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Man-made island not yet clear for launch

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET: Following reports that a man-made island was set to be built off the east coast of Phuket to accommodate a marina for super-yachts, the Marketing Manager at Royal Phuket Marina clarified that the project is still in the early planning stages and faces many obstacles before the island can rise from the sea.

RPM Marketing Director Wilaiporn Titimanaaree told the *Gazette* that developer Gulu Lalvani would hold a press conference at RPM on May 25 to announce his plan, which envisions a 6.6-billion-baht marina, luxury hotel and villa complex on reclaimed land about three kilometers off Phuket's east coast.

K. Wilaiporn told the *Gazette* that a recent report by the news agency Reuters had misquoted Mr Lalvani as saying that the project already had the approval of the Phuket Governor.

As a result, Gov Niran Kalyanakit has been besieged with requests to verify the story since it was released, she said.

Mr Lalvani wished to clarify the matter, she said, by saying that he had discussed the idea with former governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, who had agreed only in principal with the plan to build an island off the coast near RPM.

It was not clear whether the island, if built, would fall under the jurisdiction of Phuket Province or Phang Nga.

Mr Lalvani said he is aware of the obstacles that will need to be overcome to make the project a reality, including the need to get public approval for a massive marina project in an area not far from where environmental activists have been actively protest-



Computer-generated bird's eye view of Gulu Lalvani's Zoran Island.

ing against the construction of a pier, she said.

The idea for a man-made island capable of handling superyachts was inspired by a visit to Phang Nga Bay in April by Bill Gates and his wife Melinda aboard his yacht, Reuters reported.

The article quoted Mr Lalvani as saying that Mr Gates had told him that he loved the area so much that he would like to visit every year, if only he could find a marina capable of berthing the 54-meter vessel.

To accommodate the needs of Mr Gates and the world's other super-rich, Mr Lalvani proposes to build an island named "Zoran", after his third son. The project would be reminiscent of "The Palm" and "The World" projects off the coast of Dubai, Reuters quoted him as saying.

Many more details about the project concept will be unveiled at the upcoming press conference, at 5 pm at RPM. The event will also be used to officially announce RPM's hosting

of the PIMEX boat show in November and to outline the significance of Phuket being named "Asia's Maritime Capital" at the prestigious Christofle Asia Boating Awards in Bangkok in April.

Despite some confusion, reaction to the plan has been mostly positive.

Gov Niran told reporters that no one had contacted him about the project. "I just learned about it from the media," he said.

However, he added that it would be good for Phuket to have more berths for yachts, and the idea is in line with a provincial plan to turn the island into the new "Marina Hub of Asia".

"Currently, there are not enough marinas," he said.

The project would have to be studied carefully for its potential impact on the environment and local communities, he said.

Investors from many countries including Saudi Arabia, Russia and India were interested in investing in hotels and marinas in Phuket, he added.

Continued on page 2

Teenager dies in night of gang violence

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: One teenager died on May 20 after a night of gang threats and retaliations ended in a fatal shooting. The 17-year-old victim, Kanchit "Phai" Trupsin, was found at 3 am outside Muslim Puenrak restaurant on Anuphas Phuket Kan Rd.

Police were told the incident began when a passenger riding pillion on a motorbike drove past a group of about 30 youths in Saphan Hin and pointed a gun at them. Although he did not fire the weapon, the group of 30 gave chase.

They caught up to the two near a funeral party on nearby Soi Saphan Ruam 8, where the two joined with a group of about 10 of their friends.

The larger gang approached the funeral party and fired a shot from a pen gun into the crowd, but did not hit anyone. The gang of 30 then drove away and scattered.

The funeral party, angered by the shot fired at them, gave chase. They caught up with K. Kanchit, who was riding pillion on a bike. The attackers shot him through the neck and in the shoulder before racing off.

Pol Lt Col Somkid Boonrat, leader of the Phuket Police Investigation team, arrested a 15-year-old suspect at 10 am the next morning and found a homemade 12mm pen gun in his possession. He admitted to being the driver of the motorbike, but claims it was another youth who shot and killed K. Kanchit.

"The two groups are known enemies and have a history of fighting each other. The shooter goes by the nickname "Joy". He is 20 years old and we know where he lives in Phuket, so we hope to arrest him soon," Lt Col Somkid told the *Gazette*.

Tsunami evacuation drills set for June 30

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Evacuation drills will be conducted in all tsunami-risk areas on the island on June 30, Phuket Vice Governor Tri Augkaradacha has announced.

The drills will be coordinated jointly by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), the local office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) and local administrative bodies where the exercises will take place.

The areas were listed as: Phuket City, Patong, Karon, Rawai, Chalong, Rassada, Sakoo, Mai Khao, Cherng Talay, Wichit, Pa Khlok and Kamala.

The provincial drills will be followed by a regional drill on July 25 to take place at 24 schools in the six Andaman coast provinces that are located in tsunami risk zones, V/Gov Tri said.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban welcomed the drills, describing as "very successful" two mock evacuations held in 2006 at a total cost of 500,000 baht.

The municipality has budgeted another 500,000 baht for evacuation drills this year, he said.

Apart from being a tsunami risk zone, Patong is also at risk of landslides, he said.

The Norwegian government has been conducting a study to identify risk areas and two seminars have been held on ways to prevent and mitigate damages from landslides, he added.

DDPM chief Aroon Kerdson said tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) responsible for risk areas were also well prepared for the drills following a May 9 meeting to discuss budgeting, scheduling and other related issues.

Both the June 30 and July 25 drills would begin with the sounding of the tsunami warning sirens, which will be activated remotely from the NDWC headquarters in Nonthaburi, he said.

The last scheduled testing of the sirens on April 7 was scrapped at the last minute by the NDWC, raising suspicions about whether the system's satellite links were functioning properly and prompting one member of the Democrat party to demand an investigation.

NDWC Director Dr Smith Dharmasaroja responded by insisting that the towers were func-

tioning properly and were "silently" tested on a daily basis.

V/Gov Tri said that in order to ensure compliance, all *OrBorTor* participating in the drill would be required to submit reports and recorded images of the evacuations to the DDPM-Phuket within three days.

He said there were four means by which the public could be warned of an impending disaster:

- The media, including local and foreign television and radio stations, both public and private;
- Alerts sent out by the Amateur Radio Society of Thailand, which has members all around Thailand;

- Instant messages sent out to all local leaders and other subscribers via mobile phone networks;

- Tsunami warning towers in high-risk areas. There are currently 79 such towers in the six Andaman coast provinces and 19 in Phuket. These are capable of sounding both siren sounds and recorded alerts in five languages: Thai, Chinese, Japanese, German, and English. The alerts are audible within 1.5 kilometers of the towers, he said.



WAVES OF FEAR: Chanthira Kalmachshima, owner of Andaman Seafood restaurant at Haad Saikaew just south of the Sarasin Bridge, said wave heights on the morning of May 17 nearly reached the four-meter mark on the Tsunami Hazard Zone pole (pictured), which is attached to a support post at her restaurant. The seafood eatery was one of nine in the area damaged by the highest water the area has experienced since the December 2004 tsunami disaster.

Phuket to get Japanese 'sister'

PHUKET: Plans are afoot to add the Japanese prefecture of Hyogo to Phuket's growing list of sister cities.

On May 21, Phuket Japanese Association President Kazushi Miyashita met with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Southern Region 4 office to discuss the idea.

Mr Miyashita told reporters he has already met the Vice Governor of Hyogo and the Director of the Japanese Foreign Affairs Department about the project to twin Phuket Province with Hyogo Prefecture, whose capital city Kobe is home to some 5.5 million people. Hyogo is also the site of Kansai International Airport.

Conditions of the planned

relationship would include cooperation in such areas as prevention and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters, energy conservation, environmental protection – and tourism promotion.

Gov Niran said the best time to ink a Memorandum of Understanding linking the two locations would be on September 26 this year, which will mark the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Japan. It has still not been decided if the signing ceremony would be held in Phuket or Hyogo.

Gov Niran said that a sister city relationship could boost Japanese tourism to Phuket, which has not yet reached pre-tsunami levels. Last year some 70,000 Japanese tourists visited Phuket, he said.

Only one hit for purple pee patrol

PHUKET CITY: Analysis of urine samples donated by 155 revelers at seven nightspots in Phuket City on the night of May 17 turned up only one possible case of drug use, police reported.

Phuket City Administrative Officer Adul Chuthong, along with Phuket Provincial Health Officer Anuntaporn Pattanapan, Phuket City Police Pol Capt Sombat Thanawut and about 10 volunteers conducted the unannounced checks, which included ID card checks and weapons searches.

Of all those tested, the urine of only one person turned purple,

indicating the possible use of *ya bah* (methamphetamine). That person, whose name was not disclosed, was taken from the popular Yarumba Club and sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital for a blood test to confirm use of the drug. It will be a month or so before the result is known.

The other clubs where tests were conducted were Timber Hut, KorTorMor, T2, Ottobar Pub, Phuket Beer Garden and Zip Code.

Officers checked ID cards, looked for weapons and asked for random urine samples, they reported.

Film fest coming to Jungceylon

PATONG: The first-ever Phuket Film Festival will be held from September 30 to October 6 to mark the opening of the SF Cinema, due to open soon at Patong's Jungceylon Shopping Center.

The film festival will feature more than 30 award-winning films from various countries, with international film industry personalities – including big Hollywood names – expected to attend.

Details of the film festival will be formally announced at a press conference to be held in Patong in mid-June.

Zoran Island still on drawing board

From page 1.

Tourism and Sports Minister Suvit Yodmani welcomed the idea, saying that it could promote a good image for Thailand's tourism.

However, he also said more details of the project were needed and it must be studied further.

Phuket Tourism Association chairman Maitree Narukatpichai said he would not object to the project as long as it did not harm the environment and local ways of life.

Phang Nga Governor Winai Buapradit said Gates had not contacted him.

"But if he's interested in developing such a project, it's in line with our provincial strategy to promote marine tourism," Gov Winai said.

However, Wildlife Fund Thailand coordinator, Thanu Nabnien expressed concern that a man-made island could harm the ecology of Phang Nga Bay, which he described as an important part of Asia's natural heritage.

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Man denies chopping off his thumb in order to claim insurance

PHUKET (*Gazette, The Nation*): Kathu apartment owner Pichet Porntantipong, who stands accused of chopping off his thumb to collect 16 million baht in insurance, on May 21 insisted he suffered a mishap in the kitchen and welcomed a police investigation.

"I've nothing to hide... I'm ready for the police to investigate the facts," he said.

He declined, however, to go into the details of the case, saying he had hired a lawyer to represent him.

In January, Siam Commercial Samakki Insurance asked police to investigate an accident claim filed by the 38-year-old landlord in October.

In the claim, Pichet said he accidentally chopped off his left thumb while chopping pork bones and that the digit fell onto a stove, where it was badly burned.

Pichet told police the accident happened when his close friend Naret Phadda walked in the kitchen and accidentally knocked a pot onto the floor, causing him to lose concentration.

Upornrat Boonwong, a representative of the insurer, said the firm doubted Pichet because he had so many insurance policies.

He had taken out policies totaling 60 million baht with 30 companies; all of the insurers had agreed to ask police to investigate the loss of Pichet's thumb, K. Upornrat said.

The insurers also question why Pichet was chopping pork bones with his thumb extended.

In 2005 and 2006, Pichet bought four policies from Siam

Commercial Samakki that insured him to the tune of 5 million baht. Compensation for the loss of a thumb is equal to one quarter of that amount.

On May 21, Pichet said that immediately after the accident he went to Bangkok Hospital Phuket, where doctors told him they could not reattach the thumb.

He then contacted the insurance companies, told them what happened and invited them to inspect the accident scene.

The purchase of numerous policies is normal and many people are insured for far larger sums, he said.

"I lost my thumb in an accident and I don't understand why the insurance companies are suspicious," he said.

He dismissed reports that he had gone into hiding, saying he was living and working in Phuket

as though nothing had happened.

Crime Suppression acting commander Pol Col Pongpat Chayaphan said 13 officers were investigating the case. If they conclude that Pichet chopped off his thumb as part of an insurance scam he will be prosecuted, Col Pongpat said.

Forensic evidence suggests that it took more than one chop to sever the thumb.

Forensic expert Pol Lt Col Dr Pattana Kitkraisas was shown photographs of Pichet's hand and severed thumb. After analyzing the skin, he told investigators that the thumb could not have been completely severed in one chop and that the actual separation of the thumb from the hand occurred after an initial cut was made.

If found guilty of fraud Pichet faces up to two years in jail and/or a fine of 6,000 baht.



HRH Princess Soamsavali presided over a May 19 ceremony opening a tribute to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday. The tribute, at the Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong, is entitled 'The Art Inspiration from the King'. It features images projected on a curtain of water in Jungceylon's fountain pool. The multimedia display will be shown every evening at 6 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm until the end of the year.

Irish Consulate moves offices

RAWAI: The Irish Consulate in Phuket has moved to a new location.

The new address is: The Irish Consulate in Phuket, Tamarind Valley, Moo 4, Soi Suksan, Viset Rd, Muang Rawai, Phuket 83100, Thailand.

Email, phone and fax details remain unchanged. They are: email: irelandconsulate.phuket@gmail.com, Tel/Fax: 076-281-273.

The consulate is open from 9 am to 12 pm Monday through Friday.

Mobile diabetic clinic to tour Phuket

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) is organizing a year-long mobile diabetes test clinic aimed at testing 50,000 people who fall into high-risk categories for the disease.

Reporting to Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai at the "Governor Meets the Media" event at Phuket Provincial Hall May 15, PPHO Chief Dr Wanchai Sattayawutthipong said the project would go by the name *Nai Baowaan*, or "Mr Diabetes".

The project is part of a national campaign to stem a rise in the incidence of the chronic disease, a metabolic disorder characterized by high blood sugar levels for which some 3 million Thais are now under treatment.

Obesity is a major risk factor, as overweight people are statistically five times more likely to acquire the disease, he said.

The main target of the Mr Diabetes campaign will be overweight people aged 40 and above, who are likely to acquire the disease though poor eating habits and lack of exercise. Some 7% to 8% of the island's over-40 population are thought to fall into the risk category, Dr Wanchai estimated.

In addition to screening patients, the clinic will include a public awareness campaign encouraging those at risk to develop

healthier eating habits and get more exercise.

Dr Wanchai encouraged residents to eat more vegetables, replace fatty sources of protein with lean protein such as fish, and switch from white rice to fiber-full brown rice.

The campaign aims to screen up to 60% of the island's over-40 population, or about 50,000 people, he said. Each clinic will be staffed by doctors, nurses and support staff.

Dance Academy to put on show

KARON: The Phuket Academy of Dance will perform the song and dance extravaganza *Those Dancing Feet* at the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa on June 2.

Tickets for the show, which will start at 5 pm, cost 500 baht each for adults and 250 baht each for children under 12 years old. The price includes a buffet at intermission.

Call Linda at 081-8937749 for tickets. The Hilton is also offering a special 1,500-baht room rate that evening.

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Aussie firefighter

A source called the *Gazette* the day after the accident, saying, "From your article it appears as though everything went smoothly. In fact, the crew of the boat were not able to cope with the fire at all. It was total luck. Nobody raised the alarm, or even yelled fire!"

"It was only by chance that an Australian firefighter happened to be on board. He shouted out and said, 'Guys I am a firefighter. Everybody get in the water. This boat is going to burn up fast.'"

"The tourists lost everything. Fortunately the boat was only at about half capacity, otherwise it could have been a real tragedy."

Many of the tourists, including a couple on their honeymoon, were so shaken by the experience that they cut their vacations short and returned home as soon as possible, the source said.

On April 29, an article by Kate Kyriacou appeared in South Australia's *Sunday Mail* identifying the firefighter as Nathan Berry, a 28-year-old firefighter from Adelaide.

"Passengers told how people ran screaming as flames engulfed the boat within minutes, burning life jackets and melting chairs," the report read.

The report quoted Australian nurse Belinda Brereton, one of 22 Australian passengers on the ferry, as saying that Mr Berry remained calm and "paired strong swimmers with those less capable as the burning vessel started to sink."

Many of the tourists didn't know how to swim and had begun to panic when Mr Berry calmly told them to grab a life jacket and jump overboard, she said.

"Up until then, people were just standing there in shock while the seats melted and paint bubbled off the walls," she told the *Sunday Mail*.

Firefighter Berry told the

A fire broke out aboard the 85-tonne passenger ferry *Jet Wave 3* during a routine voyage to the Phi Phi Islands on the morning of April 24, causing the vessel to sink off Phi Phi Lei Island and forcing the emergency evacuation of some 100 passengers and about five crew.

Initial reports about the disaster were sketchy, with little information available – except that all the passengers were brought to safety after about 15 minutes in the water. About five days after the accident, reports began to appear in the Australian press about how the emergency evacuation was organized: not by the vessel's crew, but by a quick-thinking firefighter from Adelaide who happened to be on board that day. *Gazette* staff report.

paper he was only doing what he was trained to do.

"I did a quick size-up, realized what kind of fuels were around, and figured the boat was going to go up really quickly...I had a quick look for fire extinguishers but there weren't any," he was quoted as saying.

When Mr Berry realized there would not be enough life jackets for all the passengers, he gathered those who could not swim and handed out various flotation devices.

"I think most people didn't realize the fire would be so bad initially...There was lots of screaming and yelling and people trying to find their partners. They didn't want to jump at first, but when the fire started to grow they realized they had to get off," he said.

Mr Berry told the *Sunday Mail* that flames engulfed the boat within three to four minutes, forcing him and his wife Naomi,

24, to jump from the top level into the water.

Mrs Brereton, 48, was also quoted in the report as saying that there were no fire extinguishers in sight and that passengers on the top deck could not find life jackets.

"A fire hose could not be used because it had been tied up with rope...The captain hadn't turned the engine off, so the boat was still moving when people started jumping off...Once you jumped you just had to get away from the boat...It was still chugging along at that stage and you could feel the intense heat from the flames as it went past and the hot smoke got right into your throat...My husband jumped before me and I lost sight of him pretty quickly. It was a miracle people didn't die," she was quoted as saying.

Also quoted in the *Sunday Mail* was 58-year-old Christine Richards, who was on the boat with her husband Michael.

"My husband jumped first and he panicked because I didn't jump in straight after him...I just froze. I've never been so scared in my life. I just started crying and



I kept saying, 'I don't want to die'... Thank God for this fireman from Adelaide; he was amazing. I have no doubt he saved lives," said Christine, who only leaped from the ferry when the flames were upon her.

Just before this went to press, the *Gazette* received the following reply from Mr Berry, who returned an email sent to him via the South Australia firefighting service:

Nathan Berry here. What details would you like to know and why?

Call me cynical, but the reports that we saw about the incident on Thai media disgusted us, and it was so incredibly inaccurate that I am extremely hesitant to communicate with you about the incident.

We received an email just recently from the ferry compa-

ny asking us to send them a list of items lost, which I have done. They claimed that they intend to "consider reimbursing" us for our losses.

Until this is resolved, I won't be saying too much.

*Kind regards,
Nathan*

THE AFTERMATH

The *Gazette* emailed questions and placed calls to the ferry's owner and operator, Andaman Wave Master Co Ltd. But the company's general manager Boonsong Reuangpanitthibal did not reply despite several follow-up calls to the company's main office in Phuket City.

Finally contacted by phone several weeks after the fire, he again declined to comment, saying that news of the fire could harm tourism.

The *Gazette* learned from

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hailed as ferry fire hero



Left: the *Jet Wave 3* ablaze off Phi Phi Lei on April 28.

Above: Firefighter Nathan Berry (front center) with wife Naomi (back, third from left) and friends Ben and Megan Cheney after being rescued from burning ferry. The two Japanese tourists (back left) were not on the ferry.

Inset: The ferry burned down to the hull, then sank.

a source that *Jet Wave 3* was an aging vessel bought about a year ago and completely refurbished.

The man responsible for the investigation is Pol Lt Col Jakkra Saowakon, an Investigator with Krabi Muang District Police stationed in the Phi Phi Islands.

“Thus far I haven’t charged Andaman Wave Master Cruises or anyone else in this case because I haven’t been able to identify who was at fault. I have questioned the captain of *Jet Wave 3* as well as K. Boonsong. Both of them told me the fire re-

sulted from a leak in an injection pump feeding one of the boats two turbocharged engines,” he said.

The ferry’s current location on the sea floor has limited his investigation to questioning witnesses, he added.

Col Jakkra said he was not aware of any plans to salvage the vessel, as previously reported. The decision to do so is the responsibility of the vessel owner, who would also have to pay for the salvage work, he said.

The investigation will include contacting the Harbor Department to see if the ship was properly licensed and registered, he said.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 office, told the *Gazette* that the fire would have no effect on tourism and that her office had received no complaints about it.

Nevertheless, she said, the

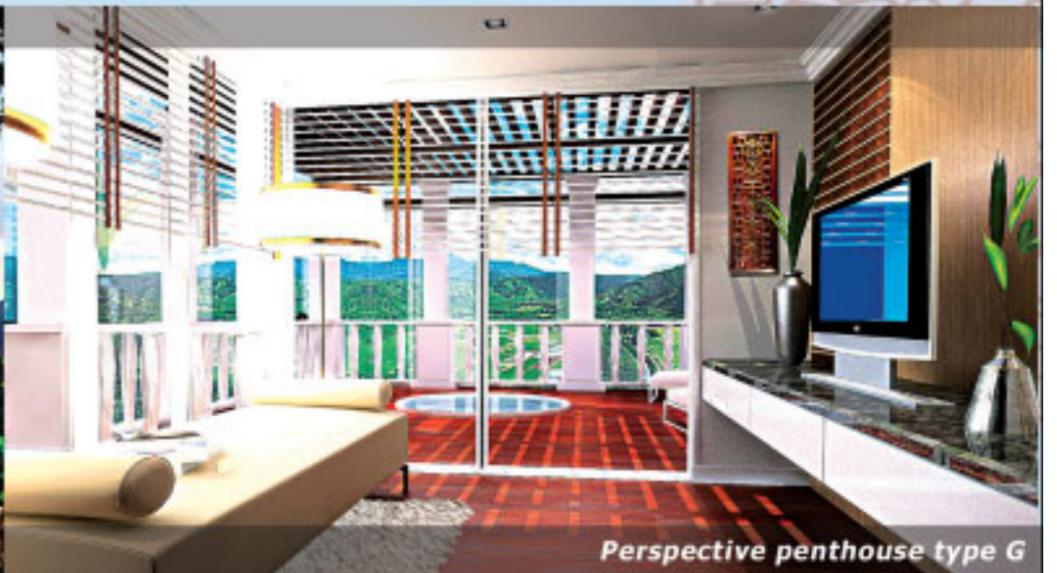
incident should serve as a reminder to ferry operators about the need to maintain vessels in compliance with safety standards and to make sure they are equipped with all the safety equipment required under marine transport regulation.

She added that news of the ferry fire had caught the attention of TAT Governor Phornsiri Manoharn, who is now considering ways to improve safety standards for passenger ferries serving tourists.

The Gazette thanks South Australia’s Sunday Mail for all its kind assistance and for permission to use the photographs.

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STAMPS

On June 23, Thailand Post will release a new series of five stamps to mark the start of the Phi Takhon Mask Festival, which this year will take place on June 23 and 24.

During the festival, staged annually in Isarn's Loie province, participants dress up as ghosts and many cover their faces with large masks to dance together in a parade, held to open the "Boon Pra Wate" merit-making festival and attract tourists.

The stamps will be priced at three and 10 baht, and one million copies of each type will be produced. Stamps will be 30x48mm and 60x48mm.

All 10 versions of the stamps can be purchased at Thailand Post Offices in Phuket.



Coke bites man, man bites back

When a dog bites a man, that is not news, because it happens so often. But if a man bites a dog, that is news.

PATHUM THANI: The above quote, often attributed to 19th-century *New York Sun* editor John B Bogart, is the standard maxim given to young journalists to remind them what is newsworthy and what is not.

It can't have taken much of a leap of the imagination then for one lucky *Kom Chad Luek* hack to realize he was onto a winner with the story of Coke, a seven-year-old Thai Bangkaew dog who was recently involved in a tooth-and-nail scrap to defend his owner's house.

The story starts with 21-year-old Ubon Rachathani-native Winet Chertchai's attempt to break into a house in broad daylight on May 8. Winet was met by the enraged house owner who saw him trying to break in and immediately called for help.

Being a close-knit neighborhood, a group of householders immediately came to the woman's assistance and Winet soon

found himself fleeing down the soi pursued by a crowd of angry locals.

Desperate for a place to hide, Winet tried to duck into a small grocery store. There he was greeted by shopowner and Flight Sergeant 1st Class Prasit Rung-rateuk, who was brandishing his walking stick. Thinking better of it, Winet crossed the road and climbed the fence surrounding the house opposite, belonging to another ex-air force man, 66-year-old Pilot Officer (Plt Off) Prasit Janphasuk.

Once in the yard, he was confronted by the fearlessly loyal Coke. For a few moments the two adversaries stood staring each other down; Coke baring his teeth and Winet wielding a knife.

Coke then leapt forward at the intruder. Winet launched a kick into the canine's head, but Coke deftly dodged it and crashed into Winet, knocking him to the ground.

The two became locked in a pitched battle, Coke biting Winet all over his body and Winet desperately trying to kick Coke away. So fast and furious was the action that some members of the fast-growing



Pilot Officer Prasit Janphasuk and the story's hero, Coke, looking none the worse for wear after his battle with crowd of onlookers later said it was difficult to separate crook from canine.
After a while, the two warriors re-

turned to growling and snarling at each other. Winet then decided to play Coke at his own game, sinking his own canines into the dog's ear and locking on.

After 20 minutes the fight showed no sign of finishing, with both contestants still going for the killer bite. It was drawn to a premature close, however, when Plt Off Prasit woke up from a nap and saw what was happening in his back yard. The old Air Force Officer called his dog to heel and the fight was over.

Observers concluded that Winet came out the loser. Covered in cuts and bruises, he was taken to Bhumibol Hospital for treatment.

Lt Col Thanaphat Nawalak, an Investigating Officer at Khukhot Police Station, said that Winet was quite badly hurt and had to be kept in hospital overnight.

The owner of the first house that Winet tried to break in to did not want to press charges and Plt Off Prasit said that the wounds inflicted by Coke should be punishment enough for the young ne'er-do-well.

Police disagreed however, and have

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*When the taste is perfect,
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The Samui District and Municipality offices recently announced the establishment of a 24-hour storm watch and volunteer rescue service on the island as violent weather fronts moved across the Thai Gulf.

Strong winds and heavy rain caused widespread flooding and damaged several properties during the early part of May. The unusually early onset of these regional storms has prompted fears that the worst weather is yet to come.

The local government established a natural disaster response team on the island two years ago following the island's worst flooding to date.

They recruited volunteers, provided basic first aid and rescue training and invested in equipment and vehicles.

That team is now on 24-hour standby, and will be sent to affected areas during storms that cause flooding or landslides.

The emergency service will also co-ordinate assistance when needed, and trucks with loudspeakers have been patrolling the island, warning fishermen to stay ashore and providing information for local people regarding the best place to go in the event of floods and violent storms.

Nathon makeover: Samui's main port town of Nathon has become congested, polluted and run down. With a new pier soon to become operational, the area is heading for gridlock.

However, thanks to a group of local citizens known as the Nathon Council, the whole area may soon be given a multi-million-baht facelift, with plans on the table that include the construction of a bypass road.

On April 30, the results of a survey regarding the land reclamation and coastal redevelopment around Nathon were submitted to the Samui Municipality by a research team from Chulalongkorn University.

This information, combined with a series of urban planning proposals, were passed to the Department of Civil Work and City Planning. That department will set a schedule that should see the first phase of redevelopment completed by the end of 2008.

A proposed four-kilometer bypass road is a priority for solving the traffic problem and should help alleviate flooding with the

Rough weather leads to establishment of emergency force



STORMY MONDAY: And every other day now, which is why a 24-hour storm watch has been set up.

parallel installation of a drainage system.

Upgrading Nathon's facilities and appearance is also part of the plan. As the gateway to Koh Samui, many people feel the area should be made more attractive to visitors.

The comprehensive Nathon-Samui Seafront Development Master Plan includes the restoration of the public beach and major improvements such as designated public spaces, as well as the construction of a museum and learning center to help locals and visitors appreciate the island's history and natural heritage.

A group known as the Nathon Beachfront Development Committee was recently set up to supervise and monitor construction work, while also organizing public participation in the project.

Committee member Arnon Wathayanon believes the plans will eventually transform the entire area. "This project should become a case study for the restoration of natural travel destinations," he said.

Love triangle ends in murder: In the early hours of May 1, Samui police were called to the

scene of a shooting on the island's west coast.

They found the body of Sutheep Wirumas, 57, a local resident in front of a small convenience store. He had been shot in the head, chest and neck with a .38 caliber pistol.

After talking to local people near the scene, Pol Lt Chatchalerm Wanthongchai, the officer in charge of the investigation, discovered that the dead man had been romantically involved with his neighbor's wife for several years, and that the two men regularly argued and fought over the relationship.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

The cuckolded neighbor, Chatchai Chobthamkit, 36, was seen leaving his house soon after the shooting, leading police to order all exit points from the island closed, so as to prevent the man's escape.

Officers were unable to apprehend the suspect, but they believe he is hiding somewhere on Samui.

The number of such incidents has recently increased on the island, with guns relatively easy to obtain and possess without a permit.

SVH opens on Phuket: Samui's high-end villa management agent, Samui Villas & Homes (SVH), recently expanded their operations to Phuket. Like its Samui sister, Phuket Villas & Homes will concentrate on luxury villa management and high-end holiday rentals.

Australian Andrew Craig is the General Manager at the Phuket branch and according to Asia Property Report, one of the industry's leading publications, he is confident that company will enjoy similar success on Phuket as it has on Samui.

Over the last six years, the company's portfolio has grown to include more than 40 villas, while the Signature Collection features some of the most exclusive villas in the Thai Gulf.

The company has already secured its first contract with Jivana Villas, located at Na Tai Beach in Phang Nga, not far from Phuket International Airport.

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The Cabinet May 15 approved extra spending of 1 billion baht – half what was requested – for the Internal Security Operation Command (Isoc) to contain violence in the restive Deep South, a government statement said.

Army chief Sonthi Boonyaratglin, who also heads both the Council for National Security and Isoc, had requested the government approve an additional 2 billion baht for efforts to restore peace in the Deep South because the current budget of 5.9 billion baht was running out.

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont defended the decision, saying 1 billion baht should be enough to pay for additional troops until the current fiscal year ends in four month's time.

The military has beefed up security to protect teachers and children as schools open for the new semester in the region.

Bounsom Thongsriprai, president of the Teachers' Federation in the three southernmost provinces, said teachers were ready to do their jobs despite many not being entirely confident in security measures.

Swift retaliation: The President of Koh Mak Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) in Phatthalung Province was shot dead outside Future Park Rangsit in suburban Bangkok on May 13. The gunman was also seriously injured when the victim returned fire, hitting him twice.

Wanlaya Yadaywa, 32, was attending a training session for *OrBorTor* presidents in Bangkok at the time of the incident. Ekkarat Khongsukhee, 35, a KFC employee who saw the shooting, said that K. Wanlaya was walking down the steps in front of the mall when the man he was with suddenly pulled out a pistol and shot him multiple times. K. Wanlaya then drew his own pistol, shooting his assailant twice. Both men then collapsed to the ground, K. Ekkarat said.

The pair were rushed to hospital, where K. Wanlaya later died from his wounds. Police identified the gunman as Yala-native Rungratit Itsara, 41. He is being treated for gunshot wounds to the



NO PLACE TO STUDY: Thai-Muslim children at Ban Kasot School in Yala try to salvage what they can from their burnt-out classroom, which was torched on the night of May 12. Many students in the Deep South are finding they have no place to study for the new school year after a spate of school burnings. While the arson attacks are thought to be the work of Muslim insurgents, their victims are often fellow Muslims.

Isoc budget request for South cut in half

chest and left arm at Thammasat Hospital.

Sub Lt Kriangkrai Saengyot, Duty Officer at Pratunam Chulalongkorn Police Station, said he thought the two men knew each other well and that the killing was likely to have been motivated by business interests. Rungratit would first have to recover before he could be questioned, he added.

A source close to K. Ekkarat said that he believed that the killing was motivated by a dispute over the rights to collect swiftlet nests in Phatthalung. The nests are the key ingredient in making bird's nest soup.

Cleric with cannabis: Acting on a tipoff, Chumphon Highway Police May 14 stopped a pickup truck smuggling 30 kilograms of cannabis from Laos to be sold on Koh Samui and Koh Phang Ngan. The alleged ringleader, a monk who was sitting in the truck's front passenger seat, managed to escape by running into the bushes by the side of the road.

At 3:30 am, officers led by Chumphon Highway Police Inspector Lt Col Phatthana Ropruo stopped an Isuzu pickup truck driving at high speed down route 41 in Lang Suan District.

As soon as the truck stopped, a monk later identified only as "Phra Nop" got out and began to speak to the officers before diving into the bushes by the side of the road and disappearing. Officers set off in pursuit, but to no avail.

In the back of the truck, police found 30 kilograms of pressed cannabis. The driver of the car, Sunet Hin-orn, 37, from Sakon Nakhon, told police that he had been hired by Phra Nop to drive the truck from the Northeast to Surat Thani Province, where they were going to sell the cannabis to small-scale dealers on Koh Samui and Koh Phang Ngan. He said he was to be paid 10,000 baht for the trip.

Phra Nop bought the cannabis in Laos for 2,500 baht per kg intending to sell it for 30,000-50,000 baht per kg on the islands, Sunet said.

Sunet was then handed over to Lang Suan District Police to be charged with possession of cannabis with intent to sell.

Students slaughtered: Two Phatthalung students were mur-

dered following a drunken argument with a group of other students on May 20.

At the scene, a two-story townhouse in Phatthalung Town, Investigating Officer Lt Chaiphong Thammasurin of Phatthalung's Muang District Police found the bodies of Chumphon Angkuraphinan and Jariya Suta, both 17-year-old students of Satrie Phatthalung School. They had been badly beaten and their throats cut.

Lt Chaiphong said that the two boys had driven their motorbikes to the house to visit their friends, six students at a local further education institution who rented the house because they came from other provinces. The two joined the six students in a drinking session on the second floor.

When they were all drunk, an argument broke out. One of the victims said to the students that if they didn't stop showing off they would drive them out of Phatthalung, Lt Chaiphong said.

The out-of-province students then set upon the two local boys, beating and kicking them. The two boys ran downstairs, but were caught by their assailants and beaten unconscious before having their throats slit.

The six attackers, all aged 16 and 17, waited in the house to give themselves up to police. They have been charged with murder.

Around the South news round-up is sourced from Kom Chad Luek and The Nation newspapers.

Cleric with cannabis

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Land of the Vanishing Smile

Thailand's "national happiness index" continued its post-coup slide in April, with respondents saying they were most troubled by political instability and ongoing violence in the Deep South, according to a recent survey by Assumption University's Abac Poll Research Center.

Its gross happiness index, which is compiled monthly, fell to 5.11 points last month, compared with 5.74 in November. The index ranges from one to 10 points, with 10 indicating extreme happiness and one extreme unhappiness.

Last month's rating is considered "average to somewhat low", according to Noppadon Kannika, director of the research center.

The gloomiest region was the South, where the index dipped to 4.99, while the brightest was the North, at 5.20. The Northeast and Central regions had readings of 5.08 and 5.15 points respectively.

Respondents said admiration of His Majesty the King and the royal family gave them the most happiness, at 7.19, while good physical health ranked second at seven points.

Violence in the South caused the most unhappiness, 2.72, followed by poor infrastructure, 3.51, and the failings of politicians and officials, which was rated 3.68.

Supporters of the ousted government were less happy than those supporting the military-backed administration, K. Noppadon said.

The survey found people were unhappy with the performance of police as well.

The index is based on responses from 4,363 people in 22 provinces collected between April 20 and May 12.

Test score suicide: A grade 12 student hanged himself at his Chiang Rai home after failing to be accepted at the Engineering Faculty of Chulalongkorn University, his preferred choice, although his score was high enough to ensure a seat at a different university.

Relatives of Jirathaphorn Sukkestaphong said he showed extreme stress and anxiety after learning that he was accepted by Kasetsart University instead of Chulalongkorn.

The 18-year-old shut himself in his bedroom after hearing the news and was found dead the following day. He left no note and police found no evidence suggesting other causes.

The boy's father Preecha Sukkasempong called on authorities to scrap the current central university-admission system, which he blamed for his son's suicide.

"Please let my son be the last victim of this system," he said.



A squatter looks at an aircraft from her makeshift home on a piece of land near Suvamabumi Airport. Airports of Thailand Public Co Ltd has agreed to pay 26.4 million baht for the plot, which includes five other houses severely affected by aircraft noise.

Headmen hooray: In a move decried by pro-democracy advocates, the Cabinet approved a bill proposed by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to let village heads and tambon chiefs serve until retirement at the age of 60, instead of only for five years, and change their status from local politicians to civil servants.

They would be selected as officials by their governor from a shortlist drawn up by citizens, but subject to dismissal if they failed to pass performance evaluations every five years or were voted out by half of their constituency.

The ministry said the move was needed because the five-year term was too short to ensure efficient public service, especially in areas where national security was a concern.

Holding elections for 7,419 tambon chiefs and more than

70,000 village heads every five years costs a lot of money, the MoI said.

Many Cabinet members discussed the draft law and eventually went along with the ministry's argument that career village heads would act as a counterbalance to the elected members of provincial administration organizations and tambon administration organizations.

Programs for pirates: Thailand's software piracy rate was as high as 80% last year, the same as in 2005, but losses grew to US\$420 million (Bt14.47 billion), from \$259 million the year before, says a new study released yesterday by the Business Software Alliance (BSA).

"This has been a significant setback for the local ICT [information and communications tech-

nology] industry and has limited the growth potential of the industry to become a major contributor to the country's economy," said Ronald Chua, chair of the BSA's Thailand Committee.

"The high piracy rate reflects on the rampant and continued use of illegal software among corporate end-users. We remain optimistic, however, that the sustained efforts of the government to promote the use of original and licensed software among companies will ultimately drive down piracy levels," he added.

The US attributed its recent decision to downgrade Thailand's trade status to its Priority Watch List to the high piracy rate.

Cracking up? The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) said people living near geological fault-lines should be prepared for

more earthquakes, as many faults in Asia had apparently become more active following the huge quake that caused the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004.

"Take part in evacuation drills and ensure that your houses are as strong as possible," NDWC chairman Dr Smith Thammasaroj advised.

Dr Smith confirmed that the Mae Chan fault in Thailand had been more active since the Boxing Day 2004 earthquake off Sumatra.

Movement on the Mae Chan fault caused the powerful 6.3 quake on the Lao-Burmese border on the morning of May 16.

Dust-mite vaccine: A comprehensive set of vaccines against dust-mite allergy will mark a milestone in Southeast Asia when it is manufactured for commercial use by the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital, as no other country in the region has made such vaccines for sale.

Dr Chaweevan Bunnag, who is in charge of the vaccine-development project, believed the locally-made vaccines would save the country 360 million baht a year.

"Our vaccine technology has met World Health Organization and US Food and Drug Administration standards... our vaccines are effective in protecting patients from allergic symptoms for years, if not for life," she said.

According to Dr Chaweevan, a vaccine injection would protect patients for up to five years. Over time, a stronger dose would be used to stimulate their immunity against dust mites.

Siriraj Hospital has signed a deal for production and distribution of vaccines with Greater Pharma Manufacturing Co.

Last year, the government spent more than 2.4 billion baht on treating allergy patients.

It is estimated there are about 18 million people with allergies across the country, many of them allergic to dust mites.

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

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Care & Share helps youngsters

By Semacote Suganya

School is back in session throughout Phuket and each school has most certainly compiled a checklist of necessities that it will need for the duration of the academic year.

However, the lack of adequate first aid supplies has left a void in the checklists at some of the island's less-well-funded schools. In fact, it is a void that has remained unfilled for many years at each of them. However, thanks to recent efforts by the Bangkok Hospital Phuket progress is now being made to provide basic first-aid equipment and medicine to the schools where it is needed most.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Care and Share project was initiated to provide not only essential medical kits, but also first-aid instruction to local schools that lack a standardized approach to child health care.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara said the project was launched to mark the hospital's 12th anniversary.

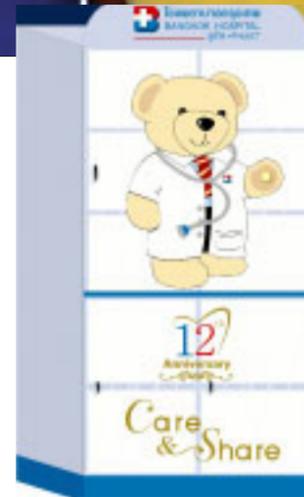
"To commemorate the occasion, we assigned our marketing team to investigate ways to promote children's health care. The information they discovered was highly disappointing, as it revealed that a majority of Phuket schools lack proper medical facilities.

"Among the problems was the storage of medicine, much of which was found to be either past its expiration date or not intended for consumption by children.

"Many of the schools we visited also lacked a designated area to treat ill students. Taking these findings, we began to discuss the various ways we could



Witchulada Promduang of the Bangkok Hospital Marketing Team delivers medicines to teachers at Baan Kathu School. Right: What the medicine cabinets will look like.



address the problem. In March, we began to do the groundwork for the Care & Share program, which began with a two-month survey of 44 schools around Phuket and its outlying islands."

"Our intention is to eventually assist all of the schools, but to begin we have selected 12 pilot schools to mark our 12th anniversary," he said.

The Care & Share program will start by helping to establish an infirmary at each of the 12 schools.

"We found that primary schools were the most in need. Most of the secondary schools have sufficient budgets and al-

ready have adequate facilities," he said.

"The areas we selected are Koh Lone, Koh Naka, Koh Maphrao, Ban Mak Prok, Ban Bangrong, Ban Bangthong, Wat Kok Banmai, Ban Laemsai, Ban Phraklongchep, Ban Ko En, Ban Kuku and Ban Kathu."

Discussing the specifics of the program, Dr Kespachara said fully-equipped medical cabinets will be supplied to each school.

"The cabinets are 180cm tall, 80cm wide and 30cm deep. They are designed to have a warm and friendly appeal. We chose to put a cute bear on the front, along with the Care & Share logo. We would like to make the children feel comfortable when they are in need of treatment."

"The most important thing is the medicine. We will stock the

cabinets according to the particular needs of each school and we plan to re-supply them every six months, or more often if needed. We will also provide instruction on how to administer medicine properly. This is the most important part because we do not

want to just give them the box and leave. We will provide continual support to these schools."

"Most of the medicine is for common ailments such as fever, cold, cough and headaches. It is essential that we provide medicine suitable for younger children. In our survey, we found that some schools had stocked 500mg paracetamol tablets, which really should not be given to children.

We will consult with our own pediatricians to find out the most appropriate medicines and dosages to supply them with," he said.

"This is a problem that is very close to us and should be addressed. We need to instruct the

schools in detail because it is essential to treat students properly in the early stages to prevent the spread of illness. Our goal is to keep children healthy and strong so they can be at their best when learning."

"We welcome anyone who wishes to join this program or provide support. We want the program to continue to grow and help as many schools as possible."

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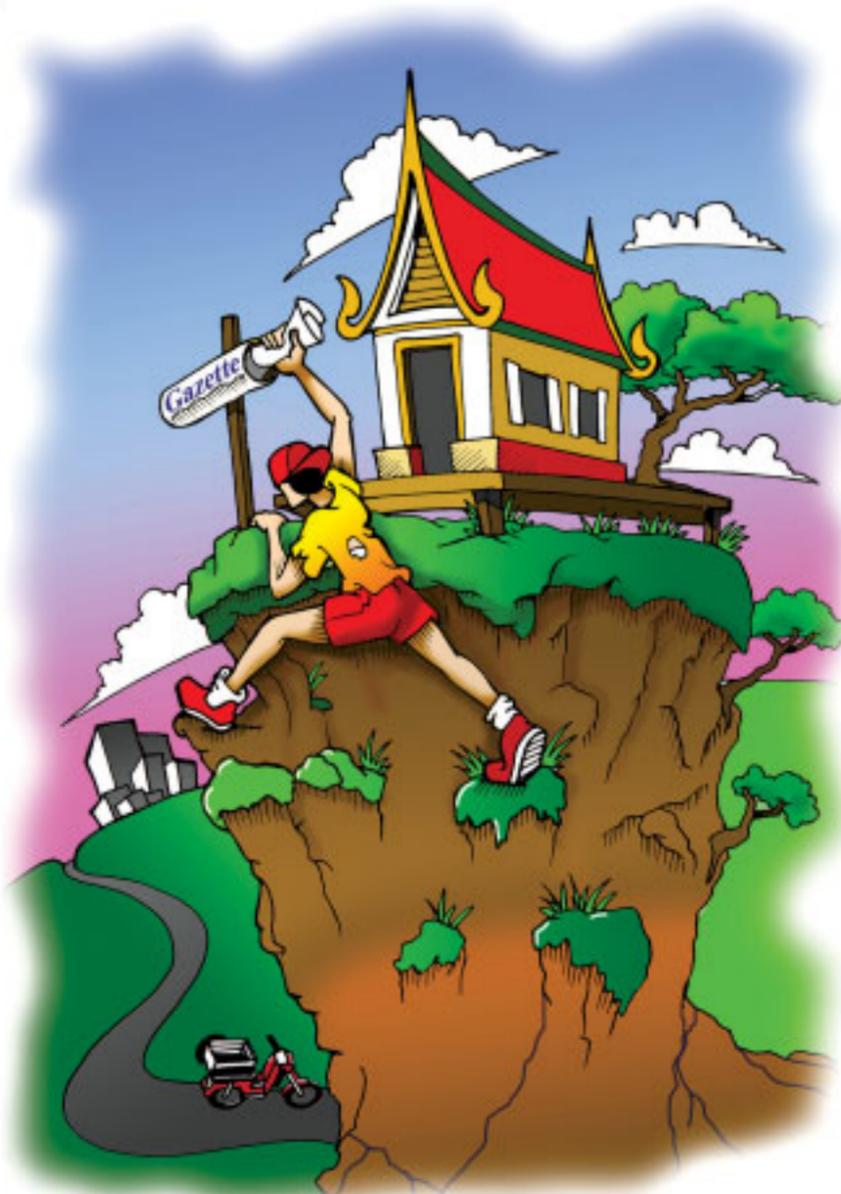
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Many foreigners who come to Phuket possess a fair amount of knowledge about Thai cuisine, but they often overlook the one essential dish that completes any dining experience – *khanom thai* or Thai dessert. A possible reason for their unfamiliarity could lie in their inability to locate a shop that provides a variety of desserts.

One such establishment is Kha Nom Thai Chao Wang, a popular shop well-known to many local Phuket residents. The shop owners have almost 30 years of experience with Thai cuisine, but they predominantly specialize in making Thai desserts.

Suri Umpan, the 37-year-old shop owner, moved to Phuket from Phichit seven years ago, when she married a man from Phuket.

K. Suri told the *Gazette*, “When I was younger, I would watch and help my parents make Thai desserts that they would sell around the Phichit area. So, I have nearly 30 years of experience in this craft of baking Thai delicacies.

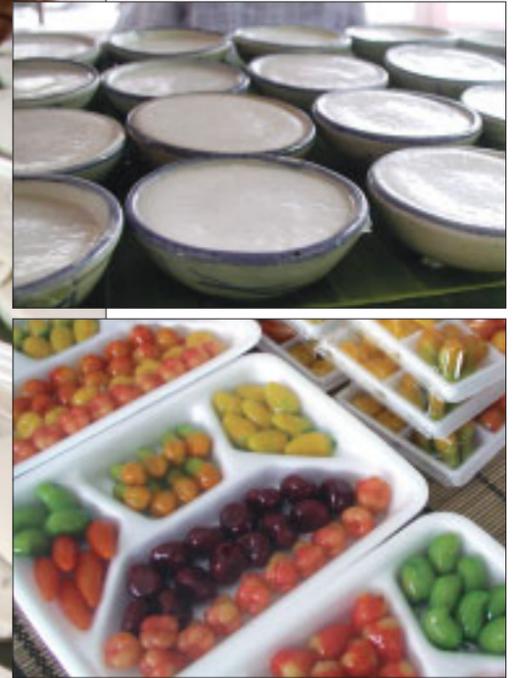
“When I moved to Phuket I saw shops that sold Thai desserts but I never saw any shops that actually made Thai desserts. At the time, I did not have my own shop, so I made the desserts at my home and brought them to sell at booths I had rented at Tesco and Big C. However, after five years, I decided to move away from those locations because the rent for both booths was becoming quite expensive.

“I decided to relocate the shop to the space that I had in front of my home. I worked with my cousin and we produced the desserts and began to sell them from the new location to our customer base of local Phuket people.”

The shop offers more than 20 different desserts including *bua loy*, sticky rice flour boiled with coconut milk and sugar and then rolled into a small ball shape; *khaow neaw thua dam*, steamed, black sticky rice served with coconut milk; and *kluay buad she*, bananas boiled in a coconut milk and sugar mixture.

They also have desserts that are served in a bowl of coconut milk such as *tabtim krob*, crunchy water chestnut rolled over in flour and then steamed; *man chuam*, yams simmered with sugar; and *kluay chuam*, bananas simmered with sugar. Each of the desserts sell for 15 baht per bag, or 25 baht for two bags.

Khanom mongkon is a propitious dessert used in ceremonies, especially weddings, that is believed to carry good fortune. Three desserts that utilize the same ingredients, but result in varied end products are *ja mongkut*, a delicately-crafted, crown-shaped dessert; *thong-ake*, a flower-shaped dessert; and *saney chan*, a fruit-shaped dessert. *Ja mongkut* sells for 15 baht a piece because of the lengthy preparation process and both



Main picture: Decisions, decisions – A bit of variety is at your disposal when selecting from these creations made with *khaow neaw moon*, steamed sticky rice mixed with coconut milk.

Top: *Khanom kluay*, a steamed banana and sugar confection.

Above: *Luk choob* – Pick a color, any color, pick a shape, any shape, to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Sweet Thai treats

thongakes and *saney chan* sell for just 5 baht per piece.

Luk choob are small desserts often molded to look like flowers, fruits or vegetables. These are 2 baht per piece. *Foy thong* and *thong yib* are two yellow-colored desserts that have the same taste and use the same ingredients, but *foy thong* has a fibrous texture and look, while *thong yib* is usually molded into a star-shaped flower. In fact, nearly every

dessert at the shop can be made into different shapes at the customer's request.

Steamed desserts are also offered, including *khanom kluay*, steamed bananas with sugar; *khanom phuak*, steamed taro with sugar; *khanom fakthong*, steamed pumpkin with sugar; and *khanom man sampalang*,

steamed cassava with sugar. All steamed desserts are served in a small cup and are priced at 20 baht for six cups.

The most popular dessert at the shop is *khaow neaw moon*, which is made from steamed sticky rice mixed with coconut milk. This dessert can be coupled with mangoes to make the popular *khaow neaw ma muang*; or egg custard to make *khaow neaw sangkhayah*; or jackfruit, to make *khaow neaw khanoon*. *Khaow neaw moon* cost 80 baht for 1 kilogram or 30 baht for a pack.

Desserts served in small trays include *khanom mo kaeng*, made from red eggs, coconut milk and sugar, all of which is then mixed together and steamed in the tray. It sells for 40 baht per tray. *Khanom chan* is made from sticky rice flour, sugar and coconut milk, and sells for 2 baht per piece or 40 baht per tray. *Kha*

nom babin is simply *khanom chan* grilled over a fire. It costs 20 baht per pack.

If you want to finish off your Thai meal with a traditional Thai dessert or if you simply wish to indulge your sweet tooth, then Kha Nom Thai Chao Wang is the perfect destination for you!

Kha Nom Thai Chao Wang is located at City Home Village, Soi 5, Ruam Pattana Rd, Phuket City. For more information, call Tel: 076-240717.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above: Walailak Buasri and Kiattisak Suwanno were married in the Phra Pitak Grand Ballroom at The Metropole hotel on May 7.



Left: Siriwanmanee Suphoken and Marco Amarone were married in a Western wedding ceremony and reception at The Mangosteen Resort & Spa on May 12.

Jurai Rachapol knows the beauty of Phuket lies not with the ever-expanding developments or commercial projects, but with its natural beauty – including what remains of the mangrove forests surrounding Cape Yamu.

Jurai, a community leader and environmental activist, says, "My eyes must go to sleep, but my soul can never stray from the lovely natural beauty here." Here reporter **Sompratch Saowakhon** talks to her about her mission to protect Phuket.

Jurai Rachapol knows firsthand the dangers of trying to conserve Phuket's mangrove forests. Her brother Jurin, an outspoken protector of the mangrove forests of Pa Khlok, was shot dead in 2001.

For Jurai, the most important thing is that the cycle of life continues in its most natural form. Thus, she has devoted her life to opposing major developments in her home of Baan Yamu, where she has lived for nearly all of her 53 years.

One of the major setbacks in her quest to protect the mangroves came when her brother was killed. His murderer, Bancha Noppawong, was found guilty of shooting Jurin in the back near a prawn farm Jurin had opposed. Bancha was sentenced to death by a Bangkok court for his crime.

Speaking of her brother to the *Gazette* she said, "It's not fair for a person who took care of nature [to die like that]."

"During that time my brother and I were working to keep the villagers happy by balancing the nature in this bay against the property developments. They rely on nature for life and for their income, but after my brother died the developers came right back in again.

In her slow manner of speech she said that she has grown a deep appreciation for the land near Baan Yamu, so much

that she says that whenever anyone injures the land it injures her just as deeply.

She has had her share of injuries during her time living in Baan Yamu, seeing the landscape change so dramatically over the years.

"High economic competition and capitalism have affected everything. The investors have had an especially large role because they have so much money and can do whatever they want.

"It used to be that the Thai investors were our biggest problem. We were constantly fighting with them. But now the problem is even bigger because we have foreign investors

trying to move in with even more money."

Jurai has seen the developments change the look of Pa Khlok and Baan Yamu since she was a child.

"I grew up here and I have a close relationship with local nature. I fed buffalo and worked fishing the seas as a teenager. About 20 years ago I left my home to work in another part of Phuket for some years because there wasn't enough food for us to eat at home," she said.

But she couldn't stay away for long. After a few years she once again returned to help her brother develop the mangrove forests around Baan Yamu Bay.

The duo wanted to bring back the trees and sea grass beds

'I lost my cheerfulness after I lost my brother. I told the villagers that I would stop being a leader in protecting the natural habitat around here.'

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Jurai Rachapol: 'Even if someone shoots me and I die, it doesn't mean the mangrove trees will die along with me. They will still grow up and be of great value to our home. That is my hope.'

you every time when you go to plant more trees.”

That day there were six schools and more than 100 students at the tree planting activity in Baan Yamu Bay.

“Another reason I couldn't quit was because I had promised my brother I would continue to protect our home and our nature. I also promised myself that I didn't want to see anyone destroy it again.”

Jurai saw one of the many benefits of the mangrove forests during the 2004 tsunami disaster. On that day the areas near the mangrove forests were well-protected and many lives were saved because of it, she said.

“We were surprised because the trees have value both to save our lives and provide a sustainable source of food.

“I met with one villager who talked to me about the tsunami and asked, ‘Are you afraid of another tsunami disaster coming?’ I said no, I'm not afraid, even if it's bigger than last time. We'll have to wait a long time to see another wave like that. It's not the same as the investors coming to destroy the area. That we see all the time.”

In addition to protecting mangroves, Jurai also works to protect sea turtles and promote other environmental programs in the area.

“Now we have enough food for the villagers, so no one wants to leave here. They are using what they need, but not destroying everything.

“Being self-sufficient and using sustainable practices will

save things for the future too. It's the best way to always have the natural resources available and follow our King's theory (of self-sufficiency).”

While Jurai has had some success in preserving the mangroves in Baan Yamu, she is seeing a new threat emerge as more and more foreign developers move into the area. That, she said, has changed her view of foreigners all together.

“I worked with foreign bosses about seven years ago at a golf club in Phuket. I had six lovely foreign bosses during that time. They were all good people and I loved them like they were my own relatives.

“But after I resigned from there and began working near my home my perceptions changed,” she said.

“Here I've met with many foreign investment companies that want their businesses to grow. They don't think about the local villagers and don't realize that we depend on the natural environment for our livelihoods. I understand them, but now I look at the foreigners as my enemy.

“The reason for this is that so many areas in Phuket have been ruined by foreigners running their businesses here. Sometimes after they set up a business, they don't even allow the Thais in the area to fish.

“Now my position is that I will do everything I can to protect our home. If there is something bad for us I will try to stop it,” she said, adding that she was not out to make enemies but to increase understanding.

Having lost a brother who worked to save the environment, Jurai knows that her work can put her in harm's way. But the prospect of death does not deter her from doing her life's work.

“Even if someone shoots me and I die, it doesn't mean the mangrove trees will die along with me. They will still grow up and be of great value to our home. That is my hope.”

in the area to restore the ecosystem and encourage more animals to live in the mangrove forests.

But when her brother was killed, Jurai once again hung up the crusader's cape.

“I lost my cheerfulness after I lost my brother. I told the villagers that I would stop being

a leader in protecting the natural habitat around here.

“But I had to come back and

do it again after I heard from one little boy during a tree planting activity. He said to me, ‘I will join

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This week



HONORABLE PARTY: (from right) Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Thailand Ivan Hotek join the newly-appointed Czech Honorary Consul in Phuket, Anurak Tansiroj, who is also Managing Director of Phuket Inter-national Hospital (PIH). Also pictured is Mr Anurak's wife Patra, who heads PIH's administration division. The announcement was made at The



BOTTOMS UP: Burasari Resort Managing Director Lily Udomkunnatum (right), General Manager Chris Green (2nd from left) and Floyd's Brasserie Executive Chef Danny Ryan (left) toast world-renowned chef and gourmand Keith Floyd at his restaurant at the Burasari in Patong.



PAINTED POOCH: Owners of the Rinda Magical Art Studio Jay-Da Rodnit (left) and her husband Watcharin Rodnit (right) show Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) Vice President John Dally their handiwork in painting a room at the SDF treatment



YOUTHFUL TRIBUTE: Young rocker Zac Crawford, 12, of the Australian band Power-Age jams at Rock City in Patong while vacationing in Phuket with his parents.



DELIGHTFULLY DELICIOUS: General Manager of the Royal Paradise Hotel Dr Jirachai Amornpairoj (center) welcomes Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathasima (3rd from right) and guests to the opening of the new *dim sum* buffet



LEGAL EAGLES: (from left) Managing Director Juthaporn Preewasana of accounting and business consultancy Bangkok Legal Service Co Ltd celebrates the opening of the firm's new office near Tesco-Lotus with Office Manager Chairat Watrasang, fellow attorney Peerapong Kongghuay and guests.

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Lexus' greenish SUV

BEHIND THE WHEEL
By Jeff Heselwood

Hybrid cars – which run off gasoline engines or electric motors, depending on the circumstances – are currently all the rage, with the Toyota Prius selling more than half a million since its introduction, and Honda offering – at least in the States – dual-motor Civics and Accords.

Now Toyota has brought hybrid technology into the luxury segment with the launch of the Lexus RX400h SUV at the recent Bangkok motor show.

The Prius has been hugely successful across the world, although there are those that question the true effectiveness of its hybrid technology.

True, it improves fuel consumption and, while the electric motor is powering the car, is virtually pollution-free, analysts calculate that during the lifespan of the vehicle – from production to destruction – it is one of the least efficient models.

To recycle or dispose of the batteries, the electrical windings and various other hi-tech components is vastly more expensive, both in monetary terms and environmental concerns, than a conventional vehicle. The same presumably goes for the new RX 400h.

The hybrid SUV features a 3.3-liter gasoline engine producing 271 bhp (200 kW) and 288 Nm of torque, as well as two motor generators to power the front and rear wheels, the front one delivering 333 Nm between zero and 1500 rpm, the rear 130 Nm up to 610 rpm.

On startup only the battery-powered electric motors are used. At low speeds the engine does not operate, but on full acceleration the two electric motors and the gasoline unit all come into play. When decelerating, the kinetic energy produced is converted into battery power via the two generators.

As well as reducing fuel consumption when the electric motors are in operation, there is an almost uncanny silence to the progress of the SUV. Lexus has always had a strong reputation for quiet motoring but this brings a new dimension to the whole process.

Electronic all-wheel drive (AWD) is standard, with the appropriate amount of torque apportioned to the correct wheels according to traction and load. During normal driving the system stops power to the rear wheels



The new RX400h's green credentials may be arguable, but with nine airbags, electronic all-wheel drive and 'dynamic vehicle management', which integrates ABS, brake assist, dynamic stability control (DSC) and traction control, it seems to have safety well covered.

to promote fuel economy as well as a greater degree of stability.

If the vehicle is being driven on a slippery surface, the intelligent AWD system calculates the required total motive force and the torque distribution between the front and rear wheels to achieve the best traction.

The interior of the SUV is typical Lexus with power seats and steering column, an electronic climate control system and, of course, Lexus' legendary sound system. Concert-hall reproduction on the move, made all the better by the prevailing quietness of the SUV's operation.

A comprehensive series of safety systems are incorporated into the 400h, including dynamic vehicle management, which integrates the ABS, brake assist, dynamic stability control (DSC) and traction control. An advanced setup, it detects instability in any lateral direction and compensates accordingly.

In addition, an electronically-controlled braking system allows a different brake force to be applied to each wheel along with braking assistance from the front and rear motor generators.

While the Lexus SUV has not yet been crash-tested under

the Euro NCAP rules, it is reasonable to assume it would achieve high ratings, except perhaps under the pedestrian protection tests.

Nine airbags are fitted, including side airbags, a driver's knee bag and front and rear air curtains.

Many people have questioned the validity of hybrids in protecting the environment, cit-

ing alternative fuels such as biodiesel or ethanol as a better way to go, but for the immediate future, if you want a luxury SUV that is to some extent environmentally responsible, look no further than the new Lexus RX 400h. Price in Thailand: 6.25 million baht.

Jeff Heselwood can be reached by email to jhc@netvigator.com

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GETTING NEEDLED

Phuket's reputation as a medical tourism destination continues to grow and many visitors come looking for non-traditional health treatments such as acupuncture.

Alternative healing options are all over the place. Age old treatments have been stepping up where medical science has been failing. If paracetamol isn't doing the trick maybe it's time to look into other options. Your knee hurts, and every little movement is sheer torture for your aching back also, and if medication or other therapy fails to help, acupuncture can bring relief.

Inserting fine needles into the skin and underlying tissues can also combat allergies, menstrual pain and even moderately severe depression.

"Acupuncture helps primarily in cases of chronic and acute pain such as migraines and arthritis, but also stress and asthma," said Helmut Ruedinger, vice-chairman of the Hamburg-based German Medical Association for Acupuncture (DAEGFA).

Timo, a 30-year-old from Berlin, suffered from severe, stabbing headaches during his studies, particularly when he was at the computer writing his final paper.

"First they prescribed physiotherapy, then massages," he recalled. "Only acupuncture helped." After just eight acupuncture sessions, Timo was completely pain-free – and still is.

Critics continue to question the technique's effectiveness, though.

In 2006 in the German city of Siegburg, the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA), a body made up of doctors and public health insurance company officials that helps regulate Germany's medical services, included acupuncture in the list of treatments covered by public insurance – but only for chronic knee and back pain.

The G-BA said it was unclear whether other ailments could be successfully treated with



A patient with needles inserted in her face at the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Clinic in Ottobeuren in the south of Germany.

acupuncture. In those cases the patient would have to pay out of their own pocket.

An extensive series of tests found no differences between acupuncture and medication in treating headaches and migraines.

Experts who conducted the tests said that improvement in the patients' condition may have been merely subjective, with psychological factors playing a role.

Acupuncture is a mainstay of traditional Chinese medicine. It seeks to influence the flow of what is believed to be the body's "vital life" force by inserting needles at certain points. There

are more than 360 acupuncture points, which are arranged along meridians or pathways.

The meridians are the same on both sides of the body, and the points are associated with particular locations in the body.

Western acupuncturists surmise that the effects of acupuncture have a physiological basis.

"When a needle is inserted into the body, it strikes small nerves that send impulses to the spinal cord and brain," Ruedinger said.

The brain then gives the signal for the release of endorphins, which cause patients to feel happy and relaxed.

ACUPUNCTURE IN PHUKET

Acupuncture is on offer at a variety of locations in Phuket, including:

Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Hongyok Utit Road, Phuket City. 076-254421-9, www.bpk.co.th

Phuket International Hospital, Chalermprakit Ror IX Rd (bypass), Phuket City. 076-210935, www.phuket-international-hospital.co.th

Atsumi Healing, Saiyuan Road, Rawai. 081-2720571, www.atsumihealing.com

Dr.V Cosmetic Surgical Rejuvenation, Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong. 081-6579973, www.drvcosmetic.com

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"Acupuncture affects different people differently," Ruedinger warned. The needles eliminate some people's symptoms entirely, while they do nothing for other people.

"One reason for this could be fields of interference in the body such as scars or infections, which hamper the effect," Ruedinger said.

The procedure has few side effects. Sometimes no bruising occurs at all.

Patients often wonder how to find the right acupuncturist. "The most important thing is how much experience the therapist has," Ruedinger said. If a physician has the additional title of acupuncturist, it means that he or she has had at least 200 hours of recognized training.

– Alik Nassoufis, dpa

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn & Supanan Supawong

After investing heavily in jewelry, no one wants their purchase to lose its pizzazz. Two Phuket jewelers have revealed to the *Gazette* the secrets of keeping those charms charming.

Keeping surfaces in good condition and stones in their place and brilliant requires common sense, says Nathalie Gorder, Manager of Diamonds & Pearls at Aroona Karon.

"Don't wear your jewelry to the beach, as salt and sand are very rough on it and sun cream makes it dull and reduces sparkling."

"It's better not to wear your jewelry when you shower, clean the dishes, exercise or work in the garden either. These activities are too rough on your jewelry and you risk a stone getting loose or falling out."

"Shampoos and creams can also make your jewelry look dull."

"Once a month you should put your jewelry in a cup with medium-hot water and some gentle dish washing liquid (make sure it doesn't contain chlorine), leave it there for about an hour and then clean it with a small soft toothbrush to get rid of any grease and dirt that has collected."

"Diamonds are a very hard and durable stone, but if you have jewelry set with other stones, such as emeralds, you should be very careful not to use certain chemicals as some stones can lose their color. In this case it is best to use only water and a soft brush."

"For the best care of your jewelry you should take it to your local jeweler once a year for ultrasonic cleaning and polishing, and to be checked for loose gems," she says.

Nathalie suggests storing jewelry in a soft container and keeping each piece separate to avoid scratching.

Silver is tougher than gold so you don't have to be quite as careful with it, she says. She doesn't recommend using silver cleaners available in stores or supermarkets, however, as they can leave a white coating on jew-

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How to keep your sparklers sparkling

elry if the jewelry is left in the dip too long. The coating can be very stubborn and usually requires the care of a skilled jeweler to remove.

“Pearls are organic material and require some special attention as they absorb everything you have on your skin and will lose their luster over a period of time. You should not wear perfume or lotions when you wear pearls. If you want to take good care of them you should dry them off with a soft cloth after each use. Don’t put your pearls in any chemical, liquid or water as they will make your pearls look dull in a very short time,” she says.

Pierre Dimitrov, from DD Jewel Design on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City agrees that most jewelry care can be done at home with gentle soap, but it must be done carefully, he says.

“In my shop I clean most jewelry with an electronic

cleaner because its faster and cleans deeper. Gems don’t usually need much care but it is important to check the settings to make sure they are secure.”

For more complex tasks like reshaping and sizing Pierre says it is important to take your jewelry to a reputable shop. “Many tasks look very simple, but if done incorrectly can easily create problems. It’s better to use a skilled professional” he says.

When it comes to the cost of jeweler services Pierre says it is best to not look just for the cheapest shop. “All jewelry needs to be examined carefully before being serviced and I like to look at it with the owner to discuss the right way to do it and the right solution for any problems.

“Every piece of jewelry I look at is unique and deserves special attention. For me that is the best way to respect the jewelry and the customer,” he adds.

Above: To look its best, jewelry needs to be free of scratches and corrosion. (Ring by DD Jewelry)

Right: Warm water and a soft toothbrush are acceptable for a quick brush up, but for a true clean it’s best to leave your jewelry in the hands of the professionals, who have the equipment to do a thorough job.



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Just the thing when you feel cranky

All at SEA



By Teddy Tucker

Those of us from Western cultures are quite familiar with the Sunday drive or the leisurely act of taking a spin around town to see what is going on.

On the water this function is well served by a class of boats sometimes called "sport cruisers". But this kind of cruising is a lot more fun than the obligatory Sunday drive with mom and dad after church.

Thinking of popping over to Krabi or taking a look at an island in Phang Nga Bay that you haven't seen before? What better time than the classic weekend jaunt?

And what better way than on a Cranchi (pronounced "cranky") 41 – seemingly more of a comfortable sports car on water than a cumbersome ocean-going yacht. But then design and comfort is what the Italians do best, isn't it?

The helm itself is more reminiscent of a sports-car cabin and has a dashboard with all the goodies right at hand and a passenger seat to your left. Seating not exactly to your liking? No problem, they are electrically powered to help you adjust your position.

Gauges, GPS, radar, fish



SUNDAY DRIVER: The Cranchi 41 – note that the deck furniture is not included in the B11-million pricetag. Left: The 'sports car' helm.

finder and plotter are within easy reach without you having to take your eyes off the road...uh, sea.

The cockpit comfortably seats nine or 10 counting the captain, and it's all set for a day's outing with a built-in BBQ grill, sink and refrigerator in addition to the efficient galley downstairs. Large, thick sunbeds forward and aft facilitate those who wish to barbecue themselves.

Cranchi helps make other outdoor duties easy with a power-assisted lift for the tender garage and even an electrically-powered shore power lead so you can spend more time socializing and less time wrestling with equipment.

Power up and head across the bay with the twin 350hp Volvo Penta V6s pushing you to a cruising speed of 30 knots – at that speed they'll consume about 85 liters of fuel per hour.

This makes for a quick trip to Krabi or other bay locales – so you can power down and have more time to enjoy a private

beach or snorkeling. A cruising range of 250 miles means you can go all around the bay and never have to worry about refueling.

If things get too hot on deck the cabin is comfortably air-conditioned and so is the master's quarters under the cockpit. Beautifully trimmed in cherry, the V-berth saloon provides a roomy dining area and can convert to a double berth for overnighting if desired.

For day cruising or an occasional overnighter, the Cranchi 41 is ideal and there is enough room to cozily accommodate passengers and crew. A new one will

set you back roughly 11 million baht; quite a value for its size and performance.

If you are going to cruise – do it right.

Starship Yachts are the sole agents for Cranchi in Asia. Cranchi's line ranges from 28ft to 50ft, hard top and soft top models, flybridge and sports cruisers.

For more information about Cranchi line contact Paul Vockler at Starship Yachts on 076-273378 or 084-4425460. E-mail: phuket@starshipyachts.com or check their website at www.starshipyachts.com

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If I come back to my intention,
my intention comes from my Heart.
I am strong and I am at peace."

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**Spa
MAGIC**



By Laura Schafer
Centara Spa

Getting stoned

Stones are placed all over the body, radiating a comforting heat.



I am a bit of a pack rat. I hold onto little scraps of paper and ticket stubs, any interesting articles I read or funny ads. One of my favorite things to hoard is rocks. It's been a habit since I was young to pick up a smooth stone or an interestingly colored rock.

Centara Spa at Central Karon Beach Resort offers a treatment that takes my love for stones and spas and combines them in a most comforting and holistic way.

The Centara Pa-lang Experience is a holistic Tibetan Himalayan stone treatment, available for 90 minutes at 1,795 baht or 120 minutes at 2,295 baht. The treatment claims to recover energy, calm the nervous system and provide "a deeply penetrating relaxation". After reading about this "experience" I dashed off to give it a try.

I am met by Spa Manager Kanyanee Pensuwan, who had me fill out a short questionnaire asking how I feel, how I have been sleeping and if I'm an introvert or extrovert. This is to help my therapist modify the treatment to help rebalance my yin and yang energies, K. Kanyanee explains.

She tells that the hot stone massage is ideal for people with muscle tension or insomnia as the heat held in the stones reduces tension and stiffness. She shows me that the stones have different symbols on them that relate to Buddhist teachings.

"This treatment rebalances your body, mind and spirit," K. Kanyanee said. She added that the stones are placed on meridian points to release energy.

I am led to a treatment room through a lush, green outdoor garden – past steam rooms and a jacuzzi. The spa has nine treatment rooms, seven double and two triple rooms, and there's even a beauty salon providing treatments from head to toe.

In my dark and cozy treatment room there is a boiler where the stones for my treatment are being warmed in hot water. The stones are flat, come in all sizes and are black and dark gray in color. I undress and wrap myself in a towel.

My therapist comes in and asks me to lay on my stomach. She begins the treatment by mas-

saging my legs and back with aromatherapy oils. I'm getting a little nervous because I'm not sure how or when something hot is going to be put on me.

After the massage, she selects several warm stones and coats them in oil. A mid-sized, flat stone is placed under my stomach as she takes two other hot stones and massages my legs with them. She constantly checks with me that the rocks are not too hot. They are hot, but not scalding or uncomfortable, just comforting.

She then lines stones down

my thigh, the back of my knee and my calf and repeats the same techniques with my other leg. The stones are left on my legs as she covers them with a towel and begins to massage my back with hot stones that are then placed along my spine and on my shoulders.

My arms are next and I'm then covered with a towel and allowed to enjoy the warmth of the stones seeping into my skin. I imagine how nice a massage like this would be during the cold, snowy winters back home in the American Midwest.

The stones are removed in a specific order, starting with my legs. The stone from underneath me is also taken away. I roll over and cover my eyes while my

therapist selects more stones for my front side.

After being massaged with the stones, they are lined down the fronts of my legs. Small very thin stones are then placed between each of my toes. My therapist then moves up to my stomach and massages it with the stones, then she lays stones on my stomach.

More stones are put on my arms and one in each palm. Again I'm covered with a towel and allowed to relax in the warmth of the rocks. I'm in a nice dreamy state, wrapped up and warm from the radiating heat.

My therapist returns and carefully removes each of the stones. She gives me a head and shoulder massage to top off a most relaxing couple of hours.

As I make my way out to the light of the garden I feel that all the worries about deadlines and dinner plans have been massaged out of my mind. There's nothing like a two-hour stone massage to loosen you up for the weekend.

The Centara Spa is at the Central Karon Beach Resort, 502/3 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Tel: 076-396200-5

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The seminar, in Thai with a simultaneous English translation, will be held on Friday, May 25, at 1:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of The Metropole hotel. Entry is free!

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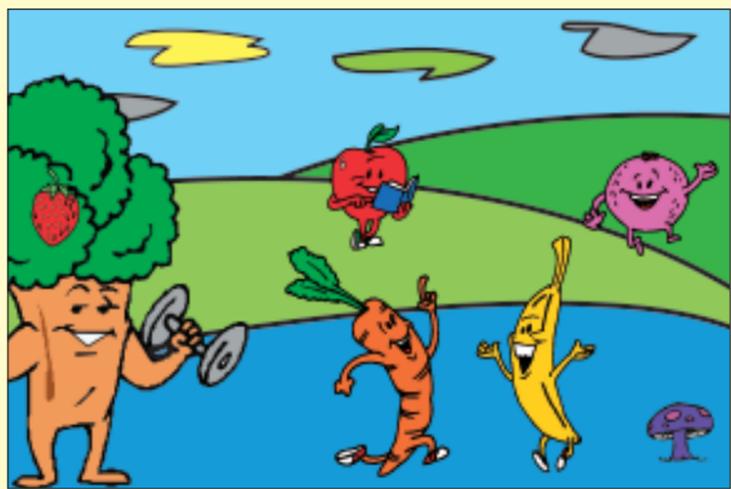
PUZZLES

The Cryptic Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on next page.

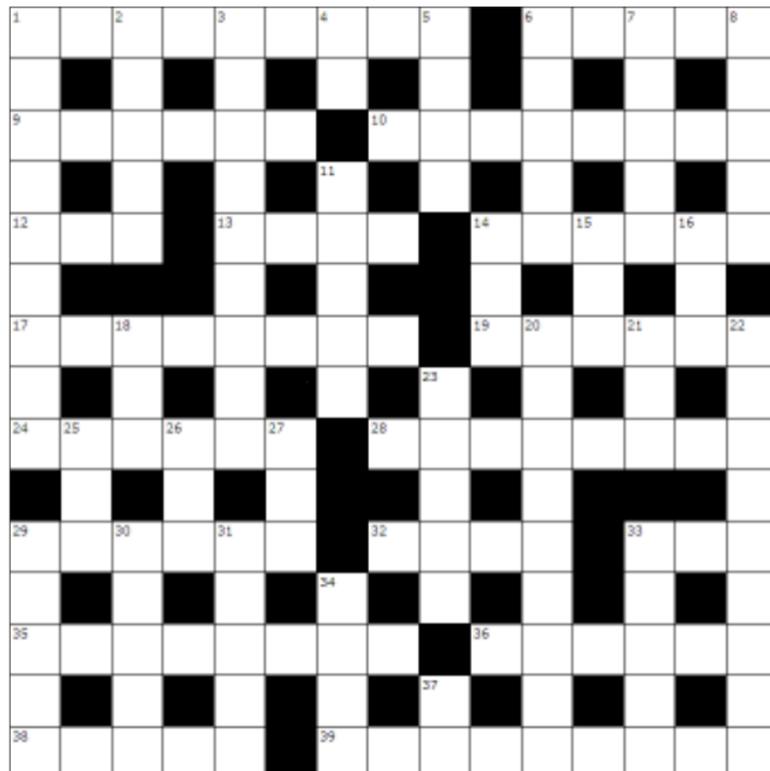


ACROSS

1. Unsurpassed copy not as much. (9)
6. Ritzy way to express hope. (5)
9. Lion call after rising? Chaos. (6)
10. Rome and Yale scrambled sea beast. (5,3)
12. The method whereby Injun greets. (3)
13. Jog child with hand in. (4)
14. I left; applies for fruit. (6)
17. A ran back. Smart, but chaotic. (8)
19. Lion's offspring took her little angel! (6)
24. Place to stay: rather more than hotel. (6)
28. Sell and French thanks causes feud. (8)
29. Money incorporated ring and me. (6)
32. Call her a goddess? (4)
33. He takes the French pole. (3)
35. Instructive, did take action to be in charge. (8)
36. Bend gravity and a country. (6)
38. Artery, note, or thanks. (5)
39. Ma and right male take commercial jam. (9)

DOWN

1. Ho hum... swat mixed cleanser. (9)
2. With up, vomited, with down, slam dunk. (5)
3. Ah! The care fixed deep sadness. (9)
4. A little of each, please.



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

5. Direction of cow sound - not fast. (4)
6. 1,000 in exchange of bog. (5)
7. Concept to the left of perfect. (5)
8. Ha! The Spanish saints' headgear. (5)
11. Architectural style is ironic, but not right. (5)
14. It's a B, see? No, first three! (1,1,1)
15. Author takes exercise around the ring. (3)
16. Oh! Sounds like French liquid. (3)
18. As to the point, he's a fool. (3)
20. Handy gear to make into plant. (9)
21. Right at vermin. (3)
22. Clever chap has hairdo and idea. (9)
23. Country for you old chaps. (5)
25. Confess to being in possession... (3)
26. ...almost took as well. (3)
27. Not quite the truth about sodium hydroxide. (3)
29. In Diana, a state. (5)
30. A hundred and one take the German drink. (5)
31. Java from 23 down. (5)
33. Island network. Thanks. (5)
34. An old country cardinal, I am. (4)

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezzy, Dopey and...?
2. What is the capital of New Zealand?
3. The Sphinx has the body of a what?
4. In which country is Dar Es Salaam?
5. Which two singers have teamed up on the current hit *Beautiful Liar*?
6. How many bases are there on a baseball field?
7. Which two countries share Tierra del Fuego?
8. Where would you find Circus Circus, MGM Grand and The Mirage?
9. Who plays Jack Sparrow in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies?

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

V. EASY

23

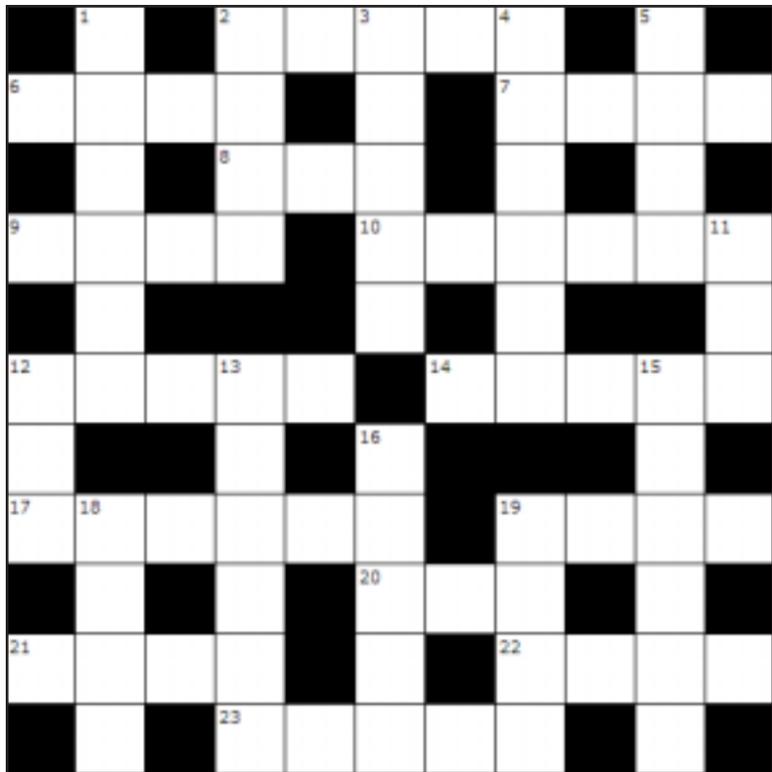
Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with 'preferred'. What are they?

1. Swot.
2. Not put off.
3. Keep a close eye on.
4. Ostrich, for example, but not swallow.
5. Moved.
6. Kicked horse.
7. Went into a huddle.
8. Bronze.
9. Attended to the sauce.
10. Unclear.

Answers on next page



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 2. Financial check. | 1. Escargots. |
| 6. Make socks, perhaps. | 2. Component of molecule. |
| 7. Italian capital. | 3. Cartoon duck. |
| 8. Clod. | 4. Paris or Helen, for example. |
| 9. Thailand, before. | 5. Leave out. |
| 10. Mexican 14 across. | 11. Frame a question. |
| 12. Major religion. | 12. Debtor's promise. |
| 14. Quick meal. | 13. Pilots. |
| 17. Take paper off a gift. | 15. Dog-related. |
| 19. Zits. | 16. CIA employees. |
| 20. Roadside accommodation. | 18. Gas for lighting. |
| 21. Cause to yawn. | 19. Picnic pests. |
| 22. Ms Turner, singer. | |
| 23. Birds' structures. | |

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. What is the theme of the Japanese festival of Hinamatsuri? | return power to the Emperor of Japan? | 14. What is an <i>onsen</i> ? |
| 2. How are Ukiyo-e works of art produced? | 8. Name the four castes of society during the Edo period. | 15. What do the Japanese call their language? |
| 3. What did Kawabata Yasunari and Oe Kaenzaburo achieve in 1968 and 1994 respectively? | 9. A <i>ronin</i> was a <i>samurai</i> with no master. What does <i>ronin</i> mean? | 16. There are three way to write Japanes: <i>kanji</i> , <i>hiragana</i> and ...? |
| 4. Which sport is considered to be Japan's national sport? | 10. Japan's population is currently about 127 million. What is it expected to be in 2050? | 17. What does <i>kimono</i> mean? |
| 5. Which is Japan's most popular spectator sport? | 11. How high is Mt Fuji? | 18. What kind of entertainment is <i>Bunraku</i> ? |
| 6. What is the name of the Shinto sun goddess? | 12. In China, where it originated, this art is called <i>Zhe Zhi</i> . What is it called in Japan? | 19. During the Edo period, which was the first Japanese city to open to foreigners? |
| 7. In which year did the Tokugawa Shogunate | 13. Roughly how many people died in the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995? | 20. In 1653, what law was applied to <i>kabuki</i> theater? |

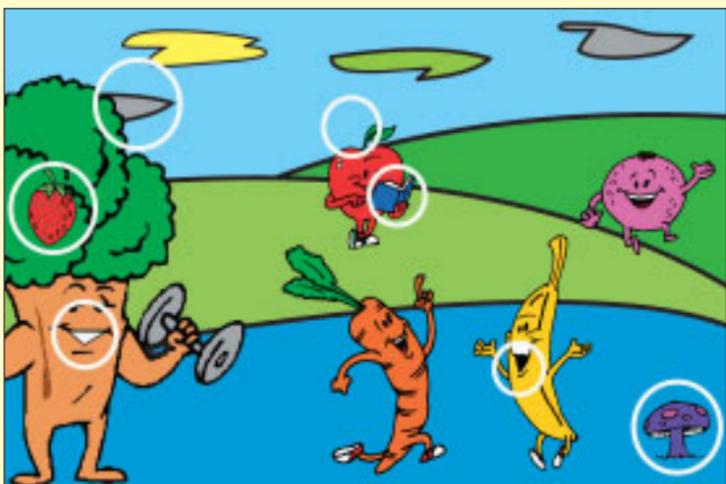
Answers below.

Puzzle Solutions

Rhyme Time Answers

1. Nerd; 2. Undeterred; 3. Ride herd; 4. Flightless bird; 5. Transferred; 6. Spurred; 7. Conferred; 8. Third; 9. Stirred; 10. Blurred.

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



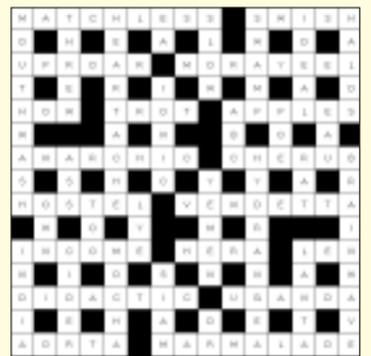
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Doc; 2. Wellington; 3. Lion; 4. Tanzania; 5. Beyonce and Shakira; 6. Four; 7. Chile and Argentina; 8. Las Vegas – they are all casinos; 9. Johnny Depp; 10. Insects.

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Dolls; 2. They are wood block prints; 3. They won Nobel Prizes for literature; 4. Sumo; 5. Baseball; 6. Amaterasu; 7. 1867; 8. Samurai, farmers, artisans and merchants; 9. Wave Man; 10. 100 million; 11. 3,776 meters (12,388 feet); 12. Origami; 13. 6,400; 14. A hot spring spa; 15. Nihongo; 16. Katakana; 17. "Something one wears"; 18. Puppet shows; 19. Yokohama; 20. Women and children were barred from performing.

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Sudoku

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

White slavery in the City of the Angels

With the decision of Asia Books to discontinue its line of expat novels, Bangkok Books has stepped in to fill the breach. Some of these efforts are decidedly amateurish but Greg Parmley is at least a pro and his *Delicate Traffic* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2007, 308pp) is competent and mostly credible.

Like the author, the protagonist Tom Banner is a magazine writer based in London. We first meet him on the back of a Cambodian hooker's motorcycle. After oral sex in her shack, he vomits in self-disgust. He's in Sihanoukville on a working vacation, lolling on the beach by day, drinking too much at night. He's broken-hearted over the breakup of his marriage, his beautiful wife Kacey having left to take up a job in Chicago managing rock bands.

"Six years ago it felt like a fairy tale, and he the Frog Prince," he writes. "They met backstage at an Iggy Pop show in London. Tom had graduated university and was contributing to a music fanzine in exchange for gig tickets and CDs.

"His first glimpse of the willowy girl with spiked platinum hair was burnt to memory: an oriental silk print T-shirt hugged her body to reveal a slender frame and gentle curves, her narrow waist gave way to slight hips and she stood almost awkwardly, svelte and lissom...She was the type of girl you never get to go out with; the type that only rock stars dated. Tom, tone-deaf and ham-fisted, was more than a world tour or two away."

Three months after she leaves for Chicago, he breaks into her email and finds she's having an affair with her boss. But while he's mooning about in Cambodia, she sends him an email saying she's coming to Bangkok. She had grown up there, daugh-

ter of an investment banker who was rarely around and raised by her Thai nanny Thanawat, whom she now wants to find.

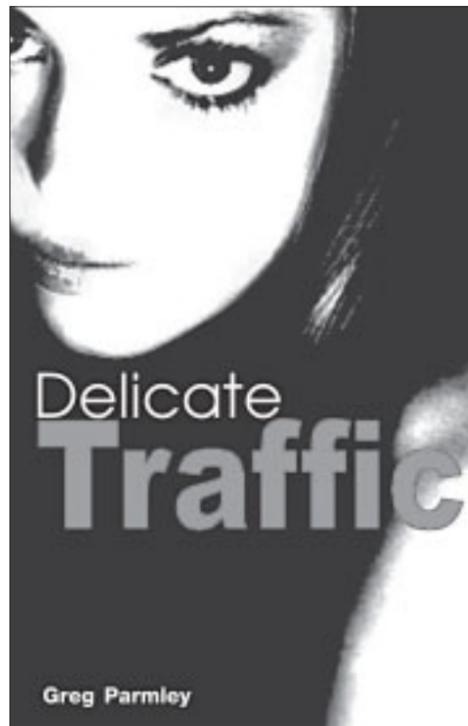
Shortly before this, he has a mystical conversation in the ocean with an Irish girl named Ashleigh. It's such a dark night they can't even see each other's faces but they swap the stories of their mistakes in love. Ashleigh spent four years working in the Greek islands, Australia, the Philippines. She reveals that she is leaving for Bangkok the next day to take up the job of manager of an exclusive club for a woman named Maitresse.

When he wakes up on the beach the next morning, Ashleigh has already left. So off Banner flies to Bangkok to meet up



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



with his wife and search for the mysterious Irish girl. The author's eye for scenic detail is keen, his dialog crackles with authenticity, and the plot quickly hooks the reader.

The plot next leads us through the

D&D guesthouse on Khao San Road, Patpong, Nana Plaza, the upscale "artist" bars on Sukhumvit 33, the Landmark Hotel. His sense of place is vivid:

"Tom navigated the aerial majesty of the Skytrain from Nana station across the capital. Its sleek rails wound through a galaxy of lights like a starship, past high rise constellations and expressways where the taillights of four-wheeled comets shot below him. Through the window of his public cockpit, only the glitz of Bangkok was on parade; at such altitude, its dark underbelly was concealed in the shadows separating each starry bulb.

"A microcosm of the city's contradictions, Silom cut diagonally through south central Bangkok and housed an abnormal collection of residents: from the sex shows of Patpong and massage parlors, to Hindu temples, private schools and the Christian Hospital."

His wife hops into bed with him, but he soon learns, after an improbable chase and eavesdropping session, that she is in league with a tattooed hustler to con him out of his money. He also locates Ashleigh's club, which turns out to be a high-class brothel. It's not too much to reveal that the nanny Thanawat and dragon lady Maitresse are the same person.

PHUKET DIARY

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Every Sunday. Sunday Brunches at the Mangosteen Resort and Spa.

Specialty brunches featured every Sunday. Belgian Brunch on May 27, Seafood Brunch on June 3 and Italian Brunch on June 10. The brunch begins at 11:00 am and runs until 3:00 pm. Only 499 baht net and the first 20 bookings each week pay only 399 baht net. With a half-bottle of wine the charge is 950 baht net.

For more information contact Christophe Lopez at 076-289399 or email info@mangosteen-phuket.com

June 2. Wine Tasting at the Wine Connection.

Wine tasting along with a tapas buffet and live music from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Wine Connection in Bang Tao. 350 baht.

For more information, please contact Pascal at 087-8896074.

June 17. Meditation Retreat

Free monthly meditation retreats are offered on the third Sunday of every month from 1:30 pm to 3 pm at the Wang Kung restaurant behind the King Rama 9 park in Phuket City.

The sessions will include an introduction to meditation, relaxation exercises and mediation practice, as well as a question and answer period. Instruction is provided in English.

All nationalities and religions are welcome to attend. For more information call 081-3704005, 089-6476424 or 087-2838185;

Email: mananya@hotmail.com or poolsuk@asianpremier.com; or check the program website at: www.meditationthai.org

June 17. Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

Organizers of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007, Go Adventure Asia, are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries.

A half-marathon and a 10km fun run will be held so that people of all ages and athleticism can take part.

Proceeds from the event will go to HOPE worldwide (Thailand), which is dedicated to helping needy children and underprivileged girls in Thailand.

For more information visit www.phuketmarathon.com

June 18. Phuket Sponsorship Clinic.

Seeking sponsors? Seeking an opportunity to sponsor? Looking to maximize an already sponsored opportunity? FREE! Phuket Sponsorship Clinic exclusively for Phuket Gazette readers at Trisara on Monday, June 18, from 9 am to 6 pm.

Call 02-622 0605/7 quoting "Phuket Sponsorship Clinic" to become eligible to take part in this exclusive offer.

For more information please see www.paulpoole.co.th or email paulpoole@email.com

June 21 and 22. BIS presents The Inspector General.

The British International School's (BIS) Year 7, 8 and 9 drama students will present Nicolai Gogol's *The Inspector General* in the BIS main auditorium. It will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, June 21 and at 3:15 pm on Friday, June 22.

July 29. Asarna Bucha Day

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

November 14 to 17. Chalong Bay Fishing Tournament 2007.

The four-day event will be based at Jimmy's Lighthouse at Chalong Bay. Registration will be from 6 pm to 9 pm, November 14. Registration fee of 7,000 baht per team includes free beer each evening for anglers and crew and awards party on November 17.

November 24. Phuket International Women's Club Gala Ball.

The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will host this year's Gala Ball on November 24. PIWC says this year's ball will be even more sophisticated, elegant and exciting than last year's. More details to be announced at a later date. For more information contact carol@

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Slow response bodes ill for marine tourism business

The recent burning and sinking of the passenger ferry *Jet Wave 3* is only the latest in a long series of disasters that have befallen passenger ferries serving Phuket and surrounding islands in recent decades (see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5). Given the reaction by authorities to this latest accident, it seems unlikely to be the last.

While officials may find it easy to dismiss the incident on the basis that no lives were lost, all witnesses remarked on just how fortunate that outcome was given how quickly the flames engulfed the ferry's entire superstructure – under five minutes.

These survivors were quick to point out that it was only the reaction of one passenger, a young firefighter from Australia who happened to be on the boat at the time, that prevented any fatalities or even serious injuries from occurring.

Several of these passengers also commented that *Jet Wave 3*'s small crew lacked both the language skills and training to lead a safe evacuation. According to at least one account, one crew member even managed to sleep amidst panicked screaming until well after many passengers had already jumped into the sea.

Thus far, no legal charges have been filed as a result of the fire, which cost all of the estimated 80 survivors the valuables they were carrying with them – including passports, wallets full of cash and travelers checks, and digital cameras.

Almost a month after the fire occurred, the police investigator in charge of the case had questioned only the boat's captain and the general manager of Andaman Wave Master Co Ltd, which owned and operated the vessel. None of the survivors have been questioned, nor does there appear to be any effort to get their testimony.

The conclusion the investigator seems to be slowly arriving at is that the fire started from a fuel leak in the fuel injection pump of one of the ferry's two turbo-diesel engines, which was housed in an unmanned engine room.

Even the most basic fire prevention techniques, such as periodic visual inspection or use of a smoke detector, might have provided enough time for the fire to be extinguished before it spread past the point of no return.

Unfortunately, such safeguards were apparently lacking, as were readily-available fire extinguishers and other safety equipment – including life jackets.

Sadly, the laissez-faire attitude to this latest accident, without the usual call by officials to improve safety standards, does not bode well for the future of marine tourism in local waters. – **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.

In defense of sweet and sour bigotry

I have been reading with amusement the replies to Ms Sweet's rant against Western men who are attracted to Thai women. I suggest that she re-read the original article, which was written by a Thai lady who obviously does have choices.

I was chosen, by her, for the interview because I have been happily married to a Thai lady for the past 19 years. We have a son and enjoy the best of both East and West.

By picking on the fact that I openly declared my attraction to Asian women, I have been labeled a chauvinist and bigot.

My wife also finds her letter hilarious, especially when you allude to "their willingness to be compliant personal household servants". It appears that you yourself underestimate your Thai "sisters" and have done more than I ever did to reinforce stereotypes.

Having already let readers know that you are petite with an ample bosom, could you please let us know if you yourself are in a meaningful relationship – or was this reaction a case of sour grapes?

Oink! oink!

Richard from France

Employment fair is not exactly fair

When you wrote about the job fair (online *Gazette* May 14) you forgot to mention that it was for Thai people only.

I came from out of town, went there and discovered that they had no jobs for *farang*, only

Thai people and only in Thai language. Sad . . .

Danit

Nai Harn nightclub noise a nasty no-no

My love for Thailand, its people and culture is experienced daily during my morning runs. Beginning most mornings around 5 am, while still completely dark, I jog through a maze of sounds and emotions such as the amplified prayer of the nearby mosque and the first cries of the roosters.

They are both interrupted by the sounds of loudly played music, mixed with the yelling of drunk people, coming from the only nightclub in Nai Harn, located at the edge of the lagoon.

I wonder how this all blends harmoniously as I encounter a group of monks on their early morning alms walk. I wonder what these monks feel when, at their early dawn walk at the beginning of a new day, those familiar sounds are now overpowered by the monotone boom of the open-air nightclub.

I can only imagine what they feel, but I know that I feel resentment and wonder.

How is it possible that at this hour, an open-air nightclub can operate daily, without impunity, keeping the neighborhood sleepless night after night? The authorities know about it and everybody knows about it, but nothing is done about it. The police pass by without taking any action. Are they part of the solution or the problem?

The laws are clear, but seldom enforced. My concern for the future of this beautiful county as a lasting tourist destination goes beyond this single public dis-

turbance. Environmental issues, such as untreated sewage flowing through the Nai Harn lagoon and into the Andaman Sea, are by far a greater danger to Phuket than many other sanctioned illegal activities that effect just one neighborhood. But this is, of course, also known to the authorities, is it not?

Bert Lang
Nai Harn

Was the Super serious?

I hope the Tourism Authority of Thailand won't be seeking the services of Superintendent Jeremy Stigwell (see Letters, *Gazette* May 19) as an advisor.

I don't imagine images of tear gas and baton-charging police are the kind of thing likely to attract quality visitors to Phuket (with the possible exception of expolicemen from ex-Communist states or nasty right-wing dictatorships).

The superintendent didn't say which organization he was retired from (the Stasi perhaps), but come on; "a bit of tear gas and a few well-orchestrated baton charges" to make the squatters in Soi Phra Baramee 8 move?

I'm pretty sure they don't live in "illegally-built and unhygienic shanties" because they want to, but because there's nowhere else for these people to live.

The good news for the Superintendent is that Burma is only a short flight away and a one-way ticket is pretty cheap. I'm sure that it's attractions and no-nonsense police force will suit him admirably.

Stuart Hooper
Patong

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

The Phuket Gazette

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Why Phuket must be tough on immigrant laborers

There are many alien laborers in Phuket. Some of them have work permits but many do not. These alien laborers cause many problems in Phuket such as murder.

The Alien Labor Control regulations were my idea. Every province in Thailand has alien laborers but the provinces that have fishing industries, such as Phuket and Samut Prakan, have a particularly high number.

The Immigration Office is the first organization that all foreigners who want to come and work or travel in the Kingdom have to pass. The office keeps records of all foreigners in the country. If they do anything wrong we can quickly check their records.

Most foreigners from other countries follow our processes and laws, but alien laborers from Burma, Lao and Cambodia cause problems. We often do not have much information on file about them and have to request their records from the Ministry of Labor.

My intention as head of the Phuket Immigration Office is to clear up the problem of illegal alien workers in Phuket. Alien laborers in Phuket, who are mainly Burmese, come to the province

FIRST PERSON

In December of last year the Governor of Phuket signed into law a set of regulations designed to control alien laborers working on the island. The regulations, applicable to workers from Burma, Laos and Cambodia, included such measures as an 8 pm curfew, a ban on the use of motorbikes and mobile phones and a ban on alien laborers assembling in groups of more than five. Here, the author of the regulations, Phuket Immigration Office Superintendent Pol Col Ittipon Atcharyapradit, talks about alien labor in Phuket and explains why he feels such draconian regulations are needed.



by a number of different routes such as taking a boat past Tha Chat Chai to avoid the checkpoint.

Any law enforcement agent can arrest illegal immigrants but the Immigration Office controls operations and is responsible for deporting people back to their home country.

In 2006 about 30,000 alien laborers were registered by their employers with the Immigration Office in Phuket. On top of this, there are probably about 100,000 unregistered illegal alien laborers in the province.

Last year we deported 1,000 illegal workers. Each deportation costs the Immigration

Department about 100,000 baht.

One reason there are many illegal alien workers in Phuket is that some employers don't want to pay the registration payment for their alien laborers.

Some alien workers get a work permit from one employer, but after a short amount of time change jobs so it's like they got a

free work permit at their former employer's expense.

Another reason the number of alien laborers have increased is because some of them marry other laborers and have children who they don't register. I would like to distribute free condoms in labor camps to try and prevent them having children. Adequate sanitation should be provided for laborers, particularly if they have children. I think they have it in Koh Sireh, but I'm not sure.

It is difficult for the Phuket Immigration Office to handle the problems posed by alien laborers as we have only five investigators to deal with well over 100,000 legal and illegal alien laborers. We do have assistance in catching illegal aliens and legal aliens who break the law from organizations such as the Marine and Provincial Police.

To come to grips with the problem, I introduced the Alien Labor Control regulations. They were then approved by the Governor of Phuket and brought into effect on December 19, 2006.

These measures aim to control the 32,070 legal Burmese, Lao and Cambodian laborers who have been registered for work permits by their employers. They are necessary as these laborers effect the community's safety and social stability.

The measures do not violate human rights as I've written in exceptions for urgent or unavoidable cases. Also, the laborers come to stay in our country so they have to follow our laws. If they do not want to follow how things are done in our country then they can't stay.

These measures still do not specify the punishment for infringement, and I'm still discussing that with the Governor. We announced these regulations to the media and have given copies to employers to distribute among their employees. The regulations are also printed in Burmese.

Currently, we are the only province in Thailand to have introduced such measures. Now other provinces such as Surat Thani want to introduce similar measures in their provinces.

The reason why we cannot solve the problem of illegal alien workers is that our laws are not strict enough. In my opinion we should deport all alien workers in the country and make them all re-register. We should also request cooperation and information sharing from the authorities in their home countries and refuse entry to any aliens who have previously been deported.

Compiled by Supanun Supawong

Where am I allowed to go spearfishing?

I want to know in which areas spearfishing is allowed in Phuket. Recently I asked someone at Nai Thon Beach and he told me that fishing was not allowed there as it's in a national park.

Now I want to know exactly where I can and can't fish. I don't want to fish illegally.

Daniel
Phuket

Isara Budyarat, Deputy Chief of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office replies:

People can fish anywhere in Phuket except for the four following areas where it is restricted:

1. The sea around Cape Panwa including the islands Koh Lone, Koh Hei and Koh Ae.
2. The coral reef at the north end of Patong Bay from Cape Deang to Cape Yom Ding.
3. The coral reef at the south end of Patong Bay from the mouth of Pakbang canal until Cape Sai Rod.
4. The coral reef at Ay Beach from Hua Non to Mai Ngow Cape, also at the south end of Patong Bay.

The punishment for violating the law is a fine of up to 10,000 baht, imprisonment of up to six months, or both.

Grass cutters and broken windshields

Can the *Gazette* determine who I can contact regarding the men who cut the grass along the island in Thepkrasattri Rd, just south of the Heroines Monument roundabout?

My windscreen was broken by a stone thrown up by a machine operated by one of these men. Coincidentally, on a routine visit to my doctor on the day after, he showed me a hole in the windscreen of his BMW that was also caused by these men.

My insurance company is reluctant to approach the *OrBorTor*, so I would like to ask the *OrBorTor* why these men use cutters without protective covers or why they are allowed to remove the covers.

And why are there no warning signs that these men are working on the island?

Finally, does the *OrBorTor* keep records of how

Issues & ANSWERS

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many people have complained about this in the past?

Pornchai Ngor-Surachet, Asst Civil Engineer of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) replies:

Grass cutting along the island on Thepkrasattri Rd is in the responsibility of *OrBorJor*. We hire a different contractor every month and we don't say anything in the contract about the quality of the equipment to be used.

We just employ them to cut the grass and the only requirement is about the length of the grass when they are finished.

We are sorry, but we cannot be responsible for any damages. We have received many complaints about this, and we do ask the contractors to be careful when they are working in public areas.

I will mention this problem in the next meeting and will also ask to have warning signs set up while they are cutting the grass, to let drivers know.

Thank you for the suggestions, if we can help you, we will try.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your budget is about to be stretched so you're advised to tighten your belt in preparation. If your partner's spending is becoming an issue, getting this situation under control should be a priority. If you are single, you are about to be on the receiving end of a cosmic blast of attraction. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for job interviews; the color bottle green enhances your confidence.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Meeting deadlines at the end of the month could cause you a sleepless night or two. You won't be pleased when uninvited guests show up this weekend, but it should be possible to snatch a few hours of fun in between work. The stars are ready to support your self-improvement efforts – learning a new sport will combine exercise with making new friends. The number nine can bring good fortune on Wednesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Doubting someone's honesty in a personal matter could cloud your week. You are advised to wait until your suspicions are confirmed before making waves. The truth will be revealed after the end of May. Where finances are concerned there's good news: many of you will discover that you're richer than you thought you were. Sunday and Monday are particularly lucky days in that respect.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Life simmers slowly this week, but most Virgoans will be happy for the lack of action. A romance benefits from quiet time spent getting to know each other. Your partner has probably been feeling that they have to compete with your friends for attention. This Friday, Aquarius has a valuable piece of information to pass on. Use this gem wisely and prosperity will be within reach. The color purple helps eliminate negative expectations.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): You are advised to be up early during the coming days. Hungry competitors are prepared to move the earth to get the juiciest worms. However, your talent for smooth talking will give you a fighting chance of getting ahead, especially on Wednesday. With advantageous astral backup, dare to make the romantic approach you've been avoiding. A Capricorn friend appreciates your spur of the moment help this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you are tired of your own company, you must get out and about. Waiting around for busy friends to extend invitations or come visiting will achieve nothing. Let your hair down and organize a party this weekend to put the spark back into your social life. Your work life becomes more interesting when a new colleague arrives. The number eight can bring luck on Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If money is drying up faster than it's flowing toward you, then you are advised to rethink your financial strategy. The month of June won't bring too many opportunities to earn extra cash and you will need to practice the art of juggling. This could be the right time to investigate other career possibilities; Gemini can give some interesting tips. Monday is a likely day to meet a prospective romantic partner.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You are advised not to be too cynical when informed of a friend's drastic change of mind. Your support is expected, and there's every chance that their plans could affect you in a positive way later this year. Love is in the air during the coming few days; if you're single, look out for an attractive Libran you've never met before. Wear hyacinth blue to give off the right signals.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Those of you who have been experiencing a bumpy romantic ride are probably ready to jump off. The stars are ready to back your desire for a new beginning and Taurus is ready to provide some emotional support if needed. Thursday is the day to shine at work, but keep some ideas up your sleeve until you know the right reward is coming. The number three can bring luck on Tuesday.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A fishy matter starts you thinking this weekend. Those of you who are confused by two different stories you have heard will need to investigate thoroughly to get to the bottom of the matter. If this dilemma concerns a personal relationship, it's likely that you're still blinded by love. Take a long walk along a beach to clear your head. An interesting offer at work is due to be made midweek.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): The cash and career areas of your life are well-starred this week, but as the month of June gets into gear this trend won't be as strong. Investments should be finalized during the coming days to avoid losing out later on. A butterfly friend flutters back onto the scene; if you don't want to be taken advantage of, you should avoid contact. Wearing the color silver will encourage strength of mind.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will be glad to know that June promises to be a calmer, more relaxing month than May has been. If you are tired, you should concentrate on relieving all the stress that has accumulated during a recent busy period. Start as you mean to go on by having a therapeutic massage this weekend. Leo is contemplating how they can become more important in your life – this friendship could easily blossom into a meaningful romance.

The truth of consequences

Dear Momma Duck,

Does the law of consequence exist here in Thailand? Do Thais consider themselves accountable for their actions? To clarify again what may well be another classic example of culture shock for farangs, under what conditions do Thais admit to breaking or losing something, offer an apology for their misfortune, and even go so far as to offer to replace the item in question?

David

Dear David,

Well, 50% of the Thai population, indeed of the world's population, are never wrong and very seldom offer apologies! I am, of course, speaking of women. When we do feel a little bit guilty, we make up for it in other ways.

In my experience, the vast majority of Southeast Asian people, including Thais, find it difficult to accept "responsibility" in the rather legalistic sense given to the word by Europeans and North Americans – and to say "sorry". For us, it is all a question of not "losing face", which is usually more important than accepting immediate responsibility and giving an apology or making recompense. Also, remember that we do not like conflict – no matter what you might see in soap operas on Thai TV.

The response to a situation also depends upon the relationship between the two people involved. If you are strangers and have no friends or contacts in common, then there may be no response unless required by law. If you know each other or have friends in common, then it is quite possible that a kindness will be returned at a later date but probably not an admission of responsibility for the incident. Another possibility is that an apology may



**Momma
DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

be issued safely and indirectly, through a third party.

It's not really not fair to suggest that Thais do not feel accountable for their actions and consequences, but there is a big difference between Thais and "farangs" in terms of timing. Farangs tend to expect an immediate response. Most Thais believe in *karma*, which entails repayment for their actions, whether good or bad. In this way each person is ultimately responsible for his or her actions, either in this life or in the next incarnation.

Unlike the Roman Catholic concept of confession, in Buddhism there is no way to erase wrongdoing from your *karma*. Therefore, there are consequences for all actions taken.

This is why we say that a

person will be "repaid" either in this incarnation or the next. In this incarnation, it means that the person who commits a sin/mistake may feel bad or remorse and try to do a good deed in recompense or, if there is a lack of action, they may be reborn at a lower level in the next life.

For people who live in a foreign culture, as I did for many years, it is important to remember that correct social conduct behavior varies from culture to culture. In this sense there are no absolute "rights" and "wrongs".

So I suggest you relax and enjoy Thailand and try to look at each situation through Thai eyes.

What happened to Thai lingerie?

Dear Momma Duck,

The *Gazette's* Lifestyle section in the January 13 issue featured a Patong-based lingerie supplier who talked about how Thai women have traditionally shunned lingerie due to Buddhist beliefs.

Does that claim really stand for the majority of Thai women? The man pointed out that lingerie in Thailand became popular only after Western influence spread. Are there no Thai forms of lingerie?

Chris

Dear Chris,

Due to influences from Europe, the style of dress in Thailand began to change during the

19th century in the reigns of Rama IV (King Mongkut) and his son Rama V (King Chulalongkorn). Rama IV brought in foreign tutors for his children (including the infamous – from the Thai point of view – Anna Leonowens) and sent several of his children to visit Europe.

During Rama V's era, many upper-class people wore European-style clothing and the royal family visited Europe again. Hundreds of European technical experts were invited by the crown to work and live in Thailand to help the country modernize. It was the height of the European "colonial era" and all the foreign powers were trying to court Thailand.

European-style clothing meant undergarments and lingerie. Before that time, Thai women wore *pha tung* (sarongs) without underpants and a plain crossed sash around their breasts. The arrival of underpants also introduced some new taboos. Underpants were hung out to dry on a lower clothesline so that no one would stand under the clothesline with their "high" head below the undies, and men who wear religious amulets should not walk beneath women's underwear because it may reduce the amulet's power.

Nowadays Thai women are always in fashion, though I am sorry to say that there are no longer any forms of Thai lingerie. Everything is the Western style.

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Image is one of the most important facets of teenage life. It affects everything from the way we feel about ourselves to the way other people react to us, to our social standing in the complicated hierarchy of school, to making good impressions on future colleges or employers.

Despite that done-to-death phrase "it's not what's on the outside that counts, but what is on the inside", the majority of people nowadays – particularly teenagers – tend to follow the school of thought that what is on the outside gives crucial clues to the character of the person beneath the facade.

Superficiality is rife in the world today, no matter how much we may try to deny it.

Although image is a very complex idea, it comes in one of two simple categories – positive or negative. The way someone chooses to represent him or herself leaves either a good impression or a bad one. To make matters complicated, sometimes the impression we leave is not the one we intended because we might misjudge the eyes that in turn are judging us. Perhaps we might purposefully construct our image in a negative fashion to in-

furiate others – this is a popular gambit with teenagers who want to raise their parents' blood pressure.

The basic definition of a good image is an appearance of wholesome, clean, well-groomed composedness. Freshly washed and carefully styled hair, a coordinated outfit with perhaps some tasteful accessories and, of course, makeup if you're a girl. This sort of image leads people to believe you're organized, efficient, self-respecting and both physically and mentally healthy.

A bad image is one that has been glamorized by rock bands since the late seventies and early eighties – unwashed hair, bad skin, smudged eye-liner, black or gaudily-colored clothes worn in combinations that would look absolutely ridiculous if you saw

them in the supermarket in broad daylight, tattoos, a cigarette and a bottle of beer in one – or both – hands.

Such an image is best not cultivated unless you are a rock star – because let's face it, rock stars can get away with anything as long as they play cool music – or you possess no social ambitions of any kind and don't mind if people refuse to talk to you and scurry off in the opposite direction whenever you venture within half a mile of their comfort zone.

One of the main problems with image is its inherent gender bias. Women – teenage girls especially – struggle with it more often than men, for the simple fact that women harbor that stubborn female tendency to preen and worry about whether boys find them attractive or not.

Men, on the other hand, seem to have grasped the concept that there are more important things to worry about than manicures or blotchy tan lines. Women, sadly, are nowhere near that eureka moment.

It's not all about image, is it?



Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy Van de Castele

It almost doesn't seem worth it, especially when you take into account that the concept of image has had some detrimental effects on the quality of teenage life over the years. Obsessions over how we look have spawned a variety of disorders such as anorexia and bulimia,

meaning thousands of young men and women no longer view food as humble, necessary sustenance but as a noxious ball of lard that must not be consumed unless they are on death's door – and sometimes not even then.

Teenage girls seem to have forgotten that Marilyn Monroe, who is still considered to have been one of the world's most beautiful women, was scarcely lacking in curves and was never smaller than a UK size 12.

Today she would be considered positively chubby; but it did nothing to diminish her image.

Stereotypes about image – such as the one that only thin people can be considered beautiful – should be taken with a grain of salt.

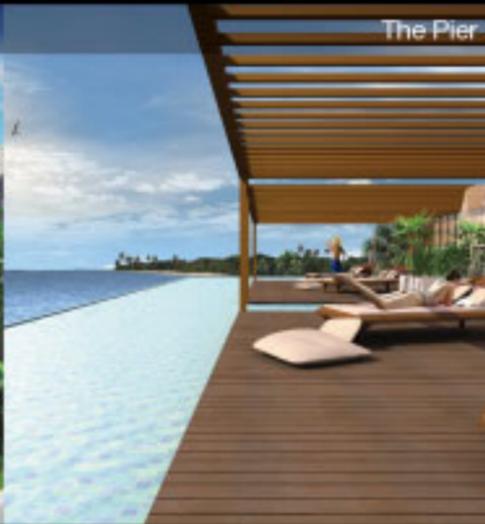
After all, beneath the clothes, lipgloss, eyeliner and designer labels we're all exactly the same human beings – we have the same bodies, the same emotions and the same basic needs and desires.

When treated with an open mind, image can be a good thing. In its purest form it is simply self expression, like art, poetry or music.

As long as we don't let our image take over our lives, a little consideration about our appearance can have a beneficial impact on our lives. Just make sure you don't forget that old adage – "never judge a book solely by its cover, but by its content as well".

Teenage girls seem to have forgotten that Marilyn Monroe was scarcely lacking in curves.



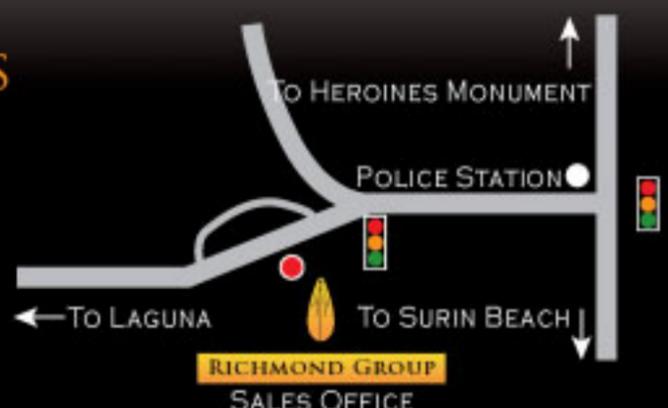


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Q In the good old days, I was using a laptop as my main business tool whether at home or on the road.

I now have a desktop PC and naturally that has become my main machine. I have successfully transferred all my data including emails, settings and so on, to the desktop but when I travel overseas obviously I will take my laptop. Keeping my data on the laptop up to date is not a problem but is there a way to synchronize email folders on the laptop with those on the desktop?

The desktop is running XP Professional SP2 (Vista was not an option because our company software will not run on that platform – yet!) and my laptop is installed with XP Home SP2. I use Outlook in Office 2007 on the desktop and Outlook in Office 2003 on the laptop. I can locate the PST file but with all the folders (I split them in to yearly folders) it is approx 1.8GB (there are emails going back a few years in it). I really only need the later emails plus attachments.

Is there a utility that you know of to copy selected folders within Outlook and then paste them or synchronize them with folders of the same name on another machine? Of course after a business trip overseas I also need to update my desktop with the emails collected on the laptop. Any advice would be gratefully received.

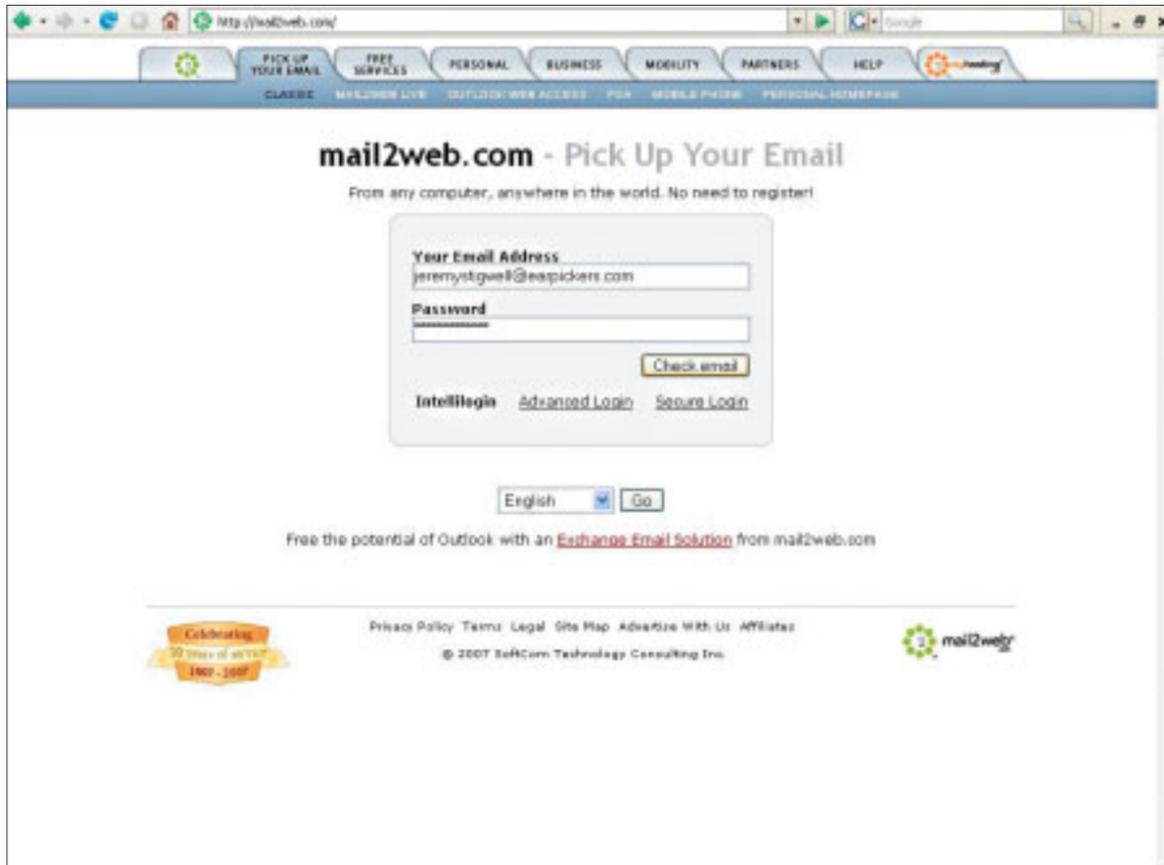
MR, Phuket Town

A I have the same problem. I laboriously copy the PST file between the laptop and desktop, using a technique similar to the one in Microsoft's Knowledge Base article www.support.microsoft.com/?kbid=164407

There's a method that's considerably slicker and only a little more complicated at www.slipstick.com/outlook/sync.htm

It takes advantage of the Windows Briefcase. I've never used it, but I think it'll work.

Bottom line: if you really want to synchronize Outlook mail, you need to buy and use Exchange Server – which is a monumental pain in the posterior. I'm hoping that Gmail will get



Mail2web.com is an amazing site that lets you check your email remotely from anywhere in the world. It's also useful for checking if you have any large attachments on the way which your Internet connection is struggling to download.

Outlook, mobility and censorship

good enough that I can give Outlook the heave-ho one of these days...

Q I remember an article of yours, probably a few years ago, in which you wrote about a relatively easy way to access your mailbox from other computers. It was some kind of a link or a website, I unfortunately don't remember the details.

I always had the info saved in my old desktop, but that one got washed away in December 2004.

I need to go to my good ol' Germany for a couple of weeks and still need to see what's going on in my office here, but I don't want to take my laptop with me. If you can recall this article it would be very much appreciated.

Michael, Phuket

A Michael, you're looking for mail2web.com It's an

amazing site – type in your email address and password, and nine times out of ten you'll be looking at your mail (the mail that's still stored on the Internet) in a matter of seconds.

It's an important site for everyone to remember because any time you have problems downloading messages, you can use it to check and see if there's a humongous message sitting and waiting to squeeze itself through your Internet connection.

Q I just bought your *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, in Singapore. I have a dummy question you didn't answer in the book.

Long ago I put a game called Solitaire in the Recycle Bin and I do not know how to retrieve it. Can you please tell me how to look for it or what to do to put it back in my computer?

AH, Nai Harn

A The Windows solitaire program is better known as "Klondike". You might be able to go into the Recycle Bin and get it back, or restore it from your Windows CD, but you're probably far better off getting one of the many, many Klondike versions available for free, or for a very small amount of money. Check www.tucows.com and search for Klondike.

One of the highest rated is Solitaire 3D – www.grassgames.com/solitaire/index.html You can download and play it for free. Registering costs \$19.95 (about 680 baht), and you get a whole bunch of solitaire games. They'll keep you going for years.

CENSORSHIP

O ne reader asked if Internet access via Singapore bypasses the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology's censorship. That was a fairly esoteric question up until

March 8 of this year, when MICT blocked all access to YouTube, apparently (but not officially) because somebody posted a clip of Thaksin Shinawatra's interview on CNN.

YouTube came back online March 10. Then on April 3, MICT blocked all access to YouTube again because some idiot posted a 44-second clip insulting HM The King.

Since then, various news outlets have said that YouTube access would be restored, and others said it would not. You can read the details at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YouTube

Then, on May 4, Thailand's Minister of ICT issued a statement saying that the government of Thailand would sue YouTube in a Thai court for lese majeste. The Associated Press quoted Minister Sittichai Phokai-udom as saying, "Thailand is a fairly small country and not an economic or military powerhouse, so we are at the mercy of the greedy businessman in America."

Mashable.com notes, "What the Thai government doesn't seem to understand: the responsible party here is whoever uploaded the clip, and even then, they're only breaking the law if they're actually based in Thailand" (mashable.com/2007/05/04/thailand-suing-youtube).

We aren't talking about a two-bit website. *Time* magazine named YouTube person of the year for 2006. YouTube has played a pivotal part in several US elections. *PC World* named it one of the top products of 2006. Google bought YouTube last November for US\$1.65 billion. And if you live in Thailand, you can't even see it.

Apparently MICT is blocking YouTube access on Internet connections that go out via Singapore. At least, that's what my sources tell me.

UNSTOCKED

A couple weeks ago I wrote about my astonishment at discovering one of my *Dummies* computer books on the shelves of both Se-Ed bookstores at Lotus. Looks like they sold out. My friends now tell me that they can't find copies of *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies* in Phuket for love nor money.

If you find any of my books for sale in Phuket, drop a line and I'll spread the word. If you get to Singapore, both Borders and Kinokuniya stock a full range of my Vista, Windows XP, Office 2007 and Office 2003 books.

When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, or knocking Microsoft on his website, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) runs *Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe* in Patong.

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ON THE MOVE



Karun Kongthin, 50, from Surat Thani, has been appointed Chief of the Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office. He holds a degree in civil engineering from Manuel Quezon University in the Philippines and two post-graduate degrees, one in water resource engineering from Kasetsart University and one from the National Institute of Development Administration. Before coming to Phuket he was the Chief of On-Farm Operation Projects of Region 15 in Surat Thani for two years.



Anucha Ketsro, 38, a Phuket native, has been appointed Executive Chef at the The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa in Patong. K. Anucha has 18 years' experience as a chef in Thailand and Malaysia. Before joining The Royal Paradise he was Executive Chef at the Royal Phuket City Hotel for nine years and has worked at a variety of resorts around the island including the Kata Thani Phuket Beach Resort, Cape Panwa Hotel, Sheraton Grande Laguna and Thavorn Palm Beach.



Australian **Tim Haddon** has been appointed Director of Golf at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club. A graduate of the He graduated from the PGA Academy of Golf, Mr Haddon has worked in the golf industry for 21 years in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Thailand. He is a full member of the Australian Professional Golf Association and has achieved the status of "AA" PGA Professional. Before taking up his current post he was Director of Golf at Blue Canyon Country Club.

Property market 'slowing down'

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: According to the leading indicator of property market performance in Phuket, the market is in the midst of a slowdown, Somboon Santi-amornrat, Chief Registrar of the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) told the *Gazette*.

There was a 15% drop in taxes collected on property owner transfer fees and transaction fees, between October 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007, K. Somboon said. During these six months, 636.09 million baht was collected, compared to 750.14 million during the same period the previous year.

"Tax income for this fiscal year, when compared month by month with last fiscal year, is down almost every month, which means that the number of people who are currently doing property transactions has decreased also," K. Somboon said.

"There are many causes for the reductions. First, the property business last year was continuing to boom from the post-tsunami year of 2005 with many businessmen from Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Haad Yai, as well as foreign businessmen, starting new property projects here.

"Second, many property projects resulted from Thai people who had the potential to buy their own house instead of paying the high prices associated with renting and finally, there were many foreign investors who were interested in property investment last year.

"Low-cost housing, which ranges from about one to three million baht, is rapidly expanding in Phuket as a result of the settling of the market, and this is allowing buyers to have more choices and compare more properties before they buy," K. Somboon said.

"The property market is



Phuket Provincial Land Office Chief Registrar Somboon Santi-amornrat says that a slowing property market has actually produced beneficial results for buyers by giving more choices and comparisons.

currently giving an advantage to buyers because many similar projects exist that buyers can

choose from. This is unlike a couple years ago when sellers only sold through brochures, because now they are building before they sell and the prospective buyers can see the development before they make decisions," he said.

Political factors are also considered to be a reason for the reduction in investments, but K. Somboon said that it's not the main reason.

"I think there are many factors that together have made the Phuket property market slow down. The political landscape and unstable laws are being considered by foreign investors, as are the current economic conditions," he said.

Although the property market seems to have slowed down, all of the land offices in Phuket remain busy on a monthly basis with about 2,000 people requesting transactions at the PPLO.

Another 500 people go to the Kathu District Land Office and about 1,400 to the Thalung District Land Office.

"All three land offices in Phuket are always busy and the most transaction requests are buying and selling, starting new mortgages, canceling mortgages, requests for the land valuation and requests new land titles.

"Our main tax income is from buying and selling and the related transaction fees," he said.

However, K. Somboon said that land prices in Phuket continue to rise. The most expensive area on the island, by the estimated prices from the Phuket Regional Treasury Office, is in Phuket City with a price of 80,000 baht per square wah.

The second most expensive is Patong beach front with a price of 60,000 baht per square wah.

Even with the index as a guide, he said, "we can't determine the real buying and selling price in the property market because standards don't exist.

"Land prices throughout Phuket increase differently from the estimated prices depending on the location and demand and we can occasionally see land plots within close proximity that have varying prices."



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The global economy is in good shape; so much so that it is not uncommon to find discussions on TV business channels on what could go wrong to upset this pleasant situation.

When the various alternatives are examined and discarded as being relatively unlikely, one still remains: China.

In February 2007 a routine stock market correction started in China and was swiftly felt worldwide. During this episode poor economic news came from the US so it was never completely clear if China had actually been the starting point or the US. The correction was over in a few weeks and markets moved on to fresh highs.

It is healthy for markets to have corrections as it is a sure sign that investors still have concerns. It is when there is an absence of worry in the market, as in the "tech" boom of the late 1990's, that stock markets rise to unsustainable levels.

This brings us back to China. There is concern that even if China did not initiate the stock market correction in February there are good reasons to believe that China will influence stock market behavior in the not too distant future.

The Chinese stock markets have certainly enjoyed stellar growth; they have also, however, attracted many inexperienced local investors. They include the whole spectrum from housewives to university students all believing that they have discovered a new way to get rich quick.

It is in this type of environment that the Chinese stock markets can move to levels where a major correction or crash becomes inevitable. Analysts are trying to reach an understanding on the time line involved as previous "bull markets" have often continued to rise for several years after "fair value" has been exceeded.

China is also enjoying enormous economic growth and 2007 is expected to bring another 10%-plus rise in GDP (gross domestic product). It would appear to be unlikely that a Chinese stock market crash could cause an impact on world markets unless the Chinese "real" economy was starting to unwind, which is unlikely but not impossible.

Stock markets traditionally climb a "wall of worry" during the economic phase when interest rates are rising and stock market participants are concerned that central banks will raise interest rates too far upsetting, economic growth.

We are in a global phase where participants are trying to find outside situations that could upset the "apple cart". The usual suspects come to the fore: Iran, North Korea and energy prices. One reader asked if I was



France's new President Nicolas Sarkozy will find it tough to liberalize labor laws. On the day of his inauguration there were already street protests against him. Photo: EPA/Lucas Dolega

A rising tide lifts all ships

not being too optimistic about the US economy citing all sorts of American problems ranging from sub-prime debt to current account deficits. These are real problems but an analysis of any country will reveal negative aspects.

France is an interesting story.

For years the country has been subjected to laws which restrict working hours to a maximum of 35 per week. This, combined with a labor code which makes it difficult to reduce staff, has made companies unwilling to hire people in the first place.

This has led to high unem-

ployment - the overall rate is 8.3% but the rate for those under the age of 25 is double that of older people. In addition, the amount of bureaucracy involved to run a small- or medium-sized business acts as a very real disincentive to business.

France is, predictably, suffering in terms of economic growth and the national debt is rising as a percentage of GDP. Already at 65%, it is above the European Union maximum of 60%. For France, the problem is serious, as debt levels are likely to reach 80% by 2012.

The good news is that with the election of Nicholas Sarkozy as the new president, France has an opportunity to improve its position. Mr Sarkozy was elected on a platform of change to meet all the problems France faces. Certainly, the move to make

overtime payments tax free will benefit productivity and attitudes toward longer hours.

But Mr Sarkozy will find it more difficult to liberalize labor laws, as this will meet with strong resistance, and French presidents have a poor record of standing up to street protests.

The new French president also needs to understand basic economics; he is in the habit of criticizing the European Central

Bank (ECB) for allowing the common currency, the euro, to rise in value.

The reality is that the ECB is independent and is unable to reduce the value of the euro without reducing interest rates, an impossibility in the current situation. The other major world currencies, the US dollar and the Japanese yen, are weak because of different factors.

The US dollar because of large trade and current account deficits, combined with less than stellar economic growth; and the yen, because a mixture of low economic growth and low interest rates which have combined to cause a trillion-dollar "yen carry-trade".

The yen carrytrade is a phenomenon where the yen is used as a funding currency to provide borrowed capital to invest in higher-yielding currencies such as the New Zealand dollar, Australian dollar and British sterling.

The euro is strong because it is not running deficits, economic growth is reasonable and interest rates are likely to rise.

If President Sarkozy has the courage to follow through on his election manifesto then the economic outlook for France could improve substantially.

Current economic growth as measured by GDP is at 2.1%, compared with the European Union average of 2.7%, and much of France's growth is of the "a rising tide lifts all ships" type.

The French economy is certainly capable of much higher growth rates. Stock market performance over the past 12 months has been good, with a return of almost 20%.

More to follow?

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th



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Beach volleyball stars set to return

KARON: Beach volleyball fans are in for another treat this year with the return of the Phuket Thailand Open, an international tournament featuring top women players.

Already 45 teams from 11 countries have signed up for the annual tournament, which is set to take place from October 31 to November 4 at Karon Beach.

On May 9 Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima hosted a meeting with Tournament Director Geoffrey Rowe, Thailand Volleyball Association representative Kritsada Panasari and Chief of the Phuket Office of the Sports Authority of Thailand Songsak Kitakarnkul to develop a plan to ensure the smooth execution of this year's event.

The Governor also hopes the group will promote Phuket as the annual host for the tournament.

"The Phuket authorities were happy with our organization of last year's tournament. However, we discussed various problems that occurred during the inaugural event such as wind conditions that affected some of the matches," said Mr Rowe.

"Another problem from last year was the lack of ample space for fans to watch the tournament. We plan on expanding the crowd area for this year's event to allow for a more comfortable experience," he added.

"We also intend to start our public relations campaign earlier this year and we will have advertisements on Patong Hill, at the Phuket International Airport and around the Karon Beach area.



Last year's competition attracted sell-out crowds.

"Competitors will reside at the Phuket Orchid Hotel in Karon, where they were housed during last year's event. Fourteen buses will commute between the hotel and the competition site," Rowe said.

The tournament organizers expect about 60 teams from 25 countries to sign up for the tournament and hope to set the prize money at 3.5 million baht.

The Phuket Thailand Open will be the last tournament before the teams will compete with each other again at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

For more information, keep an eye on www.fivb.org

Golfers raise B10m for Satrie school

PHUKET: Satrie Phuket School raised about 10 million baht in funds for the school during a charity golf tournament May 20.

The tournament, held at Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school and the 80th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, drew 35 foursomes and 10 individual players. The cost for each team was 14,000 baht, and 6,000 baht for individuals.

The tournament was opened by the VIP foursome which included Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Basic Education Commission Mungkorn Kulawanich.

RESULTS

Team results: 1. Samak Team 1: Thanat Phuengdet, Watcharathorn Jirapacharasin, Chanon Sperrekundsen, Sariya Sanguannam, total of 217 points; 2. Ruanmaikan Team 1: Manit Noothong, Anan Ruangkaew, Dumrong Songsathaporn, Kamnueng Noothong, 219 points.

Overall Low Gross: Phuwong Seehapanya 78 gross/66 net.

Overall Low Net: Jinjutha Thongtan score 82/57.

Flight A (handicap 0-12)

Low Gross: Rawat Korpon, 80/75;
Low Net: Sutha Promkaew, 82/70.

Flight B (13-18)

Low Gross: JR Jackson, 80/66;
Low Net: Piyathida Phiphatsomabat, 87/69.



Keep going, keep going... Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Basic Education Commission Mungkorn Kulawanich watches his ball fly.

Flight C (19-24)

Low Gross: Chanwit Chotesomboon, 84/60;
Low Net: Wichai Pongchaisirikul, 86/62.

Flight D (25-36)

Low Gross: Siriwit Koysoomboon 96/68;
Low Net: Ratee Denmalai 102/66.

Nearest flag, Hole 2: Pramote Phirat; 7: Raphin Suwannasin; 14: Phichit Kamanee; 17: Jinjutha Thongtan.

Longest drive, Hole 3: Piyathida Phiphatsomabat; 18: Surapon Kwowcharoen.

Hindmost: Chantra Saelim, with a gross of 145, received the prize of six months of golf training at BCCC.

Island 26th in national ranking

PHUKET: The Sports Association of Phuket (SAP) has been ranked 26th in the country for its sporting achievements and has been granted 360,000 baht in funding by the Sports Authority of Thailand.

SAP President Tossaporn Thepabutr told a May 14 meeting at the offices of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), "This shows the quality of sport in Phuket."

K. Tossaporn announced that in 2007 the SAP has pushed for excellence in five sports: track and field, golf, taekwondo, swimming and dancing. The association has also put its name forward to host the 26th National Youth Games in 2010.

SAP Secretary Somsak Laklaem said that the SAP has promoted taekwondo by hosting the 10th South Thailand Taekwondo Championships in April. It will also send taekwondo fighters to compete in other competitions this year.

In golf, the SAP has chosen 10 youngsters for a year of training by a professional.

Phuket native Pol Capt Nithi Piyaphan, a former national athlete and a current national track and field team coach, will oversee a track and field program.

In swimming, the SAP, the Phuket Municipality Youth Center and the *OrBorJor* have jointly organized the first Phuket Sprint swimming competition, to be held on June 16 and 17.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Offshore still in the lead

PATONG: Coming off a bye week, Offshore still has a two-point lead over a rejuvenated Shakers, who took all three points at home against Queen Mary.

Third-place Dog's Bollocks kept up the pace with a three-point win on the road against newcomers Simply Red.

In the only other match played, defending champs Piccadilly won on the road against Valhalla, who have picked up several good darters from the recently-disbanded Coyote Bar team.

The new-look Valhalla managed to take the beer leg and salvage a point.

Send match information

such as reports of 180s, high scores or crafty closes to: darts@phuketgazette.net

May 15 results: Valhalla* 3 Piccadilly 6; Shakers* 7 Queen Mary 2; Simply Red 2 Dog's Bollocks* 7 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Offshore (13 pts.); 2. Shakers (11); 3. Dog's Bollocks (10); 4.= Piccadilly, Beach House (6); 6. Queen Mary (4); 7.= Valhalla, Simply Red (2).

May 29 matchups: Dogs Bollocks v Beach House; Simply Red v Queen Mary; Shakers v Valhalla. (home team first).

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**Fleet of 28
all set to
contest
Samui
Regatta**

KOH SAMUI: The sixth Koh Samui Regatta will get underway on May 26, with 28 boats registered a week before the event.

Six entries are listed in the racing class. They are *Jelik*, *FfreeFire*, *Foxy Lady III*, *Man-drake*, *LunchCutter II* and *Hi Fi*.

In the IRC class, Phuket will be represented by *Asia Spirit* and *La Samudra*, fresh from victory in the Top of the Gulf Regatta.

They are among 14 boats registered for the class, which also includes *Abraxas*, *Halcyon Daze*, *Panic!*, *Happy Endings*, *Flight of the Gull*, *Yasooda*, *Thairaver*, *Aquavit IV*, *Breakaway*, *Magic Roundabout*, *Moon Shadow* and *Sweline One*.

The final eight boats, listed in the Multihull class, include Phuket-based *Moto Inzi*, *Pink Lady*, *The Frog* and *Mamba*. They will be joined by *Vivace*, Phuket King's Cup stalwart *Cedar Swan*, *Pagatoon* and *Voodoo Child*.

Entries are mainly from Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. However, Robbo Robertson's new *Enigma 34*, *Flight of the Gull*, is being shipped from Australia just in time to make its Thailand debut at Koh Samui Regatta.

Racing this year will be orchestrated by Principal Race Officer Tony Denham of Australia, who returns for his second Koh Samui Regatta, ably assisted by Simon James. Howard Elliot, also from Australia, will head the International Jury for his first Koh Samui Regatta.

Howard has fulfilled several roles for the Phuket King's Cup Regatta over the years, having been the 'absentee' Results Officer for Phuket Raceweek each year, orchestrating almost instant online results presentation from his base in Sydney.

Bikers battle it out for Petronas honors

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: The first Petronas Sprinta Yamaha Cup Race came to Phuket May 19 and 20, drawing 45 motorbike racers from around the region to a series of races at the site of the old weekend market in downtown Phuket near the bus station.

Saturday May 19 saw the preliminaries, when the 45 racers were whittled down to 20 selected to compete in the five final races the next day.

This is a continuation of the Yamaha-sponsored races that regularly come to Phuket, but the Petronas Sprinta sponsored the cup for the first time this year.

After the races, all competitors were invited to a concert featuring local bands. Organizers say they hope to return next year for yet another race.

Race 1. Yamaha Spark 110cc, family beginner (20 laps): 1. Jirawut Russamee, Phuket, best time 25.55, total time 8:40.89; 2. Nattapon Sinchai, Trang, best time 25.53, total time 8:42.05; 3. Sirichai Yaunker, Surat Thani, best time 26.33, total time 9:01.64.

Race 2. Yamaha X1 135cc (15 laps): 1. Chaichana Tanmak, Trang, best time 27.78, total time 7:08.95; 2. Weerapong Kongmuang, Trang, best time 28.18, total time 7:11.51; 3. Weerachai Ruangsen, Trang, best time 28.32, total time 7:17.69.

Race 3. Yamaha Mio, automatic beginner (20 laps): 1. Jirawut Russamee, Phuket, best time 24.92, total time 8:39.83; 2. Nawin Meepaniad, Nakhon Pathom, best time 25:52, total time 8:44.58; 3. Worawat Suriya, Mae Hong Son, best time 25.79, total time 8:47.85.

Race 4. Yamaha Spark 135cc, All Star B/C (25 laps): 1. Pattanapong Maneesri, Phuket, best time 25.230, total 11:07.56; 2. Thitipong Warokong, Chachoengsao, best time 25.20, total time 11:10.13; 3. Montree Pumchouy, Bangkok, best time 25.52, total time 11:11.37.



A competitor in the Yamaha Automatic Beginner class speeds around the track at the old location of the weekend market in Phuket Town May 20 during the Petronas Sprinta Yamaha Race Cup. About 500 spectators turned out to watch the final 20 competitors race during the cup finals that day.

Saphan Hin draw first blood in Phuket Futsal Cup

SAPHAN HIN: Playing in the Open division of the first Phuket Futsal Cup, a team from Saphan Hin, held off the Bangwad Dam team from Kathu 3-0 in the first match May 19 at the Saphan Hin Sport Center.

The cup, which will see matches every Saturday and Sunday until June 10, is being organized by the Young Turks (*Klum Khon Num*) political party.

Phuket City Mayor and leader of the Young Turks, Somjai Suwansupana, said that the cup was being held to help forge unity in the community.

The competition is divided into three divisions: Under 16, Over 35, and Open.

The winning team in the Under 16 event will get 5,000 baht prize money. The second- and third-placed teams will receive

3,000 baht and 2,000 baht, respectively.

For the Over 35 category the winning teams will receive 15,000 baht, 8,000 baht, 4,000 baht, and 2,000 baht for first-, second-, third- and fourth-placed teams respectively.

In the Open division the first- to fourth-placed teams will get 20,000 baht, 10,000 baht, 5,000 baht, and 3,000 baht respectively.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

The human body is weird. It's full of stuff that we'd rather not see; oozing gooey lumps, trailily stringy bits, moist, glistening tubes and pulsating blobs all over the place.

They all have their job to do, and they're all hidden away inside us. There are many people that would prefer them to stay that way, and not to have to witness these things under any circumstances.

Personally, I used to love TV shows like *Your Life in Their Hands* – operations filmed in great detail with the surgeon providing a running commentary on what he was cutting, splicing and sewing back up again. It was a bit like modifying an engine, with less grubby oil and a lot more blood.

So why is it that everything red and oozy inside the body has the ability to make people quake in their boots at the mere thought of it, yet as soon as all that nastiness is taken away, leaving just the bare bones, the result is somehow the complete opposite – most of us find skeletons rather amusing. Or maybe it's just me.

Perhaps it's the blood that does it – maybe that's what puts so many people off. Surely most

Living skeletons

of us find those live X-Ray films from the 1950s fascinating? You know the ones – some bloke with a dodgy hair parting operating a machine that showed all the bones in his hand twiddling his fingers.

Apart from the obvious hair faux-pas, we weren't put off at all. OK, we know now that the hapless soul probably popped his clogs a couple of years later due to the massive radiation poisoning brought on by his amazing machine, but as it was only bones we could see, with no yucky red bleeding bits, everyone is happy.

Skeletons are actually rather comical. On TV, *Steptoe and Son* used a life-sized skeleton in a number of occasions I seem to recall. They were a couple of sad, grubby rag-and-bone men from London who... Sorry – I have the feeling that this will never sound even vaguely funny, no matter how hard I try, if you've never seen it.

Okay then – how about those rather dated *Doctor* movies from the '50s and '60s that had more than their fair share of



VERY VEINY: The leaves of the *sanchezia speciosa* are its main feature, far outshining its small, tubular flowers.

comedic skeletal escapades. You remember them – they were about plummy-accented trainee doctors and their various capers, all of them living in fear of a character called Sir Lancelot Spratt. Anyway, one common theme was pranks involving human skel-

etons. Well, they were funny at the time.

Even skeletons that were never supposed to be in the least bit amusing end up being hilarious – the film *Jason and the Argonauts* being a case in point. Were we really supposed to be crawling under our cinema seats with fear when those pathetic, weedy, limp-wristed skeletons appeared? Monsters are supposed to be at least a little bit intimidating, but these things made a daft little rattly sound when they moved, then fell into a pile on the ground when they got hit. Pitiful.

I suppose I should make some attempt at mentioning something in gardens, strangely enough with a bit of a skeleton twist. Do you remember skeleton leaves? We used to think they were incredible as kids, when we used to traipse through the woods and collect these long-dead leaves so that we could take them into science class the next day. "You can see inside, and everything, Miss."

There's actually a plant around in Thailand that is almost as impressive as those skeleton leaves I used to show to my science teacher. The tropical version is the gold vein plant, or the *Sanchezia speciosa*. The Thais call it *ua-ang thong*.

Unlike most plants which are reared for the bountiful supply of flowers and blooms they produce, the gold vein plant is present in most gardens due purely to its leaves. They're not that big, about three inches in length, but they're certainly striking.

They consist of a pale green background, with bright, skeletal, lemon veins, seemingly sprouting from the center like snakes' ribs. They seem to create a kind of stained glass effect.

I recall the first time I saw one, sitting in the long-forgotten corner of a garden center.

I saw this plant sitting there on its own, different from the rest, not doing a great deal. It's a while ago now, but I recall very nearly

being given the plant by the little man that worked there – he certainly couldn't bring himself to charge me a huge amount for this forgotten plant in the corner.

I'm not sure if it's because I knew it would be cheap or that I just had to give it a go. I had absolutely no idea what it was, but it went home with me anyway. I discovered that like so many other plants here, it was pretty difficult to abuse.

It needs absolutely nothing except daily watering. Put it in the shade and it will sprout new shoots with glee. Give it maximum sun and it will beg for more like an over-enthusiastic puppy. Like many other colorful-leaved plants, the more sun it gets, the more vivid the color of the leaves will become.

Forget its daily water ration, and it will remind you very quickly, by wilting pathetically and looking generally forlorn. Leave it for a couple of days without water, and it will inspire feelings of guilt brought on by few other plants. It likes its water like a gardening writer likes his daily beer requirement.

I was quite happy with the lemony-veined leaves of the gold vein plant. They were all it needed to do. It wasn't until it had been residing in a pot in my garden for a couple of years, having doubled in size, that I noticed something over the top of my beer. Small, tubular flowers had appeared.

They're nothing to write home about, I'll admit. In fact they're pretty laughable when compared to many of the other variations of flora that are available in Phuket. But they were flowers. Apparently, flowers don't appear on the *Sanchezia speciosa* during its first couple of seasons – they save that surprise until later.

The gold vein plant can grow to a couple of meters tall eventually, but that can take a while if you want it to look presentable. Frequent trimming is the best way to encourage it to look its best, and the ideal time to cut it back is just after it's flowered. It tends to sprawl a bit, so you might want to be fairly ruthless with the pruning shears.

Most of us have now realized that skeletons in black-and-white films starring awfully correctly-spoken Englishmen just aren't funny any more. Perhaps they never were, but at least the nurses were cute.

We also tend not to produce skeleton leaves for science class nowadays, either. We're over ten, with kids of our own. Next time, save them the effort of tramping through the woods and just point them in the direction of that *Sanchezia speciosa* at the bottom of the garden. Give them the hose while they're there.

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Design

by Semacote Suganya



Malaysia-based Zeyco furniture designs individually-tailored wardrobes and kitchen cabinets, now available in Phuket at the company's showroom on the bypass road.

ORDERLY FASHION

How good would a Western-style bedroom in a new villa be if it weren't outfitted with top-quality wardrobes as well? Thanks to a new opening on the bypass road, Phuket now has all the bedroom accessories you need, except perhaps the bed.

Zeyco, a Malaysian-based company, specializes in custom-designed wardrobes and cabinets created to meet the customer's requests.

Raymond The, consultant for Zeyco's Phuket division, explained that the firm works very closely with the design team at their headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to meet the proposals from their customers.

"Our operation customizes each individual project making it suitable to the specific needs of each customer. Our focus is to provide the highest quality furniture through professional service," he said.

"Our firm has more than 25 years' of experience and, basically, our methodology has been to construct our designs with European style in mind. We offer a variety of styles of wardrobes with mainly four types of access. One type is the com-

mon swing-out door, another type is a folding door design, a sliding door option is also available and, lastly, there is the walk-in closet layout," he said.

"When we work on the projects, we bring in a chief installer to oversee each project and instruct the local staff which makes certain that the specifications, laid out by the design team, are met."

When discussing the materials used, K. Raymond said, "We use a vast selection including woods such as maple, cherry, oak, veneer and high-pressure laminates. These materials are imported from both Malaysia and other foreign countries. A vast selection of colors and tones are available for the customer to choose from as well."

As Phuket continues to see numerous project developments taking place, Zeyco envisions filling a void in the niche market of high-end, custom-tailored wardrobes to hold all the swimming shorts and t-shirts Phuket will ever need.

The Zeyco showroom is located on the bypass road on the northbound side just north of the Tesco intersection. To contact call 076-261695, or email zyecoth@gmail.com

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Home of the Week

Chalong

DOCK OF THE BAY

Chalong Bay is possibly the most popular harbor in Phuket for the boating fraternity as well as being the drop-off point for most of the diving industry's trips. This has tremendous value for local residents as it gives easy access to some of the most fantastic waterways of the world.

Positioned just a short ride away from this thriving area is a private estate of just 10 homes. Inside the secured estate are landscaped gardens and approaches to some very attractive properties, providing a safe and pleasant neighborhood.

One such property is now listed for sale after having been lived in for only two years. This fully-fenced property sits on grounds of over 1000 square meters with a living area of 276sqm. The established gardens consist of local tropical plants with areas of grasses and ornamental pieces.

Through the front of the property is a long, winding driveway that leads to the double garage. The house has a guest quarters or maid's room with a fully equipped private en-suite bathroom located above the garage. This is perfectly suited for a full-time nanny or those visiting in-laws who want some privacy during their stay.

The main entrance gives way to a large, open-plan living space with an adjacent dining



Left: The long driveway leads up to a double garage above which is an en-suite maid's room or guests' quarters.

Below: The owners are including all the furniture in the 15-million-baht asking price.

room. The huge Western-style kitchen is also here and is equipped with sleek, wooden cabinets that supply ample stor-

age space, a stainless-steel range hood and gas cooking facilities.

This large living space leads out to the rear of the house where residents can enjoy the private in-ground swimming pool.

The large pool is complemented by a paved terrace which would suit those who enjoy relaxing outdoors, dining by the pool

or inviting friends over for a poolside party.

Away from the central living area are five large bedrooms, three of which have private en-suite bathrooms while another main bathroom services the remainder of the house.

Throughout the house, insect screens are in place to keep out those unwanted pests, while

air conditioning and ceiling fans allow for a comfortable temperature at all times.

The owners have finished off this house with quality furniture that blends in well with its surroundings and therefore have decided to include all furniture in the selling price.

Many utilities are available here such as satellite TV, a telephone line, water heating and three phase electricity.

The owners are asking 15 million baht for this lovely home which comes with Chanote title and freehold purchasing terms.

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

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Police to get new HQ building



Above: Pol Col Peerayut Karajedee says that the old building will still be useful.

CROWDED AND CONSTRICTIVE: The current Phuket Provincial Police HQ can't accommodate the growth of the past 40 years.

Funding has been approved and the Phuket Provincial Police expect to move into a new 1,800-square-meter, 20-million-baht facility by the middle of next year.

Pol Col Peerayut Karajedee, Superintendent of General Staff of Phuket Provincial Police, told the *Gazette* the new building is needed to accommodate the increased size of the force since the current quarters were built 40 years ago.

"We have greatly expanded our organization in the past 40 years and we are now spread out into many small office buildings in a variety of locations, making it quite difficult to manage the police force efficiently," Col Peerayut explained.

The three-story concrete building will be built on one rai of land on Yaowarat Rd opposite the current Phuket Provincial Police Station.

The first floor will house a general administration area for dealing with the public, as well as an armory, equipment store-room and office, and sanitation facilities.

The offices of the Phuket Provincial Police Commander, Deputy Commander, Superintendent of General Staff and a meeting room will sit on the

second floor. The third floor will house the investigation section, an operations center and a large meeting room of about 150 square meters.

"We just got the final plans and will complete the e-Auction [an on-line bidding process for contractors] by June or July, signing an agreement for the project at that time.

"I think construction can start by August. We expect everything to be completed by the middle of next year," Col Peerayut said.

When the construction of the new building is complete, the entire core of the Phuket Provincial Police force will move in, leaving their old building standing for other purposes.

"We might use the old building to bring a some other agencies together in one place. The tourist police, special branch police and narcotic suppression police are currently renting their offices from the private sector.

"We might also use the building for temporary accommodations for new police that are waiting for official housing or we may use part of it for special training or a gymnasium.

"We have plans to do many things, but it all depends on how much we can do with our budget," Col Peerayut added.



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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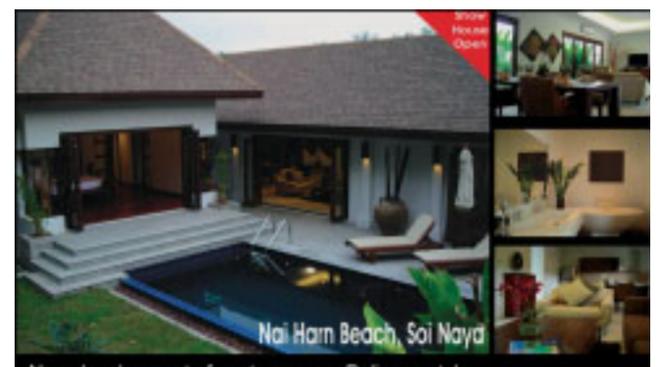
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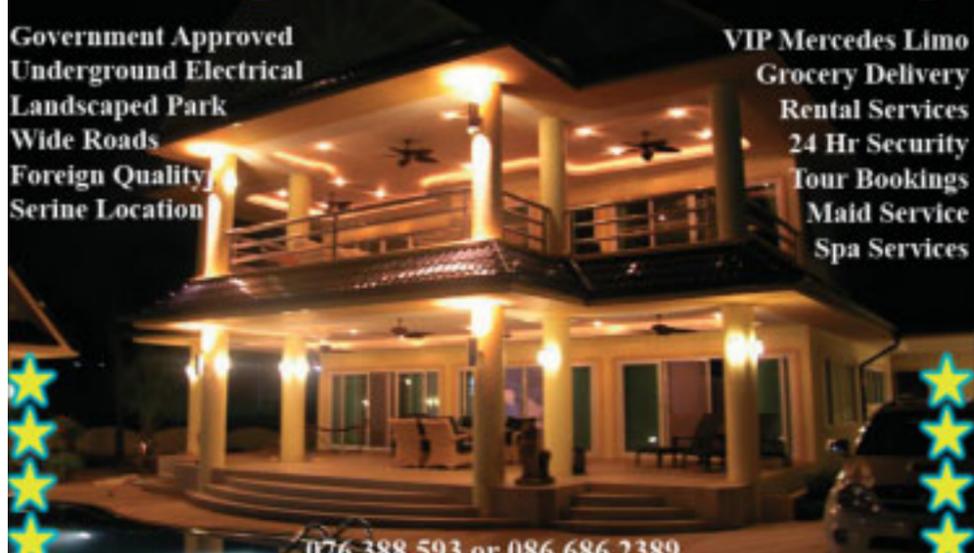
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Property Gazette

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 Underground Electrical
 Landscaped Park
 Wide Roads
 Foreign Quality
 Serine Location

VIP Mercedes Limo
 Grocery Delivery
 Rental Services
 24 Hr Security
 Tour Bookings
 Maid Service
 Spa Services



076 388 593 or 086 686 2389

Custom Floorplans from 9.5 million baht

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www.thaipropertyplus.com

Marina Condominium: Royal Phuket Marina (SA0002-04-07)
 Bed/Fur: 2 Brs / 2Bths, F/F
 Area: 154 Sq.m.
 Remark: Spacious, Luxury Condo in New Marina Development
 Price: 17.5 MB

Rawai Villa: Rawai (SH0008-03-07)
 Bed/Fur: 4 Brs / 5 Bths, Semi/F
 Area: Approx. 200 Sq.w.
 Remark: Charming Thai Style Villa with Sea Views and Private Pool
 Price: 15MB

House with Garden: Off Chaofa Rd (SH0005-03-07)
 Chalong, 90 Sq.w. (Land area), 2 / 3 Bths, Semi/F Nice House in Quiet Soi, Spacious, Plenty of Room for Improvements, Extension or Pool **9.5 MB**

Cherng Talay House: Cherng Talay (SH0007-03-07)
 174.5 Sq.m., 2 Brs / 2 Bths, Lovely House in New, Secluded Development, Master Bedroom has en suite Bathroom with Jacuzzi **7.8 MB**

Large House in Thalang: Thalang (SH0018-03-07)
 0-3-46.8 Rai (plot size), 3 Brs / 2 Bths, F/F, Large European Style House with Pool and Garden, Nicely Furnished **16 MB**

Koh Kaew Land: Koh Kaew (SL0047-03-07)
 13-03-85 Rai, Attractive Piece of Land in Sought After Location, Good Potential for Development **2.9 MB/Rai**

For More Properties Please Contact Phuket Branch **076 30 40 70**

NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces. New furniture. Quick sale at 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or send email: jimcox007@msn.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
 Soi Gecko, Saiyuan Rd, Nai Harn. Sea view, large swimming pool, rooftop terrace. 2 airconditioned bedrooms. Open plan. 2 ensuite bathrooms. Modern kitchen. Convection oven. Large garden of native plants. Carport. 320sqm
 Price: 5 million baht. Email: info@sariyahouse.com
 Visit our website: http://sariyahouse.com

HOUSE WITH POOL



Huge house located near Boat Lagoon and British Int'l School. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 8 aircons, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fitness equipment, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-5301276. Email: svanunge@hotmail.com

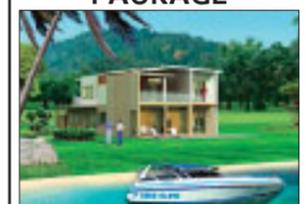
DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dreamhouse in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 aircons, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht only. Please call Tel: 081-8926251. Or email: mrsouza@hotmail.com
 More photos and details can be found at our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
 Saiyuan Rd, Nai Harn. Secluded, spacious, open plan. Chic black-tiled pool. 3 air-conditioned bedrooms. Modern kitchen. 2 en-suite bathrooms. Convection oven. Large garden of native plants. Parking space. 320sqm. Price: 4.8 million baht. Tel: 081-8931258, 081-2733303.

HOUSE & LAND PACKAGE



Beachfront on Andaman Sea. 193sq wah on Naka Island. For more information, please contact K. Pu. Tel: 081-6777914. Email: wut@tarntarasp.com
 Visit our website at www.phuketnakaisland.com

VILLA/PRIVATE POOL
 Nai Harn. 3 double en-suite bedrooms, large private terraces, infinity edge pool, nice hill views, double parking. Shingle roof with makka wood, granite, marble. Price: 9.2 million baht. Call Tel: 086-6845368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR SALE OR rent. Located on Chao Fa Rd near Khao Khat viewpoint, 76 square meters, 2 bedrooms. Master bedroom is fully-furnished with aircon. Restroom with hot water. Rent: 5,500 baht per month. Sell: 1.2 million baht. Please contact K. Jeab for more information. Tel: 084-6890760 or via email: a_manasanan@hotmail.com

LOCH PALM GOLF
 villa. 3- to 4-bedroom villa on Loch Palm golf course. 4 bathrooms, fully-furnished, 8-meter pool. Comes with a long-term tenant if required. 24-hour security, close to schools and amenities. Tel: 601-22926511. Or email: steve.miller@pactotal.com.my

CALIFORNIA VILLA
 3-bedroom house for sale. Corner plot, many extras, asking 3.2 million baht. Very nice. Tel: 089-8751154.

RAWAI BEACH HOUSE
 Recently modernized, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse for sale with gorgeous sea views, just meters from Rawai Beach. There is a large 1st-floor terrace at the front of the house, off-road parking for 1 car, and a balcony at the rear. The bright and airy living/dining area is very large. As a bonus, there is a spacious attic room. Price: 3.3 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 02-5097872, 081-5118201. Fax: 02-5097874. Email: ben@LDSK.com

PHUKET PALACE
 condo. New re-fit, fully-fitted and furnished. Large swimming pool with waterfall, carpark. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

NICE HOUSE
 2-story detached house with Western-style kitchen, dining room, living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 aircon, carport, garden, fully-furnished. Only 3.2 million baht obo. Contact at Tel: +31-64-6098573. Email: shd1@planet.nl Visit our site: http://home.planet.nl/~duang000/house.htm

SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS
 Bang Tao. 3-phase electricity, top sea view. Starting at 3.9 million baht. Contact us for additional details. Tel: 086-267-0157, 089-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE
 Beautiful, modern, European style. 3 large bedrooms with aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms, huge terrace and living area, garage, laundry room, safe and alarm system. Plot of 600sqm. Quiet area. Built by European contractor. Only 10.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

BANG TAO BEACH GARDENS
 New luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment. 125 sqm. Full leisure facilities. Near beach. Low monthly maintenance charges to include wireless Internet and satellite TV. Ground floor corner unit. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6304068. Email: devbattles@yahoo.co.uk

KRABI LAND
 for sale near Ao Nang, mountain view. Price: 1.2 million baht per rai. Contact Tel: 081-7475293.

HOUSE IN PATONG
 4.7 million baht. 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircons, bathtub (hot/cold water), living room, kitchen, 2 cable TVs, 2 fridges, washing machine, fully-furnished. 1km from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-341724, 081-569 0664. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

SPA & RESORT
 37 million baht. A peaceful place of 3 rai, 900sq wah in Ao Nang, 9 villas of Thai-Bali style, blissful open-air bathtub, tropical garden, herbal steam & Jacuzzi pool, international restaurant. Tel: 081-4236906. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

CHALONG LUXURY
 house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for additional details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. For photos, visit our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

KATHU HOUSE
 for sale. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, furnished. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

ATTRACTIVE HOUSE FOR SALE
 in secure and desirable development. 3 bedrooms (2 en-suite), 3 bathrooms, 2 floors, living room, verandas, kitchen, garden, laundry room, study, garage, ADSL, UBC. 6.9 million baht. Call for more info at Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

SHADY RETREAT
 3-bedroom house for sale. Chanote title, 1.75 rai. Newly-renovated, 25 mins north of Phuket airport, 5 mins to beach and local town, room to build 2 more houses. Price: 4.2 million baht. Options to develop. Please contact for more info at Tel: 087-8067145.

885SQM PLOT
 in Bang Tao. 1.79 million baht. 3-phase elec., road access. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Ready to build. Tel: 089-5903665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW FOR SALE
 10 rai, 3 ngan, 800m from Nai Thon Beach, good road. 7 million baht per rai. Please contact Tel: 089-7298365.

Looking for land to buy?
 See more classified ads at
www.phuketgazette.net/classifieds

Property Gazette

CHALONG HOUSE



for sale in Land & Houses Chalong. New house with furniture, never occupied, very nice design, saloon, reception, office, kitchen, maid's room, 4-rooms (one with furniture and aircon + dressing room + bathroom with Jacuzzi). Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-5693890.

SEAVIEW LAND IN CHALONG



3 rai for sale, stunning sea view over Chalong Bay and surrounding islands. 8.5 million baht per rai. Can subdivide. Please contact at Tel: 087-1057320. Or via email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

IMMACULATE VILLA



Very private location. Lush tropical garden area, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully-furnished with 450sqm of living area, 1,500sqm of land. Chanote. Thalang area near Heroines Monument. Please contact for information. Tel: 084-6907057.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Patanatongthin Rd, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, kitchen, garden. Tel: 081-0916680.

Properties For Rent

PALAI, GREENHOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully-furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai area. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8924311.

ROOMS FOR RENT

Wi-Fi, aircon, cable TV, safe. Price: 6,000baht per month. Tel: 083-1061099. Visit our website: www.vilapatong.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

near Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 086-2778461.

200 METERS TO THE BEACH

New! Worth 5 million baht. Quick sale to best offer over 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or via email: jimcox007@msn.com

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, 4 aircons, ADSL, UBC. Price: 20,000baht per month. Contact Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

100SQM STUDIO

for rent. Furnished, beautiful views that overlook the lake, golf course and Kathu valley. Private and quiet location, pool, Internet, UBC. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info at Tel: 087-2698492.

WE BUILD YOUR HOUSE

90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house for 1.39 million baht. We build you any style of private home or commercial building at any location in Phuket. Contact JN Tech Co Ltd - German Construction. Please contact for information at Tel: 076-322015, 084-8528234. Or via email: info@1nj.de Visit website: www.1nj.de/e-index.html

NEW 95SQM

bungalow. 2.8 million baht. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, carport, 210sqm land. Contact Tel: 086-9518140, 081-5383821. Email: info@1nj.de

SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Please contact for info at Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-9995522, 089-4727588. Email: djjudges@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Thantong Villa 7. Townhouse with 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on Chao Fa East Rd opposite California Villa. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact Khun Jeab. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: a_manasanan@hotmail.com

3- TO 4-BEDROOM KATHU VILLA

for rent. Pool, 4km from BIS, lake, golf and valley view, quiet on a private hill. Gated with security guard + maid. 2 luxury Thai-style villas for rent with 300sqm each. All amenities in top-class surroundings. Internet, UBC, yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 087-2698492.

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, fully-furnished bedrooms, no fence, beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric + water. Call Tel: 081-8924311.

4-FLOOR TOWNHOUSE

4 aircon units, nice furniture, large kitchen. Also with mini-pool. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please contact for more information via email: samwithness@yahoo.com

PATONG LAND FOR SALE

Chanote seaview land near Merlin Beach hotel. 13 rai. 8 million baht per rai. Additional information provided at Kalim seaview restaurant. Call Tel: 081-6766214.

CONDOS FOR FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Nai Harn Beach condos. High-quality, up-market, safe, secure. Large 2-bedroom units completely furnished and equipped, great location and views, close to the beach. Only 8 million baht. Must see! Please call for more information at Tel: 081-7974068.

RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, European kitchen, large swimming pool, garden, ADSL, UBC. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7196998.

KATA LUXURY APARTMENT

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long and short term. Starting at 25,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Cherng Talay. 2.7 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 076-282808, 086-9519198. Fax: 076-282346. Email: heypiassy@hotmail.com

3-STORY SEA VIEW

Includes 6 rooms, 2 balconies, 4 bathrooms. 9.7 million baht. Roof with Jacuzzi. In Rawai/Nai Harn. Tel: 085-7955383.

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen. 5.5 million baht. Contact for info at Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

SHOPHOUSE

in Phuket Town. Located along the wide boulevard of Yaowarat Rd. Good parking, 63sq wah. 5m width. Good for business or rebuild. Own a piece of historic Phuket. Tel: 081-5376965. Email: oldphuket@hotmail.com

RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 bedroom or 2 bedrooms, ADSL, cable TV, quiet location with large furnished terrace. Starting at 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7196998.

NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

LAND IN NAI YANG

Chanote near beach for sale. 2 rai: 7 million baht, 1 rai: 3.5 million baht, 6 plots (each 440sqm): 1.5 million baht per plot. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, big kitchen, 2 sets of furniture, telephone. Near Surin and Bang Tao beaches. Contract for 1 year or more. Tel: 089-2883047.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Please call Tel: 081-8920038.

SHOPHOUSE SALE/ RENT URGENT

New, fully-furnished, corner unit. Sell: 3.6 million baht. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Contact for details at Tel: 076-248639, 081-5376439. Email: orapar@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

located near Central Festival. 4 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, sat TV, 2 aircon units, ADSL. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 081-8916036. Or via email: phuketgazette@siaminfo.com

RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 to 2 bedrooms with kitchen, aircon, bathroom, cable, ADSL, quiet location, nice terrace. From 8,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 086-2790837.

4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square land, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heriones Monument. 500m from main road. Price: 6.8 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-0577505.

HOUSE RENTALS

Wide selection of house rentals for long and short term. Rawai/Nai Harn land and house for sale from 700,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8486139. Email: justin@lastparadisephuket.com

NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small space, 2 bedrooms. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Close to the beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8928208.

BUILDING FOR SALE

on Kata Beach tourist street. 260sqm, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen. Price: 5.2 million baht. Contact at Tel: 081-6936386. Email: kata_shophouse@yahoo.com

RAWAI/NAI HARN

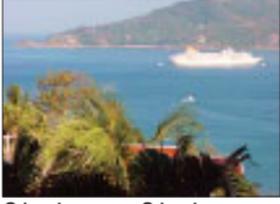
Only 5,000 baht per month if taken good care of until September 15. New house and nice sea view. Tel: 085-7955383.

RUSTIC HOUSE

for rent in Rawai. Available in May. Rent: 7,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. 2 bedrooms, living room, office, kitchen, bathroom, cable TV, ADSL. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 081-9560257.

Property Gazette

PATONG BAYVIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location. Long term only, must see. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

184SQ WAH HOUSE
located on Mae Luan Rd, near Rang Hill for rent as office, spa, restaurant or house. Please contact for more info via email: romeplace@hotmail.com

GOLF VILLA FOR RENT
New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long term: 65,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG
2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully-furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. Price: 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Please contact at Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP
Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

BANG TAO BEACH APARTMENT
Club Lersuang. 2-bedroom apartment for rent. Gym, restaurant, bar, pool, etc. 10,000 baht per week or 32,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 087-0790650. Email: phuketapartment@gmail.com

NEW BUILDING
2 units for rent. Opportunity for only minimart opposite Kathu waterfall. Tel: 087-2799500.

BEACH FRONT
house for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

DISCOVERY GARDENS
New 2-bedroom homes, fully-furnished. Rent includes broadband, maid service, and cable TV. Starting at 28,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-527594, 089-1956822. Email: jziment@yahoo.com
For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketmarbella.com

HOUSE FOR RENT
at Chalong Land & Houses. New house by the lake. 3 bedrooms, fully-furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL Tel: 081-8953649.

NEW CHALONG HOME
Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE
for rent. In Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Contact at Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Or via email: franklee200@hotmail.com

RAWAI RESIDENCE
studios. Rent: 6,000 to 12,000 baht per month. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

2-VILLA COMPLEX
Kamala Beach for
- Long-term rent .
- Sale per unit.
- Sell complete.
- Sell separate per villa.
Consists of 7 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartments and 3 studio rooms, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, landscaped gardens and more. Contact Tel: 086-2733437. Email: kamalarob@yahoo.co.uk

HOME NEAR AIRPORT
8km to Phuket airport, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Garden Place, 115sqm. 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-3823237, 081-2976162.

NAI HARN HOUSE
1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Tel: 081-3971835.

BOAT LAGOON
Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully-fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool near International school, shops etc. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

RAWAI HOUSE
for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully-furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, carpark. Long-term rent: 50,000 baht per month. Please email: hans_lange@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS
for rent in Karon & Patong beaches. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE
Nearly new house for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, fully-furnished. Quiet street, close to everything. Tel: 084-8485517.

HOUSE IN TRANG
for rent. Beautiful new house, Pak Meang beachfront, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and carpark. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long-term (minimum 1 year) rent: 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 087-3840864.

FREEDOM APT
near Wat Patong (2/56 Soi Khuan Yang). Fully-furnished, European style, small kitchen, fridge, aircon, fan, cable TV, safe, hot water, bathroom. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for further details and information. Call Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

3-STORY SEA VIEW
house. Includes 6 rooms, 4 bathrooms and 2 big balconies. Great sea view, located between Rawai and Nai Harn. Contact for more info. Tel: 085-7955383.

2 KATA HOUSES
for rent. 1st house: 1 to 2 bedrooms, garden, UBC, ADSL. 17,000 baht per month. 2nd house: 2 bedrooms, aircon, TV. Price: 11,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821.

YA NUI BUNGALOW
Close to beach in small resort, bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, utility room, kitchen, dining area and lounge. 2 aircons, 4 fans, hot water, 25m shared pool, fully-furnished, telephone line, ADSL, cable TV, daily cleaning. Electric included. Rent: 30,000 baht. Sell: 3.8 million baht. Contact for more info at Tel: 081-9586723.

2 CONDOS FOR RENT OR SALE
Melville House or Phuket Palace, completely new, fully-furnished, lots of extras. Rent: 20,000 baht per month each. Sell: 3.9 million baht or 3.2 million for freehold. Please contact for information. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

KATHU APARTMENT
A quiet, furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, terrace, aircon, fans, swimming pool, telephone. Near Loch Palm Golf Club. Long-term rent at 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

KATA LUXURY APT
Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long or short term. Starts at 20,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north&west98@yahoo.com

RENT SEAVIEW HOUSES IN RAWAI
Private street off Rawai Beach Rd. 4 single townhouses in a row, just 40m from the beach. Each 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, carport, ADSL, Int'l direct dial, aircon, fully-furnished. Price: 15,000 baht per month each, negotiable. Available end of May. Call Tel: 089-9662994. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

PALM GARDEN
New 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom in nice Thalang gated community. 24-hr security, swimming pool, furnished. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

NAI YANG HOUSE
for rent. 3 bedrooms (2 with aircon), living room, kitchen, fridge, garden, fenced, ADSL, UBC. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6506221. Email: ek_phuket@hotmail.com

QUIET HOUSE & CAR
for rent. Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, UBC cable, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent from May 07 to July 07. Price: 49,000 baht per month or 20,000 baht per week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

1-BEDROOM CONDO
in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong area. Long-term rent only. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for specific details at Tel: 087-1238320. Or via email: deherder@hotmail.com

SERVICED OFFICES
for rent. Modern and clean serviced office space. Complete with central air, keycard access, Internet, secretary service, CCTV monitoring, alarm system, phone lines, fax and more. Central location in Chalong. Several rooms in different sizes available. Just move in and start working. Tel: 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com

BRAND NEW HOUSE FOR RENT
New modern house. 3 bedrooms w/ aircon. 3 bathrooms, big living room + terrace, Western kitchen, garage, nice garden and many options. Quiet area. 30,000 baht per month. Contact at Tel: 084-8441486. Email: Meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

1-ROOM APARTMENT
for rent in Kamala, 3 mins to the beach. Furnished, ADSL, wireless LAN. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

VILLA FOR RENT
Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully-furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Please contact Tel: 081-9701716.

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Boats & Marine



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<p>Princess 66 (1994)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAN 820 HP x 2 2 x Westerbeke gensets Extended range additional fuel tank Raymarine and Furuno electronics 10 berths Bowthruster Tender storage on Flybridge Tender with outboard <p>\$735,000 USD</p>			
<p>Celestial 49 (1993)</p> <p>\$249,000 USD</p>	<p>Etap 321 (1998)</p> <p>72,000 Euro</p>	<p>Seahorse 52 (2002)</p> <p>\$380,000 USD</p>	<p>Grand Slam 31 (1990)</p> <p>4,000,000 THB</p>

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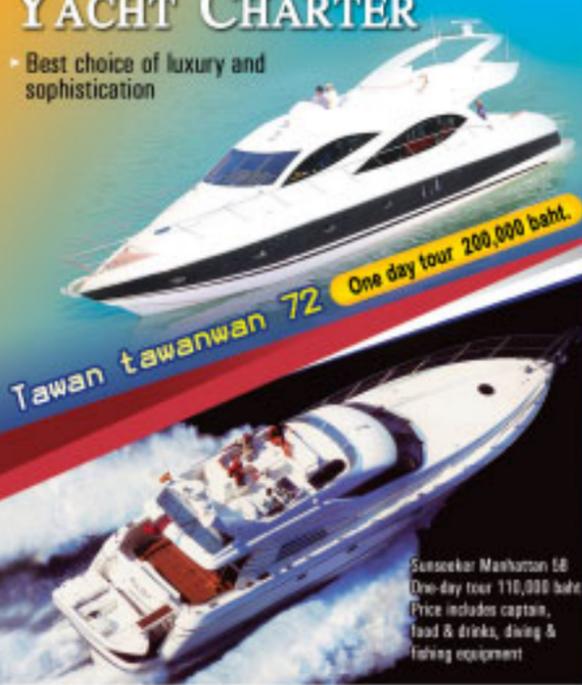
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IT Technician/Manager

- Maintenance of the networks at both site & head office – LAN, WIFI, VDSL and optic fiber internet connection.
- Maintenance of the computers and its software
- Specifying computers, general hardware, software and all peripherals
- Operating the server
- Maintenance of company portals
- Maintenance and administration of Company servers along with the email system.

Qualifications required:

- Must have own car as candidate will have to travel between our head office and site office.
- Experience at least 3 years in IT support, network, hardware, software application & systems
- Work experience with PC setup and hardware trouble shooting & problem solving.
- Experience in Microsoft Products is a MUST. Knowledge in the following applications:
 - a. Microsoft Small Business Server
 - b. Microsoft Exchange Server
 - c. Microsoft SQL Server
 - d. Microsoft SharePoint
 - e. Microsoft Windows XP, Office and all other general applications.
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Please send resume with covering letter stating salary expectations to nick@campbellkane.com

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STAFF WANTED New Phuket City based company requires the following staff:

- Marketing/Sales Manager (foreigner)
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All appointments require computer-literate, English-speaking personnel with admin/office experience. 5-day work week with some night shifts. Please email with CV as well as current and expected salary. Please send CV by email or contact Tel: 081-8937027. Email: business.opp01@gmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER Full-time native speaker urgently required! Contact Tel: 076-211959 ext. 124. Email: ajdaruneeb@yahoo.com More information at our website: www.pku.ac.th

TIGER MUAY THAI Positions are for Thai nationals only please. Busy and fun sports-orientated business in Chalong is looking for receptionist/office staff and a cook/waitress for our Thai and foreign restaurant. Receptionist: English skills and computer skills, working with foreigners (8 am-5 pm). Cook: Thai and foreign food (2 pm-9pm). Additional information and specifics available upon request. To schedule an interview, please contact K. Smai at Tel: 076-367071. Or via email: info@tigermuaythai.com

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QSI International School of Phuket, an American-style school, has a vacancy for a middle/high school Mathematics teacher for the 2007/08 school year. The ideal candidate is a native English speaker, has a bachelor's degree and teaching certification and has experience teaching Mathematics to students aged 12 and up. This is not an ESL position. Email: alansiporin@qsi.org

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Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English is an advantage. Please contact Personnel Manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd for more information. Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

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HOUSEKEEPER/COOK Mature Thai national. English-speaking. To cook for Thai and Europeans. Supervise, control and work with staff. Live-in, couple considered. Must like dogs. Call Tel: 081-9683184.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Design artwork for quality publications & advertising. Thai national, excellent skills in Photoshop and Illustrator with knowledge of InDesign. Some English language. Email: info@artandcultureasia.com

ENGLISH TEACHERS Kajonkietsuksa School requires native English teachers for kindergarten level (4 positions). Please email your resumé or contact Tel: 076-264770. Fax: 076-264773. Email: kajonkietsuksa.school@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING staff. Enthusiastic people wanted for software sales. Able to work on own initiative. 2 years' sales/marketing experience preferred. Good salary plus commission. Training given. Thai national. Able to drive a car. Must speak English. Accounting knowledge an advantage. Please contact K. Mam. Tel: 076-313137. Fax: 076-313269. Email: mam@aplussoftware.com

HEAD OF ACCOUNTING International Aviation College Nakhon Phanom University is looking for head of Accounting department. Master's degree in accounting, credentials in labor & business laws in English. Beginner accepted. Contact Tel: +66-42-551120. Email: gcharles01@yahoo.co.uk

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Island Job Mart

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Horizons Learning Center, an international school for mainly expatriate students, seeks qualified K/G1 and G2/G3 teachers to start in August 2007. Native English speakers with university teaching certification required. Experience preferred. Fun, friendly work environment, inquiry-based program, generous school holidays. Tel: 076-238756, 081-8942560. Fax: 076-238756. Email: pamel@horizons-phuket.com

MODELS NEEDED

Caucasian family needed for a real estate photo shoot. Adults aged 35-45 plus two children. Smart and sophisticated for an exclusive property. All inquiries should be directed to email: admin@kinnareedia.com with family photo and availability. For further details about our services and goals, please see our website at www.kinnareedia.com

Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-art marina and was awarded the prestigious "Marina Five Gold Anchors Award" by the British Marine Federation. We are looking for qualified candidates in the following position:

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- **Sales Executive**
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Royal Phuket Marina.
 68 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd., Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
 Tel: 076-238-755, www.royalphuketmarina.com

INDIGO PEARL
phuket

Not all gems come in a little box

Indigo Pearl is a unique design hotel in Phuket, Thailand. Architecture inspired by Phuket's tin mining past. Modern décor evoking a Thai factory of a century ago. Extensive, imaginative gardens. The resort is currently seeking professionals who share enthusiasm for creating a one-of-a-kind experience for all guests – an experience as rare as an indigo pearl. Highly talented individuals are invited to apply for the following positions:

<p>Sales Manager MICE Asia (1 position)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-5 years. Extensive experienced in Events Sales • Preferably with an experienced with an International 5 stars hotel chain • Fluent communications in English • Outgoing and good presentation personality • Good computer skills • Bachelor degree in any related field 	<p>In Room Dining Manager (1 position)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 years experiences of room service in 5 star hotel preferable. • Good computer and communication of English. • Able to coordinate with interdepartmental skills.
<p>Sales Coordinator (1 position)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communications in English • Some experience in Sales administration • Able to coordinate and have inter departmental skills • Good computer skills 	<p>Reservations Officer (1 position)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communications in English • Some knowledge in Fidelio / Opera systems • Preferably with an experienced with an International 5 stars hotel chain • Able to coordinate and have inter departmental skills • Good computer skills

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- Positive attitude
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Apply in per son or send your resumé to: **Director of Human Resources**
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 Tel: 076-327006 Fax: 076-327338-9
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looking for nanny to live with us in Patong to take care of little 5-year-old girl. Must speak some English. Salary negotiable. Young lady OK. Please call Mimi. Call at Tel: 087-9766385.

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FARANG FOOD PARADISE Co., Ltd.

Farang Food Paradise Co., Ltd., Food & Beverage supplier based in Phuket, is currently seeking for the following position:

Sales Representative

- Thai National
- Female
- Age 25 - 35
- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing & in food supply business is a plus
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- Possess a car driver's licence

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

FARANG FOOD PARADISE Co., Ltd.
 51/109 Moo 6, Phrabaramee Rd., T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120
brice@phuketfood.com or Tel. 076 321 941 - 076 203 192
<http://www.phuketfood.com>

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. DESK EDITOR

REQUIREMENTS:

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

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

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

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 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net, editor@phuketgazette.net

Employment Wanted

SALES EXPERIENCE

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Tel: 086-2815016.
 Email: jrbazil@hotmail.com

CS, MARKETING,

e-commerce. Dutch, 27 full or part-time jobs, work during office hours. Please contact for full details. Tel: 084-065-7218. Email: suzannessource@hotmail.com

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Bulletins

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Tel: 089-866-7892.

RESTAURANT & BAR

Must sell 50% or 100% of this nice restaurant on Nanai Rd. Pool, big TV and Internet. Seats about 20 people. Only 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-113-3043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

NANAI RESTAURANT

2 units, both fully-equipped. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sell: 160,000 baht. Contact for info at Tel: 089-4696839. Email: make@thaicard.net

BEAUTY SALON

Located in Patong. Available for takeover. Owner relocating, lease until 2010. Please call Tel: 084-4414689.

PATONG BAR

Well-located beer bar. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

AGRO-FORESTRY INVESTMENT

Guaranteed to return at least 100% in 3 years. Investment from US\$5,000. Contact via email: info@green-gold.info

BOOKSHOP SALE

Patong OTOP bookshop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Please contact for additional information and details. Tel: 084-1705552.

KAMALA BAR

and restaurant for sale. New renovation in Dec '06, all movables are new, 36 seats. Price: 650,000 baht. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-5911407. Email: gerd-janne@hotmail.com

SHOPHOUSE RENTAL

contract for sale. 6 months remaining. Big shop, glass in front, shop carport, 4 big rooms. Located at Villa Dawroong. Price: 175,000 baht. Tel: 087-4176393.

PUGWASH BAR

for sale. Pool table, darts. Contract paid to October 2008. Call or email for details. Tel: 087-3876401. Email: stellan_larsson@hotmail.com

BEAUTY SALON

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GUESTHOUSE

for sale in Patong. Call Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

GOOD BUSINESS FOR SALE

Real estate & business broker. Priced at only 300,000 baht! Please contact for more information by email: admin@no1phukethomes.com Please visit our website for additional details and specifics of the business. www.no1phukethomes.com

GUESTHOUSE BAR

for sale. Comes with 4.5-year lease, fixtures and fittings. Please contact Tel: 089-4724423. Email: joecarre@hotmail.com

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An established TAT-licensed travel agency is for sale in Patong. This 7-year-old business comes with an excellent website, corporate clients, and a superb reputation with it's clients, who include tourists, expats and Thai locals. Price: 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: +66-848528142. Email: trevor@bensonjack.com.au

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Tel: 081-8914844.

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16 rooms, newly-renovated, Internet, cable TV, aircon, bar, 3 mins to beach, busy location, 6-year lease, 4.6 million baht. Tel: 087-0211763. Email: keithhbrice@hotmail.com

BEST RESTAURANT

in Rawai. Beautiful restaurant, prime location. Up and running very well, long rental contract. Must be seen. Selling due to family reasons. Looking for quick sale, give me an offer! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4435751. Email: phuketranahan@hotmail.com

CHALONG

restaurant reduced to half price. Owner leaving Phuket. Absolute bargain. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

OCTOPUS BAR

Sports and pool bar at corner of Bangla Rd in Patong. Shares for sale. Please contact Ron for more information at Tel: 089-5915330, 084-1827809. Or via email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR

investor. We need a partner to expand our construction company. Required capital is 3.8 million baht for 40% of the shares. For more information please contact us via email in English, German or Thai. Contact for more information. Email: info@1nj.de

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LOUNGE/BAR

Patong, Bangla area, stunning bar, long lease, low rent, two levels, great value. Please call for pricing and additional details. Call Tel: 087-8817600.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Good income, franchise partnership available. Contact Tel: 087-2814024.

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reduction. Owner returning to UK. 850,000 baht buys a large massage and beauty salon, well fitted-out, busy location on Nanai Rd. Tel: 086-2625321.

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offering Jazz and Hip Hop dance for individual or group lessons and shows for hotel functions. Please contact Nelve at Tel: 081-4766615.

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Charming Thai lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practice and home study material. Beginners or more advanced. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

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Urgent! Need nanny and maid. Live in, full or part time. Pays well. Tel: 081-9355049. Email: applegold@gmail.com

Personals

MATURE AND SECURE

Guy hoping to find his sweetheart in Thailand. Not seeking "Holiday Romance" as in some personals - only a girl who wants to share an easy lifestyle (not rich and famous) with a kind, honest farang. If your eyes light up when you smile (and if you smile often), that would be the 2nd best thing you could offer. Your honesty would be number one. You'll never ever know if I was "right" for you unless you "write" back "right" now! Right? Email: nitonic1960@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR FRIEND & SON

Looking for Su (Suphaluk) Yaklinom and son Eddie (half farang, about 6 years old). Khun Su lives near Phuket Town and has her own beauty shop. Her son Eddie is a very handsome boy. We were great friends and then lost each other about 5 years ago. She has lots of friends in Phuket and is very outgoing. If anyone knows her, please tell her to contact "Thamapol" in America. I would be most grateful. Contact. Tel: 562-3103492. Email: tpost1@hotmail.com

BACKGAMMON

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Public Notice



Ms Jaree Makchan is no longer employed by the *Phuket Gazette* and is not authorized to represent our company in any capacity.

- By order of the Board
21 May 2007

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

CHEVY ZAFIRA 2.2 SPORT

Urgent sale because of recent relocation, black, only 30,000km. 2005, 1st-class insurance free for one year from now. Has never been damaged and is in perfect condition. Regular checkups done by Chevrolet Phuket. Runs excellent. For sale to the best offer. Please contact for additional information and details. Tel: 081-8512280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

FORD PROBE 1997 SALE



Good condition, red, left-side steering wheel, imported sports car. Price: 260,000 baht. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

TOYOTA VIOS TURBO

Limited edition, TRD 143, black, registered Sept. 2004, only 43,000km. Alcantara leather seats, Toyota warranty. New price: 850,000 baht. Asking price: 550,000 baht. Tel: 084-0603477.

CAR FOR SALE

Toyota Corolla, 1990, runs great, good condition. Price: 90,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 087-2816275.

2003 TOYOTA VIOS

Automatic, mags, CD, 65,000km, silver. 375,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 086-3823237.

HONDA JAZZ

VTEC, 2006. Full options, metallic silver paint. New: 705,000 baht. Asking price: 590,000 baht. Contact for specific information at Tel: 089-7272822. Email: tonpa@gmx.net

NEW TOYOTA CAMRY

urgently for sale, 2.4V, only 2,000km, black, full options package. Must sell. Owner leaving Thailand. Beat the waiting list. Contact immediately! Tel: 086-6900444. Email for more details: info@luxuryyachtsthailand.com

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4-DOOR TOYOTA CORONA

1990, perfect condition, all extras, CD. Price: 95,000 baht. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 086-9488139. Or via email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

96 AUDI S6 TURBO

Full options, 270hp, high-end stereo, service book, aluminum mags. Price: 370,000 baht. Please contact for details Tel: 089-5330357. Email: sholaisen@hotmail.com

HONDA JAZZ SALE

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CAR FOR SALE

Toyota Corolla, 1990, runs well, good condition. 90,000 baht. Tel: 087-2816275.

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HONDA JAZZ 2005

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MAZDA 3 FOR SALE

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NISSAN CEFIRO

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HONDA CITY

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Pickups

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ISUZU D-MAX CAB4



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TOYOTA PICKUP 95

Nice, X-Cab, aircon, power options, mags, 10 CD changer, very clean. Must see and drive. Price: 180,000 baht. Tel: 076-341199, 081-5378394. Email: ricodmilo@hotmail.com

TOYOTA MIGHTY X

4-door, 1994. Only 120,000 km, runs excellent & clean. Asking price: 185,000 baht. Contact Tel: 076-341827.

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2003, 4-door, Carryboy, 1st-class condition. Asking price: 355,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2699919.

NISSAN NV CAB 2000 FOR SALE

1,600cc, manual, good condition inside and out, 80,000km. Asking price: 190,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-3670991.

ISUZU SPACECAB

pickup. 1995, 180,000km. The pickup looks good and is in great condition. Price: 180,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-7418345. Email: info@1nj.de

NISSAN NV CAP

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2005 FORD HI-RIDER

18 months old, 27,000km, 5-speed, alarm, excellent condition. Price: 430,000 baht. Call Tel: 084-1880896. Email: dimhost@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIGO 2.7L VVTI

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FORD RANGER XLT

up for sale. 2002, diesel engine, 71,000km, excellent condition. Only 270,000 baht. Call Dieter at Tel: 086-2812899.

NISSAN NV

2006, only 10,000km. Price: 310,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 084-4413633.

FORD RANGER 2006

Open cab, silver, 28,000km. Price: 355,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-4413633.

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1,600cc, manual, good condition inside and out, 80,000km. Asking price: 190,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 081-3670991.

NISSAN NV FOR SALE
June 2004. 63,000km, manual transmission, silver color. Price: 250,000 baht. Call for details at Tel: 081-9785058.

TRITON MEGA CAB
2006, blue, 2WD, 17,000km, CD, rust proofed. 150,000 baht, take over finance payments of 7,883 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7959105.

ISUZU D-MAX 2.5 DI TURBO SX
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NISSAN NV 1995
pickup. 140,000km, blue color. Price: 150,000 baht. New engine. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-4151875, 084-6032361.

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TOYOTA SPORT CRUISER 4WD
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JEEP SUZUKI CARIBIAN
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ISUZU CAB 4, 4WD
2001, 56,000km, manual gears, 3.0L, good condition. Price: 470,000 baht. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

JEEP SUZUKI CARIBIAN 1.3
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Original owner, March 2006, 13,000km, silver, auto., full insurance for 1 year. Price: 690,000 baht. No bargaining. Please call Tel: 087-0820100.

FORD RANGER
Open cab, XLT, 2006. Price: 395,000 baht. Please call Tel: 084-4413633.

2003 FORD ESCAPE
Black, 45,000km. Excellent condition, full service history. 750,000 baht ono. Email: mike@mikepearson.net

ISUZU 4-DOOR
Carryboy, one owner, 2003. Price: 395,000 baht. Please contact for more details at Tel: 084-4413633.

KIA SPORTAGE 4X4
1999, good condition, ABS. Asking price: 235,000 baht. Contact for additional details at Tel: 089-4724870. Email: ngakaruvvan@hotmail.com

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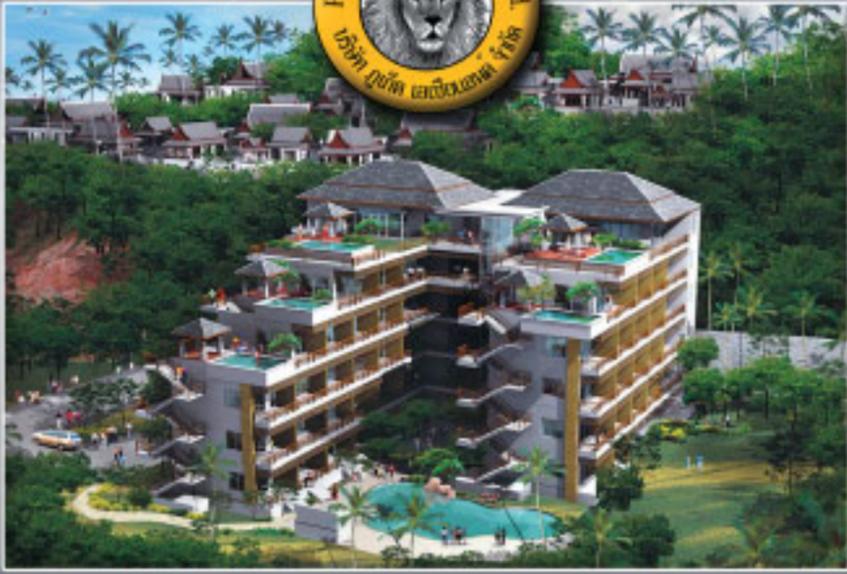




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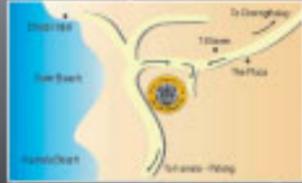
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