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## Slow start for hound roundup

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Forty-eight stray dogs were caught on the first day of the great province-wide roundup that will gradually fill the new dog pound in Thalang.

The roundup – which got underway on June 21 – initially went more slowly than the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) planners had hoped.

Dr Trethep Reungkit, the Chief Municipal Veterinarian of Phuket City, where the chase began, said, “The PPLO set a target of three days, but we cannot catch 400 to 500 strays in that time. I think it will take about a month.

“We have just six people working on this, all from the Municipality – none of the charities is helping us. But we will continue catching strays until we are sure there are none left in the Municipality area.”

The first day's activities concentrated on the areas around Phuket City Hall, Anuban Phuket School, Saphan Hin and Samkong. The six dog-catchers, armed with blowpipes and anesthetic darts, caught some 10 dogs in the morning and loaded them into a garbage truck.

“We need the anesthetic because we don't know which dogs are likely to bite the staff,” said Dr Trethep. The knockout juice is expensive, he added; it costs 120 baht a bottle, which is enough to down five dogs. “So to catch 250 dogs will cost us 6,000 baht,” he noted.

As a way to save money, he said, the dog-catchers would enlist the help of local people who had been feeding the strays to catch them. “That will save us



A family of four dogs wait in the garbage truck for transport to the dog pound. They were handed over to dog-catchers by their owner, who said she could not afford to feed them.

the cost of the anesthetic,” he explained.

The team also realized fairly quickly that they might have a problem with grouchy animals waking up with an anesthetic hangover and fighting inside the garbage truck. To avert this, they borrowed cages from the Phuket Animal Hospital. Dr Trethep said that the PPLO had ordered 20 cages from Bangkok. These were expected to be delivered in a couple of days.

The team also received a donation – of four poodle-cross dogs – from a woman who told them, “We have been looking after them for a year, and it has become a burden. We don't have the money to take care of them.

“If we have time, we will visit them at the pound,” she added, leaving the whining ani-

mals in the dog-catchers' garbage truck.

One other stray that did not have to be darted was “Khao”, who – for 10 years – has hung around the Phuket City Municipality offices, where staff have kept him supplied with scraps.

Dr Trethep explained, “Today, the judges of a ‘beautiful city’ contest are here from Bangkok to look at Phuket City Hall, so we couldn't let Khao stay.”

So the hapless Khao, too, was loaded aboard the garbage truck for transport to the Mid Road Dog's House, as the pound is officially known in English.

Dr Trethep said, “We will make sure that the strays will not suffer in their new home.”

The PPLO estimates that there are some 4,000 true strays  
**Continued on page 2**

## Pian gets top votes in new poll in Patong

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PATONG: Former mayor Pian Keesin, leader of the Rak Patong Party (RPP), beat rival Songserm Kepsap of the Patong Progress Party (PPP) by just 147 votes in the replay of municipal elections held on June 20.

The results have yet to be confirmed by the Central Election Commission, which declared the previous election void.

Of the 9,213 Patong residents eligible to vote, 5,997, or 65%, turned out for the poll. This was slightly fewer than the 6,239 who cast ballots in the previous poll on February 8, the results of which were nullified by the Central Election Commission on June 11.

In the new poll, K. Pian received 2,934 votes and K. Songserm 2,787. There were 153 spoiled ballots, while 123 people ticked the “neither” box for mayor.

Even if the election results stand – never a certainty in a Patong election – K. Pian may find it difficult to run the town effectively because 15 of the 18 town council members elected are aligned with his opponent, K. Songserm.

Dr Prapa Kayee, Chairperson of the Phuket Election Committee (PEC), told the *Gazette* that the amount of time needed to confirm the results would depend on how many complaints her committee receives. People had three days in which to lodge complaints, she added.

When the results of the last election were declared void, both parties were issued “yellow cards” indicating that both had been guilty of breaking the rules

**Continued on page 2**



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# Adopt-a-highway scheme in the works

PHUKET CITY: The provincial government is to launch two ambitious schemes aimed at beautifying Phuket.

The Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) has already received 2.4 million baht in provincial funds to beautify the five-kilometer stretch of road connecting Phuket International Airport to Thepkasattri Rd, and is now developing an "adopt-a-highway" scheme intended to spruce up the entire 40-km length of Thepkasattri Rd from the airport to Phuket City.

PPHO Chief Wanchai Wattanasiri said the project is in line with the policy of Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, who was ordered by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to plant bouganvillea and make other improvements to the route from the airport into town.

The Governor quoted the Prime Minister as saying he wants visiting tourists to enjoy a nice view all the way from the airport to their hotels. The private sector is being called on to foot the bill.

"We will divide Thepkasattri Rd into one-kilometer sections and allow the private sector – developers, companies or hotels – to sponsor the beautification work within each section," said K. Wanchai.

K. Wanchai said he expects sponsorship for each one-kilometer stretch to range from 700,000 to 1.2 million baht, depending on the width of the road.

Sponsors who carry out the upgrade and maintenance work themselves will be eligible for a lower rate, but the work must conform with the government-approved design specifications, he added.

In exchange for their contribution, sponsors will be allowed to erect signs informing passers-by that their business is responsible for the roadside scenery.

The signs, too, will have to conform with government regulations on size and appearance.

After the improvements are made, the companies will be able to continue their sponsorship in following years by paying an annual maintenance fee, the amount of which will be determined during the first year of the project.

K. Wanchai said that 20 businesses had already applied to take part in the scheme, which he said is similar to schemes that have been successfully implemented for decades in many US states.

– Gategeo Phetsawang

## Pian Keesin gets most votes in Patong poll

From page 1

but that no specific offender could be pinpointed. Details of the infractions proven were not made public.

The election replay was called for June 20, just nine days later, apparently in an effort to reduce the window of opportunity for vote-buying.

Dr Prapa said, "If there are no complaints, confirmation may take only 10 days from the day we file our report to the Central Election Committee (CEC).

"But if there are complaints and the CEC announces that this election too was unfair, the CEC will consider issuing either yellow or red cards [to the violators] depending on the evidence presented," she explained.

"We want Patong to have a mayor and we want this to be the last election," she added.

Sadly for Dr Prapa's wishes, complaints were lodged almost immediately the polls closed. PPP deputy leader Somkiat Kuru said, "Some people have already filed complaints about this election with the police and the PEC, and there will be more.

"The same things occurred [as last time], such as the circulation of rumors and the spreading of disinformation," he said.

K. Somkiat added that the election results seemed strange, with 15 PPP members being elected, but not their leader. "It's unusual that the leader wasn't elected," he said.

While conceding defeat, PPP leader K. Songserm predicted that K. Pian would have difficulty running the municipality with 15 PPP members dominating the council.

K. Pian, however, despite getting only three members of his team elected, did not expect this to affect his administration.

"Every member of the council wants to work for Patong. I will be a leader and will present my vision and my abilities. It is inconceivable that they would simply oppose [me] without any reason."

## Stray dog roundup gets under way

From page 1

in Phuket, and aims to round up as many as half of these, cramming them into the new pound. The province-wide collection is scheduled to be complete by August 11.

PPLO Chief Sunart Wongchawalit advised owners to keep their dogs inside their premises on days when the dog-catchers visit their area. He also suggested that they register their animals with the local government body, either *OrBorTor* or municipality.

As a further precaution, owners are advised to ensure that their dogs carry a tag with the owner's contact details.

The scheduled dates of the round-up are as follows: Patong Municipality: June 28-30; Tambon Karon: July 1; Karon Municipality: July 2 and 5; Tambon Cherno Talay: July 6-7; Cherno Talay Municipality: July 8; Thepkasattri Municipality: July 9 and 12; Tambon Thepkasattri: July 13-14; Tambon Mai Khao: July 15-16; Tambon Saku: July 19; Tambon Kamala: July 20; Tambon Pa Khlok: July 21; Tambon Sri Soontorn: July 22-23; Tambon Koh Kaew: July 26-27; Tambon Rassada: July 28-30; Tambon Wichit: August 3-5; Tambon Chalong: August 6-9; Tambon Rawai: August 10-11.

# Probe into fake visa stamps is faltering

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: The investigation into the alleged issue of 20 fake entry permits by a Phuket-based visa service company appears to have stalled at Sadao Police Station, which is now in charge of the case.

Last December, Phuket Immigration officers seized 20 passports with forged exit and entry stamps during a raid on the visa and accounting company, but were unable to press charges because the Immigration officers did not observe the company's workers actually stamping the passports with the bogus stamps.

It has never been clarified whether the rubber stamps used to forge the exit and entry stamps were completely fake or whether they were genuine, possibly outdated stamps that were misused.

The case was transferred to Sadao, Songkhla, because the fake stamps were purported to have come from the Sadao Immigration Office.

Pol Col Witawat Buranasomp, Superintendent of the Phuket Immigration Office, told the *Gazette* that the case was transferred to the Sadao Police last month.

"We did an initial investigation and then transferred this

case to Sadao Police Station, though we suspect the fake stamps actually came from Phuket," he said.

Pol Col Surin Pararae, Superintendent of Sadao Immigration, told the *Gazette* that it was "impossible" for fake stamps to have come from the Sadao Immigration checkpoint because of strict procedures in place there.

"We have a video surveillance cameras recording activity at all five police booths. It would be very difficult to issue fake visas," he said.

"I'm still waiting for the results of the investigation but I

haven't received them yet," Col Surin added.

He said that about 30 people had been arrested since December and charged with possession of fake entry stamps.

He said the stamps had been issued by tour companies preying on naïve foreigners. "When they come here with a fake stamp they are arrested. The fake stamps come from tour companies around the country that lie to tourists.

"Nevertheless, [the law requires that] the holders of [passports containing] fake stamps must be deported," he said.

## Immigration relaunches website in 10 languages

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Immigration Office (PPIO) has launched its revamped website, which now includes information about immigration regulations and procedures in 10 languages.

The website, found at [www.phuketimmigration.com](http://www.phuketimmigration.com), now has immigration information in Thai, Swedish, Russian, English, German, Norwegian, Japanese, Italian, French and Korean.

Besides general immigra-

tion information for foreigners wanting to enter or stay in Thailand, the website holds a copy of the Immigration Act, a list of fees charged for immigration services, and a list of contact details of other Immigration offices throughout Thailand, including links to those that have websites of their own.

The website also has a "Contact Us" link so people can email the PPIO.

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# Legitimate spas to avoid 'entertainment' label

PHUKET CITY: Jurai Skulpuak, Head of the Health Consumer Protection Division of Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), has announced that spas that have been approved by the PPHO as "health business" will not be classified as "entertainment" venues.

K. Jurai told the *Gazette*, "Spas will not be forced to comply with the same legal health requirements as massage parlors, and will be considered as differ-

ent from massage parlors as defined in the Entertainment Act 1966."

The announcement was good news for Pakin Raktae-Ngam, Chairman of the Phuket Spa Business Club (PSBC), of which 65 Phuket spa operators are members. "This will mean that spas will not be included in the definition of an 'entertainment' venue, and will not have to pay the 10% excise tax [levied on entertainment venues]."

However, he explained to the *Gazette*, the re-classification of spas will not be official until it is approved by a joint committee of the Public Health Ministry and the Ministry of Finance.

"The joint committee ... is currently reviewing whether spas should pay the 10% excise tax," he said.

In the meantime, however, K. Pakin said that all PSBC members will continue refusing to pay the excise tax. "The Excise Of-

fice is trying to make us pay the tax, but we don't care. Even the chief of the local Excise Office personally agrees that we should not have to pay the tax," he said.

K. Jurai announced the decision at a workshop on June 16 at The Metropole hotel, where 200 government officers and members of the spa industry were trained in what is required of spas and their staff to gain approval from the PPHO.

"The PPHO will try to have

all spas operating to the Health Ministry's standards, which includes having therapists attend training courses that we are running all this year," she said.

"Thai massage is a unique, key feature of Thai spas, so we will train them to administer proper Thai massages."

K. Jurai added that 600 people had already passed the PPHO course, and she expected that number to grow to 1,000 soon. — *Dhirarat Boonkongsan*

# Vendors in Rawai ordered to leave

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

RAWAI: Roadside vendors along Rawai Beach, where the issue of illegal vendors has been a persistent irritant for years, have been given eviction notices and have until July 3 to leave.

On that date, officers of Rawai Tambon Administration Organization and the Muang District Office will check whether they have moved.

If they have not, they will be forcibly removed, Wanchai

Wattanasiri, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Highways Office, told a press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 15.

The evictions are part of an ongoing drive to "beautify" roadsides around Phuket.

Already, almost all of the 39 makeshift restaurants along Thepkrasattri Rd in Phuket City, near Rajabhat University Phuket have disappeared after receiving notices to quit by June 11.

K. Wanchai said that the maximum penalty for people

selling products along public sidewalks is a 2,000 baht fine, a month in jail, or both.

Those who build on sidewalks are subject to stiffer penalties: up to three years in jail, or a fine of up to 60,000 baht, or both, he said.

He added that other areas slated for clean-ups in the near future include parts of Sakdidet Rd, Thepkrasattri Rd in the area of the Heroines' Monument and sections of Chao Fa East Rd.

# Land official murder case stalled

PHUKET: The probe into the murder in April last year of land official Pongtorn Hiranyaburana has gone cold and police officials have stopped interrogating witnesses, citing lack of evidence.

Pol Col Ronapong Saikaew, Superintendent of Investigation of Police Region 8, on June 17 told the *Gazette*, "We have to investigate more and check to see if the evidence found at the scene is somehow related to other cases [we are investigating]. We need a fresh lead in order to get closer to the people involved."

K. Pongtorn, Deputy Chief of the Phuket Land Office at the time of his murder, was shot dead on the way to his home in Surat Thani on April 25, 2003. Police are assuming that the killing was related to an investigation K. Pongtorn was conducting into the issue of land deeds on the island, Col Ronapong said.

The colonel announced on November 11 last year that officers expected a breakthrough and were closing in on a key person involved in the killing, but the case has since stalled.

"We know who the gunmen were, but we don't have enough evidence [to make arrests]. The driver fled to the Northeast and the gunmen are likely somewhere in central Thailand. There were at least three people involved in this murder," he said.

"From the outset, we have assumed that the masterminds are from Phuket and that they are still living here.

"I still can't say when I expect to bring the suspects in for interrogation," he added.

— *Gategaeo Phetsawang*



The dead whale drew a crowd of onlookers to Nai Yang Beach

# Dead sperm whale beaches at Nai Yang

NAI YANG: A dead sperm whale washed up on Nai Yang Beach on the night of June 15. The whale, 10 meters long and weighing around 3 tonnes, is thought to have been about 40 years old when it died.

Kongkiat Kittiwattawong, a biologist at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), told the *Gazette*, "It was impossible to determine very much about the whale, but I estimate it died about two weeks ago.

"Its tail was missing and it was generally quite badly decomposed — too badly to ascertain the cause of death or even its sex."

K. Kongkiat speculated that sharks were among the creatures that had started to eat the dead whale.

The carcass was cut up and buried but the skin and teeth were removed by PMBC staff for further study.

— *Siripansa Somboon*

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## Queer News

# A quick cut at the beauty salon

Now that "bail insurance" is available, one person who would be well-advised to take out a policy would be 20-year-old hairdresser Prapapim "Gai" Wahngsook.

The beautician first made the news last year, when she visited the home of former Phuket Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi to look for work.

But when she noticed an envelope stuffed with 50,000 baht in cash that had somehow been left unattended on a counter in the Governor's residence, she just couldn't resist the temptation and walked off with the loot.

It turned out to be a very poor case of victim selection, however, and she soon found herself behind bars.

Now Gai is back in the news, after a bizarre and blood-soaked incident involving another hairdresser, Darunee "Att" Jiatongsri, proprietor of the Att Beauty parlor on Trang Rd in Tambon Rassada.

Provincial Public Relations Officer Atchara Raetong told police that she was getting beauty treatment at Att's parlor on the morning of Sunday, June 6, when Gai came in and asked for a haircut.

"But first, I need to use the bathroom," K. Atchara quoted Gai as saying.

Soon after, Gai called to K. Att from the toilet, saying that she was locked inside. K. Atchara said K. Att went to open the door, but then staggered back into the salon clutching her throat, from which blood was spurting. Someone had slashed her. The victim, a 35-year-old native of Trang, was rushed to Wachira Hospital.

Gai told police investigators that there had been a man in the bathroom with her when K. Att opened the door, and that the mysterious fellow had cut K. Att's throat with a knife before climbing out through the bathroom window and disappearing into thin air.

Police didn't buy the story, however, and arrested Gai. Investigators said they would question the victim to find out what had really happened – as soon as she regains her ability to speak.

Source: Siang Tai

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&Ns) sailed onto Phuket radar screens in February 2003 with the inaugural Kata Group Andaman Sea Rally, which seems well on its way to becoming a popular annual event on the Asian sailing circuit.

Regatta co-founder, Welshman David Ratcliffe, was a major force behind the effort to establish trade links between the two island groups, and negotiations have now reached the highest level of government in both Thailand and India, which administers the A&Ns as a territory.

On December 1 last year, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce signed a memorandum of understanding to develop trade links with its counterpart from the A&Ns, the Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It is hoped that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) due to be signed in July by India and Thailand will help expand ties between Phuket and Port Blair.

Unless altered at the last moment, the FTA will list 84 items to be traded freely as part of an "Early Harvest Scheme" (EHS). The list includes a wide range of basic goods for industry as well as fish and agricultural produce.

Panjit Pissawong, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Commerce Office, was party to the talks in Port Blair and told the *Gazette* that the prospects for trade with the A&Ns are good.

"Even though we had heard many times that Port Blair [was interested in trade with Phuket], it was only after our first meeting with them that they began to supply us with [specific] information about what they wanted to buy from here," she said.

K. Panjit expects trade to

# HANDS

A 64-person delegation from Phuket flew aboard a Navy aircraft to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands capital, Port Blair, earlier this month, spending June 11-13 getting to know their counterparts and discussing mutually beneficial ways to expand trade and tourism links – without jeopardizing the remote islands' pristine ecosystems and unique cultures.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit, Phuket Tourist Association President Pattanapong Aikwanich and Phuket Chamber of Commerce Chairman Pamuke Achariyachai were just a few of the people who made the trip. Also with them was *Gazette* reporter **Dhirarat Boonkongaen**, who reports here on the new Andaman Sea connection.

grow briskly after the FTA goes into effect, saying that India is particularly interested in buying palm oil. Palm oil is in great demand in India, she said, but importers there currently face prohibitive import tariffs.

Similarly, Thai seafood importers who would like to buy produce from Port Blair are deterred by heavy duties levied on fish by Thai Customs.

"The EHS list contains many classes of goods, but so far there is no bilateral trade because the import tariffs are still under negotiation. We are hoping the FTA will just be the first step towards truly liberalizing trade in the region," she said.

"Under the EHS, we expect fresh fruit to be among our first exports to the Andamans, because people there appreciate the high quality of our produce. Be-

cause of its location, we also hope Port Blair will serve as our gateway to mainland Indian cities such as Chennai and Kolkata."

K. Panjit added that the two sides were discussing establishment of a center in Port Blair to coordinate information exchange and facilitate trade between the two island chains.

During the discussions, both sides agreed on the need to establish regular direct air links between Port Blair and Phuket, for both cargo and tourists.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura told the *Gazette* after his talks with Port Blair Governor S Hemachandran that the two had promised to work more closely in areas of common interest, such as tourism, fisheries, trade and investment, natural resources and environmental protection.

However, real progress will depend on support at the national level, he said. "After both sides agree, we still have to put everything down in detail and get approval from our respective national governments. This is particularly true for industries such as airlines and fisheries," he said.

Environmental issues were a main cause of concern in the recent negotiations.

Several Port Blair NGOs fear that links with Thailand will lead their now pristine environment in the same direction as Phuket, which recently had the dubious honor of being ranked



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# ACROSS THE SEA



Lush tropical vegetation, unexplored coral reefs and white beaches beckon, but the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are leery of rushing into the tourism business.

near the bottom of a *National Geographic Traveler* magazine survey of environmentally unsustainable tourism practices.

Gov Udomsak was careful to reassure his A&N counterparts that Thai investors would be conscious of the environmental impact of any projects they invest in on the islands and recommended developing environmentally-friendly industries which were suitable to the archipelago, such as a yachting and marine leisure industry.

Phuket would be glad to lend assistance in this regard, he said, for example by offering expertise and investment from Phuket-based operators of luxury cruises, charter yachts and live-aboard dive boats.

The Governor also mentioned the possibility of establishing academic ties so that students from the Andamans could study tourism management in Phuket.

Many Indian businessmen and potential investors from Chennai and Kolkata who attended the meetings were in agreement that tourism was the Andaman's most promising industry, though they too stressed the need to preserve the islands' natural beauty.

Davinder Pal Singh, an



owner of hotels and other businesses in Kolkata, said that the Indian government is interested mainly in low-volume, high-value eco-friendly tourism, such as scuba diving.

In addition, Mr Singh said, the territory could also benefit from investment in information technology and medical services.

Asked if he would prefer tourists to make their way to the A&Ns via Phuket or Bangkok,

Mr Singh told the *Gazette*, "Personally, I'd like [it to be] Phuket rather than Bangkok because Phuket welcomes wealthier tourists [of the kind we would like to attract here]."

Samit Sawhny, Managing Director of the Barefoot Group, a Chennai-based tour firm, told the *Gazette* that low-budget mass tourism and sex tourism were two aspects of Phuket that the A&Ns want to avoid.

"We prefer eco-tourism. We prefer investors who are environmentally and socially aware. We do not want investors who come here just to make money and don't respect the islands' beauty."

These words may sound hauntingly familiar to people who were in Phuket 20 years ago. But in the case of the A&Ns, the very remoteness of the islands probably remains a better defense against the ravages of "development" than the promises of developers, no matter how well-intentioned.

This is because it is still not easy to visit the A&Ns, thanks to tough visa requirements and poor transport links.

However, both the Thai and Indian governments are working to change that. Gov Udomsak told the *Gazette* that visas on arrival and better air links were the key to developing the A&Ns' potential, but that these matters were still in the hands of the Indian and Thai governments.

"Thailand has airlines that are ready to fly to Port Blair, but A&N regulations allow only charter flights and package tours. This causes problems for tourists who visit

Phuket and want to continue on to Port Blair: they cannot do so unless they are on a package tour. However, I think this problem can be rectified," he said.

The Governor went on to say that the A&Ns could benefit immediately from trade, as Phuket already has 2,000-ton ships capable of moving passengers and cargo to Port Blair.

"The whole thing will move faster if we let the private sector

take the lead. But the government sector will need some time to work out such matters as visas and other supervisory concerns," he said.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, Chairman of the Phuket Tourist Association, said he believes Phuket could be a major source of tourists to the A&Ns.

"Phuket welcomes high-quality tourists all year, so we can be a hub for tourists who travel on to Port Blair. The A&Ns get about 100,000 tourists a year, but only 10% of these are [non-Indians]," he said, adding that he expected more divers to travel to the A&Ns by boat from Phuket.

For those hoping to fly direct from Phuket to Port Blair, there may be a wait. Busara Dusadeesriyawong, Sales and Marketing Manager of Phuket Air, who joined the delegation, said that high landing fees and other restrictions make it feasible to run only four or five flights to Port Blair per high season; landing fees there are much higher than at Phuket Airport.

When it comes to travel by sea, however, Phuket is seen as the natural departure point for the Andamans. Most agree that traveling to the A&Ns by ship will remain the best option for the foreseeable future, and that more and more divers are likely to seek out the archipelago's largely unknown and unspoiled waters.

"Sea transport will be easier than air travel. I believe that there will be more diving tourists coming on live-aboards," said the Phuket Air representative.

T.P. Seetharam, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Bangkok, said that Phuket would benefit by being the first non-Indian jumping-off point for traveling to the A&Ns; at present, the only regular air services are from India.

"So far there is no indication of other nations in the neighborhood trying to establish contact with the islands," he noted.

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By Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum

**K**ids bored? Always under your feet? Driving you crazy? Then a pedal-powered go-kart may be just what you need.

"I wanted to see children playing with something different," says Dutchman Ramon Belgrave, 56, director of Belgrave Trailer & Kart Co Ltd – the sole pedal go-kart manufacturer on the island.

Mr Belgrave says that the idea of producing the toy cars was inspired by his 40 years in the Dutch auto industry.

"I spent around 40 years selling, repairing and even designing cars," he says.

"I have two young sons, so I used my knowledge of cars to construct many drivable toys for them to play with. I combined my ideas with those from other cars, particularly experimental cars," he said. "It helps children spend their free time properly."

Mr Belgrave and his family settled in Phuket in 2000, but he came up with the idea in December last year.

He launched the pedal karts, and his first business in Thailand, with a promotional display at the Tesco-Lotus supercenter in April.

All models, he explains, are made from high-quality, durable materials. "To guarantee our [level of] quality, I import materials from the Netherlands as it is difficult to find them here in Thailand," he said.

"Most parts of my go-karts are made from lightweight steel," he says. "You can play with these karts for years. Forget the ones made of plastic, which last only a few years."

There are currently three



GOING PLACES: The Belgrave family, from left: Ramon Belgrave, Urairat, Sonja and son Mwata.

# PEDAL POWER

models: the Bel Basic, the Bel Extra and the Bel Super. The Bel Super is the bestseller, with 11 units sold since the launch.

"Thai people like only the best products, and that is why this model sells best."

All models are 150 centimeters long and 75cm wide, and

are assembled by hand. The seats on all the models are adjustable, making the karts comfortable for children as young as five right through to adults.

Mr Belgrave's oldest son, Mwata, is the company manager.

He explains that each kart takes around two weeks to build,

with painting taking up the most time.

"To make a kart takes three to four days, but painting them is what prolongs the production time," Mwata explained. "We have four colors: blue, green, red and yellow."

The most difficult part to

make is the swing axle. "This part is like the heart of the go-kart body. If it is not balanced, then the go-kart won't go well and might be uncomfortable for the driver," he explains.

"The most comfortable model is the Bel Super. It has all the necessary components: the swing axle in front, a comfortable steering wheel and a comfortable seat," Mwata says.

Prices range from 6,495 baht for the Basic up to 8,595 baht for a Super. This month will also see the launch of a smaller version of the kart aimed specifically at 3- to 8-year-olds, developed as a result of the huge interest shown by children during the Tesco-Lotus launch.

The firm also offers two-wheel trailers that can be hooked to the go-kart to carry up to 50 kg of cargo, and plans to produce a variety of different versions.

"To add to the fun, Mwata is developing other trailers, including one with a crane, a Songkran model with a water gun and one with a scoop to move dirt and sand," Mr Belgrave says.

The karts have attracted attention not only from families but also from businesses such as hotels, schools and kindergartens.

"I am currently negotiating with about 10 businesses and I know that my invention can entertain their young customers really well," Mr Belgrave says. "No matter where you are, you can drive the karts anywhere, on roads or on muddy fields. The world is yours with these karts."

For more information, contact Belgrave Trailer & Kart Company Ltd. 25/9 Moo 1, Soi Saosod, Wiset Rd, Rawai, Phuket 83130. Tel: 09-2909967 (Thai) or 01-7471629 (English).

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# The good, the bad and the ugly

**D**echa Vanichvarod, Director of the National Economic and Social Development Board's Northeastern Office, in a recent report characterized the Thai wives of foreign men living in Isarn as follows:

"They are mostly typical Isarn women, with rather dark skin, quite strong and healthy and not the type to attract typical Thai men. They are not 'beautiful' according to Thai men, or among the good-looking women who normally head for jobs in the sex industry in Bangkok, Phuket or Pattaya."

K. Decha's study surveyed 15,284 *mia farang*, ranging from 20 to 52 years of age, in 19 provinces of Thailand's northeast, with most of the Thai wives hailing from Khon Kaen, Udon Thani and Nongkhai.

Most of the women, 69%, had been educated no further than Grade 6, while 80% had been married before, and many of them had children from earlier marriages with Thai husbands. More than 50% were from farming households and found they could not survive economically after breaking up with their husbands, the study found.

Most of the husbands are German, Swiss or British.

**Booming business behind bars:** Many of the 10,000 foreigners in Thai prisons are believed to be running crime networks from behind bars, said Corrections Department head Nattee Jitsawang.

Most foreign convicts had fled the authorities in their home countries to continue running their rackets in Thailand, and many of them are still running their gangs from prison, he told a Justice Ministry seminar.

K. Nattee said Chinese gangsters ran rackets trafficking Chinese women to Third World countries as well as protection rackets targeting Chinese living in Thailand.



**TEACHING AID:** A teacher in Yala loads his revolver before going out on the streets. More educators are arming themselves as attacks on police and other government officials continue in the Deep South. About 1,100 gun-carrying permits have been issued to public officials in Yala's Muang District since the violence began to escalate.

He added that Iranian criminals often targeted jewelry stores and banks while African criminals tend to run drug-trafficking rings. Russians and Germans had a preference for prostitution and drug rings in Pattaya, he said.

**Tuned in:** The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry will set up a panel, including members of the press, to investigate allegations that the ministry has been eavesdropping electronically on journalists' conversations.

The ICT Ministry's press room became the focus of controversy when journalists found two tiny microphones protruding through the room's ceiling, arousing suspicions that the ministry was eavesdropping on journalists' conversations.

National Human Rights Commission member Pradit Charoenthaitawee said that the

ministry should be held accountable. "Such an act is against the Constitution, which guarantees press freedom, and warrants legal action."

**X-rays expected:** Education Minister Adisai Bodharamik has proposed limiting the size of schools to a maximum of 2,000 students, and making it easier for teachers to attend to the pupils' problems.

K. Adisai said he believed that the ratio of pupils to teachers should not be more than 20:1, as overcrowded classrooms could create management problems and result in students becoming involved with vices such as drugs and gambling.

He said he expected teachers to "X-ray" students' families and know students' backgrounds and activities outside of school hours, adding that teachers have access to information about stu-

dents' families from information provided to the ministry.

**For the birds:** Random tests for bird 'flu will begin nationwide in July, Yukhon Limlaemthong, Director General of the Livestock and Breeding Department has announced.

The tests will also be used to determine whether smuggling of the bird 'flu vaccine was rife in Thailand. K. Yukhon explained that importers will not accept fowl vaccinated against the virus as many are concerned about a number of associated health issues.

If it is proven that smuggling is taking place, Thailand

risks being redeclared an epidemic area and culls could ensue.

**Death of a dictator:** Military strongman Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn died at the age of 93 of heart failure. The four-time Prime Minister and leader of one of Thailand's most corrupt and dictatorial regimes, Thanom was Prime Minister at the time of the 1973 popular uprising and the Thammasat University massacre on October 6, 1976.

Thanom, described by his critics as "democracy's worst enemy", consistently dismissed any responsibility for the 1976 incident and maintained that he did not give the order for the 1973 shootings, but strenuous efforts to clear his name in later years were largely ignored.

**Porn Class:** The Culture Ministry plans to submit to the Cabinet a rating system stating appropriate ages of viewers for what it deems pornographic material.

Dr Phanphimol Lortrakul, of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation and a supporter of the plan, said the rating system will be geared toward children and parents. Ratings will be based on content, language, violence, apparel of characters and amounts of sexual activity.

During the seminar in which the plan was announced, a researcher released a study that found that about 40% of senior primary students watched or read pornographic material, with boys preferring pornographic VCDs and girls favoring erotic cartoon books.

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

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# Oil find worries tourism industry

A survey conducted by the PTT Exploration and Production pcl has uncovered offshore oil reserves about 25 kilometers off Chumphon province in the Gulf of Thailand.

This is reportedly the nearest to the coast that oil supplies have ever been found in Thailand, and with oil prices very high at the moment the company has already begun shipping equipment down to the area, hoping to start tapping the supply by the end of next month.

The oilfield has been estimated to be capable of producing up to 9,000 barrels a day, all of which will be shipped north to a refinery at Chon Buri and sold to oil-thirsty Thai consumers.

The coast off Chumphon is largely unspoiled, however, and is a major attraction for divers from the nearby island of Koh Tao. Local observers are already expressing concern that an oil platform in the area could pose a serious threat to both tourism and the Thai gulf ecology.

**Restocking the Samui seas:** In sharp contrast to the above plans, and after much talk about the damage done to aquatic life in the waters off Koh Samui, the local government finally chose this month to start addressing the sorry state of affairs.

On June 5, 200 baby turtles were brought by the Royal Thai

Navy to the island named after them, Koh Tao, where they were released into the azure waters, much to the delight of local snorkelers and divers.

The turtle ceremony is an annual tradition on the island, but this year was extra special because it coincided with the establishment of a local association to preserve the humble and highly-endangered species.

Three hundred people attended the release, some of them pledging support for future conservation efforts. In the wild, turtles lay hundreds of eggs at a time to offset losses to their natural predators. Only one hatchling in 1,000 reaches sexual maturity under natural conditions.

It is hoped that good fortune will shine on Koh Tao's new population and that avaricious fisherman

will not be tempted to take advantage.

**No 'Samui Belly':** The Public Health Department recently paid a visit to Koh Samui in order to check bacteria levels and other quality indicators of items on sale at the local fresh markets.

The officials brought their own mobile laboratory to test the items on display, and took samples from 300 different types of food, including meat products, vegetables and fruit.

Many of the restaurants and hotels on the island buy their food from the local markets, and it is

## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander Sammy Swan



The creators of the first racing yacht built on Koh Samui celebrate its launch with one of the five monks who came to bless the craft and then went for a sail in it.

generally known that conditions at some are somewhat less hygienic than might be desired.

However, those who enjoy filling their stomachs without suffering from explosive diarrhea will be pleased to learn that not a single food product failed the test in terms of either its chemical toxicity or general cleanliness. This also suggests that anyone complaining of stomach upset is likely to be either a wimp or to have drunk too much local brew with their meal the night before. Clean food, does, after all, have a good taste.

**Samui yacht launch:** The first racing yacht to be built on Koh Samui was launched from Big Buddha Beach on June 10. Around 40 people were there to witness the event, including five monks from the local temple who blessed the boat and then went for a sail in her.

Several members of the local press were in attendance, as was Capital Television, which

filmed the launch for a feature on the Samui Regatta.

The star of the show, *Coco Blues*, is an eight-meter two-masted catamaran built to an Australian design. The craft features a retractable rudder and dagger boards along with other features that make it very easy to load onto a trailer.

This prototype was built by Coco Sailing, which has already ordered enough materials to build three more boats. The company hopes that this time round the Customs Department in Bangkok will not mistake the boat-building imports for weapons of mass destruction.

The advent of a local yacht-building industry on the island, as well as two new yacht charter operations and plans for a harbor in the south, suggest that the Samui Regatta has finally put Samui on the international yachting map.

**Travelling rambutans:** Every fruiting season, Surat Thani prov-

ince produces more than 200,000 tons of special "school" rambutans, the spiky red fruit famous throughout Asia for its sweet taste and succulent texture.

Such a large crop means that these exquisite tropical delights can be bought for a song at the local market, and that the farmers who toil in the fields to grow them are therefore only modestly rewarded for their efforts.

This year, the Governor of Surat Thani has come up with a cunning plan to increase demand, and therefore prices, by exporting the furry fruits to China. The red delicacies met rave reviews at a recent food fair in Kunming, and deals were struck to spread the word around the world's largest market.

Even Tesco-Lotus jumped on the fruit wagon, agreeing to stock Surat Thani-produced rambutans in 10 branches around the country. If all goes to plan, local farmers should soon be touring their fields in 4WD vehicles instead of dodgy old tractors.

**Runaway success:** The second annual island mini-marathon kicked off at 5:30 pm on June 6, with competitions in three distances: 5km, 10.5km and 21.1km.

The race started in Nathon and headed in the direction of Chaweng before turning back and returning to Nathon.

Different categories covered different distances along the route. It is estimated that well over 100 people took part in the race, although some took the event more seriously than others.

German triathlon champion "Mr Snowman", who was holidaying on the island at the time, took part in the 10.5-km event.

Mike Yantis from Samui's Red Bicycle took part in the 21.1-km category, and Rico from community magazine was seen taking part in the 5-km race.

Organized by the Ministry of Public Health, the event was a roaring success and looks set to be a fixed annual event on the island's sporting calendar.

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

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# This week



**THE CAR'S THE STAR!** Toyota Pearl Assistant MD Chaipat Na-Ranong (4<sup>th</sup> from left); Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura (center); Khunying Kanjana Na-Ranong (4<sup>th</sup> from right); Wichit Na-Ranong (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) Chairman and MD of Toyota Pearl respectively; and comely actress Woranuch Wongsawan (right) mark the Phuket launch of the Toyota Avanza with a hearty "Avanti Avanza!"



**DIN-KEY TUK-TUK!** Phuket leads the way in rubbish with the delivery of the first "recycling tuk-tuk". From left: Wipa Jantong, Chief Administrative Officer of Cherng Talay Municipality and her Phuket City opposite number, Wirun Hengsawas; Khunying Chodchoi Sophonpanich, President of the Thai Environmental and Community Development Association; Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising; and Sithi Tandavanitj, President of the Thai Hotels Association.



**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE:** Russians Sergey Szykh (left) and Oxana Lapotina celebrate their recent Thai-style wedding with friends at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club.



**A BIG JOB:** Phuket Square Co Ltd CEO Manit Udomkunnatum (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Power Line Engineering Public Co Ltd President, Swek Srisuchart (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) plus other senior executives from both companies celebrate the signing of an agreement for Power Line to take on the mammoth Jungceylon construction job.



**RINGING THE CHANGES:** Cementing closer links at the Royal Phuket City Hotel between AIS Smart Solutions and Silk Telecom Co Ltd are (from left) Panita Shinawatra, Director of the Office of SME Promotion; Samon Tirasathaporn, Senior Adviser of Silk Telecom; Suthisak Chuenchusin of AVT Enterprise Corporation; and Surasith Tirasathaporn, owner of Silk Telecom.



**HELPING THE OLD FOLKS:** Nonticha Tuaroy (left) accepts a donation to the Baan Pa Khlok Home for the Aged from Wanlapa Wongsanit of the Phuket Palace Resort earlier this month.



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By Anongnat Sartpisut

The epithet *Ying Lek* (Iron Woman) seems an inappropriate label for a woman of such grace and refinement as 36-year-old Nongnuch Dreist. The music she makes – vocally or instrumentally – seems at odds with allusions to toughness.

But under the grace, K. Nongnuch – manager of Baan Don Tri Thai Po Sangtabtim (P. Sangtabtim Thai Music House) on Chao Fa West Rd – has a core of strength and determination that manifested itself most notably in a series of contests against another top-notch singer of her generation.

“We sang against each other 20 times; I won 19 of those contests,” says K. Nongnuch demurely.

“Music is in my – and my family’s – blood. Many great Thai musicians – people who remain an inspiration to me – came from Pathum Thani, where I was born. I don’t think that I could have escaped music even if I had wanted to,” she says.

Her family has a reputation for playing music, and the strains of classical Thai music were a constant theme during her early years, K. Nongnuch says. “My grandparents had their own Thai music ensemble. I would go with them to weddings, funerals, any celebration. I absorbed the beauty of the music, and the way it affected the audience.”

She learned to sing *Preang Thai Deum* – Siamese classical music – from her mother when she was just five years old, and competed in her first singing competition when she was seven. She won.

“My mother taught me a number of useful practice techniques that I still use to this day,” says K. Nongnuch. “One technique involves shouting and singing into a glass or – even better – a wide-mouth bottle. It helps to develop the resonance and depth of the voice,” she explains.

“Another method is to begin singing very early in the morning – about 4 or 5 am is ideal. You feel tired, obviously, and there is no way your voice can be at its best. Therefore you must practice even harder to bring your voice up to scratch first thing in the morning,” she says.

One of her most abiding memories of her childhood is

# STEEL AND



Above: Nongnuch Dreist with sons Patrick, 9, who plays the *ranad eak* and *kim*, and Daniel, 5, who has just started learning music. Right: Apart from being a renowned singer, K. Nongnuch is also a skilled player of classical Thai instruments such as the *kongwong*.

competing in the Rattanakosin 200 Years Competition in 1982, acknowledged as the greatest ever *Preang Thai Deum* contest

“My father – the man I respect most in the world – and I both competed as part of our ensemble. We won, and I was so proud to have been able to honor him in this way,” she says.

Her life continued along the path of Thai music, and she won a place at Chulalongkorn University to study Fine and Applied Arts. Not surprisingly, she was the principal vocalist in the university’s Thai music band.

K. Nongnuch talks animat-

edly about meeting HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. “Chulalongkorn University has a founder’s day festival and a concert every year, and Her Royal Highness – a renowned musician – always takes part.

“It was my great fortune to practice and play with her, and even talk with her. It was a great encouragement and she impressed me tremendously. She even blessed us players by sprinkling holy water over us.”

But her parents are still her chief inspiration. K. Nongnuch says that, during every performance, she remembers her mother’s words. “She once told me, ‘Remember what you have been

taught. Remember the beauty of the music you are singing. Remember its history,’ and I do.

“Although a classical Thai singer ‘leads’ the rest of the orchestra, I often imagine myself as the only person on the stage and as the sole member of the audience. I’m probably my own greatest critic, and the hardest person to please,” she smiles.

“I have, perhaps, a gift, although I never forget that it was encouragement from my parents that helped me to achieve my level of success and proficiency. I don’t rest on my laurels, and I strive to improve with every performance I give, with every lesson I teach.”

K. Nongnuch explains that a key to being a good singer is emotion. “Singing uses the voice, but it

should come from the heart. My mentor, Ajarn Jarenjai Suntornwatin, told me, ‘If you need to communicate love, feel love. If you need to communicate sorrow, feel sorrow.’”

She admits that it can be quite draining emotionally to perform with such passion, but adds, “There are many singers who can be described as excellent techni-



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# SILK

cally, but there is no warmth, no feeling. They cannot communicate the true essence of the piece being interpreted."

When this true essence comes through, the music becomes universal in its appeal, she says.

In much the same way as Italian opera can move people who know not a word of Italian, or *Kabuki* those who know no Japanese, love for Thai classical music transcends language.

"Foreigners can be moved by a performance as much as Thais can be," says K. Nongnuch, whose ex-husband is from Germany.

She says she was "a little embarrassed" to learn that foreigners are teaching Thai classical music to Thais in Thailand. "We Thais should be able to take care of our national treasures better than this," she says.

But a renaissance may be in the offing, sparked by acclaim at home and abroad for the Thai movie *Homerong* ("The Overture") based on the life of famed Thai musician Luang Pradit Pairor.

K. Nongnuch says she opened Baan Don Tri Thai Po Sangtabtim, not for glory or profit, but because she realized that the standard of Thai musicians in Phuket was not on par with those in Bangkok.

"It's sad, but the expertise to teach Thai classical music has not reached the provinces. There are many children with the talent to succeed, but not the support," says K. Nongnuch.

"I want my school to be a *conservatoire* for Thai music, but not a museum. I want appreciation of it to grow."

She also fervently wishes to make Thai classical music accessible to everyone. "[Thai classical music] is one of our national treasures. Everyone should have

access to it, not just an élite. It can touch everyone's soul in the same way that it touched mine," she explains.

"I will never get bored with a pupil or give up on them. Teachers were once children, and they should remember how it feels to have had someone give up on them."

K. Nongnuch runs the school in addition to doing her "day job" as Head of Reception and Customer Service at the Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

"Thai music can be applied to my current job," she ventures. "Many doctors like to play music, and perhaps this could form the basis for a Thai music club on the island. I have even thought

that Thai classical music could be used therapeutically for hospital patients," she adds.

The potential benefits of Thai music reach out even further, she believes.

"Nowadays, many children have a short attention span. Thai music may help them. Meditation – or *samadhi* in Thai – helps you to focus and concentrate but can be difficult

for a child to master.

"The discipline of Thai music might be a good introduction to other forms of meditation and relaxation.

"Thai music, and the many interpretations of it, are continually growing both as art forms and as personal journeys for players.

"Play for love – not out of obligation – and remember never to stop learning," concludes Phuket's Iron Woman in Thai silk.

*Nongnuch Dreist can be contacted at Baan Don Tri Thai Po Sangtabtim, 21/10 Chao Fa West Rd, Tambon Wichit, Phuket or by calling Tel: 01-3969563.*

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): An affair of the heart looks like becoming more serious and Cancerians should distance themselves now if they want to avoid disappointing someone later. Stormy conditions at work prevail midweek; you are advised to play the game, but play it cool. July is the perfect time to launch new business ideas. The number 5 has special meaning on Monday.

69

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Most Leos are typical felines and don't believe in wasting energy. But it appears that you have been out on the tiles too often lately. Burning the candle at both ends could easily start to take its toll this week, so plan to spend some evening hours curled up on your favorite cushion. The color emerald will balance your energy.

♌

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Virgos often find changes their domestic situation are painful, but with events taking on a life of their own this week, uprooting is inevitable. Although you can regard this in a negative or positive light, astrological hints suggest that, all round, it will be an improvement. Taurus offers a trustworthy opinion on Tuesday.

♍

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Librans who prefer to work solo will discover that they need to rely on others to get an important job done this week. The coast is clear for progress to be made, so throw caution to the wind and expect a beneficial outcome. Pisces has spotted you out and about on the social scene and likes what he or she sees. The month ends on a high note.

♎

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): A sprinkling of sensual stardust adds a certain something to your life this weekend. Romantically-inclined Scorpions will find it hard to stay on the shelf for much longer. A midweek encounter with an old acquaintance gives

♏

## What do the heavens foretell?

rise to a new interest concerning work possibilities. Beware of absent-mindedness before Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): A wet and windy weekend could spur Sagittarians to stay at home and scrutinize their surroundings. If you spot room for improvement, then invest in some brushes and a few cans of paint – an injection of citrus tones would do wonders. If you have a garden, plant bushes with red flowers to encourage financial improvement.

♐

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A personal problem affecting you has been noticed by confidants and a workable solution will be offered if you care to listen. Swallowing your pride may cause hiccups, but sort this matter out sooner, not later. Don't immediately dismiss a suggestion offered in good faith. The color electric blue will sharpen your thinking.

♑

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Rough winds will shake most Aquarians this week. Monday will be a high point when a cash boost brightens you up, but expect a slight hitch midweek when a friend asks for your help. This could cost more than expected; make clear how far you are prepared to go. The number 6 will be interesting on Wednesday.

♒

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Pisceans need to be prepared this week when Lady Luck comes knocking at the door. Energy that you invested earlier in the year has been working on your behalf, despite the fact that you dismissed it as a waste of time. Once this project takes root not even the fastest growing jungle creeper will impede progress.

♓

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your smooth-talking ways make quite an impression on Sagittarius and an unexpected romantic response will come by the end of the month. Auspicious positioning of the planets makes for financial progress this week, but get a second opinion if legalities are concerned; everything is not as someone would have you believe.

♈

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Another person's words are sweet music to your ears, but slow your steps if you want to dance together. Taurus hungry for love should find ways to curb their appetite – exploiting your creativity is recommended. You will be right to doubt a promising offer made at work; the chances of it coming to fruition are shaky.

♉

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Treading a careful path this week will help you avoid slipping on the seaweed. In the middle of the week, Aquarius has a secret to share that will cause you to see your surroundings differently. A spicy romantic time is about to begin. Single Geminis will be irresistible, while those already involved will find themselves entering a new era in their relationships.

♊

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# In the lap of luxury

## Superyacht

### WATCH

By Dominic Stroud

Two of the most interesting superyachts currently in the limelight are both mega-sized sailing yachts.

The first is the gorgeous schooner *Athena* which was launched just a couple of weeks ago. At 90 meters in length it is the largest private sailing yacht ever commissioned.

Designed by Gerald Dijkstra, and built by Royal Huisman Shipyard in Holland, the all-aluminium yacht has been three years in the building.

Her looks are deceiving; her lines are those of a retro-looking schooner, yet underneath her skin she carries some of the most advanced computer systems in the world to handle her sailing plan. Most of the software was written by her owner, the talented Jim Clarke of Netscape.

As with his previous yacht, the more contemporary-looking 50-meter *Hyperion*, not only did he write the computer programs but he also took an active role at every stage of the yacht's development and construction.

For those of you interested in seeing *Athena*, go to [www.royalhuisman.com](http://www.royalhuisman.com) and click into the news section.

Almost as large, and scheduled to be on the water by early next year, is the Perini Navi yacht *Maltese Falcon*. Mentioned briefly in an earlier column, *Maltese Falcon* is now getting a lot of publicity and will surely be one of the most interesting yachts in the world.

Owned by Tom Perkins, former Hewlett-Packard executive and now hyper-successful venture capitalist, *Maltese Falcon* will be a truly astonishing sight.

The three-master will carry revolutionary Dyna-Rig rotating masts that can be turned 360 degrees to catch the wind from any direction, with "square rig" sails.



**FIRST CLASS:** No expense has been spared in the amenities aboard *Athena*, which include walk-in closet (right), a luxurious master bathroom (above) and even a humidor (below) to keep seagoing cigars in perfect condition.

In contrast to Clarke's *Athena*, which is finished in a classic style, *Maltese Falcon* will be furnished in a highly contemporary, almost minimalist manner.

Perkins is a committed "Perinista", having owned *Andromeda la Dea*, a beautiful 50-meter Perini Navi yacht aboard which he made several circumnavigations over the years.

Both owners are planning to challenge a number of sailing records as the yachts are expected to be among the fastest sailing yachts ever built.

To see more of the *Maltese Falcon*, go to [www.perininavi.it](http://www.perininavi.it). The site is in Italian, but finding the news section is not too difficult.

**The power of money:** What would this column be if it didn't have a report on some of the usual superyacht suspects? Roman Abramovich has just launched *Ecstasea*, the first yacht he has actually commissioned, as opposed to buying secondhand.

Last year, photos were secretly taken of this intriguing vessel being built at Feadship in the Netherlands. The yacht has a



highly flared bow and a huge gaping hole in the stern.

Insiders began to speculate that it was a high-speed yacht and the hole in the stern was to house an enormous gas turbine engine.

Low and behold, it turned out that the yacht was inspired by *Sussaro*, the high-speed Feadship Abramovich already owned.

At more than 30 meters longer than *Sussaro*, *Ecstasea* packs quite a punch in the engine department. Her regular engines are four diesels with a combined output of over 12,000 hp. That means she can toddle around at a comfortable, languid 20-something knots.

But when Mr Abramovich decides over breakfast in Langkawi that he would like a mid-

morning snack in Phuket, the captain presses the warp-speed button and engages the turbine for a grand total of 43,000hp.

Those of you following the Formula 1 season this year, one way of visualizing the power packed into *Ecstasea* is to picture 50 BMW-Williams F1 cars parked in the stern. The red lights are out, were off!

**Abramovich 2, Allen 0:** And closing with a dose of superyacht one-upmanship, Abramovich and Microsoftie Paul Allen just had a "showdown at the superyacht corral" and Abramovich appears to have been quicker on the draw.

Most of the world's rich and famous descend on the South

of France for two events – the Cannes Film Festival and the Monaco Grand Prix.

If you own a yacht worth showing off, it just *has* to be in the South of France and preferably at the Monaco Grand Prix as opposed to the film festival. (Real royalty as opposed to Hollywood royalty, perhaps?)

Knowing he had not been able to secure a berth in Monaco, Paul Allen decided to double his clout by bringing two of his yachts, *Octopus* and *Tatoosh*, to Cannes.

He was apparently a little peeved when watching the Grand Prix a week later to see, moored in the Monte Carlo harbor in prime position, Abramovich's *Le Grand Bleu* ... and lying next to it, Abramovich's *Pelorus*.

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# Making the most of 'unfair' situations

The concept of fairness is by far the most misunderstood feature of golf course design today. And, ironically, the golfer who complains that it's "not fair" is usually the low handicapper.

In my opinion, good players expect to conquer any challenge laid before them with a "standard" well-played shot (a powerfully flighted shot that stops soon after landing).

Weaker players, who can play a limited number of good shots, may feel deprived of the pleasures that follow the random spectacular shot unless it overcomes an impressive obstacle.

"Scratch" handicap players in particular get on their high horse over this issue because, I guess, the assumption is that they should be able to par every hole.

Of course a hole has to be playable by most golfers, but the assumption that all players should be able to play the hole in regulation par (if they play from the appropriate tees) is preposterous. Anyone who has taught beginners and senior citizens knows the folly of this idea.

Why should scratch players not be required to play a shot of the highest degree of difficulty every now and then when lesser-skilled players face this degree of challenge on nearly every hole?

The point was made wonderfully to me when I played in the annual Father and Son Four-some (alternate shots) Tournament at Porthmadog GC; my local "quirky" links in North Wales.

In earlier years, Dad had been holding our team together with his prodigious drives and steady short game. Although the



impressiveness of his drives had pretty much worn off by my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, on this occasion, several years later, the tables were cruelly turned on me as I had to play several second shots from places I hadn't seen in years.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> hole was normally a benign Par 4 of 328 yards: a drive-and-pitch birdie opportunity. However, a series of mounds created a veritable fortress across the start of the fairway, starting about 150 yards from the tee.

Dad's best effort stopped dead in its tracks on the upslope some 180 yards from a green surrounded by fierce pot bunkers and a gravel road behind. Over the road was somebody's garden and, inevitably, out of bounds.

I now had to hit a long iron to a bone-hard green with a cavernous pit in front and out-of-bounds behind. Holy cow!

I suppose I had been spoiled by the courses in the US and saw red at this "unfair" hole. My "perfectly played" shot hit the green and on its third bounce crashed through the hedge separating the golf course from private land.

Looking back, I realize I was doomed to failure from the outset, thanks to a poor attitude, but I will never forget the shot my dad followed up with.

He pointed out a small hump several yards to the right

of the green, and said. "If I can just get my ball slicing a little and bank it off the inside of that mound, to take most of the speed off it, we can still get a point."

With a picture of the shot so clearly etched in his mind, he landed the ball perfectly. It bounced once before angling off the hump, chased, slowed and finally came to rest a meter past the pin. Based on his hitting length and ability, this is still, to this day, one of the best shots I have ever seen.

So what's all this hoo-ha about fairness? One of my dad's greatest moments on a golf course came about in a situation I had slammed as being completely unfair.

Most players would agree that their favorite holes are the ones that throw up the challenge but can be overcome with commensurate shot-making skills. They tend *not* to be the ones that can be played easily, although an easy hole may be a favorite if it is gorgeous scenically.

This goes a long way to explain why par 3's are so popular with weekenders, more likely to be successful with a one-off shot, while top players tend to list long par 4's as their ideal holes. Pros consider a hole requiring two stout shots to get home as a true test of shot-making skills.

It is holes of this character, bordering on intimidating, that provide the satisfaction and keep us coming back for more ... and more ... and more.

Jon Morrow is a golf course design and construction consultant. Tel: 01-7284492. Email: jonmorrow63@hotmail.com



Kesine Keltaleng (blue) for NP1 and Tanyaporn Janpasert for NP2 (pink) battle in the air in the Women's Open final.

## Volleyball attracts national stars

SAPHAN HIN: Under the sometimes cloudy skies of Saphan Hin on June 19 and 20, more than 14 teams competed in the Phuket City Municipality Beach Volleyball tournament.

Kudos and cash – 10,000 baht for each winning team in the Men's and Women's Open categories – were up for grabs and the three Nakhon Panish teams, hailing from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, dominated the court throughout the weekend.

Women's teams Nakhon Panish 1 (NP1) and 2 (NP2) saw off all-comers before going head-to-head in the final.

The lead shuttled back and forth as often as the ball until the final five minutes when Team 1

– aided by former Thai national volleyball player Kesinee Keltaleng – took the lead for the last last time and held on to it, winning 21-15.

Nakhon Panish 3 won the Men's Open even though they were up against a couple of celebrities in the shape of Phuket 2's Sitthichai Prachanun and Chinnakorn Inntraphet, stars of the comedy film *Satree Lek* (Iron Ladies) – based on the true story of a winning volleyball team from Lampang made up of *katoey* players.

Although a close-run thing again until the final few minutes, Nakhon Panish 3 came out on top, winning 15-10.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

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# Bliss is being Shanghaied

Anyone vaguely in search of a metaphor for the new China need go no further than that “former Paris of the East” known as Shanghai. And anyone in search of a metaphor for the new Shanghai need look no further than its restaurants.

Forget anything so pedestrian as the Iron Rice Bowl. Western, Chinese, Japanese, fusion – and anything else you please – is being dished up with alacrity in a swathe of cool new eateries with interior décor trumped only by innovative menus, and where platinum credit cards rather than little red books are the hallmark of the new élite.

Possibly the best known restaurant in town, and one with a particularly prominent address alongside the Huangpu River, is M on the Bund, which serves up dishes with a fair dollop of style and flair.

A classy, inspired mix of chic and retro interior decoration perched atop an 80-year-old building, it's an ideal setting for Mediterranean-influenced cuisine. Or if you're not overly hungry, you can prop up the adjoining – not to mention dead trendy – Glamour Bar.

Cock of the Bund for a number of years, M is now facing serious competition from its next-door neighbor, the multi-storey Three on the Bund. Built atop Armani boutiques, an Evian spa and an art gallery, Three has added a quartet of trendsetting restaurants that perfectly encapsulate the spirit of new-millennium Shanghai.

Just how many of the one billion Chinese have heard of the “formidably gifted genius”, chef/ restaurateur Jean-Georges Vongerichten – who's responsible for Vong, Mercer Kitchen and Jo Jo – is moot. However, this is set to change with the opening of his French haute cuisine dining room, cellar and champagne bar here.

In the Whampoa Club, chefs Jereme Leung and Jason Zhao dish up modern Shanghaiese cuisine, aided by their very own tea sommelier.

One floor above, David Laris fulfils his lifetime ambition of having his self-named restaurant with a modern classic dining area and scrumptious seafood and caviar bar.

And on the topmost floor of Three, New Heights provides Asian and Western dining on an outdoor terrace while Third Degree has become the city's hottest bar and dance spot.

There's also a rather cute room in the cupola, seating just two and with glorious – and romantically inspirational – views down over the Bund. Bring her here and she'll have to say, “Yes!”

Not that the Bund is the only place to eat in Shanghai. Danieli's, at the top of the St Regis in Pudong, is an extravagant though not ultra-expensive Italian restaurant, while Yamazoto, at 288 Wulumuqi Nan Lu, is a very traditional Japanese experience – though definitely pricey at around US\$100 a head.

Xintiandi is Shanghai's specially-created nightlife area,

and one of its prime venues is Che, with tons of tapas, Cuban cigars, mojitos and a Cuban band thumping out the hits.

Another major feature of the Shanghaiese gourmet scene has been the transformation of former colonial mansions into restaurants.

In Fuxing Park, LKF at Park 97 comprises various dining rooms, cafés and lounges, all gloriously decked out in art deco.

And, of course, classic Chinese fare is a big deal here. Meilongzhen has several branches around the city, combining Szechuan and Shanghaiese flavors and cooking styles.

One thing's for sure – nobody with a wallet is going to starve in Shanghai.

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters



Top: Danieli's, atop the St Regis in Pudong, is an extravagant though not ultra-expensive Italian restaurant.



Right: A feast for the eyes – Prawns y Moros y Christianos at M on the Bund.

Below, the ultra-trendy Glamour Bar



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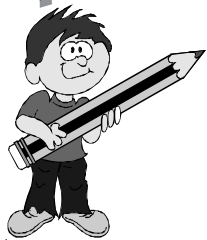
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# KIDS

## 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!!

Arriving home from work, Roger Dodger is just about to put his key in the the front door when he hears his wife Lizzie scream, "Fred, don't kill me!"

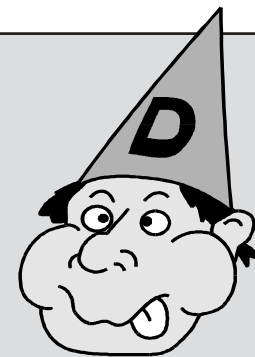
He rushes in to find Lizzie dead with a bullet wound in her chest. Standing around her body are a postman, a doctor, and a lawyer. Roger immediately knows the postman murdered Lizzie. How?

The doctor and lawyer are women. So only the postman could be called Fred.

### Answers to last week's Monster Quiz

1. Texas; 2. St Patrick; 3. 4 hours; 4. Larry King; 5. Electricity;
6. Utah; 7. Kiribati; 8. For refusing military service; 9. Anatoly Karpov;
10. Gerald Ford; 11. Phosphores; 12. Tagalog; 13. Skorpis;
14. Leo VIII; 15. Spike Milligan; 16. Rudyard Kipling;
17. George Bernard Shaw; 18. 21; 19. The Fibonacci Numbers;
20. Mu.

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. "Deep Throat" provided damning information on Richard Nixon to which newspaper?
2. Who had a pop chart success with *Super Trouper*?
3. How many aircraft did Baron Manfred von Richthofen shoot down?
4. Name the Beverly Hills home of Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford.
5. Who founded the Salvation Army?
6. By what name was Frances Gumm better known?
7. Where would one find the descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers?
8. To which group of islands do Herm and Lihou belong?
9. What is the capital of Slovenia?
10. Who, in 1965, first drove a car at more than 600 mph (1,080 kmh)?
11. Who ended Bjorn Borg's five-year domination of Wimbledon?
12. In which city was Islam founded?
13. Into which ocean does the Zambezi flow?
14. In what speech does the following appear: "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here...?"
15. Which male first name means "Will to protect"?
16. What did Elvis Presley do for a living before singing?
17. Which province is between Nakhon Ratchasima and Chanthaburi?
18. If Kermit was a frog, what was Fozzie?
19. In which video game did Princess Peach Toadstool first appear?
20. Name Ridley Scott's first feature film.

Answers next week.

## Never a Cross Word!

### Across

7. Emotion.
8. Copy a gorilla?
9. Close it to wink.
10. Norwegian capital.
12. Very funny.
16. Get ready for a photo.
17. Poll organization.
20. Possess.
21. Sunshade.

### Down

1. Proposal.
2. It determines your eye color, for example.
3. Made of zeroes and ones.
4. Did it precede the chicken?
5. Capital of the Bahamas.
6. Devil's helper.
11. Very strange.
13. Mad.
14. Ghostly spy?
15. Eve's temptation.
18. Scottish girl.
19. Where to take the waters.

### Solution to last week's Crossword



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# When nature has a sting in the tail

There is a wide variety of venomous sea creatures in the waters around Phuket. These use venom to help subdue prey or to ward off or incapacitate predators and competitors.

Those of us who dive and snorkel near Phuket have all been stung by jellyfish or soft corals at some time or another. You may not even see the jellyfish that gets you, however, as some are still in their tiny larval form and arranged in long chains.

In jellyfish and corals, toxin is stored in tiny needles called nematocysts. Each is located in a separate cell along the creature's tentacles. Most jellyfish stings are a minor nuisance. They may burn, sting or itch for a while, accompanied by a rash, but even without treatment they usually go away in a few hours.

Some jellyfish, however, are dangerous. Box jellies, especially the sea wasp (*Chironex fleckeri*), often kill when human victims are stung across the face, throat or in the area of the heart. Happily, sea wasps are very rare in the waters around Phuket.

Treatment for these stings requires hospitalization, as do those meted out by the Portuguese Man o' War. First aid should be given to any jellyfish sting by immediately pouring

white vinegar, rubbing alcohol, or household ammonia to the area of the sting. Do not rub the sting or wash with fresh water, as this can spread the venom.

The poison can often be neutralized by immersing the injured foot or hand in water as hot as the patient can stand, usually about 42°C.

Australia, which has a far higher incidence of jellyfish victims than Phuket, has developed anti-venin for the box jelly and sea wasp.

Sea urchins are also capable of injecting toxin, though usually only when stepped on. The tails of most stingrays have a barb on the dorsal surface; this also contains a moderately potent toxin.

With both rays and urchins, the stinger – either the spine or barb – must be carefully removed and the wound cleaned with alcohol or another antiseptic. This is because infection can sometimes be more serious than the effect of the toxin itself.

Fortunately, all of these poisons are designed to work best on cold-blooded animals and are not designed specifically to harm us. Our encounters with venomous marine animals are probably just as unwelcome to them as they are to us.

Several octopus species



## EARTH WATCH

By Robert Cogen

also have poisonous bites. Some of these contain neurotoxins and can be lethal.

All cone shells – a group of marine snails – carry darts. If you

pick up a live one and carry it to the surface, the snail will come part way out of its beautiful shell and try to stick its dart into the palm of your hand. Most species are mildly toxic to man, but a couple are quite poisonous and one or two can even be fatal.

Learn which ones are dangerous and do not remove them from the water. The shell may appear empty because the animal is deep within its coil.

All sea snakes have poison sacks along their upper jaws; their bites are dangerous and can sometimes be fatal. The poisons are a mixture of blood and neurotoxins.

Fortunately, of the 16 species found off Thai shores, only two are found around reefs and beaches. These two marine kraits are not aggressive. They will try to escape if cornered or grabbed by the tail; they rarely strike.

They allow swimmers to get close and watch the snake stalking prey among the corals of the reef. They may even come up to a diver and appear to look through his mask but are actually looking at their own reflection.

Note that all snakes are air breathers and must surface every few minutes to breathe.

Lionfish belong to a group of fish called turkeyfish. This group includes scorpion and

stone fishes. At the base of each dorsal spine is a small poison sac. If you step on one of these fish underwater or put your hand on one, it will stick you with its spines.

Pressure from your weight causes the poison to flow up the hollow spine and into you. All of the stings from these fishes are very painful and quite dangerous, but that of the stonefish is the worst. Immediate hospitalization and treatment may be necessary to prevent death.

All of these animals can be watched with safety from only a few centimeters away – except for some box jellies like the sea wasps that are known to swim aggressively swimmers and attack them. Enjoy, but be careful.

*Robert Cogen is a well-known California lawyer and a broadly experienced naturalist with a degree in zoology. Email: indepth@asis.com.*

## Eating can to loss

I've said it before and I'll say it again: breakfast is the most important meal of the day, whether you're trying to lose weight or gain weight. Sorry, that cup of coffee may have some great antioxidant benefits, but it's sadly lacking in every other component of what constitutes an optimal breakfast.

If you do eat breakfast, congratulations. Research has shown that people who eat a nutritious breakfast think more clearly, have more energy, usually do not have food cravings later in the day, and are less likely to have to battle to keep their weight down.

Eating breakfast has been shown to increase the metabolic rate by up to 25%, which is why most people report feeling better after eating in the morning.

Skipping breakfast means missing this boost to metabolism, leaving most breakfast-skippers feeling tired and sluggish.

High-fiber carbohydrates are the way to go. They will help you feel full longer than refined grains, since breakfasts rich in high-fiber foods are associated with increased alertness and feelings of satiety, which result in reduced calorie intake throughout the day.

According to one study, eating breakfast may also have beneficial effects on appetite, insulin resistance and energy metabolism; obesity and insulin resistance syndrome rates were reportedly 35% to 50% lower among people who ate breakfast every day compared to those who frequently skipped it.

So what is a good breakfast?

# The pros and cons of euthanasia

Veterinarian Dr David Sandwith, who has been working voluntarily at a sterilization clinic in Phuket, offers his thoughts on the differences between Buddhist and Western attitudes to euthanizing.

"Buddhism is a beautiful philosophy of respect and compassion to all forms of life. But when does the reluctance to end an animal's pain contribute to the same suffering that a compassionate heart strives to alleviate?"

"The philosopher William James said, 'There is no good or bad, only consequences.'"

I like to think that those consequences are shaped by the intention behind the actions. Each person has to decide for himself the best course to take."

Euthanasia when an animal is suffering and is beyond relief by other means is not, as a variety of scholars have assured us, contrary to Buddhist principles. The problem stems not from what the Buddha taught, but rather from popular misconceptions about his teachings.

There are vets in Phuket who will perform euthanasia when there is no alternative. Other vets will not end an animal's life under any circumstances. You should make sure you know your vet's stand on this issue.

A letter published in the same edition of the *Gazette* as Dr Sandwith's article advocated the mass extermination of all unregistered dogs. In many countries this is standard practice, although some are now reconsidering and in Phuket culling was stopped several years ago.

The problem with this approach is that no matter how many dogs and cats are killed, the fertile remainder will always breed rapidly up to the carrying capacity of the habitat, somewhere between becoming a public nuisance and suffering actual starvation.

The key to the humane control of strays is affordable or free neutering. This policy is already being practised in Phuket City by the local Livestock Office, and in the rest of the island by volunteers, who find the local population very supportive.

Kindness towards animals is a national tradition as well as



## MAKING TRACKS

By Top Dog

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# Just swallow your pride

This column is designed to transcend the baser instincts of lesser mortals, and is much appreciated among the more literary of the expat population, so I felt it was time to raise the bar and lift the lid on some amazing medical research being conducted in Pattaya.

Dr Pierre Sganarelle, Emeritus Physician at the No-Hands Relaxation Therapy Center and House of the Well-Hung Sun in Soi 6, took time out from his busy schedule to bring Pattaya residents up to speed on the latest exciting developments in medical science.

According to the good doctor, these developments will bring a new meaning to the word "excitement". The following interview was recorded in an informal

atmosphere as Dr Sganarelle continued his personalized form of research with a probing examination of a particularly attractive staff member.

**Streets of Pattaya:** What made you turn to medicine as your chosen career path? Was it a strong desire to help your fellow man? The need to use your undoubted intellect for the common good?

**Sganarelle:** Money. I wasn't very smart at school and I became a doctor in spite of myself. My parents were cattle farmers and my father got it into his head that I should become a doctor.

It is the best of professions; because no matter whether I am right or wrong, I am paid equally well. Once you get used to the blood, and carving bits off here, and sewing other bits up there, it's not too traumatic.

If you do happen to make a mistake, well, there's usually not much complaint.

**SOP:** But you didn't remain a simple physician. According to the reports, you became interested in fieldwork, which is what brought you to Pattaya.

**Sganarelle:** That is correct. Here, I was able to conduct some in-depth and very personalized research in my chosen discipline, and all without having to pack the stethoscope and don the rubber gloves.



## FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA

By Duncan Stearn

**SOP:** Just what is your chosen discipline?

**Sganarelle:** Human Sexuality. I wrote a number of dissertations on the subject that appeared in the more esteemed men's magazines: *Ribald*, *Wife Swappers' Monthly*, and *Marital Aids Guide*.

**SOP:** Do you think Pattaya was quite the right place for this kind of study?

**Sganarelle:** Are you kidding? This place is a million times better than studying amoebic life forms in Antarctica or carving loose bits off people suffering from Hansen's Disease in some mosquito-infested swamp in the tropics.

**SOP:** So, you consider Pattaya a prime location for people interested in the field of human sexuality?

**Sganarelle:** In case you hadn't noticed, Pattaya is like a giant petri dish. There's hardly a day goes by without me making some exciting new sexual discovery.

Forget the *Kama Sutra*, the Indians have nothing on the young ladies working in this town. I am a pioneer, a trailblazer.

Once news of my latest findings hits the world media, Pattaya is almost certain to become a hub of medical research.

**SOP:** That's what I came to ask you about. Can you be specific about your breakthrough research?

**Sganarelle:** Hey, you're buying the drinks. OK, in 2000, *The New England Journal of Medicine* published an article entitled "Ogling breasts makes men live longer."

Don't believe those who say the article was a hoax. My own findings support its conclusions.

I have spent many hours in the go-go bars on Walking Street studying mammary glands – that's tits to you. The number of men who have come to Pattaya looking like death warmed up, have spent weeks and months inside go-go bars, and now could probably run faster than the average Bangkok racehorse is amazing.

Another breakthrough involves fellatio. This is a subject I have had to research in some

depth. I have read most of the latest papers in the medical journals and can confirm their findings.

For example, a Professor Dekker, a maternal-fetal specialist at the University of Adelaide, has stated, "Oral sex makes pregnancies safer." You see, semen contains a growth factor that helps induce a mother's immune system to get used to her partner's sperm.

An Adelaide University fertility researcher, Dr Sarah Robertson, suggests oral delivery of a growth factor called TGFbeta, a key molecule in semen, can increase the number of natural killer cells that destroy the rogue cells that can give rise to tumors.

Robertson has suggested women may not have to swallow semen to gain these benefits, as cow's milk is an alternative source of TGFbeta. Of course she would say that. Spoilsport.

**SOP:** I believe you still do the occasional consultation?

**Sganarelle:** Yes. I generally deal with the local lasses and use the knowledge I've gained from the medical journals and my own empirical findings to give them what I consider appropriate advice: "Take a decent gobful and call me in the morning if you're not feeling bright and chipper."

It sure beats the hell out of asking some guy to bend over, drop his strides and cough lightly.

## be the key of fat



### Fitness FANATIC

By Joe and Pensri Lewis

Try a bowl of fiber-rich, whole-grain cereal with non-fat milk or calcium-fortified soy milk and served with your favorite fruit.

One of my favorite 6 am meals is instant oatmeal with nonfat high calcium milk and half a tablet of Equal sweetener. I nuke this in the microwave for two minutes and then sprinkle it with cinnamon, raisins, apples chunks or banana slices.

I enjoy this with a side dish of low-fat yogurt. It usually lasts me till 10 am, at which time I eat a healthy mid-morning snack.

If you are trying to lose weight, it is extremely important that you eat breakfast and – if possible – have just a light meal in the evening.

If you are not currently a "breakfast type" person, try to change. The adjustment may take some time – but it will be well worth the effort.

Pensri & Joe Lewis are fitness and equipment consultants at Fitness R Us. Tel: 09-8663736 Email: jlewis@loxinfo.co.th.

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## Learning from the apprentice

One thread that ran right through last week's talks in Port Blair between a Phuket delegation and their counterparts in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands was concern for the environment.

It is clear that a much stronger pro-environment lobby exists in the Andamans than in Phuket. Granted, some lobbyists have extreme ideas – the initial reaction by some NGOs in the Andamans that a connection with Phuket would automatically mean a flood of sex tourists followed by a wave of HIV infections, was over the top. But it did demonstrate the depth of local feeling toward the prospect of tourism and, in particular, mass tourism.

If the Phuket model of tourism is to be exported to the Andamans, then the NGOs are probably right to worry. The *Gazette* recently received from *National Geographic Traveler* the comments of some of the experts involved in the magazine's survey that branded Phuket, as a tourist destination, as "getting ugly".

The comments make sobering reading. One respondent remarked, "Over-exploited – where did Thailand go?" Another branded Phuket as, "Very poorly developed. Environment degrading rapidly." A third remarked, "Environmental disaster. Social integration under severe threat. Aesthetics disappearing."

The most telling comment addressed the attitude of many in the tourism industry in Phuket: "With the current tourism climate of 'sell first – value later', things aren't going to get any better in Phuket."

The Andamans, however, do not yet have a mess to clean up. In fact, if careful plans are laid and good regulation is backed by solid enforcement, then they won't have a mess. The Andamans even have a good model they can follow, developed for another group of islands in the Indian Ocean.

This model is the Maldives, which has made a point of targeting only the wealthy end of the tourist market as a way to control the numbers of people coming in. The islands are exclusive, attracting visitors with plenty of money. Strict enforcement of regulations helps to ensure that the environment and local cultures are not destroyed.

Indeed, this is a model that Phuket might have aspired to before 1997, an aspiration that was dashed by the crash in the value of the baht that suddenly made the island affordable to most of the world's tourists.

That chance was missed, but perhaps Phuket can, by listening to the people of the Andamans (rather than telling the Andamans how to develop tourism), learn useful lessons and save itself from a fate worse than the one it is suffering now.

– The Editor

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## 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.

### Warm reception for helmetless visitor

My friend was kind enough to lend me her family's motorbike during my brief visit to the island. On my second night I parked on Montri Rd in Phuket City and placed the helmet in the basket, only to return minutes later to find the helmet had been stolen.

I drove the 100 meters back to The Metropole hotel, praying that the police were not conducting a checkpoint at the roundabout.

Since it was about 11 pm, all of the helmet retailers were closed. My plans for a night on the town were in serious jeopardy as I couldn't don the required cap.

To the rescue came Metropole receptionist Kanlaya "Noi" Suwanno. She quickly arranged for me to borrow the helmet of fellow employee Winai Matchawes so I could enjoy the evening and observe the law.

Many thanks to K. Kanlaya and K. Winai for helping this former Phuket resident in his time of need.

As for the helmet thief, I can only hope he gets a flat half-way up Patong Hill on a stormy night.

Laurance Cohen  
Chicago, USA

### Diving down into an alphabet soup

I found your recent article, "New Realities for the Dive Industry", [Inside Story, *Gazette* issue of June 19-25] very confusing. It seems that PADI is in jeopardy, and under threat from local

CMAS-affiliate CTDA. And what about the old standbys like NAUI, SSI and Germany's IDA?

I fear that if this trend continues, Phuket's diving industry will become more convoluted than professional boxing, with its WBC, WBA, WBO and IBF. What do the DOCT and PTA have to say about all this? If something isn't done soon, I am going to hang up my BCD ASAP.

Somchai Huasaikul  
Samkong

### High time to stamp out postal rudeness

It was great to see the Post Office is getting some flak for its poor service [*Gazette*, issue of June 19-25]; it's about time.

Thais are among the nicest people I have had the privilege of meeting but the staff at the post offices in Rawai and Phuket City are something else. Whenever I have had to deal with them they have been dismissive, ignorant or downright rude – or all three.

I shall applaud when these people remember, or are forced to remember, their manners.

James Tancred  
Jersey

### Highway authorities take pragmatic road

As one drives into Phuket City along Thepkasattri Rd, past the Wor Kor intersection, one comes to the end of the central divider, just before Wat Kosit Wiharn.

Despite a sign forbidding drivers from doing U-turns, this

has long been a favorite place for doing just that.

Now, however, there is a new clutch of blue signs advising drivers who plan to make a U-turn at this point to move into the right-hand lane. Yet close to the end of the divider there still stands the old sign banning U-turns.

Let us applaud the authorities for their pragmatic approach to signage: one sign laying down the law and others advising one of the safest way to break it.

Phuket seems to have taken the unique – and honest – step forward of acknowledging that the rules of the road are meant to be broken.

Ulysses Yootoen  
Phuket City

### An unhealthy trend in the health hub

At the risk of being branded a ghoul, do I detect a shift away from Phuket being the "Health Hub of Asia", toward acting as God's waiting room, from which increasing numbers of broken-hearted tourists take their leap off this mortal coil?

In the past three months, according to the *Gazette*, there have been three suicides in the island's hotels. Who is the next special adviser the governor will appoint? Dr Jack Kervorkian?

The number of suicides among Thais is an unknown quantity but it's plain that services to cope with depression are sadly (I use that word advisedly) lacking in Phuket.

Paradise plainly comes at too high a price for some.

Major H Scobie  
Mai Khao

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.



I think this trend [politicization] will result in conflict more than anything else. I don't blame the current administration for their affiliation, but their local policies need to be clear and distinct [from national political platforms].

The problems may not be evident now, because we are still operating under the 2004 fiscal budget prepared by the last *OrBorJor*, but when the new budget goes into effect on October 1, it will become apparent.

I have always said that local administrations should not get caught up in [national] politics.

One of the duties of the central government is to make extra funding available for necessary projects [as determined by local people].

But in the current political climate I don't think there will be any ministers brave enough to get caught in the crossfire of making extra funds available [to an openly Democrat *OrBorJor*], so I think we will have to manage within the normal budget and not expect to get any extra budget assistance.

If the *OrBorJor* administration comes into conflict with or opposes national government policies or initiatives, I believe the government will try to bypass it and transfer funds directly to municipalities, tambon administration organizations, or directly to the province through the CEO governor.

I haven't seen any examples of conflict between the *OrBorJor*

## FIRST PERSON

When the dust finally settled and the Election Committee approved all the results of last Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) elections in March, former Democrat party list MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr took up her post as *OrBorJor* President, backed by a council dominated by Democrats.

The result is that Phuket is now divided, with a staunchly Democrat *OrBorJor* and a CEO governor appointed by, and taking orders from, the ruling Thai Rak Thai party. Some observers have dubbed the current political stalemate as "One Province-Two Governors" and wonder if anything can be achieved in such a political climate.

Businessman and Phuket native Wisut Santikul, 50, was Deputy President of the last *OrBorJor*, but ran unsuccessfully for the presidency this year as an independent candidate. Here, he explains why he believes the national politicization of Phuket politics will likely cost the island in terms of development.

He calls on both the Governor and K. Anchalee to put the needs of the Phuket people ahead of national political agendas.



# The danger of national politics

and [the Governor] yet, but one example [of bipartisanship] is over the siting of the International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC).

The *OrBorJor* wants the ICEC to be located at Mai Khao [in the north of the island], but Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has just suggested Koh Maphrao as a location.

Personally, I think the ICEC should be downtown [at the Saphan Hin site supported by the

central Government and the Tourism Authority of Thailand], because all the major convention centers I have visited around the world have been located in downtown areas with good access to shopping.

I would really like to tell K. Anchalee: "Forget your political affiliation and don't view every issue through the prism of your Democrat party membership."

"I don't blame you if like your party and want to support

it in private, but if you really want to take care of Phuket and give something back to the local people, you should not do it in the name of the Democrat party.

"You should separate your roles, just as the Governor does not always have to follow the [Thai Rak Thai] party line to work for Phuket."

I still like politics and if I have a chance, I will volunteer to develop my home province in

four years' time [when the next *OrBorJor* elections will be held].

I would like to see Phuket administered by one organization that reflects local people's vision; we are a small province and have our own unique needs.

I still want to represent all Phuket people and anybody can contact me directly at wisut1954@hotmail.com or by fax at 076-238118.

– Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

## Karaoke turns paradise into a little piece of hell

I live in beautiful, peaceful Nai Thon. Peaceful, that is, until recently. The restaurants and other establishments are usually closed for the low season, but the open restaurant next to my house just started a karaoke business and it goes on till 2 am.

Requests to turn down the volume fell on deaf ears; instead it was turned up. I could not sleep because of the noise.

The second day, I asked them to turn the volume down, or to move the karaoke machine into a room, or build a room to contain the sound.

They turned it off for a while, but turned it on again full-blast in the afternoon till, at about 9 pm, I had to call the police.

A policeman came at about 9:30 pm and spoke to them in private, and then left after telling them to stop. Out of spite they turned on the karaoke jukebox again for a while, and I called the police again. No one came.

The main police station at Tah Chat Chai, which I contacted, told me to make an official report the next morning, which I did. But the report [as written by the police] was light and weak, only noting where I lived, that a

karaoke had opened next door, and that it was noisy and disturbed me. That was it.

It did not include mention of the fact that the operators of the karaoke tried to extort 20,000 baht from me to pay for a room to contain the noise, or a nightly payment not to turn the machine on. It was either that, I was told, or move out of my house.

Nor did the report mention that the operator of the karaoke carried a gun, and that I was worried about my safety and that of my dogs and my vehicles.

My landlord has tried to speak to the village headman and to the owner of the restaurant. So have we. Can nothing be done?

It happened again a couple of nights later, and when they saw my car pull up, the operator immediately stood up and lowered the volume. I have pictures, sound and video over two days. I called the police in Tah Chat Chai again and they said they would send an officer from Sakoo. No one came.

I am beginning to think that the law is weak, that the police are friends with these people, and that not irritating other people outranks everything – except

when it comes to getting on with one's neighbors.

I cannot come home every day to this racket and awful singing, the popping of microphones and the feedback from the loudspeakers.

I am at my wits' end. Please advise me if I have any rights, and what the legality of a karaoke joint like this is.

H2O Dragonfly  
Nai Thon

**Visuth Romin, Lawyer at the Dumrongtham Center, replies:**

Residents who suffer from noise from entertainment businesses can call the Dumrongtham Center in Phuket City at Tel: 076-211102 or 076-354654.

**The Phuket Gazette notes:**

A karaoke bar is supposed to meet four main criteria before receiving a license:

- It must have a glass door to contain noise;
- It must have separate toilets for men and women;
- The karaoke machine must be shut off at 1 am;
- There must be a sign over the entrance stating that anyone under the age of 20 is barred.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

## Disappearing camcorder

At 4 pm on May 7 a promotional flyer for a sale at the Courts store was put into my home mailbox. The sale, it said, would run from May 8-21.

What caught my eye was two Panasonic camcorders reduced to 19,990 baht for the first two lucky customers.

At 6 pm I went to the store to ask what time they would open the following day and what department would be selling this item. I was told the camcorders were already sold. Can you find out what happened?

Daren Chesney,  
Kathu

**Marisa Rodkeaw, Courts Phuket Manager, replies:**

Between May 1 and 7, we had a promotion featuring a JVC mini-DVD camcorder, which looks very similar to the Panasonic camcorder. Possibly staff misunderstood, thinking you were talking about the JVC camcorder, and told you that it was already sold out.

The Panasonic camcorders could not have been sold out on May 7, because the promotion did not start until May 8.

If you have any further questions please call me at Tel: 076-261441.



# Ultimate horror: farang bloodsucker in Bangkok

Jim Newport's *The Vampire of Siam* (Asia Books, Bangkok, 2003, 184pp) is Grand Guignol entertainment about a modern-day vampire amok on the streets of the City of Angels. There only question to ask: "Does it entertain?" It does.

Martin Larue lives lavishly in Bangkok with his girlfriend Daeng on a very well-endowed trust fund:

"It seemed that his only real problem was answering the question: 'What do you do?' Travel for travel's sake wasn't a satisfactory answer to most who asked. So he had taken his fondness for cinema and his connections at the *Bangkok Times* to their logical conclusion. He was a 'film critic' for the paper's weekend supplement. This gave him easy access to cushy press passes at obscure film festivals in mountain resorts around the globe. . . That was the plan, and Lord it was working beautifully."

Until, that is, his editor orders him to accompany Pol Lt Col Boonsong on his nightly rounds for a human interest

story. "I have no interest, human or otherwise, in delving into the muck and mire of Bangkok in the back of a police car," Larue replies haughtily. But then he reconsiders: "After all, his existence had become jaded, and he was in the mood for a new kick."

Late on his rounds with Col Boonsong, they happen upon the naked corpse of a young Patpong bargirl spread-eagled on a tomb in a Silom cemetery, her face wreathed in ecstasy. A little research in the archives reveals her to be the fourth victim found splayed on that same tomb over a period of 10 years. Larue finds himself on the track of a serial killer.

Having written a 2,000-word expose about the killer and suspected police corruption, Larue hires a German bodyguard named Hans for protection. Then, one night outside his apartment building: ". . . he heard a very strange gurgling sound from Hans. When he turned, he found that Hans was minus his most distinguishing feature - his large German head."

And there, standing with a serrated

knife and Hans' severed head in his hand is the yellow-eyed Ramonne.

Ramonne Delacroix, born in 1825, was bitten by a vampire in Angkor Wat on Henri Mouhot's 1860 voyage up the Mekong. He now lives in a crypt under Lumpini Boxing Stadium, venturing forth at night to feed on his victims with impunity as he pays protection money to none other than Col Boonsong.

Larue is quickly under Ramonne's physical and mental spell. Ramonne whisks him to the Brown Sugar jazz club on Soi Sarasin where, in the company of the vampire, everything is mysteriously transformed: "The music drifted up to the second floor and intoxicated Martin.

The café, which he had frequented on numerous occasions, seemed fresh and new and *wonderful*. The faux Tiffany lights cast a warm glow, the soft hues of the fabrics adorning the tables blending with the collage of posters on the walls. The food aromas mingled with the perfumes and colognes ... *totally and utterly intoxicating*. It was a sensuous den of

earthly delights and Martin reveled in it."

Ramonne's original intention was to drown Larue in Raja Lake, but he relents when his victim reveals that he has a trust fund of 20 million dollars. "Twenty million US?" asks the vampire.

They continue their strange crypto-friendship and Larue hands over

chunks of his fortune to Ramonne. Ramonne in turn transports Larue mentally to heights of sensual pleasure. The badinage between them is often entertaining despite the vampire's mounting atrocities.

That's as much as I'm going to reveal of the plot. The story is told cleverly enough, except for a major blooper toward the end. Larue and an young American accomplice, armed with a shotgun, head to the Silom cemetery for a showdown with the vampire. But when they arrive, suddenly they don't have the shotgun in their hands but it's inside a mausoleum instead. No explanation for that, except perhaps authorial haste.

Good for nibbling on the beach.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# Paradise espied – and then denied

Gather round, for I have a tale to tell of a holy vision that I have seen. I have climbed to the top of the mountain and seen that a vast sea lies beyond.

In the sea is a small island of unfathomable beauty and joy. I have witnessed a revelation that would shake mere mortals to tears. Hosanna!

For on this small island, for one fleeting moment, the TT&T/CAT ADSL connection pegged 1.3 million bits per second. It's true, I tell you, it's true! For I have seen it with mine own eyes. Doubting Thomases among you, shed your cynicism, and praise the glory of all that is holy. I have seen the land of milk and honey, and (ICT) Paradise is upon us.

Well, it *was* upon us. For about two hours, starting about 9 pm on a recent Saturday, the "premium" 2,650 baht-per-month 2 Mbps TT&T/CAT ADSL service delivered a real, measured 1.3 Mbps. I managed to snap a screen shot of the historic occasion (albeit at 1.172 Mbps), and I publish it here for posterity.

Two hours later, the line was down again.

I haven't had too many (near-) religious experiences in my short life, but this certainly ranks as one of them.

The Internet zipped by. Web pages flew up on the screen, and clicking on a link yielded an answer in seconds. The research I had to complete for my next book (yes, I work on Saturday

nights) took minutes instead of hours.

And therein lies a story.

I've been working for the past two months on an update to *Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*.

It'll hit the stands in conjunction with Windows XP Service Pack 2, most likely in September, but possibly in October.

Service Pack 2, in its current incarnation, is a snarly beast, and I wasted days struggling with pieces that just don't work. My lifeline (indeed, every author's lifeline) is the Internet.

Some computer people need the Internet to get work done. It's like "normal people" (I use the term advisedly) and electricity: if I don't have Internet service, then I'm dead in the water.

I might as well just grab my swimsuit and come back in an hour. Or a day. Or two. All of this with hellish deadlines from my editors in New York.

My on-again, off-again TT&T ADSL connection put me through the wringer, then wrapped me back for more. Every time it went down, I had to completely re-configure my network for dial-up access – and in SP2 that's no small feat, given the obligatory firewall on every PC, and the major differences between XP SP2's Internet Connection Sharing and working through an ADSL modem.

The "net" result? I lost so much time trying to save time with the fast Internet connection that I gave up. A dozen times.



Paradise: My ADSL connection actually clocked 1.172 Mbps for a couple of hours.

Each time, I tried a new dial-up alternative. Here are my notes:

I approached the super-cheap, always-on 15-day "Shark Byte" package from JI-Net with great fear and trepidation. My relationship with

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

JI is, uh, strained, since they continue to bill my credit card for an ADSL contract that I canceled three times (in writing, with all forms submitted as required, can you tell I'm ticked off?).

Still, Shark Byte was the cheapest always-on connection I could find, and I decided to give them a try.

The local "076" access telephone number didn't work but there is a recording, in Thai, that says the number doesn't work.

I dialed the 1222 number, expecting horrible service – and I was amazed.

My connection stayed up for 12 hours or more at a stretch. The speed's nothing to write

home about, 15 Kbps or so, slowing significantly in the afternoons and on weekends – but that's about par for the course.

When the 15 days on Shark Byte ran out, I decided to try the cheapest by-the-hour package I could find, something called E-Go, which works out to about 10 baht an hour. Man, what a mistake. I dialed the 1222 number, and spent the next day battling dropped lines, incredibly slow speeds, and unexplained freezes. E-Go, uh, E-Went as quickly as I could get an alternative.

The alternative? CS/Lox-info Webnet. It's still the most expensive dial-up package (750 baht for 63 hours), but it works, and it works well. The speed isn't considerably faster than Shark Byte – 15 to 20 Kbps – but it's reliable, and I can continue to use the time I bought for up to a year.

Yes, I'm back to using TT&T/CAT. For today, anyway.

When the line goes down – on average once a day or more – I try to do something else for an hour, and when I come back it's usually working again. But sometimes the outage goes out for hours – not exactly the kind of reliability those working on strict deadlines would ever seek out.

Some day, my brothers, Phuket will get fast, reliable, always-on Internet service, and we shall all sip from the same enlightened cup.

Hallelujah!

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

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# Phone firms scramble to boost client base

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET: The race is on between the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) and rival TT&T to get as many Phuket customers hooked up before the telecommunications industry becomes deregulated in 2006.

The Phuket branch of the TOT is currently gearing up to attract more customers by ex-

tending its coverage on the island and offering cheaper high-speed Internet access through ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) connections over normal telephone lines.

The TOT Phuket branch received a boost earlier this month when it received a 128.68-million-baht budget to install 19 exchanges serving 8,100 new lines. TOT Phuket Chief Pairoj Somsri explained, "We already have 40,676 numbers in 13 exchanges, which we will increase by 8,100 new numbers and 19 new exchanges, which will be operational by October 27."

He added that he expects TOT to have 80% coverage of Phuket in the first half of next year, with 18 more exchanges, serving a further 11,430 new numbers, being installed.

TOT Phuket is also spending large on developing its In-

ternet access services to attract more customers. "We are now testing our 288 ADSL ports in Phuket City and Patong. We will expand that number to 5,000 ports across Phuket, at a cost of more than 90 million baht. We are working on expanding bandwidth and are looking to launch in July."

K. Pairoj explained that the drawback for customers will be competitive prices, with rates of 500 baht a month for 256 kilobytes per second (kbps) download/128 kbps upload speeds, 700 baht a month for 512/256 kbps, and 1,000 baht a month for a 1024/256 kbps connection.

Acknowledging that the TOT's ADSL pricing follows TT&T's similar cost-cutting deals launched late April, K. Pairoj said that the TOT's competitive advantage will be its quality of service.

"Meeting customer demand is the TOT's first priority. It is not straight-out competition between TOT and TT&T; it depends on customer satisfaction, which means fast and reliable service."

He added, "I don't want to compare TOT's and TT&T's ADSL service. That should be judged by the users."

Tarathorn Kittivipass, Customer Service Manager at TT&T's Phuket branch, explained that TT&T Phuket is already well under way in expanding its services to attract more customers.

"We have about 40,000 numbers with 20 exchanges, and we launched our ADSL services in Phuket on April 23. We now have 600 ADSL ports in Phuket."

"We will increase the number of exchanges to 34 with a to-

tal of about 2,000 ADSL ports in July. We can add more ADSL ports in each exchange later."

TT&T's true competitiveness, he said, lay in its ability to compete on a much restricted profit margin. "TT&T now has to pay 43% of its gross income to the TOT [as agreed under its concession]," K. Tarathorn said.

"When free competition comes and after the National Telecom Commission opens up the market, we will save 43%."

"That is almost a 100% increase in budget, which will allow us to use better technology, and offer more services and promotions. Then people can decide [which firm to use] based on prices."

"We have learned to live on 57% income for a long time – that is our strength. It will definitely be better when we have that other 43% of our income."

## On the Move

**Patchalin Pinthong**, 33, from Bangkok, has been appointed Sales Manager – Corporate Accounts at the Cape Panwa Hotel. She has a degree in communication arts from the Rajabhat Institute Bansomdejchaopraya, and more than 12 years' experience in the hospitality industry. Prior to joining the Cape Panwa Hotel, K. Patchalin was a Sales Executive with the Sofitel Silom Bangkok hotel.



Songkla native **Cheurchan Panvikarn**, has been appointed Mar-

keting & Public Relations Manager of the Property and Health Co Ltd (Bukitra Property). A graduate of the Education Faculty of Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, she previously worked as PR Manager of the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel in Phuket City for eight years.



**Kotchamon Khamrat**, 33, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, has been appointed Front Office Manager of the new five-star boutique resort at Kata Beach, the Aspasia Phuket. She graduated in business education at the Rajabhat Institute Phuket and previously worked at The Allamanda at Laguna Phuket.



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

## Not firing on all G8 cylinders

The G8 countries – the US, Canada, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia – form one of the most exclusive clubs in the world. However, at the recent summit in Georgia, they decided to allow China and India to join, in recognition of their growing economic importance.

The G8 commented that, overall, the global economy was growing well, albeit with one notable exception: the European Union.

The reality is that Germany and France are both in economic trouble, with Germany in the more serious position. Many pundits cite the reunification of East and West Germany as the genesis of its current problems. Reunification was not an economic blessing for the former Federal Republic of Germany, which used up much of its monetary capital in the process.

However, the real problem lies in the unholy mix of policies introduced by successive governments, and trade union power.

It was good to see Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's party suffering its worst electoral results in 50 years in the European elections. His much-vaunted economic reforms are receiving the contempt they deserve.

Schröder and President

Jacques Chirac of France have barracked the European Central Bank (ECB) to reduce interest rates. The ECB has consistently stated that interest rates are not the problem. The fault, it says, lies with Germany and France, which must restructure their economies.

Someone within the EU has at last had the courage to break ranks and speak out. Frits Bolkestein, the EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, stated that he feels that the economies and policies of France and Germany resemble those of the '60s or '70s.

He describes the French government's policies as "interventionist", particularly in light of the proposed takeover of a French pharmaceuticals company by a Swiss firm, and troubled industrial group Alstom.

The French government intervened in the pharmaceuticals deal because it wanted ownership of the company to remain French.

Alstom, meanwhile, has enjoyed having the French government act as guarantor for loans. Paris also interfered in an arrangement between Alstom and German group Siemens.

These actions are all the more extraordinary when one remembers that the current French administration is supposedly run by a center-right political group.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

It is hardly surprising that only 14% of the French electorate bothered to vote in the recent European elections.

**Good advice?** Towry Law International – a well known group of financial planners for expats, recently announced that, in light of difficult market conditions and following a strategic review, it will close the operations of Towry Law International (TLI) to new business.

TLI's clients have reason for concern. It is a reality that once a company has closed for new business, the whole operation is in question. It may well be that the existing operation will be sold, but that is an unknown at the time of writing.

Clients of TLI should not be concerned about their investments as such; these will have been placed with financial insti-

tutions. It is rather a matter of continuing advice and investment allocation – or the lack of either.

Should any readers have problems in this area, I welcome their telephone calls. Each case is unique and it is impossible to help everybody but I will assist wherever possible.

**Cold shoulder:** My wife advises me that she has met several people who stated that they have received cold calls by phone from me trying to obtain business.

I do not believe that anyone is impersonating me. Perhaps people have seen my *Gazette* articles and, when they receive a phone call relating to financial planning, they assume it is me.

I never make telephone calls to obtain business; I do not believe that it is appropriate. All my business comes from people contacting me.

*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](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th).*

## VITAL STATISTICS: MOTORBIKE SALES FALL; CARS, PICKUPS RISE

Type of vehicle	May 03	May 04	% change
Cars with capacity for no more than 7 people	387	458	18.35%
Cars with capacity for more than 7 people	14	9	-35.71%
Pickup trucks	183	307	67.76%
Motorcycles	2,471	2,434	-1.50%
Taxis	0	0	0%

Source: Phuket Provincial Transportation Office



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Pickups are still excellent value in Thailand, thanks to the generous tax breaks offered to buyers of these practical semi-commercial vehicles.

Although a great variety of pickups exists – the most popular being from Toyota, Mitsubishi and Isuzu – a good alternative is the Nissan Frontier, a clean, stylish utility vehicle.

Even the top-of-the-range model, complete with a high-torque three-liter engine, four-wheel drive and full leather interior, will set you back only 785,000 baht. Not bad for a powerful luxury vehicle, even if it is a truck.

Nissan has been something of a basket-case company in recent years, or it was until Brazilian-born Carlos Ghosn – chairman-designate of parent company Renault – arrived on the scene when the French auto maker acquired control of Nissan in 1999 by taking a 36.8% share for around \$5.4 billion. This was subsequently upped to 44.4%, while Nissan now owns 15% of Renault.

Ghosn was appointed chief executive of the Japanese company in 2002. He promptly set about divesting the brand of most of its non-core activities, shutting plants, selling previous acquisitions and generally moving through Nissan as an extremely effective “hatchet man”.

Ghosn also set about unraveling the tangle of assorted non-core Nissan companies. So large was this web of cross-shareholding that many Nissan executives were unaware that the com-

pany had made huge investments in a staggering 1,394 other businesses.

Economies of scale were an unknown at Nissan. Renault discovered that its new acquisition produced 26 different platforms (the basic underpinning of a car) and 20 different engines.

Under Ghosn, Renault reduced these numbers to just 10 platforms and eight engines across the entire Renault-Nissan range. All future small cars from the two marques are expected to share a great number of components.

Japanese companies, of course, do not fire workers; an employee generally expects to have a job for life. But nobody

told Ghosn and he closed factories, made workers redundant and, against all the odds, generally improved the financial well-being of one of Japan's leading producers.

Nissan came into being under the name Datsun

in 1933. In the '60s the Datsun brand really took off in the States, thanks to the hugely successful 240Z sports model. By 1975 Datsun was the top vehicle exporter to the US. In 1984 Datsun became Nissan as part of a global image change.

Nissan has more international manufacturing plants than any other Japanese auto maker. Mexico, Australia, Britain, Spain

and the US – as well as its native Japan – all contribute to Nissan's

current success and the company added 939 million Euros (46 bil-

lion baht) to Renault's first-half profits this year. The combined total output of the two brands exceeds five million vehicles an-

nually, making the group the world's No 5 auto maker.

Datsun began assembling cars in Thailand in 1960 and was exporting vehicles by 1999. Parent company Nissan recently paid around 7.64 billion baht to raise its stake in Siam Nissan from 25% to 75% in order to position Nissan for growth in the region.

Siam Nissan is both manufacturer and distributor of Nissan vehicles in Thailand, while an affiliate, Siam Motors & Nissan Co Ltd, operates the assembly plant.

Siam Nissan produced around 140,000 vehicles last year for the domestic market and for export.

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

# Exploring a new Frontier



Not bad for a powerful luxury vehicle, even if it is a truck: The top-of-the-range three-liter 4WD Nissan Frontier costs just 785,000 baht.



## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

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# SUNNY side up

## Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

At the Nai Harn Beach Resort, owners Harry Haufmann and his wife Noi have named their restaurant "Sunny's" in honor of their 14-month-old son.

Harry and Noi met in Munich, where they were both restaurateurs. Together they have brought a wealth of experience to Phuket; Noi ran Thai restaurants in Germany for 20 years – she speaks German fluently – and Harry operated two restaurants in Munich specializing in central-European cuisine.

Having been to Phuket on holiday, the couple decided that they would prefer a tropical island lifestyle, and opened the Nai Harn Beach Resort nearly two years ago. They also own the nearby Laguna Bar.

With the recent addition of chef Charlie Maurer, who previously created the menu at Friendship Beach in Rawai, Harry and K. Noi aim to offer an ambitiously diverse menu combining Harry's European experience, Noi's Thai culinary proficiency and Charlie's individual North American-style recipes.

A recent development at the restaurant has been the creation of an outdoor "exhibition" kitchen, giving guests the opportunity to watch the chefs in action.

Fish tanks have also been installed, and fresh seafood will soon be on the menu.

For those with hearty appetites wanting to indulge in a broad range of tastes, the restaurant offers a six- or seven-course



Left: Duck Breast Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette. Right: 'This place is named after me?' Sunny with parents Noi and Harry.

meal for 490 baht every other Monday.

### Duck Breast Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette For 4 people

#### Ingredients:

2 ducks;  
Green and red oak lettuce leaves;  
Orange segments.

#### For the stock:

The bones and neck from 1 duck;  
1 large onion, chopped;  
1 large carrot, chopped;  
1 small bunch parsley;  
½ bunch leafy celery;  
Salt and pepper to taste;  
½ glass red wine;  
2 tablespoons orange juice.

#### For the Raspberry Vinaigrette:

½ cup olive oil;  
½ cup red wine vinegar;  
2 tablespoons raspberry dessert  
topping;  
Salt and pepper to taste.

#### Method:

Remove the breasts from the ducks and set aside. Put the stock ingredients, except the red wine and orange juice, into a large pan. Cover with water and bring to the boil. Simmer for an hour, then remove from the heat and strain. Add the red wine and orange juice before simmering for a further 20 minutes or so to reduce the liquid.

Heat some oil in a skillet and fry the duck breasts quickly to crisp the outsides. Then put them into an oven pre-heated to 160°C and bake for 15-20 minutes. The meat should remain pink on the inside.

Slice the cooked breasts into strips about 2.5 cm wide. Blend the vinaigrette ingredients together well.

On each plate, put some mixed oak lettuce leaves and orange segments on one half of the plate and drizzle with the vinaigrette.

Place the duck breasts on

the other half and spoon some of the thickened stock over the duck pieces.

### Red and Yellow Bell Pepper Soup For 4 people

#### Ingredients:

4 red bell peppers;  
4 yellow bell peppers;  
2 large onions, chopped;  
2 large carrots, chopped;  
½ bunch leafy celery, chopped;  
½ bunch parsley, chopped;  
1½ liters water;  
1 tablespoon crème fraîche;  
100 ml whipped cream;  
Salt and pepper to taste.

#### Method:

Put the onions, carrots, celery, parsley and the water into a large pan, and bring to the boil and simmer for about an hour. Clean the bell peppers and chop into large pieces.

Add them to the stock and simmer for a further 20 minutes.

Remove from the heat and strain the stock.

Separate the red and yellow bell pepper pieces, then divide the stock evenly and add the red pieces to one half and the yellow pieces to the other half. Put each mixture into a blender separately with 50ml of whipped cream, and mix until it has a smooth consistency. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Place a portion of the red and yellow soup into a bowl, taking care to keep them separate, and decorate with a dab of crème fraîche.

*Sunny's Restaurant at Nai Harn Beach Resort, 14/29 Moo 1, Wiset Rd, Rawai. Open 7 days a week; breakfast from 7:30 am to noon, dinner from 4 pm to 10:30 pm. Tel: 076-381810.*

**If you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers, please email [chef@phuketgazette.net](mailto:chef@phuketgazette.net).**

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## Home of the Week

## Cape Panwa



# Bay view from Cape Panwa

**T**his contemporary-style two-story villa, built five years ago as part of a private beachfront development on Cape Panwa, has magnificent views overlooking

Chalong Bay with Rawai in the distance to the south.

The landscaped communal gardens throughout the estate maintain separation from the other villas and add a lush air to

the home and to the shared, 60-square-meter swimming pool that is just 10 meters from the beach.

The villa has 430sqm of interior floor area plus 100sqm of terrace area, along with a Jacuzzi,

and is the only home in the estate that has private access to the main road direct from the carport.

On the upper level is the open-plan kitchen, with teak cupboards above and below the marble-finished counters, and a range of high-quality appliances, including a four-ring gas cooker with overhead extractor hood, a microwave oven and an American-style fridge-freezer with water dispenser.

The large breakfast bar looks out over the dining area and the living space beyond, which is bounded on three sides by a large terrace that has a sala seating area on one side and a barbecue area on the other.

Also on the upper level is the master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, resplendent in teak and marble. The shower has a window giving a panoramic view, while the gardens ensure privacy from wayward, prying eyes. There is a walk-in closet leading off the master bathroom, and in the bedroom's main area is a large dressing area off to one side.

The master bedroom also has a large area for relaxation with seating, a TV and bookcases to keep its occupants entertained

if they ever tire of enjoying the view from the private balcony.

A second bedroom with en-suite bathroom is also on the upper level, with its own views of the bay.

Downstairs is a third bedroom with yet another en-suite bathroom, as well as a study that could easily be converted to a guest room, and a spacious laundry room.

The property is decorated to a very high standard and has



air conditioning and fans fitted throughout, a hot-water system and its own supply of well water.

Complete with Chanote freehold title, this property is offered at 21 million baht.

To view the property, contact: Richard Lusted, Siam Real Estate, Tel: 076 280805, Website: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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# East coast explosion



Artist's impression of the view from one of the apartments at the moderately-priced Grove Gardens, currently under development.

The east coast of Phuket has become the subject of much interest to developers over the past couple of years, and gradually investors have bought pieces of land with a view to the future.

It seems that the future has become the present rather suddenly. The east coast is taking off in a big way.

Mission Hills Golf and Country Club is the talk of the golfing fraternity; projects such as East Coast Villas overlooking Ao Po and the islands in the south of Phang Nga Bay has sold very well, even before construction started; and the big new residential marina project, Royal Phuket Marina, is well underway.

Cape Yamoo, the peninsula on the north side of the channel leading out of Phuket Boat Lagoon, is the site of a number of new projects.

Baan Nern Khao, featuring luxury villas overlooking the bay, has been under construction for some time.

The end of the cape, already cleared and marked out for a luxurious residential project, is understood to be the subject of final negotiations with a major international company that will

run it as a luxury resort with a combination of hotel villas and privately-owned homes, much like Amanpuri or Laguna Phuket's Banyan Tree Phuket Resort.

At the start of the road leading out on to the peninsula is a new project, Grove Gardens, a resort-style residential project consisting of luxury town home villas and apartments.

Although most of this section of Phuket seems to be aiming at the up-market cash, Grove Gardens is offering good value properties with potentially interesting returns for those who don't want to live here all the time, and would like to see some return on their investment.

The project is being developed by well known hotel executive, Lars Ydmark, formerly General Manager of Novotel Phuket and Novotel Patong Resort.

Lars is now head of a hotel management group, Tri-Asia, which owns and manages Jiva Resort in Kata Beach and a number of other resorts in the Phuket and Khao Lak areas.

Although it is a residential

project, Grove Gardens has good potential for holiday rentals, featuring, as it will, two- and three-bedroom apartments and four-bedroom villas, management office, clubhouse with restaurant and bar, gymnasium, sauna and massage, tennis court, convenience store and 25-meter swimming pool.

Probably the main point of interest with this project is the price. In contrast to the many projects scrambling for dollars

from the occasional passing millionaire, Grove Gardens is offering a more affordable product. For example, the 100-square-meter two-bedroom apartments with a roof garden terrace looking over the bay and surrounding islands, are selling for around 4 million baht (less than US\$100,000).

More than 20% of the project was sold even before the official launch on the market. In an area that seems to be developing a five-star flavor, a project developed and managed by a proven international team and available at realistic prices is a pleasant alternative.

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## Construction Update

## Life above the office

The developers of Executive Home Office, a new project along Chao Fa West Rd, say it could be the ideal development for busy execs and others tired of the daily slog from bedroom to boardroom and back.

Jittikan Siamhan, Assistant Managing Director of the project, pointed out its proximity to the "Big Three" retail centers – Tesco-Lotus, Big C Superstore and the soon-to-open Central Festival – and to Nai Harn Beach.

Phase 1 of the project, begun in November last year, is due to be finished before the end of this month. K. Jittikan said, "We tested the water with these first eight units and they have all been booked. Based on this very positive result, we have decided that Phase 2 will have 12 units."

Phase 2, which began in April, has an expected completion date of February 2005.

K. Jittikan says that the target group for this project includes professionals such as architects and media industry workers. De-



Artist's impression of a unit at Executive Home Office.

pending on location within the project and other specification, prices range from 3.45 million baht to 4.1 million baht for each 245-square-meter unit.

The buildings are configured on three floors, with the first and second floors set aside for office or studio space. The third floor is living space, with small apartments comprising a bedroom, kitchen, living room, and bathroom. Each property also has a balcony, a small garden and parking for two cars.

Construction and interior design is by TAA Associates of Patong.

For more details, contact Jittikan Siamhan on Tel: 01-5377848 or 01-9792948 Fax: 076-224366. Email: j\_siamhan@hotmail.com

## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

## Soi dog of the plant world

Weeds are a pain. Gardeners are generally a pretty zealous lot, and are keen to rip anything out of the ground that they haven't actually put there themselves. Any uninvited guest in the garden is trespassing by default, and deserves death by uprooting. No trial or jury, just instant justice.

Sometimes though, the merciless extraction of something growing in a carefully tended flower bed is a little unjust. Maybe basing our decision on one look is a mistake.

Some time ago I tried an experiment. Cynics would argue that this "experiment" was based more on indolence than science, and they probably have a point.

I decided to leave a large single pot with absolutely nothing in it (apart from some potting compound), and not interfere in any way.

I continued to water and feed this pot, as I did everything else in the garden, but decided not to take issue with anything



When you least expect it, you realize that the ang-kaap is quite cute.

Picture courtesy of www.tourthai.com

that decided to grow there of its own accord.

Admittedly, what transpired more often than not was that that rather annoying trailing grass species that grows an inch a day, spreading everywhere. Also, I got a lot of those tall spindly weeds with tiny purple flowers at the end that almost need wire cutters to hack through, along with Thai-style daisies and other assorted undesirables.

I should be able to go on at length with all sorts of impressive sounding names for all these, but to be honest, I haven't a clue what any of them are called. They're just weeds.

They've all certainly done their homework in terms of self-preservation, as it seems to be very difficult to eradicate any of them.

But with one of the results of this very unscientific experiment, I was pleasantly surprised. A rather attractive flowering plant eventually emerged, which, following the conventional "I didn't plant that" rules would have been dismissed as an "undesirable" in the initial stages.

The barleria cristata, or Philippines violet (ang-kaap in Thai) is a small shrub, with twin-petalled flowers on the end of a half-inch tube, in varying shades of mauve. There are a couple of other varieties, one with white

flowers, and another with a striped combination. It just appears out of nowhere, its seeds presumably spread through the air by the wind.

Many gardeners intentionally plant the barleria, using it as a small hedge, or even clip it into strange geometric shapes. It's quite wiry and forgiving, and like many other varieties of plant life here, will put up with a lot of abuse. About all it needs to thrive is plenty of sun and some water every

now and then. If it's pruned regularly, it will become a lot bushier.

The barleria is a bit like a soi dog in character. It shows up looking a little sorry for itself, pretends it isn't really there at all and does its best to blend into the background without you noticing.

Then, when you least expect it, you realize that actually it's quite cute, and maybe it can stay for a while after all. Without you even realizing, it makes its home with you long-term, having started out as something that wasn't even wanted in the first place.

As a single plant, it's not really that impressive; the flowers aren't exactly huge. The thing is, they don't often appear alone.

Put a few of these in the same patch of the garden, and it won't take long to develop into something a lot more worthwhile.

If you're not keen on waiting for a few barleria plants to appear in your garden in their own good time, another way of propagating more is by taking a reasonably thick, healthy-looking cutting and sticking it into some potting compost. It will take root quickly, and that way you can avoid the "what is it" guessing game.

Now there's something you can't do with soi dogs.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### 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

### 6-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. An exclusive 6-bedroom house in Kamala, near Phuket FantaSea entertainment complex and a 10-minute walk to the beach. European-standard kitchen, all bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, aircon, ceiling fan. Own well, plus drinking-quality water. Mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi. High-quality standard, fully furnished. For more details please call Franz Brun in Kamala. Asking price: 16 million baht, includes Toyota Sport Rider 4x4. Tel: 076-279075, 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

### 32 RAI AT LAYAN BEACH

32 rai at Layan Beach for sale at 4.5 million baht per rai. Features road, electricity, creek and lake. Possibility to add another 13 rai at 3 million baht per rai. Please email for details. Email: worldconsultman@yahoo.com

### LAND IN PATONG

Excellent sea view. Only 2 lots left, from 3,800 baht per sqm. Includes electricity, road, etc. Don't miss out. Tel: 01-8957159, 09-2911112.

### 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.

**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

### EXCLUSIVE

Beautiful new 4-bedroom villa. 350-sqm living space. Top quality, including pool. Price: 11.5 million baht. Tel: 01-8916143.

### 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 (Tekka), decorated, garden, all built-in furniture and alarm system. Price: 4.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-6822325, 04-0575756.

### 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

### PATONG CONDO

Great opportunity: mountain view, freehold title, 300m to beach, 1 bedroom, living room, 2 balconies, 1 toilet. Price: 1.05 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### 4 RAI IN RAWAI

300m from Rawai Beach and 400m from Yanui Beach. Price 2.8 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-3762920.

### PRIVATE SALE

Nice blocks of lawn. From 1 rai to 20 rai. Located at Soi Saliga, Rawai. No brokers please. Tel: 076-288422.

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### APARTMENTS 4 SALE

in Patong. 12 rooms, fully furnished, minimart and 15 computers for Internet. Price 8.5 million baht. Urgent sale. Tel: 07-2799500. Please email queries to: baanputtarat24@yahoo.com

### LAND FOR SALE

directly on Banyan Tree Golf Course (Laguna property). 1,050sqm/262.4 sq wah. Price: 7.872 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

### 36 RAI OCEAN VIEWS

at Ao Po. Almost 36 rai of Nor Sor 3 title land. The cape's natural wonders provide the most wonderful panoramic view over Phang Nga Bay from the eastern side of the island. Price: 5 million baht a rai. Tel: 01-5375970. Email: info@phuket-land.net

### BOAT LAGOON LAND

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### GOLF VIEW LAND

Prime building plot overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course. One of the best building plots available. 2 rai with freehold title. Please call for details. Tel: 06-9405187.

### LAKESIDE LAND

Beautiful piece of land, direct to the main road. Only a few hundred meters from Mission Hills Golf Course, 8 mins to airport and Nai Yang Beach and 20 mins to Dulwich. Ideal site for luxury development. 15 rai with 2 rai of lake in the middle. Chanote title, ready to build. Price: 2.5 million baht a rai. Tel: 06-0000788.

### LAND FOR SALE

600sqm in a quiet area near Wat Chalong, 1,500m to Chalong Circle. Ground water and electricity on site. Construction plans already approved with government permits. Price: 999,000 baht. Please call 07-2531426 for more information.

### VILLA IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 large bedrooms, swimming pool, Chanote title. 300 sq wah of land. Tel: 06-2741048.

### CONDO FOR SALE

in Boat Lagoon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, Jacuzzi, granite/marble and teak finishing. Tel: 09-8739947. Email: info@andamanproperty.com

### RAWAI, KHAO LAK

Great parcels of land in Rawai, Khao Lak and Phang Nga. Some are right beside the beach. Great for development or subdivision for small projects. Email me for pictures and prices. Email: jcicero51@hotmail.com

### LARGE DETACHED

bungalow in Chalong. Thai-style roof, 300sqm floor space, 42sqm covered terrace, on 1 rai with wall fence. Large secluded garden in quiet area. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-8912166. Email: gerhard-berger@gmx.at

### URGENT SALE

2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house, with aircon and phone, in Tharnthong Villa 3 for sale. Price: 800,000 baht. Tel: 01-6949088 or 01-4960305. Email: pakdeej@yahoo.com

### CHALONG LAND

plot for sale. 1-1.5-rai plot on Chalong hillside. Good for residential development. 15 mins to Lotus, Kata and Karon, 20 mins to Dulwich. Electricity, paved public road, Chanote title. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4746899. Email: sakthong@ji-net.com

### BEST SEA VIEW

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### TOWNHOUSE

in Thalang. 10 mins drive from Laguna Phuket. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, covered carport and small garden. Please contact for more details. Price: 1.7 million baht. Tel: 09-7247211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com Website: www.phuketimmo.com

### ANUPHAS GOLF VILLE

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### PHANG NGA LAND

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### NEW HOUSES

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# Property Gazette

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### NICE HOUSE 4 RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, air conditioning, located near very nice beach. Min 1 year. Rent: 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-3971835.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

in nice area in Kamala. 1 bedroom house, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water, parking. Tel: 01-4761640.

### PATONG RESIDENCE

1- or 2-bedroom apartments, with kitchen, pool. Only 350m from beach. Price: 7,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-3645419. Email: thesonbusiness@hotmail.com

### HOTEL PROMOTION

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### HOUSE FOR RENT

in Bang Tao area. Aircon house with 1 furnished bedroom for rent. Kitchen, living room, small lawn and parking space. Rent: 7,000 baht a month. Please call for details. Tel: 01-6341432. Fax: 02-6881753.



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### BEDROOM WITH ADSL

Aircon, TV, fridge, hot water, balcony. Available June-July. Rent: 600 baht/day. Tel: 07-8975674. Email: johnsjo1949@yahoo.com

### 3 BEDROOMS

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### HOUSE FOR RENT

New 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent, very close to Nai Yang and airport. Comprises kitchen, living room and garden. Furnished: 25,000 baht a month. Unfurnished: 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-3978938, 09-7240116.

### KATHU HOUSE

for rent. Furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, living room, 2 air conditioners, available for long-term rent at 8,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

### BUNGALOW

with a garden. Fully furnished 2-bed bungalow in Soi Nakok, 1.5km from Wat Chalong. No phone line. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-393473, 09-6502506. Fax: 076-202558. Email: wprateep@ratree.psu.ac.th

### APARTMENTS 4 RENT

in Patong. Available for long term. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon, some apartments have good seaviews. Rent: 5,000 - 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-2909567. www.brommathaihouse.com

### RAWAI CONDO

1-room apartment, kitchen, aircon, TV, swimming pool, furnished. Tel: 06-7417260.

### 2 SHOPHOUSE UNITS

for rent in Patong. Main road access. For business, can rent long term. Rent is only 25,000 baht a month. Please call 09-8732133 for more information.

### NEW HOUSE

is located near Heroines' Monument. 105sqm with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and furnished garden. 10 mins to Lotus and 15 mins to airport. Rent: 23,000 baht a month. Please contact us for details. Tel: 06-6829922. Email: relaxphuket@thailand.com

### WATERFRONT HOUSE

1-bedroom, 3-year-old house on beautiful Panwa Beach, with awesome sunset views. Long-term rental. Rent: 7,000 baht a month. Tel: 07-280-1588.

### VERY NICE HOUSE

in Rawai for rent. Great Thai-style house in Soi Tristar, Rawai, for rent. 3 aircon bedrooms, fully furnished. Nice view from open-air sala. Gardener included. Please call 01-8920643, 01-6937277.

### TOWNHOUSES

for rent. Situated in quiet area of Soi Sansabai, Patong. 2 bedrooms, furnished, UBC, aircon, telephone, short- and long-term lets available. 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-341871, 01-5697616.

### 4 RENT IN KAMALA

2-bedroom apartment for long-term rental. Fully furnished, aircon, UK-style kitchen, TV, UBC, etc, plus swimming pool and Jacuzzi in private, new development. Tel: 01-9580489 or 09-8746185. Agents welcome.

### NEW HOME + POOL

New home in Kamala with pool. Furnished: 35,000 baht a month; unfurnished: 28,000 baht a month. Minimum 6-month let. Please call after 4 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

### HOUSE WITH LARGE

garden (property covers 712sqm) for rent in Land & Houses Park in Chalong. This partly-furnished 2-story house has 3 bedrooms, parking for 2 cars, aircon, walk-in closets, a modern kitchen, terrace, balcony, satellite TV and telephone line. Rent: 45,000 baht/month (negotiable). Tel: 06-6897113.

### 5-BED HOUSE 4 RENT

5-bed/5-bathroom Thai-style house for rent at Loch Palm Golf Course. Close to Dulwich International College. Fully furnished and less than a year old. Just move in. 800-sqm garden, 3 telephone lines. Car available if required. Short- or long-term rental is OK. Rent: 45,000 baht a month. Please call for further information. Tel: 65-98370340, 09-871-3360. Email: chris\_winter@veritasdgc.com

### RESTAURANT/BAR

on Taina Rd, in Kata, for rent. Good location next to guest-houses with a lot of regular customers. Has been in business for 6 years. Tel: 076-284049, 01-9585528. Fax: 076-330086. Email: finn@phuket.cscs.com

### KAMALA FOR RENT

Beach shophouse, only 150m or 2 mins walk to the beach, for 6-months' rental. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Price: only 8,500 baht a month. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-2780088, 06-2746511.

### KATA HILLTOP

house for rent. Fully furnished 2-story house with large air-conditioned bedroom, living room, kitchen and terrace. Bathroom has hot water. Rent: 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-216036, 01-606-2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

3-bedroom house with garden, in desirable Chao Fa Thani estate, backs onto klong, 3 bathrooms, living room, study, dining room, kitchen, air-conditioned, fully furnished. Rent: 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-281018, 09-4729841.

### HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

4 bedrooms, big living room, study, kitchen, garage for 3 cars, maid's room, swimming pool, 2 telephone lines, 4 aircons, hot water, semi-furnished, good neighborhood. For long-term rent at 60,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

### KATHU WATERFALL

Unfurnished 2-bedroom house in a quiet location near Kathu waterfall, for rent. Comprises: bathroom, living room, kitchen, front and back patios, and a car park space. Only 5,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-8731652.

### BEACHSIDE HOUSE

Detached 2-story, 3-bedroom house with panoramic views over Chalong Bay. Quiet location at Khao Khat, between Phuket City, Cape Panwa and Chalong. Furnished: 24,500 baht a month. Unfurnished: 19,500 baht, negotiable. Please call or email for info and pics. Tel: 076-256407 or 01-6764849. Email: amono@loxinfo.co.th

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

New 3-bed house in Soi Palai with 2 aircon units, 2 bathrooms, garden, phone and carpark. Minimum 1-year rental: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-5943209.

Find more  
Property  
Classified ads  
online at  
[phuketgazette.net/](http://phuketgazette.net/)

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

**K.L. Mart**  
Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

**NAVA Language School**  
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

**Sin & Lee**  
Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel**  
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076- 344521-2

**A la Carte**  
Kamala main road, Cherng Talay

Tel: 076-278019

### PHANG NGA

**Maew Internet Shop**, Khao Lak

Tel: 076-420627

**Avalon Creative Group Co Ltd**, Khao Lak

Tel: 076-420539

## Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.  
Then hand it to any of our agents.

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(heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 60 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**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](mailto:info@houseandvillasalesphuket.com)  
Or call 01-9241447,  
076-345081,  
076-345083.

### SHOP WANTED

Shop wanted in Karon, Kata, or Patong. Minimum 50 sqm. Rent or lease for long term. Please email details of properties to: [shop\\_wanted@hotmail.com](mailto:shop_wanted@hotmail.com)

### SMALL SPACE

I'd like to rent a space of about 7-9 sqm in front of a building or a shop, or share in a commercial property for a tour service counter in Patong. It should be on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. Need at least a 2-year contract. Please email details to: [benyapa2000@hotmail.com](mailto:benyapa2000@hotmail.com)

### APARTMENT WANTED

Apartment with telephone, view and kitchen wanted for long-term rental. Prefer in Kata or Patong. Tel: 09-5116408. Email: [kevinsan2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinsan2001@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE WANTED

I would like to buy a 2- or 3-bedroom house in Banprangthong Villa for under 5 million baht. No agents, please; I want to deal directly with the owner. Email: [lorisdb@hotmail.com](mailto:lorisdb@hotmail.com)

### LAND NEAR MAIN RD

I am looking to buy from 1 to 2 rai of land on any main road - with or without property already - to build a house, office and furniture workshop. Prefer the bypass road, Chao Fa East or West Rds, Ranong Rd or main road from Phuket to Patong, but any other location considered for the right price. Must be very reasonably priced. Please send details by email with size, location, price and pictures, if any, along with your phone number. Tel: 09-7299747 or 01-676-4849. Email: [amono@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:amono@loxinfo.co.th)

### SELL YOUR HOUSE

or villa. If you urgently need to sell, please contact me with details of your property. I am looking to buy now. Turn your house into cash today. Tel: 01-8921199. Email: [cadillac@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cadillac@loxinfo.co.th)

### HOME WANTED

for long-term rental, for a maximum of 2 people. Prefer near to Karon or Aroona Karon if possible. Email: [hotelmanager@bigfoot.com](mailto:hotelmanager@bigfoot.com)

## Accommodation Available

### ROOM IN PATONG

Fully furnished as new room in Patong with aircon, near Siam Bank. Rent: 7,500 baht a month. Tel: 01-8922824, 01-8955242

### NEW HOUSES 4 RENT

New houses in good location near airport and Nai Yang Beach. Just 2 mins to Nai Yang National Park - but no disturbance from aircraft - and 2 mins from the fresh market on Tuesdays and Saturdays. House 1: 3 bedrooms (2 with aircon), 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, built-in units and has a small, well-tended garden. Includes kitchen equipment, UBC TV, washing machine. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. House 2: Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, bathroom and UBC TV. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. House 3: Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 55 sq wah. Just a few months old, for sale at 1.9 million baht. Photos available on request. Properties offered by owner. Contact for more information. Tel: 09-650-6221. Email: [ek\\_phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:ek_phuket@hotmail.com)

## Accommodation Wanted

### BUNGALOW 4 RENT

Urgently need to rent unfurnished 1- or 2-bedroom small bungalow or house on long-term/yearly basis. If one bedroom, also need a room to use as office/storage. Must also have living room, bathroom, etc. Most locations acceptable; detached preferable. Looking to pay about 6,000 baht a month. Call please. Tel: 06-2813502. Email: [kds@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:kds@loxinfo.co.th)

### 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](mailto:anjaojala@bredband.net)

### RENTAL IN PATONG

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, access to pool. Located in central Patong. Please send details by email to: [lilla\\_4ever@hotmail.com](mailto:lilla_4ever@hotmail.com)

### PATONG OR NEARBY

Good-quality house or apartment with 1 or 2 bedrooms and cooking facilities wanted for next January-February. I would like to stay in Patong or nearby but I am willing to live in other areas. Email: [gary8lw@yahoo.com](mailto:gary8lw@yahoo.com)

### ACCOMMODATION

wanted on holiday. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms up-market accommodation required for holiday 19 Dec 04 to 2 Jan 05. Must be close to beach and have sea view. Prefer Kata, Karon, Patong, Kamala area. Please contact. Email: [wimo@mweb.co.za](mailto:wimo@mweb.co.za)

### WHEELCHAIR ROOM

Disabled people are looking for wheelchair-friendly hotels, resorts, rooms and guest-houses. Please contact us by email. Email: [admin@phuketdeafeagle.com](mailto:admin@phuketdeafeagle.com)

### LOOKING 4 HOUSE

I am looking for a house with 3 bedrooms and a fenced garden in Karon, Kata, Chalong or Rawai. Contract for 6 months or 1 year, starting from mid-July. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-2787117. Email: [uniccoli@hotmail.com](mailto:uniccoli@hotmail.com)

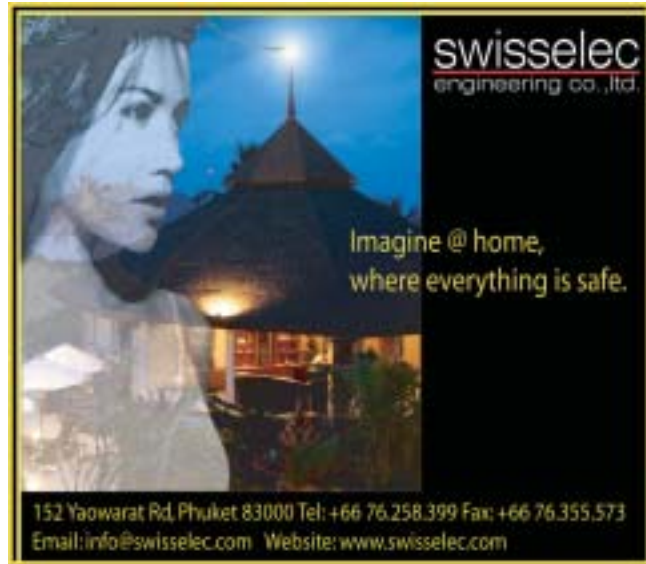
### CONDO WANTED

1 bedroom in Central Waterfront condo tower wanted. Would prefer one on one of the upper floors. Tel: 09-4742579. Email: [reservation@theoldphuket.com](mailto:reservation@theoldphuket.com)

### NEAR PHUKET CITY

house wanted. 1 or 2 bedroom house or apartment near Phuket City for long-term rent. Must have aircon. Would like UBC, pool, kitchen, etc. Will consider anywhere within easy reach of Phuket City. Please reply me to email above. Email: [khun\\_shane@yahoo.com](mailto:khun_shane@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:info@swisselec.com) Website: [www.swisselec.com](http://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

### PLANTS FOR SALE

More than 100 types - many in large pots - including, exotic palms and teak sala. Tel: 01-7761490.

### 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](mailto:p-con@chaiyo.com)

## Household Services

### THE ISLAND SPA SHOP

Sauna design and construction, gas and electric boilers for steam, sauna oils and a full range of other spa products are available. For home or business. Please call us for more information. Tel: 01-3974291.

### 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. Please call us for more information. Tel: 076-263269, 09-195-0610.

## Property Services

### DEEP WELL DRILLING

and soil investigation. Water quantity, guaranteed 1-year service warranty. Soil profile and analysis by professional geologists and engineers. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 01-9788847.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 3 digits on back of card

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](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

Find more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)



# Island Job Mart



This well-established deluxe resort on Koh Lanta Yai, Krabi, is seeking for candidates with the following qualifications:

## Chief Engineer

- Male, over 35 years old
- Bachelor's or master's degree or higher in engineering.
- At least 5 years experience in a similar position, preferably in a resort environment
- Strong ability in leading a team of 30/35 engineering & gardening staff.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Computer, Internet and emailing proficiency.
- Able to work under pressure and handle multiple projects simultaneously.
- Hard working, dynamic, hands on and highly responsible.
- Experienced in resort opening will also be an advantage.

## Front Office Manager

- Male or female, ideal age 30-35 yrs.
- Sound knowledge of all front-office and reservation standards, operating procedures with good financial understanding.
- Computer literate in Fidelio, MS Excel & Word.
- Fluent in Thai and spoken English, written English also preferred.
- Must have worked in international-standard hotel, preferably a resort.
- Minimum 2 years as an Asst Manager/Duty Manager, including reservations training.
- Must lead by example, be hands on and create a pro-active team environment.
- Ability to train and develop staff at both supervisory and entry-level staff.

**Other position available** Guest Service Officers, Cooks-Thai/Western cuisine, Engineers/Technicians, Boat mechanic, Boat captains, Reservation officers (Koh Lanta & Bangkok office), H/K supervisor, Purchasing officer (Bangkok office).

**For All applicants:** Outgoing personality, self-confident and with an eye for detail. Must also be able to adapt and live on an island. All positions are open for Thai nationals only with excellent benefits and a salary appropriate to the applicant's experience and will be offered.

Interested candidates, please submit, resumé, recent picture and expected salary to: Fax: 075 607 998 or Email: hr@pimalai.com. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Pimalai Resort & Spa, 99 Moo 5, Ba Kan Tiang Bay, Koh Lanta, Krabi 81150, Thailand  
A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the world

## Baan Thai Surin Hill

Baan Thai Surin Hill, a planned unit development of luxury view villas based in Surin Beach, Phuket, is currently looking for enthusiastic to fill available various positions and join our successes.

### Construction Department

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Site Civil Engineer                 | (Male/2)   |
| 2. Plumbing Foreman                    | (Male/3)   |
| 3. Electrical Foreman                  | (Male/2)   |
| 4. Finishing & Architectural Foreman   | (Male/2)   |
| 5. Structure Construction Foreman      | (Male/3)   |
| 6. Office Clerk                        | (Female/1) |
| 7. Warehouse Officer                   | (Male/1)   |
| 8. Construction Heavy Machine Operator | (Male/2)   |

### Real Estate Services & Management

- |                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Villa & Customer Services Manager | (Male or Female/1) |
| 2. Secretary of Directors            | (Male or Female/2) |
| 3. Purchasing Officer                | (Male or Female/1) |
| 4. Housekeeper Chief                 | (Male or Female/1) |
| 5. Driver                            | (Male/2)           |

### Design & Architectural Department

- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Site Architect                    | (Male/3) |
| 2. Draftsman Structure/Architectural | (Male/3) |

Applicants are welcome to apply in person or sending your resumé at:

## Baan Thai Surin Hill

92/5 Baan Had Surin, Srisoonthorn Rd., Chergntalay, Talang, Phuket 83110.  
Tel. 076-325-880 for check the location only.  
(10.00 - 17.00 Mon. - Sat. During 26 June - 26 July 2004)

## Nobel Furniture Co., Ltd.

### Sales/Designer required

Nobel Furniture Co Ltd is seeking Thai male or female for Kitchens Project Sales/Designer. Must have skilled in English and have own transport. Good salary package.

Khun Kung Tel: 076-234695

Email: pawat@nobelkitchens.com

## SALES & MARKETING

wanted. Male and female marketing staff, aged 27 up. Excellent spoken and written English, communication skills and a bright and an outgoing personality necessary. Apply by email only please. Email: richy@richyisland-phuket.com

## ACQUA Procurement Officer

### Requirements:

- Good command of written & spoken English
- Bachelor/Diploma graduate in related field
- Good working knowledge of accountancy
- Possess excellent computer literacy skills in Microsoft Office
- Strong organizational/communication, liaison and negotiation skills
- At least 2-3 years' experience in related field
- Highly motivated and ability to work in a team environment

ACQUA Co., Ltd.

T: +66 76 325667-71 Email: info@acquaphuket.com

## SALES PEOPLE

We are looking for direct sales people with or without experience. Full training will be given. High earning potential for right candidates. Positions in Phuket, also opportunity for Samui. Please contact Steve for more information or to apply. Tel: 04-0530358

## Dusit Laguna

RESORT  
PHUKET-THAILAND

Dusit Laguna Resort is a 5-star luxury resort in Phuket, Thailand (member of The Leading Hotel of the world). We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behavior that reflect a commitment to excellence, to fill the following positions:

### Japanese Guest Service Manager / Guest Service Officer

- Japanese national female with bachelor's degree in related field
- Good English communication skills
- Pleasant personality & attitude
- At least 2-3 years' experience in same position (only for manager position)

### Assistant Personnel Manager

- Thai male/female with bachelor's degree in related field from recognized university
- Good English communication skills and computer literate
- Pleasant personality & attitude
- At least 2-3 years' experience plus knowledge in training is an advantage

### English Teacher

- Experience in this field
- Thai nationality / Thai speaking is an advantage

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé with recent picture and reference to:

Human Resource Department, Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket 390 Srisoonthorn Rd, Talang, Phuket 83110.

Tel: 66 0 7632 4324. Fax: 66 0 7632 4174  
Email: dlpcareer@dusit.com



KATATHANI  
PHUKET BEACH RESORTS

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

## PROPERTY MANAGER

Property Manager required for one of Phuket's premier property management companies. Requirements: Thai (male or female); 28-35 years old; good written and spoken English – and email – skills; own car. Prefer 3 years' FO/ rooms or related tourism experience. Excellent salary and package with full benefits. Applications close June 30. Tel: 076-270750, 01-7370722. Fax 076-270751. Email: allan@pipsphuket.com

## LAMINATE SALES

Executive wanted. Candidates should speak English, have experience in sales and own car. Please call or email for more information or to apply. Tel: 09-1098278. Email: sales@pltimex.com

## INTERNET CAFE

Staff wanted for Patong Internet cafe. Please email to simon47phuket@hotmail.com

## ESL TEACHERS

needed for English Summer Camp in July at Dulwich International College. Please contact Paul Redfern. Tel: 076-238711, 09-648-0752. Fax: 076-238750. Email: predfern@dulwich.ac.th.



# Island Job Mart

**Phuket Dot Com is expanding and needs additional, enthusiastic staff to join our growing team in our modern and exciting work environment.**

## PHUKET

### Client Service Manager 1 position

#### Responsibilities:

To supervise hotel and travel booking client service team. To control updates of rates and availability. To ensure high levels of customer service. To establish procedures for on-going system training.

#### Requirements:

Experience in hotel reservation sales, excellent written and spoken English-language skills, pro-active team leader/player. Computer literacy and good knowledge of the Internet.

### Client Service staff 2 positions (travel & tours bookings, room bookings)

### Japanese Client Service staff 1 position

#### (Japanese bookings)

#### Responsibilities:

To process tour, travel and room booking inquiries and progress of confirmed bookings.

#### Requirements:

Experience in the tourism industry, good computer skills, good level of spoken and written English, service-minded.

### Web Designers 2 positions

#### Responsibilities:

To join our award-winning design team at a junior level.

#### Requirements:

Some experience in web page design, artistic ability, good command of English.



### Data Entry 1 position

#### Responsibilities:

To enter rates and liaise with programming team.

#### Requirements:

Young enthusiastic personality, reasonable level of English.

### Receptionist/secretary 1 position

#### Responsibilities:

To work at our Front Office as customer relations person, including secretarial duties and administration.

#### Requirements:

Very good command of English, good personality and service-minded.

### Accounting staff 1 position

#### Responsibilities:

To join our accounts receivable team at a junior level.

#### Requirements:

Related experience is helpful, good command of English, service minded.

## BANGKOK

### Web Master or Advanced web designer

#### Responsibilities:

To join our award-winning design team at a senior level.

#### Requirements:

Extensive web design experience, creative, excellent written and spoken English. Examples of successful websites will be required.

**We offer excellent salary and benefits, please apply directly at :**  
**ASIA WEB DIRECT CO., Ltd.**

4th Floor, Muangmai Building, 9/17 Thepkasattri Road, Phuket, 83000 Tel: 076-236550 Fax: 076-236542  
Email: jobs@phuket.com or tasnee@phuket.com, tasnee@asiawebdirect.com

## The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd is seeking creative, motivated Thai nationals to join our team. The ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

### ARTIST 2 POSITIONS

- ▶ Graphic design skills and knowledge of Illustrator, PageMaker, Photo shop and Dreamweaver programs are required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web design skills are a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ English speaker

Please send your CV to the Personnel Manager.

Tel: 076-236555. Fax: 076-213971. Email: mem@phuketgazette.net



LIFESTYLE & LEISURE (Thailand) LTD.

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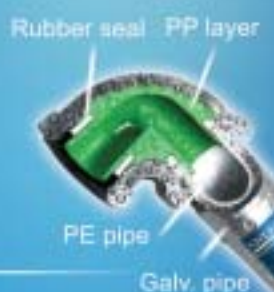
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