

# The Phuket Gazette

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## New face scores Patong poll win

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn  
& Gategeo Phetsawang

**PATONG:** The Patong Progress Party (PPP) led by Songserm Kepsap scored a surprise victory in the Patong Municipal election on February 8, beating the Raksa Patong Party (RPT) of veteran politician Pian Keesin by 322 votes.

K. Songserm told the *Gazette*, "We're proud that people voted for us because they understood that we really can keep our promises."

"The first thing we plan to do [after taking office] is to solve the problems of garbage in Patong."

Despite predictable accusations from both sides about vote-buying, Phunsak Naksena, Chief Administrative Assistant of Patong Municipality and Director of the Election, told the *Gazette* that the atmosphere of the election had been calm and no contraventions of election rules had been detected.

"We cannot set a date for when the new team will take office because we still have to wait for confirmation of the result from the Phuket Election Commission (PEC)," K. Phunsak said.

He added that he could not say whether that confirmation would be forthcoming.

"Nothing abnormal happened [on the day] but there may be other factors I don't know about," he said.

"It has often been said that Patong has a problem with vote-buying, but we have come across no witnesses or evidence to suggest that this took place."

Kittipong Thiengkunagrit,



Mayor-elect Songserm Kepsap: "People voted for us because they understood that we really can keep our promises."

Director of the PEC, told the *Gazette* that he had so far received no complaints about the election, but that the PEC's judgment would have to be approved by the Central Election Committee in Bangkok.

The loser, Pian Keesin, said he was certain there had been vote-buying. He even disclosed his estimate of the amount - between 30 million and 40 million baht.

K. Pian swore that his party had not engaged in this nefarious practice. The result, he said, bore this out, with his group

polling roughly the same number of votes as in past elections.

"Every time we went out canvassing we discussed only policy issues, but the other team didn't go out canvassing at all."

Oddly for a man not known for his conciliatory nature in matters political, K. Pian added, "I don't know what to do [but] I don't think I will take action against them."

Sounding almost despairing of the quality of voters in his town, he said, "Patong is a place that can bring revenue of 10 bil-

Continued on page 2

## Floatplane airline all set to take to the skies

By Alasdair Forbes

**PHUKET:** The island now has its own amphibious airline - Blue Water Air (BWA), which will initially fly tours around Phang Nga Bay and land in the sea off Phi Phi, using a 12-seat Cessna Caravan floatplane.

From this week, BWA will offer trips from Phuket Airport over the north end of Phang Nga Bay, then over Koh Yao Noi and Poh Dah in Krabi, before putting down off Phi Phi then flying back to Phuket. The airline will take off four times a day from Phuket, at 8 am, 9 am, 10 am and 11 am.

The introductory price for a round trip will be 5,900 baht for adults and 4,500 baht for children. One-way transfers from Phi Phi to Phuket Airport, a flight of 15 minutes, will cost 2,000 baht.

The airline also has permission to fly to the Similan Islands, but that service is not expected to start until the 2004-2005 high season. Permission is being sought to fly to Koh Lanta and Koh Yao Yai, and the airline may also provide flights to these destinations from Krabi Airport.

BWA has been 15 months in the making - the time it took Managing Director Capt José Cordoba to amass the necessary paperwork, including detailed environmental impact statements for each place where the airline wants to make a water landing.

Although the completed paperwork has made a pile "about a meter high", Capt Cordoba said he had been delighted with the support the venture has received from the Thai authorities, especially the Director General of Civil Aviation,

Continued on page 2





Artist's concept of the Cessna Caravan in Blue Water Air livery. At the time of going to press, the aircraft was still being painted.

## Island airline set for take-off

From page 1

Chalor Kotcharat, and his staff. "They have all been very, very helpful," he said.

One of the conditions for launching the airline is that BWA will assist local emergency services when required.

Capt Cordoba, a dual US-Venezuelan citizen, has been flying commercial jets, including Boeing 747s, for 22 years. He feels that a float plane service is ideally suited to Phuket.

"Everyone who flies to Phuket and sees the islands [around it] sees it as a natural thing to do," he told the *Gazette*.

The airline is capitalized at 25 million baht, which covers the cost of leasing and converting an unused building at Phuket Airport for use as a terminal and hangar, and the cost of leasing the first aircraft until two new ones, currently on order, can be delivered from the United States.

These are expected to arrive in June and September this year. The aircraft will cost about 75 million baht apiece.

Apart from Capt Cordoba, other directors are locally-based

property developer Stephen Baxter, former Thai Airways International pilot Capt Nithit Kesangam and Jirayu Limsakul of tour company Andaman Leisure Four.

The Cessna initially used for the service has been leased from Australian pilot Kevin Pearce, who is also flying it for BWA, and fellow Australian Guy Booth. The pair used to provide a similar service in Australia.

Capt Cardenas said that Mr Pearce will train other pilots to fly the float plane, which he described as "a very specialized kind of flying – you have to understand it's not just an aircraft; when it's in the water, it's a boat."

As the *Gazette* went to press, Capt Cordoba was awaiting final approval from the Department of Civil Aviation, but said he expected to begin flying paying passengers on February 13 or 14.

Already, there is great interest from travel agencies, he added. "We've signed contracts with all the local tour operators – LTU, Thomas Cook, all of them. It looks good."

## Avian 'flu? What's that?

**PATONG:** More than 8,000 people turned out to consume about six tons of chicken and 30,000 eggs in a free food festival in Patong on February 7, to reassure consumers that chicken remains safe to eat despite the persistence of avian 'flu in Thailand.

Another "feast" at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town on the same day also drew thousands of chicken chombers.

The Bangkok-ordered initiative – all provinces were told to hold similar events on the same day – saw diners enjoying a selection of omelettes, curries, soups and other chicken dishes, including: *gaeng kiew wan kai* (chicken green curry); *laab kai* (spicy minced chicken with herbs); *khao man kai* (poached chicken and fragrant rice); and *kai sook sook* (well done chicken steak).



Speaking with the *Gazette* before the event, Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), said that chickens and eggs from Phuket farms have been guaranteed as safe by the PPLO.

He explained that 245

chickens and eggs from 107 Phuket chicken farms had been examined and found to be free of avian 'flu virus.

In addition, chemical sprays were being used on vehicles entering and leaving farms to reduce the risk of infection.

## Castles built on sand

**KARON:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Chula Phuket Sand Sculpture Festival will take place at Nong Harn, Karon beach, on February 15.

Teams will consist of not more than five people and will be divided into groups from primary schools, high schools, colleges, hotels and the public, with a maximum of 100 teams in total.

Those interested in entering can apply at Tesco-Lotus, The Books, Seng Ho Book Store or Yada Clinic, or can contact K. Variya on Tel: 076-235125-8.

## New team in shock poll win

From page 1

lion baht a year to the country, but if local people are still content to take a few baht it means they are not [politically] developed.

"Of course, that does not include the people who did not put money first, and who voted for me."

He added sourly, "I don't think they [the PPP] will be able to manage a full four-year term because there will be infighting

and the leader won't be able to control his team."

K. Songserm said there was absolutely no vote-buying by his people.

"There was no vote buying [by us]. That's an outdated way of winning an election, because people now know that if someone 'invests' in votes, he is going to expect a return on that investment."

"Our team didn't do anything like that; I'm not sure about the others."

Kamneung Sing'iem, Deputy Leader of the PPP, added, "I wouldn't know how to buy votes because I am new to politics."

"I'm confident that no one in our team bought any votes. All we did was talk with people – and large numbers of them supported us willingly."

Provided that there are no complaints, the results could be confirmed in as little as 10 days.

But if complaints are lodged, then the investigation process could take a month or more before a decision is made as to whether the election results will stand.

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# Bridge to connect Koh Yao Yai with Koh Yao Noi

PHANG NGA: Koh Yao Yai and Koh Yao Noi islands are to be connected by a suspension bridge and a luxury hotel will be developed on one of the islands, District Chief Songpol Konkaew told the *Gazette*.

An 8-million-baht budget has already been issued by the central government to study the bridge project's technical and financial requirements, he said.

"We have not yet set a construction schedule because we are still in the pre-

liminary planning stages, but I can say with 100% certainty that the bridge will be built," K. Songpol said, adding that the project would facilitate travel between the two islands and improve tourism.

K. Songpol said that the proposed bridge would be high enough to allow large ships to pass beneath it.

Currently, the islands are famous for eco-tourism. The predominantly Muslim population has received praise nationally

and internationally for sustainable development and for its innovative "homestay" tourism, whereby tourists can stay in the homes of local residents.

"Most local people agree with the bridge project because it will allow them to find work near home," K. Songpol said.

He also announced that a major hotel group was planning to develop a five-star luxury resort on Koh Yao Noi. He said the owner was a Bangkok businessman

who bought land on the island a long time ago and now hopes to spend the rest of his life there.

Another project, the 30-room four-star Koh Yao Paradise, is nearing completion, he added.

The announcements were made just 10 days before celebrations to mark the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Koh Yao's establishment as a district (*amphur*).

The highlight of the festival will be on February 15, when 10 couples will be wed in a traditional Koh Yao marriage ceremony.

The ceremony will feature a water parade with more than 100 longtail boats which will go to Koh Hong, which local people believe is a "bridal house" for the mythical Naga. Couples who visit it, so the belief goes, will have a happy marriage.

For further information, contact Koh Yao District Office at 076-597003.

# Anchalee quits Parliament

PHUKET: Democrat party-list (unelected) MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr quit Parliament on February 3 to enable her to contest the key post of President in the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) polls on March 14.

Democrat spokesman Ong-art Klampaiboon on February 3 said K. Anchalee will run with the aim of becoming *OrBorJor* President, a post soon to be vacated by Dr Prasit Koeysiripong, who recently announced he was dropping out of politics.

Her move to enter local politics proved popular with more than 1,000 people who flocked to a Democrat rally two days later to launch her as the party's candidate for *OrBorJor* President.

The turnout far exceeded those at the launches of the other two candidates – independent Wisut Santikun, of the *OrBorJor* *Gao Mai Khonbaanrao* ("New



Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr receives garlands from supporters as she arrives to register for the *OrBorJor* election.

Step Our People") party, and Samroeng Chaisorn, of the government-backed *OrBorJor* *Gao Mai TRT* ("New Step TRT") party – showing the Democrats' enduring popularity in Phuket.

Also on the podium at the outdoor Chatuchak market on

Phang Nga Rd, in Phuket Town, were the glamorous and popular Abisit Vejajiva, the Democrats' Deputy Leader.

K. Abisit told the crowd that in the old days people thought local politics were not important but nowadays things had changed

and local politics were much more important in many countries around the world.

"K. Anchalee has made a decision to work for the people of Phuket," he said.

"Phuket is important to Thailand in many ways, so any person who is involved in administering this special province should be special as well."

K. Anchalee told the audience, "The party's decision [to back my candidature] was made for a number of reasons.

"The first is that Phuket is a famous tourist destination and earns more than 50 billion baht a year for the country, but also has many problems such as labor and the environment.

"The CEO Governor system, which is a Government policy, seems to be concentrating power [in Bangkok], so we need to have someone elected by the people to balance this power. From now on, local and national politics will be inseparable."

Luck followed for K. Anchalee at registration for the elections on February 9, when she won a lucky draw for the No. 1 spot on the ballot.

Wisut Santikun, of the "New Step Our People" party, arrived at the same time but lost out in the lucky draw.

Samroeng Chaisorn, of the "New Step TRT" party, was oddly not present at the draw, but had until February 13 to register for the elections.

## Blackout schedule

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced its February schedule of blackouts to allow it to continue upgrading high-voltage power lines.

All blackouts will be from 9 am to 4 pm. They are as follows:

Feb 20, **Rawai:** Baan Sai Yuan, all of Soi Ruamnanachart Sai Yuan on Wiset Rd.

Feb 23, **Phuket Town:** Chao Fa East Rd, all of Moo Baan Chao Fa.

Feb 26, **Phuket Town:** Eastern side of Thepkasattri Rd and Chumporn Rd, from the PPEA substation to Satree Phuket School, including Soi Patchanee, Moo Baan Thepkasattri, Soi Boonyarak, Soi Siang Tai and Moo Baan Rabarun.

Damrong Rd, from Satree Phuket School to Phuket Provincial Prison.

Feb 27, **Koh Kaew:** the whole of Soi Pamaprao on Thepkasattri Rd.

Please note that this information is subject to change without notice. For more information or to check the latest status, call Tel: 076-211663.

# German tourist dies at Bang Tao Beach

THALANG: A 53-year-old tourist from Germany died after being found unconscious in the shallows of Bang Tao Beach on February 5.

Police named the dead man, who is thought to have drowned, as Hans Peter Otto Krieter, who arrived a few days earlier for a vacation with a friend, Alfred Herbert Prusseit, 55.

Pol Capt Banchop Songna-

rong, of Cherng Talay Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Mr Krieter went swimming alone while his friend drank and chatted to other tourists at a small beachside bar.

About 1 pm, a Thai woman told Mr Prusseit that she was concerned because she had seen his friend lying in the shallows, not moving.

"Mr Prusseit ran to investi-

gate," Capt Banchop said. Mr Prusseit found his friend unconscious. An attempt at resuscitation was made on the beach but Mr Krieter did not respond.

Mr Krieter's body was taken to Thalang Hospital for autopsy to determine the precise cause of death. "We believe he drowned but we are still waiting for the result of autopsy," Capt Banchop added.



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## Queer News

## Well and truly tukked

BANGKOK: There are many delightful souvenirs for discerning tourists to take home with them after a trip to Thailand: Krating Daeng (Red Bull) T-shirts; amusing smiling monkeys lovingly crafted from coconuts; a burn to the right calf from a motorcycle's hot exhaust.

A lucky few even find that an attractive lover makes a suitable holiday memento.

For some, the greatest reminder of their time in Thailand is the onomatopoeic mode of transport, the tuk-tuk, and its driver's clarion cry of "Hey you *farang!* Where you go?"

In fact, so taken are they with tuk-tuks that they buy one.

Dane Michael Petersen is one such devotee and, rather than entrust his brand-new, 300,000 baht set of (three) wheels to a

shipping company, he plans to drive it all the way to Arhus in Denmark. The journey, a mere 18,000 kilometers, is expected to cost slightly less than the average trip from Phuket Town to Karon, but will take a fraction longer at seven months.

Mr Petersen's chosen odyssey will first take him south to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. He will then double back and go overland through India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey before heading through Central Europe to Denmark.

But this is no mere flight – or drive – of fancy for the daring Dane. He feels that he should promote Thailand to repay it for all that has given to him and judged that a terribly tortuous tuk-tuk trip was the best way.

Source: *Daily News*

## Prisoners of love (and throw away the key)

NONTHABURI: Good marriages, they say, are made in Heaven. The Royal Prison Department, part of the Ministry of Justice, is attempting to emulate this on Valentine's Day by facilitating weddings within prisons.

Exactly how many of Thailand's 200,000-strong prison population are due to tie the knot on February 14 isn't known, but Nonthaburi Provincial Prison (NPP) has at least seven criminal couples ready to exchange vows.

Aree Chaloeysuk, Director of NPP, will act as "best man" to the jailed grooms. He said, "It's the first time that we will have a wedding party in our prison." The locked-up lags will enjoy a religious ceremony and reception, and receive official marriage certificates.

A honeymoon in the Seychelles is not expected.

In a generous interpretation of the term "visiting hours", one lucky lady in the women's section of Petchaboon Provincial Prison will be allowed to receive her significant other overnight on February 14.

All 14 female inmates registered to use a cordoned-off section of the jail for a night of romance behind the bars but an unlucky 13 lost out.

Source: *Thai Rath*

# BANKS

## The crunch



Thai banks are in the midst of a series of mergers that will reshape the industry. But will services improve?  
Dhirarat Boonkongsaeen reports.

It's a typical scene. The bank door opens at 8:30 am and there's a small rush of people. Each takes a number, then waits. And waits.

If the bank's computer system comes up, then the person who was lucky enough to nab No. 5 will be seen in about 15 minutes. The person with No. 20 will have to wait a little longer.

Banking in Phuket is a little like a lottery at times, especially for foreigners.

Credit cards are notoriously hard to get because some bank officers harbor the belief that foreigners are likely to flee with debts outstanding, so the honest majority suffer for the misdeeds of a few.

The bureaucratic mindset is rife in Thai banks. One woman who sought a credit card told the *Gazette* that she was asked to provide proof of income, even though her monthly salary had been deposited directly with the same bank for two years.

Procedures that would take minutes at banks in, say, Hong Kong or Singapore, can take days in Phuket. Sometimes, this

is because nearly every decision of consequence is made at head office in Bangkok.

At some banks, it also means that there is a disproportionate number of staff in Bangkok but too few in outlying branches, including Phuket, to offer a high standard of service.

Complaints are not restricted to foreigners. The banks themselves admit that Thai customers also criticize restrictive opening times, unhelpful staff, the size of fees charged and the paucity of service.

"There are four counters at my bank but they only ever do transactions at two of them," one Thai customer told the *Gazette*.

The trend to Internet online banking and to higher levels of security has brought fresh complaints about new technology.

In a country where transactions still often require paperwork to be done in triplicate, the switch to computer databases and passwords remains daunting.

"I don't understand why every officer needs a separate password at the service counter," the Thai customer said. "I know it's for security but it means I am kept waiting for an hour at least, because only one bank officer can work each computer."

One Westerner doesn't understand why his bank account number is printed on his ATM receipts – he expects it to be confidential.

Another Westerner had a check from his Hong Kong savings account accepted at the Phuket branch of his Thai bank and then was called back to the bank many days later because head office in Bangkok wanted an explanation of the source of the money.

In another case for complaint, a Westerner seeking to

transfer money was kept waiting for three weeks, with no explanation from the bank. He no longer has faith in Thai banks and suspects it may have been an attempt at corruption.

In countries in the West where banks have merged, confusion has often become more intense. Where roles have been duplicated, merged banks have closed branches and sacked staff.

Customers have often been caught up in changes of policy caused by the mergers and the dedication of larger banks to delivering profits to shareholders at the cost of service to customers.

Analysts agree that the struggle to maintain or improve services is likely to become more difficult as banks concentrate on merging and the Thai banking industry undergoes massive change.

The situation is being watched by the central bank, the Bank of Thailand (BoT). Phairoj Henghakul, Senior Director of the BoT Southern Region, said there was a "financial master plan" to improve banking and the financial industry generally.

"In 1999, after the economic crisis, we found a weak point in our financial institutions in terms of dealing with foreign businesses and larger businesses. They tend to be more open and worldwide," he said.

"Nowadays, the business sector in Thailand has turned around. The small size of many Thai banks is not helping us to deal with and compete with other countries.

"So the financial master plan calls for fewer banks and a greater level of competition between them."

Thai banks, when criticized for the slowness of their international services often shift the blame to their counterparts in other countries.

The Assistant Manager of the Thai Military Bank (TMB) in Phuket, Khwannate Thomthayakorn, told the *Gazette*, "Sometimes, money destined for Thai-

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**PHUKET SCENE:** Queues are common when dealing with Thai banks, even at ATMs.

# on numbers

land has to be transferred, for example, from a city in Europe to New York first, before it reaches a Thai bank."

A customer of Siam Commercial Bank disputes this. It took six weeks, he said, for a check issued by the HSBC bank to be cleared.

"Siam Commercial said it was the fault of HSBC for not confirming the check. HSBC, when I called them, said they had confirmed the check within days. So the customer is caught between two banks, not knowing which one is dragging its feet."

Security is a growing concern, K. Khwannate said, so the need for documentation had increased. But once people registered and had a bank ID profile, transactions became more straightforward, she noted.

Take-a-number queuing systems at least had the benefit of treating all customers as equals, and each branch made its

own decisions about service. About 10% of TMB customers in Phuket are foreign, she said.

A spokesperson for the Kasikornbank (KB) also said that equal treatment for foreign and Thai customers was important.

KB Phuket Town branch Assistant Manager, Sutheep Boonhok, told the *Gazette* that KB handles many transfers from overseas accounts and usually the money was available within five days.

However, K. Sutheep said a transaction would take longer if the KB had had no previous contact with the correspondent bank.

"Some transactions could [technically] be done by Internet banking but cannot at present because we are obliged to follow the policy of the BoT on security," K. Sutheep said.

"We always offer our clients good service. No bank wants

Banking shake-up	
At least four bank mergers will be set up this year to consolidate individual banks and make them stronger. Others will try to stay on their own.	
Banks	Strategy
DBS Thai Danu Bank Thai Military IFCT	Merger announced on Jan 22
Bank Thai Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand Siam City Bank	Announcement in 2004
Bank of Asia UOB Radanasin	Negotiations in progress
Krung Thai Bank Other state-owned banks	Announcement in 2004
Bangkok Bank	Will go it alone
Kasikornbank	Satisfied with its size
Bank of Ayudhya	Will go it alone
Siam Commercial Bank	Acquire other banks over 5 years
Standard Chartered Nakornthorn Bank	Niche bank

to upset clients. Foreigners account for as much as 20% of all KB clients in Phuket, though the percentage varies from high season to low season.

"KB has a training program to teach proper service standards. Lack of manpower is a problem, but it's no reason for lower service standards. We try our best.

"Following conditions imposed by the BoT can make it difficult to deal with customers sometimes. We advise headquarters when we have problems caused by regulations or policy, and they always listen to us."

Patcharamat Kasayapand, Manager of Bank of Asia (BoA), Phuket Town branch, told the *Gazette*, "The most important thing in our job is the customers."

Mistakes may result from misunderstandings, especially with foreign customers, though staff receive continuous training in English.

"When it comes to personal service, we have to accept that we sometimes have many customers in the branch. We work under the control of headquarters in Bangkok and the BoT has a security policy that has to be taken into account.

"I cannot comment about the proposed mergers but they should bring improved service and greater competition."

The BoT's K. Phairoj accepts that Thai banks receive complaints about such problems as sluggish service but does not believe that the Thai banking system is to blame.

"I am sure that the plan to merge banks will create a better banking system and make it more competitive.

"In the future, the banks will become clusters of banks. It will be easier for customers and should lower the cost of doing a transaction."

Things may have improved since the days when customers of banks – Krung Thai Bank in particular – were advised to bring pillows with them, but there is still a long way to go or, in the case of clients, a long time to wait in line.

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Help is at hand for those who can't make up their minds whether to enjoy pizza or Thai food for dinner. Now they can enjoy both in the same meal.

Pizza Man, in the open-air Bar Tango at the top of Pattana Rd in Phuket Town, offers a selection of Thai-flavored thin-and-crispy pizzas in addition to its Western selections.

The *Gazette* recently met owners Samret "Kai" Musitmanee and his partner Boontham "Tam" Boonyarit, aka "Pizza-man," and sampled two medium-sized 10-inch pizzas; one *phad krapao kai* and the other a *tom yum* seafood pizza.

Fears that seafood soup pizza would be too mushy to have the correct texture were unfounded. The pizza had the perfect spicy-sour balance one would expect of *tom yum* and came with a generous topping of squid, shrimp, mushrooms, mussels and crab.

The real star, however, was the *phad krapao kai* pizza. The basil leaves – *phad krapao* is Thai for basil – were fried to light crispiness and gave the pizza a distinctive and appealing flavor and texture.

It's surprising more pizzerias don't include this as a standard topping considering how well it complements so many of the meats and vegetables commonly used in pizza.

On the menu too are sweet green curry pizza, Japanese crab-stick with corn pizza and many more.

K. Tum, whose experience includes years at the bakery at the Le Meridien Hotel and at Le Bistro in Patong, said the partners initially offered *som tam* pizza as well, but took it off the menu af-



Samret "Kai" Musitmanee with *phad krapao kai* pizza.

## Where Thai taste meets a pizza

ter customers complained that it had too many veggies and not enough meat.

Medium-size pizzas range in price from 80 baht to 120 baht with extra toppings just 10 or 20 baht. The pizzas take about 20 minutes to make, and a free delivery service is available within a two-mile radius.

As no pizza experience is complete without beer, the open-air Bar Tango offers reasonably-priced Carlsberg on tap and many other beverages.

*Pizza Man, daily 11 am to 9 pm, inside Bar Tango, 2 Phattana Rd, near the Ranong Rd intersection in tambon Talad Yai. For deliveries, 01-7371721 or 07-1292395.*

# What women want

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Man kind's attempts at self-adornment have always involved the use of attractive or unusual stones. Semi-precious stones lend a relaxed, natural elegance to casual apparel – and many people also believe that such stones can bring good luck by warding off negative energy.

In Phuket, this tradition lives on with the works of Kamolthorn "Yui" Sukkong, a jewelry-maker from Rayong who works almost exclusively in crystals, semi-precious stones and high-quality synthetic beads.

Having worked in a department store for 23 years, K. Yui spotted a pattern in female buying habits that has been well-known to beleaguered boyfriends and husbands for millennia.

"I noticed that even after the financial crisis of 1997, there was still high demand for cosmetics and jewelry. That's because even women who are on the verge of financial ruin still spend a lot on luxury items. This is because women need to look good all the time," she explained.

## CORRECTION

In the story about Club Italia in the Around the Island page of the issue of January 31- February 6, the venue where the club meets was erroneously given as the Holiday Inn. Club Italia meets at the Phuket Palace Resort. The *Gazette* regrets any confusion.



K. Yui, wearing a striking mother-of-pearl necklace, shows off some of her other creations in stone.

With this in mind, K. Yui quit her job to learn the art of jewelry-making, then took the plunge into entrepreneurship by starting her own business. Now she has two shops on Phi Phi Island and employs six staff.

Popular items include necklaces, earrings, bracelets and more in a wide variety of attractive styles, shapes and color combinations.

K. Yui buys all her stones from dealers in Bangkok's Chinatown. The stones come from

various countries including Nepal, Afghanistan, India and China. Among them are "tiger eye", amethyst, white jade, agate, fresh water pearls, mother-of-pearl and rose quartz.

These are strung together with polyester twine and interspersed with glass or acrylic beads from the Austrian manufacturer, Swarovski.

For more information, contact K. Yui at Tel: 06-6230772, or email: yui\_1958@hotmail.com.

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SINGHA NEW LOOK



# PM: 'I'm rich enough already'

Following an arbitration board ruling that will lower television channel iTV's concession fees to the government by 17 billion baht, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra instructed government officials "to put national interests above his own" in dealing with the issue.

iTV, established as Thailand's first independent television channel in the wake of the 1992 pro-democracy uprising, is now 43% owned by Shin Corp.

PM Thaksin said he was happy with his financial status and had no reason to seek greater profits.

However, a senior Shin Corp official admitted that the possibility that iTV could eventually have its concession fees slashed was a key reason the company originally bought into the station.

**Pound of flesh:** Dr Chalee Kanchanarak was sentenced to four years in prison for recklessly performing a liposuction operation that killed 17-year-old school-girl Siriporn Muima at his Chiang Mai clinic in December 2001.

The Chiang Mai Provincial Court also ruled that Dr Chalee administered a drug overdose and had inadequate life-saving equipment at the clinic. The parents of the dead girl said that the doctor had not apologized to them, despite being instructed by the court to do so.

**Crash test dummies:** After completing a survey into 1,082 road accidents, Professor Weera



**FALSE START:** Technicians inspect a Thai AirAsia Boeing 737-300 aircraft after the budget airline's inaugural flight to Chiang Mai was forced back to Bangkok minutes after take-off.

The aircraft, laden with about 20 senior executives from major shareholder Shin Corp, had a malfunction in its wingflap indicator.

Kasantikun of Silpalorn University said 70% of motorcycle crash helmets on the market are sub-standard.

Citing research conducted in 2003, Prof Weera said the sub-standard helmets were those with foam padding a mere 1.5 cm thick and made of low-quality plastic. They usually sold for about 100 baht each.

Prof Weera said proper helmets are made of lightweight fiberglass and sell for at least 300 baht. He noted that, in the provinces, the issue of helmet quality was often not relevant because many motorcyclists still wore no protective headgear.

**Peace through revenge:** Following the throat-slashing murder of a police officer in Yala, Defense Minister Thamarak Isa-

rangura said the violence in Thailand's three Deep South provinces would calm down if the government could avenge these kinds of deaths by killing some of the perpetrators.

Once directed almost exclusively at police officials, the violence has recently begun also to target Buddhist monks and students. The result has been a major disruption of studies, with more than 1,000 schools closed during scheduled study periods this month.

**Money for nothing:** A group of the nation's leading educators slammed government reform efforts at a recent seminar, saying 80% of students gain no benefit from the changes.

Withayakorn Chiangkoon, of Rangsit University, said that while the government boasts of its economic achievements and presents "fancy" statistical proof that educational standards have improved, eight out of 10 pre-schoolers continue to be taught by unqualified teachers.

He also blamed education reform as a source of budget misallocation, saying that although a full 25% of state spending went into schools, much of this was

earmarked for buildings rather than for developing the learning process.

**Hooligan boot camp:** A group of 354 young men, all vocational students with proven violent tendencies, returned to the capital after enduring 15 days in an army boot camp full of lofty resolutions and promises to do good in the future.

Maj Gen Chirachai Dechdamrong, Army Director-General of Civil Affairs, said he could tell the boys had improved from the look in their eyes and their behavior throughout training.

Their day began at 5.30 am with a physical workout, followed by breakfast and a regime of physical training that included carrying logs, hiking, playing sports and riding a device called the "flying fox".

Most of the boys said the experience transformed them and that they had come to regard former enemies as friends while many vowed to stop brawling.

**Bilingual resentment:** Researchers in a study commissioned by the Thailand Research Fund and carried out by Chulalongkorn University found that Thai teachers resented their English-speaking counterparts as the latter made more money.

Bitterness even filtered down to students, with those in the normal programs voicing resentment of their peers in the English programs.

Another source of friction lay in the difficulty experienced by English-program students trying to learn in a new language, often with little or no previous exposure to it. Many parents resented the English-speaking teachers for giving their children what they regarded as unsatisfactory grades.

School administrators, however, said their biggest problem was finding people qualified to teach in English.

**Behind bars at nine:** The Criminal Court accepted a case filed by the parents of a nine-year-old boy who was detained by a policeman investigating a collision between the boy's bike and a taxi last December.

The parents sued Pol Lt Col Pakapong Chiaplaem, an inspector at a police station in Bangkok, accusing him of wrongful conduct under Section 157 of the Criminal Code and of kidnap under Section 310, as well as forgery.

Col Pakapong ordered the boy placed in custody for two days after the accident, which the plaintiffs argued was unconstitutional and unwarranted.

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

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# The death that didn't happen

**T**he drowning of a 65-year-old German tourist in a swimming pool at one of the rather exclusive resorts on Bang Niang Beach has created cause for concern.

The death was tragic but the secrecy that subsequently was thrown around the incident made it impossible to garner more information.

Tourists drown during holidays in beach resorts around the world. Some of the deaths are undoubtedly because of poor training, lack of stamina, strong currents and so on.

It is rather strange that the resort management is not willing to accept officially that the incident even happened.

**Dust to dust:** In January, masses of tourists arrived, with the highest head-to-bed ratio in the Nang Thong Beach area. Although plenty of construction and skyrocketing land prices seemed to be an indicator for a higher-than-high season in the Bang Niang Beach area, Khao Lak's northern beaches appear less busy.

One of the main causes is definitely the dirt along Chong Fah Rd, which connects the Petchkasem Rd (Highway 4) with Bang Niang Beach.

Constructors and local businessmen seem to be not embarrassed at all about the clouds of dust in the air whenever a car or truck passes.

Nobody calls an *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organization) number to find out why officials fail to schedule and ex-



**SMOGGY DAYS:** Come to lovely Khao Lak and have your lungs filled with dust. Test the shower in your hotel room three or four times a day. That's how the state of the roads might be justified to tourists.

ecute frequent cleanups in the area, while tourists walking along this road are obviously irritated by this intolerable situation.

Of course, nothing has happened in the way of better roads for the whole of Bang Niang northwest.

The fight about ownership rights for the connecting piece of road continues and nobody seems willing to give in or to do something that would give Bang Niang the big boost it needs so badly: proper roads.



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

**Banking on it:** Even though Bang Niang did not see the amounts of tourists expected, the area has attracted the Bank of Ayudhya, which has strengthened its leading money market position in Khao Lak by installing Bang Niang's first ATM and currency exchange counter in the

form of an air-conditioned minibus opposite the Mukdara Beach Resort, next to the Chong Fah-Beach Rd intersection.

This adds up to three Bank of Ayudhya branches in Khao Lak, while other banks each offer only one ATM or exchange counter for the whole area. Kasikornbank (formerly Thai

Farmers' Bank) still has not arrived.

And yet another high-roller has been attracted, obviously counting on Bang Niang becoming a heavy-traffick area in the near future: 7-Eleven opened its first Khao Lak branch at the intersection of Chong Fah Rd and Highway 4.

Oddly, they did not start by investing in Khao Lak's busy south end, but this may perhaps mark the beginning of a more fortunate era for Bang Niang Beach.

**Light up and live:** More motorcyclists between Phang Nga and Takuapa are keeping their headlight switched on during daylight. Slowly but steadily, the united efforts of law enforcement, politicians and media to make Thailand's roads safer are bearing overdue fruit.

However, there is still much

to do in road safety education. Not a day passes in Khao Lak without at least one accident involving a motorcycle along the 3.5km stretch of Highway 4 between Nang Thong and Bang Niang Beach.

Something else that should perhaps be taught in local schools is not to scatter litter outdoors. While driving from Khao Lak to Tab Lamu, I was disgusted to see a family in a pickup truck in front of me, parents and kids happily throwing empty plastic water bottles, plastic bags and potato chip packs out of the window.

This was just a few meters after they passed the sign reading "Khao Lak-Lamru National Park".

**Building up:** After the Golden Mountain home mart opened in late 2003 on Bang Niang's south end, next to the Petchkasem bridge, demand by home builders seemed to be well satisfied.

But another big player, the large Sawasdee Home Mart, has opened its doors, becoming Khao Lak's second big attraction for home builders in the area.

Sawasdee is about 1.5km north from the temple in Khukak, on the left-hand side when driving towards Takuapa.

**Happy birthday:** With this issue, Andaman Coasting heads straight on into its third year since the pilot issue was launched in February 2002.

Positive feedback from readers, Khao Lak locals and expats have given me the energy to continue with the column during very busy high season times, where writing up a thousand meaningful words to a deadline sometimes seemed no pleasure.

So I should like to thank all readers and the *Gazette* team, especially Chris Husted, for their support and positive feedback. Keep it coming.

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# This week



**FELLOW FINNS:** The President of the Republic of Finland, Tarja Halonen, on a recent private holiday to Phuket, is welcomed to the Dusit Laguna Resort by General Manager Sam-Erik Ruttman, also from Finland.



**REGIONAL HOSPITALITY:** Sultana Tengku Anis Binti Tengku Abdul Hamid of Malaysia's Kalantan state receives a gift from Pornthip Wiwatikul, owner of Pornthip Seastore, on the bypass road during a recent visit to the island.



**WE ALL WORK IN A YELLOW SUBMARINE:** Submarine pilot Chris Hinson (white hat), Phuket Submarine Company Ltd Director Troy Williams (left) and fellow crewmen on the sub's deck before a voyage to the bottom of the sea off Koh Dok Mai last month



**TO THE HAPPY COUPLE:** Former local MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (seated, left) attended the recent wedding of Nattaporn Tawattanapong (bride) and Kanet Jirayuth (groom) at the Phuket Merlin Hotel. The hotel's General Manager, Charn Vongsattayanond, was also there to wish the couple well.



**WHERE'S THE PARTY 'AT?'** Jungceylon President Manit Udomkhunnatum (in hat) and family at the recent Jungceylon launch party at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



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# Two for the road

By Supaporn Sriprom

**T**hree months and 16,000 kilometers is a long time to spend on the back of a Honda 125. But for Luca Bassetti and Supawan "Phoo" Phuha, the extended ride was one big adventure, through good times and bad.

A motorcycle is not the best place to be in the rain, yet the couple kept their wheels turning and the kilometers clocking up from Phuket to Bangkok to the very north of Thailand, then south to Malaysia and Singapore, and on back to Phuket.

Would they do it again? Probably. And within the intriguing travel adventure are the threads of a romance on the road.

Mr Bassetti met K. Supawan a few years ago, but they were separated by distance because he, for the most part, makes Phuket his home, while K. Supawan, 31, was working in Bangkok.

Mr Bassetti, now 40, has always had an adventurous streak and likes to go to remote places or just take odd roads that other people wouldn't normally think of exploring.

Doing it in a way others wouldn't normally choose was part of the fun for him. K. Supawan said, "He was talking about coming to Bangkok to see me. I didn't think he was serious."

"But when I got off work, there he was, in front of my office building, on his motorcycle after coming all the way from Phuket. I didn't know what to say."

Mr Bassetti managed to use a logic all his own to explain why traveling on a motorcycle, especially a 125, is much better than flying.

"It takes me time to get to the airport," he said, "then I have to book and wait for my flight. When the plane lands, I have to get my luggage then go find a taxi, and waste more time in Bangkok traffic to get where I want to go."

"It's just so hard to get where you want to go all at one time, and fast. If I just drive my motorcycle, I leave Phuket and get where I want in Bangkok in 12 hours."

He added that a larger motorcycle is harder to maneuver in the busy traffic of Bangkok, so the smaller 125 suits his needs.

In October, K. Supawan



left her job and joined Mr Bassetti in Phuket. He said, "Phoo was always telling me she could never go traveling to such places because of money and the lack of time."

"I told her, anyone can do it and you don't need to have so much money. You need to enjoy life and not just work. I wanted to show her Thailand. I wanted to open her eyes."

So from Phuket they began their expedition, taking in 15 major destinations throughout Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

K. Supawan said, "We asked our friends if they wanted to join us and only one person said he would, but driving his truck. He ended up not going."

On one of the early nights, they had to pull over at a gas station in the middle of nowhere to sleep, K. Supawan recalled. "There were no hotels and a huge mountain ahead so we just slept



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**Left: Still very much together after 16,000 km on a small bike: Luca Bassetti and Supawan 'Phoo' Phuha.**

**Far left, from top, at the Burmese border in Mae Sai; in front of Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers; and in Singapore**

heavy rain for hours on end.

Chiang Mai was one of their favorite places and they stayed there for more than a week. K. Supawan said, "It is really interesting how people in one part of Thailand are so different from people in another.

"The people in Chiang Mai made me feel at home and they were so friendly – the friendliest, I think. They gave me free lessons in traditional foot massage because they saw I was interested. Nothing in Bangkok is free."

Traveling through Malaysia, K. Supawan was also able to

spend time in a real forest and see "a lot of animals, including orangutans."

K. Supawan said, "People think that we're crazy and that it's not safe to drive a motorcycle so far, but it's not true." She explained that people who drive in the city in busy traffic probably are more at risk than the couple were on their long drive.

"When you're out in the country it is just endless road and there aren't very many people you can crash into," she said.

When they reached Singapore, Mr Bassetti was surprised that the authorities allowed him to bring the motorcycle into the country.

Even so, they ended up parking the bike at a hotel and taking taxis. The fast pace of city traffic made it no place for a Honda 125.

K. Supawan said that once during the trip Mr Bassetti de-

cided to turn down a red dirt road to see whether it was a shortcut to their destination.

"It was so quiet," she said, "and no one would be there to help if we had a problem with the motorcycle. I knew that we would have to drag the motorcycle out if anything happened."

Mr Bassetti's only concern on taking the detour was to listen to the forest noises – he has a justifiable fear of tigers.

Luckily, it turned out that the dirt road was a short cut and they made it back onto the highway.

"Sometimes it was boring sitting on the motorcycle for hours and hours," K. Supawan said, "and the rain made it worse. But Luca kept on going, telling me, 'We are almost there.' He's very determined."

K. Supawan maintained contact with friends and family by email or mobile phone. Mr Bassetti, meanwhile, did all the driving.

For both, safety was a prime concern. They wore leather jackets and jeans, and full-face helmets, just in case.

"The only accident we were ever close to getting in was when we were laughing and joking – we weren't really looking at the road," K. Supawan recalled.

Ten punctures was the tally for the trip. Damage is much more likely in cities than in the country, Mr Bassetti said.

Now back in Phuket, Mr Bassetti and K. Supawan are taking a break and enjoying life on the island, not on the road.

The old Honda 125 endured more than enough on the trip and Mr Bassetti decided it was time to upgrade. The couple have just bought a new motorcycle, a Sonic 125.

They are also looking at the possibility of a sponsored trip, perhaps to Cambodia, which they weren't allowed to enter last time around.

beside the minimart at the gas station. It was really quiet and no one saw us, or at least no one disturbed us."

Mr Bassetti, originally from Italy, said, "I learned when I was younger and traveling that when you get stuck and don't have anywhere else to sleep, a gas station is the best and safest place to stay. There are always people around and the lights are always on."

Sleeping at a gas station was nothing compared with riding in



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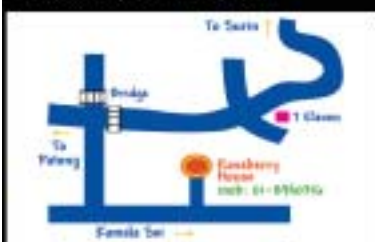
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**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians celebrating a coming of age this week will be delighted by a surprise gift. Someone who has been a secret admirer is about to show his or her feelings in a big way. You have what it takes to be a star and will soon be given the chance to shine. A slightly dark cloud is due to hover on Wednesday, when you will be faced with a monetary problem.



**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Some Pisceans are growing tired of swimming in the same direction as the rest of the shoal. This week, you should find the confidence to splash out into your own rock pool. There's a lot to be said for going it alone and there are indications of exciting developments soon for those who are self-employed. If you really want to get together with someone, dare to put your name on a Valentine's card.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Most Arians should be cruising along on a feel-good wave this week. The simple elements of life are well-starred and you will be happy with what you have, not worrying about what is still unobtainable. Cultivate this



In The Stars

by Isla Star

## Guide to Valentine's Day and beyond

attitude for all it is worth and you will have much to celebrate by the end of this month. Sagittarius is planning to send you a Valentine but may chicken out.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Tired Taureans should guard against taking on too many extra commitments this week. It would be wiser to wait until your present situation has eased, unless you want to run the risk of exhaustion. Curb your habit of saying yes to everything and start to prioritize. There will be plenty of opportunity in the not-too-distant future to reap rewards from a new career direction. Your lucky number is 5.



**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Some of your plans have little merit and you could find yourself

being led up the garden path by others who think you're an easy touch. Gemini's need to start thinking in clearer, straighter lines. This advice could also apply to personal relationships because someone you are involved with has aspirations that probably don't coincide with yours. Tuesday is the day when you're most likely to get straight answers.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Astrological aspects could see some Cancerians in a vulnerable position mid-week. As long as you can avoid being pinned down, there should be no serious consequences. This is definitely the right time to scuttle into a safe hole and wait for the air to clear. A romantic encoun-



ter toward next weekend could lead to true love. Your cautious nature will ensure that this relationship blooms slowly.

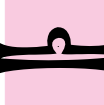
**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Don't overestimate your ability to come up with the goods. Promises made in the heat of the moment will lead to regrets later this month. Those born under Leo who are keen to expand their business interests will keep careful records and maintain a practical outlook. The answer to a domestic dispute will be presented early this week, but your partner may take some convincing. Wear green to leave a lasting impression.



**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You may think that the odds are against you when it comes to getting ahead in business, but this is because of a temporary fog that will lift before the end of this week. Virgoans who can read the signals correctly will be comforted by positive indications. If you are determined to dwell in a ditch of self-pity, that is another option, but don't count on others to come to your rescue.



**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): A rollercoaster ride begins this weekend, especially in your social life. If your idea



of a perfect evening is to sit quietly on your patio counting the stars, there will be little chance of that happening. Put on your brightest sarong and get ready to experience some unpredictable fun. There'll be no prizes for guessing who sent your biggest Valentine card.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): This is a good week to revise your business plans. Whichever new directions you decide to branch out in will have positive results. Affairs of the heart are set for a slightly rocky ride because your partner puts some pressure on you to change your lifestyle. Don't let pride get in the way. Towards next weekend you will be looking at taking a break from island life.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Much is going your way this week as astrological influences guide you toward making the right decisions. Take advantage of these beneficent circumstances and dare to expand your interests. This winning streak should continue until the beginning of next month and will also make personal relationships run smoothly. If you're involved in a relationship, your partner will have surprising news on Monday or Tuesday.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Dealing with bureaucracy is on the cards for many Capricorns this week and this will involve a certain amount of frustration. You are advised to adopt the coolest approach possible and not to offer unnecessary information, unless you want to complicate matters. On the brighter side, the answer to a personal dilemma is winging towards you and will be more than you had hoped for.



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# Nantida to sing at charity gala

For many people, the only knowledge of autism they have is from the film *Rain Man*. The eponymous *Rain Man* (he was unable to pronounce his name, Raymond, properly) of the title displayed some of the common traits of people with autism: extreme self-absorption; a short attention span; and difficulty in communicating with others.

He also showed a gift as a savant, able to calculate gambling odds and winning his brother a fortune as they resume their relationship.

But autism occurs far earlier, more frequently and in many cases more subtly than most people imagine – and not everyone with autism is a mathematical genius.

About one in every 10,000 children is autistic. Boys are four times more likely to be autistic than girls are.

In the past and to some extent still today, autism stigmatized the family, and the autistic person tended to be “kept out of the way” because of a sense of shame.

It is often said that an autistic child is “in his own world” with external stimuli seldom hitting home. Autistic children in particular may be hyperactive or extremely passive in their behavior – or swing between the two extremes.

They may repeat words parrot-fashion or develop almost no speech at all. They may lack

outward emotion – or may display inappropriate emotional responses – and often do not respond to affection.

Few support services are available, and parents and other caregivers often feel at their wits' end.

However, in Phuket help is available. The Lions Club of Phuket Pearl has been raising funds and breaking down barriers for the Phuket Handicap Training Center, which opened in 2002.

Based at the former Offshore Mining Office on Montri Rd, the center has helped scores of people with disabilities, and their families, to a better life.

Following a national awareness campaign by the Autistic Parents' Association of Thailand, a section of the center is now dedicated to advice and support on autism.

Many of the 26 or so children – aged 2 to 9 – who use the center from Monday to Thursday receive one-on-one training from specialist advisers, under the guidance of Dr Siriporn Seauwattanakul, to prepare them for school.

Their parents receive train-

ing and counseling in how to support their children, and get a welcome respite from a very demanding situation.

But the center now faces an age-old Catch-22 situation: as a service develops and more people use it, it requires additional funds to keep pace and develop further.

The Lions therefore plan to raise 600,000 baht to help broaden the center's services and provide training for people interested in rehabilitation therapy as a career.

Much of this, it is hoped, will be raised at a gala “Light Up The Smile” dinner on

March 6 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, featuring a performance by Thai singing star Nantida Kaewbuasai.

To buy tickets or make a donation call Adrienne Kitchakan at Tel: 01-8930880. Prices range from 10,000 baht a table (10 seats) to 50,000 baht for a “diamond” table.

For more details of the handicap center call Dr Siriporn Seauwattanakul at Tel: 09-6499939. The Phuket Lions website is at [www.phuket-lions.com](http://www.phuket-lions.com).

In the past and to some extent still today, autism stigmatized the family, and the autistic person tended to be “kept out of the way” because of a sense of shame.

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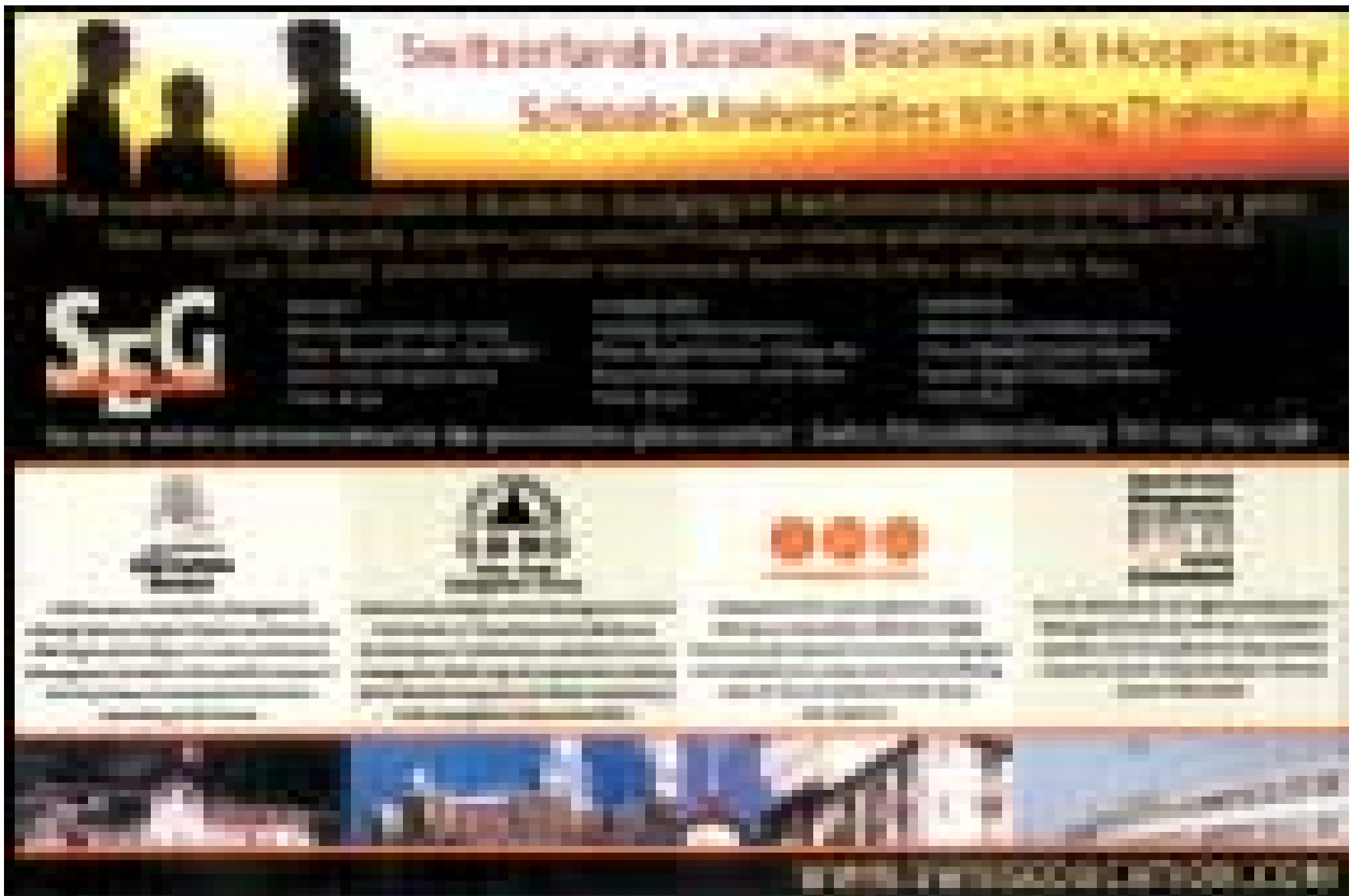
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## Ambassador comes a-calling

David Fall (right), recently appointed as British Ambassador to Thailand, addressed a gathering of the British Business Association of Phuket (BBAP) on February 5 at the Sheraton's Gecko Restaurant. He is pictured with BBAP Chairman Martin Carpenter (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), members and guests.

Open for almost six months now, the Walk In Pub on Montri Rd is a good place to enjoy a drink and listen to a mix of live Thai and Western music in a fun and relaxing setting.

The main force behind the entertainment is Attaporn "At" Ruanganun. The Songkhla native and his wife Sineenaad "Joy" Ruanganun moved to Phuket from Haad Yai about 18 months ago, hoping to cash in on Phuket's tourism-based economic boom.

Together they invested about two million baht to set up the pub.

K. Joy told the *Gazette* that her husband was like an Energizer bunny when it came to performing, often going practically non-stop from 9 pm until 2 am closing.

On most nights, the keyboard-playing vocalist shares the stage with his bandmates, playing cover versions of hits by well-known artists including Eric Clapton, Elton John, Phil Collins, U2, Norah Jones and the Eagles. They also mix in a few Thai hits or play original numbers when the mood is right.

When the band's set is finished and they go on a 20-minute break, K. At picks up his acoustic guitar and continues to impress

## A pub with no peer

### After DARK

by Nonthawat Disayabutra

the audience with his finger-picking solo work.

K. Joy and K. At are optimistic they'll get back their investment in time, and say that the

number of regular customers visiting the pub continues to grow.

Their target group is older, well-to-do clients, both Thai and foreign, who love classic oldies

from the '60s and '70s. The band is happy to play requests, too – often with an improvisational twist.

"Sometimes I stick closely to the original, but when I am drunk that's when I do my best improv work," K. At laughed.

While the music is the main attraction, those who are fed up with having to scream at the top of their lungs just to order a beer will be happy to know that Walk In's high-quality sound system is not played at levels that make attempts at conversation completely futile.

When asked why the pub is called Walk In, as opposed to, say,



Attaporn 'At' Ruanganun ... like an Energizer bunny.

Fall In, Fly In or Stumble In, K. Joy explained that they wanted the name to sound inviting to passers-by. Another attraction for those passing through its portals between 6 pm and 9 pm are happy hour prices – with small bottles of beer starting at just 59 baht.

When the *Gazette* visited, K. At already had most of his audience laughing, singing along to the classic oldies or swaying to the beat. Even the waitresses seemed happy to clap their hands to the beat when they weren't delivering drinks.

The pub's interior is natural, with wooden furniture and – like so many pubs in Thailand – decor apparently inspired by America's Wild West days, including the requisite image of a large Red Indian head carved from a tree trunk. With 27 tables seating four people each and 15 service staff, the pub is large enough to accommodate the many cowboys and Indians who might stop by, though it does sometimes get pretty crowded on weekends – and staff have to stop people from sitting at the bar lest the flow of precious alcohol be compromised.

Regular drink prices are reasonable: 95 baht for most beers, 120-baht for wine coolers, and cocktails – absolutely free of the H5N1 virus – range from 70 to 120 baht.

For those in large groups – or with a mind to get totally plastered on their own – full bottles of Johnny Walker Red and Black Label are available for 850 baht and 1,200 baht respectively. Under a current promotion, all mixers are free when you order a bottle of 100 Pipers.

Until the Government dictates otherwise, Walk In Pub will remain open daily from 6:30 pm to 2 am. It is at 12/1 Montri Rd in Phuket Town, next to the Montri Hotel. Call K. Joy at 076-217461 or 06-6866805.

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KIDS

THE FUN PAGE  
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# Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 women's names. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: More than 10, good; more than 15, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

# Brain Buster!!

Q. Jake was standing on one side of the river, and his dog Scruffy was standing on the other side. There was no bridge. Jake whistled to Scruffy who crossed the river but didn't get wet. How come?

A. The river was frozen.

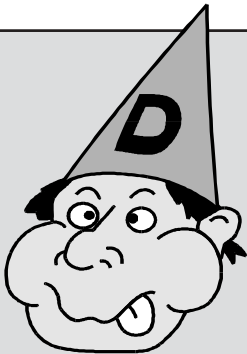
Solution to last week's Crossword

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

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Sackbut; 2. Palfrey; 3. Demisemiquaver; 4. Ell; 5. In a girls' school; 6. Lolita; 7. Shangri-La; 8. The Grand Duke; 9. Boötes; 10. Douglas Bader; 11. Sir Joseph John Thomson; 12. Saturnalia; 13. Galvayne's groove; 14. Cotopaxi; 15. 'Freed from the stone'; 16. Hawaiian Islands; 17. Wat Tyler; 18. Treemonisha; 19. Hyrax; 20. Crawford Long.

# Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which musical instrument is a double-reed woodwind like the oboe and bassoon, and falls between them in pitch?

2. What is the currency of Papua New Guinea?

3. At one point in his travels Odysseus had to squeeze his boat between a sea monster and a whirlpool. What were the names of these two dangers?

4. A porbeagle is a type of what?

5. Which great conqueror did Anaximenes of Lampsacus accompany on his campaigns?

6. For what were Heifetz, Elman and Milstein famous?
7. Who, in 1801, originated the RGB (reg, green, blue) system now used in computer monitors?

8. What is the term for someone who makes bits for horses?

9. The road runner is from which family of birds?

10. If goods found floating at sea are referred to as jetsam, what are lagan?

11. Which physician first described color blindness?

12. Which two famous composers sought help for blindness from surgeon John Taylor?

13. What kind of animal is a tamandua?

14. Name the Three Fates of Greek myth.
15. Which Mongol leader, 200 years after Genghis Khan, conquered much of Asia and Eastern Europe?

16. Hiawatha was raised "by the shores of Gitche Gumee". What is Gitche Gumee better known as?

17. Which is the largest muscle in the human body?

18. Which is the largest land carnivore?

19. If a flower is described as resupinate, what is different about it?

20. What is unusual about fish in the orders Ceratodiformes and Lepidosireniformes?

Answers next week.

# Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Male offspring.

3. Football.

6. Indian and Southern, for example.

8. Walk lobsided.

9. Measure of acid v. alkali.

10. Impossible to imitate.

13. Fort in Florida.

16. Leave.

18. Smell of wine.

19. They connect your legs to your feet.

20. Gauguin or Goya, for example.

21. He supposedly fiddled while Rome burned.

Down

1. Desist.

2. Penguin or puffin, for

1			2		3			4		5
6	7						8			
9										
	10						11		12	
13		14			15					
								16	17	
18					19					
20							21			

- example (3,4).

3. Japanese snack.

4. Ascend.

5. Indian currency.

7. Crockery.

11. Someone from Nome.
12. Belgian city.

13. Sri \*\*\*\*\*.

14. Not happy.

15. Cook in an oven.

17. Capital of Norway.

Solution next week

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# HEARD & scene

With Valentine's Day in mind, the *Gazette's* Supaporn Sriprom and Nonthawat Disayabutra went out and about and asked, "What's the difference between love and lust?"



**Shayna Darcy**  
Age: 18  
From: Canada  
Occupation: Student

Lust is more like a childish spur of the moment feeling. It's something light-hearted. Love is more serious and mature. There is a lot of responsibility, more than lust anyway. When you love someone then it's someone you can trust and someone you can understand. You can get over lust quickly but love is a lot harder to get over. Sometimes you may think that you're in love and you may be mistaken until you have more experience.



**Naratip Vongpattamas**  
Age: 20  
From: Bangkok  
Occupation: Student

I'm still discovering the real meaning of love. I realize that everybody has their own way of expressing themselves through love. Love can be defined as love, sex, and caring for the person I love. In contrast, lust is concerned with only the sex part. Of course, lust exists in everyone. It happens unpredictably whenever we see someone beautiful of the opposite sex. Most lust doesn't end up in love.



**Jo Hampson**  
Age: 18  
From: England  
Occupation: Student

I'd say that lust is more short-term whereas love is for longer. Lust is heated passion. Love is a lot more grounded. Maybe the beginnings of love could start with lust. It's really hard to say. Lust is something that you just feel at a particular moment, just being sexually attracted to someone. Love is not just about the physical attraction; it's about the whole package, whereas lust is mostly about sex.



**Kittikun Adunsirisaward**  
Age: 22  
From: Songkhla  
Occupation: Student

Love is much more beautiful than lust. Love grows from understanding, sharing, patience and unforgettable memories between two people, which is not a "one-night stand". Lust is fun and non-stop foolishness. Lust can break up couples because one may need too much of it. Everyone has to decide whether they want love or sex. Lust is a room full of sexy girls at your party who want to give you lessons.



**Dan Watts**  
Age: 20  
From: Australia  
Occupation: Student

The fine line between love and lust is ... chocolate. Lust is based on appearances. Love is something you get from someone as you get to know them longer. I don't know how long is long but it's just getting past their physical appearance. I think that, for the most part, the beginning of a lot of relationships is about appearance. Lust and love are definitely both physical. But love is something that goes beyond that.

Every time I go home to the United States, I realize how cut off I've been from developments in that vast and impressive land. I live like a hermit in Bangkok, except when I'm in my partying mode; and whenever I venture into the world at large, I feel like an alien from a distant planet.

Consider, for example, the following dialog, which took place some years ago on a visit to my home state of Massachusetts when I registered at a doctor's office for a medical check-up:

Nurse: What is your HMO, sir?

Me: My what?

Nurse: Your HMO.



By S. TSOW

Me: Uhhhhh...what's an HMO?

Nurse (looking at me as if I'm an alien just descended from

## ALIEN VISITATIONS

one of the minor moons of Jupiter): An HMO is a medical plan, sir.

Me: Ah. A medical plan. I don't have one.

Nurse (really staring, now): You...don't...have...a medical plan?

Me: No.

Nurse: Then may I see your credit card, sir?

Me: I don't have a credit card, either.

Nurse (by now trying to figure out which Jovian moon I come from): Excuse me, sir, but how do you plan to pay for your check-up?

Me: Money. Cash. Dinero. Moolah. Long green. You still accept money in the United States, don't you?

Nurse (unmoved by my sarcasm): Yes, sir. May I see your driver's license, please?

Me: I don't have a driver's license. (In the United States, not having a driver's license is about as common as not having a head.)

Nurse: You ... don't ... have ... a driver's license?

Me: No.

Nurse: Do you have any kind of identification?

Me (grandly): Yes. I have a passport. (I show her my passport. She stares at it as if she's never seen a passport before. And maybe she hasn't.)

Nurse: Well, I need to see a driver's license, sir.

Me: Listen, ma'am, a driv-

er's license bears the signature of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This passport bears the signature of the Secretary of State of the United States. Who do you think swings more weight in this deluded world?

Eventually, I got registered and I'm sure it was a mind-broadening experience for the nurse.

Even more surreal was the Kafkaesque nightmare I found myself engulfed in many years ago after boarding a bus in San Francisco. Beside the driver was a coin meter and a large sign proclaiming "FARE 90 CENTS. NO CHANGE."

When I was young, nobody carried 90 cents in coins around. I guess they do now, though. "Do you have change for a dollar?" I inquired of the driver.

"CAN'T YOU READ? CAN'T YOU READ?" the driver bellowed, pointing at the sign. I waved my dollar bill around helplessly. "I don't have 90 cents."

"See if any of the other passengers have change," the driver growled.

I stood feeling like an imbecile at the front of the bus and addressed the passengers, who were all staring at me. "Does anybody here have 90 cents they're willing to exchange for a dollar?"

A white-haired old lady approached and squinted up at me.

"Are you a senior?" she inquired.

"Am I a WHAT?"

"A senior."

"A senior WHAT?"

"A senior citizen," she explained. "Seniors get a discount," she informed me brightly.

"No, I'm not a senior," I huffed. "Has everybody in this country gone nuts? I come back after an absence of umpteen years and a bus ride costs 90 cents and the bus drivers won't even give you change for a dollar."

Nobody had change, so when I wanted to get off I asked the driver plaintively, "What am I supposed to do? I can't get change for my dollar, and my stop is coming up."

"Well, if you want to get off, sir, I can't stop you," the driver observed.

"Thank you very much," I said, mustering as much dignity as I could as I got off. So I got a free bus ride, but the experience was humiliating.

It's the technological changes I find most disorienting. The first time I saw a microwave oven, I thought it was a TV set. And I have no idea how to use all the CDs and DVDs and pagers and beepers they've got nowadays.

So now you know why I live like a hermit. It's a jungle out there.

*The severely retarded S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but why bother?*

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# An American escape through a child's eyes

There are a half dozen memoirs and novels by Vietnamese about their lives during and after the Vietnam War, most culminating in escape by boat. But *The Gangster We Are All Looking For* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2003, 160 pp) is the first novel, to my knowledge, to focus on the lives of Vietnamese boat people after they have arrived in the US.

Like her protagonist, a six-year-old refugee girl, le thi diem thuy (which is how she spells her name) arrived in Southern California after escaping by sea from Phan Thiet in southern Vietnam.

The narrator's mother is left behind on the beach in the confusion of the escape, and the little girl settles down in America with her father and the four "uncles" who fled with them by boat.

She is the first Vietnamese to arrive in her class. Sticking close to character, she tells many stories of the games she and her playmates make up, not mentioning whether they are black, white, Mexican or Asian. As a child, she would hardly notice.

In common with many other Vietnamese writers, the novelist shares a typical terse style, leavened with extravagant metaphors and organized into short narrative chunks. The result is a series of oblique, short takes of a disordered life.

Her father is lovingly portrayed as a one-time petty gangster, ex-ARVN soldier, reeducation camp inmate, escape leader, then a gardener for rich people in San Diego, inclined to fits of weeping and drunken rages.

Toward the end of the book, when the little girl has grown to a teenager prone to running away from home, she describes him thus: "Between us now there hangs the familiar smoke of small rooms crowded with people larger than their situations. People who, feeling they have no recourse to change the circumstances of their lives, fold down, crumble into their own shadows. This is what I saw my father do. He made himself small,

so that in the world there was only very little left of him, even while within me his hunger grew. It became expansive, billowing like an abandoned parachute searching the sky for the man who has fallen."

The book features some beautiful set pieces, such as the young girl's calamitous encounter with the forbidden glass animal figurines in the office cabinet of her father's first boss — a disaster that gets him fired.

With a child's sharpness, she observes the love-hate interaction between her father and mother when they reunite three years later.

She sees things with acuity but also naivety: "That was the summer I came out of the bathroom at the Chinese movie theater and saw my mother in the lobby taking to a man I'd never seen before. He was staring at her and she was staring at him as if they knew each other but didn't believe what they were seeing. My mother just kept smiling and tucking her hair behind her ear ... My mother and the stranger kept talking and smiling and all of a sudden it was as though they were both backing away, each turning from the other, at the same time. Like a knot coming loose."

'They were backing away from each other...Like a knot coming loose.'

Though the book is studded with all sorts of sharp insights and occasional flashes of humor, it is, ultimately, a disappointing read. There is no plot in the orthodox sense and nothing really happens.

Stories meander in time all the way back to her village in Vietnam. Only the characters of her mother and father are fleshed out, but these are viewed from a child's perspective and they remain somewhat opaque.

I began the book immersed in the perspective of a recently arrived Vietnamese refugee, and that may be a valuable thing. I closed the book with a feeling of "So what?"

The book peters out without any emotional impact or narrative catharsis. It may work as a childhood memoir, but not as a novel.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

In the past two weeks, three different friends on the island have asked me about resuscitating Outlook. In each case, the symptoms were different — one had to wait for ages to get Outlook to start; another had Outlook freeze or crash intermittently and for no apparent reason; the third couldn't get Outlook to start at all.

They were running Outlook 2000 or Outlook 2002 (the version in Office XP), they had all the latest Office patches applied, and they were all ready to throw their PCs out the closest available window.

One of them had even gone so far as to reformat his hard drive, reinstall Windows, reinstall Office, restore his backed up data, and try again. No dice.

There's a reason why. Outlook's a hog. Outlook keeps everything in a so-called "PST" file, which contains all of your messages, contacts, calendar entries, etc, all lumped together.

PST files grow old and bloated, particularly in Outlook 2000 and 2002, and there's precious little you can do to rejuvenate them. The AutoArchive feature is supposed to take care of PST files by periodically sloughing off old messages, but even the most ardent AutoArchiver will have stability hiccups with aging PST files.

The problem's so bad that a cottage industry of PST file pickers and pruners has emerged: [www.slipstick.com/addins/housekeeping.htm](http://www.slipstick.com/addins/housekeeping.htm) lists about 100 of them.

(Outlook 2003 appears to have solved most of the problems, providing you start with a new, clean Outlook 2003 PST file. Write to me for details and a couple of key tips if you're considering the move.)

When I was using Outlook 2000 and 2002, I would create a brand new PST file every month. I recommend you do the same. Here's how:

Start Outlook. Click View | Folder List to make sure the Folder List is showing, then shut down Outlook.

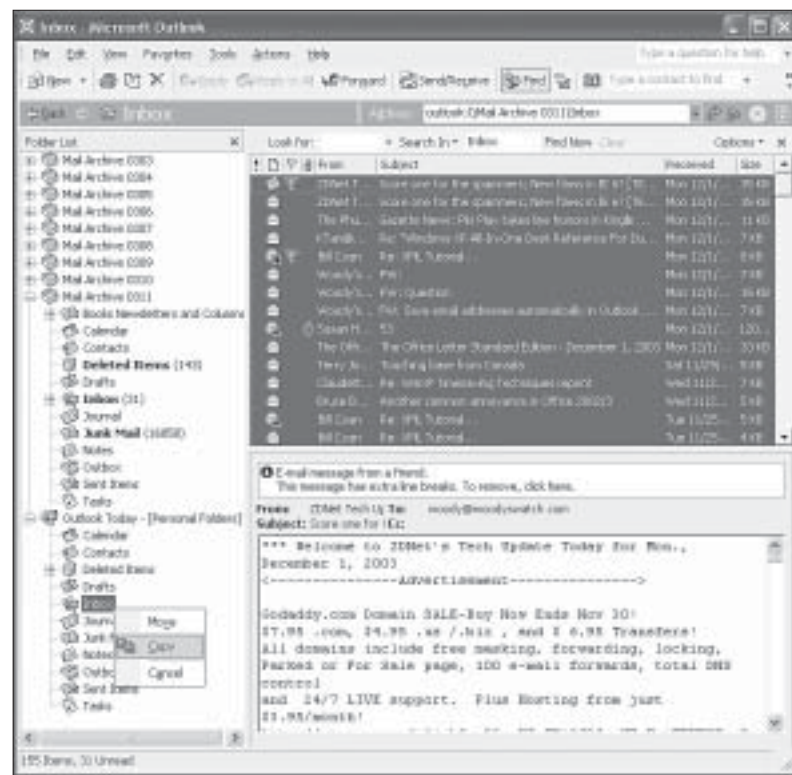
Click the Windows Start | Search menu and look for the outlook.pst file. When Windows finds it, right-click on outlook.pst and give it a different name — "Mail Archive 200402 .pst," for example.

Start Outlook. It'll bellyache and bitch about all sorts of things. Just keep clicking Yes or OK all the way and let it create a new outlook.pst file.

Click File | Open | Personal Folders File (.pst). Open the old, renamed outlook.pst file. If you can't open it, it may be too big.

You could try Attachment Save, a \$30 Outlook add-in from [www.sperrysoftware.com/Outlook/Attachment-Save.asp](http://www.sperrysoftware.com/Outlook/Attachment-Save.asp), that

# Bringing Outlook back from the dead



A trim and slim Outlook should guarantee a foreseeable future.

strips off and stores files attached to email messages, reducing the size of the PST file enormously.

When you get the old file open, you'll have two "Outlook Today [Personal Folders]" entries in the Folder List. Right-click on the old "Outlook Today [Personal Folders]" entry, and choose Properties for Personal Folders. Click the Advanced button.

Type a new name for the PST file in the "Name" box (say, Mail Archive 2004 02). Click the Compact Now button so Outlook makes the file as small as possible.

Click OK all the way back out.

PST files grow old and bloated, and there's precious little you can do to rejuvenate them.

You now have a clean, sylphlike, new outlook.pst file (identified in the Folder List as "Outlook Today [Personal Folders]") and an old, fat, bloated, re-named pst file called Mail Archive 2004 02.

You need to copy important entries from the old to the new.

Start by copying everything in the old inbox to the new inbox. Click on one of the messages in the old inbox, then click Ctrl+A to select all the messages. Right-click on the selected messages, and drag them to the new inbox. Release and select "Copy".

Next, copy your old Contacts list over. The easiest way I've found to do that is to bring up the old Contacts, then go into Phone List view (View | Current View | Phone List), click on a single address, hit Ctrl+A, right-

click on the selected contacts and drag.

Sometimes Ctrl+A won't pick up all the addresses; you have to play with it a bit.

The best way I've found to copy Calendar entries is to click on View | Current View | then pick Active Appointments.

Select an appointment, depress Ctrl+A, then drag. When you're done copying across all your Drafts, Journal Entries, etc, etc, you can close the old, bloated PST file by right-clicking on it and choosing Close.

You will simply not believe how much better — and faster — Outlook runs, if you just clean up its PST file from time to time.

Woody Leonhard has written a number of books in the "...for Dummies" series on computing. Readers can contact him at: [woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com)

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## Grassroots grab for power

It has been a bizarre couple of weeks in the politics of Phuket, with one Democrat member of parliament stepping down from national politics to run in provincial elections, one strong Thai Rak Thai (TRT) candidate for MP pulling out of politics altogether, and a supposed TRT candidate for provincial elections failing to turn up as expected to register on the opening day.

All around hovered the big guns of Thailand's two leading political parties, the ruling TRT and the opposition Democrats, declaring their support for one candidate or another in the race for the presidency of the Provincial Administration Organization, or *OrBorJor*.

Clearly, the TRT sees provincial politics as the next battle to be won in its campaign for complete control of the country, while the Democrats – seemingly confident of keeping their parliamentary seats for Phuket at least – are eager to meet the TRT on the battlefield, even if it means losing the services in Bangkok of one of their senior MPs.

The political scene is looking increasingly like those of the West, with left-wing and right-wing rivalries emerging at the local level.

Like the Republicans in the US or the Conservatives in Britain, the TRT is in favor of more or less unbridled capitalism and the hefty enforcement of law and order as the way to keep society in line.

The Democrats, like their counterparts in the US or Britain's Labour Party (before Tony Blair, at least) are more left-wing, talk more about empowering the "ordinary man" and about redistributing the wealth.

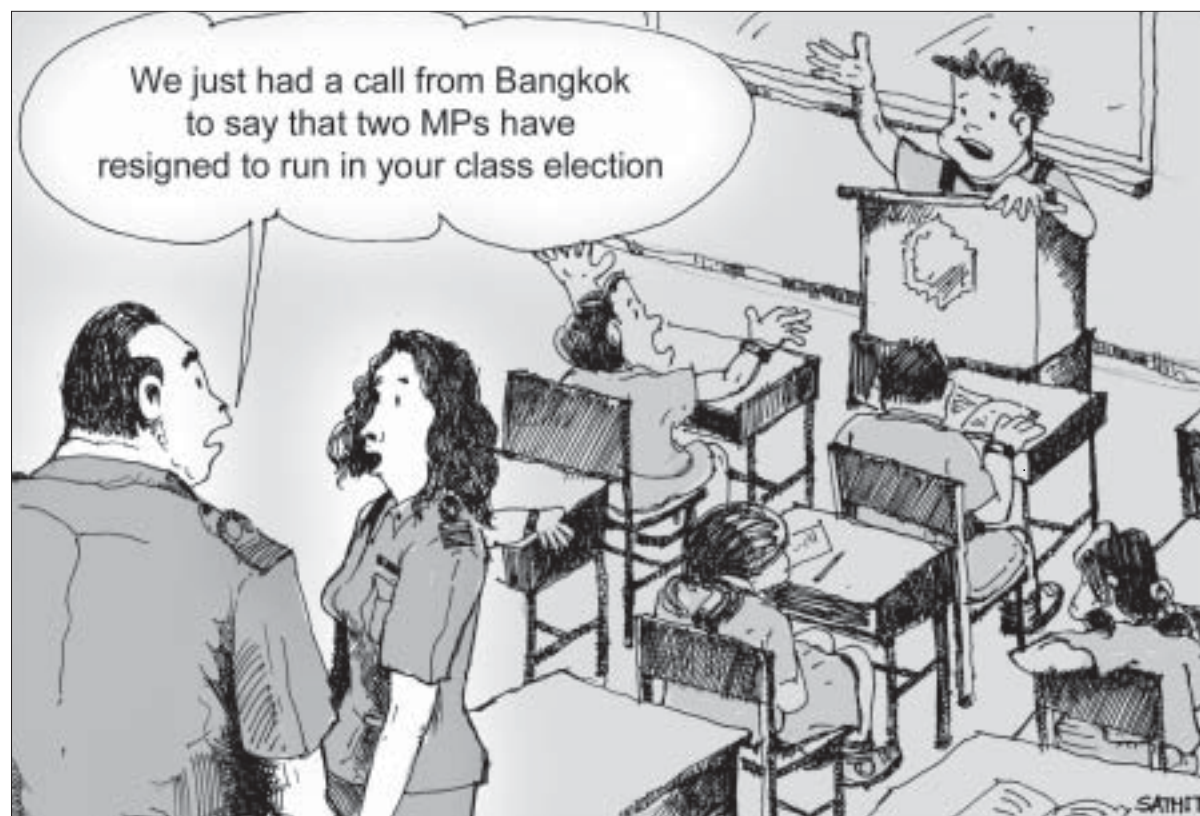
Indeed, this is why we now have an elected *OrBorJor* – it was written into the Thai Constitution by the Democrats as a way of reducing Bangkok's power and boosting that of the provinces.

It also ensured that *OrBorJor* around the country would get significant funding – as much as 400 million baht a province. This figure will rise; currently, 21% of the central government's budget is allocated to local administration bodies, including *OrBorJor*. Two years from now it will be 35%.

This may be a major reason why nine national politicians, including Phuket's Anchalee Vanich-Thepbutr, are climbing into the local ring, and why the TRT and Democrats are taking such an interest.

How this will all pan out, and whether it will mean devolution of party power or a dilution of *OrBorJor* and even *tambon* (village) power, remains to be seen. In the meantime, the maneuvering and machinations make for fascinating theater.

– The Editor



## Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net

with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

### Easy to apply but hard to win residency

After discussions with prominent members of the Thai business community and with the Immigration Office at Phuket Town (the latter mediated by the same Thai business people), I have learned that, despite the range of situations in which a foreigner may be eligible to apply for a residence permit, (as given in the document on your website), the chances of an ordinary individual being successful in such an application are so slight as to be negligible.

Government policy seems to be that such permits as are made available each year are essentially reserved for people who are making a major investment in Thai industry or business to the tune of US\$1 million or so.

Foreigners who simply wish to retire here, or support a Thai family, should save their non-refundable application fee.

Geezer on a visa  
Chalong

### Is leprosy really on the move?

While people are going bonkers over a bird 'flu that is very unlikely to develop into a human health hazard of the magnitude the international press might suggest, the other week there was a mobile leprosy clinic going around Phuket Town.

Considering the attention being given to our plucky friends, it's rather odd that the clinic was given so little publicity. It seems that most lepers in

the world are in Asia and Africa, but I thought that this disease would be of little significance here, and definitely not worthy of a mobile clinic.

What is the real deal with leprosy in Phuket?

Toby Maguire  
Phuket

### Phuket incinerator is no disaster

I am a public health physician and an expert consultant to both the environmental industry and local governments across Asia.

The environmentalist's comment that Phuket's garbage power plant is a disaster (Around the Nation, *Gazette* issue of January 10) reflects the narrow horizon of many of these environmentalists, who easily criticize but have yet to come up with economically viable alternatives.

To make unqualified statements about dioxin emissions is simply irresponsible. Millions of environmentally-conscious Europeans live happily with garbage incinerators in their communities.

Phuket is most fortunate to have Thailand's first and only state-of-the-art incinerator. It is, however, under-used and could easily process not only all of Phuket's waste, but also municipal solid waste from the mainland.

A province-wide waste disposal collection scheme would be a step in the right direction. Neighboring provinces would also benefit from having their waste incinerated rather than dumping it in wild landfills that pollute precious water resources.

Dr Michael Pohl  
Singapore

### Beach charges run against the grain

With reference to Bruce Stanley's *Off the Wall* column in the *Gazette* of January 31-February 6, naturally there are no crowds at Nui beach – nobody wants to pay the ridiculously high entry fee.

I used to go there regularly with friends a few years back and it was a nice little beach, with no chairs or umbrellas and one small restaurant.

I took friends last year and a big wall blocked entry with a sign saying, "250 baht a person".

Since then I have not gone back and neither has anybody else I know. It should be renamed Rip-off Beach.

Whatever happened to the law that beaches are public property and must be accessible to all?

Sick of being cheated

### War on beach litter

There's war against terrorism, war against racism, war against crime and right now in Thailand, war against drugs. What about war against litter?

On December 13, more than 300 people gathered at Mai Khao Beach to collect rubbish and dangerous debris.

This effort will be repeated every three months, and will, it is hoped, inspire more groups to take action along Phuket's other beaches.

Michelle Mouille  
Organizer

Mai Khao Beach Environmental Awareness Project

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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.



# Banned politician tells his story

## FIRST PERSON

I have lived in Karon for 10 years and been involved in local politics here for eight years. In all this time, this is an absolute low point for me.

I still can't believe how unfair the PEC treatment has been. I have been working to improve Phuket's politics for a long time, and now the PEC claims I have violated paragraph 43 (2) of the election code, which forbids moving people into a district for matters of political expediency.

It's true those eight people are distant relatives of mine – but I am not close to them. They work along the access road to Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort as restaurant owners, tour agents, tuk-tuk drivers, and vehicle rental staff.

They moved into the area two years ago, well before the new PEC regulations came into force. But after my opponents [in the election] raised their objection, the PEC wouldn't even give me a chance to defend myself.

I asked the PEC director what the exact allegations were, but he didn't allow me to see them all. How could I defend myself if I didn't even know exactly what I was charged with? They just went ahead and banned me from political activity for one year, starting January 31 this year.

I just want the PEC to work more transparently. The announcement that I would be dismissed came after I had already won the election and had already taken up my position [as *OrBorTor*

**The President of Karon's Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), Padung DOUNGMEEDET, was dismissed by the Phuket Election Commission (PEC) after being charged with moving eight relatives into the tambon, allegedly to boost his chances of winning the presidency.**

**In his defense, K. Padung argued that the eight people were registered as living in the area two years before and a full six months before new PEC regulations went into effect. K. Padung's efforts to defend his position fell on deaf ears, he claims, as the PEC refused to reconsider its decision or even explain how it was arrived at.**

**One local newspaper also reported that during a meeting with K. Padung, PEC chief Kittipong Thiengkunakij criticized a young reporter for apparently siding with K. Padung.**

**The same publication also suggested that K. Padung's dismissal may have been related to his alleged opposition to the controversial Nak Kerd Buddha project, which is allegedly backed by "influential people" in Bangkok.**

**K. Padung, now banned from politics for a year, gives his side of the story.**



*Tor* president]. What will people think of me now?

I passed all the PEC procedures from the beginning and my candidacy was approved by the PEC. One day the PEC says I am a good man, then the next day a bad one.

I have no argument with the building of the Big Buddha itself, as one newspaper suggested, but all the other structures that have been built around it were never approved. Anyway, I have no enemies in Bangkok or Phuket among the people who back the project.

On the day I went in to meet K. Kittipong, a few reporters happened to see me because the Phuket Reporter's Club office is right next to the PEC office. They asked if they could join the meeting and I agreed.

When we went into PEC office, Director Kittipong Thiengkunakij asked me what they were doing there. I said they wanted to join the discussion, and that it was okay with me.

Both the reporters and I asked him many times about what I had done wrong, insisting on knowing all the details. But K.

Kittipong wasn't able to answer all of the questions clearly enough.

When he got frustrated, he shouted at one reporter and warned him that if he wrote something wrong he would be sued. The reporter didn't back down, but instead challenged him to do so. After that, I heard, K. Kittipong went outside and [discussed the matter further with the reporter], but I don't know the details of what was said.

What am I going to do now? I have to accept the PEC ruling, but I really do have to urge [the PEC] to be more cautious in the

future. I have to say, "Please, please make sure mine is the first and last case like this."

I don't believe that either the PEC or K. Kittipong are biased against me, and I am not sure whether my competitor [who lost the election to me] was just playing games. Maybe time will tell.

No matter what, I vow to continue working for Karon and Phuket. In this I have never wavered, and I hope the people of Karon will understand me.

– *Compiled with Nonthawat Disayabutra*

## What minimum notice must a worker give?

I would like to ask what action an employer can take if an employee quits with only one day of notice.

If an employee gives notice to quit on the last day of the month, can she or he be paid the day after and then quit?

Uberto Niccoli  
Phuket

**Adisorn Janta, Partner and Director of the International Law Office, replies:**

All employees have the right to quit at any time by giving written notice to the employer. How much notice must be given depends on the contract of employment between the employer and the employee.

If an employee quits without giving the employer proper notice, the employer can sue the employee to recover damages.

However, if there is no written contract of employment between the employee and the employer, the employee has the right

to quit at any time without giving any notice.

Furthermore, the employee is entitled to be paid for any work completed up until the time he or she quit.

P. Escher

**Kongkiat Kittiwattawong, a biologist at the Phuket Marine Biological Center, replies:**

In Phuket, fishing is banned in waters that are part of Thailand's National Park

I am a keen fisherman who will be coming to Phuket on holiday shortly.

Can you tell me what rules and restrictions there are on fishing, both in fresh and saltwater? How can I find the best places to fish?

system, such as in Sirinath Marine National Park along Mai Khao Beach.

Fishing is also prohibited in the waters around Cape Panwa, where there is an environmental restoration project underway.

In my opinion the best place to fish is along the shoals near Koh Racha.

But conditions change, so you might consider hiring a fishing charter boat with a captain who knows where the fish are biting and what they are feeding on.

Charter boats also have the

additional advantage that they offer both coastal and deep-sea fishing trips.

**Chalee Srikanatold of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office adds:**

Thailand has few rules and restrictions on recreational fishing. For freshwater fishing, you can fish wherever you want unless it's on private property or there is a sign posted.

I have heard that expert fisherman like to fish near Koh Dok Mai and Koh Kai, in Phang Nga bay.

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.**

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## Where's our tea?

Why did Tesco Lotus introduce its own brand of tea (which is an excellent product) and then take it off the shelves? Was it due to poor stock control? Will it return to the shelves? I am desperate for a good cup of tea.

Jim Shand  
Kamala

**Boonchai (No last name), an officer in the purchasing section of Tesco Lotus, Bangkok, replies:**

This imported tea failed to reach its expected sales target, so no more will be imported.

## List the rules for recreational fishing

## Protected palms?

Are palm oil plantations protected by the Ministry of Agriculture? Can the owner of a plantation cut down the trees? Can the land be developed for housing?

Bepy Graziani  
Cherng Talay

**Naratporn Ninlabutr of the Phuket Agriculture Office replies:**

Palm oil plantations are not protected. An owner may cut down the trees and use the land for development, providing that he or she gets development permission from the Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).



# Help when a good girlfriend turns bad

Once again, this week's cautionary tale involves a foreigner, his Thai ex-girlfriend, and a nasty legal dispute. Mr A was a regular visitor to Phuket, spending at least six months on the island each year. Eventually he met a girl and they got involved.

Nature took its course and they had a baby together. As a foreigner cannot buy land in Thailand, he bought a house in his girlfriend's name. Although he made a 30-year lease agreement with her, he never bothered to register the contract with the authorities. As a result, the lease was legally binding for only three years.

The family needed more room after the arrival of the baby, so he also entered into a purchase agreement for another home, also in his girlfriend's name.

Before the three-year expiry had passed, however, Mr A and his girlfriend

had more and more problems in their relationship. In the end, she finally she agreed to move out of the house. She took the child with her, as she was legally entitled to do.

Mr A then went abroad, and when he returned to Phuket he found the lock on his door broken and many items missing from the house.

An observant neighbor told him what he already suspected: his ex-girlfriend had broken in and helped herself to his belongings.

Mr A was not very happy about the situation, but thought nothing could be done about it because his ex-girlfriend was the registered homeowner.



## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

On the advice of a good friend, however, he consulted a lawyer.

He was advised that in this situation he had the right to file criminal charges against the woman for misappropriation, theft and destruction of property.

This is possible because, under Thai law, an unregistered 30-year lease is binding on third parties for three years.

Since the three years had not yet expired, the ex-girlfriend did not have the right to enter the property without first notifying the tenant, in this case Mr A.

Mr A decided that charges of misappropriation would be best, considering that his ex-girlfriend was the mother of his child.

With this charge, he could always withdraw the case at any time because it was a compoundable charge against an individual.

The police accepted the charges and an arrest warrant was issued. Now that he had some legal leverage, Mr A contacted the troublesome woman.

They were able to reach an agreement whereby Mr A would take care of the baby, and the second house would be transferred to a third party, with Mr A receiving any income made on it.

Not a bad result for someone who thought he didn't have a legal leg to stand on.

*This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.*

# Bird 'flu: a nasty case of hysteria

Thousands were infected by Sars last year and, out of a regional population of some two billion people, hundreds died. The equally serious spin-off from Sars, going by the name *Hysteria Vulgaris*, affected billions more around the globe.

This specter of global panic, spurred on in some cases by an over-eager media, has risen again with avian 'flu H5N1.

The media are not alone in the line-up of usual suspects. Without naming names, fingers can be pointed at several governments who failed to learn from the blunders of Sars and attempted to ignore or downplay the H5N1 outbreaks.

Some chicken farmers in the developing countries involved were also at fault, employing farming practices that, by Western standards, would seem archaic and unhygienic.

But what of these so-called Western standards? It is worth noting that, as recently as 2002, British poultry farmers were congratulating themselves for reducing to "only" 5.8% the proportion of chickens sold in Britain that were infected with *salmonella*.

That same year saw 40,000 cases of salmonella poisoning in Great Britain. It caused more deaths than avian 'flu has (assuming current official figures are accurate).

And that was just salmonella. Don't forget the British



cases of *E coli* 0157 (20 deaths in a single outbreak), mad cow disease, foot and mouth ...

Spare a thought, too – not necessarily a charitable one – for the giant pharmaceutical companies that supply the low-grade feed and endless antibiotics to boost meat yield. *Ker-ching!*

Consumers are also culpable. We want our food to be cheaper and, in most cases, prefer not to think about where it comes from. We sow the wind with our carnivorous appetites, then reap the whirlwind.

Are we *greatly* at risk from avian 'flu? At the time of writing, it would not appear so. However, for a disease that has been occurring since at least 1997 and possibly, in one form, since 1878 – yes, 226 years ago – relatively little is known about it.

When an outbreak is controlled, interest seems to wane very swiftly.

In an article written in 1997, the then WHO influenza expert,



Duck! Here comes the culling crew ...

Photo: THE NATION

humans. Indeed, pity our poor porcine pals – they can be infected by both bird and human 'flu viruses.

Southeast Asia has the largest concentration of pigs and poultry in the world, undeniably ripe conditions for an opportunistic, species-hopping virus.

But so far the evidence of that having happened is, at best, thin.

Due in part to the lack of transparency of certain governments, exact figures for cases of infection and deaths are speculative, so to concentrate on these may be misleading.

Current and historical evidence indicates, however, that H5N1 has a high mortality rate among those who

do catch it.

Alan Hays, said, "We are working on a vaccine." That was seven years ago and there is still no vaccine. One man prepared to leave the grey comfort zone of ambiguity is Professor Hugh Pennington, of Aberdeen University.

Speaking with the BBC recently, he said that since the H5N1 virus is carried in the chicken's gut, a person would have to sniff the carcass or dried, pulverized feces to be at any risk.

"Even then," he added, "it would be very hard to become infected."

A recent, yet-to-be-substantiated report from Vietnam, to the effect that two sisters who died from H5N1 had caught the virus from their brother, is just that – unsubstantiated.

There is no absolute evidence to confirm the suggestion that avian 'flu has mutated into a human-to-human virus.

There have been a few references to pigs in this avian 'flu outbreak.

One school of thought suggests that H5N1 jumped species to pigs before jumping again to

do catch it.

The 18 confirmed cases in Hong Kong in 1997 saw six people die. You do the maths.

Although no vaccine exists for H5N1, effective treatment for those who become infected is available around the globe, as it for other 'flu variants. The ones who die tend to be those who don't get this treatment.

*Bangkok Phuket Hospital, 2/1 Hongyok Utis Rd, Phuket Town, Tel: 076-254421, email: info@phukethospital.com*

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# Cable TV businesses in a tangle

By Supaporn Sriprom

PHUKET: Phuket residents who have been enjoying unregistered cable TV may soon find themselves with no reception in a government crackdown on the industry that begins next week. There are an estimated 470 cable TV operators nationwide, but only 78 are licensed.

The situation in Phuket reflects the national trend, with only two of the island's six smaller cable TV providers registered with the Public Relations Department, as required by law.

Registration will not be easy for some providers. It requires permission from the channels they broadcast – as so-called pirate channels are not allowed.

Archara Rarethong, Head

of the Phuket Public Relations Department (PRD), identified Phuket's two registered companies as Andaman Singtao in Patong and DC Electronics in Cherng Talay.

Two other highly-visible cable operators, KPP and Phuket Cable, were known by the PRD to be operating under the license of DC Electronics.

K. Archara stressed, however, that with the new move to regulate the cable TV industry, companies were now required to register with the agency directly.

According to UBC Phuket office customer service representative Thanyaporn Treesook, UBC has about 7,000 subscribers in the province. She said this was about 30% of the overall cable audience.

Roongtivas Sakwit, Senior Manager of UBC Corporate Communications, said that about 400 cable providers in Thailand were illegally using UBC's channels in their own TV packages.

UBC's channels now carry warnings to anyone distributing

their channels without permission. Small, illegal cable providers, including those in isolated areas, can no longer distribute UBC's channels for free.

K. Archara said the government has announced that, from the middle of this month, all unregistered cable companies must go to the Phuket Public Relations Office to register. Andaman Singtao and DC Electronics have agreements with the other four cable companies who do not yet have individual licenses.

Grisanatorn Soempanich, Director of Broadcasting, Directing Division of the PRD, said that properly registered and licensed companies may contract with other cable companies to operate as distributors. But the main company must take full responsibility.

Cable companies that do not have license or do not share a license will be liable to penalties enforced by police from the middle of this month. Those in breach of the law may be fined or jailed.

According to Managing Director Thanawat Surachekomsan of Phuket Cable, Phuket's geography enables each company to provide cable to a single zone – like Kamala, for example.

Phuket Cable cannot cross the mountains to reach these customers. Phuket Cable is said to provide cable to about 4000 subscribers in Phuket Town.

According to Grisanatorn Soempanich, Director of Broadcasting, Directing Division, the cable companies that are properly registered and licensed may make a contract with other cable companies that do not already have a license so that these companies may still operate – but as a distributor. The main company now must take full responsibility for their distributor.

The cable companies which either do not have licenses to operate or do not share a license will face penalties that will be enforced in mid-February by the police. They may be fined or end up in jail and lose their company.

The prices of cable ranges from 200 baht to 500 baht a month. K Thanawat said that Phuket Cable, with about 30 channels, targets locals and charges 350 baht a month. In Kamala, Narin Maisapoa, Managing Director of Team Cable, said that with 15 channels, he charges subscribers – numbering less than 300 – 270 baht a month.

K Thanawat said that while UBC's rate is higher, the quality and ability to provide cable channels anywhere on the island made its service hard to match. He also added that Phuket Cable and other cable providers targeted locals more than the upper market.

With registration soon to be enforced, K Narin said that everyone wanted to obey the new policy – but it was not easy.

Another small cable company, Team Cable, in Kamala, is working with DC Electronics so that residents in Kamala may still enjoy cable TV for less than UBC's monthly rates of more than 1,400 baht.

## ON THE MOVE

Dusit Laguna Resort Hotel has appointed 43-year-old Chumphon native **Pramual Payakevech** as

its new Personnel Manager. K. Pramual graduated with a degree in Human Resources Management from Rajabhat Phuket Institute. He started his career as Chief Receptionist at the Royal Garden Village in Hua Hin and later joined the Club Andaman Beach Resort in Patong. From there he moved to Dusit Laguna, holding positions of Purchasing Manager, then Training Manager.



**Aaron Hooper** has joined the Watermark Bar and Restaurant as Chef. The 29-year-old American received training at the New England Culinary Institute and worked at the Tira Mi Su Restaurant in San Francisco before coming to Thailand where a branch of that restaurant was opened in Bangkok. His international experience also includes work in Switzerland.



The new Assistant Director of Sales at Dusit Laguna Resort is **Mali Boonpektrakul**, 35. The Phuket native graduated in business management from the Thai Chamber of Commerce University in Bangkok. She also studied Japanese at the YMCA in Japan for two years and has nine years' experience in the hospitality industry. Before joining Dusit, she was Sales Manager at the Kata Thani Hotel for six years.



*Been promoted? Made a career change? Know someone who has? Let us know by email to [onthemove@phuketgazette.net](mailto:onthemove@phuketgazette.net).*

## Care needed going over the hedge

Readers of last week's article on hedge funds may have felt that I painted a negative picture. I hope I am providing an honest and realistic viewpoint, warts and all.

After writing that article, I had a visit from one of the major offshore life assurance companies. It emerged that they have on offer two "fund of funds" hedge funds.

Unfortunately, the best-performing one failed to even match the returns available in a bank account.

There is an upside to hedge funds but before telling that part of the story, it is worthwhile looking at the charging structure of "fund of funds" hedge funds.

A typical hedge fund will charge investors 25% of the profits made by the fund. This may seem high but when one considers that it gives the managers a vested interest in the profitability of the fund, it is perhaps not unreasonable.

It is important for investors to read any brochure issued by a hedge fund very carefully because, with some funds, there is a potentially nasty trap.

The 25% charged by many hedge funds sometimes includes the phase "25% of the high-water mark achieved during a calendar year."

This means that if a fund sometime during the year is showing, say, a gain of 20% but, for example, ends the year show-

ing only a 5% gain (or, worse, a loss), the manager levies his fees based on the 20% gain. The effect on the investment is easy to see.

"Fund of Funds" hedge funds often take this one step further. They add another 25% share of the profits. The poor investor ends up having to pay a lot of money – and remember, the investor is the only one who is actually risking capital.

But hedge funds are not all bad. There is one that has achieved gains every year since its inception in May 1998.

The fund is Absolute Asset Management – The Absolute Trading Fund 1.

The results of this fund are after the normal 25% share of the profits taken by the fund manager. The group does not work on a high-water mark basis.

The fund is described as a low-to-medium-risk hedge fund. It trades across 16 different "commodities" covering foreign exchange, interest rates, bonds, stock indexes, energy (that is, oil) soft commodities including sugar and coffee, as well as metals.

This variety of "commodities" provides diversification of trading opportunities, which means that returns have a low correlation to equity markets.

What is meant by the term, low-to-medium risk? To an individual investor, "risk" as a concept usually means there's a good chance he'll lose his capital.

But to a fund manager, the definition of risk is purely a measure of volatility.

Over the past five years, the largest loss in any month by this fund has been 4.73% and the largest monthly gain 5.34%.

The fund strategy is to take small profits on a regular basis and the average monthly return of 1.17% certainly proves this concept. No investment is held for longer than 72 hours.

The fund makes money on both rising and falling markets; it doesn't profit from a static market.

This fund has existed for more than five years, and its history reveals that it has low volatility and has returned 124.44% over this period – an average annual return of 16.10%.

The fund certainly holds a number of attractions for investors in that it is not related to global or regional economic conditions and it is not cyclical.

Annual returns for the fund so far have been: 1998, 20.85%; 1999, 14.55%; 2000, 8.88%; 2001, 14.20%; 2002, 14.24%; 2003, 8.93%. The fund has no bid-offer spread – that is, no front-end charge.

**Interesting:** UK short-term interest rates look set to rise by 0.25% during February.

The Bank of England is

aware that inflationary pressures are low but are increasingly concerned by rising prices in the residential housing market.

The increase in interest rates will lead to increased borrowing costs.

In the US, the Federal Reserve has changed its emphasis slightly on interest rates but it is unlikely to increase them before June or later.

This has allowed the dollar, at least temporarily, to stabilize against the Euro and most other currencies.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th).*

## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson





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# A buyer's guide to a fair price

The expected drop in Thai import duties has a more than a few people considering buying a yacht. Here are a some pointers as to what a would-be buyer should be looking for.

The anticipated use of a boat is critical. A buyer should establish what they want from a boat and how often they plan to use it.

One way to do this is to classify one's use into categories such as live-aboard cruising, day-sailing and racing.

Mark a calendar with the days you expect – realistically – to use the yacht then tally the score. This should help you to decide on the most suitable type of boat for your purposes.

Consider where you intend to store the yacht, and where "dry" maintenance of the yacht can take place.

These factors contribute to developing your own "use profile". The easier your access, the more time you will use the boat.

Set your ceiling for the overall purchase price then determine exactly what type of boat – and in what condition – you can expect to afford.

A reputable surveyor's report should detail all of the areas of the boat, their relative condition and any necessary work.

Besides the basic structural and cosmetic areas, pay attention

to the engine and drive mechanisms, electronics, anchoring and steering systems. Inspect these carefully because they are intrinsic to the safe operation of the yacht. Don't forget the other continuing costs such as maintenance, mooring fees and insurance.

Consider too that weight – not length – determines the true size of the boat. The heavier the boat, the stronger (and more expensive) sails, rigging, deck gear and engines must be.

Try to formulate a budget for maintenance on a seven-year cycle from the time that the rigging was last replaced or from the yacht's date of manufacture. Factor in another 15% for unknown variables to give you a realistic guide of maintenance costs. There is, perhaps, no such thing as a cheap yacht – some are just less expensive.

I remember someone proposing to buy a two-year-old racing boat that was then "just off the pace".

Build cost had been around US\$500,000 and he could afford to buy it at the bargain-basement price of US\$70,000 but could not afford to run it.

You don't stop paying for a yacht just because you have bought it.

*Sailing queries or news may be sent to Yachtpro by email to rob@sailing-thailand.com.*



**OFF YOU GO:** Burma's Bo Bo Aung (hidden behind Indian player) is red-carded after elbowing Indian goalie Roy Dhury Subasiss in the head.

## Burmese win bruising Bimstec soccer final

By Nonthawat Disayabutra

PHUKET TOWN: In front of 700 cheering fellow countrymen as well as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the Foreign Ministers of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) grouping, the Myanmar Under-19s won the inaugural Bimstec Cup on February 8 in a bruising final at Surakul Stadium.

Predictions that Thailand would win the tourney went amiss after the home side were knocked out of the competition by India in a convincing 3-0 defeat the

day before, relegating the home team to equal third place with Bangladesh.

Under tight security with Burmese and Thai football fans segregated into seating sections on opposite sides of the pitch, the Myanmar and Indian Under-19s kicked off the final just after 3 pm.

Tough tackles in the opening minutes set the tone of the match, with quick play and the coaches of both teams pacing the sidelines and yelling instructions, creating an electric atmosphere.

Players on both sides soon stepped up the intensity of the fierce tactics, which resulted in a red card for dangerous play being shown to Myanmar midfielder Bo Bo Aung in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute. Bo Bo caught Indian goalkeeper Roy Dhury Subasiss with an elbow to the side of the head while both were contesting the ball in the air.

Although one player short, Myanmar created many scoring opportunities throughout the rest of the first 45-minute half, but outstanding defence by the Indians kept the game scoreless until half-time.

Myanmar continued their assault in the second half and were rewarded with a goal when winger Aung Win Naing connected with a corner kick and headed the ball into the Indian goal in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute.

India replied with brutal tackling throughout the rest of the match that saw five Myanmar players leaving the pitch with injuries.

On several occasions altercations between the sides nearly came to brawls, prevented only by timely interference by the referee and linesmen.

The Indian youngsters' efforts failed to produce a goal, however, and elated Myanmar fans ran onto the pitch at full time, singing and cheering, and



**BURMESE HERO:** Aung Win Naing scored the only goal in the match, giving his side victory.

carrying the victorious Myanmar coach and players on their shoulders.

In his closing speech, PM Thaksin said that he looked forward to the next Bimstec round of talks and the next Bimstec Cup, for which dates and a venue have yet to be set.

### Win a trip to Dublin!

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Write either a factual or fictional account that draws on your experience of life as a young Thai; or, for foreign writers, your perceptions of life of a young Thai.

##### Language: English

Length: 800-1,200 words

Age: Between 14-18, up to April 1, 2004

Closing Date for submissions: February 27, 2004

##### Prizes:

The winning essay in each of the two categories (Thai and non-Thai) will earn the author and one parent a trip to Dublin, where they will attend the senior International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony, which confers the richest literary prize in the world, and take part in a reading with the winning author.

There will also be five merit awards worth Bt10,000 each. All prizes will include a certificate.

##### Judging Panel:

1. Her Excellency Sirikom Maneerin, Deputy Education Minister of Thailand
2. His Excellency Daniel Mulhall, the Irish Ambassador to Thailand
3. Assistant Professor Chusak Pattarakulvanich, English lecturer and critic, Thammasat University
4. Ms Ngarmphan "Jane" Vejajiva, writer and translator of the Harry Potter series
5. Mr Pana Janviroj, Editor, The Nation

The contest is open only to children (Thai or non-Thai) attending schools in Thailand. Entries should be sent to:

Portrait of a Young Thai  
Office of The Editor  
The Nation  
44 Moo 10, Bangna-Trad Highway 4.5 km  
Bangkok 10260; or  
Email: portrait@nationgroup.com

Please include your full name, address, telephone number, email address (if any), and the name of your school and its address. The results will be announced in The Nation, Nation Junior, Krungthep Turakij, Kom Chad Luek, and Phuket Gazette newspapers at the end of March, 2004.





## Youngsters aim at Langkawi

**AO CHALONG:** Six teenage students from Phuket are currently in training to compete in the Malaysian Under-20 Challenge Cup.

The cup will be part of the second Royal Langkawi International Regatta, taking place from March 1 to 6.

Training the crew is Mike Downard (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), chief instructor of a watersports sailing

center in London, who taught the Malaysian youth team in 2003.

The crew has already received sponsorship from Lee Marine, Solidair Marine and Royal Phuket Marina, but is looking for more.

Anyone interested in sponsoring them should contact Donna Stephens at Tel: 06-1200752 or by email to: awatea@loxinfo.co.th

## 62 teams set for Metropole futsal cup

**PHUKET TOWN:** Sixty-two teams from Phuket and other provinces will compete for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Metropole Cup futsal tournament on February 14 at Gym 1, Saphan Hin Sports Center, with prizes worth more than 60,000 baht.

There are three classes:

Under-13s, Under-18s and Open. The first match will start about 9 am.

Open class prizes will be 20,000 baht, 10,000 baht, 5,000 baht and 3,000 baht. For Under-13s and Under-18s, the prizes will be 5,000 baht, 3,000 baht, 1,500 baht and 800 baht.

The first Metropole Cup was held in 2002 and it was to be an annual event, but the Sars crisis led to the cancelation of last year's tournament.

The final day of this year's competition has yet to be announced but it will probably be February 21 or February 22.

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Revived British motor cycle maker Triumph has introduced what is believed to be the largest-capacity production motorcycle in the world.

With a 2.3-liter engine, the new Triumph Rocket III has more power than most small cars. Powerful it may be, but it is intended to be more of a grand tourer or super cruiser than an out-and-out sports bike.

The Rocket has an in-line three-cylinder engine, chucking out a prodigious 200Nm of torque, with a peak power output of 140bhp (103kW). Multi-point sequential fuel injection is standard.

Although no accurate performance figures are available, Triumph claims that, under acceleration, the Rocket III will pull around 1.2g.

Stopping power is adequately supplied by twin front discs with four-pot calipers, and a single rear disc with twin-pot caliper.

Triumph began in 1902, but the actual company dates back to 1884 when Siegfried Bettman set up a bicycle manufacturing business in Coventry, England. Bettman did not actually make the machines, but sold them under his name. He also imported bicycles from his native Germany.

In 1886, the name was changed to the Triumph Cycle Company and in 1902 the first motorcycle was produced. Designed by German engineer Mauritz Johann Schulte, this rudimentary motorized bicycle used a single-cylinder 2.25bhp Belgian Minerva engine with an automatic inlet valve and coil ignition. Schulte also experimented with Fafnir – also from Belgium – and British JAP engines.

A year later, a sister company was established in Germany, in Schulte's home town of Nuremburg, to manufacture motorcycles.

# The motorcycle that goes like

# A ROCKET



By Jeff Heselwood



The British branch of Triumph turned out 500 motorcycles that year. It had decided to opt for the JAP engine, but its products were essentially still bicycles with a motor attached.

In 1905 Triumph produced

Britain's, first real motorcycle. Designed by Schulte again, but with input from his works manager, Charles Hathaway, it had a 3bhp, side-valve engine and offered a top speed of a heady 80 kmh.

The company began racing as a means of publicizing its products and, in 1907, two Triumph riders finished in second and third place in the first Isle of Man TT.

A Matchless won the race. Matchless began life in 1899. Sadly, like so many famous British motorcycle names, Matchless disappeared in 1969, although the name was sold recently for £100,000 (6 million baht).

By 1911, Triumph was producing four different models and had introduced a Schulte-patented clutch system, enabling riders to start from a standstill, instead of running alongside and jumping on.

Maximum speeds had now risen to around 90 kmh.

By 1923, Triumph was producing motorcycles at the rate of 1,000 a week, but it was also gaining a reputation for inconsistent quality and poor design. By this time, the company had also moved into car production.

A new model motorcycle emerged, designed by Harry Ricardo, which had a top speed of 135 kmh, and such optional extras as electric lights and a horn. This superior model greatly improved the company's tarnished image.

In 1936, the decision was taken to split the car and the motorcycle businesses and in 1937, Triumph introduced the legendary 500cc Speed Twin, a motorcycle that would endure after the Second World War, when production resumed.

The Speed Twin was an advanced design, with telescopic forks, separate magneto and dynamo, and, on the Tiger 100 version, a sprung rear hub, Triumph's first attempt at any form of rear suspension. The Tiger 100 was to form the basis of Triumph's entry to Grand Prix racing in 1948.

Fast forward to 1983, when John Bloor, a coalminer's son, bought the rights to Triumph, which for many years had lived on the brink of financial collapse before finally going into liquidation.

Bloor revived the company and installed production in a new factory at Hinckley, in Leicestershire, England, not too far from its original location.

Triumph's future now seems assured, with more than 700 dealers throughout the world. Almost a third of its output goes to North America.

The company even manages to sell some 1,500 bikes a year in Japan, despite strong domestic competition.

The new Rocket III is, inevitably, aimed at the US market, primarily to take on Harley Davidson in its own backyard. Priced at a touch under US\$16,000 (680,000 baht), it is sure to appeal.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com).

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classifieds on Page 31.**



When people are stuck on an island and have nothing to think about except where their next meal is coming from, their minds start to play tricks.

For instance, one friend swears that she is compelled to eat extra-large quantities at every opportunity because her doctor told her she had the body of a 15-year-old.

The doctor no doubt did tell her this – when she was 13 or 14. Never one to let an opportunity slip by, she's been dining out on it ever since.

She will probably continue to graze like a small elephant for the rest of her long, munching life, and good luck to her.

Another friend with a fondness for food told me that changes were taking place at the Watermark, the Boat Lagoon restaurant and bar under the massive canopy that always seems about to set sail in a decent breeze.

"Braised lamb. They're braising lamb out there," this friend said, making it sound as though missionaries were being flung into cooking pots.

The Watermark does have a new chef, Aaron Hooper, who is indeed braising lamb. It's one of several subtle changes to the original "good, clean, straight, food" philosophy that Hooper, a 29-year-old American, will continue to pursue, with a few varia-

# Braising the stakes



tions and a touch of Asian fusion.

Although my *chang lek* dining companion found the mushroom jus on her Australian beef fillet (675 baht) too salty, some wonderful flavors oozed from my pinot grigio braised lamb (665 baht). It takes five hours of simmering to reach perfection and is served with mint- and pinenut-infused jasmine rice and shaved fresh Gala apple and thyme jus. As Hooper says, "This is not easy to do at home."

We had started with a

## On the menu

with  
Alan Morison

### Watermark

couple of interesting appetisers. New to the menu is the seared ahi tuna on an avocado, pumpkin and papaya tower, with wasabi

and a lime vinaigrette (295 baht).

By the time I was ready for an old favorite, the pumpkin, apple and walnut salad with Gorgonzola cheese and sherry dressing (250 baht), most of it had vanished. *Chang lek* again. But that just confirmed my memory that it was very appealing.

By night, Watermark retains its masculine feel and theatrical ambience, with the prows of several large powerboats poking towards the dining tables like polar bears hungry for scraps.

It's still a tight menu, with a Thai selection complementing five appetisers, four pastas, four salads, six mains, six desserts and a cheese plate.

What has changed since Watermark opened in late 2002 is its popularity. The restaurant was quite busy for a week night and the bar was crowded when we left, close to midnight.

The Friday night happy hour (5 pm to 7 pm) when cocktails are two-for-one, a beer costs 50 baht and the tapas is free, seems to have made the Watermark an essential watering hole for many.

Now the management is expanding into villa and on-board catering, and Russian President Vladimir Putin is already numbered among those who have dined on Watermark fare.

A job script-writing on the election campaign trail for that other president, George W. Bush, wouldn't be out of place for the person who makes Watermark's fare sound so alluring. One new sample: "Vietnamese glazed salmon, with green tea soba noodle and crab claw salad and chargrilled asparagus (565 baht)."

What's more, Watermark usually delivers on its promises.

Watermark bar restaurant, the Boat Lagoon Marina, 22/1 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew. Open daily 11 am until late. Tel: 076-239730.



By Steven Roberto

Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Wine and Beverage Director for the award-winning Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong. Email: [sroberto@lycos.com](mailto:sroberto@lycos.com)

## Let's drink – to your good health

Until recently, medical research into the effects of alcohol on the human body didn't distinguish between wine, beer and liquor. Now studies increasingly suggest that those who enjoy moderate wine consumption have a reduced incidence of cardiac disease compared to those who drink beer or spirits – and even compared to those who abstain from alcohol altogether.

The studies seem to indicate that those who drink seven to 14 servings of wine – with meals – over a week benefit from a degree of protection from heart disease and enjoy other health advantages.

Resveratrol and other polyphenols commonly found in green tea, vegetables, chocolate, grapes and peanuts are also in wine. These improve cardiovascular health because they are antioxidants, reducing the rate at which free radicals damage cells in tissue.

Resveratrol may also help kill cancer cells by inhibiting a gene known as NF kappa B that makes cancer cells resistant to che-

motherapy. Resveratrol even helps skin recover from damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation and is now being tested as an anti-cancer drug.

Sensible wine consumption is also believed to halt dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in those 65 years and older – sensible drinkers have a 31% less chance of falling victim than teetotalers. Heavy drinkers, however, are 22% more likely to suffer from dementia than those who don't drink. High-fat diets can result in clogged blood vessels, but both white and red wine increase levels of high-density lipoproteins or "good cholesterol", thereby helping to keep arteries clean.

Wine consumption does not appear to be related to the risk of lung cancer, as some have suggested. The December 18, 2002 issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* speculates that lung cancer incidence among sensible wine drinkers who don't smoke may actually be the result of exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke.

Laboratory tests at Getafe University

Medical Center found that quercetin, gallic acid and tannic acid in white wine can reduce the risk of prostate cancer among men who drink wine in moderation.

Remarkably, wine drinkers appear to have lower risk of death from other causes, too. French and Danish studies show that sensible drinkers have a 25% to 50% lower mortality rate than non-drinkers, while beer and liquor drinkers gained no such benefit.

Wine in itself may not be the sole explanation for this, however. Instead, the cause may lie in the fact that wine drinkers tend to be better educated, have better diets, smoke less and exercise more than people who drink beer and spirits. Reluctance by doctors to recommend wine as a form of preventative medicine has generally been based on the fear that patients may use wine's potential benefits as an excuse to overindulge.

Compulsive drinkers should always refrain from drinking alcohol, but for most people, wine in moderate amounts with meals is very healthy and beneficial.

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## Home of the Week Kata



**T**his new home, in a quiet soi close to Surin Beach, has an unusual focal point. The three-bedroomed property – raised one meter above ground-level and in an E-shape of interconnected pavilions – is built around a large tree that adds to the tranquil setting of the pool and tropical gardens.

The master bedroom, with en-suite bathroom, is in its own pavilion. Both are finished to a high standard, in teak for the bedroom and marble for the bathroom.

Sliding patio doors and windows, again in teak, look across the communal covered patio onto the swimming pool.

The central pavilion has two

more bedrooms and two bathrooms, one en-suite. Bedrooms throughout have built-in teak wardrobes.

The remaining pavilion houses the living area with teak storage units dividing the room, lending a sense of intimacy to an otherwise open and spacious room.

A step leads down to the

dining room and Western kitchen. The kitchen has stylish downlighting, marble work surfaces and teak storage units that blend in with the wooden interior. The utility room and a WC lead from the kitchen.

Total living area of this partly-furnished home is approximately 250 square meters. The ceilings are high, assisting the circulation of cool air, and the house is also equipped with air-conditioning and fans throughout.

Utilities include telephone, hot water, well water, three-phase electrics and a septic tank.

Surin Beach is a two-minute drive, and the airport and Phuket Town are both 20 minutes away.

The land has a Nor Sor 3 Gor title and the house is priced at 15 million baht.

For details, contact Richard Lusted, Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-280805. Website: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# A bloom for Valentine's Day

This is a gardening column. It's about gardening. It's also Valentine's Day, so how about combining the two? Well, there can't be many plants around that would fit the bill, but the bleeding heart vine does the job perfectly.

It's about the only plant that I can think of that's named after a sappy Mills & Boon novel.

The alternative names – glory bower or *clerodendrum thompsoniae* – are somewhat less romantic and don't make anywhere near as much sense. The bleeding heart vine is named for the small splashes of red that appear from the centre of the bright white flowers. The flowers appear in sprays, or calyces, about the size of a tennis ball.

The plant's growth rate is very similar to that of a teenager. It can go through periods when nothing much happens then, without warning, an unexpected growth spurt can occur.

The rate of growth can go berserk at times, with the plant sending out tendrils in all different directions.

During periods when it seems that every day another inch has been added to the reach of the shoots, they need pointing in the right direction, just like a teenager.

The method of dealing with them is to tie them to a trellis, nails in a wall, or something similar to give them a little help. Not the ideal solution for a 15-year-old child, perhaps, but it works with the bleeding heart vine.

The vine is happiest at this time of the year. It likes dry conditions, and shouldn't be over-watered. Ideally, the soil should be well-drained and rich in organic material.

In Phuket, good drainage



**Straight out of Mills & Boon: The bleeding heart vine.**  
Picture courtesy of Wayne Thomas

isn't usually a problem, but the organic material side will probably need a little help. When planting it in the garden, make sure it's surrounded by some of that compost you buy in those small white sacks from any garden centre. That's all it needs.

With adequate moisture it will tolerate full sun but it prefers partial shade. Like many plants in this part of the world, it will accept conditions that aren't perfect, but will reward you if it's treated well.

Bleeding hearts need protection from strong winds. Don't worry if parts of the plant seem to give up the ghost at times. After blooming, it's perfectly normal for that part of the plant to die back.

This is another plant that can be propagated with cuttings. A few years ago, I was doing a little gardening after one or two polite beers. Well, perhaps more than one or two.

Anyway, I was pruning away at a bleeding heart vine, cutting off those old tendrils that had long since shed their flowers and leaves.

One that looked a little bare at the base also deserved this treatment – until I pulled it away

and realized that everything was very much alive further up the six-foot stem.

Normally a cutting of this size would be far too long to take root because all the action was going on too far away from the cut end.

In my somewhat fuzzy state, I ignored this fact, and stuck it into the soil anyway.

Far from withering and responding in a way that my foolish act deserved, the cutting actually took root and eventually flourished as a whole new plant. These things are tough.

You can pick up a small example of a bleeding heart vine at your local garden center for as little as 50 baht. Little effort is required to keep the vine going, and it can be kept in a pot or deposited in the garden.

Get one at this at this time of the year and you'll be reminded of your true love for years to come. Just try to keep those sloppy Mills and Boon stories out of the picture. Happy Valentine's Day.

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**KLASSE SOFA**



Décor

Source By Supaporn Sriprom

## Treasure house of antiques

**S**tep toward the wooden doors at Chan's Antique House and you will be greeted by wai-ing marble carvings and calm-faced Buddha statues.

There are many more such statues inside and what fascinating tales they could tell if only they could talk. They gaze out on a showroom packed with figurines of all shapes and sizes, and many other antiques as well.

K. Chan explained, "Most of the antiques we sell are Buddhas, small and large. There seems to be great demand for them."

Depending on age, quality of preservation and size, prices can range tremendously.

A customer might pay as little as 1,500 baht for a 30cm wooden Burmese Buddha to well over a million baht for a 19<sup>th</sup> century standing Buddha as much as three meters tall.

However, you don't have to



**Buddha images are a specialty at Chan's Antique House.**

completely empty your pockets if you're searching for a gift in this shop. Lacquered containers sell for about 5,000 baht and make a classy gift.

For extra-serious shoppers, K. Chan has a special room containing Buddhas and tripoints dating back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In this part of the shop, don't expect to find anything for less than 20,000 baht.

*Chan's Antique House on Chalermpriakiat Ror IX Rd (the bypass road), open 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday. Tel: 076-261416-7. Website: www.chans-antique.co.th*

## In and outs of building codes

**J**oe Par from Santa Fe, New Mexico, wrote to ask, "Can you explain what and where I can and cannot build in Phuket? I am told there are building regulations, but I see a mix of properties wherever I go, some right on the beach or high up in the hills right in front of one another. I am afraid of being built out."

This is a common concern. In Phuket, property buyers will fast become aware that in many areas, there are no clearly defined building zones. As a result, commercial and residential properties intermingle.

This is especially true in older parts of Phuket, along the east coast and in Phuket Town. On the west coast this is also the case in some older communities, but less so in more recently developed areas.

Even in these, the apparent order has more to do with internally set project rules and land prices that suggest certain "best fits" of property to development type than they do with any active government regulation.

In the relative hinterland of Bang Tao, for instance, the pre-

dominance of various upscale residential villa developments is economic in origin. They have no local residential or commercial neighbors because the area has only recently been developed – and other kinds of development tend to be priced out of the market by current land values.

While there is very little in the way of zoning according to type or aesthetics, there are building codes that define parameters as to the location, height and density of structures on a property.

Developments which appear to defy these codes may have been built before the introduction of these laws.

Starting from the ocean-front, there are (as a general rule – though there are a few exceptions) designated zones, each with different parameters.

In the first zone, which extends back 50 meters from the mean high tide mark, no building may be constructed in the first 20m. In the remaining 30m, structures are limited to 6m in height, effectively a one story house or a low-ceilinged, flat roofed two-story dwelling.

These may occupy up to 25% of the titled area. The next zone extends back a further 150m. Here, buildings may be up to 12m in height and occupy 70% of the available land. The next zone back, which runs as far as the base of any hills, allows buildings up to 16m high.

It was only through the implementation and enforcement

of these codes that Phuket has been spared the "Florida effect" of numerous high-rises built right along the beach.

Hillsides remain a popular place to build dream homes with impressive views of either mountain or sea. To preserve Phuket's green hillsides, building codes bar permanent structures on land over 80m above sea level.

As a safety precaution, building plans are also subject to regulation based upon maximum hillside gradient. On hillside land – generally considered as anything higher than 40m above sea level – a maximum 8m building-height limit generally applies. This is, however, measured from the original grade levels across the property, allowing

terraced homes to be built whose total height, bottom to top, actually exceeds 8m.

Clearly, land buyers must take an interest in such codes. They should also find out what can be built on adjacent land plots, especially those that could block a lovely view; unlike in California, in Phuket you cannot legally protest about neighbors blocking your views, so long as their building complies with building codes.

*William Pinsent has lived in Phuket since 1981 and is a director of Phuket Land Ltd. More articles by the author can be found at [www.phuketland.com/gaz/gazmain.htm](http://www.phuketland.com/gaz/gazmain.htm)*



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By William Pinsent

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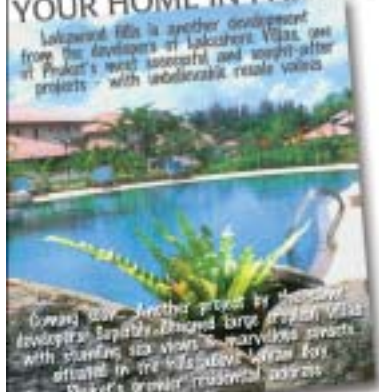
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# Property Gazette

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in Anuphas Golf Ville. Please call 09-8718333, 01-691-3351 or 076-238916.

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360-sqm living space, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms plus maid's room. Absolute privacy and security. 11.5 million baht. Call 01-891-6143.

### LAND: LAND + HOUSE

avail separately. Sea views at Nai Yang beach. 3 rai: 2 million baht/rai. House on NorSor 3 Gor land: 2.5 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 01-8918689.

**Noi Supin & Andrew Greenlay**  
Real Estate Consultants

**Land For Sale for All Needs**  
**Residential & Commercial Sales**

Tel: 076-288766  
Mobile: 07-2747470  
Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

**Phuket One Real Estate**  
Real Estate Consultants Limited

### APARTMENTS



We have a fantastic selection of apartments for sale, including UNITS OVERLOOKING THE 18TH FAIRWAY AT THE NEW MISSION HILLS GOLF CLUB!!!! PRICE: From 4.9 million baht

### OCEAN VIEW VILLAS



Expansive sea views from elevated locations in prestige estates. PRICE: From 23 million baht - 200 million baht

### BOAT LAGOON



Immaculately presented two storey villa on the canal. Ideal investment in this enormously popular estate. PRICE: Offers over 4.5 million baht

### BANG TAO BEACH



Apartments in European style "Club" Estate. PRICE: From 2.8 million baht!!!!

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709  
Mobile: 09-2888317, 01-6963539, 01-0793012  
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com  
www.phuketonerealestate.com

### LARGE HOUSE IN KATHU



4-bedrm, 200-sqm house with 3 bathrooms, on 400 sqm of land in a very quiet and beautiful location in Kathu. 3 years old. Price: a non-negotiable 2.8 million baht. Tel: 06-6834996. Email: fenefc@hotmail.com

### LEAVING PHUKET

Nice family house at bargain price for quick sale. For details, email: albertjames1940@hotmail.com

The house is on 1200 square meters of land freehold title. Marble bathrooms, Jacuzzi, hot water, 3-phase electric, aircons, two car garage, full kitchen, swimming pool, 5 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, all rooms have sea view, maid's room and working room, storeroom, garden. Must see to appreciate.

**jimmys@loxinfo.co.th or 07-2659977**

**exotiq**  
REAL ESTATE  
Managers of fine property  
Suk - Koh Samui - Phuket

**OCEAN VIEW PROPERTY**

**Land & Property Sale & Rent**

**076 270 376**  
09 873 3564

**BEACHFRONT LAND**  
lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com  
www.exotiqrealestate.com

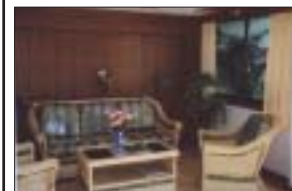
All classifieds in these pages are

**PAID!**

- your guarantee that whatever you see is seriously for sale.

**Gazette Classads - they work!**

### 2 NEW LUXURY CONDOS IN PATONG



85sqm and 106sqm. Fully furnished and high-class decoration, one and two bedrooms, large living/dining room with pantry kitchen. Super bath with Jacuzzi, balcony. Long-term lease of 30-90 years. Security, garage, swimming pool. Contact Peter. Tel: 01-892-8526. Email: peterwesche@hotmail.com

### LUXURY BEACH

condos. Studio apartments of 28sqm for 760,000 baht. Also have large apartment of 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom and kitchen for 1.3 million baht. Sea views. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-9484490. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### KOH YAO NOI

Several smaller seaview land plots on the island's preferred east side, from 1.5 rai to 6 rai, for sale direct from owner. Stunning, undisturbed views to Krabi's coastline, land separated from beach and clear waters only by island's ring road. Electricity, water, proper land titles. Tel: 076-388380, 09-9708145. Email: dusitha@phuket.ksc.co.th

### LAND FOR SALE

Just under 2 rai of land, with Chanote, close to Laguna Phuket. This land is in a fast-developing area of residential houses. The land is slightly elevated with good mountain views. Email: tgspg@hotmail.com

### 1.25 RAI KAMALA

Panoramic views over Kamala valley. Quiet location, not overlooked. Price: 2.75 million baht. Tel: 01-737-4295. Email: stevebragg28@hotmail.com

Find more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)







# Property Gazette

## Properties Wanted

### PROPERTY WANTED

Large one-bedroom apartment, condo or house on beach, in Patong or nearby, for off season, from March 1. Also looking to rent lot (land) 90-year lease, on the sand in Patong or close. Call Joe at 06-1461431.

### SELL YOUR HOUSE

or land now. Investor looking for land, villas and houses. We are ready to invest in the right property. Contact us with your property details. Tel: 01-8921199. Email: cadillac@loxinfo.co.th

## Accommodation Available

### BUNGALOW 4 RENT

Aircon, hot shower, fridge. 300 baht/day; 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-202644, 01-5971520.

### 2-BEDROOM APT

2 bathrooms, kitchen, secure parking, two floors. 5,000 baht/month. Chao Fa East Rd. Tel: 09-7939268.

### PATONG LUXURY

apartment. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

### LOOKING TO LEASE

rai of land on the bypass road from owner for shop. Tel: 01-5353120.

### ROOMS FROM B300

Fan/aircon rooms with ensuite bathrooms plus fridge, hot/cold shower, white bed sheets changed daily. Pool table, UBC TV, bar, lounge. All rooms are ground level and have windows, 10 min walk to beach, 15 min walk to all nightlife. Contact for pics and more info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Fax: 076-290-383. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th



### PHUKET BEVERLY HILL

We offer Exclusive Residences at Beverly Hills in Patong. Beautiful Town House with Superb Ocean Views.

For more details call

076-341871,

01-9241447, 01-5697616, 09-7762591

E-mail: sales@

phuketislandrealestate.com

Website: www.

phuketislandrealestate.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### NICE HOUSE

urgently wanted. We are looking for a nice 3-bedroom house in Patong, Kamala, or Surin area, with a lease of 1-3 years. Up to 50,000 baht per month is acceptable. Call K. Sand Panit. Tel: 076-255389, 09-6521525. Fax: 076-354-724. Email: pkhongmak@courts.co.th

### PATONG BEACH

I am looking for a room for rent in Patong from March 9 to April 22. Please email details of anything interesting to: mats.sioland@ocom.se

### PATONG/KAMALA

I'm looking to rent an apartment, preferably quiet. I'm planning to be in Phuket for a minimum of 2 years, so I'm hoping to find a place for approx 5,000-7,000 baht. Please email any offers to: teflsteve@yahoo.co.uk

### APARTMENT

wanted from first week of March for 3-6 months. Must be in good condition with the usual facilities. Prefer Patong but will consider anything that's close to Patong. Please send an email with details of price and pictures. Email: james@bentleycc.fslife.co.uk

### WANT TO RENT

a room with aircon for 500 baht per night. Email with full details as soon as possible. Email: r\_solli@yahoo.no

### APARTMENT IN BKK

needed. Need long-term contract for rental of 2-3 bedroom apartment in Bangkok. Bangna Trad area, Thana City preferred, or any apartment that has easy access to expressway. Please email, preferably with photo. Email: chatchada@phuketinternet.com. Tel: 01-8946403.

### HOUSE IN KATHU

wanted. Looking for 1- or 2-bedroom house for long-term stay (minimum 1-yr contract) in Kathu. Should have basic furniture, garden, telephone line and cable TV or UBC satellite. Tel: 01-7378523. Email: roithmayr@loxinfo.co.th

### KATA CENTER

Single male requires bungalow accommodation in Kata/Karon area for about 6 weeks. Location is important as I have no wish to hire a car or a motorbike. Accommodation must be about 20 minutes' walk from Peach Hill in Kata. Please email any offers to: pmarkcrotty@btinternet.com

### QUIET HOUSE

or apartment wanted in Phuket Town or very near, for 6 months from April. Please email offers to: eunson101@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT/ROOM

Looking for long-term rental apartment or room. Should be in Patong, Kamala, Kathu or Karon. Fully furnished and with fan ok. Max price 5,000 baht/mth. Tel: 05-1601670.

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

wanted. Would like a 2-bedroom house in Land & Houses Park for 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 07-889-3675.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Looking for accommodation from March 29, 2004. Email: polymath2002@hotmail.com

### NAI HARN

Expat is seeking to rent a bungalow in the Nai Harn area for an initial period of two months. Please email details to: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

### NEED ROOM, HOUSE

Expat seeks room or house. Furnished, phone line, fan/aircon, 7,000 baht or less. Let me know what you have. Please send full details by email to: rogerthai@hotmail.com

## Building Services

### phuket home services

repairs • maintenance  
renovation • building  
air conditioning  
woodwork • stonework  
metalwork • electrical  
plumbing • gardening  
pressure cleaning  
window cleaning

Tel: 076 324 400  
Mobile: 07 282 0200

### SPAS R US

Steam room/sauna and accessories, and portable hot tub from USA. Quality equipment, designed and installed for your needs. Business and residential. Call us at 09-793-9268.

### EQUIPMENT HIRE

Generators, jack hammers, concrete cutting saws, welders, pressure cleaners, scaffolding, containers, etc. Tel: 01-1251873, 01-892-4804.

### THAI KITCHEN

Original build plus equipment. Call 06-2761504. www.sea-business.com/renokit

### DREAM HOMES

Custom-built homes and villas. For more info please email: rockhard@loxinfo.co.th

## Property Services

### HARDWOOD FLOORS

Change your old floor to new-look hardwood flooring in 1 day. It's pre-varnished, real hardwood, no dust, easy to install. Teak, maple, *maka*, etc. Prices from 900 baht/sqm. 01-4241354. Email: vira@tropical-decor.com

## Property Services Wanted

### FOREMAN WANTED

We are in need of a good home construction foreman. We have contracts for four houses and want to proceed immediately. Must be able to communicate in English, build in concrete and building blocks, and be willing to learn. Tel: 076-254752.

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's

*Events Calendar*

it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

phuketgazette.com/calendar



# Phuket & Samui PROPERTY EXHIBITION Singapore 2004

Raffles City Convention Centre - Swissôtel The Stamford.

**Don't miss this opportunity. Limited Space Available.**

The Singapore market is proving very active with many sales to Singapore buyers reported.

**The Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition** will provide high-profile advertising ensuring that every potential buyer in Singapore will be aware of the event. Join the major developers from Phuket & Samui in Singapore 5-7<sup>th</sup> March 2004

The database of visitors will be available to all exhibitors.

**Phuket Gazette**  
Phuket

**HOMES**  
Tropical  
Samui

Enquiries: [www.ap-expo.com](http://www.ap-expo.com)

E-mail: [jade@aapress.net](mailto:jade@aapress.net) or [graham@ap-expo.com](mailto:graham@ap-expo.com)

Thailand: Graham Doven 66 1 897 0225

Singapore: Mr. David Lee, Eastwest Executive Travellers 65 6238 8488





# Island Job Mart

## TRISARA

Naithorn Beach  
Phuket Island

New 5-star luxury resort

### Now Searching for Pre-opening Team Members

Scheduled to open in the 4th quarter of 2004, Trisara comprises all suite hotel villas and privately owned luxury residential villas, all with private pools and ocean views, a spa, two restaurants and many other first class facilities.

Trisara will create a new standard as a resort experience and we are now inviting capable candidates with suitable experience and excellent English communication skills to join our growing pre-opening team in the following positions:

#### Villa Operation

- Executive Housekeeper
- Accounting Officer

#### Hotel Operation

- Director of Human Resources
- Director of Sales and Marketing (Bangkok office based)
- Training Manager
- Telephone Operator

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to:

**Managing Director**  
**Trisara**

60/1 Moo 6 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket, 83110 Thailand  
Tel: 076-310100 Fax or via email (in Microsoft Word format) to: ni@trisara.com



SHERATON GRANDE  
LAGUNA PHUKET

Thailand

Do values like 'career development' and 'retaining the best available talent' motivate you to perform at your optimal level?

Will an atmosphere filled with energy, creativity and innovation entice you to offer your very best? Is working in one of Thailand's leading resorts that has achieved multiple awards your career aspiration?

If it is the affirmative for the above, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket is the place for you.

As a member of the Luxury Collection of Starwood Hotels & Resorts and one of the five resorts at Laguna Phuket, we are currently seeking highly qualified professionals with the relevant experience for the following positions:

#### Senior Events Manager

In this challenging role, you will support the Director of Events in controlling and managing all aspects of daily operations including:

- Confidently conduct site inspections of our prestigious property.
- Operational management of events from the initial enquiry to its successful completion.
- Establish new, and support ongoing relationships with our customers, suppliers and local tour operators.
- Achieve departmental and individual sales budgets and goals.
- Training and development of staff within a team environment.
- Administrative tasks including departmental reports, constant monitoring and yielding of incoming business.

#### Reservation Sales Agent, Reservation Group Co-ordinator

The desire to provide excellent customer servicing in an efficient and friendly manner including:

- Ability to liaise with and close sales via telephone.
- Enthusiastic and motivated with a willingness to learn.
- Attention to detail in a timely effective manner.

In addition to relevant experience and skills, applicants should have a positive attitude, as well as good interpersonal and communication skills. Excellent command of English and computer skills are essential.

Successful candidates will be offered attractive salaries and benefits, in addition to excellent career development.

Please apply prior to 15 March 2004 in person or send application, resumé and recent photo to:

Human Resources  
Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket  
Bang Tao Bay, Phuket 83110  
Tel: (66 76) 324 101-7; Fax: (66 76) 324108  
Email: chayanuch.chudhabuddhi@luxurycollection.com



THE LUXURY COLLECTION  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts

## BUPA

is a global health and care  
organisation with members  
in nearly 190 countries worldwide.

We protect members throughout the world and offer a range of affordable plans and cashless access to over 200 leading hospitals and clinics throughout Thailand. We are ISO 9001:2000 certified. To support our operation expansion, we offer career opportunities in the following position:

Telesales Officer (Based in Phuket and Hatyai)

You will be responsible for managing and expanding sales volume and market share of health insurance products in Phuket and the surrounding area.

#### Qualifications:

- Male/Female, age 30 or older
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- 2-3 year's experience in sales
- Good personality, service minded with good interpersonal skills
- Fluent in spoken and written English
- Good computer literacy

We offer a competitive remuneration package for the right candidate. If you believe you are qualified for the above position, please send your application in English and detailed resumé with current salary and expected salary, together with the transcript and a recent photograph.

BUPA Health Insurance (Thailand) Limited  
Phuket Branch  
156/15 Pang-Nga Rd.  
T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000  
E-mail: phuket@bupa.co.th

#### ACCOUNTANT

required. Must have diploma or degree in accounting and 1-2 years' experience. Should also have English language skills. Please contact to apply. Tel: 076-273321. Email: suporn@thaimarine.com

#### GM/ACCOUNTANT/ SECRETARY

Overseas medical products company with net sales of more than 15 billion baht requires an accountant with Thai GAAP from IAS. Phuket Submarine Company requires a general manager and an executive secretary, both with experience in the tourism industry and excellent written and spoken English. Please call or email for further details or to apply. Tel: 01-8912333. Email: tailor@loxinfo.co.th

#### RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

Patong-based diving company requires a computer-literate Thai female with good written and spoken English skills, enthusiasm and confidence as a receptionist/secretary. Please contact to apply. Tel: 076-340932. Fax: 076-340586. Email: info@seal-asia.com

#### EXEC SECRETARY

Technology company seeks person with strong administration skills, ability to read and write English and to communicate effectively with staff/clients/government. Working directly with MD. Salary based on abilities: 12,000-22,000/month. Tel: 01-8355771. Email: pat@siam-wireless.com

#### STAFF NEEDED

We're looking for a female Thai national to work in a cyber café in the Patong area. Please contact Khun Yupa by email or by phone. Tel: 076-341255. Email: leco@liontchai.com

#### COMPUTER TECH

Thai national required for computer repairs and network installations. Candidate must have over 3 years' hands-on experience. Basic salary offer depends on your abilities and experience. Salary: 14,000-30,000 baht/month. Email: pat@siam-wireless.com

#### MAID WANTED

We are looking for 2 ladies who can speak a little English and can start working now until the end of March. Call for interview. Tel: 076-281084, 01-8953185. Email: phuket@coolza.com

#### OFFICE JUNIOR

Good command of computer skills and knowledge of accounting required. Good spoken and understanding of English are an advantage. Tel: 076-324478. Email: pools@loxinfo.co.th

#### RESTAURANT

Manager required. The Mangosteen Resort & Spa is seeking a Restaurant Manager for immediate start. At least 5 years' experience and superb command of English language required. Active person, Thai or expat. Contact to discuss. Tel: 076-289399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteen-phuket.com

#### LINUX PROGRAMER

We require the talents of a skilled programmer with a high level of experience in working with Linux. Full- or part-time considered. Please contact us for full details. Tel: 01-8355771. Email: pat@siam-wireless.com

#### PRESCHOOL

teacher wanted. Seeking native English speaker with nursery or teaching qualifications and experience with children under three. Please email or fax CV and letter of interest. Tel: 01-8942560. Fax: 076-238756. Email: pamela@greenhouse-phuket.com

#### HOTEL STAFF

A new 4-star hotel in Karon is looking for English-speaking staff to work in our office, reception and restaurant. Please email CV to apply. Email: job@karon-phuket-hotels.com

#### URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are looking for a Front Office Manager and a Secretary to join our team, should have a good command of English and bright personalities. Please call, fax or email to apply. Tel: 076-292801. Fax: 076-292808. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com

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367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket Town

Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971



# Island Job Mart



บริษัท แพลนเอสเตท จำกัด  
PLAN ESTATE CO., LTD.



A well known premier Real Estate Developer for 15 years. We have developed and managed many unique and quality residential and building projects such as; Baan Suan Rim Klong Bangmod, Baan Suan Rim Klong Chaophaya Bangpa-in, Baan Suan Sukhothai, Glas Haus Building, etc. However, we spend our business to provide a wide range of asset management and development.

PLAN ESTATE Company Limited is currently looking for highly qualified, energetic, visionary and proactive persons who are self-motivated and desire to success to join our longterm business growth at our Phuket site in the following positions.

<b>Marketing and Sales Manager</b> Code : 221	<b>Phuket</b> 2 Positions	<b>Construction Manager</b> Code : 231	<b>Phuket</b> 2 Positions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male or Female, age not over 35 years</li> <li>- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Marketing, Business Administration or any related field</li> <li>- 8 years working experience in Marketing and Sales of real estate business</li> <li>- Ability to conduct real estate marketing plans and forecast budgeting</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male, age not over 40 years</li> <li>- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Construction Engineering</li> <li>- 10 years working experience in construction management of housing projects</li> </ul>	

<b>Marketing and Sales Assistant Manager</b> Code : 222	<b>Phuket</b> 2 Positions	<b>Construction Assistant Manager</b> Code : 232	<b>Phuket</b> 2 Positions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male or Female, age not over 35 years</li> <li>- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Marketing, Business Administration or any related field</li> <li>- 5 years working experience in Marketing and Sales of real estate business</li> <li>- Ability to analyze feasibility of investment and conduct real estate marketing plans</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male, age not over 35 years</li> <li>- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Construction Engineering or Architecture</li> <li>- 5 years working experience in construction of housing projects</li> </ul>	

<b>Sale Executive</b> Code : 223	<b>Phuket</b> 3 Positions	<b>Construction Control Officer</b> Code : 233	<b>Phuket</b> 3 Positions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male or Female, age not over 30 years</li> <li>- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Marketing or any related field</li> <li>- 3 years working experience in Marketing and Sales of real estate business</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Male, age not over 25 years</li> <li>- Diploma or higher in Construction Engineering or Architecture</li> <li>- 3 years working experience in construction control management of housing/ condominium projects</li> </ul>	

**Project Officer**  
Code : 211

**Phuket**  
3 Positions

- Male or Female, age not over 30 years
- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Accounting, Business Administration or any related field
- 3 years working experience in real estate business

All positions require a fluency in spoken and written English, computer literacy with good communication and interpersonal skills, as well as good leadership and teamwork.

Interested person, please submit your application letter, resume including job experience, transcript and a recent photo (clearly indicate the position code on envelop) to :  
**PLAN ESTATE COMPANY LIMITED**  
32/1 Moo 2 Thepkasattri Road, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel. 0-7623-9639-40 Email: plan@nfs.co.th

## Be Part of Our Winning Team

Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach Spa & Resort, a new five-star property situated in Khao Lak, Phang Nga province, is now looking for energetic people to join our opening team:

Assistant Manager	Spa Manager
Chief Concierge	Sports Manager
Reservations Manager	Security Manager
Convention Manager	Director of Sales
Sales Manager	PA to Director of Sales
Operational Secretary	Purchasing Manager
PR Executive	Sous Chef Chief
Executive Sous Chef	Chief Steward
Restaurant Manager	Banquet Manager
Accountant	Human Resources Officer
Health, Hygiene & Safety / Assistant HR Manager	
Front Officer Manager	

### Qualifications:

All applicants must have previous experience in the hotel industry, a good command of English and be service-minded.

Please send a letter of application with your updated resumé and a recent photograph to:

Human Resources Director  
2 Moo 1 Tambon Khuk Khak  
Amphur Takuapa, Pang Nga 82190  
Fax: 076-423574  
E-mail: hrmgr@khaolak.lemeridien.co.th

Please note that these positions are open to Thai nationals only.  
Please do not apply in person.



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KHAO LAK BEACH  
& SPA RESORT  
www.lemeridien.com  
in partnership with Nikko  
Hotels International

## SATREE PHUKET

Satree Phuket School requires native English-speaking teachers to teach English, maths and science. Contact Ajarn Jansri for at: 06-9480303. Email: jansri26@hotmail.com

## BOOKKEEPER

required. We are seeking a young enthusiastic bookkeeper to maintain the company's accounts. Must have excellent organizational skills. Experience in a related field is preferred. Basic computer knowledge needed. Written and spoken English is a must. Tel: 076-340625-6.

## PART-TIME TEACHER

The Rawai Progressive School (a bilingual Montessori School) is looking for a part-time art teacher. Tel: 076-288923. Email: info@montessori-thailand.com

## RESTAURANT STAFF

Male reception staff required for a restaurant in Patong. Good spoken English is essential. Good salary and commission for the right person. Tel: 01-0817223. Email: andjb@pc.jaring.my

## MARINA OFFICE

Thai female, 25+, fluent in English, computer literate, with Excel and basic accounting skills, required as Assistant. Outgoing personality and marine industry/front desk service experience preferred. Tel: 076-206704. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

## Employment Wanted

## HOTEL JOB WANTED

A 18-year-old Thai male is looking for an opportunity to work in the hotel industry, preferably a 4-5 star hotel. Fluent in English (US High School), polite and service-oriented, with work experience in 5-star restaurant. Familiar with both Western and Asian cultures. Please contact me to discuss. Tel: 09-0345674.

## JOB WANTED

European construction engineer/architect with work permit is looking for employment. Tel: 06-9510987.

## SEEKING WORK

21-year-old English male, ex-Marine, extremely hard-working, very punctual and willing to learn, is looking part-time or full-time work. Please contact Mike with details. Tel: 07-8813949. Email: m\_forbes30@hotmail.com

## ITALIAN SEEKS WORK

28-year-old man, experienced in leading Italian hotels, excellent attitude towards job, enthusiastic, smiling and open-minded, seeks work. Speaks Italian, French and English. Tel: 07-8919691. Email: giancarlo.giacomelli@yahoo.it

# The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd is seeking creative, motivated Thai nationals to join our team. The ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

## ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

- Thai, age 23 up
- Bachelor's degree or higher (in any field)
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- Must have a car driver's license
- Accounting experience would be an advantage, but the Gazette is willing to provide training for a novice with good interpersonal skills and unquestioned honesty

Please send CV to the Personnel Manager.  
Tel: 076-236555. Fax: 076-213971. Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

## REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car driver's license.

Applications should be submitted by email to: [alasdair@phuketgazette.net](mailto:alasdair@phuketgazette.net)



Member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World

This well established Deluxe resort, on Koh Lanta, Krabi is searching for a candidate with the following qualifications:

## Chief Engineer

- Male over 35 years old and of Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's or Master Degree in engineering field or higher
- At least 5 years experience in a similar position and preferably in a resort environment
- Strong ability in leading a team of 30/35 engineering & gardening staff
- Good command of written and spoken English language
- Computer, Internet, and emailing proficiency.
- Able to work under pressure and handle multiple projects simultaneously.
- Hard working, dynamic, hands on and highly responsible.

### Other positions available;

Asst Front Office Manager, Cost Controller, HK Supervisor, Room Attendants  
Waiter/Waitress, Store/Cost Officer, Cooks - Thai/Western cuisine, Engineers/ Technicians

Interested candidates, please submit, resume, recent picture and expected salary to; fax at (0) 75 607 998 or email at [hr@pimalai.com](mailto:hr@pimalai.com); only short listed candidates will be contacted.  
Pimalai Resort & Spa, 99 Moo 5, Ba Kan Tiang Bay, Koh Lanta, Krabi 81150, Thailand

## ACCOUNTANTS NEEDED

We are a US franchise that provides accounting and tax services to foreign companies in Phuket. Due to rapid expansion, we need to fill the following positions: Accountant (3 positions), BA in accounting/finance, age not over 25, 0-3 years' experience in accounting, good command of English; Clerk (5 positions), vocational certificate in accounting, age not over 23, 0-3 years' experience in accounting. Please apply by email only or contact us for more information. Tel: 076-234993. Email: [recruit@thaiaccounting.com](mailto:recruit@thaiaccounting.com)

## SALES EXECUTIVE

Fagor European kitchen appliances distributor is looking for the right candidate to join our team. The successful applicant will be male, over 25, and with a degree. He should have a good command of English, a car and driving license, and be able to work on Samui. Tel: 076-234695 or 01-8091386. Email: [fagorpkt@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:fagorpkt@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## RECEPTIONIST/

secretary wanted. Thai female, must have computer-literate, good written and spoken English. Please email or fax to apply. Fax: 076-325277. Email: [info@asiaislandhomes.com](mailto:info@asiaislandhomes.com)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### GENERATOR

from Germany, secondhand, 125KVA, 225KVA, top condition (90%). Contact for further information at Rothermann 1998 (Thailand). Tel: 02-618 5925 or 01-6176313. Email: rotherman@cscoms.com, wattana@rothermannthai.com

### MOVING SALE

Western family household items: white wooden baby crib and dresser/changing table set 12,000 baht; teak rocking chair 2,000 baht; Aprica stroller 1,500 baht; Cosco baby car seat 2,000 baht; child bike seat and helmet 2,000 baht; Sony pre-amp speakers 2,000 baht; whipper snipper 1,000 baht; surfboard 6 ft 9,000 baht; "Alva" skateboard 4,000 baht; satellite dish 5,000 baht; gas water heater 1,000 baht; Pioneer CD, VCD stereo 5,000 baht; 3 pull-down blinds 4,000 baht; Sony cordless phone 1,000 baht. Tel: 01-895-5523.

### FOUR PIECES 4 SALE

Four pieces, carpeted stage and back-drop curtain. Portable, strong, easy to use. Tel: 01-8955523. Email: pheve@loxinfo.co.th

### BABY EQUIPMENT

Baby-feeding equipment, chair, car seat, stroller, toys, etc., all for sale at reasonable prices. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 06-2723885.

## Boats & Marine

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Please contact:  
Tel: 076-239111, 076-273320  
Fax: 076-238974  
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

### BOAT FOR SALE

29-foot fiberglass motor yacht with Thai registration. 2 x 280hp Mercruiser engines. Price: 3.5 million baht ono. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

### SPEEDBOAT 4 SALE

36-foot long, with 2x200hp Yamaha engines, cabin, kitchen, WC. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 06-2713407.



**Northwind 40**  
new rigging,  
interior refit 2003  
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contact  
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**076-239 111**



**Thai Flagged**  
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Contact: 01-8914555,  
01-4847769, 09-6508999

**GENESIS DIVE BOAT**  
for sale or lease. Fully equipped. Price: 7.9 million baht. Tel: 01-8916143. Email: info@genesis1phuket.com

## Business Opportunities

### BAR FOR SALE

The Viking Bar, in the middle of Soi Seadragon, in the center of Patong, is for sale. Everything included: UBC, HiFi, VCD. 1.1 million baht. Please call for more info or visit me at the bar. Tel: 09-5881401. Email: sheva1974@libero.it

**BANGLA BAR 4 SALE**  
20-year lease, 1.4 million baht. Tel: 01-0880353. Email: barrest67@hotmail.com

### SPACE FOR LEASE AT LAYAN

Spacious space for lease, fully equipped with air conditioning and telephone at Layan Beach Resort & Spa. Monthly rent at 8,000-15,000 baht. See website for further information: www.layanphuket.com, Tel: 076-313412. Email: mkt@layanphuket.com

### SMALL PRIVATE ESTATE

Just completed: 8 private homes, one- and two-story, on a 2-rai site. All fully furnished to high standard, with common pool and gardens, car parking, security and cable TV. 2km from Chalong circle, 8km from Phuket Town. Ideal as small business with high rental returns. Safe and secure for owners and tenants. Price: 19 million baht. Tel: 09-6521951. Email: property\_in\_phuket@yahoo.co.uk

### GUESTHOUSE/BAR

Guesthouse and bar restaurant for sale. Situated in Soi Sansabai, opp Soi Bangla. Has 6 bedrooms and 30-seat restaurant plus bar. Call Mark for full details. Tel: 09-8664559.

### GUESTHOUSE 4 SALE

Guesthouse close to the beach in northern Patong. 8 air-conditioned rooms, fridge, TV, and fully equipped kitchen with outdoor bar/restaurant. No key money, 2.5-year renewable contract. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 07-2665965.

### FOR RENT

Coffee shop/restaurant in Patong Condo Sky-Inn for rent. Tel: 076-344530.

### LARGE BAR FOR SALE

Large bar on Soi Sea Pearl for sale. Fully equipped and stocked. Great opportunity for early return on investment during the high season. Please email for more details. Email: scudbar@hotmail.com

### CHAWENG BEACH

Three Garden Bars for lease in central Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui. 10-year leases. Construction starts in April. Tel: 01-8957276. Email: gringos@isdn.loxinfo.com

### INVESTOR NEEDED

Newly established dive company seeks enthusiastic investor to invest in a dive charter boat. Call to arrange meeting to discuss. Tel: 09-6498048. Email: diveinvestor2004@yahoo.com

### BUSINESS PARTNER

required for thriving company to assist with exciting new project, not tourist or food related. Information by interview only. Tel: 01-8924804.

### KAMALA BAR 4 SALE

A fully equipped bar in Kamala for sale. 250,000 baht. Tel: 01-7374295, 01-8929524. Email: stevebragg28@hotmail.com

### FOR SALE OR RENT

Restaurant, fully furnished, in Patong. Contact Khun Mike at Tel: 01-8289329.

### BOOMING AREA

Very nice bar and restaurant for sale. Located in Nai Harn, must see it. Tel: 07-8860295.

### COMPANY FOR SALE

Profitable company, located only 150 meters from Phuket's longest beach. Buildings and land have freehold title (Chanote), with easy foreign transfer. Includes a 20-room hotel, 25-seat restaurant, several rented offices, 3 work permits and space to build owner's quarters or to expand. Priced for quick sale. Email: hotelinparadise@yahoo.com

### ORCHID BUSINESS

Have 5,000 plants, and permit to hold and export all species with culture equipment: auto-claves, laminar bottles and shelving. Tel: 076-388396, 06-9579325.

### LANGUAGE SCHOOL

for lease. Anna's Language School, Trang Branch, is now offered on a 3-year franchise lease. Price: 1.5 million baht plus additional 20,000 baht fee/month. The lease will be renewable at a renegotiated price after initial 3-year period. Tel: 01-7883804. Email: info@phuket-anna.com. See website: www.phuket-anna.com

### BAR, RESTAURANT

and accommodation for sale. All-year trade, accommodation for live-in or rent, pool table, aircon, television, 28 covers, 5-6-year lease, no payment till November 2004. Asking price: 2 million baht ono. Tel: 09-9097949.

### COIN-OP POOL TABLE

Brand new coin-operated tables for rent. Only 6,000 baht/month. High income. Tel: 076-383883, 01-8234627. Email: phuketpooltables@hotmail.com

## Business Services

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account. Can be opened using your real name or stay anonymous. Operative within 2 working days and major credit cards, business or private, are available. Please contact for further information. Fax USA: 001-1-4354174354. Email: caribbean@financier.com

### FOOD DELIVERY

in Phuket. We are Foodline, and we cater to Phuket. Many people have heard about us but did not know how to get a menu. Tel: 076-283120. Email: info@foodlinephuket.com. Website: www.foodlinephuket.com

## Personal Services

### NIA YOGA PILATES

Nia Yoga Pilates at the Movement Center. See our website at www.phuketmoves.com. Please call or email for further details. Tel: 076-282408, 01-7975065.

### THAI CONVERSION

Learn Thai at home or as part of a fun excursions to the market, shopping, island trip, etc. I'm Joy, I will be your teacher and guide. Also coursework, home study material. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

### THAI POSTAL STAMP

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## Public Notice

This is announce that Mr Helge Saatvedt resigned from Baan Kamala Co Ltd and Kamala Land & Property Co Ltd on June 19th, 2003, and also to state categorically that Mr Helge Saatvedt, Mrs Pimprapa Sriwongchan and Ms Supawan Khageerum and their associates and family members have no power or authority to manage or take any legal act for or incur any liability of any kind whatsoever on behalf of Baan Kamala Co Ltd or Kamala Land & Property Co Ltd. Kamala Land & Property Co Ltd and Baan Kamala Co Ltd assume no responsibility for any action taken by the individuals mentioned above.

## ประกาศ

โปรดทราบ ตั้งแต่วันที่ 19 มิถุนายน พ.ศ. 2546 เป็นต้นไป นายเฮลเก้ ซาทเวดท์ นางปิมปราภา ศรีวงศ์จันทร์ และนางสาวสุภาวรรณ ขจีรัมย์ กับพวกไม่มีอำนาจ จัดการและกระทำการนิติกรรม หรือกระทำการใดๆ ที่ก่อให้เกิดผลผูกพัน บริษัท บ้านกมลสา จำกัด และบริษัทกมลสา แลนด์ แอนด์ พร็อพเพอร์ตี้ จำกัด โดยบริษัท ทั้งสองจะไม่นับผิดชอบในการกระทำใดๆของบุคคลดังกล่าวอีกต่อไป

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's **Events Calendar** it probably isn't one.  
List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

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# Wheels & Motors

## Computers

### INTERNET ANYWHERE

Mobile USB modem now available. Works anywhere with no telephone line needed. Also computer repairs and sales (English). Call now. Tel: 09-473-5080.

### COMPUTER ITEMS

for sale. Digital UPS: 1,400 baht, Aiptek Pencam: 2,000 baht, CD writer: 2,000 baht, Universal Printer ink: 400 baht. Tel: 07-2773917.

## Membership wanted

### WANT MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club membership wanted. Cash purchaser and best offer. Please contact with details. Tel: 07-278-0710. Email: johninparadise@hotmail.com

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

players wanted for some exciting games. Please call or fax for more details. Tel: 076-386113 or 01-5778443. Fax: 076-386114.

### LOOKING 4 SOMEONE

I was in Phuket at Patong Beach about 6 months ago. I'm hoping someone can help me find a girl I met when I was there. Her name is "Lin" and she works in a bar, but I'm not sure of the name – something like Number 9 or Café Number 9. I'll be back in Phuket in a couple of weeks to thank you for any help you might be able to give. Email: buff\_18@hotmail.com

### UK LADY IN BANGKOK

Late 40s, intelligent, has own business. Can be very cuddly. Looking for nice, discreet gentleman to spend occasional time with. Tel: 07-1417590.

### LOOKING FOR

companion. Asian guy, 35 years old, is visiting Phuket next month and seeking pleasant local Thai lady for personal guide and companionship. Email: findseekme@graffiti.net

### FEMALE PENPAL

wanted. American Engineer from New York looking to develop friendship with a Thai female, 18-22 years old. Email: dsbarrett02@yahoo.com

## Pets

### KITTENS

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buggy for sale. Perfect new build on VW basic body from France. 1960cc engine, wheels, brakes and more original Porsche parts. Construction and tax cost 1 million baht. Will sell for 600,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-9429171

### HONDA ACCORD

2.2 EXI. 1995, very low mileage, black, new tires and 16" aluminum wheels. Tel: 06-6829191. Email: vagabond802000@yahoo.com

### '89 HONDA ACCORD

168,000km. New paint, tires, brakes, clutch, battery, air conditioning and 30,000-baht Sony stereo, which is still under warranty. 185,000 baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 07-8893675. Email: jefftd77@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA CROWN

69,000 baht. Old car but in very good condition. 4 doors, aircon, sport wheels, stereo. Runs perfect. Tax and insurance included. Tel: 06-948-8139. Email: phuketmotors1@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA FOR SALE

Toyota Corolla, 1999 model, manual, 1600cc, bronze color, well-maintained and in good condition. Price: 390,000 baht, including first-class insurance. Tel: 01-8915296. Email: jakkyapril@yahoo.com

### VOLVO 240

White Volvo 240, 1987 model, very good condition. New brakes, clutch, sparks, and distributor. Well serviced by local Volvo garage. Aircon and engine run very well for local or longer trips. 5-speed gearbox, power steering and even a CD player. Price: 125,000 baht. Tel: 076-202-208, 09-2929104. Email: info@sunrise-divers.com

## Pickups

### MAZDA FAMILY

pickup. Running condition. Only 30,000 baht. Tel: 06-6908337. Email: mancud@hotmail.com

### NISSAN EX SALOON

in very good condition. Red metallic, well-maintained, 1998 model. 285,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 09-9722325. Email: rivieraph@hotmail.com

### PICKUP: 75,000 BAHT

Beautiful Toyota pickup. Red, sports wheels, 20 years old, completely rebuilt, everything new, no aircon. Tel: 06-948-8139. Email: phuketmotors1@hotmail.com

## 4 x 4s

### NEW PRADO

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### JEEP GRAND

Cherokee. 2001 model, automatic, in excellent condition. Regular service history. Only one lady owner. 49,000km. Metallic bronze color. 2.2 million baht ono. Tel: 076-324-333, 01-8914191. Fax: 076-270400. Email: fvarnier@amanresorts.com

### TOYOTA TIGER HILUX

3.0L. Registered 2001, sand color/chrome, 3-door, manual, 60,000km, ABS, air bag, Blaupunkt CD player, original bedliner, bumper guard, fenders, wind guards and many more extras. No accidents, and in excellent condition with complete service history by Toyota Phuket. One year tax for free. Price new: more than 800,000 baht. Will sell for only 427,000 ono. Tel: 076-393269, 01-0861929. Fax: 076-393269. Email: m\_t\_c@ksc.th.com

### JEEP CHEROKEE

4.0 L 1998. Dark blue, automatic, 4WD, leather seats. 113,000km, great condition and good service history. Tax paid for one year. 470,000 baht. Tel: 076-383418, 01-5365727.

### SUPER LANDROVER

Long wheelbase, rebuilt original engine, Series II. Price: 175,000 baht. Trade possible, picture available. Tel: 06-9488139.

### ARMY JEEP

Genuine US army jeep. 1952 body, raised suspension, big wheels/tires, roll bar. Looks very cool. Diesel motor, many new parts. Very well looked after. Offers around 90,000 baht. Tel: 075-637603, 06-5255864.

## Motorbikes

### 1999 HONDA XR250

Enduro. Four-stroke, electric and kick start. Have digital trip timer for enduro racing. Import from Japan. Have all invoice papers. Color: white with red. 9,800 baht. Tel: 01-8950859. Email: travisns@yahoo.com

### KAWASAKI 175 BOSS

Current model, one owner, maroon, 12 months' registration, perfect service, absolutely as new. Bargain at 57,000 baht. Tel: 01-892-2824.

### HONDA AX1 4 SALE

Honda AX1, 1992, 250cc 4 valve, wc single, approx 65,000km but running strong, burns no oil. Has title/registration. New O-ring chain and sprockets, new tires, everything works. 45,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 032-548050. Email: klauszelm@hotmail.com

### HONDA 2-STROKE

125cc. Honda 2-stroke, 125cc. Bought for 35,000 baht three months ago; now selling for 25,000. All papers ready for easy transfer of ownership, even to a farang. Tel: 07-2641004. Email: optimalforecast@yahoo.se

### MOTORBIKES 4 SALE

1 Honda XL 250 Enduro. Better than a Honda Dream. Very light bike - easy to handle. Front and rear disc brakes, book and license. 58,000 baht. 1 Honda CBR 400. Nice bike, not rented, book and license. Engine runs great. Only 62,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-321949, 01-8926534. Fax: 076-321949. Email: gokartwan@yahoo.com

## Others

### MTX125 SPARES

for sale. MTX125 broken for spares, most parts available. Tel: 09-8903369.

### YAMAHA DT175

spares. Am breaking up 2 Yamaha DT 175 bikes for spares. All parts available. Tel: 09-8903369. Email: cockramlee@hotmail.com

### FUN BUGGY 4 SALE

Fun buggy in excellent shape for sale. A real head turner and a blast to drive. Serious minded inquiries only, please. Price: 200,000 baht obo. Too much to list, but this buggy has it all. Tel: 07-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

### ELECTRIC 3-WHEEL

scooter. Made in Canada, 3 years old, new rechargeable batteries and charger, multiple speed, very good condition, suitable for anyone who cannot walk all the time. Asking price: 65,000 baht obo. Tel: 076-381742, 06-2709970. Email: moremaster@hotmail.com

## Rentals

### MOTORBIKE 4 RENT

in Karon. Good Honda Wave with electric starter. 3,000 baht a month. Tel: 06-280-0947. Email: phuketmotors1@hotmail.com

### COROLLA 1.6 SEG

for rent. 1600cc, automatic gear box, airbag and ABS. Only 1,000 baht per day for a month, less if longer. Aircon, music, full insurance. Tel: 06-6829191. Email: vagabond802000@yahoo.com

### MOTORBIKES 4 RENT

Kawasaki Cheer 112cc or Honda Nova Sonic 125cc. Both with electric starter and well serviced. Long-term rent (2-3 weeks) preferred. Tel: 076-296694.

### PICKUP FOR RENT

Mitsubishi Grandis 4x4, automatic, 2.8L turbo, 4-door, CD player. For rent daily, weekly, or monthly: 1,500 baht, 8,000 baht or 28,000 baht. Full insurance. Tel: 07-8858708. Email: tomasholmberg77@hotmail.com

### MOTORBIKE 4 RENT

Good motorbike for rent. 100-120 baht per day, and 2,800 per month. Tel: 09-4730463. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA COROLLA

for rent. 1600cc, manual, 3-door, 5-seat family hatchback sedan. Not brand new – nor is the price. Only 500 baht a day for a month, less if longer. Aircon, stereo, full insurance. Other makes and models available – even new Toyota Sports Cruisers. Credit cards accepted. Tel: 076-282354, 01-6072805. Email: mikebike@phuketinternet.co.th

### PICKUP FOR RENT

Toyota Sports Cruiser for rent. 4WD, 4 doors, 2500cc, turbo, good aircon and full first-class insurance. Tel: 01-8927687.

## Wanted

### HONDA PHANTOM

200 wanted. I'm interested in buying a 4-stroke Honda Phantom 200 – not over two years old, low miles, good condition, no accidents. Tel: 032-548050. Or email to: klauszelm@hotmail.com

### MOTORBIKE WANTED

Want to buy motorbike secondhand. Honda Dream or Wave in good condition at a price not over 23,000 baht. Tel: 09-5593161. Email: hugli@gmx.net

### HONDA 125 WANTED

Want to buy a Honda 125. Looking for bike as new as possible with electric start. Tel: 01-7191101. Email: pat@siam-wireless.com

### OLD HONDA 125CC

wanted. 4-stroke, single-cylinder Honda with metal tank, as seen with most sidecars. May be old and ugly, but must have plates and papers. Must be in riding condition with running engine. If you have 2, I might buy both bikes. Reasonably priced only, pls. Tel: 09-8671058. Email: harrithediver@hotmail.com

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