

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 24 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

June 12 - 18, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 20 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Bail insurance now available; Encroached land seized; Queer News.

Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: Mangrove cull causes turmoil on idyllic Naka Yai Island.

Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE ISLAND: Let your heart lead your feet, says dance instructor.

Page 6

AROUND THE REGION: Time to head for the hills in Samui.

Page 8

PEOPLE: Singer Rose proves that it's the voice that counts.

Pages 10 & 11

SPORT: Table tennis champs show how it's done; Golf; Five-a-side soccer.

Page 13

DOWNSIDER: A ball shows there's life in the old dog yet.

Page 17

FIRST PERSON: Why Phuket needs more unskilled foreign labor, not fewer.

Page 19

BUSINESS & MONEY: Tourist industry looks back on a good high season; Saudi terrorism a real worry.

Page 21

GOOD LIVING: A taste of the Alps at Swiss Delight.

Page 25

PROPERTY: The high life up above Surin Beach; Home of the week in Kamala; William Pinsent on property prices; Using long words to grow plants.

Pages 26, 27 & 28

PLUS

AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; HOROSCOPES 12; TRAVEL - HONG KONG MOVIELAND 14; KIDS 15; MOMMA DUCK, YOUTH 'N ASIA 16; EDITORIAL & LETTERS 18; ISSUES & ANSWERS 19; COMPUTERS, BOOKS 20; MOTORING 24; CLASSIFIEDS 29-35.

'Ugly' verdict rattles island

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura and senior figures in the tourism industry say they accept the judgment of a survey in the respected *National Geographic Traveler* magazine that Phuket, as a destination, is "getting ugly".

The "ugly" assessment was made by the magazine after it conducted a survey, in collaboration with the National Geographic Sustainable Tourism Initiative, of 200 specialists in sustainable tourism, destination stewardship and related fields.

The specialists assessed 115 well-known destinations worldwide. Phuket came third from last with a score of 43 out of 100, beating only north-coast Jamaica and Spain's Costa del Sol.

Destinations were given scores for environmental and ecological quality; social and cultural integrity; condition of built heritage; aesthetic appeal; appropriateness of tourism development; and outlook for sustainability. They were also scored from 1 to 10 for "overall condition", ranging from 1 for "catastrophic" to 10 for "enhanced".

The Governor told the *Gazette* that he had to accept the results of the assessment because the magazine "checked many aspects of tourism".

He explained, "I believe [the magazine] conducted the survey systematically and methodically, so we will use it to help us to improve things."

"In Phuket, many organiza-



Definitely not ugly

Talatchanun Srisanan, Sasiwan Phootrakornchai and Prynda Kumphumpinij, all 19 and all from Bangkok, were among the 40 Miss Siam 2004 contestants who visited Phuket for a few days before the contest, due to take place in Bangkok on June 12. They visited popular tourists sites and featured in a video promoting tourism. While in Phuket the contestants stayed at the Dusit Laguna Resort Hotel.

tions have conducted research by surveying tourists. Their results are similar to the assessment [in the magazine], which confirms that we have a problem.

"People involved must realize that it is time to help Phuket once again become a good place for tourism.

"The result [of the *National Geographic Traveler*] survey is like a mirror in which we can see ourselves.

"I'm always pleased to receive criticisms," the Governor added. "They help us to solve problems and improve matters."

Panu Maswongsa, Vice-President of Marketing of the Phuket Tourism Association, also agreed with the results of the

survey. "We have to accept the reality. We should try to improve Phuket instead of making excuses. We know what is happening, so we should not lie to ourselves," he said.

"We think too much about attracting tourists but never enough about protecting the environment or improving public infrastructure to support tourism."

Although he acknowledged that publication of the survey might affect Phuket's tourism, he added, "It is good for us to know."

Thanu Nabnien, Coordinator in Phuket of the Wildlife Fund of Thailand, also agreed

Continued on page 2

TOT gets B128m to boost services

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: The Phuket office of the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) has been granted a budget of 128.68 million baht to upgrade its services on the island.

The budget will be used to install 19 new telephone exchanges, adding a total of 8,100 telephone numbers on the island this year. "We plan to add another 11,430 telephone numbers next year, bringing the total new landline numbers in Phuket to 19,530," TOT Phuket chief Pairoj Somsri told the *Gazette*.

He added that the TOT Phuket branch will also expand its ADSL high-speed Internet access from the current coverage of 20% of the island to more than 80%.

"We are preparing to install 5,000 ADSL exchanges in Phuket in July," he said.

Looking further ahead, K. Pairoj said that TOT Phuket is waiting for approval to install wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) high-speed Internet access throughout Phuket City, with a service range extending at least five kilometers from the access points.

"The TOT is waiting for approval from the Post and Telegraph Department to install WiMax [wireless protocol] broadband Internet access in Phuket City that will be capable of providing Internet access to users at least five kilometers from where the WiMax node is installed," he said.

He added that the TOT is currently waiting for approval to make Phuket City "go hot", as launching Wi-Fi service is referred to in IT circles.

Gov, tourism leaders admit magazine's 'ugly' label contains truth

From page 1

with the assessment. "Problems always come together with tourism, especially environmental problems," he said.

"For a long time there has been a conflict in thinking between those who believe that Phuket should be a destination for high-class travelers and the

Tourism Authority of Thailand [which aims simply to keep increasing tourist arrivals]. So there's a conflict and we don't know what exactly Phuket should be," K. Thanu explained.

"We keep hearing there are measures to protect the environment, such as environmental legislation and zoning to control

pollution, but there is never any enforcement. We have laws and rules but no action. We have talked a lot about zoning but it never gets applied," he added.

John Gray, Managing Director of ecotourism company John Gray's Sea Canoe, told the *Gazette*, "I think we need to slow down and remember what Phu-

ket can be. I think we should listen to *National Geographic Traveler* because the quality of life is more important than money.

"I think Phuket is going to find itself losing the top-quality [tourists] and we are going to end up with the East Asian group tours. They don't spend much money and they destroy nature.

"I believe this trend of thinking only of tourist numbers is not a good one. We should be thinking about the quality of tourist, not about the numbers alone," he added. "I think Phuket's going downhill fast ... In the past three years we have just gotten too greedy."

The Director of the local TAT office, Suwalai Pinpradab, said, "We have to accept that some people see us like this, so we have to improve our product and make an urgent effort to preserve the environment.

Responding to criticism of the TAT's drive to constantly increase tourist numbers, she said, "Of course we need to increase the number of tourists - it means greater income for the country. But this doesn't mean we are destroying tourism sites. It is the responsibility of businesspeople and local government to preserve the environment. Wherever I go, I always emphasize this."

Asked whether the survey would affect the booming property industry, Phummasak Hongsyok, President of the Phuket Real Estate Club, told the *Gazette*, "I don't think so, but it is a reminder to Phuket that we have to be careful, that the government and private sector have to work together.

"We have to take a good look at ourselves. We can see [problems such as] worsening traffic and a lot of construction around Phuket.

"The government should give more support to improving basic infrastructure," he added.

Property developer and hotel consultant Bill Barnett, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks, said that he thought it was unfair to pin an "ugly" label on Phuket on the basis of a single survey.

"Phuket may be doing some things wrong, but it's doing a lot of things right. It is very successful right now. You have people coming through the door every day who appreciate the beauty of it, but who also appreciate the development of the place."

He too said he did not believe the survey would substantially affect the property market. "I think people should develop a balanced view. They have to reach their own conclusions."



STAR-CROSSED STARS: Ulysse Lory (left) and Joy Koyphokaisawan were the stars of a modern interpretation of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, staged recently by students of the QSI International School of Phuket.

Behind the scenes, the hero was 11-year-old Philip Upton who rewrote the play to bring the Bard up to date, making his work more accessible to young actors of nine different nationalities and, by extension, their parents. The play was directed by another student, Billy Salih.

IN BRIEF

'Smell of corruption' in new land probe

PHUKET CITY: Senior police officers inspected a 76-rai plot of land in the Panturat Hills along the bypass road on June 2 amid suspicions that corruption was involved in the issue of the land title.

Crime Suppression Division Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Korawath Panprapa and other officers were accompanied a former land officer named by police as Jiam Srisuksai.

Declining to disclose the name of the "owner" of the land, Lt Col Korawath told the *Gazette* "We are still gathering evidence. If we find evidence of wrongdoing - and I suspect corruption - then we will prosecute." The investigation continues.

Phuket Cultural Center reopens

PHUKET CITY: The recently-renovated Phuket Cultural Center, housed at Rajabhat Institute Phuket, will reopen on June 19.

Facets of Phuket's varied history, from the beliefs, culture and languages of indigenous Phuketians through to its architectural and culinary diversity, will be on display at the center.

Fisherman catches more than crab shells

CHONBURI: It says something about the state of the environment when fishermen cast their nets and pull in not fish but live ammunition.

But that's what happened to Sattahip fisherman Somkiat Wongsorn. Somkiat thought that he had hit a mother lode of crabs, so heavy was his net.

Insurance to cover bail payment now on sale

By Siripansa Somboon

PHUKET: Insurance companies in Phuket now offer "bail insurance" policies providing cover of up to 100,000 baht for a premium of just 700 baht, the Phuket Provincial Insurance Office (PPIO) has announced.

Sanong Sangsiriklanganakul, Director of the PPIO, said "The policies are aimed at Thai citizens - or foreigners living here - who don't have recourse to the large amounts of money often necessary to post bail."

The cautious may take out a policy and, subject to approval, be covered within as little as 20 minutes. Even those with a string of convictions may apply for bail insurance.

It is even possible to take

out insurance after the alleged offense has been committed, although the premium in this situation is likely to be between 5,000 and 20,000 baht.

Any policy will be null and void, however, if the alleged crime involves either murder or drugs.

Not disclosed by the PPIO was whether the prospective insured are asked to disclose whether they are of *mens rea* before they apply.

K. Sanong pointed out that all policies sold so far have been bought after the buyers were arrested, perhaps indicating a lack of malice aforethought.

"The next stage will be to offer this bail insurance service through police stations," said K. Sanong.

Queer News


However, the catch was not fresh seafood but a belt of 99 rounds of heavy machine gun ammunition.

Navy police confirmed the ammo was live. One officer said

he was puzzled as to how it came to be there and said that the military would conduct an in-depth investigation.

One theory is that the ammunition was dumped offshore by an "influential" person who feared prosecution for illegal possession of military ordnance.

Source: *Pattaya Mail*



Hilton
Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

Phuket's Arcadia Transforms into a Hilton Worldwide Resort.

Re-branding in October 2004 after a multi million dollar rejuvenation, this self contained tropical resort is set in 75 acres of landscaped gardens overlooking the turquoise Andaman sea. The perfect family holiday setting.

The Vacation Paradise where you'd rather be...

Worldwide Resorts

333 Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100 Thailand Tel : 66 (0) 7639 6433-41, 66 (0) 7639 6038-44 Fax : 66 (0) 7639 6136
Reservations: www.phuketarcadia.com / reservations.phuket@hilton.com
www.hilton.com

6 land plots seized for 'encroachment'

By Gategao Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: Six plots of land in Muang District "belonging" to two people were seized on June 8 in a massive operation led by the Minister of Justice, Pongthep Thepkanjana.

K. Pongthep was accompanied by the Secretary of the Anti-Money Laundering Office, Pol Maj Gen Pirapan Premputi; the Chief of the Crime Suppression Police, Pol Maj Gen Kosin Sintao; and even the Chief of the country's Tourist Police, along with dozens more police officers.

It is alleged that the six parcels of land, totaling 104 rai and estimated to be worth 26 million baht, are actually Forestry Department or *SorPorKor* land.

One of the "owners" was named as Boonkeng Srisansu-chart, 54, developer of the Srisuchart Grandview and Srisuchart Grandview 2 housing developments and owner of a trucking company. Officials declined to name the other "owner".

A police officer explained to K. Pongthep that K. Boonkeng had leased 76 rai of Forestry and *SorPorKor* land in the Panturat Hills next to the bypass road since 1983, on a 30-year lease granted to him by a provincial vice-governor of that time. He

had used the land to collect water to supply other land he owned downhill.

It is alleged that he had since obtained *Chanote* or *NorSor 3 Gor* titles to the land, in collusion with corrupt Land Office officials.

The case has been sent to the Public Prosecutor, the officer told K. Pongthep, adding that, of a total 884 rai of *SorPorKor* land in Phuket, 706 rai appeared subsequently to have been issued with more valuable, but spurious, titles. Investigators were now checking all these titles, he said.

K. Pongthep said that the cases tackled on June 8 were regarded as coming under the umbrella of the "War on Dark Influences", since they involved large-scale encroachment on state land.

He noted that the standard ploy of such people was to obtain land titles illegally, and then to borrow against those titles in order to invest in other projects.

Maj Gen Pirapan said, "Today's cases will be referred to the Civil Court, which will decide whether the land should be returned to the relevant government departments, along with any structures on the land."

This is not the first time that K. Boonkeng has had difficulties over land. In July last year he was

Justice Minister Pongthep Thepkanjana led the land seizures.

arrested on land-grab charges and is currently awaiting trial in connection with those charges.

Maj Gen Kosin said that former

land officials had told investigators that they had received bribes of as much as a million baht for issuing false titles.



Surapong Panyawai, Chairman of the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization, jogs with the Round-Thailand Run baton on June 8. The run is part of celebrations to mark HM Queen Sirikit's sixth-cycle birthday, which falls on August 12. The baton and flags are being carried through every *tambon* in Thailand before being returned to Bangkok and presented to Her Majesty.

Spas must pay 'entertainment' tax—Excise

PHUKET: In an effort to clear up confusion over taxes payable by the island's spa industry, the Excise Department has confirmed that it classifies most of the island's spa businesses as entertainment venues – and therefore subject to 10% excise tax.

"Spas that operate as entertainment venues [as opposed to beauty or health treatment facilities] must pay 10% excise tax, the same as massage parlors," said a spokesman for the Phuket Area Excise Office during the Governor's press conference at Provincial Hall on June 1.

To clarify, the Excise Department's Phuket office issued a statement specifying that a spa must pay the 10% tax if any of the following three conditions apply to its operations:

- It holds a license to operate a massage parlor under section 3(3) of the Entertainment Act of 1966.
- It offers bathing and massage services in the same area.
- It provides pictures, numbers, or designated areas that facilitate customer selection of particular staff members to provide service.

— Dhirarat Boonkongsan



Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.

Check the latest air fares online at <http://www.pacific-leisure.com/rates>

Your One-Stop Shop For Overseas Travel
Let Us Organize Everything For Your Next Trip

- Airline reservations and ticketing for destinations anywhere in the world
- Visa procedures
- Car rental

- Hotel bookings
- Travel insurance
- Cruise reservations
- Tour packages
- Visa run packages

Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.
156/13 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-232511-5, 076-213750 Fax: 076-219664, 076-232510
E-mail: info@pacific-leisure.com Website: www.pacific-leisure.com



COCOON SALE

COCOON SALE



RELOCATION SALE

COCOON DESIGN CO LTD.
UNIT 33, CANAL VILLAGE, LAGUNA COMPLEX TEL: (076) 324-455 EXT. 233
OPEN 10 AM - 7 PM

Away from the highways and shopping malls of Phuket, on the idyllic Phang Nga Bay island of Naka Yai, trouble has been brewing for months between local people and the developers of the five-star Nakaburi Resort, on the northwest end of the island.

The *Gazette's* Gategeo Phetsawang reports.

Villagers on idyllic Naka Yai island and in neighboring Pa Khlok, on Phuket, have appealed to the National Human Rights Commission and to local environmental activist groups to help them in their dispute with the owners of the billion-baht Nakaburi Resort, being built on the island.

They have vowed to take their fight right up the ladder to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra if necessary.

The villagers have two complaints. The first is that the resort owners have cut down mangrove forest. This, the villagers say, will damage the environment by wiping out part of a "nursery" for marine life on which local fisherfolk depend.

The second is that a concession has been granted for a 50-rai pearl farm off the west coast of the island, along the beach that fronts the resort. This, villagers say, will block a main boat route from Ao Por to Koh Yao Yai, and will also bar locals from fishing in the area.

The owners of the resort insist that they have the right to cut down mangroves on land they own. Legally speaking, this is the case, said Thawatchai Nuwan, from the Mangrove Resources Development Office.

If a landowner has a legitimate land title that includes mangrove land, he or she may do anything on that land including cutting down the mangroves and filling the land, K. Thawatchai said. "It's their right to do so on their own land."

The resort owners also argue that the proposed pearl farm will enhance marine life and underwater vistas for their guests and other visitors.

The Project Administrator of Nakaburi Co Ltd, Siwat Setchaiyan, believes the resort is in fact a victim of local politicking. "I believe there is a political game behind this because there is an election due in the coming two months for seats on the Pa Khlok *OrBorTor* [Tambon Administration Organization]. Only a handful of those who have complained actually live on Koh Naka."

The project, he explained, covers 80 rai, of which one *ngan* – a quarter of a rai – is mangrove forest. The site consists of six plots of land which were issued land titles in 1978 and 1979.

"This project belongs to Thai people. It will be a five-star Thai-style resort with some villas for sale," he told the *Gazette*. "We are willing to cooperate with officials. After the villagers complained, we asked for officers to come and measure the land. They did this in May and agreed that the land titles

are correct.

"I don't understand what's happening because we have good relations with the villagers. Almost all of the workers [on the site] live on the island.

"We don't want to have any problems. Right at the beginning we asked all relevant organizations to check, before we started any work. You can't have problems on a big project like this."



'Some parts of the mangrove land that the resort has already cleared will be reinstated.'

– Vasant Panich,
National Human
Rights
Commissioner.



KEEP OUT: A sign nailed to one of the palm trees swaying gently over the white beach next to the Nakaburi Resort site on Koh Naka Yai sends a clear message: 'No Entry – Private Land.'

But Naka islander Sawaat Chortip alleges that the developer cut down about two rai of mangroves. The company was about to fill the land, he said, but villagers opposed this operation before it could begin.

He added, "The resort owners say they have a land title but I don't think it's clear enough. I think some officials involved may have taken bribes.

"Mangrove land is important to villagers because they earn their living from it; many kinds of fish lay their eggs in the mangroves, which are also full of other marine animals."

He said that, because they knew this, the islanders had preserved the mangroves for a long time and had never encroached on the land or built anything on it.

Hem Salika, 50, another Naka islander, who earns a living from fishing, said, "The company used power saws to destroy the mangroves. They also started to fill the land but the villagers asked the *OrBorTor* officers to come and look into this.

"The officers agreed that the company's land [papers] could not cover mangrove land, so they wrote to the company tell-

ing it to suspend construction."

He added that villagers don't want to oppose anything just for the sake of it, but added. "Mangroves are beautiful. No one should be allowed to destroy them," he said.

He also criticized the planned pearl farm. "People who live near Ao Por pier will be affected because they fish in that area. They also go through the area when traveling between Koh Raet and Koh Naka [on the way to Koh Yao Noi].

"So far, the resort has done nothing, but once they begin to set up the farm, we will of course be affected.

"We only fish in the area. This doesn't affect natural resources because we use simple equipment that doesn't destroy the environment.

"We have earned a living in the area for a long time. But if they fence off their farm over an area of 50 rai [of sea], villagers won't be able to do anything in that area."

He also wondered how the concession came to be granted. "Years ago, some villagers asked for permission to farm oysters in the area but were turned down by the [provincial] government, without explanation.

"They tried again later, but the answer was the same, so the villagers just got fed up and gave up."

One of those who tried for

a concession was fisherman Mongkol Prabtook, 38. He said he had applied to set up a farm about 10 years ago, but government officers turned him down.

"Yesterday the villagers on Koh Naka discussed the problems [with the resort management]. Most villagers don't believe that the conclusion will be good. They think the mangrove land will be judged as belonging to *Nai Tun* [Mr Moneybags].

"If that is the result, then we will file a complaint with PM Thaksin," K. Mongkol said.

Panya Sumpahorat, President of Pa Khlok *OrBorTor*, told the *Gazette* that both the Thalang District Office and the Phuket provincial government had ordered the *OrBorTor* to check into the matter. The resort was allowed to start clearing the land in the middle of April.

"According to the land titles and the aerial photograph of the land from the Thalang Land Office, the titles cover some mangrove forest," K. Panya said. "I explained this to the villagers but some of them still don't understand why the mangroves are being destroyed. I have also talked to the resort and they say they are willing not to construct anything nearby, and will not destroy mangroves in the area."

Nakaburi Co's K. Siwat, clearly frustrated by the delay the dispute is causing, does not see

PATONG LANGUAGE SCHOOL

TEFLPlus®
Teacher training

Your first choice for language classes on Phuket island, with branches in Patong, Kata/Karon and Chalong.

Thailand's best value TEFL course at only 27,500 Baht.

Patong Language School
Aroonsom Square, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel 0 7634 0373 Fax 0 7634 0873

Karon Language School
Karon Plaza, Patak Road, Karon, Phuket 83100
Tel 0 7639 8282 Fax 0 7639 8283

LinguaPlus Language Centre
86/6 Wiset Road, Chalong, Phuket 83000
Tel/Fax 0 7628 0368

TEFLPlus Teacher Training
www.teflplus.com info@teflplus.com
info@phuket-languageschool.com www.phuket-languageschool.com

KARON LANGUAGE SCHOOL

LinguaPlus®
Language centre

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Phuket International Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
01-2732053 or 072-795636

WATER LEAK PROBLEMS????? Roof, walls, tank, pool, pipes???

Call **Thai-Dien**, the top specialist in Phuket since 1994

USING AND SELLING THE BEST QUALITY CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING CHEMICALS MADE BY INTERNATIONAL MARKET LEADERS ONLY!

- * Waterproofing systems
- * Roof/pond linings
- * Joint sealant

- * Injection foam/epoxy/microcement
- * Concrete/crack repair
- * Electrical Installation

Agent for Superblocks from Y-Tong - the lightweight cinderblock with excellent thermal and noise insulation properties for modern, energy-saving buildings.

We speak Thai, English and German fluently!

THAI-DIEN 1031 Patana Thongthit Rd., Soi Muangthong Uthit 1, Phuket 83000
Tel: (076) 242 825, 91-397 1567 Fax: (076) 391 886 E-mail: thaidien@hotmail.com

ON IDYLLIC NAKA



MANGLED: The two sides cannot even agree on the area of mangroves felled by the resort's developer. Is it a quarter-rai or two rai, or three?

things quite the same way.

"You can't just think, 'A big person who loses a little weight won't be affected.' It's not that easy. Even if it's just one *ngan*, the whole masterplan may have to be radically changed.

"Our land title covers one *ngan* of mangroves. If we do nothing about that area, the land [next to it] will be eroded by water. We have to build a wall on the land next to the man-

groves. Otherwise buildings on it will subside."

He offered a compromise. "We are willing [to let government officers cut out the mangrove area from our land], but it should not be a large area. [If that happens] the proportion between the buildings and the land will change and that will effect our overall master plan, which cost 10 million baht.

"Who will be responsible

for the damage to us? The delay is already costing us about 4 million baht a month.

"Most villagers understand this matter but there are a handful who are involved in a political game. It's unfair to drag us into this. What about the other people who set up prawn farms covering many rai of mangroves, compared with the single *ngan* we have?

"We planned to finish the project within 18 months but now it is delayed and no one can tell me when we can start construction."

Addressing the criticisms about the pearl farm, he said that the concession had been granted two years ago, and that the farm officially does not belong to Nakaburi Co, but to an individual.

The resort does, however, have an interest in seeing the farm established. "If our resort is completed but the surroundings aren't beautiful, what is our selling point? There may be beautiful buildings, but environment is still an important consideration," K. Siwat said.

"[With the pearl farm set up] people who [might] want to do something in that area [that] destroys the environment, will no longer be able to.

"There have been complaints that the farm will affect the villagers' route [to Koh Yao] and some of their fishing waters, but the farm covers only the area in front of our resort.

"There won't be any effect on [the villagers] because they fish in other areas and, in any case, half of the Naka islanders work for us. No one fishes in the area the concession covers.

"[The pearl farm] is not a business as such; what it will do is provide a beautiful natural underwater view for visitors.

"We don't do anything without thinking of local people. We already have permission from the government. Do we have to

ask permission from the villagers as well?"

He also slammed his opponents' us-and-them mentality. "People shouldn't just talk about 'Nai Tun', otherwise nothing will ever be developed. When the resort is built, the islanders will have work and the community will prosper ... It's kind of frustrating because we believe we have done everything correctly," he said.

It is difficult to determine just how close the dispute is to a resolution. On May 29, Vasant Panich, Commissioner of the Bangkok-based National Human Rights Commission met with Phuket Vice-Governor Pongpow Ketthong, who is charged with untangling the problem.

After the meeting K. Vasant said, "The Phuket government has co-operated well with us on this matter. Some parts of the mangrove land that the resort has already cleared will be restored through cooperation between local villagers and the resort."

V/Gov Pongpow seemed to think that matters were not quite so clear-cut. He said, "The landowner wants to upgrade his *Nor Sor 3 Gor* title for the resort to *Chanote*. So we are going to measure it and set the land markers before issuing the *Chanote*.

"If there's anything [believed to be] illegal, we will consider it according to the laws and be fair with everyone. If we find the inclusion of the mangrove land is a case of encroachment, it will be cut out [of the land paper].

As for the complaint about

the pearl farm concession, K. Vasant said, "We will explain in writing to the Phuket government how the farm concession will affect the lifestyle of local people.

"If it really affects [local people], it will definitely be revoked [by the Phuket government] which is the best way out [of the problem]."

V/Gov Pongpow again took a slightly different view. "So far there is no pearl farm in that area, so no one is affected. But if they start farming oysters and this affects the environment, we can cancel [the concession]," he said.

Thanu Naepnien, spokesperson for the environmental group Wildlife Fund Thailand (WFT), which has been supporting the villagers in their fight, said, "I wonder how government officers can issue land titles covering mangrove land, especially the District Land Office. According to the constitution, people have the right to know [how

such a land title was issued] because this relates directly to natural resources in the area.

"The [provincial] government should officially exclude the mangrove land from the land title. I believe the Governor has the authority to do this."

Pichet Parndum, representing local fishermen, said, "The concession for the oyster farm should be revoked because it conflicts with local people's lifestyles."

Asked if he was confident about the government's procedures for handling the dispute, K. Pichet said cryptically, "Whatever, the truth is still the truth."



'Mangroves are beautiful. No one should be allowed to destroy them.'

— Fisherman Hem Salika.

**Quality in products
Trust in service**

- We sell and service electrical equipment, lamps, lightbulbs, air conditioners, communication systems, closed-circuit television (cctv) security alarms, fire alarms, motors, generators, water pumps, washing machines, water filter tanks, hot water systems, electrical hoists, televisions, refrigerators, high pressure power-jet cleaners, power tools, transmission gears, valve equipment, etc.
- We design and install electrical systems, switchboards, air conditioners, dumb waiters, etc.

100/2 Moo 5 Chalemprakiat Rte 9 Rd. 1, Rassada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.
Sales Tel: 076 261450 Fax: 076 261456-7 Open daily 8 am - 6 pm
Service Tel: 076 261460 Fax: 076 261464 Open Monday-Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Email: keehin@loxinfo.co.th

House of sanitaryware and tiles

The most beautiful room in the house

Tel: 076 261 470-5 Fax: 076 261 477
E-mail: sanitary@loxinfo.co.th

BANGKOK PHUKET HEART CENTER

ESAMITHUNHARTHONGHOSPITAL
BANGKOK PHUKET HOSPITAL

**When it comes to
your heart**

**Heart Hotline
09 871 2020
(24hr)**

Percutaneous
(Transluminal)
Coronary
Balloon
Angioplasty

Open Heart Surgery

**Emergency
076 25 44 25**

www.phukethospital.com
e-mail: info@phukethospital.com

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
2/1 Hongyok Utis Rd,
Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand
Tel : 076 25 44 25
Fax : 076 25 44 30

By Athairat Muangkong

Heart first, then feet

The dance instructor at the newly-opened SEA Academy of Music and Dance at the Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew, Karen MacIver, stresses, "To truly love to dance you must start with your heart, then the feet will follow. This is the heart of dance and every dancer must have this in mind all the time."

A fully-certified dance and gymnastics instructor in her native Australia, 49-year-old Ms MacIver began dancing at the age of two. Not long after that she began a life-long career in dancing, appearing in TV commercials, festivals and national dance competitions.

Later she went on to work internationally in music and dance productions, eventually working as a teacher and choreographer with the British Dance Association and opening her own dance academy in Sydney, the Alexander School of Dance.

Her top students, the Show-Troupe, toured Australia and won numerous awards, including "Best Choreographed Tap and Jazz Routine" for four years running, from 1999 to 2002.

Many of Ms MacIver's students have moved on to perform in places such as New York and Paris, but fortunately for the island, Ms MacIver has decided to bring her impressive knowledge of dance to Phuket, where she teaches a wide variety of dance forms including classical ballet, tap, creative dance jazzercise and even gymnastics.

"One of the reasons I decided to open the SEA Academy in Phuket is to help prepare students for British Dance Association exams and careers in dancing," she said.



STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: Dance instructor Karen MacIver firmly believes in self-expression through dance.

But students don't need to have *Flashdance* fantasies or even an eye on a career in dancing in order to benefit from the SEA Academy, where the basic philosophy is that dancing develops poise and social skills while increasing self-esteem and an increased ability to recognize talent in others.

Many students, when they first step through the door, are quite timid and shy, said Ms MacIver, but have a discernible

rise in self-confidence after just a few lessons.

"I teach students from three years old to adult," she explained. "Students are given a variety of dance styles to choose from."

Evaluating the various forms of dance and the benefits they can bring to students, she told the *Gazette*, "Tap involves various rhythms and is great for improving both rhythm and listening skills. A fusion of all forms of movement is jazz dance,

which has become a respected international art form and is an effective part of a total body-conditioning program that will help you feel great, look terrific and bring new energy to your life."

Tap is the most difficult dance form to master, said Ms MacIver, because it involves perfect timing and rhythm. "Bad tap dancing is not a pretty sight," she said with a laugh.

Weekly lessons are divided into terms. The current Spring term runs for eight weeks and costs 2,800 baht.

To allow her to focus on individual students, Ms MacIver keeps class sizes to a maximum of just 10 students. Half-hour one-on-one classes can also be arranged.

Ms MacIver is currently teaching a grueling schedule. "I start teaching at 8:30 am and I run right to 7:30 at night. That's seven classes a day, five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday. It is tiring but I love it," she said.

"Dancing is a lot of fun and it helps keep you healthy and strong. When you are dancing, you forget all about other things because you are having fun and concentrating on body movements," she said.

It may even make you live longer. Ms MacIver told the *Gazette* that her 70-year-old mother, also a dance instructor, still teaches dance five days a week.

Ms MacIver especially enjoys working with Thai youngsters. "They have so much natural movement from their background in Thai dancing.

"If they can develop the confidence to work with me they do fine," she said.

Although 10 levels of instruction are offered, Ms MacIver has developed her own style of teaching that doesn't involve textbooks but focuses instead on individual style. She gives child students monthly evaluations so that their parents can keep track of their progress. Those who reach the highest levels can also become certified dance instructors and teach abroad, she said.

Among her students are two dancers from Bangkok who have come to study in the hope of becoming certified tap teachers in the capital.

SEA Academy provides dancing shoes and custom-designed uniforms to all students to ensure that everyone is comfortable and enjoys complete freedom of movement during classes. They look good, too.

To show off her students' talents and put her academy on the dance map, Ms MacIver plans to put on a show in a hotel by year's end and may do promotions in local shopping centers.

"If I get a really good troupe together, I will take my children to entertain people in hospitals. That's something I really want to do," she said.

For more information, visit the academy at Koh Kaew Plaza, 23/115-116, Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Muang District, or call Tel: 07- 2647397; E-mail: dance@phuketentertainment.com, Website: www.seaacademy.com.

WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

*When the taste is perfect,
it can be the start of a friendship.*



Send it through the gripevine – PM

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has said that all provincial governors' residences will have complaint boxes installed in front so that people's grievances can be acted upon quickly.

"This will allow people to write to me and I will have a personal team take care of the complaints. If we find people being taken advantage of, then we can help them in time," he explained.

"We have to admit that sometimes the orders sent through the usual line of bureaucracy can be misinterpreted before they reach the action sector," he added.

PM Thaksin said he would ask the Interior Ministry to have the boxes installed in front of every governor's residence. A complaint box put up in front of the premier's official residence, Baan Phitsanulok, received 25 complaint letters on its first day of use.

Baby books: The Public Health Ministry has proposed a plan to develop the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Emotional Intelligence Quotient (EQ) scores of Thai children by encouraging mothers to read to them from ages as young as six months. Funding of 185 million baht would come from the National Lottery Office.

Deputy Public Health Minister Sirikorn Maneerin said the project, called "Bookstart", had been successful in initial studies. The government is worried that the country's competitiveness may have been compromised after an official study concluded that the average IQ score for Thais dropped from 92 points to 89, she said.

The average worldwide IQ score is 100 points. A score of 70 to 85 is low, while anything between 115 and 130 is high.

Bad apple: Samut Prakan police raided a temple in Chiang Mai and arrested a deputy abbot on charges of being a key member of a drug-trafficking ring run by alleged drug boss Laota Saenlee.

The monk, whose lay name is Chatchai Muanglung, 34, was defrocked immediately after the 6 am arrest. Twenty officers raided the monk's living quarters, but found no illegal substances.



ROUGH CUT: A hairstylist demonstrates a vigorous cutting technique after joining other hairdressers at a press conference at the Rattanakosin Hotel in Bangkok. The event was organized to promote the Thai Hair Grand Champion Contest, to be held August 4-8. Another demonstration featured a flamboyant hairdresser giving haircuts while blindfolded.

Police said the dawn raid followed a May 1 bust in Samut Prakan, when 298,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and 15 kilograms of crystallized methamphetamine were seized. Those arrested implicated Chatchai as a member of their gang.

Deadly display: One man was killed and 16 people injured when a fireworks rocket crashed on them while they were eating noodles in a shop in Phanom Phrai District, Roi-Et.

The rocket was launched at a nearby fireworks fair, police said. Boonmee Sudadej, 44, died

when she was struck by the rocket, which was about 30 meters above the ground when it exploded, broke in half and came crashing down on the noodle shop, police said.

Grim figures: Following the collapse of the illegal New World building, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) has reported that 3,313 buildings in the capital are unsafe – but legal delays are prolonging the risk of another disaster occurring.

About 50 department stores were among the structures found to be in violation of building

codes. Most of the buildings, which include shophouses, residences and skyscrapers, are in Huay Khwang and Phra Nakhon districts. Legal action is being taken against them, but rectification has been slow in coming.

"Usually the legal battle goes to the Supreme Court and takes years. Sometimes we have to start all over again when the building gets a new owner," said Krisda Klantanon, director of the BMA's law enforcement administration division.

Anti-gambling gambit: To keep monks from betting on football

matches, senior monks will propose that the Sangha Supreme Council begin enforcing monastic precepts that prohibit gambling when the Euro 2004 tournament kicks off on June 12.

Phra Dhammamoli, who oversees men of the cloth in Bangkok and the surrounding areas, admitted that monks in almost every temple in Thailand bet on football matches among themselves and on soccer betting phone lines.

"Some monks hooked on football betting stole a temple abbot's bank account number and forged his signature to steal money for betting," he said. "They destroyed the integrity of the monastic institution."

Monks are barred by monastic regulations from watching football. Gambling is punishable by defrocking.

Durian death: Thavin Chaiya, 68, went into convulsions after sharing a durian with friends in Chiang Mai. He died on the way to the hospital and was the second person in less than a month reported to have died from eating durian.

Dr Suwat Wiriyaongsukij, the former president of the Rural Doctors' Society, warned that the elderly are at risk from eating the fruit, which can "heat up" the metabolism. If they eat durian, they should also drink plenty of water and eat "cooler" fruits, such as mangosteen, he said.

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

MICHAEL LEARNS TO ROCK 

Live at Laguna Phuket!
FRIDAY 02 JULY 2004



Phuket Gazette


Tickets B500, B1000, B2000 *B4000 limited VIP tickets
*Seating in front three rows plus an invitation to meet MLTR at a private after concert cocktail party at Dusit Laguna.

Tickets go on sale Monday 07 June at Canal Village Office, Laguna Phuket. Cash only. For ticket information, please contact 076-324453-7 Ext.0

All proceeds go to charity

www.lagunaphuket.com www.mltr.dk

CANAL VILLAGE
LAGUNA SHOPPING



30 Exclusive Boutiques in the Heart of Laguna Phuket

LAGUNA PHUKET

Canal Village Laguna Shopping
Tel: 66 (0) 7632 4453-7
Fax: 66 (0) 7632 4066
E-mail: shopping@lagunaphuket.com
www.lagunaphuket.com



Angus O'TOOL'S
Karon Beach, Phuket

Irish pub & restaurant
opp. Islandia Hotel
www.otools-phuket.com

Riding a motorcycle? Please . . .

PHUKET PROVINCIAL
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Thai law requires that motorcycle drivers and passengers wear a safety helmet with the chin strap fastened at all times – 24 hours a day.

According to recent surveys carried out by the Highways Department, Koh Samui's main ring road currently handles an average of 16,000 cars a day. This is double the recommended capacity for the single-lane road. Sadly, the possibilities for widening the ring road are limited, as most of the land on either side is privately owned.

But rather than limit the number of vehicles allowed on Samui, the local authorities have instead proposed the construction of a new highway to replace the existing dirt roads that climb high into the mountains and link the beaches in the north of the island with those in the south.

These dirt tracks are currently used only by the army, durian farmers and stray dogs, and even members of these three groups rarely complete the entire journey. There are, however, very few buildings along the route, meaning that it would be relatively simple to build a wide

road, which the people in the Highways Department claims would also be good for tourism.

Such a road, they say, would open up the center of the island and provide spectacular views for tourists traveling between the various beaches and coastal villages.

The environmental impact of such a road has yet to be considered, and the limitations imposed by the mountainous terrain will undoubtedly cause problems and delays.

Should the plan be approved, the rush to buy mountain land may well assist in the

construction process as developers make tracks through the hills with their SUVs.

Reclaiming Nathon: The central government has allegedly approved a project to reclaim land



To assist motorcyclists in complying with the mandatory switching on of headlights, *community magazine* has hired mechanic Sompong Chaikrachang (pictured) to rewire motorcycle headlights so that they come on automatically when the bikes are started. The service is free and is performed at the local Tesco-Lotus supercenter.

in the sea off Nathon in order to expand the town's harbor area.

Local authorities claim that the waterfront is becoming overcrowded, not only because the island's main public ferry pier is located there, but also because of

the government offices, a large car park and a large number of tourist-related outlets, all competing for space there.

The authorities also say that the flat, shallow seabed directly off Nathon would be relatively easy to reclaim because it consists of dead coral and rock.

A feasibility survey, with a budget of 6 million baht, began in April, and will take 10 months to complete. Meanwhile, the cost of the entire project is estimated at more than 400 million baht, with construction likely to take three years, beginning in 2006.

The development project is not the first to take place on Nathon's seafloor, and many islanders feel that the area receives unfair support because of the government offices there.

A few years ago, a modern Port Authority building was built there at great expense, and despite taking up a considerable amount of the limited space, remains apparently unused. It is hoped that this time Nathon will benefit from the government's vision and insight.

Club celebration: Close to 300 people recently attended the 46th birthday bash of the Reggae Pub's popular proprietor, Lersak "Sak" Ubolsatit.

Among the people conspicuously in attendance were many fellow Samui business owners and some of the island's most prominent officials, including Pol Col Wasan Booncharoen, former Superintendent of Koh Samui Police, and Panu Woramit, the head of the Samui office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Music was provided by Bangkok jazz musician Koh "Mr Saxman" and a show was performed by the club's staff.

K. Sak's achievements, as well as the contributions he has made to Koh Samui over the past 20 years, were celebrated with the story of his life and his business displayed on a huge screen.

Everyone certainly seemed to have a good time, and little attention was paid to laws on opening hours or the zoning policies that many claim are threatening some of the island's most popular clubs and venues. Perhaps Samui's nightlife will survive after all.

Koh Pha-ngan airport: In addition to the prospect of a second airport being built on Koh Samui, there are now reports that a private airline is showing strong interest in building a landing strip on Koh Pha-ngan.

However, the island's District Chief, Thannapon Antimanon, says that such a project would be virtually impossible to implement under current circumstances.

He acknowledged that a private company owns several hundred rai of land on the island, but explained that 80% of this is covered by rainforest, which is protected under Thai law and may not be cut down to make way for construction.

K. Thannapon said the only feasible approach would be for the government to build a runway on land reclaimed from the sea.

This possibility is also being investigated, along with myriad other ambitious proposals that have prompted repeated mentions of flying pigs by some local residents.

Cdr Swan is a writer with Koh Samui's community magazine.

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander
Sammy Swan

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 Mandara 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 Hongs tour.
- Free 2 nights' accommodation at Marriott's Phuket Beach Club



Visit our welcome center at

JW MARRIOTT Phuket Resort and Spa

Or call 076-338-200 to schedule your personal tour. Details of participation apply.

Free roundtrip transportation to and from your hotel.

UNLIMITED USE
BROADBAND 256K - 2MB
HIGH SPEED INTERNET

CAT

ADSL
FIBER OPTIC
SATELLITE
WI-FI WIRELESS
IP TELEPHONE

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
CABLING & INFRASTRUCTURE
TELEPHONE LINES
PRI • PABX • MUX
DESIGN & INSTALLATION

COMPUTER SYSTEMS
HARDWARE & SOFTWARE
LOCAL AREA NETWORKS
PERIPHERALS
SERVICE CONTRACTS

islandTechnology
Innovative Digital Solutions
Tel : +66 (76) 322 095-7
info@islandTechnology.com

This week



ABOVE: Family first was the order of the day at the recent UBC Family Rally, the TV company's first such event in the south of Thailand. The winning team — led by Chaipat Settayukanont from Ranong — received their prizes from Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer, Visawa Sasismith (in black shirt) at the Kata Thani Beach Hotel and Beach Resort.

RIGHT: Richard Balderson (in white shirt) enjoys his birthday with girlfriend Duangjai Tivasuradej (2nd from left) and friends at Baan Mai restaurant in Kamala.



RIGHT: Freshmen from the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket Campus plant *Pyrostegia venusta* at Bang Wad Dam well in advance of Mother's Day celebrations.

LEFT: The Royal Paradise Hotel management team led by General Manager Dr Jirachai Amornpairoj (in yellow shirt) planted saplings in advance preparation of HRH King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday in 2007 during a team building seminar at Sirinart National Park.



LEFT: Tonino Sabile, the outgoing General Manager of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, hands a purely symbolic key to the new incumbent, Dominique Lapointe.

RIGHT: The Director of Satrie Phuket School, Pongsri Reangdith, says a fond farewell and hands a parting gift to Katy Klepfer, an American Field Service Scholarship student. Katy is moving on having studied at the Phuket City school for the past 12 months.





Can you afford to be without it?
It's only 500 baht! (plus VAT)

To get your card, e-mail
shopper@phuketgazette.net
or call Anna at 076-236555

Letting pure talent lead

A life in progress

By Siripansa Somboon

Although the formula for success in the Thai pop music industry seems to be a standard combination of talent and good looks, it's not always easy to find the right mix that will ensure success – and the profits that go with it.

The key is to get an attractive, dynamic and marketable young talent – one with a good voice, of course. Other assets, such as the ability to play a musical instrument, are often considered only as nice extras.

In the West it is possible to rise to the pinnacle of musical success even if you are not that attractive, but it's harder to detach appearance from success if your genre is pop and harder still if you are a female artist. It is made yet more difficult, if not impossible, if Thailand is your market.

The evidence is overwhelming. How many Thai pop stars aren't simply dripping with that pre-packaged combination of cuteness and sex appeal?

But thanks to Italian producer, composer and arranger Dr Kiko Pensato, of KPF Music in Samkong, Phuket City, one promising young Thai singer who breaks the mold is now putting the finishing touches on her first album, which is being produced for Thai music powerhouse RS Promotion.

The singer is 27-year-old

Pinmala "Rose" Rittirut, from Bangkok, and her album is entering the final stages of production.

The 10-track debut album will feature a collection of K. Rose's sweet-sounding adult-oriented pop numbers.

With several tracks already in the bag, the production process will have taken almost a year by the time it is complete. That's because while K. Rose is now based in Phuket, Kiko is constantly traveling between Phuket and Bangkok to work on projects with big-name outfits, including Grammy Entertainment.

Kiko's latest big effort in the capital included headlining a concert in Benjasiri Park on May 1 to celebrate the entry of 10 new member-countries into the EU.

He headlined the show by bringing a world beat to the Thai stage with his melding of piano, synthesizer and computers to produce a multi-ethnic fusion sound that carried him to the top of world music charts in the past.

But his work with K. Rose

is targeting the Thai pop market. The production team includes co-producer Khun Muu of RS Promotion and lyrics by well-known



BIG BREAK: When not in the recording studio, Rose has plenty of time to hone her vocal skills with live performances, much to the delight of local audiences.

Phuket artist Issarakul "DJ Deduang" Thamangraksat, who sang his way into the record books in a 24-hour one-man music marathon in September 2002.

All of the tracks on the debut album, which is still untitled, will be in Thai and feature what Kiko calls "K. Rose's very special voice".

K. Rose said her favorite track on the album is *Phu Ying Khon Ni* (This girl), which is one of many that explores the album's central theme of the relationship between mother and child.

"The lyrics are really moving and sometimes I almost start

to cry when I sing it. Another favorite is *Yaa Tor* [Don't give up]," she told the *Gazette*.

K. Rose, originally from Bangkok, is a graduate of Rajabhat Institute Songkhla, where she majored in computer science. Following a stint as a computer teacher in Haad Yai, she became interested in music and got a job as a backing vocalist.

She also did some work on the Phuket production, *Plaeng Phuket*, by Jumpol "Goh Khai" Thongtan. The album, titled in English as *Pleasant Songs of Phuket*, was released in August 2002.



PHUKET COSMETIC DENTAL CLINIC

Come and enjoy the difference of our unique esthetic dental treatment....



- All kinds of dental treatment with our specialist high-technology equipment for esthetic dentistry, such as Plasma Arc whitening in only 1 hour.
- Hygienic standards provided with our ultrasonic cleaner and autoclave vacuum sterilization system. Personal-contact materials are disposable and used once only.

16/1 Hongyok-U-Thit Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.
Tel: 0 7623 6823 Fax: 0 7623 6824
e-mail: info@phuketcosmeticdentalclinic.com, www.phuketcosmeticdentalclinic.com

"Green Season Super Saver"
Stay longer, pay less!
Call now: 076-289399






The Mangosteen Resort & Spa

The freshest boutique retreat in Phuket

The Mangosteen Resort & Spa
99/4 Moo 7, Soi Mangosteen
T. Rawai, Phuket, 83100
Room and Restaurant reservation:
Tel.: 076-289 399 Fax 076-289389
e-mail: info@mangosteen-phuket.com
www.mangosteen-phuket.com

the way

People on Phuket probably know K. Rose best for her regular performances with the house band at the Timber Hut, in Phuket City. When she isn't entertaining audiences, you may find her enjoying her two hobbies, drawing and website design.

Being comfortable with computers and audio equipment has been a big advantage when working with Kiko, whose collection of keyboards, mixers and other sound equipment can be intimidating to the technically-challenged.

As a freelance producer, Kiko is always looking for exciting new talent like K. Rose. In fact, he said K. Rose contacted him for the chance to work together after reading about his studio in a *Gazette* article entitled "Calling All Pop Stars" (*Gazette*, December 27, 2003).

Kiko told the *Gazette* that one of his more recent projects in Bangkok includes work with pop star James Ruangsak, who is often seen in Phuket promoting his chain of *khao mun kai* (steamed chicken with garlic rice) restaurants.

He has also produced music for such stars as Nicole Theriault and sexy songstress Pornchita "Benz" na Songkhla, of *Do Re Mi* fame. Two of the songs on K. Benz's next album, not yet released, were produced by Kiko.

As for working with K. Rose, Kiko said the quality of her singing voice was the determin-

ing factor in his decision to work with her. The collaboration, while gruelling at times and drawn out almost a year, has gone well – despite having to work together in English, a second language for both artist and producer.

"I'm glad to work with him. Even though he is Italian, language is not a problem when we work because he speaks English slowly, which makes him easy to understand.

"We work in stages. I practice the music and then hook up with Kiko when he is in town. When we get the chance we meet at his studio and work on the tracks together. Sometimes it takes all day," K. Rose explained.

But hard work is one of the many prices you have to pay for stardom. After all, nobody can sell records on good looks alone.

Wannabe pop stars can contact KPF Recording Studio at 52/19 Phuket Garden Villa, Moo 6, Tambon Rassada, or Kiko (Tel: 09-4744859; Tel/Fax: 076-255038; Email: kkiikkoo@libero.it).

RIGHT: Khun Rose has all the back-up support she needs from the Timber Hut house band.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: The production team on Rose's debut album includes the pros at RS promotion in Bangkok, local lyricist DJ Dedduang, and Italian music producer Kiko Pensato, pictured below with Rose.



Jim Thompson's new Phuket Factory Sales Outlet at The Courtyard offers a very wide range of quality home furnishing fabrics, cushion covers, bed sets and other accessories at substantially reduced prices. Our sales staff are always ready to assist in the selection of fabrics.



JIM THOMPSON
Phuket Factory Sales Outlet
Open 9 am - 6 pm every day

THE COURTYARD
CHAOFA ROAD WEST, PHUKET
TEL 076 264467-9
www.jimthompson.com



Every 5,000.-* spent at HomePro & The Power will earn you a HomePro sticker which can be collected to receive free gifts. Find a new bigger prize etc.



For 1,500 stickers Get Free
• TOYOTA Tiger D4D 2.5J worth 456,000.-**



For 100 stickers choose your free gift from
• YAMAHA motorcycle Fresh II model worth 33,000.-** or
• EVT electric motorcycle CEO 600W model worth 30,500.-



For 20 stickers choose your free gift from
• THERMOS Bar-B-Q grill with IGLOO Cooler worth 20,999.- or
• MARATHON Sport Exercise set (3 pcs.) worth 20,440.-



For 10 stickers choose your free gift from
• Fruit Blender worth 1,500.-



For 60 stickers choose your free gift from
• THERMOS Bar-B-Q grill with IGLOO Cooler worth 20,999.- or
• MARATHON Sport Exercise set (3 pcs.) worth 20,440.-

and many other prizes to be won!

13th May - 11th Aug. 04 At all HomePro & HomePro Plus

* Under following conditions assisted.
** Vehicle transfer and registration costs not included.

HomePro
We Understand Your Home
www.homepro.co.th

In The Stars

by Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This week, the focus for Gemini is on taking it easy. Devoting quality time to family life takes priority over your career, and this will help to cement a relationship that has been on shaky ground recently. Singletons will have at least one opportunity for a no-strings encounter; just don't hope for it to turn into anything more. Your lucky number this week is 9.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): A disagreement with your employer over money casts a shadow early this week. The less you say, the sooner the matter will be mended. However, not all the news about finances is gloomy; a debt from the past is likely to be repaid in full. Regarding personal relationships, you could feel that you have moved into the *Twilight Zone* as your partner finds it hard to communicate.



LEO (July 24-August 22): Focus on health regimens pays off for Leos who lately have been paying more attention to the



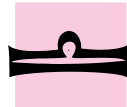
Where are the stars leading you this week?

feel-good factor. Your natural charisma combined with a new-found glow attracts attention from strangers this week and you will bask in compliments. On Thursday or Friday, a friend will come asking for advice – if this is history repeating itself, reiterate what you've said before.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The sun is about to shine on Virgoans embarking on a career change. Any doubts as to whether this is the direction in which you should be heading will dissolve by the end of the month. A family member is about to make an overdue appearance, which won't please everybody. If your feelings about this visit are lukewarm, try to maintain cool composure.



LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Some Librans will find romance in a work situation this week, and this could provoke resentment from colleagues, so tread with caution – a snake does not think twice before striking. Your recent juggling of finances should be paying off and an offer of free accommodation could be the incentive you need to start checking out flights. Topaz-blue will charge you with vitality.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpios on the verge of getting involved in a love triangle should seriously consider whether they will be able to handle the likely consequences. It's almost certainly not going to result in a win-win-win situation, so examine your motives closely before going any further. For committed Scorpios, a third party will interfere with a platonic friendship this week, so treat rumors with a pinch of salt.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sometimes luck is nothing more than



hard work. Your effort and persistence are about to pay off with an unexpected offer. Some aspects of this new opportunity may not thrill you, so weigh up the pros and cons carefully. You are bound to come to the conclusion that now is the time to make a radical change.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You will receive family news from afar that necessitates a diplomatic maneuver. Although you probably won't feel like tackling this sensitive situation, no one is better qualified than you to deal with it. Let your creative talents create a solution that will please everybody involved. Early this week you will be more in control of your finances, so steer a careful course. Your lucky number this week is 7.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians should regard this month as a period of transition. There will be a few rocky patches to avoid, but your talent for finding the smoothest path will help you along your way. Early this week



you will be required to make an important work decision on the spur of the moment. On the romantic front, sparks will fly this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your energy is running high, and there doesn't seem to be anything that you can't accomplish this week. Pisceans who want to make a good impression will get the chance to do so. As your popularity is highlighted, it's likely that someone close to you will be feeling left out. If you find it hard to express your feelings in words, show how much you care with a surprise gift.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Where love is concerned you have the green light to go for gold this week. Any negative observations on your new-found contentment will be the result of jealousy, so let them wash away like water off a sea eagle's back. Career-wise, there will be tangible progress toward an important goal, but you still need to work on creating the right impression. On Monday, Pisces will definitely appreciate your honesty.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): There is no reason why you should accept the rough with the smooth this weekend. Many Taureans will find that moving up the career ladder could be much easier if their expectations are higher. Mid-week, a relatively painless way to sort out a debt presents itself; strike while the iron is hot. For those who are single, an oasis in the desert of your love-life is no mirage.



Angus O'Tool's
IRISH PUB, Restaurant & Guesthouse

OPEN FOR BREAKFAST FROM 11:00 AM

MON. MICK'S GRILL
TUE. BALTI CURRY NIGHT
THU. HOME MADE PIES
FRI. ALL YOU CAN EAT BBQ
SUN. ROAST DINNERS

HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY 'TIL 9:00PM

SEE ALL THE SPORTS LIVE ON OUR HUGE 100" SCREEN

Karon Beach, opposite Islandia Hotel www.otools-phuket.com

RELIABLE SERVICE

NOTEBOOK
DESKNOTE
DESKTOP
PALM & POCKET PC
COMPUTER ACCESSORIES

Big c (Basement floor)
Tel: 0-7624-8699
Phuket Town
Tel: 0-7621-8936-7
Fax: 0-7621-8802
www.bucocomputer.com
Email: bucocom@9-net.com

BUS COMPUTER AND SERVICE CO., LTD.

**Looking for
a home in phuket?**

www.phuketimmo.com

09-866-9004 / 076-249-315

มนิทราย
MANEE SAI

STONE MURALS & STATUES & MORE

Open daily
Tel: 01 487 4139 Fax: 076 383 527
E-mail: manee_sai@hotmail.com
Showroom 500 meters from Chalong Circle,
Chalong to Rawai Rd, opposite Chalong Post Office.

Body Rejuvenation Center

Body Massage
Body Treatment
Body Whitening
Slimming Course
Facial Treatment
Anti-Wrinkle Treatment
Anti-Stress Treatment

Body Rejuvenation Center
20/19 Moo 10/11, Toros road, Muang Phuket, Fax & Tel : 076-386108, 01-7190291

IT TELECOM

COMPUTER, LAPTOP SALES & SERVICE
WIRELESS GPRS MODEMS
ON-SITE SERVICE
MAINTENANCE MEMBER SERVICE
PCS BUILT TO ORDER
NEW BARE BONES PCS

109/11 PHUKET RD., MUANG PHUKET
83000 THAILAND
TEL: 076 219988, FAX: 076 213870
E-MAIL: COMPUTERPHUKET@HOTMAIL.COM
BRANCHES: IT MOBILE BIS C
TEL: 076 248330

Don't miss....

**Issues
&
Answers**

[www.phuketgazette.net/
issuesanswers/index.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp)

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Four-time men's singles table tennis world champion Peter Karlsson, from Sweden, joined Nanthana Komwong and Anisara Muangsuk, Thailand's top two women players, to hold a table tennis training session for junior players at the Phuket City Municipality Youth Center, at Saphan Hin, on June 2 and 3.

More than 50 youngsters, ranging from five to 20 years old, from Phuket and neighboring provinces joined the session, which included advice on what it takes to become a champion and demonstrations of game-winning techniques.

Korakit Seamkitseeree, coach of the Thai national table tennis team, explained that the course was aimed at improving young players' skills and to give provincial players the opportunity to learn about the world of top-level table tennis.

Phuket-born Korakit said he feels a need to develop the sport in his home province and to provide the opportunity for provincial players to join the national team.

Few come as qualified to offer such advice as Karlsson does. At 34 years old and currently ranked as the 25th best table tennis player in the world, Karlsson is highly respected for his experience.

"This is a great opportunity for table tennis in Thailand," he told the *Gazette*. "Many Thai children like playing table tennis, but maybe what is holding them back is the lack of table tennis organizations and clubs in Thailand like we have in Europe."

Table tennis champions show how it's done



Thailand's No 1 female player, Nanthana Komwong, battles it out with Sweden's four-time world champion, Peter Karlsson, during an exhibition match at Saphan Hin.



Explaining what it takes to be a good player, Karlsson said, "Players need to have good basic skills, move well, and have good forehand and backhand techniques. Then practice a lot and get good coaching, and this will lead to good results."

He also explained his personal motivation to win top-level titles.

"My greatest experiences

have been becoming world champion five times, once in doubles and four times in singles, while playing for the Swedish national team. They are good memories."

Also stressing the importance of motivation was Thailand's No 1 female player, Nanthana Komwong. She has been a Thai national team member since 1995 and has won the national women's singles title six times, and represented Thailand at the 2000 Olympics.

She has already won a place to play for Thailand in the 2004 Olympics in Athens..

K. Nanthana said, "I was a provincial player so I know that making the national side depends on many factors, such as finding a good trainer and having family support."

"The major factor is the player. They need to be highly

motivated to play for the national team."

Recalling her early days in the sport, she said, "I felt the need to compete with as many people

as I could. I went anywhere there was a tournament to build on my experience."

"At each competition, players are awarded points that Sports Authority of Thailand representatives use to select the best players to join the national squad," K. Nanthana explained.

"If you would love to be on the national team, keep trying and practice until you reach your goal," she added.

Anisara Muangsuk, seven-time Thai women's singles champion and a member of the national team since 1991, said the standard of table tennis played by young Thais was improving.

"Young Thai people's skills in table tennis have developed immensely, and they are now developing the skills and tactics of fast play," she said, adding that the number of table tennis clubs had grown and given young people more opportunity to play.

Other appealing aspects of the sport, she added, are that it is an easy game to learn, inexpensive, and as it is indoor sport, you don't have to worry about being in the sun.

LPGC gives couples chance to compete together

CHERNG TALAY: Golf-mad couples keen to play a round together are invited to put their names down for the Laguna Phuket Golf Club (LPGC) Couples' Alternate Shot Competition to be played on June 19.

Tee-off is at 12.30 pm in this single-flight contest with Callaway scoring. Prizes – including for longest drive and closest to the pin – will be made at a barbecue following the fun.

Fees are 950 baht for LPGC members and 2,400 baht for non-members. Green and caddy fees, prizes, drinks and food are included.

Entries must be submitted before June 17 to the LPGC Pro Shop in person or by phone to K. Duen, Membership Coordinator, at Tel: 076-324350.

Email to: neunghathai.sakpaet@banyantree.com for further details.

FITNESS EQUIPMENT
The leading fitness equipment supply

SPORTathlon Tel: 076 356-273 www.sport.co.th
INTEGRATED LEISURE SERVICES RIF FOR LIFE 156/21 Pang Nga Road, Phuket Thailand

House & Pool
Construction Co., Ltd. since 1995
Thai - German Management

- Private & commercial construction
- Renovation / alteration
- Swimming pools & Jacuzzis
- Architecture design
- Building permission

85/19 Moo 7 Sai Yaun Rob Koh Road
Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-288845, 388078
FAX: 076-288846
English: 01-6067410 Thai: 01-7192819
E-Mail: info@siam-business.com
www.siam-business.com

2nd Surakul Cup this weekend

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Center for Tourism, Sport and Recreation (CTSR) will hold its second annual Surakul Cup five-a-side soccer tournament at Surakul Stadium on June 12 and 13.

Teams in both the open and under-14 categories will compete in groups of three, with the winner advancing to the next round.

Prizes for the top four teams in the open category are: 1st 10,000 baht; 2nd 5,000 baht; 3rd 3,000 baht; 4th 1,000 baht.

In the under-14 category, prizes are: 1st 3,000 baht; 2nd 2,000 baht; 3rd 1,000 baht; 4th 500 baht.

For more information call the Phuket CTSR at Tel: 076-217054. – *Anongnat Sartpisut*

QUALITY BOATS BUILT HERE

We build 100% fiberglass 'Steppa' boats right here in Phuket.

- 18ft open-bow 'Barracuda' is great for skiing and is the perfect family boat.
- 22ft center-console 'Skip-Jack' is excellent for diving and game fishing.
- 30ft and 36ft '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. (no need for a dinghy)
- excellent stability and payload capacities. (simply safer boats)
- the option of being stored at home on a trailer. (avoid expensive marina fees)
- low ongoing maintenance costs due to our excellent supervised fiber construction.

PHUKET WATER TAXI
Anywhere...Anytime...
Since 1990

TEST DRIVE A DEMO OR VISIT OUR FACTORY.
Call 076-270379 or 01-8912688

Is Hong Kong – home to one of the world's largest film-making industries – a *kung fu* flick? Cinema verité? Or a wide-screen Imax blockbuster?

It can certainly provide all the thrills of kickboxing, an entrancing dose of gritty reality, and a panoramic buffet of sun, sea and skyscraper.

Perhaps the answer is that it's a mixture of all three. Hong Kong seems somehow to hurtle forward relentlessly, as if some cosmic director were continually bellowing "Action!"

Hong Kong's devotion to the film world was prominently displayed with the recent opening of the HK\$40 million (208 million baht) "Avenue of Stars" on the Tsim Sha Tsui promenade in Kowloon.

Weather permitting, a breathtaking vista across the harbor to the Brobdingnagian cast of high-rises on Hong Kong Island is afforded from the avenue, which pays tribute to some 70 of the city's best and brightest, with stars set in the pavement à la Hollywood Boulevard.

Some of the monikers, like Fung Bo Bo, Ivy Ling Po, Tso Tat Wah, will be familiar only to the more manic film buffs. But many other big names are honored here, including San Francisco-born Bruce Lee, Beijing native Jet Li and the first Asian 007 girl – Michelle Yeoh – who is from Ipoh in Malaysia.

The Hong Kong Island tram, built at the water's edge on the other side of the harbor a century ago – but now firmly in mid-town thanks to successive reclamation projects – is not a bad point to start out on a three-dimensional tour of Asia's tinseltown.

The double-decker tram cars trundle through Wanchai, made famous by its Suzie Wong girlie bars where the romanti-



Left, Bruce Lee's star on the Tsim Sha Tsui version of Hollywood Boulevard.

Below, a giant version of the Hong Kong Film Awards statuette stands against the island's famed backdrop of skyscrapers.



TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

cally-stricken William Holden met golden-hearted prostitute Nancy Kwan in *The World of Suzie Wong*.

The area's wet market will be familiar to Jackie Chan fans from *Rush Hour 2*, while further along the track, in Causeway Bay, the Tai Ping Koon restaurant's blend of Shanghaiese and Western cuisines has frequently drawn the likes of Chow Yun Fat and Karen Mok.

Back in Central, the Mid-Levels escalator is flanked by a couple of singles bars and eateries, most notably the enigmatic Feather Boa and the Brit-grub joint Soho Soho.

Built to ease traffic congestion, the escalator has transformed the surrounding area into a free-form entertainment district. It featured prominently in *Chungking Express*, which starred Tony Leung.

From here, head on up hill.

Fights! Camera! Action!

The Peak Tram, actually a funicular railway which uses a cable to pull the car up the steep incline, is the best way to the top. In addition to being crowned with a number of naff souvenir shops, Victoria Peak is also home to the superlative Café Deco, which is consistently rated as one of the city's best restaurants.

The spectacular view from here was included in the opening scene in *Rush Hour 2*. To escape the inevitable crowds, walk along Lugard and Harlech roads,

which are actually little more than wide paths that contour around the mountain and offer master-of-all-I-survey views overlooking the harbor and city.

To the south you can gaze down on Aberdeen district, where William Holden showed Jennifer Jones that *Love Is A Many Splendored Thing*. To the north lies Pottinger Street, where triads and police fought it out in *Infernal Affairs I*.

The Hong Kong Tourist Board publishes a map devoted

entirely to the territory's greater cinematic sites.

Almost half of the island is officially designated as country park – great background for historical costume dramas – while there are also some glorious beaches, like the one used in one of 2003's worst movies, *My Horny Girlfriend*.

That cinematic epic was shot on video, and on such a tiny budget that the cast had to go without wardrobe most of the time.

Laser
Tooth
Whitening
Center



**Whiter, Brighter teeth
in 1 hour**

CITY PARK DENTAL CLINIC

Phang-Nga Rd., Phuket Town Tel. 076-233241

PHUKET DENTAL CENTER

Yaowaraj Rd., Phuket Town Tel. 076-255336

TAWATCHAI DENTAL CLINIC

Thalang Rd., Phuket Town Tel. 076-210174

www.laserdentals.com

A quality project situated in an oasis of green hills. Just minutes from the city centre, shopping, international hospitals, golf courses, Dulwich International College and Patong beach.

50 elegant Sino-Portuguese style houses blending unique tradition and charm with modern tropical living, ranging from 220-300 sq. meters, on 800 sq. meters of land, comprising up to four bedrooms, spacious living, dining and family rooms, maids quarters and covered parking.



Land and House package from 7-10 million baht

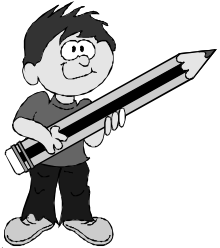
- Clubhouse with swimming pool, fitness center and sauna
- International standard construction
- Privacy and 24-hour security

For more information, please contact : The Heritage 73/2 Moo 1 Samkong, Kathu Road, Kathu, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-321746-7 Fax: 076-321042 E-mail: info@phuketheritagehome.com www.phuketheritagehome.com

KIDS

THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



Brain Buster!!

Eddie lived alone and liked it that way. He never had visitors and never visited anyone. He never left his house – he had food and supplies delivered every two weeks. One dark and stormy night Eddie turned off all the lights and went to sleep. The next day it was discovered that his actions had resulted in the deaths of several people. Why?

A. Eddie was a lighthouse keeper.

Solution to last week's Crossword

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

Answers to last week's Monster Quiz

1. The Louvre; 2. Centre Pompidou; 3. Hawaiian; 4. Zarf; 5. Bessie Smith; 6. Each had only one eye; 7. Chaka Khan; 8. Heredity; 9. Maha Sarakham; 10. Aaron Copland; 11. Mike Hawthorne; 12. James "Bonecrusher" Smith; 13. Bahrain; 14. Caspian Sea; 15. Amelia Earhart; 16. 299,792.5; 17. 1960; 18. Stockholm; 19. Spain; 20. Meiji.

Get your brain in gear with the Monster Quiz



- Where is Vladivar vodka made?
- What was President Harry S. Truman's profession before he went into politics?
- From which language does the word "mattress" derive?
- What is the correct word for a faucet with a bent-down nozzle?
- The great seducer Casanova escaped from jail in which city in 1756?
- Which psychiatrist is regarded as the founder of analytical psychology?
- Which movie star was born Harvey Lee Yeary II?
- What is to be found beneath the coronation chair in England's Westminster Abbey?
- Where did the design for the cowboy hat come from?
- What is the description, on the Beaufort scale, of a wind of 32 to 38 mph?
- Who would use peach-blow?
- Someone who suffers *petit mal* has what condition?
- Selenography is the study of what?
- Where are the Sporades and Cyclades?
- Before 1983, what was the Citrus Bowl known as?
- John McEnroe was US singles tennis champion from 1979 to 1981. In which other year did he win the title?
- Which Thai province is between Nakhon Sawan and Suphan Buri?
- Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991?
- In 1716 the first theater opened in what is now the US. In which state?
- Which country's flag is green with a red circle in the center?

Answers next week.

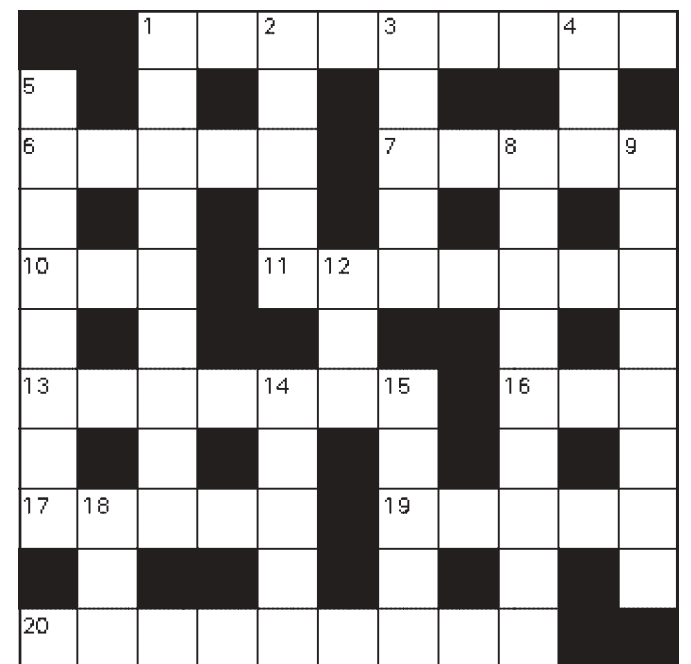
Never a Cross Word!

Across

- Complex.
- Frisky, playful jump.
- Homer's tale of Troy.
- Long paddle.
- Fermented milk product.
- Away from the wind.
- Noise.
- The same again.
- Group of eight musicians.
- Dodges.

Down

- Less than 100%.
- Topsy's partner.
- Cake topping.
- Earl Grey, for example.
- Taught.
- Floods.
- Initiate explosion.
- Belonging to us.
- Components of molecules.
- Male wasp.
- Three, to Julius Caesar



Solution next week

the greenhouse international preschool



Nursery, K1, K2, K3 programs for ages 1½-6 years
Structured learning in a playful, nurturing environment
Qualified and experienced native English teachers
Promoting English language, social and academic skills

*** NOW EXPANDING, PLACES OPEN FOR SEPT 2004 ***

29/34 Chuan Chuen Lagoon, Koh Kaew, Phuket
Tel/Fax: 238-756 info@greenhouse-phuket.com
www.greenhouse-phuket.com

LYNX management group

Sales - Property & Land
Rentals
Estate Management
Construction/Maintenance

E: info@lynxmgmt.com
Tel/Fax: +66 76 200552
www.phuket-villas.com

in association with **Chesterton** PETTY 卓德

Reality bites, and chews, and gnaws

Last week I experienced the greatest feeling in the world. I woke up, like most mornings, looked at the alarm clock, like most mornings, and like most mornings, groaned at the thought of getting up at 7 am. Then, unlike most mornings, I threw the alarm clock across the room and went blissfully back to sleep.

Several students must have undergone the same thought process – a chorus of now unusable alarm clocks slamming against walls rang out around the boarding house.

Exams were over for all the students in the house, and those standing in the corridors could almost hear a collective sigh of relief emanate from the frail, sleeping figures of the student body.

Whether actual sighs or just snoring, they connoted the same thing: relief, relaxation and, best of all, the relative bliss of unconsciousness.

The next day, similar sentiments could be detected in the boarding house, with the same tingling air of excitement as boarders could wake up at 4 in the afternoon if they felt so inclined, without getting into trouble for missing class.

However, as the days went on, the air of excited contentment must have been gradually blown away by the monsoon breeze or subtly nudged into the background, because the hard-working

students at Dulwich began to feel something they had not experienced in a while.

At first, the yawns seemed to be simply the symptoms of recuperation from the effects of too much sleep. No one dared utter the one word that really described the cause of the yawning, lying around and glassy-eyed staring out of windows: boredom.

The glorious promises of post-exam freedom suddenly seemed to be another Catch 22 formulated by educators around the globe.

The whole time people spend working, they dream of a vacation, of some form of extended relief from their current endeavors. But the moment they are granted the respite they had been longing for, they find that everything seems pointless because they have nothing to work toward: no reason to wake up, no reason to sleep, no reason to leave the house. They end up wanting to work again.

The effect of this horrible paradox was evident on the student body. Formerly driven by a studying frenzy, they were now desperately trying to find something to take its place. They tried reading, writing,



Youth 'n ASIA

By Eric Lacey

talking, listening. But still there was no satisfaction to be found – these activities offered only minor escapes from the great void of nothingness their lives had become after the end of the exams.

Soon they began to form sporting groups, training consistently for said pastime in order to bring some kind of meaning to their lives. Others began making music or helping out around school – anything to pass the time.

There is a particularly vicious element to this boredom I have not yet mentioned: the waiting. The exams are over, but we all still had to wait for the results. The void of nothingness wouldn't have seemed so intimidating had it not been for the underlying impatience. Sleeping was meant to pass the time. Talking was meant to pass the time. Sports and music were meant to pass the time.

Sadly, nothing makes time pass quickly. As I am writing this, I am staring at the clock on my computer: 8:06 pm. 8:06 pm ... 8:06 pm ... 8:07 pm. The wait is almost as strenuous as the exams were.

Students try to smile and treasure

their unabashed idleness, but inside they are consumed by a deep and gnawing anxiety from having to wait for grades to be reported.

And to make all that waiting even more vicious – there is nothing anyone can do about those grades now. The act is done, the papers sent off, the work is being marked and remarked. And there is nothing we can do.

Well, at least not in the real world. In dreams, of course, it's different. Often I would dream of running down to Mr Examiner's house in Tuvalu or Mexico and threatening him at gunpoint until he raised my grades.

But that dream just isn't feasible. First, I don't know where the hell Tuvalu is. Second, Mr Examiner could shock us all and turn out to be a Mrs Examiner or even a petite blonde Miss Examiner.

I glance at my clock once more. 8:09pm. The guy on the computer next to mine looks at his clock anxiously, as does his neighbor. We look at one another. There is a mutual understanding that a mere minute has passed since we last looked at the clock. More waiting. More inactivity. More boredom. MORE WAITING.

The waiting, the boredom, it's all almost as stressful as the exams themselves, apart from the bit about having to wake up early.

Do I really have to endure the trauma of a wedding?

Dear Momma Duck,

I just bought my girlfriend an engagement ring and we will be married in a year's time. She agreed to keep the ceremony simple – just a trip to the district office.

My friends tell me I am being mean, and that I'm short-changing her on what should be the most important day of her life.

I don't agree. For the amount it would take me to get everyone in her village fed and drunk, I could afford to fly her back to my country to meet my family, which is what I would prefer to do.

I have been to many rural Thai weddings before – as a guest

– and I haven't liked what went on, such as drinking, gambling and firing guns into the air.

Once, as members of the groom's party, we were followed and robbed at knifepoint by the same people we had just spent tens of thousands of baht entertaining.

Engaged in Confusion
Samkong

Dear Engaged in Confusion,

I'm afraid that you may not like my response, although I understand that what you've encountered makes you concerned as to what might happen in your case.

You must bear in mind that in most parts of the world, espe-



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

cially Thailand, a wedding day is very important to the bride's family.

Indeed, many rural parents still believe that, having raised their daughter, they have the right to a bride price, although in modern Thailand, this can often be substituted by the groom hosting the wedding.

I would add that I've been to weddings all over the world and celebrating with family and

friends is the common element.

I would even say that the ceremony is more for family and friends than for the bride and groom. It is the one chance they have to celebrate your decision to marry.

Thai weddings have to have lots of food, lots of ceremony and, sometimes, lots of drinking (though gambling is frowned upon by the government).

You must be fair to your fiancée and discuss your feelings on this matter with her.

No matter what she says, I guarantee that she feels this to be the most important day of her life and wants to celebrate it with you and her family in a traditional manner. The event should be as big as you can afford.

You have to understand and be willing to adapt to Thai culture and, in return, you'll have a great start to living in harmony with your wife and members of her family.

An alternative to a village wedding would be an urban-type wedding at a big hotel in the provincial capital. The family and the most important local people can then be invited to this celebration.

Personally, I'm sometimes rather bored with the urban wedding scene and would much prefer a village wedding. I wish you good luck.

AM
Production
DIRECT EXPORT

Made to Order
NEW T-Shirt

European Quality:
- Polo shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Baseball caps
+
- Embroidery
- Pens, Lighters

Tel: 076-321850
Fax: 076-321851
Email: info@best-t-shirt.com
www.best-t-shirt.com
Ask for: Mr. FRANZ

View Thailand's
LARGEST
portfolio of
Classified Ads –
more than 2,000
of them!

See the
Phuket Gazette
Online at

www.phuketgazette.net



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

Join us...to give Phuket's children the chance for a better future.

Come along to one of our monthly luncheons. New members and donations welcome.

The PIWC is a social and charitable club for women of all nationalities who meet regularly and raise money for the education of needy children on Phuket.

Contact Linda on 01-8937749 or Joan on 07-2820422;
Fax 076-381997; Email: piwc@phuket.com

Psychiatrist
Tel: 076-225667

At the Let's See What He's Getting At Home Ball

Downsider

By George Bentick

Another Phuket gala function has taken place with all the usual suspects and cast of characters present. I just love this stuff. Apart from the money raised for the great work being done by the Life Home Project (LHP), the Life Aid Benefit Ball is also a barometer of how the expat community is doing, and a brush-up on who's who in Phuket.

For those of you who are not aware of it, the Life Home Project is a marvelous organization that supports mothers and children affected by HIV. LHP's fundraisers are a very dedicated group who give what are probably the two most valuable things one can give to a charity: time and effort.

The annual ball (this year was the second) is without doubt one of the social events of the year, outranking even the annual gang bang held during Bike Week at Nok's bar or a horrifying opera at Laguna.

The tickets were the first indication that the island needed to be brought up a few notches: the dress requirement for gentlemen was "Smart (Dinner Jacket Preferred)".

What arrived was more directly related to an Elton John concert that I went to back in '77 than to a gala ball.

It was Karl Lagerfeld on acid. If there was any doubt then one needed look no farther than Alasdair Forbes's now infamous vest. [*You're just jealous - Editor.*]

The varying interpretations of what is meant by "smart" and "dinner jacket" obviously had the men confused, as they patently saw no connection between the two.

There is a standing rule with male expats: "fashion" or "smart" means something that doesn't itch. The rest is up to the beholder. When I asked one gentleman before the ball if he was going to wear a suit, he snapped back, "I don't wear a suit in Phuket due to a long-held political mandate." Good Lord.

In contrast, the women's interpretation of smart was, I must say, nothing short of stunning. Ladies, you were all dressed



sed exquisitely and brought a much-needed element of style to the island, if only for one evening.

Rumor had it that Bill O'Leary will be spearheading Prime Minister Thaksin's bid for 30% of Liverpool and Michael Weinstein will be financing it.

When I asked my date for the ball what she thought of the whole affair, she said that she had never seen so many *jowshoo* - butterflies - in one room before.

I realized that she was correct. I myself stand guilty. In fact, I would go

so far as to suggest that next year we rename the event as the "Let's See What He's Getting At Home Ball".

It was hilarious to watch the philandering leers of lustful, scotch-embalmed expats leering at each other's "babes" and trying to do it in such a fashion that their own "babe" didn't notice. Wandering eyes, as if connected to a tether, securely fastened in a perfectly still head.

Above: Fiddling with the girls as ShaZAM takes to the dance floor. Below: The ladies understand what 'smart' means, even if the men don't.



I found myself bathed in fantasy while watching lovely women holding inflated baseball bats during the auction. For me, there are few things that top the sight of a lady with a latex bat. Babe Ruth with a 42D. It doesn't get better than that.

Speaking of auctions, con-

gratulations to Bill O'Leary for once again doing such a great job as MC and steering the auction as deftly as he does his boats and yachts. Billo has taken the smart dress code to a new level with his "Maoist Nepalese" look - as usual, several issues ahead of GQ.

By whipping the masses into a frenzy, Bill was able to induce huge bids on various items in the auction. Among the many generous buyers was the ever-chic Michael Weinstein, who bid more than the actual construction cost of an Amanpuri villa to stay in one for a weekend.

Rumor had it that Billo will be spearheading Prime Minister Thaksin's bid for 30% of Liverpool FC and Michael will be financing it.

This of course brings me to the entertainment. What can I say? They burst onto the stage with the energy of a Eurovision Song Contest act on steroids.

The main group was called Life After 9. I am not sure whether they meant 9 o'clock or 9 years old or 9 inches, for that matter.

Then the lead violinist reappeared with a dance troupe as ShaZAM. A lively bunch, all of them. Word has it that the fiddler is on Siegfried's shortlist to replace Roy.

It's really hard to look cool while playing a violin. You have to convey all your funkiness by whipping your head around because both your hands are busy.

This guy, however, had it down to a science. In fact, I was reliably informed that when he leaves the stage he immediately puts on a neck brace.

So another gala ball has passed. If you haven't been, you are missing something - it is the ultimate expat love-in.

The whole thing was great. The cause is noble and everyone should be proud of the job that was done and the amounts donated.

The entertainment was fun and the "babes" looked great all dolled-up. Next year, get on board and let's do it again.

As for me, I have to go to a meeting. Apparently 30% of the King's Cup Regatta is for sale. Lottery anyone?

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

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

Chopsticks Noodle & Steamboat

10% off all food and beverage.

Tel: 076-340275

City Park Dental Clinic

10% off all services. Tel: 076-233241

Club, The

10% off all items. Tel: 076-279111

Corner Flintstone Bakery Patong

10% off birthday cakes, and for users of our internet cafe. Tel: 076-286857



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



Siam International
526/15 Patak Road
Karon Beach, Phuket 83100

Siam
International

❖ Legal consultation Contact:
❖ Company formations Tel: 076 398 068
❖ Notarial Fax: 076 398 069
 certifications Email:
❖ Contracts siamint@loxinfo.co.th
❖ Work permits
❖ Bookkeeping
❖ Visa service
❖ Translations

The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

Taking the first step

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura's acceptance of the "getting ugly" label applied to Phuket by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine is a welcome stance.

He might have adopted the knee-jerk attitude of his Chiang Mai counterpart and dismissed the "ugly" tag as "not right". But he didn't. He, and senior figures in Phuket's tourism industry, recognize that it is not easy to dismiss an assessment published in a magazine that has a bimonthly international circulation of close to 750,000 copies and carries the weight of its prestigious parent magazine, *National Geographic*.

Instead, Gov Udomsak acknowledged that Phuket does indeed have problems that need to be addressed and has promised to deal with them as a matter of urgency.

Recognizing that a problem exists, it is said, is the first step toward solving it. But it is also the easiest step to take. To make good on his word, the Governor has a mountain of work ahead – work that will be at very difficult and possibly dangerous.

At the root of the uglification of Phuket lies that oldest of human attributes: selfishness. This has been allowed to shape Phuket's development over the years because of a collective tendency to look away from problems and also because of inertia on the part of those whose job it is to face problems and fix problems, whether by better law enforcement or through the establishment of new regulations such as zoning.

One can hardly envy Gov Udomsak; turning Phuket around will be a job similar to that of Hercules in the Augean stables. Scholars of Greek myth will recall that Hercules had to resort to extreme measures to clean out the stables: diverting a couple of rivers to sweep through them. In Phuket, of course, he would face the added challenge of ensuring that the stinking debris were not swept straight onto Patong Beach.

The many jobs that the Governor will have to tackle include sweeping away the blight of billboards, cables and tin shacks; preserving the island's crumbling architectural heritage; ending deforestation; ending the blockage of water courses by unscrupulous or uncaring developers; raising sewage treatment and waste disposal practices to international standards; enforcing noise pollution legislation; and possibly even diverting the island's focus away from cheap mass tourism to concentrate more on high-end, niche markets.

At every turn, he is going to be battling entrenched attitudes, beliefs, self-interests, and – of course – corruption. He will not succeed on his own. The entire island will have to get off their backsides and stand behind him.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Investigation Team: Gategeo Phetsawang,

Dhirarat Boonkongsan, Siripansa Somboon, Anongnat Sartpisut

Desk Editors: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Marketing Manager: Oranee Pienprasertkul

Sales Manager: Nashaya Mastanawattanakul

Classified Advertising: Phatsara Phengnu

Website Services Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Distribution Manager: Passara Kaewbumroong

Financial Controller: Benjawan Lukthan

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

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

Copyright © 1994-2004 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd



Letters

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

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

Leap of faith or waste of money?

Although I have lived here for a number of years and consider the Buddhist faith both interesting and appealing, I don't profess to be an expert on the matter.

However, as I drive around the island, I see an ever-increasing number of *wats* under construction. They tend to be located – very visibly – along Thepkrasatri Rd, admittedly convenient for getting to and fro, or in areas where tourists congregate.

Is Phuket witnessing a collective leap of faith among a population already predominantly Buddhist or is it something else?

These temples are ornate and require many thousands of man hours to both construct and maintain, lest they fall into a shabby state.

They also require many millions of baht to fund their construction, funds which, a more cynical person than I might suggest, could perhaps be better spent elsewhere.

I am acutely aware that the monies donated for their construction are donations and no doubt given freely, but for whose benefit are the temples constructed?

The donor, it seems, gains merit by contributing their mite or their millions and the temples will assuredly receive yet more from Thai and foreign tourists who stop to look at these wonderful buildings and pay respect.

However, these are not schools or hospitals, for example, the development of which must keep pace with an increasing population.

Further, I visit a number of far smaller and less grand *wats* which, if my understanding serves me correctly, function equally as well as their more impressive counterparts.

Is size and grandeur everything when it comes to belief?

Anthony Farrant
Chalong

Seven years is just too long to wait

I am a regular visitor to Karon Beach, and over the past five years it has become extremely noisy, dirty and dangerous for swimmers. When visiting in January, Karon Beach was hardly an ideal tourist destination. In addition to the jet-skis, there has been construction with heavy machinery pounding away – as it has for the past three years.

The *Gazette's* online poll recently asked people if they believed that Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura's plan to rid Phuket of jet-skis within seven years would be successful. Surely to wait seven years to rid the beaches of the noisy, dirty, dangerous jet-skis is absurd. Phuket does not have that long!

I appreciate that people need to make a living; however, if it is at the expense of losing regular visitors, which is exactly what is happening, then it would be more economical for the government to subsidize these workers to keep tourists coming.

In view of the online article that tourism leaders agree that Phuket is "getting ugly", this is a real opportunity to start cleaning up Phuket and to make a positive move towards a more environmentally friendly resort.

How sad if I, and people like me, stop coming because we do not want to wait seven years for the beaches to be clean, quiet and safe.

Vivien Evans
United Kingdom

It's time to call a spade a spade

National Geographic Traveler magazine's very low ranking of Phuket as a tourist destination does not surprise those of us who have lived here for some years. The rapid and disastrous despoilment of this once-beautiful island is a shining example of what greed and corruption can do when both go unchecked.

At the Laguna Phuket Resort, the entire complex has been turned into one large construction site with homes being built on every available square *wah* of land.

A few kilometers away at Layan Beach, one of the most beautiful and scenic areas on Phuket, the entire beach area is littered with beer bottles, plastic bags and used styrofoam food containers. Let's face it – *National Geographic* got it right.

The most frightening thing is that the worst is yet to come.

With two huge shopping centers due to open next year – Central and Jungceylon – and no road improvements underway in the two respective areas, the already chaotic traffic conditions on the island can only get worse.

The East Asian tour groups are indeed the future of Phuket as one local tourism business operator lamented.

Steve Rubenstein
Cherng Talay

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

Why we need cheap foreign labor

I have been President of the Phuket Business Operators' Club for three years. I took up this position because we, the business people here, want to have as little conflict with government officers as possible.

I estimate that at least 2,000 businesses in Phuket employ low-skilled foreign workers, mostly people from Burma or Laos. Some hire one, some hire a hundred to do the jobs that – increasingly – Thais do not want to do.

I estimate that Phuket needs around 25,000 foreign workers but has about 20,000. I'd say that 10,000 of the foreign workers here at the moment are here illegally.

There are so many illegal workers in Phuket because there has, for the past two years, been no government policy to allow these foreign workers to register.

Business operators don't want to break the law but, although we need cheap labor, we can't register any of them before June 15.

I wrote to Pol Lt Gen Dr Chanvut Vajrabukka, Commissioner of the Immigration Bureau, asking him to allow a moratorium on the arrests of illegal foreign workers.

His reply was that it would be impossible to do this as it would be breaking the law. I know that it's illegal but what choice do we business people have?

If the illegal workers are arrested before June 15, how will we be able to register them? I have asked about this issue and government officers just make



FIRST PERSON

Prasat Buntantrapiwat, is a noodle manufacturer and President of the Phuket Business Operators' Club. He employs 10 foreign laborers. Here, he argues that the government urgently needs to revise its attitude to unskilled foreign labor from neighboring countries

excuses and hide behind the statement, "It's policy."

On March 2 the cabinet approved an "amnesty" policy that will allow illegal workers in Thailand to come clean, register and become legal workers. But if the police arrest them all, how can they be brought into the system?

Thai people simply don't want to do these low-paid, menial jobs anymore. I challenge the government to find Thais who would be prepared to stick at these jobs for more than three months. Thais usually last less than 10 days.

The workers from Burma or Laos usually stay at least a year. They often have debts to pay to the people who got them into Thailand in the first place.

We must be realistic and accept that Phuket cannot expand and develop without the influx of foreign workers, especially laborers for the big construction projects.

Before we can employ foreigners legally, we have to pay for a medical check and registration fees.

Each foreign worker costs his or her employer at least 4,500 baht in fees paid

to the Phuket Provincial Labour Office.

This is expensive and time-wasting and no one really wants to do it. We would prefer to give these jobs to a Thai person, if only because it's simpler. Some employers make other choices, some of which aren't legal.

Business people and employers are also supposed to consider our nation's security when hiring workers.

But do the police officers consider Thailand's economic security? This country's financial development will be at risk if entrepreneurs cannot do business.

Of course, not all foreign workers are good or honest people. They can bring problems into Thailand such as infectious diseases and crime.

So registering every one of them will help the police control these problems while allowing the better ones to stay here and work.

Another problem that will be solved by registration is corruption.

One time the police came and rounded up all of my workers and took them to the station to check each of them.

Every one of them was employed legally. Can you imagine how much it cost me to lose a half a day's production? I could go bankrupt.

The Ministry of Labor says there are about one million unemployed Thais. I'd say that more than half of them want to work in an office rather than on a building site. That's why we need foreign laborers.

Compiled by Gategeo Phetsawang

Rules for boundary walls or fences

What rules apply to building boundary walls around my property?

Randall Jennings
Chalong

Tawee Homhuan, Engineer with the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office, responds:

Before you build a fence or wall around your property, you must first have permission from the local Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) or the local municipality (*tessabaan*) to ensure that it will not contravene the Building Control Act.

A fence or wall that runs along the boundary with public land must not be over three meters high.

If the land next door is private, there is no limit to the height of the wall or fence you may apply for, though the local authority has the power to restrict the height to which you may build.

Before you build a fence or a wall along any other boundary, if it will encroach on any part of the adjacent lot, you must have written permission from the owner of that lot.

If a wall is built in violation of any regulations, the *OrBorTor* or *tessabaan* will order you, in writing, to dismantle it. If you do

not do so, they will dismantle it and charge the cost to you.

If the wall or fence you propose to build doesn't contradict any regulations, the officers must grant your application.

If your application is denied because the officer processing it claims that the wall or fence will contravene regulations, you have 30 days to appeal the decision by filing a complaint with the *OrBorTor* or the local municipality where you applied.

They must pass the complaint to the provincial government's Complaints Consideration Committee, which comprises the Phuket Governor, the chief of the Phuket Public Works and Town Planning Office, the Phuket Attorney General and other officers, within 30 days.

The Complaints Consideration Committee has 60 days to inform you of their decision.

If you believe your application was denied for unlawful reasons, you can file a complaint with the Damrongtham Center [at the Provincial Hall in Phuket City. Tel: 076-213-203] or with the National Counter Corruption Commission in Bangkok.

If you have further questions or need help in resolving an issue about a wall, contact your *OrBorTor* or *tessabaan*.

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

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

Issues & ANSWERS

Immigration letter expiration

I recently went to the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) to obtain a letter verifying my address, so I could present it to the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office the fol-

lowing week when renewing my Thai car and motorbike driver's licenses.

An officer at the PPIO said that as my permit to stay was about to expire in three more

days, it would be better for me to come back the following week, once I had done a visa run.

He explained that if he issued the letter verifying my address on the day that I visited, the letter would expire on the same day as my permit to stay.

Is this correct? I thank the officer for the good advice, but this is the fourth time that I have obtained a letter verifying my address, and the first time that I have heard that it expires in line with the current permit to stay.

Randall Jennings
Chalong

Am I barred from Thailand forever?

In Pattaya last month I did a stupid thing; I took a towel from a hotel. The police were called and I was arrested.

I was taken to court the next day and fined 1,000 baht, then handed over to Immigration. I was deported a few days later.

There is now a red stamp in my passport stating that I was deported. Can you please tell me if I will be allowed to come back to Thailand anytime soon?

Name and address supplied

Pol Col Vittavat Buranasompop, Head of the Phuket Pro-

vincial Immigration Office, replies:

Usually, under Thai law, you would not only be fined for theft but would be sent to jail, but perhaps in your case, as a first offender, you were put on probation.

The red stamp indicates that you contravened Immigration Law Section 12. There are many paragraphs in this section, but I imagine that in your case the red stamp means that you are a menace to society.

If there is a red stamp in your passport you will not be allowed into Thailand ever again.

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

Yes, it's correct. The letter verifying your address has on it the date on which the letter's validity expires. The expiration date will always be the same as the date that your current permit to stay expires.

Nibbling from a huge grab-bag of quotes

Published this year, *History in Quotations* (Cassell, London, 1,008pp) divides 5,000 years of human history into specific eras: ancient Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome running through the Renaissance and Reformation to the present day.

Into each section are jammed hundreds of quotes from the famous and the obscure: perceptive, startling, funny, foolish and wise. Beneath each quote is a note on the author, the historical context, and cross-references to other quotes.

I don't pretend to have read the whole thing. There are 1,008 pages of close two-column type. But I dipped into lavish dollops of the stuff that interests me.

I confess to skipping the Thirty Years War and the 1848 Revolution. But that's the whole point of this massive tome. As Simon Schama writes in the forward: "Sometimes we don't want the whole banquet, soup to nuts. Sometimes, often even, we crave dim sum, tapas, a day filled, stuffed with hors d'oeuvres."

And he concludes: "So open the

pages and take a bite; you'll be coming back for another helping, I guarantee."

I nibbled happily for weeks. Here's one tasty morsel by Robin McKie (2003) on Genghis Khan:

"An international team of geneticists has made the astonishing discovery that more than 16 million men in Central Asia have the same male Y chromosome as the great Mongol leader. It is a striking finding: a huge chunk of modern humanity can trace its origins to Genghis Khan's vigorous policy of claiming the most beautiful women captured during his merciless conquest."

Way to go, Genghis!

Here's the great Isaac Newton summing up his accomplishments in 1727:

"I do not know what I may seem to the world, but as to myself, I seem to have been only a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in

now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

The proximity of certain quotes can be striking.

"We won't be their Negroes. I say

we are as handsome as old English folks, and so should be as free." – John Adams, 1774, two years before the American Declaration of Independence.

"If slavery thus be fatally contagious, how is it that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of Negroes?" – Samuel Johnson, 1775.

And so we come up to modern times.

Senator Robert Dole in 1983: "History buffs probably noted the reunion at a Washington party a few weeks ago of three ex-presidents, Carter, Ford and Nixon: See No Evil, Hear No Evil and Evil."

President Bill Clinton in 1998: "I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me . . . I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time, never. These allegations are false."

President George W Bush in 2002: "I think the American people – I hope the American – I don't think, let me – I hope the American people trust me."

Thirty-one of the 37 contributors are British academics, resulting in a certain



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

slant of emphasis. John Major (not the former British prime minister but an academic historian), who wrote almost all of the post-1945 sections, is obviously a gentleman of the Left.

The quotes he has selected and the editorial comment beneath them show a distinct distaste toward Mrs Thatcher, Israel and globalization.

He is also responsible for this howler: "I say violence is necessary. It is as American as cherry pie," which he attributes to a certain H. Rap Brown of a civil rights group called "Southern Negro Christian Conference (SNCC)".

Actually it was his predecessor at SNCC, Stokely Carmichael, who coined that phrase, along with "Black Power". And SNCC really translates into Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, which by the time Stokely and Rap got finished with it had degenerated into a hate group that had nothing to do with students and was neither non-violent nor coordinated.

That said, I intend to chomp away on this book for years to come.

Going 'legit' with Windows XP

Q I bought a computer a few months ago from a guy who puts them together in his house. I'm absolutely sure that I have a bootleg copy of Windows XP. If I buy a legit copy of Windows XP, do I have to wipe out the hard drive to install it?

– BB on PP

A There are lots of good reasons for getting a "real" copy of Windows XP, and not all of them have to do with jack-booted jackals invading your shop.

One very compelling reason looms in your immediate future: when Microsoft releases

COMPUTER Q&A

Windows XP Service Pack 2 sometime in the next two months, you're going to want it for the security improvements, including a built-in firewall.

But SP 2 won't install on any machine that uses one of the common "cracked" WinXP activation codes. If you have a pirate copy of Windows XP, chances are that you won't be able to install SP 2. And that's a problem.

Unfortunately, the price of Windows XP in Thailand is still very high (although it's quite rea-

If you have a bootleg copy of Windows XP and want to make it 'legit' in order to, say, get the latest security updates, you don't need to re-format your hard drive to install the good copy. Follow the instructions here to over-write the bootleg activation key with a real one.

sonable if you buy an ICT-sponsored computer from the post office or 7-Eleven).

Fortunately, you can feed Windows XP any legitimate activation key, from anywhere in the world. Here's the way Microsoft recommends (note that this applies only to Windows XP):

Click Start | Run, type `%systemroot%\system32\oobe\msoobe /a` and press Enter. (Note that there's a space before the / a.) Windows brings up the system activation box.

Click the button marked Yes, I want to Telephone a Customer Service Representative to Activate Windows, then click Next. Click the button marked Change Product Key, then type in the legit activation key from the yellow sticker on the "good" CD's case. Click Update.

If Windows says you need to activate Windows click Remind Me Later. Then re-start your computer.

When Windows comes back up, click Start | All Programs | Accessories | System Tools | Activate Windows. If you did everything correctly, you'll get an activation dialog box that says "Windows is already activated. Click OK to exit."

Q I live in Rawai and about a week ago I signed up for the TT&T/CAT 1,000-baht ADSL service. I got a free ADSL modem and installation CD. I installed the driver, plugged in the modem and waited.

Six days later (they said it would take 7-10 days to connect) I got a signal on the modem. Since then I've been in broadband heaven.

Using the McAfee speed test I've been getting between 80 and 150Kbs. It worked with no problems at all for a week then started dropping out and slowed to a trickle. Then, today, magically, it burst back into action. I am now getting speeds between 600Kbs and over 1Mbps! What's happening?

– TD

A I, too, have the TT&T/CAT package, except I opted for the more expensive (and supposedly faster) "Premium" 2,630-baht service. The service is exhilarating – when it works.

At the moment, my TT&T ADSL service has been completely dead for more than a day, and it's been up and down for the past three weeks. I'm ready to pull my hair out because I really need to be connected, all the time.

For now, if your business depends on your Internet connection, or if you're frustrated by random, lengthy outages, it would be wise to avoid both the TT&T and TOT packages. They just aren't ready for prime time.

– Woody Leonhard
woody@khunwoody.com

TOTO
Italian Restaurant
Laguna Resort Entrance
Bangtao Beach,
Tel: 076-271430

TOTO
Toto Italian Restaurant
Kamala Beach Village
Tel: 076-279619
E-mail: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th.

NAT
Providing the best business solutions

ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES

Tax planning services
Payroll processing services
Thai Tax Course 4 Foreigner

World-class Accounting Software

QuickBooks Pro **sage**

Phuket: 0 7623 4993
Bkk: 0 2948 9393 Pattaya: 0 3837 8178
Email: info@thaiaccounting.com
www.thaiaccounting.com

Tourist industry having a better year

By Sirpana Somboon

PHUKET: At the end of Phuket's high season, tourism industry leaders say the 2003-2004 high season marked a healthy rebound from dismal figures recorded just over a year ago during the height of the Sars crisis.

They remain cautiously optimistic about the island's prospects for future growth amidst increasing oil prices worldwide and call for local government agencies to do a better job of tackling problems including pollution, crime and overcharging of tourists.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Direc-

tor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Region 4 Office, told the *Gazette*, "The 2003 high season was not good [overall] because we had the Sars crisis and the violence in the Middle East, but it started to recover in December.

"In the end, this past high season was better than the previous one.

"The bird 'flu scare didn't really have that much effect, nor did the unrest in the southern border provinces stop people from traveling to Phuket."

She noted that although it was too early to provide exact figures for 2004, talks with hotel and tour operators indicate that the tourism industry has held strong.

Some hotels may have recorded lower occupancy rates compared with the previous year, she said, but this was because of the increased number of rooms available. She said that some hoteliers had not taken this into consideration when trying to account for lower-than-expected occupancy rates.

Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort Public Relations Manager Kymberley Sproule told the *Gazette* that her hotel enjoyed its highest occupancy rate in the past three years in January 2004.

She reported high-season occupancy as 64.7% in 2002; 58% in 2003 and 73.3% in 2004. The hotel, which is expected to complete its rebranding as a Hilton property in September, is

the island's largest with 685 guest rooms.

A member of the management team of an internationally-branded hotel told the *Gazette* on condition of anonymity that high-season occupancy at his hotel averaged 80%, the highest since before the 9/11 attacks on New York's World Trade Center.

He said Sars had been a real setback, "far worse than the bird 'flu scare or unrest in the deep South", but warned that a continued rise in global oil prices could have an equally devastating effect because oil prices has large ripple effects on other industries.

He stressed that Phuket's repeat visitors continue to come here because Phuket offers good value for money, but are only a

few mouseclicks away from information about other destinations that may offer better value.

To maintain its competitive advantage, he said, Phuket needs to address the main sources of tourist complaints. He said that the results of the Third Patong Beach Survey indicate that problems relating to transport, pollution and crime continue to persist and called on government agencies to stamp out groups like "taxi agents" and touts who prey on foreign tourists.

Chusak Wongwai, Operations Manager of Phuket-based tour company Asian Trails, estimated that hotel occupancy rates for the 2003-2004 high season were up on the previous high season by as much as 20% and noted that importance of tourism industry workers who come into direct contact with tourists.

"These people need to be genuinely friendly and fair in their dealings with tourists," he said, adding that the number of complaints lodged with the TAT about such matters was rising.

Sithi Tandavanitj, President of the Thai Hotels Association, Southern Chapter, said that the tourism industry had not met expectations over the past three years, but that it had rebounded since the Sars crisis.

He said the nationwide average occupancy rate for January-April 2004 was about 70% but added that Phuket needs to push forward with new projects to attract tourists and increase confidence in Phuket's security.

An international conference and exhibition center, the development of Phuket as an Information and Communications Technology center, or "ICT City"; and the development of a duty-free zone in the province were examples of such projects, he said.

On the Move

Bangkok-born **Siripol Yongyuthvichai**, 55, has been appointed Resident Manager of The Royal Paradise Hotel, Patong. He is a graduate in hotel layout and planning from the École



Hôtelière de Lausanne and of business administration from South West College, California. K. Siripol's previous positions include F&B Manager of The Landmark Bangkok and Hotel Manager of the Royal Princess Hotel in Chachoengsao.

Briton **Ian Mancais** has joined the Conrad Phuket Resort & Spa as Executive Chef. Mr Mancais' career has taken him to Japan, Indonesia, Bora Bora, South Africa and the UAE. He joins Conrad from the Banyan Tree Phuket.



Siripansa Somboon, 24, from Chumphon, has joined the *Phuket Gazette* as a Reporter. K. Siripansa graduated from Sripatum University, Bangkok, majoring in English for business and communications.



Been promoted? Made a career change? Know someone who has? Let us know by email to onthemove@phuketgazette.net.

Saudi woes a real worry

The continuing terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia – aimed primarily at the oil industry and foreign workers – are a concern to all investors.

The stated aim of the terrorists is to drive foreigners from Saudi Arabia and to overthrow the government and the Royal family. Other consequences may also please the terrorists.

The attacks are having an effect – some skilled foreign personnel are leaving the country. They are also affecting oil prices, pushing them higher, and driving financial markets lower.

Serious consequences may arise if the attacks in Saudi Arabia continue. No market – oil, financial or any other – likes uncertainty.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer and with supplies already stretched, any threat can only add to concern and push up prices.

Rising prices do not just mean people have to pay more when they fill up their cars. Higher prices add to the cost of many products, particularly in the chemical industry. They also, obviously, add to transport costs and from there to the price of goods on the shelves. Rising fuel prices may also have an impact on tourism as airlines pass on the extra fuel cost.

The Saudi security forces



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

economic growth is booming, financial markets are worried.

Foreign investors are waiting to see what happens, and in the meantime they are not committing their cash.

The ruling Congress Party is having to rely on 18 left-wing and regional parties to maintain a majority. This means India is not going to be seen as an attractive portfolio investment destination.

Merrill Lynch, for example, has already cut the Indian component of its emerging markets funds from 6.5% to 4.5%.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.

appear incapable of countering the terrorists, leaving the country an easy target. Until very recently, the Saudi government was very complacent, believing the country to be somehow removed from this arena.

The attacks at the end of May resulted in – at the time of writing – only one terrorist being caught. This engenders little confidence.

Doubts about Delhi: Shortly after the recent election in India, when Sonia Gandhi stepped aside in favor of Dr Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister, markets reacted positively. But not for long.

Almost immediately, the new government, in a single speech, introduced elements of uncertainty that unsettled financial markets.

The worrying elements include: a proposal to guarantee all workers at least 100 days' employment a year; increased subsidies to the agricultural and other sectors; a tripling of the education budget; and a pledge that state-owned enterprises will receive permission to be privatized only if making a loss.

Nothing was said on how the these programs will be funded. India already has a fiscal deficit which was recently described by a senior Indian economist with JP Morgan as "out of control". It is running at around 9% of GDP.

By limiting the potential number and quality of privatizations, the Indian government is also limiting a source of new revenue – at a time when India has one of the highest levels of government debt in the world.

So, even though Indian

VITAL STATISTICS: TAX REVENUE JUMPS 30%

Type of tax	Amount collected (B million)		% change
	June, 2004	June, 2003	
Income tax	70.885	69.087	2.60
Corporate tax	53.107	34.385	54.45
Business tax	0.000	0.003	-100.00
VAT	140.235	118.743	18.10
Specific Business tax	33.380	5.679	487.78
Stamp Duties	8.061	5.566	44.83
Other revenue	0.402	0.359	11.98
Total	306.070	233.822	30.90

Source: Phuket Provincial Revenue Office

"Friendly service that you can trust"

Run by Wanida "Mamma Duck" Hongyok

Our products:

- Special worldwide airline ticketing
- Visa run packages
- Cruise reservations on Star Cruises & Star Clippers
- Special tour packages
- Travel insurance
- Visa service for China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar & India

Standard check lists:

- ✓ IATA LICENSE NO. 35 - 3 0591 1
- ✓ TAT LICENSE NO. 33/0657
- ✓ TG AUTHORIZED AGENT NO. 35 - 06134
- ✓ ONLINE RESERVATION BY GALILEO & AMADEUS

TAURUS
TRAVEL CO., LTD.

62/3 Aroonsom Arcade, Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Tel: 076344521-2 Fax: 076344523 email: info@taurus-travel.com <http://www.taurus-travel.com>

MAKES BUSINESS SENSE WITH BLACK & WHITE.



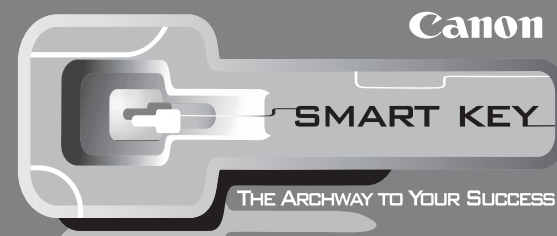
THE BEST OF B&W


Time to eliminate the high costs and hassles of single-function office equipment? The new black & white multifunction with colour-on-demand Canon Color imageRUNNER C3100 and Color imageRUNNER C6800 can easily handle the workload of many dedicated devices. Advanced digital copying, image server features, powerful fax capability, network printing and scanning functions – in colour or black & white – are all found in one compact package. Moreover, you can scan a document into the Color imageRUNNER and transmit it instantly over your network or the Internet to desktops, e-mail addresses, fax machines, databases and file servers. Now, aren't these smart ways to lower costs and raise productivity?

Prepare for
the Experience

A revolution in multi-functional office equipment for the digital age
Canon Smart Key : The Archway To Your Success

June 17th - 18th 2004 at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel
in Queen Park Room 1,2,3 Time : 9:00am-5:00pm





MAKES BUSINESS GROW WITH COLOUR.

iRC3100

Colour 7 ppm

B&W 31 ppm

iRC3200


Colour 32 ppm

B&W 32 ppm

iRC6800

Colour 15.5 ppm

B&W 68 ppm



THE BEST OF COLOUR ON DEMAND

Time to expand your business and beat competitors while keeping costs low? The new black & white multifunction with colour-on-demand Canon Color imageRUNNER C3100 and Color imageRUNNER C6800 are fast, versatile and can add colour to your usual black & white printing. What you'll get are more eye-catching documents and presentations to win clients over. Incredibly, the black & white output from these devices costs the same as our traditional black & white printing. Which means you can finally produce colour documents as affordably and quickly as black & white ones.

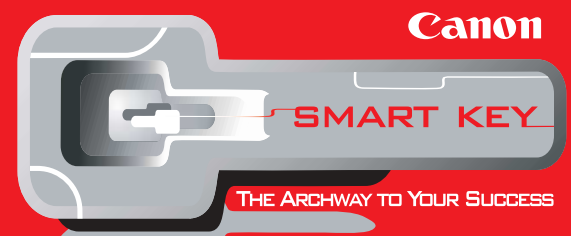
Canon

Canon Marketing (Thailand) Co., Ltd. 9-10th Floor Bangkok City Tower Bldg. 179/34-45 South Sathorn Rd, Bangkok 10120 Office System Solution Tel. 0-2344-9991-9 Fax. 0-2344-9960 www.canon.co.th/imagerunner

Prepare for
the Experience

A revolution in multi-functional office equipment for the digital age
Canon Smart Key : The Archway To Your Success

June 17th - 18th 2004 at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel
in Queen Park Room 1,2,3 Time : 9:00am-5:00pm



The gleaming Chevy Colorado parked outside the company's bypass road showroom is General Motors' answer to the plethora of Japanese pickups dominating the Thai market.

The Colorado is assembled in Thailand at GM's Rayong base where the auto giant also puts together Zafira MPVs, Alfa Romeo 156 sedans and Isuzu pickups. GM also exports vehicles from Rayong to nearly 20 countries, making it Thailand's largest auto exporter in terms of value.

A number of options are available for the Colorado, including an extended cab and a crew cab, but the most popular is likely to be the regular cab with either two- or four-wheel drive.

Power comes from a 2.8-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine, mated to a five-speed manual gearbox. An options in some markets is a 3.5-liter, five-cylinder motor with auto transmission.

The engines are of the latest, all-aluminum design with dual overhead camshafts and four valves per cylinder, with the 2.8 producing a creditable 175bhp (130kW) and 251Nm of torque. Figures for the larger motor are 220bhp and 305Nm respectively. Diesel variants – 2.5-liter and 3-liter versions – will also go on sale in Thailand.

Although the Colorado follows the traditional style of all other pickups on the market, it has a number of additional features that make it unique, including a 60/40 split folding rear seat to extend the vehicle's cargo versatility.

A ladder-frame chassis gives exceptional torsional rigidity while independent front suspension and a live rear axle are standard on the two-wheel-drive models; torsion bar suspension is fitted to four-wheel drive versions.

The brakes are an advance on many rival pickups with twin-pot calipers and large diameter discs on the front with drums on the rear. ABS is standard on all Colorados. Traction control is an option, a first in this particular market. Another first is the op-



Eager buyers placed orders for an astonishing 172 Chevrolet Colorado pickup trucks within two days of its launch in Phuket.

Chevy chasing Japan's success

tional roof-rail side airbags, with front airbags standard on all models.

Chevrolet, as a marque, began in 1912 when Louis Chevrolet, a Swiss racing driver and engineer, met Bill Durant, the founder of General Motors. Chevrolet was born in La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland in 1878, but moved to France where he worked for Mors, one of the top carmakers of the era.

He later moved to Canada and then the US where he worked for the importers of De Dion-Bouton cars, as well as truck maker William Walter.

He joined Durant in 1911 to design a mass-market car, but the two soon fell out and Louis left the company in 1913 to form his own outfit. Unfortunately, Durant owned the Chevrolet name by this time so Louis Chevrolet was forced to trade as the Frontenac Motor Corp.

Building successful racing cars, Louis Chevrolet soon became as well known as Dusenberger and Miller, and he regularly competed against – and beat – these illustrious marques. In 1920, one of his cars won the Indy 500, driven by his younger brother, Gaston.

These days, Chevrolet is just another division of GM's but its heritage is such that its cars and pickups are still much admired and Louis Chevrolet, who died in relative obscurity in 1941, would presumably have been more than a little pleased that seven out of the 29 cars in this year's Indianapolis 500 were equipped with engines bearing his name.

Chartchai Suwannasevok, Senior Public Relations Manager for General Motors (Thailand) Ltd says that the pickup has had a staggered launch around Thailand as a way of building anticipation and one-upmanship in the pickup fraternity.

Since the first launch in March, 3,350 trucks have been sold and GM's aim was to sell around 30 trucks a month in Phuket.

That seems to have been a

serious underestimation of the truck's appeal. "At the Colorado's Phuket launch on May 22-23, we took orders for 172 trucks," K. Chartchai said.

The Colorado is priced between 495,000 and 849,000 baht, depending on the model and specifications.

General Motors has invested 30 billion baht in its Rayong plant for the vehicles under its umbrella, and an additional

3 billion baht was spent on re-tooling specifically for the Colorado.

GM has 45 dealership-service centers around the country – all offering 24-hour service – and aims to expand this number to 80 during 2005.

– Additional material by Gategaeo Phetsawang

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigat.com.



By Jeff Heselwood



Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

One traditional Swiss dish *not* on the menu at the Swiss Delight restaurant is fondue.

Owner and chef Adi Lanter explains that he likes to serve only meals containing all the authentic ingredients. "Using the imported cheese necessary to make genuine fondue would make it very expensive," he says.

"The only people who occasionally ask for fondue are Japanese or Korean guests, and they're always happy to order another typically Swiss dish from our menu, such as *Käsespätzle* [cheese mini-dumplings]," Adi adds.

Originally from Zurich, Adi worked around the world for 12 years before settling in Thailand. He worked at the Swiss Taverne hotel and restaurant in Patong for nearly seven years before opening Swiss Delight last year.

Adi and his wife, Onsurang "Ying", have been together for 10 years and have two children. "We decided to open our own business because we hardly ever spent any family time together when I was working at the hotel in Patong. Now, I am the chef and Ying takes care of the customers, so we see each other all day," Adi explains.

Although fondue is not available, Adi loves promoting another famous Swiss food – chocolate. For details of hand-made chocolates, cakes and desserts that are available to order, email Adi at: lanter@loxinfo.co.th.

Swiss Delight House Bread For 2 loaves

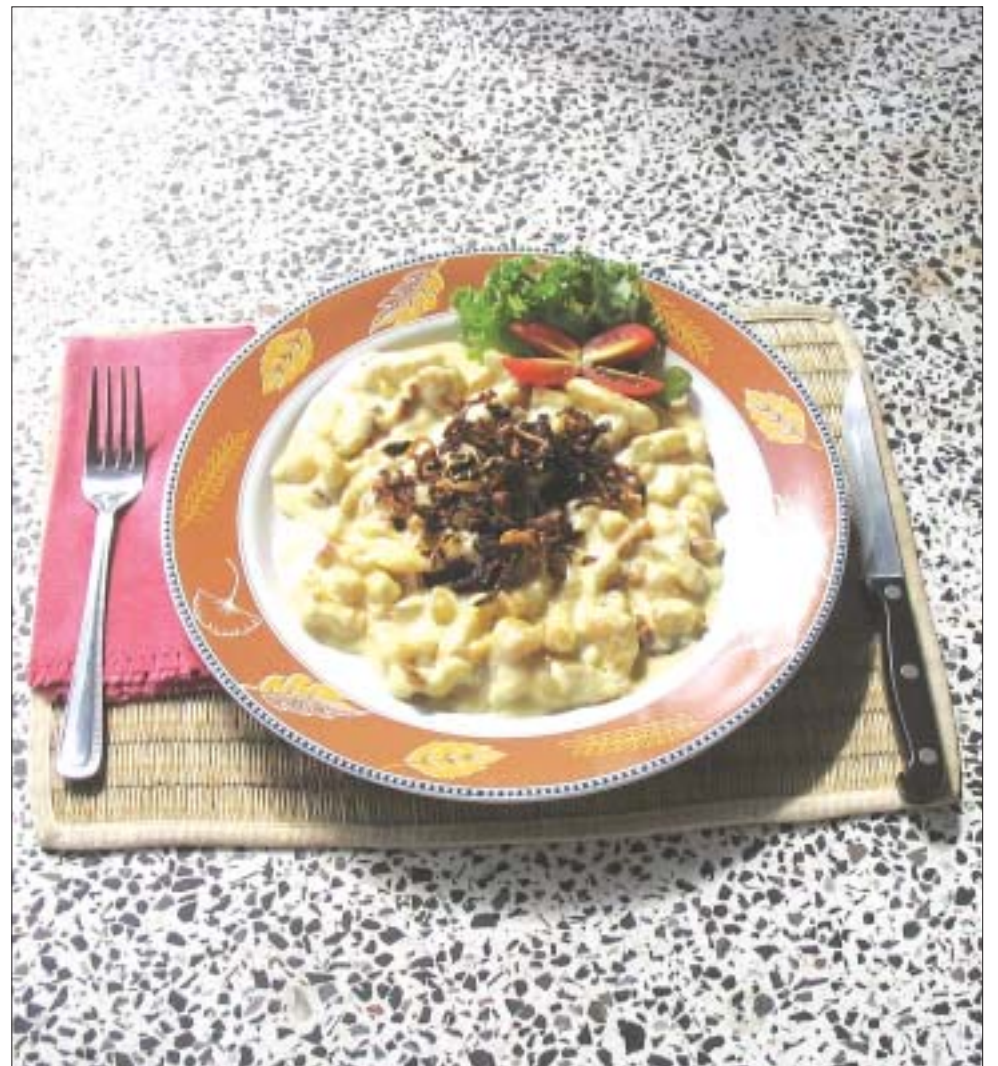
Ingredients

Starter dough
300 gm plain flour;
14 gm dried yeast;
30 ml tepid water.

Main dough
600 gm plain flour;
10 gm malt powder (optional);
30 ml water;
3 teaspoons salt.

Method

Mix the yeast with the tepid water before adding to the other ingredients for the starter dough, then mix together well by hand.



Food to delight a hungry mountaineer or a guzzling gourmet: left, Swiss Delight's house bread and right, cheese mini-dumplings.

A taste of the Alps

Knead the dough into a ball and leave covered with a teatowel at room temperature for about five hours. The dough should rise to about twice its original size.

Mix the ingredients for the main dough together well, then add to the starter dough and mix. Mold two loaves from the dough and roll them in flour, then bake them in an oven pre-heated to 200°C for 20 minutes. Lower the heat to 175°C and continue baking for 50 minutes.

Cheese mini-dumplings For 5 people

Ingredients for the dumplings

3 eggs;
750 gm plain flour;
35 ml milk;
Salt and pepper to taste.

Ingredients for the sauce

25 ml fresh cream;

5 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese.

Fresh herb leaves and tomato slices to decorate;
½ an onion, sliced thinly and fried (optional);
Butter.

Method

Blend the eggs, flour, milk, salt and pepper together until it forms a firm dough.

(Adi uses a special metal tray that has one-centimeter-wide holes in it to make the right dumpling shapes; he does this by pushing the dough against the tray, so that strips of dough about 4-5cm long come out on the other side – like a large cheese grater. The dumplings can be made by hand, but this is more laborious.)

Heat some water in a large pan and boil the dumplings for 10 minutes. Remove from water and drain well. Melt some butter in a deep frying pan and fry the

dumplings until they are golden.

Turn heat to very low and stir in the Parmesan cheese and cream. Decorate with optional fried onions before serving.

Risotto Ai Funghi For 2 people

Ingredients

1 large chopped onion;
2 cups risotto rice (essential to use risotto rice);
200 gm thinly sliced mushrooms;
4 tablespoons butter (or more);
4 tablespoons Parmesan cheese;
Salt and pepper to taste;
1 cup white wine;
2 teaspoons Knorr bouillon powder.

Method

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a pan. Sauté the onion and rice before stirring in the white wine, bouillon powder and 6 cups of water (the rice should remain moist, so add more water if necessary). Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes.

In a frying pan, melt 2 tablespoons butter and lightly fry the mushrooms. Stir in rice, salt and pepper, then remove from heat. Mix in Parmesan cheese and more butter, if desired, before serving.

Swiss Delight, 8/38 Kwang Rd, Wichit, Phuket, 83000. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-11 pm. Tel: 09-8740278.



W watermark
birthday club
FREE drinks for those born in the month of June.
Wednesday June 16, 8-10pm
to register
call 076 239 730 or
watermarkphuket.com
for details
watermark bar restaurant
the boat lagoon marina

ANDAMAN
Lighting Systems
Are you in the dark about lighting?
andamanlighting.com
Tel: 076 254 826 Fax: 076 254 827

Don't trust the security of your valuables to anything less than an Elsafe electronic personal safe

Securing your everyday life

SENTINEL
Elsafe Laptop size with affordable price

S-series 70
Classic Elsafe convenience with maximum space

Elsafe
36/73 P.S. Tower 21st Fl.,
Sukhumvit 21 Rd. (Asoke), Bangkok 10110
Tel : 02-6640009 Fax : 02-2593045
E-mail : elsafe@elsafe.co.th

Protect your valuable work
Peace of mind when you're away from home

Why has Surin Beach become so popular with jet-setting villa owners? On the headland north of the beach, Amanpuri – resort for the rich and famous, royalty, movie stars, models and racing drivers – opened almost 20 years ago.

At the southern end, on the hillside, Baan Thai Cherg Lay's 31 luxury villas, some valued at almost US\$2 million, look over a spectacular view that includes Surin Beach, Amanpuri and, in the background, Bang Tao and the Laguna Phuket complex.

Abutting the beach is the "park", which was once the first and only golf course on Phuket. It's still there because it is state land.

Behind the park are hostels such as the Surin Sweet Hotel, popular with regular visitors because of its low prices and big comfortable rooms.

Another is the Surin Bay Inn, a boutique hotel, which provides excellent breakfasts and lunches, and has become a meeting place for an assortment of property and real estate "specialists" discussing the vagaries of the market and sharpening their knives in anticipation of further opportunities to assassinate characters.

Living the high life



Artist's impression of a Surin Heights apartment, complete with infinity-edge pool, of courset.

There's even – for those who know about Shakespeare and sharp knives – a Cassius living in the Surin Beach area.

In the midst of all this splendor there's Australian Ian "Diver" Dick, holding court at his beachside eatery, always ready to assist the rich and famous with information about the real world when they venture out of their nearby villas – and sell them a few beers to help them swallow the yarns more easily.

Probably, the fact that the park makes it impossible to build a hotel next to the sand is one reason why housing projects have sprung up in the Surin Beach area.

There are certainly more local expats, residents and regular visitors to the island on the sand than there are first-time

tourists. It seems Surin Beach is becoming a center of activity and development for the international community on the island.

High above, overlooking all of this, is the site for another new luxury villas-and-apartments project, Surin Heights.

The project has been developed for the investment-minded buyer, says Stephen Paine, managing director of Surin Heights developer Andaman Prestige.

"In an area where demand is far greater than supply, Surin Heights will offer a modern tropical property with impressive facilities and definitely one of the best views on the island," he says.

Home of the Week

This striking four-year-old villa in a quiet area behind Phuket FantaSea in Kamala was built to exacting standards and has almost every conceivable extra – including a water filtration system, solar power and a Toyota Sportrider.

The three-story property boasts six bedrooms – five with en-suite bathrooms – and has an internal area of some 472 square meters. Open-plan living, dining and kitchen areas give an airy ambience to the house. It also has a laundry and a carport.

Finishes are a combination of granite, tile and *maka* wood floors, extending to the staircases and the bedrooms, which are on all floors.

The windows and sliding patio doors are low-maintenance aluminum with fly screens. The bathrooms are well-finished and the house has seven air-conditioning units and nine ceiling fans.

The grounds, with mature trees and shrubs, cover 1,252sqm and have been beautifully landscaped. There is an outdoor Jacuzzi and spa, and sufficient space to install a good-sized swimming pool. A high wall surrounds the property and there are views to a lake beyond the grounds.

The utilities include a home security system, UBC TV, mains water, two septic tanks, three-phase electricity and two telephone lines.

The car included in the sale is four years old. It has 46,000km on the odometer.

The property is priced at 16 million baht.

For further details contact Richard Lusted of Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-280805 or Email: info@siamrealestate.com, website www.siamrealestate.com

Pictured: The house, near Phuket FantaSea, has six bedrooms and a delightful, mature garden, featuring an outdoor Jacuzzi.

Sai Taan

Affordable Luxury Homes

Tel: +66 (0)7627 1255 Fax: +66 (0)7627 1256
Email: info@sai-taan-phuket.com
Web: www.sai-taan-phuket.com

We take pride in our most exclusive selection of glazed and terracotta pottery from Thailand and our associated factories in Vietnam and China.

Plus a good selection of lacquerware planters. Located near Boat Lagoon.

House & Garden Limited Partnership
8/1 Thepkasatree Rd., Sapum, Rhokasew, Munag, Phuket 83000
Tel/Fax: (66 76) 239 600 Mobile: 01 893 3571, 01 891 9051
Email: 4sras@4sras.com www.4sras.com

ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

Problems with an extra-marital affair?
Questions about Thai culture?
Having communications problems?
Need somebody to Love?

Read her advice in the Phuket Gazette



Fax 076-213971
or email
momma@phuketgazette.net

Phuket Animal Welfare Society

Help us to help the animals
Call: 076-263737

PREMIUM PROPERTIES SOUND ADVICE

INDIGO REAL ESTATE

NATAI BEACH : 3 RAI Absolute Oceanfront lots @ 8.5 M/RAI
CAPE YAMOO : 34 RAI Jungle Oceanview lots @ 1.6 M/RAI
KAMALA : 3 RAI Stunning Oceanview lots @ 12.0 M/RAI

Website : www.indigoRE.com

Beach front office : Kamala now open (next to Alila)

E-mail : nick@indigoRE.com Mobile : +66 (0) 9 873 2042

Kamala



Exclusive Residences at Phuket's Finest Address



5 - Year Payment Plan

Located on Laguna's lush fairways are Phuket's most desirable Residences. Delight in free lifetime golf membership and make use of sporting and leisure facilities at the Laguna Phuket hotels.

laguna
RESIDENCES

Sales Office at Canal Village
Tel: 66 (0) 7632 4366
E-mail: property@lagunaphuket.com
www.lagunaresidences.com



- SALE & SERVICE
- COMPUTER
- ACCESSORIES
- LAN , INTERNET



TEL: 076 261777, 076 261563-5

108/81 Chaloemphrakiat Rd., Rassada, Muang Phuket

BEST QUALITY SERVICE

Don't miss....

Issues & Answers

phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp



Fabric Tensioned Membrane

Free Form Space Architecture Products

Wave shade MakMax



Italig Ltd is a design consultancy specializing in high-strength "Fabric Tensioned Membrane Structures" suitable for a wide variety of uses where shade and protection from the elements over large areas are required, such as for roofing, tents, walkway coverings, awnings or for decorative purposes.

With our state-of-the-art tensile membrane products manufactured by Taiyo Kogyo Corporation in Japan, dirt and dust wash off with each rainfall, leaving a bright, attractive sheen. We offer two types of membrane, woven teflon or PVC coated with Titanium Dioxide.

Branded under the trade names MakMax and Wave shade, our products are the result of 30 years of continuous product development and meet all Japanese International Standards (JIS). The structures are supported by "Space Frame", which is computer designed by our Thai-Japanese engineering team and guaranteed for 30 years. The Millennium Dome in London, the Tokyo Dome and both the Seri Center and Fashion Island Ram Indra in Bangkok are just a few of the many projects worldwide that have been constructed using these versatile products.



For information about how the Thai-Japanese Italig team can help you meet your construction needs, contact:

ITALIG COMPANY 800 PRACHATIPOK ROAD, HIRUNRUJEE, THONBURI, BANGKOK 10600 Tel: 02-8900751-2, 02-4651598, 02-4656219, 02-4650065, 02-4664452
Fax: 02-4728050, 02-8907200 Email: sp@sphailand.com, spsuvit@asianet.co.th, Taiyo Corporation

You thought it was location?

Land is clearly a commodity in fixed supply globally – and on a small, popular island like Phuket that supply is even more constrained.

Foreigners are visiting or moving here in ever-increasing numbers and while some of these “new locals” are venturing out into neighboring provinces, the majority settle in Phuket.

Phuket clearly has a fixed supply of – and an increasing demand for – land. That’s a recipe for rising prices.

But this does not explain why some areas of Phuket see much higher land values than others. There are clearly attributes that differentiate some areas from others. I use the three terms “Proximity”, “Branding” and “Aesthetics” to explain the distinctions.

Proximity. Being close to sources of demand (passing trade, buyers, neighbors), or being accessible to sources of supply or transportation (shops, restaurants, buses, airports) are attributes of land that have a clear and relatively quantifiable economic value.

Which attributes will be of value to which buyer/owner will

of course vary with the individual and the land use envisaged.

Branding. Although land can be sold undeveloped, it is – at the residential level – more usually sold as part of a package with other value-added features (roads, utilities, recreational facilities) as part of a development.

Land developers, just like other manufacturers, want to differentiate their product and typically work to create the impression of a superior product.

Branding, like advertising, is intended to stimulate demand and thereby increase sales volume or prices. When successful, branding raises values above the sum of the parts. Unless brand image is destroyed, success tends to breed success and well-branded developments rise in value.

Aesthetics. Some sites are clearly perceived as being more attractive than other land.

Emotions and lifestyle choices are often significant factors in such perceptions and economic theories can’t explain the values of an ocean view, a sunset

or the sound of waves caressing a sandy beach.

Nor can economic theories be applied to concepts of privacy, or perceptions of a quiet, relaxing environment. Yet these are clearly attributes that many buyers seek.

Many land or home buyers in Phuket are not making purchases based on strictly practical reasons, such as needing shelter or a place to work.

People buy as part of a lifestyle choice, with an attitude of “We are here through choice and if we don’t find our dream, we can look elsewhere”.

The aesthetic component of a property is often the most significant factor in creating demand for land perceived as offering a unique lifestyle.

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

Ask WILLIAM

By William Pinsent



Gardening

with Bloomin’ Bart



The colorful ixora can be propagated using air-layering.

Using long words to grow more plants

Propagation – it’s that “gardening” word again. Last week we looked at seeds, and all the hard work that growing them entails, and reaping the benefits for your garden in Phuket. Let’s assume that, for once, I actually want to sound like a proper gardener who knows what he’s talking about. Let’s also assume that I’m not completely idle, and that I would not be happier to have a whole garden full of kick-started plants delivered from the local garden center.

Indeed, let’s pretend that I actually want to do some gardening for myself, and that I can muster up the energy to put down the bottle of Heineken and get my hands dirty.

I know there’s the possibility of shattering the preconception that a beer-guzzling Yorkshiremen doesn’t know the difference between a trowel and a spade, but I’m willing to risk it.

There’s more to propagation than just pushing a few seeds into soil. There are other options, most of which involve less work, which is always good.

The *dracaena* is probably one of the easiest plants to propagate. It’s also known as the yucca, and has dozens of varieties. They all look a bit different but generally they consist of a crown of leaves on top of a single stem, which extends with the growth of new leaves, with no leaves appearing below.

To propagate a yucca, all you have to do is lop off the top and stick it into a new pot. New shoots will appear on the old stump, and the bit you cut off will carry on as before – it’ll just be a bit shorter. That really is all there is to this method – the “cut it and stick it” approach.

Another method is called dividing. The mother-in-law’s tongue is one plant that can be divided, though not above the ground as with the *dracaena*, but below.

Frankly, there’s not much to this plant. It’s just a few ugly-looking sword-shaped leaves that twist vertically up from roots, called rhizomes. The rhizomes sit just below the surface of the soil and they are the key.

There’s not much science or methodology behind this process – just snap the rhizomes off wherever they will split easily, and plant them elsewhere. The new clones of the originals won’t take long to establish with the occasional splash of water in their direction, but after that you can pretty much leave them to their own devices.

This method can be used with most plants that have naturally-splitting rhizomes that can be broken apart by hand. These include some lilies, several species of ivy and a number of palms.

Another method is air layering. This may sound like a technical term from a beauty salon, but it’s actually fairly simple: if a stalk from the plant is pulled down so that it’s in contact with moist soil (preferably below the surface) for an extended period of time, it will grow roots to reach down from the stalk into the soil.


Over time, these roots will become strong enough to support a separate plant and you can cut the stalk off from the original plant, creating a new plant.

This method works with some climbers, along with the ixora and most species of jasmine and weed-like plants, such as lantana.

The spider plant makes life particularly easy for a reproduction-crazed gardener. A healthy spider plant is festooned with miniature versions of itself, or “runners” as real gardeners call them. As the offshoots mature, they should be removed from the main plant, which actually seems to enjoy the process.



The offshoots can be cut off and planted directly in moist soil or just put in water. Their roots are already formed, so starting another plant couldn’t be easier.

Whether you cut-it-and-stick-it, divide, air layer or replant runners, there’s really not much skill involved in plant midwifery in Phuket. The plants here just love to grow.



The Plantation, Kamala Bay, Phuket.

Experience The Luxury Of Nature

32 SPACIOUS LUXURY APARTMENTS & 24 UPSCALE VILLAS FOR SALE, SET IN A PRISTINE RAINFOREST ENVIRONMENT, FOR SOPHISTICATED, YET CASUAL TROPICAL LIVING

■ **APARTMENTS FROM 14,900,000 Baht (US\$ 374,500)**


■ **FINANCE AVAILABLE TO APPROVED PURCHASERS**

* Details subject to change.

SHOW APARTMENT NOW OPEN FOR VIEWING

Bangkok Office:
Somkid Place, 6 Soi Somkid, Ploenchit Rd.
Lumpini, Patumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand
Tel: +66 2655 1970-4
Fax: +66 2655 1976
Website: www.theplantationphuket.com

Phuket Office:
17/37 Moo 6, Kamala, Kathu,
Phuket 83120, Thailand
Tel: +66 76 386040-2
Fax: +66 76 386043
E-mail: info@theplantationphuket.com



IN ASSOCIATION WITH  PACVEST GROUP

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NEW SEAVIEW 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 Western kitchen, maid's bedroom-cum-office, storeroom, garden, and 3-bedroom all with sea view. Must view to appreciate. Will consider smaller house or land as partial payment. Tel: 07-2659977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

EXCLUSIVE

Beautiful new 4-bedroom villa. 350-sqm living space. Top quality, including pool. Price: 11.5 million baht. Tel: 01-891-6143.

NEW HOUSES, KATA

with land plots for sale. Fitted to Euro standards, includes Jacuzzi baths, full en-suite bathrooms, etc. Swimming pool, 5 mins from Kata Beach. Tel: 01-8913972. Email: phuketproperty@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO

Great opportunity: mountain view, freehold title, 300m to beach, 1 bedroom, living room, 2 balconies, 1 toilet. Price: 1.05 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

LAND IN PATONG

Excellent sea view. Only 2 lots left, from 3,800 baht per sqm. Incl electricity, road, etc. Don't miss out. Tel: 01-895-7159, 09-2911112.

LAND FOR SALE

directly on Banyan Tree golf course (Laguna property). 1,050 sqm/262.4 sq wah. Price: 7.872 million baht. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktnkt@ksc.th.com

MISSION HEIGHTS

Serviced building plots from 220 sq wah to 1 rai at 7,500 baht per sq wah. 2 minutes from the golf course, 7 mins from airport, 5 mins to the beach and 20 mins to Dulwich International College. Excellent roads. This is country living at its very best. Tel: 01-8298101, 01-3444473.

CONDO FOR SALE

in Boat Lagoon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, Jacuzzi, granite/marble and teak finishing. Tel: 09-8739947. Email: info@andamanproperty.com

Beach-front Hotel Resort for sale by owner
Great location and superb ocean views
between Chalong Bay and Rawai Beach, Phuket

Total area: 2,783 sqm (6-3-83 rai)
L-Shape 40 x 220 x 136m beachfront close to
Friendship Beach, 18 free-standing Thai-
style bungalow with terrace and 20 hotel rooms
all with ocean views, big seafood restaurant,
swimming pool, sauna and more space available.

Great price at 75 million baht!
Contact me today. Tomorrow may be too late!!!
Khun Jaron 01-8924126
Email: peschtai@hotmai.com



7 THAI HOUSES FOR SALE



High-quality houses located in Bangkok. Can be sold separately or together. Professional disassembly and transport to your site in Thailand included. Tel: 06-881968. Fax: 076-290447. Email: mail@blueinfo.co.th

MISSION HILLS

Serviced buildings on 1-rai, ocean-view lots facing 9th tee of Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSES 4 SALE

Newly built house on Sai Yuan Rd, close to Nai Harn and next to Don's Mall, with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. All rooms with aircon, full Western kitchen (Teka), decorated, garden, all built-in furniture and alarm system. Price: 4.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-6822325, 04-0575756.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Spectacular seaview villa south of Patong, and luxury golf course mansion at Laguna, for sale by owner. For more info please call 01-7974413 or email: info@tomkatconsulting.com. Please see website: www.tomkatconsulting.com

NEW HILLTOP HOUSE

on Chao Fa East Rd, 10 mins to Big C, in quiet location. 74 sq wah with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a dining room and a kitchen. Completion December '04 with Nor Sor 3 Gor. Price: 3.5 million baht. Please call Nok. Tel: 01-8924735. Email: noksk@samart.co.th

PATONG HOUSE

A semi-detached house on a private road off Nanai Rd for sale. 4 big rooms, fully furnished, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 06-2775547.

PHUKET CITY-RAWAI

1. Large 4-bedroom house on 1.25 rai with pool: 13 million baht
2. 2-story house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 77 sq wah: 3.2 million baht
3. 4-story restaurant, Art Deco, 3 work permits: 2.5 million baht
4. Thalang 2.75 rai land: 2.5 million baht

List with
www.thaichanote.com.
Tel: 076-263478.

ANDREW PARK

Property Agents & Consultants

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

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

100/18 Chalermprakit Rd.,
(on the bypass road
just north of Lotus)
Rassada, Muang,
Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-354016,
01-8923633
Fax: 076-354019

E-mail us at
sales@andrewpark-phuket.com
or visit our website
www.andrewpark-phuket.com

HOUSE IN THALANG

Newly finished 2-bedroom house. Safe and quiet area, close to Bang Tao Beach, Laguna Phuket and golf courses. Price: 1.7 million baht. Tel: 06-6826328. Email: cheret2000@yahoo.fr

SEAVIEW IN KARON

2-bedroom apartment on the 18th floor at Waterfront Condo (Karon) is for sale. Price: 12 million baht. Please contact Jay. Tel: 09-8745286. Email: jnattapolu@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

I have the following properties for sale: 2-bedroom luxury apt in Surin/Bang Tao; 3-bedroom house with pool, 3 mins to Laguna Phuket; 3-story shop-house on bypass road; 2 rai of land, 5 mins to Laguna Phuket and the beach. Please contact for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE



Would you like to own a beautiful hotel and restaurant close to Karon Beach? Buy the entire company (4 buildings with 20-room hotel, restaurant and rental property) for 23.5 million baht OR buy the two main buildings (14-room hotel plus restaurant) for 15 million baht. The land is freehold Chanote and is ready for rapid company transfer to foreign ownership. For more info, visit www.geocities.com/hotelinparadise/ Tel: 01-6931136 Email: hotelinparadise@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE RAWAI



For sale: 186-sqm house, on 590-sqm lot, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living area, open kitchen, patio. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 09-7310283. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

VILLA IN RAWAI FOR SALE



A spacious, modern villa surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens with a plunge pool for cooling off. Fitted to a high standard throughout, and tastefully furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, telephone, UBC, aircon. Price: 7.2 million baht. If it's quality living you want, call or email to view now. Tel: 09-7310283. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

DEVELOPMENT LAND

3 parcels suited to qualified development. Clean titles and permits. a) 14 rai sea-view, Kata Beach. Price: 80 million baht. b) 7.5 rai beach and river frontage, Koh Samui. Price: 40 million baht. c) 74 rai beachfront, Koh Pha-ngan Island (near Samui). Price: 90 million baht. Tel: 01-3968536. Email: verschoyle@hotmail.com

4 RAI IN RAWAI

300m from Rawai Beach and 400m from Yanui Beach. Price 2.8 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-3762920.

BOAT LAGOON LAND

640-sqm canalside frontage. 30m access to all facilities in marina and resort. Build your dream home in Phuket. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-8739947. Email: info@andamanproperty.com

ISLAND OFF PHUKET

for sale. Rare: an island - 10 minutes from Phuket and over 100 rai with land title - for sale. This is a beautiful island with infrastructure and buildings, great beaches and is very well priced at 250 million baht. Deal direct with owner. Tel: 09-8715192. Email: info@phukethomes.com

Phuket One Real Estate

"PHUKET PENINSULA" BEACHFRONT APARTMENTS



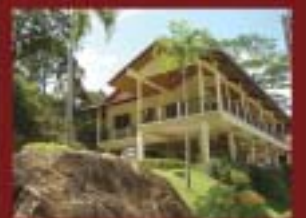
Absolute beachfront, natural setting, spacious, reserve your unit now. PRICE: From 14 million baht

PATONG



Three-storey ocean-view apartment in need of some refurbishment. PRICE: 3.9 million baht

KATHU



Glorious valley and mountain views from this delightful family home. PRICE: 6.5 million baht

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCES



We have the largest portfolio of seaview mansions available. PRICE: From 23 million baht

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709
Mobile: 09-2889317,
01-6963638, 01-0793012
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com
www.phuketonerealestate.com

All classifieds
in these pages are

PAID!

— your assurance
that whatever's advertised
is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Deadline for Property Mart page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other pages: Saturday 12 noon.

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

Looking to sell your home?

Try the new and best experience.
Email: info@houseandvillasalesphuket.com
Or call 01-9241447,
076-345081,
076-345083.

LOOKING FOR 1 RAI

Looking for about 1 rai of quiet land, preferably with mature trees, in the south of Phuket: Chalong, Rawai, Ao Makham preferred. Please contact with details. Tel: 09-8324419. Email: wingituk@yahoo.co.uk

BUNGALOW OR APARTMENT

Looking to buy a bungalow or small apartment in Patong area. Maximum price: 500,000 baht. Email: thai667@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN NAI THON

Swiss-Thai couple wishes to rent for long term a nice house in the Nai Thon area (as close to Trisara as possible), Layan, the airport or Cherng Talay. Must be a nice and quiet location with a private garden, and bright spacious rooms. Size of the house is not important — small or big — the location is what counts. Please contact us with details. Tel: 01-0909642. Email: dellapietra@mysunrise.ch

LOOKING FOR A HOTEL TO BUY

We have a client who is interested in purchasing a 40-room (more or less) hotel on Phuket's west coast area. Please contact me with the outline details if you have a suitable property for sale. Tel: 09-7310283. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

SPECIAL PROPERTY

wanted. I am looking to buy a property in the Bang Tao area, or close by. I would like sea views and a house which is 'a bit special'. I am looking to pay a max price of 60 million baht. Email: icrphkt@hotmail.com

RAI IN RAWAI

Wanted: 1 or 2 rai of land in the Rawai area. Price: max of 1.5 million baht per rai. Email: info@waterbicycle.com

HOUSE WANTED

I would like to buy a 2- or 3-bedroom house in Banprangthong Villa for under 5 million. No agents, please; I want to deal directly with the owner. Email: lorisdb@hotmail.com

Accommodation Wanted

RENTAL IN PATONG

I am looking for a house or apartment for a long-term stay from Sept 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005. Must be fully furnished, prefer 2 bedrooms, maybe accessible to pool. Located in central Patong. Please send details and pictures by email to: lilla_4ever@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW 4 RENT

Urgently need to rent unfurnished bungalow for long term/yearly: 1- or 2-bedroom small bungalow or house. If one bedroom, I will also need a room to use as office/storage. Must also have living room, bathroom, etc. Most locations acceptable; detached preferable. Around 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 06-2813502. Email: kds@loxinfo.co.th

KATHU RENTAL

I am looking for a house in Kathu to rent long term. Requirements: free standing, minimum 2 bedrooms, phone line, gated yard, pet friendly, secure neighborhood, price under 35,000 baht a month. Prefer covered parking for 2 cars and furnished, but not essential. Please email me with description, location and price. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th

APARTMENT WANTED

I need an apartment with telephone, view, and kitchen for long-term rental. Prefer in Kata or Patong. Tel: 09-511-6408. Email: kevinsan2001@yahoo.com

HOME WANTED

for long-term for a maximum of 2 people. Prefer as near to Karon or Aroona Karon as possible. Email: hotelmanager@bigfoot.com

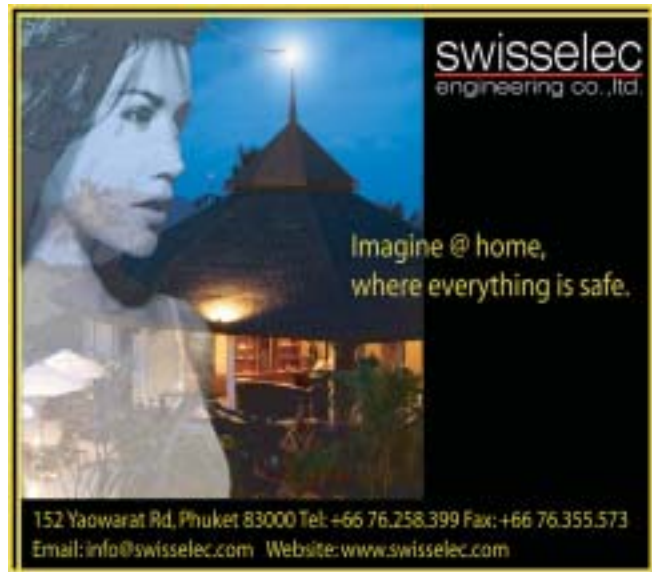
OFFICE OR SHOP

I want to rent an office or shop with phone line, in Patong, Karon or Kata. Please email and advise monthly rent and deposit. Email: kris@csloxinfo.com

HOUSE OR APT

in Patong. We are 5 persons who want to rent a house or apartment in Patong for 1 month — January, 2005. Close to beach preferred, but other locations considered. Email: anjaojala@bredband.net

Building Services



swisselec
engineering co., ltd.
Imagine @ home,
where everything is safe.
152 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: +66 76.258.399 Fax: +66 76.355.573
Email: info@swisselec.com Website: www.swisselec.com

phuket home services

repairs • maintenance
renovation • building
air conditioning
woodwork • stonework
metalwork • electrical
plumbing • gardening
pressure cleaning
window cleaning

Tel: 076 324 400
Mobile: 07 282 0200

P-CON

Phuket Construction and Home Services Co Ltd

Roofing, floor, walls, tiles
Clearing, painting,
plumbing, aircon,
electrical systems, repairs
and other work done by our
professional team.

Call 09-1960852
Fax: 076-263204
Email: p-con@chaiyo.com

Household Services

HOUSE PAINTING

Do you need any kind of first-class quality painting for your new house? Or repairs? For more information, please call Tel: 072-868634.

Property Services

SPAS R US

Steam room/sauna and accessories, and portable hot tubs from USA. Quality equipment, designed and installed for your needs. Business and residential. California Spa Design. Tel: 076-263269, 09-793-9268.

DEEP WELL DRILLING

and soil investigation. Water quantity, guaranteed 1-year service warranty. Soil profile and analysis by professional geologists and engineers. Tel: 01-9788847.

View Thailand's LARGEST portfolio of Classified Ads — almost 2,000 of them — and place your ad for **FREE!** See the *Phuket Gazette Online* at www.phuketgazette.net

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 8,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar* it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

www.phuketgazette.net/calendar

Gazette Classads — 4,000 readers a day!

Island Job Mart

Join the World of Conrad

CONRAD
PHUKET
RESORT & SPA

We are enthusiastically gathering a group of passionate and positive individuals from any people-oriented industry to open one of the finest and most intimate resorts in Phuket early 2005.

Exciting opportunities at all levels from Supervisory to Manager are awaiting you:

Finance	Human Resources	Sales and Marketing
Leisure and Recreation	Food and Beverage	Kitchen
Security	Front Office	Engineering
Housekeeping/Laundry		

We are seeking to fill the position of a Training Manager and an HR & Training Coordinator as soon as possible.

For a chance to experience the world of service from a new perspective, please send your CV to Human Resources via e-mail to: orasa.singha@hilton.com

or Fax to: +66(0)76 200 819

Conrad Phuket Resort & Spa, 84 Moo 8 Sakdidej Road, Tambon Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: +66(0)76 200 800

Visit www.ConradHotels.com

Conrad Hotels is the luxury brand of the Hilton Family of Hotels

GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

Graphic Designer needed for Ritz Phuket Spa. Mature Thai male must have 3+ years' experience in graphic arts with knowledge of Microsoft Office programs as well as Photoshop and Quark Express, experience in Dreamweaver a plus. Ritz Phuket offers a comfortable work environment and competitive salary. Please apply in person with CV and portfolio or mail to Ritz Phuket Spa and Golf, 84/2 Patak Rd, Rawai, A. Muang. Apply in person between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm Monday thru Friday only. No phone calls please.



The Allamanda Vacation Club, based in Phuket and an integrated part of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, is currently looking for enthusiastic individuals to fill several available positions of:

**Asst. Sales Manager (2 positions), Sales Representative (5 positions)
Outside Personal Contact (6 positions) and Tele-Marketer (3 positions)**

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Self motivated and enthusiastic
- Able to communicate effectively in English (other languages would be an advantage)
- Interested in earning a lot of money
- Experience preferred but not essential (full training given)
- Truly passionate about representing the best product in our industry
- Outside Personal Contact & Tele-Marketing positions reserved for Thai only.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at Allamanda Vacation Club. Office is located in Canal Village (shopping area) at Laguna Phuket. Or send a full resumé, detailed qualifications and experience with recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co Ltd
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chermgtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-324416-7 Fax: 076-325002
Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com or avcmkt@lagunaphuket.com



Katathani Phuket Beach Resorts is currently seeking highly-qualified professionals with relevant experience for the following positions:

1 Local Sales Manager

Qualifications:

- ☐ Male or female, minimum age of 25
- ☐ 2-3 years' experience in hotel sales and marketing
- ☐ Bachelor's degree or higher
- ☐ Fluent in written and spoken English, other languages will be an advantage
- ☐ Applicant with personal vehicle is preferable
- ☐ Outgoing personality and pro-active

1 Assistant Food & Beverage Manager

for our extensive Food & Beverage operation with 7 outlets and several bars

Qualifications:

- ☐ Thai national, male or female, minimum age of 28
- ☐ Fluent in written and spoken English, other languages will be an advantage
- ☐ Minimum 5 years' experience in a senior Food and Beverage position in a 4-5 star hotel with several outlets
- ☐ A natural, highly-motivated leader with great communication skills and good personal relationship skills
- ☐ Good analytical and coordination skills
- ☐ Experience in ISO 9000 / ISO 14001
- ☐ Strong skills in administrative work
- ☐ Pleasant and service-minded personality which is creative
- ☐ Pro-active management style

Please contact Personnel Department
14 Katanol Road, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-330124-6, E-Mail: personnel@katathani.com



Dive Supply is a leading importer for Scuba Diving Equipment located in Phuket and we are looking to recruit for the following position:

Assistant Manager

Are you an all-rounder? Can you manage a company with 20 or more employees?

- Foreign national preferably native English, age over 30
- Degree in business and administration or chartered accountant
- At least 3 years' experience in a similar managing position
- Thailand Experience at least two years
- Friendly and outgoing personality, flexible and energetic

We offer a good salary and excellent benefits such as: long-term employment, work permit, one-year visa and many more.
If you think this is you, please send your resumé to info@divesupply.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Master paintings and antiques gallery requires 2 sales persons to work in Khao Lak. Successful applicants will have excellent English, be service-minded and computer-literate. Please send application, CV and recent photo by email. Tel: 076-211122, 01-7872155. Fax: 076-256726. Email: info@soulofasia.com

OFFICE SECRETARY

wanted. Thai nationals only need apply. Candidates should be fluent in English and have at least 4 years' experience in office work. Knowledge of the tourism industry is preferable. Please send CV by email for interview. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

We welcome applications from candidates eager to join our team as Sales & Marketing Manager, based in Phuket. Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years' experience in hotel sales. Excellent communication skills, dynamic, energetic and open-minded, highly responsible and able to deliver results. Interested candidates should send their CV, including a recent photograph and salary expectations, by email or fax and marked for the attention of the Human Resources Manager. Tel: 076-279801. Fax: 076-279818. Please email for more info: gmbktr@kamala.co.th

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.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971



is looking to recruit for the following positions:
3 Sales Representatives for Scuba Diving Equipment

- Thai National Male/Female, age over 25
- Spoken English essential
- Proven experience in a sales background
- 2 years' experience in a similar position
- Salary 12,000 baht, with Diving Experience 15,000 baht and up

If you think this is you, please contact Khun Pen on 076/342511 or send email to info@divesupply.com

Recruitment



SEA ENTERTAINMENT

SEA Entertainment is currently looking to recruit quality acts. Applications from musicians, dancers, entertainers, DJs and MCs should be emailed to: manager@phuketentertainment.com

Contact us for all your entertainment needs: cocktail parties, functions, events, weddings, etc. Tel: 076 271077

The SEA Academy of Music and dance is now open in the Boat Lagoon, 115/116 Koh Kaew Plaza

Tap dancing, ballet, jazzercise, jazz, creative dance, gymnastics for all ages. Kindy gym, tumble tots, Kindy music, pre-school music and movement. Singing, guitar, piano, flute, theory, performing arts classes. Timetable arranged to suit your needs.

We offer British Dance Association and Royal School of Music examination systems. Sign up now to begin immediately or to reserve a place for September.

Discounts for block bookings. Sibling discounts available. High-quality tuition by fully certified teachers.

Email: academy@phuketentertainment.com
Tel: Karen Alexander-Maciver 07 264 7397

Check out our websites
www.phuketentertainment.com, www.seaacademy.com



We are a dynamic property developer specializing in residential projects throughout Phuket.

Due to our continuous expansion, we are seeking energetic and enthusiastic individuals for the following positions:

Sales Manager

Qualifications:

- Possess marketing experience, preferably property related
- Fluent in written & spoken English
- Able to use computer word processors and spreadsheets
- Hold a driver's license

Sales Executive

Qualifications:

- Fluent in written & spoken English
- Able to use computer word processors and spreadsheets
- Hold a driver's license

Please send resumé and recent photo to:
48/4 Moo 7, Soi Sai Yuan, Tambol Rawai, Amphur Muang Phuket, Phuket 83000
Tel: (076) 289-121-2, Mobile: 0-1442-9393
Email: jon@blueprint.co.th

TEACHERS REQUIRED

We are looking for 3 Thai English-language teachers and 2 native English-speaking classroom teachers to teach kindergarten and primary-level students. Please send your CV via email or fax, or contact us for more information Tel: 076-248975. Fax: 076-248976. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

TECHNICAL STAFF

We have 2 positions for experienced staff at Andaman Lighting Systems: AutoCAD operator and Electrical Technician. Based at our bypass-road office, English-speakers preferred. Please contact to apply or for more details. Tel: 076-254826, 01-8937027. Fax: 076-254827. Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com

PROPERTY

Copywriter required. Native English-speaking copywriter required part-time to write up property listings. Must have good written English. Based in Chalong, would suit retiree. For further details, please see our website at: www.siamrealestate.com Tel: 076-280805, 01-271-0496. Fax: 076-280805. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

Employment Wanted

LOOKING FOR JOB

A hard-working German man is looking for a job in a hotel or a restaurant. Please call Tel: 072-841125.

MARKETING /SALES

I, Nongnuch Laksila, seek employment in Phuket in marketing, sales or office work. I have computer skills and can speak and type English fluently. Please call or email me if you have a position in your company. Email: luksila2001@hotmail.com

HOTEL MANAGEMENT

A Malaysian hotelier with 17 years' experience, majoring in Room Division & Yield, Sales & Marketing, and F&B management, is looking for work in a 3-to-5 star property as General Manager, Resort Manager, Hotel Manager, or Resident Manager/EAM. Previous 5-star boutique resort experience in Phuket. Left due to company budget constraints and project abandonment. Married to a Thai. Please call or email to Azuan Noordin for more info. Email: azuannoordin@yahoo.com

Articles for Sale



ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Chinese wedding chests, wood sculptures, cabinets and decorations. Tel: 09-7310283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

RISOGRAPH

GR1750 plus interface for sale. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-7417260.

THINGS FOR SALE

21" JVC TV, computer, laptop (notebook), computer desk, recliner chair, hammocks, wall units, oven, dishes, microwave, appliances, water cooler, Honda Dream 125 with electric starter, DVD player, VRC and DVD player, cassette and VCD player, fans, fish aquariums, bookshelf, books, clothes closet, bedroom suite, king-size bed, plants, small appliances, washing machine, and much more. Tel: 076-256298. Email: dale_campbell40@hotmail.com

BABY COT FOR SALE

Large red cot with aluminum frame, all padded, with mosquito net sides and cover, plus pushchair. Only 1,200 baht for the pair. Price new: 3,000 baht. Tel: 076-202-208, 09-9705259. Email: info@sunrise-divers.com

BABY STUFF

Range of secondhand items for babies, including cot, car seat, clothing and much more. All as new. Please contact for list and details. Tel: 09-9729443. Email: info@sunoffabeach.com

BABY ITEMS

Baby crib/cot and baby seat. Both in very good condition for 1,500 baht. I can email picture upon request. Please contact me for more details. Tel: 01-5690593. Email: yhorak2004@hotmail.com

PALM 3e FOR SALE

I am selling my Palm 3e planner for only 5,000 baht. If you are interested, please call me for details. Tel: 01-3670025. Email: fredrikjohansson71@hotmail.com

Articles Wanted

A4 LAMINATOR

I want to buy a secondhand A4 laminator. Please contact me with details. Tel: 06-5101745. Email: pimlips@hotmail.com

PADI ENCYCLOPEDIA

Divemaster manual wanted. Please leave your contact number. Email: michael_b_w@yahoo.co.uk

50s MEMORABILIA

Looking to rent or buy Happy Days-style memorabilia and other classic American items: cheerleader uniforms, football helmets/shoulder pads, roller skates, jukebox, vinyl records, pinball machines, neon signs, etc. Urgently needed before June 20. Tel: 01-7230492. Email: zahid@zighead.com

Bulletins



AN EVENING FOR GRAHAM FROST

As some of you know, Graham Frost, a long-term expat resident and fine member of our community, was seriously injured in a car accident in April and remains in a critical condition in a Bangkok hospital.

With the consent of his family, it has been decided to hold an evening gathering of Graham's friends, colleagues and associates. This is not a fundraiser. Rather, it is a "spirit raiser", the aim being to make a video which can be played to him during the next phase of his recovery.

This event will take place on Saturday, June 19, at the Watermark Bar and Restaurant at the Boat Lagoon, between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. To confirm attendance please send email to: RSVP@electrical-marine.com. For more information, contact Damian Barrett at Tel: 01-8920534, Andy Stephens at Tel: 01-892-0902, Gordon Fernandes at Tel: 01-9796320 or Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-737-6184.

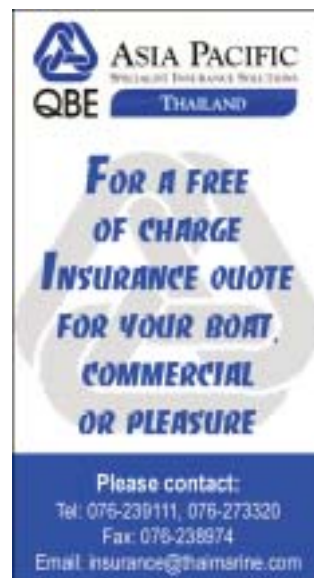
Boats & Marine



Great value
55 ft Benford steel trawler
Industrial strength,
Yacht quality finish
Only US\$ 979,000
contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-239111



Prout 45
Luxury catamaran
Fully equipped
US\$ 395,000
contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-239111



BOAT FOR SALE

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

TWIN HULL FOR SALE

4.2m GRP twin-hull speedboat. Bimini and console. Yamaha 85hp engine, low usage. Trailerable. Ideal for island-hopping in Phang Nga Bay. Price: 150,000 baht. Contact Andy for details. Tel: 01-8927670.

LIVEABOARD

25-meter steel dive boat. 7 cabins with aircon, fully equipped. Please contact with best offer. Tel: 01-8916143.

Business Opportunities



LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE

The famous Lighthouse restaurant at Ao Chalong, with five waterfront luxury rooms and three offices, is for sale. Potential to develop residential units on unused property. Please email for further information. Email: maipenrai@hushmail.com

HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Would you like to own a hotel, restaurant and rental shop on Karon Beach? Easy foreign ownership and rapid company transfer. Please contact us for further information or see our website at www.geocities.com/hotelinparadise or call us. Tel: 01-6931136. Email: hotelinparadise@yahoo.com

VERY NICE BAR

Very nice bar/restaurant for sale in Nai Harn. New kitchen and pool table. Please call Tel: 01-0887971.

INVESTORS WANTED

Investors sought for project. We are looking to build up a private village, beginning with an initial 10 villas. High net yield from this project. Email: realestatephuket@gmx.de

MLM LEADERS

US\$4 billion healthcare company seeks quality leaders. Unlimited income potential. Email for details. Tel: 02-7269918, 06-3418781. Fax: 02-7269917. Email: makelifegood@aol.com

HOTEL FOR SALE

17-room hotel - with restaurant - in Patong for sale. Great location just 80m from the beach. 11.7 million baht. Tel: 06-6848758. Email: hfs@1nj.de

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Business Opportunities



GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

12-room guesthouse, overlooking large lake and private swimming pool, located near Loch Palm Golf Course, for sale or rent. 10-15-year contracts. Price: 17 million baht. Also, 9 rai for sale with waterfall and natural pool. Tel: 06-9757268.

SPORTS BAR

and restaurant. Great location in central Bangla area. Max 1 pool table, darts area, stereo/DVD/satellite radio, 3 (UBC) TV sets, 3 aircons, modern kitchen, living area upstairs. Upmarket bar with long lease. Tel: 09-8677969. Email: bangla_04@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE 4 SALE

10-room renovated guesthouse for sale - with new bar in Patong. Central location and 10 mins to the beach. 5-year plus 3 lease, 38,000 baht a month. Key money 3.4 million baht. Call or email for details. Tel: 07-2793453. Email: hotrubin@hotmail.com

OFFICE FOR RENT

in good area on Soi Watana, in Patong. Well-equipped and ready-to-use office. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7371901.

AIRPORT ADS

at international arrival hall. Space available for advertising and billboard for rent. Please contact by mobile or email. Tel: 01-8924735. Email: aqpmmedia@yahoo.com

SHOP WANTED

Shop wanted in Karon, Kata, or Patong. Minimum 50 sqm. Rent or lease for long term. Please email details of property to: shop_wanted@hotmail.com

BANGLA BAR

at a dramatically reduced price: was 7 million baht, now only 4.5 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 07-2837161. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com

COMPANY FOR SALE

TAT-registered limited company. Clean balance sheets and work permit. Would suit expat looking to stay in Thailand. All offers considered. Tel: 076-286 471, 06-595-0450. Email: floglog2003@yahoo.com

Business Services

Rothermann 1998 (Thailand) Co Ltd

Hamburg-Bangkok-Phuket

Offers German-standard service in:

- Wastewater recycling systems
- New or secondhand generators imported from Germany
- MDB, DB power distribution
- Wiring design and installation
- Environmental applications

Please disturb us with your problems.

<http://www.rothermannthai.com>

Email: wattana@rothermannthai.com

Tel: 02-6185925, 02-6187481, 01-6176313. Fax: 02-2701660

Luxury Visa Run to Ranong

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 am from The Yorkshire Inn Hotel Soi Sansabai, Patong.

Tel: 076-340904, 076-345258

with aircon, surround music, TV, snacks, drinks.

Includes immigration fee and boat crossing.

Price 1,200 baht. Please book early

THAI DOMAIN NAMES FOR SALE

- sawadee.info,
- visithailand.net,
- thaiimports.com,
- thairakthai.net,
- thaksin.org

Many more available. Best offers. Contact for info. Email: ken@adventure1.com

TRANSLATIONS

Accurate translations and interpretations (English-Thai) with fast service for letters, legal docs, scripts and more. Contact Fawn to negotiate prices. Tel: 076-223934, 01-8936414. Fax: 076-223934. Email: sthrika@hotmail.com

INT'L DRIVING

license. 10-20-year international driving license available. 100% legal. 10 years: 4,500 baht. 20 years: 6,000 baht. 50% deposit required. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-0068736.

INTERNET

unplugged. GPRS is the most cost-effective way to access the Internet almost anywhere in Thailand. Please contact us for more info and a demo. Tel: 01-8957727. Email: info@axiominvestments.com

WORD PROCESSING

Need a CV, proofing, or typing? Digital photos to CD? Native English-speaker. Please contact me for more information. Tel: 06-276-8676. Email: prodocs_pkt@yahoo.com

VISA RUN TO RANONG

1,299 baht. Includes visa stamp fee, insurance, trip by boat and minibus (both in good condition), and lunch with soft drinks. Daily trip starts at 7 am at KFC at Tesco-Lotus supercenter. Please contact us for reservation. Tel: 076-289201 or 01-5352637. For further information, please visit our website: www.phuketdir.com/expressvisaextension

INCREASE OCCUPANCY

Provide your guests with high-speed broadband Internet access. Allow them wireless and cabled connections. Simple to set up, cost effective. Call or email for free site survey or more information. Tel: 076-282631, 01-835-5771. Email: info@siam-wireless.com

SEA CANOE ORIGINAL

Special promotion for Thais and residents from now to July 2004. Day trip: 1,500 baht/adult; 750 baht/child. Transfer excluded. Please contact for more information and for reservations. Tel: 076-212172.

STORAGE

Cars, motorcycles, household goods will be securely stored in our new 500-sqm steel unit. 24-hour service with security. Tel: 01-0825707.

Computers

NOTEBOOK FOR SALE

HP Omnibook 2100. Intel Pentium MMX 233MHz, CD-Rom/FDD, PCMCIA Card V90 Flex card, 3.2GB HDD. Price: 10,000 baht. Tel: 076-271427, 07-2700768. Email: skailasam@hotmail.com

FREE WI-FI INTERNET

Help test free Internet for two weeks in Chalong Bay (boats), Jimmy's Lighthouse, and pier area. Free service from 5-19 June. Any wireless-enabled computer, PDA, can connect (802.11b or g). Email for access info. Tel: 076-282420. Email: info@siam-wireless.com

Personal Services

AAA STORAGE

- SAFE, SECURE BUILDING
- STORAGE FROM 399 B PER MONTH
- WE STORE ELECTRONICS, BOXES, FURNITURE, GOLF & SPORTS EQUIPMENT

JESSE 09-7428743 FRED 06-6864170
STOREIT@AAASTORAGEPHUKET.COM

COMPUTER REPAIRS

New and used computers, sales, tuition. Call out service, English technician available. Tel: 09-4735080.

ENGLISH LESSONS

Private lessons for all levels of business and conversational English. Male and female teachers available 7 days a week. Please contact me for details. Tel: 06-942-2547. Email: privatelessons@hotmail.com

TEACHING ITALIAN

Qualified teacher available to teach Italian to students or staff in the tourism industry. Call for more details. Tel: 09-7278209.

LEARN THAI AT HOME

Teach English to your girlfriend. From easy conversation to far more advanced learning. Coursework, cassettes and home-study materials provided by Joy, a charming Thai lady and ready to help. Contact for a chat. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

ATSUMI HEALING

Fasting & Detoxing, Yoga & Meditation. Clean up your health; get back into shape and lose a kilo a day. Call 01-2720571. For further details, please see our website at: www.atsumihealing.com

Personal Services Wanted

PIANO TEACHER

Teach my wife and daughter at our home in Kamala. Reasonable command of English essential. Hours flexible. Email: stewha@loxinfo.co.th

Personals

BACKGAMMON

players wanted for some exciting games. Please call or fax for more details. Tel: 076-386113 or 01-577-8443. Fax: 076-386114.

KORAT LADY

Noi, 35 yrs, slender, no man, no kids, seeks Westerner for romance and marriage. Has own house, food business and car. I like a good-hearted man and full of fun, aged 45 or older, to make lovely future together. Very little English but you can SMS or try to talk to me. Please contact me. Tel: 01-5472171. Email: nakornnoi@operamail.com

NICE GENTLEMAN

Seeks a pretty, warm and smart lady with whom he can feel happy and enjoy the good things in life. You will find me a sincere, friendly and educated man who has nice looks and can take good care of the right lady. Please email with photos. Email: gary8lw@yahoo.com

FARANG LADY

I am an Asian man looking for a farang lady for fun in Thailand. I am currently staying in Phuket but will be moving to Bangkok soon. If anyone wants to share some time with me, please email me at: bond270@hotmail.com

SEEKING THAI LADY

Very nice man from Denmark wishes to be friends with Thai lady in Phuket, with thought of longer relationship if the "match" is right. I am 49, 179cm tall, slim but strong, young of heart and body, handsome, loving, caring and honest. I will be in Phuket from June 16 to July 1. I come to Phuket many times a year, and later on I want to live permanently at Kamala Beach. If you are looking for the special man for your life, please take the chance and write to me. Perhaps we are right for each other. Let's meet and see. Email: dane@trustme.dk

SEEKING GIRLFRIEND

I am looking for a Thai girlfriend or future wife. I am 40 years old and from Sweden. Please email: olegott@hotmail.com

THAI CHRISTIAN

I am interested in becoming a pen pal with a Thai Christian lady. I know there is someone out there. I would like her to be between 40 and 55 years old. Looking forward to a quick reply. All emails will be answered. Email: williambc123456@yahoo.com

LOOKING 4 NICE MAN

Farang lady from Europe is looking for a nice, interesting man. I live in Chiang Mai, and am 37 years old. Are there any single men in Thailand? Can you make me happy please by email me. Email: arianethai@web.de

SEEKING LADY

My name is Rob. I am coming to live in Phuket from June or early July. I have retired and I am hoping to meet a nice lady, age 40 or older, to share and care with. I would like to start chatting before I arrive, to get to know each other. Please reply only if you are genuine. Email: helloagain69fr@yahoo.com

SEEKING COMPANION

I am staying in Phuket and will be moving to Bangkok soon. I would like to meet a Chinese-Thai lady, age not over 25, hopefully to start a long-term relationship. Please contact me. Email: saedan@hotmail.com

Pets

A GUARD DOG

Chubby is for you! This Rotweiler mixed breed was found abandoned and very underweight a couple of months ago, probably due to a serious skin disease. He has made a remarkable recovery, gained his weight back, and has an enormously impressive stature. He is friendly and loves to be cuddled but needs someone who is not intimidated by him. He has obviously been mistreated in the past, which can trigger aggression towards certain people. He will make a perfect outdoor guard dog. Chubby has been fully vaccinated and neutered and is in perfect health otherwise. Tel: 09-8959965. Email: margot@loxinfo.co.th

COCKER SPANIELS

We have 5 cute cocker spaniels for sale. Reasonably priced at 3,500 baht each. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-2779588. Email: ratcha_2001@yahoo.com

GOLDEN RETRIEVER

Looking for a full-bred male golden or light-color retriever as a mate for our 2-year-old female golden retriever. Please contact me. Email: sweet_angel_lol@hotmail.com

OBTAIN EXTRA INCOME FROM A COIN OPERATED POOL TABLE!

Superior selection. Perfect for bar and hotel.

For Sale, rent or profit-share.

American Pool Table

Further details contact: 01 8234627, 076 383883
Email: phuketpooltables@hotmail.com



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 Chalermprakiat 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

NEW EVERY MONTH

W watermark
birthday club
Are you born in June?

Celebrate your birthday at **watermark** on June 16 and drink for FREE from 8pm - 10pm

call 076 239 730 to register or click onto watermarkphuket.com

watermark bar restaurant
the boat lagoon marina



NO MATTER how beautiful your home is

...these problems are awaiting you

Untidy & bare piping, causing stain & germ build-up

Breaking favorite tiles or marble to replace leaking pipe

Repetitive ceiling work to replace leaking pipe

Pipes clogged with rust

Pipe leakage from rats gnawing

Kiss them goodbye with the Maintenance-Free Pipe, "SYLER pipe"

Syler pipes and fittings are lined with PE and PP. They ensure

- 100% rust free
- Cleanliness, free from any carcinogen (cancer-causing) contamination from pipes
- Strong and long-lasting (indoor pipes last longer than 50 years)

Rubber seal PP layer


PE pipe

Galv. pipe

Type C cold water (60°C or less)
Type H hot water (90°C or less)

SYLER
PE-LINED STEEL PIPE

Modern P.V.C. Co Ltd. Tel: 076-214177, 076-259271-2
PPS Prestigious Products & Services Co Ltd.
Tel: 076-286394 E-mail: ppscorp@phuket.ksc.co.th
Syler Group Co Ltd. Tel: 02-6349981-4
www.sylertube.com



The Nation & Phuket Gazette

are pleased to present

a seminar in English at 9.00-11.30 am on June 25, 2004
at the Royal Phuket City Hotel

Can Zoning Save Phuket? Part II

(a follow-up from the March seminar)

How do we ensure enforcement?
What other actions are needed to protect Phuket?

Ask Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Thammarak Isarangkura, Phuket Governor and others in a position to act!

The seminar is free of charge for readers of The Nation and the Phuket Gazette.
For more details please email: Rungtip@phuketgazette.net

FUN!

New Suzuki Grand Vitara 2000 cc.
SUV 4X4 true Off-Road
FULL OPTIONS
Prices Start From 1,108,000 Baht

Minimum 10% down payment
Interest starts from 1.99%

Special for June 2004 only

FREE

- Registration
- Delivery from Bangkok
- First-class insurance
- Anti-rust treatment
- Window tinting
- Side window deflector
- A set of fog lamps, and much more

S.U. TRADING CO, LTD

227/2 Surin Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-214748, 222360, 216283 Fax: 076-222361 E-mail: Suzuki@phuket-town.com

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

