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Nai Yang Beach restaurant operators fight eviction

By Atchaa Khamlo

NAI YANG BEACH: The owners of 13 beach-side restaurants located inside Sirinath Marine National Park are refusing to relocate to new premises that were built for them at the park's visitors center, saying that the new shops are too small and distant from the sea.

The latest dispute in the area is just the latest chapter in a decades-old dispute over the right to use the Nai Yang beach front, the southern half of which is administered by the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization.

The other half is located inside Sirinat National Park, which covers 22 square kilometers south of the airport.

Sirinath National Park built a "food center" style facility with 10 shops to accommodate some of the 13 vendors who currently operate on land inside the park, but the vendors are refusing to relocate.

Restaurant owner Somjit Lakbarn said that the new premises offered by the park, each just three meters wide and four meters deep, are too small.

Her current operation



Food stall operators discuss their plight with National Park Chief Charuay Inchan.

started more than a decade ago. It has seating for ten customers and offers a wide assortment of dishes including *somtum*, roast chicken and a variety of grilled seafood, along with beverages including beer and whiskey.

Under the rules of the new food center, each vendor would be restricted to a single type of

food. Location is also a problem, she said.

"I am not confident I can attract customers and make a profit at the new place because it is more than 100 meters from the beach.

"Also, all the vendors will have to pay to buy plates, bowls and cutlery and also pay the

cleaning and dish-washing staff hired by the food center," she said.

Ms Somjit said she had raised these issues with Park Chief Charuay Inchan, but that he dismissed them and said the vendors were not in a position to negotiate.

Continued on page 2

Phuket has second highest HIV infection rate

PHUKET CITY: Phuket now ranks second among Thailand's 76 provinces in terms of HIV infection, with the large number of nightlife entertainment venues and sex industry seen as the cause.

Dr Wiwat Sitomnoch of the Phuket Public Health Office reported that the incidence of HIV infection among teenagers and young adults in Phuket is rising, as is the number of cases of gon-

orrhoea and other sexually transmitted diseases. About 90% of cases are the result of unsafe sex practices, he said.

The Public Health Ministry's Department of Disease Control has been keeping statistics of HIV/Aids cases in public and private hospitals in Thailand since 1984.

As of August 31 this year, 335,414 cases had been reported, with 91,839 deaths.

In Phuket, the number of cases reported from public and private hospitals between 1989 and October 2008 is 5,864 cases, with 1,531 deaths. The number of cases among men is greater than among women by a factor of 2:1.

The highest incidence was among people aged between 25 and 39. In this range, the highest incidence was among 30-34 year olds, with an incidence of 25.67%,

followed by 25-29 year olds (22.10%) and 35-39 year olds (18.02%).

Infection rates for the 0-4-year-old bracket were 2.46%.

By profession, the most cases were found among people who describe themselves as "workers for hire", followed by domestic workers, the unemployed, retail vendors, company workers, manual laborers and fisherfolk, respectively.



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From page 1

"He just said it was park policy to make the beach more beautiful," she said.

The restaurant owners have already sent a petition to Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangchan asking that they be allowed to remain. Some of the vendors have been operating there for twenty years.

"I believe the governor will give me justice. We earn a living in an honest way, offer a good service and don't take advantage of people," she said.

As part of the petition, the restaurant owners outlined steps they would take to keep the beach beautiful if they are allowed to continue operating there.

"I promise I will do my best to keep the beach beautiful. I just beg the governor not to force me to move from here," she said.

"The former park chief allowed us to set up business here under the promise that we would protect the trees and keep the area clean. We have been operating here happily and without incident for a long time," she added.

Current park chief Charuay Inchan isn't budging. He said, "The law is on the side of the National Park and I have already informed the National Parks Region 5 Office in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, which is preparing to take legal action against the encroachers.

"When the court orders the eviction of the vendors they will have 30 days to comply. If they fail to do so, the shops will be removed by the state and they will be charged for the work in removing them. As for the ten new stalls completed in October, only one is currently being used. The other stalls are available to the

existing beach vendors on a first-come, first served basis," Mr Charuay said.

"Nai Yang National Park needs to develop the area in a standardized way. We have been getting lots of complaints from people about the state of the beach. The new food center will also improve hygienic conditions," he added.

Outside the park boundary, south of the closed-down Crown Nai Yang Suite Hotel, some 33 roadside shops and stalls line the beach road. The days also appear to be numbered for these small-scale entrepreneurs, who are also encroaching on public land.

Sakoo Administration President Surapong Panyawai, now in his second term, told the *Gazette* that he agrees with Governor Preecha's plan to tidy up the entire 2-kilometer Nai Yang beach front.

The administration has already submitted a proposal for 23 million baht in provincial funding to construct a single-story building to house all 33 shops.

"We have already held a meeting with the shop owners who agreed to move into the new facility as soon as it is completed. We will begin construction as soon as the governor gives his approval," he said.

"After the building is finished, I will not allow the construction of any new shops near the beach," he added.

This latest standoff is only the latest chapter in a long-running dispute between people operating businesses on the beach.

In 2005, Sakoo Administration spent 15 million baht in funding provided by the TAT to build 30 single-story shops for the vendors on National Park Land.

The park halted construction in August of that year, pointing out that permission had only been verbal and that the structures, by then 60% complete, did not follow the originally specified design.

Then Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura visited the site and ordered the buildings torn down, agreeing with the park authorities that they were an eyesore, blocking sea views from the road.

Cobia project deemed a success

PHUKET: Following Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan's visit last week to the experimental cobia fish farm project in Laem Hin, the *Gazette* caught up with Dr Jiraporn Kasornchandra, director of the Coastal Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute and Rolf Engelsen, senior advisor in aquaculture to the Norwegian Government's Center for Development Co-operation in Fisheries.

Dr Jiraporn was quick to clear up any misunderstanding regarding the name of the fish, pointing out that the fish were indeed cobia (sometimes referred to as black king fish or 'sergeant fish') and not, as had been widely reported, snakehead fish.

The Norwegian government's participation in the project, launched in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami disaster, is ultimately aimed at developing large-scale marine fish farming on the island, Mr Engelsen explained.

The assistance in rebuilding and construction has included the delivery of high-density polyethylene HDPE pipe that supports three large baskets used for cobia farming at Laem Hin.

"The advantage of this kind of pipe is that it can withstand big waves, which means you can operate fish farms in exposed locations such as in the ocean. This in turn offers a better environment for the fish while minimizing user conflicts with tourism," he explained.

The choice of cobia (*rachycentron canadum*), a species indigenous to the tropics, for the fish farm experiment, was due to the species' rapid growth rate, which makes it highly suitable for commercial production. Also, the ability of cobia to be bred in hatcheries made it an ideal candidate for the project although Mr Engelsen said that the Governor's wish that cobia might one day compete with Scandinavian salmon was still some way off.

"The question is, can cobia become the 'tropical salmon'? No one can answer that yet, but there are many positive factors



Cobia fingerlings.

about cobia. It is well suited to Thai conditions and grows very well in the Andaman sea", he said. "Other species of fish, such as the grouper cannot be grown in the millions of tonnes, but maybe cobia can", he added

As for the taste of cobia, Dr Jiraporn observed that it tastes "a bit like chicken", while Mr. Engelsen likened it more to swordfish, monkfish and halibut.

He also highlighted the health properties of the cobia, pointing to its much lower fat content of around 4-5 per cent, compared with salmon, which has a fat content of around 15 per cent.

The success of the cobia-farming experiment will ultimately be decided by the market and in particular by Thailand's ability to compete in the important overseas markets of Europe, Taiwan, Japan and Australia.

Faced with competition from the likes of Vietnam, China and leading cobia producer, Taiwan, Dr. Jiraporn remained confident of Thailand's prospects,

stating that "Thailand is producing a superior quality of fish than Vietnam and Taiwan" and that "conditions in Thailand are better suited for large-scale fish farming".

As the Norwegian-Thai project enters its final year, the two governments are currently discussing a proposal to establish a training center, which, it is hoped, will enable the concept established in Laem Hin to be rolled out to other locations. Under this extension to the cooperation agreement, Norway would continue to provide assistance in training and competence building in the farming of cobia. Asked about the future of cobia farming in Thailand, Mr Engelsen suggested that, in a few years time, larger commercial-scale farms could produce harvests of 1-2 tons of cobia.

"Thailand can hold a competitive position because of the good conditions for the fish, but at the end of the day, success will depend on the market", he concluded.

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Abbyssan YOGA Opens its 2nd studio in Boat Lagoon

On November 15th, 2008 - Abbyssan YOGA & Wellness Center, established in September 2007 in Bang Tao, opened a new studio at Boat Lagoon. The new Yoga studio will also embody the concept of "Wellness", the ultimate combination of exercise, meditation and a variety of yoga styles. Many group exercise classes will be offered each week along with New Body, Mat Pilates and Yoga Core! We also teach Kids yoga and Teens yoga.

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Muslim Wittaya School teacher Doroning Sacheh (center) led a Muslim blessing service on Saturday morning. Cherng Talay, where the artificial reef project is being sunk, has a large Muslim community.

All systems go for Coral Reef Squadron

PHUKET DEEP SEA PORT: Muslim clerics and Buddhist monks held religious services last Saturday morning to bless 10 aircraft that will be sunk off Bangtao Bay to create the "Coral Reef Squadron," the first artificial reef project of its kind in Thailand.

The services began at 10:30 am with a ceremony led by Muslim Wittaya School teacher Doroning Sacheh. Also taking part were Phuket Islamic Council chairman Bamroong Samphaorat, committee member Hameed Longji, other Muslim Wittaya teachers and Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Manote Panchalad.

The Muslim blessing was followed by a Buddhist blessing ceremony, conducted by five monks, which lasted until noon.

After the ceremonies, work

began on moving the ten aircraft by crane onto waiting barges that will ferry them to the project site, located about one kilometer offshore.

The aircraft were originally meant to be sunk in early May, but the onset of stormy monsoon weather caused project organizers For Sea Foundation and partner agencies and groups to postpone the sinking until this month for safety reasons.

According to the project schedule, the loading work will take place through November 22, with the barge departing for the project site on November 23.

Sinking of three planes and six helicopters, expected to take four days, will commence November 24. The sinking of the final Dakota is scheduled to begin at 9 am on the morning of Saturday November 29.

When completed there will

be a grand opening ceremony with Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat expected to preside.

Rainer Gottwald, who heads the TDA committee responsible for the sinking of the aircraft, said everything is going according to schedule and all of the aircraft have now been moved to the edge of the wharf.

Mr Gottwald said he is hoping good conditions at Ao Panwa continue, as the loading of the aircraft with their concrete block supports onto barges is delicate work that requires very calm seas to carry out safely.

Divers will be able to explore the Coral Reef Squadron as early as November 30, he said.

So far no fee has been set for people visiting the site, but the TDA is discussing with OrBorJor Cherng Talay the possibility of charging a small fee, in return for which divers would get a small souvenir.

Mr Gottwald said he was unsure if For Sea Foundation would hold a benefit concert with Sony artists in Phuket on November 28 to help promote the project, as had been discussed.

However, he revealed that TDA divers are already surveying sites off Khao Lak, where they are planning their second artificial reef project with the help of the Hotel General Managers Club of Khao Lak.

The hoteliers would like to have an artificial reef project off the coastline to boost tourism in the resort area, which is still recovering from the devastation of the 2004 tsunami disaster.

Security guard found dead at Inn

PHUKET CITY: A hotel security guard was found dead in a staff accommodation room of a hotel in the heart of Phuket City.

On November 17, Phuket City Police received reports that a body had been found at the Downtown Inn, near Suriyadej Circle in Phuket City.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers accompanied police to the scene, where they found the body of 42-year-old Wiangchai Chaiyapreuk, originally from Paknaam District, Samut

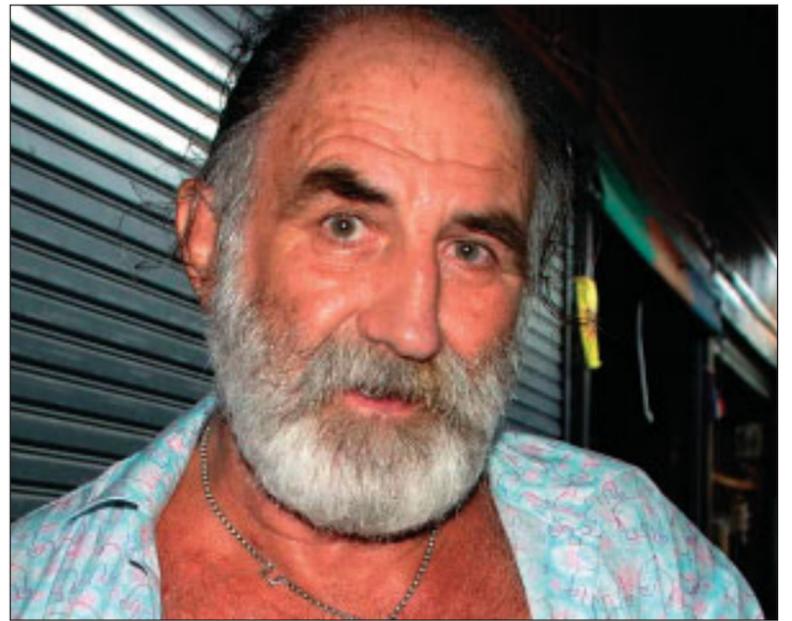
Prakarn Province.

An initial examination of the body revealed no wounds or other signs of trauma; the room showed no signs that a struggle had taken place there, police said.

From the state of decomposition, police estimated that Mr Wiangchai died no fewer than three days before his body was discovered.

Police initially suspect Mr Wiangchai may have passed away from a chronic disease or natural causes.

Environmentalist John Gray wins SKAL Club International Ecotourism Award



Phuket Gazette columnist John "Caveman" Gray has been honored at the 2008 SKAL World Congress in Taipei, Taiwan. Gray's SeaCanoe received the SKAL Club International Ecotourism Award for Transportation.

In 1983, John selected human-powered sea kayaks with which to explore tidal sea caves and remote tropical coastlines, promoting alternative non-polluting marine locomotion.

"Our guides are the true

winners. They capture our guests' hearts and imagination day in and day out. Guest comments praising our guides fill my inbox" commented Caveman.

Aside from teaching Coastal Tourism Management at Prince of Songkla University in Phuket, John Gray spends his time feature writing, photographing, promoting conservation as well as contributing an environmental column to the *Phuket Gazette*.

Visitor Stats

Figures released by the Office of Tourism Development

Guest Arrivals: There was a 17.5% drop in the number of guest arrivals at accommodation establishments for the January to June period 2008 compared with the same period last year. The number of arrivals for that period was listed as 1,624,129 – down from 1,968,693 in the same period last year.

Local Arrivals: The number of Thai visitors dropped 21.71% from 589,951 in 2007 to 461,893 this year.

Foreign Arrivals: The number of foreign arrivals dropped 15.7%, from 1,378,742 in 2007 to 1,162,236 in 2008.

Tourism statistics for Thailand, formerly under the remit of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, are, since January of this year, issued by the Office of Tourism Development.



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Few industries in the world can have experienced the kind of exponential growth that Thailand's spa industry has enjoyed over the past decade. With annual expansion rates of 100-150% quite commonplace in recent years, the spa industry in Phuket alone now employs more than 2,000 therapists, working in some 200 spas across the island. So what makes a good spa therapist? And what are the prospects for a therapist working in the spa industry? The *Gazette* recently spoke with prominent representatives of the Phuket spa industry to get their take on the job of recruiting and training today's generation of therapists.

Wichien Juthamongkhol, President of the Phuket Spa Association.

"The Phuket Spa Association is responsible for promoting the Phuket spa industry as a whole. It has the job of co-ordinating with the various government agencies that are involved in the spa business, such as the TAT, the Ministries of Industry, Commerce and Public Health.

In all, there about seven different arms of government associated with the spa industry," he said.

Central to the association's duties is its role of developing professionalism in the industry and helping to improve the calibre of people working in the island's many spas. A recent initiative between the Phuket Spa Association and the Phuket Vocational College has led to the introduction of a new two-year course in

spa therapy and Thai massage.

"Many therapy schools have been operating in Phuket for a long time but do not offer any recognized qualification or diploma, making it difficult for their students to subsequently secure employment with international establishments," commented Mr Wichien.

Phuket Vocational College now offers a choice of spa courses and is expecting to enroll around 20 students in this, its second year of operation.

The only other "open" school in Phuket is the Phuket Thai Massage School, which was set up by the government and which offers courses in Thai massage and Thai therapy. Further projects aimed at producing better qualified Thai therapists are currently in the works, including a course developed under an EU scholarship and run at Chiva-Som in Bangkok.



Six Senses Spa trainee therapists receive hands-on instruction.

Students graduating from this course are required to return to their employer and train an additional 20 therapists.

Some of the larger international spa operators, including Banyan Tree Spa and Six Senses Spa, have chosen to set up their own in-house schools or "academies".

Mr Wichien pointed out that up until a couple of years ago, due to the tremendous growth in the spa industry, there had been a significant lack of

qualified therapists working in the business. However, the current fall-off in tourism due to the global economic downturn has alleviated this shortfall.

"Ninety per cent of the spa business in Phuket is linked to the tourist business, and with the slowdown across the industry, a number of spas have resorted to

opening just three or four days a week, and others, particularly 'day spas', have had to close altogether," he said. Mr Wichien further noted that current expansion in the business was limited to hotel or "resort" spas. Of the 200 or so spas on the island, around 150 were resort spas, he added.

Lena Lefever, Spa Manager, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

As one of the smaller international spas, the Arcadia Spa at the Hilton in Karon Beach faces a unique set of challenges.

Employing around 17 therapists, the Arcadia does not operate an in-house training academy, but elects instead to bring in trainers from abroad who specialize in different aspects of spa therapy and massage.

This practice was introduced by the Hilton when it teamed up with the Arcadia five years ago. Additional therapist training is then conducted by the spa's team of senior therapists.

Ms Lena explained that while the bigger international spas running their own academies were able to hire staff with little or no experience and train them from scratch, the Hilton Arcadia needed to look to hire therapists who already had experience in the industry.

A trainee therapist at the Hilton Arcadia is required to undergo at least one month's training before being allowed to work with a customer, and would be

expected to spend up to three months learning about the various treatments and products.

Earnings and career prospects for a successful therapist can be rewarding. While the minimum government wage for a therapist is set at just 6,000 baht per month, it is quite common for a good therapist to take home upwards of 10,000 baht, which compares very favorably with employees working at a similar level in other areas of the hotel.

When interviewing candidates, Ms. Lena says that the most important quality she looks for is a genuine love of providing a satisfying service to the customer.

She also pointed to the increasing number of opportunities now available for those interested in a career in spa therapy and spa management.

A number of universities, including Rangsit university in Bangkok, are now offering bachelor degree courses in spa management.

"The opportunities are far greater now than when I first started out," she added.

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Students of Spas

Bryan Hoare,
Director of Wellness at Soneva Kiri by Six Senses.

At the luxurious Soneva Kiri resort, situated on a 41-hectare site on the island of Kood off the north coast of Phuket, the Director of Wellness, 38-year-old Bryan Hoare, oversees a spa facility that features 45 spa rooms and employs around 60 therapists. To ensure a sufficient supply of suitably qualified and well trained therapists, the Six Senses operates its own in-house academy.

The interview process for aspiring therapists is a rigorous one, comprising a preliminary interview, English language evaluations, problem-solving assessments, departmental and section interviews, and in some instances, a final sit-down with the General Manager.

If this all sounds rather daunting, Mr Hoare is at pains to point out that at the end of the day, what Six Senses is looking for most of all is a natural ability to communicate and interact.

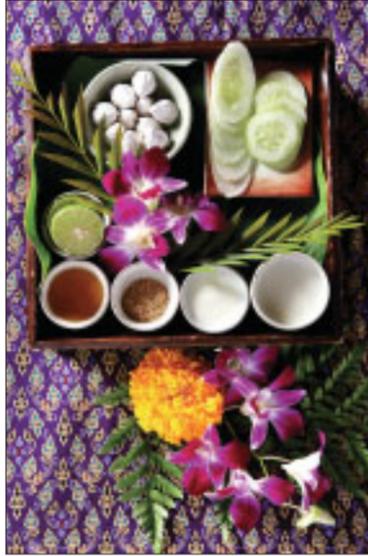
Once admitted to the academy, trainees will undergo six months of hands-on training, which includes ongoing English language training, including designated "English days", during which the trainees are permitted to speak English only.

As regards the qualifications required to apply for a position at Six Senses, Mr Hoare says that candidates are expected to be at least 18 years of age and must have obtained the necessary license required by the Ministry of Health.

Six Senses favors candidates with at least two years' experience as a therapist, although this is not a hard-and-fast rule. Asked to enumerate the personal qualities that went into making a good Six Senses spa therapist, Mr Hoare listed his top five as:

1. Empathy
2. Intuitiveness
3. Communication, embracing both linguistic ability and "physical presence"
4. Adaptability
5. Drive and an eagerness to learn and grow.

Concerning the last two points, Mr Hoare pointed out that the industry continues to evolve and that "the spa industry is becoming the 'wellness' industry," and that "massage is no longer enough." It is therefore important for a successful therapist to be able to learn, adapt and embrace the broader concept of holistic wellness as embodied by Six Senses.



Spa studies include learning the properties of different herbs and spices. Photo: Hilton Arcadia Spa & Resort.

The Banyan Tree Spa Academy.

In 2001 the Banyan Tree Spa Academy was established in Phuket. The first of its kind, the academy trains a team of more than 200 spa therapists, who undergo more than 300 hours of theoretical and practical training.

In May 2002, the academy was accredited by Thailand's Ministry of Education. Each trainee therapist at the Banyan Tree Spa Academy undertakes theoretical and practical training before she can be attached to one of the Banyan Tree Spas and allowed to assist a senior therapist in performing a spa treatment.

The training program encompasses all areas of spa therapy, including knowledge of the human anatomy and important pressure points, modern and traditional massage techniques, variation of body weight for different techniques, knowledge of skin epidermis and facial applications, properties of different herbs and spices, preparation of spa ingredients, and setting up of treatment rooms and spa pavilions.



Banyan Tree Spa therapists.



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PoliceBlotter October Crime Statistics

Figures from Phuket Provincial Police

Murder: There were 5 reports of murder with 3 arrests.

Manslaughter: There were 31 reports of manslaughter with 21 arrests made – a 67.74% increase in arrests compared with the same period last year.

Prostitution: There were 115 arrests made in connection with prostitution – a 25% increase in arrests compared with the same period last year.

Theft: A total of 73 cases of theft were reported in October with 47 arrests made – a 64.38% increase in the number of arrests compared with the same period last year. These figures include 9 reports of motorcycle theft with 3 arrests made and 34 reports of embezzlement with 2 arrests made.

Gambling: With 56 cases of gambling reported and 178 gamblers arrested, October's figures for "general gambling" are 3.45% lower than for the same period last year. However, there were 29 arrests made in connection with illegal lottery dealings – a 93.33% increase compared with the same period last year.

Drug crimes: Drug arrests were up 14.94% compared with the same period last year, with 100 cases recorded and 117 people arrested. Drug seizures included 2 grams of heroin, 10.6 grams of dry marijuana, 604 leaves of *Mitragyna Speciosa*, 7,735 methamphetamine pills, 1 can of

Queer News

Curious cockroach gives traveler

CHIANG MAI: At some point in their lives, most people are likely to have had some pretty unpleasant bus trips, whether on a crowded Greyhound Bus in the States or a steaming hot, jam-packed third-class "Orange Crush" hurtling through the Thai countryside.

If you think your bus journeys have been hell, consider the case of one passenger from Khon Kaen who, while taking a grubby coach to start a new job in Chiang Mai, awoke to find a cockroach burrowing into his inner ear.

On November 5, young Kittiphong Damkhong walked into Phuphing Police Station in Muang District to file a rather odd complaint. On meeting the Duty Inspector Chachan Saengbun, Mr Kittiphong pulled out a plastic bag and presented the officer with a rather waxy dead cockroach, which he claimed had crawled into his ear while he was riding on a Phu Luang Tours coach on the night of November 3.

Kittiphong, 23, explained to the officer that after boarding the coach at 10pm in Khon Kaen, he had fallen fast asleep. When he awoke, he felt something crawling round his left earlobe.

As he tried to brush it off, it took refuge by diving deep into his ear hole.

Despite his best attempts, he could not get the bug out and had to sit there with it in his ear until the coach made a rest stop in Phitsanuloke, he said.

At the service station, he rushed off to find some cotton buds and then raced to the toilet to try and dislodge the insect. After much poking and prodding, the cockroach, now dead, fell out. Still shocked, Mr Kittiphong decided to keep the insect as evidence, he said.

The following morning when he arrived in Chiang Mai, Mr Kittiphong noticed that he was having difficulty hearing in his left ear. He went to Maharaj Nakhon Chiang Mai Hospital to get it checked out.

Two days after the incident he still couldn't hear properly and there was a risk of infection, he was told.

Fearing mounting medical costs, he kept the doctor's certificate as evidence – along with the corpse of the cockroach.

"After considering what had occurred, I realized it could have happened to anyone. The coach

company should take responsibility for letting cockroaches live in the bus. Where were the cleanliness standards on the coach? What might have happened if it had been a venomous bug that had got in?"

It could have killed or injured passengers. Who will take responsibility if I go deaf from infection? I decided to report the incident so there will be evidence if my condition gets worse and I need to appeal to the relevant authorities," said Mr Kittiphong.

The experience of having had a cockroach temporarily living in his head had obviously not diminished the young man's ability for rational thought.

Ketkaow Thammaraksa, Deputy Manager of Phu Luang Tours, said that in the many years the company had been operating she had never heard of an incident like this.

She added that if the victim could bring a doctor's note or receipt for any treatment costs the company would be happy to reimburse him as all passengers are covered under the company's compulsory insurance.

However, she said that the company had not yet heard from Mr Kittiphong.

High-season tourism outlook bleak: PTA

PHUKET CITY: Despite a large drop in fuel prices internationally, the outlook for this year's tourist high season remains bleak, according to a top tourism industry leader.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice-President Bhuritt Maswongsa told the *Gazette* that current occupancy rates and advanced bookings from now until the end of the year should result in an island-wide average occupancy rate of about 55%, compared with 80% for the same period last year.

Mr Bhuritt, who is General Manager of the Patong Beach Resort, said the main cause for

the downturn was a drop in the number of arrivals from Phuket's traditional "bread-and-butter" market: Europe.

Security fears resulting from the ongoing political turmoil in the capital and the global economic downturn have combined to keep the Europeans away, he said.

"Many countries still have travel advisories in effect, warning tourists not to visit areas where pro- and anti-government demonstrations are taking place.

"Also, the economic crisis in the US and Europe has caused potential tourists to delay or cancel their travel plans in order to

save money," he said.

"I expect that many hotels and resorts will be forced to lay off staff around the middle of next year. Another reason for the lower occupancy rate is probably the oversupply situation in the number of hotel and resort rooms," he added.

In Patong alone, the number of hotel rooms registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand increased from 9,919 in 2005 to 12,962 by September this year – an increase of over 30%.

Similar increases in the number of rooms available at hotels, resorts and rental villas have taken place in many other

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Bird flu is back

Thailand's Public Health Ministry has placed nine northern provinces under tight watch for avian influenza after the disease was discovered in chickens in two districts in the region recently.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Public Health Dr Paichai Varachit said the decision to impose the special monitoring of the disease was made at a meeting of ministry officials in Phitsanulok province on November 13.

All hospitals in the nine provinces have been instructed to provide immediate treatment to patients suspected to have contracted avian influenza without waiting for laboratory tests, said Dr Paichit.

As cold weather descended on most of Thailand, health officials on October 28 detected the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in a dead fowl in Thung Salium district of Sukhothai province.

A number of birds were also found dead of unknown causes in Nong Chang district of Uthai Thani province recently.

Market protest bombed: At least 13 people were wounded, two seriously, by an exploding device reportedly thrown early on the morning of November 13 at vendors from Khlong Toei Market staging a protest at Ratchadaprasong Intersection in Bangkok.

Police could not say if it was a bomb or a giant firecracker, as Wednesday night was the Loy Krathong Festival, celebrated by people lighting fireworks and firecrackers.

Police beefed up security at the protest site after the nine women and four men were rushed to Kluy Nam Thai and

Chulalongkorn hospitals.

The device was thrown onto a tent occupied by the protesters by an unidentified man on a motorcycle, police said.

One person sustained a serious head injury while a 51-year-old man suffered serious shrapnel wounds all over his body. Some 1,000 vendors began rallying at the intersection on November 11 after the Port Authority of Thailand and its concessionaire Legal Professional Company ordered the tenants to leave so that it could redevelop the property.

Dharma lounge: Starting this month, outbound passengers at Bangkok's busy Suvarnabhumi Airport will be able to find an oasis of peace in a quiet space set aside for up to 20 people to meditate. Senator Sukanya Sudbanthad said that the meditation room is a part of a "Dharma Airport" project implemented by a Senate subcommittee that she heads.

The primary objective of the project was to provide a reception area for monks, but the generous amount of space allocated by airport authorities meant that there was enough room to serve members of the public too, she explained.

The meditation room will give an extra option to passengers who have long waits for flights, she said. The National Buddhism Office is in charge of decorating the room and providing staff.

Jobs at risk: One million industrial jobs in Thailand could be lost to the global economic recession over the next several quarters, the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has warned.

Factories now operate just five days per week instead of six days due to fewer [export] orders, which will likely drop at least 30% year on year. Consequently, 15% to 20% of the workforce is expected to be laid off at the start of 2009, FTI Labor Committee Chairman Thaveekij Jaturajarnkul said.

As overseas customers cut back orders, manufacturers should reduce their production shifts and overtime payments to employees, he said.

The garment, electric and electrical appliance, ceramic and furniture industries will be among those most at risk to the global slump, he added.

Thailand's industrial sector employs about 6 million people.

Polluter to pay? The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is considering charging a private firm for allegedly dumping toxic waste into a water source in Chonburi.

DSI chief Thawee Sodsong said at a seminar on environmental law on November 12 that his organization had received many complaints about natural resources being destroyed in several provinces, especially those that are tourist destinations.

The DSI is focused on cracking down on influential figures with repeat offenses that local authorities could not touch due to insufficient evidence or witnesses being too afraid to testify.

DSI deputy chief Pol Colonel Suchart Wonganantachai said the agency had already looked into several cases of factories releasing toxic waste into water sources.

An informed source said



A group of red-shirted pro-Thaksin supporters from Chainat Province on November 14 burned effigies of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Foreign Secretary David Miliband in front of the British Embassy in Bangkok. The half-hour protest was meant to show their anger after Britain revoked visas of former prime minister Thaksin and his ex-wife Khunying Pojaman.

that the DSI found that toxic matter was being transported from a factory in an Eastern industrial estate to be treated, but the company hired to move the waste was dumping it instead.

Two years' detention: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on November 17 urged Thai authorities to release 158 Hmong refugees who have been detained at an Immigration detention center in Nong Khai for two years.

"These traumatized people have wasted two years of their lives. They have been deprived of any freedom and detained in very difficult conditions," said UNHCR Regional Representative Raymond Hall.

The group was a part of some 8,000 people of ethnic minorities from Laos being sheltered in Phetchaboon's Ban Huay Nam Khao camp. They were arrested

for illegal entry and are being held until they can be repatriated.

Fatal firecrackers: Two people were killed in Chiang Mai when their home-made giant firecrackers exploded during the Loy Krathong festival, a senior public health officer said Friday.

Surasing Wisarutrat, Chiang Mai deputy chief public health officer, said one person was killed in Mae Rim district and another in Mae Taeng district.

In total, 61 people were injured in fireworks explosions during the four-day festivities between November 10 and 13.

Last year, no one was killed, but 181 were injured by firecracker explosions during the Loy Krathong period, he said.

Sourced from The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Deadly week for local politics

The president of a tambon administration organization (*OrBorTor*) was injured and his secretary killed when their truck was fired upon in an ambush in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Thung Song District on November 10. One other woman was also injured in the attack. A day earlier, three people, including two local politicians, were shot dead in neighboring Phatthalung province.

Police said that Aphinan Chanaphai, President of *OrBorTor* Kapaang, was driving his four-door pickup truck back from a meeting in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Muang District at the time of the attack, about 2:30 pm.

With him, were *OrBorTor* secretary Chutima Chanthamat, 33, and *OrBorTor* official Pacharak Buathip, age not reported. As they drove through tambon Salameechai in Muang District, another pickup truck pulled alongside to their left and a passenger opened fire with a pistol.

All three occupants of the truck were hit, but Mr Aphinan managed to drive to Maharaj Hospital. Miss Chutima, who was hit in the back of the head, died in hospital. Mr Aphinan and Mrs Buathip were both hit once in the left arm.

Investigating police officer Lt Suriya Pankert of the Muang Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police said that he believed Mr Aphinan was the target of the attack, rather than his secretary. The Muang District Police are now working with Thung Song Police to try to establish a motive for the attack.

The night before in neighboring Phatthalung Province, three people, including the *kamnan* (tambon chief) of Tambon Lan Khoi and a former

member of Lan Khoi municipal council, were shot dead while driving home from a funeral in Pa Phayom District.

Witnesses reported that as the three were driving in a pickup truck on the Lan Khoi-Mai Siap Rd, another truck pulled alongside and three men in the back opened fire with assault rifles before speeding off.

All three occupants of the truck were killed. Police identified the victims as: 51-year-old Sawat Sripromkon, *kamnan* of Tambon Lan Khoi in Pa Phayom District; Suraphon Nuyam, 39, a former member of Lan Khoi municipal council; and Somkit Tutkeu, 41, a close associate of *Kamnan* Sawat.

A bystander, Lim Srisawat, was also hit in the leg by a stray bullet.

Police said that they are investigating three possible motives for the killing. As one of the victims was allegedly involved in an attempt on the life of the president of *OrBorTor* Lan Khoi at the beginning of this year, the attack may have been an act of revenge. Police are also investigating whether a local political dispute or personal conflict could have provided a motive for the attack.

Resort retreat: The Satun Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has ordered a delay in the scheduled demolition of a Tarutao Island resort that the National Park & Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department claims was built illegally.

In a meeting of the provincial council on November 13, *OrBorJor* President Thanin Jaisamut said that it was not right that a destruction order had been given for the controversial resort, which is now about 80% complete and the result of 50 million

baht in private sector investment.

The dispute threatens to spoil the province's tourism atmosphere, he added.

Samat Charoenreut, president of the Satun Tourism Business Society, said that his society, as well as the Satun Chamber of Commerce and the Satun Federation of Industry, all agreed that building work on the resort should be allowed to continue as the resort was already nearing completion. The managing director of the resort, Pritsana Arunwetchakul, also happens to be the chairperson of the Satun Chamber of Commerce.

Gatecrashing catastrophe:

Two teachers were shot and injured in Narathiwat on November 10 after the brakes on their truck failed, causing them to crash into an army checkpoint.

Police said they are not yet sure if the truck's occupants were shot by soldiers who mistook them for insurgents, or by insurgents who may have been waiting to ambush the checkpoint.

The incident happened about 6:30 pm, when 53-year-old Raman Wamaedee and his wife Anna Wara, 34, were driving through heavy rain from the school where they taught in Yala's Raman District, to their home in the Muang District of Narathiwat.

When they came to a checkpoint in Bajoh District, Mr Raman tried to stop but found his brakes had failed and they crashed into the checkpoint. A burst of gunfire then rang out. Mr Raman was shot once in the right arm and Mrs Anna was hit once in the back.

Soldiers took the pair to Bajoh Hospital. Mrs Anna, who was in serious condition, was then transferred to Narathiwat Nak-



The two tigers pictured above are star attractions at the Songkhla Zoo in the province's Muang District. The zoo, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, covers 911 rai of hillside land near the coastline. It is widely considered to be the top animal park in the southern region.

harin Hospital for further treatment.

Police said they were still trying to establish whether the couple were shot by soldiers on guard at the checkpoint, or whether insurgents could have been hiding in the thick vegetation by the roadside.

No reason for treason: The Court of Appeals on November 12 dismissed charges of treason against three men from the deep South, saying there was not enough credible evidence to support a claim they were engaged in separatist activities.

The court also acknowledged that an initial confession from one of the three defendants had been beaten out of him while in custody.

Police had accused Ilyas Malee, 42, Paosi Sateng, 30, and Ya Ah-dae, 61, of taking part in separatist activities from 1999 to

2002. Ilyas and Paosi both died while in custody.

Police had accused the three suspects of taking part in meetings with members of the Patani United Liberation Organisation, Barisan Revolusi Nasional and other mujahideen groups behind the violence in the Malay-speaking region.

Police also accused them of promoting separatist ideology, as well as carrying out armed activities against state officials. However, the court's statement said the only witness for the police was not credible. He was identified as Mala Sem, an official of a tambon administration organization in Yala.

The court took into consideration the possibility of a personal conflict between Mala and Ilyas, saying the latter was a local imam while the official had been accused of involvement in illegal activities in the area.



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Phuket bids farewell to Princess Galyani Vadhana

HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana 1923–2008

Throughout Thailand for three days last week, people everywhere mourned the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra. In Phuket, the three largest remembrance ceremonies took place at three Buddhist temples: Wat Wichitsangkaram in Phuket City; Wat Prathong in Thalang; and Wat Ketho in Kathu.

After 100 days of official mourning, more than 1,000 people made their way to Wat Wichitsangkaram to pay their final respects to Princess Galyani, elder sister of HM The King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangchan presided over the ceremony, which was attended by government officers, teachers, students and the general public, all in full formal dress.

The ceremony started at 3 pm with monks chanting prayers and attendees viewing the symbolic cremation while Their Majesties were presiding over ceremonies at Sanam Luang in Bangkok.

In Phuket, Governor Preecha was the first to lay sandalwood flowers at the spot on the stage where an image of HRH Princess Galyani stood.

Monks and then the rest of the crowd were allowed to lay flowers until 10 pm, at which time the actual cremation of HRH Princess Galyani's remains took place in Bangkok.



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Cobia fish is catch of the day

Tawatchai Chuto is the Executive Sous Chef at Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa and is the newest member of the culinary management team there.

Originally from Samut-songkram, Mr Tawatchai spent fifteen years traveling around the world, gaining experience with international cuisine and showcasing the best of Thai cooking.

Since 1988, Mr Tawatchai has had many opportunities to work in other countries, including Australia, Malaysia, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Bahrain and America. "I've had the great privilege in my professional life of cooking famous Thai and fusion cuisine for anywhere between two and 1,200 guests and they have all responded with the same verdict:

Aroi!," he told the *Gazette*.

"This means a lot to a chef. It is a sign of success and makes him proud of his work," he added.

Mr Tawatchai has always been a lover of good food and it was a natural choice for him to become a chef.

His mission now is to share his passion for food by introducing others to his culinary creations and also teaching them some of the techniques he has learned over the years.

Today, Chef Tawatchai shares a recipe for the tropical, and topical, fish of the moment, the cobia or Black King Fish. The cobia has been in the news lately following Governor Preecha's recent visit to a Cobia fish farm in Laem Hin.

With a taste similar to that of monkfish or swordfish, the

cobia is set to become a major export for the island of Phuket.

The cobia fish has often been compared with salmon, but there are significant differences between the two, notably the much lower fat content of a cobia at around 4% compared with 15% for salmon.

Chef Tawatchai's dish is called Black King Fish Pad Char, and is one of the most popular dishes in Thai cuisine.

Pad char is a spicy dish, mixed with herbs and can be made with any kind of meat, but is most often prepared using fish.

The strong flavour of the cobia fish allows it to blend well with aromatic herbs and spices. Want to try cooking this dish yourself? Then check out the recipe below.

Right: Executive Sous Chef of the Evason Phuket Tawatchai Chuto prepares Black King Fish Pad Char.

Guest chef

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod



Black King Fish Pad Char (for 4 people)

Baby corn	6 stems
Guinea-pepper	5-6 grains
Garlic	5 petals
Turkey berry	3 bunches
Eggplant	3 eggplants
Lesser ginger	2 calves
Fish sauce	2 teaspoons
Sugar	1 1/2 teaspoons
Salt	1/2 teaspoon
Hot basil	15 leaves
Chicken Stock	a third of a cup
Leech lime leaf	3 leaves
vegetable oil	2 tablespoons
Cobia fish	8 slices

Cooking Instructions

Pour the vegetable oil in the pan and pre-heat to level 9 if you are using an electric stove.

Add in the garlic and fry until it attains a nice gold color Mix in the guinea-pepper, then add the Cobia fish, cooking for 3 minutes on each side.

Add all the vegetables at the same time, leave for 2 minutes and then mix with the sauce

Add the chicken stock and bring to the boil

Add hot basil.

Before serving, sprinkle fresh chillies over the top and serve with steamed rice. *Aroi!*

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Re-inventing Ganesha

Artist Veerachan Usahanun recently arrived in Phuket with his collection of contemporary paintings of the Hindu deity Ganesha. His distinct and powerfully provocative work is far from traditional.

Veerachan is aware that for many his way of depicting the elephantine god from Hindu mythology is "too strong," but he is adamant that his art has its place in modern society and on the walls of the few who fall in love with his works and can afford to hang the large paintings in their homes.

Before moving to Phuket, Veerachan made a big impression on the Bangkok art scene with several exhibitions of his fantasy portraits and "Miracles of Ganesha" collection.

Now he has set up a home studio near Bang Tao Beach with his wife "Gai," who creates hand-painted batik T-shirts.

In 2002, Veerachan unveiled his four-meter-high sculpted painting Tri-phoom "Three worlds" in Bangkok. That work, commissioned by one of Thailand's telecommunications tycoons, remains on display to the public at the UCOM Building in Bangkok, which houses an art museum dedicated to Thailand's present-day artists. The massive art piece earned Veerachan a six-figure sum.

After completing Tri-phoom, Veerachan immediately began work on something that had been on his mind for some time, his "Miracles of Ganesha" collection, which has now matured into a nine-piece collection of incredibly powerful and intricate paintings that depict the Hindu deity in various traditional



Artist Veerachan Usahanun stands with two of his paintings in "The Miracles of Ganesha" collection, *The Guardian* (left) and *Lord of Rhythm*.

postures.

At first sight, because the paintings are so full of detail, it's often difficult to see the contemporary connection with traditional poses, but Veerachan has answers for every question about every detail and you soon come to understand that he has pondered every aspect of traditional Ganesha worship.

All his paintings are heavily laced with elements of eroticism, but Veerachan insists that he does not intend to offend religious sensibilities by his choice of subject matter. Rather, he is simply depicting a completely normal aspect of human nature.

As testament to this, a Hindu Braman blessed his paint-

ings when they were put on display at Silom Galleria in Bangkok with a ceremony of dance and prayer.

Because of the paintings' affiliation with elephants, Veerachan donates some of the proceeds from sales of his paintings, t-shirts and other merchandise to the Friends of the Asian Elephant Foundation (FAE), a registered charity founded by Ms Soraida Salwala.

The FAE has an elephant hospital in Lampang, in Northern Thailand, where sick, injured and abused elephants are taken to receive care from volunteers. Ms Soraida has devoted her life to the plight of Thailand's elephants since she witnessed an

elephant hit and fatally injured by a truck.

She fights to raise awareness of the plight of elephants used as beggars on city streets and the abuse they often endure. The hospital has treated many elephants that have lost limbs after stepping on land mines.

Where did you get the inspiration for this collection and how did it start?

"A while after I had completed Tri-phoom, I felt at a loss as to which direction to go next and it was starting to get me down. I still had a strong urge to paint, but it wasn't quite clear to me what I should be doing. I remembered thinking about Ganesha while I was working on Tri-phoom and how contemplating his purpose would have a calming effect on me."

"When I started considering the answers Ganesha would give me to my problems, I began work on my first piece for this collection, The Comforter. I usually start with a sketch on MDF board to be rendered as a sculpture painting at a later date. But

with this one, I had a nice, naturally shaped piece of wood that I painted straight onto with oils and acrylic."

Your way of depicting Ganesha is very different from the traditional representations. How do you justify this?

"I am still representing the traditional values of Ganesha with these paintings. Although they might at first seem shockingly removed from the original concept, this is just the way I see Ganesha in my own mind. I am not saying that this is the way we have to perceive him."

How do your representations of Ganesha tie in with more traditional images?

"Ganesha has always been drawn or modeled into many different forms. Each kind represents one of the 32 precepts that indicate an awareness of how we should conduct ourselves depending on particular circumstances. I've just chosen to recreate nine of those conditions.

"One thing you'll notice in each painting is a rat, somewhere



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or they can be commissioned as oil on canvas.

“If one of these paintings is done in the combination sculpture technique it would take me at least three months to complete, so to reproduce the whole collection in this way would take at least a couple of years.”

You mentioned that your exhibition will benefit Thailand’s elephants. Why and how have you chosen to support them?

“As Ganesha takes the form of an elephant, I feel indebted to him and want to honor these great and wise creatures that are not only my country’s national symbol, but often lead lives of suffering due to human abuse and negligence.

The Friends of the Asian Elephant foundation has elephant hospitals in Thailand and they often care of elephants that have stepped on landmines, which causes them horrible suffering. That’s why I’m donating whatever I can to the foundation from sales and sponsorship.”

Veerachan’s Phuket studio is located on the Bang Tao Beach Road, about 1.5km after Twin Palms at Surin Beach. To contact him call: 081-3480086.

near Ganesha. Traditionally, Ganesha is depicted riding a rat, which is like his guide or his conscience. Even someone as big and powerful as Ganesha must listen to the small voice of the rat, which is like the way we must listen carefully to be able to hear the voice of conscience within us.”

Each painting is obviously a work of painstaking effort. How long do they usually take?

“Although these paintings contain a lot of detail, they are actually just full size representational sketches of what can be commissioned to be recreated in my combination sculpture technique.

These initial sketches take at least a month to create. As I’ve lived with them so long, I really don’t want to see them go.

If a client wishes to buy one or maybe even the whole collection, I will start afresh with my combination technique on wood

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This week



EXCELLENT: Mr Peter Komposch (left), representing Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, receives the award for "Excellent Resort in the South" from HE Mr Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister of Tourism and Sports, on September 27.



HOME BREW: November 10 marked the opening of Phuket Brewery. Assembled guests were treated to stage shows, food and drink, including the brewery's own Pearl beer, which comes in three different styles.



FEEDING TIME: On November 8, representatives of Travelzoo Media from Hong Kong were treated to a lunch hosted by the Allamanda Laguna Phuket, Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort, and the Laguna Phuket Holiday Residences at @17th Restaurant in Laguna Holiday Club Resort.



FAM-FEST: General Manager of Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa Mr John Kidd (left) and his team welcomed media representatives from Singapore, New Zealand, and China during their "Visit Phuket on SilkAir/Singapore Airlines Media Familiarization Trip" from November 7-9.



UNITED WE STAND: On Saturday November 1, Phuket Airport Business Association arranged its inaugural high-season party under the banner of "Prosperity Through Co-operation". The association was established six months ago and comprises around 33 local businesses operating at Phuket Airport. The association's stated aim is to protect the diversity of businesses and to prevent monopolistic activities by companies as seen at some other airports.



GOOD HAIR DAY: Hair stylist Sitthisak Panan (4th from left) celebrates successful completion of the Make-Up Technique International School [MTI] program. Training was provided by Worawee Panya (5th from left), MTI make-up artist at SenSes Health and Beauty Clinique.

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Born Ugly - The Early Years



Rumour has it that the only known recorded birth where the baby did not resemble Winston Churchill was that of Winston Churchill himself, who was said to have looked like the W.C. Fields who in turn, of course, resembled Winston Churchill, if you see what I mean.

Ten minutes after my unsightly emergence from my mother's womb, my twin sister arrived, looking, unsurprisingly, like Winston Churchill.

My mother demanded to know whether she resembled Winston Churchill because she was my twin or because she wasn't Winston Churchill. The doctor declared that both were a possibility and what's more, there was no cigar. Everyone rejoiced at this excellent diagnosis.

In lieu of dressing me in traditional baby attire, my mother took to wrapping me in sheets of newspaper in the hope of developing my early learning skills through subliminal osmosis.

Her newspaper of choice was the *Financial Times* as she believed that it would help me grow up to become a world-famous financier and captain of industry. The early results, however, were less than promising. Struggling, as babies do, to har-

ness my urge to relieve myself willy-nilly, so to speak, my first year was spent with a permanent pink tan and the words 'Dow Jones' tattooed on my bottom.

My father, understandably concerned that being wrapped in all those pink pages might turn me into a limp-wristed hairdresser, would surreptitiously stuff pages of *Penthouse* down my diaper when my mother was busy in the bathroom shaving her forearms.

One day, however, after I had spectacularly soiled a centrefold featuring two *Penthouse* Playmates and a large boa constrictor, my mother uncovered my father's clandestine propaganda campaign, but not before I had triumphantly uttered my first word, "jugs".

My teenage years were spent for the most part trying to reign in my sweat glands, which would erupt at the merest whiff of excitement or embarrassment, which would happen all too often as my face now looked like Winston Churchill with chicken-pox. Needless to say, I didn't enjoy great success with girls, for whom the premature ageing with acne look had yet to be considered a must-have quality in a boyfriend.

So instead, I concentrated

on my studies, displaying an early aptitude for music, in particular, the triangle. Maligned by the great composers for its inability to come back to you when you throw it, the triangle quickly became my abiding obsession.

By the age of thirteen and a half, I had composed my first symphony, comprising three movements, two without signaling and featuring sixteen triangles and a doorbell, the kind that goes ding-dong.

The debut performance of my avant-garde masterpiece was, however, less than an unqualified success.

The entire second movement, in which the forces of evil converge in a maelstrom of apocalyptic fervour, had to be skipped when it was discovered that the doorbell required batteries. Further complications arose when fifteen members of the triangle orchestra confessed to not having brought anything to hit the triangles with.

Improvised attempts to resolve the crisis by striking the triangles with other triangles resulted in six members of the orchestra being hospitalized. The third movement in C minor was performed in the outpatients department.

When not busy composing, I took time to indulge my other great passion, woodwork. Between the ages of fourteen and fourteen and a half, I laboured tirelessly in my father's potting shed, hand-carving imitation fruit out of plywood.

To this day, my "Basket of four-by-two Granny Smith's" stands alone as an existential expression of man's struggle to find meaning in a world of Cox's Pippens.

Having perfected all the major fruits, I branched out into new and exciting areas, such as cooked meats and lettuce. All the signs were pointing towards a club sandwich, although I was reticent at first, fearing that my relative inexperience with relishes and bacon bits would render any attempt futile.

An earlier attempt at a sesame bun had been stymied when my father requisitioned the plywood to build a dog kennel for the cat. I continued to experiment with croutons in the hope of stumbling on a Nicoise Salad, but to no avail.

Just before my fifteenth birthday, I came within a whisker of recreating a Waldorf Salad, but ran out of plywood before I got to the walnuts.

Beautiful Objects Make You Smile.



Yin Da, "In Outside the Car"
Oil painting on canvas
136 x 122cm.



Ma Ye, "Happy Ladies"
Oil Painting on Canvas
180 x 140cm.



Bui Huu Hung, "Bamboo River"
Lacquer painting on board
122 x 122cm.



Yan Yu, "Smoker"
Oil painting on canvas
67 x 167cm.



Ren Rong "Mao"
Oil painting on canvas
125 x 160cm.



Andy Warhol, "Kang Fu"
Beef with Vegetables
and Barley
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International stylists put on hair-raising show in Phuket



World-class hair dressing arrived in Phuket last Wednesday when Wella France brought the P&G Professional Care Tour to Club Med at Kata Beach.

Two top international hair stylists took to the stage to wow an audience of more than 400 invited French and Belgian guests.

Thai models sashayed down the red carpet, parading the pair's innovative and often flamboyant hair creations.

Event co-ordinator Jacques Fournillon, who has represented Wella across the globe for more than 11 years, said that his team had spent a week preparing for the show.

"I am continually searching

for new and imaginative ways to create a memorable event," he said. "Whilst our objective to put on great events around the world remains relatively constant, our methods must be continually evolving, as we look for new and exciting ways to help the hairstylists bring new and fresh styles to the people," he told the *Gazette*.

"For this show, as we

wanted to create a fusion of Thai culture and French style, we opted to work with local models and clothes designers. To remain relevant, it is important that the event and hair styles on show suit the local tastes and meld with the tradition of the country as a whole.

"I work not only as an event manager but also in hairdressing

training and management," he added

The show's artistic director is 35-year-old Georges Manuel. "I have been a hairstylist since I was 16 years old," he said. "I began my career in a Paris salon and while working at the shop, studied 'hair art.' I have been with Wella for the last five years, traveling around the world with

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the hair show, but at the same time I continue to manage my own salons back in Paris, which employ a staff of around a hundred.”
 Hairstylist and managing director Gabillet Laure told the Gazette “I joined Wella about 10 years ago and for the past five years, have owned my own salon, employing seven staff. I have done a lot of work for fashion

magazines such as Vogue and Elle and have worked backstage in many big fashion shows for designers like Gucci and Chanel. This kind of work is quite different from hairstyling on stage, as there is less pressure.
 “After working in the business for many years, I can now tell immediately what hair style and clothes a person should wear

simply by looking at them,” he observed
 Francois-Xavier Bonnaillie, commercial director of the show added, “The dresses worn by the models are all designed by local designers using local materials. Some hair styles, such as those styled to resemble a tree or a pair of antlers take more than two hours to create,” he commented.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

As smooth as SiLk

The latest recruit to the impressive Mercedes-Benz line-up is its superb two-seater sports coupé-cabriolet, the 5.5 liter V8 SL500.

While not suitable for everyone, it is nevertheless a fantastic sports model and indisputably in the finest traditions of the prestigious Mercedes-Benz marque.

The new SL500 packs a silky V8 engine and comes furnished with Mercedes' award-winning seven-speed automatic transmission.

Optional (read cheaper) is a six-speed manual gearbox or a five-speed automatic.

Power output from the majestic V8 is a healthy 388 bhp, while peak torque is achieved between 2,800 and 4,800 rpm, reaching 530 Nm.

The result of all this grunt will catapult the SL500 from 0 to 100kmh in an astronomical 5.4 seconds, while top speed is electronically limited to 250 km/h.

The latest incarnation SL-Class has undergone a significant face-lift which means new lamps, a more prominent radiator grille and 'gill-like' trim panels on the front wings.

The folding metal roof of the SL can disappear at the press of a button and takes just 16 seconds to lower into its own compartment.



The boffins at Mercedes-Benz in Germany have gone to great lengths to ensure that, with the roof folded, there is still enough

room for your Louis Vuitton luggage to fit snugly out of sight.

The ingenious roof mechanism allows even golf bags to be carried in the boot when the roof is down.

With the roof up, the boot becomes truly cavernous.

A novel and extremely useful feature is a 'hill-hold' device that enables the driver, by pressing firmly once on the brake, to activate a full brake-on system until the merest touch on the accelerator releases it; perfect for heavy traffic conditions, particularly on inclines.

Inside the car, the instrument cluster-shroud provides better shading for the 3D instrument cluster with hanging needles.

The sporty multi-function steering wheel in a three-spoke design is neatly finished off with

a matte chrome decorative insert, reinforcing the iconic cachet of the Benz branding.

Although the SL500 is only a two-seater, there is a great deal of luggage space behind the seats, including lockable storage boxes.

A number of other storage compartments are dotted around the interior, including one under the passenger seat.

The interior itself is, as you would expect, extremely well finished and includes cruise control, automatic climate control, a premium sound system of 510 Watts with no fewer than 10 speakers.

The electronically controlled seats, with two memories, are standard, while for colder climes the seats have a heating mechanism although that would not be very useful here in Phuket.

The handling of the SL is as near to perfect as you can get due to its light weight - the bonnet, front wings, doors and boot lid are all aluminum - and there is little roll in the corners.

The suspension is firm and there is some tire thump over uneven surfaces, but this is a sports car after all and the noise is not particularly intrusive. Indeed, the ride is extremely comfortable in all driving situations.

The C63 featured recently in these pages (*Gazette*, July 12) had hip-hugging seats that are quite narrow for European backsides, but with the SL-Class the comfort is exemplary. No complaints whatsoever about the accommodation which, as expected, is first class.

In addition, the seat belts are integral with the seats, precluding the need for a contorted attempt to reach for a remote belt.

Access to the rear is achieved by an electronic switch on top of the back-rest which slides the seat forwards.

The SL500 is not for everyone, and does certainly not come cheap. The official Mercedes-Benz website lists only the SL350, which is priced at 11.79 million baht. The SL500 would have to be specially ordered. For more information visit www.mercedes-benz.co.th

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

November 23. PC Group Therapy – Chalong

Is your Internet connection driving you NUTS? Ready to throw your PC out the window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard for his weekly PC Group Therapy sessions. They're absolutely FREE. Novices most welcome - no experience necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computer, bring your mother-in-law and your worry beads and let's see if we can sort things out. From 10am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (1km north of Chalong Circle), see the web site. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For more information contact Woody Leonard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com. Website: KhunWoody.com

November 27. Opening of Boathouse Silk Art Exhibition by Lea Laarakker "Silk, the Art of Life"

Cocktail reception from 7pm to 8.30pm. Artist Lea Laarakker-Dingjan is internationally renowned for her freehand designs on silk and original solar-dyeing techniques. She will show abstract and figurative silk paintings, wall hangings, banners and unique woven silk items. "Lea Silk" is made in Ban Reng Khai, where Lea has devoted herself to reviving the traditional silk weaving industry since 1987. The exhibition will run until January 7, 2009. For more information visit her website at www.lea-silk.com

November 29 – December 6. Phuket King's Cup Regatta

Five days of great sailing and six nights of some of the best island parties. The regatta that everyone wants to win and the parties that nobody wants to miss. For more information contact Khun Kae. Tel: 076-273380. Email: info@kingcup.com

November 29 - 30. Sixth Phuket International Soccer 7s.

The one and only Phuket Soccer 7s will celebrate its 6th



QSI International School – 7th Annual Fun Run November 29

QSI International School of Phuket, a non-profit organization, is to hold its annual 1.0km and 6.5km fun run. This year's event will be held on November 29, at the Bang Wad Dam, Kathu, with a 1km and 6.5km race. All ages are welcome to compete for individual medals and school team trophies. There will be an awards ceremony, raffle draw, and a silent auction. Registration is from 2pm – 3.15pm. The 1-km race will take place at 3:30pm and the 6.5-km race at 4pm. For more information contact Brad Kenny. Tel: 081-6334279. Email: espckt@ksc.th.com

anniversary this year. This tournament has developed into one of the largest 7s tournaments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This year, 32 teams from 14 countries will compete in Open and Masters Categories. What are you waiting for? Come and experience for yourself the excitement and buzz of the most popular and memorable event on the soccer social calendar. Teams will play a minimum of 4 games over 2 days, on a 7-a-side grass pitch (70m x 45m). Seven-minute halves, full-size goal, no offside, rolling substitution. For more information contact Alain and Tim. Tel: 02-9906881. Email: info@Thai7s.com

November 29. Tax Seminar (English) for Investors in Condos & Apartments

Network Advisory Team Ltd (NAT) would like to invite you to join a half-day (1pm -4.30pm) seminar in English for developers and investors in condos or apartments. Developers will gain a deeper understanding of the tax related to the freehold or leasehold scheme of your Condo or Apartment project as well as the

tax issues in management and after-sales service.

Investors will gain a knowledge of tax applicable to sales, rental or transfers of the properties by inheritance. Participants will be able to identify the relevant tax issues and to learn how to plan aggressively for their benefit. The seminar will be held in English by Miss Sirirat C, the Managing Director of NAT. Reservations recommended. For more information contact Jantima. Tel: 089-4743694. Email: info@thaiaccounting.com

November 29. Phuket International Women's Club Annual Ball

The Phuket International Women's Club Annual Ball will be held on November 29 at The Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa. This year's theme is "Diamonds Are Forever".

This is the main fundraising event for our PIWC scholarship program. We have helped over 550 students and young people to get an education. At present, over 250 youngsters are attending school and college on PIWC scholarships. Please help us to

help the young people of Phuket. Further details to be announced in the *Phuket Gazette*. For more information contact Sue Arnulphy. Tel: 087-2776948. Email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

November 30 Mac Group Therapy

From 10am-12pm at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1190940. Email: woody@KhunWoody.com

November 30. Old World Wine Tasting

From 4:30pm to 7:30pm at Wine Connection Chalong, French & Italian Wineries Gabriel

Meffre & Umani Ronchi will be united. Sample six glasses, a personal plate of imported cheeses and cold cuts and live music. 600 baht per person, free for Club Card members. Contact Pascal. Tel: 076-282411. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

December 4-7. Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX 2008)

From 10am to 6pm daily, yachts, marine equipment, property, lifestyle options and more will be on display Asia's Biggest on-water boat show at Royal Phuket Marina. For more information contact Andy Dowden. Tel: 081-8927670. Email: info@phuketboatshow.com Website: www.phuketboatshow.com

December 5. HM The King's Birthday - Public Holiday

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

December 7. 2008 Laguna Phuket Triathlon

From 7am to 1pm at Laguna Phuket. Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, presented by Thai Airways International, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Herbalife, is now in its 15th year.

The triathlon includes a 1.8km swim, 55km bike ride and a 12km run with a US\$20,000 prize purse. The event expects to attract some 800 athletes from over 30 countries competing in both the individual triathlon and the Herbalife Corporate Challenge Team Relay. A 6km fun run for 500 participants will also be conducted during the event. Tel: 076-324060. Email: info@lagunaphuket.com Website: www.lagunaphuket.com

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HORIZONS

Are we falling off a cliff?

'There is a real possibility of a real, deep international depression.'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is increasingly concerned about the state of the global economy. One senior member of the IMF, who spoke to the media on condition of anonymity, stated that: "There is a real possibility of a real, deep international depression."

The need for anonymity was essential for him to speak candidly; he called the crisis "the worst in 100 years".

When we briefly review what has happened already in 2008, it is very easy to see how quickly the global economy has changed.

The first half of the year saw soaring oil and other commodity prices, and inflationary pressures were mounting. The Chinese Central Bank, the European Central Bank and some others actually raised interest rates to help slow inflationary pressures.

By July, the realization came that prices were falling rapidly at what can be best described as lighting speed. Central Banks moved into reverse gear, slashing interest rates.

It was common to see guests being interviewed on business channels blaming Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of America's central bank, the US Federal Reserve, for being the cause of the housing bubble. This was blamed on his allowing interest rates to fall to 1% earlier this decade whilst fighting a previous recession.

US interest rates are, again, back at 1% and are still expected to fall further. Japan moved official rates from 0.5% to 0.3% and the UK, realizing that it was "behind the curve", dropped rates from 4.5% to 3% in one move.

The Chinese economy, while still officially recording around 9% growth, is already seeing ample evidence of an extremely rapid slowdown.

All over the world terms

such as "falling off a cliff" in respect of business activity are being used. It is not just a slowing trend; it is the speed at which it is happening that is causing great consternation.

Returning to China, growth might still be in the 9% range but there is ample anecdotal evidence that thousands of small factories have already closed down as export orders have evaporated.

The Chinese government has recently announced a 4 trillion Yuan (US\$ 586 billion) stimulus package. This is equivalent to 20% of China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Obviously, this is a huge program for the country, and its ambition is to restore confidence. Much of the money will be spent on increasing and improving domestic infrastructure.

The Chinese government, in an attempt to maximize the impact, is also including the cost of repairs caused by earthquake damage earlier this year. This must be the first time in history that an economy growing at 9% has been the beneficiary of a stimulus package.

Economics is a complex subject. When a first-world economy grows at, say, 2% this is referred to as moderate growth. When a second or third world economy reflects the same growth rate, it is a recession. In fact, both the IMF and World Bank classify growth of less than 3%, in this case, as a recession.

China is almost in a class of its own; the tipping point for strongly increased unemployment is believed to be anything less than 8%. Swiss banking giant Credit Suisse is forecasting that Chinese growth will fall to an annualized rate of 5.5% in December 2008.

To date, almost all of China's looming problems have been caused by a slump in export demand. China hopes that exports to Asia will counter balance the

downturn in imports in other parts of the world.

The other large global economies are hoping that China will act as a cushion for their economies. However, latest trade figures are showing a rapid slowdown not only in China's growth in exports but also in imports.

America has always prided itself on the free enterprise model but with the economy falling at such a rapid pace, alternatives are becoming popular.

It seems at the time of writing that the three large American car manufacturers are about to be "bailed out" by the federal government using, of course, taxpayers' money.

The analyst community is not impressed. Deutsche Bank predicts that General Motors' share price is heading to US\$ 1. Barclays

predicts zero.

The British government, in the 1960s and early 1970s, faced similar problems with its car manufacturers. Then, Britain was known as the "sick man of Europe". Successive bailouts resulted in Britain being correctly noted for helping "lame ducks".

However, one American law professor, interviewed on Bloomberg television, stated that the best option for General Motors is bankruptcy.

Should GM take this route, they will then become attractive to banks for new loans. Under US bankruptcy laws, any bank lending to GM at that stage would become the first creditor should GM ultimately fail.

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 Website: www.global-portfolios.com



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson



Hansgrohe sales director Julian Henco in Phuket recently.

German bathroom fittings specialist takes the plunge

Following the opening of a new flagship store in Bangkok, German bathroom specialist Hansgrohe, in partnership with local retailer Decor Mart, opened a new stand-alone store last week on the by-pass road. The shop's location, sandwiched between Design Square and home products retailer Homeworks, underlines the increasing competition in the home furnishing market.

At the launch, Julian Henco, Hansgrohe's sales director for emerging markets Middle East and Asia, sat down with the *Gazette* and explained the reasons behind the company's current expansion in Asia. "The emerging markets are growing faster than the more mature or saturated markets in central Europe, the US and South America," he said.

"This difference is also manifest in growth in GDP per capita and the availability of disposable income, especially in the rising middle classes in Asia," added Mr Henco. "These are all factors that are supporting the construction business which, in turn, is supporting our business."

Asked about the effects of the current global financial crisis, Mr Henco offered the following assessment: "I think the financial crisis is not yet over and continues to affect businesses, especially the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) sector, but not so much our business. We see a slow-down of projects and a slowdown in construction. Contractors and developers that are financing their business with credit are having to wait longer to get liquidity back into their business. This will probably continue for another three to four quarters," he said.

"Substantially, our market remains very sound, because, put simply, people need homes. We feel confident, therefore, that this crisis will not affect us too much as a company, but will give us the opportunity to increase our market share. Hansgrohe is using the opportunity, in a market that is contracting, to build more market share by investing, for example, with the flagship store in Bangkok and also now in Phuket.

"We are sending out a signal that we are very strong and we are not going to hide or lick our wounds. Rather, we are going to increase our presence in the market. We are going to employ more people and enter into more partnerships, and now is the right time to do it," he added.

K.C. Lee, managing director of Hansgrohe Singapore, dismissed the suggestion that Hansgrohe would be forced to compete directly for business with the rising army of local retailers. "Hansgrohe is a premium brand and as such we do not compete with companies like Index or Home Mart. We are a German brand, with around 95% of our products being imported from Germany.

Therefore, the design and the quality of our products differentiates us from the competition. Also, from the point of view of marketing, you can see, if you look around the showroom, that we are marketing a lifestyle", said Mr Lee. *Atchaa Khamlo*

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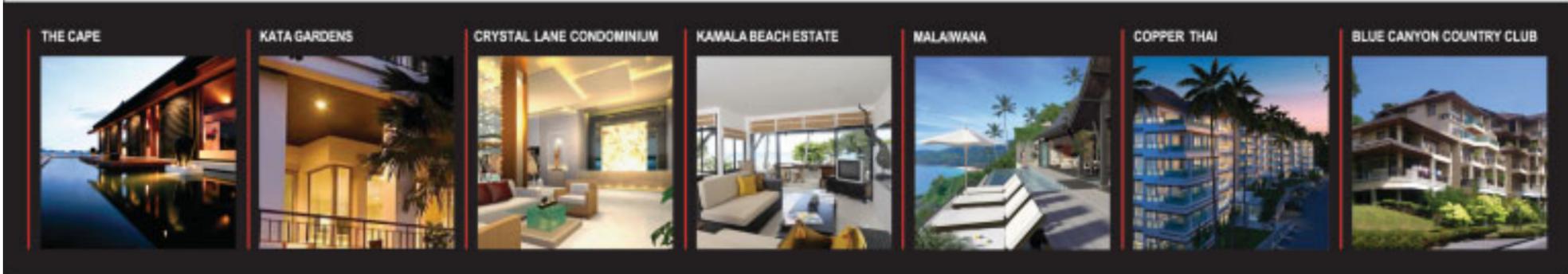
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Bumming around Bali

There are few things more infuriating for an Englishman than walking down the street and having someone call out "Ello mate" every 10 meters. It's similar to strolling around Ibiza, where the drug dealers approach you and say, "All right, Del Boy. Want some coke?" At least the Thais have it down to a straightforward "Hey you".

The Aussies have taken over Bali and in doing so they've made Kuta and Legian a kind of second home. However, when it comes to travel, first impressions count for nothing.

Bali is a breeze to reach from Phuket. One of the cheapest ways is to take an Air Asia flight to Singapore (about 3,000 baht) and then connect to Bali (about another 3,000 baht). I reached Bali and the hustle began as taxi drivers accosted my companion and me for business.

If you only have a few bags you can walk straight out of the international-departures terminal and hail a metered cab; otherwise you have to pre-book one from the small kiosk to right of the exit. Booking the taxi cost 55,000 rupiah, while the same trip back, with the driver running his meter, cost 50,000, which brings us to the subject of money.

You should visit Bali - it's a wonderful place with some jaw-dropping scenery - but clue yourself up about the money before you go, or else you'll change your money, become a multimillionaire and have an awful time of it dividing, converting and knocking

zeros off. To make matters even more confusing, there are times when prices in Bali are quoted in US dollars even though nobody actually accepts US dollars, except Immigration, which charges US\$25 for a 30-day stay and US\$10 for a week. But only the savviest of travelers ever has US dollars, so the rest of the tourists must pay 250,000 or 100,000 rupiah - only a small difference.

My girlfriend and I had a week in Bali. We took to the roads with a battered Yamaha Mio and set about hunting down any point of interest that we could reach by motorbike. The furthest we made it to was Ubud - a beautiful spot about 25 kilometers north of Denpasar. The trip can supposedly be done in an hour, but a myriad of wrong turns led us on a magical mystery tour of Denpasar.

At one point a Balinese cop stopped us for turning right when we should have turned left. We were most apologetic and were of course leaving tomorrow and had neither the time to go to court nor the funds to cough up the 200,000-rupiah fine, so would the Balinese cop let us off, just this once, pretty please? We handed over 50,000 rupiah, the cop shook our hands and told my (Thai) girlfriend of his fondness for Japanese girls, and we were on the road again.



Most people don't go to Bali for lush backdrops and views; they go for beaches.

The signpost network in Bali is either unfinished or slightly above my level of understanding. A good map would have served us much better.

We arrived at Ubud and it was spectacular in parts. If you go, hunt out Ibu Oka's babi guling restaurant. We went there on a tipoff and it really was the best suckling pig I've ever had - a great meal for 30,000 rupiah. With only a day to spend in Ubud, we found a hill and drove up it, passing rice paddies all the way. At one point, we turned right and snaked down through tiny green villages full of people who were just amazed to see us. There were no tourists, no shops except tiny shacks, and no touts feigning terrible Aussie accents.

Other than rice paddies, Ubud is full of art in all its various guises. There are wood carvings, paintings, jewelry, knick knacks, clothing, textiles and anything else you could ever imagine, all sold at prices much cheaper than in other parts of Bali.

Other than Ubud, we made one trip to the Tanah Lot rock

formation, which would be such a great place to visit had it not been turned into a tourist trap. "International" visitors pay 10,000 rupiah, while "domestic" travelers only have to stump up 7,000 rupiah. To even find the rock formation you have to bustle your way through markets selling tacky goods and various banalities that the Asian busloads seem to enjoy.

Tanah Lot is an amazing sight, with the waves thundering against the rocks beneath small temples and shrines. The best time to visit is during sunset when budding photographers go loopy for the morphing oranges and reds that stretch out to the horizon.

Most people don't go to Bali for lush backdrops and views; they go for beaches. Bali is enormous - about 10 times bigger than Phuket - and so there is far more to see than in the beach hangouts in the immediate vicinity of Denpasar. However, with only a week in Bali, we were all for loafing around in the sea without having to put the effort into really "traveling".

Kuta Beach is the main one. It's about 5km long and far broader than any of Phuket's beaches. The waves are large enough for some decent surfing and you can only swim in certain areas. The beach would be stunning were it not for the backdrop of fast food outlets and discos and bars.

Should you end up in conversation with one of the beach hawkers, within a few seconds you'll find yourself hounded by about half a dozen Balinese, painting a henna tattoo on your left bicep while massaging your hands and cutting you up a coconut and showing off the latest in knockoff sunglasses.

It usually takes no more than three "No thank yous" before they leave you alone. A much quieter beach is the one at Nusa Dua, which hardly anyone apart from the guests at the beachside resorts seems to find. Visit Nusa Dua as early in the day as you can stand because the tide goes right out during the afternoon.

Sanur is another decent beach, albeit geared towards water sports, such as parasailing, jet-skiing and those unsightly banana boats. The swimming isn't great as there is a lot of seaweed and the water isn't clear, but as with Nusa Dua, you won't come across too many people.

Jimbaran is home to a fishing community and so although the beach is pretty, the overpowering smell of fish meant that we didn't stay more than about half an hour. The road is filled with overpriced seafood restaurants aimed at tourists chaperoned by touts earning commissions.

All of these beaches can be reached by motorbike or taxi in less than an hour. A bike should cost about 25,000 rupiah for 24 hours, but everything is open to negotiation, and, much like in Phuket, the heavily touristed areas are filled with locals looking for a quick buck.

Bali is certainly worth visiting and it will take you less than two days to work out which areas the majority of the tourists frequent. Female travelers, particularly those out alone, receive some heckling from the locals, who have worked out how to say "I love you" in a multitude of European and Asian languages. I also caught a pair of boys using their phones to snap pictures of bikini-clad beachgoers.

- Matt Crook

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12:00 am.	Arrive at Khai Nai Island, enjoy swimming and sun bathing. Set lunch will be arranged at Yao Yai Island.
13:30 pm.	Swim and relax on the beach.
15:30 pm.	Leave from Koh Yao Yai to Rasada pier.
16:00 pm.	Transfer to hotel.

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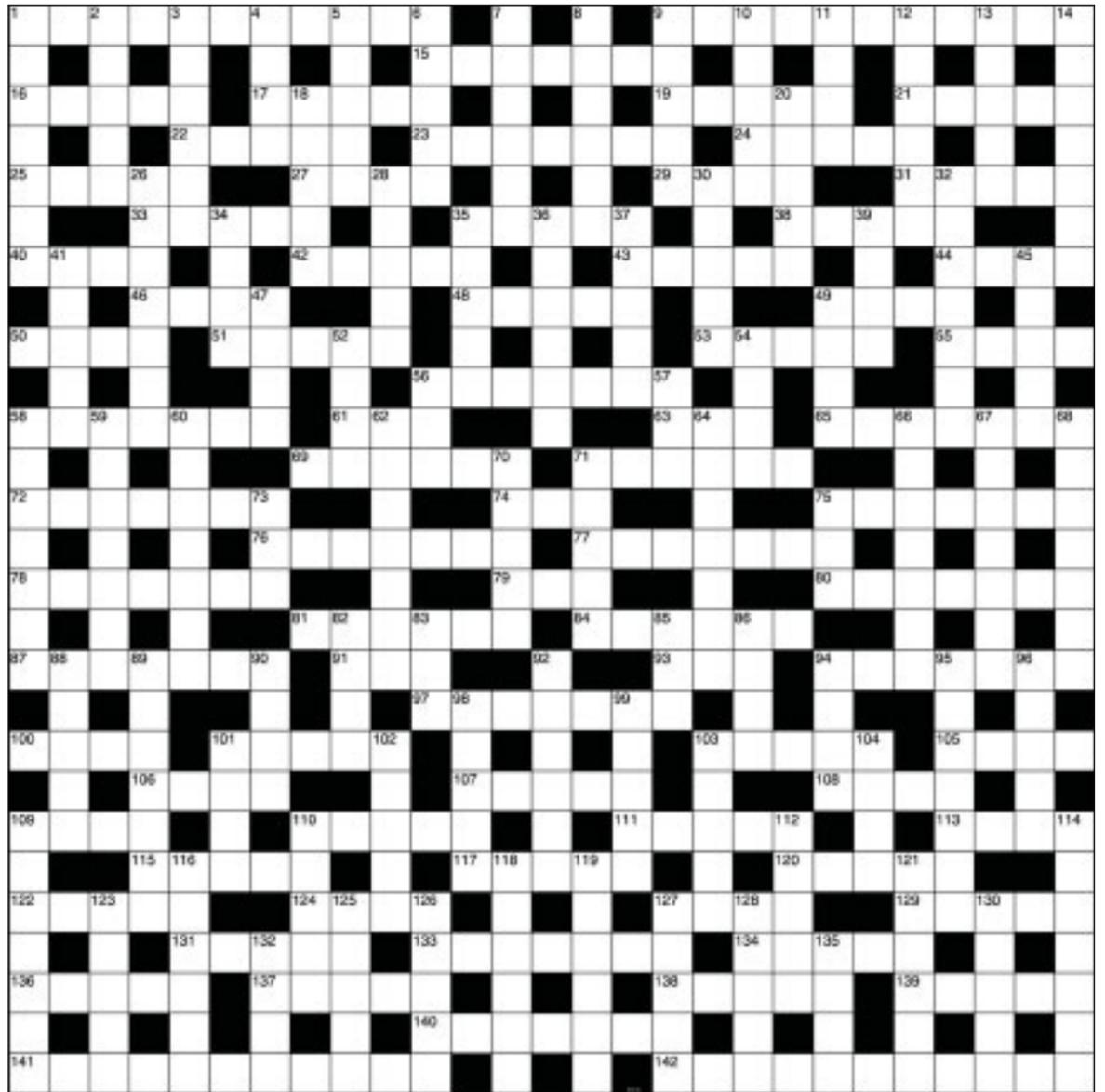
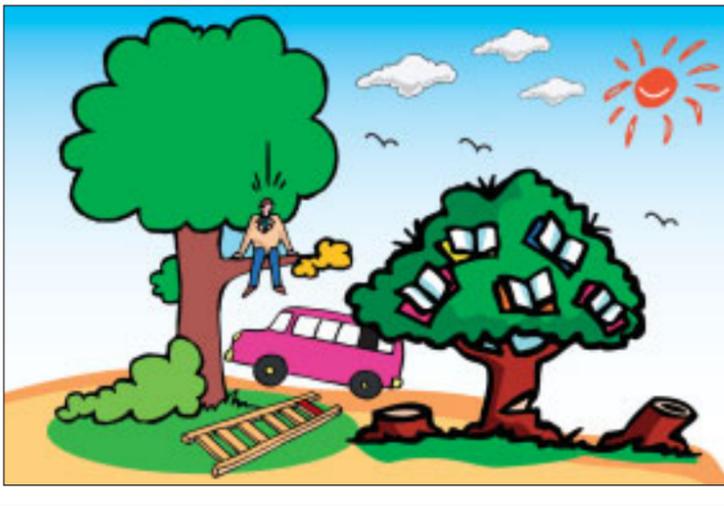
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences in the two cartoons below? And can you do it faster than the rest of the family?



The BIG Crossword

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- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Across | 76. Stone fruit | Down | 66. Soil excavator |
| 1. Advancement | 77. Weakness | 1. Stern-looking (2-5) | 67. Drank (alcohol) |
| 9. Unobtainable | 78. Interrupts (5,2) | 2. Secretes | 68. Gun holder |
| 15. Continually (2,3,2) | 79. Famous record label (1,1,1) | 3. Mountain range tops | 70. Behind |
| 16. Disconcerted | 80. Show | 4. Fiji's capital | 71. Suit |
| 17. Revving engine's roar | 81. Harpoon hunter | 5. Perverse fate | 73. American city, ... Francisco |
| 19. Threshing tool | 84. Yanked | 6. Pseudonym, ... plume (3,2) | 75. Colour (hair) |
| 21. Gateaux | 87. Enclosed in box | 7. Silver tray | 82. Cultivated (ground) |
| 22. Sand particle | 91. Bullfight cheer | 8. Handsome youth | 83. Table part |
| 23. Painter, Leonardo... (2,5) | 93. Actor, ... Gibson | 9. Unhealthy | 85. Greenwich Mean Time (1,1,1) |
| 24. Actress, ... Garbo | 94. Stud farmer | 10. Maxim | 86. If not, or ... |
| 25. Indian class system | 97. Chivalrous | 11. Wheel shaft | 88. Nude |
| 27. Early harp | 100. Supplements, ... out | 12. Site | 89. Refrain (from) |
| 29. Arduous hike | 101. Trudges | 13. Sweltered | 90. Fool |
| 31. Large spoon | 103. Untamed | 14. From Asia | 92. Suspect's excuses |
| 33. Matter of concern | 105. Customs fee | 15. Annoyed | 94. Bird's mouth |
| 35. Come up | 106. Tense | 18. Aggravated | 95. Makes beloved |
| 38. Lodge firmly | 107. Emotional undercurrents | 20. Aggravated | 96. Spare |
| 40. Challenge | 108. Click star, ... Beckinsale | 26. Decorative curtain cord | 98. Blacksmith's block |
| 42. Hang loosely | 109. Thought | 28. Harvests | 99. Nuzzles |
| 43. Acted wordlessly | 110. Sheikhdum, Abu... | 30. Frisks | 101. US wild cat |
| 44. Exclusive English college | 111. Dodge (fare) | 32. Adroitly | 102. Step |
| 46. Reveal secret | 113. Saudi native | 34. Tiff | 103. Tongue of fire |
| 48. Cavalry weapon | 115. US Rockies state | 35. Ancient Greek writer | 104. Grassed section |
| 49. Profound | 117. Endures | 36. Hereditary | 109. Imbues |
| 50. Travel permit | 120. Pit worker | 37. Alter (text) | 110. Adores, ... on |
| 51. Clumps | 122. Excelled | 39. Haemorrhaged | 112. Glowing coal |
| 53. Lettuce meal | 124. Unloaded weight | 41. Hymn, ... With Me | 114. Yokel |
| 55. Rupture | 127. Parsley or mint | 45. Verbal exams | 116. Reduce in rank |
| 56. Modernise (software) | 129. Bible song | 47. Actor, ... Lancaster | 118. Late PLO leader, Yasser... |
| 58. Most submissive | 131. Computer/phone link | 49. Smear | 119. To be precise (4,2) |
| 61. Grovel | 133. Cleaver | 52. Cloth flaps | 121. Eras |
| 63. Smash into | 134. Hi! | 54. Zenith | 123. Frequently |
| 65. Infantile | 136. Lead-in | 56. Expression of disgust | 125. Accumulate |
| 69. Respiratory disorder | 137. Utilisation | 57. Slip up | 126. Nailfile (board) |
| 71. Prickly | 138. Prostitute | 58. Ghastly | 127. Cut into shape |
| 72. Wine-serving jugs | 139. Gap in armour | 59. Inconsistent | 128. America's... Island |
| 74. Enemy | 140. Comprehend | 60. Pours forth | 130. Mexican friend |
| 75. Sound unit | 141. Pointlessly | 62. Moral | 132. Con |
| | 142. Tells off (7,4) | 64. Curtail | 135. Camera glass |

su | do | ku

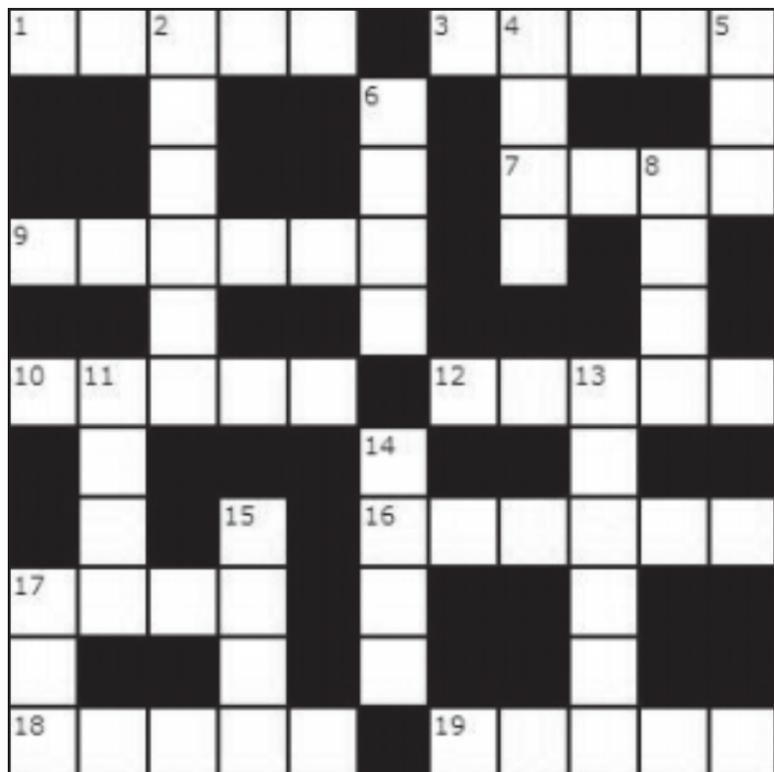
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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

Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. Not tall
- 3. Rabbit
- 7. Article
- 9. Sport
- 10. Simple
- 12. Inscribe
- 16. Actions
- 17. Sort
- 18. Bird
- 19. Goodies

Down

- 2. Happens
- 4. Part
- 5. Vegetable
- 6. Singer, ...Legend
- 8. Leave
- 11. Absent
- 13. Pay on heed
- 14. Place to work
- 15. Full of water
- 17. Used in golf

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Which football team plays their home matches at Estadio Nou Camp? | 7. In what year was US Pres Andrew Jackson inaugurated? | 14. When did Roger Bannister break the 4-minute mile mark? |
| 2. Who provided Jessica Rabbit's voice in the 1998 film <i>Who Framed Roger Rabbit?</i> | 8. What is a male honey-bee called? | 15. What is the world's third longest river? |
| 3. The beer Hahn Vienna Red, a toasted malt lager, comes from which country? | 9. What is the name of the butler in <i>The Addams Family?</i> | 16. The Chinese and the Mississippi are the only two known species of what? |
| 4. What did the S stand for in Winston S Churchill's name? | 10. What was the name of the agent pug dog in <i>Men in Black II?</i> | 17. What is the English name for the constellation 'Hydrus'? |
| 5. In shipping forecasts, what element of the weather can be described as poor, moderate or good? | 11. What was the maiden name of the bride at the first wedding watched by over 750 million people? | 18. In which city is the film <i>Minority Report</i> set? |
| 6. Who drinks 'Butterbeer' in the 3 Broomsticks Inn? | 12. From which French novelist is the term 'sadism' derived? | 19. What nationality was the explorer Roald Amudsen? |
| | 13. Which rock group had a hit with <i>The Final Countdown?</i> | 20. In which Australian city is the TV soap <i>Neighbours</i> set? |

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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



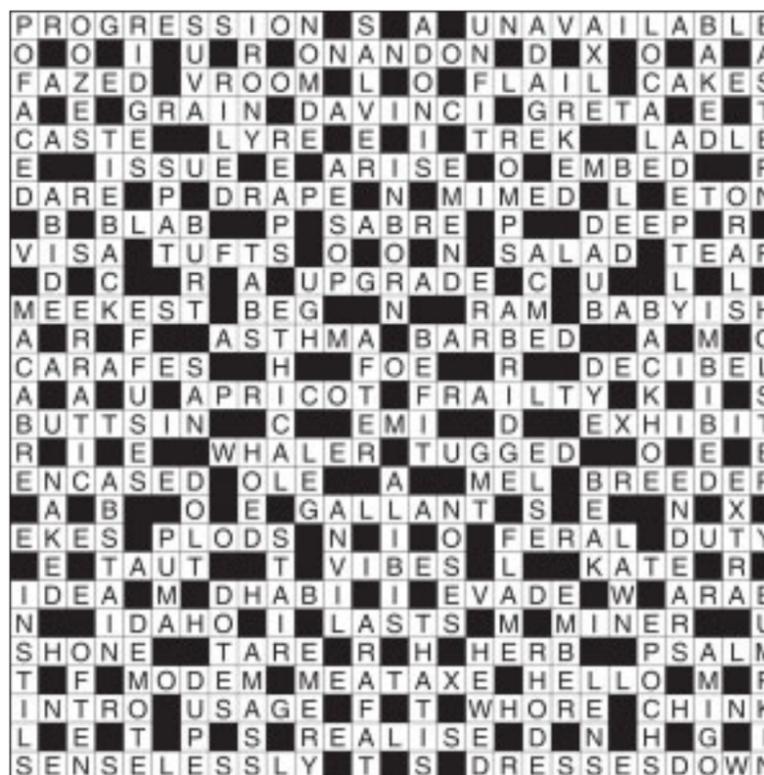
Monster Quiz Answers

- 1. Barcelona; 2. Kathleen Turner; 3. Australia; 4. Spencer; 5. Visibility; 6. Harry Potter; 7. 1829; 8. A Drone; 9. Lurch; 10. Frank; 11. Diana Spencer; 12. Marquis de Sade; 13. Europe; 14. 1954; 15. The Mississippi; 16. Alligator; 17. Water Snake; 18. Washington D.C.; 19. Norwegian; 20. Melbourne.

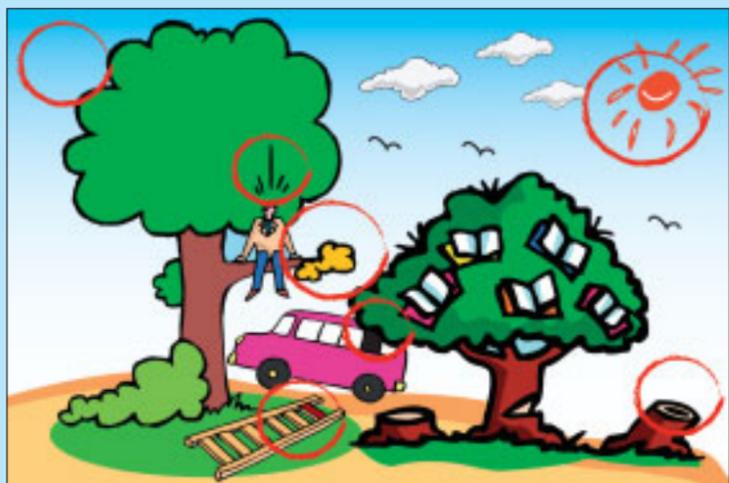
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle





Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Bill O'Reilly is my Evil Twin. His latest book is *A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity* (Broadway Books, New York 2008, 256pp). The cover shows the author at his First Communion and the title comes from an irate nun in his Catholic school in Long Island who gave him a title that he revels in and repeats constantly throughout the book. Bill O'Reilly is better known for his decade-long hour of commentary on the right wing Fox Channel called "The O'Reilly Factor" where he lambastes the liberal left of American politics.

My sister bought me this book because she saw the obvious parallels in our lives. O'Reilly and I were born in the Baby Boom generation after WWII. His father was a navy lieutenant,

A book by my evil twin

mine a sergeant in the infantry. Both bought suburban houses on the GI Bill after the war, cookie cutter houses on the flat potato fields of Long Island, his in Levittown, mine in Elmont. We both went to Catholic school. We both played the classic street games of stickball, keep away and ringolevio.

He went on to write eight books that sold in the high-seven figures. I went on to write eight books that sold in the high two figures.

Now, I've only seen "The O'Reilly Factor" a few times, and though I disagree with his politics, I admire him as a master of the TV craft. As in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, the Devil comes up with the best lines.

Thus I was prepared to like *A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity*. My own third grade nun called me a "brazen brat", slapped me silly, called in my mother who slapped me silly again. And I did nothing wrong!

O'Reilly is best at remembering the Long Island Irish Catholic suburban world of the 1950s: the TV shows, the music, the movies and most of all, the

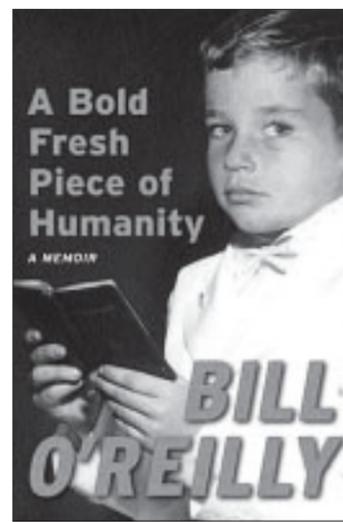
all-pervasive authority of the nuns. Ruler in hand, they dominated classrooms of 60 to 80 pupils. (Not for nothing were we known as the Baby Boomers.)

It was a world of difference from today's state-coddled children.

"Routinely, kids wiped out on the steel monkey bars and smashed their small skulls on the concrete below," he writes. "I mean it was survival of the fittest in every sense. There were no 'playdates', bicycle helmets, or organized activities. It was demolition derby every day, and the kid with the most bruises won."

O'Reilly also vividly recalls the terrors of Catholic confession. Of the good priest he recalls, "No matter how horrendous your indiscretions, your penance was three Hail Marys. Charles Manson would have gotten three Hail Marys." Whereas if you confessed to the nasty priest: "You might wind up in the church basement chained to the wall."

They were tough kids, thugs, hooligans. "We were training to be Teamsters and didn't even know it. I'm surprised I



O'Reilly also vividly recalls the terrors of Catholic confession. Of the good priest he recalls, "No matter how horrendous your indiscretions, your penance was three Hail Marys."

didn't get a tattoo."

O'Reilly conjures up some great set-pieces. Just like me, his

gang tormented the neighborhood's grouch. His childhood idol ruined a Catholic school play by donning a dog costume and attacking Rip Van Winkle on stage. The same hero slipped into the convent and hid their underwear under their beds.

Halfway through the book, however, the funny childhood stories peter out and O'Reilly mounts his high horse. He never did drugs, stayed in the Church and trained his anger on the left.

"As for me, the bold, fresh buy, I am now branded a conservative by some in the crazed, dishonest, ultraliberal media, and do you know what? That's fine with me. As stated, I hold many old conservative views and am proud of them."

The writing deteriorates into filler now as he bloviates about people, movies and music he dislikes. He's not much of a writer either, repeating the phrase "if you know what I mean" dozens of times and "from the jump", including "Hitler was evil from the jump." So are a lot of other people.

You get the sense toward the end that he's just dictating to fatten up the book. Still, I forgive him, as he brings back to life my own happily wayward childhood.

A new but unhelpful gender-neutral pronoun

The latest news from the language front is that teenagers in Baltimore have invented a gender-neutral singular pronoun: "yo." When I learned of this, I was – fascinated – for about 10 minutes. Then I started to get upset.

I was fascinated at first because English needs such a pronoun, or a set of them – words to fill in the blanks in sentences like "These days, an English teacher sure has ... work cut out for ..." Thank goodness, an unspecified teacher isn't automatically /him/his" anymore.

"She/her/hers" is no more equitable as an alternative, though. Another possibility is "they/them/their" – but any English teacher who's satisfied with this option is in the wrong line of work.

English-speaking people have been searching for and inventing gender-neutral singular pronouns for at least 150 years. Among the many that have been proposed are "ne," "thon," "hesh," "he'er," "shey," "e," "hisorher" and the unpronounceable "s/he." Unfortunately, none of these coinages has caught on outside small subcultures. So people keep inventing new ones.

Why does it upset me if kids in Baltimore came up with their own solution to the pronoun problem? Well, for one thing, that isn't what they did. Their teachers, having discovered their students' use of "yo," went on to document how the kids used it.

Two of the examples the teachers collected were "Yo is tuckin' in his shirt" and "Peep

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

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Just as many words in the English language have become gender neutral, the handshake in the logo of the United States Agency for International Development was recently modified to be gender-neutral and anatomically correct.



yo." In the first example, note the word "his," which makes it clear that "yo" here isn't an unspecified person – it's a particular male. The second example means "Look at him (or her)."

Out of context, we can't tell the sex of the person being referred to, but obviously, whoever was speaking was referring to someone he or she could see – another particular person of known gender. In neither case do we have an unspecified person,

and therefore "yo" isn't that holy grail of pronouns our entire culture has been seeking.

Even so, it might be a good thing to have a pronoun that refers to individuals without regard to their sex.

Transgendered people and activists of certain stripes make this case, and I'm not arguing the contrary. But "yo" isn't a good candidate for this job either, because, according to the collected evidence, the word has a slightly

disrespectful tone. Surely we don't need a new pronoun that's equally disrespectful of everyone. Furthermore, anyone who thinks those kids came up with "yo" in order to promote gender equity is even more naively utopian than I am.

Kids have always had private languages that they use with one another. The 1920s equivalent of "Peep yo" was "Get a load of that!" In the 1940s, it was "Check it out."

But – is it just me? – what the hell are today's teachers doing admiringly documenting this stuff?

Instead, shouldn't they be working as hard as they can to impart the skills their students will need to function – let alone succeed – in the wider world?

The ability to use standard English may be the most valuable skill of all. If those kids can switch effortlessly to "Look at him" when they're talking with the teacher or another mainstream authority figure, I withdraw all objections.

But somehow, I doubt they can. And if they can't, what kind of future is in store for them? I can hardly bear to imagine.



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

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Noise

While the unbridled commercial development of Phuket has helped establish the island as the undisputed shopping capital of the Andaman Coast, the retailing "boom" has come at a heavy price in terms of the cacophony shoppers must endure whenever they venture out to do their weekly shopping.

Loud noise is to be found almost everywhere on Phuket these days. Even the most remote villages face invasion at any moment by the disciples of Mao Tse Tung, whose agents prowl in fleets of rude trucks blaring painful messages at a trapped audience.

Many people with time on their hands, particularly the rural and unemployed, seek respite from the elements by hanging out in the island's ever-growing number of shopping malls. But while these folks might enjoy the air-conditioning the emporiums offer, buyers in significant numbers are unlikely to dwell there. Buy decisions, for anything other than a bag of popcorn or an OTOP trinket, are not possible in the ear-splitting racket. Proof of this lurks in abundance at the exit doors. Stand there and observe the ratio of the empty-handed to those with shopping bags.

Retailers should give this issue some serious thought and ask themselves exactly what it is that real shoppers – those with a need and the wherewithal to fulfill it – actually want on a shopping mission.

To us, it seems counter-productive to hammer potential buyers numb to the point where they can't think straight or even communicate with an already-deaf or demented "sales" person. Rather than adopting the "bomb 'em into submission" marketing tactics of the United States in the 1980s, mall managers here should get out and canvas the crowd to see if they find noise levels conducive to purchasing say, a one-million-baht home theater system; a 40,000 baht laptop, a 20,000 baht pants suit; or even a 1,000 baht pair of sunglasses.

The feedback would almost surely suggest, as it has in Europe and North America, that providing a polite and spending-friendly environment is far more effective for revenue generation than the current failed practice of attempting to raise the dead.

Many Phuket restaurants might also benefit from taking a good hard look at ambient noise. Owners should ask themselves whether the goal of their establishment is to provide a pleasant dining experience for paying customers who might wish to have a conversation over their meal. Or is the paramount objective to keep some of the staff happy by allowing "background music" at disco levels.

In addition to being stressful, the rising racket in Phuket's commercial establishments is unsophisticated and antisocial, colliding head-on with the mainstay of Thai culture, which is *graeng-jai* [respect and consideration for others].

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?
Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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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.

Deep mystery at Patong Beach

I am an Australian surfer with over 40 years' experience as a lifeguard and surfer in Australia, Hawaii and Indonesia. I have gone for early morning swimming sessions at Patong Beach for the past year. On the morning of October 27, while swimming about 100 meters from shore, I came into contact with something that gave me what felt like an electric shock to my upper chest area.

I managed to swim back to shore where my Thai partner, who was amazed at the amount of pain I was in, helped me back to my apartment. I had severe burning pain for 3 days, and very painful red and yellow welts for two weeks following the incident. And I still [as of November 14] have two welts on my right upper arm.

I have been stung and bitten by bluebottles, jellyfish and other marine creatures many times, but I have never experienced pain like this before. My heart rate was high and my head felt like it was on fire. I believe that only my relatively high level of fitness and my own medical knowledge got me through this frightening experience.

I agree that the Phuket Marine Biological Center should look into what seems like an increasing number of attacks here. Meanwhile, I know that I won't be swimming again in the local waters until I have a better idea as to what's going on down there.

Grant Young
(ex swimmer)
Australia and
Patong Beach

Why the suicidal pricing in Phuket?

I was interested to read the story on the *Gazette* website headlined "High-season tourism outlook bleak: PTA" [published Nov 13]. Any way you want to slice it, the high cost of Phuket and Thailand in general is surely driving tourists to other locations.

With tourism off 50% and the global economy dropping like a rock, why do local businesses keep raising the price of their products and services? One must wonder just who's in charge of the asylum here. Is it the inmates or the doctors?

Robert A. Fisher
Phuket Town

Hungry on the Beach

We hasten to reply to the Dewa development's comments in the *Gazette*'s 'Issues & Answers' of November 15, and we say thank you. However, it is not we, the 'local farangs' that Dewa refers to, who are under the impression that Dewa used some influence in this. It is, rather, the restaurant operators and their customers. We, the 'local farangs', merely echoed their concerns in the columns of the local English language newspaper.

We understand local conditions and how things work as well as the Dewa developers do. If the restaurant operators and their customers (and therefore we 'local farangs') assumed, wrongly, that the National Park's tacit acceptance of the restaurants' presence on the beach for over twenty years has changed only because of the appearance of the Dewa development, then, al-

though mistaken, it wasn't an altogether unreasonable assumption. However, we now stand corrected – so, again, thank you.

Of course, we too want to enjoy a cleaner environment. But this is not about 'cleaning up' the beach area; there is nothing dirty about the restaurants and they are careful to maintain a clean environment. If they did not do so, their restaurants would not attract the Thai families and groups that they do.

Their continued presence, they feel, has been 'earned' through custom and practice, and because they meet a clear market demand from their Thai customers. It is, after all, a Thai amenity that is being threatened here.

Naturally, those involved will be making any necessary approaches and representations to Sirinath National Park and to local officials as events unfold. As a result of this correspondence in the pages of the *Gazette*, they now know that representations to Dewa are no longer appropriate, although Dewa might care to offer them a gesture of goodwill toward mutual coexistence.

All this shows just how important it is to communicate.

Two Still Angry 'Locals'
Amphur Thalang

Bombed out at the shopping mall

I recently took a tour of some local 'shopping' malls. A couple of them look ok, and most offer a high level of distraction for window shoppers. But if you like to *think* before buying anything serious, you'll need to accompany that with 'music' at Baghdad levels.

Martin Richards
Sydney, Australia

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

PAD saves the nation from supernatural attack

On October 29, Sondhi Limthongkul gave a speech from the People's Alliance for Democracy stage, broadcast over ASTV, about a new front in his fight to "save the nation". He said:

"For many years in the past, the powers of many sacred things including the spirit of the City Pillar, the Equestrian Statue of King Rama V, Phra Sayam Thewathirat, and the Emerald Buddha, have been suppressed by evil people using magic. "Suppress" does not mean destroy, because sacred objects cannot be destroyed, as they have too much power.

"But 'suppress' means not allowing them to emit their power, by encircling them. This is true. So we have just finished rectifying this in the last two to three weeks. Like at the statue of the Emerald Buddha.

"Behind it there is a stone. Evil-minded people had allied with some in the Royal Household Bureau to allow a Khmer adept to go behind the Emerald Buddha and take the stone away, because that stone is the important thing for emitting power."

The idea of protective forces is a major part of *saiyasat* or supernaturalism. It has nothing to do with Buddhism, but reaches back to older folk beliefs. Most villages have a shrine for a protective spirit. Cities have a pillar. No new house is erected without a ceremony.

Sondhi has selected sites that are closely associated with the Chakri dynasty.

The Emerald Buddha is the Palladian statue of the dynasty. The City Pillar was erected by King Rama I to mark the founding of Bangkok. King Rama IV invented Phra Sayam Thewathirat because he felt Siam needed more

protection in the colonial era.

The Equestrian Statue of King Rama V has been converted into a guardian spirit by popular acclaim. Sondhi claims this complex of monuments that protects the nation and monarchy has come under sustained attack.

In old Siam, there were laws permitting the use of supernaturalism for defensive, protective purposes but outlawed any usage with aggressive and malicious intent. Today there are no such laws but the same distinction remains in conventional practice. Wearing protective amulets is fine; cursing is questionable; rites to cause harm are unacceptable. This distinction is expressed by describing aggressive and malicious usage as "Khmer". In fact, there is no evidence that Cambodian supernaturalism is aggressive. Here "Khmer" is just a Thai word for "nasty". But of course this vocabulary reflects a bundle of narrow-minded, bad-neighbor prejudices.

Earlier, Sondhi openly accused Thaksin of being behind the destruction of the Erawan Brahma statue in March 2006. Sondhi said Thaksin wished to thwart political forces rising up against him. Thaksin called the accusation "insane". Sondhi does not need to

be so explicit this time but he seems to imply the same thing on a grander scale - a massive attempt to disrupt the spiritual forces protecting nation and monarchy.

Sondhi went on to describe his efforts in defence of the country. "The base of the Equestrian

Statue is like this (draws a hexagon with his hands) with the statue inside. Tacks had been inserted at the six corners so that the statue of the revered king could not emit its power. We drew out the tacks from all six places."

Presumably these tacks or nails are supernatural, imaginary articles anchoring an imaginary magical wall around the statue to pen in the spiritual forces.

Presumably too, Sondhi's team used rituals to remove them rather than digging up the tarmac. He mentioned that "masters and adepts pulled out each of them". He went on to describe preventive measures for the future. Here, the actions seem to have been real rather than imaginary.

"I must thank the women of the PAD because after (the tacks) were pulled out, to ensure they would not be replaced, they took sanitary napkins from menstruating women and placed them on the six points.

"Experts said the spirit adepts were furious because they could not send their spirits back; their magic was rendered ineffective."

Ideas about the fearful power of female sexuality are fundamental to a structure of male supremacy. In both Buddhism and supernaturalism, males are privileged in acquiring superior spiritual status.

Only men can become Buddhist monks. Only men can draw yantra diagrams, activate amulets, utter incantations and use all the other techniques of *saiyasat*.

But female sexuality poses a terrifying threat to these powers. Thus, monks have to remain celibate and avoid contact with women. Serious adherents of *saiyasat* also practice celibacy. Casual users remove their amulets before lovemaking to prevent their efficacy from getting annulled.

Menstrual blood is the most powerful symbol of this terrible, destructive power. There are rules and conventions about avoiding contact with this fearful force.

In the past there were many restrictions involving women's underwear. But Sondhi is possibly breaking new ground by making active use of this substance as a weapon.

Since the clip of this speech made it to YouTube (search for "Sondhi"), contributors to several

blogsites have concluded that Sondhi is "mad". Certainly he seems befuddled. Clearly, he is espousing narrow-minded chauvinist prejudices about Thailand's neighbors and about women. Possibly, his efforts to defend the capital's sacred sites are a form of desecration. The police, Fine Arts Department and Bangkok governor's office went to inspect the Equestrian Statue on the day after Sondhi's revelation, but no proceedings have been launched.

Sondhi concluded this part of his speech by asking: "We're talking about saving the nation. Is this part of saving the nation?"

How do his PAD colleagues and supporters feel about this new front in the fight to "save the nation" and about Sondhi's weapons of choice?

Somsak Kosaisuk, Somkiat Pongpaibun, and Pibhop Dhongchai seem to be hard-headed rationalists. Chamlong Srimuang's Santi Asoke Buddhism sect belongs to a purist tradition, which is highly antagonistic to *saiyasat*, though Chamlong might share some of Sondhi's male chauvinism.

How far can someone go as a self-appointed defender of religion and nation? When does the weaponry exceed some frontier of acceptability - slingshots, used golf clubs, guns, menses? What comes next?

Originally published in *The Nation* on November 10, 2008.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

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

A 'thank you' to Dewa

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Two Still Angry Locals
Amphur Thalang

How can I now change my car registration?

I bought a car from a private seller seven months ago. The car in question has Bangkok plates.

On the day of purchase, the seller and I went to the vehicle registration office to change the documentation, but it was closed for a public holiday.

The seller was visiting Bangkok the next day and suggested he took the documents there to change them over.

He told me a few days later that he had done this and that I would receive the papers in my name in a couple of weeks.

After several weeks I still hadn't received them and so he told me he would get his friend in Bangkok to retrieve the documents and return them to me.

I still don't have them. Is it possible for me to have a new vehicle registration blue book issued to me by the office in Phuket?

Alan James

Khun Tichada Prommek, officer of the Department of Land Transport replies:

In this case, the best thing you can do is call the seller and find out what is going on, or if you already know the register number, you can call up the Department of Land Transport in Bangkok.

Tell them your register number and then ask if it has been changed.

Failing this, there is nothing you can do if the seller is still the legal owner of the car.

You would need to obtain the vehicle registration documents from the old office before you can change them in Phuket.

You can ask for more information by calling the Phuket Department of Land Transport on Tel: 076-211019, 076-210210 or 076-214929. Ext:2.

The Bangkok Department of Land Transport can be contacted at Tel: 02-2990360.



Chopsticks Chitchat

will form an unsightly bulge beneath the blouse that will invite comment of a critical and salacious nature. But, as I continued to read, these mysteries were resolved. The cups of the bra have been designed to resemble a rice bowl and a soup bowl, and the chopsticks are carried in side pouches.

Devilishly clever, I thought. We all know that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. By wearing bras designed to look like rice and soup bowls, Japanese women will more easily excite the interest of hungry men. From this initial attraction, many a romantic relationship will blossom; and the Japanese birth rate, which is currently in decline, is bound to soar.

The "My Hashi" or "My Chopsticks" bra will play a significant role in reducing the consumption of disposable chopsticks in Japanese restaurants.

The Japanese use 25 billion pairs of chopsticks every year, and they're all thrown away after being used only once. The effect on the tree population must

be devastating. Out of concern for the environment, many Japanese now carry their own chopsticks.

A campaign for personal chopsticks is also gaining strength in China. The Chinese throw away more than 45 billion pairs of disposable chopsticks each year, at an annual cost of 25 million trees. They export another 15 billion pairs to other East Asian countries. At this rate of consumption, experts estimate that in ten years there won't be a single tree left in China.

I applaud the personal-chopsticks movement. I've always thought it would be a good idea for Chinese-food enthusiasts to carry their own chopsticks. To this end, many years ago I bought a pair of wooden chopsticks, in a rattan case. They now accompany me everywhere I go. But I don't carry them in my bra. I don't wear a bra. (We would never have guessed. —Ed.) I carry them in my nerd bag.

The personal-chopsticks movement will bring many benefits. Restaurants won't have to

provide disposable chopsticks; dishwashers won't have to wash undisposable ones; personal chopsticks will be more sanitary, as you know that you're the only one who has ever used them; and it will save the lives of all those trees.

But there is danger here. As the movement becomes popular, competition will arise. Rich people lusting for prestige will vie to acquire the most expensive chopsticks possible. They will flaunt their wealth with designer chopsticks made of bone, ivory, ebony, and jade.

Powerful tycoons will flash chopsticks made of solid gold, engraved with dragons and tigers, studded with diamonds and carried on silken pillows by slaves. As the fad mounts to a crescendo, chopsticks will become the standard by which everyone is judged.

"Chopsticks make the man" and "You can judge a man by his chopsticks" will become popular proverbs.

Envy, covetousness, and rivalry will poison social life. At

every Chinese banquet, jealous guests will steal furtive glances at each other's chopsticks, anxious to see who has the most luxurious pair. The winner will receive a prize; the losers will commit suicide. Eventually there will be a national contest for the title "First Chopsticks Under Heaven," and beauty queens will compete for the title "Miss Fancy Chopsticks."

Yes, the personal-chopsticks movement, while admirably motivated, can easily curdle into a vulgar stampede for status. So the authorities must take stern measures.

In accordance with the sufficiency economy, they must decree that all personal chopsticks shall be made out of one simple material, unembellished and unadorned. I favor wood, in a rattan case.

S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's plotting to get his chopsticks awarded the title "First Chopsticks Under Heaven."

recent news item reported that the Japanese have invented a bra in which women can carry their chopsticks. This puzzled me. If a woman sticks wooden chopsticks inside her bra, isn't there a danger that slivers might get embedded in the more tenderly appointed portions of her anatomy?

And if she uses metal chopsticks, won't their weight tend to pull the bra down and make its contents sag, thus defeating the very purpose (and a noble one it is!) for which bras have been designed? There's also the question of exactly where in the bra the chopsticks are carried.

Whether they're inserted above, below, or between the relevant protuberances (I am trying to be tasteful here!), surely they

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Sagittarians with a birthday this week will earn less during the coming year, but enjoy themselves more

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): This is an auspicious time for Sagittarians to get an early start on Christmas correspondence. An overseas Piscean relative would appreciate being remembered and others closer to home will support your suggestion of a large family gathering. If your birthday falls during the coming week, expect the year ahead to bring less financial gain, but more personal satisfaction than the one passed. The number one can bring some good luck next Thursday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those Capricorns

who were upset at being given the cold shoulder recently will realize that it's not the end of the world. Your romantic interest is about to be focused on a tempting Taurean — expect an exciting encounter this weekend. Finances remain a matter of concern, but you learn that the situation is not as gray as you thought. A minor boost to your bank balance is forecast to arrive early next week.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity should surprise Aquarians before the end of November. Your willingness to take a chance where others fear to tread is forecast to ensure good results, but caution is nevertheless advised. Someone born under a water sign cannot be trusted to provide the support they promise. The weekend gets off to a slow start, but a romantic interlude on Sunday gives food for thought.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Insecurities at work are set

to affect your week. By Thursday, most Pisceans should learn something to their advantage where employment is concerned. The stars are prepared to back your attempts to try something completely different and relocation is also highlighted. Those in a committed relationship are advised to share their concerns with a partner. You will be relieved at the support forthcoming. Wear the color peppermint green to encourage creativity.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A business matter that has been simmering since earlier this year is due to come to fruition before the end of November. Arians may need to move quickly during the coming week and this will cause sudden changes to your agenda. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for signing agreements. Personal affairs are forecast to remain unresolved, but a new attraction begins to occupy your mind. The number four is lucky this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Many Taureans could discover that they have a secret admirer this week. If you're single and would prefer not to be, expect the last weeks of the year to be filled with romantic promise. Those already in a serious relationship could begin thinking of planning a surprise getaway with their partner to escape Christmas chaos. Wearing the color silver can encourage a more profitable way of handling finances.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Someone whose affections you have been toying with is starting to feel like a puppet on a string and an ultimatum is forthcoming. Those born under the sign of Gemini who know they are guilty of this fickle behavior should make their minds up quickly. Where work is concerned, a dream job lies over the horizon and many of your ambitions could be fulfilled in the New Year.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A quiet week is forecast for Cancerians and your serene approach to life attracts those who are in need of a calming influence. Aries appreciates your pearls of wisdom this Sunday, but taking sides in a disagreement relating to romance is not advised. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for sealing property deals but be sure that important details are not lost in translation. Your lucky number this week is seven.

LEO (July 24-August 22): During the last week of November, Leos are forecast to receive good news regarding work. A new job will probably mean that your December holiday plans have to be put on hold until you find your feet. Those who are self-employed should meet a Libran who can help to open doors. Monday is the best day for a revealing conversation with a friend who has been behaving strangely.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those Virgoans who have been finding work to be thin on the ground lately are advised to consider adapting their skills to better suit the market. If this involves a learning curve, someone born under the sign of Capricorn has some worthy advice. The stars suggest that your outlook is set to change after this month. A minor cash gain can be expected towards the end of next week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The astral atmosphere holds some financial promise for many cash-strapped Librans this week. However, if one debt clears, it doesn't mean to say that another can be taken on board. Where money is concerned, plain sailing is not forecast until early next year. Romance falls under a positive light and commitment is likely to be included in Christmas celebrations. Wearing the color purple can encourage more practical thinking.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your luck continues to slowly improve, but certain Scorpions are not doing enough to help themselves. There is a way to get out of a negative situation that you haven't properly considered. Listening to Leo this weekend will shed light on the problem. An estranged family member or close friend would like to make overtures and this reunion will bring joy to everyone. The number eight can be lucky on Thursday.

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Tel: 076-215796

There have been important changes at CAT, and if you use (or want to use) high speed Internet in Phuket, you need to be aware of what's happening.

The fastest wireless Internet access in Phuket – in fact, the only fast wireless Internet access in Phuket – has gone through several changes. As described last July (tinyurl.com/6plk2c), you can only get Phuket's fastest wireless service, called EV-DO, by going to one of the three CAT offices (in Phuket Town on Phang Nga Road; in Central Festival on the second floor; or in Patong on the "Third Road" just after the pavement ends near Simon Cabaret). If you pay for "fast" wireless anywhere else – even one of those fancy, expensive EDGE cards – your speeds won't hold a candle to what's available from CAT's EV-DO system.

When CAT first offered EV-DO, you were required to buy a Sierra Wireless AirCard 580. Later, when CAT ran out of the AirCard 580, they started selling the Comtech CCU-650, which works similarly but employs a simple USB cable for attaching to a computer. After the CCU-650 ran out, CAT start selling the CCU-680, which is nearly identical to the CCU-650, except it uses a more advanced form of EV-DO transmission, called "Rev A."

Back in July, Phuket resident Øyvind Ballestad posted a comparison of the newer CCU-680 Rev A technology, compared to the older Rev 0 (see tinyurl.com/6koyhf). He concluded that downloading with Rev A here in Phuket is slightly faster than it was under Rev 0, but that upload times are considerably better, and the stutter – the latency – that dogs the older technology is much better with the new ones. Most people find that Skype and other applications that require a lot of up-and-down access work better with the newer technology, but for most other applications there isn't much difference.

Now comes word that CAT has sold all of its Comtech CCU-680s, and is now offering an EV-DO card that's only slightly larger

Important changes at CAT



The new Novatel Ovation 727 now reigns supreme as the fastest wireless Internet modem in Phuket. As an EV-DO Rev A device, it's slightly faster than CAT's earlier AirCard 580 and CCU-650, both of which ran at Rev 0. But there's a hitch...

than a USB stick. The Ovation 727, from Novatel, was the smallest EV-DO "modem" in the world when it was originally released last September. It runs the newer Rev A standard. The 727 includes a small integrated flip antenna and an external antenna connector. According to the manufacturer, inside the 727 there's a microSD card; the unit ships with 4 GB of memory that you can use just like a USB drive. The 727 includes its own software, and in some cases you can just use it without installing any drivers from a CD.

In theory, the 727 works with Windows XP, Vista, Linux, and Mac OS X 10.4 or later. Unfortunately, a friend of mine had a horrible time getting the 727 to work with his MacBook, which runs OS 10.4, and neither the techs at CAT nor the ones at Phuket Alpha could get it to work. The newsgroups have many complaints from Linux users who can't get their 727s to work, although MaxPhuket, posting on Øyvind's blog (tinyurl.com/5vwena), claims to have a Linux driver that works.

The 727 has drawn good reviews in the computer press. In the US, both Sprint and Verizon offer the 727 for use on their EV-DO networks. CAT sells the card for 8,250 baht (plus VAT). Unlimited service costs 835 baht

per month.

When it comes to CAT's wired service – man; what a difference competition makes! If you've been following along with my columns over the past few months, you know that TT&T recently knocked CAT out of the ballpark. CAT HiNet has long been the fastest Internet connection available in Phuket: at 2,600 baht per month (plus VAT), you could expect international download speeds in the 1,200 to 1,400 Kbps range.

But about two months ago, TT&T's MaxNet Premiere, 3 Mbps service, at 2,000 baht per month, started chugging away at 2,300 to 2,500 Kbps, running past CAT. In short, TT&T offers a significantly faster service at a significantly lower price. (Note that I'm talking about the TT&T Premiere service, not the B 590 per month "Indy".)

I ran a series of articles with graphs and explanations, and ultimately changed the wired Internet service at my home office and two of my Sandwich Shoppes (Patong and Chalong) from CAT HiNet to TT&T Premiere.

And then the CAT struck back.

I haven't seen any official announcement, but right now, if you have a CAT HiNet line (to wit, a phone line installed by CAT that's only used for ADSL ser-

vice), and you've paid for the CAT HiNet line for more than six months, you should run to the CAT office in Phuket Town (on Phang Nga Road) or Patong (on the Third Road) and ask to be upgraded. It seems there's a new promotion that offers to double your speed – and all you have to do is ask!

You can't get your speed doubled at the CAT office in Central Festival – they only work with CDMA and wireless services. But if you simply ask at either of the other two offices, you will immediately see your speed double. Folks who have asked are now commonly experiencing international speeds in excess of 3,000 Kbps. At that rate, you can download a movie faster than you can watch it. Amazing.

(Note that the free upgrade only applies to CAT lines. If you use the CAT HiNet service on a line from TT&T, it won't work.)

The bottom line: if you already have a CAT HiNet line, get to CAT Phuket Town or CAT Patong and have your service doubled. Free. If you don't have a CAT HiNet line, and you're willing to spend 2,000 baht per month for fast Internet, go to TT&T and ask for the Premiere 3 Mbps line.

For the latest information on the best Internet choices, drop by one of my PC (or Mac) Group Therapy meetings. Internet alway rates as the hottest topic.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

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Join me! November 29, 9:00 to 18:00, at Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket. There are lots of amazing computer people in Phuket. Come and meet a few of them! Sessions in both Thai and English. See: www.barcampphuket.org.

PC (and Mac!) Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On November 23, we meet at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle, next to Wine Connection.

On November 30, we're going to have another Mac/PC Group Therapy session, featuring bonafide Mac gurus, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna, just before the main entrance to the Laguna complex.

Then on December 7, we'll meet at Sandwich Shoppe Patong, in Aroonsom Plaza, near Andaman Beach Suites. Sessions to help everybody – even (especially!) complete novices – and they're free!

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Top Antipodean Pro Athlete Line up for Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2008

The 2007 Laguna Phuket Triathlon men's champion, Italian born Massimo Cigana is confirmed to defend his title in this year's renowned "Race of Legends". Also confirmed for the race, which takes place on Sunday December 7, is an imposing Australian line up including Belinda Granger, winner of three Ironman titles already this year in Canada, China and Malaysia.

Granger will compete against 2007 Ironman world champion Mirinda Carfrae. Other antipodean elite athletes who will be vying for the US\$20,000 pro purse are last year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon runner up Richie Cunningham, and inspirational athlete Chris Legh, a two-time Ironman 70.3 champion who has overcome major health challenges throughout his career.

Organizers are anticipating one of the largest ever fields for the 2008 Laguna Phuket Triathlon. For the fourth consecutive year, entries for the individual event have completely sold out, with 800 individuals, 50 relay teams (150 competitors) plus an expected 300 people booked to take part in the 6k Fun Run.

There has also been an addition to the weekend's sporting event, a Kid's Splash 'n' Dash which will be held on Saturday December 6 at 8am, in which up to 60 youngsters are set to participate.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon is supported by Thai Airways International, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Herbalife International (Thailand). The Laguna Phuket Triathlon boasts arguably more world champions than any other race in the world, save for the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Hawaii. For further information on the Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2008 and to register for the Fun Run and Kid's Splash 'n' Dash visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com



Boys and girls put on star performance at BIS

PHUKET: The British International School hosted its annual football tournament last week with nearly 700 competitors from 20 visiting schools representing Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand as well as four local Phuket schools.

The two-day tournament comprised group stages on Friday and the play-offs and finals on Saturday.

There were competitions for girls and boys, ranging from under 9s to over 15s, with two

teams of seven contesting games of 12 minutes and 15 minutes each way in the group stages and the play offs respectively.

The pick of the finals was a local derby in the boys' under 13s section. BIS took on the Youth Football Home (YFH), a local orphanage, which, as well as providing a home for orphaned and destitute boys, gives them daily football coaching.

YFH took an early lead and dominated possession against a physically imposing BIS team. The hosts were left chasing shad-

ows for much of the game, as YFH knocked the ball about with consummate ease.

However, BIS grabbed a spectacular equalizer and candidate for goal of the tournament from Piers Grassman, who drilled the ball home from long range in the second half.

With just minutes to go, BIS grabbed an improbable winner to seal the victory and the boys' under-13 trophy, leaving YFH to make the short journey back to Thalang with silver medals to show for their efforts.



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BIS Tournament Winners

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RIS Swiss School

Under-11 girls
Alice Smith KL

Under-13 boys
British International School

Under-13 girls
International School KL

Under-15 boys
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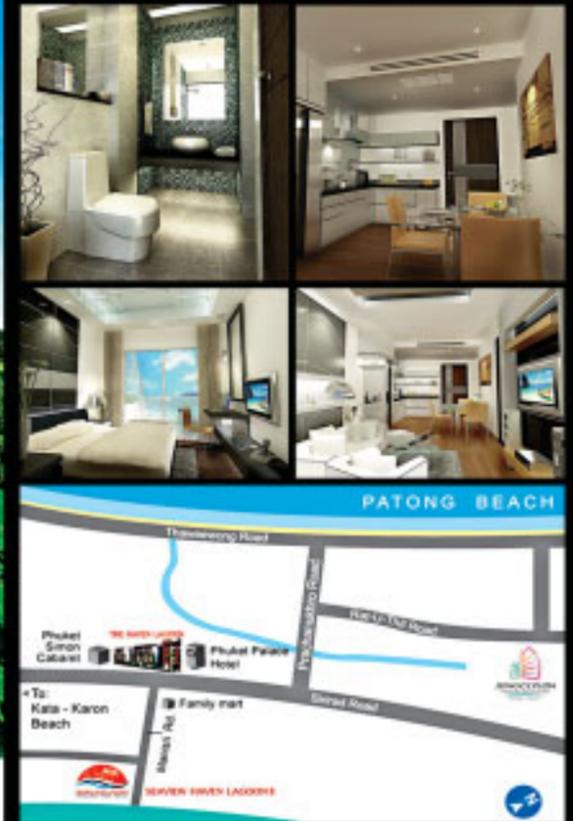
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Home of the Week

Rawai

Bali design set in a big garden

For sale this week in sunny Rawai is a modern designed Balinese-style house with a communal swimming pool, terrace, tropical gardens and a large carport big enough for two vehicles. This luxury house offers a wealth of facilities and amenities for you to enjoy.

The property exudes a warm and livable feeling. The neatly trimmed tropical garden, adorned with small shrubs and lovely lawn, draws you into the natural environment.

The elegance of the garden is complemented by two distinct water features. Preserving the natural harmony, the large covered carport, which will comfortably accommodate two cars, blends seamlessly into the surroundings.

The open-plan living area is crisply styled with ceramic tiled floors and painted white walls that emanate quiet elegance.

The living space comprises a lounge and dining area, sporting a sumptuous array of fittings, including a large and comfortable settee, coffee table and a six-seat dining table. All of this is encircled by high floor-to-ceiling windows that provide lots of natural sunlight.

The sleekly styled western kitchen includes high quality units and cabinets alongside a panoply of state-of-the-art appliances. The kitchen counters are made of solid granite, in keeping with the high quality materials used throughout the property. Two additional rooms can also be used as a study or office and a laundry room.

The two upstairs bedrooms offer en-suite bathrooms with



The tropical garden of this fully-furnished Balinese-style home has been well maintained and has two distinct water features. The ample outside space also allows for two car-parking spaces.

showers and feature wooden floors, double beds and either walk-in or built-in wardrobes that provide lots of storage space. The bedrooms are luxuriously appointed and were created with the utmost comfort in mind.

The facilities and amenities available to the purchaser of this house include home and estate security, satellite TV, telephone and internet connections.

There is also a communal swimming pool reserved for

residential use. This house is set on a 600-sqm plot and is available to buy with Chanote title deeds through freehold purchasing terms. The asking price for this property is 13,650,000 baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSIL2308. Tel: 076-288908. E-mail Patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Construction

Phuket City

Luxury hotel due to open on Chaofa road

PHUKET: A new four- to five-star hotel is currently under construction on Chaofa Road West, at the Darasamuth intersection.

Owned by Dararat and Child Co Ltd and managed by KW Consultant Co Ltd, Dara Resident Hotel will occupy more than 4,000 square meters on the 3-rai plot situated by the main road for easy access.

Akara Architects Co Ltd have been brought in to oversee the design of the new hotel.

Witsanu Warasri, project manager of KW Consultant Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that the project was started in February of this year and is scheduled for completion by February 2009.

Although he did not want to divulge too much information about the new hotel's concept, he did say that the hotel would be very different from others on the island and emphasised that it would be very modern.

The five-storey hotel will consist of around 50 rooms, divided into studio, deluxe and suite-class units to suit a wide range of budgets. Although not near a beach guest facilities at the hotel will include a gym, swimming pool and tennis court.



ABOVE: Dara Resident Hotel as seen from Chao Fah West Road.



Views of the construction site from the turn-off road running between Wichit Songkram Road and Chao Fa West Road.



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A Phuketian style resort

Combining historical and contemporary design

SALA Phuket Resort and Spa is a sumptuous new deluxe resort, with 63 out of its 79 villas boasting their own private swimming pools.

An impressive complement to its sister property, SALA Samui, SALA Phuket combines historical Sino-Portuguese architecture and design with modern 5-star facilities.

The property features seven different types of accommodation, including spacious deluxe balcony rooms, garden pool villas, signature SALA Pool Villas, several styles of 1 and 2 bedroom suites, and the palatial beach-front Presidential Pool Villa suite.

Located on pristine Mai Khao Beach on Phuket's northwest shoreline, SALA Phuket is just 10 minutes from Phuleet Interational Airport and the famous Blue Canyon Golf Course, and only 15 minutes away from picturesque Phang Nga Bay.

SALA Phuket's facilities include two large beach-front swimming pools, a world class international restaurant and bar, lobby bar, spa, gym, library, gift shop, and in-room Wi-Fi-internet access.

What really sets this resort apart, however, is its architecture. All rooms, and especially the beach-front Presidential suite, offer an abundance of private space with a peaceful atmosphere so that guests can enjoy a wonderfully relaxing holiday without ever having to leave their room.

The resort itself retains a cosmopolitan air, bringing together, as it does, travelers from all corners of the globe.

The architecture also reflects the co-existence of cultures, a mirror of Phuket itself, which has a long history of cultural fusion of Thai, Chinese, Malay and European influences.



The lap pool and SALA restaurant harmonize with the natural beauty of Mai Khao Beach.

The physical form of the architecture is modest rather than aggressive, and yet embodies a spatial complexity, with each part of the structure retaining its own architectural identity.

While the overall design draws all these elements together, there remain still more layers of architectural substance to be discovered as one gets closer.

On entering the property from one end and progressing through the main common area towards the beach front, one experiences an architectural evolu-

tion, which opens out on the sea. The lobby area does not stand alone, but rather forms part of the experiential sequence.

Driving through the entrance of the property, a transitional space is created between the car path and the rubber-tree forested landscape. At the drop-off area, you can glimpse the interior of the property through a latticed wooden screen.

Moving in through the passage way, passing by the glassy pond, the space of the lobby is slowly revealed until, arriving at

the lobby bar, you can see beyond and into the property's open landscape.

Inside the villas, conventional partitioning has been eschewed and the spatial overlapping of the bedroom, wash area, living space, pool and surrounding landscape have fused seamlessly.

The two public pools extend the length of the beach front and constitute a tranquil foreground to the entire public area. The multi-depth pools allow for a variety of activities from lap swimming and

diving to sitting, walking and sun-bathing.

The restaurant and bar stretch out along the shoreline, affording guests spectacular ocean views, surpassed only by the panoramic vista from the rooftop restaurant.

Here, design blurs the boundaries between the interior and its environment with a non-linear configuration of columns. Private dining areas float upon the rooftop pond, allowing human space to extend infinitely out to the horizon.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Selecting healthy plants

There's a lot to be said for being perfect. I should know; I'm not. Looking up "perfect" in a dictionary hardly evokes surreal images of a fat, beer-guzzling Yorkshireman. It doesn't stop me striving for perfection, though. Alright, I'll admit it. I'm fussy.

Things have got to be right, after all. A female acquaintance said over lunch that my particular nature is obviously down to the fact that I'm a Virgo. Why do women insist in believing that twaddle, by the way? It has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I'm a Virgo; mainly because I'm not. I'm just fussy. There's nothing particularly New Age about that.

I've done more than my fair share of renovation and building work over the years. I've found that I'm far better at pointing than actually getting my hands dirty, with the inevitable result that hapless builders are on the receiving end of my perfectionist demands.

This is probably the perfect time for me to say, "Sorry" to all the tradesmen who have borne the brunt of my frustration over the years. So what if they put a door on upside down or painted the wrong wall? It was probably my fault for not being clear enough in the first place.

Thai tradesmen are, in reality, incredible craftsmen. They somehow quietly get on with it without any fuss or worrying sharp intakes of breath. You won't hear the words "not my job" in this country; their equivalents in the west seem to spend more time coming up with reasons why they can't do the job than actually getting on with it.

Ask a British builder to make corner beading (the sharp bit of a sticking-out corner) by hand, and they'll laugh in your face – it's easier to buy some beading from the local hardware

store. Here, it seems that all corner beading is done by hand, by a bloke with some wet cement, a piece of string and a trowel; truly skillful.

Like builders anywhere, Thai builders do have their moments, though. A few years ago, a friend of mine had a house built and decided on bricks for the exterior, to save painting in the years to come. He was advised that an initial coat of varnish treatment for the bricks would make them last even longer.

Predictably, a large amount of cement was spilt onto the bricks, so a team was assigned – with a hammer and chisel each – to remove the unwanted cement. Several days later, the varnishers started merrily coating the now-clean bricks with a liberal dose of sealant. The result was excellent, for awhile.

It appears that nobody had realized that the varnishers worked at a much quicker pace than the chisellers, so the varnishers soon caught up with the chisellers. This is the point where it all went a little wrong. The varnishers decided to overtake the chisellers rather than wait a bit. My mate's reaction on returning home that day, seeing half his house covered in perfectly varnished concrete splodges, was fairly predictable.

Nobody's perfect, I suppose. It's the people who think they are perfect that are probably the worst. In fact, they're not. It's the buffoons that come to a place like Thailand expecting perfection; coming out with classics like, "It's not like this at home". Well maybe it isn't. If you don't like it, leave. We rather like it. Give the rest of us a break from your whining and go and irritate

someone in your home country.

So what has all the perfection got to do with plants? Well you may as well be fussy when choosing plants at a garden center. Why not go for one that's perfect if at all possible? But how do you go about choosing healthy plants?

When you first walk in, all the plants in the nursery look lush and glorious. Well they should do, anyway. If not, you may as well just walk back out again. There are occasions when a few quick checks can help prevent you from bringing home a complete lemon, if it makes any sense at all to refer to a dodgy plant as a 'lemon'. You know what I mean.

You may as well take a bit of time to look over your intended purchase, before you introduce what may be a problem into your garden. So here we go then, a plant-buying guide for numpties. Even I understand these:

1. How good does the nursery look? Take in an overview of the plant department and make sure the vast majority of the plants seem reasonably healthy and well cared for.

2. The foliage. Check out the condition of your specific plant. Are the leaves green, shiny and lush? Steer clear of any plants that look a bit limp or have started to turn yellow. They may turn out fine, but stressed plants don't always recover.

3. The shape of the plant. Is it compact and full, with multiple branches and stems? Taller is not necessarily better. This could mean the plant has been straining for light and has grown thin and spindly. Or it could be just plain weedy.

4. Insects and disease. Have a close look for signs of either. Check both sides of the leaves and the potting soil. Things to look out for include blackened areas, holes, spots, mushy areas,



stickiness and distortions. Or bugs, obviously.

5. Don't forget the roots. If the plant is pot bound and the roots are growing out of the bottom, the plant may be a bit stressed and take time to recover.

A therapist probably won't be necessary, but should any Americans be reading, law suits can be avoided by offering one anyway.

If there aren't many roots and the plant lifts out very easily, it was probably recently repotted and could use more time to become garden-worthy.

6. Check for stem damage. If the plant has a thick or woody stem, make sure there are no cracks or scars on it. Even damage done years ago can weaken a plant.

7. Weeds in the pot. Any weeds in the same pot as the plant you're looking at are competing with that plant for nutrients. They also show a degree of neglect on the part of the nursery staff.

8. The root ball. If you buy a tree or shrub that has its roots

in a big ball covered in a sack, the root ball should feel solid and certainly not crunchy. If it appears broken, there's a good chance the roots have dried out and the plant will suffer.

9. Buds and flowers. Plants that are in bud at the nursery will usually transplant and thrive better than plants that are already in flower. Blooming flowers may look better on the day you buy them, but buds are better, and you'll have flowers for a much longer period after you plant it.

10. It's your call. At the end of the day, if you've just got to have it, go ahead and buy the plant anyway. With a bit of pampering, it may well defy the odds.

The bottom line is: Avoid anything ugly, limp or weedy.

Fortunately, plants are far more likely to be perfect, or close to it, than us humans; certainly

**Need garden advice?
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E-mail: investment@baanthailayan.com Website: www.baanthailayan.com

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



Sale, lease. 1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, ADSL, 1.9 million baht ono. Contact. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO

6th floor, mountain view, 72sqm, furnished. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 087-272-0303.

22 RAI @ 500,000 BT/RAI

Beautiful plot of land suitable for either development or agricultural use. Nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5 km south of Tablamu golf course and 10 km north of Khao Lak. Call or email for more info. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

SEA VIEW LAND, PATONG

Sea view land in Patong. 132 sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Gor, road access and electricity. 14 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888. Fax: 086-982 2888. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com

PATONG HOUSES

I am selling my houses in Patong. 3 two-story houses on separate but connecting NS3G-plots, 20, 21, and 22 sq wah, and one 60 sq wah plot with a single story building with 4 units. Just off Phisit Korani Rd, 400m from the NaNai and Sai Namyen intersection. In total, 7 units. Makes a good rental business. For sale at 13.9 million baht. Tel: 081-893 6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

BIG COLONIAL HOUSE



Anuphas Golf View, built 2005, 600sqm, living space, 2 floors with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, dream kitchen, large foyer, large dining and sitting area, separate entertainment room and snooker room, maid's room, on a 1,700sqm tropical garden. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-587 8173.

VILLAS, CONDOS

Great properties for sale in Phuket at www.janepropertyphuket.com

BRAND-NEW HOUSE

For sale in Baan Suan Loch Palm. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Price: 10.5 million baht. Urgent sale! Tel: 087-2799500.

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276-5117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

BOAT LAGOON

Twin house for sale or rent, 2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condo in Rawai, 250 meters from the pier. 54sqm. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

68 RAI OF KRABI LAND

Super-prime hilltop, 280 degree bay view above Sheraton. Chanote and Norsor 3. B6.5m per rai. Email: thunderoredigger@gmail.com

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5399269.

MAI KHAO LAND



for sale. 11 rai, Nor Sor 3, 500 meters to the beach. Contact Tor. Tel: 084-5071834. Email: mrpantor@hotmail.com

TRANG LAND



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity access, road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 7 million baht ono. No agents please. Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

CONDO: 63SQM, PATONG

100% renovated, freehold. 2 rooms, terrace & nice view, pool, security. Beach: 200m, furnished, TV, Hi-Fi, 2 aircons. 4.9 million baht. Telephone: 086-9760809.

LUXURY HOUSE

for sale or rent. Mission Heights community, 5 mins from Mission Hills Golf Club. 4 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms with bath and shower, large Western kitchen, 90-sqm pool, garden, service included. Fully furnished. Contact So. Tel: 081-862 2962, 081-344 4473.

2 RAI (3,200 SQM)

Sea view land plots available at the prestigious Yamu Hills near Cape Yamu. Full infrastructure from only 5 million baht per rai. Financing available. Tel: 086-6865998 or 081-7871108. Email: info@tropical-homes.net

HOUSE FOR SALE

5.5 million baht. Fully furnished. No agents. Tel: 081-894 2009.

2-STOREY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Call Khun Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahniesz@hotmail.com or okika_j@hotmail.com

HOUSES IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn, from cheap to luxurious. Special offer: 2-bedroom house and pool, 4.8 million baht. Contact Nico. Tel: 085-795 5383. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

LAND PLOT FOR HOLIDAY HOME



Project Baan Nam Khem, 24 units, mountain & lake view, amid a green cashew nut plantation, 10 min. walk to pristine beach. Price: 1.2-2 million baht/plot. Contact Maneerat. Tel: 081-812 0388. Email: mgrueneberger@yahoo.de

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



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

RAWAI, 2-STOREY HOUSE

160sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 400m from beach. Price: 1.8 million. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 082-411 2138.

LAND AT NATAI

near Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai w/ Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach. Road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Tel: 081-539 9269.

PERFECT LAND

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

PRANGTHONG VILLA SALE/RENT

2-story villa in secure estate between Phuket Town and Chalong. 3 bedrooms and separate maid's room. 64 sq wah, chanote title. For sale at 5.9 million baht. For rent at 25,000 baht per month (long term only). Tel: 081-893-6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

KAMALA TOWNHOUSE



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park. 3.2 million baht. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

RAWAI HOUSE



3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms at Rawai Beach. High-end building materials and furniture. Asking price: 220,000 euro. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

2 BEDROOM FREEHOLD CONDO

This is a luxury, low-rise two-bedroom condominium unit at Royal Phuket Marina, Phuket's largest marina development on the island's east coast. Owners within each of the three-building cluster of condominiums will enjoy the shared 20m long swimming pool. Lift access to the upper floors, private underground parking and 24-hour security is also provided. Foreign freehold ownership is available for this apartment. The marina includes bars, restaurants, shops, a professional spa, gymnasium, and tennis courts. Tel: 076-360943, 084-851 9795. Email: phuketproperties@gmail.com

KRABI AREA SEAVIEW LAND

19 rai of hillside land overlooking mountains and Phang-nga Bay. 1.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-9410410. Email: here@fastmail.fm For further details, please see our website at <http://krabi.land.here.fastmail.fm/>

LAND IN KATHU

444-sqm plot near waterfall. 2.5 million baht. Phone: 089-724 1140.

CORNER BUILDING OFF BYPASS

2 units, 24 + 33 sq wah, 4 stories. Located opposite Kejmukda restaurant, 300m from the Bypass road. 7-Eleven is on the ground floor. Price for the building is 15 million baht. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN THE PROJECT 'THE INDY'



at the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land: 32sq wah. Tel: 089-472 9118.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956 2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

STUNNING PATONG STUDIO APT

Large studio in Phuket Palace condo near Simon Cabaret. All modern conveniences, large balcony, bath, aircon, kitchen, cable TV, on the top floor. Spectacular views of the ocean and Patong Bay. Huge swimming pool & tennis courts. 3.7 million baht or near offer. Tel: 076-296738, 087-031 2154. Email: info@kellyshotelphuket.com

BANGTAO HOUSE

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 5mx9m pool, auto gate, fully furnished, ADSL, sat TV, 5 aircons, 2 levels. Tel: 087-268 8752 or 084-851 6121. Or send email to phuketmat@yahoo.com, or visit our website at www.phukethome.ws

VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG

Villa + 2 houses with 8 small apartments. The owner is using the villa + pool and 2 apartments. Six apartments are for rent. 700 sqm freehold land. For sale by owner direct at 40 million baht. No agents. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at www.bromma-thaihouse.com

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Property Gazette

EXCLUSIVE PATONG SEA VIEW



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NAIHARN CONDO, 1.8M

Modern, beautiful surroundings, swimming pool & fully furnished. Please contact. Tel: 086-596 9601. Email: ford asia777@gmail.com

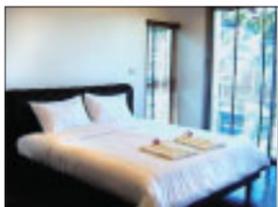
KATA SEAVIEW

4 rai prime sea view land for sale in Kata. Reduced to 12 million per rai. Tel: 081-273-5047. Email: katalandforsale@gmail.com

BARGAIN KATA BEACH

3-level house, only 1 min to beach. Owner moving. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for rent. The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

11 RAI - WAT CHALONG

Flat land with road and water frontage. Next to Land & House Park and Wat Chalong. Chanote: 11-3-60 rai. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

NEW STUDIO APARTMENTS IN RAWAI

4 new apartments with shared swimming pool. Kitchenette, Bathroom and Terrace. Only 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Large 600sqm pool villa, 5 mins to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. 16 million baht. For sale or rent. Tel: 081-7344324. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

NEW HOUSE, NAI HARN-RAWAI



3-storey house villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, 6 bathrooms, ADSL. Jacuzzi, big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. Private pool 8x3.5m, 2 parking spaces. Chanote. Tel: 081-6779837, 089-646-4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

LAND VILLA CONDO

Oceanfront estate, 160 million baht. Patong seaview plot, pool, villa, 16 million baht. Laguna, 1 rai, lake view, 15 million baht. 19 rai, Phuket central, 25 million baht. Condo Patong central 4.7 million baht. 40+ rai beachfront, 1,800 million baht. Tel: 087-2849541. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-no1.com

SPACIOUS HOME IN LOCH PLAM

Secure estate, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 6 aircons, 1 year old, 327sqm on 560sqm. Asking 20.9 million baht ono. Owner. Tel: 083-967 5777.

PATONG LAND

Prime land, 5.5 rai, central location in Patong. Mail or call after 11am. Tel: 081-4095175. Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th

LUXURY DEVELOPMENT LAND



Ao Po, Phuket, Thailand. 23.5 rai seafront/view. Ideal for development or subdivision. Neighbors include The Estate luxury development, the new Ao Po Marina and Jumeirah Private Island. Quick sale. Call 081-9704765. Visit www.phuketluxuryland.com

RAWAI 3 BEDROOMS



House for sale, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, with pool, sea view. 160sq wah. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 086-475 2424.

KARON LAND - URGENT

1 minute to the beach, great business location for home, guesthouse, apartments. 6.7 million baht. Must sell urgently. Call Moon. Tel: 086-948 0885.

SEA, HILL & GARDEN VIEWS

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 160sqm, beautifully appointed designer apartment in peaceful Kata Noi. 150 metres to the beach. Well-established, meticulously maintained and secluded development with 24-hour security. Handicap accessible. Many extras included. 14.7 million baht. Offers invited. Tel: 087-265-8801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com For further details, please see our websites at www.katanoicondo.com or www.photoshow.com/watch/aT6bx5cx

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

In Rawai. 3 stories, great location by main road. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-475 2424.

SEAVIEW NORTH OF AIRPORT

4 lots of Nor Sor Sam Gor land for sale by owner. 4.5 rai in total, 3 neighboring lots: 3-1-17 Rai, and 1 separate: 1-0-83 Rai. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

1/2 RAI LAND NEAR LAGUNA

Land plot 1/2 rai (800 sqm) in Baan Don near Laguna. Chanote title, filled and ready to build a villa on. For sale at 2 million baht. Tel: 086-943-4824. Email: orchids_hkt@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLA IN KATA HILL

3 bedrooms, landscaped garden, swimming pool, jacuzzi. Includes all furniture. Only 18 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

NEW KATHU POOL VILLA



near Loch Palm for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fully furnished. Great hill & golf-green views. Land area: 200 sqm. Indoor area: 140 sqm. Pool: 7x3m. Price: 6.9 million baht. Phone: 089-724 1140. Email: nong.insurance@yahoo.co.th

28 RAI NEAR BYPASS RD

Chanote land with 200m of frontage along road 3001 opposite the new outlet mall. Tel: 081-893 6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

RPM MARINA CONDO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 150sqm + 50-sqm terrace. Freehold, corner view, pool, fitness, tennis. B27m. Tel: 081-4772189. Email: thunderor edigger@gmail.com

VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, aircon. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288-047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms in small secure development. Sala, overflow swimming pool, secluded garden, large car port, quality kitchen, fully furnished. 10 million baht. Tel: 085-7840569.

FREEHOLD CONDO

for sale. Top floor, 1 corner unit, sea view. 1 million baht. Tel: 086-076 0141. Email: thanque4@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

For sale or rent, in Rawai, 3 big bedrooms, big garden, private pool, aircon. Full kitchen, great location, secure. Tel: 087-893 8747.

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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Property Gazette

VERY LARGE VILLA IN KATA HILL

7 bedrooms, large landscaped garden, 2 swimming pools, 2 kitchens. Standing on 1 rai. Only 49 million baht.
Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

POOL VILLA IN KAMALA



for sale or rent. Pool villa, modern design, in Kamala. Total area 320sqm. Built-up 250sqm. 1.5-story with open loft, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 13.5 million baht. No agents. Tel: 080-532 8773. Email: brown_17@windowslive.com

NEW HOME IN CHALONG

2-3 bed. Near Circle. Quiet, close to all amenities. Top quality build, with garden. 5.5 million baht, or long-term rent. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketsuperhome@gmail.com

KOH YAO YAI

3.8 rai, 1 million baht. Chanote, electricity, near pier. Thai owner needs money. Call for more details. Tel: 081-892 8208.

LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

SEAVIEW LAND



4 rai prime sea view land for sale in Kata. Reduced to 12 million per rai. Tel: 081-273 5047.

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale at 4 million baht or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel: 080-5358767, Tel (US): 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

NEW 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN KATA CENTRAL

60sqm. furnished. Use of swimming pool, parking & restaurant. Only 2.9 million baht.
Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

EXCLUSIVE POOL VILLAS

near Boat Lagoon marina. Tel: 089-873 1019. More details and pictures at: www.phuket exclusiveholiday.com

HOUSE NEAR TESCO LOTUS

2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3-aircons, water. European style kitchen. Fully furnished. Land 36sqw. Price 2.95 million baht. (Eng) Tel: 086-683 6913, (Thai) Tel: 080-529 4944.

WOODLANDS HOUSE



Largest lot: 1,320sqm. Private corner villa, 5 bedrooms, 2-storey with open loft. 52-sqm pool. Large sala & guest house. 10-minute walk to BIS. Rent-to-own option. 28.5 million baht ono. Tel: +66-89-652-7818, +852-9686-8475.

HILL LAND SOUTH OF AIRPORT

18 Rai of Nor Sor Sam Gor land for sale by owner. Six km south of airport. Prepared for development with roads and drainage. Partial sea view towards NaiYang. 36 million baht. Tel: 081-8936630. Fax: 076-241408. Email: baan sorada@hotmail.com

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WATER FRONTAGE LAND



Nice piece of land: 3.5 rai with more than 90 meters of beach frontage. Secure land title, road access, water, electricity and building permission. The best investment. Less than 25 mins from airport, with view of Yacht Haven marina. For sale direct from owner, 19 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG



Villa, 4 bedroom, private pool and good views. 2 houses with 8 small apartments, 700sqm. Freehold land. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

FREEHOLD, PATONG 28 SQM

Studio, fully renovated and furnished, brand new. 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664.

HOUSE FOR SALE 2.5 MILLION BAH

Ban Maneekram Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 3 a/c, fully furnished, cable TV, ADSL phone line for Internet. Existing tenant on long term rental. Tel: 076-264692, 086-281 2115.

CHALONG, 2-STORY HOUSE

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished. Down payment: 850,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 084-841 5835, 086-595 0013.

NEW 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN KATA CENTRAL

140sqm., luxury furniture on 6th floor. Use of swimming pool, parking & restaurant. Only 9.7 million baht.
Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

BUNGALOW IN CHALONG



Newly refurbished 3 bedroom, bungalow on 65sq wah. Brand new modern kitchen and bathroom. Covered parking and landscaped garden. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 089-922 2800. Pls email: meen443_40@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

AGRICULTURAL LAND

for sale. 120 rai of agricultural land for sale, 20km from resort area of Khao Lak. Total price 3.84 million baht. Please telephone 087-020 0191 for further information.

SUPERB SEA VIEW

1 rai, Yamu Hills. Fully serviced, underground power/water, gated security, ready to build on. Tel: 081-088 8271. Email: capt@loxinfo.co.th

MINI GOLF FOR SALE

Mini golf course with all the possible equipment. Ready to run business. For RENT OR SALE. On 1 rai in Khao Lak. Tel: 081-8912273. Fax: 076-340182. Email: rkfashion@phuket.ksc.co.th

FURNISHED VILLA



For sale/rent in Sai Yuan. Big land plot (2,676sqm) Large parking space (5x8m). Wood-deck pool, very high standard, 4 bedrooms, beautiful tropical garden, living room, equipped kitchen, dining, laundry, 6 aircons, Jacuzzi, Wi-Fi, ADSL, satellite, True TV, 5 mins to Nai Harn, Rawai and Chalong Pier. Just bring your bag. Price: 29 million baht. Tel: 081-618 2101. Visit our website at www.hong chaofa.com

BARGAIN. KATA BEACH

3-level house, only 1 min to beach. Owner moving. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 084-840-5834.

SALE/RENT, KAMALA

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-277 3381.

FREEHOLD IN PATONG

for sale. New studio with pool in Patong, 45sqm. 3.2 million baht. Quick sale. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: antoniocpala@yahoo.it

NICE 5 BED HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com Visit our website at www.jikkycar.com

LAND IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn. Many small and big plots. Special: 1,773sqm w/ sea view, 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-795 5383.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE



Private aircon room, fridge. Cable TV, Wi Fi. 10,000 baht per month. Contact for more info. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

CHALONG NEW HOME
2 bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Tel: 089-652-1473.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Contact. Tel: 081-968 0309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com Please see my website at: www.houseinphuket.com

1 BR APT, PRIVATE POOL

Fully furnished apartment with stunning sea view. Great location. Daily or weekly. Tel: 076-284481, 089-472 0214. Fax: 076-284481. Email: barry_weissman@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER

Deluxe condo on beach road. Tel: 084-847 3304. For further details, please see our website at www.selectphuket.com

SHOPHOUSE IN KATA

Shophouse available for rent in Kata area. 3 stories, 4 beds, 4 baths. Separate entrance for floors 2 and 3. Good location. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 02-224 4824, 081-830 5215. Fax: 02-622 6845. Email: demblas@yahoo.com

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936.

THAI VILLA AND POOL
in Nai Harn, 1km to beach, very quiet location, stunning view, 2 bedrooms, en-suite Jacuzzi, open-plan lounge, diner, European kitchen, private garden with parking. Rent long term for 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126.

HOUSE IN CHALONG
for rent near Palai Beach. 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

KAMALA LAKE HOUSE
2 bedrooms, clean, quiet. For 2 months or more, 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 8208.

HOME OFFICE
For rent in Phuket. Perfect location in commercial area. 5 minutes to Tesco Lotus, on 2nd bypass road. 2.5 floors, ground floor ready to decorate for office, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen, 2 car parks. Contact Bee. Tel: 081-895 1581. Email: bee@layanhillsestate.com

THB16K PER MONTH
2 bedroomed villa. Full aircon & partly furnished. One year lease. Tel: 081-004 6328. Email: goggsiehere@hotmail.com

LUXURY PRIVATE POOL VILLA

Beautifully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, large open plan living/dining area with gallery above, phone line, ADSL, Wi-Fi, cable TV, secure garden, pool, gated driveway, 0.5 Rai, quiet area 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Rent-to-own option, 65,000 baht per month. Or 12.5 million to buy. Tel: 083-172 0876. Email: gillychamberlain@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE (BANDON)



for sale/rent near Laguna. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. Price negotiable, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com For further details, please see: www.phuket-on-tour.blogspot.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, in small secure development. Sala, overflow swimming pool in secluded garden, large car port, quality kitchen, beautifully furnished. 60,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-784 0569.

NEW HOUSE

for rent. Fully furnished. Villa 3, Soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price, private area, 65sq wah. Tel: 081-537 6045.

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

RENTALS

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TOWNHOUSE, TAINA ROAD, KATA

for rent. Taina Road, Kata Center. 2 units, long-term rent for five years up. Ideal for bar or restaurant. Contact Khun Charoon. Tel: 086-9538692.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

KAMALA FOR RENT

4-bedroom detached house in select quiet compound. 20-meter pool, sat TV. Wifi, 24-hr security. Tel: 081-9560527.

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in. Tel: 089-662 8733.

LITTLE HOUSE



in a quiet area for rent. 10-minute walk to Kata Beach, 1 bedroom, kitchenette, bathroom (hot water), big terrace, fully furnished, cable TV, aircon. 2,500 baht per day, 25,000 baht per month or 252,000 baht per year. Tel: 076-333232, 083-180 8653.

LUXURY VILLA POOL
near Laguna. Has everything, short or long term, reasonable. Tel: 089-594 4067.

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bed, 2 bath, aircon. 25,000 baht per month, long term. Contact. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

SALES AND RENTALS

in Rawai, Nai Harn and Chalong. All prices. Big, beautiful house and pool, 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-795 5383. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

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for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

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KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available, serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

PATONG STUDIO: 28SQM

Aircon, hot water, kitchen, fridge, TV, DVD, 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-971 5664.

VILLAS IN BANG TAO

for rent near Laguna. 2 or 3 bedrooms, pool, fully furnished. 50,000/65,000 baht/month, short- or long-term. Tel: 081-897 6984 (English); 089-699 5136 (Thai).

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

WANTED FOR RENT
House for rent in Kamala. Should be fully furnished and have 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and TV. Needed from beginning of November for 3 months, with option to renew until March 2009. Quiet and secured area preferred. Email: sundayshot@hotmail.com

FLAT OR HOUSE
from October 8 until March 2009. Could be in Phuket or Krabi, including Koh Lanta. The important things are seaside (or at least sea view) and a swimming pool. Two bedrooms, for a couple. No pets and no parties. Can be a quiet location. Email: office@neubrasilien.at

LOOKING FOR LAND
I'm looking for a piece of land to build a house on in Phuket: 1/2-1 rai maximum. Price should not be over 2 million baht for 1 rai. Kathu district preferable, but any other residential area would not be ruled out. Email: kerr17@hotmail.com

SINGLE STOREY WITH GARDEN
We are looking for a single-storey property with garden, preferably in or around Laguna area. Don't mind some refurbishment. Budget: approximately 2 million baht. Visiting October 3 for 2 weeks. Tel: +003-57-99791857. Fax: +003-57-26930780. Email: helen@cyprusresalesdirect.com

GOLF-VIEW CONDOMINIUM
Kathu area only. Want to buy or rent long term. Email: together@myway.com

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by self-employed person. I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including house-keeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Tel: 087-1006111. Email: luckypam@gmail.com

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Accommodation Available

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG
Apartment for long term rent. 16,000-20,000 baht per month. From 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se www.brommathaihouse.com

LUXURY 3 BED VILLA & POOL
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KATA, STUDIO APARTMENT
for rent. 28,000 baht a month. Building includes pool, restaurant, elevator, gym. Walking distance to beach, shopping and nightlife. Tel: 087-8938747.

CHALONG APARTMENT
Air conditioned, cable TV, hot shower, free ADSL, new furniture. 4,900 baht per month or 380 baht/day. New room. Contact for more details. Tel: 085-8885144.

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2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, aircon, sea view, ADSL, quiet location. Competitive price. Tel: 086-279 0837.

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BANGTAO / SURIN APARTMENT
Two bedrooms, Club Lersuang. Fantastic facilities, close to the beach. Call or mail for more info. Tel: 087-0790650. Email: mlcberg@netvigator.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG
Apartment for long-term rent: 12,000-20,000 baht per month. Room for rent: 600-1,500 baht per day. Tel: 076-512151, 089-2909567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se www.brommathaihouse.com

Accommodation Wanted

CHEAP ROOM NEEDED
Cheap room in Patong needed by English teacher. Long term, must have pool and TV. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-7469878. Email: stewyk2001@yahoo.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL
Looking for a long-term rental (one year). Seeking a stylish condo, apartment or house with 2 bedrooms. Location: Thalang, Bang Tao or Surin. Renting from November 1. Budget: 25,000 - 30,000 baht maximum per month. Email: Gordonray@mac.com

APT WITH KITCHEN
Looking for 2-bedroom apartment, fully equipped with furniture and kitchen equipment. Wanted from December 1 until mid-February. Please email with photo and monthly rental. Email: mrbeenieman@hotmail.com

VILLA WITH POOL
Start Dec 1. Two months. 2 bedrooms, pool. 70,000 contact. Tel: 087-284 4425.

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Flat-screen LG plasma TV for sale with wall mounting. Ideal for home or bar. 25,000 baht. Tel: 087-0869821. Email: jpoole-robb@knightsbridges.com

LAWN MOWER
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Household Services

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Wooden hull, equipped for diving. Yamaha 2x200hp. Tel: 080-0809912.

DINGHY
3.1 metres with Yamaha 15hp, red, hyperlon, 2.5 yrs old, good condition. Tel: 081-7874690.

SPEEDBOAT 85 HP FOR SALE
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2006 Mercruiser 5.0l mpi v8 petrol & alpha 1 stern drive. Thai registered, many extras. 1,350,000 baht. Tel: 081-2713447. Or email: abannock@gmail.com

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Huge dinghy, sailing equipment available. 80,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

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New 2008 model coming soon for PIMEX 2008. Full options, many upgrades, high speed, free test drive available. Tel: 087-030-6688, 081-821 4060. Email: sales@sunnava.com

MORGAN 38.4 FT
Newly-renovated 38-foot Morgan yacht from 1984. Very beautiful and well maintained. First to see will buy. Price: \$69,000. Contact for details. Tel: 089-520 8503. Email: nips63@yahoo.com

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38-ft tour cruiser for sale. All fiberglass. Excellent fuel economy. Mercruiser inboard diesel engine, cruises comfortably at 27 knots. Very low hours on the engine. Toilet & freshwater shower, large sun roof, s/s ladder at bow and stern for beach access. Commercial Thai registration. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-979-0525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

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Indonesian Penisi 79'
The vessel is a typical Penisi style boat strongly built from Indonesian hardwoods. It has been adequately maintained and is in good cosmetic condition externally, and of an adequate finishing standard internally.
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Very traditional vessel - Well maintained and kept as original seaworthy boat. Strong construction - day trip - Island Hopping. She could suit private or commercial purpose.
Reduced Price at 60,000 EURO



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1 Position

Female, 20-26 years, diploma or higher, min 2 years experience, computer literacy (MS Office), fluent in English (spoken & written).

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1 Position

Female, 20-26 years, diploma or higher, min 2 years experience, computer literacy (MS Office), English speaking.

OFFICE MAID

1 Position

Female, min 2 years experience, English speaking an advantage but not necessary.

Interested **Thai nationals** (preferably own transportation) please contact or send CV to **Khun Onuma**
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Requires one full-time English teacher. Friendly work environment and assistance with work permit. Please send your CV with details by email to boonthong30@yahoo.com or call 081-415 1698 or 081-537 2886.

RESERVATIONS STAFF

Eden Divers needs Thai female reservations staff. Contact Andy at 085-765 4677.

DRIVER NEEDED

Eden Divers needs Thai male to drive company truck and take care of diving equipment. Call Andy at 085-765 4677.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ADVISORS WANTED

Mature and motivated individuals with finance and/or strong sales skills for Phuket and Thailand businesses. Please send resume to Marine: careers@pp-intl.com

SALES / MARKETING

Wanted: Experienced Salesperson for Cruise Operation. Fluent English and other languages. Tel: 076-381334. Email: neil@spaboat.com

WAITER & BAR STAFF WANTED

Spice Island, a new and exciting restaurant, is looking for experienced waiters, waitresses and bar staff. Please send your CV to us for consideration. Tel: 081-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: spice.island.phuket@gmail.com

RESTAURANT CASA D'ORASA

We need one professional waiter/waitress, English speaking. We also need one cook's assistant for Italian cuisine. For more information please contact Khun Orasa. Tel: 087-518 8837. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Hotel requires a female Thai receptionist. Must be reliable and speak English. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-892 1621.

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- Male/Female with 5 years' experience in Thai Restaurant
- Excellent command of English language, MS Office skills, Internet & others
- Able to control & run a restaurant, co-operating in promotional events and managing on Restaurant advertisements
- Able to work within fiscal controls & meet budget forecast requirements
- Ability to lead staff by example
- Very pleasant personality, customer relationship management experience, have initiative, creative with good interpersonal, presentation, self motivated great organizer & organization skills.
- Knowledge of food & wine, Phuket's hotel & travel agencies a definite advantage

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Thai nationality with degree in Sales & Marketing or related field
- At least 5 years' experience with background in Sales & Marketing of Thai Restaurant and Tourism background is preferable
- Strong communication skill with customer's decision-making level. Should be aggressive in the pursuit of sales, independent, creative and smart thinking, co-operating in promotional events and managing restaurant advertisements & able to set up menu will be advantage
- Very pleasant personality, have initiative, creative with good interpersonal presentation & organization skills
- Excellent command of English language, MS Office skills, Internet & others
- Knowledge of Phuket's hotel and travel agents a definite advantage

Attractive salary with benefits and career opportunities are offered to successful candidates. Please submit your full resumé, expected salary and enclosed a recent photo by fax or email to:

SILK ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

5/50 moo 3, cherngthalay, thalang, phuket 83110 thailand
f:076-271242 e:hr@paradisephuket.com website:www.silkphuket.com

CONDO MANAGER REQUIRED

Will be responsible for maintenance of common areas; supervision of Thai staff; liaison with owners & management board; and control, budgeting and accounting functions. Interested parties should apply by email at: kalimresidence@gmail.com

COFFEE SHOP NEEDS A MANAGER

English speaking, computer skills, good salary. Contact tel: 086-509 7510. Email: jpp77@yahoo.co.uk

PROOFREADER & COPYWRITER

Looking for a native English speaker to proofread and write articles for publication. Email: mueller.1971@gmail.com

RESTAURANT & BAR MANAGER

We need an experienced manager to run a team of 10 in a creative F&B venture. Reporting to the shareholders, the successful candidate will need to understand all aspects of the business and be involved in its development. Tel: 081-8937028. If this is you, please send us your CV to email: potter.ian@gmail.com

Anantara
PHUKET - THAILAND
Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa, Mai Khao Beach



We are looking for our last few special team members to come and join Anantara Phuket.

So if you are a hotel professional who would be proud to help us deliver the Anantara Story we would love to hear from you.

Villa Operations

- Airport Representative
- Telephone Operator Supervisor
- Telephone Operator (Female)

Housekeeping

- Villa Attendant
- Villa Runner (Male)
- Villa Administrator
- Florist

Finance

- Purchasing Manager
- Purchasing Clerk

Food & Beverage

- In Villa Dining Attendant (Male)

Kitchen

- Chef de Partie

Sales

- Public Relations Manager

Human Resources

- Human Resources Director

Engineering

- Senior Gardener
- Handyperson x 3 - (Electrical/Mechanical)

English Pub in Turtle Village Opening Dec 08

Front of House

- Pub Manager
- Pub Supervisors x 2
- F&B Attendants x 7
- Bartenders x 5

Kitchen

- Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie x 2
- Demi Chef
- Commis x 4

All associates will enjoy 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week). Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided. Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good luck with your application!

New restaurant opening

ACQUA

restaurant

Kalim Bay

Looking for staff:

- Waiter, Waitress
- Bartender
- Cook (all sections)
- Cashier
- Steward

Speak English

To apply, email employment@acquarestaurantphuket.com or put in mail box at 322/5 Prabaram Road, Kathu, Patong 83150

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10,000 readers every day!*

Island Job Mart

Black Forest
Distribution Co., Ltd. is looking for:

Driver with licence 2 (Truck)	2 Messengers
Salary starts at 10,000 THB + Food Costs	Salary starts at 7,500 THB + Food Costs

Black Forest Distribution Co., Ltd.
PHUKET
204/42 Rat-u-thit Road, Patong Beach, Phuket 83140
076 - 344 705

Bio Latex Co Ltd
(Phuket branch)

We are currently seeking

Salesperson

- * Russian nationality only (female/male, 3 persons)
- * Japanese nationality only (female, 2 persons)

- Accommodation
- Salary commensurate with experience (first 3 months 70% + accommodation) (after 3 months 100% + accommodation + commission)
- Working time - 9am to 5pm

Please send CV, recent photo and references to:
Email: ellezza-phuket@hotmail.com
kennyasumoto@gmail.com

Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133

PSS Asia Co., Ltd. Innovative Security Solutions is looking to fill the following positions:

Sales Manager:

- Thai nationality, male or female, age 26 to 45 years
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer knowledge and technical know-how

Secretary:

- Thai nationality, female, age 26 to 45 years
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Knowledge of common computer programs is an advantage
- Accounting knowledge is a plus

Please contact in person at **Vimami Co., Ltd.**
74/8-9 Moo 2, Chao Fa West Rd., Vichit, Muang, Phuket,
or send your application and CV to
vimami@vimami.com

Marketing Company seeks Thai nationals, male or female, for the following positions:

Sales Staff

- Strong command of spoken English
- Previous sales experience
- Personality and smart presence

Receptionist & Office Administrator

- Good command of spoken and written English
- Pleasant personality and people skills

Good salary package for the right candidates.
Please send your resumé and photo to:
enquiry@thai-infocenter.com

Cape Panwa Hotel & SPA
Phuket, Thailand

The Cape Panwa Hotel and Spa embodies tropical luxury in one of the world's most desirable destinations. Tucked away in a quiet corner of southeast Phuket, the hotel is renowned for its excellent service, stylish rooms and exclusive beach.

We are inviting applicants for the following positions:

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

The candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- At least 3 years' experience in similar position
- Team leader
- Service-minded
- Dynamic and outgoing personality
- Good command of English

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to Personnel Department,
27 Moo 8, Sakdidej Road, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-391123 Fax: 076-391177
E-mail: gm@capepanwa.com www.capepanwa.com
Only short listed candidates will be contacted

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Female, 34 years up, Bachelor's Degree in accounting, more than 5 years of working experience in accounting. Must also have good command of English, both reading and writing (business level), and knowledge of Taxation, including VAT. Email: recruitment@premierpropertyleisure.com

+ 50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

Swedish/ Norwegian/ Danish/ Finnish speaking, work permit free. Contact Marc for info. Tel: 086-683 3526. Email: marcjunker_69@hotmail.com

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

We are seeking to hire a male receptionist, 22-35 years old. Good spoken and written English. Internet and email skills. Smart appearance. Minotel hotel, Sawadirak Road Patong Beach
Tel: 076-296654. Or send Email: minotel@fastmail.fm

SELL LUXURY TECHNOLOGY

for our special luxury products. We need a marketing/sales person to expand our team. Experience in sales an asset. Salary + commissions over 60,000 baht/month.
Or Send CV to:
Email: pascal@taillard-electricity.com

RECEPTIONIST

Full time job. Must be service minded, responsible, good in English & able to handle computer, Internet. Apply at: Email: freddi@diversinn.com
<http://www.diversinn.com/contact.htm>

ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR GUIDE

Needed for busy speedboat charter company. Thai nationals only. Good salary and bonuses. Tel: 076-354074. Or Email: info@coralseekers.com

PADI INSTRUCTORS

wanted to join our experienced team. Must have valid work permit and good personality. Contact for interview. Email: tony@thailand-divers.com

PAINTER/DECORATOR

30 years' experience in England. Seeking work in the Phuket area. No job too small - give me a call! Tel: 085-4608487. Or send mail to: bobhammond@hotmail.co.uk

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ASSISTANT MANAGER

Real Estate Field

- Thai National
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Computer literacy
- Experience in profession herein

We provide good working conditions for employees.
Tel: 083-5035153, 084-1909491.
Please apply to THAIRUS DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD
17/21 Phraphuketkaew Rd. T. Kathu, A. Kathu 83120 Phuket.

WANTED URGENTLY

Native English speaker for part time/full time work in an international child care center in the Rawai area. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-289784.

SALES - ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKER

Telesales consultant required for 7-week contract, starting ASAP. Target orientated, hard working, strong work ethic needed. We are a UK company based in Rawai. Email: lan@evocation.net

UNLIMITED EARNINGS

Thai nationals required for marketing office in Patong. 5-day working week, 9am-4pm. Will be working outside. Please contact Annie for more details. Tel: 080-529 0087.

SPECIALIST DESIGN KITCHENS

Dutchman, specialized in design kitchens and bathrooms, with a lot of experience in renovation and general interior building, is looking for opportunities. I have excellent communication skills, live in Phuket, and speak fluent English, Dutch, and French - and fairly good German. Tel: 085-156-9084. Email: richard19@hotmail.fr

EXPERIENCED BAR MANAGER

English nationality, experienced in stock taking, sales etc. Looking for relief/part time work within Phuket. All offers considered. Tel: 085-460 8487. Or send email to: bobhammond@hotmail.co.uk

Employment Wanted

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

35 SUN CHAIRS

for sale. Adjustable teak chairs, 1-2 years old, need a varnish. New: 12,000 baht; now: 1,500 baht each. Contact Khun Poo. Tel: 081-091 3724.

BIKE JACKET AND FULL FACE

- Leather road bike jacket with body armor: 5,000 baht.

- Nolan full face Syncrotech helmet: 5,000 baht.

Second hand but good condition. Tel: 081-895 4480. E-mail for pic: mat@pcphuket.com

FOR SALE

New aircon: 35,000 BTU, 3 massage beds, all furniture and equipment for massage/salon. Contact Khun Zai. Tel: 083-635 6239.

GOLD & SILVER

9CT gold watch: 6,000 baht. Lady's dress ring, emerald style: 3,000 baht. My ring: 7,000 baht. 9 CT, solid silver rose bowl: 6,000 baht. Tel: 087-922 3242. Email: patong man123@hotmail.com

BABY / TODDLER STUFF

Imported quality Quinny Speedi SX, three-wheel baby/toddler stroller with Maxi-Cosi car seat (fits together). 10,000 baht. Good quality traditional dark wood crib with pads and mattress. 7,500 baht. Or everything for 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-282795, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

MOVING SALE

Never used sofa, bed, mattress, cooker, 3 fridges, coffee machine, 2,000 DVDs in Italian/French, Pioneer DVD recorder, computer scanner-laser, Acer laptop, Samsung TV 21". Tel: 081-294 5441.

I POD, VIDEO

Ipod, video version, 30 GB, with charger. One year old, but good as new as never really used. Open to offers. Tel: 086-953 8616. Email: jenchanisa@gmail.com

CHILD CAR SEAT

Used child's car seat in very good condition. European safety standards. Suits child 9-18kg. 2,000 baht. Email: supanova999@yahoo.com

EXPAT LEAVING SALE

Quality teakwood furniture. Display/Book case, Desk, Side/display table, Sun-lounger with fabric cushion, pair bedside tables w/ drawers, 6 drawer chest, telephone cabinet. Tel: 087-274 7648. Email: deb spatterson@gmail.com

450 BAHT EACH

Large fans: 1,500 baht. 2 lazy boy beige chairs: 8,000 baht. Large fan: 1,500 baht. Painting: 3,000 baht. Plus garden art, tools, drill, lamp: 1,000 baht. Contact Pat (12pm - 8 pm). Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-846 4256. Email: funfair2000@yahoo.com

LG 42" PLASMA TV

Excellent condition, complete with wall brackets. Price: 24,950 baht. Tel: 086-943-3056.

NINTENDO WII

Almost brand new Nintendo Wii, with extra remotes. Also Guitar Hero III. Both still in boxes. For sale due to country relocation. Email: yantyhong@yahoo.com

Articles Wanted

PLAYSTATION 3 WANTED

Phuket resident wants to buy Playstation 3. Please contact me if you have one available. Tel: 084-855 7803. Email: shellycider@yahoo.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

ICECREAM DISPLAY FREEZER

near new, 10 tubs, sliding glass tops, Baht 15,000. Tel: 089-062 0932, 086-031 1884. Email: handsomemr@hotmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Is holding meetings in English at the following places in Phuket:

Mission Hospital Phuket City
On Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City
On Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
On Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health Clinic
near Chalong Circle Tues 1 PM
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895 or email: jhuketaa@yahoo.com
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School Karon
On Tue 7 pm and (Sat Nov-April only) 7 pm
Tel: 085-9449460 Sive, 082-2755998 Nor
Krabi Group Call: 084-4463130 for details

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or e-mail info@aathailand.org

TO MISS SUPALAK YAKLINOM

Eddie post, David in Patong, please call Thamapol in USA because he misses you very much. Cannot sleep until I hear your voice. Tel: 562 310 3492.

YOGA / PILATES WORKSHOP



4 transformational classes in 4 days.... Take part in a fun workshop that will teach you moves & postures to lengthen, strengthen & sculpt your body while bringing fluidity & focus to your practice. December 8, 9, 10, 11 - choose from either a 10am or 6pm time slot. Registration for 4-class series is 3,000 baht. Classes are 75 minutes. Space is limited. Tel: 089-027 6970. Email: angel@asiapacificleisure.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bungy Thrills Int'l Co Ltd wants to add 1 Director, Khun Unruean Kaeobun. Terrence Andrew Pearce and 2 Thai directors to have power to sign all company papers and stamp.

TO ALL FILIPINOS

Need help? Call Emelda. Tel: 084-305 0963.

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwcc.com

BRIDGE

Play Wednesday afternoons at Royal Phuket Marina. Tapas + drinks included. Contact Alan. Tel: 084-065 7590.

Business Opportunities

NEED 12 MILLION BAHT LOAN

Term: 6 months. Can secure w/ land title valued at 30 million baht. Tel: 087-276 5552. Email: solitude001@aol.com

GUESTHOUSE URGENT SALE

Remodeled/furnished, 12 rooms, restaurant and bar, next to Jungceylon. Deal of the year for 9 year lease. Includes company, work permit, website + + +. Must conclude sale in next 30 days with best offer over 3 million baht! Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

ICE CREAM SHOP FOR SALE

Fully operating, located in Bzenter in Rawai. Good Value for Money. Tel: 084-104-0741. Email: mauro@touringasiaonline.com

MASSAGE / BEAUTY SALON

For sale: 120sqm in Patong. Brand new, fully equipped. Tel: 081-747 3916.

DOMAINS FOR SALE

Please visit our website. Email: office@hostket.com http://www.hostket.com/forsale.php

DIVE SHOP - AO NANG - KRABI

Small Dive Shop in Ao Nang for sale. Includes: Speed boat specifically equipped for diving, existing lease, brand new equipment (15 sets), and beach front location. Has been in operation since 2001. Price: 3.5 million baht. Contact. Tel: 084-328 3476, 087-465 4729. Email: seafadiving@gmail.com Website: http://www.seafa.com

RESTAURANT IN PATONG

for sale. Very central, ready to start. Price: 1,500,000 baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: antoniocpala@yahoo.it

MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. Patong, massage / salon, 3 floors, 2 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished. Price: 300,000 baht. Tel: 083-635 6239.

HOTEL FOR SALE IN PATONG



Bromma Guesthouse, 22 rooms in 3 units, 800sqm building, 400sqm of freehold land. Sell direct by owner. 45 million baht. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at http://www.bromma-thaihouse.com

BAR FOR SALE

Kata center. Fully furnished, staff room. Can start business now. Tel: 084-841 5835, 086-595 0013.

RESTAURANT & BAR

Guesthouse for sale, opposite Royal Paradise Hotel Patong. 8 guest rooms, shower, aircon, TV, luxury. Tel: 081-895 6587.

BARS, GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at www.jane propertyphuket.com

COFFEE SHOP PATONG

Shop has Internet and ice cream with alfresco area and two floors above for living. Rent very low: only 13,000 baht per month. Urgent sale for only 75,000 baht. Tel: 085-816 3910 or 084-697 6840. Mail: terryballphuket@gmail.com

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Tel: 076-282254

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

Tel: 076-282403

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

SALE DESIGNER SOFAS

We have the following showroom samples for special sale:

> 2-Piece Sofa Set, L Shape with Chocolate Brown Cushion Covers.

Original Price: 102,000 baht Sale Price: 35,000 baht

> 5-Piece Rattan Sofa Set, Ash Colour with Cream Upholstery.

Original Price: 106,200 baht Sale Price: 37,000 baht

> 3-Piece Rattan, Light Green with Beige Cushion Covers

Original Price: 119,530 baht Sale Price: 47,000 baht

> 4-Seater Extra Large Beige Upholstery Sofa

Original Price: 38,000 baht Sale Price: 16,000 baht

Please call: 081-9585949 so we can e-mail pictures or e-mail to: tookkafaa@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

BAR IN PATONG

for sale. Heart of Patong, all ready to go for high season. Pool table, etc. 500,000 baht. Please contact Get. Tel: 084-895 5736.

PATONG PARADISE

30-room successful hotel, only 25 million baht (no agents). Email: docucolumns@hotmail.com

SPACE FOR RENT

Prime location in Phuket City, 80 sqm. Rent for yoga or dance studio. Please contact George. Tel: 081-892 7860.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain: 4-story shophouse with Chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-891 5602.

RESORT FOR SALE

A well-known resort for sale in Koh Jum (Krabi), 7 rai with Chanote title in the center of the beach. Access road, water. Power will be installed mid-2009. www.woodland-koh-jum.com

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Website at: www.jan-property.com

PATONG SHOPHOUSE

Home bar on Bangla Road. 16 million baht, Chanote, or 30x30 lease. Tel: 087-881 7600.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Good location with restaurant, 6 rooms, newly renovated, ready to run, includes website. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-069 1823.

RESTAURANT/CAFE

for sale near Heroines Monument, Pa Khlok. Room (aircon) + terrace = 40sqm. Fully equipped/running. Upstairs 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, partially furnished. 225,000 + rent 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-700 4094. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

TOWNHOUSE, TAINA ROAD, KATA

for rent. Taina Road, Kata Center. 2 units, long-term rent for five years up. Ideal for bar or restaurant. Contact Khun Charoon. Tel: 086-953 8692.

PATONG INTERNET CAFE

for lease. 2-year contract - 300,000 baht and 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-850 7739.

HOTEL FOR SALE

Beach front hotels in Pattaya and Phuket. Contact Nick. Email: stoptong@yahoo.com

RUNNING RESTAURANT

in Patong for lease on the main road. 2nd & 3rd levels sea view, fully equipped, 60 seats, air conditioning. For 2 million baht only. Tel: 081-797 7199. Email: oscarfashion12@hotmail.com

SMALL RESORT/HOME

Income opportunity. 3 fully-furnished private pool villas, close to Nai Harn Beach, spacious and high quality, 10% return. 38.5 million baht. Contact owner. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

BAR FOR SALE

Equipped with TV, pool table and fully-stocked bar. Great spot on Nanai 89, opposite Baan Zan Market. Only 750,000 baht. Tel: 076-323-219, 089-971 2989. Email: roger.sjoblom@hotmail.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Internet Cafe in Patong, 210sqm. Tel: 081-908 8303. www.dream-cafe.com

RESTAURANT / BAR IN KAMALA

Over 200 sqm restaurant/bar with unique concept on 1/2 rai of land in Kamala. Plus Kids Corner and (pool table) lounge. New 5-year lease at 20,000 baht per month will be signed. Great potentials. Contact. Tel: 087-277 0636. Email: info@svenskaskola.com

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Quality publications, fully operational, start now to take high season Profits. Includes long established company set-up and work permits. Tel: 085-574 4414. Email: nim@c-publishing.com

QUINL THAI EXPORT DIRECTORY

Quinl Thailand Co Ltd has just launched the free online Thailand Export Directory. With QuinL, you can list your company and its products, services online - with your own subdomain. Email: mr@quinl.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.quinl.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

18 rooms, bar, restaurant, long lease, excellent location, Thai Ltd company, 2 work permits. Reduced price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 080-697 1744.

BEER BAR

Bar at Soi Sukumvit, Patong, on the 1st fl. Ready to run for the high season. Pool table. Cheap: only 280,000 baht for 2 year and 3 month lease. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-113 3043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

RETAIL SHOP FOR SALE

Retail shop located between Laguna and Surin: fully stocked and professionally fitted with own designated parking. Ready for the high season. Genuine reason for sale; would be happy to discuss possible partnership. Reasonable 5-year lease. One million baht. Tel: 084-363 5126. Email: atisacj@hotmail.com

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- If you need more information, please email me or call me (Pooh) : +66- (0) 87-627 0561. Email: pooh_bukit@hotmail.com or bukitmedia@hotmail.com

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For hotels, guesthouses, accommodation rentals, tour agents and events bookings. Tel: 089-235 0969. Email: sales@lfr-asia.com Website: http://www.lfr-asia.com

A&D LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING

Work permit, visas: 6,999 baht. Company set up: 15,999 baht. Accounting: 2,000 baht. All other legal matters. Free advice. Tel: 087-888 1761.

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		• Visa fee 10\$
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1,800.-	Visa run to Ranong border (All inclusive)	Daily			
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	Wed.	5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25
	Sun.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22
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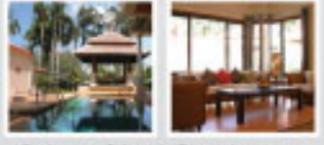
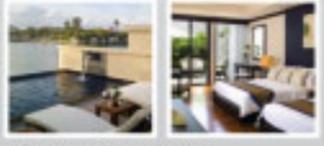


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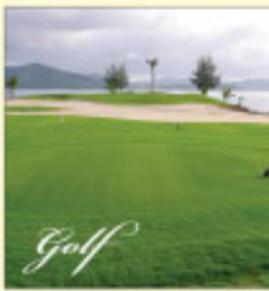

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