

Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 34 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555 August 26 - September 1, 2006 Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 25 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The Nation

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Hotels warned over rooms tax

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY (*Gazette, Kom Chad Luek*): The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has issued official warning notices to some 250 hotels that have failed to pay hotel room tax for 2006.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said about half of the island's 500 hotels had failed to pay the tax, calculated as 1% of all revenue from rooms.

After the tsunami at the end of 2004, the *OrBorJor* decided not to levy the tax in 2005 as a way of helping hotels recover from the disaster, which saw occupancy rates plummet and wiped out what was left of the 2004-2005 high season for tourism.

With tourist arrivals back to near-normal in 2006, the *OrBorJor* has decided to resume collecting the tax, including some 40 million baht in taxes that were owed before the tsunami struck.

K. Anchalee said that, so far this year, only about half of the island's 500 hotels paid the tax, pouring some 40 million baht to the provincial coffers.

Anticipating continued growth in the number of tourists visiting the island, the *OrBorJor* has also set a tax collection target of 50 million baht from the room tax for 2007, K. Anchalee said.

This amount of revenue should be easy to attain, provided that the province is not hit by another untoward event that causes a downturn in tourist arrival figures, such as an outbreak of a contagious disease or war, she said.



Half the island's hotels owe room tax: Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr.

The *OrBorJor* chose to issue a warning first to give dead-beat hotels a final chance to pay up before being taken to court, she said.

"Those 250 hotels should realize that we use the room taxes we collect to fund provincial tourism development projects that directly benefit their businesses," she said.

Maitree Narukatpichai, President of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), agreed, noting that the *OrBorJor* had provided 3 million baht in funding to support PTA's trip to the ITB travel trade exhibition in Germany earlier this year.

The *OrBorJor* also funds other useful projects that benefit the tourism industry, including spending millions of baht to hire

beach guards to ensure tourist safety at popular beaches, said K. Maitree, who is also Owner's Representative of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon, the island's largest hotel.

When asked why so many hotels are evading the tax, he said there was feeling among some owners that there is a "lack of standards" in the way the tax is assessed, with some hotels overcharged and other paying less than they should.

"I think that the *OrBorJor* should compromise and decrease the rate. If they do, hotels will be more likely to pay and they will probably be able to collect more," he said, adding that it was within the *OrBorJor* authority to adjust the rate.

Continued on page 2

Okay. Now will you marry me?

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: People can once again get married in Muang and Thalang Districts after fresh supplies of marriage certificates were received from Bangkok on August 21.

Both districts ran out of certificates and Kathu District was down to very limited supplies after government printers in Bangkok received orders late and were unable to fill them in the time required, citing the difficulty of printing each certificate with a unique number.

This resulted in a nationwide shortage of certificates.

In addition there is some good news for Thais who want to apply for the new "smart" ID cards - which had also run out.

An official from the Phuket Provincial Registration Management Center, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that fresh supplies of the cards would be distributed to all three District Offices - Muang, Thalang and Kathu - from August 23.

"We were informed yesterday [August 21] by the Southern Registration Management Office, Region 8, in Surat Thani, that they have just received the smart cards from Bangkok.

"One of our officers is on the way to pick them up now, and we will distribute them to the three Districts in Phuket tomorrow [August 23]," she said.

She added that she did not know how many of the new cards Phuket would receive, but that supplies are still limited.

"People holding [old-style] ID cards that are still valid should wait. We will be giving priority to people who need new ID cards, such as those who have lost their cards," she explained.



Your Piece of Paradise

Brit tourist missing after raft accident

PHANG NGA: (*Gazette, Kom Chad Luek*) A 22-year-old Scottish tourist has been missing in Phang Nga and is presumed to have drowned after an accident while white-water rafting on August 15.

Shenaz Kapoor was in a rubber raft with three other foreign tourists and two Thai guides in the area of the Song Phraek waterfall when the raft capsized.

The other five people were rescued by local villagers but at the time of going to press there had been no sign of Ms Kapoor since the accident.

Rescuers, including the police, Border Patrol Police, officers from Phang Nga Provincial Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the tour company that arranged the trip, and local villagers, have searched in vain for the young woman.

Inhalant abuse rife among Phuket teens

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Phuket's Juvenile and Child Protection Office has released statistics showing that 270 youths under the age of 18 were charged with criminal offenses during the first six months of 2006. The office said that the figure indicates an increase in youth crime, as they had a total of 488 youth crimes reported in 2005.

Of the 270 cases, 243 cases involved boys compared with just 27 cases lodged against girls. Almost half of the total, 133 cases, involved drugs. Ninety-four of these involved the use of inhalants, such as paint thinner rubber cement.

Seventy-five cases of theft were also reported, as well as 31 traffic violations, most for motor-

cycle racing. Twenty-four youths were charged with crimes of violence, such as fighting, while three were charged with disturbing the peace. Other charges included two cases of sex-related crimes, such as child prostitution, and two cases of illegal possession of a weapon.

Phuket Juvenile and Child Protection Office Director Sangprateeb Komonlabutra told the *Gazette* that use of inhalants by youths is a particularly difficult problem to solve, given that thinner is readily available, inexpensive, and easy to conceal.

His agency's "Child Protection Office Meets the People" public awareness and education campaign, launched last December, had done little to solve the problem, he admitted.

Thinner use is most com-

mon among youths from broken homes and those whose parents don't have time to take care of them, he said.

Such neglect led to youths being swayed to peer pressure. Reports of youths huffing glue in dormitories and even in public places had become almost a nightly occurrence, he added.

Of particular concern is the habit, popular among some youths, of huffing thinner before taking to the roads on motorbikes. "This is very dangerous," he said.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura urged owners and staff in retail outlets where inhalants are sold to monitor the behavior of any youths thought to be buying inhalants for personal consumption and to report any suspected cases to the police.

Tax take B6m above target

PHUKET CITY: Revenue collected from excise tax in Phuket so far this fiscal year, from October 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006, is about 145 million baht, some 6 million baht above projections, the Phuket Excise Office has reported.

Phuket Excise Office chief Supatra Horsrisamphan said the revenue included fees collected for permission to sell alcohol, tobacco and playing cards as well as taxes on the sale of fuel, cars, alcoholic beverages and electricity.

K. Supatra noted an increase in taxes collected from spas, as more new spas had opened in the province and were taking advantage of the post-tsunami economic recovery.

- Janyaporn Morel

Hotels warned over room tax

From page 1

"As for my hotel, we already paid because we are an international chain hotel and don't want to have any problems with the local government ... I think hotel operators will discuss this issue with me and we will try and work out a compromise solution with the *OrBorJor*," he said.

Opposed to the way the current *OrBorJor* handles the tax is Eam Thavornvongwongse, Director of the Kata Group of hotels and also President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

The Kata Group has not paid the tax since Dr Prasit Koeysiripong was *OrBorJor* Chairman because, since that time, the provincial council has been unclear about what it intends to do with the money, he said.

The *OrBorJor* should announce clearly how much it collects in room tax and then set up an oversight committee to ensure transparency in how the money is spent, he said.

Such a committee could be chaired by the Governor or some other official who is not an *OrBorJor* member, he suggested.

"I think this tax is unfair. Why is it that only the hotel industry has to pay [when the entire economy is based on tourism]? We are not being stingy; we just want to know what the funds will be used for," he said.

As hotels already have to collect 10% service charge plus 7% VAT, the room tax is an unfair duplication that damages competitiveness, he added.

The Kata Group already spends a great deal on activities that bring in tourists, such as its hosting of the annual King's Cup Regatta, he said.

Phuket hotels have opposed the tax since it was first introduced in October 2000.

Two Phuket residents apply for Thai nationality

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Popular Australian Bill O'Leary, General Manager of Amancruises Co, and Indian businessman Anil Vasant Ghadge have applied for Thai nationality.

At a special hearing at Phuket Provincial Police Station on August 17, the two were interviewed by a committee headed by Vice-Governor Worapot Ratthasima and comprising officials from the Phuket Provincial Administration, the Phuket Provincial Revenue Office, and the police.

The first to be interviewed was Mr O'Leary, 45, who lives in Cherng Talay with his Australian wife and their four children. He also applied for Thai nationality for his eldest son, 13-year-old Timothy John.

Mr O'Leary has been living in Thailand for 19 years and was able to produce evidence from the Immigration office showing that he has been living continuously in Thailand since October 1999.

He was the instigator of the



After 17 years of living in Thailand, Bill O'Leary (above) applied for Thai citizenship on August 17. As part of the application process, he was required to sing the Thai National Anthem.

Tsunami Stories Thailand book, which raised funds to help tsunami victims in Thailand, and also acted in the Thai film, *Tin Mine*, which came out last year.

Mr Ghadge, also 45, is originally from Poona, India, but has

lived in Thailand for 17 years and is married to a Thai, Krissana Sombatong from Loei province. He and his wife and their two children live in Phuket City.

Mr Ghadge has lived in Thailand for 17 years, though the evidence he produced from Immigration records dates back only to 2000. He works with and is a shareholder in Canale Phuket Collection Group, which owns tailor shops.

Both foreigners said the reason they want to become Thai citizens is that they love HM the King and Thailand. The committee also asked each to sing the Thai National Anthem and the Royal Anthem. Both reportedly sang very well.

Applicants for Thai citizenship are awarded points out of a total of 100 on the following criteria:

- Being adults;
- Proving that they have no criminal record;
- Having either a settled occupation and steady income certified by the Labor Office, and having paid tax to the Thai government for at least three years; or being married to a Thai citizen and having children.
- Living in Thailand continuously.
- Having sufficient knowledge of the Thai language to be able to communicate and understand Thais.

They must get a minimum of 50 points from these criteria in order to be considered further.

Mr O'Leary scored 80 points out of 100, while Mr Ghadge scored 68.

The files of both applicants will therefore be forwarded to the Ministry of Interior for the next step in the consideration process.

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Desal plant 'ready by high season'

KARON: Construction of a 528-million-baht desalination plant is now 90% complete and the plant should be ready to begin providing 12,000 cubic meters of tap water daily to Patong and Kata-Karon in the upcoming high season – if all the necessary permits can be obtained in time.

At the Kata Beach Resort on August 18, Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit chaired a meeting to inform tourism industry businesses and relevant government agencies about the project, intended as a "medium term" solution to the island's chronic water shortages during the high season, when demand for water is greatest but rainfall most scarce.

The plant, being built by REQ Water Services Co Ltd under a 20-year build-and-operate contract with the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS), is located next to a bend in the Phuket-Karon Rd,

not far from the Central Karon Village Resort. What will happen at the end of the 20 years has not yet been decided.

The plant will convert seawater into potable water by using "Reverse Osmosis" (RO) technology. Pumps will push the seawater through a membrane. The membrane allows the water through, but rejects the passage of salt.

PPWS Manager Sayan Wareeroonroj told the *Gazette*, "We are nearly finished with the construction and have all the equipment ready to install."

Like the bypass road widening project that was supposed to take 210 days to finish but in the end took nearly two years, the project still faces stumbling blocks that are bureaucratic rather than technical.

"We are still waiting for permission from the Phuket Public Works and Town

and Country Planning Office to lay the intake pipes over the seabed. We also need permission to build a storage tank atop a hill at an elevation of 101 meters [above sea level]," he said.

K. Sayan was referring to a Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment ban on structures above 80 meters that has been in effect in the province since 1997 as a precaution against landslides.

Because of the ban, the PPWS will need special permission to install its 2,500m³ storage tank in the preferred location. The high elevation is necessary to ensure sufficient pressure to serve consumers at lower elevations.

"Although the project has been delayed because of government procedures, we expect to finish it and have it ready to serve the public in time for the coming high season," K. Sayan said optimistically.



The desalination plant will produce 12,000 cubic meters of tap water a day.

THAI tightens security

BANGKOK: Thai Airways International (THAI) has announced more stringent security measures following the uncovering of a supposedly Al Qaeda-led terrorist plot to detonate liquid explosives on flights between Britain and the United States.

Somchainuk Engtrakul, Chairman of the THAI Board, announced that the airline has tightened security measures for flights to the US and UK, and also to the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Australia, as well as on all domestic flights.

Passengers on these routes are now forbidden to take any liquids or gels of any kind on board. These include drinks, shampoo,

toothpaste and creams. These articles may, however, be checked in as luggage to be stored in the aircraft baggage hold.

For passengers on international routes, liquid products bought at duty-free shops after clearing immigration will have to be handed over to airline staff at the boarding gate.

The increased measures came into effect on August 16. Passengers on all of the international routes with increased security measures are asked to arrive at check-in at least three hours before the flight's scheduled departure.

– *Sompratch Saowakhon*

Salesman strangles pregnant girlfriend

KATHU: A salesman turned himself in to the Tung Tong Police after strangling to death his pregnant girlfriend, a former newspaper reporter who had turned to prostitution.

Pol Lt Col Passakorn Sonthikul of the Tung Tong Police told the *Gazette* that Phuket native Jirasak Noosonkaew, 27, turned himself in at the Ketho Police Box at around 1 pm on August 17.

Leading officers back to his nearby apartment, he showed them the body of his long-term girlfriend, identified as 25-year-old Haad Yai native Saowanee Maneechote.

Around her body, which was bruised about the neck, were many shards of broken glass, left over from a violent argument between the couple before her death.

Jirasak confessed to having killed K. Saowanee, but claimed it was an accident.

He told police that K. Saowanee, whom he described as his wife (*mia*), had once worked as a reporter for a newspaper in Haad Yai, but was work-

ing as a prostitute at the time of her death.

He said he was not sure whether he was the father of her unborn child, but stressed that he had been prepared to raise it as his own, whoever the father was.

On the morning of her death, K. Jirasak was furious to learn that K. Saowanee had tried to abort her unborn child.

The ensuing argument, the last of a long line, quickly turned violent, with Jirasak "squeezing" the victim's neck until she passed out.

Thinking she was only unconscious, he left the apartment. When he returned, he found her lifeless on the floor, so walked to the police box to turn himself in.

Police have charged Jirasak with causing death by inflicting injury, but without intent, a charge punishable with imprisonment of three to 15 years.

He was offered bail, but his relatives were unable to raise sufficient collateral and he remains in custody at Phuket Provincial Prison.

– *Natcha Yuttaworawit*

Underwater sculpture park ready for divers

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Sculptures costing 4 million baht have been placed on the seabed at a depth of 15 meters off Koh Racha Yai, and are being promoted as a special "must see" site for divers in the coming high season.

Phuket Diving Park, as the site is now known, features sculptures including Thai demons (*yak*), traditional decorative arches, a sala, two elephants and a giant pearl oyster. Over time they are expected to develop into artificial reefs, attracting a variety of sea life.

Dr Thammasak Yeemin, from Ramkhamhaeng University's Institute of Research and Development and Marine Biodiversity Research Group, and leader of the Phuket and Krabi underwater sculpture project teams, told the *Gazette* that the Park is already being promoted to the dive industry and tour operators, with brochures being pre-



A diver swims through an arch guarded by two yak – Thai demons.

pared for distribution to tourists during the coming high season.

"We conducted a survey that showed Koh Racha Yai as a place where people particularly love to dive.

"The idea is that the Park will be a place where divers come to take photographs, because the

water is so clear. All the sculptures were placed on sand so that no coral would be damaged," he added.

Phuket is one of six Andaman Coast provinces that have made underwater sculpture parks. The others are Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

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PHRA BARAMIEE 8

A hard road for the poor

One of the many problems facing Phuket's development is the ever-widening gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" – landless villagers who lead a hand-to-mouth existence, living in slums and encroaching on government and private land as they cannot afford to stay anywhere else.

One such community is on Phra Barami Soi 8 in Kalim, where 61 households were served eviction notices on May 18. The unpaved road, with its mouth along the Patong-Kamala road, snakes up the hillside and has the kind of sea view that would be highly prized by developers – were it not public land and home to what many outsiders would call a slum.

One morning in July, two months after receiving their eviction notices, a group of residents arrived at Phuket Provincial Hall shouting and carrying signs to protest against their eviction.

Led by Boontien Butrpeng, the angry villagers made it clear that they have no intention of accepting an offer to relocate to land, owned by Wat Kathu, near Kathu Waterfall.

Each family is being offered a 4- x 8-meter plot on temple grounds at 200 baht a month. Not one of the families has accepted the offer, saying the plots are too small for their families and too far from where they work in Patong. Worse still, they say, is the fact that they would be offered only one-year, renewable leases.

As part of their protest, the villagers called for larger plots and longer leases. They also made the following four demands to the government: 1. Delay their eviction and legal proceedings against villagers who have already been charged with illegal trespass; 2. Hold a meeting with all related agencies to negotiate a fair settlement to the dispute; 3. Restore

Sixty one poor households along Phra Barami Soi 8 in Kalim have been living without electricity for more than two months, since the government cut their power in an effort to get them to relocate to make way for a road-widening project.

Government officers arrived in the slum with some 100 police officers and security officers last May, serving official eviction notices. The residents have so far refused to budge, saying they have no place else to go. They have also rejected as inadequate an offer to be relocated to land on the grounds of Wat Kathu. The *Gazette's* Jenjira Ruengjarus and Natcha Yuttaworawit report.



electric power to the community; and 4. Reconsider the relocation plan taking into consideration the

educational needs of the children living in the community, all of whom attend schools in Patong

and do not want to transfer to schools outside the Patong area.

The Phra Barami Soi 8 community comprises about 200 people from 61 families, many of whom are originally from Isarn and other parts of Thailand. Although all have been told they will have to vacate the area eventually, only about 15 families face immediate eviction – because their homes stand in the path of a road-widening project.

The other families have been told they can remain in the area for the time being, but that they must improve the appearance of the community so that it no longer resembles a slum.

Most of the families on the north side of the road will be allowed to remain, while those on the south side will not. This fact has divided the community; the families on the south side of the road view it as unfair that only they have to leave.

But the families on the north side tend to view the intransigence of their neighbors across the road as the reason they have been living without power for two months.

The villagers' July protest failed to achieve its desired results. On July 20, the province charged three villagers with trespass and ordered Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa to take action to return the land to the state.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura told the *Gazette* last month that he had tried to do as much as he could for the villagers, for example by listing them as priority cases on the provincial list of the poor.

He added, however, that the villagers must have known that they were building illegally when they settled in the area, many as long ago as 10 years.

The villagers were unjustified in using their own children's

futures as bargaining chips in trying to get a better compensation offer from the government, he added.

On August 8, Gov Udomsak invited the heads of all government agencies involved in the issue to attend a meeting to try to find a solution. Those invited included District Chief Khantee, the head of the Kathu's Engineering and Town Planning Office and officials from Patong Municipality. When nobody from Patong Municipality showed up for the meeting, Gov Udomsak was reportedly furious.

He ordered District Chief Khantee to take those refusing to vacate the area to court and issued a letter to Patong Municipality demanding action to return the land to the state. He also threatened a lawsuit for dereliction of duty against the municipality if it fails to comply.

Gov Udomsak's right-hand man, Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat, confirmed the province's displeasure with the municipality to the *Gazette*.

"If the Mayor of Patong does not take action in this case after receiving an official warning letter, we will set up a committee and begin to investigate and charge him with dereliction of duty," K. Nivit said angrily.

He said that officials from both the province and Kathu District had tried to negotiate with the villagers, but that they had refused to accept what the government deemed an acceptable compensation package.

EVICT

"We have offered them land at Wat Kathu ... but they don't want to move there. They say the area offered is too small for their families and the length of the rental contract is too short ...

"However, there is nothing I can do about that because the land is being offered by the temple, so the rental terms are up to them.

"The temple wants one-year leases because they don't know the people who would be moving there and it wants to maintain some means to evict them in case there are any problems," he explained.

And in getting the villagers to move, the province is prepared to take a hard line with any villagers who refuse to vacate to make room for the new road, K. Nivit added.

"When they refuse to move like this we need to use tough tactics, such as cutting their power.

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It may not look much, but it's home to 61 families, and they want to stay there. The government says they may not.

This is my stance; I don't pity them any more. We understand that they live hand-to-mouth, but we have tried to find the best solution for them that we could.

"However, if they continue to resist I will do what I have to do and order their homes demolished," said K. Nivit firmly.

District Chief Khantee shares K. Nivit's exasperation over the villagers' refusal to move or negotiate. "I am fed up with it at this point. I would prefer not to have to deal with this case, but it's my job so I have to.

"Three people have already been charged [with trespass]. The government was willing to provide them with another place to live and keep their kids in the same schools [until the end of the current term]. So I don't understand why they don't want to move to a better place. Why do they continue to fight us when they know they are in the wrong?" he asked.

K. Khantee pointed out that, legally, the villagers don't have a case.

"The former owner of the land handed it over to the government a long time ago. They encroached on the land, building their houses there with no permits or permission whatsoever. It is unsuitable to have a slum near the road like that," he said.

When asked how such a situation could have developed in the first place, he said, "Maybe they just didn't know what they were doing or maybe the people that lived here before cheated them.

"If the area was normal public land it might be possible to work out a compromise [whereby they could stay], but this land is needed to build a public road. We

want to put in this road because we want to improve Phuket. They are standing in the way of development, so the only recourse we have is to take them to court," he said.

One of the villagers whose home is slated for demolition is Thipawan Thartpaiboon. Originally from Isarn, the 42-year-old married a local resident and has been living in the area for almost a decade.

"I have lived here since 1997 and now I am in desperate trouble because I don't know where else I can go. When I first started building my house here nobody told me that I could not live here or that I was encroaching on public land. Now, nine years later, the government steps in and tells us we are trespassing," she said.

ARREST THREATS

"The government has issued eviction notices, threatening us with arrest and other things if we don't leave. But we don't know what else to do, so we are doing everything possible to stay. They have begun issuing us with summonses ... that say that arrest warrants will be issued for us if we don't appear before the court [to face charges of trespass].

"On May 16 they came here and put eviction notices on our houses. I don't understand why they needed to have about 100 police officers and security guards with them. They treat us like we are criminals or communists," she said.

An elderly woman from the village interrupted her and said, "I was so terrified that I fainted. They didn't treat us like villagers,

but like criminals. It made me feel terrible," she said.

Despite the fact that all 61 families are eventually slated for eviction, the villagers' response to the considerable forces aligned against them has been anything but united. The community has become broadly divided into two groups. The first, the families facing immediate eviction, feel they are being unfairly singled out just because their homes happen to fall in the path of the new roadway.

"Why are we the only ones who have to move, when we are all part of the same village?," asks K. Thipawan.

She also wonders why the small path through the village needs widening at all. "I think the government wants to put a nice new road through here in order to benefit investors who will come in and build a big hotel in the area once the road is complete. They probably think our community looks like a slum and don't want it ruining the view on the way to the hotel after it is built," she ventured.

Life without electricity has been difficult, she admitted. "I can no longer iron my son's school uniform, so he gets punished at school. They understand the reasons, but they have to follow the

regulations and punish him anyway," she said, on the verge of tears.

Despite the punishments, her son wants nothing more than to remain at his current school – enough so that he is willing to be separated from his parents after they are evicted so that he can continue to attend classes there.

"If they arrest us they should arrest all of us – the children and the adults – because we are all in this together ... Most of us work in the area, selling things on the beach, driving motorcycle taxis and things like that. If they evict us we will have no place else to go. We won't be able to work. We don't have enough money to start over somewhere else because we are poor," she said.

GUARANTEE

When asked whether she might consider relocating to the other side of the road if the government allowed them to rent land there, she said she might consider it if the rent was very inexpensive, or free.

"And I would agree only if we got some kind of guarantee letter from the government confirming the arrangement," she said.

Otherwise, the government should give each family a one-million-baht compensation fee to relocate, she added.

Asked about the controversy, Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban told the *Gazette* that, under law, the villagers who have been issued court orders have no option but to relocate.

Despite the order by the Governor asking the city to get involved, the authority to evict the villagers still rests largely with Kathu District and the Governor, he said.

"None of the villagers have come to us to appeal, because they know what the facts are and they have to accept them," he said.

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Queer News

Boyfriend banzaied

The Japanese have spent the past 60 years promoting a message of peace in the world. Unfortunately for one young Thai man, traces of the Samurai warrior ethic can still be found among the legions of salarymen toiling away in offices in Bangkok.

In the early hours of August 17, Pol Lt Kiatsak Kasikun, the duty officer at Khlong Tan Police Station in Bangkok, received a call that someone had fallen, or had maybe been pushed – the details were, and remain, unclear – from a high building.

When he arrived at the scene, Lt Kiatsak found the body of a young man, later identified as Suphon Choothong, a 25-year-old from Phitsanuloke, wearing only a T-shirt and a pair of underpants. Suphon's pants, somewhat mysteriously, were lying about a meter away from his body.

Next to the body a woman, Kannika Thupbucha, 32, was weeping and wailing, and when the police arrived she could take her sorrow no more and collapsed in a faint.

When she came round again, she was in such a confused state that the police decided she was unfit to give a statement.

It was when police picked up the third person involved in the incident, 55-year-old Yasumasa Akutagawa from Japan, that the story began to make some sense.

Mr Akutagawa told police

that he had been seeing K. Kannika for a number of years, and, although they lived in separate apartments, he would often call in to see her.

On the night of the incident, he explained, he had decided to pay a surprise call on his "wife".

When he turned the key and opened the door to her room, however, he saw a Thai man, wearing no pants, sitting with her.

MATTER OF HONOR

Trouserless Suphon tried to push him out of the room and lock the door, but Mr Akutagawa, feeling his honor had been slighted, shoved him out of the way and barged into the room. His fury rising, he grabbed his Samurai sword – which he just happened to keep in the room – and began to chase the interloper around, slashing at him.

Suphon, having the advantage of youth, was faster than his attacker and managed to get out of the room.

The pair ran down the corridor with Mr Akutagawa, brandishing his sword, in hot pursuit.

When they reached the end of the corridor, Suphon saw that he had reached a dead end.

Faced with the choice of a 12-story drop or an enraged Japanese man wielding a Samurai sword, he decided he would rather brave the drop.

He went out of the window and tried to climb to safety, but

instead slipped and fell to his death, Mr Akutagawa reported.

"I can confirm that he fell all by himself. I did not push him at all," Mr Akutagawa assured the police.

The drama was not over for the night however. A little later another woman arrived at the scene.

When she saw the body she broke down in tears and began to point at K. Kannika, shouting that K. Kannika was responsible for Suphon's death.

The woman, Pathumthep Hongsuwan, 25, explained that she had lived with Suphon for around a year and that Suphon had just got a new job driving tourists around.

A month earlier she had gone to visit her family in Nong Khai for a couple of weeks and when she got back she discovered that Suphon had become entangled with another woman.

Pathumthep said she gave Suphon an ultimatum: he must choose between her and Kannika. Suphon chose to stick with Pathumthep but said that he had to go and clear things up with Kannika.

It was this "meeting to clear things up" that had led to his trouserless downfall.

At the time of going to press, police were still in the process of interviewing witnesses and had not charged anyone over the incident.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



TRASHING Phuket



PATONG: Reader Tim Gardner sent us this pretty picture of Soi Bangla at peak fun time.

"A welcome sight – and smell – for tourists," he wrote. "As if the drains were not bad enough, local businesses are now putting the garbage out early. It stays in the walking street gutter until collection at 4 am the following morning."

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Mobile phones 'are warping Thailand's cultural values'

Cultural values have been warped by the fact that half the Thai population are psychologically "dependent" on cell phones, National Culture Commission (NCC) spokesman Amornrat Thepgumpanat said.

Those who become "addicted" exhibit six tell-tale signs, she said.

First, addicts fall victim to constantly changing fads, always seeking the latest models, which serve as status symbols, she said.

The second symptom is poverty, as users go into debt buying expensive new handsets.

The third symptom is impatience and irritability, caused by users growing accustomed to having instant connections and response to orders. As a result, addicts often become irritated over trivial events in life, she said.

Fourth, some callers ignore social etiquette, ringing others at any time - even during office meetings or late at night. In business, some annoy recipients, for example by calling strangers to sell insurance or other products.

The fifth symptom is a reduction in social contacts, as people use cell-phones to call those close to them rather than engaging others.

The sixth symptom was described as "insincerity", resulting from the nature of phone conversations, which are not face-to-face dealings. Users are prone to use fawning language or outright lies to convince the other party that they care about something, when they actually do not, she said.

Overuse of cell phones also caused physical problems, such as ear disease, headaches and nervous disorders, she added.

Viral vanishing act: The bird-flu virus H5N1 has become more complex and difficult to detect in the laboratory, probably as a result of the virus' response to the antiviral drug Oseltamivir, said Dr Paijit Warachit, Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences.

Commenting on laboratory failures in detecting the virus during initial testing of the first two fatal cases of bird 'flu in humans this year, Dr Paijit said, "It may be because the progress of the disease [in humans] has become more complicated."

One factor could be the effect of Oseltamivir, also called Tamiflu, which is believed to be the only effective defense against the disease in humans. The drug is able to prevent the virus from replicating, but does not destroy it outright, meaning that little of the virus is excreted into that part of the respiratory tract where specimens are taken for testing.

"[Medical staff] took swabs in that area, but, as it turned out, there was not enough of the virus to enable them to detect it. The virus was deeper in the respiratory passage," he said.

Since 2004, when bird 'flu emerged in Thailand, the ministry has tested more than 4,000 people for the virus. The failure rate due to incomplete specimens had risen



Nice Buns! Tasty presenters in dresses decorated with food items stand in front of a sign reading 'Taste of the World', the theme of an international food festival being held at Impact Arena Muang Thong Thani, in Nonthaburi, until September 3.

from just 3% to 20% this year, he added.

Flood damage control: About 10.6 million rai of land in 52 provinces is flood-prone, Land Development Department (LDD) Director-General Chaiwat Sitthibus has announced.

About 900,000 rai was flooded eight to 10 times a year, while 3.4 million rai had been flooded between four and seven times over the past 10 years.

The rest, about 6.3 million rai, had suffered from flooding less than three times in the past decade, he reported.

The land, both private and public, will be included in a new LDD mapping project, which will be used to devise a flood and water management scheme.

The announcement came as residents of two regions, Isarn and the South's Upper Gulf Coast, were suffering from heavy rains and flash flooding.

Training tragedy: Armed Forces Supreme Commander Gen Ruangroj Mahasaranont ordered an investigation into all parties involved in the recent drowning deaths of three students at the Military Technological Training School during an underwater welding drill.

"I will ensure justice for all parties. As long as I am the Supreme Commander, I will ensure that the investigation is conducted transparently," Gen Ruangroj told the press, adding that he was deeply saddened by the students' deaths.

The tragedy was unprecedented at the Military Technological Training School, he added.

A police autopsy determined the deaths were caused by drowning.

School officials have speculated that the three students were secretly practicing the welding drill in a five-meter-deep water tank during a lunch break, without supervision, at the time of their deaths.

The victim's parents, who do not believe the school's account, have threatened legal action if the school does not take responsibility.

Victory for anti-HIV: After being pressured by Thai and international activists for years, GlaxoSmithKline has withdrawn patent applications in Thailand and India for a key drug used to treat HIV/Aids patients.

In a letter sent to the Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, the giant drug firm's Bangkok office said its headquarters had ordered its intellectual-property division to withdraw patent application for Combivir in the two countries.

"It is a victory for the people," said Paul Cawthorne, Director of the Doctors Without Borders office in Thailand.

The decision is important to HIV-positive Thais, as it means

they can continue to use the affordable generic version of Combivir made by the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO), he said.

It is also important to the world that India will be able to continue to manufacture the generic drug Zidovudine for developing countries, he added.

Combivir is a combination of two anti-retroviral drugs, Lamivudine and Zidovudine. Protesters claimed Glaxo had no right to apply for a patent for Combivir because the combination of two drugs did not constitute an invention. If a patent had been granted, GPO would have been forced to stop manufacturing Zidovudine.

Blow your horn: The capital's latest slogan, "Bangkok: Harmony of Life" and its associated logo were unveiled at a press conference at Siam Paragon shopping center.

Bangkok Deputy Governor Buddhipongse Punakanta said the 1.5-million-baht launch was meant to explain the meaning of the logo: an image of a flower with four petals in different colors, each representing a facet of the way of life of Bangkok residents: high quality of life, good environment, culture and tourism, and the economy.

The name Bangkok, along with the flower logo, may be used in promotional campaigns by the private sector for special occasions, such as the Bangkok Grand Sale, K. Buddhipongse said.

Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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ANDAMAN COASTING
By Franky Gun

Strange but true: tourists can still be seen wandering around on Khao Lak's streets, even at this time of year. These tourists, although small in number, have prompted many stores, souvenir and gift shops, as well as many restaurants, to stay open well into the low season.

From my early Phuket days, some 14 years ago, waiting for tourists to stumble into our dive shop at then-quiet Kata Beach, I know that this is how year-round tourist seasons begin.

As soon as the small shop owners come to believe that it is worthwhile keeping their doors open from May until November, more tourists will be drawn into the region.

Even the Nangthong Mini Mart is keeping its stock levels up, refilling fridges and shelves regularly with foreign goodies,

Let the good times roll



Workers clear the main road near the Tab Lamu intersection after a tree came down across it. Inset: this pickup truck hit the fallen giant, but no one was hurt.

something that was apparently unthinkable until a year ago.

Before then, the shelves and fridges held only the most basic selection of goods in the low season. Sometimes the

shelves were so empty that one had the feeling one should fill them up instead of buying something there.

What all this indicates is that Khao Lak is on the up-and-up, and

local business people and foreign residents alike have the feeling that this coming high season will be a good one.

Weather-beaten: The worst of the low season weather so far this year hit Khao Lak and the surrounding areas in the afternoon and throughout the night of August 14.

Strong winds caused damage to property all around and there were several blackouts, the longest one lasting 12 hours and leaving almost all of Khao Lak in the dark all night.

On Highway 4, near the Tab Lamu intersection, a black pickup truck was at the wrong place at the wrong time. A huge tree suddenly surrendered to the forces of the storm and fell onto the road, dragging power cables down with it.

The pickup, too close to stop, crashed right into the fallen tree. Luckily, the driver and the passenger escaped unharmed as they were wearing their seat belts – and they were not electrocuted either.

The tree, now blocking the road, was cut into pieces and removed very quickly to allow traffic to pass freely again.

Simply drained: The heavy rain that came with the storm caused minor flooding throughout the area, including along the road to Bang Niang Beach, where – as has been the case for a long time – the drainage system does not work.

No effort has been made to solve this problem – why should there be, when the next high and dry season is only three months away?

Undercurrent: The strong currents and big waves brought by the southwest monsoon have washed away most of the sand and soil that was brought in by owners of beachfront land after the tsunami.

As a result, some bungalows at Bang Niang Beach are now right at high-tide mark.

It appears that none of the landowners understand that the tsunami washed away a few meters of beach land forever, in length and in depth.

To replace this loss permanently, not only does the visible beach land have to be filled up, but also the submerged part of the beach.

Unless this is done, the soil and sand closest to the water will always be washed away during the southwest monsoon.

The owner of a small beachfront resort who had to bring in truckloads of soil to fill up what was lost in front of his resort, asked me after the tsunami what he should do to prevent his re-filled paradise from being washed away during the wet season.

I suggested to him that it would be best to erect a 1.5-meter-high granite wall with a steel-reinforced concrete base and a few steps leading down to the beach.

Fearing that his bungalow resort would lose its beachfront ambiance, however, he ignored my advice. Looking at his villas now, which are literally water-front bungalows, he may perhaps be regretting that decision.

But we all learn from our mistakes, don't we?

It appears that none of the landowners understand that the tsunami washed away a few meters of beach land forever, in length and in depth.



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The TDR288 model can hit speeds of up to 70kmh and is rated for loads of 80 to 100 kilos

Electric wheels

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: Motorcyclists have long defined themselves by the bikes they choose to ride. Currently, Phuket is home to a number of big bike enthusiasts, who like nothing more than tearing up the roads with the thundering roar of their beloved "hogs".

But with the price of oil moving ever closer to US\$100 a barrel – and local pump prices threatening to bust the 30 baht/liter threshold any day now – even motorcyclists are starting to feel the pinch that their four-wheeled friends have been complaining about for years.

That same Honda Dream that cost just 50 baht to fill back in 2000 now takes 80 baht to top up. And some big bikes convert petrochemicals to pollution at a rate not much different from some sub-compact cars – certainly not good for the environment. The solution? Hop on a penguin.

No, not a real Antarctic penguin – but a Penguin-brand electric Bicycle from Taiwan, which can run 55 kilometers on a single five-baht battery charge using any standard household plug.

According to Siri wattana Prateep Na Thalang, Manager of the Kitrunng Trading's Penguin showroom in Phuket, about 40 people – mostly foreigners – have bought Penguins in Phuket since the local branch opened about a year ago, first in Samkong but now at a new shop on Patipat Rd.

As the heart of her sales pitch, K. Siri wattana provides a cost-comparison analysis between a 29,850-baht Model TDR 289 Penguin electric bike and a standard 4-stroke version of its fossil-fuel burning equivalent, priced at 27,500 baht – the cheapest you will find on the market.

Over 320 days, the 4-stroke will guzzle down 16,836 baht in fuel – compared with a miserly 1,600 baht in electricity for the super-efficient Penguin. The only other cost for the Penguin is battery replacement, which costs about 3,000 baht roughly once every two years. According to the retailers, savings amount to about 13,400 baht after just one year; 26,100 after year two; 42,000 af-

ter year three; and 57,600 after four years of use.

A number of different models are available from the showroom and others may be ordered. These come in two main lines. There are three XDB models, ranging from the top-of-the-line XDB-289 at 30,900 baht, which can hit 55-60 kilometers an hour and is rated for loads of 80 to 100 kilograms, down to the slower and thinner XDB-233, which has a top speed of 40kmh while carrying up to 45 kilograms.

There are also four sleek and stylish TDR models. The TDR-288 (just under 30,000 baht) can hit speeds of up to 70kmh and is rated for loads of 80 to 100 kilos. At the other end is the 20,100-baht TDR-278, with a maximum speed of about 30kph and a payload of 80 kilos.

The decision whether to "go electric" probably depends mostly on the buyer's needs. You certainly won't win any drag races on a Penguin, nor will you be able to make it over Patong Hill.

The advantages are many, however: Penguins are economical, pollution-free and almost silent. Repair and maintenance won't be much of a problem, as many of the parts are either interchangeable with those of gasoline-powered models or are in stock at the Kitrunng garage, which also has its own mechanic.

Apart from being less powerful than gasoline-powered bikes, most other aspects of ownership and use are about the same. The purchase price includes the green registration book and mandatory insurance.

"Don't worry about driving in the rain. Penguins have a completely waterproofed system, with seals to protect the electrical system," said K. Siri wattana, noting that much of the electrical equipment is housed under the seat.

Who knows? With no end in sight to the rise in oil prices, maybe electric bikes will be the next big thing on two wheels.

Kitrunng Trading Company is located on Patipat Rd in Phuket City, near the Mae Luan Rd Intersection. For more information contact K.Siri wattana (Tel. 076-211486; 06-3087433).

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Men on the run caught in resort

Police in Nakhon Sri Thammarat rounded up two prisoners who had escaped from a police station in Udon Thani after sawing through the bars of their cell in the early hours of August 7. Two other prisoners who escaped at the same time remain at large.

The two men, Singkan Bunsonchai, 23, accused of trading *ya bah* (methamphetamine), and Thanong Rungreuang, 29, accused of theft, were recaptured at around 1 am on August 11 in a forest resort in Lansaka District, where they had been staying.

At first Singkan pretended to be mentally handicapped and incapable of understanding the officers' questions. When confronted with a picture of himself, however, he dropped the pretense and admitted that he was the man they were after.

Singkan was told that he would be flown back by helicopter, a prospect that piqued his interest. His excitement soon waned, however, and he told officers that when he got back to Udon Thani he would be "beaten to a pulp for sure". The officers laughed.

Singkan then claimed that he wasn't the one who organized the breakout. It was a friend of the two prisoners who have yet to be caught who had smuggled the saw in, he said.

In addition to their initial charges, Singkan and Thanong now each face two more charges: escaping from custody and damaging government property.

Anonymous assassination: Police are baffled by the murder of a rubber plantation owner who was shot dead while riding his motorcycle in Chaouat District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat. They



say the man was widely respected in the community.

Somsak Hangan, 40, was driving to his plantation when two

men on a motorcycle pulled up close. The man riding pillion drew a sawed-off shotgun and shot K. Somsak once in the neck. K. Somsak died at the scene. His wife, who was riding pillion, jumped off the bike, sustaining minor injuries.

Pol Lt Col Chamnan Chamnagit, Deputy Superintendent at Chaout Police Station, said that police had yet to discover any clues pointing to the motive for the killing. However, he added, because the victim was respected and well behaved, the most likely cause for the killing was a dispute over land or rubber interests.

Friends forever: Two close friends were found shot dead by the side of a road in a palm plantation in the Thasala District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat on the morning of August 14. Both bodies had multiple gunshot wounds.

Songsak Khunparak, 24, had been shot once in his right arm, twice in the back of the head and once in the forehead.

Weerayut Manechai, meanwhile, had been shot three times in the area of his right eye. The two men died at least six hours before their bodies were found.

Above, Peace activists and students gather at Prince of Songkhla University's Pattani campus yesterday to condemn Israel's air strikes on Lebanon and the continuing violence in their own region in the far South.

— Photo and caption, *The Nation*.

Left, Singkan Bunsonchai is detained by Nakhon Sri Thammarat provincial police, who captured him in a resort in the forest where he was laying low after escaping from a police station in Udon Thani.

Pol Maj Preecha Chinpakdee, Duty Investigation Inspector at Thasala Police Station, said that he believed the two men had been followed by their killers until they reached a quiet spot.

Police had yet to determine a clear motive for the killings, but knew that the two men had been close friends for many years and that both had criminal records for drug offenses, he added.

After receiving a royal pardon in June, Songsak was released from prison, where he was serving time for drug offenses and robbery.

His mother had also once pressed charges against him for beating her. Weerayut's criminal record included firing a gun in a public place.

Well read: Sainab Abdul Ror-mae, a 45-year-old Thai woman from Narathiwat, has won first prize at an international Qur'an-reading contest held in Kuala Lumpur — for the second time. Entrants from 50 countries competed in the annual competition, now in its 48th year.

K. Sainab first won the contest in 1996. She said she started studying the Koran with her parents when she was a child, but it was her elder brother who had introduced her to reading it aloud. She added that she had studied the Koran in Malaysia.

Wasted youth: Two youths have surrendered to police, admitting killing a rubber tapper who disappeared four days earlier.

The youths, in Khanom District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat,

admitted that they killed their friend and co-worker and hid his body. They said they were prompted to confess by the fear of being haunted. Both men, in their dreams, had seen their dead friend sitting and weeping.

Somsri Prasopthong was reported missing by relatives on August 8. On August 12, Aekachai Khantiwong, 20, along with a 17-year-old youth, walked into Khanom Police Station and told officers that they were responsible for Somsri's disappearance.

Police escorted the pair to where the body was hidden and recovered the corpse of K. Somsri. He had been hit over the head repeatedly with blunt instruments and had many deep cuts on his abdomen.

The two youths told police that they and Somsri were drinking spirits together when an argument broke out after Somsri accused them of taking 300 baht from him.

The two were so angry at this slur that they grabbed a bottle each, smashed them, and then began to stab Somsri. They then picked up wooden poles and beat him to death.

After the killing, the two tried to go back to their regular lives but were troubled by guilt and were being haunted by dreams of their dead friend, so decided to give themselves up.

They have been charged with murder and concealing evidence of a death.

Around the South is extracted from the pages of Kom Chad Luek newspaper.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Bhaktapur: elevated in time

The political tumult that has beset Nepal in recent years is gradually dying down and travelers are starting to head back to some of the kingdom's most picturesque locations.

Back in the 1990s, when the location scout for Bernardo Bertolucci's epic film *Little Buddha* arrived in Bhaktapur, at the eastern end of the Kathmandu valley, he knew he'd struck gold.

Quite simply, the town is a medieval time capsule and it needed only a modicum of preparation before Bertolucci's cameras started to roll.

Bhaktapur, the "City of Devotees", is a lovely rambling village which falls into two halves – the elder being Tachapal Tol and the younger, a mere 500 years old, set around Durbar Square and Taumadhi Tol.

Few motor vehicles can pass through the narrow, twisting, brick-lined streets. Every corner has a shrine, while the main squares lead up to jutting pagoda-roofed temples.

Traditional craftsmen practice their trade on their doorsteps, and the women tattoo their ankles in the belief that this the only way they'll get into heaven.

As one entranced late-afternoon visitor put it, "You think of Chaucer's England and Rabelais's France – it's like a medieval tapestry tacked onto a tearose sky."

True, coach-loads of lens-faced tourists – garish against the backdrop of muted reds and browns – bumble their way out here during the day, gasping and giggling at the erotic carvings on the temples that make the Kama Sutra look like a Tai Chi Chuan manual.



Above: Peace and tranquility are Bhaktapur's lodestar. Inset: Venerating local deities is part of daily life

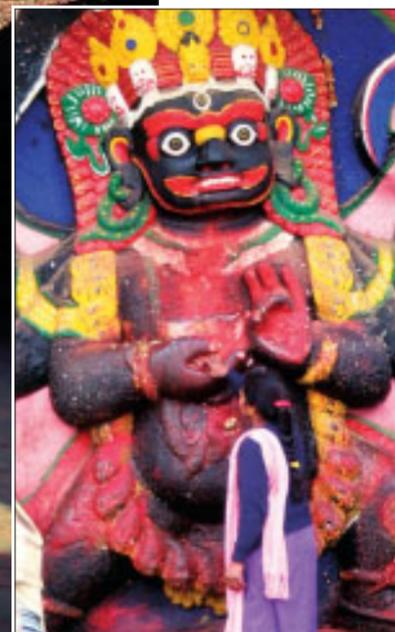
in the half-light of a guttering candle.

In Kumale Tol, potters effortlessly turn out commodious water vessels, the tiny – disposable and environmentally friendly – cups that wayside cafés use to serve tea, and even children's piggy banks called *kutrukke*.

At any time the street may erupt into a raucous wedding procession, with half the town following and led by drunken tailors who traditionally provide the music on such occasions, hooting and blasting down their brass instruments like so many young elephants.

Nothing is staged here, and nothing is done for show. It's purely Bhaktapur as it always has been.

In addition to its own unique charms, Bhaktapur is the gateway to this end of the valley. Due north, the tranquil 1,600-year-old temple complex of Changu Narayan



provides some of the best views back toward Kathmandu.

A 30-minute snaking climb by bus leads up to Nagarkot. Seemingly suspended on a ridge at an altitude of 2,000 meters, it looks directly across to a Himalayan panorama that stretches 300 kilometers from Annapurna to Everest, known to Sherpas as Sagarmatha or "Mother Goddess of the World".

But by dusk they have all motored away, and this is when Bhaktapur is at its most enjoyable.

It is not just the great monuments – the Royal Palace with its exuberant, detailed golden brass door, the Nyatapola pagoda guarded by scary statues of

wrestlers, elephants, lions, griffins and goddesses, and the intricately carved latticed windows decorated with peacocks in the priests' quarters – that catch the eye.

What is most striking is the people. Hundreds flock to the bathing ghats beside the Hanu-

mante River every morning to perform ablutions and to pray. Goldsmiths, working their bellows by hand, mold earrings while squatting on their haunches. Dancers at the Nawa Durga Dyochhen Temple, who are traditionally drawn from a caste of flower sellers, practice their steps



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TALKING BIGGS

Stephen Fein: How long have you been living in Thailand?

Andrew Biggs: 17 years.

SF: Wow, same as me.

AB: Really? 1989? When exactly?

SF: In November. Right when I got here they had the mudslides in Surat Thani.

AB: Sounds like an auspicious occasion! (laughs) My auspicious day was Valentine's Day. I arrived here on February 14. And, sorry, how old are you?

SF: I am 43.

AB: Me, too! It sounds like we have quite a bit in common.

SF: Yes, it does. So where are you from in Australia and how did you end up in Thailand?

AB: I'm from Brisbane, in Queensland. I was a journalist. I did my cadetship with the *Courier-Mail* in Brisbane, which is the morning paper for Queensland. I spent two years in Melbourne as its correspondent.

I did a year with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as well as radio. I was a reporter and I used to read the news on the weekend for Macquarie National News, which is the national radio news in Australia.

Then [Rupert] Murdoch [founder of News Corp] bought our newspaper, so for all the good and bad that happened with that we were able to get jobs fairly easily in London, where Murdoch owned *The Times* and *The Sun*.

So what I did was what ev-

Australian Andrew Biggs is Deputy Managing Editor for News at BecTero, a subsidiary and content provider for Thai TV Channel 3. Appearing on the weekend morning news and talk show *Rueang Raaw Saow Athit*, *Sap Khao Chaaw Nii* and the instructional series *English Minute*, Andrew is probably the best-known foreigner working in the Thai media today. In Patong to promote the Andrew Biggs Academy, he met *Gazette* Desk Editor Stephen Fein and Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanapaporn at the Burasari Hotel to answer questions about how he mastered the Thai language so thoroughly – and what life is like as the most famous farang living in the Land of Smiles.

ery other journo was doing back then: I went to work in London for two years, just to get experience, before going back to Australia.

But being a journalist – as you are well aware – the salaries aren't exactly huge, so I looked for the cheapest ticket I could find – and that was Thai Airways. But they had a condition that you had to stop in Thailand for two nights and three days. I was unhappy about it. I had no desire to come here. I wanted to get to London and work.

HIDEOUS BOOK

So I arrived and I bought an Agatha Christie book – wait, no, it wasn't Agatha Christie. You know what I bought? It was that hideous book that was popular at the time, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, which was the backpacker's book at the time.

And I bought this book – I

already had the Agatha Christie, which I actually stole from my Mum – and I thought: Right, I am going to get to Bangkok and sit by the pool for two days and read.

SF: That's funny, I remember reading that same book my first year here. I found it really self-indulgent.

AB: It was awful. That's exactly the word to describe it, too, "self-indulgent". But maybe it's the reason I stayed in Thailand, because I could hardly get through it...

I arrived here at nighttime, and I could feel the atmosphere here. There was a real buzz that I really liked. The first day I went to see the Grand Palace, then the canals. I did Wat Arun and all that.

So I bought another book and read about the history of Siam and decided I would like to go up and see the old capitals.

So I postponed the rest of my trip. I telephoned England and said I could not arrive in a few weeks as I said. So I got on the train and traveled around by myself, with a backpack and not being able to speak Thai.

I went to Ayudhya, Lop Buri, Sukhothai, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai ... all through Isarn ... When I think back now I say, "God..." As you know, Thailand was very different back then. Some things are essentially the same, but...

SF: I think the people have changed, too. But then again, maybe I am just getting older.

AB: Me too (laughs). But after I had been here about three months, I went to London. I loved it. It was beautiful, but I realized then that if I wanted a really different experience I should come back to Thailand.

So I flew back. I decided I was going to learn the language. This is what is strange about it. I obviously knew in the back of my head back then I was going to stay here for a long time.

I also decided I didn't want to go straight into journalism in



Thailand, so I taught for about a year. I really loved it, but then I wanted to get back into the media, and I got a job with the *Nation*.

They told me they were looking for someone to create a youth magazine, where you report the news, but in a nice easy way that learners can understand.

SF: *Nation Junior*, right?

AB: Right. I never gave up the teaching, because I really liked it. But for the first 10 years I was here I kept saying, "I am not a teacher! I am a journalist." I felt uncomfortable when they called me *Ajarn! Ajarn!* because that wasn't my background at all.

But by working at *Nation Junior* for 10 years, and the ensuing radio and TV that went with it, it was obvious to me what the problems were for English-language learners here – so I started writing about that.

SF: If you met a foreigner who had just arrived and he said to you, "I want to speak Thai as well as you," what tips would you give him?

AB: Start with the alphabet. Buy those books that have *Gor Gai* written with broken lines so you can practice writing them. Learn the consonants off by heart – it

will take you a month to learn all 44. Then the vowels.

SF: I still don't know them all.

AB: You just have to give up the time. If you did, you would pick them up like that (snaps his fingers). But for someone who doesn't know the language at all, I would say learn the letters, learn the tone rules and listen to the Thais.

Watch all those soap operas on television. Soapies are good, because they speak really slowly. And the stories are ludicrous, they are as ridiculous as the ones back in Australia, and they are funny, they're entertaining.

But start with writing first, because it's a tonal language, and if you want to get the tones right you have got to understand the tone rules.

As you know, there are many different opinions about ways you can learn a language. But I think that for grown-ups, as opposed to kids, you should sit down and learn the tone rules first ... because it makes sense and it speeds everything up.

There's logic to the madness of the language. But, of course, listening is important too, because you have got to be able to listen to a language before you can speak it.

SF: When I started to read

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Thai, I was taught phonetically, but later I realized that I was just learning an intermediate script. In retrospect I think I would have been better off just jumping into the written Thai from the beginning, rather than wasting time, because learning the phonetics takes quite a bit of time too.

AB: Absolutely. It's going to take the same amount of time anyway [as learning the Thai letters], and it's not going to help in the long run.

SF: Another problem is that everyone seems to develop their own phonetic system.

AB: That's right, so why not just go for the system that the Thais use? Anyway, I don't know if I am right or wrong on that, but it's just my opinion.

But if you look at the foreigners who speak Thai very well, most of them started by learning how to write.

SF: You are widely recognizable in Thailand. How do you deal with that? Do you ever have problems with it?

AB: No, I don't, actually. If I had a problem with it I probably wouldn't be working in TV, I guess.

I have a really good response from the Thai people. People just smile and say, "Hel-

lo". You know what Thais are like. They are lovely people. Generally the reaction is good.

The only thing is, you have to be careful about where you go and what you do. I can't dance on pub tables with lampshades on my head (laughs).

But I don't think I ever really did that. I have a very strict line about what I do on TV and what I do after work. It's never really been a problem.

LUCKIEST FARANG

I guess the only thing is that I used to look at people more than I do now. When I walk, I tend to walk looking down a bit.

But I always say, "I am the luckiest farang in Thailand." People always smile and say "Hello" when they see me. If I wasn't on TV they'd all be going, "Hey! Look at that ugly, bald farang with the big ears!" (laughs all around).

But wherever you work in the media, you get crackpots. In Australia, I used to get all these mad people writing to me. They see your name in the paper and they write to you. It's the same here. You get your nutters, but it's only about 1% of the people who [bother to] write.

Andrew Biggs is looking for teachers/entertainers for his academy, on the 20th floor of the Channel 3 building in Bangkok. For more information visit his website: www.andrewbiggs.com

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Right: Intira Lekawut and Pasit Atthachailertyot, were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on August 3, 2006.



Left: Lynne Kelly and Neil Daffen from Australia were married at the Honeymoon Suite of the Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa, Koh Bon, on July 18, 2006.



Facts about cosmetic dentistry

On August 30th, Promjai Dental Clinic is organizing a two-hour special public information session and multi-media presentation on three aspects of modern dentistry.

To be held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel starting at 1 pm, the session will be moderated by Promjai Dental Clinic's Managing Director, Dr. Achara Pandaeng, DDS (Chulalongkorn University, 1985).

The session will be divided into three main topics: dental implants; the revolutionary BriteSmile® teeth whitening system; and cosmetic dentistry.

Each of the sessions will include a multimedia presentation of 15-20 minutes, followed by a panel discussion led by visiting specialists from Promjai Clinic's headquarters in Bangkok.

The third topic, cosmetic dentistry, will be presented by Dr Narong Potiket

(D.D.S. Chulalongkorn University, 1997; M.S. Louisiana State University, 2002). Certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics, Dr Potiket will explain in layman's terms and the various cosmetic problems that can now be corrected by various cosmetic dentistry procedures. These include "diastema", a space or unusually large gap between two teeth; poorly aligned teeth and even "peg tooth", when a tooth has an unusual shape, sometimes resembling a grain of rice.

While cosmetic dentistry procedure are purely elective and done only for aesthetic purposes, they can bring real benefits to those who do not feel fully confident in the appearance of their teeth. Using a series of before-and-after photographs, Dr Potiket will explain the basic behind various metal-free restoration techniques, including dental veneers.



Dental veneers, usually fabricated from porcelain, comprise a thin, semi-translucent "shell", custom-made to fit precisely over an existing tooth. Permanently bonded and durable, they are held in place by a special resin that adheres the back of the veneer to the front of the tooth. Although not suitable for everyone, they are a cosmetic alternative to many conditions affecting the front teeth, including restoration of broken or chipped teeth, covering stained or washed out fillings, correcting uneven or crooked teeth, and more.

Dr Potiket will explain who is a good candidate for dental veneers as well as other cosmetic dentistry techniques, including: Crowns, ceramic filling and various tooth whitening processes. He will also explain what problems can be corrected using cosmetic surgery in tandem with other

techniques, including orthodonty (braces).

Is cosmetic dentistry for everyone? Of course not. If you are happy with the way your teeth there is no "problem" to correct. But cosmetic dentistry offers a wide range of options for those who want to more closely match their teeth with their personal concept of what is visually pleasing.

So if you don't like your teeth or your smile, find out what you can do about it at this straightforward, no-pressure-to-buy public session, the first of its kind ever offered in Phuket.

Following the session there will be a cocktail reception in an adjacent room, with models demonstrating the various topics covered. Those attending will have the chance to have their questions about dental problems answered free-of-charge by some of Thailand's top dentists.

The session is open to all, but those wishing to attend should reserve a seat in advance by contacting Khun Ladawan at Tel: 076-345341-2 or 01-6372669.

This week



MOTHER'S DELIGHT: Youngsters from Kajornkiatsuksa School take time out before one of their on-stage performances at Central Festival Phuket as part of the recent Mother's Day celebrations held at the shopping mall on August 12.



ON FILM: Phirapong Supaorut (left), General Manager of The Metropole hotel, in Phuket City, and Patita Hongsakul (right), the hotel's Public Relations Manager, welcome Thai singer and actor Rattapoom "Film" Tohkongsab, star of the recent hit film *Rak Jung*, to the hotel on August 12.



SPORT SUPPORT: Best Wanamakok (left) from the Rotary Club of Patong Beach hands out sports equipment donated by Phuket's six Rotary Clubs to children at Phuket Special School in Pa Khlok on August 12. Rotarians there to lend a hand included Arnaud Verstraete (2nd from left) and Godfrey Kent.



FARE THEE WELL: *Phuket Gazette* Publisher John Magee (center, in white shirt) and the staff of the *Phuket Gazette* wish Managing Director Rungtip Hongjakpetch (center, in black top) a fond farewell after 11 years of working at the *Gazette*, following a farewell lunch at Oishi restaurant at the Index Living Mall on the bypass road.



ON YER BIKE: Philip John Cope (left) and Santi Tontangtrong (orange shirt), owners of the Big Twin motorbike shop in Phuket City, donate a 150cc Honda fully fitted with police equipment at a total cost of 145,000 baht, to Pol Lt Col Sermphan Sirikong, Deputy Superintendent of Kathu Police Station, on August 10.



SKOL FOR SCHOOL: Skol International - Phuket President Hajo von Keller (rear, 2nd from left) and (rear, from left) Urs Aebi, Fredy Muenger, Wat Sawang Arom School Director Chaiyod Prommas and Suwit Auttayamavitaya, pose for a photo with six students at the school who will receive a total of 220,000 baht to go toward their primary education.

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HOW I GOT MY NAME

CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

Let me take you back to 2003... A time when George Bush and other world leaders arrived in Bangkok to attend the APEC summit, Prime Minister Thaksin declared war on the drug dealers, and the first subway cars arrived in Bangkok at around the same time the Skytrain was facing bankruptcy.

Bold initiatives had been proposed and implemented, new laws passed, and a growing national confidence generally saw Thailand rising as a colorful competitor in the race for economic leadership.

While all this important stuff was going on, I was simply trying to get by in life and had rented my first apartment in Phaholyothin Rd, set fire to my backpack, thrown away my *Same Same But Different* T-shirt and found myself a job teaching English.

BACKPAT

I had arrived at that halfway limbo where I avoided backpackers, making an effort not to associate with anybody who was one, though not yet socializing with "proper" expats who would turn their nose up at me in the same way I would turn my nose up at anybody wearing a backpack and a *Same Same But Different* T-shirt.

I shared the apartment with fellow "backpat" and teacher, Jeff, a well-groomed Canadian with a penchant for Chinese history, Japanese food and his pint sized Thai girlfriend, Aum.

As usual, my own efforts to find a suitable companion had proved unsuccessful. They included a short-lived romance with a city girl called Kung – a workaholic who I had to book an appointment with to see – and another with a feisty dancer who never showed me where she worked and had a number of male "friends" overseas who would phone her regularly.

Even when I wasn't single I felt I was, and there was a gap in my life I couldn't seem to fill.

One Sunday afternoon I ventured out to Bangkok's famous Chatuchak market.

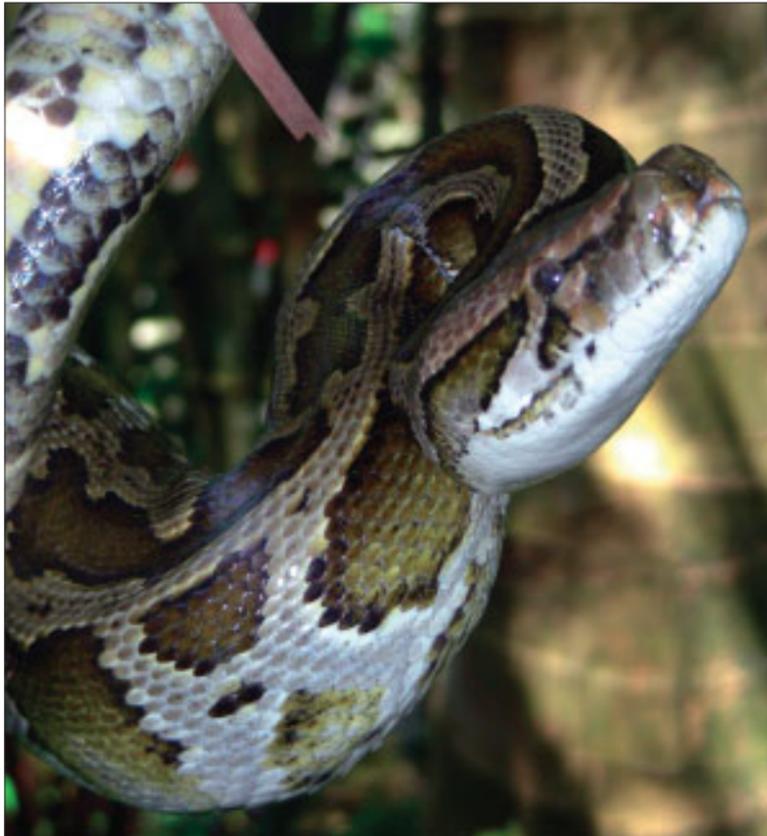
The cats, dogs, birds, fish, insects, arachnids and reptiles in the market seemed in reasonable condition compared with captive animals in other parts of Asia.

Upon my first visit to Chatuchak back in 2002 I had bought a scorpion. Don't know which species it was but it was about the size of a pack of cigarettes and – to my amazement – about the same price as a pack of cigarettes.

I named him Oliver. Why?

A dog or a cat would never suffice as a companion for the *Gazette's* Man in the Capital. For him, something more exotic was in order.

First it was a scorpion, but this turned out not to be the ideal pet. So he went looking for something else...



'All in all Stiffy was a good companion and an interesting pet, until the day he bit my finger.' –Photo courtesy Phuket Zoo

I don't know, it just fitted; and I had endless fun showing off in Khaosan Rd, picking him up by his sting and putting him on my arm to make myself look brave and make girls scream.

This all went pear-shaped one day when, after a big night on the Singha, I saw a leaflet advertising a snake farm that featured a scorpion show in which a man would put scorpions on his face.

Deciding to have a go at this myself, I handed a friend my camera and put my head back, gently placing Oliver on my face. He told me to put my head forward so he could take the photo. I did so, and Oliver suddenly found himself on a vertical surface, so to avoid falling off, held on with his pincers for dear life to the edge of my nostrils. Trying to remove him was tricky as well as excruciatingly painful, and I had to be careful not to agitate him because my eye was only the length of his tail away. The photo, however, was a classic.

Oliver ended up in a pile of dry leaves under a spirit house

after that, and so it was on my second visit to Chatuchak a year later that I acquired my next pet.

At first I was convinced it was dead, but the baby Burmese python in front of me was just tired and stiff, having spent his life thus far in a Tupperware box. I felt a pang of sympathy toward this little snake and decided I could give him a better life, so after paying 1,500 baht I was soon on the Skytrain home with the aptly named Stiffy, who was loosening up in a paper bag and taking an interest in his surroundings.

At home I had a bathroom. I never used the bath as I had a shower next door, so the bath was to be his home from then on.

He seemed totally disinterested in the raw pork I had bought and snipped into bite-sized pieces and everything else I tried to push into his mouth with a cotton bud, so I gave up and left him to it until couple of weeks later, by which time I'd grown quite concerned that he still hadn't had a feed.

I was aware snakes could fast for quite some time but just

how long would it go on? He didn't seem to be any thinner. His girth didn't exceed that of a sausage and he was about 45cm long.

One night I bought a chicken drumstick and was about to cut some meat off it but ended up leaving it on the side of the bath; we were due to go out – Jeff had already groomed himself and we were running late.

SHOWER

When I arrived back at the apartment several hours later, Stiffy was nowhere to be seen and neither was the drumstick. I eventually found him curled up behind the bath with a drumstick-sized bulge halfway down his body.

He gradually grew and became friendlier. I even took him in the shower with me once a week until he defecated down my back, which made me think it was time for another meal. However, another drumstick it was not to be; he must have been desperate the first time.

Back at Chatuchak I eventually found my way back to where I had bought him. I explained as best I could that he wouldn't eat and was pointed in the direction of a stall that sold live mice.

Now this was never going to be easy, but live food was the only solution. I placed the mouse in the bath and before I even knew what happened there was a squeak and Stiffy had coiled around him, squeezing the life out of him before eventually relaxing and swallowing him headfirst.

He had another four mice that week and, by a month later, had almost doubled in size. After a bit of belated Internet research I discovered that Burmese pythons could grow to more than 20 feet long and required a special ownership license in the US as some had been known to swallow other pets, small children and, in some cases, their owners.

One day I took him to school with me, much to the interest/horror of the children and I even took him to a bar once, where he hung comfortably around my neck and enjoyed the attention of admirers, particularly a gay Thai man who

was a friend of ours called M, who despite his campness and fragility seemed to be a natural snake handler.

All in all Stiffy was a good companion and an interesting pet, until the day he bit my finger. Because pythons have needle-sharp teeth that point backwards I was unable to remove my digit and the more I tried, the tighter Stiffy coiled around my arm, and by this stage he was close to a meter long.

I thought about releasing him in some countryside near the school where I worked, but if the children ever started disappearing I would feel responsible, and so I sought the advice of reptile lover M, who advised the best thing to do was to give him to Bangkok's Dusit Zoo. After a few phone calls it was arranged and we took him to the reptile house where they said thanks, and that was the end of my pet ownership days in Thailand.

HASSLE

I would love to know what became of Stiffy, how big he got and if he is still alive today.

By saving Stiffy from the snake sellers I had only added to the demand for exotic pets, sacrificed the lives of a few dozen mice along the way, and caused myself unnecessary hassle; and so in hindsight and three years of wisdom later, I feel I should point out that reptiles are better off in the wild.

Not in markets or zoos and certainly not round the necks of those Polaroid-camera-wielding tourist vultures who hang around noisy, smoky beer bars trying to get you to pose with a snake or iguana for 100 baht a snap.

The exotic animal trade is illegal but is obviously not one of the laws that is rigidly enforced here, with the result that, today, Burmese pythons are a "threatened" species.

So if you ever consider adopting a python or any other pet of an exotic nature, remember where you are and that it's just as exotic to have a Thai woman for a companion, for they are not illegal, they don't eat mice, and, of course, they are hassle-free.

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The word “diva” – in much the same way as “prima donna” – has slipped from being used to as an honorific reserved for female opera singers of a rare and outstanding quality into something applied to less rarified musical genres.

The recently-departed Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was a diva. Vivica Genaux is a diva, so too is Constance Novis, and no list of operatic divas would be complete without mentioning the troubled, beautiful Maria Callas.

As *Time* magazine recorded, in a 2002 issue, “By definition, a diva was originally used for great female opera singers, almost always sopranos. Often today ‘diva’ is used to describe any extremely independent and wildly-talented woman.”

Anyone, and almost everyone, from Dolly Parton to Madonna to J. Lo has had the label applied, although they may bear more resemblance – musically, I hasten to add – to Diva railway junction in Mumbai than to an Italian goddess, although in some cases – such as Billie Holliday – there is justification for applying the term.

More specifically than *Time*’s rather weak definition, a non-operatic diva today tends to possess a powerful, but melodic voice – without the aid of electronic thingummybobs and doo-dahs, thank you very much – and a captivating stage presence, without, similarly, all the lights, lasers, whiz-bangs and bang-whizzes, and hoojamaflips.

So, outside of opera, are such goddesses to be found? Step up to the microphone Sarah Jane Morris.

Who? One may – note the “may” – be forgiven for not being able to place Briton Ms Morris at a moment’s notice; her absence of a few years from releasing records helps little, too.

Cast your mind back to September 1986 and a great cover version – itself inspired by Thelma Houston’s version – of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes’ *Don’t Leave Me This Way* by The Communards, with the divine and quite tall Ms M sharing vocals with the diminutive Jimmy Somerville, who looks like Tintin.

The single was a massive hit, reaching Number 1 in the UK as well as other European charts

Divas, dream weaver



Ear Candy
By Andy Johnstone



Sarah Jane Morris
after all these years

IRMA

and topping the US dance charts.

Ms Morris is an intense, passionate singer and her wide vocal range tempered with delicacy and sensuality is ably displayed on this 34-track retrospective album *After All These Years*. “Retrospective” is the fairest word to use, because, well, she has enjoyed only a few hits, save for The Communards collaboration and a handful of others in Europe.

However, talent cannot be judged by sales of albums or singles, but Ms Morris has, over a career spanning some 25 years, built up an enviable repertoire of jazz, blues and soul songs, including some self-penned, some created collaboratively and some standards.

Critics – aren’t we all these days? – have likened her voice to those of Grace Jones, Sarah Vaughn, Billie Holliday, Joan Armatrading, Macy Gray and Annie Lennox. Her own description is “Nina Simone meets Janis Joplin,” those two being her prime inspirants.

This double CD includes her rendition of *Me and Mrs Jones*. In her version, she retains the original lyrics:

*We meet ev’ry day at the same café
Six-thirty I know she’ll be there
Holding hands, making all kinds of plans
While the jukebox plays our favorite song.*

This “scandalous” refusal to, say, make it *Me and Mr Jones*, saw the soulful ballad virtually denied any airplay on BBC Radio when it was released in 1989. The mandarins at Aunty Beeb perhaps flipped and got in a flap, fearing a generation of teenage girls slipping into sapphism overnight after hearing a song that, perhaps, in a way, sort of, kinda, maybe, possibly suggested lesbianism.

The irony, of course, is that The Communards, and Somerville’s earlier band, Bronski Beat, were rather, ahem, in one’s face about their homosexuality. What is good for the gander is quite obviously not good for the goose.

Ms Morris does write and sing from a very female perspective – and why should she not? – which has, for what it’s worth, led to numerous suggestions that she dances at the other end of the ballroom.

These suggestions seem to be fueled further by her strength of personality and by the artists with whom she is compared, all of whom are or were equally strong and – in some cases – lesbian icons.

A mixture of live and studio recordings, the album is sumptuously packaged. The CDs are

packed together in a six-page fold-out card pack. This and the four-page booklet with notes by the gorgeous Sarah Jane are packed inside an outer card wallet. Stunning photos from a recent concert in Rome appear throughout.

Other tracks included on this limited-edition album – each disc is, quaintly, a miniature replica of a vinyl record – are *Chelsea Hotel* and *Mercy Mercy Me* from her recordings with

Marc Ribot, and *Move On Up* with Callum and Neil MacColl. Also included are *Piece Of My Heart* and *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*.

Sarah Jane Morris’ talents are well-known on the concert circuit, and this retrospective, in which each song is at once classy, moving and stylish – but with substance – deserves a place in everyone’s collection.

Sarah Jane Morris After All These Years IRMA Records IRM 821 CD

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• As promised in the last Ear Candy, the “three better bands” – according to The Housemartins, who referred to themselves as “the fourth-best band in Hull” – were The Gargoyles, Everything But The Girl and The Red Guitars. Congratulations to Rachael Davenport for being the first, in fact only, person to name them.

Living just 8° north of the equator, where Phuket lies, is close enough to ensure that you are exposed to more than enough UV rays on any day – even through the low-season cloud cover that has been hovering above the island for the past month.

The UV factor in Phuket is often higher than most Europeans and Americans would have experienced in their hometowns, and Australians living on the island should already know to take precautions against sunburn whenever they leave the house, even if just by slapping on a hat.

If that’s the case, why not take a little care in choosing what to put on your noggin to make sure you look good.

“I find baseball caps awful,” says Julia Moennich, a representative of the Frankfurt-based *Textilwirtschaft*, one of Europe’s leading trade magazines for the textile industry.

However, she’ll let it slide if an outfit is suited to a cap such as British model Kate Moss’ outfit of shorts, T-shirt and flip-flops – a sight more common here in Phuket than in

The fashion world has long taken advantage of Turkey’s skilled, cheap labor – gratefully but with condescension. Turkey’s apparel industry is tired of toiling in the shadows, though. In recent years, it has been working hard to revamp its image by promoting young Turkish designers and creating its own labels.

It has an ambitious goal: to make Istanbul one of the world’s top fashion cities. Soon.

In the industrial belt around the city, producers of clothing for overseas designers are looking for ways to stave off cheaper competition from the Far East.

Meanwhile, in the center of the European part of the city, Turkish designers are busy. Their ateliers are mainly hidden behind the high facades in the upscale districts of Tesvikiye and Nisantasi.

Nisantasi is where Ozlem Suer, a favorite of Istanbul society, creates her elaborate clothing. Just a few blocks away, the Cetin sisters, Ezra and Tuba, work on their Bashqua label, which appeals primarily to a younger clientèle.

And Nej designer Nejla Guvenc plans to expand abroad with her clothing lines, notable for experimental cuts and surprising details.

To find inspiration, Turkish fashion designers need only look out the windows of their ateliers. History, culture, art – Turkey has them all in abundance. But not everyone is able to translate the country’s rich heritage into fashion that the rest of the world will wear.

Experts see Turkish designers’ propensity to opulence, their extravagance with details, as the greatest obstacle to getting their wares in the window displays of

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HOT HATS

the style centers of Europe.

Style expert Marianne Montag from *Unna* allows the occasional baseball cap but "in discreet colors and without a garish inscription."

But other items are not negotiable. Neither fashion pundit can abide men wearing pirate-style, bandanna wraps. "I think they are horrible," says Moennich, allowing cyclists an exception: "They can wear them."

Women, however, can wear headscarves or wraps to give them a more exotic look.

"Protection from the sun is important, but only in good taste," says Markus Fehr of the Seeberger fashion house. Seeberger has a line of straw hats for women, ranging from discreet to swanky.

German-based Goettmann offers a range of timeless Panama hats as well as func-



A panama hat is one of the all-time classics for gentlemen looking for protection from the sun.

tional designs with extra UV protection. "Materials like a polyester-cotton blend have a

UV factor of about 40," says Manager Michael Goettman. The range goes from a simple cap to a cap with neck protection.

This season Ernst Brendler are offering a range of supplies for the tropics and the high seas, with their Tropics Cap and Tropics Hat, both made of thick cotton, in classic styles.

For women, there are items such as the trendy Capri look of the 1950s, featuring wide-brimmed straw hats. "That will set a customer back 300 euros [about 14,400 baht] or more," says Moennich. It seems some bargain-hunting along the Patong beachfront is in order. Or even, if you don't mind looking like a farmer, a trip to SuperCheap for a 25-baht straw hat.

Scarves, worn in the style of that epitome of taste, Grace



Hats can be a lot of fun: Orange peacock feathers fly as high fashion comes to Ladies Day at Goodwood horse track in southwest England earlier this month. - Photo: EPA/Gerry Penny

Kelly - tied under the chin - are good for summer, says Montag. But Breitbart warns that while "a scarf covers up the ears, it has no brim". That is a must for protecting the forehead, nose, cheekbones and lips, she points out.

The brim should be large. Small caps with narrow brims, such as those favored by rock

star Pete Doherty, offer hardly any protection from the sun.

Moennich says the fashion is tending towards subtle colors, but headwear is becoming sportier and baseball caps are trendier, she notes - with disapproval.

Perhaps Phuket has the edge in shady style after all.

- Kai Portmann, dpa

Istanbul sets sights on fashion heights



A model shows off one of the dresses in the 2006 Balizza spring/summer collection. Balizza is one of the up-and-coming Istanbul fashion houses.

Turkish designer Atil Kutoglu, 37, agreed. "There are often too many ideas in a model. It's important to find a balance," he said.

Kutoglu has enjoyed success. He presents his collections at the New York Fashion Week alongside Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren.

But Kutoglu lives and works in Vienna, not Istanbul. Rifat Ozbek, Hussein Chalayan, Dice Kayek - almost all of the Turkish designers who have achieved international recognition went abroad first.

Behind the Dice Kayek label are two Turkish sisters, Ece and Ayce Ege, who are based in Paris.

Is it essential to work in an established fashion center? Ece Ege answered this question obliquely, with a question of her own: How did German fashion designer Jil Sander hit it big?

Sander's fame came via runways in Milan. "Being in Paris gives us a clearer look at our own culture," Ege explained. "We benefit by exchanging ideas with top designers from all over

the world." But Turkey remains a source of inspiration for her, and a production location with excellent conditions.

Nejla Guvenc, 36, intends to stay in her beloved homeland. "Istanbul is sadness, Istanbul is joy. Istanbul is old, Istanbul is young. Istanbul is hope, Istanbul is passion, Istanbul is love," she gushed.

"The fashion industry is growing by the day, becoming more important, more global. Not only Istanbul will join the existing fashion centers; other cities will, too."

Istanbul's rapid development

is much in evidence - its fine restaurants, exciting nightlife, trendy boutiques and ultramodern shopping centers. International trend scouts have had their eyes on the city on the Bosphorus for some time now.

But this is just the beginning. ITKIB President Suleyman Orakcioglu is pressing ahead with confidence. "We're continuing to work hard for our goal," he said. "There's only one city in the world that is in both Europe and Asia - Istanbul."

- Axel Botur, dpa

Western stores. Even talented young Turkish fashion designers seem to have difficulty keeping their style uncluttered.

The Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters Association (ITKIB) organizes an annual

contest for novice designers. Jury member Renato Balestra, a veteran of "l'Alta Moda Italiana," had the following advice for the 10 finalists this year: "You achieve elegance by leaving things out."

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The word is out, and it's not only the locals who appreciate the food at Jay.



Vegetarian generosity

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Of the thousands of small, cheap restaurants to eat at in Phuket, Siri-anong Ngarmsang, 55, from Srisaket, has one that is a little different – an all-you-can-eat vegetarian buffet at just 20 baht a plate.

Load your plate up – but only once – and go for it. Fresh fruit and drinks included.

K. Siri-anong's restaurant,

next to the Chinese shrine on Bangkok Rd, about 50 meters south of Suriyadet Circle in the heart of Phuket City, is simply marked with a single word, "Jay", meaning "vegetarian" in Thai, in red letters on a yellow background.

Inside is a huge range of vegetarian dishes, including mixed fried vegetables, local favorite curries such as *gaeng som*, *gaeng grati* and *gaeng dtai pla*, a variety of soups, *nam prik* (chili

paste), and of course Phuket's favorite breakfast – *kanom jeen*.

Fresh tamarind juice, iced tea and – of course – water are free, as are a range of fresh fruits including bananas, *chompoo* and *kaew mongkol*, also called dragonfruit.

K. Siri-anong said she loves to make merit – and this is her form of making merit every day. "I have been a vegetarian since September, 1994," she says. "People should be generous. This is why I sell a vegetarian buffet at just 20 baht, so you can eat till you are full."

K. Siri-anong's generosity extends to providing free vegetarian fare to Chinese temples during Phuket's Vegetarian Festival, a donation she has been making since she arrived in Phuket 10 years ago. Before opening her own restaurant a year ago, she worked with a charity near Plookpanya School.

"I have another stall in the food court at Central Festival Phuket, and my son – who I taught to cook – has his Yo Potchana restaurant opposite the Chinese shrine in Samkong."

K. Siri-anong gets up at 5 am every day to cook with her two chefs. But for her the effort is rewarding. "Often people



Owner Siri-anong Ngarmsang: 'People should be generous.' She is.

come in and pile mounds of food on their plates, but it is too much for them to eat the lot," she says.

Some cheap Charlies can't get enough of a good thing, and reload their plates but pay only 20 baht. But, says K. Siri-anong,

"I don't worry about it. At least they are full of good food."

Jay is open daily 6 am to 8:30 pm. For more information call K. Siri-anong at Tel: 07-417-8710.



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Life without a list

By the time you read this, I shall be relaxing in a quality hotel bed enjoying breakfast somewhere up... no, I'm not going to say where.

I plan to catch up on some reading and chill out on my own. No kids, no housework, no mobile phone – yes, no mobile – no house guests and no “to do” lists to tick. Pure bliss.

Don't get me wrong: ever since I started writing lists and itemizing my life in general, I have been kind of organized. I've grown to love them: shopping lists, work lists, “do today” lists... In fact, I'm so enamored of lists that I now verge on the obsessive/compulsive.

But I *had* to start doing them, because my life had become so chaotic that I was on the verge of buying my own designer straitjacket.

My lists generally stretch to nothing more exciting than the domestic, but my friend Sam has taken things a step further, devising the “perfect man” shopping list.

You know what I'm talking about. That ridiculously specific – and truly unrealistic – mental checklist of what women want from a date or partner. The “I-Need-A-Tick-By-Every-Box-Or-I-Won't-Even-Consider-Him” list.

Come on, Sam – and all you single ladies out there – you have to stop being so bloody picky! Of course there are obvious must-haves, such as a sense of humor, solvency, good looks, and not already being married... But short nails? Big shoulders? Good shoes?

And really, desert boots shouldn't be a such a deal-breaker.

I'm being serious. I think I can safely speak for many women when I say we are going too far with these requirements.

Another friend of a friend is the perfect example. This – and I swear it's true – is her list. He has to be rich, a fitness fanatic, hair-free on his back, foreign so that her babies will be mixed race, bilingual and beautiful and – purely for aesthetic reasons – circumcised! Dear Lord! Not that



Must have stubble: check. Must have racing flag decal on face: check. Uh oh! Freckly shoulders not on the list. Reject...

– Photo by EPA/Maurilio Cheli

He'd be good enough for her either...

“But we must maintain standards,” you may argue. True, but having standards is slightly different from demanding the impossible. Of course you deserve the perfect man, but you'll have more chance of finding him if you haven't already eliminated 99.9% of the global male population with your “Oh, and he's got to be” list.

You have to bin “men” shopping lists or you'll end up on your own drinking vodka in your pajamas, singing along to *All By Myself* like Bridget Jones in the movie.

Believe me, I do know what

I'm talking about. When I was an art student in London, my own mental man list had the usual “phwoar” elements, but my specifics were way too specific.

He had to be creative, awesomely dressed, support Chelsea Football club, and share my love of dead movie stars from the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

The inevitable result? I didn't have a proper relationship until I was in my 20s. And not that he completely satisfied the list of requirements: he was close, and more importantly then, pretty cute. And when the relationship ended, my new amended list was still basically a top-to-toe description – of him.



Recently I had to sit my friend Sam down – she has been virtually dateless for the past two years – grab her by the neck, and almost throttle some sense into her by telling her, “Give them a bloody chance! What the hell is wrong with you?”

Having scared her into a corner with my pep talks, guess what? A six-foot dirty blond olive-skinned blue-eyed guitar-playing writer has asked her out. And Sam said “yes”. Then “yes” to a second date, and “yes” to the third.

Guess what? Now she has become heavy-metal loving, and bald men and financiers have been added to her “man list” too. Even men with beards, who would not have made it onto her old list. She phoned me the other day to thank me for throttling her with my “no more lists” invective, saying she now felt absolutely liberated.

So you see, girls, dropping prejudices and widening your net means you experience so much more (until you find The Man). Sam discovered a host of things, including how to play the guitar and also that the Footsie wasn't just toe-related foreplay. If she

had stuck to her old list, she would never have met such interesting potential partners.

It's about not being blinkered and opening up a whole new world of lovely men to choose from – yes, they *are* out there.

I have a few friends who have yet to ditch their lists. They remain single. When I ask friends who are happily married how they got there, they said it was by doing precisely that – ditching the list.

My mate Jessica always searched for tortured musicians, but ended up with a man so at ease with himself that he “didn't just have kitchen roll in his flat, but a kitchen roll holder”.

My friend Maria went against the grain too. “I always chose tall men and I resisted my now-husband just because he was the same height as me – even though he had everything I wanted.

“But then I realized how mad I was being and decided to grow up and go for it. And very happy we are, too.”

Grow up indeed. When you're 17 it's fine to reject someone because of his haircut. But at 30-something? One word: hairdresser.

The bottom line is that these lists are unfair, unfair to men and unfair to us – for we'll never find the perfect specimen.

Can you imagine if men had such lists for us? And if cellulite and less-than-bouncy boobs weren't on them? Do you see the level of cruelty I am talking about?

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a London-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist.

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*When the taste is perfect,
it can be the start of a friendship.*




PUZZLES

The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 15 poisonous snakes. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 7 or more, good; 10 or more, very good; 15 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on next page

ACROSS

1. Quartet get a goal - that's 80. (9)
5. City to avoid. (5)
8. More reckless bacon. (6)
9. Ancient first sin, they say. (8)
11. Brief letter to reserve computer. (8)
12. Loan shark gets employer to take old city. (6)
14. Not find error so much: perfect. (9)
16. Raise price of walk. (4)
19. Narcissus' lover lover. (4)
20. Deserted child, located fish. (9)
22. Herder chaffered her, it's said. (6)
24. Sweat for each steeple. (8)
26. In one calorie, I'm hostile. (8)
28. Let go donkey - small dog outside. (4,2)
29. Build upright. (5)
30. Bled Eve re poorly made gazebo. (9)

DOWN

1. Foreigner sun god in tooth. (6)
2. Distress higher group. (5)
3. Distort hairless horse color. (8)
4. Not there, we hear with this. (3)

1		2		3			4		5		6		7
8							9						
						10							
11									12				
									13				
	14	15									16		
17											18		
19							20						
													21
22					23			24				25	
26							27			28			
29								30					

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5. Girls block water at two points. (5) | 17. Eat about each note - learner's time limit. (8) |
| 6. Entertainment provides distraction. (9) | 18. Ballet step is cardinal in forest clearing. (8) |
| 7. Expanded, significant in terminus. (8) | 21. Spectacles part wat. (6) |
| 10. Herring fillet bread hair. (7) | 23. Di etc restated order. (5) |
| 13. In pieces, as below. (7) | 25. Children! That's the point! (5) |
| 15. Pet hairdo confused goddess. (9) | 27. A pound for priestly robe. (3) |

Solution on next page

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with "bone". What are they?

1. Exact replica.
2. Low cry of pain.
3. Another low cry of pain.
4. No longer young.
5. Lend money.
6. Solitary.
7. Punish in a biblical way.
8. Royal seat.
9. Hurlled.
10. Dreadful old woman.

Answers on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who lost to George W Bush in the last US presidential election? | 7. Which Peruvian leader, now on trial, ran that country from 1990 to 2000? |
| 2. Wisdom teeth are what kind of teeth? | 8. Which airport is the No 2 in Thailand in terms of passenger and cargo volume? |
| 3. Which country occupies most of the coastal region around the Horn of Africa? | 9. Which oil tanker, in 1989, spilled millions of gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, Alaska? |
| 4. Where was <i>Survivor Thailand</i> filmed? | 10. Acetylsalicylic acid is better known by what name? |
| 5. Where is the The European Central Bank located? | |
| 6. In which town do The Flintstones live? | |

Answers on next page

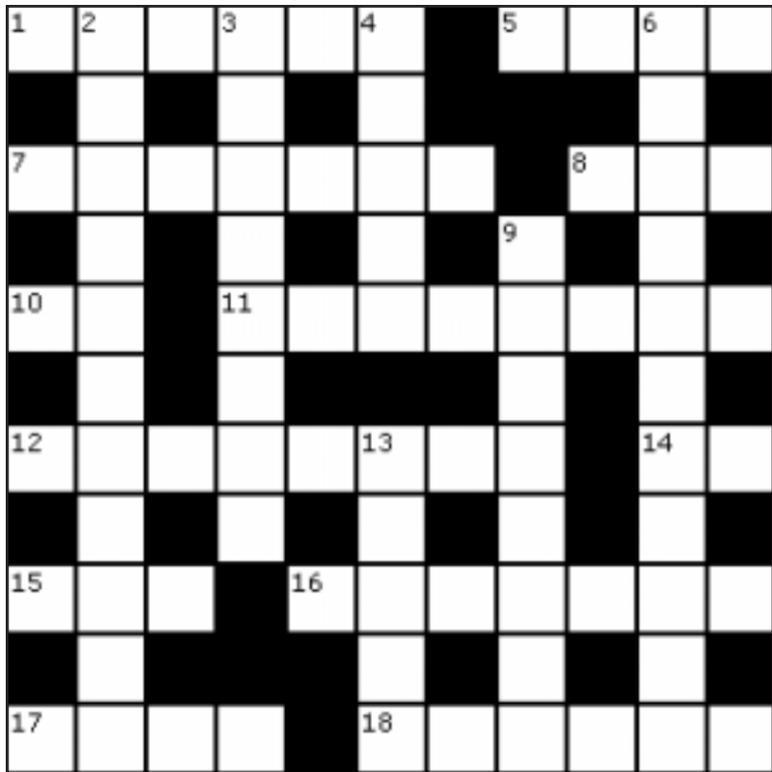
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Major golf tournament.
- 5. Head of the Catholic Church.
- 7. Southern Thailand province.
- 8. Encountered.
- 10. Exist.
- 11. Person all learner-drivers fear.
- 12. Astronauts or cosmonauts.
- 14. Printer's measure.

- 15. Crow's cry.
- 16. Old name for Taiwan.
- 17. Seven days.
- 18. Guard.

DOWN

- 2. Famed English playwright.
- 3. Ability to be long-suffering.
- 4. Japanese assassin.
- 6. The one who came before.
- 9. Spice in a stick.
- 13. Emotional states.

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.

- 1. What would you put in a pounce box?
- 2. Inkster is a suburb of which city?
- 3. Which was the first of the "Road" movies starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby?
- 4. Who said, "I was allowed to ring the bell for five minutes until everyone was in assembly. It was the beginning of power."
- 5. The word "cravat" derives from a French word meaning what?
- 6. The Sea of Marmara is part of which body of water?
- 7. Bobby Seal was leader of what political group?
- 8. What was the name of John Paul Jones's warship?
- 9. By what name is serigraphy more commonly known?
- 10. Where would you find the volcanic peak, Mount Erebus?
- 11. Which singer and movie star was born with the name Frances Gumm?
- 12. In which year was Microsoft founder Bill Gates born?
- 13. In which sport would you perform a geländersprung?
- 14. Which major carmaker now owns Volvo?
- 15. Who wrote the novel, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*?
- 16. In which year did the Holy Roman Empire come to an end?
- 17. Where is the city of Walla Walla?
- 18. How many times was Aristide Briand Prime Minister of France?
- 19. Who or what is gramma?
- 20. According to Greek mythology, where would you find a hamadryad?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

- 1. Sand (for sprinkling over a letter to dry the ink); 2. Detroit; 3. *Road to Singapore*; 4. Politician, novelist and convict Jeffrey Archer; 5. Croatian; 6. Black Sea; 7. The Black Panthers; 8. *Bonhomme Richard*; 9. Silk-screen printing; 10. Antarctica; 11. Judy Garland; 12. 1955; 13. Skiing; 14. Ford; 15. Robert Louis Stevenson; 16. 1806; 17. Washington State, USA; 18. Eleven; 19. A type of grass; 20. In a forest.

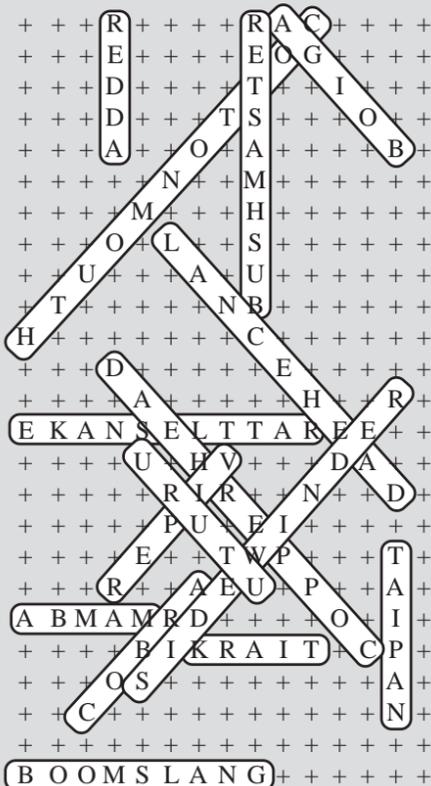
EZ Trivia Answers

- Answers: John Kerry; 2. Molars; 3. Somalia; 4. Tarutao Island, Satun Province; 5. Frankfurt, Germany; 6. Bedrock; 7. Alberto Fujimori; 8. Phuket International Airport; 9. Exxon Valdez; 10. Aspirin.

Rhyme Time Answers

- 1. clone; 2. Groan; 3. Moan; 4. Grown; 5. Loan; 6. Lone; 7. Stone; 8. Throne; 9. Thrown; 10. Crone.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



Confessions of a Phuket PCV

Mo Tejani is a fun-loving free spirit who loves to drink and smoke ganja and dance and bash a conga drum.

He has climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and descended to the depths of the Grand Canyon, explored Central American jungles and served happily as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. Yet his life was torn in two with tragedy when he was 21.

In 1972, Mo Tejani was one of 80,000 Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin. Uganda was the only home he'd ever known. His family was scattered all over the globe. After two unhappy years at an English university, he was off on a scholarship to Albion College in Michigan and, as he says, he never looked back.

His book *A Chameleon's Tale* (Paiboon Publishing, Bangkok, 2006, 257pp) is subtitled *True Stories of a Global Refugee*. In addition to being a polyglot – Gujarati, Hindi, English, Swahili, Spanish and Thai – he has been mistaken for a Mexican, an American Indian and a Thai-Indian tailor.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

In March 1979, he arrived in Thailand as a freshly-minted American citizen and Peace Corps volunteer, eventually assigned to Phuket Teachers' College. A Sikh family became his mentors and, before the tourist explosion, Phuket's markets and jungles reminded him of Africa.

Bored back in the States, he jumped at the chance to work at Phanat Nikhom Refugee Processing Centre: a sea of bamboo huts to house 17,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians bound for the US. Then he was off to Pulau Galang in Indonesia to teach the Indonesians how to teach the Vietnamese English.

A third of the way through

his book, he circles back to his pre-Thailand days: the heart-breaking tale of his childhood in Africa, the exuberant comedy of his hippie days on Balboa Beach in California, and the rip-roaring adventure of backpacking from Mexico to Argentina.

He meets up with "a Texan hippie guitarist, Carlton, who was driving his VW van around Mexico with a group of traveler musicians he had picked up on the road. Besides Maya, there was Japanese Kiko, crew-cut hair dyed blond, who jammed on his portable Hammond organ; German brunette Uta, on summer break from university in Tübingen, who carried the beat with her maracas and hand cymbals, and red-haired Danny from Winnipeg, Canada, piping in with his alto saxophone."

The ragtag band plays in village squares throughout Yucatan, accepting meals of beef tacos and chicken enchiladas.

When the band breaks up, Mo and Uta, lovers now, embark on a week-long foray into the jungle along the Guatemalan border.

When Uta flies back to Ger-

many, Mo is off to Belize and the town of Punta Gorda, home of the Garifunas, descendants of deported black Carib slaves. He arrives just in time for their annual festival, drunk on pineapple wine and dancing with his new lover, "sensuous, ebony-skinned Rose, who had buttocks bigger than some of the Ugandan women".

Three-fifths of the way through the book, he returns to where he had left us. Back in the States again, he gains a Master's in international studies which is his ticket for two decades of NGO and Peace Corps staff work.

In a chapter called "Robbing the Poor", he is scathing about the first NGO he works for in Khon Kaen. Calling it "Children Incorporated (CI)", he finds NGO higher-ups more interested in fundraising than facts on the ground.

Two years later, he's transferred to Guatemala as Country Director. He will spend the next 10 years in Central America, going through another chameleon mental shift.

There's a chapter devoted to the many loves of his life: Zainab in Uganda, Ursula in London, Eva in Michigan, Kiku and Katie in California, Rosa in Mexico, Hilde in Peru, Pranee in Thailand and, most of all, Corazon in the Philippines who breaks his heart. The book ends with a moving emotional return to Uganda with his nephew Arif in 1997.

Mo Tejani lives in Chiang Mai now and is still single. Two photos show him striking the same pose: a thin young man with flowing locks and a Pancho Villa mustache and a balding 55-year-old with a trim white beard.

The smile is still the same.

He arrives just in time for their annual festival, drunk on pineapple wine and dancing with his new lover, "sensuous, ebony-skinned Rose, who had buttocks bigger than some of the Ugandan women".

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

September 16: The 7th Phuket International Beer Festival at The Watermark.

This year the Phuket International Beer Fest will take place on the opening day of the Munich Oktoberfest.

The venue? Where else but Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina.

It is a festival designed for drinking copious quantities of the amber nectar; but to avoid it seeming like a mere slosh-up, it is loosely disguised as a competition – a competition of beer hyping, heckling, drinking and sloppy judging.

Entry fee: 800 baht covers 12 beers. To register for the competition (or just for the drinking) contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184.

September 24: Ramadhan.

Islamic holiday to mark the beginning of the one-month annual fast. Not a public holiday.

September 24: Sound Waves Sunday Session at Watermark.

The island's two best party venues have teamed up for the summer.

Laem Singh's Sound Waves Crew have moved to Watermark for the season. Kicking phat tunes, progressive, funky & happy house with a feel-good vibe.

Undoubtedly the best DJs around. A must for those in search of good dance music. Sound Waves will be on the last Sunday of each month: Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 24 & Oct 29. A la carte brunch every Sunday



Mah Song, or spirit mediums, gather at a Chinese temple at the beginning of the Vegetarina Festival.

from 11am to 6pm, amazing promos on Möt & Chandon Champagne: 2,995 baht. Come early for brunch. Decks off at 10 pm.

and Chinese temple ceremonies during which mediums pierce their faces with sharp objects.

October 22-30: Vegetarian Festival.

Nine-day festival, renowned for colorful, noisy processions

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Bikers to raise charity funds

As part of the 13th Annual Three Nations Charity Ride, the organizers – the Phuket Riders Club and Screaming Eagles Company – will use most of the funds raised to help build a medical center and temporary housing for students at a school for tsunami orphans in Phang Nga's Tab Lamu District.

The charity drive has already received a 1-million-baht donation from Phillip John Cope and Santi Tontangtrong, co-owners of the Screaming Eagles big bike shop [formerly Big Twin], which has offices in Bangkok and Phuket.

Work on the medical center, on the grounds of the Navy Base at Tab Lamu, is already underway. The organizers hope to raise another half-million baht to complete the 1.5-million-baht

project during this year's ride, which will take place November 17 and 18. Many bike clubs from Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia are planning to take part.

Eddie Keng, Director of the Singapore-based Team 27 Motorcycle Club, is organizing the charity drive and coordinating the work at the navy base with the help of the Phuket Riders Club.

"We welcome anyone who wants to join us on this ride or donate funds," he said.

For more information contact Sumon Singkala (Tel: 01-6919346; 076-352069; Email: sumon@ridethailand.com).

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Consistency needed in handling encroachment

The ongoing dispute between residents living illegally on Phra Barami Soi 8 in Kalim and the government agencies trying to relocate them [See Inside Story, pages 4-5] illustrates yet again why illegal land use needs to be tackled both early and aggressively, before entire communities spring up and become dependent on land to which they have no legitimate claim.

In many encroachment cases, those inhabiting land for which they have no title deeds do have reasonable claims. These might be based on how long their families have inhabited the area, how long they have cultivated the land, what land-use documents they may possess and for how long they have paid property taxes.

The situation on Phra Barami Soi 8 is not one of these cases, however. The residents themselves admit they have no valid claim to the land – apart from the fact that they are poor and have no place else to go. Why else, they reasonably ask, would they be living in a slum in the first place?

However weak their position may be from a legal standpoint, the residents know just how mighty the power of protest can be in Phuket. There have been numerous cases in the province in recent years of squatters eventually being given the right to rent land they had been illegally occupying for years – and at very attractive rates.

That is unlikely to happen in this case, though. On the open market the land in question would go for tens of millions of baht per rai. This precludes its continued use as a low-cost housing option for the poor people who live there, many of whom migrated here from other parts of Thailand and are not even eligible to vote in Phuket.

Based on the words of Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat, the province seems determined to force the squatters from the land so that the road-widening project can go ahead as planned. Notably, the province is also threatening to investigate and charge top city officials with dereliction of duty if they fail to comply with provincial demands to help evict the squatters.

Don't expect to see a column of bulldozers from the municipality heading up Phra Barami Soi 8 any time soon, however. Judging by the comments of Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban, the city hardly sees its role in the controversy as the pivotal one.

It is precisely this laissez-faire attitude, stretched over a period of 10 years, that has allowed the situation to develop in the first place. However, asking a municipality to shove its poorest residents from pillar to post is another matter altogether. **– 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.

My cement truck spilleth over

Why do I keep shaking my head as I pass by another cement truck spill on the road?

After living in Thailand for more than 13 years, and most of that time in Phuket, why do I expect this, or any other hazard inflicted on the motoring public, to change?

Don't issues such as this, which affect the public at large, deserve more respect?

Take a ride from Chalong Circle to Kata. As you ascend up the newly-paved and widened road, you come to where a smaller road joins from the left. Look at the cement spills that have accumulated to a height of more than five inches in some places. I'll bet motorbike riders love this.

Continue up the steep gradient and around the bend to the right, and you are forced to ride over a daily accumulation of more cement spills. I have watched these dangerous lumps grow in size for well over two years. How many people have been hurt because of these?

Surely it wouldn't take much to push the cement truck drivers to take steps to prevent cement spilling from their trucks.

We all pay taxes to enjoy safe roads, and local officials – the Department of Transportation, police and the like – are obliged to take steps to fix such problems.

Am I missing something here? This ain't rocket science we're talking about. The solution: raise the road tax five-fold for cement companies found spilling cement on public roads. This

would make cement companies keen to be more responsible and reduce the cost to the public purse of having the roads fixed.

Frank
Phuket

Why does Big C have so many sales staff?

Two years ago, I bought a refrigerator at Big C. While I was selecting a specific model, a member of staff approached me, pointing out that another model was better (and 700 baht more expensive).

I asked, "Why is that better?" He replied that the model I was thinking of buying would produce an irritating noise after six months, due to the engine.

Nevertheless, I decided to buy the "noisy" model. After two years, it is still working as smoothly as on the day I bought it.

Another day, I was with a friend of mine at the computer section in Big C. My friend wanted to buy a color printer cartridge that was on display in a locked glass cabinet.

He showed staff the cartridge he wanted to buy and a supervisor appeared with a bunch of keys.

All the keys she tried did not work. She disappeared again and came back with another person holding another bunch of keys. None of these worked.

The answer, apparently, was that the right key was in the hands of another supervisor who was off duty that day. So sorry, no cartridge.

I do not really understand how a big supermarket like Big

C can keep so many people in the Appliances and Computer sections (I've counted an average of 10) doing absolutely nothing. And the odd thing is that, when you do ask for help, you soon regret it.

Was the guy trying to sell me a different, more expensive refrigerator because he could get more commission out of it? Ok, probably not a fair question, but what about the situation with the keys?

I have nothing against the staff; I can imagine that the money they get is peanuts so they act accordingly. But I do have to ask the management of Big C, do you really need all those people? And what for?

Just Curious
Kata Beach

Pitak Thimubol, General Manager of the Big C supercenter Phuket, replies:

"I agree that there are a lot of staff in the appliances and computers department, but the ones wearing red waistcoats are not employed by Big C. They work for the appliance or computer suppliers; for each brand there are at least two staff working at Big C to promote their brand or to advise customers about their products. We have many brands.

"We do, however, have some control over them. If they are found to be behaving unethically, we can inform the supplier and demand that they be replaced.

"I am also considering limiting the number of sales staff to two per brand – some brands send four staff and that's too many.

"As for the Big C staff, who usually wear green polo shirts, we

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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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.

Muay Thai adds punch to Phuket tourism

You might notice the foreigners in the brightly-colored shorts running in groups along the roads in Chalong and Rawai, or you may see foreigners fighting Muay Thai in Patong or Phuket City.

Keep looking and you'll see that Phuket has found a friend in Muay Thai tourism.

Phuket has become a popular destination for tourists looking to train in Muay Thai for fitness, fun, and experience, and perhaps a five-round fight. With an international airport, fantastic entertainment, beaches, tours, weather, and three Muay Thai stadiums, Phuket has it all for the sports and adventure-seeking tourist.

In just the past five years, Muay Thai and now Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) have exploded in popularity throughout the world. The World Muay Thai Council has organizations and arranges tournaments, promoting Muay Thai all over the world.

GROWTH

For years, Koh Samui was the destination of choice for foreigners looking for Muay Thai training, particularly at the Lamai and WMTC gyms. But now the current has changed and foreigners are heading for Phuket to learn Muay Thai.

Muay Thai in Phuket has grown in the last six years. I remember when Phuket Muay Thai and Suwit's Gym were the only gyms in Chalong.

Now, Phuket has more than eight camps, with Tiger Muay Thai & MMA, Rawai Muay Thai, and Phuket Muay Thai being the largest, each with 10 or more trainers and as many as 50 students at any given time.

The camps offer training, accommodation, and equipment for both foreign and local guests. Most of the camps have their own crew of Thai fighters, from

FIRST PERSON

The growth of interest worldwide in Muay Thai – Thai boxing – along with Muay Thai techniques being a key weapon of fighters in the Ultimate Fight cage, has seen a new kind of tourism blossom in Phuket: foreigners coming to the island to learn Thai boxing or to hone existing skills. Will McNamara, owner of Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp in Chalong, explains this new phenomenon.



eight to 24 years of age, who fight every three or four weeks.

Amateur and professional fighters, martial arts enthusiasts, and people just looking to get fit and lose weight come to Phuket to train for fitness, experience, or just the fun of trying something new.

Most camps offer guests a chance to train and fight in Patong or at Saphan Hin. As a result, Muay Thai fights are available five days a week in Patong, with many of the fights including foreign fighters who have trained at a camp in Phuket, Phang Nga, or Bangkok. Women's Muay Thai has also become very popular, as training and fights are now available for women as well.

This trend is a very good thing for Phuket tourism. Muay Thai training and competition stays busy even during the low season. Many of the guests stay for several months at a time, training, sometimes preparing for fights in their home countries.

MMA training is also becoming quite popular in Thailand. As its name suggests, MMA is a mix of martial arts including Muay Thai, jiu-jitsu, judo, boxing, and wrestling. MMA takes the best parts from each form to create the ultimate fighter.

MOST POPULAR

Several years ago, UBC began broadcasting *Ultimate Fighting Championship* and *King of the Cage* programs. MMA is now the most popular fight sport in the world. Most MMA fighters recognize Muay Thai as the best martial arts style for pure striking with hands, feet, elbows, and knees.

At first, Thai fighters and trainers didn't know what to think about MMA.

It has taken some time for the Muay Thai fighters to realize that MMA fighters have a great respect for Muay Thai and recognize the importance of learn-

ing Muay Thai for their striking skills.

I remember when we first started training MMA in the cage. One of our senior trainers looked through the fence of the cage watching two MMA fighters sparring stand-up, using their Muay Thai skills. When my trainer saw the power leg kicks and knees, he turned to me and said with a smile, "That is Muay Thai."

One of the big benefits of the success of Muay Thai training camps is that they provide opportunities to some of the older fighters and trainers to continue working in a Muay Thai profession. Former champion fighters and trainers are being given a chance to teach their national sport and make a good living.

Most guests come to Thailand because they want to train with a real Thai fighter and trainer. It takes a Thai to teach Muay Thai.

Most guests have had for-

eign trainers teaching Muay Thai at their gyms back home, but when they come to Thailand they want the real thing.

Most camps here in Phuket have former champion Thai fighters with a wealth of experience. A Thai fighter with 200+ Muay Thai fights is the equivalent of a BA in Muay Thai.

SURGE

The surge in popularity of MMA has carried over to Muay Thai. Amateur and professional MMA fighters are coming to Thailand in droves to train in Muay Thai for their stand-up striking skills and in jiu-jitsu for their ground fighting skills.

Tiger Muay Thai & MMA is the first camp on the island to promote and teach MMA as well as Muay Thai. Muay Thai fighters can learn to fight MMA style and open up larger opportunities to fight.

There are now several camps and gyms in Thailand, including Bangkok Fight Club, that teach MMA and jiu-jitsu.

Already, promoters from foreign countries are contacting Thai promoters and training camps checking for the availability of Thai fighters for Muay Thai and MMA matches.

Just recently, MMA matches have been held in Patong on Muay Thai fight cards. Tourists are able to see how MMA uses Muay Thai as the style for stand-up before fights go to the mat and fighters use their jiu-jitsu, wrestling, and striking skills.

As the Muay Thai and MMA scene grows here in Phuket, local promoters will be able to put on more and more exciting shows and tournaments featuring both Muay Thai and Mixed Martial Arts.

This is just another of the many ways the boom in Muay Thai training here is helping to promote year-round, long-stay tourism in the province.

Letters

have regulations for them. If we see them chitchatting with friends and ignoring customers or being inefficient in their work, they are liable to punishment according to our regulations."

Credit card rip-offs a threat to tourism

In May this year my platinum Visa card number was stolen and

fraudulently used in India and Japan to buy goods totaling US\$9,500 [about 355,000 baht].

In July my Visa gold card number was stolen and fraudulently used in India.

Then just recently another Visa credit card number of mine was stolen and used in Beijing.

In June a good friend who has retired to Phuket had his Visa gold card number stolen and used in Japan.

The total money lost to the thieves from these four incidents amounts to something in the order of US\$15,000 [about 560,000 baht].

I read in a newspaper recently that this problem is rife in the tourist areas of Thailand.

Apparently the thieves tap into phone lines known to be used by merchants to transmit coded card data to bank clearing centers.

The coded data that has been recorded is then put through another machine that decodes the transmission into legible English. This information is then sent to Malaysia where duplicate credit cards are made and used around the world.

This is a very serious problem and could have grave repercussions for the tourist industry here.

JD, Kata

Thank you, Woody

Thank you Khun Woody [Leonhard] for your answer in Issues & Answers [3G and WiFi in Phuket, issue of August 12]. You are always a fount of knowledge there in Phuket.

It is a pleasure to know you in person and in print, and I can't wait to get back for another one of your special pumpkin pies.

Capt Ron, Chicago

Wacky Wisdom

In Thailand nowadays we hear a lot about Thai wisdom. But Thailand does not have a monopoly on wisdom. Foreigners also have wisdom. Sometimes. A few of them do, anyway, or at least one or two. (OK, so most of those are dead.)

If you were to do a comparative study of Thai vs foreign wisdom, Thailand would clearly have the edge.

We foreigners would never have been clever enough to think up the famous nugget of Thai wisdom that was popular during the late-lamented bubble economy: "Money is God."

But we do have the old proverb "God helps those who help themselves." This is almost as sublime and reflects our deep piety.

Unfortunately, foreigners are not displaying much wisdom these days.

The only example I can think of is a remark made some time ago by US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld with regard to the war in Iraq.

SUCCINCT

As nearly as I can remember, it went like this: "There are things we know, and things we don't know. There are things we know we know, and things we know we don't know. There are also things we don't know we know, and things we don't know we don't know."

As a succinct summary of the existential uncertainty that pervades our lives, and of the wisdom that abounds in Washington, this saying is hard to beat. No wonder the US is winning the war in Iraq.

Rare though it may be nowadays, foreign wisdom has great value, for we are all caught in the clutches of a crass consumer culture with an obsessive greed for more, more, more.

We need to access deeper truths that will restore balance to our disordered lives, giving us a



broader, more spiritual perspective, and getting us through the night – although a dozen Mekhong sodas will usually do the job better.

I append a collection of wise sayings by foreigners on various, unrelated topics for the edification of the thoughtful reader. You can tell how valuable they are from the fact that you don't have to pay for them:

Parsnips: "Fine words butter no parsnips." – Former British Prime Minister John Major.

Men and Women: "Women and cats will do as they please. Men and dogs should get used to the idea." – anonymous Internet-based intellectual.

"When a man marries a woman, he thinks she'll never change. When a woman marries a man, she thinks she'll be able to change him. And they're both wrong." – Dear Abby or Ann Landers, I can't remember which.

The Universe: Man to the universe: "Why?" Universe to man: "Why not?"

"If anybody designed the universe, he may not have known what he was doing, but he sure knew how to put on a good show."

Intelligent Design: "If the universe is a product of intelligent design, how come the best it's been able to come up with is us?"

Religion and Philosophy: "The average person puts more thought into his investment portfolio than he does into figuring out why he's here or what makes the universe tick."

"I spent my youth studying religion and philosophy, trying to figure out why I was here and what made the universe tick. When I reached 40 and realized I'd never know the answers, I decided I'd better make some money." – A wise tycoon.

How to Invest Your Money: "Stock markets crash, pension plans go bankrupt, currencies depreciate, gold gets stolen – but the memory of a great night on the town will last you a lifetime."

The Way to Go: "Hard guys win. Soft guys lose. But both are dead in the end."

Communism and Capitalism: "Communism: Great theory, wrong species. Capitalism: Can't we do better than this?"

Western Civilization: "It would be a good idea." – Mahatma Gandhi.

The Land of Smiles: "In Thailand, yes means maybe, maybe means no, and no means no and I don't like you." –

David Russell (no relation to Bertrand).

The City of Angels: "Bangkok is a city of Thai efficiency and farang charm."

"Bangkok is a good place to change planes." – a foreign tourist

"There do seem to be some rudiments of choreography here." – foreign tourist observing go-go dancers in Soi Cowboy. "I go to Pattaya to ride my bicycle." – a Bangkok resident

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's falling off his bicycle.

Rare though it may be nowadays, foreign wisdom has great value; for we are all caught in the clutches of a crass consumer culture with an obsessive greed for more, more, more.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): With your birthday imminent, it's high time you took a realistic look at where you're heading. You may have been drifting along in whatever direction the wind takes you, but this will not be a sustainable plan for the remainder of the year. Make decisions based on experience and not on others' advice. Sacrifices will be called for if you want to embrace true love, but the outcome will be more than worth it.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Don't be indifferent to the needs of those closest to you. Many Librans have been wrapped up in their own affairs lately and oblivious to subtle hints of dissatisfaction. You are advised to invest some energy in the personal relationships in your life this week. The harmonious atmosphere of Sunday makes this the perfect day to rediscover love. The number 7 can bring financial luck on Thursday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you are overdue for a break from responsibilities, you may be paying the price soon. A long weekend away from everything will refresh your energy. A financial question is raised midweek; this will serve as a reminder to keep good administrative order. Contact from an ex-partner could be made before the end of the month. The color soft pink mellows your outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A prickly mood this weekend could easily alienate friends. Set some hours aside to reflect on what is really important; you will soon realize that it's not a good idea to place so much emphasis on work. Single Sagittarians are advised to be on the lookout for an Aquarian who has much to offer. Property matters are highlighted next Wednesday; use this advantage to do some house-hunting or consider home improvements.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Compliments flow toward you this week. Your positive qualities will attract others like bees to a honey pot. An exciting job offer is tempting, but there may be a hidden catch, so make sure you ask the right questions. A brief encounter with Gemini on Sunday leaves you wanting more. Small expenses are likely to mount up by the end of the month; resist the temptation to spend more than you can afford.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A much-needed reprieve is set to arrive by the end of August. If you doubted you would be able to honor a commitment, you will breathe a sigh of relief. Patient communication is the only answer to a relationship dilemma; your tendency to fly off the handle is damaging chances of this liaison working out. Take good care of belongings on Monday as there's a chance you may lose something important.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The last week of August is forecast to be a little easier than has been the case recently. You may even be able to take extra time off work. Put this to good use by catching up on overdue domestic tasks. By clearing out unwanted items at home, you will allow new, positive energy to circulate. Leo is planning to make a romantic offer that will be hard to refuse.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Heated family debates threaten to boil over this weekend. The stars will not support your efforts to control those closest to you. Take physical distance before you stir up serious trouble; in time, people will see that you are right about a lot of things. At the end of this month you have reason to believe that there really is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will feel the urge to resurrect abandoned creative projects. If you have realized that you need more free space, you will be looking at ways to reduce work responsibilities. As finances continue to improve, this should be feasible. If the chemistry is right there's no reason not to take a relationship to the next level. The number 9 can bring luck on Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This is a week to do good deeds. If you know deep down that you haven't been paying enough attention to close friends and family, you will have a chance to make up. Making merit in this way now will ensure that help comes your way when needed. Business matters continue to prosper and a new alliance is forecast to start taking shape soon. Wear the color marigold yellow to attract the right admirer.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Resist going off on a wild goose chase this week. If you declined to listen to sound advice earlier this month you are in danger of wasting valuable time and money. For the time being you should stick to the area of business in which you have the most experience. Romance continues to provide you with light relief; make Tuesday a day for a special dinner date. The number 1 is lucky on Wednesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Communication with a hard-to-please family member is likely to be tense this weekend. Until you make the effort to clear the air this situation won't improve. Make appointments connected with financial or legal matters for Wednesday or Thursday, as crossed wires are forecast earlier in the week. A modest cash boost comes from an unexpected source before the end of August. The number 8 could be lucky on Sunday.

Lightening the load at Latitude 8

In 1977 I was a young editor for a human-resources NGO. After one month on the job I got the chance to meet the CEO of America's seventh-largest energy company, Pacific Resources Inc (PRI). I asked him, "Why aren't you in solar energy?"

When he started the usual Jules Verne rap about it being too futuristic, I said, "How about solar-powered water heaters?" That led to the birth of PRI Solar and a federal tax exemption equal to the purchase price of the solar heater.

Millions of homeowners bought them, in effect, for nothing, then saved 40% of household energy costs, and on top of that PRI Solar was quite profitable.

I hadn't heard of Solahart – the Australian version which is still going strong after 50 years – until recently, but they have a Phuket office. Since Phuket is on Latitude 8, all hot-water junkies should have Solahart on their roof.

Hotels can use it as a marketing tool, save energy, and still have the existing traditional systems for rainy days. The savings – and the reduction of the load on Phuket's electricity grid – could be significant.

The following year, I suggested to PRI that they look at water-tight solar roof panels. A patent search, however, discovered the idea was already patented, but an energy company was sitting on it.

How much unnecessary hydro-carbon pollution have we pumped into the atmosphere in the last 28 years? Maybe it's time to gang up half a dozen photovoltaic cells into one roof panel and finally offset roofing costs with solar roof panels. Any entrepreneurs in Thailand interested?

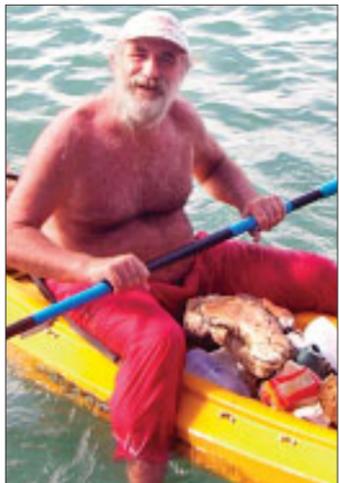
Solar cells are efficient and reliable, putting out the juice when traditional sources black out or brown out. A 3,000-square-meter grid recently installed in Honolulu generates 309 kilowatts, enough to power 300 homes during daylight (working) hours, and eliminating global warming gases.

If that works at Latitude 20, why not pack the roofs of Lotus, Big C and Central with cells feeding into Phuket's electricity grid? (After they feed all that air-con for free, of course – even if they don't totally cover all the energy needed for the air-con, it's still worth it.)

Storage is solar energy's big drawback, but efficient storage cells that double as walls are on the way. Until then, plug into Phuket's electric grid, after they agree to buy back your energy and reduce their fuel costs. If you are really remote, use daytime energy to recharge your nighttime batteries.

All this counts, but tax incentives in progressive countries and sell-back to the electricity grid now make solar cells a better investment than putting money in the bank. Even before current oil prices, payback on solar cell investment was 11% to 13%, repaying the original investment in five to 10 years. A house with

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

solar cells also has a higher resale value.

Give those solar cells a break by building smart. Thirty years ago, University of Hawai'i architecture students built an "energy" house that eliminates air conditioning by channeling hot updrafts into moving up and out of the house.

With air constantly moving, even the third floor is cool. The design also incorporates building materials that reflect heat instead of absorbing it, unlike Phuket's favorite heat sink – concrete.

Have all the fancy fixtures and tiles you want, but buy the Thailand Environmental Institute's Green Label products, all of which are eco-friendly. There are thermal insulations, plumbing fixtures, lights, refrigerators and even air conditioners that save energy.

Once your house is built, use their eco-friendly household cleaning chemicals, including a variety of soaps and detergents.

Clivus Multrum composting toilets were a hit in the 1960s when they first came out. At first they look expensive, but what does sewage infrastructure cost?

I tried to get Clivus included in the Hawaii building code, but construction unions blocked us because Clivus Multrum eliminates expensive sewage infrastructure.

By using this system local homeowners can save costs and reduce the load on Phuket's sewage treatment plants. There is also a variety of electric toilets that simply turn your "nutrients" to dust.

Solar water heaters, solar cells and septic tanks all disconnect you from "the grid". Install these systems and you save money in the long run and create instead of consume power.

At Latitude 8, you can be energy self-sufficient; important with rising oil prices and demand that are bound to occasionally overload utility infrastructures in coming years.



Ideal building material: bamboo.

So here's the kicker – all this can go into a house made of bamboo!

I'm not talking about a sala in a rubber plantation, but a modern, luxurious, well-made and surprisingly expensive bamboo house.

Bamboo Technologies of Maui was founded by two certified architects who grow their own bamboo and make prefab home kits in Vietnam and then sell them in America for up to US\$80,000 (3.2 million baht) for their largest kit – a 1,900-square-foot plantation-style home.

Blow over in a good wind? Hardly. Magic Waters Resort in Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, survived three cyclones, one packing 250-kilometer-per-hour winds, that devastated the island. The built-from-bamboo resort was undamaged while all its neighbors suffered typical cyclone damage.

Bamboo Living has caught on in fashionable Maui and is spreading throughout the tropical-Pacific region. Large bamboo is two to three times stronger than wood beams, grows rapidly and, as bamboo grows much denser than hardwood forests, a much smaller area is needed for harvesting.

There are many more efficiency advantages – all it takes is the will to try something proven yet different. My minimalist eyes see great opportunities – and, if you aren't a minimalist, in coming years you will harm your community, your pocket and your lifestyle.

Utility shortages are guaranteed. It's not a question of if, but when and how much. By practicing minimalism, minimizing what we consume, we can guarantee our own homes have a steady supply of electricity, hot and cold water, and eliminate input into the community sewage infrastructure.

So how real is all of this? The planet's two most powerful institutions (like it or not) top the Real Goods Solar Energy client list. The White House and the Vatican aren't taking any chances on the power going out.

For more information about the technologies mentioned in this article see the following websites: Thailand Environmental Institute: www.tei.or.th/main.htm; Solahart: www.solahart.com.au/; Clivus Multrum; www.clivusmultrum.com/; Mr. Solar: www.mrsolar.com/; Real Goods Solar Energy: www.realgoods.com/calsolar; Bamboo Technologies: www.bamboolive.com

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Wi-Fi, WiMAX, G3 and dongles. Is that clear?

The computer industry teems with inscrutable terminology. Let's face it: any industry based on the concept that you have to click "Start" in order to stop has a few screws loose from the get-go.

Technical terms have very precise meanings to techies, but all too often they're used as marketing gimmicks by people and organizations that don't have the foggiest idea what they're talking about.

As wired network connections gradually give way to wireless, the conflicting methods for making computers talk to each other has evolved into a mess of buzzwords that few people understand. But, boy howdy, somebody's going to make billions slinging around the four-bit words, rightly or wrongly.

The computer biz isn't alone. Remember the first time somebody explained to you the difference between AM and FM radio? Did "amplitude modulation" and "frequency modulation" make any sense? I didn't think so.

Not that it mattered, either, as you probably learned everything you needed to know the first time you listened to an FM broadcast and noticed that it just sounds better than AM.

So, too, in the wireless realm.

Permit me to start by saying that everything you're about to read is already outdated. The technology is changing very quickly, so anything written here is likely to be superseded within about a month.

Sorting through the Wi-Fi versus WiMAX versus 3G mess is much simpler if you step back

a few years and look at how the technology originally worked.

It all started with what we now call Wi-Fi. Propeller heads call it 802.11b because that's the name of the protocol that governs how computers talk to each other using Wi-Fi signals. Wi-Fi has taken the home and small office networking market by storm.

If you want to connect computers inside your house or your office there's no need to lay cables from one room to the next: stick a pair of "rabbit ears" (also known as a Wireless Access Point or Wireless Router) in some appropriate place, and all of your computers can get onto the network.

The original Wi-Fi standard, 802.11b, was fast enough to keep up with a reasonably quick Internet connection. If your network

had an older ADSL connection to the Internet, you could hook into the network via an old-

fashioned 802.11b wireless card and the wireless "pipe" was big enough to handle the ADSL "pipe." Over the years, though, four things happened more-or-less simultaneously: ADSL connections got faster; people started using two or more computers on their wireless networks; the amount of data stuffed into the wireless "pipes" increased enormously, particularly with music and video; and expectations for fast Internet connections rose. A new standard, 802.11g, emerged and – with a few non-standard improvements – it remains the pre-eminent standard today.

The limitations of Wi-Fi as it currently exists are pretty severe. Unless you bend over backwards to focus the signal, Wi-Fi Access Points can "reach" at



This is a Wi-Fi dongle. Exciting, isn't it?

most about 30 meters. As many homeowners in Phuket can tell you, Wi-Fi signals have a hard time getting through concrete walls. If you have two walls between your computer and the Access Point, reception will be weak at best, and three walls likely will knock out the signal completely.

In highly populated areas, Wi-Fi's distance limitations can be overcome by a simple strategy: put a Wi-Fi Access Point or two on every street corner.

A Spanish company called Urbanski, with financial backing from Google and Skype, is trying to build just such a network in the US. Folks who join Urbanski's FON network can buy an industry-standard WRT54G wireless router for US\$5 – 200 baht.

The router allows any member of the FON network to log on and use the Wi-Fi connection, but blocks outside access to the owner's computer. If enough people buy FON routers, FON will have a nationwide Wi-Fi network, cheap.

There are many active, low-budget efforts to extend the reach of Wi-Fi, primarily by focusing the Wi-Fi signal. In the not-too-distant future, it's entirely possible that a handful of strategically placed Wi-Fi access points in the hills coupled with a large handful of access points near the beach could blanket all of Patong, for example.

Which brings me to the next technology, commonly called WiMAX, but also called 802.16. Your computer needs to have a

card that's specifically made for WiMAX. It looks like a Wi-Fi card, but works in a very different way. WiMAX antennas sit on top of towers, much like today's mobile phone towers.

WiMAX runs a little bit faster than Wi-Fi, but not enough to make a difference. The big advantage? WiMAX runs rings around Wi-Fi in reach. Wi-Fi goes only about 30 meters; WiMAX can reach up to 50 kilometers under optimal conditions. In areas with lots of buildings, a WiMAX service provider will probably need about as many towers as are currently needed for mobile telephones.

More than that, WiMAX is set up for daisy-chaining: WiMAX towers communicate with each other at lightning speed, allowing WiMAX networks to handle the data demands for an entire city.

Perhaps not surprisingly, both San Francisco and Boston are in the

process of setting up free municipal Wi-Fi systems, combining both Wi-Fi and WiMAX technology. People who use the networks work with Wi-Fi connections, just like logging on to a Wi-Fi network in a coffee shop, but the Wi-Fi units are connected together using WiMAX techniques.

The result: extraordinarily fast, absolutely free Internet access for anybody with a wireless capable computer. As of January, 2006, 186 different cities in the US had free wireless, most of which are based on Wi-Fi, WiMAX or both.

The third contender for fast wireless technology, 3G (third-

generation mobile phone), comes from a completely different perspective. Wi-Fi and WiMAX evolved from the computer industry; they were created specifically to allow computers to talk to each other.

3G, however, is a mobile-telephone technology. It lives and breathes voice. 3G was invented to provide more capabilities to people who use mobile phones – better connectivity, the ability to handle more phone calls, Web surfing over a mobile phone. Data transmission kind of comes along for the ride.

As I mentioned in an *Issue & Answer* a few weeks ago (*Gazette*, August 12, page 27), the only real downsides to 3G are that the phones themselves are more expensive than the phone you have now; and the service can cost an arm and a leg, especially in places without competition.

3G has taken Europe by storm. Japan has almost completely converted to 3G. Singapore got 3G in February 2005 and Hong Kong has four 3G providers. In the US, Verizon first offered 3G service for BlackBerry handheld devices nearly four years ago.

In Phuket, CAT has announced that it would be installing 48 new security cameras in Patong, Kathu and Phuket City. The cameras will use CDMA-2000 1X EV-DO (better known as "dee-oh") technology, which is one of the most common 3G mobile phone technologies available today. 3G is coming to Phuket, although it's anyone's guess when the technology will be available for consumers.

When it comes to Wi-Fi, WiMAX and 3G technology, you might wonder which one is "best"? The simple answer is that they're all good – and all in different ways. Much depends on how well they're deployed, and how much service costs when the pipes finally arrive.

With VoIP (voice over the Internet protocol) services such as Skype and the new VoIP mobile phones rolling over traditional voice offerings, markets will shift quickly.

Billions of baht hang in the lurch. It'll be interesting to see how quickly the technologies can come to market here in Thailand.

Currently, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) spends all of his waking hours slaving away on two new Windows books, *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, and *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies*. They should be available worldwide in January.

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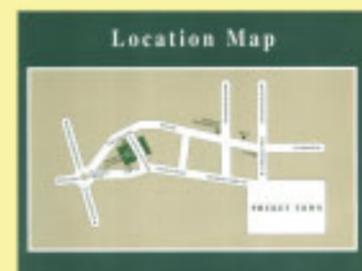
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ON THE MOVE

Elaine Chua, from Malaysia, has been appointed Group Spa Manager of Central Hotels & Resorts (CHR). She holds a degree in hotel management from Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus, in Australia. Ms Chua started her career at Sutera Harbour Resort & Spa in 1997. She later moved to Sydney to study physiotherapy and spa therapy management. Before joining CHR, she was Business Development Consultant of Gorgeous Getaways Pte, based in Malaysia.



Martin Heiniger from Switzerland has been appointed General Manager of the Central Samui Village on Koh Samui. A graduate of the Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern (Swiss Hotel Management School) in Lucerne, Switzerland, he has more than 10 years' hotel management experience in various countries, including Switzerland, Egypt and Thailand. Before joining Central Samui Village, he was Executive Assistant Manager of the Dusit Laguna Resort in Phuket for almost two years.



Phathamaphan "Poy" Ratana-phan has been appointed Sales Manager of Phuket PRD Properties Co in Cherg Talay. A graduate of Phuket Rajabhat University with a degree in management and accounting, she worked in property sales for three years and was General Manager of the Hilltop Hotel, Patong, for 2½ years.



International chains spur local hotels to greater heights

By Janyaporn Morel

The arrival of international chain hotel management on Phuket, most notably with the Hilton taking over the running of the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort & Spa three years ago and Mövenpick's takeover of the management at the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach resort in May this year, has prompted local hoteliers to re-examine their management techniques and focus on improving facilities and services in order to remain competitive.

The dilemma for owners of high-quality, locally-managed hotels has been whether to have an international brand step in to manage the hotel, bring the benefits of worldwide marketing and brand recognition, or whether to continue offering a targeted local product.

Pamuke Achariyachai, Managing Director of the Kata Group of Hotels and Resorts, confirmed that the group has turned down offers from Sheraton, Accor and Six Senses to take over management of the group's hotels: the Kata Beach Resort, Karon Beach Resort, Phuket Orchid Resort and Kandaburi Resort & Spa on Koh Samui.

"In the end we rejected them all because we think that we can manage by ourselves, and so far we have remained competitive. Later, Mövenpick also asked about the possibility of managing our hotels, but we turned them down as well," he said.

"Local hotels can learn how to manage their businesses better, continually improving to meet the competition," he said.

K. Pamuke added that smaller operators had an advantage over the larger chains in that they are more flexible in what they can offer. "I think travel agencies prefer to do business with local hotels because we are more flexible than the chains."

He also said that locally-run hotels in Phuket are better placed to serve the Thai market.

"We are now building a new 500-person conference room at the Phuket Orchid Resort, due to be finished by the end of this year, and we hope to attract conferences from around the country.

"We are almost fully booked for this coming high season. Last

year about 12 million tourists came to Thailand. Around five million of those came to Phuket. I believe there is still potential for expansion," he said confidently.

However, Ronnarit Choo-song, General Manager of the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel, said, "We are interested in co-management from a hotel chain, but we haven't had any chains expressing interest. I think management by an international hotel chain would be better as they have access to a worldwide market. Though I don't think many of the local Phuket hotels will be taken over by hotel chains as they choose to manage only hotels that are already of very high standards."

"The advantage of being part of a hotel chain," K. Ronnarit explained, "is that the owners do not need to manage the property themselves, but they are still shareholders. Although the management costs are higher, this is offset by higher income."

A common point raised by local hotel owners was how the international chains are spurring

them to re-examine and improve their management practices.

Sombat Atiset, Chief Executive Officer of Kata Thani Phuket Beach Resort, said, "Kata Thani has been developed continuously and we have improved our services and management to international standards.

"We have developed our staff, and our management team has been trained in new management principles. We use key performance indicators and regularly assess performance. We now use statistics to evaluate our management system."

Somchai Silapanont, General Manager of the Marina Phuket Resort Hotel, emphasized quality of service as a way locally-run businesses can stay competitive. "If we improve our products and attract more guests, then we can pay our staff better salaries. They will be happy and work hard to please guests, who then will be keen to return – it's a circle.

"Although I'm not concerned about competition from hotel chains, I'm not complacent. We continually improve our service [and rooms]. And we have only Thai staff as we believe Thai people can deliver service just as well as foreigners can."

Maitree Narukatpichai, President of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) and Owners' Representative of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, has experience in both managing his hotel and as the owner of a chain-managed hotel.

"I agreed that Hilton should manage the Arcadia because I had been managing the hotel for more than 10 years, and I believed that its growth had reached a ceiling," he explained,

"But I knew that with Hilton there would be room for more growth. People know Hilton, but who knows the Arcadia?"

"Hilton has been managing the Arcadia for about three years. The first year was a renovation

period and then there was the tsunami, so we couldn't see a true picture of their performance. Now it's really starting to grow."

"We are not worried about losing local hotels to hotel chains because the owners of the hotels are still Thai and the chains use foreign staff only at the management level – there are still plenty of jobs for Thais.

"I believe hotel chains have a wider network for promoting tourism to Phuket than the Tourism Authority of Thailand, but I think locally-run hotels can compete with the international chains. However, in the future, more hotels may join with chains to improve their business."

Several local hoteliers, however, pointed out concerns that international chains were likely to bring a huge increase in the number of tourists to the island, and that this would place a greater strain on the environment as well as cause an influx of labor from outside Phuket, which would jeopardize the island's culture.

"If tourism growth is high," said K. Pamuke of the Kata Group, "some businesses will concentrate only on short-term profits and will not take good care of the guests. I'm also concerned about the impact of higher tourist numbers on the environment."

K. Sombat agreed, adding, "I'm worried that, with the high growth of tourism, we will lose the real Phuket.

"The environment will be destroyed, and at the moment we have a lot of people from other parts of the country coming to work here. They don't know Phuket's culture, and we are at risk of losing that unique culture.

"We are still not educating local people enough so that they can meet the demands that the high growth is bringing.

"They must learn that Phuket's major source of income is tourism, and they have to learn how to work [responsibly] within the tourism industry."

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Solid bricks and mortar — or edgy high-wire acts?

Several investments have caught my attention recently, ranging from the plodding-but-profitable to funds that seem like a high-wire act. But what all these investments have in common is that they have been profitable — in some cases, extremely profitable.

Starting with a “plodder”, let’s take a look at the Glanmore Property Fund. This is commercial property fund that invests in a wide range of commercial properties in the UK, including shopping centers, office blocks, leisure centers, hotels, retail and industrial warehouses, and standard retail lots.

Glanmore’s biggest tenant is the British government, followed by a range of corporate tenants. Lease terms are long; only 22% of their active leases are for periods of less than five years, 42% at five to 10 years, and 36% at more than 10 years. Leases, obviously, include annual increases.

The fund, while managed in the UK, is listed in the Channel Islands, as an OEIC (open-ended investment company) — in short, an investment fund.

The Guernsey listing shows two important factors: the fund is highly regulated, and it is tax-free.

Although it has gone over the hurdles required for a listing on the Irish Stock Exchange, this was done only to demonstrate that the fund has fundamentals sound enough to justify a listing. It is not traded.

Valuations of the fund are conducted externally by two group members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The Glanmore Property Fund was formed in April 1997 and since then has gained 138.87% in value, after annual management charges of 1.5% (source: Lipper Hindsight 30/06/2006). The return on investment (ROI) over the past year has been 17.18% — somewhat higher than the targeted return of 8%-10%.



The safety of bricks and mortar: the Glanmore Property Fund has more than 54 billion baht invested in property in the United Kingdom. — EPA/Hugo Philpott



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The higher-than-predicted ROI is attributed to sales of smaller properties that have gained substantially in value. As the fund increases in size, the managers are disposing of the fund’s smaller properties, and these are become increasingly less significant as a percentage of the total fund. The Glanmore Property Fund now has more than £770 million invested (more than 54.5 billion baht).

Base currency is pounds sterling, but there are also US

dollar and euro classes that invest in the same fund, Currency hedging is employed. The fund is also authorized to offer to UK residents SIPP (self-invested personal pensions) and SSAS (small self-administered scheme) investments — similar to US IRAs (individual retirement accounts).

All offshore insurance groups accept Glanmore as an investment, and the fund managers give an 80% discount on initial charges on investment via this route.

The fund deals every Wednesday and is available in either accumulation or distribution form. In the latter case, annual income, paid half-yearly, is historically more than 5%, plus capital growth. The fund has never had a loss-making year.

Now for something com-

pletely different: the IQS fund. This is for investors who don’t mind getting their feet wet. It is a true hedge fund that invests in all asset classes: shares (equities); bonds (fixed interest); metals (gold, copper); currencies (US dollars, pounds sterling, yen, Canadian dollars); energy (oil) and soft commodities (wheat, soybean).

The fund uses multiple managers and strategies; it moves from long to short positions in the blink of an eye. It is highly profitable, but volatile compared with the CSFB (Credit Suisse First Boston) Hedge Fund index, which made a net gain for investors of 232.92% over the past 10 years. The IQS Fund, in contrast, has delivered a stunning 2,837.69% gain over the same period.

Then there is the CFL fund,

another hedge fund. CFL invests in the same asset classes as IQS and uses multiple external managers who are constantly under review by the overall fund manager, who is based in Dubai.

The CFL fund, formed in 1998, has produced a net profit for investors of 360.11% compared with the CSFB index return of 108.88% over the same period.

There is a new fund called the SAV Fund, which is invested 25% in the IQS fund and 75% in the CFL fund. SAV is designed solely to offer lower volatility.

The IQS, CFL and SAV funds are all registered under AMT Futures Ltd in London. The administrator is Custom House Group in Dublin, Ireland. The Custodian Bank is Northern Trust Co in Chicago and the auditors are KPMG in Dublin and Grand Cayman, in the Cayman Islands.

But what, some readers may ask, about guarantees? The answer is very simple. An investor can guarantee any investment, no matter how awful. One could even have guaranteed an investment in Enron.

All it takes is a simple calculation: take the guaranteed element of the growth in a zero coupon bond and invest the balance in whatever you want. You can guarantee the value of your capital whatever the outcome of the investment. It is not my approach to investment, but it is mathematically sound.

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

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Land Rover lovers in Phuket were allowed to get their hands on the latest models on August 19 and 20 when Life Style Auto Co led them on an offroad expedition through the bush between Patong Hill and Chalong. On test for the 60 enthusiasts were the Discovery 3, the Range Rover and the muscular new Range Rover Sport.



Raphael Nadal in action. - Photo by EPA/Mark Lyons.

Federer, Nadal for match in Phuket?

PHUKET (*The Nation*): Local tennis fans may get the chance to see the world's top two players, Switzerland's Roger Federer and Spain's Raphael Nadal, in action in December, playing a special exhibition match to celebrate HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 79th birthday.

The Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT) has invited the world's No 1 and No 2 players to compete in Phuket on December 5, HM The King's birthday. LTAT secretary-general, Adm Bunnawit Kengrian, said the appearance fee for each player could be as much as 20 million baht.

He said a temporary sta-

dium would be built outdoors to allow fans to see two of the most popular players in world tennis.

Federer has spent some time vacationing with his girlfriend on Phuket, his most recent trip to the island having been after his win at Wimbledon in July.

He has also played tennis in Thailand twice, at the Thailand Open in 2004 and 2005, winning on both occasions. French Open champion Nadal, however, has never been to Thailand.

If the LTAT fails to get both Federer and Nadal, it may instead invite top women's players such as Amelie Mauresmo, Kim Clijsters, Justine Henin-Hardenne or Maria Sharapova.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Amigos move ahead

PATONG: With the first half of the 22-week season played, Didi's seem determined to keep the trophy, but there are four teams in hot pursuit.

This week the boys from Soi Saen Sabai took two points off Shakers, while second-place Piccadilly managed only one point, and that by salvaging the beer leg after going down 7-2 in their away fixture against OffShore.

In Amigo's 5-4 win at Valhalla, Eric from Scunthorpe had the hot hand, checking out his singles with a double-bull close and then checking out the deciding doubles encounter with a massive 90 close (x20, 12, x19).

Of the three new teams, Jungle Juice have managed to collect 12 points, while Footrot Flats and TaiLife, with eight and six points respectively, look dangerously close to being relegated to the pool league. Just kidding.

August 15 results: TaiLife 4 Footrot Flats* 5; Dog's Bollocks 8 Queen Mary* 1; Valhalla 4 Amigos* 5; Didi's 5 Shakers* 4; Coyote Bar* 7 Jungle Juice 2; Offshore 7 Piccadilly* 2 (* winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (27 points.); 2. Piccadilly (25); 3. Coyote Bar (23); 4. OffShore (21); 5. Amigos (19); 6. Dog's Bollocks (16); 7. Queen Mary (15); 8.= Valhalla, Shakers (13); 10. Jungle Juice (12); 11. Footrot Flats (8); 12. TaiLife (6).

August 29 fixtures: Queen Mary v TaiLife; Dog's Bollocks v Coyote Bar; Amigos v Didi's; Valhalla v Footrot Flats; Piccadilly v Jungle Juice; OffShore v Shakers (home team first).



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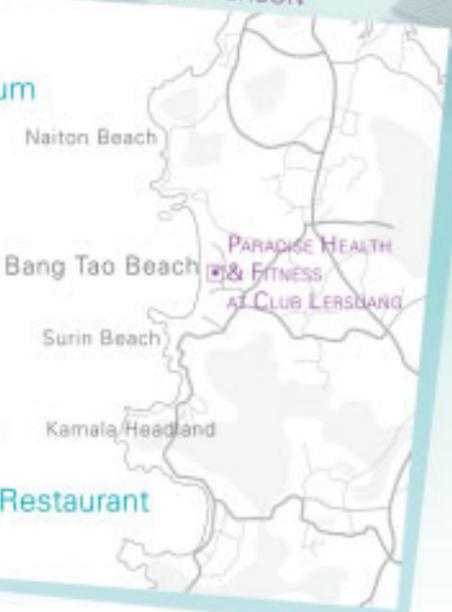
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Date set for Phuket Surfing

KATA: The Phuket Surfing Contest 2006, featuring surfers from around the world, will be held at Kata Beach from September 8 to 10.

The competition is being arranged by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Kata-Karon Municipality, Phuket Board Riders Club and Kata-Karon Beach Surf Club.

Thawatchai Thongmung, Chief Administrative Officer of Kata-Karon Municipality, said that the tournament is part of a campaign to promote Kata and Karon beaches as surfing and water sports destinations during the low season and to encourage people to be aware of safety concerns when in the sea.

"We expect to have competitors from more than 10 countries. This year more than 120 people have already registered. Most of them are tourists who have come specifically to surf," K. Thawatchai added.

Surfers will compete in five classes: Longboard Open Division, Shortboard Open Division, Grommet [junior] Division, Beginner Division and Bodyboard Division.

Entry fees vary from 300 to 500 baht, depending on the class entered.

The winner of the Long Board Open Division will receive 20,000 baht and the winner of the Short Board Open Division will receive 10,000 baht. Winners of all classes will receive a trophy.

For more information and details of how to enter see www.phuketboardriders.com

105 teams compete in Rotary Bowling

PHUKET CITY: The Rotary Club of Andaman held its fifth annual Andaman Bowl tournament at CS Bowl at Big C Supercenter on August 20, to raise funds for charity projects. A total of 105 teams took part.

Winners were Rotary Phuket South, with a score of 1,365 points. Individual awards went to K. Boonsong of the Leelawadee Resort team with 510 points in the tournament. K. Thanawat from the Phuket Nature Home team scored 180 points to take the highest-score-in-one-game trophy.

Part of the money from competition entry fees will go toward community projects, such as growing plants at Khao Phra Taew National Park in Thalang, computers and clean water for local schools, and sea turtle preservation.

Duncanson and crew storm to victory in Thai Platu Championships

PATTAYA: Phuket's Scott Duncanson and his crew – Anthony and Ali Gates, Marco Belonje and Phuket sailmaker Ket Mangkraseranee – have won the 2006 Platu National Championships, contested in the waters off the Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Jomtien, Chonburi.

A total of 12 Platu-class yachts competed in short and choppy seas, with south-westerly to westerly winds ranging from five to 15 knots.

Duncanson, sailing *The Beaver*, convincingly won the three-day, seven-race event with a total of 10 points. By the end of the second day, he had already wrapped up the series, and did not even need to go back out on the water. He did, however, and scored two more first places.

In second place was Viroj Nualkhair sailing *Wicky*, who scored 18 points, while last year's champion, Anirut Posakrisna, sailing *Naiad*, was one point behind to take third.



The Platu fleet in full cry in good winds off Jomtien.

Good clear-air starts were hotly contested, with a general recall in race 3, numerous OCSs and two boats hitting the start marks in other races.

The racing throughout was extremely close with boats often finishing within seconds of each other. Race 5, in particular, was

tight, with five boats finishing in the space of 20 seconds.

Duncanson commented after the regatta, "It's great to see quality skippers and crews traveling to these highly competitive one-design events."

"This year we had some of the region's best skippers and

crews traveling from the Philippines, China and Malaysia to compete.

"At the recent Coronation Cup we finished equal first on points with the Marty Kaye-Jamie McWilliam team from Hong Kong, but were pushed back into second place after the tie-break procedure was applied.

"We learned a lot from our mistakes and managed to pull the team together to score this victory.

"I really enjoy racing in Pattaya; it's so convenient: walk on, walk off the boat – no tides, dinghies or longtails to worry about.

"If Phuket wishes to become a truly international yacht racing destination, there is an urgent need for a deep-water yacht club and marina offering 24-hour access for all yachts and capable of easily launching small racing yachts such as the Platu and Phuket 8."

Dinghy sailing prospects are looking up in Phuket

AO YON: The island is to host its first sailing dinghy world championship between July 2 and 11 next year.

While many dinghy classes will go to Sri Lanka and other countries in the region for their championships, the International Tasar Association and World Tasar Council have chosen the Cape Panwa Hotel as the headquarters for their championship.

It is hoped a small number of Tasars will be imported from Europe or Australia by the end of the year so that locals, too, can prepare for the event.

Phuket Yacht Club (PYC) at Ao Yon has attracted quite a number of new members, both children and adults, who are taking dinghy sailing courses.

The growing interest in dinghies – and not yachts – is due to the fact that not everyone can afford to buy and maintain a large boat. In addition, to sail and, certainly, to race a yacht requires experienced crew members. A dinghy needs only one or two people.

In many countries there are hundreds of small-boat sailing clubs that give everyone the opportunity to go sailing – it is not only the pastime of the rich.

Phuket's Sail in Asia has

now secured the agency for the Topper and Topaz ranges of beach boats, giving the island a source for boats such as the Omega – family-sized and good for cruising – and the infinitely variable Topaz.

In addition, a number of secondhand boats have recently been sold to PYC members as starter craft. An "A" class catamaran is presently being repaired and should be on the water in a few weeks, and some nearly-new, ex-sailing-school dinghies are for sale.

Meanwhile, the success of the two previous "Get Sailing" days at PYC has prompted the club to offer an invitation to non-members to try sailing at the club's regular family sailing days, held on the first Sunday of every month, the next being September 3, from 11 am to 4 pm.

There is a 100-baht entrance fee for non-members. Contact the club through the website at www.phuketyachtclub.info. – Robert Warnes

Sail in Asia can be found at 19/76 Baan Prangthong, Moo 3, Kwang Rd, Tambon Vichit, Amphur Muang, Tel/Fax: 076-264637, Mobile: 07-2810458, Email: info@sailinasia.com

Cherng Talay blitz Patong 5-1

PHUKET CITY: In the final matches of the provincial section of the Thai Cup national soccer competition, Cherng Talay Municipality fought their way past Patong Municipality in a high-scoring encounter at Surakul Stadium on August 20 to take their place in the regional phase of the competition.

At half time the sides were level on one goal apiece after a closely contested first half. But Cherng Talay came out from the break looking the more likely of the two teams and after 10 minutes their endeavor paid off with a goal to make it 2-1.

It stayed this way until the last 10 minutes, when the Patong

defense collapsed, allowing Cherng Talay to put away three more goals before the final whistle, for a scoreline of 5-1.

In the seniors section of the event, Thepkrasattri Tambon Administration Organization squeezed past another Patong team 3-2 to book their place in the next round.

In the next phase the Phuket teams will be in the draw with adversaries from Chumphon, Ranong, Phang Nga, Surat Thani, Krabi, and Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the Upper Southern region competition. The first match will be held in Krabi province.

The national final will be in Nakhon Sawan next February.

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Reflecting on color



Above left, lotuses from Pornchai. Below left, blind man's bluff from Krajok Kaew. Above, art deco from Pornchai. Right, Chinese angel from Krajok Kaew.

Beyond serving the vain or being strategically placed to give the impression that a room is larger than it actually is, mirrors can be attractive décor features in themselves, with some intricate etching or a colorful image painted on the reflective surface.

At Krajok Kaew, located opposite Baan Samkong School on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City, store owner Atitaya Tantipussapan has two skilled craftsmen etching and painting designs on mirrors, completing works to order.

K. Atitaya originally opened Krajok Kaew – the name means “mirror” – at the Tesco-Lotus shopping mall three years ago, but moved the store to Samkong nearly two years ago.

Among the top-of-the-range items in the shop are sets of folding panels with plate glass inserts featuring motifs etched into the glass, priced at 18,500 baht for a hinged set of three.

At the plainer end of the range is a painted decorative mirror featuring a pair of Chinese dragons against a red background at 4,500 baht, while a simple house name “plaque” is 999 baht.

For those looking to create a more spiritual feel in their homes, there are feature mirrors decorated with images of Chinese gods, such as Hok Lok Siew, at 1,000 baht, or the goddess Kuan Im, at 999 baht, or images of much revered monks, such as Phuket’s renowned Luang Por Chaem and Luang Phu Tuad of Wat Chang Hai in Pattani.

Another store with a choice selection of decorative mirrors is Pornchai Mirrors on Pattana Thongthin Rd, next to the 7-Eleven on the corner of Sakdidet Rd.

K. Pornchai learned to etch and paint on glass while working part-time when he was a student at Phuket Rajabhat University.

He was inspired by the work to open his own shop, which he did after he graduated in 2003. He now has three craftsmen creating designs at the shop,



and sources all materials required from Bangkok.

His craftsmen etch the glass using a sandblaster because K. Pornchai does not want to place his staff at risk by using acid. They then use paint to brighten up the images.

The craftsmen have created a portfolio of designs to choose from, but also complete works to order and will even create custom designs for clients.

Prices, which reflect the design featured and the size of mirror used, start at 60 baht a square foot without color.

Examples among the extensive range of items at the shop include a large mirror featuring a colorful picture of a nymph costing 20,000 baht, and a smaller mirror with a similar design of a naked woman under a tree costing 4,000 baht.

Better suited for the lounge room is a glass table with a lamp fitted inside the glass center stem and a large, intricate image of a naga emblazoned on the table’s flat surface costing 7,000 baht.

• *Krajok Kaew. Open daily 8:30 am to 6 pm. Delivery service for large orders only. For more information call K. Atitaya at Tel: 01-8921363.*

• *Pornchai Carving Mirrors. Open 8:30 am to 6 pm, Monday to Saturday. For more information call K. Pornchai at Tel: 07-3895424 or 06-682-3081.*

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Home of the Week

Rawai



The main house has a country feel to it, but with all the 'essential' luxuries.

RUSTIC LUXURY

Built to a very high standard on 870 square meters of walled land in Rawai, this property has well-kept tropical gardens and a 28-sqm private swimming pool.

In the main house there are two air-conditioned bedrooms, a large bathroom and a huge upstairs lounge as well as a covered deck with views of the hills.

The second bedroom is currently being used as an office, as it has a broadband Internet connection.

The wood-and-terracotta flooring gives a country feel to the home but with added luxuries, such as insect screens fitted throughout and a large Western farmhouse-style kitchen big enough to dine in.

Outside is a cooking area with dishwasher and two storerooms, and a private guest bungalow has been added for when family or friends want to stay over. The wooden bungalow is in Thai design and is a self-contained home away from home, complete with its own bathroom.

The gardens are big enough to host a major party, or one could entertain a few friends with a barbecue by the pool.

Utilities include satellite TV, well water and water heating.

The land title is Chanote and the property is for sale at 10.8 million baht.

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



Above, the separate guest cottage. Below, the lush garden and the pool.



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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Hokkien Association builds grand new hall

On the way to Cape Panwa, on the left side of Sakdidet Rd, a large building is currently under construction. Already, the roof is taking shape, with distinctly Chinese curves to it. This will be the new offices of the Phuket Hokkien Association (PHA).

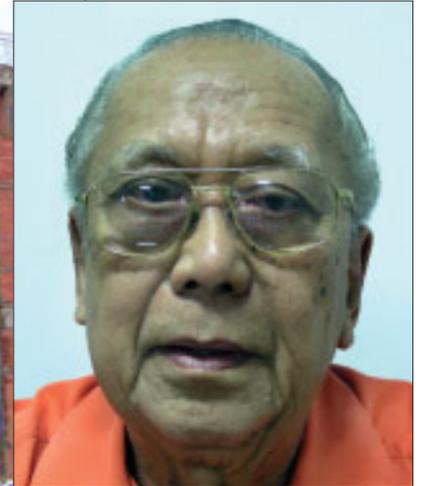
Hai Akewanich, President of the PHA, told the *Gazette*, "About one in three Chinese in Phuket are Hokkien Chinese.

"Currently we have about 1,350 members and there are still about 40,000 Hokkien who are not registered with the association.

"Our Association's objective is to bring the Hokkien people in Phuket together. Every Monday at 8 pm, we have a members' meeting, where we drink coffee or tea together and exchange ideas," he explained.

Since it was established in 1989, the PHA has rented office space on Deebuk Rd, in Phuket City, from the Kusoldham Foundation. "It has been there 17 years already, and although the rent is cheap at just 4,000 baht a month, the premises are no longer large enough," K. Hai said.

"The late Banlue Tantiwit, who was President of the PHA before he died, thought that we should have our own building, and donated a 2½-rai plot on Sakdidet



Left: the building's Chinese roof is already taking shape. Above, Hai Akewanich, President of the Phuket Hokkien Association; Below: Artist's impression of the completed complex.

Rd to the Association.

"We began construction in November last year. Initially we will build only the front part, which will be a two-story building, 21 by 9 meters, costing about 13 million baht. Later we will build the second part, which will be connected to the first one. The total cost will be about 30 million baht."

The front part will house, on the upper floor, offices for the



PHA President, its treasurer and a manager, along with a small meeting room. Downstairs will be a reception area and a large hall.

Phase 2 will be a 50m-long grand hall capable of accommodating gatherings of up to 1,000 people. It will be used for conferences or for activities such as performances of Chinese opera, weddings or other parties, and various ceremonies.

"We plan to finish Phase 1 by the end of this year. We will then move the PHA offices from Deebuk Rd. We shall start on Phase 2 as soon as we receive enough money from association members – we still need another 20 million baht to complete that part," he said.

The design will be distinctively Chinese, K. Hai explained, but the new venue will be any-

thing but exclusive. "It will be available to anyone who needs a place for any activity. They do not have to be Hokkien; they can ask the association for permission to use the place," he added.

The construction company is Wisan Karn Kor Sang Co. For more information contact the PHA at Tel: 076-224068.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I have written a few articles for this column over the years. I've ranted inanely over various topics, and had a few bashes at a variety of sections of the world's population.

Americans have had more than their fair share of jibes from yours truly, as have the Welsh, anyone from southern England, and people who wear socks with sandals, or Speedos in restaurants. All well-deserved, I feel.

I've been fairly well-behaved about visitors (or potential visitors) to Thailand, and Phuket in particular, thus far. After all, they do make up a chunk of the readership of this publication, so we don't want to upset them.

But come on – we all know that there are vast swathes of humanity elsewhere, some of whom do indeed choose to visit Phuket at some stage, who harbor a huge list of preconceived misconceptions.

I'm not making this up – I get these "facts" quoted to me every time I go back to the UK. They're confident that their view from atop a bar stool in a pub in deepest, darkest England is perfectly valid.

BUFFOONS

It would be very easy for me to list them all here and then counter them with the reality of the situation, but to be perfectly honest, I just can't be bothered. There's absolutely nothing new that can be said.

We've all heard these stereotypes a thousand times – my only advice would be for the buffoons who insist on perpetuating these inanities to come here and put them to right for themselves.

They won't, of course. They are far happier to spout on *ad nauseam* about "facts" of which they have no knowledge. These are the sort of people who choose to write for travel magazines without ever setting foot in the country they are writing about. Why should they, when they know better?

They're far happier to tell us what it's really like here. What would we know?

One of the common botanical misconceptions regarding Thailand is its national flower. Most people seem to think it's the lotus, but that is not the case.

Officially, the Thai national flower is the flower of the golden shower tree (*cassia fistula* linn), or *ratchaphruek* in Thai. Even though the lotus flower isn't the official flower, it's a fascinating plant.

Lotus is actually the common name for any of a genus of plants from the legume family, though the precise history of the original Madame and Monsieur Legume has been lost over time.

In Greek legend, the *lotophagi* (lotus-eaters) or those who ate the fruit of the lotus, forgot their friends and homes and lost all desire to return to their native land. The *farang* of Phuket must



Lotuses grow rapidly, so make sure you don't want anything else in your pond. Inset, lotus flowers ready to take to the wat.

LOTUS: NOT THE CAR

have been feasting on this for years.

The *nelumbo nucifera* lotus is the pink-flowered variety that is the sacred lotus of Buddhism and is the lotus plant you can see all over Thailand. The seeds and rhizomes of this aquatic genus are edible, and its leaves are held above the water on long stalks.

Members of the water lily genus, with floating leaves, are also technically called lotus. So if you refer to a water lily as a lotus you're right. I think. This is getting way too complicated for me. The lotus genus contains about 100 species in total, native to temperate regions, so I'm not surprised.

There are three names in Thai for lotus and water lilies: *Bua*, *Pathum* and *Ubon*. These names are also popularly used to name people, monasteries, prov-

inces, districts and villages all over the country because of their favorable connotations.

The lotus has been described as the unofficial emblem of Thailand. In defense of this, it does play an important part in daily Thai cultural life, and is one of the country's most common flowers.

The lotus can grow anywhere in Phuket where the land is low enough to be flooded. Lotus blooms are commonly found in ponds, swamps, small canals, roadside ditches or even in earthen jars.

So how do you grow it? Lotus plants are initially sold as tubers, which are predictably tube-shaped, with sections. There should be at least a couple of sections to the tuber; sometimes there can be more.

The tubers will vary in size, depending on the type of lotus,

from around the size of a pencil to as large as a zucchini, and can be any length up to about 50 cm. Before you plant a lotus, it's a good idea to prepare the soil in the pot about a week ahead. Pack the soil when it's dry, then submerge the pot into the body of water where you will be growing the lotus. When you plant the lotus in

the pot, just gently lay it on top of the soil or lay it in a groove you have made with your finger in the soil. Don't bury it.

You can use a rock to keep the tuber from floating to the top, or, use a U-shaped piece of wire that won't rust in the water on the fattest part of the tuber – don't put it on the joint of the tuber – and make sure the growing tip is pointing up.

Be careful not to confuse the growing tip with the leaf. The leaves will always sprout out before the growing tip so that you can see which is which.

Lotus plants appreciate full sun with high temperatures. As it happens, we're not short of either in Phuket. Initially, the leaves will rest on the water for a time until the roots are strong enough to hold them above the water.

A word of caution though: You need to be careful if you introduce the lotus into a natural pond. Once it's established, it can quickly take over the whole pond. It's not often that you see a patch of water with the odd polite lotus plant sitting quietly in the middle – there are usually hundreds of them.

But if that's what you want, then there's no problem.

The magnificent blossom unfolds gradually, one petal at a time, until it is in full-bloom just as the first rays of the morning sun begin to shine on it. The interaction between the lotus and the sun is one of the symbols of love in Thai folklore.

If you meet anyone on your next trip back to your home country, do me a favor, dispel some of the unfair myths about this country. For a start, tell them that not everyone eats lotuses.

Wow – I'm getting serious. It must be time for a beer.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

Owner Leaving Must Sell.

near Laguna, Chanote title, both have exotic furniture, big spas, each on 1/2 rai of landscaped land.



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Spa, pool, Exotic Poolside Bar.

8m. Bargain@6.5m.



New 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spa. Also nanny house and work shop. Asking

10m. Bargain@8.0m.

Or Buy both, 1 rai, 3 buildings **14 million baht** Foreign Buyer No Problem **Tel: 095944067**

360-SQM PLOT

350m from sea. In Rawai, with concrete road, electricity, Chanote, Thai company if needed, architect's plans and only a 350m walk along a quiet soi to Chalong Bay. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 06-684-5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

BOAT LAGOON

and Patong. - 17 rai: Boat Lagoon, sea view, 2.5 million baht per rai. - 5 rai: Patong, 5.5 million baht per rai. - 3 rai: Patong, 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8942337.

FOR SALE: 7.5 MILLION BAHT

140sqm townhouse in Boat Lagoon Marine Residence. Water view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid/utility room. Fully furnished. Washer and tumble drier. Very good condition. Free use of Gym. 50m pool. Restaurants, hotel, bank, supermarket and more. New medical center opening soon. Close to international school and all major shops. 24-hour security. Call to view. Tel: 06-282-0567.

PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA

Chanote plots on Pasak hill-top. 1,000-1,600sqm. From 3 million baht. Tel: 01-893-0692 or 01-9798685, or Email: mervowen@vol.net

RAWAI 2-STORY

house for sale: 1.4 million baht. 10-year finance. Central Rawai. 140sqm. Tel: 06-940-8914. Email: pimswettygirl@yahoo.co.uk

FANTASTIC LAND

2 1/2 rai. Loch Palm. Fantastic position with good view. Offers in excess of 10 million baht. Tel: 06-2790837.

7 RAI BEACH LAND

for sale. Outer island beach-front land, 15 minutes from Ao Por pier. Great for developers. 3.5 million baht per rai. Email: solitude001@aol.com

RAWAI CONDO SALE

or rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell for 450,000 baht. 400 meters from the beach. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



2-bedroom house, furnished, appliances, in gated community, pool, sauna. 2 minutes to Nai Yang Beach. USA standard. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5878154. Email: loverofasia72@yahoo.com

RAWAI VILLA

for sale or rent. Detached house, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 400sqm of land. 15,000 baht per month or for sale at 5 million baht. Near beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

LAKESIDE HOME

for quick sale. Beautiful location overlooking lake, with hill views, in private secure estate. 4 bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms and aircon. Very spacious, extensive built-in cupboards and wardrobes. Large European-style kitchen and workshop. Tel: 076-381-717. Fax: 076-282218. Email: trin@phuket-sunseekers.com For more pictures, please see our website at: www.phuket-sunseekers.com/property2.htm

NEW, SEAVIEW

apartments. Located on Patong hillside up Nanai Rd. We offer: 1-bedroom, 47sqm apartments, 2 bedroom 72/95sqm apartments and a 172sqm penthouse. Starting at 2.25 million baht. Tel: 04-7085253. Email: berthike@aol.com Please website: www.blue-ocean-view.com

PHUKET PANTEP

Condo for sale. 32sqm, freehold, brand-new. 450,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO

lease. 90-year lease for 350,000 baht or rent for 2,000 baht a month. Seaview. Tel: 06-9408914. Email: pimswettygirl@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR SALE



2-story house in Chalong. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, lounge room and beautiful Western kitchen. Aircon bedrooms. Quiet, safe suburb. Asking 5 million baht ono. Tel: 01-7475293, 05-7839825. Email: chillhouse@hotmail.com

SALE OR LEASE

2,500sqm Thai-style villa, built 1997, with panoramic sea view. Located Cape Panwa. For sale at US\$4.5 million or for lease at US\$39,000 a month. Call Mr Abdulloh at Tel: 01-569-7220. Agents welcome.

STUNNING SEAVIEW

Kata. 400, 800 or 1,600sqm plots. Beautiful view over Kata. 3.2 million baht for 400sqm, with road, electricity, Chanote title. Transfer no problem. Tel: 09-6525664.

HOUSE FOR SALE

New house, 1,496 sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, located close to by-pass road with Lagoon views. Close to Lotus & Central department stores. 20 million baht. Tel: 01-5375284, 09-7291066.

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small 2 bedrooms. For quick sale at 1.25 million baht. Good area. Tel: 01-892-8208.

NEW VILLA, RAWAI

New villa Rawai. 1 story, quiet area, high-end style, 3 bedrooms, Jaccuzi, 220sqm living space, freehold or lease 500sqm land plot. Includes furniture. 7.5 million baht finance available. Tel: 06-267-0898.

CHALONG SEAVIEW

1 rai. All infrastructure, 2nd-story view, only 300m to beach. Tel: 01-5376866.

ECO-COOL THAI HOME IN RAWAI



The open-air design of this award-winning home affords a true tropical lifestyle. Traditional Thai design and modern materials are combined to beat Phuket's tropical heat without aircon. A large, naturally-cool patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Priced at only 9.9 million baht, this large 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom plus office-area (240sqm) home sits on a 400sqm plot and features designer kitchen & bathrooms, hardwood floors & underground water tank for rainwater collection and storage. Call Gary at Tel: 07-8987062.

HOUSE IN NAI YANG FOR SALE



Large garden, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 100sqm, close to the airport, 5 mins from Nai Yang Beach. Tel: 01-8991351 or 01-920-2527. For further details please see our website: www.karonstudio.com

NEW VILLA FOR SALE



350sqm living space, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms, office room, absolute privacy and security. 15.9 million baht. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

LAND FOR SALE 10 RAI



Koh Yao Noi, east coast. Sea view, 165m beachfront. Electricity, water, road access. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-2722013. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

RAWAI TOP VILLA

High-end villa, 4 bedrooms. Living space: 500sqm, land: 1100. New, includes exclusive furniture, swimming pool, garden house. No better deal around. Finance available. Freehold, 30 million baht, including new 4WD and motorbike. Start your life at the top. Tel: 07-8938747.

SMALL PLOT, RAWAI

Road, electricity, water, very cheap, company owned. Be fast as time is running out. Tel: 01-5376866.

RAWAI SALE

Two-story house with pool plus guest cottage. Very private 900 sqm of walled gardens. Woodland views 10.2 million baht ono. Tel: 07-2730141.

KATA COTTAGE

sale. Seaview cottage. Furnished 2.4 million baht up. Great view. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-630-1770, 01-4874812.

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Phuket Bangtao New House
This eight-house development built with superb and luxurious contemporary & modern Thai style set in a tropical landscape around the tasteful swimming pool. 3 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms, Western kitchen, sala, maid room, laundry, 2 car-parking spaces. Price: 19.8 to 22.2 million baht

Phuket Town East Coast new villas
Bali style pool villas, 2 and 3 bedroom villas ranging in size from 200-300 sqm, plot 650 sqm, all with swimming pool. These high-quality lifestyle estates are the future of Phuket and offer investors the best quality investment and private living. With balcony, nearby restaurant, public pool, gym etc. Price: from 19.4 million baht

Kata new 3-bedroom condominiums
Modern mixed Eastern and Western style, large open terrace and living area, with a magnificent view over the Andaman sea and Kata with white beaches and wonderful sunrise, bedrooms inc bath-room, telephone line, shared pool, gym etc. Price: 19.2 to 19.8 million baht

Kata new 2-bedroom condominiums
Condominiums are located on a headland overlooking the beaches of Kata and Kata Noi and the charming beach-side village of Kata. Facilities include two swimming pools and waterfalls and tropical garden. Full resort-style management rentals and other services and parking. Price: 13.2 to 14.4 million baht

Layan Phuket 3 bedroom apartment
Situated on a gentle sloping hillside in Layan overlooking several lakes to the beautiful valley and white beaches of Layan and Bang Tao and the Laguna Phuket Golf Course to the Cherm Talay Hills beyond, this estate really is an oasis of tranquility. The price includes the fully completed apartment including all quality built-in furniture, wardrobes and Western kitchen appliances, built-in a/c in all rooms, lighting and ceiling fans. Price: 18.25 to 22.45 million baht

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2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. 25 mins from Phuket International Airport.

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Please contact. **Tel: 07-8891717.**
Email: wayne_phuket@yahoo.com

Property Gazette

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY - BUY DIRECTLY FROM THE DEVELOPER



Very exclusive completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong, Nanai Hill. Only one left for sale, ready to move in. Four floors, three bedrooms, three baths, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 150sqm. 8.5 million baht.



Three new connected prestigious modern villas fully furnished in Patong, Nanai Hill. Only one left for sale, ready to move in. Four floors, three bedrooms, three baths, big balcony, roof garden with jacuzzi, sea and mountain view, garage. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 100sqm. 6.2 million baht.



RAWAI SHOPHOUSE
2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Road are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and ensuite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, free hold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (113,000\$).

Please contact Peter at
Tel: 01-8928526.
For details please see our website at:
www.phuket-besthomes.com

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Furnished. 32sqm, Pool corner unit, ocean view. 2.2 million baht. 5 min to Bangla. Sale by owner. Email: guntmit@aol.com

APARTMENT
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Located between Surin and Bang Tao Beaches. Please contact at Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

HOME SWEET HOME
New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, tastefully furnished, Chanote. Asking 3 million baht. Tel: 09-5926482.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Rawai. 150sqm, communal pool, 3 bedrooms, absolute privacy and security. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 07-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

LAND FOR SALE

Naiyang area. 110rai, 4 km from airport. Tel: 01-895-3661. Email: jo_ooddee@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Townhouse in Kathu. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room. 850,000 baht. Tel: 01-895-3661.

BALI VILLA

Exclusive pool villa featuring 2-4 bedrooms, sitting on 600 sqm of land. Available on freehold or leasehold basis. Ready to move in. Only 8.9 million baht! Tel: 06-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

CONTEMPORARY

Bali villas. Villa Suksan is a quiet, secluded development of boutique villas combining luxury and affordability. 2- or 4-bedroom villas offered at pre-construction prices. Only 2 plots left. Reserve now. Tel: 06-0043008, 04-0535780. Fax: 076-341372. Email: admin@villasuksan.com For more details, please see: www.villasuksan.com

SURIN BEACH VILLA

Large seaview villa for sale. Private, gated estate. 62 million baht. Please see: www.villa-phuket-thailand.com

CONDO IN TOWN

for sale or rent. Safe and quiet area. Fully-furnished, mini-kitchen and balcony, key card, car parking and pool. Convenient for transport, close to Central Festival. Tel: 076-272371, 01-8944735. Email: sales@phutawanresidence.com

KATA HOUSE

and apartments. Only good deals. Buy and save or make good profits. Tel: 09-652-5664.

HOTEL IN SURIN

beach. For sale: 37 million baht. 1 rai, 200 sq wah. 19 guest rooms with owner's suite. Pool and restaurant included. Email: nice_ampaipon@yahoo.com

LUXURY HOME

Chalong. 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 485sqm, 412sqm plot. Nice, quiet area. 2 minutes to Wat Chalong, 5 minutes to Chalong Bay. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 04-1879896.

NEW LUXURY HOUSE FOR SALE



In Srisuchat Grand View, close to SuperCheap. 280sqm. 2-story detached house, including 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3x7m swimming pool, living room, kitchen, 3 air conditioners, tastefully decorated. Chanote title. Please contact for more information. Call K. Nut at Tel : 04-0933310.

YANUI BEACH 1 RAI

Stunning mountain view, great for villa. Chanote title. 4.3 million baht. Can build for you under your supervision. Tel: 01-5376866.

LAND FOR SALE

4 rai, 351sqm near JW Marriott resort in Thalung. 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-2891502, 09-9915502.

BARGAIN HOUSE

in popular small development in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/dinner, laundry room, covered patio, private parking, walled garden. Nearly completed. Rural setting though close to all facilities. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 04-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

1.5 RAI

for sale. Only 1 million baht per rai. Near Heroines' Monument, 10 minutes to British curriculum school. Tel: 09-873-1019.

KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New, 2 stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park, gates, security. Price: 1.6 million baht firm. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-8822462.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

STUNNING LAND

in Rawai. Land with 8m wide road, underground electricity, quiet, 2 minutes from beach. 3.8 million baht, pay half, half on finance. We can do construction or you can do it yourself. Tel: 09-6525664.

GOLF VILLA

Phuket Country Club. A lovely Thai-style detached villa with 800sqm of land, and 340sqm of living area. Every luxury in a wonderful location with views. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

LAYAN BEACH APARTMENTS

Resort-managed, fully-furnished studio-suite apartments, ready to move in. Prices from 3.5 million baht. Swimming pool, gym and clubhouse. Just minutes from beach. Tel: 01-7371231. Website: www.oceanbreezephuket.com

FOR SALE: 32M BAH

On one plot: 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom villa plus one building with 15 apartments (35-75sqm) and a pool. Soi Veerakit, Patong. Tel: 01-7376479. www.residence-edouard.com

LAND FOR SALE

Sea view, Patong view, 180 degree, all services, ideal development. Approx 300sqm. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSES - PRIVATE POOL - LAGUNA



Hill view, near Laguna and Nai Harn Beach. Chanote title with freehold sale by owner. 11-19 million baht. Only 4 villas. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-894-4735, 076-272371. Email: sales@phutawanresidence.com

LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

TOWNHOUSE

2 stories, unfurnished, 1 minute from Chalong Pier, 35.3 square wah. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-236590, 01-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: molly_boon@hotmail.com

APARTMENT

for sale. 2-bedroom apartment between Surin and Bang Tao Beaches. 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

New house, 1,496sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, located close to bypass road with lagoon views. Close to Lotus & Central department stores. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-5375284, 09-7291066.

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Properties for Sale



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- 3-4 b/r villas, 624-807 m² plot
- Modern Sino-Portuguese style
- Supermarket, restaurant
- Full service marina

From Baht 12.2 Million



- 3 b/r pool villa in Laguna area
- 952-981 m² plot size
- Private swimming pool
- Int'l property management

From Baht 24.5 Million



- 17 rai of sea view land in Krabi
- Views of Yao Yai, Phuket & Phi Phi Islands, Nor Sar 3 title
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Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment.

Please contact Ann 66 1 868 7676 or email: ann@mms.ais.co.th

Property Gazette

PENTHOUSE: B10.8M

The best value in Phuket. Sea view, Karon Beach, rooftop pool, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Call Brian. Tel: 07-0673360.

SURIN BEACH LAND

1,000sqm, private sale. Short walk to beach; quiet, secluded area. Road, well water, electricity. 4 million baht. Tel: 07-8836112. Email: costello@exeemail.com.au

BEST VALUE

for money. Looking for a new shophouse in Phuket? Here it is: in "Goldenville Village", on the main road between Phuket City and Patong. 4 stories, with a lot of extras, including roof terrace, built-in kitchen, solar water heating system, etc. Excellent location. To view, ask for K. Orasa's house at the Goldenville office. Only 2.7 million baht. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

NEW LOCH PALM

pool villa. Extra-large plot - 1,200sqm - fronting main road with 2-story Oriental private pool villa on the edge of Loch Palm Golf Club, 5 minutes to BCIS school. 3 bedrooms + 3 bathrooms (master en-suite), large carport, rooftop terrace, automatic gate/remote. All rooms air conditioned, boilers, many views. 70% complete (ready end of Nov). 18.5 million baht. Can choose your kitchen equipment (Fagor/Teka) and get free Bosch security system. Tel: 01-869-9686. Email: supotmail@yahoo.com

2.5 RAI FOR SALE

Nice views, water, power etc. Chalong. 7.5 million baht. Phone owner. Tel: 06-683-1964.

AO POR BAY

Stunning ocean-view land plot. 360sqm, ready to build on. 25 minutes to airport and Phuket's major shopping centers. For sale at 2.9 million baht. Tel: 01-3430777.

KATA SEAVIEW

380sqm square plot. Easy to build on. Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

LAND FOR SALE

Bang Tao: 1,400sqm cleared land for sale. Road access, electricity, water. Ready to build on. Call Rene at Tel: 01-7975060.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Near Thalang. 2 bedrooms, living room. Land: 230sqm. 1.9 million baht. Call Mr Herbest at Tel: 01-8921512.

300-METER BEACH

land for sale. Koh Yao. 18 rai or subdivide into 1-rai plots. 2.9 million a rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, beautiful view, road, 24hr electricity, water, landscaped. Ready to build on, next to Teawson Bungalow. Call K. Si at Tel: 01-9567582, or Charlie at Tel: 07-2670714. For map and photos please Email: charlesaraines@hotmail.com

50 SQ WAH: B1.8M

Located 5 mins to town, 5 mins to Cape Panwa, 10 mins to Chalong. Tel: 01-958-0815. Email: moodiving@yahoo.com

5 RAI FOR SALE

2.8 million baht a rai, electricity, water, 80m road front, views. Baan Nakok, Chalong. Sale by owner. Tel: 076-280-440, 06-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR SALE



Rawai sea view, 126 sqm living space, common pool. 4 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND

6 rai, 130 meters of beachfront on Koh Sireh. Rear road access. All amenities 8 million baht a rai. Chanote title. Priced for quick sale. Contact Khun Oi at Tel: 01-8957908.

BEAUTIFUL LAND

Plots from 1 rai in luxury project between Rawai & Nai Harn with underground electricity and water, nice road access. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

KATA SEA VIEW

556sqm, Chanote title. Road, electricity. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

FOR SALE, PATONG

Freehold condo. Furnished, fridge, TV, parking, pool, 1.2m baht. Tel: 05-2453132.

LUXURY HOUSE

Neramit. 800 meters from Heroines' Monument. Secure estate, 400 sqm of land, 4 bedrooms and many more extras. 6 million baht. Tel: 01-8920121. Email: paassen40@hotmail.com

KAMALA SALE

or rent. 3 fully-furnished apartments on 2 floors with ornamental waterfall, Jacuzzi, sat TV, aircon, kitchen. With 2 bedrooms: 40,000 baht per month. With 1 bedroom: 30,000 baht per month. Sale price: 9.2 million baht. No better investment opportunity. Email for photos and info. Tel: +44-7815-937415.

RARE OPPORTUNITY in Mission Hills golf project. 1,500sqm at 1.95 million baht. Chanote title. Call K. Pen at Tel: 06-6834996.

SMALL PLOT in Rawai. 210sqm square plot. 790,000 baht. Second-floor seaview. Tel: 07-8938747.

HOUSE IN KATHU In sought-after small development. Private cul-de-sac, nearly completed. 9 mins to Patong. Located near 2 golf courses. 3-bedroom house, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, large enclosed veranda/patio. Walled plot approx. 340sqm. Sale price: 4.5m baht. Principals only please. Tel: 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

KATHU TOWNHOUSE 2 years old, 2 bedrooms (one with aircon), 2 bathrooms, living & dining area, and kitchen. Chanote title. No agents. Asking 1.6 million baht. Please call the owner, K. Chanittha at Tel: 09-7298018. Email: hugbou@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN PATONG House : 4.8 million baht. 23 sq wah, 1 km from Patong Beach, 3 bedrooms, aircon, hot-water bathroom, kitchenette, cooker, extractor hood, living room, 2 cable TVs, 2 fridges, washing machine and more. Tel: 076-341724, 01-5690664. Fax: 076-344485.

HOUSE FOR SALE New house, 1,496sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, located close to bypass road with lagoon views. Close to Lotus & Central department stores. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-5375284, 09-729-1066.

SEAVIEW LUXURY villa Layan. Exclusive villas with panoramic view of Layan Bay. For sale. Tel: 076-272-371, 01-7371688, 01-397-3267. Further details, please see our website at: www.phutawanresidence.com

HOUSE FOR SALE in Chalong. Close to Land & Houses Park, in gated community, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen and living space on 240sqm plot. All bedrooms with aircon. Priced for quick sale at 3.4 million baht. Tel: 01-9700134.

Rambutan Residence, Seaview Condominiums for Sale. An Investment in Paradise



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playboy just off Nana Rd at Patong Beach. Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. Prices start at 2.7 million baht. Please contact Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP Nai Harn Beach condos, high-quality, up-market, safe, secure, large 2-bedroom units fully furnished and equipped, great location and views, 8 million baht, a must-see! Tel: 01-6493557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

HOUSE FOR SALE Baan Maneekram, Kwang Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, large garden, car park. Price: 7.1 million baht. Tel: 06-9536881.

VILLA FOR SALE Thai villa located on Cape Panwa, overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay. This Thai-style residence has 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, great rooms and a large swimming pool. 19.5 million baht. Tel: 01-8974180, 07-2659977. Email: gay@islandtechnology.com or jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

7 RAI FOR SALE in Phang Nga. 7 rai with 160m of water front (mangroves) opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

MISSION HEIGHTS land sale. 2 land plots of 1,600sqm at 3.25 million baht, 4 land plots of 900sqm at 2.5 million baht. All fully serviced land plots. For more info call Tel: 09-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

885 SQM PLOT Bang Tao. Ocean-view plot on west coast, with infrastructure. Tel: 076-270376, 06-9434824. Fax: 076-271193. Email: lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com

HOUSE FOR SALE in Patong. 2 stories, 5 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com

14 RAI SEAVIEW Land at Khao Khat, Ao Makham. 14 rai of flat land with stunning sea view, concrete road access and electricity. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Perfect for housing or hotel project. Price: 75 million baht. Email: info@baansuan.villa.de

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Properties For Rent

THAI HOUSE FOR RENT



in Nai Harn. 2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-8732101.

PATONG, 2-BEDROOM apartment. Patong hillside, luxury 2-bed, 2-bath apartment. Fully furnished, large pool, aircon, satellite TV, etc. ASDL (if required). Very clean and private apartment in desirable area. Long-term rental @ 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-346158, 05-0717134. Fax: 076-346158. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

NEW 2-BEDROOM HOUSE No furniture. 2 bedrooms, shower, big veranda, quiet area. Muangtong 1, 3km to town, 2km to beach. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-8855415.

SERVICED apartments. and condos for rent long term or short term. Tel: 076-292628, 09-491-2496. Please see our website: www.bluewaterphuket.com

APARTMENTS Patong. For long-term rent. 1 bedroom, TV room, Cable TV, aircon, good sea view. 8,000-12,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at: www.bromma-thaihouse.com

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Property Gazette

SEAVIEW PATONG



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LARGE 4-BEDROOM house. Large 2-story, 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house in secure estate close to all facilities. Large plot. 25,000 baht a month. Contact K. Kusama Delly. Tel: 07-884-6364, 447-944192094. For further details please Email: info@axiominvestments.com

HOUSE FOR RENT Furnished townhouse in Kathu. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, TV living room. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8953661.

CENTRAL KAMALA Large 2-bedroom apartment. All mod cons, UBC, etc. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8111067.

HOUSE FOR RENT Located in the popular and secure Chaofa Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen etc. ADSL, UBC TV, garden, furnished, air conditioned. Rent 36,000 baht a month. Long-term rental. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

HOTEL NEAR BEACH 13 big rooms with fridge, hot water, 7 aircons, reception, bar, kitchen. 1.3 million baht a year. Call or email for more details. Tel: 07-8980759, 075-637126. Email: www.harald_junker@yahoo.de

RAWAI SEAVIEW for rent. Luxury studio apartment, full kitchen, hot water, cable. All new. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-0571420.

PHUKET B.L. apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-692-3163.

CHALONG NEW HOME Perfect Western-style home for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 09-6521473, 076-280-466.

GUESTHOUSE and restaurant in Kamala. Beach-front view. Long-term lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8918085. Email: thaixin@email.in.th

VILLAS FOR RENT Over 200 villas and apartments for short- or long-term rent, or sale, in Phuket. Tel: 06-0043008, 04-0535780. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website: www.ayudhya.net

BEACHFRONT CONDO Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short term. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-892-0038.

APARTMENTS in Patong. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khuanyang 256. Small kitchen, refrigerator, fully furnished, European style, aircon, cable TV, fan, hot water, bathroom. 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

DISCOVERY gardens near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 09-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

FOR RENT BY DAY or by year. Luxury apartments: 35-75sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Please contact. Tel: 076-296800. www.residence-edouard.com

LARGE VILLA Kamala. 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate granny/maid accommodation, beautiful real teak furnishings, plasma TV, full-size snooker table, UBC, ADSL, 2-/3-car garage. Set on 1 rai with tropical garden. 60,000 baht a month, minimum 1-year let. Tel: 01-8111067.

NAI HARN Sweet home for rent. Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

NICE PATONG condo. Aircon, big bedroom, cable TV, fridge, microwave, parking and pool. 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 05-2453132. Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

RAWAI RENTAL HOUSE 160sqm, 2-story house central Rawai Beach. For rent at 5,000 baht a month or lease for 10 years at 200,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

BEACH SHOP/BAR Excellent location, 90sqm on Laguna beach for rent or sale near Lotus Restaurant. Beachfront and road access. Tel: 076-271159. Email: barcode91@yahoo.com

NEW ROOMS for rent. Complete in Sept. Only 2 rooms available. Tel: 07-8810813. For further details, please see our website: www.phuketnikoniko.com/roomforrenteng.htm

NEW BUNGALOW at Pakhlong Talang Palm Garden 56/6. 15 minutes to British Curriculum Intern'l School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 52.3 sq wah, unfurnished. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-6063525.

LAKE HOUSE New, in Kamala, fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8928208.

KARON APARTMENT Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 06-2718254.

3-BEDROOM HOME Chao Fa Rd. 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 a month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

TOP VIEW, TOP VILLA for rent. Overlooking Loch Palm golf course. 5 bedrooms, furnished. 95,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-2698492. Email: paularen@gmail.com

RAWAI RENTAL HOUSE 160sqm, 2-story house central Rawai Beach. For rent at 5,000 baht a month or lease for 10 years at 200,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip36@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

HOUSES and apartments. For rent in Patong & at Rawai Beach. Rate: 5,000-15,000 baht/month. Please call or email at Tel: 09-4740227. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

RAWAI, NICE HOUSE for rent. 900sqm house with garden. Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, living/dining area. Quiet. 25,000 baht per month. Agent: PPH. Tel: 06-9060166.

BAR/RESTAURANT Kamala. Available for an astonishing 10 years at 3.8 million baht with a monthly rent of 20,000 baht. All fully equipped and comes with a 2-bedroom owner's flat. Property is only 150 meters from the beach. Tel: 01-3704215. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

NERAMIT HILL New house, long-term, 3-bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 5 minutes to Patong. Tel: 07-2674342. Email: agentsmith@ji-net.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped, 2 air conditioners. 23,000 baht a month. Contact K. Tik at Tel: 09-7280999.

FOR RENT 3-bedroom house. Pool, walled garden, near Nai Harn Beach. 25,000 baht a month. Minimum 1 year, no agents. Tel: 01-3971835.

BEAUTIFUL VILLA 2 bedrooms. European standard. Fully furnished, aircon, telephone, UBC TV, swimming pool, tropical garden. 2 minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Long-term let at 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-2810452.

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK 5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Call K. Vachira. Tel: 01-3269495.

FURNISHED & NEW Includes kitchen, hot-water shower. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE 46/2 Ket Kwan Rd, Kata. 10,000 baht per month, 1-year lease. Tel: 076-330889. Fax: 076-333187. Email: drcracknell@gmail.com

PATONG 2-BEDROOM apartment. Large and luxurious. UBC, swimming pool, aircon, good location and quiet. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2790837.

HOUSE FOR RENT Home & office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkhram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 04-0629587.

HOUSE & GARDEN 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, fully furnished, European kitchen. Email: pen47@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT

275sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

KAMALA VILLAS Beachfront, fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Including daily cleaning and washing, daily pool service and gardener. Monthly rental: 55,000 baht. Tel: 04-843-6837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com. Please see our website at: www.phuket-island-homes.com

KAMALA, LONG LET 2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-1789273.

LUXURY HOUSE Three bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. 1 rai. 29,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-5944067.

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

LAND IN KATA/KARON

I am interested in buying 1.5-2 rai of land in Kata or Karon. Must be suitable to build house on. Email: sverker_gustafsson@yahoo.com

HOTEL WITH BEACH/SEA VIEW

Looking for a hotel to buy. Must have a beach or an amazing sea view. Email: franco@lemonsurf.com

SHOP IN BANGLA ROAD PATONG

I am looking for a shop in Soi Bangla. Must be at least 4.5m wide and 5m deep, and near the beach. Prefer long lease (3+3 years). Will be prepared to fly in from Australia after talking. Call Tel: +61 425 7778-98 (Australia). Email: madler51@hotmail.com

LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260.

BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact me with full details. Tel: 09-0543505.

HOTEL WANTED

Small hotel/resort wanted on Phuket or nearby islands. Email info/pics to Alan. Please contact by email: movinlos@yahoo.com.au

SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Ao Makham area. Tel: 05-032-7100. Email: saze@gmx.net

HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomdexter2001@yahoo.de

NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must be overlooking the bay and city. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

SMALL HOUSE, LONG TERM

Looking for a small house, 2 or 3 bedrooms with kitchen, bathroom and furniture. Internet (ADSL) required. Needed for up to 6 months or more. Location: Kathu, Patong, Kamala or nearby. Max budget: 15,000 baht per month. Please send an offer by email. I will arrive in Phuket on October 6. Email: thaicheck@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email or phone me if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrilllearning@hotmail.com

SEEKING HOUSE

to rent. German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Tel: 06-188922.

AUDITION ROOM

I am looking for an audition room to rent. The room must be at least 7m long and 4m wide, with white walls (for background). One of the short walls should be without windows (background). With aircon would be great. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6285292.

Accommodation Available

PATONG LUXURY

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

KARON APARTMENT

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SERVICED APARTMENTS

in Chalong. Spacious studio suites with rooftop spa and pool garden. Aircon, Wi-Fi, sat TV, kitchenette, house-keeping. From 9,000 baht a month. Contact for more details. Tel: 06-2826221, 01-8938592. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

2-BED HOUSE

in Kathu. Fully furnished, 2 min from PCC. 12,000 baht a month. Contact for details. Tel: 076-296301. Email: sittipom_tong@hotmail.com

EN-SUITE ROOMS

Close to beach, private hot shower, aircon/fan. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG TOWER

rental available from July 30-November 30. All utilities included, 2-persons max @ 1,800 baht a night. Email: coasters@earthlink.net Please see our website at: www.patongtower-rentals.com

BUNGALOWS/APARTMENTS

available. Fully-furnished bungalows at Karon Beach and apartments in Kata-Karon still available at low-season prices. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

APARTMENT FOR YOU

1-bedroom apartment in Soi Nanai 2. All-inclusive low-season rate 12,500 baht/month. Tel: 01-5362954. Email: petro@phuket-4you.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments-4you.com/patong/baan_arunsri.htm

PATONG 1- & 2-BED APARTMENTS

Nanai Rd area. Quality apartments, fully furnished, Western kitchen, aircon, cable TV, internet. Long term only. 12,000-20,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For more information, please see our website at: www.orcella.com

NAI HARN SWEET HOME

Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

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w/Internet. 2-room apartment off Nanai Rd, 40 sqm, fully furnished incl. TV, large fridge, hot water, fans, safe, aircon and kitchenette; 8,500baht/month for long term; optional ADSL Internet available. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Rawai. Nice house in Soi Tristar, off Sai Yuan Rd. Fully furnished. Aircon bedrooms, sala with garden. 37,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-3289241, 01-693-7277. Email: bent@siamdivers.com

NEW APARTMENT

Fully-furnished, big apartment for rent at Nai Harn Beach. Max 4 persons. 500 baht per day, 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

KAMALA BEACH

2 private beautifully-appointed, fully-furnished houses available for long or short term. ADSL, UBC available. Aircon throughout. Contact for details. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketproperties.com

Accommodation Wanted

AIRCON ROOM

in Patong. Wanted to rent from December 11-20. Need daily cleaning of room and change of sleeping clothes. Must have fridge, and be in walking distance of Bangla and the beach. Email: erik_eriksen@yahoo.com

ACCOMMODATION IN KAMALA

Family of 3 seeking accommodation in Kamala. November 2006-February 1, 2007. Furnished, aircon. 2 bedrooms, small kitchen. If possible, prefer ADSL and weekly maid service. Email: fam.thorgren@hotmail.com

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Household Items

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for sale. Chinese furniture from Ching Dynasty. Serious buyers only. Pictures/prices upon request. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2676024. Email: mwd@nmvnl.com

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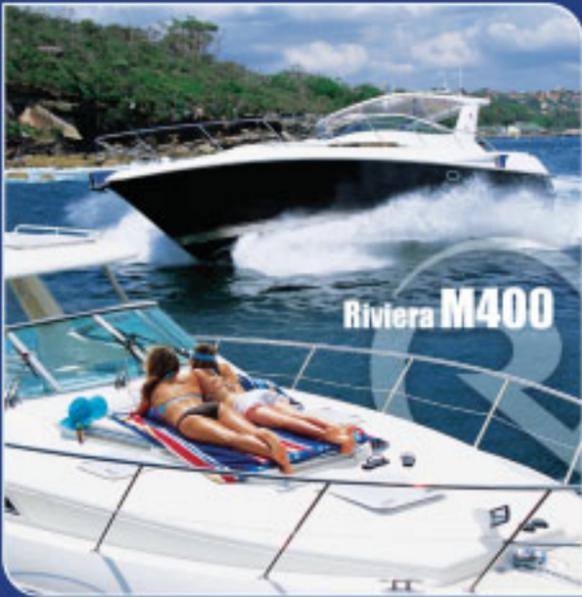
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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
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90 HP, 2-stroke, never used, for sale at best offer. Please call K. Pen. Tel: 06-6834996.

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Big 26ft trailer boat with cockpit shower and toilet. Twin 115hp, 4-stroke Suzukis. Call Simpson Marine for price and details at Tel: 076-239768. For further details, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com

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Thai registered, 150,000 liters, width 6m, length 23m, ready to move. 1.6 million baht. Contact. Tel: 01-891-2333. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

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Island Job Mart

Carrefour



Carrefour the world's leading retailers

We are an international company with branches in more than 30 Countries in the world. We have a vast amount of experience and expertise in running global retail businesses. We are now ready to offer a fantastic opportunity to join us and have the career you want. We are seeking bright, enthusiastic and experienced people with a positive spirit. If you are one of the new generation these are the positions we are looking for:

Section Managers

- Dry food / Consumer Products
- Bazaar Product (Kitchenware/ Furniture/Entertainment CD VCD/ Stationary/ Leisure/ Gardening/ Toy/ Sport)
- Home Appliances / Electronic Products
- Textile Products

(Please specify your expertise)

Qualifications

- Experience in retail business or direct line products
- Good management skills
- Analytical skills and strategic planning skills

Section Managers Western Delicatessen/ Western Chef or Cook

Qualifications

- Experience as Western food chef or assistant chef, in a Western restaurant or relate fields
- Good management skills
- Analytical skills and strategic planning skills

Secretary to Store Manager

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Secretarial, Management, Business or related fields.
- At least 1-3 years' experience as a secretary.
- Good communication skills
- Must have initiative, independence, and dare to be responsible for own decisions

Customer Services / Information Counter

- Experience in Hotel or other service business
- Experience in other businesses involving contact and communication with foreigners
- Communication ability in Chinese, Korean and Japanese an advantage
- Excellent command of spoken English

*** Ability to communicate in English is necessary for all positions ***

To apply please send your application together with a covering letter, resume (in English), expected salary and recent photograph to:

Head Of Recruitment (Carrefour Phuket)
No.11, G/A Floor, South Sathorn Road,
Tunkmahamek, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120

Or Send your Resume by email (Preferably MS word) to Recruitment Department
(Carrefour Phuket)

Phuket_store@hotmail.com and Recruitment_TH@carrefour.com

For more information, please call Carrefour Temporary Office, Patong
Phuket. Call: 076 293 272, 01 420 6308

MAID/ HOUSEKEEPER

Foreign couple is looking for a long-term maid with basic verbal and written English. The person should also be able to help with different local miscellaneous issues. Working location: Kathu in a new house. Working hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 8-12am. Honest, self-motivated, sincere and a nice personality. Good salary for the right candidate. Please call or e-mail for interview. Tel: 06-7428968. Email: fima168@yahoo.com

BLUE FROG RAWAI

Looking for full-time cook for foreign and Thai food, must speak English. Up to 25,000 baht per month depending on experience. Call Pavel at Tel: 06-2832279.

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Sunset Beach Resort is looking for a Restaurant Manager. Please send CV by email or contact for more info. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 076-342500. Email: info@sunsetphuket.com

SALES COORDINATOR/ manager. Wanted: Sales Coordinator/Manager for boat excursion/tour company.

- Thai national, able to speak and write basic English
- Must have computer skills
- Must be able to manage tour desk staff at hotels, to coordinate bookings, and to undertake office duties as required. Please send resum with expected salary or contact. Tel: 076-388294, 01-0817163. Email: info@simbaseatrips.com

HEADMISSTRESS SCHOOL

Native Thai teacher, with license and minimum 3 years' teaching experience, good English required. Tel: 076-282232, 01-7884665. Fax: 076-381447. Email: marc_ubags@yahoo.com

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

staff. We have two positions available for Academic Affairs staff. Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Thai female
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Very good in written and spoken English

Tel: 076-264770. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

SECRETARY WANTED

A law firm in Phuket is looking for a secretary. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

BOOKKEEPER

Siam Real Estate require a Quick Books experienced bookkeeper. Location: Rawai. Good salary plus bonus. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

We are international property consultants with over 200 offices worldwide, property agency service, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to a rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follow:

Knight Frank

Estate Manager:

- Age over 28 yr
- BA in management or related fields
- At least 2 yr experience in building/estate management level or 3 yr in management level
- Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
- Strong leadership, good problem-solving skill and able to work under pressure

Chief Engineer:

- Male, age over 25 yr
- BA in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering
- At least 2 yr experience in building services
- Knowledge of systems maintenance management is an advantage

Project Coordinator:

- Age over 22 yr
- BA in related fields
- Self motivated and possess good coordinating and problem solving skills with service-mind

Administrator:

- Age over 22 yr
- BA in related fields
- Basic computer and office automation skills
- Good interpersonal skill, detailed, service-minded and well-organized

Technician:

- Male, age over 25 yr
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical
- At least 1 yr experience in system maintenance

Remark:

- Thai national only
- Position 1-4 a good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential
- Male applicants must complete or exempt from military service
- Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Piazza Del Mar Building Room No. 109-111 and 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 0-7631-8151-58 Ext. 102 Fax: 0-7631-8159-60 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

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The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

II. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

III. ARTIST

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop and Dreamweaver required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

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

URGENTLY REQUIRED!

We are looking for a female with a good command of spoken and written English, Computer literacy, service-minded, flexible etc. to be a Junior Secretary and Receptionist for our Management Office. New graduates are welcome. Interested applicants please send your details and resum or contact us at Tel: 076-333251. Fax: 076-333254. Email: logistics@katamanda.com

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Island Job Mart



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Marriott's Phuket Beach Club, a leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions:

KOREAN MARKETING COORDINATOR (Native Korean & Fluent in English)	1 Position
TELE MARKETING COORDINATOR	1 Position
GUEST RELATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE	1 Position

All positions are based in Phuket, monthly income range from THB 15,000-50,000.

Please forward all resume submit at: hr.phuket@vacationclub.com or Fax: 076-348379.

Marriott's Phuket Beach Club
230, 232 Maikhao, Talang,
Phuket 83110, Thailand
For more information, please visit our website at www.vacationclub.com



Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts is a leading upscale resort owner, developer and operator in Asia Pacific with a number of highly acclaimed and multiple award-winning resorts and spas throughout the region. The Banyan Tree Group operates, to date, 16 resorts, 45 spas and 50 retail galleries in 19 countries worldwide. To cope with our rapid expansion, we are now seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals to join our teams in the following positions:



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www.coloursofangsana.com
www.allamanda.com
www.lagunaphuket.com

Banyan Tree Phuket

Business Development Coordinator – 1 Position

Key Responsibilities:-

- Assist the Assistant Vice-President in gathering information for the countries/regions of interest to the Group for business development.
- Research other specific topics/areas, as requested by the Assistant Vice-President.
- Co-ordinate with the business development team in Head Office on all business development activities.
- Administrative duties, including correspondence with third parties, travel planning, report writing, etc.

Key Requirements:-

- Female.
- Age 25 to 40.
- Language: very good English skills required (English as mother tongue will be preferred).
- Strong computer skills, particularly with Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc) and proficient in the use of the Internet.
- Strong administrative skills - self-starter, creative and pro-active.
- Starting date: August/September 2006

Only applicants meeting the above profile will be considered. Please submit your application and full resume with recent photo to:

Ms. Prapaipan Reingpat
prapaipan.reingpat@banyantree.com
Director of Human Resources
Banyan Tree Phuket 33, 33/27 Srisoonthorn Road
Cherngtalay, Talang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 325 013

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Phuket 83110
www.sunwingphuket.com

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▪ Sous Chef	▪ Waiter/Waitress
▪ Chef De Partie	▪ Front Office Manager
▪ Cook	▪ Guest Relations
▪ Restaurant Manager	▪ Reception
▪ Restaurant Supervisor	▪ Housekeeper Supervisor
▪ Captain	

APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME

Candidates should send a detailed resume starting current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

Personnel Department
Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177
Email: wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com

Wanted Urgently

Foreman

- * Knowledge of interior furniture fit-out work.
- * Experience in controlling furniture work.
- * Good command of English is advantage.

Draftman

- * Knowledge of layout and drawing design.
- * Able to use drawing programme (AutoCAD).
- * Experience in build-in furniture is an advantage.

Bookkeeping Staff

- * Certificate or higher in accounting.
- * Able to use Microsoft Office and Express Accounting programme.
- * Good command of English.
- * Bookkeeping experience in any field is an advantage.

S.M. Interiors and Furniture Co., Ltd.
35 Moo 3, Thepkrasattri Rd., T. Thepkrasattri,
A. Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-311146, 275278, 01-9279328
Fax: 076-275279
Email: admin@s-m-interior.com

OFFICE ADMIN ASST

The Village - Coconut Island is recruiting for an: **Office Administration Assistant.**

In this role you will be reporting to the General Manager. The main duties include:

Assisting the General Manager in running the day-to-day business. Organization of general office. Essential requirements:

- Thai national.
- Confident spoken and written English skills.
- Proven experience in an administration role.
- High level of IT skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and within fixed time frames.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- A flexible and outgoing approach.
- Driving license.

A generous package is available for the successful applicant, depending on experience. Tel: 076-239724, 01-8912926. Email: mark@thevillage-coconutisland.com

KITCHEN/BEDROOM fitter. Must be reliable and experienced with own transport & tool kit. Call Alan. Tel: 04-8473304. Email: select-kitchens@hotmail.com

CASUAL BOAT-BOY
We require the services of a casual-hire boat-boy. Good command of English and a knowledge of boats needed. Call Tel: 076-239768.

SUPERVISOR/Foreman. Smart, enthusiastic male to train as supervisor/foreman for Safeway relocatable building/rental company. Must speak, read and write English. Tel: 076-281283, 01-8924804.

OFFICE ASSISTANT required. International property agent is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English, have basic bookkeeping skills, be computer literate, and be hard working, self motivated and proactive. Please email your CV and photo. Email: internationalpropertyagent@yahoo.com

TEACHER WANTED
Phuket Wittayalai school requires native English-speaking teachers to teach English. Bachelor's degree a minimum requirement. Call Antika. Tel: 01-5372886 for more information.

LOOKING FOR SALES EXECUTIVE
We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging career to join our office in Phuket City. You must have good spoken and written English, experience in property sales, your own car and computer skills. Please email CV with photo to: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com

SECRETARY WANTED
20-35-year-old Thai female, English, computer skills. Email: marto@greenworldstates.com

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Looking for the right person to join our growing team - publishing company of quality magazines. Experience required: minimum 1 year sales, some English, pleasant. Salary negotiable. Tel: 076-288-856, 01-9563063. Fax: 076-289093. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

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ACCOUNTANT & BOOKKEEPER
Siam Real Estate require an experienced English-speaking accountant who uses Quick Books and can provide monthly figures and advance tax planning. Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

DIVEMASTER/DIVE guide. PADI dive masters or dive guides for busy 5-star dive center. Training available for suitable applicants. Thai nationals only. Please contact. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT manager. Experienced English-speaking manager required for new Indian restaurant in Laguna area. Good salary and share of profit for the right person. Please apply with your details, including expected salary. Tel: 01-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart



Black Forest Distribution Co., Ltd. Is looking for:

1. Chief Accountant

Your Responsibilities are:

Develop and monitor overall company budgets
Provide weekly and monthly financial reports
Manage bookkeeping
Manage and develop tax planning

Your Qualifications should be:

Degree from a leading university
Excellent spoken and written English
At least 3 years experience in a similar position

2. Assistant Accountant

Your Responsibilities are:

Manage and control our stock
Daily and weekly sales reports
Bookkeeping

Your Qualifications should be:

Excellent spoken and written English
At least 2 years experience in a similar position

Black Forest is an Importer and Distributor for fine wines and beers, based on Phuket with a branch on Koh Samui and Distribution Partners nationwide.

We are looking for people to join our team on competitive salaries.

Applicants are invited to apply in Person at our Patong Office or send detailed English resume, stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo.

Phuket Island: 204/42 Rat-U-Thid 200 Pee Rd.
Patong Beach, Kathu Phuket
83150 Tel/Fax: 076-344-705
Email: drink@phuketwine.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

We are looking for a dynamic and hard-working individual with good communication skills to report to the MD. You should be willing to learn, and have at least the following qualifications or equivalent:

* Thai female fluent in spoken and written English.

* Bachelor's degree or equivalent in business or law or accounting.

* Excellent computer knowledge including MS Office and Internet.

The successful applicant will receive a generous compensation package, including a performance bonus. Interested candidates may apply by submitting a full resume and recent photos to:

Sunbelt network-Phuket
Sunbelt Siam Venture Co., Ltd

Royal Phuket City Hotel
Building, 1 Fl. 154 Phang Nga Rd, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-233333 ext. 3618. Fax: 076-233343, 05-782 9300. Email: sunbelt@email.com

YACHT CREW: GUEST OFFICER

To be part of 3-man crew on a 75ft commercial boat. Take care of guests, drink & food. Female with a high service level. Nice appearance and fluent in spoken English. You should have, or be willing to learn, food & beverage work. Good salary, with bonus. Tel: 06-0106988. Email: michaelcrons@gmail.com
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SALES MANAGER

A dynamic self-starter with excellent presentation skills, able to sell our product with confidence to a sophisticated customer base. Must be able to think on their own, develop sales strategies to achieve targets, generate new business opportunities and build long-term sales distribution networks in Thailand and abroad. At least 5 years' experience in airline, hotel, travel industry is preferable. Tel: 076-283388. Email: pat@destinationair.com

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Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

- Operation Supervisors
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- Villa manager
- Receptionist

PIPS offers an attractive salary & service charge with good career development opportunities.

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Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.
Phuket Island Property Services Co., LTD (PIPS)
452 Srinakharin Road Chergalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel : 076 270 750 Fax : 076 270 751
Email : hr@pipsphuket.com

The Phuket Gazette

Join Phuket's only Multimedia NEWS organization.

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

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- Male or female, 22-35 years old
- Thai nationals only
- Good communication skills
- Must be reasonably fluent in English
- Self-motivated, imaginative, well-organized

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The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

PROJECT MANAGER

Project Manager reports to MD and will be responsible for managing special projects. We require problem-solving skills and proficiency in English. Prefer at least 5 years' experience in construction or engineering business. Must be able to establish, organize and implement project plans well. Tel: 076-283388.

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Center. Situated near Wat Chalong, we are looking to fill the position of Showroom Sales Executive. Preference will be given to a bilingual (Thai-English) young woman with excellent presentation skills and a customer-service attitude. Attractive remuneration package for the right candidate. Contact K. Oy for further information. Tel: 076-281588. Email: chitrada-phuket@peerapatholding.com

Employment Wanted

MARINE ELECTRONICS

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PROJECT MANAGER

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Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

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Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong

Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
012732053 (Scandinavian),
019564031 or 018912895

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Nanai Rd. Small bar and restaurant in Nanai Rd. 10-month contract with all fittings included. 170,000 baht, including kitchen. Contact John. Tel: 04-6304809. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

opportunity. U.S. marketing company expanding into Thailand needs distributors for a 2000-year-old Himalayan Remedy. Must Speak English. Tel: 888-2657116. Email: APerove@gmail.com

KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. All for sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 03-175-3996, 06-9451642 (Thai).



Restaurant-Patong

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Thai partner wanted for up-market espresso coffee bar/ healthy food concept in Phuket. Successful brand and concept. Successful applicant should have retail experience. Tel: +61-414284660. Email: sdalcorn@mac.com

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RESTAURANT

Koh Lanta. Must be seen. 28 seats inside, 16 outside. Rent until March 31, 2009. Rent: 200,000 baht per year. Asking price: 650,000 baht. Rent for 2006-2007 is included in the price. 50,000-baht discount if I can sell during August. Please contact Conny at Tel: 09-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar & restaurant for sale: 1.4 million baht. 5-year lease. Please call for more information. Tel: 05-7859850.

HOTEL FOR LEASE

100 metres from Patong beach. 22 rooms, superb condition. Excellent repeat business. A one-of-a-kind business. Same owner for 4 years. Complete books. 7-year lease. Key money is 7 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 09-7248791. Fax: 076-292140. Email: tatumansion@hotmail.com

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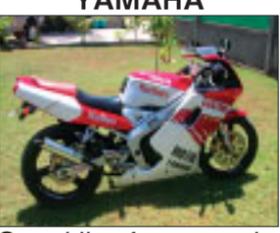
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