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Airport limousine service shakeup

By Janyaporn Morel

TAH CHAT CHAI: Phuket Mai Khao Co Ltd has won a concession to operate a new taxi and passenger van service at Phuket International Airport (PIA).

The company will operate 60 vans and 20 cars under a three-year concession won with a bid of 33 million baht, Phuket Airport Director Sq Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree told the *Gazette*.

The company can begin service as soon as the contract is signed, he said.

Somboon Jampathong, managing director and owner of Phuket Mai Khao, told the *Gazette*, "We actually don't have all the cars yet and we intend to ask private taxis and private vans to join us, but if we can't get enough vehicles, we will buy more cars," he said.

"We are waiting for the letter with the contract from AOT [Airports of Thailand]. As soon as we sign the contract we will begin work. We have another company called Airport Car Rental," he added.

The *Gazette* has yet to confirm the fares the new company will charge.

The new service follows the number of vehicles operating at the airport by the Phuket Limousine and Business Services Cooperative (PBC) being slashed by AOT, which grants the concessions.

The PBC currently operates 110 cars and 40 vans at the airport under a verbal agreement with AOT after its concession expired. The total number of vehicles the PBC will be allowed to operate when the new service begins will be reduced to 90, Sq Ldr Pornchai said.



AOT chairman Gen Saprang Kalayanamitr (center) arrives in Phuket to discuss plans for the expansion of Phuket International Airport.

AOT had earlier cited complaints against the PBC's quality of service as one of its reasons for reducing the number of PBC vehicles at the airport.

"I informed the governor that we would like to give passengers more options. Bidding on the new concession was open to all parties capable of meeting our terms and providing a quality service. This included the PBC, but they chose not to bid," he said.

"We will continue to support the PBC because their members are local people. The province asked us why we had to limit their number of vehicles to 90; we explained that this was the number of legally-registered vehicles they have," he said.

Sq Ldr Pornchai did not rule out the possibility that the number could be increased in the future, but said the decision would depend on the ability of PBC drivers to properly register their ve-

hicles and would also be subject to final approval by the AOT.

The AOT board had recently instructed him to "look after" local people and not only cater to the needs of large investors, he said.

The new concession makes Phuket Mai Khao the fourth public transport option at PIA, alongside those offered by the PBC, Phuket Taxi Meter Co Ltd and the Airport Bus service.

"The current transport services are sufficient to meet demand most of the year, though we sometimes face shortages at peak periods during the high season.

"We also have to consider the total number of vehicles we should allow in Phuket. Roads here are becoming very congested," he said.

In a related development, AOT chairman Gen Saprang

Continued on page 2

Gangs war with 'swords' at Saphan Hin

By Sompratch Saowakhon

SAPHAN HIN: Two gangs, each of about 40 teenagers, battled with long-bladed weapons, reported as swords, at Saphan Hin about 1 am on December 2.

In the melee, a 16-year-old died after being struck down while riding his motorbike and a member of his gang fled his attackers by jumping into Klong Bangyai, but with his right hand severed and his right ear nearly cut off.

Phuket City Police Investigator Lt Somchai Nuboon identified the dead youngster as Witthawat Pongsakote, 16.

He was on a motorcycle trying to escape a rival gang when he was attacked and fell off his motorbike near Pramachanok Bridge, across the road from Phuket Vocational College.

Critically wounded to the head, back and arms, he was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he died of blood loss.

A member of the same gang, Somboon Namkaew, 28, was also set upon.

He managed to escape his attackers by jumping into Klong Bangyai, from which he was later lifted with great difficulty by Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers.

Somboon's right hand was severed and his right ear was almost completely cut off. He was being treated at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was listed as "out of danger" by staff, Lt Somchai said.

"We already questioned Somboon's fellow gang members and we know the identity of his attackers, who are members of an enemy gang," he added.

From Page 1

New airport limo concession allowed

November 30 to discuss expansion plans to keep up with increasing passenger traffic. He ordered that long-term development plans for infrastructure and management be drawn up.

AOT spokesperson Dr Jermsak Pinthong said that PIA management had been encouraged to "think big" when drawing up the plans and to include whether existing runways need to be lengthened or new ones installed, he said.

Describing the need for a new terminal as "pressing", Dr Jermsak said that AOT had suggested a new seaside terminal and the possibility of separating domestic and international traffic. "We have been informed that passengers face crowding, so we have suggested that the [PIA] management come up with a plan to add new facilities, the work to be carried out in several phases," he said.

"There are many possibilities, such as building a new terminal by the sea and developing it jointly with a seaport, but that is just an idea at this point," he said.

PIA was not given any deadlines, but it was understood they were keen to move forward, he said.

On the issue of public transport, Dr Jermsak said it was a local issue to be dealt with by the PIA management team, not the AOT board.

Christmas Day church service

PHUKET CITY: The Hope of Phuket Church International Fellowship is inviting the public to join its Christmas celebrations at the Thavorn Hotel, Rassada Rd, on December 25 from 10:30 am until noon.

A Christmas musical program will be followed by lunch.

Contact for more details. Tel: 087-1798693, 081-0795761. Email: hopephuket_int2015@yahoo.com Website: www.hopeofphuketchurch.info

Cop shoots himself by accident

By Sompratch Saowakhon

WICHIT: A police officer on a solo stakeout on December 2 accidentally shot himself in the wrist, the *Gazette* has learned.

Following up a report that an officer had been shot while trying to apprehend a gang of teenage motorcycle thieves, the *Gazette* spoke to Sgt Rakchart Suksrinuan of the Phuket City Police.

Speaking from a hospital bed at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City, where he was being treated, Sgt Rakchart denied that he was shot by teenagers suspected of steal-

ing a motorbike in Hok Huad, in *tambon* Wichit – as reported in the Thai press earlier in the week.

"I accidentally shot myself. I had a report of a missing motorbike in the area, so I went to investigate.

"I found the motorcycle, then hid behind some trees for a few hours waiting for the thieves to return.

"When three teenagers approached the stolen bike, I was positive they were the thieves, so I identified myself as a police officer.

"They ran off, so I gave chase and

pulled out my pistol with my right hand... then I tripped.

"As I put my hands out in front of me to break my fall, the gun fired and the bullet hit my left wrist," he said.

The force of the bullet shattered his left wrist, but he is still able to move the fingers on that hand.

"I was not able to get a clear view of the teenagers because it was dark and everything happened so quickly," said Sgt Rakchart.

"However, the motorbike has been returned to its rightful owner," he added.

Public ICT facility opens in city center

By Semacote Suganya

SAPHAN HIN: As part of a government initiative to promote information and communications technology (ICT) in Thailand, Phuket Municipality and the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) have teamed up to open the Phuket ICT Skill Development and Learning Center at the Phuket Municipality Youth Center in Saphan Hin.

The ICT Center, officially opened at the auspicious time 11:09 am on December 5, comprises four zones.

The 50-square-meter library zone provides access to books, magazines and other reading materials, in both Thai and English.

The training zone features one section with 20 computers installed with animation software and a general training area with a focus on language skills.

The net zone comprises 30 computers, all with high-speed Internet access.

The 300sqm activity zone features a seminar room where functions and activities for up to 200 persons can be held.



PRESSING BUTTONS: (from left) Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana, CAT Telecom Southern Region Office Manager Theerapong Kusolchoo and SIPA President Prof Birasak Varasundharosoth together push the 'belly button' of Phuket ICT mascot 'Pict', to officially open the Phuket ICT Skill Development and Learning Center on December 5.

There is also a coffee corner that serves as a meeting point.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that 10 million baht from SIPA and 15 million baht from the Municipality was spent on the 900-square-meter facility.

Phuket is one of three provinces where similar ICT projects will be piloted.

For further information call 076-379009-12 or 089-4224088, email tt@phuketict.org, visit www.phuketict.org or visit the center in Saphan Hin.

House blaze causes B.5m in damage

KOH KAEW: A house near Muslim Wittaya Phuket School in Koh Kaew caught fire early in the evening of December 9, causing damages estimated at 500,000 baht. No injuries were reported.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Pol Lt Somchai Noobun described the gutted dwelling as a one-story property in a small soi near the school.

He identified the homeowner as Amarin Phinyo, 29, who works transporting wood for Siam Koh Kaew Wood Trade company.

The fire started in the kitchen of the house at about 5 pm, while K. Amarin was asleep. He woke up when a cooking gas canister exploded, said Lt Somchai.

Called to the scene by a neighbor, firemen arrived and cut the electric power supply to the house before extinguishing the blaze in about 10 minutes, he added.

"About 70% of the house was destroyed, causing damage worth around 500,000 baht. We think the fire was caused by a faulty circuit," he said.

Phuket City Police are awaiting a report from Phuket Forensic Police to confirm the cause of the blaze.

– Natcha Yuttaworawit

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PPP 'sweethearts' under fire for biased exposure

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: A lawyer representing the two Democrat Party candidates running in the December 23 general election has filed a complaint with the Phuket Election Commission (PEC) against local Thai-language newspaper *Siang Tai* and several opposition candidates.

Alleging violations of the 2007 Election Act, the lawyer asked the PEC to ban three candidates from political activities for a year for breaking election law.

The complaint is now being reviewed by the Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok.

Narongrit Nethikietiwong, a lawyer with NPK International Law Office, filed the complaint on behalf of Tossaporn Thepabutra and Rewat Areerob.

The complaint listed allegations against *Siang Tai*, editor Chaovapong Mekarakkul, the advertising manager and three columnists writing under the names Karawek (a kind of bird), Yiew Plaifa (hawk high in the sky) and Thep Tewin (Angel Tewin).

Also listed on the complaint were Palang Prachachon Party (PPP) candidates Dr Sriyada Shinawatra and Wisut Santikul along with Chart Thai Party candidate Sgt Sorranun Sane.

At the heart of the allegations were news articles that the Democrat candidates claimed supported the PPP candidates but defamed the Democrats, the lawyer said.

Over the past two months, *Siang Tai* has had pictures of the PPP candidates on its front page, including one with the caption "Phuket's sweetheart candidates"



SWEETHEARTS? PPP candidates Dr Sriyada Shinawatra (left) and Wisut Santikul have come under fire for benefitting from biased newspaper coverage.

and images of ticked ballot boxes in favor of the candidates.

The lawyer also claimed that the newspaper had published libelous stories about the two Democrat candidates.

He also asked that the PEC suspend the three candidates listed for standing by idly and reaping the benefits of the one-sided coverage when they knew it contravened election law.

The Democrat candidates would wait for the EC's reply before filing a complaint with police, he said.

Also on December 7, a lawyer representing Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutra filed a complaint with Phuket City Police alleging libel against the same nine parties listed in the complaint filed with the PEC.

K. Anchalee, wife of K. Tossaporn, has alleged that the parties had libeled her by claiming that she had used her position as *OrBorJor* President to help

campaign for her husband.

On December 3, candidates from four political parties filed their own charges with the PEC claiming unfair support by the *OrBorJor* for the Democrat Party candidates.

They presented as evidence a *Siang Tai* article alleging that the *OrBorJor*, using taxpayers' money, to fly members of a housewives association on a four-day excursion to Malaysia as a way of drumming up support for the Democrats.

PPP Candidate K. Wisut told the *Gazette* that he and fellow candidates had asked only for fairness from the PEC after the *OrBorJor* had listed the two Democrat candidates as senior *OrBorJor* advisors on numerous occasion, giving them an unfair advantage in violation of election law.

"The best thing we can do is explain to K. Anchalee that we need fairness from the PEC. We don't want to defame anyone," he said.

Samaritan knifed in worker-camp feud

KAMALA: Five men were hospitalized after a bloody fight following an accusation of attempted rape at a construction site workers' camp on December 10.

Pol Sub Lt Charnsarawut Saeng-aroon of Kamala Police Station reported that the fight, involving an ax and a 12-inch blade, broke out between two pairs of brothers after the wife of a construction worker alleged that another worker had attempted to rape her.

Brothers Chergchao, 24, and Damnern Suksamranand, 22, and brothers Suthat and Suwat Janmeedee, 28 and 26, work together at a construction camp in Kamala, said Lt Charnsarawut.

About 7 pm that night, Suthat allegedly made an unwanted passionate advance towards Nong Jaeng, the wife of Chergchao. Nong Jaeng ran screaming from Suthat, claiming that he had attempted to rape her, he added.

Chergchao and Damnern then arrived at the camp and the two pairs of brothers faced off and began fighting. Chergchao and Damnern were armed with an ax, while the Janmeedee brothers had a knife about one-foot long, Lt Charnsarawut said.

Songwut Phanet, 25, a mutual friend of the group, tried to break up the fight. He received a knife blow to the head for his troubles. He is being treated at Patong Hospital, where he is in serious condition, he said.

During the fight, Chergchao lost a finger on his left hand, Damnern sustained wounds to his head and torso, Suthat was wounded by ax blows to his head and torso. Suwat received a number of gashes on his hands courtesy of the Suksamran brothers' ax," he added.

"All of the men are in Patong Hospital, hence so far I have been unable to investigate this case," said Lt Charnsarawut.

Brit killed in horror smash

CHERNG TALAY: British national John Alfred, 53, was killed when the Honda Dream motorbike he was riding was hit by a six-wheeled truck about 3:30 pm on December 6.

Cherng Talay Police Duty Officer Capt Amnuaywit Makunthod said that the truck driver fled the scene, near the Tha Yang Bridge on Pasak Rd, but the owner of the truck later reported himself to the police station.

"Initial investigations indicate that the victim was trying to overtake the truck when the accident occurred, but more witnesses need to be questioned," he said.

The body of the victim, who had a valid Thai driver's license, was sent to Thalang Hospital, where it was later claimed by his adopted son, a Thai.

The British Embassy has already been notified, Capt Amnuaywit said.

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Restrictions slapped on

Recent changes in the national-park policies clearly demonstrate the juggling act the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) is forced to play when trying to balance the need for conservation inside the parks with the need to use the parks as premier attractions to drive Thailand's all-important tourism economy.

The new pricing structure is intended to draw more foreign visitors to some of the less popular parks, such as Koh Phetra Marine National Park on the border of Satun and Trang, and away from top-draw destinations like Koh Similan and Koh Surin Marine National Park in Phang Nga.

In announcing the measures restricting the number of tourist allowed to enter the 10 national parks, DNP deputy Director-General Preecha Chansirinanon said the restrictions were put in place to better manage national resources as well as for the safety of tourists.

The restrictions would particularly help protect the environment in the parks during periods when they face the greatest pressure from visitors, on weekends and public holidays, he said.

Tourism activities that threaten national parks include diving and boating near coral reefs, K. Preecha has noted.

He also asked for cooperation from tour companies to better inform guides and tourists about activities that harmed the environment in national parks.

As head of the Marine National Park Operations Center 1, Somkiat Sunthornpitakkul is responsible for 17 national parks in Andaman region.

He admitted that after the DNP announced a price hike to

Citing conservation needs, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) recently announced new regulations, effective July 1, 2008, that will limit the number of tourists allowed to enter 10 national parks around the country deemed to be suffering from mass tourism.

Among them are Koh Similan and Koh Surin Marine National Parks, two of the most popular dive-tourism destinations in the world.

In addition, as of December 1, entry fees for foreigners at a number of less popular national parks were slashed from 400 baht to as low as 100 baht, in an effort to boost tourism there – but not at the Similan or Surin parks.

Gazette reporter Janyaporn Morel and News Editor Stephen Fein take a look at the changes and how they are likely to effect the two parks.

400 baht per head in 2006, the outcry among tour operators in the southern region led to the department allowing tour operators registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to buy vouchers from the DNP. The vouchers allowed them to continue bringing foreigners into the parks at the old rate of 200 baht per foreign visitor, effective until November 30 this year.

As a result, until recently, it was only a handful of non-TAT registered tour outfits along with foreign tourists traveling independently who were paying the full 400 baht rate.

Regarding the restrictions on the number of tourists allowed to enter the Similan and Surin parks, K. Somkiat said this change was largely unrelated to the fee structure.

He pointed out that the Similan and Surin parks only open

for six months a year, from November 15 to May 15, to allow nature to restore itself over the monsoon season.

The restrictions that take effect from July will help conserve natural resources at the parks, both of which receive approximately 100,000 visitors annually, he said.

However, he did not specify how many tourists would be allowed daily at the parks under the new regulation once it comes into effect.

On the revised fee structure, Thai Diving Association (TDA) Vice President Pragon Gategun said he felt it was reasonable to maintain the 400-baht fee on foreigners at the Similan and and Surin parks, which he described as “very overcrowded”.

The TDA, which is playing a role in drawing up the new regulations of the dive-industry for the Surin and Similan parks, has also held meetings with NDP, TAT and Governor's office in recent weeks.

They also took part in a 2-day seminar organized by the



A diver transplants coral grown in a nursery on a reef devastated by the 2004 tsunami. Half of Thailand's coral reefs are located in national parks.

DNP at the Phuket Merlin Hotel late last month.

Chaired by K. Preecha, the gathering was attended by about 120 government officers, dive operators and marine tour operators to find ways to make dive tourism more sustainable.

A respected Phuket-based dive-boat operator from Europe, who asked that his name not be used, told the *Gazette* he found various reports about changes at the national parks confusing.

The operator, who is not a TDA member, said he had “heard talk” from other people in the industry that the number of divers allowed at sites inside the Similans National Park after July could be as low as 200 per day.

“If you look at the average

dive boat carrying 15 to 20 divers, you are looking at just 10 to 14 boats per day. What will the other 70 to 80 dive boats currently using these national parks do? This is going to be very tricky.

“Which dive companies will be allowed in? Which will be denied? Will this be the way Thai dive operators outmaneuver their foreign competitors? The issue is already getting politicized with the Thai Diving Association, which has held ‘private’ meetings with the national park service,” he said.

“After a recent public hearing that I was unable to attend, a fellow dive boat operator told me that the the dive operators present were effectively told that the park service was ‘not inter-



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popular national parks



With new restrictions on the number of tourists allowed to enter the Surin and Similan parks set to take effect next July, some dive operators are of the opinion that the national park service is only interested in protecting coral – and not their businesses. – Photo by Joel London

ested in saving dive companies, only in saving the coral reefs,” he said.

It should be noted that more than 50% of the nation’s coral reef is located inside national parks, according to figures from 2001 still shown on the DNP website. Coral beds inside the parks are generally healthier than those outside national parks, the website reads.

The foreign dive-boat operator told the *Gazette* the drastic measures now set to go in place could have been avoided had the DNP taken action on overcrowding problem earlier on.

“For many years I have argued the need to reduce pressure on the islands by reducing the number of divers and putting

a moratorium on dive company registrations and licenses for dive boats allowed to enter the Similan and Surin parks. As always in Thailand, they are going to do something about it after the problem has gotten so bad that instead of a band-aid we now need drastic surgery,” he said.

As for the lowering of the entrance fees for foreigners at many parks, he said it would likely have both positive and negative consequences.

However, he was pessimistic about the DNP’s ability to effectively use the funds it collects from entry fees for conservation work.

“It’s a sad situation that marine parks have been turned into cash cows without any of the

money being reinvested for park protection and investments. Similan Islands park staff spend all their time and energy collecting money – instead of looking after the park. Where all that money goes is also not transparent. I did the math and ...,” he trailed off.

However, he admitted that an end of overcrowding at dive sites would be an undeniable benefit to the parks’ ecosystems and make diving there more enjoyable for those lucky enough to be permitted entry.

“My high-end clients have been complaining for years that they are charged to enter a national park that is so overcrowded at dive sites that it resembles ‘a circus’,” he concluded.

NEW ENTRANCE FEES AS OF DECEMBER 1

**Foreign adult 400 baht / foreign child 200 baht
Thai adult 80 baht / Thai child 40 baht**

- Koh Similan Marine National Park (Phang Nga)
- Koh Surin Marine National Park (Phang Nga)

**Foreign adult 200 baht / foreign child 100 baht
Thai adult 40 baht / Thai child 20 baht**

- Koh Lanta Marine National Park (Krabi)
- Koh Phi Phi Marine National Park (Krabi)
- Ao Phang Nga Marine National Park (Phang Nga)
- Koh Tarutao Marine National Park (Satun)
- Sirinath National Park (Phuket)
- Laemson National Park (Phang Nga-Ranong)
- Haad Chaomai National Park (Trang)
- Tan Boke Koranee National Park (Krabi)
- Thaleban National Park (Satun)

**Foreign adult 100 baht / foreign child 50 baht
Thai adult 40 baht / Thai child 20 baht**

- Lam Nam Kraburi National Park (Ranong)
- Khao Lam Pee Haad Tai Muang Park (Phang Nga)
- Sri Phang Nga National Park (Phang Nga)
- Khao Lak Lamru National Park (Phang Nga)
- Khao Phanom Bencha National Park (Krabi)
- Koh Phetra Marine National Park (Satun, Trang)

Source: Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)

Southern region national parks where tourist numbers will be restricted, effective July 1, 2008

- Moo Koh Surin (Phang Nga)
- Moo Koh Similan (Phang Nga)
- Kaeng Krachan National Park (Petchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan)



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Funds raised by the sale of the Tree of Hope Christmas ornaments will go towards supporting the women and children at the Life Home Project.

Annual Tree of Hope charity drive launched

PATONG: The Burasari Resort will launch this year's Tree of Hope charity drive with an opening ceremony and a party on December 14, starting at 6 pm.

The Tree of Hope project supports the Life Home Project, a charity devoted to helping HIV-positive women and children in Phuket by giving them much needed jobs, education and medication.

The centerpiece of the Tree of Hope project is a Christmas tree. Located at the Burasari Resort in Patong, the tree is decorated with handmade tree ornaments in the shape of snowmen,

all handcrafted by the women of the Life Home Project.

The ornaments are for sale and the Burasari Resort will donate funds raised to the Life Home Project.

This year organizers are hoping to raise 200,000 baht for the women and children at the shelter. Each buyer will also receive a holiday greeting card specially designed by the children of the Life Home Project.

Money raised will be handed over to the Life Home Project on December 27.

For more information call K. Jaruwan at 076-292929 ext 8001.

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Queer News

Chalong buffalo rapist on the loose

PHUKET: Police are hunting a dangerous sex attacker who has raped and killed at least two innocent females in Chalong. The victims were not helpless young damsels, however, but 100-kilogram buffaloes.

The most recent attack was discovered in the morning of November 30. The victim's owner, who was not named in the report, found one of his eight buffaloes missing from his pen in Chalong Village 8.

After a short search, the farmer found his missing charge lying tied to a tree stump - dead. The animal, a calf, showed signs of sexual assault.

Police believe the attacker had intercourse with the animal then inserted a large stick into its vagina, causing serious internal injuries that eventually killed it.

This is not the first victim of the dangerous deviant, however. A few weeks earlier, another calf was found dead in similar circumstances. In that incident, however, as the crime was not reported to police, officers could not take any action.

Chalong Police say that they know the identity of the man responsible and are actively hunting him down to prevent any repetition of the grisly crimes.

Source: Siang Tai

Lions Club looking for sponsors

KOH SIREH: The Lions Club of Phuket Andaman Sea is seeking additional sponsors for its Sunshine Village orphanage and daycare center on Koh Sireh.

Opened on July 1, Sunshine Village is now home to 45 live-in children aged between two and 16 years old, with 40 more children in the daycare program.

Lions Club of Phuket Andaman Sea President Peer Wesche told the Gazette that the center, run by ChildWatch Phuket, is based on the SOS Kinderdorf model popular in Europe.

Currently, six to eight children live together with a house "mother" in a family-style setting.

The Sunshine Village Foundation was set up to run the village by the Lions Club, whose chapters worldwide contributed some 30 million baht in the year and a half following the tsunami disaster.

The three-rai plot was donated by the local Lions Club branch, four members of which sit on the Sunshine Village Foundation's eight-member board of directors



The Lions Club is seeking long-term corporate sponsors to help cover the center's on-going operating costs, about 300,000 baht a month, so that it can continue to look after 45 children at the orphanage.

Construction costs, about 40 million baht, were funded by the French Red Cross.

Although all donations are graciously accepted, the Lions Club is looking for long-term corporate sponsors to help cover the center's on-going operating costs, about 300,000 baht monthly.

To make a donation or for

more information contact the Lions Club of Phuket Andaman Sea office (132 Thaweewong Rd, Patong; Tel/Fax: 076-349050; Email: info@andamanlions.org) or President Peter Wesche (Tel: 081-8928526; Email: peter@andamanlions.org) or visit the website at www.andamanlions.org



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Survey: More youths attempt suicide, sex

An increasing number of youths have attempted suicide and more students have admitted to having sexual affairs, according to a survey by child advocacy group Child Watch.

Of the 100,000 people aged under the age of 25 years surveyed, almost 34 of them reported attempting suicide, said Child Watch project director Amornwich Nakornthap.

According to the figures based on information collected between 2005 and 2006, the average rate of youth suicide attempts in that year was 21 a day.

Up to 19% of students surveyed in secondary schools and universities said they had had sex in 2006, up from 16% a year earlier, K. Amornwich said.

Increased sexual activity among students was also reflected in an increase in the number of teenagers younger than 19 years old delivering babies, which rose to 71,000 in 2006 from 52,000 in 2005, he added.

Dharma vacations. The Cabinet has approved a program that will allow female civil servants to take up to three months of paid leave for dharma practice once during their careers.

PM's Office Minister Khunying Dhipavadee Mek-sawan said that the move was launched as part of HM The King's birthday celebration this year.

"His Majesty has emphasized that all civil servants should be virtuous and honest," she said.

Female civil servants interested in the program could apply to the National Buddhism Bureau, which would organize retreats for them, she said.

Under government regulations, male civil servants can take paid ordination leave once in their service and the leave can be for up to three months.

Devil dogs. Two dogs attacked and killed Tun Chomchuen, 45, at a horse-breeding farm in Nakhon Pathom's Buddhamonthon District on December 4.

Tun, who had worked at the farm for more than one year with her husband Shen Inkong, was



Ready to Roll

Three Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party candidates tool around Bangkok in a modified tuk-tuk in an effort to drum up votes in the upcoming general election.

mauled and killed after she entered the farm with food and water for the horses.

"I had never imagined that such an attack would happen, but my wife usually carried a stick around and hit those dogs," the widower admitted.

He identified the two dogs who attacked his wife as "Beckham" and "Bamboo", both a mixed breed of local breed "Bang Kaew" and pitbull terrier.

The farm owner had already agreed to take responsibility, but police will investigate further to determine who should be held responsible as the owner of the dogs, which were brought in by workers to protect the horses.

Loan shark dragnet. The Bank of Thailand (BOT) and several other state agencies have launched a joint crackdown on

about 1,000 illegal non-bank companies and 5,000 illegal personal-loan providers nationwide.

Besides the illegal lenders, any party found guilty of collaborating with them, ranging from distributors of flyers for their services to newspapers that carry their advertisements, will be punished, regardless of whether their involvement is direct or indirect.

BOT director Weerachat Sribunma said the authorities wanted to suppress these illegal financial businesses completely because they not only burdened borrowers with high interest rates but also had an economic and social impact on the entire country.

Pol Maj Gen Visut Vanichbut, head of the Economic and Cyber-Crime Division, warned that all activities related to illegal loans would be targeted.

In the capital, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration said it will impose the maximum fine of 2,000 baht on anyone found putting up posters or handing out leaflets advertising illegal loans.

Thai test for teachers. In a bid to enhance the Thai-language command of both teachers and students across the country, the Royal Institute will next year launch Thai-language proficiency tests for teachers.

The Royal Institute had prioritized Thai-language command among teachers because they were directly responsible for imparting knowledge of the language, said Royal Institute chairman Chai-anan Samudavanija.

"Tests would be for those teaching Thai language as well as other subjects," he said.

"National Institute of Educational Testing Service director Utumporn Jamornmann would chair the steering committee for the development of Thai-language standards," he added.

Voluntary Thai-language standardized tests would be used as an experiment among thou-

sands of teachers in February and the results will be used to determine the teachers' average level of Thai-language knowledge. Actual tests could probably take place as early as April, she said.

Cashing out? A total of 142 divorce cases were sent to the Khon Kaen Civil Court in just three months, most of them Thai women seeking divorce from their western husbands, a senior judge said on December 8.

Patikorn Khonpipit, chief justice of the Juvenile and Family Court in Khon Kaen, said the divorce cases reached the court from July 1 to September 30.

"Most of the cases were filed by Thai women seeking divorce from their foreign husbands," he said.

Khon Kaen is a province where many Thai women marry foreigners. Many of them later became disillusioned so they filed for divorce, the judge said.

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

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Sun, finally. After a terribly long rainy season, it appears that the weather has finally shifted into high-season mode with lots of sun and blue cloudless skies over Khao Lak. However, the sea can still be quite rough, turning snorkeling and diving trips to the Similan or Surin islands into a queasy quest.

Coral lovers prone to seasickness should ask boat masters for the magic yellow pill and take it about 30 minutes before the boat leaves the harbor.

In general, it appears that the seasons are slowly shifting, with great weather from December to May, instead of November to April, as advertised throughout the world.

A fact most tourists aren't aware of is that May, or at least the first two to three weeks of May, is a great time to visit Khao Lak. At this time the sea is a calm liquid mirror and the chance to encounter manta rays and whale sharks is still high – also most hotels already offer low-season prices by this time.

This year, the number of tourists has definitely increased. Khao Lak's main road, especially the southern half, is packed with people after sunset. While restaurants in the area are crowded every night, shop owners and travel agents report that "people

Here comes the sun – and an optician storm



are not buying". According to local shop owners, dive trips, adventure package and souvenir sales are still very slow, which is slightly disturbing given the large number of tourists.

Good news. After years of frequent flooding, Bang Niang beach road finally has a drainage sys-

tem. It was completed at the end of the rainy season. Bang Niang residents will have to wait to see if the new system really works.

This one is different from other local systems: it has several drains that run horizontally, connecting the left- and the right-hand sides of the road with the main drain. Judged on appear-

Surprisingly, reconstruction of the collapsed serpentine section of Petchkasem Rd could be a permanent fix.

ance, it looks quite promising, but we shall see...

All along Bang Niang road, new shops, restaurants and travel agencies are popping up like mushrooms. With several new shophouses nearly completed, it seems that Bang Niang road could become as busy as the pre-tsunami days.

Road repairs on the collapsed serpentine section of Petchkasem Rd, near Khao Lak Lamru National Park, has finally begun. Most Khao Lak residents expected that tons of soil would be simply dumped into the gap and the road hastily repaired; the people responsible simply hoping the improvised repair job might last for an entire season.

Surprisingly though, it seems that reconstruction efforts are being planned precisely and professionally. Since mid-November, excavators, Caterpillars and a big team of construction workers have been reshaping the underlying part of the cliff that was washed away by heavy rainfall in September.

Terraces have been created and metal gauze boxes, with special porous plastic liners designed to withstand water pressure by

allowing the water to flow through while holding the reinforcing rocks in place, are carefully being placed along the outside of each terrace level. It appears the problem has been solved and at least this part of Khao Lak's elevated serpentine road will be safe from collapsing again.

The howling. Khao Lak now has 12 optical shops. KT Optics, who already owned three outlets, has opened yet another two outlets, one at the new shopping plaza opposite Nang Thong supermarket and one at the new Emerald Plaza opposite Mukdara Resort on Bang Niang beach.

It looks like Khao Lak will soon have more optical shops than tailors. Perhaps something for the *Guinness Book of Records*? Khao Lak residents continue to wonder what optical shop owner's secret agenda might be. I guess we will never know...

However, old legends might hold the answer. Legend has it that creatures called Weretailors exist in Khao Lak. Weretailors appear to be harmless opticians but turn into cash-thirsty tailors during chilly full moon nights. Well, there we go – that explains it all!



ANDAMAN COASTING
By Franky Gun

Sorry, but such a crazy number of optical shops in a small town such as Khao Lak can only be answered with a loony explanation.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: avalon@loxinfo.co.th



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Southern heroin drug ring busted

Following the arrest of two suspects at the end of last month, the Narcotics Suppression Bureau has confiscated assets worth more than 50 million baht from a drug-smuggling ring in Narathiwat.

The announcement was made on December 6 by Lt Gen Wuti Liptaphallop, commissioner of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau.

Gen Wuti said that Wirat Kheunphet, 35, and Sopha Kheunphet, 53, were arrested in possession of 12 kilograms of heroin.

Police also froze 10 bank accounts containing around 20 million baht. Assets seized included a house worth 5.5 million baht, two pickup trucks, a Honda SUV, a Seat sedan and a Honda motorcycle.

The two suspects were arrested in Narathiwat's Sungai Kolok district on November 28 following a tipoff that a pickup truck being kept in the car-care garage owned by the pair contained a substantial amount of heroin, Gen Wuti said.

Wirat and Sopha were arrested and charged with possession of a Class 1 drug with intent to sell.

The pair claimed that the car had been parked in their garage by Suphin Kheunphet and Santi Ahwae.

However, police found that the truck was registered to Pol Capt Phibun Thanitkul, an Investigating Officer at Cha-am District Police Station in Phetchaburi and a former husband of Krongthong Natareuen, 36, a well-known figure and suspected drug dealer in Narathiwat, Gen Wuti said.

Police contacted Capt Phibun, who they said claimed that he had given the pickup to Krongthong when they sepa-



On the Waterfront

A section of Kolok River in Narathiwat inundated riverbank homes after four days of heavy rain.

rated. Police then requested arrest warrants for Krongthong, Suphin and Santi.

Capt Phibun, formerly stationed with the Sungai Kolok District Police, was transferred to Pathum Thani after allegations were made that he was connected to the narcotics trade.

On December 4, police sent a team to look for Krongthong at NP Mansion, an apartment block she owned jointly with yet another officer of the law, Cpl Thatsa Namahut, also with the Sungai Kolok District Police.

Police also searched a house in Pathum Thani that Krongthong had given to Cpl Thatsa.

Cpl Thatsa, who was at the announcement and claimed that he knew nothing about Krongthong's alleged drug dealing, called for Krongthong to give herself up to police.

Cop killed. Two youths have been arrested over the murder of a police senior sergeant major and his 20-year-old daughter, both stabbed to death in Satun on December 3.

Following an altercation with two young drinkers, Pol Sen Sgt Maj Sunthon Sangkaew, 42, and his daughter Alisa Sangkaew, 20, were stabbed to death in the karaoke bar owned by the officer.

Witnesses reported that the dispute started after the drinkers attacked a waitress in the bar after she refused to sit with them.

Abdullahmid Yarang, 21, and a 15-year-old youth were arrested in a hut on a rubber plantation in Songkhla's Chana district on December 5.

The arrests were announced the following day by the Satun Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Seri Wilailak, who said that they had confessed to the killing and had been charged with murder.

Numeric narcotic. A man was arrested for possession of *kra-*

thom following a raid at a hut in a rubber plantation, a known youth hangout in Songkhla's Saba Yoi district December 4.

Ismail Deuramae, 25, was allegedly with friends drinking "four times one hundred" – a drug made from *krathom* boiled with cough syrup and mosquito repellent and drunk with cola – when police led by Ban Not Police Deputy Inspector Lt Wirachat Sreeree burst in with guns at the ready.

On seeing the lawmen, the hut's occupants quickly fled. Apart from Ismail, all managed to escape.

Police seized 20 kilograms of fresh *krathom* leaves and 15 liters of prepared *krathom* extract. Ismail was charged with possession of a Class 5 drug.

Mystery victims. Police are looking into the identities of two victims of a powerful explosion at an open-air restaurant that killed six people in Pattani on the night of December 4, suspicious that they might have been the bombers.

The day after the blast, Pattani Governor Panu Uthairat said that police had been unable to uncover any evidence that could be used to identify two of the victims, both teenage boys.

As their bodies were found very close to the bomb, police were investigating whether they were involved in the attack, he added.

The bomb, planted inside a motorbike, exploded near a crowded restaurant in Muang district. Two people died at the scene and four died later in hospital.

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

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By Nick Davies

Some like it hot

To the uninitiated, the mention of yoga usually provokes images of contortions that only the most flexible of people blessed with “bendy bones” can perform and only after years of strenuous practice.

These images can put people off the idea of even trying yoga. Mention “hot yoga” and the mind boggles as to why on earth someone would want to spend time bending about in a room that is hotter than the tropical heat outside.

According to yoga instructor Lina Zapata, who teaches hot yoga classes at Bliss Hot Yoga at Central Festival, even the most zealous yoga practitioners had similar feelings before embarking on body bending and breathing exercises.

“Given the chance, though, most people who try yoga for the first time realize that it’s not as difficult as it looks and immediately feel the benefits of a cardiovascular workout that refreshes the mind and body,” Lina said.

As the foreign and local, young and old, male and female yoga apprentices arrive at Bliss Yoga, they are greeted warmly before changing and warming up in the heated hot yoga studios.



Hot yoga instructor Lina Zapata begins her classes with “centering”, which puts students in the right frame of mind before embarking on the stretching exercises.

Members sign in with a fingerprint scanner that automatically keeps track of the members’ sessions for their particular package. The database also keeps details of locker numbers and any other information that helps make the sessions hassle-free.

The classes are casual, friendly affairs comprising students of all levels so no-one feels inadequate, whatever their skill level or experience. The instructions are simple to follow and members are not under pressure to outperform each other.

the mirror will tell you if your hips are out of line or your feet are placed properly,” said Lina.

Classes start with “centering”, which helps the mind focus for the session with simple breathing exercises and movements that prepare the mind and body for the stretching that will follow.

Patrick Catellani has been attending the yoga classes for five months. He said that taking up yoga has changed his life. Like many, he first became interested in yoga as a gentle way to keep fit and lose some weight, but soon found that the regular sessions have been much more beneficial than just losing a few pounds.

“Yoga has changed my whole outlook on life. I feel really good all the time and I have to do it regularly. When I travel, I worry about where I will be able to practice because if I don’t do it then I feel as if I’m really missing out on something,” he said.

“Having an instructor talking you through a yoga session is important as well. It helps keep you focused and the teacher can give you pointers whenever you need to adjust your posture or breathing,” Patrick added.

However, Lina is used to hearing all sorts of excuses for people not trying yoga, but she says that all it takes are just a couple of sessions to get people hooked.

“The most common excuse I hear is ‘I just don’t have time’, but, in fact, people soon discover that doing yoga actually gives you more time. It refreshes you and gives you an energy top-up when you’re tired to carry on for the day,” she said.

“Apart from the physical benefits, yoga eventually leads to spiritual development because the mind is getting in touch with the body, which helps you listen to and understand your body’s needs,” Lina said.

“Spiritually, I feel much more accepting of the things that happen to me on a daily basis. It’s easier to cope with the trials that a fast-paced life throws at you because it’s easier to focus and put things into perspective without getting stressed,” she added.

Although yoga is often considered a fad for females, men who try yoga often enjoy the physical challenge and quickly discover the range of benefits it has for the body and life in general, as it is said to help clear the mind of the stresses of modern life.

“More and more men are joining the yoga classes these days. They soon discover the physical and mental benefits of yoga, such as weight loss and becoming better focused in everyday life. Men also enjoy the challenge of yoga and they discover that they can perform some moves better than women can,” Lina explained.

“Egos are left behind when people come into the yoga rooms. Everyone is different and they each have their own abilities or limitations, no matter how long they have studied yoga,” Lina added.

“It’s also quite safe for pregnant women to do yoga. Although I wouldn’t advise women who have never done yoga before to start if they are in the first three months of pregnancy, but all the yoga practitioners I know who have become pregnant will continue with their regular yoga sessions right up until the day before they give birth.

“In fact, yoga helps condition the body for giving birth as it widens the hips,” said Lina.

There are separate changing and shower rooms for men and women and the classes are mixed. There are often just as many men as women taking part in the classes, she added.

The mirrored yoga classrooms are warmed by heaters specially imported from Germany that circulate and humidify the air.

Although additional heat may seem strange in a place as hot as Phuket, the hot and humid room allows the ligaments to stretch more easily and also helps to detoxify the body as toxins are sweated out during the exercises and washed away with perspiration.

“The walls are lined with mirrors, not for vanity, but it helps students see for themselves whether they are performing a posture correctly. A quick look in

Bliss Hot Yoga is open every day and is on the 3rd floor of Central Festival Phuket. For more information call 083-1808518-20.

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A taste of Bordeaux at the Boathouse

By Sam Wilkinson

Good wine improves with age and there is no doubt about it – the older I get, the better it tastes, so the old joke goes. Before I broach the subject, I must salute the more-savvy-than-I wine lovers on the island and ask, “Hey, where were you on the evening of November 29?”

I pose this question because this was when Mom Tri’s Boathouse Wine & Grill, winner of many wine-related gongs and no slouch in the fabulously full wine-cellar department, hosted Messrs Hubert de Bouard de Laforest and Gildas d’Ollone of Chateau Angelus and Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande estates – both situated near the Atlantic coast in Bordeaux.

The two wine producers, representing the biggest names in the Gironde region, guided guests through a tasting of four labels from each vineyard.

The Boathouse rustled up some gourmet eats and, with a combination like that, everyone attending knew they were in for a treat.

The evening promised to be highly entertaining as it was graced with the presence of a rich mix of wine lovers on the island from all walks of life, and even a few property dealers.

Opening with Champagne on the upstairs terrace, old faces greeted each other, new faces were introduced and a healthy and diverse sprinkling of languages cut through the starry, seaside night air – it was magic.

Before we settled in, Louis Bronner, the Boathouse general manager, introduced his two distinguished visitors in his usual polyglot manner and then promptly sat down to leave Monsieur Bouard to explain the more



The wine tasting at Mom Tri’s Boathouse on November 29 was a journey into the civilized world, as Hemingway would have put it.

succulent aspects of his produce.

“Wine is a living product,” began the well-groomed vintner. “Each bottle is a different entity. This is the result of the individual sugar of the grape. You’ll not find this variance with Beaujolais, for example – this is pure wine with no additions.”

Monsieur d’Ollone, in his introductory speech, used age as an analogy when describing labels of this quality. “The older the wine, the more differing it is. Cheap wine is a little like under-exercised people – they have to be helped upstairs – whereas good wine is like elderly people who have danced and exercised all their lives – it’s full of life.”

If you’ve never tried the Boathouse’s pan-seared duck liver over wild mushrooms, I recommend that you do. It’s perfectly yielding and every mouthful is a gourmet’s delight. That, along with the Chateau Bernadotte 1999 Haut-Medoc and La Fleur de Bouard 2003, Lalande de Pomerol, provided a fabulous

point de depart.

Monsieur de Bouard’s family has owned his vineyard since 1782 and he is not only the owner but an enologist in his own right. “It’s easy to make wine, not so easy to make good wine and extremely difficult to make great wine,” he said.

The Fleur de Bouard profits from an outstanding taste in a Merlot style, whereas the Bernadotte, according to Monsieur d’Ollone, is an “everyday wine”. Far from it – it may be young, but its tannin is outstanding and sure to mature magnificently.

The next course, rock lobster ravioli with black-truffle cream sauce, was accompanied by a Carrillon de l’Angelus 2005 St Emilion and Reserve de la Comtesse 1995.

The Reserve was well-received with its spicy and well-balanced body, while the Carrillon was an easy-going tippie. The ravioli was top notch.

Wine experts Gildas d’Ollone (2nd from left) and Hubert de Bouard (3rd from left) guided guests through a selection of wine treats while delicious food was served throughout the evening.



was French produced and extremely tasty. The Savarin was heavenly – an explosion of lightly-spiced cream in the mouth – and the Angelus 2001 obliged beautifully – a complex wine, aging well and delivering freshness by the sip.

“Good church windows,” commented Alexander Mack, the towering executive chef at Amari Coral Beach Resort. No one quite understood him and when pressed, he cryptically answered, “Kirchenfenster.”

We all nodded sagely, wondering what the heck he was on about. Later, Alex explained that the German expression means that the Angelus has striking “legs”, meaning that it leaves noticeable traces down the empty glass, a little like a good pint of Guinness leaving its mark on the glass after each mouthful.

Fine wine legs are vertical, instead of horizontal. The Chateau Pichon was a worthy companion to these sensational cheeses and by this time the room was buzzing with wine conversations and anecdotes.

It was wonderful to be at such a cultured and appreciative gathering, but time was getting on and I had to hit the road. I was greeted with looks of blank astonishment.

“Some of us have a day job, you know,” I muttered as a croquant tart with pear and almonds was served.

“Wine is the most civilized thing in the world,” Hemingway wrote, probably between large gulps of Cuban sugar-cane rum while celebrating his pre-lunch marlin harpooning.

If this is so, then that makes me uncivilized for leaving such a gathering so early. Call me a heathen, but a somewhat enlightened one after November 29 at the Boathouse.











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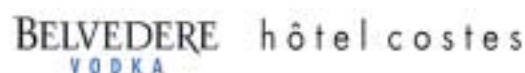
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Malin Mukka and Shane Doolin were married at Impiana Phuket Cabana Resort & Spa, Patong Beach on November 22, 2007



Walaiporn Areerat and Witoon Wongpikul were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of the Metropole Hotel Phuket on November 18, 2007.

A hundred years

Madame Fernande Marie-Louise Rouve-Bronner has witnessed a century. On October 15, 2007 she celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family at Mom Tri's Boathouse. After being a seasonal resident in Phuket for 18 years, Madame Bronner moved to the island in 2003 and now lives in a hillside villa overlooking Kata Bay.

Her 67-year-old son, Louis Bronner, lives down the hill from her, serving as the general manager of Mom Tri's Boathouse.

"I would like to speak English with you, but I have forgotten," she says, hinting slight frustration before proceeding to speak clearly in French.

She is poised in a wheelchair wearing a blue flowered dress, her burgundy-brown hair pulled up in a tight bun. While her skin and wheelchair denote old age, her blue eyes remain lucid and piercing; eyes that have seen two World Wars, a technology explosion and a tsunami, and continue to consume literature on a daily basis.

Madame Bronner devoted her life to education. After becoming the first college graduate in her family and one of the first women to graduate from her university, she taught three generations of students in France during her teaching career of more than 40 years.

Madame Bronner was born in Aveyron, in the south of France. The youngest of six siblings, she grew up on her family's farm in Vabres-l'Abbaye.

At the age of 10 her scholarly aptitude was already apparent and her pious family was shocked when her elder sister persuaded her to attend a public school rather than a Catholic school.

"I still had to visit the priest twice a week to study the Catechism," she recalls. "One day when our whole family was at church, the priest announced to the congregation, 'Even though Madame Fernande attends the school of the Devil, she is the best at Catechism!' My father was very proud."

In school during WWI, she

Madame Fernande Marie-Louise Rouve-Bronner is a resident of Kata who recently celebrated her centennial birthday. As a French school teacher, she has lived through two World Wars and taught three generations of students over a 40-year career as a teacher.

The *Gazette's* Skyler Swezy recently met Madame Bronner to see what pearls of wisdom she had to offer the younger people of Phuket.



Madame Bronner is presented with a hand-drawn portrait of her daughter, son and self by Mom Tri and friends.

remembers tracking the German advance. A large map was hung on the classroom wall and every day the students listened to war reports on the radio and marked the front lines with small French and German flags.

After secondary school, Madame Bronner left the farm to attend the University of Toulouse, where she developed a heavy caffeine addiction and excelled in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

"My father said, 'You will not work on the farm; you will study.' I put all my energy into studying and became the worst coffee drinker you can imagine, drinking seven to eight espressos a day," she recalls.

Madame Bronner studied voraciously to surpass her male peers and was the only woman in her class to pass her department's probation period. Sometimes she bought books instead of food, drawing her parents' concern when she returned to the farm much skinnier during the holidays.

"I received my diploma, then returned home and proudly pre-

sented it to my father. He said, 'Gosh, I would prefer that, instead of having a diploma, you look a little better. Now go to the kitchen and eat,'" she says.

Although passionate about pursuing a doctorate in medicine or engineering, a lack of educational funding prompted Madame Bronner to choose a career in teaching. "My father could no longer afford to pay for my education, so I decided to become a teacher," she says. She began teaching at the age of 23 and worked steadily until retiring at 64.

One of her most vivid memories of WWII stems from a moment right before the bloodshed began. "I was rushing to the farm after receiving news of my mother's death," she recalls. "Preparing myself to face the shock of seeing my dead mother, I rounded the last corner and came upon a young soldier walking down my street. He was in uniform, on his way to get on a train and go to war. The year was 1940."

In 1945, Madame Bronner

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and humble



Madame Bronner poses with friend Mom Tri during her 100th birthday celebration.

and her husband, an architect helping to rebuild their country, moved to Alsace and then to Paris. In the wake of the war, she found herself with up to 70 students in a class, ranging from seven to 20 years old.

Her son recalls her being a strict but fair teacher. "There was order in her class but she had good relations with everyone. If it was time for a joke she made it, but when it was over, it was over," says Louis.

"When we moved to Paris, a lot of the students were German Jews and it was impossible for me to pronounce their names. One day, while calling roll, the way I pronounced a student's name sounded like 'shit' in German. All the students began laughing so I banged the table and a glass broke. After that, nobody dared move a finger.

"Those were hard days, teaching 70 students in one class. I would go home and go straight to bed," she says.

She was the only teacher in her school who required her students to wear uniforms, which prevented clothing from being used as a representation of economic class. She also refused to distinguish any children as better than others by declining to issue awards at the end of a school term.

"My principle was that every student is good. There will be no first or last," she says.

Madame Bronner taught the children and grandchildren of her former students. She was scheduled to retire at the age of 60, but insisted on teaching four more years.

When her teaching days were over, she became an avid reader, and still is today. When former French Ambassador Laurent Abulin gave her a novel by W. Somerset Maugham, she read it in a few hours then exclaimed, "Why did I have to wait until I was 98 to discover this fantastic book?"

After living through a century of changes, Madame Bronner doesn't believe technological advancements necessarily equate to better quality of life. "Television has become a catastrophe because it's addictive. People lose any taste for opening a book," she says.

Madame Bronner doesn't consider her longer-than-average life as amazing and declines to designate a specific period as her happiest. "I have enjoyed almost everything. If I had a preference, it would be proof of egoism."

She is anything but egotistical. Her son Louis says, "When I asked her if she wanted to conduct this interview, she said, 'Why do they want to interview me? I'm not special.'"

"I would describe this as distinguished humility," he adds.

Madame Bronner leans forward in her wheelchair, opens her eyes wide and says in clear English, "If you understand me, no compliments."

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This week



SHINAWATRA STARS: Thai celebrities and distinguished guests joined Shinawatra Home Co Managing Director Ratana Wongnapachant (3rd from left) and Deputy Managing Director Chayika Wongnapachant (4th from left) at the opening of the Dalaaburi show home on November 23. Also pictured are (from left) Sawitri Rochanaprak, Puwanat Khunplin, Petch and Seekanya Sakdidesh Panupan, and Promporn Yuwawes.



WORDS OF WISDOM: Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (center) cuts the ribbon with THAI Airways Managing Director Wanporn Wiboocharoenkitja (2nd from left) and Kanlayapha Panich, THAI Director of Sales – Upper Southern Thailand, at the opening of a recording booth for people to contribute to the audio CD Book of Voices *Phorn Jaak Fah* (Blessing from the sky).



SEEDS SOWN: Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (left) and Phuket *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr (right) plant mangrove trees at Klong Mudong, Ao Makham, on November 19 as part of the "Save Phuket Save Our Planet" project by Central Festival Phuket. The project aims to plant some 30,348 mangrove trees. Joining them is Allan Namchaisiri, Senior Vice-President – Marketing of Central Retail (3rd from left)



JUMBO PORTIONS: Executives of Blue Elephant Royal Thai Cuisine and joint investors Fenix 4 Co celebrate the launch of Thai Brasserie at Jungceylon on November 22. Pictured are (from left) Phuket Square Co Deputy CEO Prawit Janyasittikul, Fenix 4 Co Managing Director MR Chatumongkol Sonakul and Blue Elephant Royal Thai Cuisine Executives Vinita Srichawla and Karl Steppe.



BABY BOOM: Managing Director Suksiri "Nan" Chaisook (left) of Mother and Child International Childcare Center poses with nannies and kids at the new Patong branch of the babysitting service on November 16.



SEA IT THRU: (from right) Club Andaman Beach Resort General Manager Adison Sitthiwong and Club Andaman Group CEO Charoong Supanpong are joined by MBK executive Pongsak Subdasen and Loch Palm Managing Director Saradej Sudasna at the 11th anniversary of the Patong resort's restaurant Thru The Sea.

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Holiday gift-giving

The art of letting your loved ones down

It's that time of year again when many people think that a present, any present, is better than no present at all. We labor under the illusion that "it's the thought that counts" and "the fact that you remembered at all is all that matters".

Well, not so. The "thought" refers to the consideration that goes into selecting a gift, specifically whether or not it feels as if it had been chosen with one individual in mind.

And here is the really crucial point: any present that does not meet this requirement is not just a lousy present, it's a toxic present that is liable to cause more harm than saying you couldn't make it to the shops in time.

The following are all officially toxic items that you should on no account consider giving this Christmas:

Any old scent with nice packaging (please, this is a super-irritating present, because even if you did choose it – and why? – it will always feel like you won it in a tombola); umbrellas, photograph frames, scented candles, salad servers, papier maché ethnic things, cachepots, little beaded containers for night-lights (these are all anonymous, suggesting the giver has no idea what you are like and cares less); paperbacks (you couldn't stretch to the hardback?); edibles such as chocolates (maybe if you were coming for dinner, but not for Christmas); silk scarves (these say: "I think this is feminine and that's as much as I can be bothered to work out"); and chart-topping CDs that you don't give a stuff about.

Then there is another level of present that are double-strength toxic because they are not only impersonal and bear the chilly mark of the "guilt purchase":

Cashmere scarf (this may sound OK, but it's one of those one-fits-all gifts that you can dish out to all the females in your life, regardless of age or personality); gloves (the sartorial equivalent of soap); Moleskin leather-bound books and passport-holders (listen, you may want them, but they still say "universal gift", as does anything from Molton Brown or The Body Shop, especially linen spray).

Toxic presents from boyfriends include all of the above, plus quite a few apparently harmless gifts – at least at first glance.

For example, pierced earrings when your ears aren't pierced; stockings when you don't wear them, a beaded gilet exactly like the one his irritating female work colleague wears, or that ubiquitous Tiffany heart as worn by Bridget Jones – which also has the double downside of getting us all excited about the blue packaging.

Anything that might look like a self-interested investment also qualifies as toxic – namely books about the eastern front, underwear that may have looked good on his ex but which you can't get beyond your knees, glossy kitchen equipment and massage oils.

By the way, the boyfriend who asks what you want for Christmas is the boyfriend you should finish with. Excuse me, but can he not think of anything you might like? Dump him right now – and take his gift of aftershave, or whatever, back to the shop.

Party Panic: Here we go again.

You've got your sparkly halter neck top, you've had the haircut, the highlight touch-up and the leg and bikini wax (just in case). But right about now is when Seasonal Party Stress (SPS) kicks in, and you start to remember just what an assault course has to be navigated between now and New Year's Day.

The first signs usually strike on the day of the party, when you begin to panic that you have too much on your plate, and that a late night, plus a hangover, will only compound the problem.

Generally, as a precaution, you will start re-jigging your diary and perhaps collar a friend to remind you of your commitment to a sober night ("If you see me having more than two glasses, for God's sake, stop me, blah, blah, blah..." You know how it goes).

Phase two is the immediate pre-party panic, when you realize your arms look like hams in that sleeveless dress and your bra shows – but not in a good way. This is also the time when you start to reflect on who might be at the party, suddenly feeling incapable of making conversation with so much as a toddler.

In extreme cases, you may start to compile, in your head, a list of the people you are likely to meet. This is a classic feature of SPS, the neurosis of not remembering names. You will also begin to worry whether or not you should eat a stomach-lining banana and how you're going to get home.

Note: if SPS peaks at this point and you don't take steps to manage it – deep breathing, wailing, changing your outfit – there is a 50-50 chance that you will end up staying put in front of the

TV. Generally, however, SPS reaches fever pitch on arrival at the party.

Typical crises you may have during the first 10 minutes include realizing that you are dressed inappropriately; choosing the anonymous blue cocktail instead of the sparkling white wine, then stressing about what's in it; realizing your shoes are a size too small; and weighing up the manageability of the canapé, going for the most bite-sized one and dropping the topping down your cleavage.

Later in the evening SPS takes a more reflective form. You will start to regret roughly 90%

of your conversations, taking up smoking, talking to girls for too long and not having met any of the new, glamorous people (men) who were the reason you went to the party in the first place.

The morning after a heavy bout of SPS is, predictably, the phase that hurts the most.

Typically, you will feel obliged to email everyone you can remember talking to – and their friends – to tell them that you think your allergy pills reacted with the alcohol and you can't be held responsible for anything you said or did.

Then you will resolve to approach the next party completely differently – until the whole exhausting process begins all over again.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her first novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com. She thinks it would make a great Christmas present.



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Hand-painted acrylic nails, from glitzy glitter to flower power.

Nailing it right

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

For an up-close, eye-catching fashion accessory, try fingernail-sized artwork. Jidlada “Ying” Suphachaimongkon at Senses Health and Beauty Clinique is a creative nail specialist whose miniature artworks transform hands for any occasion with decorative hand-painted acrylic nails.

“I love gel nails with glitter, not too long, because they’re not too extravagant and look good in almost any situation.

“Artificial acrylic nails add a touch of individuality to a woman’s appearance. They can be long, colorful and striking, or short, plain and reserved, all depending on the occasion and the character of the person whose nails are being treated,” she said.

A full set of acrylic nails are strong enough for you to continue pursuing regular activities for about two weeks.

After that, you will need to return to the shop to give your nails a routine checkup and make any adjustments you may want done, K. Ying said.

Each nail is different and while some women choose to keep their nails bare, others favor exotic patterns.

One of K. Ying’s favorite images to apply to nails is her Thai chabaa flower design. K. Ying said that she enjoys using this design because it sets her

work apart from the work of other nail specialists.

K. Ying is able to perform a variety of treatments using the world-class EzFlow range of products.

There is a collection for every occasion and for every type of person. Three of the most popular collections are “dazzling”, “carnival” and “fame”.



The “dazzling” collection is a range of nails made with party queens and disco divas in mind. The nails are ideal for girls who like to dominate the dance floors of nightspots in Phuket.

A range of 15 sparkling colors can be used to create striking nails that glitter in the dark and gleam in the day. One for the fun-loving girls out there – the “carnival” collection features 15 jazzy colors that symbolize a carefree attitude. These nails are for girls who know what they want and aren’t afraid to experiment with bold colors.

The “fame” collection offers yet more glittering styles that are equally suited to the catwalk as they are the red carpet. These nails are for women who want to be seen, standing out from the crowd as a superstar would.

These are just a few of the designs available at Senses Health and Beauty Clinique, 5 Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay. Tel: 076-271373-4 Website: www.senses-phuket.com

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Some 1,500 people turned out at Royal Phuket Marina on December 9 for the inaugural Phuket International Dragon Boat Challenge, with 17 teams of 16 rowers paddling their hearts out for the title.

Race Marshall on the day, Bill Handley of Sail in Asia, said that unofficial reports estimated that the event attracted some 3,000 people quayside to watch the event, and to visit the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX), also being held at the marina.

"I've been in dragon boating for 20 years and organizing dragon boat races for 15 years - and this was one of the closest finals I've ever seen," he said.

"It was fantastic to see teams with little or no previous experience improve so well on their previous times, and to race so well."

All teams raced in three heats, with the four teams with the fastest heat times over the 220-meter course going through to the final, which was raced during a typical Phuket downpour.

Novotel Panwa won the title with a time of 42.7 seconds and will go to Penang July next year to compete in the world championships.

Rawai Relics, whose crew had an average age of 45, crossed the finish line 0.56 seconds later.

Shades put in a sterling effort to place third with a time 44.7 followed closely by Rajabhat University, who were paddling on



Up the Creek with plenty of paddles

behalf of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), who provide educational sponsorships to the students.

Those who missed out on this year's event can start practicing for next year.

Indeed, keen paddlers

might get the chance to race sooner. Mr Handley added, "We're looking to form a Thailand or even a Phuket Dragon Boat club to race regularly."

Keep an eye out in the Gazette for details of upcoming dragon boat races, or contact


Mike Downard of Sail in Asia by email at mike@sailinasia.com or visit www.phuketdragonboat.com.

- Photos by Dan Miles



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Diva gets down at Indigo

AFTER

DARK

By Matt Crook

Gleaming like “a pearl in the rough”, Indigo Pearl is a luxury resort tucked away next to Nai Yang Beach. Sufficiently far away from densely-populated areas of the island, the resort offers a different kind of vibe to most places in Phuket.

Of the many dining and lounging options available there, only one is the hang-out of a real-life diva. “That’s D-I-V-A,” as she’ll tell you. Rebar is in a hip little corner of the resort and it’s where you’ll find “the northwest’s own diva”, May Palmer, performing jazz, gospel, funk, soul – whatever takes her fancy.

Time is running out though, because May, originally from Providence, Rhode Island, will be at Rebar only until the end of December.

Rebar is cool in every sense of the word. After a brief saunter through the resort, a flight of stairs leads up to the open-air bar where a slight scent of cigars lingers in the air. It is suitably dark without being gloomy, creating an ambiance that encapsulates the chilled-out atmosphere that makes the place ideal for pre-club drinks or, better yet, a hot date where you want to be somewhere quiet enough to chat.

The bar has a chic feel to it, with comfortable chairs, wooden flooring, walls and beams, views of the resort grounds and, before May Palmer takes to the stage, background music from Swedish DJ Tommy Karlsson.

As the night wears on, The Boom band rattles off a few numbers before May Palmer struts her way to the stage. Enigmatic, extravagant, extrovert – it’s hard to sum up a woman with a rare voice, with power, soul and range.

“I take singing seriously because I believe my fans deserve a great night out,” said May. May can back up her claims with a voice as powerful and full of life as you’ll ever hear in Phuket.

A true diva, May dances,



jokes with the crowd, prowls around the floor with her mic in hand – all while keeping her commanding voice in tune and on point. May brings enthusiasm and energy to an otherwise peaceful bar. Phuket just ain’t big enough for this diva and she will soon fly the coop and return to the Washington State to spend some time with her husband of 17 years, Bob.

While she’s here, you can catch May performing Tuesday through Saturday between 7 pm and 10 pm. On Sundays, May is on hand to entertain people during brunch at the Tin Mine Restaurant, another venue at Indigo Pearl.

May’s style is raucous, loud and intense. Steamrolling through covers of *Dock of the Bay*, *Mustang Sally* and *I Heard it Through the Grapevine*, May explores a variety of musical styles with her love of gospel shining through – May first started singing in churches along the American east coast in her late teens.

Her latest CD, *Mo’ May: A Celebration Of The Motown Era*, is available at the resort.

Catching May Palmer at Rebar is an entertaining way to start your night. The bar itself is open only until 11 pm. The idea of late-night drinking in a venue as swish as Rebar would likely tempt many to stay beyond the curfew. As it is, Rebar is a place

to relax and kick back in a chair before heading into town for a night out.

For early-starters, Rebar opens at 5 pm and doubles as a restaurant serving tapas, seafood, Thai dishes and Japanese fare.

Items on the food menu are reasonably priced for the high-end guests Indigo caters to, hovering a little below 300 baht for dishes such as crispy coconut prawns with plum sauce; grilled chorizo with paprika potatoes; and sautéed mussels with bell peppers, parsley and white wine sauce.

The food warrants a sampling and the drinks menu has all the usual suspects, including a wicked range of cocktails priced about 250 baht a glass. The mojito was tangy and refreshing while other offerings were intoxicating and full of tropical flavors. A bottle of wine will set you back on average between 1,500 baht and 3,000 baht.

A trip to Rebar will likely leave a dent in your wallet, but for island folk who don’t usually get to venture off the beaten track, it’s worth it.

For more information about Rebar or the Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai Yang Beach & National Park, visit www.indigo-pearl.com For further details about the diva May Palmer, visit www.maypalmer.com



Rebar at the Indigo Pearl Resort has a laid-back vibe that takes a soulful turn when jazz singer May Palmer (pictured singing) takes to the stage. The Indigo Pearl Cocktail (left) is one of a range of intoxicating concoctions that people can sample at the bar.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until December 28. 'These shoes are made for working' exhibition by Mia Gillow.

A record of the restoration of *Cariad*, the largest, oldest gaff cutter in the world, being rebuilt in Thailand. The result from this talented young photographer is an artistic view of the vessel's revival and the workers involved. Uniquely seen through the eyes of a sailor and a yacht skipper in her own right, Mia's rare insight into the world of yachting is distinctive.

The exhibition, on show at Watermark bar and restaurant at Boat Lagoon, goes below decks to highlight the extensive maintenance, craftsmanship and passion required, and the plethora of personalities magnetically attracted to it. Open 11 am to 11 pm.

For more information contact Stuart. Tel: 081-7376184. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.com

December 15. Super BBQ Buffet at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

A super BBQ buffet with grilled meats, seafood, cheese, coldcuts, salad bar and desserts. A live band will supply the music. 650 baht per person. All you need for a perfect Saturday night. From 6:30 pm until 11 pm.

For further information contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

December 16. Lofts Surprise Island Beach Party.

Join the BYD Lofts crowd on the luxury yacht *MV Voyager* to a surprise island-beach destination for a great party right on the beach. Watch the sunset, swim, tuck into a great BBQ, dance and have lots of fun with 80s and 90s dance music and late house music by DJ Mikey Mike.

The cost is 2,500 baht, including transfers from Chalong Pier to the island (first departure is at 2 pm, second at 4 pm), two drinks, BBQ and great music.

For further information con-



GET TRIBAL

February 3, 2008

Malaiwana TriBallistic Race at Indigo Pearl Resort.

The new Triballistic series will get underway at Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang Beach, from 6 am to 11 am.

- Senior Sprint: 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.
- Junior Race: 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run
- Splash & Dash: 50m swim, 3km bike, 750m run.

Registration available at www.triballisticclub.com, BIS library and at the Skippers Bar TriBallistic Party on January 12. Registration can also be done by email to info@triballisticclub.com or by calling 089-5902014.

Races start 7:30 am.

For more information contact Shaun Boulter at Tel: 089-5902014, Email: info@triballisticclub.com or visit the website at www.triballisticclub.com

tact Stephan. Tel: 076-3430247. Email: info@bydlofts.com Website: www.bydlofts.com

December 16. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

Is Windows driving you nuts? Join Windows "Dummies" author Woody Leonhard in one of his (patent pending) PC Group Therapy sessions.

Whether you're looking for help with a new computer, swearing at an old one or wondering about the best Internet connection in Phuket, Woody and crew can help. Newbies are always welcome.

Bring your computer, your problems, your worry beads and your sense of humor.

Sessions take place at the

Sandwich Shoppe Chalong 10 am until midday.

For more information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 076-344516. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

December 19. Soi Dog Foundation Fundraising Christmas Party.

The Soi Dog Foundation will hold its annual fun-filled, fundraising Christmas Party spectacular on December 12 at Tatonka restaurant at Tinlay Place, near the entrance to Laguna.

Starting at 7 pm, enjoy an evening of globe-trotting cuisine and lots of surprises.

Tatonka restaurant is donating the meal and all proceeds

from ticket sales will go directly to the Soi Dog Foundation.

Tickets at 900 baht are limited, so book early.

Please email jennifer.gardner@email.com to reserve your ticket or call 076-317937 or 086-0174525.

December 24. Christmas Eve Wine Dinner at Wine Connection Chalong.

Christmas Eve six-course set dinner with aperitif, six glasses of wine, fireworks and live band - all for 3,300 baht net per person. From 7 pm until midnight.

For inquiries, please send an email to fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th or call Pascal at 087-8896074.

December 31. New Year's Eve Wine Dinner at Wine Connection Chalong.

See off 2007 with a New Year's Eve six-course set dinner, again with six glasses of wine and a live band. From 7:30 pm until 12:30 am, 3,960 baht net per person.

For more information contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074 Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

January 12, 2008. TriBallistic Relaunch Party 2008.

From 6 pm to 11 pm at Skippers Sports Bar at Royal Phuket Marina. Live music by Indigo Pearl house band The Boom, featuring May Palmer and the "Sax Bomb" DJ and saxophonist Gerard Cornielje.

Buffet, dancing and lots of fun for all the family. Raffle prizes to be won.

Also includes pre-race registration for February 3 Triballistic race and a new range of Tri-Ballistic merchandise on sale.

Adults: 1,000 baht, inclusive of buffet, one beer or glass of wine (only first alcoholic drinks included) and raffle ticket. Children: 750 baht, inclusive of buffet, three soft drinks and raffle ticket.

Tickets are available from Shaun at 089-5902015 or at info@triballisticclub.com; from Skippers Bar at 076-360890; and from Helle Kirstein at the British International School, Phuket, library.

January 12-27, 2008. French Cuisine Festival at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host the annual "Quinzaine de la Gastronomie Française", an extravaganza of French cuisine each night from 7 pm to 11:30 pm, from January 12 to 27, 2008.

Guest Chef Maître-Cuisinier de France Jean Noël Lumineau, in collaboration with Mom Tri's Boathouse Executive Chef Tummanoon Punchun, will present a four-course dégustation menu every evening.

Each course will be accompanied by a superb French wine, chosen by the Boathouse's Wine Director, Georges Ciret.

The Boathouse Wine & Grill à la carte menu will remain available throughout the entire festival.

For more information contact: Pinyo Thippimas Tel: 076-330015. Email: fb@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boat-housephuket.com

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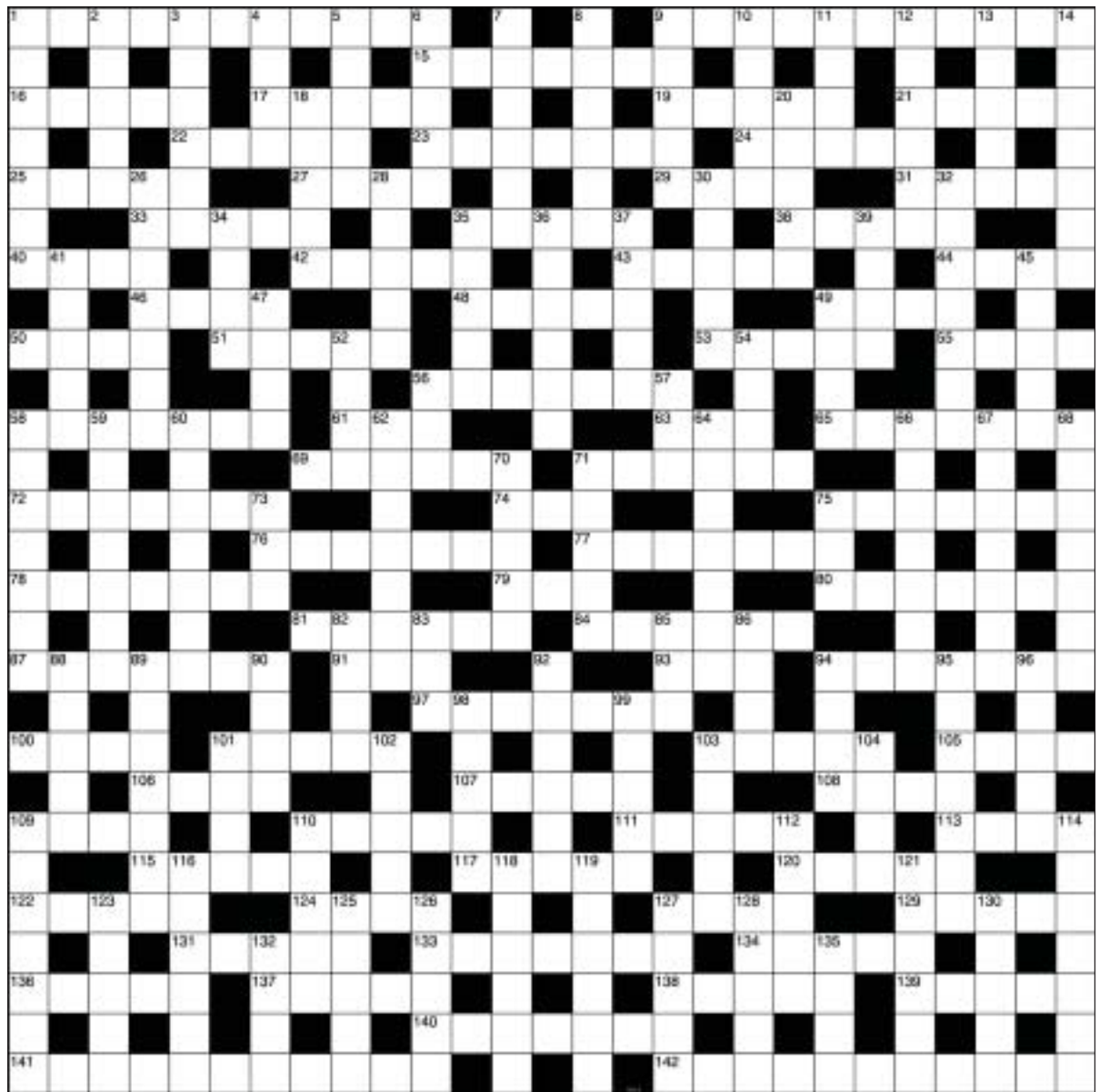
PUZZLES

The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words about boating. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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



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Across

- 1. Unbeaten
- 9. Regularity
- 15. Asthmatic's aid
- 16. Chops roughly
- 17. Indian gowns
- 19. Last Greek letter
- 21. Even
- 22. Public profile
- 23. Short scarves
- 24. Venetian waterway
- 25. A new ...of life
- 27. Ages
- 29. Appear to be
- 31. Merits
- 33. Fire crime
- 35. Uni composition
- 38. Caked with soil
- 40. Beach surface
- 42. Banjo sound
- 43. Fittingly
- 44. Ku Klux...
- 46. Colourless
- 48. Happen repeatedly
- 49. Entryway
- 50. Hint
- 51. Length units
- 53. Connection
- 55. Arabian sultanate
- 56. Salon worker
- 58. Shellfish
- 61. Lion star sign
- 63. Begin, break the...
- 65. Tricking
- 69. Avoided
- 71. Withdraw formally
- 72. Arrived at
- 74. Reproductive cells
- 75. Bound
- 76. Unpretentious
- 77. Lucky find
- 78. Holy Mother
- 79. Conger
- 80. Fine particle
- 81. Close by (2,4)
- 84. Tax on goods
- 87. Brothers' sons
- 91. Egyptian cobra
- 93. Sergeant (1,1,1)
- 94. Dangle
- 97. Made of compressed earth
- 100. Roofing metal
- 101. Cavalry spear
- 103. Noughts
- 105. Jest
- 106. Crustacean
- 107. Veal stew, osso...
- 108. Father
- 109. Biblical you
- 110. River growth, blue-green...
- 111. Actress, ...Winger
- 113. Manner
- 115. Simmer (eggs)
- 117. Chicken, ...Island Red
- 120. Noodle food
- 122. Rancher's rope
- 124. ...of Wessex
- 127. Dress ribbon
- 129. Customary practice
- 131. Stick-on symbol
- 133. Beirut is there
- 134. Gold-touch king
- 136. Dismiss (pupil)
- 137. Potato type
- 138. Incidental comment
- 139. Move sideways
- 140. Hollering
- 141. Changed
- 142. Lovers
- 2. Chocolate drink
- 3. More curious
- 4. Great Bear constellation, ...Major
- 5. Less common
- 6. Records
- 7. Defrauds
- 8. Llama relative
- 9. Intersect
- 10. Sister's girl
- 11. Terrible tsar
- 12. Ploughed
- 13. Not even once
- 14. Former Russian leader, Boris...
- 18. PR person, press...
- 20. Lamé (of leg)
- 26. Most depressed
- 28. Throat lump, ...apple (4'1)
- 30. Singer, Sir ...John
- 32. Actor, Dan...
- 34. Reside
- 35. White wading bird
- 36. Reaping blade
- 37. Tells good story
- 39. Musical pairs
- 41. Úowling...
- 45. Ditto
- 47. Inlets
- 49. Twilight
- 52. Type of pickle
- 54. Looked over
- 56. Piece of turf
- 57. Nervous twitch
- 58. Male rower
- 59. Abandon at rendezvous (5,2)
- 60. Increase in attractiveness
- 62. Castrated men
- 64. Made of clay
- 66. Debases
- 67. Pry
- 68. Blessing
- 70. Distributed, ...out
- 71. Marten fur
- 73. Genetic code carrier (1,1,1)
- 75. Tarry
- 82. Dusting powder
- 83. Gorilla or chimpanzee
- 85. World news (1,1,1)
- 86. Painful
- 88. Singer, ...Piaf
- 89. Brief hitches
- 90. Wound encrustation
- 92. Outer wall coating
- 94. Spill
- 95. PJs
- 96. Uncovered
- 98. Fossilised resin
- 99. Wear away
- 101. Windies batsman, Brian...
- 102. Enthusiastic
- 103. Striped horse-like animal
- 104. Gradually weakens
- 109. Highest
- 110. In front
- 112. Greenfly
- 114. Shoelace holes
- 116. Heaps (of)
- 118. Famous space telescope
- 119. Actor, ...Quaid
- 121. Struggle
- 123. Brown photo shade
- 125. Sudden fear
- 126. Andrew ...Webber
- 127. Drawbacks
- 128. Grin
- 130. Viper
- 132. Goodbye in Italy
- 135. Amount owing

Down

- 1. Gives moral support to

Solution on next page

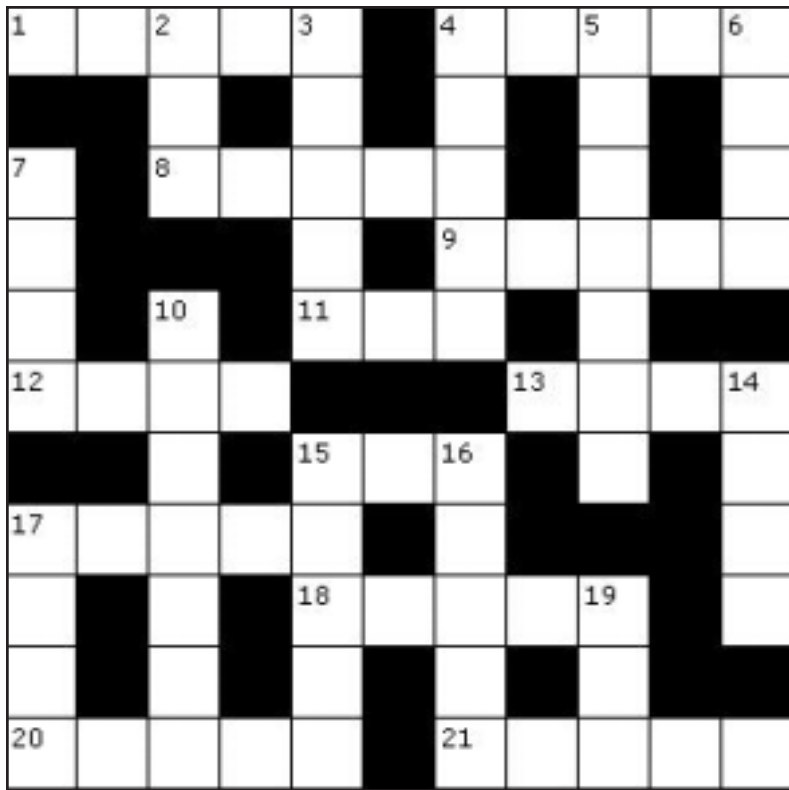
su | do | ku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. What you do with a mouse | 2. Solid water |
| 4. Son of God | 3. Sit for prayer |
| 8. Take out | 4. Breakwater |
| 9. Object | 5. Old people |
| 11. Set down | 6. Male deer |
| 12. Part of lower leg | 7. King of the gods |
| 13. Percussion instrument | 10. Two-wheeled transport |
| 15. Place to sleep | 14. Lots |
| 17. Brick... | 15. For sweeping |
| 18. Chemical compound | 16. Flower |
| 20. Glitter | 17. Not short |
| 21. Give way | 19. For seeing |

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. What animated alien is known for trying to blow up Earth with his Illudium Pew-36 Explosive Space Modulator | 7. The Korat breed of cat is usually what color? | 15. What organ has no known use, but can cause death if it ruptures? |
| 2. Armies in 14 th century practiced biological warfare by hurling what behind enemy lines? | 8. In 1785, who graduated 42 nd of 58 at his military school? | 16. In November 2003 a nosecone from which plane sold for US\$490,000 at an auction in France? |
| 3. Which South American country was named after a man born in 1451 in Genoa? | 9. What very hard metal is named after the children of Uranus and Gaea? | 17. Texas cattle fever is transmitted by what type of arachnid? |
| 4. What proteins found in blood plasma are classified as alpha, beta or gamma? | 10. In the 1740s, the British Royal Navy began issuing its sailors a daily ration of what? | 18. Following ethnic clashes in 1966, eastern Nigeria declared itself the Republic of what? |
| 5. What Scandinavian auto company started out in 1937 as a national aircraft manufacturer? | 11. Which cetacean has a spiral tusk that grows up to 10 feet long? | 19. Which cheese was first packaged in cylindrical boxes in 1890? |
| 6. Also called Taal, what language developed from the 17 th -century Dutch? | 12. Larry Fortensky was who's 7 th husband? | 20. In 1964, Louis Armstrong topped the music charts with which Broadway song? |
| | 13. The 1938 Munich Pact was approved by which British prime minister? | |
| | 14. Which Irish fairy has long, streaming hair and fiery red eyes? | |

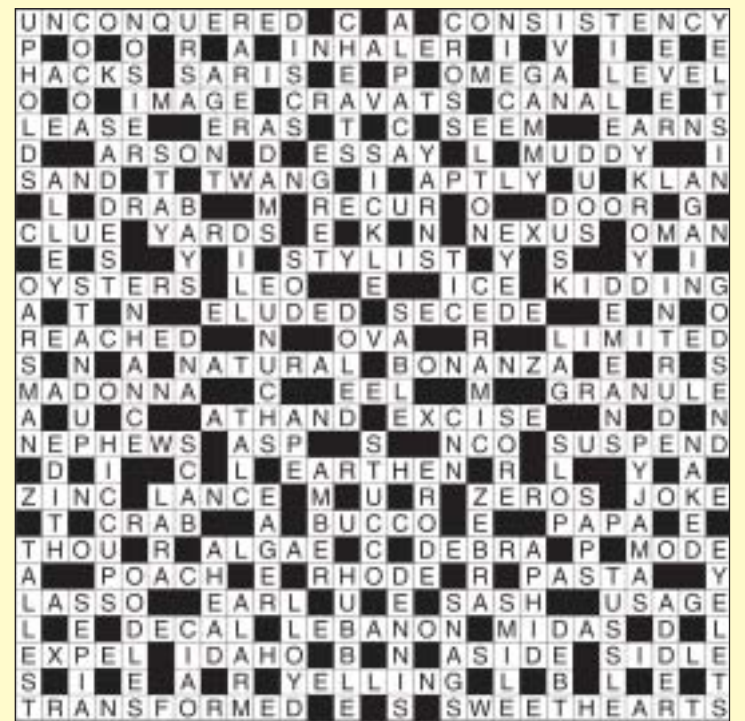
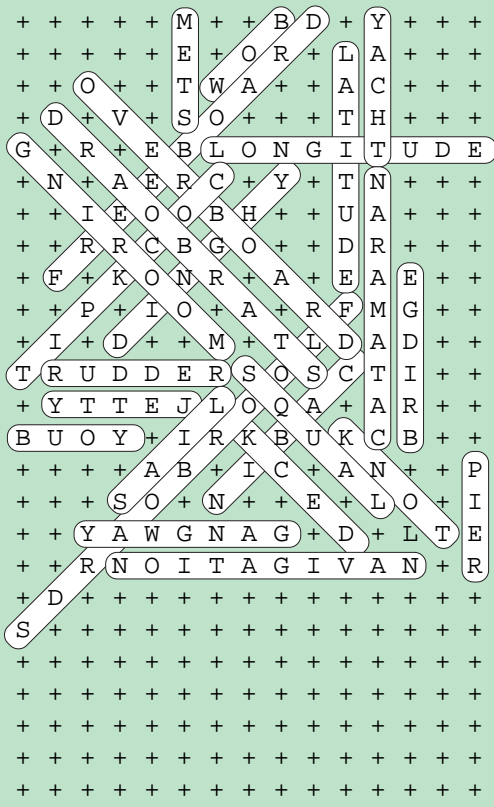
Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Marvin the Martian; 2. Plague-ridden bodies; 3. Colombia; 4. Globulins; 5. Saab; 6. Afrikaans; 7. Silver; 8. Napoleon Bonaparte; 9. Titanium; 10. Rum; 11. A narwhal; 12. Elizabeth Taylor; 13. Neville Chamberlain; 14. A banshee; 15. The appendix; 16. Concorde; 17. A tick; 18. Biafra; 19. Camembert; 20. Hello, Dolly!

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Phuket Gazette

Maureen Dowd is a cruel woman. Upon the gentle, compassionate, middle-of-the-road presidential candidate Barack Obama, the *New York Times* columnist has pinned a pet nickname: "Obambi". In a recent column, she mocked Obambi for feeling hurt that Hillary Clinton doesn't like him. Rudy Giuliani, she notes, couldn't care less.

Following his political autobiography *Dreams From My Father*, Obama has now written his campaign manifesto, *The Audacity of Hope* (Three Rivers Press, New York, 2006, 375pp).

Now this is a pretentious title, but it bears some truth. Obama is nothing if not audacious. After his 17 minutes of fame as the keynote speaker at the 2004 Democratic convention, the freshman senator leaped into the presidential race two years later, pre-empting Hillary, and proceeded to drum up more campaign funds, predominantly in small bills.

"Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" is the book's subtitle. Obama must be given credit for his effort. He wrote the book himself, unlike John Kennedy, who had his college roommate Lem Billings write *Profiles in Courage*, or Hillary Clinton, who famously stiffed her ghostwriters. And no less than the *New York Times*' Michiko Kakutani, the doyenne of American book critics, had this to say:

"[Barack Obama] is that rare politi-

The Audacity of Hype



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

cian, who can actually write – and write movingly and genuinely about himself ... [He] strives in these pages to ground his policy thinking in simple common sense... while articulating these ideas in level-headed, nonpartisan prose."

I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the prose. On the fourth page of his prologue, he speaks about the ambition that led him to make an abortive try for a congressional seat after seven years in the Illinois state legislature:

"I began to harbor doubts about the path I had chosen; I began feeling the way I imagine an actor or athlete must feel when, after years of commitment to a particular dream, after years of waiting tables

between auditions or scratching out hits in the minor leagues, he realizes that he's gone just about as far as talent or fortune will take him. The dream will not happen, and he now faces the choice of accepting this fact like a grown-up and moving on to more sensible pursuits, or refusing the truth and ending up bitter, quarrelsome, and slightly pathetic."

Now that is a finely crafted sentence and there are plenty of them in this book. There's also plenty of preachy political boilerplate, but that's the nature of a presidential campaign book. He spends an entire chapter yammering on about American "values", stuff like "hard work, patriotism, personal responsibility, optimism and faith".

This provoked in this reader the dreaded MEGO syndrome: My Eyes Glaze Over. He retook my attention, though, with a realistic chapter on politics. He offers a meticulous description of the tightrope that an American senator must walk between raising campaign funds and caving in to special interests, between cooperation and surrender to the ruling party, between opening up to reporters and being clobbered by them.

Seven years in the Illinois legislature

left him with a huge voting record that his political opponents will comb through to find damaging votes. Once, for example, he mistakenly voted against a bill to protect children from sex offenders. He had accidentally pressed the wrong button on the bill and had it immediately corrected in the official record.

"Somehow I don't think that portion of the official record will make it into a Republican ad," says his media adviser David Axelrod.

"Anyway, cheer up," he adds, clapping Obama on the back. "I'm sure this will help you with the sex offender vote."

Another shameless aspect of American politics is the fierce gerrymandering that ensures that instead of throwing the rascals out at election time, "Year after year we keep the rascals right where they are, with the re-election rate for House members hovering at around 96%."

His conclusion? "Indeed, it's not a stretch to say that most voters no longer choose their representatives; instead, representatives choose their voters."

American voters will soon choose whether they will ratify the coronation of Hillary Clinton. I'm rooting for the underdog.

For Pete's sake... but who's Pete?

Three of my grandchildren, Kathryn, Sarah and Will, ages 4 to 10, were discussing the expression "for the love of Pete". Can you tell us who Pete is and how this phrase came to be symbolic of frustration?

The whole family is happy they have chosen the phrase in preference to some of the more modern statements that language offers.

Carol Norce, Connecticut, USA

Barbara replies:

"Pete" in this phrase and also in "for Pete's sake" isn't a person but a forerunner of political correctness.

"For the love of Pete" was coined so that people could use it in preference to less polite equivalents.

As the Oxford Dictionary of Slang explains, the name is "a euphemistic substitute for 'pity,' itself used in oaths in place of 'God' and 'Christ.'"

The slang dictionary's big sister, the Oxford English Dictionary, contains several citations for "Pete" used in this way.

The earliest of them is from 1924 and is American.

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 stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

I am a graduate student at Northern Arizona University and last semester a fistfight nearly broke out regarding the proper use of "a" and "an" before our program title. We are students in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. If you say "master" it sounds like we should use "a", but if you say "MPA" the "M" sounds like "em" and "an" sounds much more fluid than the "a". Which is right?

Jordan Price Lake Arrowhead, California.

Barbara replies:

And some people think no one cares about the fine points of language anymore! Still, for the sake of your future career, I wish that you had considered negotiating, not violence, before coming to me. Both "a" and "an" used as you've described are correct.

Whenever a word or an abbreviation begins with a consonant sound, "a" is the right article. When it begins with a vowel sound, "an" is right. So it's "a

master's degree" but "an MPA".

Can you explain why it has become so fashionable to misuse the word "myself"? When I hear a college-educated professional say, "Myself or someone else from the office will get back to you on that", I want earplugs. Please also explain when "myself" is correct.

Paul Bayley Pleasant Hill, California.

Barbara replies:

I, too, know plenty of people who use "myself" in ways I wouldn't, and I suspect they do it because they're not sure whether "I" or "me" would be right. Choosing between "I will get back to you" and "Me will..." is a no-brainer, but in your ex-

ample "or someone else from the office" threw the speaker off track.

The difference between "I", "me" and "myself" is easy. When you're the subject of a verb (or one of the subjects, as in your example), you're "I" – almost anywhere else, you're "me."

When you're "I" but want to refer to yourself again in the same sentence, even if only for emphasis, then you're "myself". For example, "I will write myself a reminder" and "I will get back to you myself."

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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National parks need a holiday

Imminent reductions in the number of tourists allowed to enter the Koh Similan and Koh Surin Marine National Parks in Phang Nga are necessary-yet-painful measures to protect marine ecosystems there from the effects of poorly-regulated mass tourism from which they currently suffer (see Inside Story, pages 4-5).

Thanks to their remoteness, the two marine parks are among the last great dive-tourism destinations Thailand has to offer, where the crystal-clear waters serve as a saddening reminder to anyone who visits them of what water conditions off Phuket were like just a few decades ago before the onset of mass tourism here.

While the relatively pristine conditions at the parks are perhaps still unique in Thailand, they are not unique in the greater region. Phuket-based dive operators are already beginning to shun the two parks due to the overcrowded conditions, described by some as "a circus" because of the numbers of divers there during peak periods.

Some Phuket-based operators are conducting tours to more remote sites in India and Burma, despite the added difficulty involved with customs, immigration and a slew of other problems not least of which is the distance from Phuket and the fuel and time needed to reach them.

It is indeed distressing that Thailand's final frontiers for dive tourism now find themselves subject of the same kinds of remarks commonly directed to popular land-based tourist destinations such as Patong Beach: cash cow, unregulated, overrun with tourists... spoiled.

While the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) should be commended for finally taking serious steps to protect the parks, it should also be warned that implementing and enforcing the measures, day-to-day, fairly and transparently, will be a far greater challenge than issuing them.

The DNP also needs to do a better job of protecting marine parks from illegal fishing, which is far more destructive than dive tourism.

The problems facing the two famous marine parks and the dive industry that relies upon them are just a small microcosm of the much larger environmental challenges facing planet Earth as the year 2007 draws to an end.

We can only hope that today's children will not visit the Similans for the first time 20 years from now only to find conditions resembling the Phi Phi Islands Marine National Park of today.

We hope that the government that will form after the next election will take a more serious approach to environmental issues and sustainable tourism than its predecessors.

- The Editor

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

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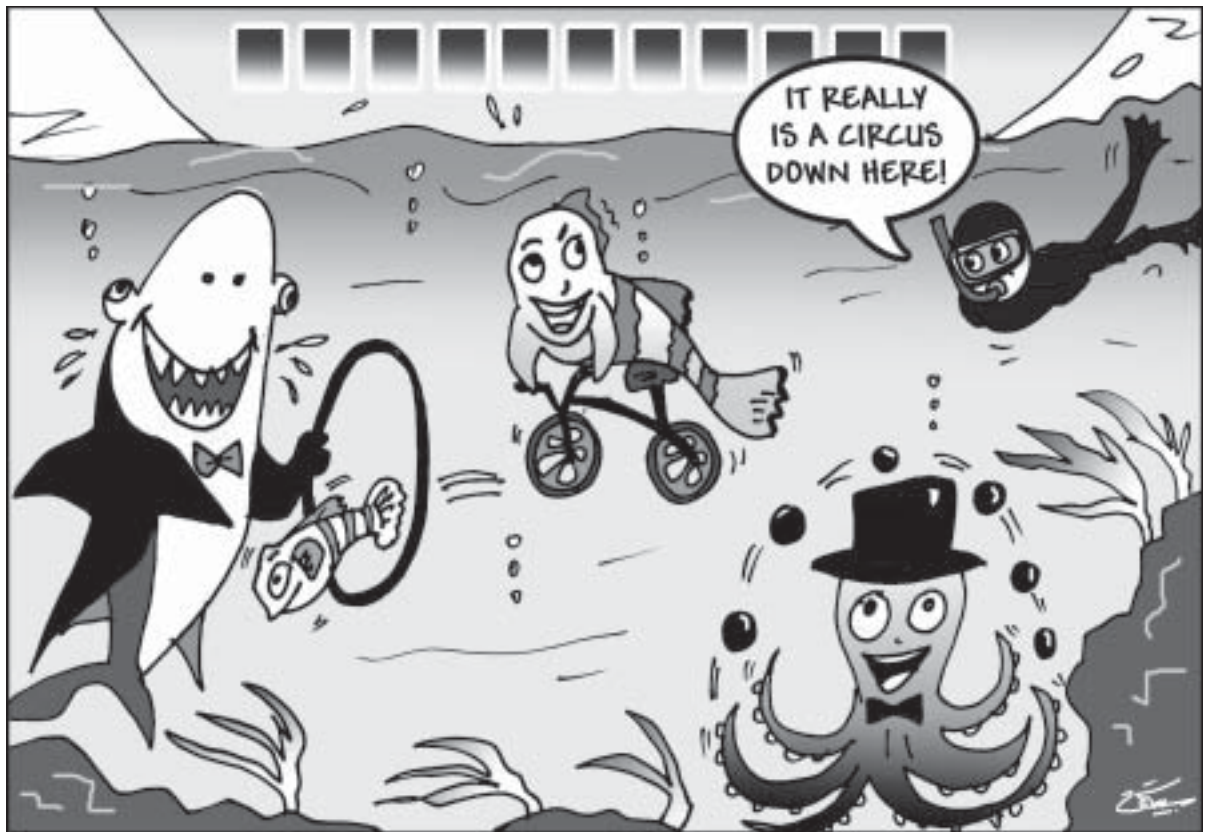
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Letters

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.

Standing up for traditions

This year's Loy Krathong was my first in Phuket and it was the best one I've ever experienced!

Why? Because after enduring the madness of life-threatening Loy Krathong celebrations in Bangkok, where drunk and disorderly and dangerous driving is the order of the day, it was wonderful to see Phuket families spending time together, making their *krathong* in the traditional way and going about their celebrations peacefully - apart from the guy who was stabbed from behind for letting off firecrackers.

Perhaps Phuketians just won't stand for anything but peaceful traditional celebrations.

Nigel Longfellow
Phuket

More transportation, not more roads

What struck me about the *Gazette*'s Inside Story "Promises Promises" [pages 4-5, Issue of December 8-14] was how so many of the candidates you interviewed mentioned traffic congestion and the need to expand and improve the existing road network as one of the most pressing issues that needs to be addressed.

Notably, only one candidate, Wisut Santikul of the Palang Prachachon Party (People Power Party), went on to mention the need to improve the public transport sector, not just to reduce traffic congestion but to support the island's tourism industry.

It seems to me that this would be a far better approach to the overall traffic problem than

simply building more roadways.

I am also left wondering just how many *Gazette* readers actually have the right to vote in the up-coming election.

Yunif Azissa
Kathu

Let's not go overboard

Here's a quote from the *Gazette* online: "Remarkably, the latest victim in a protracted wave of violence against foreign tourists in Thailand said he still felt good about Phuket."

Hospital staff quoted him as saying that such unfortunate events can happen anytime, anywhere.

I'm with the victim on this. These things happen everywhere, especially if you wear a highly-visible money belt.

I still feel good about Phuket and so does the victim. But I'm not so sure about the *Gazette*.

The fact that the *Gazette* considers the victim's comments "remarkable" indicates that the newspaper is in danger of losing its unbiased reporter's perspective.

Let me ask you a question: Is the *Gazette* exaggerating this so-called "spate of crimes" against expats? Could this current "outrage" be the first example of a Phuket tabloid beat-up?

Nobody is saying that murders and muggings should be condoned. But if there is a "crime wave" taking place against expats, please prove it with a statistical analysis, or quote police who agree with what you insinuate.

Sensible campaigns by an informed local newspaper, based

on statistical "outrages", might achieve some good.

The latest victim of crime remains sane and sensible about his misfortune. So should the *Gazette*.

Alan,
Phukt City

Death is everywhere

I'd really appreciate it if people would stop dying so recklessly. Sure, if you're going to die quietly at home while sitting in a comfy arm chair, I have no problem with that, but it's all these deaths in high-speed smashes that really get to me.

I saw one guy with his neck wrapped around a lamppost the other day. It wasn't a pretty sight. The guy had come off his motorcycle. He must have been driving rather fast judging by the angle his neck was contorted to.

Every day the front pages of Thai newspapers have images of dead people and smashed vehicles. What possesses these people to speed around the island to their demises? And now that the high season has arrived, more and more people seem to be ignoring traffic lights, junctions and even the traffic police.

People have to die some time, but it would seriously help my sanity if I didn't have to see so much death. Please - less dying and more sensible driving.

Bernard Caravan
Kata

Hook me up

It was great to see that the government could ponied up to provide the Phuket ICT Center. Now, will anyone else step up and provide Internet access that is at least reliable?

Frazzled
Phuket City

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

Big drive for voter turnout

With the forthcoming elections, this is indeed an important month. The government has requested each provincial administration campaign to have voter turn-out reach at least 70% of eligible voters and for spoiled ballots to be fewer than 3% of the total.

To achieve this, I have asked the election board to clearly explain the new voting procedures to the public. I want people to get out and vote on December 23.

We have organized events with colleges and universities urging students aged 18 years old and up to vote. We have also been in contact with the Phuket Labor Office to ask for help from the private sector, such as hotels and restaurants, requesting them to give their staff paid leave to enable them to vote.

The government has announced that December 24 will be a public holiday for the whole of Thailand, thus allowing voters registered in other provinces more time to travel back to their home districts to vote without missing work.

On December 14, we will hold a big "get-out-and-vote" campaign in Phuket as part of a nationwide effort that day to help achieve the central government's target of 70% voter turn-out.

I recently met with Sawai Promjinda, Chairman of the Phuket Society of Disabled Persons. In Phuket, there are about 2,000 persons with various disabilities who are eligible to vote. Most of them are visually impaired, so for them we have prepared special ballots.

Economic impact: This elec-

The Governor's Letter

The last governor's letter of 2007 comes at a crucial juncture for Thailand – just before the December 23 general election. For the sake of the country, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit urges everybody with the right to vote to use it.

Gov Niran is confident that after the forthcoming elections the new central government will allocate increased funding to Phuket so that the island will be able to tackle important issues including tourism development, traffic, waste disposal and pollution in general.

Optimistic about 2008, Gov Niran also takes this opportunity to wish all *Gazette* readers a happy and prosperous new year.



registration forms]. When you think about how many hundreds of hotels there are in Phuket, you can begin to see that the total number of potential registrants is very high.

We hope this effort leads to more accurate accounting of the actual number of people living on the island.

Crime involving tourists: Almost every day I receive reports about crime, with some cases involving tourists. Phuket is now very different from in the past because we have people from every one of Thailand's 76 provinces living here. Wherever there are tourists, there will be some people who try and take advantage of the situation. This presents opportunities to drug dealers and others with criminal intentions. It's a great concern for me.

I still ask friends and people I know to take care if they go out at night – not only women, but men too. There have been many cases of muggings by motorcycle gangs occurring at about 2 am in the morning.

Best of luck for 2008: I would like to wish everyone in Phuket happiness and good luck for the new year. I hope that people will take care of their bodies as well as their minds so that they can live quality lives. My tip for the new year is to eat good food and exercise. Please take care of yourselves.

Niran Kalayanamit
Governor of Phuket

tion will have a definite impact on the Phuket economy, because the present central government has not allocated any budgets for provincial development projects so that we can effectively compete with neighboring countries.

We want to improve the island's infrastructure and move ahead with several mega-projects. I think that after we have a new central government, we will see improvements in this respect.

The three provinces in our economic development cluster – Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi – are expected to generate about 100 million baht in tourism revenue this year. In Phuket alone, we expect to generate about 80 million baht from some five million tourist visits. If you compare that to the country's entire tour-

ism revenue it's about half of the total amount, so we need and deserve more budget support than we currently receive.

Right now, we face a lot of problems getting needed support for our tourism industry. Phuket tourism is like a bubble waiting to burst. For example, we promoted tourism ourselves [through roadshows around the world] and got people to come here, but there are problems with the airport – it is not big enough to accommodate the planes carrying all the tourists who want to visit; there is also insufficient parking.

If we have about seven buses waiting to shuttle tourists from the airport, other vehicles have no space to park. We have a similar problem when three or four buses drop tourists off at the airport, creating long queues of

people waiting to check in and have their bags scanned.

It's the same at the immigration booths and passport control when a number of large planes land at the same time. The problem of the limousine drivers and metered-taxi drivers accosting tourists as they leave the airport is another long-standing issue that needs to be resolved.

We also have problems with traffic jams, pollution and garbage, all of which need to be addressed. We just haven't had an adequate budget since I took over as governor here.

Hidden population: After we launched the mobile-registration van at Bantjai Beach Resort & Spa on November 13, we had a lot of positive responses. On the first day, we had more than 100 people transfer to Phuket [house

Working in Thailand on a retirement visa

I plan to move to Thailand in 2008 and will arrive with a retirement visa.

As I cannot work on a retirement visa, I would like to know whether it is possible to get a work permit with the retirement visa if I decide to work or if the visa needs to be changed.

If so, what kind of visa should I apply for?

Kjell Oedegaarden
Norway

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

You can use the retirement visa for your stay here, but if you want to work, you must cancel your retirement visa and request the non-immigrant B visa from a Thai embassy or consul outside Thailand.

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities? Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.

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

Then you can apply for the work permit at the employment office when you are back in Thailand.

Orakarn Thongkaew, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:

We issue work permits for

any foreign candidates who hold non-immigrant B visas, as long as all the required documents for the work permit application are in order.

It doesn't matter if you had a retirement visa before as the retirement visa will be replaced by the non-immigrant B visa.

The 90-day report rule

I have a one-year retirement visa that was renewed recently. This time, I was told that I have to report to the office every 90 days.

When I got my first retirement visa, I did not have to do this. Why do I have to do it now?

Ross Gammon

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

The 90-day report rule has

actually been in existence for a long time, although the rule was not strictly enforced in the past.

The 90-day report rule applies to all foreigners staying in Thailand for more than 90 days at a time, whatever type of visa they are holding.

With the stricter enforcement of this rule, foreigners who do not report to immigration every 90 days will be fined when they leave the country.

Blocking public parking spaces

I would like to know if a person has the right to reserve a parking space on a public road. I live on a public road and my neighbor always parks his car on the street. His house doesn't have a carport.

He sometime puts chairs on the street to reserve that space for his car and doesn't allow anyone else to park there overnight. Is he allowed to do that?

Kangpong
Phuket City

Pol Maj Theerawat Liamswan, Inspector of Phuket City Traffic Police, replies:

He is allowed to park his car in that space just as anyone else can, but he cannot reserve the space expressly for himself.

We have seized many chairs, flower pots and traffic cones from people who have done the same as your neighbor. If you see this kind of problem, report it to us at 076-220919.



Just six weeks before this photo was taken, this dog was in agony with maggot-infested wounds covering its face. After treatment and care, the dog has made a recovery and is back to full health.

The war on critters: zap them with drugs

In the previous edition of Making Tracks I looked at the pests that can inflict life-threatening conditions on dogs and cats. All of these conditions are preventable, so this month I will take a look at what the drug companies have manufactured to help us win the war against critters.

Animal diseases that have been virtually eradicated in the West, such as parvo virus and canine distemper in dogs and cat flu in cats, are common in Asia.

All puppies and kittens should have a full course of vaccinations and at least their first annual booster.

Studies carried out in the US have concluded that it is unnecessary to have boosters every year as the animal will have sufficient immunity already. Some people argue that pumping live vaccines into an animal every year can be harmful. Local vets still believe it is better to vaccinate annually because of the preva-

lence of these diseases in Thailand. It is up to owners to make the choice.

Ticks and fleas that cause misery to animals and occasionally induce life-threatening conditions are easily controlled. I had a call this week from a monk to say that one of the temple dogs was sick. The dog was in surgery at a local vet fighting for its life suffering from advanced babesia, which is carried by ticks and is one of the biggest causes of dog death on the island.

The two most common products to tackle these pests are Frontline and Revolution. Both are available at veterinary surgeries on the island and at many pet shops. The most popular method is to buy sachets of liquid available in different sizes depending on the weight of the animal.

Once a month, you part the animals fur on its neck or between the shoulder blades and apply the liquid directly to the skin. You should apply the liquid to this area so that the animal cannot lick it off. It is also important not to bathe the animal for three days before and after application.

Frontline is also available in spray form and this will kill fleas instantly if the animal is infested. The sachets take effect after a day or two. Frontline Plus also kills flea eggs. Make sure you buy the correct application as some dog-flea products can be dangerous for cats.

Frontline does not protect against heartworm and an additional medication, such as Heartguard, should be used. Revolution claims to protect against heartworm.

Personally, I have found both Frontline and Revolution to be effective. You ought to try both with your pet to see which is most effective.

Screw-worm larvae or maggots that inevitably infect any animal with an open wound are easily dealt with, although any open wound should be attended to before it gets to this stage.

There is a powder available at vets' surgeries in small bottles that can be applied directly onto the wound. It is cheap and kills

maggots effectively. Some vets mix it with iodine to reach into deep wounds and flush maggots out. I often apply this powder to dogs with small wounds that are not already infected because it prevents maggots and helps dry and heal the injury.

If your dog develops a rash and some hair loss near the tail and on the lower back, it probably has a flea-bite allergy that should disappear after a few weeks using Frontline or Revolution. If your dog starts to lose hair elsewhere, then it may be infected with either sarcoptic mange or demodex mange.

You should take your dog to a vet and ask for a skin test to ascertain which form of mange the animal has because the treatments differ. Whichever form of mange it is, your vet will treat it with Ivomec – orally on a daily basis for demodex mange;

orally or by injection on a weekly basis for sarcoptic mange. Only sarcoptic mange can be transmitted from dog to dog.

Ivomec has yet to be approved for use on dogs and cats in the West, but it has been used throughout the world for treatment of parasites on other animals for years. It is the active ingredient in Heartguard. It can be dangerous if used on collie breeds, but is safe on all other dogs providing the dosage instructions are followed.

Many people have commented to me that over the past few years, there has been a marked reduction in the number of stray dogs suffering from mange. This is mostly because thousands of dogs have been treated with Ivomec by the Soi Dog Foundation.

Some scientific papers claim it is ineffective against ticks, but in Phuket, we can see evidence that it does kill them. Although the injection can cause pain to a dog, the product is inexpensive.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at www.soidog.org, email john@soidog.org or call 081-788-4222.



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In The Stars

by Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your personal pleasure becomes all-important as the month of December progresses. You will be ready to burn candles at both ends. Set aside time to decide exactly in which direction you want to head next year and make your resolutions. Although success has been enjoyed by many during the past year, there's room for improvement in several areas.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You couldn't wish for a better ending to the year. Many of your dreams have come true during 2007 and confidence should be optimal. Your search for spiritual fulfillment is probably not yet satisfied, but this week could bring some answers. Pisces has some interesting advice to offer, but Cancer won't make much sense. The number 7 is lucky on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If you have been presuming that family are happy to go along with anything you suggest, you could have a rude awakening this week. A modest mutiny is forecast to take place on Tuesday or Wednesday, so put others' needs first. If you are single, you will be ready to make the most of your independence during the coming holiday season. The scent of peppermint sharpens your instincts.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Both career and studies fall under auspicious astral conditions this week. If you have doubted your abilities, you will be pleased by tangible results and more money in the bank should mean that your holiday plans can include some pampering. A visit to the spa this week will set you up for a busy conclusion to the year. If you're single, look out for a Libran who is about to make a subtle approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Someone who owes you money is about to come up with yet another excuse for lack of payment. You should set a final deadline and accept no more delays. Plans for holiday celebrations with family are likely to change at the last moment. Your ability to spot a bargain is useful during a shopping trip this weekend, but don't go overboard with spending. The number 4 can bring fortune on Wednesday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): December promises to continue being a motivating month for you, but you will be tempted to spend a few quiet days this week. Leo is becoming infatuated with you but probably has too much emotional baggage to bring into a relationship. Down-to-earth Capricorn needs some encouragement to make an approach. Money matters are concluded satisfactorily on Tuesday after an awkward situation has been smoothed over. The color lavender encourages patience.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Paddling your own canoe is definitely the fastest way to achieve results this week. While Aries may try to convince you that they can be productive, their thoughts will be on other matters. Love affairs fall under the spotlight midweek when you are surprised by your partner's ambivalent attitude towards something important. The number 8 is lucky on Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Your problem-solving abilities will come in handy early next week, particularly when Aquarius suddenly needs help. However, multitasking Cancerians should set some quality time aside to attend to important administrative tasks. Romance is subject to stormy skies this weekend when you learn that someone is not as interested as you in becoming involved.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Just when you thought that you had enough on your plate, another responsibility looms on the horizon. As your resources are overstretched, you must find a way to refuse this latest challenge. Sunday should prove to be a happy family day as an unexpected reunion is forecast.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A burning financial issue demands attention from you this weekend. Your tendency to avoid confrontation will only make matters worse, so deal with this problem now. Others could be assuming that you will lighten their workload during the holiday season. You should make it clear ahead of time that relaxation is on your agenda as well.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A swings-and-roundabouts atmosphere could leave you feeling dizzy this week. This is not the time to rely on others to deliver on promises; wait until the New Year before trying to finalize agreements, especially if they relate to property. Relocation has the green light towards the end of January, so stall on amber in the meantime.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You should not imagine that you know what others are thinking. Friends are more sympathetic than you realize and Taurus can be helpful if you allow them. As December draws to a close, your mood improves and a more positive outlook will enable you to start the New Year well. A minor windfall on Thursday will allow you to be more generous with holiday gifts.

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Looking out for number one

In my previous two articles about corporate information security, I steered towards two trends and industry buzz-words: risk management and data-loss prevention.

A risk management strategy involves accepting that bad things will happen and planning for them, instead of futilely trying to avoid them.

Unfortunately, what the big-security-vendor, snake-oil salesmen currently peddle is nothing more than risk identification, what Andrew Jaquith refers to as the dreaded "hamster wheel of pain".

These people are only good at telling you that you have problems and that they'll be happy to perpetually help you identify and fix them – for a large fee, of course.

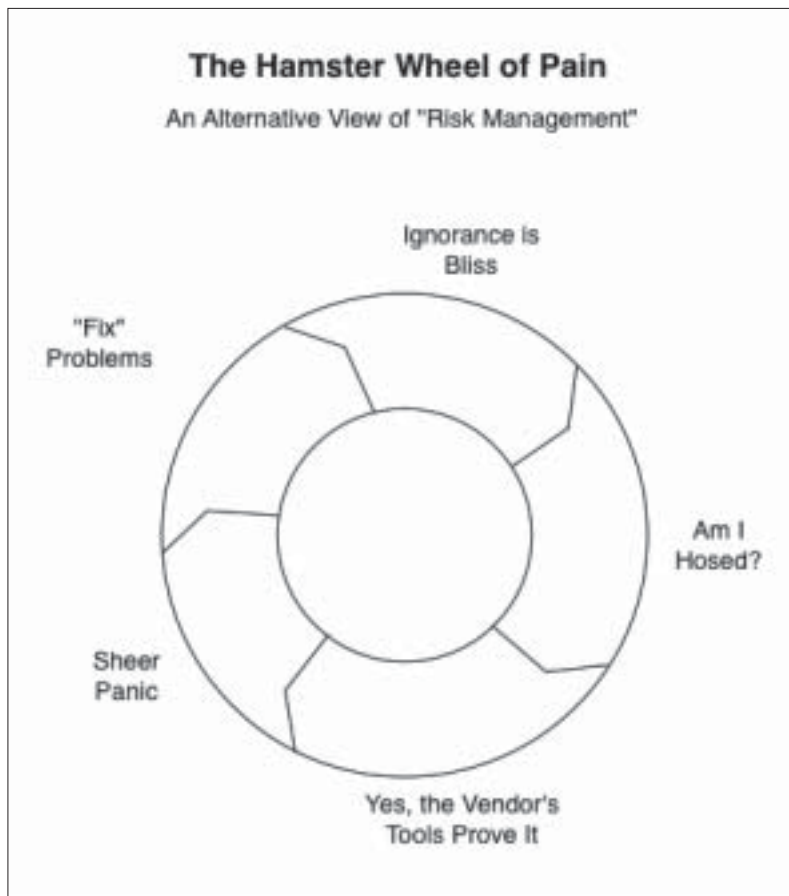
If your security vendor can't answer simple questions such as, "Is my security better this year?," "What am I getting for my money?," and "How does my security compare with that of my peers?" then hold on to your wallet and keep your money safe.

Risk audits, risk assessments and risk modeling are all noteworthy endeavors, but without metrics – including the ability to make quantifiable comparisons among peers and competitors – then risk management is a hollow and meaningless term that is constantly misused.

Data-loss prevention (also known as data-leak prevention/protection, information loss/leak prevention/protection, extrusion prevention, content monitoring and filtering/protection) works by keeping track of information and its whereabouts.

The notion of a security perimeter for protection is difficult to pin down and as a result, tracking valuable information at the file-object level makes sense.

The bad news for the security vendors is that they had to pay over the odds to acquire the technology to incorporate into their solution products.



Software vendors typically sell only risk-identification solutions, creating the inevitable "Hamster Wheel of Pain" while leaving you none the wiser as to how to actually solve your security problems.

Symantec, for example, paid US\$350 million to acquire California-based data-loss-prevention specialist firm Vontu – even while undergoing its own global downsizing effort.

The good news is that this area of security is becoming commoditized so you will barely see a hiccup of a price hike.

Fortunately, risk management and data-loss prevention are

both easy to implement at the consumer level.

You have a pretty basic idea of what your assets are: personal information, such as email and photos; intellectual property produced during your career; and private information, such as details relating to bank and credit card accounts.

Almost all data leaks are caused by human error. Nick

Selby, an analyst with the 451 Group, divvies it up as follows: 98% stupid or inadvertent actions; 1.5% due to modestly-skilled thieves and 0.5% because of targeted attacks by trained, skilled users with a motive.

As far as data-loss prevention is concerned, you control your own destiny.

The degree of protection you need depends on your Internet surfing habits. I don't open emails from unknown sources; I don't click on XXX links; I don't download cracked (pirated) software; I don't download free stuff using BitTorrent; I don't play fantasy role-play games, indulge in online gambling or watch porn; and I regularly run full-system scans and do backups.

But, of course, as with most things, most people don't do as I do – the risk you want to take is up to you.

Here's part one of a list of things you can do to protect yourself:

Antivirus Software and Personal Firewall

You can't be on the Internet and have no data exchange. The minimum security software protection is antivirus software and a personal firewall.

If you are a careful Internet surfer, you can easily get by with the free, built-in firewalls that

come with Windows XP, Mac OS X and all Linux flavors, as well as with free and open-source antivirus software, such as Clam or AVG.

If you are a "bad" surfer and do one of the bad things that I don't do, I highly recommend spending up to 3,000 baht or so on an endpoint protection solution because you are at risk from spybots, rootkits, phishing attacks and more. You will need to protect yourself to at least stave off the inevitable.



Automatic Updates

Every major operating system (OS) and software maker provides automatic updates, which include security patches. Check to make sure this feature is turned on and use it.

I use the option to be notified before any type of installation occurs, mainly because I want to catch Microsoft trying to download unwanted crap onto my systems.

OS vendors also offer system backup and recovery software, which is fine, but must be tested by the user before relying on it.

Back up regularly

Fortunately, if the bad guys compromise your laptop or PC, they aren't interested in destroying your data – they just want to use it for as long as possible.

Still, there are hard-drive failures and accidental deletions to worry about. I backup once a month and in between, I backup valuable files to a thumb drive.

It's easy once you get into the habit, and I suggest you do the same.

Ignacio Evans is an information security consultant based in SE Asia who tries to be in Phuket whenever he can. Email him with questions, complaints or comments at: iggy69.e@gmail.com

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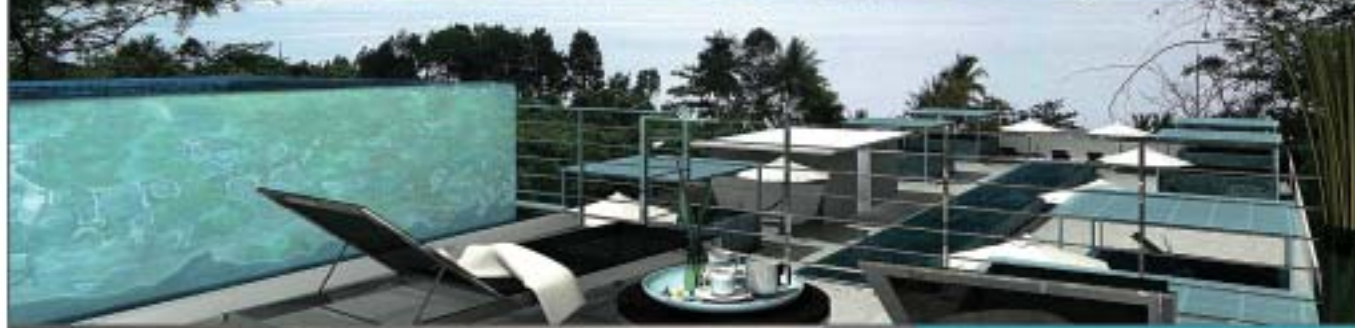

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Retirees feeling inflationary pinch

The outlook for 2008 is difficult to assess. Some areas are obvious. For example, in most of the US, the residential housing market will continue to deteriorate. Many housing loans taken out in recent years are scheduled to reset to higher interest rate levels in 2008 as part of the original agreement.

However, this concept of issuing mortgage loans at "teaser" interest rates for an agreed initial period with higher interest rates later is not exclusive to the US. One Thai banker who I have known for years telephoned me for an objective view on a situation. She had a Swedish client who was working in Bangkok with a salary being paid in baht. He wanted mortgage finance of 3 million baht for the purchase of a condominium.

The client was under the impression that he could receive finance from a Swedish bank or, if the finance package was to be via a Thai bank, that a Swedish bank would be prepared to finance the transaction.

The Thai bank was prepared to advance a loan based on 4% interest for the first year followed by 7% in subsequent years. The Swedish bank was prepared to finance the loan at a fixed rate of 5%. If the transaction had been on a level playing field, that is both banks lending in baht, then the Swedish offer would have been far superior.

However, it was unlikely that the Swedish bank would have been remotely interested in taking a mortgage on a Bangkok condominium. It would have required other security for the loan. Even assuming this was available, it would mean borrowing money in one currency to fund a loan in another currency.



Foreigners in Thailand are starting to feel the pinch of inflation and the rising value of the baht. Many are dependent on remittances from their home countries to fund their lifestyles, which often include trips to high-end shopping malls and lavish restaurants.

As each repayment would involve foreign-exchange charges and bank charges from Thailand to Sweden because the salary was being earned in Thai baht, it became more efficient to simply have a Thai mortgage.

However, if the loan had been for 30 million baht instead of 3 million baht, a different conclusion may have been recommended, but much more information would have been necessary.

Many foreigners in Thailand are dependent on remittances from their home countries to con-

tinue their lifestyles in Thailand. Already, one can see from letters being published in the Thai press that American expats are feeling the pinch from a rising baht and falling US dollar.

Naturally, rich Americans are able to shrug this off, but many retirees are already unsure how they are going to fund their lifestyles and, more commonly, satisfy the Thai Immigration department's income/lump-sum requirement.

The strains on the baht to appreciate further are obvious. The currency is now running on two-tier pricing offshore and onshore and the difference between the two is around 10%.

Other Asian countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, India and China, are also feeling the

pressure. All of them have massive current-account surpluses with continually rising foreign-exchange reserves. Naturally, this is creating pressure for increases in the value of their currencies. This is not just going to be against the US dollar, but many other currencies as well.

Any person retiring in Asia must include in their calculations a significant percentage of appreciation of the local currency against their home currency. In my opinion, people holding pounds sterling should anticipate an exchange rate of 50:1. This is not a new idea – it is a philosophy I have held for 10 years. Higher exchange rates to date are merely a bonus.

Another significant factor is inflation. We live in an era in

which inflationary pressures are supposedly muted in most countries. A jaunt around the Internet or a quick glance at the statistics published weekly in the *Economist* will bear this out. Obviously, however, there are exceptions, such as Russia.

However, as Fund Manger Andy Brough of Schroders said as guest host on CNBC's *Europe Today*, "It is funny how everything the [British] government includes in its basket are the only things that don't seem to go up in price."

Although inflation is generally much lower than it was in the 1960s and 1970s, for the vast majority of countries it must still be taken into account.

Inflation is the loss of the buying power of money. Real pressures are being felt globally, especially in the areas of energy and food prices.

Note the vast increase in the cost of living in Phuket over the past decade and this is while Thailand is not suffering from high inflation rates. As with everywhere else in the world, it is the compounding effect of inflation year after year that does the damage.

Retirees are most at risk, especially if they have been too optimistic about the amount with which they can retire.

People are living longer and this means that on retirement, capital sums must be much larger.

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



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ON THE MOVE

Athipa "Pam" Bunnak, from Bangkok, has been appointed Resident Manager of Layan Beach Resort & Spa Village. K. Pam has a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Business Management at the University of New South Wales (NSW), Sydney, Australia.

She worked in Australia for 20 years, including as secretary to the chairman of Health Cover NSW, formerly the NSW State Compensation Board, before returning to Thailand in 2004.



Pol Lt Col Prasert Sri-kunrat, 39, from Lopburi, has been promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Phuket Marine Police. A graduate in electronics engineering from the Royal Thai Naval Academy, Lt Col Prasert's career with the Marine Police has spanned 15 years. During that time he has served as Chief of Marine Police in Krabi and in Chumphon. Before his latest promotion, he was Inspector of the Ranong Marine Police for almost two years.



Silla "Pla" Svetsreni, 31, from Bangkok, has been appointed Public Relations Manager of Phuket Square Co Ltd, which is responsible for the management of Jungceylon, Patong.

K. Pla graduated from the Faculty of Communication Arts at Bangkok University.

She has more than nine years' experience in public relations positions, including working for public relation agencies and in the consumer products and property industries.



Barcelona Auto beefs up local BMW market

By Janyaporn Morel

Barcelona Auto, an authorized dealer and service center for BMW, officially opened its doors in Phuket on November 30 to sell and service BMW cars and motorcycles. The showroom services the island and surrounding provinces.

Barcelona Auto President Vithit Leenutapong said that the BMW showroom and service center on Thepkrasattri Rd has opened in Phuket to cater to the premium-car market and the growing number of BMW vehicle owners in and around Phuket, with sales of up to 80 cars expected in 2008.

According to K. Vithit, Phuket and its neighboring provinces – Krabi, Ranong and Phang Nga – are enjoying growth in the premium-car market despite the overall unfavorable economic climate, thanks to tourism and commercial markets.

Officially endorsed by BMW (Thailand), Barcelona Auto has been in operation since August, built on one rai of land along Thepkrasattri Rd in Phuket City at a cost of 50 million baht. The local market has responded favorably to the new showroom with higher-than-predicted sales of BMW cars and motorcycles.

"About 50% of customers at Barcelona Auto are expatriates who reside and work in Phuket and nearby provinces, as well as high-income earners such as executives and hoteliers who trust the BMW brand," said K. Vithit.

"We expect to sell 80 cars in 2008, or an average of seven to eight cars a month," he added.

BMW Group Thailand President Michael Kordys said that the Barcelona Auto showroom is an important addition to the national BMW sales and service network.

"The addition of Barcelona Auto will enhance the brand's strength and give it a competitive edge in the premium-car market by focusing on sustainable profitability and growth while enhancing customer satisfaction of the BMW brand as a whole," he said.

Michael Kordys said that the Phuket service center offers a full range of BMW services for BMW cars and motorcycles, including Motorrad motorcycle accessories and services. The BMW Service Center also offers financial services and motor insurance, as well as other special privileges to meet individual budget requirements.

"The Barcelona Auto policy is to emphasize quality services

– especially premium after-sales service – as well as to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of its experienced technicians, improving their skills through constant training at international standards in order to provide the best possible service to customers," K. Vithit said.

"I am confident that Barcelona Auto's 30 years of experience in the auto industry will help enhance the market here and enable us to expertly respond to customers' needs." K. Vithit added.

Captivating the crowd during the grand opening was the BMW 330 Coupe with a price tag of 7.2 million baht, of which just a few are available in Thailand.

"As Phuket is a popular tourist destination and is experiencing one of the highest growths in the Thailand property market, we believe that Barcelona Auto is a welcome addition to the island's luxury lifestyle," Mr. Kordys summed up.

To contact Barcelona Auto call 076-236-688 or 076-236-699, ext. 101-102 (sales), ext. 112-113 (after-sales services), ext. 114-115 (spare parts and accessories). Fax: 076-236-700. The showroom is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am until 5:30 pm.

Phuket companies score well at national property awards

BANGKOK: Phuket-based property companies took home four of 13 awards at the 2007 Thailand Property Awards, held in Bangkok December 1.

The Yamu was awarded the Best Resort Villa Development prize, Royal Phuket Marina won in the Best Resort Condo Development category.

The Lighthouse Club Green Development Award went to West Sands in Mai Khao. Siam Real Estate was awarded the Best Agent Website prize for www.siamrealestate.com

All of the remaining awards, aside from two that went to Samui-based properties, went to companies based in Bangkok.

Winners were selected from 112 entries by a team of 22 judges from a cross-section of industry players after a two-stage nomination process that whittled down the entries from an original 260 nominees. The Thailand Property Awards, organized by Ensign Media, was first held last year.

The awards aim to create awareness, showcase the best of Thailand's real estate and promote the quality of Thailand's real estate, construction, architecture, interior design and industry professional services, say organizers of the awards.

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LEAGUE**

PATONG: To start, a correction from last week's report: the new season is expected to start mid-January, not February. Any bars wanting to enter a team need to get in touch with league secretary Steen (Queen Mary Bar) as soon as possible.

In December 4 play, league leaders Queen Mary started strongly against Offshore by sweeping the first 5 singles. They went on to lose the final singles before sweeping all the doubles. The beers took their toll, however, and Offshore closed the beer leg with Queen Mary still more than 200 left!

In other matches, the homeless wonders of Market Bar pulled off a surprise win over Shakers and Piccadilly had a solid win over Soi Kebsup neighbors Simply Red.

Send match information to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this column.

December 4 results: Shakers 3 Market Bar* 6; Valhalla 2 Dogs Bollocks* 7; Simply Red 2 Piccadilly* 7; Offshore* 1 Queen Mary 8; Beach House = bye; (* = winner of beer leg).

Postponed November 20 match: Market Bar 5 Simply Red* 4.

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (34); 2. Dogs Bollocks (33); 3. Piccadilly (30); 4. Offshore (25); 5. Shakers (21); 6. Market Bar (19); 7. Simply Red (16); 8. Valhalla (9); 9. Beach House (4).

December 18 match ups: Offshore v Piccadilly; Dogs Bollocks v Shakers; Queen Mary v Valhalla; Simply Red v Beach House; Market Bar = bye. (home team first, last game of the season).

A Roll of the Dice

By Scott Mallon

Every boxing event, no matter where it takes place or who the combatants are, is a hit or miss affair. Fighters are human, as are the organizers, thus you never really know what is going to transpire.

Sometimes match-ups that are hyped up to be fantastic are dreadfully boring, while a couple of unknown battlers leave an audience awestruck. Any number of variables can contribute to the unexpected – which is what keeps boxing fans coming back for more.

Some of the shows I've covered in Thailand left me questioning why I even shelled out the cab fare to get to them – the fights were garbage and a few of the visiting fighters weren't ready to set foot in a boxing ring, let alone in front of a crowd – however small.

In Thailand, the chances of a visiting fighter defeating a Thai are always the same, slim to none. That's how the promoters and matchmakers want it – minimal risk.

In boxing circles it's called "legalized fight-fixing", and it happens all over the world; in small shows and big ones (Barerra – Fana). Supposedly, it's a necessary evil.

But legalized fight-fixing detracts from the roll of the dice, sort of like having an ultrasound done to find out whether your unborn child is a boy or a girl. Saying "It's a boy" after an ultrasound doesn't quite have the same snap to it as it does after a nine-month wait.

Yet, I always go to the fights – driven by some unseen force, I go – I must go. I don't want to miss a fight actually worth watching, for example when, by



The late Lito Sisnorio of the Philippines. His death in the ring prompted an outcry over the role of foreign journeymen boxers in the Thai boxing world, but now things are pretty much back to normal.

some miracle, the visiting fighter beats the long odds and wins for once. I'm a boxing writer; I'm also a fan.

Lately, I've started rooting for the foreigner; just once I want to see some poor guy who's supposed to take a beating surprise everyone, including his own corner, and win.

One fight in particular remains indelibly etched in my mind; Fahpetchnoi Sor Chitpattana (Thailand) versus Lito Sisnorio (Philippines) for the WBC Youth Flyweight title. I had seen both fighters fight before and remembered Sisnorio as a sloppy fighter, but still very green. Frankly, I didn't think he was deserving of his ranking as there were far better fighters in the division, but that's boxing. Sisnorio had lost his last two bouts and had not beaten a single fighter with a decent pedigree.

The fight showed every sign of being yet another easy win for the Thai until...wham, Sisnorio dropped Sor Chitpattana late in

the first round with a short right hand. The stunned crowd was silent until Sor Chitpattana pulled his crumpled carcass from the canvas and showed he was capable of continuing. Most at ringside believed it was a lucky punch. Note: There really is no such thing as a lucky punch – if a punch was thrown it was done so for a reason.

When round two begins it is clear that Sor Chitpattana is apprehensive of Sisnorio's power and has become tentative.

Crack – another big shot from Sisnorio and down goes Sor Chitpattana. He is up at the count of seven but eats punch after punch while pressed against the ropes. Somehow, he makes it to the end of the round and again, the Thai audience has hope. "Of course, it can't be true," they think to themselves. "It's not going to happen to our guy. We'll come back – we always do."

I on the other hand had my own thoughts...

"Just once! Just once the guy brought in to lose will win – and win big!"

Sisnorio shuffled away

from the Thai and looked over to his corner.

"What should I do?" he asked in Tagalog. "Should I knock him out?"

Immediately I felt my blood boiling and spider senses tingling. It couldn't be true. Surely, he wasn't paid to lose. Did he accidentally knock down Sor Chitpattana without really trying? The round ended and my questions remained unanswered until after the bout.

In rounds three and four, Sor Chitpattana regained his senses, using his jab to put distance between Sisnorio and himself. He did what he was supposed to and stayed out of trouble. As the seconds ticked by, his confidence began to return.

"Damn," I thought. "This always happens. This Filipino is going to fade, and the Thai will win the late rounds to snatch the victory."

Just over halfway through round five, Sisnorio landed a crushing right hook that sent Sor Chitpattana into the canvas face first like he had been hit with a piledriver.

The referee didn't bother to count – the fight was over and the #5 fighter in the world (the WBC's world) was sent crashing unceremoniously into unconsciousness by a fighter boxing fans around the world have never heard of.

What was he asking his corner?

"Fahpetchnoi is my friend. I didn't know what I was supposed to do," he said.

Later I was told Sisnorio was inexperienced and had never won in Thailand. He was unsure if it was OK to knockout his opponent. Huh? Say again?

Sor Chitpattana would go 2-3 in his next five fights and is now ranked twenty-ninth; Sisnorio would die less than a year later from injuries suffered in the ring against former WBC flyweight champ Chatchai Sasakul.

Every fight is a roll of the dice.

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QSI students race ahead in fun run

KATHU: About 150 runners from five international schools in Phuket, including students, guardians and teachers, joined Quality Schools International (QSI) for its Sixth Annual QSI Fun Run, with a one-kilometer race and a 6.5km race starting at Bang Wad Dam on December 1.

The first, second and third place runners in the 1km race for 0-7-year-old boys were Sorlsit from Dowroong Wittaya School, Tim from British International School, Phuket (BIS) and Matthew from BIS respectively.

In the girls' competition, Pattoman Rawangsaan and Waree Dee Paan from Kajornkiet-suksa School (KJ) took first and second place, while Tanticha Muangthai came in third.

In the 1km race for 8-12 year olds, Guy from Dowroong Wittaya School came in first, Hugo from QSI was second and Jack from QSI was third. Siriyan from Dowroong Wittaya School was the first girl, with classmates Boosarin and Nattaya taking second and third places respectively.

The winner of the 1km race for 13-17 year old boys was Mikael from QSI.

The top three in the 6.5km race for 0-10 year old boys were Kitsana from KJ, Num from QSI and Sang Min from QSI, finishing first, second and third respectively.

Solene from QSI won the girls' race, with Suchanan and Kamonnate from KJ coming in second and third respectively.

First-prize trophies were given to the QSI team for winning the competition overall, while the second-place trophy went to Dowroong Wittaya School, with BIS netting third prize. All runners received commemorative medals from the race.

Jelik wins King's Cup

By Martin Rijkuris

PHUKET: After five days of racing, Frank Pong's *Jelik* silenced all critics and claimed six wins of eight races to win the 21st King's Cup Regatta, fending off stiff opposition from *Quantum Racing*.

Clear blue skies and 8 to 10 knots of northeasterly breeze greeted the sailors on day one of racing.

In the Racing Class, *Jelik* enjoyed a long beat to windward and even more the long downwind slide to cover the 31-mile course in 3 hours and 25 minutes. This earned them a resounding first and fastest in race 1.

After day one's passage race around the islands, the sailors got down to the serious business of racing on multiple windward/leeward courses on day two.

Several collisions on the course saw a huge attrition rate in the Firefly class, with four boats retiring.

In the Firefly one-design class, Henry Kaye was hell bent on making up for *Mamba's* retirement on day one and went on to secure victory in Races 2 and 3 today. A collision between Bill Phelps' *Twin Sharks* and Peter Dyers' *SEA Properties* saw their regatta end prematurely.

Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* had an incident with the press boat and Chris Jongorius's *The Frog* retired with damage.

Before racing got underway on day three, a royal sailpast was held to honor HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday.

Jelik proved once again they can win windward/leeward races and took a commanding lead in the overall points.

After the lay day on December 6 to conduct minor repairs and regroup the troops, racing in the 21st King's Cup Regatta resumed December 7.

Tim Milner's catamaran *Seekronghuk* was the biggest casualty of the day when the spin-



Defying the odd and silencing all doubters, Frank Pong's *Jelik* was the surprise of the regatta, winning six out of eight races and claiming the title at the 21st Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Photo: Sail-world.com

naker sheet jammed just as a strong gust came through, causing the boat to capsize right at the finish line.

No injuries were reported.

On the final day, under pressure for a perfect start in strong winds, *Quantum Racing* crossed the start line just three seconds before the start horn sounded, leaving *Jelik* to sail off round the course and win the 21st King's Cup Regatta.

In the Sportsboat class, Scott Duncanson's Phuket 8 *Raimon Land* wrapped up the title the day before and did not compete on the final day.

At the start of the day, three yachts were within range of winning the Premier Cruising class. The start was hotly contested and sail selection and configuration in strong breezes was critical.

Geoff Hill's *Strewth* mastered the heavy conditions and was forced to wait 20-odd minutes for David Ross's class-leader *Frangipani Girl* to cross the finish line. This gave Hill's

race to preserve the boat instead. In their absence, Tani Bassadone skippering the *Swan 42 La Samudra* took top honors to finish second overall by one point.

In IRC 3, Fredrick Roswold's classic IOR racer *Wings* dominated the class by posting four consecutive wins.

Henry Kaye's crew on *Mamba* put on a fine display of boat handling and restraint when needed to firmly secure overall victory with five wins and a second place in the Firefly one-design class.

After pushing hard all week, Christopher Edwards' *Spirit of Isuzu* excelled to win the final race and the class series.

Dave Wales' *The Sting* led the class throughout most of the regatta, but fifth place saw them drop to second place overall. Second place for Peter Ball on *Summersalt* had the crew doing backflips as it rewarded them with third place overall after a closely fought series amongst old and new friends.

For full race results visit www.kingscup.com

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

RAWAI: Work on the 75-million-baht The Club and Spa Village development on 1.5 rai in Soi Tristar, in Saiyuan, is 20% complete and the project is on schedule for completion by the end of next year.

Once complete, the development will be a low-rise community, comprising two one-story, three-bedroom houses; one two-story, four-bedroom house and two two-story, three-bedroom houses.

The homes will range in living space from 380 square meters to 400sqm and be situated on plots ranging from 440sqm to 880sqm. Prices start at 15.2 million baht.

Each of the homes will have a private pool and views of Chalong Bay or Rawai Beach. Each bedroom in the villas will have an en-suite bathroom and walk-in closet.

"We have designed the homes like a spa, with a relaxation area in each of the house's center, like a club for the whole family. Our design is in a modern, tropical style, which suits the people who want to live in Phuket," said Authanop Pankamnerd, Civil Engineer and Managing Director of Authanop Engineering Co Ltd.

"Much emphasis has been put on the design to create a relaxing, spa-like environment in the center of the home, which is surrounded by separate pavilions to give residents space and privacy.

"The swimming pool will be 5x10 meters and set in the center with the bedrooms set around it.

"The house will feature a lot of water, including a large Jacuzzi bath and many water features throughout, giving the house a fresh, spa-like ambiance," he added.

"Our project is located behind the Mangosteen Resort and Spa, which is a quiet location and attractive for people who like privacy and would like to live among tropical surroundings. They will also have access to the Mangosteen Resort's facilities," K. Authanop said.

"The houses will have an

Home spa concept under construction

area for activities for the whole family, including an upstairs sala, where they can enjoy alfresco dining with barbecue parties, sea views and the sea breeze.

"All homes will have built-in furniture, which is included in the price," he added.

K. Authanop explained that the project is receiving a warm welcome by people looking for private family homes. "The first show house is complete and it has already been reserved.

"It's suitable for people who like to stay at home and enjoy family living. We assure them that the homes will be in a secure environment. We will have security guards on duty 24 hours and each home will be fitted with an alarm that will alert the guardhouse," he said.

K. Authanop added that compared with other projects in the area, The Club and Spa Village is considered good value for money.

"Our company has been a construction contractor for many years and all construction materials used in the project will be of high quality only. The floors will be hardwood and all other wood used in the homes will be teak.


"The roofs will be made from Canadian cedar," he added.

All design, architecture work and construction of The Club and Spa Village is being done by Authanop Engineering Co Ltd.

For more information contact the project's sales office at 23/110 Moo 5, Rassada, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel/Fax: 076-254825. Mobile: 081-8950750, 084-6252811. Email: authanop@gmail.com, authanop@hotmail.com.




Water features prominently to create a relaxing spa-like home environment. The central pool is surrounded by the bedrooms in The Club and Spa Village homes.



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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

When is a wall not a wall? When it's a segmental retaining wall. If you're looking to build a wall to hold back soil or rocks from a house or area, or if you want something a bit different to decorate your garden, Phuket Cement Co Ltd might have just the thing.

After teaming up with the Canadian company Risi Stone Systems, a pioneer and leader in the field of segmental retaining walls, Phuket Cement is championing these walls as functional decorative features.

Phuket Cement creates cement bricks that have the appearance of stone. Charin Thumrongkiatkul, managing director of Phuket Cement, said, "Our products are more than just walls. Most people wouldn't think that walls could be decorative. When many people think of a wall, they just think of cement, but there is so much more that we can do."

K. Charin added that the walls are easy to install and can be designed to complement the features of a customer's house and garden.

The walls are durable and last longer than conventional walls while also being quicker to install.

The walls are constructed by locking together mass-produced concrete blocks via a

Paving the way



Pisa bricks are easy to install and have the appearance of quarried stones. The bricks interlock and are ideal for creating grade changes in a landscape.

tongue-and-groove system. There are a number of different wall products available and each concrete block is made in Phuket.

DuraHold is a type of wall used to protect a land face. The low cost of installation and maintenance of DuraHold walls

makes them suitable for landscaping, erosion control and protective facing. The walls can put at an angle, near vertical, and the blocks are segmented to create a random block pattern.

"This is quite suitable for Phuket because the most popu-

lar areas to live and build houses are on or beside hills. Many people do not feel comfortable in those areas after the recent landslide in Patong," said K. Charin.

A DuraHold wall can be up to 10 meters high and the technology has been used to build

walls at Plookpanya School and along Klong Bang Yai.

StackStone, or split 'n' stack, is a technology that can be used to build a wall in a garden or for a patio. The walls are easy to build and can be installed without professional help. The bricks lock together and no adhesive is needed. StackStone walls are rock-like in appearance and can be built in a curve-shape to enclose a flower bed or other garden feature, for example.

Also easy to install are Pisa bricks, which have the appearance of quarried stones and are suitable for grade changes in a landscape or garden. Pisa walls require little maintenance. Rows of walls can be built parallel to each other, each wall higher than the wall in front to create a "step" effect, with the space between the walls filled with soil and turf, flower beds or another landscaping feature.

Phuket Cement offers a delivery service for all of the products offered and an engineer is available for consultation to discuss any project a customer may have in mind.

For more information contact Phuket Cement, 46/26 Village 6, Prachasamakkee Rd, Rassada. Tel: 076-526024-5, 076-526-045-6. Email: phucemco@phuket.ksc.co.th

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Keeping Phuket plants PC

What is a minority group, anyway? I've never quite understood them. If it's just a group of people who are different from the rest, then I hereby suggest fat Yorkshiremen as the latest trend in minority groups. We could even apply to the EU for funding, demanding free beer tokens to maintain and uphold our minority status.

I once had a friend who was a dwarf. I think "dwarf" is actually a politically correct description; that's how he referred to himself. He didn't live in an enchanted house in the middle of the forest with a gorgeous nubile maiden, or have six friends who were equally lacking in stature or burst into song at the drop of a hat, with his mining pick perched on his shoulder.

No, he was just short. Very short. Steve was probably the tiniest person I've ever known, and what's more he was rather proud of his height. He was always first in the queue at the *Snow White* pantomime auditions (sincerely) so that he could indulge in the above activities. He was even involved in the British tradition of dwarf-tossing on a number of occasions.

He had no problem choosing the vocabulary to describe himself. He didn't call himself "vertically challenged" or "physically disabled", and certainly not "special" as he would have head-butted, full-on in the groin anybody who used that word to describe him. Steve really was that small and happy to call himself a dwarf.

So why does the rest of the politically correct world feel they must take it upon themselves to vanquish any word of this ilk from the English language? As this is after all a gardening column, I feel that it's important to call a spade a spade. That word has probably been banned, too.

The dwarf white bauhinia is a hardy member of the orchid tree family that blooms year-round.
Photo: toptropicals.com



At least spades are garden-related. But dwarfs? Well, there is the dwarf white bauhinia, or *kaa-long* in Thai. It's part of a much bigger group – the orchid tree family. The dwarf's most common relative elsewhere is probably the Hong Kong orchid tree, producing the flower used on the Hong Kong flag.

They are an incredibly striking group of trees, with flowers that leap out at you. Some of the colors are so vivid they're used to make natural dyes. With over 300 species in the group, from a distance some of them could be mistaken for orchids, but not this one – it doesn't show off the way its cousins do.

Unusually, the dwarf white bauhinia is originally from this part of the world, rather than another continent – its original home is just south of the border, in Malaysia. However, it's well suited to Thailand and has become well-established here. It's even been adopted as the provincial flower of Satun.

This is a perfect little tree for small gardens and places where you don't want other plants completely taking over. It will grow to only about two or three meters, and won't take up too much space.

This unassuming plant produces fairly small, white flowers that look like vaguely like snowflakes hanging on the branches. Sometimes it's called the snowy orchid tree, despite the fact that the flowers only have five petals compared with the snowflake having six. The leaves are easy to spot as they have a twin-lobed shape, resembling an ox-hoof.

The bauhinia acuminata, as those lovers of Latin call it, grows enthusiastically in full sun or partial shade.

The tree can grow in most types of moist, well-drained soils. Even sandy soils are fine, but give the plant plenty of water. With the right conditions, it will flower almost continually – it doesn't seem to tire of doing this.

The little tree will naturally

develop several trunks over time and has to be trained to grow from a single trunk if that's what you

want. I prefer the natural look and to let it decide for itself what shape it wants to be. The branches will naturally droop a bit as the tree grows, so a little pruning to keep it strong is needed.

Pruning is often advised only after the blooms disappear, but as they never do here, it's difficult to know the ideal time. The best advice I can give is to prune after your second or third beer – not too many to affect your judgment, but enough to gather a little enthusiasm for the task.

Bear in mind that this tree is a dwarf, so it will never actually reach the dizzy heights of some of its taller relatives. Like many of its human counterparts, it's probably quite happy it's a dwarf. This one's a bit more difficult to toss, though.

Bloomin' Bert can be contacted by email at: bert@bloominbert.com

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THE WAR OF THE WAVES

Thailand is a loud country. Anyone who has been at home when one of those promotional pickup trucks has driven past proclaiming the latest furniture deals will know what I mean. The trucks advertising Thai boxing are even worse. "Tomorrow night! Tomorrow night!" Yes, we get it – Thai boxing is on tomorrow night.

I'm normally a passive person, but I become infuriated when no matter where I go on the island, I come across noisy public disturbances.

There is no need for such a racket. Promotions don't have to be delivered at deafening volumes (whatever happened to leaflets?) and cars and bikes don't need to be driven at full revs. Every day I read about the problems of passive smoking, but I would like to put passive hearing on the table for discussion.

The list of noise nuisances around the island is endless. There are thundering motorcycles, intrusive building constructions, electric saws whirring and steel cutters clamping, trucks trundling along, concrete-mixing trucks booming down the roads, ice-cream vendors playing their tunes, fish vendors screaming for customers and karaoke bars with, well, lots of screaming customers.

Even in most hotel rooms you can't get a decent night's sleep because of noisy air-conditioning units. Noise is a serious health concern. Studies by the World Health Organization have

shown that loud, ambient noises not only disrupt concentration levels, but can also lead to cardiovascular disorders, sleep disorders, migraines and an increased susceptibility to allergies.

I first realized how loud it is in Phuket when I was staying with friends in an idyllic German village near Ammersee. I woke up in the middle of the night, opened my eyes and thought I was dead – there was pure silence, the likes of which I hadn't experienced for years. There was no noise except the sensation of blood running through my veins and the sound of my heart beating.

It was shocking and it made me worry about how I have adapted to loud levels of noise. I did some research about reverse-wave noise elimination, also known as anti-noise. A sound wave can be physically neutralized when it overlaps with an identical wave that has been rotated 180°.

I came up with a theoretical method of combating noise. My plan is to take a microphone and hang it outside my bedroom window, recording every pesky sound. The sounds would then be sent to a black-box recorder. I would turn the signal around 180° and send it to a set of speakers inside my bedroom. The result would be the elimination of one source of noise by another.

While this all sounds plausible, simple and ingenious in theory, in practice it is actually much more complicated. A single, low-frequency noise, such as a whistle tone, is not difficult to eliminate. The problem comes

with complex frequencies, such as music, conversation or general outside noise. Imagine trying to eliminate the ice-cream man's theme tune.

There are relatively few solutions commercially available. Most solutions only defend people from abusive noise, rather than attacking the noise itself – ear muffs, for example. The important factor in attacking the noise comes in deciding where to record the sounds and how far from the listener they should be recorded. Let's say I recorded the noise outside of my bedroom from a static point. If I then move around, the noise will affect me in different ways – this is a problem.

Sound waves are reflected off of walls, furniture and even dust particles in the air. It is difficult to generate a perfect reverse wave when the frequency of the wave must be different at individual points in any given room.

This is where we reach the limits of technology.

The first commercial solutions to noise disturbances were developed for helicopter and jet pilots. Pilots are fastened in their seats and surrounding noise can therefore be eliminated by a reverse wave that allows a pilot to have normal conversations with people in a control tower.

In an acoustics lab at the University of Wuppertal in Germany, a circle of 24 microphones was arranged to record incoming sound, while an electronic device simultaneously channeled reverse waves to 12 speakers and into the room, creating silence inside the circle.

Although this is too technical for most households, comfy chairs with integrated speakers and beds with head-end quiet zones are being developed.

Another interesting development is that of a special win-

dow that incorporates reverse-wave technology with microphones and speakers between two panes of double glazing.

The sound is measured and then eliminated by the windows. Although this technology has yet to be made commercially available, it could reduce sound levels by about 10 decibels.

Perhaps we are not so far from my black-box theory after all. I'm already a step ahead, however, in my idea for a black box that attaches to your belt.

At the touch of a button it could eliminate the sound of a barking dog, an annoying acquaintance or – better still – a nagging wife.

Andreas Ruthe is the managing director of Technical Construction Materials Asia Co Ltd. (TCM Asia) He has lived in Phuket for six years and consults with hotels, developers and home owners in using modern construction materials to solve environmental problems and reduce costs. Visit www.tcm-asia.com or email ruthe@tcm-asia.com for further details.

Loud, ambient noises not only disrupt concentration levels, but can also lead to cardiovascular disorders, sleep disorders, migraines...



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand-new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K. Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

CHEAP PLOT

Good size at 340sqm. 15m frontage road, easy access to airport, Phuket City and beaches. Only 1.2 million baht. Call Tel: 087-3863388. Email: lebijouvillas@yahoo.com

BANG TAO HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big pool, automatic gate, 5 aircons, sat TV, Internet. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

OCEANVIEW LANDPLOTS, BANGTAO

Beautiful view, ready to build, large plots, quiet location. Starting at 3 million baht. Tel: 086-2670157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

NAI HARN HOUSE FOR SALE B2.9M

2 bedrooms, quiet, 264sqm of land, cable TV, telephone, Internet. Near beach. Tel: 087-9261381, 089-9829460. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 400 meters to the beach. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

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BIG TOWNHOUSE

in Rawai. 9 Rooms: 180 sqm. Garden: 70 sqm. Balcony: 50 sqm. Aircon. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-4454614.

TOWNHOUSE

in Tan Thong 3 Project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Kad viewpoint, on Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

SURIN LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Soi Naya, Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, living room, kitchen, 3 aircons, 2 telephones, cable TV, furniture, garden, 60sq wah. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 089-4716904, 085-7864509.

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RAWAI SEA VIEW CONDO

Freehold studio for sale. 550,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

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RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

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KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

LAND AND HOUSE



Lakeside pool villa in Land & Houses Park. Comes with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon and Western kitchen with appliances. Tel: 081-8921715.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

In Tan Tong 7 Project. 2-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Villa California. Price: 1.7 million baht. Finished in December this year. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW, FLAT LAND - RAWAI

Access from main road. 20 x 80m (1 rai). Company available, no transfer fee. Only 15 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

OCEAN VIEW LAND

Karon Beach, 1 rai, 100sq wah. Only 800m from beach. Only 12.9 million baht. Tel: 081-6768717.

AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

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SEAVIEW APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, top floor, north Patong, 20 steps to the beach, freehold. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. For photos please email: jihshand@gmail.com

10 RAI ON KOH LIBONG ISLAND

10 rai on Koh Libong, 50m from the beachfront. Nor Sor 3 title. 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-8964939. Email: leebrock@access.inet.co.th

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for sale. Big wooden house on 6.5 rai, 5 min from town. 28 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 086-2680855.

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SEA VIEW, 1 RAI

Chalong, 2 Chanote titles, you can build your dream house. Contact Janus. Tel: 085-7932718.

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2.5 million baht near Talay Pa Khlok. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 089-729-5190, 087-4771138.

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VILLA WITH POOL

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, secured area. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

HEAVEN ON EARTH



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PRIVATE POOL VILLA



2 bedrooms, 780sqm of land in Rawai. Tropical garden, 9 x 4m pool and 70m terrace. Doors and windows all real wood. 20,000L water tank and well. 5-year guarantee on construction. 10.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8374429. Website: www.chokechaiproperty.com

FOR SALE

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HOUSE FOR SALE

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RAWAI LAND SALE

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for sale or rent in Bang Tao, Yacht Haven. Please visit our website: www.janepropertyphuket.com

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LAND FOR SALE

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RAWAI HOUSE WITH POOL

220sqm. living area 12x4m saltwater pool 700sqm land plot, newly built, built-in aircon, all facilities high standard, unbelievably nice. Contact Tim at Tel: 087-8938747.

SEAVIEW VILLA



Rawai-Nai Harn, Phuket. Price: US\$1 million. Land: 700sqm. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, fitness room, swimming pool (communal). 1 minute drive to Rawai beach, 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Contact K. Sam. Tel: 085-1106449.

BALINESE VILLA



with private pool Saiyuan, Nai Harn. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen, immaculate finishing, furnished. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 086-6845368.

3 STOREY SEAVIEW POOL VILLA

3-story villa located in Nai Harn/Rawai area. 3 bedrooms with large balconies & en-suite bathrooms. Western kitchen, secure parking, beautiful garden, large pool & roof terrace boasting panoramic sea, mountain and Golden Buddha views. Offered at 9 million baht. Tel: 084-8446476. Email: dildalarge@yahoo.co.uk

DISCOUNT PRICE

In January, a beautiful 1-story, 90sqm pool-villa in Rawai will be ready. Price in 2007: 4.5 million baht. In 2008: 5.5 million baht. Finishing is still flexible. Tel: 085-7955383.

NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

2-story, open plan, big garden and office. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

NEW LUXURY CONDO

Cape Panwa, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 106sqm, high-end finishing, end unit, custom kitchen, 5-star resort facilities, quick sale. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-8938834.

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Four en-suite bedrooms with terrace, private pool and Jacuzzi, living, dining, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, automatic gate and nice tropical garden on 1,606sqm land plot with over 400sqm of living area. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

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NEW SEAVIEW CONDOMINIUM

New seaview condominium units: 60, 120 and 180sqm. Overlooking Chalong Bay and Rawai Bay. From 1.8 million baht. Contact Kuno. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com For details, please see our website at: www.bayproject.com/invest/index.htm

PATONG CONDOTEL

28sqm, fully renovated and furnished. 1.95 million baht, freehold. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9715664.

SEAVIEW LAND 1.1 RAI

Chalong. Chanote title call K. Don. Tel: 087-6279394.

LAGUNA AREA VILLA

4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa with pool and large garden. 100 m from Laguna village. Tel: 087-8934636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

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Fully-furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada Tel: 084-8436837. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-land-homes.com

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, UBC, TV. Long- or short-term rent. Pool, sauna included. Call K. So at Tel: 081-3444473.

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1 bedroom, lounge, kitchen, aircon, ADSL, cable, long- or short-term. Tel: 086-2790837.

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

Furnished studio for rent. Aircon, TV, UBC and ADSL. 5,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

HOME WITH LAND, 1-10 RAI

Any size or style of home with 3- to 10-year lease on monthly payments. Dry land suitable for horses, prefer near a beach, but not on a busy road. Phuket, Krabi, etc. Tel: 084-8424581. Email: ChristyKSweet@gmail.com

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condo with a sea view. Keen buyer ready to purchase. Please contact with details if you have one available for sale. Tel: 084-4471978. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com

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for commercial building or residential homes in Phuket, we have quality choices from a variety of locations for you. Please contact for details. Tel: 085-2575711. Email: ppsr.property@gmail.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Tel: 084-8989274.

LAND FOR PROJECT Our VIP client wants to buy land - seafront or good view - on which to build a resort and residential project. Need at least 20 rai. Please send full details and photos by email. Urgent. Tel: 076-524000, 081-8912333. Fax: 076-223237. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

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I want to rent a showroom for old furniture and decorative items. A house, townhouse or commercial building, which is easy to access with big truck would be of interest. Tel: 02-3813891, 086-7553734. Email: oak_y50@yahoo.com

1-MONTH HOLIDAY RENTAL

Looking to rent a 3- to 4-bedroom house for one month starting Jan 15. Should be in the Patong, Karon, Kata area. Email: mdamkvist@yahoo.com

Property Services

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Albar property management service for your personal requirements. Email: APMS_2007@hotmail.com

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Central Patong, 182 bedrooms. Tel: 076-341827. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

RAWAI CONDO

Furnished Studio, aircon, cable, DVD, Internet, kitchen, parking. 7,000 baht per month. Please contact for additional details at Tel: 081-2720781. Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

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fax: 076 273 319
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We require the following staff:

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NEW RESTAURANT - RAWAI

Looking for qualified staff:

- 1 Pizza cook
- 1 Pasta cook
- 1 Thai food cook
- 2 Waitresses
- 2 Bartenders
- 1 Dishwasher

Salary from 6,000 to 10,000 baht according to experience. Waiting staff & bartender must speak some English. If interested call for interview. Tel: 084-0603477.

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required to take care of house and gardens in Chalong, live-in and full-time. Ideally an established, married Thai couple who will live in a beautiful, fully-furnished maid's bungalow alongside the main house. Duties include cooking, cleaning, maintaining a swimming pool and grounds, and looking after cars, motorbikes and a speedboat. Basic English and a clean driving license an advantage. Salary for each: 9,000 to 10,000 baht per month, depending on experience. References required. Tel: 086-2829182. Email: eduardo@exchequer.com

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MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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needed to look after a 3-bedroom house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

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4. M&E Supervisor	2 Positions	Ref. / No. MES-004
5. Building Inspector	2 Positions	Ref. / No. BI-005
6. Driver	2 Positions	Ref. / No. DV-006

All positions require good English.
Send CV to APMS_2007@hotmail.com

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Taylor Made R7 TP irons 3-PW, Taylor Made 3 Wood Aldila Shaft, Taylor Made TP 56 wedge, Taylor Made golf bag (silver), Titleist Vokey 54 wedge, Nickent 5 Wood Aldila Shaft, Titleist Scotty Cameron Futura Mallet putter. Nearly new. 33,000 baht. Tel: 087-4632130. Email: steve@greenwoodsea.com

Miscellaneous for Sale

IPOD NANO DOCK

Brand new, never used. Cost 1,500 baht; selling for 1,000. Email: LaureninThailand@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN DRIVERS LICENSE

- < 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years
- < 6,000 baht, valid up to 20 years
- < 100% legal
- < Sole agent in Thailand Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suam Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket. Tel: 084-8068736 Fax: 076-299058. Email: iaa@intllicense.com www.intlicense.com

COMMERCIAL FREEZER

Large two-door table stainless steel commercial freezer: 18,000 baht. Speargun: 4,000 baht. Potted plants. Tel: 084-8445868. Email: come_in2enjoy@hotmail.com

HANDHELD VHF MARINE RADIO

Handheld VHF Marine radio Uniden Atlantis, as-new 4,000 baht. Hutchwilco, 150N inflatable life jacket PFD type 1, fits 60kg and over, as-new, 3,000 baht. MSR DragonFly ultralite camping stove, uses any fuel, 3,000 baht. Panasonic FAX copy/answer machine 1,000 baht. Tel: 084-8445868. Email: come_in2enjoy@hotmail.com

Mobile Phones

MOBILE PHONE

NOKIA 8800, stainless steel, perfect condition. 14,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-8054945.

MANY TELEPHONES

from my private collection, like-new, O2, Motorola, Navigator, Nokia slide 6500. Tel: 081-2945441.

Musical Instruments

WANTED: BABY GRAND PIANO

Please contact me if you have or know of one for sale. Tel: 084-7040260. Email: lynne.daniel@mail.com

Personal Services

THAI LADY

gives Thai language lessons. At your home or hers, Wat Chalong area. Prepared text books and introductory course of 10 lessons. I can also give English courses to your Thai staff or service personnel. Please contact me for further information. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

PROFESIONAL SWIMMING COACH

For non-swimming adults & children, swimming training is available at your convenience. Tel: 076-271110, 089-8676776. Email: khizar4@hotmail.com

ENGLISH LESSONS

for your staff. Thai lady teacher experienced in teaching staff & service personnel. English with specific application to their jobs and serving your customers. Individual or group courses with your business requirement in mind. Please contact me for information. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

MASSAGE

Handsome adult American man available to give massage in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5384931. Email: sjxsmith@gmail.com

PERSONAL TRAINER

Gym coaching, diet plan, workout programs at affordable monthly fees. Rawai. Tel: 085-8088023.

Personals

COUPLE PARTY

Male-45 years, is looking for open-minded couple. Tel: 087-8977380.

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players in Phuket. Tel: 081-5778443.

HOLIDAY ESCORT

I will be on vacation in Phuket in January next year and I am looking for a friendly, funny and pretty Thai lady, with good English, who wants to share the vacation with me. Interested? Email: golfo1@freenet.de

ATTRACTIVE DANIEL

is looking for something romantic on a serious basis to enjoy life in Phuket. I am caring, responsible, humorous. Email: daniel29200@yahoo.com

Pets

MATING SEASON

Looking to be in contact with other Persian cat owners for mating purposes. Contact at Email: lusy_deepbluese@yahoo.com

HI MY NAME IS SAMBA

I am a small mixed dog looking for a good home, I come for free. Call Brian. Tel: 087-0804258.

AMERICAN

staffordshire terriers with pedigree papers. Dewormed, vaccinated and champion blood lines. Many colors call Steve. Tel: 086-1206934.

Take me home with you!



Soi Dog Foundation Tel: 081-7884222

Notice

Notice

As the Phuket Gazette offices will be closed over the New Year break, please submit your classified ads for the **January 5** issue no later than **Thursday, December 27**.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and we do apologize for any inconvenience.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

REWARD: MISSING DOG



Taken from the Chalong Bay area 2 weeks ago, she is a bulldog cross and is from a loving and caring family home. She is pregnant and needs medication or she will die. Substantial REWARD for ANY information. Please contact

Tel: 083-3884410 (Thai), 085-4732045 (Eng).

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Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

TOYOTA VIOS TURBO



Special limited edition Toyota racing development. 143hp, turbo, inter-cooler, black color, sport leather, Alcantara seats. Reg. 09/04, only 48,000km, new condition. Genuine reason for sale. I paid: 830,000 baht; sell for 580,000 baht. Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

MAZDA 3 SPORT

This car is in nearly showroom condition. Just 2 years old, only 12,000km. Still under manufacturer's warranty. Includes one year of full insurance. 890,000 baht ono. Please contact for more info at Tel: 076-388465, 086-7421708. Email: graham@thai-connexion.com

TOYOTA COROLLA 1984

Running well, no rust, carefully maintained, service record. Quick sale, 44,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-1841856.

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

Great family car, only 53,000km, manual, 1 female owner, serviced regularly. 290,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-8742942. Email: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com

NISSAN NV AUTOMATIC

Year 2000. Price 320,000 baht. Contact at Tel: 084-413633.

NEW CAMRY 2007

All options. 490,000 baht in cash or 36 payments of 29,700 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

FOR SALE CHEVROLET



Aveo, 1 year old, black, 6,000km, automatic, tinted windows. 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-5975474.

YARIS FOR SALE

S limited model, full options, 2006, auto, black with 30,000km. Price: 575,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-1965212.

2006 TOYOTA YARIS



Urgent sale, owner relocating. 520,000 baht full payment, or 300,000 baht plus takeover of monthly payments. Cash offers will be considered. For more details or to view please contact Deon at Tel: 076-282550, 081-3628932.

DAIHATSU MIRA

Blue, 1995 model. Great condition, many new parts. Cheap to run, cheap parts and fun to drive. Only 90,000 baht. Call Mark at Tel: 084-8446028. Email: marksimonallen@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL MIRA

Green/blue, 1995, excellent condition. Comes with aircon and lots of new parts. Reliable and cheap at 82,000 baht. For more information contact at Tel: 089-7291099. Email: 1stlisa@gmail.com

TOYOTA ESTIMA

7-seater, first-class condition, automatic with new tires. Contact for more information at Tel: 084-4413633.

HONDA CITY

VTec engine, 2 years-old, manual gearbox, 7,700 km. Excellent condition, service history, still under warranty. 475,000 baht. Please contact more info at Tel: 089-9703697. Email: cuth22@hotmail.com

1992 BMW 318i

Professionally maintained, only one registration, manual transmission, aircon, central lock, leather, 152,000km. For more information contact at Tel: 084-4421957.

NISSAN TAENA

Nissan Teana 230 JM, year 2005. 54,000km. Full options. 950,000 baht. For more information contact at Tel: 076-264687, 081-8234627. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Pick ups

ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



2003. 100,000km, perfect condition, runs great, 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 510,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

NISSAN PICK-UP 4-DOOR

Turbo, year 2007. 395,000 baht. Tel: 084-4413633.

FORD RANGER

2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, first owner, TV, VCD and many extras for 330,000 baht. For details contact at Tel: 081-5395948.

1996 MITSUBISHI

Strada 2.8L. Excellent condition. 190,000 baht obo. Contact for more information at Tel: 086-9719776.

TOYOTA HILUX TIGER

2000, low mileage, clean, perfect condition, very reliable. Owner is relocating. Asking price: 320,000 baht. Please contact for more info at Tel: 076-281479, 087-0190852. Email: dj_chet10@hotmail.com

ISUZU DMAX 4-DOOR

2.5L Diesel, 58,000km, 2003, carryboy sport lid, very good condition. 435,000 baht. Contact for more information at Tel: 086-1588752.

MITSUBISHI TRITON 2006

Blue, 2WD, mega-cab, CD player. Price: 400,000 baht. Please contact K. Barry for more information at Tel: 085-7959105.

PICKUP TRUCK 149,900 BAHT

1993 Mitsubishi, new engine last year, insurance paid 1 year, license paid 1 year. Looks good, runs good. Move forces sale. Email for photo and more details. Tel: 085-2212883, 085-789-4482. Email: mrphiliplynch@gmail.com

2006 MAZDA AS-NEW

Only 330,000 baht. Open cab, 36,000km, silver, carryboy. Please contact for details at Tel: 084-7300190.

NISSAN NV FOR SALE

Automatic, new tires, seats, battery, new plugs. CD player. Nice car at great price. 145,000 baht obo. Please contact more info at Tel: 081-6891116. Email: pappy186@yahoo.com

CITROEN BERLINGO FOR SALE



Price: **340,000** baht

3 year old Citroen panel truck. Perfect for deliveries. 1.9 liter diesel engine, 116,007 kms. Metallic grey, excellent condition. Regularly serviced. Includes parking sensors.

Please contact Jib at 081-8925538, 076-236555

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Form with 10 lines of dashed lines for writing an advertisement, with a heading line at the top.

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Wheels & Motors

4 x 4s

FORD RANGER 2006
20,000km, only private use. 320,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-4413633.

TOYOTA VIGO 2006
4X4 auto, 4-door, silver/green, leather. 760,000 baht. Please contact more information at Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

ISUZU 4 WHEEL/AUTO
6-disc CD changer. 2004 with 85,000km, blue/aluminum. 490,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-6503160.

FORD RANGER
2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, first owner, TV, VCD and many extras for 330,000 baht. Tel: 081-5395948.

TOYOTA FORTUNER
2.7 VVTI, auto, 2005, silver, 47,000km. 850,000 baht. Tel: 089-5944017.

2006 MAZDA 4X4 TRUCK
Excellent condition. 11,000km. Custom paint, 3.0L turbo diesel, manual, extended cab, ABS, air bags. New: 720,000; Sell: 600,000 obo. For more information contact at Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

4WD JEEP CHEROKEE
Leather seats, 4L, automatic, deep red, very good, safe truck. New tires, brakes, suspension linkage etc. 200,000km. 300,000 baht ono. Contact for more information at Tel: 086-0071505, 084-8514541.

TOYOTA HILUX CAB 4, 4WD



2001, manual, 3,000cc diesel, grey, 75,000km. ABS. Airbags. 3rd insurance. Excellent condition, runs great. Price: 470,000 baht full payment or 70,000 baht and take over the monthly payment. For more info contact at Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

FORTUNER EXCLUSIVE

White, 2006. Price: 1.15 million baht or can finance. For info call James at Tel: 081-2722008.

TOYOTA VIGO 4WD
Automatic, 4-door, black. 2 years old, 31,000km, 680,000 baht ono. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

TOYOTA VIGO

2004, 4x4, 3L automatic, 34,000km. Likenew. 715,000 baht ono. Or I can swap for condo/land anywhere. Email for photo. Tel: 089-9945503. Email: warren1001@hotmail.com

ISUZU D-MAX 4WD
For sale, 2003, 4WD, full of extras, perfect condition. 450,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

ISUZU TRUCK 2001

100km, excellent condition. 3.0L, 4WD, manual, full insurance. Price: 250,000 baht. Please contact for more info at Tel: 087-9087605. Email: patong.paul@yahoo.com

Motorbikes

HONDA CLICK
Only 1.5 years old, 9,600 kms. 33,500 baht. Good condition. Tel: 084-053 8177, 086-0219819. Email: p_u_k_tour@yahoo.com

MOTORBIKE VALKYRIE 1500CC

The ultimate cruising bike. 1520cc, six cylinders. Everything is in top notch condition with after-market modifications. Many extras. Suitable for experienced riders. Email for pics. 350,000 baht o.n.o. (Will consider a swap and cash). Tel: 081-8954480. Email: security@mail2michael.com

2006 HONDA WAVE 125CC

Disc brakes, electric start, serviced. 27,000 baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

2005 VTX 1800 C

Info at Honda.com, black, chrome. 590,000 baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

YAMAHA SPARK 135CC LIMITED

Limited Edition, only 4,700km, very good condition. Comes with extras: 2 helmets, bike cover and luggage box. Price: 29,000 baht (55,000 baht new). Tel: 081-2702726. Email: jeffepro@hotmail.com

KAWASAKI BOSS 175CC

7 years old, less than 12,000km, recently insured & registered. Works great. 37,500 baht. Tel: 089-5885248. Email: al.mathewson@gmail.com

VFR 400 FOR 75,000 BAH

Great condition, year 1993, 22,000km. Green book. Tel: 084-8386209. Email: nstretch4@hotmail.com

CUSTOM HARLEY DAVIDSON

Soft Tail 2000, Twin Cam. 1,450cc. Custom by East Coast Choppers. Many photos including build at http://petesharley.blogspot.com/ Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.com

PM SUPER HARLEY

Twin Cam, 1450cc, 14,000 km, 6-speed, Mikuni dual carbs, Vance & Hince exhaust system, 240 rear tire. An absolute eyecatcher! Newly designed in Dec 2005 with brand-new performance machine parts and a lot of other special accessories. Green book! 999 registration number! Price: 1.7 million baht. Ask me for more details and photos! Tel: 076-388633, 086-6829709. Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

HONDA STEED 600CC

Original/good condition, reliable/honest bike with green book, including tax 120,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-1473890. Email: info@sabai.nl

HONDA SHADOW 750CC

Green book, 2006. 260,000 baht ono. For info call James at Tel: 081-2722008.

HONDA SONIC 125CC

2004, only 11,700km, good condition, one lady owner. Contact K. Noi at Tel: 087-2639637.

HONDA STEED 400CC

Good condition, green book, only 90,000 baht. Call Ivan at Tel: 089-8675976.

HONDA STEED
150,000 baht. Good condition and green book. Please contact for more info at Tel: 076-527730, 084-8517692. Email: superoh@hotmail.com

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Cars and trucks that are all fully-insured for rent. Best prices for long-term rental: 12,000 to 22,000 baht per month. For more information on specific vehicles, contact Tel: 089-8314703. Email: a1carrent@myway.com

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New cars for rent: Toyota Vios, Yaris, Fortuner, Wish and Honda Jazz. For more info contact at Tel: 083-1743880, 087-2646808.

NEW VIOS FOR RENT



Many types of cars for long-term rent. Price: 10,000 to 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5388567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

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Full options and insurance. 14,000 baht per month, long-term rent. Cherng Talay area, contact K. Sun for more details at Tel: 084-1908555, 084-0511955. Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

TOYOTA FORTUNER FOR RENT

Weekly: 14,000 baht. Monthly: 48,000 baht. Will sell for: 950,000 baht (perfect condition & insurance included). Please contact for more info at Tel: 081-5399269.

Bicycles

PHILLIPS BICYCLE



65 years old, contact Mr Giorgio at Tel: 081-2945441.

Wanted

FORTUNER WANTED
I would like to buy a Toyota Fortuner in good condition. My maximum budget for the purchase is 800,000 baht. Tel: 085-6916875. Email: fredrik.phuket@gmail.com

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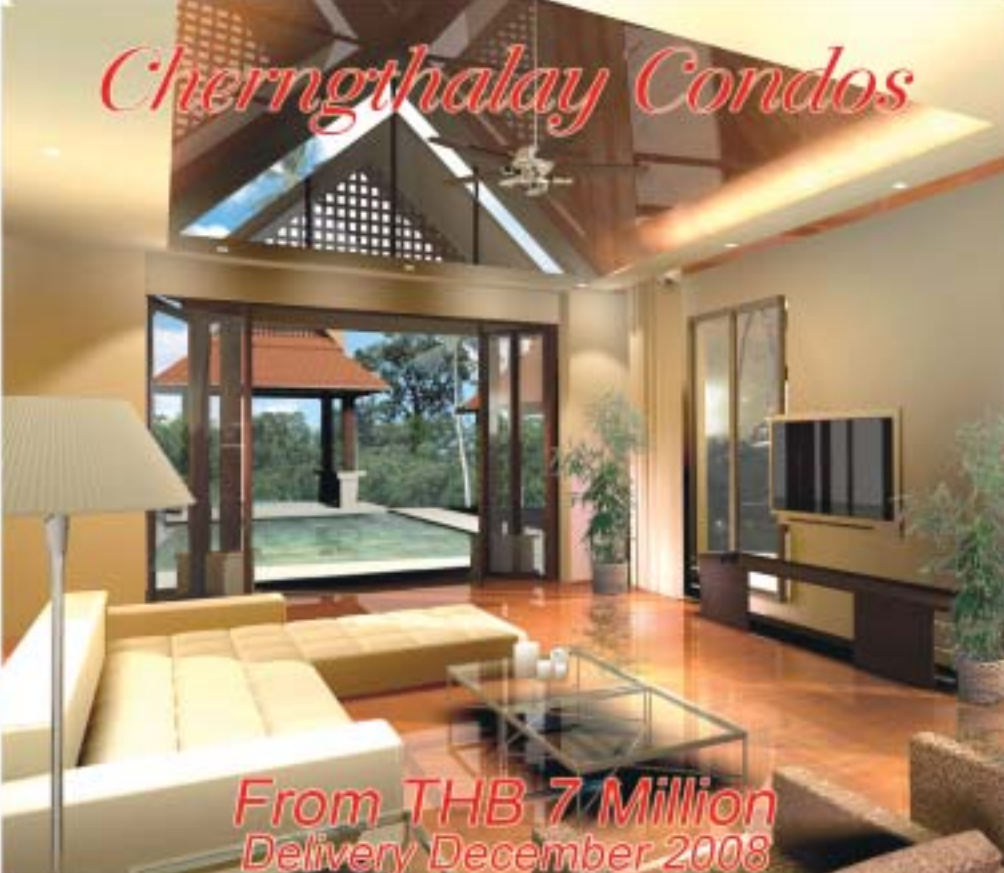
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