



A publication of the Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

Feb 2009

This Month

Tour to Gemopolis : 3rd Feb

Tennis Night : 7th Feb

Brunch at Kuppa : 27 February

Committee Members

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New Year Party	***** VACANT *****		

Link Ladies

Area	Name	Telephone
Fantasia	Priya Thomson	085 139 7284
Garden Towers	Jo Thomas	087 024 8256
Ladawan	Shirley Tan	089 497 8318
Lakeside 1	Kay Hickey	086 511 2442
Lakeside 2	Jaque Kirkham	082 316 5899
Nantawan	Dominique Perry	081 866 6710
Narasiri	Sarah Chaplin	089 205 1528
Panya	Neena Luetz	081 810 0803
Thana City	Irene Gray	081 806 9240



Oh What a Night

When the SILC Committee met at my house on the 11th January things were not looking good for the SILC Fiesta. Despite delaying the party by a week from it's normal date we had not actually sold a single ticket. We had promises of around 50 but nowhere near the 100 minimum the hotel wanted and we needed to balance the books! However with a few begging emails and many phone calls we managed to rally the numbers to a respectable 80 which I persuaded the hotel to accept and we were on. Amazingly by the night itself we had 96 people – up on last year's numbers – and even managed to raise some money!

The night itself went with a real bang. The Mojitos and Margaritas were downed even by those who claimed not to drink cocktails and the tequila on the tables was soon making its way into the shot glasses and hence down dry throats with much shouting and cheering.

Gerry Dibbayawan was once again a fantastic MC keeping us all on our toes with a Latin flavored quiz and a few cheeky remarks – those Aussies can't take them anywhere! Then came the dancers, the first dance was a very sexy number by a couple who made us all feel very old and inflexible but the second dance – a salsa by two very scantily dressed young ladies almost made my husband's eyes pop out! They were fantastic and the SILC Members came up trumps when they joined them on the dance floor for a line dance – great fun but totally exhausting, no wonder they all look so good. Our raffle was a little smaller than usual but still members bought tickets with gusto and thanks go to all those who donated prizes, especially California WOW and Baan Laksahsubha.

I had to leave early but the dance floor was full as I left dancing to the likes of Shakira and Ricky Martin, provided by our DJ's Russell and Robbie. Apparently the last of the crowd finally left sometime after 1:30 and I am sure there were a few sore heads the next day – especially from the table that somehow managed to procure 4 bottles of Tequila- rather than me!

I hope all that came enjoyed the night and there should be some photos inside the newsletter for you to peruse. This month we have our usual set of events starting with the Tour to Gemopolis on Feb 3rd then an evening of tennis at Ladawan on the 7th and finally a joint lunch/coffee at KUPPA on the 27th.

Our AGM will be coming up in May and as there are quite a few committee members leaving Thailand there will be some jobs up for grabs. If you are interested in becoming part of the committee just let one of us know and if you know what it is you would like to do have a chat with the relevant person.

Hope to see you all soon, take care and have fun!

Jane

Regular Events

Golf on Thursday Morning

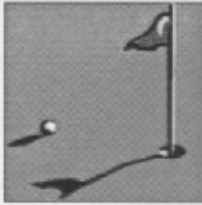
Alternating Samut Prakarn Courses
Newcomers Welcome
homes.

Contact Annette Gerlach
02 7503099
gerlachbkk@gmail.com

Thursday Playgroup

Playgroup every Thursday
Ages 0-4 years at members

Contact Sara Carr-Legg
087 088 1815
saracarrlegg@hotmail.com



Mahjong

Mahjong Takes place
On Wednesdays from
Approx 9am until 12 noon
In members homes.

Contact Shirley Tan
02 758 7304
089 497 8318



Advertising

Advertising Information

Advertisements for non-profit community events are welcome and are free of charge

Personal Advertisements for SILC members are free of charge

Rates

Full Page	1200 Baht
Half Page	600 Baht
Quarter Page	300 Baht
Flyer Insert	600 Baht

Discounts

Member	25%
Annual Contract	10%
(Contracts run May to June)	

Advertising requests and payment *must* be received prior to the published deadline.

Please send advertisement to: The Editor: nluetz@gmail.com

To arrange payment contact: The Treasurer: Lorraine Gough

084 467 1265 / jgough1054@aol.com

Aims & Policies

Organisation of the Club

SILC creates an opportunity for women of all nationalities living in the Samutprakarn area to meet socially and participate in a variety of activities without travelling into Bangkok. We invite members to join monthly meetings, tours and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 600 Baht to cover costs and receive a newsletter and club directory.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published ten times a year with articles and information on club activities. Contributions are welcome and can be sent to the newsletter editor.

Committee Meetings

These are held once a month and are open to all members. Please inform the meeting hostess if you wish to attend.

SILC Policy on Children

As the main purpose of SILC is to provide a network and support for its members, it is our policy that children do not attend functions and tours, except in the case of very young babies who are being breastfed and/or cannot be left with a carer. Members with babies, toddlers and children are invited to join regular playgroups advertised in the SILC newsletter and special family activities. Details of contact names and numbers can be found in the newsletter.

Treasure Sensation

Indulge Yourself With Sensational Jewelry
Your most luxurious dream can be fulfilled now!

1ct size Diamond – B 75000 (Fancy Yellow Emerald Cut)

South Sea Pearl Pendant – B 3000

Diamond Ring Starting from B 5000 up

ALSO we have precious and semi-precious gemstones such as Blue Sapphire, Ruby, Emerald, Spinel, Garnet, Citrine, fancy color Diamond, Jade, Moonstone and many more, you name it, we find it!

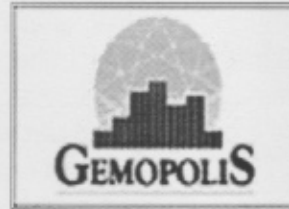
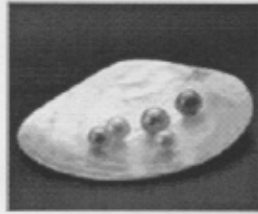
We have in house designer or custom made for any jewels from necklace, ring, pendant, bracelet, earring, and brooches. With 9K, 10K, 14K, 18K, or Platinum, for wholesale and retail.

You can visit our website at [HTTP://WWW.TREASURESENSATION.COM](http://www.treasuresensation.com)
Or E-mail me at annalai1689@gmail.com , michael0519@gmail.com

Or visit us at our office at
2121/1 New Petchburi Road, Bangkok, Huaykwang, Bangkok 10310, Thailand.

Please call to make appointment before you come over, thank you.
Contact Number: Anna (081)6101928, (081)3518028, Michael (084)4669261

February Tour



SILC FEBRUARY TOUR TO ORIENT PEARL ON FEBRUARY 3RD, 2009

Do you know the difference between a Tahitian pearl and an Akoya pearl?

If you think a pearl is a pearl, join us on our visit to the Orient Pearl factory at the Gemopolis Estate and find out so much more about pearls!

The manager can answer all your questions and he will show us around in the factory.

Orient Pearl has a showroom with beautiful pearl-jewelry for sale.

We will visit the showroom at the end of the tour.

After the visit we will have lunch in a nearby local Thai restaurant.

Date: February 3rd, 2009 at 09.00 a.m.

Costs: visit to Orient Pearl is free of charge, but we ask a 100 Baht donation for SILC welfare.

Transport: own transport to Gemopolis Estate, Prawet (map to follow)

If you want to join, please send an email to silctours@gmail.com before January 30th, or call Sarah Chaplin at 089 2051528

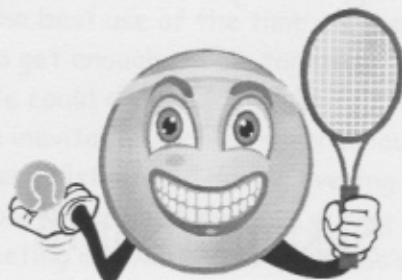
SILC Tours

**If you know anyone who may be interested in
joining SILC please ask them to contact:**

Emma Shah

089 446 0741 / emma_shah@yahoo.co.uk

Social Tennis



Where: Moobaan Ladawan Clubhouse

When: Friday 6th February 6.30pm until 10pm

Who: SILC members, partners, friends welcome

Why: why not.....even if you haven't picked up a racket for years just come along and have a go.

There will be some small refreshments to keep your energy levels up....and hopefully a couple of experienced players (Jane and Shirley) to provide some guidance!!

If you have a racket please bring it along, but we will have some spares for people who don't have one.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 4th February

Lizzy West 0860338914 ea_west@yahoo.co.uk
Marit on 0879367656 gertonmarit@yahoo.com

February Events

February Brunch

Come along and join us for brunch at

KUPPA

Sukumvit Soi 16

27TH of February 2009

11am to 1pm

Lets relax and have a chat.
Feel free to bring along visitors
or friends who would be interested
in joining our group.

Hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to Irene 0818069240
or irenemgray@gmail.com

**All SILC events are subject to change.
Please confirm your attendance with the relevant contact.**

The History of SILC

In March 1992 two ladies were together at the lakeside Villa 1 swimming pool. They came up with a great idea of forming a social club in the Bangna Trat area. At that time the area involved was mainly from Lakeside 1 and 2, Srinakarin Road and the end of Sukhumvit Soi 105. The idea was to get together not only socially, but also to do some activities together to make the best use of the time, as the traffic was particularly bad in those days. The idea was to get enough people together, who had different talents and loads of time to spare. We could do things together without having to go into Bangkok, an experience which inevitably involved several hours of pain and anguish sitting in traffic. So forms were distributed during evening walks or when seeing new faces at Bangkok Patana School (I received my form during one of these evening walks!) Well the day for the first meeting arrived and to everyone's surprise almost 30 ladies showed up. The idea was presented and the response was tremendous, thus SILC was officially born. A president (now Chairman) and a vice president were elected and members were assigned to different committees. The first few months were hectic. The active members were running around in different directions to get as much information as possible about the Samutprakarn area. The results were fantastic. Several activities were organized by different members with various talents. These included aerobics, a book club and tennis to name but a few. The club was definitely up and running, with many regular activities taking place. The atmosphere created by the club was warm and welcoming, like a family. After all the club meetings and activities were set, the club members turned their attention to aiding under privileged children and adults. Since I had lived in Thailand for many years and had already been part of a group (ISG) doing social welfare work, I was able to provide a lot of information about welfare homes. In the mean time I had started giving Indian Cooking classes to some very interested members. This provided an opportunity for our first fundraising event - 'An Indian evening'. All members who took the cooking classes cooked food and later in the evening I provided traditional and new Indian clothing for a fashion show. It was a great evening and we were able to collect 15,500 THB, however, we had still not decided how we were going to spend it. Then one of our members found out about the Chanjapook foundation. This was a foundation run by a Dr Cleopan who took babies that had been born inside prison to the foundation where they could be cared for whilst their mothers served their sentences. We decide that this was where our money should go so, a few members, myself included, went to present the money to Dr Cleopan. After that the welfare groups went to many different places.

Over the years the welfare committee has continued to do wonderful work in and outside the Bangna area. Looking back now, the club has come a long and successful way with many new members and ideas. Thai children and adults have certainly benefited from the generosity and hard work of SILC Members.

Sunita Kulisra

Feng Shui update from Anna Leong

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to my Feng Shui update.

The year of the Earth Ox 2009 is a year blessed by the presence of all five elements. It is one of the best years of this period, much better than the previous years.

This is a crucial recovery year with good money to be made due to the Paht Chee Chart 2009 and there are no missing elements so it is a balanced chart. This should be a productive year and it will start and end well.

For those of you who have yet to transform your house and office energies to that Period 8, please do so this year.

4th February 2009 is the official day of "Lap Chun" which marks the first day of spring. It is considered to be the day when the energies of our surroundings move to a new location to conform to the energies of the New Year. Try not to move furniture or have too much activity around the house on this day to allow the new Chi (energy) coming into your house to have a chance to settle down. So if you need to move your furniture, do so before the Chinese New Year and place all your cures in the afflicted sectors at the same time.

Spring clean your whole house, get rid of all old junk especially and broken items and clear up any clutter. This is a time to wash the curtains and shampoo your carpets to get rid of dirt and stale energy. Do a space purification with incense sticks, a singing bowl or bell a few days before Chinese New Year Eve.

Change the red packet at the bottom of your rice urn (container) with a new one and add in new money to signify new income. You can keep back some of the old money inside together with the new money. The old money signifies the retention of old wealth. Fill your rice urn full to the brim. Even rice cookers should not be left empty or half full on New Year's Eve. So after dinner, cook another pot of rice. Whether you eat the rice or not does not matter. To have your rice pot full means you will have plenty to eat and have a good income the whole year round.

Clean your wealth vase and change the food for the wealth God inside your vase. You can add in more "treasures" if you like, or better still create extra new wealth vases and place them around the whole house. Add in at least one new wealth vase each year and watch your wealth grow tremendously! This is truly amazing. If you do not have a wealth vase, try to create one this year and watch what happens. Wealth ships are also very potent wealth energizers.

Buy lots of mandarin oranges, as much as you can afford, and display them around the whole house throughout the 15 days of the New Year. Do not keep your oranges in the fridge. Some oranges might not last for 15 days so keep replacing them with fresh ones. In Chinese, oranges are phonetically similar to the word "Kum" meaning gold. When friends or relatives give you oranges you must bring them home and keep them. Giving away your oranges to another friend means you are giving away the "wealth" which was given to you.

Make sure you wear something red whether you are at home or visiting friends during the Chinese New Year. Do not wear black when you go visiting as the colour is much frowned upon during this 15 day period.

Have plenty of fresh flowers and plants around your whole house (except in bedrooms). "Nga ku" narcissus plants are particularly good. Other plants can be lime trees, pussy willow, tulips, jade plants or daffodils. Decorate the entrance of homes with all these auspicious plants. Hang red packets ("ang pow") on your trees or plants but make sure they are not empty. Note that in 2009, the auspicious Star 8 flies to the Southeast, so it is extremely lucky to place healthy plants and water features in this corner of your house or office to bring wealth, success and happiness.

Make sure brooms and dustpans stay out of sight on New Year's Day. Usually I will throw away all my brooms and mops and use new ones for the New Year. I even wash my dust bins to get rid of old dirt.

On the eve of Chinese New Year turn on some lights, especially around your front entrance to welcome in the Year of the Earth Ox.

To tap the luck of the Ox, display a symbolic statue of the Ox in your home and office. Put the Ox symbol surrounded by oranges in your sitting room throughout the 15 days of the Chinese New Year.

Every child, big or small, loves receiving red packets so do give generously to all children that visit you. Having lots of children running about your whole house is very lucky because their energy is so pure and vibrant and will create precious "yang" energy in your home so make sure they are happy and have plenty to eat. Spoil them rotten during this period and whatever you do, do not make them cry.

Repay all debts before the Chinese New Year Day.

Learn to forgive and do not hold grudges against any of your relatives or friends. Be more loving and make everyone happy during this period. When they are happy they think nice thoughts of you and this wonderful positive energy you are receiving from them is something that money cannot buy. What a nice way it is to start off the New Year with such wonderful feelings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my new and old friends a very Happy, Healthy and Fruitful New Year and I truly hope that in the Year of the Earth Ox all your wishes will come true.

"KUNG HEI FATT CHOY"

FENG SHUI CHART FOR 2009

Place cures before the Chinese New Year. Each year the annual flying stars change positions. Good and Bad stars fly into different sectors so to practice time dimension Feng Shui effectively it is vital to know the location of these stars, both to subdue bad luck brought by afflicted stars and to activate the luck stars with symbolic enhancers to bring you wealth, success and happiness.

AFFLICTION STARS

THE FIVE YELLOWS – This is a misfortune star that brings misfortune and accidents. It also brings ear and kidney problems to those who stay in this area. This sector can also affect those born in the Year of the Rat and the middle son. The remedy is the Five Element Pagoda or Five Element Bell. Remove Earth and Fire energy from the North sector. Keep the North as quiet as possible, no renovation, digging, knocking or cutting of trees in this sector.

THE ILLNESS STAR 2 – flies to the West, affecting the youngest daughter and those who reside there. This brings illness to lungs and the nose. Those born in the Year of the Rooster are affected. An excellent remedy is the Whirling Wu Lou wind chime, 8 Immortals Wu Lou, Medicine Buddha or the Arcala Disc and Ball placed in the West sector of your home. Pregnant women and elderly people should move to another room. Remove Earth and Fire energy from this sector.

THE QUARRELSOME STAR 3 – flies to the Northeast, bringing litigation, quarrels, misunderstandings and trouble with the authorities. It afflicts those born in the Years of the Ox and Tiger and young boys. Keep this part of the home quiet. Place the Metal Ksiddigarbha Fireball or the Manjushri Sword in this sector.

THE ROBBERY STAR 7 – flies to the East bringing burglary and violence. If you have a door or window in this sector make sure it is properly locked at night or when you are away. This star particularly affects the eldest son and those born in the Year of the Rabbit. Place a blue rhino or elephant with its trunk up as powerful remedies.

ANNUAL 3 KILLINGS – This year it is located in the East, also known as “sarm saat”. Never have this direction behind you. Those belonging to the West group should take note of the fact that they must not face West in 2009 or they will suffer from 3 types of misfortune: loss of wealth caused by people who cheat and betray you, loss of loved ones and loss of their good name. For the East group people it is excellent to confront the 3 killings but do not have your back to the 3 killings. In terms of cures we have been using the 3 celestial protectors comprising of the Chi Lin, Fu Dog and Pi Yao with great success for several years now. In 2009 you can continue to do so. You can also use the Trinity of Deities to suppress the 3 Killings.

ANNUAL GRAND DUKE JUPITER – Also known as Tai Sui or the God of the Year, he takes charge of all matters related to Earth and mankind throughout the duration of the year. It is absolutely vital that you know where he is residing each year. This year, he is located in the Northeast. **DO NOT** sit facing the NE this year (West group people please take note). Confronting the Grand Duke always brings misfortune, failure and loss. When you face the Tai Sui, nothing you do will go smoothly as obstacles surface unexpectedly and friends turn into adversaries. Also, do not disturb, renovate or dig in this direction. Those born in the Year of the Sheep are **DIRECTLY** in conflict with the Tai Sui.

Those born in the Year of the Dragon, Ox and Dog are indirectly in conflict with the Tai Sui.

All afflicted animal signs should carry the Grand Duke Appeaser Amulet to protect against misfortune. Carry or place a jade or metal Pi Yao in the Northeast corner of all rooms in the house which are frequently used.

AUSPICIOUS STARS

THE WEALTH STAR 8 brings abundant wealth to the Southeast. It is most beneficial for those born in the Years of the Dragon or Snake. It also benefits young girls. Enhance this sector with a Yang Water Feature. This is an extremely auspicious star of the Year.

THE HEAVEN STAR 6 – is located in the Southwest. It brings speculative and windfall luck. Those born in the years of Monkey or Sheep will benefit from this star. This favourable white star is regarded as the indirect wealth star and it will bring unexpected good fortune for those who reside in this sector. Activate this sector with a symbol of the Triple Sheep or 8 Immortals crossing the great waters.

THE WHITE STAR 1 – This lucky white star flies into the Northwest bringing Victory luck, as well as career and education success. It benefits the Father and those born in the Years of the Dog or Boar. Place Kwan Kung, Dragon Tortoise or Victory Banner in this area to activate success at work, in business and in competitive situations.

THE ROMANCE AND SCHOLASTIC STAR 4 – Brings romance and good examination luck. This year it flies to the South. It benefits the Female and those born in the Year of the Horse. Enhance romance with a pair of Mandarin Ducks and study luck with a Chi Lin with scholastic objects or crystal points in the South Sector.

PAHT CHEE FOR THE YEAR 2009

Four Pillars Chart for the Year

	Hour	Day	Month	Year
Heavenly Stem	Yang Fire	Yang Metal	Yang Fire	Yin Earth
Earthly Branch	Yang Water Rat	Yang Earth Dragon	Yang Wood Tiger	Yin Earth Ox

Main Indications of the Chart

Presence of all 5 elements indicates a very promising year. Excellent!

It is a double Lap Chun Year. Excellent!

Three Yang and one Yin Pillar indicate strong yang energy. Excellent!

Secret friend combination of Rat/Ox means a good beginning and good ending to the year. Excellent!

A harmonious year is suggested. Also a year when ingenuity and inventiveness reaps dividends!

There are good opportunities and wealth luck to be found.

The Star of the Nobleman brings helpful lord assistance from heaven. Speculative luck.

Commanding star brings authority, power and influence, favouring leaders strongly.

Powerful Mentor Star brings the luck of being supported, helped and guided by powerful benefactors.

Dominant Earth indicates a continuation of natural calamities.

The chart shows there is a lot of Yin Earth (wet earth). Be health conscious. There are dangers of sickness and disease epidemics.

Water and Fire clash in the hour pillar, indicating conflict amongst the younger generation.

Students Over-Seas

Starting or maintaining a social network of friends in Bangkok can be a difficult task if you are at school overseas. I would like to put together and manage a list for teenagers who board at schools abroad and come home to Bangkok for holidays.

This list, for members use only, could facilitate families in helping their children meet and socialise with others in a similar situation.

If you are interested, please call Caroline Willbourn on 081 665 4234 or e-mail contact@bwgbangkok.com

FENG SHUI FOR INDUSTRIES

METAL ELEMENT BUSINESSES

MINING, JEWELLERY, WHITE GOODS, COMPUTERS, AIRLINES

- Plenty of earth fuels the metal
- There is resource & support
- Can think big & take risks
- Excellent in the first quarter

EARTH ELEMENT BUSINESSES

PROPERTY, REAL ESTATE, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, HOTELS

- Do planning before investment
- Pickings from market slowdown
- Good to invest for the future
- Doing well the whole year

FIRE ELEMENT BUSINESSES

STOCK MARKET, ENTERTAINMENT, LIGHTING, RESTAURANTS

- Plenty of wood fuels the fire
- Second half better than first half
- Must think big to make big gains
- Need to watch timing

WOOD ELEMENT BUSINESSES

PLANTATION, AGRICULTURE, PUBLISHING, FLOWERS, PLANTS

- Plenty of Competitive Pressures
- Should consolidate to stay afloat
- For some, better to close!
- Only the best will survive

WATER ELEMENT BUSINESSES

BANKING, SHIPPING, TRANSPORT, ALCOHOL, FISHING

- A difficult year of crisis situations
- Redundancies & inefficiencies
- Weak companies will collapse
- Need Strategies for survival

CHINESE NEW YEAR DOOR DIRECTIONS

Take note of your doors during the 1st day of Chinese New Year. (Do not open the door if it is facing a bad direction)

God Wealth: East
God of Happiness: Southwest
God of Mentor: South
Auspicious Door: East

5 Ghost: Northwest
Death Door: Northwest
Wicked Door: Southwest

BEST DAYS TO START WORK
WEDNESDAY – 3RD DAY OF NEW YEAR
28th January 2009 – Conflict Rabbit

FRIDAY – 5TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
30th January 2009 – Conflict Snake

SUNDAY – 7TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
1st February 2009 – Conflict Sheep

TUESDAY – 9TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
3rd February 2009 – Conflict Rooster

WEDNESDAY – 10TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
4th February 2009 – Conflict Dog

AVERAGE DAYS TO START WORK
THURSDAY – 4TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
29th January 2009 – Conflict Dragon

MONDAY – 8TH DAY OF NEW YEAR
2nd February 2009 – Conflict Monkey

BABYCARE ITEMS FOR SALE

- 1 IKEA Cot Bed with mattress and bedding. 2 position base. 5,000 THB
- 1 Mamas & Papas 3-in-1 travel system (car seat, carrycot/pram, pushchair plus multiuse chassis) with matching changebag. 10,000 THB all accessories included.
- 1 Mothercare Babybath with stand. 1,000 THB
- 1 Britax Renaissance car seat for 9kg – 18 kg (approx. age 9 months to 4 years). 3,000 THB
- 1 Lapsac feeding cushion. 750 THB

Contact Sarah on sarah.banes@tesco.net or 086-060-1899

LUCK OF THE 12 CHINESE HOROSCOPE ANIMALS IN YEAR 2009

RAT – The Rat enjoys success luck, as the ruling animal of the year the Ox is your secret friend. Unfortunately, you are afflicted with the annual misfortune star and the low vitality star, and these afflictions may cause obstacles to your success. Therefore it is very important for all Rats to carry protective amulets against bad luck and spiritual afflictions. Health luck is moderate, need to exercise. Try not to overspend and be more patient. Some success is indicated in some months.

OX – The Grand Duke Jupiter visits the Ox bringing blessings and support. Normally this is considered auspicious, but due to an unlucky star the Ox will experience some obstructions at work and in business. Therefore this will be a mixed year. There may be problems in your relationship with others, along with obstacles resulting from aggravation. Stay calm, and do not be hasty when making decisions. To tap the good luck of the Grand Duke, Ox must carry the Grand Duke Appeaser Amulet and to overcome relationship problems at home or with office staffs keep a Friendship amulet near you at all times.

TIGER – The year strengthens the Tiger bringing good luck. The main obstacles this year is the quarrelsome star, which can bring litigation and aggravating encounters. Your luck will be mixed with bouts of obstacles, which can be solved as long as you keep your patience. You could meet unscrupulous people who cheat you, so be careful whom you trust. Take a serious approach in your work. The Robbery Star brings loss of money. Do not overspend and keep a record of your expenditure. You will have money luck in February and November and windfall luck in April. Carry protective amulet and mystic knot to boost your good luck and protection.

RABBIT – The elements of the year are beneficial for the Rabbit. The year will be challenging, but with hard work and determination will overcome financial and work related setbacks. Rabbits are at risk of being cheated or robbed this year. Protect yourself with a blue rhino against snatch thieves. There are indications of jealousy and politicking, be alert and avoid gossiping especially the female Rabbits. Love life is peppered with good humour. No major problems here. Good health, but Rabbits will experience some stress and tension related problems.

DRAGON – The Dragon benefits from the Grand Duke's support but suffers minor health and relationship problems. Success luck is strong but you must not be arrogant or you will attract the attention of people who are jealous of your success. Overall, an excellent year, everything goes fabulously, you will have more money, upward mobility and big breaks. Abundant wealth and career successes. Married couples benefit from having baby and singles benefit from marriage. To ensure everything goes smoothly, carry the Friendship and the Grand Duke amulet for protection.

SNAKE – There are strong indications of wealth and career luck in 2009. A good year to start new business ventures because the wealth and windfall luck are very strong. Snakes will gain material success and good recognition. Young snakes will achieve success in exams. There will be minor physical health problems. Unfortunately, the snakes have the Yi Duo star, which brings the best when in good period, but the worst when in bad period. Your bad period will be in August and October (not so bad really). The lady snake especially has strong indications of good wealth luck, so in order to benefit from the auspicious energies that surrounds you, make sure you energize the wealth sectors in your home and wear the 9 eye dzi to boost your career and wealth luck.

HORSE – 2009 promises dramatic improvements in relationships and career. The Peach Blossom Star visits the Horse and improves your relationships with others. For those courting, you will have excellent prospects in love and marriage. You also possess the Golden Deities Star which bring wealth and help from heaven. Be alert to opportunities, Horses feel stronger and confident this year. Health will be a concern, see a doctor if you have any health problems. Place a Wu lou or hang a Medicine Buddha next to your bed for good health.

SHEEP – The Sheep is in direct conflict with the Grand Duke (Tai Sui) and also suffers a visit from the Sui Po star causing you to feel misunderstood and unappreciated. Work get stressful. Your energy levels may plummet with a reduction in creativity and initiative. Instability at work and economic situations. No excitement in love and relationships. To overcome most of the problems this year the Sheep must protect themselves and carry the Grand Duke Appeaser at all times. Good news for the Sheep, you will experience small wealth and windfall luck.

MONKEY – Excellent year! The Monkey enjoys a fabulous year with plenty of Heaven's luck and success. You possess the Annual Heaven Star and have Heaven's Seal in your chart which brings blessings and support from the Heavens! Both your life force and spirit essence are high, giving you plenty of energy to achieve your goals. Speculative and windfall luck is also good and if you like to buy the lottery, place a figurine of your secret friend the Snake near you both at home and in the office. Single monkey will find love partner. Good love and relationship luck. Excellent development and recognition luck.

ROOSTER – A fantastic year! The Rooster benefits from the Prosperity Star and the presence of the Golden Deities which brings improvements to wealth luck. As both your life force and spirit essence are strong, things go smoothly in your day-to-day life. Tap the luck of the Golden Deity by displaying a gold (metal) figurine of Kuan Yin (Goddess of Mercy) or a Wealth God for divine assistance. You will also have travelling luck in the early part of the year. Health luck is not so good, pay attention to your health. Hang a Medicine Buddha or place a wu lou next to your bedside to ensure continued good health.

DOG – A mixed year for the Dog. While there is career and income luck, many of you may not be able to actualize the good luck. Dogs have small auspicious Luck star that brings happy occasions and small victories in the year. Try to avoid arguments. Love luck can be unstable so be careful what you do and say. To overcome problems, all Dogs should carry the Grand Duke Appeaser amulet. To even out your luck through the year, carry the Wealth Crane Talisman.

BOAR – The Boar could feel a lack of vitality in 2009, so you should strengthen physically, mentally and emotionally to materialize the good luck due this year. Your life force is low, making you tired easily. Health luck not so good, so do take care of your health and see a doctor for a check up. Tap into the luck of your secret friend the Tiger by displaying the figurine of a Tiger on your work desk. The annual star brings you career luck, display a Ru Yi and Power Chi Lin Talisman on your desk. The Boar suffer from the Yearly Conflict Star, you should carry the Friendship amulet to overcome this star.

New Members

Wietske Smits-Lievence

Hi, My name is Wietske. I arrived with the kids in Bangkok in August following my husband William and his job.

We are originally from Holland but for the last 20 years we've only spent our holidays there.

When we left Holland 3 days after our wedding it was to work on a dairy farm in Jordan. followed by another farm in Yemen, half a year in Holland and off to sell milking machines in Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and now he's doing the same in this region.

We have 4 kids who attend Bangkok Patana. They weren't very happy to move as we have lived 6 years in Turkey and specially to the Ronald and Christine (twins, 8 years old)it felt like home. Fred (16)and Saskia (14) do miss their friends and are frustrated with the time difference that makes MSN more difficult.

In Turkey I learned to enjoy Ceramics, water color painting and mosaic work. I organized the book club at both schools and helped out in the library in one.

I would love to paint again and have already started ceramics, and I definatly need to get fit again.

I enjoyed the SILC happenings and look forward to get to know you all .

Change of address

Lorraine Gough has moved to

Appt S-27B

Garden Towers

Bangna Trad 6.5km

Bangkaew

Bangplee

Mobile number stays the same but house number is 02 7519732

Farewell from Laurie

Dear SILC

Please cancel my membership as of Oct 1 as I will be leaving Thailand after nearly 8 years.

I have been a SILC member, VP on the committee and Bazaar Organizer over these past years and have enjoyed the dynamics of SILC very much. I have not been that active recently due to work commitments, but enjoy the newsletter and the few events that I attended.

So, please remove my details from email addresses and mailing lists - my newsletter gets mailed to me so you can save that stamp every month too!

I hope SILC will keep up support of Mahawong School as I remember when that corner lot was a big hole full of water, when SILC made donations to fill in the land; we made donations to build the school and play equipment, shading, etc. It is a real tribute to what a little effort can do for people - those kids there and their families. And, I hope SILC will support the school projects in Mae Hon Song thru Susan Race. I have been up there checking that donations go where they are most needed and they do - 100%.

You can contact Susan at susanrace@gmail.com as she did leave Thailand for a while, but she is back now.

Keep having fun and keep welcoming newcomers to Bangkok - I take with me a lot of good memories from SILC who welcomed me all those years ago.

Good luck to you all - and thank you.

Laurie

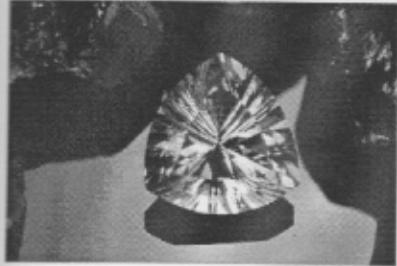
Laurie Burns

Seductive Amethysts

by Gemma Gibson

The birthstone for February

Who can ignore amethyst's seductive violet colour? Amazing that this gemstone was thought to protect you against seduction itself! And protect against drunkenness, as the name comes from the Greek word 'amethystos', meaning 'not intoxicated'! This is certainly a stone necessary to all of us ladies - no wonder Catherine the Great of Russia desired it so, she must have been to one of our SILC Parties!



From a gemmological point of view, amethyst is a member of the quartz family. Quartz is undoubtedly the single most common mineral on earth, made from the chemical molecule silicon dioxide or silica. There are so many forms of quartz, depending on the temperature and pressure when the gemstone was made, and which metals were around to give the colour. For amethyst in particular, the colour comes from iron plus some natural radiation under the earth's surface, producing tones from pale lilac to deep purple. It is often seen that stones have zones of these different tones. The most valuable colour is a rich velvet-like purple, not too dark and no colour-zoning; large stones may also show flashes of red!

If you heat amethyst to about 400 degC, you will find a citrine in its place! This is how 'ametrine', a combination of amethyst and citrine, is formed. As the colour change is permanent, we must be careful not to wear our amethyst jewellery whilst sunbathing!

Varieties of quartz have a hardness of 7. Hardness is how easily a stone can be *scratched* by another stone, eg, diamond is the hardest stone at 10 and can scratch all stones, sapphires are 9 and can scratch most stones except diamond, and we continue down to 1 where the stone cannot scratch anything, like the graphite in a lead pencil. As quartz is plentiful on our planet, most dust actually consists of minute quartz particles, giving dust a hardness of 7 too. This means that we shouldn't leave jewellery out gathering dust, as dust can cause damage.

Buyer beware! Amethyst stones can be easily produced in the lab, and it is estimated that about half the amethysts on the market are synthetic. Usually the colour is quite dark, and it is quite difficult to differentiate nature-made from man-made without access to a lab's expensive equipment. Usually the cost of the stone is much less than that of a lab report, so if you like the colour, the stone is 'eye-clean' from inclusions, and the price is good, go for it!

Amethyst - Interesting 'Facets'!

**** February birthstone***

**** Protection against seduction and drunkenness; relieves stress; peace***

**** Colour Violet,
dark tones more valuable***

**** Hardness 7***

**** Many synthetics!***

**** Found mainly in Brazil, Uruguay, Madagascar, smaller deposits worldwide***



October Reviews

Christmas came early.....



.... and it did look a lot like Christmas - Irene had been busy getting all her baubles and tinsel out. The stockings were hung (I think) and the trees were both trimmed, it looked lovely.



The SILC ladies arrived with Secret Santa presents and lots of yummy Christmas food. Irene and Kay had also asked everyone to bring a little present to be taken to a group of local children, sharing a bit of that Christmas cheer.



We were welcomed into Irene's house with some homemade mulled wine. With the smell of the mulled wine and the roast turkey it was getting Christmassy by the minute.



The dinner table was completely full with food from sprouts to bread sauce to have with your turkey. Lizzie's mash went in no time at all and Kate's mushroom gravy was divine on a 'pig in a blanket' although Kate as a vegetarian stuck to the yummy stuffed peppers and tons of veg i.e. Emma's superbly steamed broccoli.



Then there was pudding... the Dutch ladies Marit and Aleid had both made the perfect 'appel taart' Colette impressed us all with her raspberry Pavlova and Rhonda had made her special Pumpkin bread and I think there was just the odd cake or pie sitting there waiting to be eaten.



Gemma showed us the Rayong ladies book of recipes out now to buy with all proceeds going straight back to charity.



Those who were ready for 40 winks after all that food had to put it off a little longer; it was Secret Santa pressie grabbing time! There were a couple of ladies who played it safe by not unwrapping their chosen gift so to avoid theft! It was a good laugh stealing presents and then having that gift whisked away from you again. So we all ended up with some lovely things and were well into the Christmas spirit thanks to another great Christmas lunch at Irene's.



Sara Carr-Legg December 2nd 2008

Christmas Cheer at Evolution



Seems a long time ago now and I am trying to recall what happened my brain is still a little blurry from all the festive fun during Christmas!

So here goes.....A gathering of about 20 or so people met at Evolution on Soi Bearing. With Christmas songs and merriment, the first hour passed quickly and then it was time for the main event of the evening to start. Ian's Infamous Quiz. We split into 4 teams and the brains began to work...hard...very hard!! It had a Christmas theme and there was lots of debate, banter and even silence on a few questions. Half way through Genevieve and her husband Dan arrived and quickly joined in not wanting to miss out on the grand prize of a free drink. After a time when exhaustion was starting to set in it was time to mark the answers. The scores of the teams ranged from quite bad to quite respectful. The winning team (whose team name I can't recall) was Kay, Jenny, Jerry, Jane and Steve. Well done!

For an extra prize, each team selected a member of their team to have a go at the Electric Shock Game, which Evolution kindly supplied. Evil is the only word to describe it. Each player holds a handle that is attached to a small device that supplies a small shock. Lights start flashing and everyone holds on until the lights stop. When the lights stop, you have to as quickly as possible press a button on your handle. The last person to press gets the small shock!! Well it was very entertaining to watch and I was glad to be the commentator.

After each round someone was eliminated until, at last Dan with his lightening reactions (so he should have being a tennis coach!) was the last man standing. Drinks and chats continued for a while longer until slowly people departed.

Applause goes out to Neil and Priya who cycled back to their house wearing Santa hats!

Thanks go to Evolution and their staff for being great hosts and serving some yummy 'Big Chips' and to Quiz Master Ian.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas wherever you where and best wishes for 2009.

Cheers Lizzy

SILC Fiesta 2009



Welfare Update

Well, things have been pretty quiet over Christmas and the New Year period, but we still managed to give away some money!!

Just before Christmas we went to the Mahawong School and gave all the children there a small gift (some of which were donated from the ladies at the SILC Christmas lunch). Thank you very much. This is always a great thing to do. It's only a small token but they really look forward to it every year.

On the same day we went back to visit the family under the tent and brought along the tent that SILC purchased and some clothes that were donated. It's a nice size five man tent - so at least they were able to keep warm over that recent cold spell that we were having. There is now a second family living there so I don't know if we will provide another tent but if we do we might just encourage a whole community to turn up! I guess we can only help so many.

To get back to the Mahawong School, they are moving premises sometime this month. They have a new, bigger and better school, just built my FORDEC. It's in the same area but they will be taking in 150 children. Now that they have such a big number we don't think we will be able to continue doing the Friday morning activity. We were struggling at the end of last year to keep up with the 100 kids that we used to have. When we started going there two years ago it was only about sixty kids so it has grown considerably. We have decided to continue sending up the fruit every other week with the money that we collect from the Mahjong ladies. (A big thank you to all the ladies who continue to donate to this each week)

Earlier in December we made a visit to the Klong Toey slums to donate some money to Sister Joan Evans. Sister Joan is a wonderful Australian Nun who looks after a huge number of people in that slum area. She does an amazing job and most of her money comes from charity donations. One project that really appealed to us was the "milk run". The milk run is where every two weeks all the new moms and their babies come to receive powdered baby milk. This is a very well organized and run event but is also a very expensive one. The families are allowed to receive the milk for their babies for up to twelve months but in some cases, where the babies may have some special needs, it could be longer. So as you can imagine it is very costly. It cost about 120,000 baht a term to keep this project going. So that's what where we are looking at spending some of the money that we raised from last year's SILC events. Some may ask why these moms don't breast feed and the reason is that a lot of the moms suffer from HIV or some other related disease.

All that's left for me to say is a very big thank you to all our SILC members for your continuing support and generous donations throughout the year. Without people like you we would not be able to help those so less fortunate than ourselves!!

Hope you all have a very happy and healthy 2009.

Kay.



January Reviews

The January Silc lunch was held at Bua Restaurant on Thursday the 22nd of January, a lovely Thai restaurant not far from Seacon square and the Seri centre. This restaurant is a great place to bring friends and relatives as the food is very good, the surroundings are pleasant and airy and the staff are very friendly and most of all the prices are very good especially at the moment when the baht is quite strong against other currencies.

There were seven lovely ladies who went for lunch Jane, Lorraine, Kay, Tanya, Irene, Jo, Kim and another lady who usually is sitting around waiting for everybody to arrive but who was unsavorily delayed something that is a rare occurrence (Jo and Lorraine will agree to that) arrived later.

We had very diverse conversations that went from preventing dog food from getting soggy and going stale, and what is the best way to keep it fresh Kay provided the solution to that problem, to the brilliant night we all had on Saturday night, don't mention the work tequila (not a nice drink but good on the night) also do not mention the cocktails that left my head in a cocktail state of mind the next day especially when I had BSL for my darling little six year old at 8am, next time better planning Steve not the day after the ball, and that when we reach the age of forty that our brain can shrink so that explains why we are all getting a little forgetful, but we yet don't know if this is proven or just a myth.!!! We all decided that we can make these great Thai curries because there is this sauce that you can use call lobo which is very easy to use and creates the most amazing Thai dishes with the minimum of effort all for ten baht I have tried it making a yellow curry and it is great and the instructions are in English and Thai. At these Silc get togethers the amount of information we accumulate is very interesting and almost amazing!!!! to say the least.

Well I said I would make this a short write up sorry if I have gone on a little but as it is about a luncheon I better start describing the food we ate.

As I was the person that arrived late the food was already ordered so forgive me ladies if I haven't mentioned all the dishes, there was pineapple rice the Bua restaurant make the best pineapple rice I have tasted in Thailand it is (a roi mack ka) this is my interpretation of trying to say it is delicious in Thai never mind the spelling, you know what I mean, Satay, Chicken and cashew nuts, a lovely creamy chicken soup don't remember the Thai name must ask Jane, but someone did mention it tasted a bit like Campbell's chicken soup, a curry oops forget the colour sorry, morning glory or glory morning (never quite know which way the glory goes must consult Sarah!) lovely fish, Sea bass, and finally a crab dish in a yellow sauce which was quite delicious which someone commented on had the appearance of scrambled egg! Don't think I will get asked to do food write ups again if I didn't talk so much and took more notice of the dishes I would be a better food editor. Maybe Jamie Oliver is looking for someone to do his write ups!!!!!!!!!!!!

All for the sum total of 350 baht each, the company was great the food was aroi the price was very good what else could we ask for on a sunny Thursday at the Bua Restaurant.

Bon appetite

Colette

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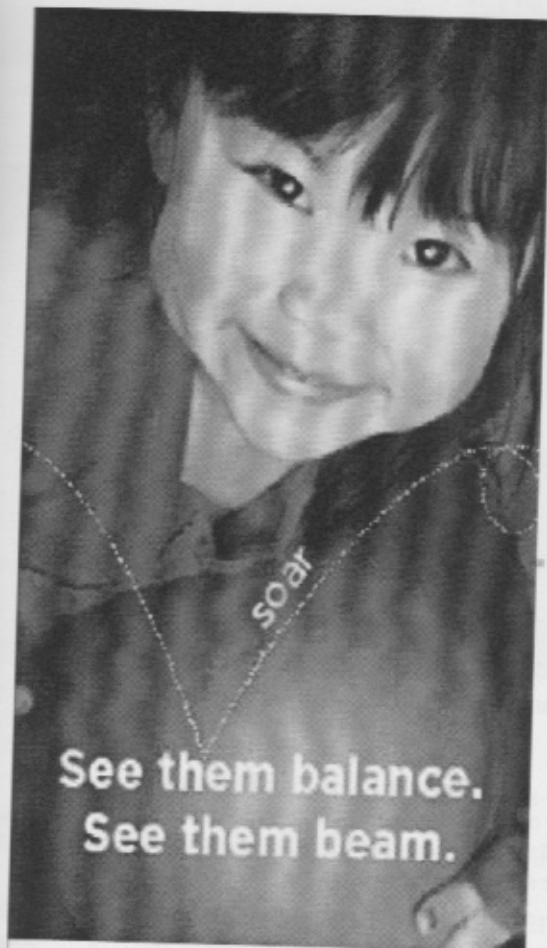
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November Reviews

Bang Ka Jao Bike Tour – November 25 2008

On the 25 November thirteen women set off from Patana school in two mini vans loaded up with mountain bikes to go on a bike tour around the Bang Ka Jao area. It took approximately 25 minutes from Patana to our drop off point. Our bikes had already been set up in advance (we had to advise them on our height measurements the day before), so it was a pretty easy process of picking up the bike with your name on it!!

Within five minutes of setting off on our journey we had to jump off our bikes and head over to the other side of the river on a long tail boat. It was fascinating how many bikes, women and tour leaders you could get onto one boat!!!! Then we were off, it was an extremely pleasant ride through the countryside along very quiet roads, it felt like a hundred miles away from the hustle and bustle of Bangkok. Then the tour leader advised that we would be going off road and riding along the khlongs. This basically meant riding on a three foot cemented cycle track with a six foot drop either side of the path! It was a little hairy at times but incredibly entertaining, although we were told that some poor Australian lady had fallen into the Khlong the day before!!



During the tour the guides would stop periodically along the way, giving information on local temples, local produce and Buddhism in general. We passed through many a local market and local Villages and even got to see some local women making Citronella burners.

At 12.00pm we stopped at a restaurant on the side of the road to savour some Pad Thai which was delicious, followed by pomelo and of course gallons of water as it was so hot!

It was then homeward bound back over the river and onto the mini van!

I had many a text message that night telling me that their bottoms were hurting and that they were having an early night as they were exhausted but they had had a great time!

It was a lovely way to spend the day, and I would highly recommend it as a way of seeing the true Thailand, although I would be a little concerned taking young children or people with little balance!!!!

The tour company known as SpiceRoads also does tours around the Floating Market, Chiang Mai and even Cambodia and Laos, and have a website with all the information needed.

By Lian Bennett



Dance workshops for adults!

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How the Fight started ...

**Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day. I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible." My loving wife of 10 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started ...

** My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since." "My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

And then the fight started.....

**I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... He was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!!!" So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?"

And then the fight started.....

**I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please." He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" "Nah, she can order for herself."

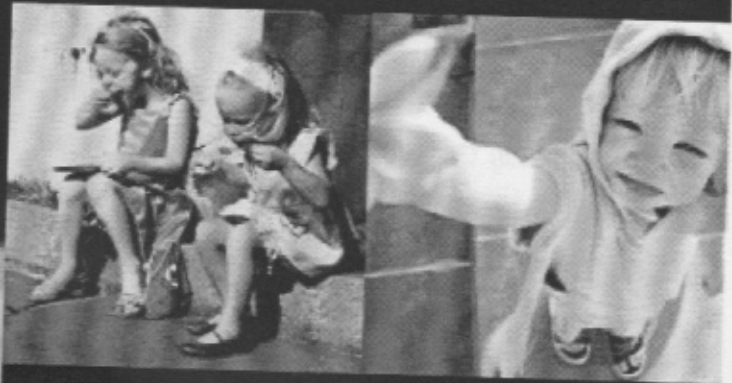
And then the fight started.....

**A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." The husband replies, "Your eyesight's darn near perfect."

And then the fight started.....

Sent by Irene Gray

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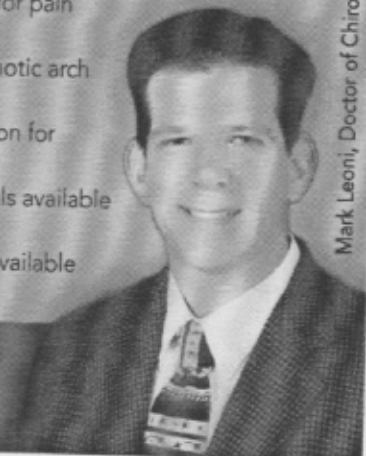


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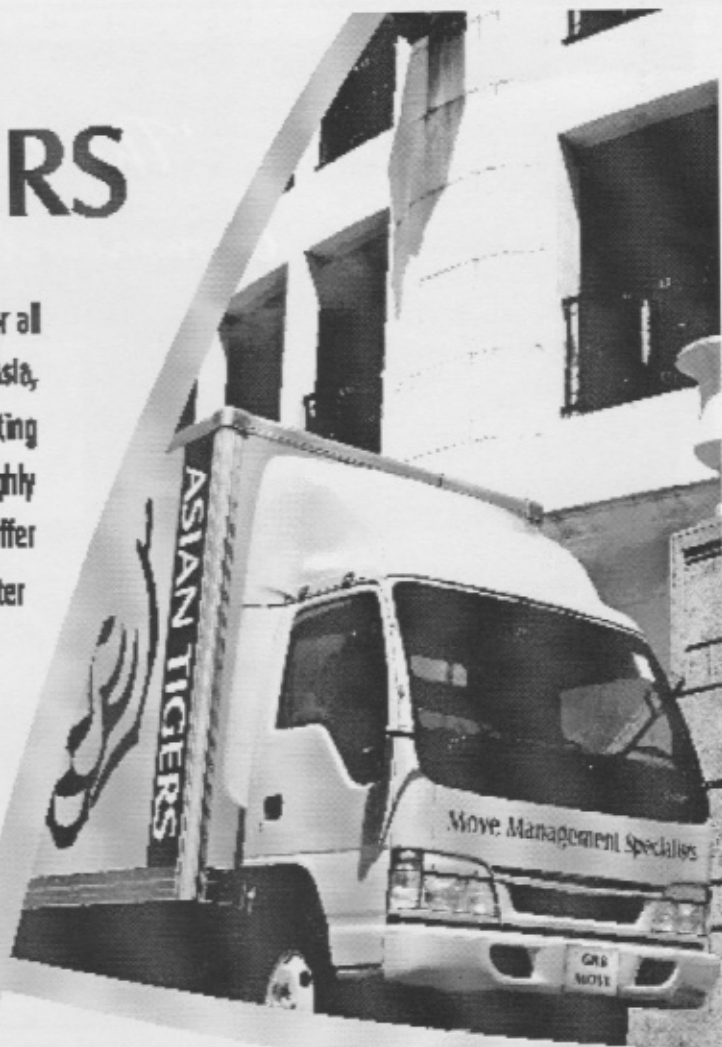


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