mercury THB2,950,000	37ft 1988 Gibsea 37 racing, 24hp Yanmar US\$85,000
18ft 2000 Skip Jack 18, 2 x 85hp Yamaha THB750,000	36ft 1990 Sundance 36, 27hp Yanmar Euro58,000
	30ft 1975 J/Boat 30 cutter sloop Yanmar JGM30F US\$36,000
	28ft 1975 Marholm 26, 6hp Johnson THB1,650,000

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FISHING BOAT



Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built under license in cedarstrip/epoxy. 12-ft beam. One 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel and ZF hydraulic gear. Hydraulic steering from main cabin or fly bridge. Many extras. Sleeps two couples in forward cabin or convertible dining area. WC, shower and hand basin. Galley and bosun's locker. This boat is in good condition; is fully taxed and registered in Thailand; and includes a berth for nearly one year at the Boat Lagoon Marina. Needs completion of renovation. Asking 2.3 million baht. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-342913, 01-8166940 or email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

27-FT SPEEDBOAT
Has a Mercury 200hp engine. Farang-owned and well maintained. 7 years old. Everything refinished, looks like a new boat. Engine fully serviced. 375,000 baht. Tel: 07-283-4185. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com

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Has 2 Honda 4-stroke outboards, 50hp each; 24kts; 160 hours; SemiCat; Thai flag; built 2004; fully equipped at Boat Lagoon. Asking price just 1.24 million baht. Tel: 076-289250, 01-2734000. Email: grosse-oetringhaus@web.de

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KAYAK
"Feel Free" 2-person Kayak. New in March 2005, cost 26,000 baht. For quick sale at 19,900 baht. For details, call Tel: 04-8426206.

LONGBOARD
For sale. 9'4" long board, MC Surf Designs Byron Bay. Almost new. Tri-fin performance series. Price: US\$500. Email: sailparpar@yahoo.ca

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BOAT FOR SALE
Moored in Chalong. Length: 10.5m; beam: 3.6m; draft: 1.3m; 12 tonnes. Six-cylinder, 180hp Hino engine. Maximum 12 passengers + 2 crew. Needs work in cabin area. 500,000 baht or nearest offer. Contact for details or viewing. Tel: 076-288971, or 01-8923320. Fax: 076-383803. Email: seaking@phuket.com

PEGASUS MARINE
Launches New Model - Pegasus 8.2! 26-ft long, 7'4" wide, draught 10 inches. Based on a proven commercial design. Hand-built fiberglass sea-going powerboat combines fun, performance and economy. 7-year structural hull warranty. Positive buoyancy flotation, self-bailing cockpit. Easily trailed. Special introductory offer: new Pegasus 8.2, plus new Yamaha 85hp outboard, plus new trailer. 595,000 baht, plus VAT. Tel: 076-239800. For further details, please see our website at: www.pegasusmarine.com

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Mastervolt Mass Sine 12/200 inverter for sale. Used only 6 months in a house, so no possibility of salt damage. Nominal output 1800 Watts (2,000 for 30 mins). Price: 60,000 baht. Also for sale: KVK charger, output up to 60V, max 100 Amp. Fitted with temperature cutout and large fan. Price: 15,000 baht. Plus three large (truck-size) batteries for 4,000 baht each. Will sell the whole lot for 80,000 baht (about US\$2,000). Please contact Tel: 07-8849964. Email: alasdair.phuket@gmail.com

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TRRM is offering a scholarship for a Head Master and teachers. They are expected to realize the concept of the School for Life and to generate the planned Centers of Excellence curriculums. The Thai curriculum for basic education school shall be reorganized in a way that enables them to focus on the key subjects of the Centers of Excellence and combine thought with action. School for Life by TRRM would like to invite suitable and enthusiastic candidates to apply to join our team.

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- Fluent in written and spoken English and Thai. German is preferable but not essential.
- Able to offer long-term commitment and team working

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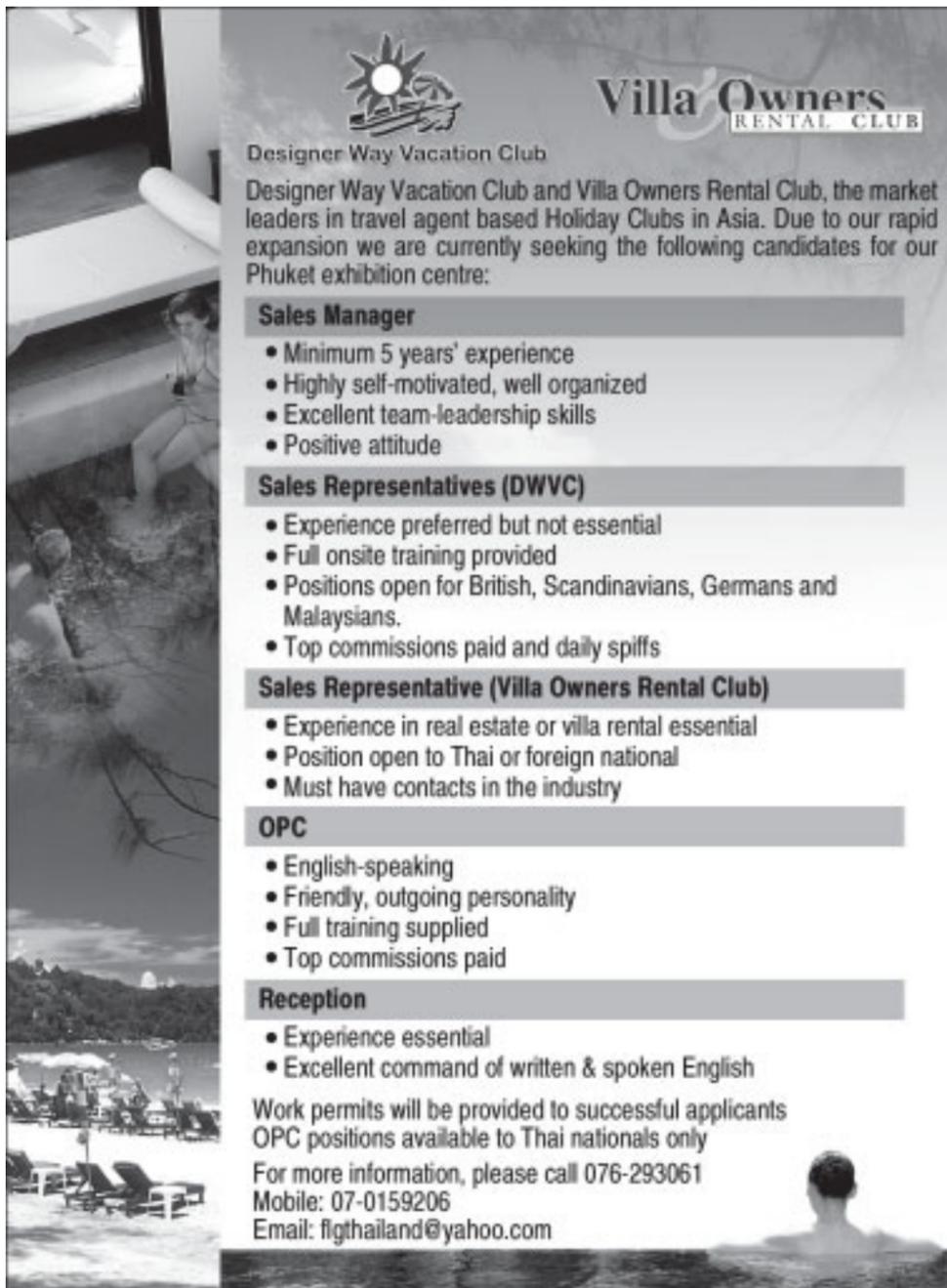
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Saleswoman required for international gem shows. Initial period: 4 months, starting January 2006. Shows in the US and Australia. Excellent pay dependent on sales experience. All nationalities welcome to apply. Tel: 07-8948351. Email: shamuzoz@yahoo.com.au

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www.phuket-southsea.com

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	- A/R	1 position
Front Office	- Guest Service Manager	1 position
	- Assistant Manager	1 position
	- Guest Services Agent	4 positions
	- Night Auditor	1 position
Food & Beverage	- Bar Supervisor	1 position
	- Restaurant Captain	3 positions
	- Hostess/Cashier	2 positions
	- F&B Service	2 positions
	- Bar Service	1 position
Main Kitchen	- Cook	3 positions
Housekeeping	- Assistant HK	1 position
	- HK Administrator	1 position
	- Linen Supervisor	1 position
	- Floor Supervisor	1 position
Maintenance	- Assistant MN Manager	1 position
	- Pumper Technician	1 position
	- Airconditioner Technician	1 position
	- General Maintenance	1 position

Qualifications: In relevant field.

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1. Salary	5. Uniform
2. Service Charge (Minimum Guarantee)	6. Social welfare
3. Two meals each working day	7. Training
4. Transportation	8. South Sea Spirit Foundation
	9. Provident fund

Applicants are invited to send a detailed resumé stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
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