Phuket police on high alert

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has ordered a heightening of security for all government buildings and tourist areas in Phuket following the April 29 killings in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, and warnings by a Muslim separatist group that foreigners should stay away from the South and neighboring provinces.

Phuket’s Provincial Police Commander, Maj Gen Veerayuth Sittimalic, said “We have seen the trouble in the South and will not be careless when it comes to people’s safety.” He said that security had already been beefed up at places such as the airport and the oil storage depot on Cape Panwa, and more police had been moved to the night shift.

In addition to extra guards at public places, Gov Udomsak also said that police will be posted at all government offices around the island, and office lights will be left on throughout the night. “In the dark, it is easy to have trouble,” he explained.

The decision to increase security coincided with a warning issued by the United Front for the Independence of Pattani (Bersatu) to “Dear People of the South and the neighbour provinces (Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Pattalung).” The statement concluded starkly, “Pattani people are not responsible for anything that happens to you after this warning.”

Bersatu was formed in 1989 to unite the splinter separatist groups in the Thai-Malaysian border area. Leaders from the various terrorist groups, including the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the Mujahadeen Pattani, met in 1989 to unite the splinter separatist groups in the Thai-Malaysian border area. Leaders from the various terrorist groups, including the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the Mujahadeen Pattani, met with the aim of “gathering fighters for Pattani”.

The threat to people and interests in areas outside the five predominantly-Muslim provinces in Thailand (Satun, Pattani, Songkhla, Yala and Narathiwat) appears to be the first open declaration of hostile intent toward a wider population, including foreigners.

Whether Bersatu genuinely intends to launch attacks in other parts of Thailand, or whether it is simply using the threat of violence to rattle tourist markets and thereby damage the Thai economy, is unknown.

The warning came after more than 100 police, dismissed by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra as “teenagers who were given drugs and cash”, were killed by Thai security forces in Pattani. At least 10 were killed when police stormed a mosque.

Although some within the ranks of the Thai authorities resolutely deny that the violence was carried out by separatists. Continued on page 2

Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura ordered a state of heightened security for the island after the April 28 violence in the South.

Police team transferred for probe misconduct

THALANG: The entire team of police officers investigating the double murder of Prasert and Thavorn Trairat have been transferred after an internal probe into their conduct by officers from Provincial Police regional headquarters in Surat Thani.

K. Prasert and K. Thavorn, the parents of Thepkrasatthi Mayor Prasong Trairat, were gunned down in their shophouse home on May 5 last year.

Pol Col Ronapong Sai-kaew, Superintendent of Investigation for Provincial Police Region 8, which includes Phuket, told the Gazette that the probe was launched after he received complaints from three of the four people charged in the case.

Col Ronapong said he had received a complaint from Wipa Jantong and her husband Sompong Jantong, who were charged with conspiracy to murder K. Prasert and K. Thavorn. They were later released on bail and are currently on trial.

In their complaint, they appealed for Region 8 police to investigate the police officers involved in the murder investigation.

Suchart Maneusawan, who had confessed to playing a role in the murder, also filed a complaint against the investigating officers, Col Ronapong said, for breaking one of his ribs.

Suchart admitted identifying the victims for the alleged gunman, whom he identified as Pol Sgt Maj Chalaw Ramduang.

Col Ronapong said that, as a result of the investigation into the complaints, all officers in... Continued on page 2
Island security tightened following violence in South

From Page 1
Singapore’s Straits Times quoted Thailand’s Deputy Director of the National Security Command, General Panlop Pimnanee, as saying “It is absolutely certain that they are separatists. They were trained as guerrillas for separatist actions by BRN (the Barisan Revolusi Nasional) and PULO.”

Australia was quick to advise its nationals to “exercise caution” during their time in Thailand, particularly in areas frequented by tourists and expatriates.

The travel advisory from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs stated, “We continue to receive reports that terrorist elements in the region are planning attacks.”

Foreign ministries of other countries updated their travel advisories to offer similar warnings, though none so far have mentioned specific tourist resorts by name. The effect on the tourism industry of the latest incidents and of Beruva’s warning has yet to be assessed. However, AFP quoted Napasorn Kokai, the Tourism Authority of Thailand’s No 2 official in Phuket, as saying tourism “will be affected if the unrest is not over soon.”

“We are concerned that if the unrest continues it will finally affect Phuket and Krabi,” she was quoted as saying.

There are serious doubts in many quarters in Phuket about the government’s ability to restore peace in the South. In particular, critics have targeted the national security forces’ perceived heavy-handedness and PM Thaksin’s apparent continuing belief that he can solve highly complex problems with simplistic “just do it” policies.

PHUKET: Three first-rate British comedians – Tim Clark, Pierre Hollins and John Fothergill – will perform at the Watermark Bar Restaurant, at the Boat Lagoon, on May 26. Heading the trio will be host Tim Clark, of whom The Guardian newspaper said, “Comedians are the unsung heroes of stand up comedy. The current master of this underrated art is Tim Clark.”

Clark regularly comperes at the Comedy Store and Jongleurs venues in the UK, adding to his long career as a professional comedian. He hosted BBC game show Give Us A Clue, and has worked on UK live radio, including spots with Danny Baker on Radio 5’s Morning Edition and Radio 1’s Loose Talk. He was also a contributor on BBC 2’s Fantasy Football.

John Fothergill has played sell-out performances throughout the UK and at the Edinburgh Fringe comedy festival. Britain’s The Sun newspaper described him as “a top comedy turn and a right funny bloke”, The Guardian described his act as “hilarious stories delivered superbly”. Pierre Hollins, who may be the world’s only player of the electric squash racket, was described by The Irish Times as “soon to be huge”, while The Guardian rated him as a “must see”.

The trio will be in Thailand as part of a tour of Asia, and will perform at the The Punchline Comedy Club in Bangkok on May 26-27.

The Phuket event has been organized by Stuart Bird of the Watermark and Gerard Cornelle from SEA Entertainment, and is sponsored by the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, the Maan Tawan property development and Phil Russell of hotel-travel-asia.com. More top-rate comedians are expected to perform at the Watermark in September and November.

The May 26 show will start at 9 pm, following a buffet dinner from 6:30 pm-8 pm. Tickets are 2,500 baht, including dinner and music provided by a live band afterwards. Tickets bought before May 14 cost 2,250 baht. For more information contact the Watermark at Tel: 076-239730 or send email to: info@watermarkphuket.com, or visit www.watermarkphuket.com.

Top comedy trio to play Phuket

Police team transferred

From page 1
involved in the double murder investigation. They have been or- dered to move to other prov- inces, “Col Ronapong said.

“We are concerned that if the unrest continues it will finally affect Phuket and Krabi,” she was quoted as saying.

There are serious doubts in many quarters in Phuket about the government’s ability to restore peace in the South. In particular, critics have targeted the national security forces’ perceived heavy-handedness and PM Thaksin’s apparent continuing belief that he can solve highly complex problems with simplistic “just do it” policies.

Police team transferred

PHUKET: Police team transferred Sikow District Police in Trang, Region 8, to other provinces.

Sikow District Police in Trang, Region 8, can’t be involved in it anymore, “Col Ronapong said.

However, he would not say when the order was issued or where they had been posted.

“People already know the truth – that a police officer was the real kingpin who hired the gunman,” Col Ronapong said.

“The case has now been sent to the courts, so we [Police Region 8] can’t be involved in it anymore,” he added.

Col Ronapong also confirmed that the alleged gunman, Sgt Maj Chalaw, formerly of the Sikow District Police in Trang, is still being sought by police.

For more information about the day’s activities, call the PPHO at Tel: 076-211330, ext 201.

Princess to sing in ‘To Be No 1’ concert

PHUKET: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya will visit Phuket on May 18 to preside over a “To Be Number One” campaign event. Her Royal Highness will also sing at a concert in the evening.

The campaign, devised by the Princess as a way to get young people to excel in sports, music and other activities, is being supported by provincial authorities throughout the country.

Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit yesterday said that Phuket had received four out of seven Best Province awards in the To Be Number One Contest for Region 11, which groups Chumphon, Ranong, Phuket, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani, Phang Nga and Krabi.

Princess Ubol Ratana, best province, best village (Baan Bang Ku in Koh Kaew), best entertainment business (Phuket Fantasea) and best teenage discussion forum.

Niran said that the Phuket provincial government had earlier organized soccer and bowling tournaments. The winners of those events will receive shields from Her Royal Highness.

Princess Ubol Ratana will unveil a plaque at the Public Health Office at Baan Bang Ku during a ceremony beginning around 5:45 pm, and give an inspirational speech to teenagers and former drug addicts.

Meanwhile, the winners of the four Region 11 awards will have their work showcased at Sapthi Hin in a nine-hour extravaganza that will start at 1 pm and will include singing and dancing lessons, and takrov lessons by members of the Thai national team.

In the evening, starting at 4 pm, music stars from recording company Grammy will take to the stage for a free six-hour concert. The highlight of the concert will be a performance of seven or eight songs by Her Royal Highness, at around 7:30 pm.

The Phuket provincial government invites everyone attending the events to wear To Be Number One T-shirts, which can be bought from the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) at prices ranging from 100 to 150 baht, depending on the style chosen.

For more information about the day’s activities, call the PPHO at Tel: 076-211330, ext 201.

Top comedy trio to play Phuket

PHUKET: Three first-rate British comedians – Tim Clark, Pierre Hollins and John Fothergill – will perform at the Watermark Bar Restaurant, at the Boat Lagoon, on May 26.

Heading the trio will be host Tim Clark, of whom The Guardian newspaper said, “Comedians are the unsung heroes of stand up comedy. The current master of this underrated art is Tim Clark.”

Clark regularly comperes at the Comedy Store and Jongleurs venues in the UK, adding to his long career as a professional comedian. He hosted BBC game show Give Us A Clue, and has worked on UK live radio, including spots with Danny Baker on Radio 5’s Morning Edition and Radio 1’s Loose Talk. He was also a contributor on BBC 2’s Fantasy Football.

John Fothergill has played sell-out performances throughout the UK and at the Edinburgh Fringe comedy festival. Britain’s The Sun newspaper described him as “a top comedy turn and a right funny bloke”, The Guardian described his act as “hilarious stories delivered superbly”. Pierre Hollins, who may be the world’s only player of the electric squash racket, was described by The Irish Times as “soon to be huge”, while The Guardian rated him as a “must see”.

The trio will be in Thailand as part of a tour of Asia, and will perform at the The Punchline Comedy Club in Bangkok on May 26-27.

The Phuket event has been organized by Stuart Bird of the Watermark and Gerard Cornelle from SEA Entertainment, and is sponsored by the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, the Maan Tawan property development and Phil Russell of hotel-travel-asia.com. More top-rate comedians are expected to perform at the Watermark in September and November.

The May 26 show will start at 9 pm, following a buffet dinner from 6:30 pm-8 pm. Tickets are 2,500 baht, including dinner and music provided by a live band afterwards. Tickets bought before May 14 cost 2,250 baht. For more information contact the Watermark at Tel: 076-239730 or send email to: info@watermarkphuket.com, or visit www.watermarkphuket.com.

Unusual school of fish catches the attention of motorists on superhighway

2 PHUKET GAZETTE

Give Us A Clue, and has worked
Probe into ‘illegal’ resort at Nai Harn

NAI HARN: Owners of a resort built in Nai Harn, near Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, will likely be ordered to dismantle it by June 10.

The order is expected to be issued after government officers found that no permission had been given for the resort’s construction. Vice-Governor Pongpow Kethong told the Gazette on May 3.

V.Gov Pongpaw said he had visited the site on April 30 and concluded that the resort – which has no name – had been built without the permission of the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor). More than 20 bungalows in the resort have already been completed.

“The issue of who owns the land [the resort is being built on] is currently in court,” he said, declining to name the parties involved in the court case. “In any case there are no papers for this land, so that means no one owns it.”

He explained that Rawai OrBorTor has already ordered the developer to cease construction and will soon order the demolition of the buildings. If the developer does not dismantle the resort then the OrBorTor itself will do so.

The Chief of the Phuket Provincial Forestry Office (PPFO), Tongchai Savapong, told the Gazette that his officers are checking whether the land belongs to the PPFO or to the Phuket Agricultural Land Reform Office (PALRO – the office responsible for SorPor Kor 4-01 titles) and answers are expected within the week.

If the resort is found to have been built on land belonging to the PPFO, the developers will be prosecuted for encroachment, he said.

PALRO Chief Teerawut Tawornsapapong said, “If we find the land belongs to the PALRO, that means the developer can’t build on it because it is earmarked for agricultural use only.”

Sang Chanalert, former village headman of Rawai Moo 1, said, “Before, there was just a hut on the land. They erected a long screen around the site to hide it. When I tried to walk into the area some people came and told me to leave.”

“Rawai OrBorTor told the developer to cease construction on March 26. So how come the construction continued to the point where the resort is almost finished?”

“If we can’t preserve the forest in Nai Harn, soon there will be none left,” he added.

– Gategaeo Phetsawang

Land office murder probe faltering

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: A year after the assassination of Pongtorn Hiranya-burana – the Deputy Chief of the Phuket Land Office – ordered to investigate suspect land titles – the trail leading to his killers has still without a President. The Gazette understands that the separate election of Ananchaleekul as Chairman.

At the inaugural session of the newly-elected body on April 29, Chaivichit Dattvatkanee was elected deputy chairman and Wichaphong Kantarat, second deputy chairman. All three are Democrat Party members.

The 24-member body, dominated by its 19 Democrats, was elected in polling on March 14. The election results were approved by the Central Election Committee (CEC) in Bangkok, and officially announced in Phuket on April 26.

New OrBorJor elects chairman and deputies

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization OrBorJor has elected Hutt Kat-anachaleekul as Chairman.

However, the chamber is still without a President. The Gazette understands that the separate election of Ananchaleekul as Chairman of an OrBorJor President has been confirmed by the Central Election Committee (CEC) in Bangkok, but that the CEC is still considering whether users should pay a fee, and which policy matters were discussed.

– Anongnat Sarpisut

Moodies sign goes up in smoke

PATONG: The illuminated sign overhanging the entrance to Soi Moodies was set on fire, on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pr Rd, burst into flames on the night of Saturday, May 8.

The sign caught fire at about 10 pm. Phuket Vice-Governor Pongpow Kethong, who was dining directly underneath, called the fire department.

Restaurant Manager Banai Ngamri said the Gazette, “They arrived about 10 minutes later, and put the fire out in about five minutes. They were very good.”

K. Banai estimated the damage at about 50,000 baht, plus 20,000 baht in loss of earnings on the night. No one was injured.

“The fire started from old wiring in the sign,” he said. “We will check all wiring to make sure that this does not happen again.”

One dead, one critical after karaoke microphone row

THALANG: One man was stabbed to death and another remains in a critical condition following an argument over whose turn it was to use the microphone at the Kon Suay (Beautiful People) karaoke bar and restaurant in Cherng Talay around 1 am on May 3.

Police arrested the alleged killer, 24-year-old Veerasak Nantasim, from Surat Thani, some three hours later at his home at 24/8 Moo 6 in Cherng Talay. A knife was recovered during the arrest.

The dead man was named as 18-year-old Bundit “Koh” Kulabuth. He died en route to Phuket Hospital from five stab wounds to his back. The other victim, Sanchai “Jek” Benjakarn, 19, remains in the intensive care unit at the hospital.

Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewprom, Deputy Superintendent of Cherng Talay Police Station, told the Gazette that witnesses in the karaoke reported that an argument broke out between the victims and their alleged attacker over use of the microphone.

“Veerasak confessed he did it because he was drunk,” Col Suwat told the Gazette. “He has been charged with one count of murder and one of attempted murder.”

B16.5m for beach restrooms

PHUKET: The provincial government has announced that it will spend 16.5 million baht on building public restrooms at the most popular tourist beaches on the island.

Taweeworn, an engineer at the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office (PWTCPO), told the Gazette, “In each restroom there will be a cubic for handicapped people, three showers and seven toilets and six sinks.”

He explained that one facility apiece will be built at Rawai, Nai Harn, Patong, Kamala, Kharon, Bang Tao, and Nai Yang beaches, while Kata and Surin beaches will have two each.

“The responsibility for management and maintenance will rest with the local authorities. They will also decide whether users should pay a fee,” he said.

The restrooms are expected to be in use by September 30.

PHUKET: Phuket Air has slashed its economy class fares on flights between Phuket and Bangkok, and Krabi and Bangkok. One-way fares are now 1,500 baht and round-trip fares are 3,000 baht. Previously, best return fares were 4,350 baht for Krabi and 3,950 baht for Phuket.

For more information contact Phuket Air at Tel: 076-220665 or 076-220184-7.

PHUKET: The provincial government has announced that it will spend 16.5 million baht on building public restrooms at the most popular tourist beaches on the island.

Taweeworn, an engineer at the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office (PWTCPO), told the Gazette, “In each restroom there will be a cubic for handicapped people, three showers and seven toilets and six sinks.”

He explained that one facility apiece will be built at Rawai, Nai Harn, Patong, Kamala, Karon, Bang Tao, and Nai Yang beaches, while Kata and Surin beaches will have two each.

“The responsibility for management and maintenance will rest with the local authorities. They will also decide whether users should pay a fee,” he said.

The restrooms are expected to be in use by September 30.

PHUKET: Phuket Air has slashed its economy class fares on flights between Phuket and Bangkok, and Krabi and Bangkok. One-way fares are now 1,500 baht and round-trip fares are 3,000 baht. Previously, best return fares were 4,350 baht for Krabi and 3,950 baht for Phuket.

For more information contact Phuket Air at Tel: 076-220665 or 076-220184-7.

PHUKET Air cuts fares

PHUKET: Phuket Air has slashed its economy class fares on flights between Phuket and Bangkok, and Krabi and Bangkok. One-way fares are now 1,500 baht and round-trip fares are 3,000 baht. Previously, best return fares were 4,350 baht for Krabi and 3,950 baht for Phuket.

For more information contact Phuket Air at Tel: 076-220665 or 076-220184-7.

PHUKET: The provincial government has announced that it will spend 16.5 million baht on building public restrooms at the most popular tourist beaches on the island.

Taweeworn, an engineer at the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office (PWTCPO), told the Gazette, “In each restroom there will be a cubic for handicapped people, three showers and seven toilets and six sinks.”

He explained that one facility apiece will be built at Rawai, Nai Harn, Patong, Kamala, Karon, Bang Tao, and Nai Yang beaches, while Kata and Surin beaches will have two each.

“The responsibility for management and maintenance will rest with the local authorities. They will also decide whether users should pay a fee,” he said.

The restrooms are expected to be in use by September 30.

PHUKET: Phuket Air has slashed its economy class fares on flights between Phuket and Bangkok, and Krabi and Bangkok. One-way fares are now 1,500 baht and round-trip fares are 3,000 baht. Previously, best return fares were 4,350 baht for Krabi and 3,950 baht for Phuket.

For more information contact Phuket Air at Tel: 076-220665 or 076-220184-7.

PHUKET: The provincial government has announced that it will spend 16.5 million baht on building public restrooms at the most popular tourist beaches on the island.

Taweeworn, an engineer at the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office (PWTCPO), told the Gazette, “In each restroom there will be a cubic for handicapped people, three showers and seven toilets and six sinks.”

He explained that one facility apiece will be built at Rawai, Nai Harn, Patong, Kamala, Karon, Bang Tao, and Nai Yang beaches, while Kata and Surin beaches will have two each.

“The responsibility for management and maintenance will rest with the local authorities. They will also decide whether users should pay a fee,” he said.

The restrooms are expected to be in use by September 30.

PHUKET: Phuket Air has slashed its economy class fares on flights between Phuket and Bangkok, and Krabi and Bangkok. One-way fares are now 1,500 baht and round-trip fares are 3,000 baht. Previously, best return fares were 4,350 baht for Krabi and 3,950 baht for Phuket.

For more information contact Phuket Air at Tel: 076-220665 or 076-220184-7.
**Paper weight**

KHON KAEN: Guns, knives, poison, bombs – and recycled paper. Until now, one of these had nothing in common with the others.

However, the next gun fanatic T-shirt you might read, “Guns don’t kill people. Recycled paper kills people.”

Yes, recycled paper just became a lethal commodity, after a security guard at a recycling business in Khon Kaen was found suffocated under 2,000 tons of recycled paper recently.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the security guard, Sommai Wongsitsehp, 46, who worked at Khon Kaen Wongpanit Co in Muang District, went to sleep on a stack of paper bundles weighing up to 800kg each, Pol Capt Thertoon Soisukhapanan said.

Mechanic Prajua Matpang, 36, who discovered the body, said he and about 10 other employees arrived for work at 8 am and found heaps of paper on the floor.

He noticed one of Sommai’s legs after two bundles of paper were picked up by a fork lift truck.

Sommai’s wife, Jonthong Wongsitsehp, said she went to the factory to look for her husband at 7am after he did not return home as usual at 6:15 am.

“My husband had been working at the recycling plant for a month. He was a good man and served in the military as a draftee. He was not supposed to have been asleep on duty,” she said.

Dr Thitichai Wiangsimma, of Srinakarin University Hospital, said death occurred six hours before the body was discovered and was caused by suffocation.

**Queer News**

Srisaket: Villagers in Khukan village – the birth of a two-headed cow.

Pornthip Wiwatikul, owner Prasit Sukkrawan on April 4, but died soon afterward.

The calf was born alive to Pol Sommai Wongsithep, 46, who found suffocated under 2,000 bricks and others praying for the winning numbers in the upcoming lottery draw.

Prasit Sukkrawan on April 4, but died soon afterward.

The calf was born alive to Pol Sommai Wongsithep, 46, who found suffocated under 2,000 bricks and others praying for the winning numbers in the upcoming lottery draw.

Prasit Sukkrawan on April 4, but died soon afterward.

The calf was born alive to Pol Sommai Wongsithep, 46, who found suffocated under 2,000 bricks and others praying for the winning numbers in the upcoming lottery draw.
made to the Director General of the Highways Department in Bangkok for an east-west overpass to be built at the Dara Samut School intersection.

He was unsure whether funding will be granted, but in any case such a project is a long way off; first the bypass road widening must be completed so that it’s impact can be assessed, and then the overpass would be subject to a survey and a feasibility study before any decision could be made on whether to build it.

No plans seem likely to be made within three years, if at all, for this project to aid the movement of traffic between Phuket City and Patong.

In any case, there must be a major question mark over the capacity of the Kathu-bound section of Wichit Songkram Rd to deal with the larger volume of traffic that would inevitably follow the building of an overpass across the bypass road.

It looks likely that commuters and tourists will have to endure difficulty in finding entrances to and from businesses, avoiding construction vehicles and workers, and the irritation of contra-flow systems, leading to the frustration of driving straight past one’s intended destination, and on the wrong side of the road.

Do the companies involved in building these mega-projects take any responsibility for traffic control? Experience has shown most road users in Phuket that the Big C and Tesco-Lotus superstores, while keen to have as many customers as possible, leave traffic control to good luck and the local government.

Security guards occasionally venture out onto the highway to slow down traffic to allow customers to depart. In most cases, however, one must look for a gap, or proceed to block the road with the vehicle and force oncoming traffic to stop.

In their favor, Big C did construct a footbridge across the bypass road, although as most shoppers come by car or motorcycle, the value of the bridge is negligible. Following Big C’s lead, Central Festival will build a footbridge and bus stop.

At an International Business Association of Phuket meeting last year, a spokesperson for Big C read a prepared statement suggesting that the feasibility of an overpass or underpass serving both Big C and Central Festival was being considered.

Like Phuket City, Patong has a mega-project in the making. Jungceylon, in the center of town, will, it is hoped, bring tourists and shoppers by the coach-and-car-load. Anyone familiar with the roads around Patong during the high season can attest to the fact that it hardly works now.

K. Wanchai has inspected the roads in and around Patong, and his assessment is bleak. “We cannot build more roads through Patong – nor can we widen the existing ones – because there are so many people and businesses there,” he said.

“The town planners didn’t do a very good job of supporting the tourism industry in the first place, at least in terms of road building.

“All we can do for Patong is to improve the quality of the roads and do our best to smooth the traffic flow. It’s too difficult to improve it now.”

Just reaching Patong can be a problem. Going “over the hill” is a harrowing business involving near-hairpin bends, first-gear driving, heavy trucks and delays.

Talk of a tunnel through to Patong emerges every so often. In 2001, Sweden’s Skanska Teknik Co Ltd received 3 million baht to conduct a “pre-feasibility study” of the idea. Three years on, however, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has scotched the idea of a Patong tunnel, perhaps permanently.

“A tunnel is a fanciful idea. It’s not feasible and we will not go ahead with it,” Gov Udomsak told the Gazette.

“Instead, I want the Department of State Highways to make the road over the hill less steep. I have sent a paper to them on this matter,” he continued.

Making the hills around Patong less hilly may be a Herculean task but Gov Udomsak is positive that it will reduce the number of accidents and allow traffic to flow more smoothly.

K. Wanchai agreed with Gov Udomsak on the cost-to-benefit ratio of a tunnel, although he did not venture an opinion on a scheme to make the roads less steep. More lanes, he said, are planned for the Phuket City-Patong route.

The PPHO will concentrate its efforts on renewing the surface of a number of Phuket’s roads, adding more lighting, and beautifying the median strip on Thepkrasattri Rd.

“We aim to have a full 40 kilometers of plants along the road,” K. Wanchai said. “We are discussing this project with the [Provincial Administration Organization] now.”

The long-term future of Phuket rests on many issues and transport is just one of them. As the economy of Phuket appears to be flourishing with little restraint, and more people prosperous, greater numbers of vehicles will appear on the roads.

There is one advantage to this, perhaps, the more traffic jams there are, the more slowly the traffic will move. This “enforced” speed limit may just keep the road accident statistics down.
Often-overlooked Koh Sireh, on the eastern side of Phuket City, is home to several poor communities, including shanty villages of Burmese laborers. For many of them, health care is beyond reach and the conditions they live in promote concern about the spread of disease.

Such concern has resulted in the opening of the Rassada Public Health Care Center in Moo Baan Keha, where World Vision Foundation of Thailand members and Burmese volunteers are working to raise awareness of infectious diseases, with particular focus on HIV/Aids.

Aroonsak Whongjit, the World Vision project coordinator at the center, explained, “It is much more difficult for them to get medical services than it is for Thai people. They are treated as insignificant, and some of them choose not to seek medical treatment, particularly the unregistered foreign workers.

“If they have an infectious disease, this can put the whole community at risk,” he said.

More than 10,000 Burmese are currently registered as living in Phuket, said K. Aroonsak, and he expects that number to grow. “More and more Burmese people are working here, both legally and illegally. Most of them are teenagers. Most are single and enjoy sexual intercourse, and could be unknowing carriers of HIV and other serious diseases,” he said.

Built on two rai, the center has two diagnosis rooms and a consultation room, but there are no facilities for overnight stays and patients diagnosed as having serious diseases are transferred to hospitals with better facilities. “We are just like any ordinary health center. We have to coordinate with the hospitals for immediate assistance in an emergency,” said K. Aroonsak.

While two other World Vision staff work with K. Aroonsak at the center, the rest are Burmese volunteers, including Dr. Maung Maung Soe. “I worked in Burma for seven years but then discovered that Thailand’s thousands of Burmese laborers were living in poverty. So I just wanted to give them something better,” he told the Gazette.

“I’ve worked at more than 100 projects like this in Thailand, and doing this at least protects Burmese and other people from fatal diseases,” he added.

Since the clinic opened on September 30 last year, more than 500 villagers have visited it. A dozen or so have been diagnosed as having HIV or Aids. These patients are given counseling, asked if they want to return home, and receive other care. In some circumstances, patients are given food, medicine and even a place to live.

“For patients with Aids who want to return to their home country, the clinic will contact the Immigration office, help them to complete the necessary paperwork, and help with travel costs,” K. Aroonsak said.

Aids sufferers who do not want to go home are cared for by volunteers. However, budget constraints have forced the clinic to limit the care budget to no more than 2,500 baht a person a month.

Although K. Aroonsak is deeply grateful for the eight million baht in donations from the governments of Japan, Australia, Britain, the US and Hong Kong that made the clinic a reality, he said his main challenge is still a shortage of funds.

Other major obstacles, he said, are a shortage of staff and under-trained volunteers. “All those things are equally significant and we have much more to do,” he said.

One of the most economical strategies used by the center is health education, using comic books, video tapes, brochures and posters, most in Burmese language, and volunteers to explain HIV and Aids to villagers. “We also have condoms at just two baht a piece,” K. Aroonsak told the Gazette.

More volunteers are required to help with the education program, he added. “The most important criterion is the ability to speak Burmese and Thai,” he said. Medical experience is not necessary. Volunteers are taught the basic methods of preventing disease from spreading before they teach it to others.

Anyone interested in joining the project should call the Rassada Public Health Care Center at Tel: 076-252749.

---

Caring for people at the bottom of the barrel: Dr. Maung Maung Soe (left) and World Vision project coordinator Aroonsak Whongjit.
Tourist car ban on Koh Chang

Koh Chang is to be ruled off-limits to vehicles from the mainland from 2007, according to the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

Environment Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi said the plan would allow only local vehicles to traverse the tourist island in Trat province. He said no more roads would be built on the island under the Koh Chang Development Plan, and the authorities were hoping to encourage people to use boats as their main means of transport.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has floated a plan to develop the island into an international tourist destination on a par with Phuket.

Tourism Minister Sonthaya Kunplome said that about five billion baht would be spent on infrastructure projects on the island, as well as on marketing the island as a tourist attraction.

“We will urgently tackle the problems of garbage and limited water resources there,” he said.

K. Sonthaya said the authorities would refrain from building a reservoir on the island, citing environmental concerns.

Land prices on Koh Chang have been increasing, and a row could now fetch as much as 10 million baht.

To accommodate the airport expansion, 28 privately owned buildings and some local government offices would have to be moved.

A final decision on the plan is expected in about five months.

Sichon Mai is a district in Chiang Mai's Mae Hia district opposite the 2.1-billion-baht project to expand Chiang Mai International Airport in their district.

The airport’s expansion, set for completion in 2007, will enable the airport to carry 60 flights daily. The newspaper survey is not the only indication of widespread opposition to the plan. A public hearing conducted by Airports of Thailand Plc mirrored the newspaper’s results.

Six-year-old twins are ‘married’ to each other in Samut Sakhon in a traditional Mon ceremony. The ritual is based on the belief that the ceremony will bring improved health to the children, who were both sickly in their early years.

To accommodate the airport expansion, 28 privately owned buildings and some local government offices would have to be moved.

A final decision on the plan is expected in about five months.

Green gasoline: A government project to distribute tax-free diesel fuel to fishing boats working 20-40 kilometers offshore is a hit, selling 105.4 million liters of diesel fuel since its inception in April 2000. The project was established to put an end to the off-shore sale of fuel smuggled in from neighbouring countries.

Somchai Poonsawas, Director of the Customs Department’s Marine Enforcement Unit, said current strong sales have resulted from higher demand, a lack of monsoon winds, and a drastic reduction in the smuggling of diesel fuel, known in Thailand as “green gasoline”.

“The green gasoline is of better quality than the illicit product. Moreover it is 3-4 baht a liter cheaper than on the mainland,” he said.

Student evaluation: Schools run by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) have been ordered to conduct urine tests on their students when the new semester begins this month, as part of a government plan to keep schools drug-free.

Bangkok Deputy Governor Tharin Sangansermwis, who is also in charge of education, said all 433 BMA schools were each given 5,000 baht to carry out the testing.

“The tests should begin immediately at the beginning of the next semester,” she said, adding that the BMA’s public health department would also offer technical support for the plan, known as the White School Project.

ICT capital of Isan: Khon Kaen University will launch a pilot information and communications technology (ICT) project in Nam Phong and Nong Song Hong districts as part of its effort to become the ICT capital of the Northeast.

Deputy Governor Kaen-petch Chuangrangsri said the ICT project would enable rural communities to create ICT databases and develop new skills. Each community would have their own chief information officer, he said.

In conjunction with the Software Industry Promotion Agency, the province will also promote the Isan Software Park, which has already attracted four software companies. Khon Kaen University will jointly supervise the initial budget for the pilot project, which is 10 million baht.

Fujian flu shots urged: The Public Health Ministry is urging elderly people and children to be immunized against Fujian ’flu. Dr Somsong Rakpong, director of the Medical Sciences Department, said the World Health Organization had warned that Fujian ’flu was spreading in Southeast Asia.

Dr Somsong said many companies produced vaccines and children less than 12 years old, people with coronary disease, elderly people and those infected with HIV should be vaccinated.

Stick to milk, son: Wutthisit Suebsuwan, better known as “Tem” of the boy band UHT, confessed to drunk-driving and assault charges after being arrested last month.

At first he was sentenced to an 8,000-baht fine and a four-month jail term but after he confessed, the court commuted this to a two-month suspended sentence, a 4,000-baht fine and 12 hours of community service.

“Tem” said he was sorry for what he had done, and promised not to lose his temper in the future. He said he might spend his community service clearing an old cemetery.

After the flood: A wide variety of fossilized seashells discovered in Phrae’s Long district were dated around 200 million years old. Phrae Governor Somaks Boonpluang is optimistic that the discovery site can be developed for tourism.

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

The end of April. Middle-aged tourist couples can occasionally be seen on the streets in Khao Lak, but there is no doubt about it – the season is over.

Some business owners seem to be living in denial, despite the certainty that there are now six months of next-to-nothing ahead. Others, apparently, can hardly wait to get their stuff packed up and go home.

Tourists on Bang Nia Beach blew the whistle to end the season first, right in the middle of April while young tourist families with children were still roaming about.

The answer to the question, “Why are you in such a hurry?” will always remain shrouded in mystery, because the beach restaurant owners took the traditional route and fled the scene.

That’s not really much of a boost for tourism.

Many visitors enjoy eating lunch and dinner right on the beach, within the sound of the ocean – something they have dreamed of and worked long and hard for in Europe or the States, or Japan or China, for that matter.

After they fought so hard just a couple of months earlier for the right to put up sunchairs and shade umbrellas, the nests seem rather erratic of the Bang Nia beach business people to go home before the tourists do.

Putting up with boredom:

Khao Lak is rich in natural attractions. There’s a 12-kilometer stretch of pristine beach, with the diving attractions of the Similans a mere hour away by speedboat, well preserved jungle, beautiful mountains, six beautiful waterfalls within easy reach, lagoons and mangroves – you name it.

But there are still several things missing, man-made things that would allow tourists, especially families, to spend a couple of fun-filled hours after dinner or in the afternoon doing something other than nodding their heads in a live music pub or watching on a big-screen TV as Schumi drives to victory for the 25,649th time.

Khao Lak people were promised a gym (oops, where are the investors?), a cinema (just removing the signboard announcing it solved this problem) and a big shopping center (the Khao Lak Center, which actually turned out to be just another row of shophouses) – all dust in the wind.

We almost gave up hope for an innovative Khao Lak attraction when, just like a miracle, out of the blue it appeared... ta-daa... finally Khao Lak got its very first man-made tourist attraction, accessible to rich and poor, big and small: The Khao Lak Jungle Adventure Mini-Golf course.

Yes, miracles do happen. Achim “Kim” Linke, 45, from Germany, has been in Thailand working in the tourism industry for more than 20 years. Now he has decided to fill in the Khao Lak attraction gap with a beautifully designed mini-golf course.

Knowing this project was underway brought a smile to the face of each and every Khao Lak resident. This splendid attraction opened at the beginning of April and is on the right-hand side of the road to the Chong Fah waterfall, just a few hundred meters from Highway 8.

Here, the visitor finds an exotic “ancient” jungle adventure city, built of red boraan-style (“antique”) clay bricks, amid lush tropical vegetation. Entering this impressive project is like stepping into an Indiana Jones movie.

Everything, starting right at the entrance with the reception and restaurant, is beautifully laid out and designed.

Arriving guests walk towards an ancient temple wall, dominated by a seated Buddha statue with a waterfall dropping from a height of some four meters. Water courses and plants sit side-by-side with authentically-styled and carefully dressed temple ruins.

Not one resort or hotel in all of Khao Lak comes anywhere near it for design and style.

And we are talking about a mini-golf course here. I was truly impressed. Every mini-golf enthusiast is sure to derive maximum fun from this 18-hole course. Starting off with some easy mini-greens, the difficulty level steadily increases, though with one or two easier holes interspersed to give room for a soothing break, until the visitors reach Hole 18.

“Here, anyone taking it too seriously will sooner or later start to tear his hair out,” says Kim with a knavish smile. “You can easily hit the ball 20 times or more without ever getting it into the right hole.”

At the start, a player can choose from eight holes, and it’s a bit of a lottery.

Two of the holes scores a hole in one, while the remaining five lead the ball through tunnels to crazy destinations, including taking it right back to the starting point.

Hole 8 is particularly funny. Here, a realistic crocodile awaits the players with wide-open jaws. If the player manages to hit the ball right into the croc’s mouth, he or she will score a hole in one. Anything else leads to disaster. Puddles and broken brick walls abound.

“The philosophy behind this project was to give Khao Lak what it needed so badly – fun after-dinner fun for families with kids,” Kim explained. “The fun factor is important for our project and for Khao Lak in general.”

For kids, especially families with kids, will definitely have fun-filled hours for a fee of 250 baht for adults or 150 baht for children. Kids under a meter tall get in free.

The Jungle Adventure Mini-Golf course is illuminated at night to ensure that Khao Lak tourists have a welcome activity option apart from the remaining three or four “hot and sizzling” pubs and bars. The course is open from 12:30 pm to 10 pm.

The mini-golf is a big step forward in helping to increase Khao Lak’s popularity among families – and perhaps the next step down the path to catching up with fun-filled destinations such as Phuket and Samui.

I hope every Khao Lak resident appreciates this “gift” as much as I do. Could the season end on a better note?
This week

CROSSING THE LINE: CEO of Le Meridien Resorts and Hotels, Robert Riley (5th from right), and Regional Managing Director Asia Pacific, Michael Sagild (rear, right), meet and greet colleagues at Le Meridien Phuket Yacht Club during their recent visit.

CHINDAPOL CHINWAG: More than 500 members of the Chindapol family, including (from right) former MP Rewut Chindapol, President of the Court of Appeal Phaisarn Charoenwut, and Manager of the Ben Ja Run Construction Company Ronachai Chindapol, gathered for the clan’s 19th annual reunion.

I SEE UBC: Somphop Poshakrishna (left), MD of Southern TV Network Co Ltd, and Manager-Regional Sales of UBC TV, Somphong Rattanaphan, at a recent Big C Superstore rally showing children that education comes not just from schools.

SPEED INDEED: The “Meet and Greet T-Speed Fair”, promoting broadband Internet services from TT&T Public Co Ltd, was held at the Tesco-Lotus Superstore in April. Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit (center), was welcomed by TT&T Senior Vice-President of Marketing and Services Suroj Lamsam (left) and Vilai Chaivises, Tesco-Lotus Phuket Managing Director (right).

EYE IN THE SKY: The HeliCam aerial photography team, with feet firmly on the ground but ideas soaring in the clouds, celebrate the successful launch of their unique service at Tesco-Lotus Superstore.

IN VOGUE: Managing Director of Angel Model + Promotion Management, Ann Hanson (left), and Director of Operations Lies Sol at the recent Pleasure Leisure Fashion Awards held at the Sphinx Theatre and Restaurant, Patong.
The modest buildings and grounds of the Life Home Project are hidden away in Phuket City with no signs or outward evidence of the 40 women and children infected with HIV living within.

It’s lunchtime when I arrive, my first visit in around a year. A dozen of the smaller children are having what at first seems a peaceful nap after lunch. But the quiet is broken by sudden coughing and wheezing, little lungs racked by respiratory infection.

“In the past year, we’ve lost six of our family to Aids,” Helene Fallon Wood, Life Home Project’s fundraising chairperson tells me. “One was a baby.”

“Tuberculosis is common in those infected with HIV so we try to give each of our residents as much personal space as possible to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.”

While children try to sleep, in the new art room, a number of women are quietly drawing and painting symmetrical designs onto fabric. These mandalas are then made into banners and sold to benefactors such as Patong’s Holiday Inn Resort, where they were hung from the ceilings last Christmas.

Kathy Manthei directs the art program at Life Home Project. The program helps the women, usually rejected by their families and friends, to earn an income to pay for their basic needs. Almost all of our women have been housewives infected with HIV by their husbands,” explained Kathy.

“They have no skills and have not earned a living in the past. With our art projects, they learn design, drawing, painting, sewing, organizational planning, inventory maintenance and production.

“This allows them to operate and manage their work, thereby giving them potential to earn an income,” she continued.

I watch the women work, not unlike women working in factories anywhere in Thailand. But these women are different. Some have infected sores on their arms and faces, others seem tired. But they all smile when they see me. These women are the lucky ones. They are given medicine and the opportunity to earn money to support their children.

Behind the charming smiles are heartbreaking tales. One of the younger women tells how she was born into a family of six children, all with different fathers. She was sent to live with one of her mother’s boyfriends when she was 12.

He raped her and infected her with HIV. Consequently, the boyfriend, her mother and two of her sisters died of Aids. Homeless, this young girl found a place at Life Home Project.

Jose Luis Gay founded the project after teaching local Sea Gypsy children how to sail. The longer he stayed on Phuket, the more he realized the need to help those left behind by the island’s soaring prosperity.

“The women are victims from careless husbands who infected them and consequently, their children,” Jose said. “Over the past two years, we have invited women and children to Life Home Project as they have nowhere else to go.

“In the past year, the government has made anti-retroviral medication available, but that does not save these women from being rejected by their families.”

The number of people dying from Aids-related diseases in Western countries is now a fraction of the amount dying at the height of the epidemic. But here in Phuket, I am told, the drugs given to HIV patients are not the latest generation. These women and children still cannot look forward to a long and healthy life, but will, perhaps, have longer and healthier lives than they would have had without the drugs they receive.

“Life Home Project is indebted to the generosity of the local community, which has supported our programs this past year,” added Helene.

With Bruce Stanley

Off the WALL

M M Wine Company Limited
9/19 Thepkrosatri Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000
(Next to Volvo showroom)
Tel (076) 213797, 236536 Fax (076) 213799
E-mail: mmwine@phuket.com
Website: http://www.phuket.com/mmwine.com

Distributors for Fine World Wide Wines, Heiniken Beer

QUALITY BOATS BUILT HERE
We build 100% fibreglass ‘Steppa’ boats right here in Phuket.
- 18ft open-hull ‘Baracuda’ is great for skiing and a the perfect family boat.
- 22ft center-cone ‘Skip-Jack’ is excellent for diving and game fishing.
- 30ft and 38ft ‘Flying Fish’ are popular for all commercial applications.

ALL OUR CUSTOM BUILT BOATS HAVE
- a deep V forward with outboard engines giving cruising speeds of over 30 knots.
- easy, cheap and legitimate Thai registration (built in Phuket)
- very shallow draft for easy beach and Boat Lagoon access.
- the option of being street at home or a trailer. (avoid expensive storage fees)
- low ongoing maintenance costs due to our excellent supervised fiber construction

TEST DRIVE A DEMO OR VISIT OUR FACTORY:
Call 076-270379 or 01-6912668

PHUKET WATER TAXI
Since 1991

PULLEESEASE!
If you have a radio, don’t take it to the beach!
We took the wrong direction
And then what?
Do we bury ourselves in sadness and hopelessness?
No!

Time goes by. Never wait for anybody.
Seize the days we have left,
Why do we wait for death?
Let’s live with hope in every breath we take.

There will be Life tomorrow,
Though our wish will never be given
And obstacles will keep coming.
Let’s keep the hope to breathe, to live this life, to smile, to laugh, and to love.

My life has been very lonely.
Will anybody understand how it really feels,
Especially when my heart and soul became so chilled?
I have fought with suffering.
I have borne all the pain.
I have waited for people who are generous enough to understand,
And there I have found them.

Although my face looks ugly
And my eyes are not shining bright but are a little bit blind,
I still have a strong mind to live for tomorrow.

Although it is not cured today,
There may be a cure one day.
Please don’t give up because of your sorrow.
There may be a magical medicine tomorrow.
Who knows?

If you ask me if there really is a magical medicine
I am telling you from my heart within,
Yes there is.
It’s simply the love, kindness, care and understanding.
All the medical treatment within.

– Nui, mother and Aids sufferer.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Eventually her husband became sick and died. Not long after, she fell ill and ended up living in a cave with others infected with HIV.

“I had nowhere else to go.
Then someone told me about Life Home Project and I came to Phuket and now I have food, support and encouragement from Jose, who is like our godfather,” said Khun Nui.

“My health is okay, though I have a problem with my eyes. I need an injection into my eye every week in order to slow down the blindness that is part of my HIV condition.
I don’t want to be blind. I hold onto my hope and my courage to live.”

Khun Nui has written a poem, and has had it translated into English. She hands it to me and smiles.

For more information about the Life Home Project, contact Helene Fallon-Wood or Khun Nat at Tel: 076-242632 or email: lifehome@loxinfo.co.th.

Marriott’s Villa Ownership
Prices ranging from USD $9,900 to $75,000.

FREE
Golf, Dining, Spa, FantaSea, Sea Canoe,
Or best of all spend 2 free nights experiencing this amazing resort

Come and explore Marriott’s new 5 star vacation villa ownership and as a thank you gift you will receive your choice of one of the following free.
Free 2 rounds of Golf at Blue Canyon Country Club’s Lakes Course.
Free 4,000 Baht Dining & Shopping Gift Certificates.
Free Mandarin Spa treatment for 2 persons with lunch.
Free 2 tickets to Phuket FantaSea, with dinner and show included.
Free 2 tickets to John Gray Sea Canoe Phang Nga Classic Caves and Hong’s tour.
Free 2 nights’ accommodation at Marriott’s Phuket Beach Club.

JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT AND SPA
Visit our welcome center at

Free roundtrip transportation to and from your hotel.

May 8 - 14, 2004 PHUKET PEOPLE PHUKET GAZETTE 11
of hope

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.

Pennapa “Jim” Wuttimang, Secretary of the Life Home Project, stands in front of a mandala banner to be sold at the fundraising gala ball, which will be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Beach Resort & Spa, on May 29.
TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taurusians who are celebrating coming of age this week are likely to be doing so away from their usual habitat. Travel is on the agenda and this could open doors to new possibilities. If you’re tired of what has become a daily rut, don’t despair because there’s every likelihood that a dramatic career change is around the corner. The number 9 has special meaning mid-week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Finances will require deft juggling and you may have to delay delivering on a promise to a loved one. Plan a surprise social outing to cushion the blow and the air should remain clear. Where work is concerned, this is an auspicious time to trust your instincts and the air should remain clear.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The heat is on for Cancerians who are poised to sign an important agreement. Last-minute information comes to light and you should pay careful attention before making a final commitment. Your luck will be better after Tuesday, so stalling until then is your best bet. When a friend suggests an innovative scheme this weekend your initial reaction is to step quickly sideways. But the idea is worth a hearing.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The atmosphere is cooler than you imagine. Clear signs are coming that someone in your life is a fair-weather friend. This week gives you an opportunity to put this relationship into a more realistic context and avoid further sticky situations. A work-related problem dissolves and you may have to delay delivering on a promise to a loved one. Plan a surprise social outing to cushion the blow and the air should remain clear.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22): Your social life is set to expand. Your natural charm is at an all-time high this week and others are drawn to you like a magnet. A small financial disappointment shouldn’t be cause for concern because large gains are more than possible in the near future. Family matters need handling with kid gloves this weekend. If it’s a problem concerning in-laws, choose your words carefully.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans often find it hard to say something directly, but this week you will need to find the words to put someone straight before matters get seriously out of hand. The chances are that you will gain a new aura of respect by facing up to what is really going on and dealing with it in a clear-cut way. On a lighter note, holiday plans seem certain to take off.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Burning the candle at both ends is a necessity this week for those who are determined to see closure in work-related issues. However, this should be a temporary state of affairs and a more relaxed atmosphere will prevail as next weekend approaches. Stick to your principles when a colleague makes an untoward suggestion. Don’t cut corners if you want to maintain your reputation for trustworthiness.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): It may feel as if there’s not much going on, but action is slowly stirring behind the scenes. Your ability to be in the right place at the right time will bring some benefit this week and there are indications that you could soon be splashing out on a new luxury item. The number 5 will bring you luck on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): An abandoned romantic dream is about to re-emerge. Just when you were thinking that all was lost, the target of your affections comes back on the scene. Your need for security should encourage you to ask the right questions. If the answers are less than satisfactory, you will know how to react. May means fresh starts for those born under the sign of Capricorn. Don’t make the wrong choice.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You should be able to see clearly in which direction your advantages lie and follow through to a satisfactory conclusion this week. Most Arians will have no difficulty rising to the challenges that May will throw at them. Regarding romantic affairs, there’s a choice to be made – and this shouldn’t be a matter of tossing a coin. Give careful thought to what you expect to get from a relationship.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans often find it hard to say something directly, but this week you will need to find the words to put someone straight before matters get seriously out of hand. The chances are that you will gain a new aura of respect by facing up to what is really going on and dealing with it in a clear-cut way. On a lighter note, holiday plans seem certain to take off.

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Caring People, Caring People.

41 Chalongprakit Rd, Rawai, Phuket 83110, Tel.: 076 234 900, Fax: 076 219 9356
www.phuket-internationalhospital.com
E-mail: info@phuket-internationalhospital.com

Looking for a home in Phuket?

www.phuketimmo.com
09-866-9004 / 076-249-315

Don’t miss....

Issues & Answers
phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp

View Thailand’s LARGEST portfolio of Classified Ads – more than 2,000 of them – and place your ad FREE!

See the Phuket Gazette Online at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Ads – Issues & Answers

PHUKET GAZETTE May 8 - 14, 2004

Face the future with the guru’s great guide in your grasp

by Isla Star

In The Stars

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taurusians who are celebrating coming of age this week are likely to be doing so away from their usual habitat. Travel is on the agenda and this could open doors to new possibilities. If you’re tired of what has become a daily rut, don’t despair because there’s every likelihood that a dramatic career change is around the corner. The number 9 has special meaning mid-week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Finances will require deft juggling and you may have to delay delivering on a promise to a loved one. Plan a surprise social outing to cushion the blow and the air should remain clear. Where work is concerned, this is an auspicious time to trust your instincts and the air should remain clear.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The heat is on for Cancerians who are poised to sign an important agreement. Last-minute information comes to light and you should pay careful attention before making a final commitment. Your luck will be better after Tuesday, so stalling until then is your best bet. When a friend suggests an innovative scheme this weekend your initial reaction is to step quickly sideways. But the idea is worth a hearing.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The atmosphere is cooler than you imagine. Clear signs are coming that someone in your life is a fair-weather friend. This week gives you an opportunity to put this relationship into a more realistic context and avoid further sticky situations. A work-related problem dissolves and you may have to delay delivering on a promise to a loved one. Plan a surprise social outing to cushion the blow and the air should remain clear.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22): Your social life is set to expand. Your natural charm is at an all-time high this week and others are drawn to you like a magnet. A small financial disappointment shouldn’t be cause for concern because large gains are more than possible in the near future. Family matters need handling with kid gloves this weekend. If it’s a problem concerning in-laws, choose your words carefully.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans often find it hard to say something directly, but this week you will need to find the words to put someone straight before matters get seriously out of hand. The chances are that you will gain a new aura of respect by facing up to what is really going on and dealing with it in a clear-cut way. On a lighter note, holiday plans seem certain to take off.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Burning the candle at both ends is a necessity this week for those who are determined to see closure in work-related issues. However, this should be a temporary state of affairs and a more relaxed atmosphere will prevail as next weekend approaches. Stick to your principles when a colleague makes an untoward suggestion. Don’t cut corners if you want to maintain your reputation for trustworthiness.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): It may feel as if there’s not much going on, but action is slowly stirring behind the scenes. Your ability to be in the right place at the right time will bring some benefit this week and there are indications that you could soon be splashing out on a new luxury item. The number 5 will bring you luck on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): An abandoned romantic dream is about to re-emerge. Just when you were thinking that all was lost, the target of your affections comes back on the scene. Your need for security should encourage you to ask the right questions. If the answers are less than satisfactory, you will know how to react. May means fresh starts for those born under the sign of Capricorn. Don’t make the wrong choice.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You should be able to see clearly in which direction your advantages lie and follow through to a satisfactory conclusion this week. Most Arians will have no difficulty rising to the challenges that May will throw at them. Regarding romantic affairs, there’s a choice to be made – and this shouldn’t be a matter of tossing a coin. Give careful thought to what you expect to get from a relationship.
Dulwich International College
British education at one of Asia’s finest day and boarding schools

Co-educational day and boarding...Safe, beautifully landscaped campus...Sports resources and facilities...Close links with Dulwich College, London...Active, caring boarding programme...From 18 months to 18 years old...Pre-school to Year 12...GCSE and IELTS classes...Boarding from 9 years old...New Primary School on campus...

Sports & Adventure Camp, English Summer School
July 4 - July 31, 2004
...tennis, basketball, football, golf, horse riding, mountain biking, photography, squash, sailing, table tennis, water sports, and many more...


III World School, accredited by WFS, member of ESCC, YVCON and WOSAT.
Tel: 077 298 713-20, 02 512 466-7 Fax: 077 298 760, 02 512 4668
http://www.dulwich.ac.th info@ dulwich.ac.th

ANDREW PARK
Property Agents & Consultants

Land and Villa Sales
Properties For Rent
Villa and Property Management Services
Development or Project Consulting

Let us help you with your property requirements
be they large or small

100/18 Chalongprakiat Road
(on the bypass road just north of Lotus)
Tambon Rassada, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 66 (76) 354-016 Fax: 66 (76) 354-019
E-mail: sales@andrewpark-phuket.com
Website: www.andrewpark-phuket.com

Alila PHUKET VILLAS

Surprisingly different...
In a uniquely new dimension

Alila Hotels & Resorts offers you an exciting new dimension in resort living...Alila Phuket Villas - a luxurious holiday residence you can invest in and enjoy for a lifetime.

Located on Kamala Beach at the beginning of Phuket’s famed “Millionaire’s Mile”, every detail of each 2-storey villa is designed for your personal comfort and unending pleasure with stylish interiors, contemporary decor and furnishings, state-of-the-art entertainment features, spacious outdoor terraces, sunsetting deck and private pool.

With our growing presence in the region and recognition of our distinctive lifestyle experience, Alila Phuket Villas is more than just the perfect getaway...it’s a first-class investment.

www.alilaphuketvillas.com

For more information
Sales office: 73/48 Moo 3, Kamala Khu Phuket 83120, Thailand Phone +66 7627 9599 +66 7627 9949
Fax +66 7627 9553 Mob +66 19000 637 +66 9973 1837 sales@alilaphuketvillas.com www.alilaphuketvillas.com

Commercial Building 2/12 Storeys

Contact
Phuket Simon Cabaret
Tel: 076 342 114-9, 01 9793140,
01 5362181

Life Home Project’s Fundraising Ball
Help us to build a permanent home to care for the Thai children and mothers who are HIV positive.

We urgently seek your help in donating prizes, gifts or cash donations for this very worthy cause.

Thank you for your support!

2nd Annual LHP Fundraising Ball - Saturday, 29 May 2004

For tickets and donations please contact Helene Fallon-Wood at lifefhome@laxinfo.co.th or Khun Nut on Tel: 076 242 632
The Shark is dead.
Long live the Star

‘Modify are mainly from Phuket but have been working in Trang. When I saw them I could not help but conclude that they had the most interesting selection of pants I have ever seen worn by one band in one night.’

The venue is clearly visible from the junction of Soi Bangla and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

‘The new music policy is proper party music, not ramping up to dance or technito until very late. The music is played by a DJ with the ability to do it, or is programmed by one of the new partners, a former Juliana’s DJ, until they find someone suitable.

Ideally, by next high season they will have recruited a personality DJ who may even talk between records and have a laugh with people who are on holiday.

The venue is now being positioned as Patong’s next level of entertainment, as opposed to a pick-up joint. The managers aim to make it a quality live music and entertainment venue, and already have a program of events planned to keep us amused during the low season.

The first major event will be the hosting of a concert for one of the hottest new pop stars, David “Farang Lang Kwi” (the farang buffalo rider), who has a mass following in Isarn. He will be supported by the legendary Oy Khatorn, well known for her popular sing-along, lighter ballads.

The concert will be from 9 pm on May 14. Take some ear protectors as the screaming may be dangerous. I know; I am a vet.

In my travels through the south of Thailand, I have noticed many of the big cities have very large venues with similar dancing and music on offer, and they are usually fantastically popular.

The Star Club reminds me of those venues. Entertainment is key, and it looks like the new management know what they are doing. I expect this place to be a success with the local Thais because it is a product familiar to them.

The Western male audience in Phuket typically go where the Thai girls go, but the new management is planning a full program of events for the high season that is aimed at also attracting couples and mixed gender groups.

It’s a tough challenge, but they have the enthusiasm and talent to make it happen. The development of the massive Jungceylon hotel and shopping complex across the road, which will become the new center of Patong, will increase their chances tenfold.

We all want more entertainment and it’s up to us to support those who endeavor to provide it. See you there.
Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 25 vegetables. 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; 25 or more, excellent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YBHIWCBBLFGFMBEV</th>
<th>KCDHAJGNVTHEDP</th>
<th>MREWOLFIUACEER</th>
<th>POTATOYRLWCTWQ</th>
<th>EBZENLXNRLUERSE</th>
<th>GKCORNINJEKKOY</th>
<th>OLNKPIFSFLCQFD</th>
<th>CKOHLRABIPUETDL</th>
<th>KGPJCEAVXRCLUD</th>
<th>AVUNISODAICOVAQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LXYDOPTGOMBBUJM</td>
<td>EQMIUMREAKCTTV</td>
<td>SNENKCIAYAAMFE</td>
<td>ODARCWLTTLITRZBN</td>
<td>PCCWTOOSEVOTRIEI</td>
<td>HIRNCNECLNMZGGG</td>
<td>UDNCOKDLANVTHAR</td>
<td>VVOSRAATBLWWMBE</td>
<td>ZRSTRHERVQLAGBB</td>
<td>BLRBSAPSRRMSIZAU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBGODJPBGOTOCVA</td>
<td>WNXJBUUABQIJYAMNB</td>
<td>CILRAGXFTAZLBGZ</td>
<td>NAEBQABTYMZOFDV</td>
<td>TRPYBZIYOGGLRBU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brain Buster!!

Mel Colly stared through the dirty soot-smeared window on the 26th floor of the office tower. Overcome with depression he slid the window open and jumped through it. It was a sheer drop outside the building to the ground. Miraculously after he landed he was completely unhurt. Since there was nothing to cushion his fall or slow his descent, how could he have survived?

1. What is the correct word for the small metal hoop that supports a lampshade?
2. From what language does the word “teak” derive?
3. Who discovered Penicillin?
4. Which movie won best picture and best actor Oscars in 1967?
5. And who was the actor?
6. Which rock star’s real name is Gordon Sunner?
7. In 1977, 582 people died in a collision between two Boeing 747s. Where?
8. Who lost the Punic Wars against Rome?
9. When did the Han dynasty come to power in China?
10. Who was sworn in as President of the USA in 1953?
11. Which US state is known as the Bluegrass State?
12. What is the capital of Macedonia?
13. What happened there on July 26, 1963?
14. Whose son was kidnapped by Bruno Hauptmann?
15. Which country is between Switzerland and Austria?
16. Vexillology is the study of what?
17. Which country’s flag consists of vertical bars of black, yellow and red?
18. In which country would you find the Ophthalmia Range of mountains?
19. Who was chess world champion from 1972 to 1975?
20. Which movie had the alternative title, How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb?

Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Arctic or Indian, for example.
2. Capital of India.
3. Rapidly pulsing light.
4. Capital of India.
5. Sleeping through the winter.
6. Attackers.
7. Dry.
8. Birds’ element.
9. Printer’s blue.
10. Tripoli inhabitant, perhaps.
11. Home of Ariel Sharon.
14. Whose son was kidnapped by Bruno Hauptmann?
15. Who was chess world champion from 1972 to 1975?
16. Vexillology is the study of what?
17. Which country’s flag consists of vertical bars of black, yellow and red?
18. In which country would you find the Ophthalmia Range of mountains?
19. Who was chess world champion from 1972 to 1975?
20. Which movie had the alternative title, How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb?

Down

1. San Franciscan, for example.
2. Not acid.
3. The Bluegrass State.
4. Home of Ariel Sharon.
5. Solution next week.

Solution to last week’s crossword

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUS</th>
<th>EN</th>
<th>XO</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers next week.
SONGKRAN POLICY: The Minister denies new policy with regard to Songkran celebrations.

MINISTER DENIES NEW SONGKRAN POLICY: The Minister of Social Control, Pharisree Sintusiri, today denied rumors that her ministry is considering a new policy for the foreseeable future for the Songkran celebrations. “Our current policy will be in force for the foreseeable future,” Minister Pharisree affirmed. “That is to discourage people from drinking while driving during Songkran, because too many people are killed.”

The rumors, which Khun Patcharawadee Sintusiri dismissed as “malicious, frivolous, and ill-intentioned,” say that the ministry plans to drop the policy for the following reasons:

During Songkran, people stay home. Anybody who goes out on the streets is stupid. Anybody who drinks and drives is even more stupid. So it is actually the stupid people who are getting killed.

This trend is not to be discouraged. Killing off large numbers of stupid people during Songkran will result in a smarter gene pool and a more intelligent population.

Minister Pharisree dismissed the rumors by saying, “Bald, dardash, poppycock, and twaddle. Our government has no problem with the current gene pool. After all, it produces people who vote for us.”

And it’s not true that only stupid people go outside during Songkran. Why, the entire cabinet went out this past Songkran, and look how smart we are.”

US GOVT MULLS NEW IMMIGRATION RULES: The US Immigration and Naturalization Service today would neither confirm nor deny reports of new restrictions to be placed on incoming tourists. It has already drawn flak from several governments who are upset at its new policy of fingerprinting and photographing new arrivals.

“We are currently considering the possibility of requiring incoming tourists to provide stool samples immediately upon arrival,” an anonymous source reported. “This is because we have learned that stool samples of terrorists contain a significantly larger percentage of adenalin than those of non-terrorists.”

Targeting their stools gives us a potent new weapon against terrorists. New arrivals whose stool samples show a high amount of adrenaline will be detained for thorough questioning,” he added.

When asked if tourists could bring their own samples with them from abroad, the source said, “No, we don’t know whose stools they might be carrying. But if we take samples on the spot, carefully monitored by skilled excrementologists, we will know exactly where they come from.”

Asked what would happen to tourists who were unable to produce stools on demand, the source smiled and held up an enema kit.

US GOVT POO-POOS NEW CONSPIRACY THEORY: A White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, today scoffed at a conspiracy theory currently being bruited about on the Al Jazeera television network.

Many Iraqis believe that the suicide bombings and other attacks on Coalition forces throughout Iraq are actually being encouraged by the Coalition Provisional Authority.

“Why would we do that?” McClellan asked at a press conference. “How stupid do you think we are? Wait, don’t answer that question.”

Sheikh Yabooty, the leader of the Iraqi dissident group Al Fatah, has suggested that the American government, far from having its head stuck in a dark and shameful place, is acting with hitherto unprecedented subtlety and guile.

Acutely put he made it somewhat more bluntly: “Boosh not stupid. Or maybe Boosh stupid but Cheney, Rumsfeld not. They make Iraqis kill American troops and other Iraqis. This give Americans excuse to say, ‘OK, we give up, we go home.’”


“Everything big mess. Finally terrorists take control, set up government, rule Iraq.”

“All terrorists happy. Osama and Al-Qaeda come out of caves in Afghanistan, ride in triumph into Baghdad. Hamas, Hezbollah, Al-Aqua Martyrs Brigade, Islamic Jihad, all terrorist groups come to Baghdad, have big party.”

“No music, just lots of yelling. No dancing, just terrorists kissing each other and firing guns in air. No alcohol, just tea and coffee. No women, just sheep. Some party, you betcha.”

Then, while party going on, America nuke Baghdad. All terrorists wiped out. George Boosh happy, win election. Americans make him king for life,” he concluded.

Despite McClellan’s dismissal of this theory as “pure hogwash,” US Secretary of State Colin Powell was overheard to mutter, “We should be so smart.”

S. Tswow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he’s providing stool samples.
try to refrain from standing on a soapbox and expounding my prejudices in this column because I tend to get wobbly and slip off. Metaphorically and physically.

This week, though, I would like to bend your ear with a few observations about events that may affect Phuket’s future in profound ways. Or I may have had too much ma muang and fallen into a columnist’s clannoy klong. You decide.

The Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa) kicked off its activities in Phuket with a day-long Software Business Seminar a couple of weeks ago. The seminar outlined a series of activities and goals which, with a bit of luck and a lot of hard work, could finally make the phrase “Cyber Paradise” more than a cynical sigh.

Let’s face it. Phuket doesn’t hold legions of university-trained, English-adept computer savants: we’ll never be able to compete on that score with, let’s say, Bangalore.

Phuket doesn’t enjoy 8 Mbps of broadband readily available in every nook and cranny of the island; that’s Hong Kong. We don’t have the mountains of capital and marketing savvy available in, oh, Singapore.

But Phuket does have one huge advantage over all those places. It can be summarized in a simple question: Given the story of the hell we would live in Bangalore, Hong Kong or Singapore, when they could live in Phuket?

That’s where we have the competition; that’s where our great strength. The one area where Phuket leaves all the other Cyber Centers in the dust.

The government agency, works with the Board of Investment. The BoI’s prime task is to bring big business and bigger cold. Our greatest strength. The one area where Phuket leaves all the other Cyber Centers in the dust.

That aim that bol territy. At least traditionally, bol has gone after the big fish.

Sipa needs to work with the big companies, sure, but it also needs to make the Phuket playing field inviting to lots of smaller companies.

Most surprising: based on what I’ve seen, Sipa seems to understand this.

The Software Business Seminar addressed many of the issues that face small software startups: quick visas and work permits for techies; “scaling down” BoI requirements and permits for techies; “scaling up” BoI requirements and permits for techies; “scaling up” BoI requirements and permits for techies; “scaling up” BoI requirements and permits for techies.

One of the main objectives presented by Sipa: “To attract foreign as well as local software specialists who are Phuket lovers to invest and work in Phuket.”

That draws a double-thumbs-up from my direction.

Sipa/Gearing up for a great leap forward?
Time to ban Bangla traffic

It’s happened before and, in this perilous world, it will probably happen again – the jitters that Phuket suffers when anything related to terrorism happens within a few thousand miles of the island.

This is not to say that the jitters are unjustified. In the aftermath of the destruction of the World Trade Center, local hotheads told the Gazette that if the US attacked Afghanistan, local Muslims would target Westerners for retaliation.

After the Bali bombing, the foreign ministries of many countries advised their nationals to avoid or at least be very careful in Phuket, especially in Patong, which was perceived (because of its supposed similarity to Kuta) as the next potential target for Jemaah Islamiyah bombers. In both cases nothing happened.

Now the separatist organization Bersatu has issued a warning that foreigners should stay away from the five southernmost provinces of Thailand and “the nearby provinces (Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Pattalung)”. While there is no explicit threat of violence, there is an implicit one.

So Phuket is once again on high alert. The governor has ordered all government offices to leave the lights on all night, police have been moved to night duty, and security has been beefed up at important places, such as the airport and tourist sites.

Yet again, however, one simple tactic to make potential bombers’ jobs more difficult has not been employed: making Soi Bangla pedestrians-only.

Bar owners in Patong were recently asked by police to keep an eye out for motorbikes left unattended, particularly the newer models’ jobs more difficult has not been employed: making Soi Bangla a genuine threat. Yet the road has not been closed to traffic.

True, the tourist season is winding down, but Soi Bangla at night is still the place with the highest concentration of “soft targets” – people – on the island.

Barring traffic has added the attraction that it would make Soi Bangla a much more pleasant place to frequent. A temporary ban on traffic could easily be turned into a permanent one.

This suggestion has been made time and again, and the only response has been a “we’ll draw up using a reputable, well-known architect, who

The European “animal” in Kama- mala who sexually abused a dog for six months needs to be named and shamed.

At the very least he should be made aware that other people know of his depravity. Congratulations and thanks must go to Khun Gaew and the Soi Dog Foundation for rescuing and taking care of the unfortunate dog.

Alistair Beveridge Phuket

Dog rapist deserves full shame treatment

My architect was most sur- prised. He had just submitted plans on behalf of two other for- eigners, in Laguna and Chalong, who had their plans approved and registered in their names without delay or hassle. Neither foreigner had a residence permit.

I was not going to challenge the Chalong OrBorTor decision, as this would likely have delayed the plans from being approved at all and could well have caused “technical problems” later on.

But I find it very hard to accept that one government official had the power to interpret the law as he or she thinks fit. How can it be that a person can do one thing in one district, yet is not allowed to do the same thing in another?

Homeless in Chalong

Letters

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from read- ers. 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.

Dog rapist deserves full shame treatment

The European “animal” in Kama- mala who sexually abused a dog for six months needs to be named and shamed.

At the very least he should be made aware that other people know of his depravity. Congratulations and thanks must go to Khun Gaew and the Soi Dog Foundation for rescuing and taking care of the unfortunate dog.

Alistair Beveridge Phuket

Puzzling decisions on home ownership

After reading Secret of transpar- ency [Gazette, May 1-7], I would like to relate my recent experience.

My wife and I are building a house in Chalong. Following legal advice, my wife owns the land and I have two signed, reg- istered, back-to-back 30-year leases on the land.

Late last year I had plans drawn up using a reputable, well- established Thai architect, who currently has many sizable pro- jects on Phuket.

When he submitted the plans for approval by Chalong Tambon Administra- tion Organization (OrBorTor), I asked that they be registered in my name as I will own the house.

After several weeks of de- lay, the OrBorTor replied that I could not register the plans in my name because I was not a resi- dent of Thailand.

Alistair Beveridge Phuket

Internet connections – a step back in time

Nearly five months after the gov- ernment promised fast and cheap Internet connections, the cost of a reasonably fast connection in Phuket is between five and eight times more expensive than in the US or Europe. When will we get these ADSL lines at a reasonable price?

Does the government think that it can get IT-related businesses to come to Phuket when they will have to step back five or six years in time? IT services cost the same in Thailand as everywhere else, so what’s the reason for the high price?

Who is getting all the mon- ey made on the ADSL lines? Someone must be making plenty.

The next time the people

advocating an IT future for Phuket visit Singapore, someone should also show them what a really fast Internet connection looks like.

Karsten Phuket

More must be done on Phuket security

It’s reassuring that the authorities are making a serious effort to safeguard people, property and investors after the recent violence in the southern provinces.

But what about the vulner- able tourist spots in Phuket? For example Soi Bangla – surely it’s time to make it a pedestrian zone, to at least minimize the risks.

What about reassuring us that the emergency services can cope with a major incident? Are there enough hospital beds and trained medical staff?

If anything happens in Phuket, even a minor incident, then the tourist industry here is finished. It’s on the decline al- ready. The economy will be fin- ished and the unrest and prob- lems of the deep south provinces will quickly surface all across the region, because without tourist revenue these provinces have little else.

Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised about the apparent lack of vision from local governors when the same naivety is dem- onstrated by the national government.

I hear so many times of Thailand’s desire to be like Malaysia or Singapore. Indonesia would be a better comparison.

Paul Brent
GRIPPING AT THE GRASSROOTS

I was born in Khok Makham, Rawai’s village 2. I had to stop studying at grade seven because my parents had so many children to take care of. Currently, I operate a small beverage stand and help out with the flea market operation at Nai Harn beach. I have been doing this for 10 years. I can make some money doing this, especially in high season when many tourists flock to our village.

Nai Harn was very different 10 years ago. There were far fewer vendors back then. It will be alright, however, as long as they are organized properly, because there are many tourists now than there were in the past.

In the beginning, OrBorTor Rawai had their people look after the trash situation on Nai Harn Beach, which is especially bad during the monsoon season. Local vendors and beach-chair operators pitched in and helped out.

Later, the OrBorTor told us they didn’t have enough staff to take care of the entire Nai Harn area. But this is our place of business, so if we don’t keep it clean, who will?

Our beach guard also keeps an eye out to make sure tourists are safe, and we have assisted the police in catching thieves.

Last year, my wife and I saw a pair of suspicious characters and reported them to the police, who were able to apprehend them after they snatched the bag of a foreigner – as we thought they might. We did this because we don’t want Nai Harn to become a hangout for criminals.

When I find something wrong in Rawai, I go to the OrBorTor. I expect them to at least listen to our problems, but they don’t seem to care about us much. We always get the same answer: that they do not have enough staff or budget.

So we set up our own group, the Orchid Group, to do such work. There are about 15 of us, all Rawai residents.

Even without much of a budget or manpower we can make a difference, such as when we cleaned soil and debris from the roadside drainage ditch in front of Sawang-Arom temple, which is prime to flooding during the rainy season. We never saw an OrBorTor team dealing with that problem, even though the flooding damages the road.

When we asked the OrBorTor to fix it, they said they didn’t have the budget. I never know how they spend their budget. They don’t do what they should do, such as deal with the garbage problem. Many people know this.

The Orchid Group keeps an eye on Rawai. We supervise public areas on weekends, even though we have no budget, because we want to protect Rawai.

But whenever I suggest to officials that things are not in proper condition they treat me with contempt, as if I am their enemy. With our activities to improve the things that should really be the OrBorTor’s responsibility, I am a Rawai native and I see them as my brothers.

Last year, I ran for an OrBorTor Rawai seat, but I was not successful. But I introduced myself to the people and I think I got positive feedback.

This year, I will run for Village 2 headman to replace Sin Promph, who will retire on August 28.

Our first priority is garbage. The OrBorTor has been unable to deal with this problem. We often found mysterious garbage bags dumped in our village. Later, we found out that they came from houses in Nai Harn that are not served by the OrBorTor garbage contractor.

I expect the OrBorTor to figure out what the real problems are before doing work on projects that Rawai doesn’t need. After they meet, we want to know what they plan to do.

In my experience, the common man is a “nobody” in the eyes of community leaders. I asked a village headman to sign a land document, he kept postponing it. Later, I had to go over his head to get it approved, and then he complained that I had done it without consulting.

This is why I want to get some authority. The job of headman is to serve the people, listen to their problems and keep them informed.

If I elected headman, I will continue the activities that our group is doing, but I will be able to serve the community in an official capacity as well.

If I fail, I will continue to work for people with Orchid Group. I just want to keep my home village of Rawai well-maintained. That’s my only concern.

Lousy Internet connection

Why do I have to dial up 17 times, at any time of the day, to get online with KSC, I-Net or EnjoyNet? Or, in any ISP? Is it a case of not enough modems, or lack of bandwidth, or over-subscription?

Android Humanoid

Penwipa Pianchob, Metropolis Support Manager of Internet Thailand Public Co Ltd, replies:

If you know your login name, the I-Net dial-up number that you use and the error messages you are getting, these will help us figure out the problems more easily.

There are many reasons for dial-up connection problems. These include incorrectly set properties for dial-up networking, poor telephone lines, or a malfunctioning modem or modem driver. We need to have more details in order to solve your problem. Please contact our call center at 076-210656.

Weerapong Anakewongsawat, Support Technician at Internet KSC Phuket, replies:

There are many numbers for connection to KSC in Phuket. These are 076-358000, 076-360022 and 076-360555. The problems may be from poor telephone lines or lines carrying a lot of traffic. Your computer should show a code or error message giving the reason you couldn’t connect.

Most probably the difficulty is due to a busy line so you can give up another change from the three that we have. We will increase the telephone lines in the future if those three numbers get too busy.

The contact numbers for technical support are 076-214496 and 076-214497.

Utaiwan Buu-ngam, Customer Service Officer of Professional Computing System Co Ltd (EnjoyNet), replies:

There are many possible reasons for your problem, but I think it may come down to busy lines.

We have three access numbers for the Phuket area – 076-233299, 076-360000 and 076-360555. If you find that one of them is busy, you can try one of the others.

For more information about technical support for EnjoyNet call 076-355001. To help us solve the problem, tell us your user name and the error number or message.

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 Yao Warat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Ex-boss won’t pay what he owes

I worked for a well-known property firm in November and early December last year. While I was there, I paid out-of-pocket to buy some things the company needed. I was told by my ex-boss that I would be reimbursed from the petty cash account.

I left the company over three months ago and I haven’t heard anything about my money from my ex-boss since then.

I have evidence of the purchases in the form of receipts from the shops where the items were bought.

What do the laws say about this kind of problem? Now that I am no longer an employee, can I still complain to the Labor Office? Will I ever get my money back?

Ex-employee

Rungsen Insomphont, Chief of the Phuket Office of Labor Protection and Welfare, replies:

Our office cannot help you because you have already left your job with the company and because you voluntarily agreed to pay for the items while you were there.

That was a personal agreement between yourself and your ex-boss, unrelated to terms of employment.

However, if you bring the receipt to me I will call your ex-boss, discuss this issue with him, and try to reach an agreement.

If this fails, however, your only legal recourse is to file civil charges with the Provincial Court.

It will take a long time for the case to be heard and you will need to pay attorney fees. This probably won’t be worth it for you if the amount you feel you are owed is small.
Blood. We all have it and we all need it, and sometimes we need more of it than we have. Accidents, major operations and other medical conditions can necessitate a blood transfusion.

Reserves are low in most countries, particularly if you have a rare blood group. Thailand, and Phuket, are no exceptions.

The first known transfusion of blood was performed as early as 1667 when Jean-Baptiste Denis transfused two pints of blood from a sheep to a young man. He died, as did many others from these experiments.

When blood is mixed between two human individuals (let alone from a sheep), it can lead to agglutination or clumping. Blood forms clumps, it doesn’t flow properly, causing blockages. Fortunately, in 1909, an Austrian, Karl Landsteiner discovered that people fall into different blood groups. Blood transfusions became much safer and we all have different ones, which, when we have a cut or injury, we need — the right kind.

So how do we determine which type of blood we have? We all have these little molecules on the surface of our red blood cells. These molecules are not compatible with others, except for identical twins. There are four different combinations and we all have different ones, except for identical twins. Each of us will fit into one of the four types. Next we look at rare combinations of these molecules for us. We all have these little molecules.

Your blood, particularly if your parents are Rh negative, is urgently needed; the life you save may be more than you think.

Governor: Udomsak Usawarangkura

---

**THE GOVERNOR’S LETTER**

*Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura*

**Down-under relations come out on top**

I had an important meeting on April 20 with visiting Australian Ambassador Miles Kupa. We discussed security issues affecting Australian residents of Phuket as well as trade between our two countries.

On the first point, I assured him that Phuket is dedicated to ensuring security, law and order for all. Our efforts extend to transport on the island and to other provinces, and to a wide range of other places frequented by foreigners, including hotels, hospitals and entertainment areas.

Thus far, the province has been able to provide safety and security for both residents and foreign visitors to a satisfactory level. Security officials also check vehicles coming onto the island at Talat Chat Chai for bombs and other threats to security, and English-language news is broadcast on both radio and TV.

In April we conducted a special training session on rescuing hostages and dealing with other such emergency situations. This sort of thing is needed to disseminate information relating to the current troubles in the troubled southern border provinces.

Trade and investment issues were also discussed. This month, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will travel to Australia to sign the Thai-Australian Free Trade Agreement, which goes into effect as of January 1, 2005.

Under the terms of this agreement, Australia will eliminate tariffs on 83% of Thai exports, including vegetables, fruit, pre-packaged foods, jewelry, small cars, pre-built hotels, hospital equipment and other industries. Phuket businessmen can consider cooperating in establishing a marine science faculty at the Prince of Songkhla University’s Phuket Campus.

He replied that there is a university in Queensland that has great expertise in this area, and I am hopeful he will respond to my request to help establish ties between the two institutions.

**Long-term approach:** After six months as CEO Governor of Phuket, I will have a chance to take a point with pride to any single project that has been successfully completed, because all the work I have initiated is part of long-term development goals for the province.

One area that requires such a long-term effort is the island’s public water supply. I have tried to improve public water supply by having the Irrigation Department construct the new reservoir [in Thalang]. Not only am I working with them to expand service, but also to upgrade the quality of water provided. Eventually, Phuket residents will enjoy potable tap water.

Sanitation is another important long-term goal. I will organize a campaign to make garbage collection the primary goal of all local administrations.

While the province will lead this effort, funding must come from local administration budgets. Local leaders want the province to buy garbage trucks for them or construct incinerators, but I don’t agree with this. I think all residents need to become responsible and take more personal responsibility for disposing of the waste they produce.

Each tambon must also have a clearly defined garbage collection system and other sanitation standards. Each must distribute plastic bags to all of the villages in its jurisdiction and manage its own budget. We need to conduct this project island-wide in order for Phuket to establish a reputation as a clean province.

Equally important is the marine environment. We should check all passenger ferries to see how much garbage they take to sea, in order to ensure that all of it is returned to shore for proper disposal. Garbage that is disposed of at sea will simply wash up on our beaches, making them a mess.

Tour operators need to take more responsibility in this regard. Phuket’s greatest asset is its fine beaches, and tour operators are only killing themselves if steps are not taken to ensure that beaches are kept clean.

I give each locality freedom in how they maintain clean beaches, but this is one matter that needs to be addressed with the utmost seriousness.

Governor: Udomsak Usawarangkura

---

**HEALTH WATCH**

By Peter Davison

Blood supplies are also stored at each of the major hospitals. The blood bank at Wachira Hospital is staffed by paid and volunteer staff, or those of other organizations.

Blood can be donated at the mobile blood collection unit. Around 1,000 donors donate blood each month, of which just 10 are foreign donors.

Phuket’s blood bank is very small, as CEO Governor of Phuket, I will have a chance to take pride in any single project that has been successfully completed, because all the work I have initiated is part of long-term development goals for the province.

Phuket’s expanding health-tourism industry, which features excellent health-care facilities and spas, can attract Australian tourists. This growing industry would benefit from increased marketing in Australia, and any government support or assistance for this effort would be beneficial.

I think we should support efforts to increase contacts between potential Thai tourists, who would like to see Phuket, and international companies in industries where each can benefit from the other’s expertise, such as the cultured pearl and wine industries. Phuket businessmen can make an important contribution to this area, and I am hopeful he will respond to my request to help establish ties between the two institutions.

---

**Get your Gazette Shopper Card today**

Significant - and genuine - discounts at more than 300 places, including:

- Marigold Shop
  - 15% off all items. Tel: 076-219953
- Caring Health Care
  - 10% off all medicines.
- We also offer a 7% discount on supports, medical supplies, and cosmetics. Tel: 076-215212
- Mann Auto Sound
  - 10% off service fees, also 5% discount on products. Tel: 076-236240

See the Gazette website for details of more than 300 other offers: http://www.phuketgazette.net/shopperlist.asp

---

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF BLOOD**

When blood is mixed between two human individuals (let alone from a sheep), it can lead to agglutination or clumping. Blood forms clumps, it doesn’t flow properly, causing blockages.

Fortunately, in 1909, an Austrian, Karl Landsteiner discovered that people fall into different blood groups. Blood transfusions became much safer and we all have different ones, except for identical twins. Each of us will fit into one of the four types.

When blood is mixed between two human individuals (let alone from a sheep), it can lead to agglutination or clumping. Blood forms clumps, it doesn’t flow properly, causing blockages.

Fortunately, in 1909, an Austrian, Karl Landsteiner discovered that people fall into different blood groups. Blood transfusions became much safer and we all have different ones, except for identical twins.

Within our blood plasma, antibodies are produced against foreign molecules. Each of us will fit into one of the four types.

---

**CABRILIAZ**

**68-76931777**

email: casbruil@hotmail.com

---

**More information:**

Visitors interested in learning more about Phuket’s health care industries and the many opportunities for investment can contact:

- Peter Davison
  - Manager of International Services at the Phuket International Hospital.
  - To contact him call Tel: 076-249400 or email peter@phuket-interhospital.com
Putting the fizz into Phuket

PHUKET: Dry Blackthorn cider, one of the most popular alcoholic ciders in the UK, has been launched in Phuket less than a year after its Thai debut, in Pattaya. Apple Honey Co Ltd, the sole Thai distributor for the apple-based drink, made by Matthew Clark Brands Ltd in Bristol, made the soft launch in Phuket in the middle of last month.

Managing Director Selina Lovett said that Apple Honey is one of the biggest cider brands in the UK, holding 5%-10% of the market. It’s a traditional dry cider made from a blend of different cider apples, with 6% alcohol.

“We already import cider to Pattaya, where our main office has been since June last year. We also distribute to Koh Samui, Koh Lanta in Krabi, and Phuket, where our main office has been since June last year. We also distribute to Koh Samui, Koh Lanta in Krabi, and Koh Chang,” she said.

“Now we also want to distribute to Phuket, where we have set up our second office.”

Mrs Lovett said that Blackthorn’s popularity in the UK makes the brand easily recognizable for tourists and foreign residents in Thailand, the main market, and offers a refreshing alternative to beer and wine.

The introduction of Blackthorn was well-received in Pattaya, where 105,600 cans were sold from June last year to January. “There are about 60 bars in Phuket that have bought Blackthorn, and that reaction has continued on a similar scale this year,” she added, saying that by next high season she expects that number to at least triple.

Although the primary market is obviously bars, next to be targeted are restaurants and the major hotels on the island. Lookout further down the road, Mrs Lovett said that Apple Honey is also considering making Blackthorn available at major supermarkets on Phuket Island.

“Our target is to sell as much as we can this year”.

Punjaux Hongskul, 26, from Yala, is the new Public Relations Manager at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel, in Phuket City. Punjaux graduated in arts communication from the Rajabhat Institute Phuket. Taking up her new position, she was a graphic designer at Data Media Asia for two years.

Nathaniit Tabhiran, 29, from Bangkok, has been appointed Sales & Marketing Manager of the new boutique resort, the Aspasia Phuket, formerly called The Breakers, at Kata Beach. She has a degree in marketing from Srinakarinwirot University in Bangkok. Her work experience includes positions with real estate companies and hotels.

American Gary Carpen, 36, has joined Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club as an English teacher. He has a degree in business administration from St Norbert College in the US. He has 10 years’ experience in sales management, marketing and training in America. Before joining Meridien, Mr Carpen was a teacher at Sattree Phuket School.

Problems with an extra-marital affair? Questions about Thai culture? Hearing communication problems? Need somebody to love?

Read her advice in the Phuket Gazette.

For more information about the availability of Blackthorn cider on Phuket, call Nigel Rodgers at Tel: 01-4160047 or email: applehoney86@loxininfo.co.th.

VITAL STATISTICS: VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS SOAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of vehicle</th>
<th>Mar ’03</th>
<th>Mar ’04</th>
<th>%Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cars with capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for no more than 7 people</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cars with capacity</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for more than 7 people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickup trucks</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
<td>1,995</td>
<td>2,599</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Phuket Provincial Transportation Office

BY GATEGAO PHEATSANG

SCARY TIMES AHEAD FOR BOND-HOLDERS

C

C

C

currency markets be
came strongly pro-

US dollar after Alan

Greenspan, Chairman

of the US Federal Reserve (the

central bank), gave testimony to

Congress in late April.

“Nothing that he said was
Earth-shattering, but he did point out
that the Fed’s fear of defla-
tion in the US economy had
receded and that, at present, infla-
tionary pressures were benign,”

he sells the bond. If he does not,
he purchases it back at a discount.

Bond markets – fixed-interest in-
struments varying in validity
from three months to 30 years –
have certain economic allies
and certain economic enemies.

Their allies are low infla-
tion, deflation, low or negative
market growth and falling
short-term interest rates.

If an investor, for example, has
bought a 10-year bond yield-

ing a fixed 5% a year, and eco-

nomics conditions deteriorate
so that any new buyer of a similar
10-year bond can earn, say, only
3%, obviously the original inves-
tor is sitting pretty in compari-
son.

An example: US$100 in-
vested at 5% interest returns

by all members of every pen-
sion fund – and almost all insur-
ance policy holders in the world –
are investors in bonds, though
whether they are aware of this
is a different matter.

Alan Greenspan is walking
on eggshells with respect to the
bond market. If the US economic
improvement continues, short-
term interest rates will have to
rise – and it is the function of a
central bank to set the level of
short-term interest rates.

The situation is so delicate
that if Alan Greenspan broke his
normal quietly-worded approach
with bluntly said something to the
effect of, “Economic growth is
robust and we will have to act
to nip inflation in the bud. So
interest rates will need to rise
this year,” the bond market
would experience something akin to
a heart attack.

In 1994, even though he
emphasized the word “caution,
”the peso crisis hit Thailand in July
1997, the SET index had fallen back
to 1400.

The story with long memories will
recall the Mexican economic
collapse of December, 1994. Its
origins too can be found in the
bond market crash that started on
February 24 that year.

The biggest danger to in-
vestors in bonds, especially me-
dium- to long-dated bonds in
emerging markets, is at this stage
of the economic cycle. All par-
ticipants have an element of risk.

Fasten your seatbelts!

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.

Richard Watson runs Global Port-
folios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based per-
sonal financial planning service.

He can be reached at Tel and Fax:
076-3811997, Mobile: 01-
1414611. Email: inoon@loxinfo.co.th.
How to calculate tide highs and lows

A couple of readers have asked about tides on Phuket. Basically, tides are due to the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun. The lunar gravitational effect is about twice that of the Sun and creates high water bulges on opposite sides of the Earth.

As the Earth rotates every 24 hours, most places on the Earth’s surface will therefore have two high and two low tides each day. These will be approximately six hours apart but because the Moon rotates around the Earth in 24.83 hours, they come around 50 minutes later each day.

Tide tables covering Krabi and Phang Nga are available from the Hydrographic Department offices in Bangkok, but often local sailors use the Phuket tide tables published in the Gazette Guide and in the Gazette Online (at www.phuketgazette.net/tides/index.htm).

You will see the times of high and low tides in the tables as well as the tide range, which is the difference between the height of high water and the low water before or after it.

The depths of the tide are measured above the Chart Datum. This is, broadly, an imaginary plane placed over the bottom of the sea at a height that clears obstructions at the lowest of low waters.

Theoretically, you should always have at least the depth in the tide table plus twice the relevant tide height at any place.

Check, too, to see when the tide will be falling and conversely, if they are dry, you can reckon the tide is rising.

Tidal stream direction and speed can be estimated by observing the current flow past fixed objects such as buoys or marker objects.

With practice, you’ll find these estimates become quite accurate.

This is extremely important here because tide streams of more than 1.5 knots are frequent and, when applied to the vector of a yacht doing 5 knots, the difference between course steered and course over ground can be quite large.

### Our products:
- Special worldwide airline ticketing
- Visa package
- Cruise reservations
- Star Cruises & Star Clippers
- Special tour packages
- Travel insurance
- Visa service for China, Lao, Malaysia & India

### Standard check list:
- IATA LICENSE NO. 35-1-09511
- IATI LICENSE NO. 33/0657
- 16 AUTHORIZED AGENT NO. 35-06134
- ONLINE RESERVATION BY GALLEDEL & AMADEUS

### Rak Nong Paan ‘Number One’ in five-a-side soccer tourney

PHUKET CITY: Rak Nong Paan team narrowly beat the New Wave team 4-3 on May 3 to advance to the second round of the “To Be Number One Cup” five-a-side soccer competition, held at Surakul Stadium.

Rak Nong Paan dominated early play of the 20-minute match, going ahead 3-0 after a goal in the seventh minute by Phang Nga Bay, you will find these often move a bit.

Tide heights and tidal streams, the movement of water (current) due to the tide’s rise and fall, can be estimated on the rule of twelfths for each hour of tide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (Hours)</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
<th>Fifth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st hour</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>1/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd hour</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd hour</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>6/12</td>
<td>6/12</td>
<td>6/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>9/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>11/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From this you will see that the tide will rise the most and the current will be strongest in the third and fourth hours of each tide cycle.

Remember that entrances to bays and inlets can cause water to bank up, with marked local effects.

A handy way of estimating the state of tide is to keep an eye on the shore for drying.

If you see wet sand or rocks, the tide should be falling and conversely, if they are dry, you can reckon the tide is rising.

Tidal stream direction and speed can be estimated by observing the current flow past fixed objects such as buoys or pot markers.

With practice, you’ll find these estimates become quite accurate.

This is extremely important here because tide streams of more than 1.5 knots are frequent and, when applied to the vector of a yacht doing 5 knots, the difference between course steered and course over ground can be quite large.

### Rak Nong Paan

Rak Nong Paan dominated early play of the 20-minute match, going ahead 3-0 after a goal in the seventh minute by Jamlong Raksayot (left), of the New Wave team, tries to outmaneuver a Rak Nong Paan defender during the “To Be Number One” football tournament held at Surakul Stadium from May 3 to 5.

Yoottana Kannak, a former member of the Thailand national Under-19 soccer squad, said, “With the New Wave having a strong squad this year, Rak Nong Puan dominated the early minutes of the match by creating and converting a lot of chances.”

However, he said he felt his squad still had a good chance of advancing to the final of the tournament, which will involve 90 teams from Phuket and surrounding provinces.

Final results will be published in next week’s Gazette.
PATONG: Amigos Bar emerged top of the Patong Pool League after the final week of this season’s play with 61 points, 14 clear of second-place Heroes Bar (47 points). Coming a close third were last season’s champions Anchor Bar, with 46 points.

The boys from Soi Sea Dragon also took the Cup Final, beating fellow finalists Champs Bar by the narrowest of margins.

As league champs, Amigos hosted the league party and award presentation ceremony on April 29. But it wasn’t yet time to put away their cues and pick up their beer mugs, as they were still slated to take on the determined crew from Champs Bar in the league’s knock-out Cup Final.

That exciting match was as close as could be. After singles and doubles play, the points were level at 6-6. The Cup came down to the beer leg, which Amigos took.

On the night, generous league members pitched in and donated 24,000 baht to help fellow league player Ped Steward of Heroes Bar pay for medical treatment after the Scot was in a motorcycle accident during the Songkran festival.

After a careful statistical analysis of this season’s play, Sammy Lee of Heroes Bar was declared the league’s top player, having amassed a league high of 55 points.

Other top scorers, by team, were: Anchor: Dum Sompongnumphet (49 pts); Amigos: Oh Tunt and Dave Nelson (48 points each); Waikiki: Jarong Chuchana (46 pts); Shakers: Stuart Hooper (43 pts); Football Crazy: Dave Staddon (42 pts); Lek Murphy’s: Dave Nattrass (41pts); Happy Days: John P. Marinko (33pts); Champs: Geoff Hopkins (29 pts); Pickles: Mike Halgreen and Chris Chambers (28 points each); In-Between: Koson Once (24 pts); Speak Easy: Alan Page and George (23 points).

The final league standings are: 1. Amigos (61); 2. Heroes (47); 3. Anchor (46); 4. Champs (40); 5. Waikiki (36); 6. Football Crazy (32); 7. Shakers (32); 8. In-Between (24); 9. Lek Murphy’s (24); 10. Pickles (21); 11. Happy Days (20); 12. Speak Easy (13).

By Stephen Fein
As the most popular small SUV, its appeal has been limited until now

**Toyota’s right little RAvEre**

**The RA V4 has been around for a while, and Toyota’s little SUV remains one of the most user-friendly and comfortable in its class. It is also now available for the first time with a high pressure, common-rail diesel motor, in addition to the existing gasoline models.**

A common-rail diesel is rather like a gasoline injection engine, in that the common rail is maintained at a constant high pressure, with each injector operated electronically by a central processor.

Until recently, diesel engines relied on relatively simple technology, with a low-pressure mechanical injector delivering fuel to a pre-combustion chamber in the cylinder head. While it was quite fuel-efficient, it lacked precision and refinement, generating noise and vibration.

The Toyota common rail system and its computer technology deliver precisely the right amount of fuel at exactly the right time, direct into the center of the combustion chamber. The control system offers greater engine flexibility and improved fuel consumption, not to mention less typical diesel noise.

The two-liter turbodiesel in the RA V4 develops a modest 116bhp (85kW) at 4,000 rpm, but the torque output is far more impressive with 250 Nm available across a rev range of 1,800 to 3,000rpm.

Mated to a five-speed manual gearbox, the little SUV is equally at home on- or off-road. On-road, the diesel RA V4 is a little sluggish, with the 0-100 kmh time a leisurely 12.1 seconds, while top speed is quoted as 170 kmh. Not exactly a road-burner but a solid, reliable work horse.

**Toyota introduced the RA V4 in 1994, labeling it as the “first SUV that offers GTi handling and performance”. True enough, it was an off-roader that was more like a sporting hatch-back. It rapidly found many followers and even with this new version, more than 30,000 RA V4s have been sold in Europe in the first 12 months.**

**As well as the diesel motor, it is available with a 1.8-liter gasoline engine and two-wheel drive, or a two-liter gas motor and four-wheel drive.**

The appeal of the RA V4 is that it is roomy, great fun to drive and offers reasonable performance. Available in either three- or five-door body styles, it also has options to fully customize the interior and the exterior.

Power windows are standard on both models, with side impact bars in the doors.

Front seat belts are equipped with pre-tensioners and force-limiters, while in the rear, three-point belts are fitted for all occupants, although in the smaller car the centre seat only features side impact bars.

Power steering is standard, and with the five-door you get luggage compartment illumination.

To change the appearance of either car, color-keyed bumpers can be added.

So can roof rails and a moulded spare wheel cover for the rear. If anything, the three-door looks better balanced, with the larger five-door appearing over-bodied.

**Toyota recently moved into the No 2 slot in terms of global auto makers, displacing Ford for the first time.**

In Japan, it has nearly one third of the domestic market and it is strongly represented in many other Asian countries.

**With the aid of its ambitious Formula One project, based in Germany and with drivers Olivier Panis of France and Cristiano da Matta of Brazil, you can be sure the Japanese giant will not rest until it becomes the undisputed world number one. Look out, GM.**

__Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com__
Why do wine prices keep going up?

Q: Food prices seem to be going down but wine keeps getting more expensive. Can you shed some light on this?

A: Yes, wine is becoming more expensive in Thailand. The Thai government is making a concerted effort to collect maximum taxes on imported wine, tobacco and auto parts. It also wants to support Thai fruit and vegetable “wine” by making imported wine more expensive. At the same time, cheap produce from China is flooding into Thailand and driving prices downward.

I find this ironic because most imported wine is bought by foreigners while most of the food is bought (and produced) by Thais.

The most likely outcome is that less tax will be collected from wine as fewer people buy it because of its higher cost. Thai farmers will be left out of it because of its higher cost.

Q: A visiting friend brought a bottle of Chilean wine made in the mid-19th century. Was brought to Chile sometime.

“Carmenère” and the wine was a bottle of Chilean wine made.

Q: What is the purpose of that dent in the bottom of most wine bottles?

A: When glass was first used to create wine bottles it was not strong enough to contain Champagne’s high pressure.

So, expect imported quality wine to continue being in short supply and more expensive. Other Asian nations with lower tax rates.

Q: A visiting friend brought a bottle of Chilean wine made from a grape called “Carmenère” and the wine was fantastic, but I cannot find out anything about this grape. How can I find it?

A: Carmenère was once common in Bordeaux but is now found almost exclusively in Chile. According to Chilean winemaker friends, carmenère was brought to Chile sometime in the mid-19th century.

Recently, DNA testing has revealed that much of what was thought to be merlot in Chile is actually carmenère. A handful of bright winemakers have begun labeling their merlot wines by the correct name carmenère, one of which you have just discovered.

I remember carmenère grapevines as being almost indistinguishable from merlot except that the berries are a little larger. The wine’s taste is similar to merlot, but not as herbal. Carmenère wine often has a supple texture and is well balanced. In Thailand you can find a good example from Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

One of my former professors at the University of California Davis, Dr Carole Meredith, recently discovered that some cabernet franc in California is actually carmenère. So, who knows, one day we may also enjoy great carmenère from California.

On the menu with Bruce Stanley

Carmen

CREATIVE: Carmen’s menu has color and flavor aplenty.

Carmen hits all the right notes

Puket’s vibrant restaurant scene has grown beyond the time when the discerning diner had to venture into a five-star resort to find a meal of international character and flavor.

I would even say that in my 10 years of reviewing restaurants on Phuket, menu standards and levels of service at many of the island’s better resort restaurants have declined.

Even though there is now a broader selection of food, there has also been a constant turnover of executive chefs and F&B managers who repeatedly change menus, creating confusion for the Thai chefs who constantly have to learn new recipes and styles of presentation. This makes for an inconsistent experience for the guests.

Fortunately, there have also been some imaginative and creative Thai chefs and managers, well trained in international restaurants, who have opened their own dining establishments in the past few years. This is where to find the excitement in dining out on the island.

The latest is Carmen at Surin Beach, near the entrance to the Anamani and Chedi resorts.

Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light. The wine’s taste is similar to merlot, but not as herbal. Carmenère wine often has a supple texture and is well balanced. In Thailand you can find a good example from Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

One of my former professors at the University of California Davis, Dr Carole Meredith, recently discovered that some cabernet franc in California is actually carmenère. So, who knows, one day we may also enjoy great carmenère from California.

I would bring my most favorite menu items to Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, which has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light.

On the menu with Bruce Stanley

Carmen

CREATIVE: Carmen’s menu has color and flavor aplenty.

Carmen hits all the right notes

Puket’s vibrant restaurant scene has grown beyond the time when the discerning diner had to venture into a five-star resort to find a meal of international character and flavor.

I would even say that in my 10 years of reviewing restaurants on Phuket, menu standards and levels of service at many of the island’s better resort restaurants have declined.

Even though there is now a broader selection of food, there has also been a constant turnover of executive chefs and F&B managers who repeatedly change menus, creating confusion for the Thai chefs who constantly have to learn new recipes and styles of presentation. This makes for an inconsistent experience for the guests.

Fortunately, there have also been some imaginative and creative Thai chefs and managers, well trained in international restaurants, who have opened their own dining establishments in the past few years. This is where to find the excitement in dining out on the island.

The latest is Carmen at Surin Beach, near the entrance to the Anamani and Chedi resorts.

Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light. The wine’s taste is similar to merlot, but not as herbal. Carmenère wine often has a supple texture and is well balanced. In Thailand you can find a good example from Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

One of my former professors at the University of California Davis, Dr Carole Meredith, recently discovered that some cabernet franc in California is actually carmenère. So, who knows, one day we may also enjoy great carmenère from California.

I would bring my most favorite menu items to Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, which has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light.

On the menu with Bruce Stanley

Carmen

CREATIVE: Carmen’s menu has color and flavor aplenty.

Carmen hits all the right notes

Puket’s vibrant restaurant scene has grown beyond the time when the discerning diner had to venture into a five-star resort to find a meal of international character and flavor.

I would even say that in my 10 years of reviewing restaurants on Phuket, menu standards and levels of service at many of the island’s better resort restaurants have declined.

Even though there is now a broader selection of food, there has also been a constant turnover of executive chefs and F&B managers who repeatedly change menus, creating confusion for the Thai chefs who constantly have to learn new recipes and styles of presentation. This makes for an inconsistent experience for the guests.

Fortunately, there have also been some imaginative and creative Thai chefs and managers, well trained in international restaurants, who have opened their own dining establishments in the past few years. This is where to find the excitement in dining out on the island.

The latest is Carmen at Surin Beach, near the entrance to the Anamani and Chedi resorts.

Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light. The wine’s taste is similar to merlot, but not as herbal. Carmenère wine often has a supple texture and is well balanced. In Thailand you can find a good example from Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.

One of my former professors at the University of California Davis, Dr Carole Meredith, recently discovered that some cabernet franc in California is actually carmenère. So, who knows, one day we may also enjoy great carmenère from California.

I would bring my most favorite menu items to Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, which has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light.

On the menu with Bruce Stanley

Carmen

CREATIVE: Carmen’s menu has color and flavor aplenty.

Carmen hits all the right notes

Puket’s vibrant restaurant scene has grown beyond the time when the discerning diner had to venture into a five-star resort to find a meal of international character and flavor.

I would even say that in my 10 years of reviewing restaurants on Phuket, menu standards and levels of service at many of the island’s better resort restaurants have declined.

Even though there is now a broader selection of food, there has also been a constant turnover of executive chefs and F&B managers who repeatedly change menus, creating confusion for the Thai chefs who constantly have to learn new recipes and styles of presentation. This makes for an inconsistent experience for the guests.

Fortunately, there have also been some imaginative and creative Thai chefs and managers, well trained in international restaurants, who have opened their own dining establishments in the past few years. This is where to find the excitement in dining out on the island.

The latest is Carmen at Surin Beach, near the entrance to the Anamani and Chedi resorts.

Carmen, named for the opera by Bizet, has been adopted by the Sultan of Brunei as one of their new places to play. Carmen is like a traditional Italian trattoria, offering a substantial menu of popular Mediterranean foods in a relaxed, informal setting, decorated with warm earth tones and soft light. The wine’s taste is similar to merlot, but not as herbal. Carmenère wine often has a supple texture and is well balanced. In Thailand you can find a good example from Baron Philippe Rothschild, a carmenère sourced from the Rapel Valley near Santiago.
Kazakhstan is primed for a property boom – just ask the CIA

Dulwich International College Phuket, CB Richard Ellis Thailand and several Phuket property projects will this month join an international exhibition and property and investment conference in Almaty, largest city in the central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan.

Phuket is becoming increasingly popular for holidays and for holiday home buyers from Kazakhstan and surrounding countries, along with other places in Asia where people are working in the oil, mining or financial industries.

Previously part of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan is now enjoying foreign investment totalling billions of dollars to develop its massive natural resources – petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold and uranium, to name just a few.

Almaty, the largest city and the former capital, is a forest of office towers under construction for the headquarters and offices of international oil and mining companies.

When Kazakhstan is mentioned in Phuket, many people say “Where?” Until recently, the countries of Central Asia were rarely mentioned because people had come to think of the whole of the Soviet Union as one nation, something like the US.

Now these former Soviet states are independent countries, re-establishing themselves in school atlases. For those who don’t know, Kazakhstan is bordered by Russia to the north, China to the east, the Caspian Sea to the west and the other former Soviet states of Central Asia – Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan – to the south.

The Central Intelligence Agency website says of the country, “Kazakhstan, the largest of the former Soviet republics in territory, excluding Russia, possesses enormous fossil fuel reserves as well as plentiful supplies of other minerals and metals. It also is a large agricultural – livestock and grain – producer.

“The country has also embarked upon an industrial policy designed to diversify the economy away from overdependence on the oil sector, by developing light industry.”

Anyway, an intrepid bunch of pioneers from Phuket are heading off to open up this new frontier. Dulwich Headmaster David Cook and CB Richard Ellis Managing Director Thailand, David Simister, will be guest speakers at the 3rd International Property and Investment Conference. I shall be going too.

A local businessman who travels frequently between Kazakhstan and Thailand has advised us to buy economy class tickets.

“Don’t waste your money,” he advises. “I will be traveling back to Almaty on the same flight. We give the captain US$50 and he upgrades us.”

Phuket Gazette
All the water in the house passes through a filter before it comes out of the taps.

There is also an RO (reverse osmosis) system under the kitchen sink to provide pure drinking. This is linked to an ice maker and water dispenser in the refrigerator.

The villa has an extensive customized lighting system with control panels in each room.

All of the exterior lights are programmed to switch on at dusk and off at dawn. There is also an integrated security system.

The price for the home is 34 million baht.

For further information or to inspect the house, contact Brad Kenny at Tel: 01-6334279 or send an email to: esppkt@phuket.ksc.co.th.
I know. I’m a little odd. The subject of The Two Ronnies came up the other day. For anyone who didn’t spend his youth watching too much TV in the ’70s, The Two Ronnies was a British comedy series, and it was simply superb.

Everyone has a favorite sketch, but mine is definitely Four Candles. “Four candles, please,” says one Ronnie. He’s duly given four candles, to which the response is “No, fawk ‘andles – ‘andles for forks!”

This has to be the most tenuous link to a gardening column in the history of the Gazette, but the golden candle plant is worth it. Otherwise known as the golden shrimp plant, lollipop plant, or lue-ang-khriirii-pun in Thai, it adds a spectacular splash of bright yellow wherever it sits in your garden.

Originally from Peru, it’s one of those plants that almost looks too good to be true. Instead of the more traditional green leaves with the odd flower here and there, the golden plant takes the idea of color one step further. It cheats.

It does have the traditional leaf set-up that it shares with many members of the plant kingdom — large, deep green oval leaves with prominent veins — but they’re not all green.

Some of them modify themselves to form bright yellow bracts (like the red leaves of the poinsettia, or the colored parts of a bougainvillea) that mimic the appearance of flowers.

They look like candles from a distance. They almost hide the true flowers, which contain all the mechanisms for fertilization of the plant.

The flowers look like tiny white shrimp, which is where it gets one of its alternative names. The flowers last only a few days, but the yellow bracts can linger on for several weeks, resulting in a continuous display of these impressive vertical candelabras.

Let’s face it, fertilization by insect and bird pollinators is the main reason flowers exist, so why shouldn’t they cheat and have some of the leaves help them along in this regard?

Golden shrimp plants are perfect for pots on patios and look wonderful in borders for a sweeping splash of yellow. Put them against a dark background and they’ll really stand out.

The plant can grow up to about six feet, but to reach that height and still look as if someone cares, it’ll need regular, sensible pruning. Prune it by about half a couple of times a year. It may look a bit brutalized at first, but it will bounce back.

These things are sun worshippers, but don’t get into the same state as their human counterparts who visit Phuket with the same intention. While the tourists in Patong get pinker by the hour, resulting in the familiar barbecued-shrimp look at the end of their two-week stint, these permanent residents just look even healthier.

The golden shrimp’s leaves become greener, and the “four candles” you have when you originally bring the plant home from the garden center will quickly multiply. Lots of sun, high humidity and a fair amount of water are all the plant demands. It could have been invented for Phuket.

Another bonus of the golden shrimp plant is how ridiculously easy it is to propagate. Just cut an eight-to-10-inch stem and strip the lower set of leaves. Put it in moist potting soil or sand, keeping one to two sets of leaves above the soil line. Place it in the shade initially and it should root really easily, at which time it can be planted outside to enjoy the sun.

The Two Ronnies, Messrs Corbett and Barker, have probably never been to Phuket. They probably never considered the link between gardening implements and a rather impressive tropical flower. But I’d like to think they did.
Projects

Properties For Sale

6-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA
For sale: a beautiful 6-bedroom house in Kamala, near Phuket and close to the beach. The house is built in modern style, with high-quality materials and features such as spacious bedrooms, multiple bathrooms, a large living room, and a fully equipped kitchen. It is located just a short walk from the beach, making it the perfect place for relaxation and enjoyment. For more details, contact Paul Franco in Kamala. Tel: 076-279075, 01-4761415. Email: flbrun@kscinfo.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE
Neat 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house, opposite Wat Chalong. 800-sqm plot. Quiet. Chanote title. All utilities connected. Garden currently being landscaped. 6 million baht or near est offer. Tel: 09-6713360. Email: sears@ksc.th.com

LAND FOR SALE
Pattaya. Plots of various sizes for sale. Each about 800-1,000 sqm with NorSur 3 Con title (An official land title issued by Thailand Land Department). On the hillside overlooking Bang Saen beach. Must sell below 2.9 (4,608 sqm) land plot with Chanote title. Land is located approx. 350 meters from the beach and 20km from Khao Lek. Price: 4.32 million baht (15 meters of ocean frontage). Tel: 083-6563804. Fax: 603-5636504. Email: arya.aseepoon@hotmail.com

FAMILY HOUSE
near Laguna. New family house in a quiet area close to Laguna, suitable for a family or for a relax house. 2 bedrooms (1+1 optional), 3 bathrooms, living and dining rooms, kitchen and area for landscaping on a 312-sqm plot. Few mins to Bang Tao and Layan beaches, 20 mins to downtown. Tel: 09-7242572. For further details, please see our website at: www.lantarealestate.com

LAND FOR SALE
Pattaya. Plots of various sizes for sale. Each about 800-1,000 sqm with NorSur 3 Con title (An official land title issued by Thailand Land Department). On the hillside overlooking Bang Saen beach. Must sell below 2.9 (4,608 sqm) land plot with Chanote title. Land is located approx. 350 meters from the beach and 20km from Khao Lek. Price: 4.32 million baht (15 meters of ocean frontage). Tel: 083-6563804. Fax: 603-5636504. Email: arya.aseepoon@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
Furnished 3-bed, 2-bathroom, 225-sq wah house for sale. Has kitchen, car park and gard en. Located approx. 350 meters from the beach. Tel: 09-7242572. For further details, please see our website at: www.lantarealestate.com

LAND FOR SALE
65 rai, Laem Promthep, 3 mill baht/rai. Rai of land on top of a very steep hill overlooking Chalong Bay and Layan beaches, just a few minutes away. Close to Laguna resorts, gym, shopping centers and facilities. A beautiful sunset point suited for a private residence. Great view at US$90,000. Call for full details. Tel: 09-7242572. Email: csakalya@yahoo.com

HOUSE OVERLOOKING CHALONG
Hillside villas - 6 remaining - overlooking Chalong Bay with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living and dining rooms, kitchen, double covered car park, staff quarters and swimming pool. 240 sqm covered area, private parking area, gym, pool, deck and 3-meter ceiling. Priced from 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-349050, 01-8957159, 02-291-1112.

GOLF VIEW LAND
Build your ocean view dream home on a 2-rai lot on a golf course (Laguna property). On the hillside overlooking Bang Saen beach. Must sell below 2.9 (4,608 sqm) land plot with Chanote title. Land is located approx. 350 meters from the beach and 20km from Khao Lek. Price: 4.32 million baht (15 meters of ocean frontage). Tel: 083-6563804. Fax: 603-5636504. Email: arya.aseepoon@hotmail.com

NATURAL BEACH LAND
West Facing, 35 meters of ocean frontage at Natai Beach. Fully serviced and levelled. New boundary wall and building permits. Enjoy your sala 20 meters above high tide. 15 minutes away from the airport. 25 million baht. Email: nick@indigore.com. Tel: 09-873-2042. Indigo Real Estate Limited. Sound advice, premium properties.

PANWA SEAVIEW LAND
500 sqm only 5,000 baht per sqm. Call 09-7242572. Email: csakalya@yahoo.com

KATA HILL SEAVIEW LAND
Kata hill sea view land for sale. 6.75 rai for 12 million baht. Tel: 09-7242572. For further details, please see our website at: www.lantarealestate.com

GOLF VIEW LAND
2 rai of prime land available for sale in Loch Palm Golf Course, Kathu. Fantastic golf course and mountain views. Priced from 5.5 to 6.8 million baht. A must-see development. Contact Ken 01-6493365. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

CHALONG SEAVIEW LAND

LAND IN PATONG
For sale: Excellent seaviews. Prices from 5.5 million baht/rai (3,450 baht/sqm). Please call for full details. Tel: 076-280935. Email: christian_f@ yahoo.co.uk

NEW SEAVIEW VILLA
New sea view villa on 1,200 sqm of land, with more land available, has freehold Chanote title, marble bathrooms, hot water, 3-phase electricity, air conditioning, swimming pool, complete water systems. Build your dream house with this excellent 2-bedroom-cum-office, store rooms, and 3 bed rooms, all with sea view. Must view to appreciate. Will consider smaller house or land as partial payment. Tel: 076-2659777. Email: jimmys @kscinfo.co.th

NAIHAHN BEACH CONDOS
New 2-bedroom condo on 3 rai 3 ngan with Chanote. 250-sqm and 300-sqm terraces. Two-story homes with seaview in a valley with waterfalls and 150m surrounding wall. Call Stefan. Tel: 01-979601.

HOT PROPERTY
6.8 million baht. 2 homes on 3 rai 3 ngan with Chanote. 250-sqm and 300-sqm terraces. Two-story homes with seaview in a valley with waterfalls and 150m surrounding wall. Call Stefan. Tel: 01-979601.

HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
Would you like to own a beautiful hotel and restaurant close to Kata Beach? Buy the entire company (4 buildings with 30-room hotel, restaurant and rental property) for 33.25 million baht or the two main buildings (4-room hotel plus restaurant) for 15 million baht. The land is Chanote and is ready for rapid company transfer to foreign ownership. For more info, visit www.greesitic.info/buylist/property
Tel: 01-6930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

Find more Property Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

All classifieds in these pages are

– your assurance that whatever’s advertised is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classifieds - they work! …because they’re real.
NEW HOUSE FOR RENT
Fully furnished, Thai-style, 3-bedroom house, with sea view, in town. Tel: 09-9724158.

NEW HOUSE IN LAND & HOUSE
New 3-bedroom house for rent in Land & Houses Park, partly furnished. Great area – safe and secure. Use of sports center also available. Option for UBC TV. Only 25,000 baht a month, negotiable for long-term rent. Tel: 06-5893389. Email: nytram74@hotmail.com

LUXURY BUNGALOWS IN PATONG

LUXURY BUNGALOWS

FOR SALE IN KAMALA
2-bedroom apartment for long-term rent, fully furnished, aircon, UK-style kitchen, UBC TV, swimming pool and Jacuzzi in a private new development. Agents welcome. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-9580489, 09-874-6185.

FOR RENT IN KAMALA

FOR RENT IN PATONG

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT
Fully furnished, Thai-style, 3-bedroom house, with sea view, in town. Tel: 09-9724158.

NEW HOUSE WITH POOL
New furnished or unfurnished Kamala home with pool, 6-months minimum rental, 35,000 baht. Pls call after 4 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

5-BED HOUSE & 4 RENT
5-bed, 5-bathroom Thai-style house for rent at Loch Palm Golf Course. Close to Dulwich College. Fully furnished and less than a year old. Ready to move in. 800-sqm garden. 3 tel lines. Car available if required. Short- or long-term rental OK. Please email for further details. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 65-983-7040. Email: chris.winter@veritasdc.com

THE BEST VIEW

PHUKET BEVERLY HILL
We offer Exclusive Residences at Beverly Hills in Patong, Beautiful Town House with Superb Ocean Views. For more details call 076-341871 or 01-569716. E-mail: sales@phuketislandrealstate.com. Website: www.icphkt@hotmail.com

HOTEL PROMOTION Special rate for low season, long stays at beachfront hotel, including A/C and facilities: just 18,000 baht/month. Please call 076-345518 or 01-882038 for more information.

PATONG LUXURY apartments in central Patong. 1-and 2-bedroom apartments. Email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

FREE DEALS available. Beautiful rooms with aircon, shower, bath and sunny balcony. Other facilities: private restaurant, bar, cable TV, large screen sports TV, swimming pool, sauna, free snorkeling and free motorbike rental. 750 baht per night, and long-term deals available. Tel: 076-340743, 09-7225752. Fax: 076-344057. Email: uktah@procom.in.th

LOOKING 4 A HOUSE I’m looking for a nice detached house in Ravai. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, phone line, furnished or not. I’ll return to Phuket in September and I am looking to lease a place long-term. Please email details to: richardkerrarn@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY HOME wanted. English/Thai family needs a house/apartment with ocean views on a monthly basis - low season only. We require a pool and satellite TV. We can pay 12,000 baht/ month. Email: butterfly33@yahoo.com

COMFORTABLE FLAT I am looking for a comfortable flat in Patong or nearby between June 15 and July 20, approximately. Must have kitchen, cable TV, aircon and fan. Must also be located in a good area. Email: miadcct@phuketislandrealstate.com

RENTAL IN PATONG Girl from Norway looking for apartment or house in Patong. Need it long term, from Sept 2004 to May 2005. Require two bedrooms, fully furnished and access to swimming pool. Email: lillae4ever@hotmail.com

HOTEL SERVICES
- Repairs/maintenance/renovation/building air conditioning/woodwork/storeroom/metalwork/electrical/plumbing/gardening/pressure cleaning/window cleaning
- Tel: 076 324 490 Mobile: 07 282 0020
- phuket home services

AAA STORAGE offers a safe, secure and fully insured building for your motorbike, electronic equipment, furniture, boxes, etc. We also sell paddocks and cardboard boxes. Tel: 06-7428743.

FREE!
See the Phuket Gazette Online at www.phuketgazette.net
Island Job Mart

HOTEL STAFF

Thavorn Hotels & Resorts Phuket
Owners of Thavorn Hotel in Phuket Town, Thavorn Grand Plaza in Phuket Town, Thavorn Palm Beach Resort on Karon Beach, Thavorn Beach Village & Spa on Nai Harn Bay, near Patong Beach and The Sukhothai, is currently looking for:

- General Managers
- Resident Managers / Hotel Managers / Executive Assistant Managers (Rooms / F&B)
- Food & Beverage Directors / Managers / Restaurant Managers / Ass. Managers
- Executive Chefs (expat) / Executive Sous Chefs (expat or Thai) / Chefs
- Rooms Division Manager / Front Office Managers / Ass. Managers
- Director of Marketing / Director of Sales / Sales Managers (Bangkok & Phuket offices)
- Programmers (php, html, MySQL, JavaScript)
- Web Designers (Dreamweaver, Flash, Photoshop, Illustrator)
- Text Editors for E-Commerce Department
- Chief Accountants / Accountants
- Spa Manager / Ass. Spa Managers
- Training Manager / English Language Instructor
- Admin. Manager / Executive Secretary / Secretaries (for Marketing Communications and Research & Development Department)
- Receptionists / Guest Relations Officers / Managers
- Receptionists / Guest Relations Officers / Managers
- Many Junior and Middle Management Admin. & Service Staff / Managers

The ideal candidates for professional positions MUST possess seven years experience in a similar capacity with 4.5 stars hotels and resorts.

First time candidates for the hotel industry are most welcome. Ideally, new candidates for management positions MUST possess a degree, preferably master degree, from recognized universities.

We offer a good salary and excellent benefits to the right candidates.

Thavorn Group is looking for young, energetic, committed, resourceful and self-motivated Thais and expatriates to join our team. Interested candidates should send their applications with 2 recent photos to:

Group Human Resources Director
Thavorn Hotel & Resorts Phuket
Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel
40/5 Chana-Charoen Road, Muang, Phuket 83000
Email: recruitment@thavorngroup.com

SPA/HR MANAGERS

The Mangosteen Resort & Spa, a high class boutique resort in Nai Harn, is looking for an experienced Spa Manager (Thai national only). Good command of English language is a must. HR Manager urgently needed for a team of 100 employees. Please contact for more details.

Tel: 076-2873399. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com

HOLIDAY RESORT

Staff wanted to fill the following positions: Assistant to the General Manager and sales staff. To work for local chain resorts on Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga, Chiang Mai, Chai-ram and Ayutthaya. Please contact to apply or for further information.

Tel: 02-7115997-8 (ext 21, 34).

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED

for the marine industry. Working onboard boat only. Should be aged between 20-30, some spoken English and with a good understanding of electrical matters. Car license an advantage. Tel: 09-4741246, 076-273 379. Please call or email to apply. Email: nid@octopusasia.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

Head chef and all staff required for Rock Fish (previously known as The Balcony) in Kamala. Must have experience, a good attitude and the desire to learn. Rock Fish offers modern healthy cuisine amidst oceanfront surroundings with a fun attitude. Tel: 09-2873161. Email: kamararestaurant@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart

Is a member of The Luxury Collection of Starwood Hotels & Resorts and one of the five resorts at Laguna Phuket, the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket is currently seeking highly qualified professionals with relevant experience for the following positions:

SALES & MARKETING

- Director of Events
- Senior Events Manager
- Business Centre Administrator
- Secretary to Director of Sales & Marketing
- Sales Co-ordinator / Marketing Communications Coordinator

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Thai Chef
- F&B Shift Leader
- F&B Auditor

In addition to the relevant experience and skills, applicants should have a pleasant personality, positive attitude, good interpersonal and communication skills as well as good command of English. Salaries will be offered attractive salaries and benefits.

Please apply in person or email application, resume and recent photo to:

Human Resources Department - Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket
10 Moo 4 & Naithon Beach Rd., Thalang, Phuket 83114
Tel: (66-77) 230 101-7 Fax: (66-77) 231 010
Email: sheranuch.chalho@luxurycollection.com

The Luxury Collection
Improved Hotels & Resorts

SPAW/HR MANAGERS

The Mangosteen Resort & Spa, a high class boutique resort in Nai Harn, is looking for an experienced Spa Manager (Thai national only). Good command of English language is a must. HR Manager urgently needed for a team of 100 employees. Please contact for more details.

Tel: 076-2873399. Fax: 076-2893389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com

HOLIDAY RESORT

Staff wanted to fill the following positions: Assistant to the General Manager and sales staff. To work for local chain resorts on Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga, Chiang Mai, Chai-ram and Ayutthaya. Please contact to apply or for further information.

Tel: 02-7115997-8 (ext 21, 34).

International Property Consultants, Agents, Valuers, Property managers.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are international property consultants with over 200 offices worldwide, providing property agency services, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy.

Villa Rental Manager

Due to our rapid expansion into the villa rental market, we have a strategic position available for an experienced property person (preferably in hotel and hospitality industry) to manage and oversee this division.

Ideally the preferred candidate would be:

- Female (Thai National) age 27 years plus,
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken);
- Vibrant personality, professional in appearance and customer serviced orientated,
- Owns a motor vehicle

If you are looking for change or a more challenging position and wish to join a professional, leading international property agency in Phuket, then please send your CV to:

Stephen O’Brien
Managing Director
Knight Frank (Phuket Branch)
Knightfrank@knightfrankthailand.com
Telephone: 076 396 777
Facsimile: 076 396 786
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

AGM position is available in a boutique resort. Will be responsible for daily operations and human resources duties as well as national and international needs. Please apply only by email. Email: jobs@openthed.net

OFFICE SECRETARY

Thai national, fluent in written and spoken English, needed for front office. Only experienced persons should apply. Please email or fax resume and/or interview. Fax: 076-238974. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

PROPERTY SCOUT

Thai person with good English skills required to find property and land for sale. Own transport necessary. Good salary and commission paid. Tel: 076-280805 or 01-2710496.

MODELS WANTED

For Angel model and promotion shoot on May 15. Tel: 01-5368106, 01-0868805. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-7400102.

CHILD CAR SEAT

1-month-old car seat for child up to age 4. Never been used. New price: 6,500 baht; will sell for 5,000 baht. Tel: 076-219062. Fax: 076-214498. Email: eccpk@ecc.ac.th

BOSTON WHALER

For sale at Tamaprao. Swedish design. 2.2m long with central console. Will sell for 25,000 baht. Tel: 076-2772598. Email: thay_harly@hotmail.com

SAMSUNG V200

Samsung model V200 for sale. 1 month old. Perfect condition, still under warranty. Please contact Khun Natthada for more details. Tel: 076-239078, 01-7376184. Fax: 076-239078.

TAMAPRAO YACHT

For sale at Tamaprao. Swedish design, 36-foot fiberglass motor yacht, 2x200hp engines. Tel: 09-2002497.

SIMPSON

For a free of charge insurance quote for your boat, commercial or pleasure. Please contact: 076-239078. Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

SUNSETT TRADING

Articles for Sale

BAR EQUIPMENT for sale. Pool table, bar, with overhead display, cabinet for glasses, mirrored bottle and glass display, sink unit in cabinet, and various TVs for sale. Call for details. Tel: 01-5369079.

GOLF CLUBS

Tommy Armour 845s V-31 EVO Cavity PW-3, iron, Tempi Tri-Grind graphite shafts (black). 2. Orlimar TriMetal Plus fairway woods: 128 and 148, Tri Tempi ultra-lightweight graphite shafts (green). 2 sets of Ping Eye 2 irons, PW-2 iron Red and Blue dot. Ladies Mizuno IR03, PW-3 iron only used twice. Tel: 05-098-0976. Email: donadams@mac.com

PICNIC TABLES

Rustic 2m solid wood picnic tables with built-in benches. Made to order by local Thai man. Ideal for outdoor living or for restaurants/bars. Other sizes available. Free delivery to your home or business. Price: 3,500 baht each. For more info and pictures please email: 09-6475125. Email: hum@rawai.com

CHILD CAR SEAT

1-month-old car seat for child up to age 4. Never been used. New price: 6,500 baht; will sell for 5,000 baht. Make your baby safe. Tel: 076-635260, 058-933380. Email: nytram74@hotmail.com

SAMSUNG V200

Samsung model V200 for sale. 1 month old. Perfect condition, still under warranty. Please contact Khun Natthada for more details. Tel: 01-5368106, 01-536-6732. Email: enxamnta.great@hotmail.com

BABY COT FOR SALE

Baby cot, with padded aluminum frame and mosquito netting sides and cover. Size: over 1m x 1m. Good for small babies up to a year old or a bit more. Also have a pushchair in good condition. Price: 1,500 baht for both items. Tel: 06-2202208 or 09-9705259. Email: info@sunrise-divers.com

TRIATHLON BIKE

Specialized triathlon bike in perfect condition. Perfect for building or established tri-athletes. Only 6 months old, 35,000 baht only. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-280805. Email: nytram74@hotmail.com

CANON/NIKON cameras for sale. Canon EOS 650 with 35-105, 80-200, 50mm lenses, wide angle adapter, and flash. Excellent condition and works perfectly. Price: 25,000 baht. Nikors 35 mm IV-A, Old, but like new. Never been used underwater. Classic and perfect. Price: 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-274484 or 07-1862883. Email: dhphawai@hotmail.com

MONITOR FOR SALE

Brand new 17” HP monitor. New price 8,500 baht. Will sell for 4,500 baht. Tel: 06-2775298. Email: thay_harly@hotmail.com

SONY PC110

Camcorder for sale. Sony PC110 Mini DV, 20 months old. Cost 65,000 baht (have original receipt and warranty card). Will sell for 25,000 baht only. Complete with all original accessories (battery, power adapter, lens shade, remote control, DV in/out cable, and AV cable). Tel: 01-2727556.

MOBILE PHONE

Want to buy a mobile phone in ‘as new’ condition. Must be new model. Price should be good for you and me. Email: butterfly33@yahoo.com

SOUND EQUIPMENT

Want to buy: mixer, amps, speakers, microphones, the whole works. Prefer to buy everything together, but individual pieces considered. Tel: 06-6836326. Email: bluephoenixdesign@hotmail.com

TREADMILL

A quality treadmill running machine wanted in a good condition. Must be robust and in perfect working order. Tel: 09-2167220. Email: julianbursig@myway.com

CAMERA CASE

Sony Cybershot P7 underwater case wanted. Tel: 09-2875933. Email: sipas@hawaii.edu

USED ITEMS WANTED

Are you moving? Then sell your stuff for our empty apartment. We are looking to buy: luxury-quality mattress or bed, and stuffed sofa; coffee table; end tables; table lamps; cooking utensils; and even a cappuccino machine. Tel: 0740-8528. Email: morganlalin@@yahoo.com

BOAT SCUBA AIRCON

Would like to take over (must include installation and tun- ing) a UBC satellite set. Also looking for a portable air conditioner (on wheels). Please contact with details. Email: blueskies10000@hotmail.com

SECONDHAND FLUTE

Looking for a secondhand flute in good condition (for intermediate musician). If you have one, or if you know where to buy in Phuket or Bangkok, please contact me. Email: elsbellon@hotmail.com
PHUKET GAZETTE

May 8 - 14, 2004

25% Discount on Standard Classifieds for Shopper Card Holders

IF YOU...
Place your ad in these pages; Present your Shopper Card; and Pay for the ad at our offices, you’ll enjoy a 25% discount!* AND have your ad appear free of charge in the Gazette’s Island Trader Online.

With more than 10,000 visitors a day, the Island Trader Online is Thailand’s most active classified marketplace.

*Ads may be submitted in person or online (phuketgazette.net/classifieds), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

Busy? No problem... Exxon, Shell, or Esso, they all have easy credit cards.
NULL
**3rd INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE and IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN, 16-20 May, 2004**

Keynote speakers at the conference will be
Mr David Simister, Managing Director, 
CB Richard Ellis (Thailand)

&

Mr David Cook,
Headmaster of Dulwich International College Phuket and of the new Dulwich College, Samui.

Phuket and Samui property projects are to be represented at the Exhibition in this rapidly growing market of oil and mining company personnel.

For enquiries phone Graham Doven 01 897 0225 or email g_phuket@ksc.th.com

View Thailand's LARGEST portfolio of Classified Ads – more than 2,000 of them!
See the Phuket Gazette Online at www.phuketgazette.net