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# The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 11

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

March 13 - 19, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published  
in association with

The Nation

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# Fun venues wait for license news

By Dhirarat Boonkongaen

PHUKET CITY: Owners of entertainment venues all over Phuket are keeping their fingers crossed after registering under a new law that requires all such venues to have licenses.

From January 13, owners were given 60 days to apply for licenses under the revised provisions of Section 3 of the Entertainment Act. That 60-day period expired on March 12.

Wisut Romin, Deputy Secretary of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Office, told the Gazette that all venues will be covered by the various sub-categories of the revamped Section 3.

After March 12, he explained, any permits or other documents previously held by a venue would no longer be valid, though existing venues that applied for the new licenses would be allowed to continue trading while their applications are considered.

The consideration period is expected to take 60 days, after which new licenses will be issued.

K. Wisut explained the different licenses as follows:

Category 3 (1) covers hotels that have more than 100 guest rooms.

"There are about 16 places in Phuket that qualify under section 3 (1)," K. Wisut said. "These include the Sintavee, Pearl, Merlin, and Thavorn Grand hotels in Phuket City, and others such as Le Meridien outside Patong, Club Med in Kata and The Evason in Rawai."

Category 3 (2), covering "tea shops" is essentially a dead



The beat goes on - for now, but many entertainment venues worry about what licenses they will get under the new rules.

category in Phuket, which no longer has such places.

Category 3 (3) covers massage and "bathing" venues not in hotels with 100-plus guest rooms. There are three of these - two in Phuket City and one in Patong.

Category 3 (4) covers the majority of the venues - beer bars, pubs, aago-go bars, karaokes and so on, which are not included in the definitions in the previous three categories. There are about 174 in Muang District, 78 in Kathu district (mostly in Patong) and 15 in Thalang, said K. Wisut.

The 3 (4) license comes in a variety of different flavors to

suit different circumstances. There is, for example, a sub-category dealing with venues that have stage shows, such as aago bars. Karaoke bars fall under a different sub-category.

There have already been grumbles from the entertainment industry that the sub-category definitions are so opaque as to be incomprehensible.

K. Wisut, while admitting it was difficult to give a full breakdown of all of these sub-categories, stressed that officials at District Offices understood the new system and would guide venues into the appropriate sub-category.

Continued on page 2

# Chuan in walkabout to support Anchalee

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET CITY: Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and other Democrat Party leaders went walkabout and attended a rally at Saphan Hin on March 6 to support Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr's bid to win the presidency of Phuket's Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor).

Among others in attendance at the walkabout and rally were current Democrat Party leader Banyat Bantadtan and senior members Trairong Suwankiri and Suthep Theuksuban.

K. Banyat said he had received gratifying feedback from the public regarding K. Anchalee. It appeared, he said, that her goals of developing both tourism and education in the province had resonated with the people.

"It should be good news for Phuket that a politician with so much experience at the national level is now coming down to run for office at the provincial level, especially since Phuket plays such an important role in Thailand's economy," K. Banyat added.

Former PM Chuan denied that K. Anchalee's decision to run in the election was part of a political strategy by the Democrats to protect their traditional support base in the south, but rather was intended to provide a qualified administrator with the chance to help her home province.

K. Anchalee served as a "party list" or unelected non-constituency MP. Under the Thai

Continued on page 2



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# Stranded dugong recovering after sea rescue

By Siripansa Somboon

CAPE PANWA: A sick dugong, rescued by the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) on March 5 and given medication and food, is recovering slowly.

A fisherman saw the animal, a young female, stranded in Klong Pa Khlock, Baan Para, close to where the klong meets the sea. He contacted the PMBC, who retrieved the animal.

"She has a large wound near her mouth," said PMBC biologist Kongkiat

Kittiwattawong. "I think the wound is the result of something sharp, possibly glass. Whatever it is from, it is definitely not natural.

"She is thin and weak, and covered in small bruises, probably as a result of being continually hit by waves while stranded."

He said it would take three or four months for the dugong to recover completely. "We are feeding her milk through a rubber tube and administering an antibiotic to take care of the wound. We have

also been using a Japanese CD called *The Voice of the Dugong*, played underwater to our patient. It will help with the healing and will cut down the recovery time.

"After just three days, the animal is already swimming.

When she is a little better, we'll be able to give her milk until she returns to full health.

"When she is ready to return to the sea, we'll give her sea grass to prepare her for return to her natural environment," K. Kongkiat added.

Biologists established that the rescued dugong was a young female and weighed 27 kilos, matching the description of a dugong found stranded in the same place just a month earlier.

K. Kongkiat said the animal may be the same one, adding, "She may have gone back to find her mother but couldn't locate her, or maybe she got separated from her mother and returned to the klong."

If this is the case, staff at the PMBC are hoping that the second release will be more successful than the first.

## Remake for Immigration office

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Immigration Office (PIO) is to be redecorated as a prelude to a proposed full-scale redevelopment that could include an IT crime center and make Phuket an Immigration center for the southern region.

The new Superintendent of the PIO, Pol Col Witawat Buransompop, told the *Gazette* that the new look for the Immigration office should be complete within two months.

The redecoration will make Immigration procedures more open, and provide extra counter space and a notice board to help visitors determine their needs, he said.

"The new look of the office should be similar to Phuket City Police Station," he added, referring to an upgrade of the police station that made computerized information available to visitors and replaced scruffy wooden benches with comfortable sofas.

Col Witawat added that a proposal being considered for the next fiscal year – starting November 1 – includes a new three-story Sino-Portuguese-style building for Immigration.

The 16-million-baht funding is being sought from the Royal Thai Police, he said.

Funds of 1.6 million baht will also be sought from the Provincial Administration Organization for an IT crime center, he said.



Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai leads Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (blue jacket) and other Democrats in the Samkong walkabout.

## Democrats walk the walk

From page 1  
parliamentary system, each party is allowed a certain number of party-list MPs based on its number of elected MPs. With the ascendancy of the Thai Rak Thai Party (TRT), however, the Democrats have seen their party-list allotment shrink.

The Democrats framed the *OrBorJor* poll as a clear choice for local citizens between having a voice in government and allowing all power to be sucked away by Bangkok.

"If we have honest administrators, a greater proportion of the overall budget will go back into local development," K. Chuan said.

The former Premier recently went on similar door-to-door vote-seeking excursions to

support Democrat candidates against TRT rivals in elections in Songkhla.

One candidate was running in a national by-election and the other for Mayor of Haad Yai municipality. Both won handily in what many see as a rejection of Thai Rak Thai's stated target – to win 400 of Thailand's total 500 parliamentary seats in the next parliamentary election, scheduled for early next year.

During the rally that followed the walkabout, K. Anchalee explained that her reason for running for election was that she could no longer ignore Phuket's problems at a time when the Thai Rak Thai party was consolidating its top-down system of governance though its CEO Governor program.

She said that winning the *OrBorJor* poll would be a good first step toward ensuring that local people still have some voice in government.

An Anchalee aide estimated that as many as 30,000 people attended the rally, though a local police official said the number was far lower.

Perhaps in reaction to the upwelling of Democrat enthusiasm, independent candidate Wisut Santikul held a press conference the same day to deny rumors he was affiliated with Thai Rak Thai.

He said that although he felt local and national politics should remain separate, he explained had been a registered Democrat since 1986, when he helped establish the party's Phuket branch.

## Fun venues must wait

From page 1

New closing times are expected to be imposed in April. K. Wisut confirmed that they will be 2 am for entertainment facilities in large hotels, 1 am for other venues, and midnight for massage parlors.

Large hotels are apparently given the leeway to open until 2 am because – so the theory goes – they attract wealthy people and foreign tourists, not the teenagers targeted by the government's Better Social Order Policy.

The closing times are not dependent on a venue's location – whether it is inside or outside an entertainment zone.

The zones in Phuket were defined six months ago as an area around Soi Bangla in Patong, along with Taina Rd in Kata. With effect from January 13, they are the only places where new entertainment venues may be opened.

## Scholarship openings

BANGKOK: The International Hotel and Tourism Industry Management School (I-TIM) has announced that it will award scholarships to students in need of financial support for the new academic year beginning in July.

The scholarships apply to I-TIM's two-year diploma in Hotel and Tourism Management.

For more information, call I-TIM at Tel: 02-7320170-3, email [indo@i-tim.ac.th](mailto:indo@i-tim.ac.th) or visit <http://www.i-tim.ac.th>

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Master blaster: Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit lets fly with the anti-viral spray.

## Chicken takes a real lickin'

PHUKET: Clean Your Chicken Farm Week, starting March 8, heralded a campaign by the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) to make sure no avian 'flu virus is on chicken farms and chicken meat companies on Phuket.

The campaign has been called a success, with PPLO Chief Sunart Wongchawalit and Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit taking matters into their own hands, administering the anti-viral spray at Phuket Chicken Meat Co (PCMC), the largest chicken meat supplier on the island.

K. Sunart said, "We are [doing this] to eliminate diseases and to give people renewed confidence that chicken is safe to eat. We are helping the chicken-raisers and sending a message to people that they should not be afraid of eating chicken or eggs."

After spraying away at

Phuket Chicken Meat Co, V/Gov Niran sat down with K. Sunart for a confidence-boosting meal of fried chicken.

The Managing Director of PCMC, Pradit Ongsuntipap said, "Our sales are up 60% to 70% compared with three months ago [before the avian 'flu crisis]. We used to sell 3,500 to 4,000 chickens a day. Then [during the crisis] sales went down to 500 to 1,000 chickens a day.

"We went from a turnover of as much as 500,000 baht a day to 40,000 baht, but now we are back up to 200,000 baht.

"One reason for the improvement is that public confidence in our product has risen



Sunart Wongchawalit (left) and Pradit Ongsuntipap tuck in.

because we check every chicken before it is slaughtered and brought into Phuket.

"We are certain that public confidence will recover completely and we are planning to spend over 100 million baht on enlarging and improving our facilities."

- Siripansa Somboon

# Reservoir cash a done deal, says official

By Siripansa Somboon

THALANG: The head of the Phuket office of the Royal Irrigation Project (PRIP) is "100% confident" that the 145-million-baht budget for the purchase of land to create a reservoir at Klong Bang Neaw Dum will be approved by Bangkok by the end of March.

The project, intended to provide a second major supply of water on the island, covers 59 land plots totaling 651 rai.

In a report issued recently, PRIP Director Watchara Arepornsirai said that the cost of acquiring all the necessary land and compensating owners for the loss of other assets would total 316 million baht.

The initial 145-million-baht budget comprises 138 million baht for the purchase of 29 land plots totaling 305 rai, and a further 7 million baht for tree removal.

The owners of the 29 plots have agreed to sell at the price

offered by the government. The Royal Irrigation Project has approved the 145-million-baht figure, and has sent the proposal to the Budget Bureau for final approval.

Another 30 land plots pose various problems. Of these, 25 belong to landowners who either dispute survey results or who have not accepted government offers. Three other plots have stands of virgin forest and permission to remove the trees has not yet been granted. The last two plots are untitled.

At a meeting on March 1, K. Watchara said that although the proposal was still under Budget Bureau consideration, he was 100% certain that it would be approved.

He noted reports that people were illegally felling trees in the area, but said that there was nothing the government could do before it took possession of the land.

Until then, this was a matter for the landowners, he added

## Gang slaying: 2 teens held

PHUKET TOWN: Two more teenagers believed to be involved in the execution-style murder of a 15-year-old on January 17 were arrested on March 1 in Ranong.

The victim, Khajornkiat Tongdeesuk, was tied up, gagged and beaten before being taken to Naamsai beach on Koh Sireh, where his killer fired a shotgun into his head. Police believe the slaying was part of a war between rival gangs of youths.

Pol Maj Watcharin Jiratikarnwiwat, of Phuket Town Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Nontachai Nilsri and Thongchai Wimolsopa, both aged 19, have been charged with being accomplices to murder and with detaining another person against his will.

The two fled to Ranong when five other teenagers were arrested following the murder. Nontachai and Thongchai were brought back to Phuket two days after their arrest. Police said that they had confessed to helping to detain the murder victim in a van before his killing. The two are being held without bail.

## Police arrest resort's guards

CHERNG TALAY: Two security guards from Banyan Tree Resort Phuket have been released on bail by the Phuket Provincial Court after being charged with attempted murder.

Despite police objections, the court released the two men the same day they were taken into custody - March 4.

Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewprom, Deputy Superintendent of Cherg Talay Police Station, named the two as Prayul Det-

chana, once chief security guard of the resort, and Wiroj Srisuwan.

Both were charged with attempted murder. Prayul was also charged with carrying an unlicensed weapon.

The arrests came after a confrontation on March 3 between local villagers and the guards - employed by Banyan Tree as part of its internal security force - escalated into a 100-strong mob scene at the Cherg Talay Police Station.

Col Suwat added that the villagers, who demanded the men be fired from their jobs, had taken no further action and that the two had already left the employ of the Banyan Tree Resort.

Villagers use the gateway at Banyan Tree as a thoroughfare.

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## Queer News



Could the world's first fishing dog be displaced by greedy developers?

## What's up, puppy dog?

PATONG BEACH: The Fishing Cat is almost gone from the wild in Thailand, but nature abhors a vacuum. Could this be the world's first Fishing Dog? The *Gazette* observed this dog running up and down through the shallows along the inlet at the south end of Patong Bridge, skillfully trying to trap fish beneath its paws.

Unfortunately, this dog may soon have to go back to rummaging from the traditional food source – neighborhood trash cans – because Patong Municipality has big plans for the little brackish river.

The waterway is to be dredged and overhauled. The project, given the name Fisherman's Wharf (*sic*), has a budget of 550 million baht and construction was scheduled to begin in March.

No doubt the winners of the last Patong municipal election, the results of which have yet to be confirmed, must be rubbing their hands together in sweet anticipation at the prospect of overseeing the project, which will feature 100 park benches at a cost of 11,000 baht each, and 45 million baht to "landscape" the area's mangroves.

# Really tough love

NAKHON SRITHAMMARAT: Some parents learn too late that the time to teach their offspring some discipline is when they are still young.

The retired cop who pulled a out a .22 caliber pistol and shot his only son on the afternoon of March 4 in Thoong Song District may be one such parent.

When police arrived at the scene, rescue workers had already removed the body of the 36-year-old victim, Kamthon Sooksrinuan, who was found lying face down in a pool of blood. Although still breathing when the rescue workers arrived, he died en route to the hospital.

When police finally reached the two-story townhouse in Tambon Pak Praek, they found the gate wide open and 76-year old retired Pol Sgt Maj Tin Sooksrinuan sitting with a licensed .22 revolver in his hand. "I did it," said the elderly cripple. "I pulled the trigger."

Sgt Maj Tin told the arresting officers, who serve in the same department as he once did, that he was a widower and that Kamthon was the eldest of his two children. Kamthon had married and had children of his own, but then separated from his wife.

The pensioner reported that his other child, a daughter, often stopped by to help around the house. K.Kamthon came by too, he said, but it wasn't to help out. Rather, it was to hang out and become strung-out on a cocktail of booze and pot.

"He used to steal my pension money too," said the old man. "We had violent arguments all the time – you can just ask the neighbors," he said.

Sgt Maj Tin was alone on the morning of March 4 because his daughter had gone off to sell things at the market. Kamthon arrived, drunk as usual, and looking for more money so he could continue his drinking binge.

When Sgt Maj Tin refused to give him any, the son flew into a rage.

"He started smashing things up inside the home," said the old man with tears in his eyes. "Then he started walking right toward me."

Despite his advancing years, the old policeman's instincts for self-preservation were demonstrably still intact. He picked up his .22 sidearm, which was conveniently lying beneath the bed beside him, and fired off some warning shots.

The first five missed – as warning shots are meant to do – but the sixth hit his son, ripping into one of his lungs and causing him to collapse.

"I am really old now, and I can't even walk. But if you have to put me in jail, then I am willing to go," Sgt Maj Tin told the officers, who then carried him to the waiting police truck.

Source: *Thai Rath*

## A SPECIAL GAZETTE REPORT

# Shock

With many consumers still reluctant to eat chicken because of the avian 'flu outbreaks in Thailand, demand for other meats has surely grown. But how good are these other meats, and in particular, the beef? *Gazette* reporter **Dhirarat Boonkongsan** takes a look at one business that is booming, possibly thanks to avian 'flu – the smuggling of beef.

There is, for many people, nothing quite like a good steak and some diners on Phuket are certainly having just that: nothing like a good steak.

At best, they may be tucking in to beef smuggled from Australia and New Zealand that didn't make the grade for domestic or export consumption. At worst, it could be very substandard or even disease-carrying meat from India.

Around 60 tons of beef are imported legally into Phuket each month, both for consumption here and for distribution to other areas, including Koh Samui, according to a source at the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO).

This beef, usually imported from Australia and New Zealand, meets all the export requirements of those countries and reciprocal import regulations.

Like any premium product, top-quality beef attracts premium prices in Phuket restaurants, which is why it is still imported legally despite being subject to a 50% import duty. Prices of up to 700 baht per kilogram for tenderloin are not uncommon, while prime cuts of fillet steak cost yet more.

But as with any product, high duty means smuggling; the higher the duty the more people will see smuggling as a worthwhile risk. In the meat trade, however, the smugglers tend to sell low-quality meat.

It could be beef from well-husbanded Australian or New Zealand cattle that didn't make the grade for legitimate export and is offloaded at reduced – but still high – prices.

Or it could be low-grade meat from India that has not been subject to any form of health or hygiene inspection. Such beef can sell for as little as 35 baht a kilo, making it hard for legitimate suppliers to compete with smugglers.

One meat supplier, by his own admission well-established with the smuggling trade, told the *Gazette* that packaging from three different companies involved in smuggling beef from

India can be seen around any of Phuket's fresh food markets. Average prices, he said, are around 90-100 baht per kg.

A Phuket restaurateur – speaking to the *Gazette* on condition of anonymity – gave a caterer's experience of the situation: "My first knowledge of smuggling came as a result of suppliers in Bangkok complaining that they could not compete with the prices of some local companies who were suspected of smuggling."

Another restaurant owner – who also asked not to be named – said, "I trust the [smuggled] meat supplier I do business with because the the beef I buy is always of the same quality – 'Grade A' Thai or New Zealand beef.

"I've seen some of the Indian beef and it is really black. It doesn't look like quality meat at all," he added.

Apart from tax avoidance, two other factors encourage meat smuggling: the first is the increasing number of foreign tourists and their taste for beef, possibly aggravated by the recent avian 'flu epidemic further spurring demand for meat other than poultry.

The second reason is the generally poor quality of Thailand's domestic beef cattle. Unlike in many Western countries, few cattle in Thailand are raised solely to end up on the dinner table. They are usually working animals slaughtered at the end of their working life, resulting in tough meat.

Indeed, many Thais, brought up on tough beef, prefer it that way. Tenderness, flavor and overall quality are not factors of great importance to many Thai consumers, says Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO).

"Most Thai consumers seem to consider beef as just something else to eat," he commented. "They don't think about quality, preferring instead to pay as little as possible."

Foreign tourists and resident expats are a little more finicky about beef, and because the supply of locally-produced high-quality beef is limited, smugglers

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REVEALS SOME UNSAVORY FACTS ABOUT WHAT PHUKET IS EATING

# MEAT scandal

move in to fill whatever gaps they can exploit.

However, there was consensus among the sources who spoke with the *Gazette* that low-quality Indian beef is not ending up as gourmet food in hotels, resorts and restaurants around the island.

One restaurateur, who admitted having links to the black market, said reputations are hard-fought-for in the hospitality industry, and it was highly unlikely that a well-known company would risk a scandal by buying black-market beef. Most of them source meat from large supermarket chains that perform rigorous inspection, he said.

Smuggling meat is nevertheless still big business in Thailand, although just how big is unknown. K. Sunart estimates that it is worth some 40 million baht a month in Phuket and surrounding provinces alone. And although animal carcasses may be easier to spot than white powders, gemstones or firearms, detection rates are nevertheless surprisingly low.

Just one instance of meat smuggling was reported to the *Gazette* last year, when 2,000 kg of buffalo meat smuggled in from Malaysia was found in a pick-up truck following a tip-off.

The contraband meat was worth around 240,000 baht, just a tiny fraction of K. Sunart's estimate.

One reason for this may be the "ant" style of smuggling employed, whereby many people each bring through a little, say

20kg or so at a time, rather than moving large quantities. Small amounts are easier to get through Customs undetected. If a few consignments are intercepted they will be just a small portion of the total and the supply chain remains unharmed.

Corruption is also an issue. Beef smuggling is a low-tech, labor-intensive crime requiring little more than packaging facilities, fake labels and enough people willing to transport the contraband meat – or turn a blind eye to it.

One meat supplier who asked to remain anonymous sug-

gested that government officials usually smuggled into Thailand from Malaysia, with the sheer volume of goods entering the country making thorough inspection of all trucks virtually impossible – and malfeasance an acceptable risk among corrupt customs officials.

K. Sunart of the PPLO agrees that

The higher the duty the more people will see smuggling as a worthwhile risk.

gested that government officials and police may also be involved in the illegal trade, through a system of paybacks and forged documents.

He told the *Gazette* that the official document required to transport animal carcasses is called a Ror 4, but added that the most readily accepted paper is the Ror 9 – a reference to Thai banknotes, all of which carry the picture of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the ninth ruler of the Chakri dynasty, colloquially referred to as "Ror 9".

Low-grade Indian beef is

strict border controls, rather than attempts to control the movement of illegal beef once it is in Thailand, are the only way to get the situation under control.

"It's difficult for us to seize and inspect meat once it has reached the market, because we can't arrest the market vendors as smugglers.

"All we can do is charge them with selling meat without permission from the PPLO, but in most cases we can't even prove whether the meat is Thai or foreign," he said.

They may not be able to prove it, but officials with a trained eye can generally identify meat that is smuggled from places like India.

"Indian beef usually appears much darker, and its fat



Livestock Office Chief Sunart Wongchawalit inspects a pickup truck containing two tons of smuggled meat found in the Koh Kaew area in December last year. One man was arrested for his part in bringing the meat from Malaysia.

content is yellow and unclean. The cattle it is taken from are old and the beef is tough as a result," he said.

This is not a real health risk thanks to the Thai habit of cooking beef until it is well-done, destroying any disease-carrying organisms it might contain, he added.

"Actually, we now have a program to produce high-quality beef domestically. We raise the cattle using modern techniques and slaughter them after about three years. Some restaurants and large supermarkets in Phuket are now ordering from us," he said.

A source in the Customs office at Phuket International Airport told the *Gazette* that beef entering the country there must first pass inspection.

It is then subject to a 50%

tax, down from the previous rate of 61%.

He denied that significant amounts of smuggled beef were arriving on the island by air, but did not rule out the possibility of continuous movement of small quantities through the airport.

Although it is nearly 100 years since writer Upton Sinclair exposed the horrors of the American meat processing industry, many people continue to knowingly turn a blind eye to the source and quality of the meat they consume.

So far, Phuket has been fortunate not to have paid a bigger price for complacency. But for many consumers, the sooner Thailand's supply of high-quality, low-cost domestic chicken returns to normal production levels, the better off we will all be.

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# A day on the job with daddy

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

When Phuket Submarine decided it needed a promotional video for Thailand's first submarine, *Deepstar 48*, it chose to go with local company Blue Planet Studio rather than call in a high-priced production unit from Bangkok.

The choice must have been an easy one, because Blue Planet's production manager, Simon Ashby is not only a videographer but also an experienced dive instructor with Professional Association of Dive Instructors (Padi) qualifications.

During the shoot, which involved getting footage from in and outside the submarine as well as from nearby vessels, he took along his wife and his baby daughter Jessica.

At just one year of age, Jessica may not have been aware that she is likely the youngest-ever Thai submarine passenger, but she was eventually able to recognize that strange creature she saw through the porthole as "daddy", but covered from toe in diving and digital recording equipment.

Getting his start in underwater video making on Krabi's Phi Phi Island in 2000, Mr Ashby told the *Gazette* he was the first there to start using non-linear editing instead of tape-to-tape.

The result means the final

work can be given back to the client in whatever format they want, whether it be DVD, VCD, Mini CD, CD Card, VHS, DV, MiniDV or any of the web streaming formats.

By using equipment such as the Sony professional 3CCD digital camcorder, which breaks images into their three primary color components and allows each to be processed individually, Blue Planet can produce a CVD with DVD quality – good enough to be broadcast.

Speaking about the submarine shoot, he was clearly excited about the chance to work with Phuket Submarine, which will distribute their new video to tour operators in Thailand to promote the new attraction.

When the *Gazette* mentioned that we didn't see as many fish during our dive as we expected on our dive last December, the dive instructor in Mr Ashby took over.

"They are looking at different sites around the area. They feed the fish daily. As any diver knows, you can't guarantee that there will always be a lot of fish at any particular site. Fish are migratory.

"Like sharks, they are predators that go out hunting for food. You just can't guarantee that a certain shark species is going to be at a certain reef on any particular day.

"Diving with a submarine



What's daddy doing out there? Why doesn't the silly man ride on the inside like normal people?

is just the same as scuba diving. Sometimes you'll see a lot of fish and sometimes you won't. Conditions are always different, too. Sometimes the visibility will be poor.

"That's nature for you – it's not like going to the zoo. With Phuket Submarine, non-divers get a chance to get a real look at the underwater world – as well as the thrill of going on a submarine. And not many people can say they have been on a submarine," he added.

Mr Ashby, who handled all the underwater work, said it was important not to let the film work get in the way of normal safety procedures.

"As a PADI diver, I have to make sure I 'plan my dive and dive my plan'. I am always very careful about that. This especially true when making a video, because you can get so focused

on the shoot it's easy to forget the basics," he said.

Blue Planet bills itself as a full-service multimedia production company and it has two in-house real-time editing suites. In their sound studio, post production work for many clients includes voice-overs and music.

The company can work in any number of languages, too, by bringing native-speakers and translators to do voice-overs.

Given the presence of so many Scandinavians in Phuket diving industry's, it's not surprising that the company often does voiceovers in languages like Norwegian and Swedish.

"We are also very careful to use copyright-free music. We can't use any licensed music because it's a potential issue, both for us and our clients. We have clients, such as hotels, that send their videos all over the world.

"If that video gets to the US, say, there could be a big lawsuit. The idea is to make money for our clients, not put them in a position to lose it. But we do have a large selection of free-use music, and we can also compose music ourselves," he said.

When asked how much the Phuket Submarine shoot cost, he balked at giving an actual figure. Instead he opted to make an analogy, saying that just like in the automotive world, you can't expect to get a Mercedes-Benz for the price of a Honda Dream.

Blue Planet, he said, was like a BMW: not cheap, but still good value for your money.

For further information, contact Simon at Blue Planet Studio (100/160 Moo 6, along the bypass road in tambon Rassada; Tel: 076-355588; [www.blueplanetstudio.com](http://www.blueplanetstudio.com))

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SINGHA NEW LOOK

# Cop calls for Songkran zoning

Police Lt Col San Phothiraksa of Phetchaboon's Muang district police proposed zoning for Songkran celebrations as a way of reducing the road carnage.

Noting that road accidents were often caused by inebriated Songkran revelers, he said people who want to drink alcohol and play around with water should have to go to a special zone where they cannot drive around and cause road accidents.

Col San was speaking at a seminar held by Ramathibodi Hospital and the Office of the Health Promotion Fund on how to reduce the incidence of road accidents during Songkran.

This year, the holiday will not be as long as in previous years because the celebration days, April 13-15, are mid-week and are not followed or preceded by a weekend.

**When the buying stops...:** Acting on a tip off, police arrested a man illegally transporting 300 kilograms of tiger meat, scales of anteaters and assorted animal bones in Phatthalung's Khao Chaison district.

A source estimated that the anteater's scales and the animal bones could be sold for about 2,000 baht a kilo because they are used as main ingredients for certain types of traditional medicine. Suspect Surin Boonsawai, 25, told police that he was paid 3,000 baht to smuggle the cargo to Nonthaburi. He was charged with unauthorized possession and illegal trading in carcasses of endangered species.

**Foreign government:** The government held a workshop in Pattani to discuss its economic development package for the troubled deep south. More than 80% of the 300 participants in the workshop at a Pattani hotel were government officials.

The rest were academics, entrepreneurs, representatives of people's organizations, and local Muslim leaders.

At the meeting, The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) presented its 22-billion-baht development plan for the next three years.

The plan was drafted in Bangkok last month. Comprising 1,000 projects, the plan aims to improve basic living conditions and create a new economic base, including the halal food industry, build new infrastructure and improve human resource development.

But local representatives angrily demanded more say in drafting development strategies for the region, accusing government planners in Bangkok of creating big projects that only benefit outsiders.

One representative commented that the government's approach hasn't changed since the 1960s, and that it still makes decisions from air-conditioned rooms in Bangkok without asking if local residents really want or need such projects.

**Skimmed milk:** The Bank of Thailand (BOT) has warned people using ATMs to be wary of machines with unusual card slots. A number of crimes are being committed by attaching "skimmers" into the slots.

A skimmer is an apparatus only slightly larger than an ATM card that fits into the card slot and copies a card's magnetic strip.

Skimming crimes do not happen very often in Thailand but could become widespread, as was the case in Hong Kong and Malaysia, a BOT source said.

If commercial banks do not perform thorough checks of their ATMs, the skimmers could be installed, causing some serious problems for customers and the bank.



**CHOKO THE CHICKEN:** The government's Eat Chicken! campaign is a success, with only 30% of Thais still refusing to eat poultry, according to a study by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

ATMs in remote locations are particularly vulnerable to skimming, said the source.

**Buddhist blaze:** Pilgrim monks meditating in Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Uthai Thani province, were blamed for forest fires at the site.

Fires have scorched the area, which was listed as one of the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's heritage sites last month.

Somchai Piensathaporn, the Director General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Variety Conservation Department, said he suspected monks staying at temporary shelters in the sanctuary caused the fire.

About 100 monks and their followers go there every year to meditate, but start fires intentionally to drive away insects.

K. Somchai said he had contacted the National Buddhism Bureau to help find a solution.

**Buried alive:** A former police officer who tortured a dog by burying it beneath his house in Bangkok said he did so because he has hated dogs ever since he was bitten by one as a child. Pongchak Buranintu, 35, said he did not own the dog and it entered his premises uninvited.

"I am the owner of this house. Whoever wants to come here must ask permission," he said. "I do not like dogs at all. They bring germs and always urinate in my house. I was bitten when I was young and the bad experience has never left me."

"Dogs are different from cats, which are affectionate," said the expert in toxic chemicals, who was fired from the Scientific Crime Detection Division last year for incompetence and for being "unbalanced".

**Leading follower:** Thongkorn Wongsamut, a well-known follower of revered monk Luangta Maha Bua, has been accused of embezzling 120 million baht from the Pha Pa Chuay Chat scheme to finance his pet projects for monastic opposition. The case was filed by Buddhist advocate Thaweessit Kaewkhao.

One academic earlier claimed K. Thongkorn had duped villagers from Isarn by offering them a sightseeing trip to the capital, but instead bringing them to a rally at Government House.

Once there, K. Thongkorn staged a mock excommunication against Deputy Prime Minister Vishanu Krua-ngam. He also threatened to behead an effigy of K. Vishanu, who heads the National Bureau of Buddhism.

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

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# The great sunlounger struggle

There was a rude awakening for early morning visitors to Bangniang Beach on February 27 when police and military personnel, acting on orders from Phang Nga Governor Samatcha Pothaworn, removed all the beach chairs and umbrellas – whether in use or not.

Swedish tourist Ole Johansson, 43, said, "I can't believe it. As I was relaxing on a sun chair, the police asked me to move out of the way, took the chair and umbrella, and threw them onto a truck."

"The incident spoiled my day, if not my whole time here."

Shortly afterwards, at 9 am, a crowd of some 200 angry beach chair operators and other Bangniang residents blocked Chong Fah Rd with motorcycles in protest at Gov Samatcha's orders. The protesters collected signatures from anyone who opposed the new ruling and demanded to speak with the Governor.

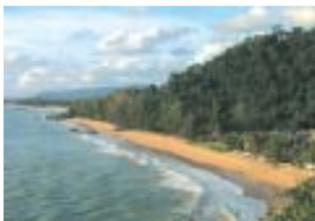
The Governor finally arrived to listen to the protesters' grievances, although he remained unmoved. He did not rescind his controversial order to remove the beach chairs – a move aimed at preserving the beach's natural beauty and at differentiating it from beaches in neighboring

provinces, particularly Phuket.

During the confrontation – filmed by cameras from several TV stations – one foreigner was asked by the Governor for his opinion on the new ruling. To cheers from the crowd, the foreigner said that he could not think of another resort in the world that had banned beach chairs and umbrellas. Further opinions he offered also pleased the crowd – but not the police, who escorted him from the scene before questioning him.

Local people were still angry the following day. One village leader, upset by the way in which the Governor had treated people who were simply trying to make their feelings known, vowed to continue to fight the order.

Another local Thai, who asked not to be named, said, "I don't understand why the Governor won't speak with those whom this decision affects the most – foreign tourists – and then re-evaluate the situation." Watch this space.



## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

**Hanging on the telephone:** Many Khao Lak businesspeople have contacted me to highlight the poor service provided by Loxinfo/CS

Internet throughout the locality.

A halfway-stable connection via the 076-430152 or 076-440747 numbers can be estab-



Beach chair supporters block the road to Bangniang Beach and wait for the Governor.

lished only after several unsuccessful attempts. Often, it will then disconnect after less than 10 minutes.

The TOT number – 1222 – is sometimes more successful. This may be due to TOT using different lines, but remember: TOT charges by the minute.

Bigger uploads or downloads are almost impossible with Loxinfo providing a connection speed that averages just 16KBit/sec, although it's sometimes as slow as 0KBit/sec. The standard should be at least 48KBit/sec.

Loxinfo/CS Internet customers are paying for a level of service that they just don't receive while being at the mercy of the company that holds the monopoly on that service. The advice to those who

depend on a fast and reliable Internet service may be to choose a satellite connection.

ADSL, as another alternative, remains overpriced and leaves one at the mercy of bad telephone lines operating at just 56KBit/sec when ADSL should provide 256KBit/sec.

Unhappy Loxinfo customers with time on their hands and money to burn can call the Loxinfo HQ in Bangkok on 02-2638000, sit back and enjoy the muzak.

Alternatively, you could send an email – or six – to Chanapat Sungsi by emailing chanapat@loxinfo.co.th or other customer support staff at helpdesk@loxinfo.co.th if you dislike receiving replies.

Being a Loxinfo customer can be fun.

**Mushrooms:** The Bank of Ayudhya has bolstered its presence in Khao Lak by installing another ATM, this time in front of the new 7-Eleven store at the Chong Fah Rd and Highway 4 intersection.

The Bank of Ayudhya now boasts four ATMs, two money exchange counters and a branch in Khao Lak. Other major banks, notably KasikornBank, have yet to get a foot in the door there.

A welcome addition to Khao Lak's flourishing infrastructure is its newly-opened fresh food market and bus station along Highway 4, again close to the Chong Fah intersection.

Open seven days a week, the huge covered market means restaurant and resort owners no longer have to make the 50-km round-trip to Takuapa for their fresh meat, fish and vegetables.

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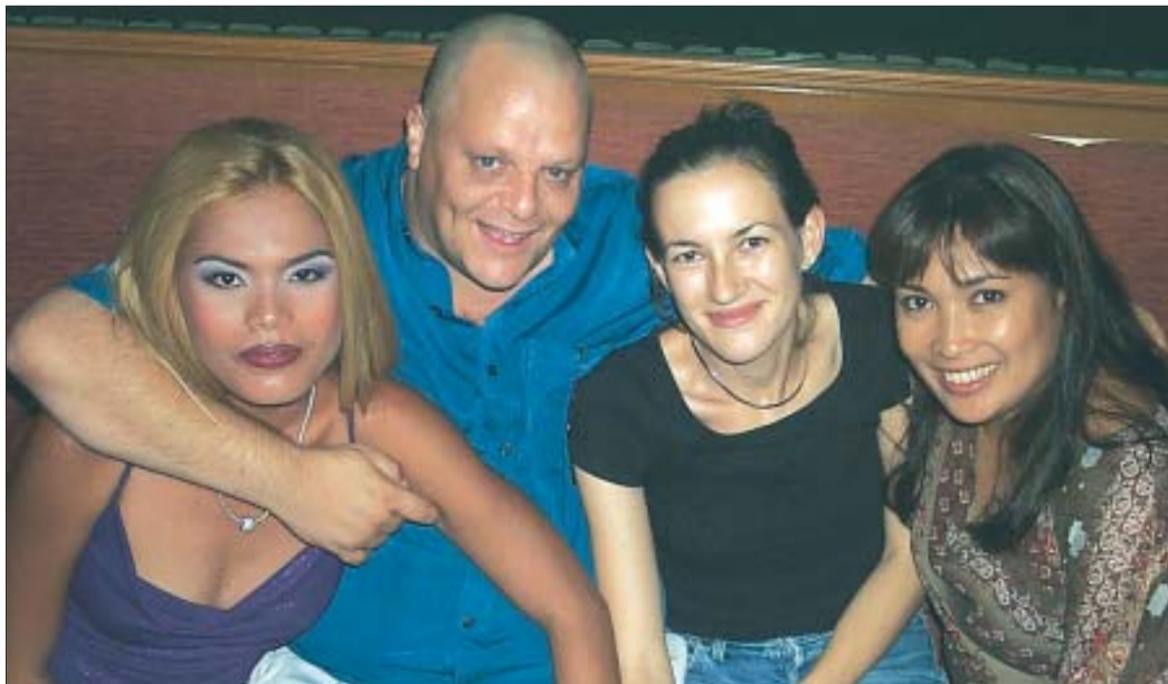
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# This week



**THE ROARING FORTIES:** Trevor Fisher also enjoyed wine and song at his 40th birthday party on February 29, at Pepper's Bar in Tinlay Place.



**FAIR EXCHANGE:** Kittirat Na-Ranong (left), President of the Stock Exchange of Thailand, receives a gift from Apar Kewkacha, Chief Executive of Phuket FantaSea after the venue hosted an Adkinson Securities Public Co Ltd seminar.



**EUREKA SUJIKA:** Roy Robertson (left) and Siri Chomchan (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), developers of Sujika Gardens, with Dr Prasit Koeysiripong (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and other guests at the project's official launch party.



**BURNING BRIGHT:** David Knowles (left), manager of the Seua Saming pub on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City, with just some of the friends and guests who attended the pub's recent grand opening.



**O LUCKY YOU:** Wasana Khaomeethong (right) of East West Siam and Chanchai Somphorh (center) from Huang Thai Express, with General Manager Peter Hourigan (blue shirt) and other staff from Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort at a recent cocktail reception and prize draw.



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Pol Col Witawat Buranasompop: Regular checks on Immigration officers to ensure efficiency.

# A NEW

The new Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Office, Pol Col Witawat Buranasompop, 47, was born in Bangkok and comes to the island after a stint as Deputy Superintendent at Mae Sod in Tak Province. He answers questions from the *Gazette's Gategao Phetsawang*.

**G**azette: Since you have been appointed, what action have you taken?

**Col Witawat:** Our policies emphasize making it easy for foreigners who come to Phuket. The aim of the national government and the provincial government is to derive more income from tourism by promoting Phuket's tourist attractions.

Chanyut Watcharapuk, the National Commander of the Immigration Police, has the same objective, bearing in mind the security of the country – we are also responsible for making sure that people who are on the Immigration blacklist are not allowed into the country.

**We have a set number of officers so we have to use them efficiently.**

In the past, we sometimes had to check information with officers at Phuket International Airport but when many tourists arrive on flights, sometimes there wasn't enough time to check.

Now we are linked directly to the Office of the Narcotics Control Board. Our databases are connected and we can usually get the information we want within five minutes.

I have also suggested to the Governor that there should be computer links to hotel and resort operators in Phuket because they need to declare to us within 24 hours when they have foreigners as guests.

**Gazette:** There have been some complaints that Immigration officers can't always communicate clearly with foreigners in English. What do you think?

**Col Witawat:** We have a program for officers to learn English and study related matters. The Deputy Superintendent, for example, has been sent on one of these courses, though they are not just for high-level officers.

Before Immigration employs new officers, they have to pass an English test to see whether they have suitable skills. If they don't pass, they are not hired.

Of course, some foreigners who come to Immigration also don't have English as their main language. They may speak Russian, German or French.

Foreigners sometimes don't bring the right documents so I

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# VOICE ON VISAS

have had a brochure printed in Thai and English explaining what documents are necessary in which circumstances.

I have told officers to serve callers quickly and cut down on the number of complicated steps. I plan to specify the time it should take for each particular transaction. For example, it should take only 10 minutes to obtain a visa extension for a short period, such as 10 days.

Immigration will eventually be like the one-stop service for incoming yachts at Chalong. There, Immigration, Customs and Marine officers are in the same center so tourists or yacht owners don't have to go to so many offices.

Anyway, there are many reasons foreigners want to extend their stay, so officers may still need a few days in some cases to consider properly whether someone deserves an extension.

**Gazette:** *Is it possible to have a call center to give information to people – what they need to bring or what they should do?*

**Col Witawat:** We have a set number of officers so we have to use them efficiently.

Sometimes, people call to ask for information at a time when we are really busy. We can't spend a long time on the phone while we are serving others. So we sometimes have to tell callers to come in person.

I admit that our officers sometimes don't understand what it is that people want to communicate. So talking on the telephone is not always easy for mutual understanding.

We can't always please everyone. But if we try our best, we will solve the problem. I will display on signs the times transactions should take so visitors can see how long they are likely to be in the office.

**Gazette:** *How about problems with so-called "no travel" visa run companies?*

**Col Witawat:** We need to have clear evidence to present to the court before we can prosecute. We can check and investigate.

When someone files a complaint, we will investigate. But the process needs to be done step by step, to check whether the operation is really illegal.

We are preparing brochures to publicize more widely the fact that people should go on visa runs personally, not give their passports to others. If they do, they may be prosecuted for counterfeiting official documents.

**Gazette:** *Another issue that people talk about is corruption in government organizations.*

**What do you think about this?**

**Col Witawat:** We have a meeting every week and I always remind the officers of the dangers. Actually, everyone knows the difference between what's legal and illegal.

If we find anyone is corrupt, they will be in trouble. But if we don't have any evidence, but only rumors, we can't conclude that there has been corruption.

**Gazette:** *People may wonder, if the officers have small salaries, perhaps they ask for bribes.*

**Col Witawat:** It's a negative thought that people sometimes have about police.

Why don't they understand that sometimes the officers have existing assets, or their wives also have salaries?

Officers earn paid overtime and have accommodation provided. Please don't rely just on feelings to judge officers.

We have regular checks for corruption. I am confident in my officers. The right people will be chosen if they have the right qualities and are willing to work.

**Gazette:** *Some officers haven't had experience in Immigration before moving to Phuket Immigration Office. You worked for Mae Sod Immigration Office in Tak as Deputy Superintendent for just a year; are you confident you can manage Immigration here properly?*

**Col Witawat:** There's a process involved in choosing any officer to lead an organization.

I don't deal with [visitors] personally, but I do my administrative part to manage the officers so that they work efficiently.

**Gazette:** *There are many complaints from tourists about long waits for Immigration processes to be completed at Phuket International Airport. How are you tackling this problem?*

**Col Witawat:** I have ordered the officers to open more Immigration desks when many passengers arrive on flights at the same time, especially during the tourist high season.

I have also ordered officers from the Immigration office in Phuket City to go to assist them when necessary.



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The Sixth Sense room at the Evason Resort & Spa became a cathedral to the first and greatest musical instrument – the human voice – on March 3 with a recital by Le Choeur de la Cigale de Champagnat.

The choir, from Issenheim in France's Alsace province, boasts more than 40 girls and boys, although Phuket enjoyed the voices of just 13 of the older girl members, all aged about 14.

They immediately touched the audience's collective sixth sense with the first bars of the majestic Vangelis-composed *Conquête du Paradis*, the theme to the film *1492: Christoph Colomb*.

The next piece, *Chant Lituaniien*, simply heightened the emotions of the audience with some of the 60 or so present displaying trembling lips and moist eyes.

It is a testament to the music, to mae-

## Sixth sense, seventh Heaven



Sacred works with a superb sound: French choristers in fine voice at the Evason.

stro Prof Claude Jeannin and to the choir that a piece of music composed for Lithuania and performed by a French choir can have such an effect in Thailand.

One can only imagine the effect wrought when the full choir performed this piece in Vilnius one March 11, to mark Lithuania's Independence Day.

The recital included sacred works from Britten, Pergolese and Vivaldi. There was even space for an Afro-American spiritual and an Andrew Lloyd-Webber composition, ably accompanied by Benoit Parayne on piano.

Sopranos Marielle Fabre and Sophie Hartmann were among the most memorable voices of the night but as a choir, the sum of the elements counts.

Credit must go Alliance Française for organizing the Phuket concert with The Evason on behalf of the Life Home Project.

Phuket marked the end of the choir's tour of Thailand, which saw them sing in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

Their return will be eagerly awaited.

– Andy Johnstone

with thanks to Françoise Derive

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A fishy situation demands your attention this weekend.



Pisceans will find it hard to get to the bottom of the matter, especially when not all the pertinent facts are at your fingertips. Someone close to you knows more than they are letting on. A tactful approach can persuade them to spill the beans. For those coming of age this week, the best gifts will come in small packages.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Female Ariens will be tempted to take a Leap-Year risk



and approach someone with an offer that's hard to refuse. If you couldn't summon up the courage to do this on February 29, it's not too late. Trust your insight in all areas this week and you won't be disappointed by the results.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those Taurians who feel that the future looks doubtful



can take comfort in knowing that the stars are on their side. Your natural aversion to change is the only handicap to feeling positive. Contacts from afar will reveal cheering news by week's end.

### In The Stars

by Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): If you want to make noticeable progress this week,



the best way is to dress to impress. Geminis whose wardrobes are lacking smart clothes should head for the tailor (never far away) and embark on a smartening-up campaign. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for signing contracts. For good luck, try a dash of yellow.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Money is on your mind this week. A business deal gone



sour can be turned to your advantage, but you will need to consult someone with experience. If financial problems are more related to a domestic situation, find out how to legalize arrangements. It seems likely that you have been misplacing your trust.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You will be fascinated by someone you meet at a social event, and this person could turn out to have a strong influence on your financial future. Mid-week



will find most Leos facing an important decision. For those involved in a serious relationship, this may involve striving for compromise. Be prepared to give as much as you would like to receive and it should be smooth sailing. The number 23 may just appear at the right time.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): As the temperature rises, many Virgos will be



wilting in the heat and this could cause frayed tempers. Staying out of the midday sun may not be enough to keep you cool – you need to find out the real reason for your irritation. Once you reach the heart of the problem it should be easy to solve. Wear light blue to promote a lighter atmosphere.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A friend is about to approach you with an offer they expect to be accepted. Most Librans, however, will immediately hear warning bells and are justified in feeling doubtful about the success factor of a hare-



brained scheme. To avoid putting a relationship on rocky ground, ask the friend in question to supply a detailed business plan. The matter will almost certainly dissolve into thin air. Test your luck with the number 10.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Taking one step forward and two steps



back will try the patience of those born under the sign of Scorpio this week. You might want to consider skipping sideways until an uncertain atmosphere has passed. This should happen quickly and if you can avoid having to take decisive action until the end of the week, life will be easier in the long run. Aries is thinking of ways to get closer to you. Wear red for inspiration.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians seem determined to seek out the most difficult way to get ahead and ignore the obvious. You really don't need to scale the tallest coconut palm to get the best view. This weekend brings



a definite sign of a far easier option. If this seems too good to be true, be assured that it isn't. Wear jungle green to get closer to nature. Your lucky number is 3.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those born under Capricorn have been on a roll recently, but this week



is not a good time to push your luck. There's a strong likelihood that you may gamble unwisely, which could cause you to lose something you would sorely miss. Now is the time to lie back in your hammock and contemplate the future carefully.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): This is a week for making as much



hay as possible while the sun is shining. Aquarians will find it hard to put a foot wrong in almost anything they undertake. The only day when you are likely to encounter adverse conditions is Thursday, when your heart will be susceptible to overheating. Rescheduling bureaucratic appointments to another day is a wise idea. Do not be fussed if others are less positive than you are. They will learn.

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# Property show in Singapore pulls big crowds

SINGAPORE: The Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition at the Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore began with solid attendance that kept exhibitors busy from the moment the doors opened.

There were more than 200 registrations on the first afternoon and the following days were just as busy.

One Phuket developer, Bill Barnett, of C9 Hotel Works, said, "I'm extremely surprised. I have two qualified leads and two appointments in Phuket next week. And the venue is great."

Stuart Reading, of Laguna Phuket, said he thought the traffic was excellent and Michael Smith, marketing manager of Piyalai Villas, said he was extremely surprised. "We didn't really expect a lot. We really only came here to fly the flag, but its been busy all day."

Michael Hoskins, rock 'n' roll promoter and developer of the Sai Taan project in Cherng Talay, said he was pleased with the quality of visitors. "I will be

very surprised if we don't get a sale from this show," he said.

Mr Hoskins, who promotes performers such as Red Hot Chili Peppers and Enrique Iglesias, noted that he is getting a lot of interest from some of these stars in buying houses in Phuket.

The exhibition also provided the platform for the launch of a new luxury project, Phuket Pavilions.

"Phuket Pavilions will sell the villas, but the project will be managed as a hotel," explained Nick Anthony, of Indigo Real Estate, which is marketing the project.

Most participants were pleased with the response and happy about the venue. The Raffles City Convention Centre is easily accessible for visitors, with excellent transport and parking, and is also close to shops and restaurants.

The Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition in Singapore was organized by Graham Doven and supported by Artasia Press and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Somchart Ubolchart, Chief Operating Officer of Piyalai Villas (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with Michael Smith, Executive Director (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Sirinaree Mansakul, International Sales Consultant (right).



Outstanding sales person of the show was Stuart Bell (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Marketing Manager of Marriott's Phuket Beach Club.



Nick Anthony, Managing Director of Indigo Real Estate, introduces visitors to the Phuket Pavilions concept.



Jean-Claude Guillet, Marketing Director of L'Orchidee Residences (left) shows visitors a model of the development.



Kanittha Deepanya, Sales Manager (left) and Stephen Brajak, Director of Sales, set up the Alila project's booth.




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## Can Zoning Save Phuket?

a seminar in English on March 27, 2004

Traffic congestion, noise, trash and other environmental problems are threatening tourism, property development, investment and the quality of life in Phuket.

Policymakers and private sector experts will debate whether or not planning and zoning will move from talk to action soon enough to save the island from falling off the world's tourist and investment maps.

The seminar takes place at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

The seminar is free of charge for readers of *The Nation* and the *Phuket Gazette*.

For more details please contact  
Patcharee@nationgroup.com or Rungtip@phuketgazette.net

There is a Thai legend about a tigress called Seua Saming, who could turn herself into a woman. She would lure men with her seductive wiles and then, just as they thought they had it made, would revert to her true form. Dinner time.

A painting of the tigress about to dine forms the centerpiece above one of the bars in the newly-opened Seua Saming club in Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City. Her victim looks as if he still hasn't quite taken in how the object of his lust has been transformed.

Seua Saming's owners promise that the club will not devour patrons, but a huge change has certainly taken place on the site, with two run-down old shophouses being transformed into the city's classiest after-dark establishment.

The club is the brainchild of three thirty-something Brits, Stuart Frost and his brother Adam, and David Knowles.

Stuart Frost, a barrister and company start-up specialist, told the *Gazette* that he was tired of heavy taxation in Britain and what he described as the "staleness" of London, so he headed for Phuket, where his family has been running South East Asia Liveboards for some years.

But he and his partners missed the classiness of nightclubs they had been used to frequenting in the world's capital cities. They decided to do something about it. At the beginning of December they took out leases on the two old buildings and within an astonishingly short time – just nine weeks – were ready to open.

Entering the club is like walking into a jeweled box. The walls are a deep, vivid blue, the lighting is comfortably low, with glowing pools of light around the

# NIGHT TIGER burning bright



Inside Seua Saming, the delights quickly become apparent. Top right, the club's namesake enjoys a snack.

the crowd to be. The music is audible, but still low enough to allow conversation without difficulty.

Mr Frost thinks it unlikely the club will ever have live music. "It's very difficult, in my mind, for a guy with a guitar to match the best production team in London, New York or Los Angeles and the sheer talent of the top artists."

Since it opened on February 14, the club has attracted good crowds most nights, Mr Frost said, with word of mouth spreading the news among Phuket's affluent set, both Thai and foreign, and, recently, members of the smart set in Bangkok.

Apart from the sheer classiness of the club, much of its popularity comes because it feels exclusive and smart, and at the same time relaxed. The doors are manned by two burly gents in snappy suits, who will genially bar anyone wearing flip-flops, beer-stained shorts and wife-beater singlet from entering.

Membership is, so far, free, but, Mr Frost explained, "We have certain house rules that the members sign up to. Basic dress code, basic behavior. There are a lot of very beautiful women on this island who take great pride in their appearance, who go to Singapore or Hong Kong to buy the finest clothes. But where in Phuket can they wear

seating areas. The two staircases are picked out by small candles, two on each step.

Much of the furniture is antique Chinese, complemented by huge blue-and-white jars containing great sprays of peacock tailfeathers. The stairs

## After DARK

by Alasdair Forbes

are guarded by large porcelain birds and on the floor are Persian rugs. There is even a bed, which Mr Frost says is very popular with customers wanting fun photos to take home.

Seua Saming has four main

areas – the entrance at the front of the lefthand shophouse; a quiet seating area in its equivalent in the righthand building, featuring floor-to-ceiling sweeps of blue silk; and two bar areas. Upstairs will be two rooms, currently being created, for private parties.

One of the two bars supplies quick fixes such as beers and wine coolers, while the other concentrates more on cocktails. The range of drinks is vast, from competitively-priced beers to Dom Perignon Champagne and the rare Johnny Walker Blue Label.

Deejays – the club has three – select music from a vast and constantly growing collection of titles, adjusting their choices to what they perceive the mood of

them? "We wanted to create a glamorous, relaxed environment where they can dress up for their husbands, their boyfriends and equally where guys can put on nice clothes for a change, get out of the sloppy gear and mix in a very sociable environment.

"For the women, it's not a typical bar, there's no pressure. They're not being hit on; they'll be respected and

looked after," Mr Frost said. "It's a grown-up place."

He's right. It is.

Seua Saming, 83-85 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City, Tel: 09-4722746. Open from 8 pm to 2 am (or whatever the government decrees).



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# KIDS

## THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

### Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 mountains. 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.

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

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- Who wrote the novel on which the movie *LA Confidential* was based?
- What did Robert Mitchum, Yul Brynner and Wayne McLaren have in common?
- What would you usually use a punnet for?
- Which part of your body might suffer from astigmatism?
- In a suit of armor, which component protected the shoulder?
- Name the large South American rodent that lives in and near fresh water.
- What is the plural of Mr?
- If you were an omophage, what would you like to eat?
- What yarn is made from the inner layer of a musk ox's hair?
- What came between praenomen and cognomen?
- In Roman numerals, what would you get if multiplied XLI by XXVII?
- Which gases did Sir William Ramsay and MW Travers discover?
- Who is not allowed in a zenana?
- Who or what might suffer from a thoroughpin?
- Who invented the grand Panjandrum?
- What word means "a young demon" and "to repair a falcon's wing"?
- Durra is a variety of what?
- What word, meaning "foolish talk", comes from the Dutch for "soft dung"?
- Which Hawaiian island has a name meaning "long mountain"?
- Who led the first land crossing of Antarctica?

Answers next week

### Never a Cross Word!

#### Across

- He goes on and on and on.
- Remains of a fire.
- Donor.
- Palm fruits.
- Middles.
- Chinese Communist leader.
- Crash into.
- She followed the yellow brick road.
- Command.
- Sing in Alpine style.
- Initially, the Big Apple.
- Not afternoon.

#### Down

- Witty fellow.

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

- 11th month, in short.
- Server of drinks.
- Try.
- The past, written down.
- Hard water.
- Warship.
- Flintstones* or *Sheep In the Big City*, for example.
- Having no fixed address.
- Color.
- A mountain in Chiang Mai.
- Type of wrench.

Solution next week

### Brain Buster!!

Q. The rope ladder of a boat hangs over the side of the boat and just reaches the water. Its rungs are 8 inches apart. How many rungs will be under the water when the tide rises 4 feet?

A. When the tide rises 4 feet, the boat and its ladder will also rise. So no rungs will be under the water.

#### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

- For taking your boots off;
- Infant (infantry);
- Birkenhead;
- German;
- Poodle;
- Basketball;
- Birds;
- Ventifact;
- Canada;
- A mandarin;
- Jupiter;
- The horizon;
- Pangaea;
- Aletsch;
- Smooth talk;
- Tap dance;
- Socrates;
- Yellow;
- Zulu;
- Mormons.

#### Solution to last week's Crossword

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

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# HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* Peter Meltzer and Siripansa Somboon went out and about and asked, "What is the biggest lie you have ever told a romantic partner and why?"



**Name:** Ian Russel  
**Age:** 43  
**From:** Scotland  
**Occupation:** Teacher

My girlfriend was delighted when I said I would pick her up in my Mercedes. She thought I had a big, flashy car. You should have seen her face when I arrived in my Mercedes delivery van. I laughed about it and, eventually, she did too.



**Name:** Angkana Mayakarn  
**Age:** 21  
**From:** Phuket  
**Occupation:** Salesperson

My boyfriend works late and doesn't come home until 2 am. One night, I went to a discotheque then hurried home to get there before him. When he came in, he kissed me and asked, "Why do you smell bad?" I told him that I hadn't taken a shower yet.



**Name:** Tony Wilson  
**Age:** 59  
**From:** England  
**Occupation:** Teacher

The day after we were married, my wife asked me what it was that first attracted me to her. Thinking quickly, I told her that it was her beautiful hair and eyes – but that's not really what I first noticed. It was her beautiful figure.



**Name:** Piyamart Warintharaphon  
**Age:** 22  
**From:** Phuket  
**Occupation:** Student

My boyfriend invited me to his birthday party. I told him that I didn't care about him and slammed the phone down. At 11 pm, I went to his house with a birthday cake. I said, "Surprise! I love you!" Then we went out dancing together.



**Name:** Martin Alexander  
**Age:** 29  
**From:** England  
**Occupation:** Health club manager

I once told a girlfriend that I had to work over the weekend. The truth was that I had a lads' weekend in London. It included a football match and a night out. I had a great time. She still doesn't know.

## Mr Grammar Dork's advice

Today I'm going to move into my scholarly mode as Mr Grammar Dork, the ultimate authority on English usage and the inventor of the New, Improved Model of the English Language (NIMEL).

Mr Grammar Dork has received many questions from Thai readers who are understandably baffled by some of the idiosyncrasies of English.

Our first letter, from Mr NB, of Krabi: "I am confused by sentences like 'The mother hen takes care of her young ones.' How can 'one' have a plural form? One means one, right? If you have more than one, shouldn't it be two, or three, or four?"

That's an excellent question, Mr NB. In my New, Improved Model of the English Language, people will say, "The mother hen takes care of her young two, or three, or four." We can also call them youngsters.

Here's another letter on a related problem from Mrs DT, of Kata: "Why does English talk about the young, the old, the rich,

the poor, the living, the dead, etc.? The meaning is plural. Shouldn't it be the youngs, the olds, the riches, the poors, the livings, the deads, etc.?"

Mrs DT, you're absolutely right. NIMEL will rectify this error. In the sentence quoted above, we should also be able to say, "The mother hen takes care of her youngs."

Following this pattern, future translations of the *Beatitudes* will have Jesus saying, "Blessed are the poors," and "Blessed are the meeks."

And there is another possibility. We should be able to extrapolate from the word "youngsters" and say, "Blessed are the poorsters." Not to mention the meeksters. We can also talk about the richsters, the livingsters, and the deadsters.

You can see from this that NIMEL is delightfully flexible, and conducive to a proliferation of new forms which will enrich the language.

Here's a pertinent letter from Miss FE, of Rayong: "Why does English have so many ir-



regular plurals? Why do we say 'mouse' and 'mice,' but not 'house' and 'hice'? Why is the plural of 'man' 'men,' but the plural of 'pan' is not 'pen'? Why is the plural form of some nouns the same as the singular, like 'fish,' 'sheep,' and 'Japanese'? Finally, is the plural of 'mongoose' 'mongeese' or 'mongooses'?"

Boy, Miss FE, you are really getting down to the nitty-gritty of the real problems that afflict the English language today. We also say "ox, oxen" but not "fox, foxen," "tooth, teeth" but not "booth, beeth."

NIMEL will attack this

problem head on by making all plurals regular. That is, we will simply add the letter "s" to the singular form of every noun. We'll even get rid of "es," because how do we know when to use "s" and when to use "es"?"

So now we'll be able to talk about mans and womans and mouses and childs and oxs and tooths and buss and kisso, not to mention animals like fishs and sheeps and nationalities like the Japaneses and the Swisses.

The plural of "mongoose" will remain as it has always been: "more than one mongoose."

Here's our final letter, from Miss PS of Ratchaburi: "Why does English put the adjectives before the noun, whereas Thai puts them after it? The noun is more important than the adjectives, right? So the noun should come first, and the adjectives should follow it."

That's a superb question, Miss PS, and it highlights a real

cultural difference between Thai and Western thinking. Thais think the noun should come first because it's the most important.

Westerners think that if it's so important, there should be some preliminary fanfare. So we lead up to it with adjectives to announce its coming, just as trumpet flourishes precede the arrival of a king.

But because this is Thailand, and we want to show respect to our country host, NIMEL will permit speakers English to use the pattern Thai.

That's all! Do not forget to send questions your to Mr

Dork Grammar c/o stsow@yahoo.com if you want to contribute to evolution the exciting ongoing of NIMEL. We will publish goods the (also known as goodsters the), but not bads the (also known as badsters the).

Have a day nice, and that includes all you Swiss and Japaneses, not to mention more than one mongoose.

So now we'll be able to talk about mans and womans and mouses and childs

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# LOVE ME: an offer that fails to excite

If the names William Shawn, Harold Ross, Brendan Gill, Calvin Trillin, Robert Benchley, EB White and SJ Perleman are not familiar, you might not want to read Garrison Keillor's new novel, *Love Me* (Penguin, New York, 2003, 272 pp).

These people are former editors and writers at *The New Yorker* magazine and much of the book's humor comes from the satire that bounces off their public images. But if you don't know these names, you just won't get the joke.

Garrison Keillor made his name 20 years ago with *Lake Wobegone Days*, a hugely entertaining fictionalized memoir of his boyhood growing up in the 1950s in a small Minnesota town.

Minnesota has remained his literary stomping ground ever since, one that he also parlays as host of a popular Saturday night radio show called *A Prairie Home Companion* which has been on the air since 1974.

There are some funny lines in his latest book. As narrator, he grabs the reader by throat with his first paragraph: "Once I was young and virtually indestructible and now I am an old married guy on a January morning on Sturgis Avenue in St Paul, sniffing the wind and taking my vitamins. Six AM. It's pitch-black out. Fresh coffee in the air ... I do a few leg stretches, 40 crunches, 20 push-ups, a dozen curls, on the living room floor. I don't want to struggle when I go to get out of a car. And if tonight my queen should reach over from her side of the bed and draw me to her, I intend to be capable of knighthood."

Larry Wyler starts with the tale of how he met his wife in a touring college choir. An idealistic Democrat and social worker, Iris is the lodestar of his life.

Larry holds down menial jobs until his first story is published in *The New Yorker*. Then he writes a stupendous best-selling novel about the Midwest, heads off on a countrywide book tour and settles finally in a ter-

raced apartment overlooking New York's Central Park, abandoning Iris to her good works in St Paul.

He goes to work for *The New Yorker* and publishes his second novel, with disastrous results: "The reviews were all torpedoed. ('What a dumb book!' said the *Times*.) Sales were lousy. Pitiful. Two weeks after publication, big stacks of it were on sale at Barnes & Noble for \$1.89 and the security tags had been removed so as not to hinder shoplifters.

"A dumb dumb dumb dumb book. Why did I write all this stuff about soybeans in the first chapter?"

Wyler embarks on a two-decade writer's block and a series of abortive romances. This middle, New York section is the book's weakest, with clumsy satires of literary lights, including John Updike and JD Salinger. There is also a joke, which goes lame after a while, that *The New Yorker* is an Italian mob operation.

The book regains its footing when Wyler returns home to St Paul to reclaim his wife's affections and work as the local newspaper's advice columnist, Mr Blue.

While *Love Me* is disappointing compared with Garrison Keillor's best work, he is still capable of packing a wallop. I leave you with the following:

"In November 2000, I moved back to Sturgis Avenue for good. We spent the month at home suffering over the Florida voter fraud and the long, grim slide toward the Bush presidency, watching the dreary little shtoonk as he minced past the TV cameras, fawning courtiers in tow, smirking toad-like at the glorious free country whose handsome house, the mansion of Adams and Jefferson and Lincoln and the Roosevelts, he would soon occupy, appointed by five Republicans on the Supreme Court, and thus this narrow-minded tongue-tied frat boy and casual executioner would win four years' opportunity to inflict what damage he could on our decent society."

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# Finding the Internet without having a telephone line



The McAfee speedometer test.

The number one computer topic in Phuket? If my mail is any indication, GPRS – General Packet Radio Service, where you connect a computer to the Internet via a mobile phone – takes the prize.

Here are the latest promises, platitudes, and prognostications.

GPRS has two big advantages over other kinds of Internet access. First, it doesn't require a telephone line: If you have trouble getting a land line, or you just don't want to go through the hassle and expense of setting up a land line so your PC can connect to the Internet, GPRS is the cheapest and (arguably) easiest way to go.

Second, at current prices, GPRS delivers a very respectable bang-for-the-baht. Many of you have conducted tests all over Phuket, using a variety of equipment, and my old rule of thumb appears to be holding: GPRS consistently runs about 40% faster than a traditional dial-up phone line.

The McAfee speedometer test at <http://us.mcafee.com/root/speedometer.asp> pegs dial-up access on Loxinfo at a little over 25 Kbps under normal circumstances, and about 40 Kbps for GPRS.

If you can get it to run at all, that is.

A large percentage of readers have problems getting GPRS set up and running in the first place. Once it's running, things work fine, but installation can be a pain. The trick seems to lie in how you attach the phone to the PC.

The people who get their phones running right away seem to have relatively new "clean" systems running Windows XP, and they connect their telephones to their PCs using a USB cable – that is, a cable with one end plugged into the telephone, and

the other plugged directly into the USB port on their PC.

There seems to be a perverse, er, inverse relationship between how much junk is running on the PC and how easily the installation progresses.

Programs that block access to the registry (such as Ad-Aware and anti-virus programs) can really mess up the installation, so you should be very careful to disable all ancillary software and follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter when you run the installer.

Because USB cables are only rarely included with new telephones, you need to brace yourself for the time and expense of ordering a cable from Bangkok – and the possibility that the cable connection won't work, even after all that cost and effort.

If you don't have a clean Windows XP machine, your best bet seems to be with the phone's Bluetooth connection (a short-range radio frequency connection, similar to the one used in cordless telephones) or IrDA (an infrared light connection, similar to the one in your TV remote).

**GPRS is the cheapest and (arguably) easiest way to go. If you can get it to run at all, that is.**

You need to buy a Bluetooth or IrDA adapter that plugs into your PC, typically into a USB port. The telephone communicates with the Bluetooth or IrDA adapter, and the adapter communicates with your PC.

It looks like the Bluetooth and IrDA adapter manufacturers have found a way to work around all the inconsistencies and standards differences that traditionally made Bluetooth and IrDA such a mess.

*Gazette* reader PS notes, "I went for the D Link Bluetooth DBT-120 from Mr Comm for 1800 baht. It comes with a USB extension cable so you can put your phone in the best location for signal strength.

First time, it took me two

hours to install, but I got it down to 10 minutes in the end. There are a few tricks to it."

If you look around, you can find GPRS capable telephones for 6,000 to 8,000 baht. Expect to pay 1,500 baht or more for a cable if it isn't already included in the box with the phone.

It costs just about as much to get a Bluetooth or IrDA adapter – and for most people, the adapter is the better way to go. AIS offers unlimited GPRS Internet connections for 1,200 baht a month (which includes the regular monthly charge to make voice calls from the phone, too).

I hear good reviews about the AIS shop next to Ocean, near Robinson's, in Phuket City – the staff there knows GPRS.

Finally, I've heard a rumor that TA Orange is about to offer GPRS service all over Thailand, including Phuket. DTAC has priced itself out of the market, so Orange would bring welcome competition to the local GPRS scene. I'll keep you posted.

- Woody Leonhard  
[woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com)

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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## Class war without winners

Many schools are finding it hard to hire native-speaking teachers to make English language programs a success (See *First Person*, facing page) even though most people agree that language skills on the island are below the standards of other international destinations.

Implemented properly, language programs employing native-speaking teachers can produce just the kind of graduates that Phuket requires to meet the needs of its tourism-based economy – and support future plans for the island as an “international city”.

Whether these programs succeed will depend largely on the ability of Thailand’s Ministry of Education (MoE) to show some vision and turn teaching in Thailand into a career, and not just another stop for nomads on their Lonely Planet tour.

The Phuket Educational Service Area Office has recognized the problem, but it is attempting to solve it in the wrong way: by organizing seminars and adopting yet more hiring “standards”.

The MoE, Thailand’s single largest employer, has the biggest budget of any ministry. To show commitment to change, when the Thai Rak Thai party won government, PM Thaksin appointed himself Education Minister.

Yet when confronted with the MoE’s bureaucratic inertia, even Thailand’s dynamic leader was powerless to bring about change. Four more ministers, an endless series of seminars and mountains of paperwork have followed.

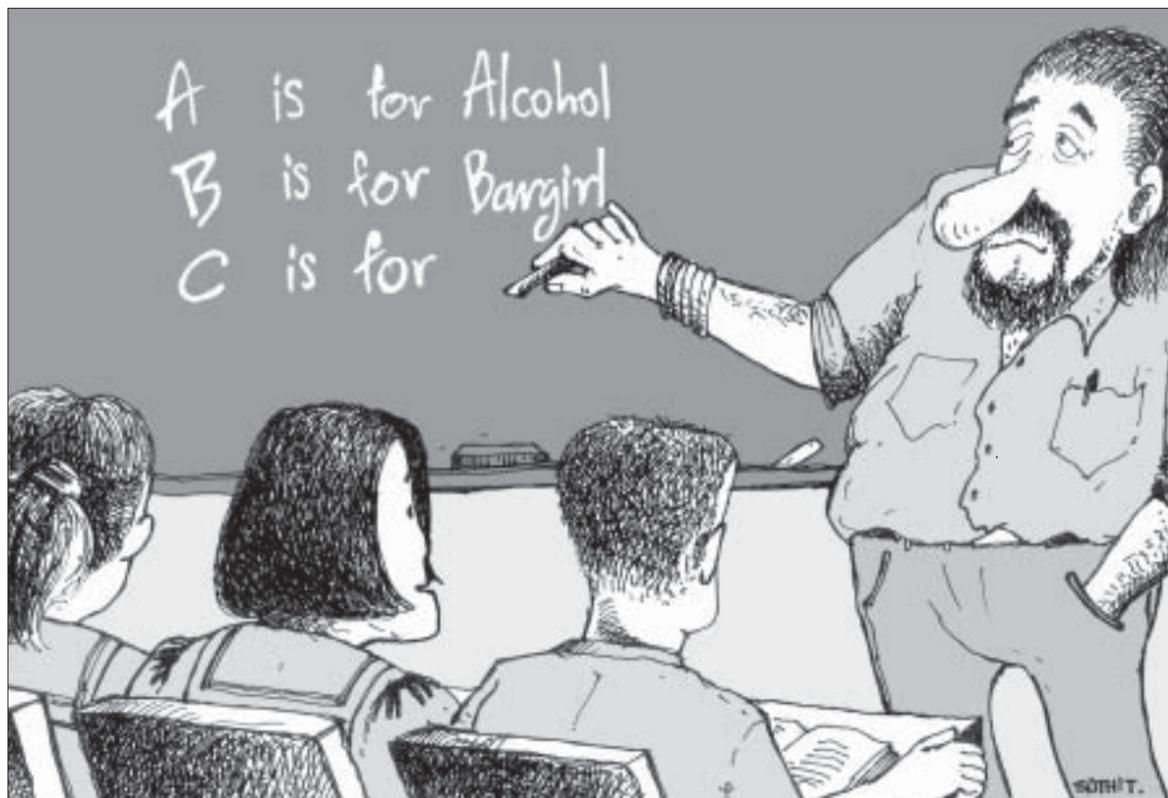
There are many experienced, native-speaking teachers here who have shown a great deal of commitment to their students, but not to the monolithic MoE – which many see as the the greatest impediment to stimulating young Thai minds.

Most language teachers are taught to use “communicative techniques” designed to keep students interested and focused on the language. Unfortunately, many school administrators see these as little more than games and still believe the best system involves students passively taking notes for regurgitation at exam time.

The MoE should use experienced foreign teachers to help out by interviewing new applicants. Once employed, teachers should be trained and encouraged to develop their teaching skills.

At present, a foreign teacher with 15 years’ experience is offered the same contract as a new graduate with no experience. This is wrong. Thai teachers may envy foreign teachers’ salaries, but from the foreigners’ perspective, teaching here is a dead-end job.

To attract and keep good teachers, school administrators will have to view the situation from the foreign teacher’s perspective – and not just from a jaundiced and bureaucratic one. – **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.

### Traveling the mean streets of Kata

I read with concern your correspondent’s account of the violent tuk-tuk driver in Patong (*Gazette*, February 7-13).

The incident is reminiscent of the disgraceful situation that exists in Kata and Karon, where locals are deprived of a motor-bike taxi service, forcing everybody to use tuk-tuks.

It’s an open secret that anyone foolhardy enough to attempt to start such a service faces – or has already faced – physical intimidation by local tuk-tuk drivers. Police will have to address this problem – sooner or later.

Concerned onlooker  
Kata

### Taxin’ government should explain why

The removal of boat taxes is welcome. However, for Phuket to really become an attractive centre for yachting and compete with Langkawi, two issues need to be addressed:

1. Having obtained a valuation and paid the VAT, the boat can be registered in Thailand. As I understand it, on registration the boat owner is then no longer permitted to drive his own boat but must have a Thai skipper and a Thai engineer on board, as with a commercial vessel. Is this correct? If so, is the government planning to recognize the obvious differences between commercial and leisure boating?
2. The availability of boat equipment and spares in Thailand is severely limited. Items are

often either not available or locally made copies, which are often less than satisfactory.

What is the government’s position with regards to taxes on the importation of boat equipment and spares? Does the government plan to make these items duty free?

Ian Malim  
Patong

### Tea leaves steal the real news

While most people on the island wondered when the new entertainment closing hours were coming and whether jobs would be lost, the *Toontown* correspondent (*Gazette* February 28-March 5) wandered around Tesco’s looking for teabags.

Didn’t the British lose an empire once because of an obsession with trivia? News from the real world would make a change for Patong readers.

Martin Savaloy  
Patong

### Chilly reception greets governor

I was impressed by the governor’s insightful remark (*Gazette*, February 28-March 5) justifying early closing hours on the grounds that “... in most late-night cities you find most people going home at 10 pm or 11 pm to escape the cold.”

It had never occurred to me that revelers in Phuket – particularly during March and April – should be warned of the dangers of frostbite.

Vermyn Carrion  
Phuket

### Hands off, Steve

Steve Stander (*Issues & Answers* February 28-March 5) is “astounded by the lewd behavior” on Phuket’s beaches. My wife visits Phuket beaches three times a week and has never seen lewd behavior.

Mr Stander lives in South Africa, which has high rates of murder and rape. Hard drugs are sold on street corners, and HIV infection rates are high. I lived there for more than 20 years and my wife is South African.

Mr Stander must have excellent vision to spy people masturbating in the sea.

Richard Watson  
Chalong

### Criminal intent?

A reader asked (*Issues & Answers* January 5) if topless sunbathing was illegal. A policeman replied that it was, but that no tourist had ever been charged with an offense. Can his superior explain why certain laws are not enforced on foreigners when they would be on Thai women? What other laws can tourists get away with breaking?

Jayne Wilson  
Kathu

### Going with the flow

Next time the Kalyanamitra Organization decides to burn cartons of cigarettes and smash bottles of whiskey (*Gazette* February 28-March 5), I suggest they call me and I will dispose of the offending materials properly.

Soomshi H  
Samkong

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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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.

# Foreign teachers pose problems

**W**e are planning to arrange a seminar at the end of April to discuss standards for foreign teachers in Phuket.



The seminar will establish exactly what qualifications foreign teachers must have in order to work in our schools.

In the past, it has been up to our discretion whether to hire someone or not. We have often been very uncomfortable making that decision because we were unsure of the quality of the applicant. On the other hand, we felt we had little choice because of the need for teachers.

With exact rules in place, however, we can be more confident about our decisions.

I always emphasize to schools that they must be careful when hiring foreigners because many lack the commitment necessary for the post. Many teachers come to Phuket just to have a vacation, not to teach.

Former Phuket Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi avoided many problems by enforcing a policy of insisting that foreigners present proper credentials to

According to the results of a recent survey of 21,000 young people in Phuket, almost 20% of the island's children suffer from malnutrition, 10% are below average height and weight, 74% are chronically sick with diarrhea.

The failure rate in school exams in some parts of the island is as high as 56%. A large part of the reason is the number of experienced teachers taking early retirement and being replaced by young, inexperienced teachers.

In the midst of these desperate times, schools have also had to handle the hiring of foreigners as English teachers. As a province dominated by tourism, English is used almost ev-

## FIRST PERSON

eryday in Phuket. Hiring foreigners to teach English is widely acknowledged as a necessary step, but many Thai teachers feel it may have been taken in too much haste and with too little forethought.

Many Thai teachers are irritated that a foreign teacher will make at least double the salary of a Thai teacher, despite the fact that Thai teachers work longer hours.

They also complain that, on top of working fewer hours, the foreigners put less effort into their work.

Thai teachers say they often put in extra hours to provide care for students; the foreign teachers do not. Some Thai teachers have been scandalized to see the foreigners smoking in front of the students.

Complaints have also been heard from some students' parents, who have voiced serious reservations about individual foreigners hired to teach English.

Chalarn Attatham, chief of the committee responsible for checking qualifications and approving foreign teachers in the province of Phuket, says he receives a large number of complaints about the behavior of foreign teachers. But, he explains here, he has a plan to fix the problem.

get teaching positions, and requiring that they dress appropriately at school.

But this focus has changed as schools were put under greater pressure to find new teachers to replace the ones who left.

For schools with big budgets – private schools – employing foreigners who are good teachers is not difficult. However, schools that do not have such big budgets sometimes have to employ a foreigner who has

little or no teaching experience.

It is difficult to find a foreigner with experience in teaching to come to teach in Thailand because most of them do not want to move here or to accept a significantly lower salary.

We need a permanent system to determine what kind of people are suitable to teach our children and to ensure that they are committed to the job, and are not in Thailand simply to have a well paid vacation.

## Will anyone be compensated for stolen mail?

I was sent a registered letter containing US\$350 (13,748 baht) in January. The letter arrived at the Patong Post Office, but I received no notice that it had arrived.

It was therefore eventually returned to the USA marked "un-collected". Needless to say, the cash disappeared.

As it is now known that an officer was caught on video stealing mail during this period, were the people whose mail was tampered with notified so that they could start legal proceedings or make a claim?

Sefton Hanley  
Patong

**Wirat Bunpetchkaew, Chief Officer of the Patong Post Office, replies:**

Unlike in some other countries, the postal system in Thailand is not required to take responsibility for items that go missing from letters or parcels – even registered ones. However,

if you can supply solid evidence that the theft occurred at the Patong Post office, you will be reimbursed.

As for notifying all the victims of the mail thief, this is difficult because it is impossible to know how many letters he tampered with before being caught.

Mail sent to Patong from abroad first arrives at the Central Post Office in Bangkok. It then goes via Chumphon and the main post office in Phuket City before arriving in Patong.

With so many steps, it's almost impossible to determine exactly where a theft may have occurred or who was responsible – even with the new video surveillance system. The theft may have occurred in your own country.

If you want to pursue this case, please bring the letter in question to our office on Phrabamee Rd and we will investigate.

## 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.

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

## Company and land ownership

I have three questions:

If a foreigner is the "owner" of a company, should his/her name appear in western or Thai script in official papers?

How can I find out who the owners of a particular company are?

How can I find out who owns a particular piece of land?

Ignorant  
Phuket

**Veerachai Tantiwathanavallop, Chief of Phuket Business Development Office replies:**

Your name on official papers can be written in Western script. However, the official papers themselves must be in Thai script. If you want those papers in English, you should contact a company that is licensed to translate official Thai papers into English.

If you want information about a particular company, please contact our office.

**Prajak Tongrod, Legal Officer of the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO), replies:**

To get information about a specific piece of land, please go to the PPLO. Make sure you know the specific location of the land or have copies of land titles adjoining the land in question.

Please note that only lawyers may obtain copies of land papers.

## Moving firm to another province

I have a Thai company registered in Phuket. I would like to know if I can register it as non-trading (no money coming in) for a time while I look for a better location to move the business to.

Also, can I transfer my company to another part of Thailand? Would I have to transfer the company papers to the new town?

John  
Phuket

## Who must pay the taxes on property?

I have heard conflicting reports about tax due on private rental properties.

My question is simple: do foreigners who have a registered lease agreement have to pay annual property taxes of any kind? If so, how much and when?

Puzzled  
Chalong

**Dechakhane Leelanon, Chief Administrative Officer of Chalong Tambon Administration Organization, replies:**

The owner of the property is legally responsible for paying the property tax, not the tenant.

Even if the tenant signs an agreement with the owner to pay the property tax, it is the owner who remains responsible for ensuring that the tax is paid.

The tax is due each February, and is calculated as 12.5% of the rental fee.

## CLARIFICATION

On page 19 of the Gazette issue of March 6 it was stated that the Bypass Rd branch of Anna's Language School does not have a license to teach TEFL courses. Though it is true that the branch does not have its own license, we have since been informed by the Provincial Education Office that branches of schools are covered by the parent school's license. Anna's Language School Bypass Rd branch is therefore fully qualified to run TEFL courses.

# How to avoid being driven up the wall

**A** long-time resident of Thailand – let's call him Mr L – was awoken one day by a loud noise. He knew that the land next to his property was due to be developed, but he did not know the details of the project. Now construction had begun.

As work proceeded, he noted that his neighbor was erecting a new building right up against the border wall. Keen to know just what the law permitted his neighbor to build, Mr L contacted the local authorities.

Eventually, he learned that if the new building was to have no windows or doors in the wall bordering his property (as was apparently the case), then it should be set back 50 centimeters from the border. If it had windows or doors, the distance should be two meters.

An exception could be made if Mr L gave permission for the building to be closer – something he had not done.

Mr L asked officials to take a look at the site and talk to his neighbor about the irregularities of the new building.

The authorities made an inspection and as a result of what they found, ordered construction work to be stopped.

At that stage, the first floor had been completed and work was already underway on the second floor.

The two neighbors talked and attempted to negotiate an agreement. Mr L was prepared to allow building to continue under certain conditions: he would agree



**LAYING  
DOWN  
THE LAW**  
With Friedrich  
'Sam' Fauma

to let the first floor stand but he wanted the second floor to be built 50 cm back from the border, as the law made clear.

However, after the pause, the neighbor went on building the second floor without setting it back. The district official was called in again to stop the work.

Again, the neighbors met to try to solve the problem. Mr L stuck to his demand, insisting that his neighbor set the second floor back 50 cm from the border.

This time, the neighbor seemed willing to agree to Mr L's demands, although building is still underway so it is too early to know for sure whether the agreement is being adhered to.

The district official has already made it known that if the deal is breached, building will once again be stopped and, if necessary, the parties will all have to go to court.

Be aware that building laws and restrictions do exist in Thailand. Any extension to a home – even a temporary one – must be officially approved.

Always apply for an official building permit. And if you decide to build right up to the border on your property, make sure you have prior approval from your neighbors.

*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.*

# Getting Nia to a natural rhythm

**M**any of us are locked into mechanical time. Many forms of exercise force us to follow a beat, mechanizing our pace and movement, beating the joy and autonomy out of our unique movements and placing a limiting imposition on the aliveness and spontaneity of our systems.

If we move in natural time, this releases the restrictions of a tight mechanical structure. Debbie Rosas, co-founder of the Nia system, says, "In mechanical time we tend to fixate on accomplishment. We've got to do, do, do."

"We have to do things fast, and constantly think about what we're going to do next. We get caught in a whirlwind of 'accomplishment.'"

"In natural time, we de-

**Not everyone believes that Western medicine or conventional exercise regimens have all the answers.**

**Many alternative forms of therapy are advocated by a variety of people in Phuket. Here is one such view.**

velop a deeper sense of trust and faith in our ability to create and accomplish without the stress of doing. We become connected to our own rhythms of creation.

"When we exercise in mechanical time, we all tend to strive to move in the same way, at the same time. This goes against our own personal rhythms and we lose touch with our bodies. For instance, if I asked you to inhale and exhale with me and

stay together with my breathing rhythm, we slip into mechanical time.

"You are breathing in my way, not your own way. When you look within and breathe in natural time, you begin to notice the relationship you have between the amount of time and space it takes to support a full relaxed breathing cycle."

Nia uses natural time to move the body when exercising. Connecting to natural time in life brings us in tune with our body's rhythm as well as our cycles in life.

The code of natural time was recorded by the Mayans. The



**ALTERNATIVE  
HEALTH**

Rhonda Ann Clark

Mayans' complete year has 13 moons which keep the body connected to cyclical patterns opposed to artificial timing, like calendars.

Carlos Rosas, co-founder of Nia, says, "Unnatural time is based on the mechanical 60-minute clock and the 12-month Gregorian Calendar. Unnatural time, clock time, stopwatch time, is governed by a start and finish, such as the beginning of an hour with a specific end that continuously repeats itself with no variation.

We refer to this kind of time as 12/60. Twelve months, 60 minutes, 60 seconds. Unnatural, mechanical time separates you from the primordial impulses of the body, thereby disconnecting you from your body and life."

The Mayan code for natural time is 13/20. The Mayans taught that the continuing sacred cycles in the Universe move in lengths of 13 and 20.

In Nia, 13 represents the number of joints in the body and 20 the number of digits. If we move our joints and digits to our own internal rhythm, we move our body in natural time, in our own way.

We use this timing to decode cellular information that is stored and locked within our joints and digits. Debbie Rosas

says, "Natural time is fluid, non-linear, radial, and expansive. It is centered in now, not tomorrow, not yesterday, not based on deadlines, but now."

"It reconnects us to the cyclical rhythms of nature, the rhythms that unite us as human beings and unite us with all life forms. The same basic movement of rising and falling, of inhaling and exhaling, of birthing and dying, run through every living thing. We are connected by the cyclical rhythms that move through us."

In Nia, the movements expand and contract like our cells, our joints and our breath. We move with spirals, like the DNA that spirals through us and like our muscles that spiral from one connection to the next.

Moving the body with the sensations of music creates joy – the joy of movement, in natural time.

**Information in this article is based on the Nia Technique White Belt Manual, March, 2001.**

Rhonda Ann Clark is a Certified Nia Teacher (Blue Belt) and Managing Director of the Movement Center in Chalong. The Nia website is at [www.nia-nia.com](http://www.nia-nia.com). The Center's website is at [www.phuketmoves.com](http://www.phuketmoves.com).

**In Nia, 13 represents the number of joints in the body and 20 the number of digits. If we move our joints and digits within our own internal rhythm, we move our body in natural time, in our own way.**

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# Nok flies into the air war

By Gategeo Phetsawang

BANGKOK: From the middle of the year, a new wave of cheap air tickets is expected to become available as Thai Airways (THAI) joins the budget flying fray. Travelers may even be able to pick up a seat over the counter at the local mini-mart – but they may have to bring their own sandwiches.

The Phuket-Bangkok and Chiang Mai-Bangkok routes are expected to be among the first to see aircraft in the livery of THAI's new low-cost-ticket subsidiary, Nok Air Co Ltd.

While THAI is intent on shoring up the high-end market – free massages are reported to be one of the inducements to be offered to first class and business

class passengers – the battle for the hearts, minds and behinds of more budget-conscious travelers is expected to be intense.

All kinds of special deals can be expected, with experts already making the point that only a tiny proportion of Thais now fly regularly, so the potential market is huge.

Whether profits can be sustained will be the big issue for airlines, with Nok Air already trying to gauge levels of interest.

THAI had considered using the name "Sky Asia" but eventually decided upon "Nok Air" instead. Viset Sontichai, THAI's District Sales Manager for Upper Southern Thailand, explained, "Nok is an easy word to understand and remember. It means bird in Thai."

Speaking about when tickets would be available for the budget airline, K.Visit said, "Online booking will be available in April. This will be the primary method for purchasing tickets."

When questioned about other ways of acquiring tickets, he added, "More than 2,000 7-Eleven shops might possibly also serve as outlets for ticket reservations."

Clarifying the differences between THAI and Nok Air, K.Visit was emphatic. "We will maintain the standards of THAI Airways service," he said.

"Both the pilots and staff will be trained by THAI. The cost of a ticket will be lowered by simply hiring fewer staff and serving less food."

When asked who the customers of such a service might be, K. Visit said, "The main target group for Nok Air are passengers who are not usually fliers on THAI Airways. Large numbers of people travel by bus or train."

Regional flights beyond Thailand for Nok Air are expected, with Singapore and Hong Kong among potential destinations.

Nok Air shares were recently made available to the public. THAI Airways (THAI) holds 39% of the company while other corporations such as the Crown Property Bureau and Krungthai Bank are also shareholders.

CP 7-Eleven (Public) Co Ltd is also expected to take a significant stake.

## ON THE MOVE

Australian Glen Roberts, 37, is the new Executive Chef of the



Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. His culinary experience spans 18 years and includes executive positions at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra and the Grand

Hyatt Dubai, as well as other roles in hotels and restaurants in the UK and New Zealand. Mr Roberts is also the holder of a bronze medal from the Professional Chefs & Cooks Association of Queensland Salon Culinare.

Frank Bohdan, 38, also from Australia, has been appointed Ex-



ecutive Sous Chef of the Sheraton Grande Laguna. Mr Bohdan has gained extensive experience throughout Australia as well as in Beverly Hills and In-

donesia. He comes to Phuket from the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Penang.

Sukanya Pintapoung, 26 and a native of Bangkok, has been pro-



moted to Front of House Manager at the Surin Bay Inn. She graduated from Ramkhamhaeng University with a degree in administration management and worked as Reservations

Manager with a tour company before joining the Surin Bay Inn as a receptionist in 2002.

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

# Many options for smart investors

Many investment possibilities are cyclical in nature. Some require very substantial amounts of capital and others have hidden risks. Here are some of the possibilities with their advantages and disadvantages.

**Cash:** For investment purposes, this includes bank and building society deposits, short term fixed deposits, money market funds and short dated bonds. In major currencies now the yield is low, but the low risk serves as an attraction.

**Managed currency funds:** this sounds attractive and is simple. You place your investment into a unit trust-mutual fund, where the manager invests the money in currencies that are anticipated to be stronger than the base currency of the fund. For example, a managed currency fund with US dollar as the base or reporting currency would almost certainly have provided an excellent profit over the past year. The US dollar has weakened against all major currencies.

However, where a Managed Currency Fund has a base currency in, say, Sterling or Euros, investors would in most cases have suffered low returns or even losses over the same period.

Trying to outsmart currency markets is almost impossible for any fund manager on an ongoing

basis. The poor history of virtually all funds listed as Managed Currency Funds bears this out.

**Bonds:** this investment should be viewed as cyclical. Certainly, short dated bonds of good investment-grade quality carry little risk. Risk exists if the issuer is unable to repay all or part of the capital on maturity, otherwise it is similar to a fixed deposit and can be encashed without penalty at any time.

Investors should be wary of high-yield and emerging market bonds. The yield will be generally higher than is available with US Treasury Bonds or UK Gilts, but for a little extra return the risk may be unacceptably high.

The longer dated a bond is (to maturity), the more likely it is that problems may arise, unless the bond is of excellent investment grade. Longer dated bonds of even the highest credit quality can suffer capital erosion solely due to long-term interest rates rising. If an investor is aware of this and is prepared to hold the bond to maturity, there is no problem. Selling a bond that has years to go until maturity, however, can also result in capital losses.

**Equities or shares:** two different names for the same type of investment. The attraction of the stockmarket is that returns on investment can be absolutely spectacular, especially with indi-



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

vidual shares. However, the risks are high. This is not to say that an investor is likely to suffer a 100% loss, except where the quality of the share purchased is dubious, but investors can and do incur major losses.

There is also a tendency among investors to watch a share or even a stockmarket index rise substantially and to take comfort from this gain. This is often when the decision is made to invest when it is actually the time to sell.

There was a popular philosophy that ruled in the stockmarket for many years that blue-chip stocks were worth holding long-term. This has been greatly debunked over the past few years.

Many of these blue chips look more like lame ducks. What is the definition of a long-term investment? A short-term speculation that went wrong.

Even shares of companies with solid, profitable business encounter problems. Microsoft shares are trading at 40% of their peak price from a few years ago. It is reasonable to assume that Shell, the global oil giant, would prosper in a time of high oil prices. However, Shell recently made an announcement that its oil reserves were 20% lower than previous estimates.

About two years ago, the Allied Irish Bank announced that one of its foreign exchange dealers in the US had lost more than US\$700 million in unauthorized trades. We all remember Barings, Enron, etc, etc.

The easiest and safest way for the average investor to participate in the stockmarket is to buy into a fund. At least that way, all of the research and purchases and sales of the shares are under-

VITAL STATISTICS: AIRPORT PASSENGER TRAFFIC SOARS		
	January 2003	January 2004
<b>Passengers</b>		
International	174,301	241,513
Domestic	217,808	298,328
<b>Total</b>	<b>392,109</b>	<b>509,841</b>
<b>Cargo (tons)</b>		
International	1,337	1,600
Domestic	1,030	1,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>2,744</b>

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# What to taste and try before you buy

There was quite a bit of feedback from the article about buying a boat, so I'll add some more ideas.

Safety is the primary consideration in all boating activities, making hull integrity of paramount importance. It is wise to get your potential purchase professionally surveyed, but this may not be economically viable for less expensive boats.

So, if you are checking the boat yourself, pay particular attention to the following:

- Spots of blistering or bubbling paint – the areas under these should be exposed to ascertain the integrity of the structural material.

- Areas where the load of the rig or anchor winches are transferred to the boat and where internal floors and furnishings bond to the hull – movement in these areas will indicate problems with structural integrity.

- Through-hull fittings and attachment points of equipment – check for any signs of water penetration because this could effect the structural integrity of the base material.

- Keel and rudder attachment areas – both take considerable loads and movement in these areas is indicative of a significant problem.

When you are satisfied in these areas, you will need to check the four other major areas that will directly affect your ability to operate the yacht safely.

**Steering system:** Make sure that the bearings on the top and bottom of the rudder post are firm. Check cables and attachment points for signs of rust or corrosion. Check the integrity of major items within the system.

**Spars and standing rig-**

**ging:** Get up the mast and check the rig connection points and attachments for signs of movement or corrosion. Check sheaves and wiring connections. My rule is: if the standing rigging is older than seven years, replace it.

**Engine system:** Generally, you should check that the engine is well ventilated and easy to get at. Check for obvious signs of leaks, rust or corrosion. Make sure both external and internal anodes are OK.

Check the control system and the fuel filtration system. Look for evidence of abnormal belt wear. Check the propeller shaft seals and coupling.

Under power, check the exhaust for evidence of water or oil in the fuel and for evidence of unburnt fuel.

**Anchoring system:** Make sure the anchor and chain or rope are appropriate for the boat and fit any windlass that may be installed.

Test the windlass operation and make sure the chain fits the gypsy.

Remember that the environment in our area is not particularly kind to boats. Having a boat closed up for prolonged periods can result in delamination and corrosion of many items throughout the yacht.

It is rare to find a boat in perfect condition, so factor into your purchase offer a reasonable amount for repairs and replacement of fittings and equipment.

Thanks for the emails that were sent after the last article. My computer crashed before I could respond individually, but they were appreciated.

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



## Before the MAST



David Lindahl's La Samudra took second place in the Premier Cruising Class.

## Phuket crews make mark in Langkawi Regatta

LANGKAWI (*Gazette, Asian Yachting News*): Phuket-based crews managed to carry home their share of the silverware at the end of the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2004, which finished on March 6.

Phuket crews won two classes, took second place in four, plus one third place.

The multihull classes saw the most emphatic performances by Phuket-based yachts. Brent McInnes's *No Fixed Address* won every race in the Cruising Multihull class. Second in the class was Chris Sieber's *Kilo*.

Mark Pescott's *Summersalt*, which scored three handicap wins in the Racing Multis, took that class while Brian Ritchie's *Fine Pitch* came second.

These results allowed Phuket crews to sweep the Langkawi Multihull Cup, a combination of the two classes, with *No Fixed Address* first, followed by *Summersalt* and *Kilo*.

Scott Duncanson's *Som Tam Express* had a bad race on the final day, coming in seventh, but squeaking into second place in the Sports Boats class.

David Lindahl's *La Samudra* took second place in Premier Cruising, with Nick Band on *Emerald Blue* coming third.

## Asian schools sign up for Phuket soccer sevens

KOH KAEW: Dulwich International College is hosting a pan-Asian seven-a-side football tournament on March 19 and 20.

More than 350 young footballers from international schools in Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines, as well as their counterparts in Thailand and local Thai schools, are set to play in the tournament.

Eight teams of girls are also

taking part in a 13s-and-over group to see if they too can "bend it like Beckham".

Competition, to be played strictly in accordance with Fifa rules, is expected to be fierce yet friendly in the five age groups – 11-and-under to Over-16s.

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of each class. First, second- and third-placed teams will also receive position medals

and there will be a 'Player of the Class' award.

The games begin at 8:30 am on Friday, March 19, ending at 4:30 pm. Saturday again sees an 8:30 am kick-off but with the final whistle around 3 pm.

For more information contact Jeff LaMantia at Dulwich College on Tel: 076-238711-20 or by email to jlamantia@dulwich.ac.th

## Fun run raises B200k for PTA

KOH KAEW: More than 500 students, parents and teachers took part in the annual Dulwich Family Fun Run, with participants allowed to run, walk, skate, roller-blade or scooter their way around the five-kilometer course.

Neil Smith, Head of Primary, led the field, followed home by student Nathan Wright and Head of History Joni Makvirta. The first primary student home was Scott Borkett.

Entertainment after the run was provided by saxophonist Gerard Cornielje and DJs Paul Preen and Kamil.

The day raised more than 200,000 baht for the Parent-Teacher Association and to buy equipment for the school.



Varying methods were used for getting around the Fun Run course

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## Golf tourney raises B100k for Royal Project

The winners of the Sujika Gardens Charity Golf Tournament, which took place on March 2 at Phuket Country Club and March 3 at Blue Canyon Country Club, received their trophies at a presentation dinner at Toto Restaurant in Cherng Talay.

Pictured, from left, are Roy Robertson, Director of Sujika Gardens developer Pacific Rim

Rich Co, who organised the tournament; overall women's winner K. Wassana; overall men's winner Kevin Winfield; and Blue Canyon's former general manager Martin Carpenter.

The tournament raised 100,000 baht for the Royal Chitralada Project, which sponsors agricultural research and experimentation programs.

## Hilton staff sink Dulwich 4-2



A Hilton player, in black, sprints ahead of a rather less sprightly Dulwich opponent.

KOH KAEW: Staff of Dulwich International College found themselves outplayed and outrun last weekend when they met a Hilton team, made up of staff from the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort.

Hilton left the field 4-2 victors after Winai Marsoasod, who works as a waiter, served up an outstanding performance in the game, scoring two goals.

The Dulwich team have already demanded a rematch, to be played at the Karon Stadium at a date to be fixed.

It is hoped that the match will be the first in a series as the Hilton team challenges other hotels and organizations in the Phuket area.

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# Taking the world by Stormer



**RANGE STORMER:** With a choice of set-ups, this vehicle is six off-roaders in one.

In the past, Land Rover has never gone much for concept cars, preferring to rely on its reputation for rugged, well-engineered off-roaders.

All that changed at last month's North American auto show in Detroit.

Managing Director Matthew Taylor unveiled what is likely to become the next production Land Rover, the Range Stormer, a high-performance SUV that takes the company into a new market segment and will become an additional model line for Land Rover.

Powered by the supercharged 4-liter Jaguar V8, it is also the fastest Land Rover, chucking out a predicted 400bhp (533Kw).

Top speed is likely to be

above 250kmh, with a seven second 0-100kmh time. A six-speed ZF auto 'box is standard. So is permanent four-wheel drive.

Mr Taylor commented: "The V8 Range Stormer gives a taste of our forthcoming new entrant in the booming high-performance SUV segment. The production vehicle that follows will share many of its styling and technical innovations."

One of the major technical advances is a system called 'Terrain Response' which delivers the best on- and off-road compromise by optimizing the vehicle set-up, including suspension, drive, throttle response and traction control.

On an aluminum dial, the driver selects the appropriate set-



By Jeff Heselwood

ting from six available, using technology that offers choices including "dynamic" for high-speed driving, "normal" for daily use, "grass" or "snow" for slippery conditions, and "deep ruts" for extreme off-road work, and the SUV does the rest.

Mr Taylor added, "The vehicle has been conceived as an on-road performance machine, as well as a class-leading off-roader."

Although the Detroit concept vehicle has tilting front doors, rather like a Lamborghini,

the production version is likely to be fitted with conventional hinges.

But there are other innovations that will become a production reality: items such as high-powered air jets to clear the rear screen instead of a wiper; active headlamps that react with the steering angle to "see" around corners; fuel and temperature gauges that show a level of liquid instead of a needle; and automatic air suspension that maintains a constant ride height and which has a "squat" position for ease of access.

The Land Rover's designer director, Geoff Upex, said, "The challenge was to translate fundamental Land Rover design values into a concept for a high performance machine that looks powerful, muscular and edgy.

"We certainly want to challenge established views of our vehicles, but the Range Stormer is still clearly an authentic Land Rover."

The British designer added, "It is classic Land Rover design language – the clamshell bonnet, castellated corners on the hood, the straight waistline and short front overhang.

"Take one look at the vehicle and it obviously has strong Range Rover genes."

Less traditional Land Rover cues include the low roof line, a power bulge in the hood and the

massive 22-inch forged alloy wheels – manufactured by Alcoa – fitted with specially developed Goodyear tires.

The interior could be mistaken for a Jaguar, with a great deal of aluminum and leather. An electric parking brake, as fitted to the latest Jaguars, is mounted in the center console, along with the Tiptronic gear selector and the Terrain Response control. A separate starter button is fitted, rather like some of the quicker Bentleys.

In the rear there is a pair of DVD screens – with separate headphones – and even more leather. Thin pillars and vast windows give the Range Stormer a light, airy feel in front and back.

Good as it appears to be, the Range Stormer faces some stiff competition from models such as the Porsche Cayenne, the Mercedes-Benz ML500 and the 4.6i BMW X5, the vehicle generally acknowledged as the benchmark in this high performance, luxury 4x4 class.

No decision has been taken on when the new Land Rover may become a production model, but from the acclaim it received in Detroit, the launch cannot be far away – perhaps as early as next year, if the powers-that-be give it the go-ahead.

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

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**HONDA**

# The very best of Bordeaux

**B**ordeaux has around 250,000 acres of vineyards with over 3,000 producers making 600 million bottles of wine each year. Bordeaux wines are among the world's most expensive, best known and most heavily promoted.

This is ironic as less than five percent of Bordeaux wine has an Appellation Controlée (AOC) pedigree – most being mere run-of-the-mill table wine.

Commercial winemaking came to Bordeaux in the 17th Century, when Dutch traders drained swamp-land that then constituted the present growing area. Bordeaux's close proximity to the Atlantic was the main reason the Dutch traders preferred it to other parts of France.

Bordeaux wines were well known by the mid 19th century when merchants first ranked Bordeaux wines by the price they could fetch. This classification, which anointed estates with rankings known as "growths," was the beginning of the AOC system that still exists today.

In the late 19th Century, curious French horticulturalists suffered the misfortune that followed the import of grapevines from America. On the roots lurked the vineyard disease Phylloxera, which attacks the roots of grapevines.

European grapevines had no defense and were ravaged. A solution was found by joining roots of resistant American vines to the European varieties.

Known as Grafting, this solution is now used worldwide but subtly changes the character of the wines.

Bordeaux is a somewhat cold place, both climatically and in personality. The region's wines are influenced by the

chilly maritime climate. Being near the ocean and located along a river, it commonly has fog, rain and summer hail. The region's wines are also influenced by traditional attitudes towards farming and winemaking and by heavy regulation.

However, in my travels there, I have always observed the French understand that rules are made to be bent, so the strict limitation of vineyard yields and certain winemaking practices imposed by law are habitually circumvented.

Red wines are fermented in tank and undergo malolactic fermentation and further aging in barrel before bottling.

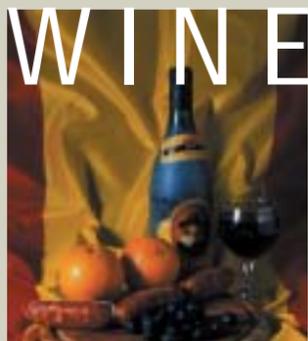
The white wines may be fermented either in tank or barrel. They are often aged in barrel before clarification and then bottled.

The addition of sugar during fermentation, known as Chaptalisation and intended to boost alcoholic strength, is not infrequent.

With such unpredictable weather, the right conditions for a perfect vintage happen only occasionally. Wine lovers must carefully consider the vintage when buying premium Bordeaux wine as poor vintages not only produce average wine but the wines tend to have less aging potential than wines produced in the better vintages. I have a high regard for the 1982, '86, '90, '95 and '96 vintages.

In two weeks we will take a closer look at the famous wines of Bordeaux and discuss why they are so expensive – and enjoyable.

*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*



By Steven Roberto

**M**ost Japanese restaurants have four walls and a roof, but not Shintaro. Taking a lead from Lemongrass, its Thai restaurant neighbor, Shintaro spreads out along Dusit Rd in Phuket City, under the stars.

For diners who prefer air-conditioned comfort to the trees in the courtyard, there is also an indoor section, behind glass walls. And for those who really like their privacy, small rooms behind sliding doors accommodate diners who can tuck their feet into the recessed floor under the table and enjoy the ambience.

Choice is one of the big pluses of Shintaro. While it's possible to order up big for a banquet, it's also possible to dine on a budget.

Even the cooks have options. There are three kitchens – one for hot food, one for the preparation of raw fish and meat, and one for soups and the like.

One of my dining companions recalls that Shintaro was the title of a black-and-white television series in the '60s about a samurai warrior.

Perhaps that's where the swordsmen went, into the sushi-slicing business. It's certainly fun to watch the food being prepared.

This particular alfresco night, Chef Tavin Panarat offers his suggestions as to what we should eat and there are no complaints.

It all arrives within minutes. There's sushi and sashimi aplenty, fresh and refreshingly cool to taste. By contrast, K. Tavin produces sliced crabstick tempura

**Shameji yaki – mushrooms wrapped in bacon.**



# Dining out with the sushi samurai



Stylishly Japanese: waitresses at Shintaro decked out in kimonos.

## On the menu with Supaporn Sriprom Shintaro

that look like pieces of warm coral. Seaweed accompanies more crab pieces.

Then there are pods of shimeji mushrooms, wrapped in bacon and oozing flavor.

The wasabi comes in large dollops, providing rocket fuel for the sinuses in the same way that Thai spices tickle throats.

The four dishes – sushi (480 baht), sashimi (450 baht) kani tempura (150 baht) and shameji yaki (130 baht) – were enough to sate the appetites of three big eaters.

Washed down with iced green tea at 25 baht a glass, it was a complete treat.

Shintaro has been at this spot for 10 years, which



Sushi, anyone? Chef Tavin Panarat.

probably helps to account for the comfortable feeling that the restaurant projects. The fish comes fresh every day from boats landing at Rawai and the beef is imported.

Some upmarket Japanese restaurants on the island struggle for customers because of their high prices. Shintaro's popularity testifies to its success in blending value with style.

*Shintaro, Dusit Rd, Phuket City. Open 5pm-midnight daily. For reservations, Tel: 076-355042 after 9am, after noon on Sundays.*

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Home of the Week Chalong



This large Chalong property is in a small, quiet cul de sac off Chao Fa East Rd, on two rai of land. There is a concrete driveway, with a turning circle, leading up to the house and a separate three-car garage and office.

The enclosed garage could also be used for storage. The office is perfect for someone wishing to work from home but away from the bustle of the main house.

The gardens have been beautifully kept and are full of tropical plants and palms. At the back of the garden, away from the main house, is a swimming pool. Near it lies the guest bungalow with a bedroom and bathroom that could also be used as a maid's quarters.

The property is surrounded by a high wall and the entrance gate is made of ornamental iron work.

Built some five years ago, the main two-story house is in good condition. It consists of three bedrooms, one upstairs with ensuite bathroom and a balcony overlooking the gardens, while the other two bedrooms are on the lower floor.

On the upper floor there is

also a small living room and terrace.

The main entrance takes you into the living room, which features a bar area, then on to the bedrooms, one on each side of a corridor.

From there, you proceed into the dining room, which is connected to a bathroom, a storage room, a laundry room and a study. The Thai-style kitchen is well equipped, with an outside eating area.

There are aircon units and fans throughout. Windows and doors are made of hardwood with security grilles and mosquito mesh. The floors are tiled and the house is equipped with a telephone line, UBC TV, a water heater, well water, and a septic tank.

This large, substantial property would suit a family and offers plenty of options for a businessperson.

The land has a full Chanote title and the house is furnished. It is priced to sell at 20 million baht.

Contact: Richard Lusted Siam Real Estate: Tel 076-280805; Website: www.siamrealestate.com; email: info@siamrealestate.com

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Construction Update

by Supaporn Sriprom

# Clearing the Woodlands

KOH KAEW: Construction of The Woodlands development on Soi Han Farang is underway, with 15% of the first phase completed.

The 16-unit project, (phase one accounts for seven units), covers 11.2 rai and is expected to cost 50 million baht. Construction began last month, with phase two scheduled to start in January 2006.

Philip Russell, a director of the project's developer, Nine Hills Co Ltd, explained that the aim of The Woodlands is to provide quality homes for the growing number of expat families moving to Phuket.

The primary target families, he said, are those with a parent who regularly commutes to the airport, and whose children need convenient access to Dulwich International College.

All of the homes have two stories, and range in size from three- to five-bedroom. Architectural style is "contemporary Thai". Each home features a foyer and expansive views, and multiple living areas including a pool and a garden. Adding to the



The pointy roofs of The Woodlands' 'contemporary Thai' architecture take shape.

open design are tall hardwood doors and windows that complement the airy atmosphere.

Prices range from 8.9 million baht for the three-bedroom villas, which have 370 square meters of floor space, to 12.9 million for the five-bedroom villas, with 540sqm of floor space.

RAWAI: Sirin Thara, a private housing development on Saiyuan Rd, is on schedule to meet its October completion target, with 25% of the six-unit project now complete.

The developer, Good Build Good Co, began construction of

the small community, located on 3.5 rai of land, in November last year.

The designs available for the homes include a choice of one- or two-story houses and, if required, a four-by-eight-meter swimming pool.

The project's location is expected to be the main attraction for buyers. Nai Harn and Rawai beaches are both within five minutes' drive of the site, as are a wide choice of restaurants.

Prices of the homes start at 10.9 million baht. No units have been sold to date.

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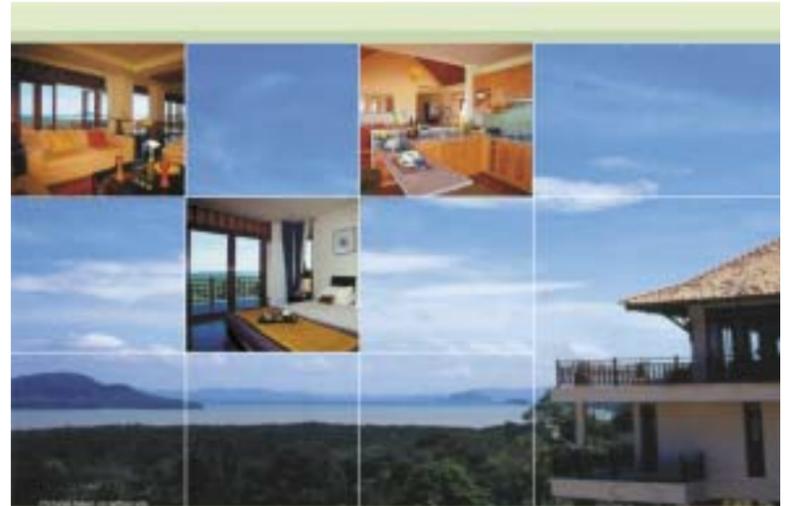
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People of Phuket, unite! Not the most predictable way to start a gardening article, I'll admit, but the time has come to remedy the unfortunate events which are occurring even as we speak.

In this tropical paradise, there's one plant that probably symbolizes tropical regions of the world like nothing else: the coconut palm tree – and that tree is in danger.

Picture any beach worth going to, and what's drooping majestically over it? A coconut palm. Go outside right now – you're probably in Phuket as you read this.

How many can you see? I'll bet it's not as many as there used to be; people are hacking them down like there's no tomorrow.

In the race to develop the island to accommodate more palatial hotels and to construct more holiday homes for visitors, what's the first thing to go? – the trees that have happily sat for years doing nothing but make the island look like a tropical island – precisely why we came here in the first place. There should be a law against it.

Phuket's reason for destroying its best-known representative? Progress.

That's why, from today, I'm inaugurating the **Bloomin' Bert Plant-a-Palm Campaign**. It's not exactly a taxing campaign, or one that involves canvassing neighbors, plastering bumper stickers all over your car, or even donating hard-earned cash to an

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# GO COCO LOCO

## Bert's Gro-a-Coco Guide

1. Go outside.
2. Find a coconut that has fallen from a tree.
3. Shake it and make sure it swishes.
4. Take it home.
5. Put it on a wall or in a corner on the floor – it doesn't really matter.
6. Do absolutely nothing.
7. Wait for a shoot to appear. It will rise naturally skyward.
8. Wait a bit longer, and another shoot will start to grow downward.
9. Put the coconut in a hole in the soil. If you can't be bothered with the exertion of digging a hole, then don't. Just put it on the surface. It'll grow anyway.
10. Water it.
11. Keep watering it (if you can summon the energy).
12. Wait.
13. You've got a coconut tree.
14. Shin up its 30-meter trunk and pluck several ripened coconuts from the base of the leaves. Sorry, I missed a few years between steps 13 and 14, but you get the idea. It really is that easy.



invisible cause. All you have to do is exactly what the campaign says – plant a palm tree. It can be anywhere, as long as it's in Phuket.

It can be in your own garden, the unattended garden next door, or even in the corner of your landlord's garden – I'm sure he won't mind.

Some campaigns demand your time, your energy, or even your money. The **Bloomin' Bert Plant-a-Palm Campaign** requires none of these.

In fact, the vast majority of the time you devote is spent doing nothing.

The hardest thing you'll need to do is walk out of your front gate, bend over (watch your back – you don't want to overdo it) and pick up a coconut.

Those with heart conditions should obviously consult their doctors before undertaking strenuous activity, so perhaps the responsibility of this part of the process might be delegated.

Long-term, your biggest consideration won't be the maintenance of the coconut palm. It pretty much looks after itself.

The main problem will be where the coconuts will fall if they're not regularly harvested.

How many cars, buildings and Phuket residents have sustained serious damage from falling coconuts over the years? A lot.

Full sun? No problem. Sandy soil, or soil lacking the nutrients for most normal plants to grow? No problem. High winds? This will survive a hurricane, and still come up smiling.

Please support the **Bloomin' Bert Plant-a-Palm Campaign**. Phuket will look all the better for it.

**PALM SUNDAY? Nah, let's go for Palm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday AND Sunday.**

Photo by Andrew Casad

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### LAND IN PATONG

for sale. Land in Patong for sale with excellent seaviews. Price from 5.5 million baht/rai (3,450 baht/sqm). Tel: 076-349050, 01-8957159, 09-2911112.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Single-story detached house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 guesthouse, 1 sala and private swimming pool (size 4.5 x 10 m). Only 4.3 million baht, including landscaped garden, and bedroom airconditioner. Please contact 04-057-5756, 06-6822325.

### SPECTACULAR 16 RAI

seaview plot at Layan for sale. Please visit our website at: [www.phuketgazette.net/landlayan](http://www.phuketgazette.net/landlayan). Tel: 01-7371688, 01-3973267.



### FINE VILLAS AND LAND

Attractive Phuket homes and appreciating values are making a big hit for investors wanting to enjoy a tropical lifestyle. Call or email to qualify for some lush living. Contact Tel: 06-5150234 or email us at [royalprestige1776@yahoo.com](mailto:royalprestige1776@yahoo.com)

### CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Sky Inn, 3rd-floor unit, 56 sqm, 1 bedrm, 1 living, 18x18-inch floor tiles, 12x12-inch wall tiles. 4 large windows offering tree top & mountain view. Large bathroom with 2 entrances & wall fan. All newly furnished and just 300 meters walk to beach. 1.3 million baht negotiable. Pls call for details. Tel: 06-0760141.

### LAND AND HOUSE

for sale. 4 small plots of land - totalling 3,348sqm - with Chanote title, 500m from Bangniang Beach and 500m from the main Phuket-Takuapa road. Includes 2-bed, 2-bathroom house with lobby, large kitchen/dining room, garden and sala. Fully furnished European-style comfort. Price for all: 12 million baht. Tel: 01-7978610. Fax: 076-420742. Email: [banfuangfa@hotmail.com](mailto:banfuangfa@hotmail.com)



### HOUSE FOR SALE

in Land and House Park. 193sqm with garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, Thai-European, swimming pool, 1 office room, 1 living room, 7 aircon, garage. Price: 8.5 million baht. Contact Khun Vena at 09-649-8378, 076-238251.

### B6.6 M FOR HOUSES & LAND

Two 2-story houses with seaview, 2 bathrooms, 3 living rooms, kitchen and Chanote title on 3.5 rai in the Chalong Mountains for 6.6 million baht. Call Stefan at Seraphina Co Ltd. Tel: 01-9796011.

### BEAUTIFUL LAND

for sale. Beautiful land for sale in Thalang on 3.38 rai with road, water, electricity and Nor Sor 3 Gor title. 3.8 million baht (only 700 baht/sqm). Tel: 076-349050, 01-8957159, 09-2911112.

### BAYVIEW PATONG

This 5-bed, 3-story property with 2 Jacuzzis and 2 en-suite bathrooms has a great view and is situated behind Baan Yin Dee hotel. Price: 18 million baht. Please contact us for details. Tel: 04-0568122, 07-8815453 or 01-7477520.

### EXCEPTIONAL

seaview awaits. An exceptional seaview from this 18-rai plot with Chanote on a gentle slope with private road access. Located at Laem Sai, 3km north from Mission Hills Golf Course. Priced at 1.5 million baht/rai. Pls contact for more information. Tel: 06-683-3487. Email: [feneffc@hotmail.com](mailto:feneffc@hotmail.com)

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### SMALL SEAVIEW

plot. 1.9 rai - plot in Karon with seaview, road, power and Chanote title available for 7.5 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 09-7298365. Email: [sudaves2002@yahoo.com](mailto:sudaves2002@yahoo.com)

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### SEAVIEW PATONG

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### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE



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### NAI HARN

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[jimmys@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:jimmys@loxinfo.co.th) or 07-2659977

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### OCEAN VIEW PROPERTY

### Land & Property Sale & Rent

076 270 376

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### BEACHFRONT LAND

[lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com](mailto:lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com)  
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### HOUSE FOR SALE

near Tesco-Lotus. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, built-in furniture, western kitchen, granite and wooden floors, fully furnished, 5 aircon, Chanote title. Price 5.3 million baht. Tel: 01-9786099. Email: [hwaimer@dkyachts.com](mailto:hwaimer@dkyachts.com)

### BLUE CANYON

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for ECC (Phuket branch). Applicants must have a strong academic background, hold a degree and a TEFL certificate. All details are available on request. Tel: 076-214498. Fax: 076-214498. Email: [eccpkt@ecc.ac.th](mailto:eccpkt@ecc.ac.th)

**MAID AND TRAINEE**

Hotel maid and management trainee wanted for Tik's Place, Kata Center. Please contact for further information and application. Tel: 07-8810750. Email: [tigercom@phket.loxinfo.co.th](mailto:tigercom@phket.loxinfo.co.th)

**HELP WANTED**

Business owner in Thalang is looking for housekeeper and Thai teacher to instruct a foreign student in the Thai language. Must have own transportation. Please call to apply. Tel: 06-0760141.

**WAITRESS WANTED**

Waitress wanted for popular new cafe in Chalong. Good salary and benefits for the right person. Please call to apply. Tel: 09-8685074 or 09-265996.

**FINANCIAL**

Controller. Asiadebit (Thailand) Co Ltd, Asia's leading Internet payment provider, is currently looking for a Financial Controller to join our dynamic team. The applicant must be fluent in English (spoken and written) and a Thai national. They must have a degree in finance and banking, at least 3 years' experience. Their major responsibilities will involve dealing and co-ordinating with international banks and clients. Please email your CV to apply. Tel: 076-264445. Fax: 076-264447. Email: [info@asiadebit.com](mailto:info@asiadebit.com)

**Employment Wanted**

**PROFESSIONAL**

manager. I have been living in Thailand for 5 years, am married and currently maintaining a home in Kamala. I was recently managing a retail shop at the Marriott Resort Spa. I am looking for a suitable position. I will email or fax my resumé upon request. Tel: 09-9093178. Email: [daniel@kalsul.com](mailto:daniel@kalsul.com)

**FINANCIAL JOB**

wanted. Seeking job in finance by a 29-year-old French woman. I have worked as a Senior Financial Auditor for KPMG in Paris and as a Financial Manager for L'Oreal. I have a solid background in auditing, accounting and finance. I am flexible, rigorous, methodical and team-oriented. Please contact with suitable offers. Tel: 07-2648296. Email: [lcaroline@myway.com](mailto:lcaroline@myway.com)

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Seeking job as Office Manager. Previous experience includes managing office at language school and resort. Qualifications include Diploma in Business Management and Degree in Computer Mangement. Tel: 076-282865 or 06-9402386. Email: [ria10jan@yahoo.com](mailto:ria10jan@yahoo.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### HAND-MADE SILVER JEWELRY

Beautiful and unique, our charming hand-made solid silver necklaces, bracelets and anklets are made by a locally-based designer. These highly desirable items are very reasonably priced between 1,000 and 3,000 baht, and I can visit you in your home or office for personal viewing and selection. Please call for further details. Tel: 09-5043307.

### GENERATOR

from Germany, secondhand, 125KVA, 225KVA, top condition (90%). Please contact for further information at Rothermann 1998 (Thailand). Tel: 02-6185925, 01-6176313. Email: roterman@cscs.com, wattana@rothermannthai.com

### BABY CAR SEAT

Britax-made multi-purpose child's/infant's car safety seat for sale. Please call to discuss. Tel: 076-281109 or 09-8681823.

### REST. FURNISHINGS

Restaurant furnishings for sale. Furniture, fridges, kitchen, bar and TV. Price: 150,000 baht. Call for more details. Tel: 01-5383508. Email: ronald.p@gmx.de

### TODDLER EQUIPMENT

Do you need slightly-used toddler stuff? We might have just what you need. Please contact: 06-2723885.

## Articles Wanted

**MP3 PLAYER & MUSIC** wanted. I am looking for a MP3 player under 2000 baht and some CDs of Britney Spears. Email: philip\_kicker@yahoo.co.uk

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### BOAT FOR SALE

29-foot fiberglass motor yacht with Thai registration. 2 x 280hp Mercruiser engines. Price: 3.5 million baht ono. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

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for sale. Wooden trailer, less than 1 year old, suit 37-foot speed boat of up to 4 tons. Wheels need attention. Best offer can take it away. Tel: 076-254826, 01-8937027. Fax: 076-254827. Or Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com



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### PROPERTY OR LAND

swap. I am looking for an expat or local Thai interested in doing a property, land or even business/investment swap. I'm looking to swap my London property for land or villas near a golf course, any sort of commercial property (i.e. resort, hotel, restaurant), or even some sort of business or land. I'm interested in moving to Phuket in the next 6-12 months, depending on offers. Tel: 852-91629824. Email: jamesage@yahoo.com

### COFFEE SHOP

and restaurant for rent, located in Patong Condo Sky-Inn. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-344530.

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### RESTAURANT 4 SALE

35-seater, fully equipped restaurant in Patong for sale, ready to work. 4 motorcycles for rent and 6 computers with Internet access. Tel: 07-0486254.

### BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale. Two-story, 17-table bar and restaurant in the best location near Robinson's department store. Monthly rent 12,000 baht. No key money. Price 380,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-6931391.

### BUSINESS WANTED

Business required by couple. Could be service (hotel/guesthouse/restaurant) or IT based. Please email for all details. Tel: 44-1706821. Email: steve\_and\_chris@dsl.pipex.com

### VENTURE CAPITAL

wanted. We are looking for one investor or a group of investors for our new 65-bungalow resort. High net yield. Finance plan available. Please call for further information. Tel: 06-6848758. Email: joerg@1nj.de

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for sale. Bar in Karon Center (Soi Happy Bar) Patak Road, Karon Beach. Price: 110,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 06-2744976. Email: grus35@hotmail.com

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### LOCH PALM

Loch Palm Golf Membership available for sale. Price: 300,000 baht plus transfer fee. Tel: 01-895-8701 or 076-292479. Email: davidbrook63@hotmail.com

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Bulletins



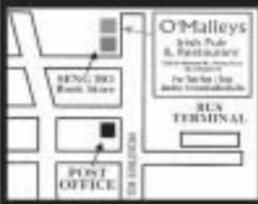
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lady. I am returning to Patong  
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months. Looking for an attrac-  
tive young Thai lady to be my  
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slim and in-shape. Please  
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friends with a girl of similar age.  
I stay in Thailand for 6 months  
every year and would like  
some company during my vis-  
its, especially for traveling  
around the country. I am a  
medical doctor. Let me know  
if you are interested by send-  
ing information about yourself  
and photo by email. Email:  
[feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk)

### SEEKING THAI LADY

for marriage. I'm Mel, a 42-  
year-old male living in London  
and looking for a nice Thai  
lady for marriage. Please  
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1996 Opel Astra 1.6i ecotech automatic hatchback. Good looking. 250,000 baht ono. Tel: 01-9701461. Email: sataphon@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA 45,000 B

Old 4-door Toyota. Runs well, looks good. 45,000 baht. Email: phuketmotors1@hotmail.com

## Pickups

### PICK UP FOR SALE

Mitsubishi 2.5 diesel 2-door with large carrying space. Aircon, radio cassette player. 4 new tires. Excellent runner, no rust, serviced regularly by Mitsubishi dealer. 95,000 baht for quick sale. Tel: 09-8735725. Email: daniel\_mackenzie@hotmail.com

### 4-DR PICK UP

10-yr-old Nissan pickup, good runner, and insured and taxed. Priced to sell at 135,000 baht ono. Tel: 09-8683801. Email: kingrvw80@hotmail.com

### PICKUP FOR SALE

Mazda Fighter Super Cab, 1997, good condition, 220,000 baht. Tel: 01-4009301. Email: bangkok111@hotmail.com

### NISSAN NV

1995, perfect condition, 100,000km, powersteering, stereo, etc. From garage; owner speaks Thai only. Price: 170,000 baht. Tel: 01-4150512, 01-4150512.

### NISSAN FRONTIER

Kingcab. 3-liter zdi, 2 years old, 50,000 kms, excellent condition, silver/bronze color, power steering, max liner, e-windows and central locking. Insurance paid for 1 year. Original pristine appearance: no marks, stickers or homemade alterations. Price new: 555,000 baht. Asking price is 400,000 baht. Tel: 076-420-539, 01-2739279. Email: info@avaloncreations.com

## 4 x 4s

### TOYOTA TIGER

for sale. 1999, green, only 90,000 kms. Offering at 320,000 baht. Tel: 01-797-3401. Email: yoon@courts.co.th

### FORD RANGER 4X4

Only 46,000 kms, one owner and fully serviced since new. No crashes. Taxed and with 1st class insurance until the end of 2004. Excellent condition. 425,000 baht. Tel: 09-1954994. Email: ferguson\_ka@yahoo.co.uk

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

sale/rent. Suzuki Caribbean, 1996, 4WD, power steering, A/C, radio/cassette, aluminum rims, top condition, price 190,000 baht. Rental info on request. Tel: 06-5963850, 01-8919060. Email: rudi542001@yahoo.de

### LANDCRUISER PRADO

1996 model, 3.4-liter, full-time 4WD, 8 seats, automatic gearbox, dark-green color, well maintained, excellent condition with premium sound system. Price: 1.255 million baht ono. Please call/email for more details and inspection. Tel: 01-7874369. Email: pam\_pam1978@hotmail.com

## Motorbikes

### HONDA WAVES FOR SALE

New Honda Waves and Yamaha scooters for sale. Electric start, many models, good condition. Tel: 01-3670991, 01-3960223.

### HONDA VFR 750F

Honda VFR 750F Sport touring bike. Must be seen. Book and plates 85,000 baht. Tel: 01-4056588.

### HONDA WAVE 125

in red for sale. Electric starter, good condition, not many km, only 36,000 baht. Tel: 07-2681907. Email: ronald.p@gmx.de

### 2002 MOTORBIKES

For quick sale. You won't find a better deal on the Island. Great bikes. 2002 Kawasaki Kazi 112: 19,900 baht. Available soon: 2002 Kawasaki Kazi 112 w/electric start. Only 22,900 baht. This bike is often priced at 26,000 baht, depending on the condition. Both bikes are taken in and serviced by Kawasaki mechanics before sale. Email: kamerin\_williams@yahoo.com

### HONDA PHANTOM

Black, many accessories, 150cc, 37hp. Only 41,000 baht. Tel: 01-6931300.

### JRD STORM

for sale. Blue, one year old, 2000 km only 41,000 baht. Tel: 01-6931300.

### HONDA STEED 400

for sale. Very low mileage, just over 5,000 kms. Excellent condition. Great looking bike, special edition. Fixed price at 170,000 baht. Tel: 06-689-4883. Email: frank@phket.lloxinfo.co.th

### YAMAHA FRESH

for sale. 2½-year-old Yamaha Fresh with electric start and 16,000km. Only 18,900 baht for quick sale. Tel: 01-691-2881.

### SCOOTER FOR SALE

Green JRD Typhoon 4-stroke, automatic. With ABS disc brakes & box. Only 1 month old. Very good condition. Urgent sale at 35,000 baht. (New price: 47,000 baht.) Tel: 076-321328, 01-5390599. Email: enio99@hotmail.com

### HONDA DASH

125cc 2-stroke. Honda Nova Dash (1997) 2-stroke 125cc, 6-speed manual. Has rear storage box. Bought for 35,000 baht 4 months ago, will sell for 22,000 baht. Tel: 07-2641004.

### MOTORBIKES

Ready for quick sale. New and slightly used ones. 21,000-39,000 baht. 3-year warranty available on a couple of them. Tel: 01-2715049. Email: mista\_p\_williams@yahoo.com

### 1974 HONDA JPX

Classic 125cc bike with 8,000 bahts' worth of new parts (piston head, sleeve, clutch, wheel, tires, battery, cables, CDI). Solid running condition. Asking 13,000 baht, firm. Email: andrewxpham@yahoo.com

## Others

### RV TRAILERS

for sale by owner. Great condition. Made in USA. 350,000 baht each or 3 for 800,000. Serious inquiries only. Email: cpa\_mcse@hotmail.com

## Rentals

### A1 CAR RENTALS

- Isuzu Highlander, auto, 4-door, ABS, air bags, new: 28,000 baht/month.
- Toyota Altis 1800G, auto, latest model: 28,000 baht/month.
- Toyota Vios, auto, new: 22,000 baht/month.
- Toyota Soluna: 15,000 baht/month.

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### NEW CARS 4 RENT

Honda City, Toyota Altis, Nissan Neo. Brand new 2004 models. All in good condition, including insurance, contact for details. Tel: 01-8915296. Email: jakkyapril@yahoo.com

## Wanted

### TOYOTA TIGER

wanted. I would like to buy a nearly-new Toyota Tiger 4WD, 3L Turbo pick-up. Will pay cash. Tel: 076-383080, 06-9401860. Fax: 076-381-934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th

### CAR WANTED

for private rent. A Visiting family requires a reliable, modern car for a three-month rental from May to August. We are experienced drivers. Full insurance required. Please advise model details and rental charges by email to. Email: gordonandjean@xtra.co.nz



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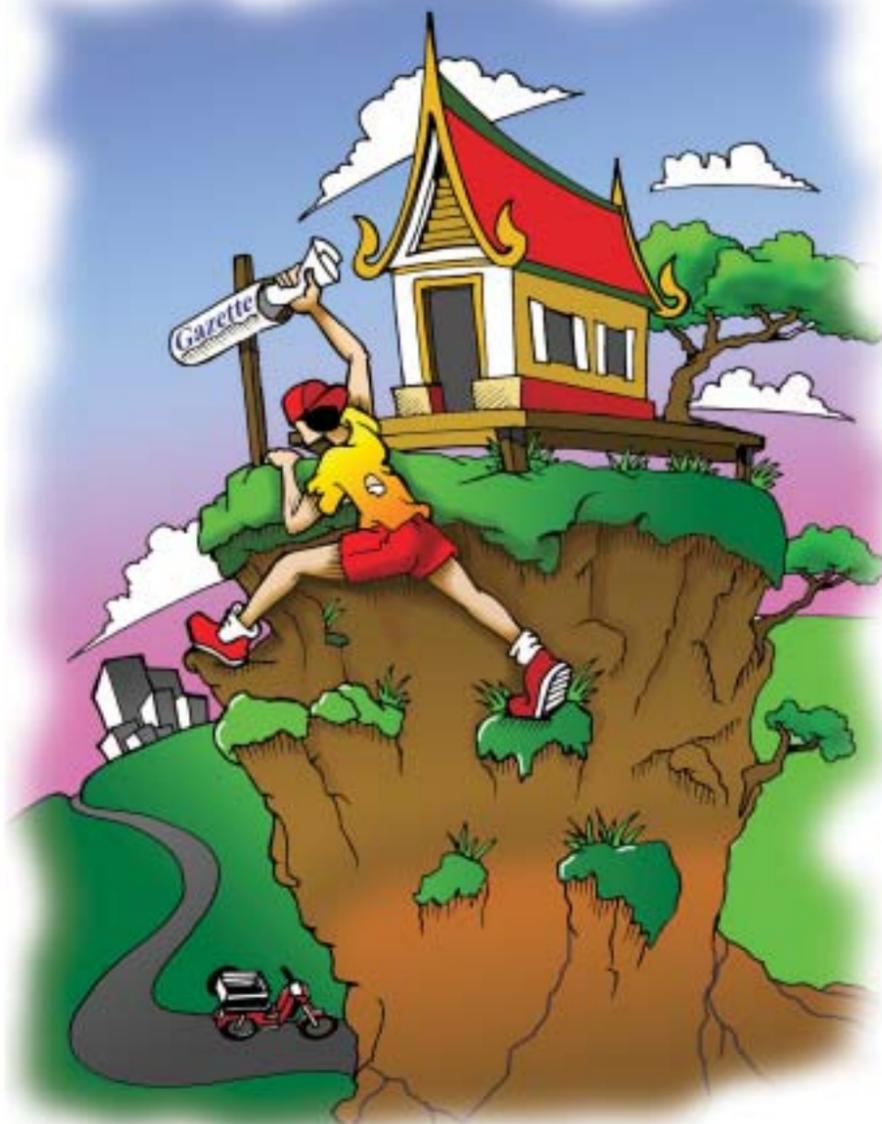
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