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## Samsara land tycoon held

### Two land officials sought over 'corrupt' title

By Kamol Pirat

PATONG: Chamnan Pachantabutr, former owner of the land on which the Samsara luxury property development is being built, was arrested at his home in Patong on September 21.

Chamnan is one of the owners of the Phuket Cabana Resort and of the Kan Eang restaurants in Chalong.

Leading the arrest party were the Chief of the Crime Suppression Police, Pol Maj Gen Kosin Hintao, and two Deputy Secretaries of the Anti-Money Laundering Office (Amlo), Pol Col Yuthaboon Disamarn and Pol Col Kovit Piromwong.

Producing a search warrant, the officers searched Chamnan's house at 122 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and seized six bank books, two Chanote land deeds and some items of jewelry that they believe were bought with the proceeds of the land sale.

The arrest warrant accused Chamnan of using a "flying Sor Kor I" to register ownership of the land. This is a technique whereby a legitimate Sor Kor I for a piece of land is used to establish ownership of another, more valuable plot.

Chamnan sold the land – about 14.5 rai – to Pacific Villa Co for 12 million baht.

Other teams of officers,



Chamnan Pachantabutr at Phuket City Police Station after his arrest. Behind him is Crime Suppression Chief Pol Maj Gen Kosin Hintao.

also armed with arrest warrants, went to the homes of two land officials, Uru Thipthep and Sanit Daengboon. Like Chamnan, Uru was arrested in July last year for his alleged part in falsifying the land document for the Samsara site, and subsequently released on bail.

The officers found neither Uru nor Sanit at home, but seized two cars belonging to Uru, and two bank books. Both men are being sought by police.

Chamnan was taken to the Samsara site and then back to Phuket City Police Station for questioning, before being re-

leased on bail of 200,000 baht.

Col Yuthaboon said that Chamnan's arrest came after statements from arrested land officers who admitted misusing their power to issue a land document to Chamnan for the land.

Amlo, he said, would investigate where the money came from to buy the items seized from the homes of Chamnan and Uru.

"We intend to find all other property bought with this 'dirty' money and seize it," he added.

Col Yuthaboon added that an application would be made to freeze bank accounts of the two men. Uru's two cars – a BMW and a Toyota – were to be taken to Bangkok the following day and sold. If Uru could prove that the cars were bought legitimately, he would receive the money from the sale.

Colin Mackay, Managing Director of Asia Island Homes (AIH), which is the developer of Samsara, told the Gazette, "I hope they clear it up quickly because it's kind of a joke that it's taking them so long to figure out if their documents are good or not. It's taken them a year and four months so far.

"I'm no longer interested in investing any money in this island, with the way they conduct their operations. They've made

Continued on page 2

## 8-year tax break for IT firms

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa) and the Board of Investment (BoI) exempts three kinds of IT firm from company tax for eight years, and enables them to import IT products and services duty-free.

The three kinds of company are those creating enterprise software, digital content and embedded software.

The MOU was signed on August 24 by Sipa President Dr Manoo Ordeedolchest and BoI Secretary General Somphong Wanapha.

Chalermcharn Yotviriyapanit, Sipa officer in charge of BoI and Sipa cooperation, explained that BoI-approved IT firms registered with Sipa will be exempt from import duty on IT products and services not available in Thailand, and will not have to pay company tax for eight years from the date of BoI approval.

To be eligible for the special status, companies must show investment of at least a million baht, excluding land value and working capital.

K. Chalermcharn said that 20 software firms had applied to Sipa since the MOU was signed, and that five of these would be considered this week. Successful ones would be passed on to the BoI for approval.

Although Sipa's Phuket office will check applications from companies wishing to take advantage of the scheme, it is up to the applicants themselves to submit their papers to the main Sipa office in Bangkok.

The approval process is expected to take around 60 days. Application forms may be downloaded from www.sipa.or.th/images/boi/fpapp04eng.pdf

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## AirAsia to sell tickets at Tesco-Lotus

PHUKET CITY: From Phuket to Kuala Lumpur via Tesco-Lotus will become possible from September 28, when Thai AirAsia opens a ticket booth inside the Tesco-Lotus store off the bypass road.

The low-cost airline started selling tickets through five Tesco-Lotus branches in Bangkok on September 16 and plans to extend its sales network to include Tesco stores in Chiang Mai, Haad Yai and Udon Thani, as well as Phuket, by the end of this month.

AirAsia public relations executive Jacqueline Mercader told the *Gazette*, "Most of our customers are similar to the target group of Tesco-Lotus."

"We are two major low-cost businesses. Tesco-Lotus's concept is 'everyday low prices' while Thai AirAsia has a concept of 'everyday low cost'."

The latest example of this concept came with the launch of the airline's new Phuket-Singapore route on September 14, with 3,000 one-way tickets being offered at just 7.8 baht apiece. They sold out the same day.

# Airport Immigration gets more officers

By Siripansa Somboon

MAI KHAO: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura visited Phuket International Airport on September 16 to meet 15 new Immigration Police officers recruited in time for the start of the high season, in response to complaints of long waiting times in the arrival hall.

Journalists were told that the airport usually has 15 Immigration Police officers, but that authorities had decided that this was not enough, so additional staff had been brought in from other provinces.

They will be based at the airport for around eight months. The Airports Authority of Thailand (AAT) is also preparing to train students to work at the airport and to support Immigration officers during busy times.

Pol Lt Col Chusak Phumapun, of the AAT police, said there was now more room for tourists to wait at the airport and that a new computer system had been installed to speed up Immigration procedures.



Gov Udomsak (left) inspects the new Immigration officers.

Gov Udomsak explained that the new Immigration officers had been recruited following reports in the *Gazette* that foreign visitors had complained about the amount of time they had had to wait in line for Immigration.

He said, "We care if foreigners complain to the *Phuket Gazette* about waiting for two hours when they come here."

"We must solve the problem by having a separate Immi-

gration channel for 'business foreigners', who come to Phuket regularly."

"The airport should cater for them better because there is a good chance they will become residents of Phuket in the future, and they can help change Phuket from a normal tourism destination into an international city."

He added that the authorities are working closely with the US on anti-terrorism measures.

## Phuket to press PM for underpasses

PHUKET CITY: Vice-Governor Pongpow Ketthong on September 15 confirmed that the Phuket Provincial government will continue to pursue the budget required to build two underpasses along the bypass road.

"Phuket needs the underpasses," he told a meeting at Provincial Hall.

V/Gov Pongpow's comments follow the rejection by PM Thaksin Shinawatra during his recent visit to Phuket of an 800-million-baht budget request for underpasses at the Darasamut and Samkong junctions.

The PM suggested that a single tunnel be built under both intersections, similar to the Dindaeng underpass in Bangkok, which cost 600 million baht.

V/Gov Pongpow said, "We have sent a letter to the PM explaining that the Phuket underpasses will be for two-way traffic, not one-way, as is the case with the Dindaeng underpass."

"We hope he will understand that we need them and will approve the budget so we can start building them by next year."

— Dhirarat Boonkongsan

# Senior police transferred in annual reshuffle

PHUKET: Senior police officers from four Phuket police stations have been promoted, with effect from October 1. Two other officers will be moving to take up posts in other stations in the same rank.

Phuket police promotions are as follows:

Pol Lt Col Chakkrit Srisuwan, Police Chief of Tah Chat Chai Police Station, has been promoted to Superintendent of

Koh Lanta Police Station in Krabi;

Pol Lt Col Chote Chidchai, Deputy Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station has been promoted to Superintendent of Kura-buri Police Station in Phang Nga.

Pol Lt Col Jarat Jessadawan, Deputy Superintendent of Patong Police Station has promoted to superintendent at Chian Yai Police Station in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Pol Lt Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, Deputy Superintendent of Phuket City police station, who has for years specialized in traffic matters, has been promoted to Superintendent of Kathu Police Station.

He takes the place of Pol Col Chalit Thinthanee, who is to become a Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, in turn replacing Pol Col Decha Budnampeth, who will move to take

up a similar post in Phang Nga.

It was earlier announced that Pol Maj Gen Veerayuth Sittimalic, who has been Phuket Provincial Commander for just a year, will move to Songkhla on October 1 to take up a post as Deputy Police Commander for Region 9.

He will be replaced by Pol Maj Gen Suvith Othong, who is currently Provincial Police Commander of Krabi.

## Tycoon rearrested

From page 1

the whole market edge. We have attracted, directly and indirectly, nearly a billion baht to this island — that's 2,000 baht for every man, woman and child — and with the public listing [of AIH] we have another billion baht contracted and ready to come in. [Thailand has] lost that.

"All our investors have lost all their money. We're like flies in a washing machine. We don't know which way is up anymore."

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# Post Office imposes hefty price hike

PHUKET: Despite frequent complaints about its abysmal service in Phuket, the Thai Post Office on September 20 hiked prices for express mail service (EMS) and registered mail within Thailand by as much as 60%.

Visal Pongtiwattanakul, the

Postmaster of Phuket Post Office, told the *Gazette* that it had been four years since postal fees were last increased. However, he said, the changes also included increases in the maximum compensation for lost mail in the same categories.

The changes for posting items weighing less than 20 grams are as follows:

- EMS increases from 20 baht to 27 baht. Maximum compensation for lost EMS mail increases from 800 baht to 1,000 baht.

- Registered mail rises from eight baht to 13 baht. Maximum compensation for lost mail increases from 200 baht to 300 baht.

- Registered, certified mail increases from five baht to eight baht. Maximum compensation for lost registered, certified mail increases from 100 baht to 150 baht.

- Registered, insured mail increases from 10 baht to 15 baht. Compensation for lost registered, insured mail increases to a maximum of 5,000 baht.

Charges for heavier items sent have also been hiked. Details of the new prices are available at post offices.

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# Cabinet to look at plan for duty-free zone

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: The Customs Department is to present plans to set up a duty-free zone in Phuket to the Cabinet next month.

Six companies have expressed an interest in running the zone, which would sell duty-free or reduced-duty goods to tourists.

The news came after a meeting on September 14 at the governor's mansion, chaired by the Chief of Customs in Phuket, Surachart Janthawatcharagorn, and attended by businesspeople such as former Phuket City mayor Phummisak Hongsyok.

K. Surachart said the proposal to create a duty-free zone for tourists was in line with the Government's stated aim of making Phuket a "shopping paradise" like Singapore and Hong Kong.

The draft plan proposes that only private companies that can prove they have registered capital of more than 100 million baht and can provide a suitable site and buildings will be considered to run the zone.

K. Surachart said it was important that the contract go to a company with considerable capital, as this would guarantee that the shops were well stocked and the investment would demonstrate the company's commitment to the zone, since it would not be easy to abandon such an investment.

He said the plan envisages



Customs Chief Surachart Janthawatcharagorn (right) explains the duty-free plan at the Governor's Mansion meeting.

most goods in the duty free zone being sold free of customs duty; in cases where duty had to be charged, it would be lower than usual, so that the price would be lower than elsewhere.

It has not yet been decided whether Thai tourists would be allowed to shop in the zone. If they are, he said, the government would have a choice of three possibilities. The first was that they be allowed to buy goods in the zone if they stayed in Phuket for more than two days; the second was to let them shop there just twice a year, and the third was to allow them unlimited shopping.

However, K. Phummisak warned that opening the zone up to Thai tourists could bring an

influx of people from other provinces into Phuket and this could cause many problems.

The six companies that have expressed an interest in running the zone are the Central group, Jungceylon, King Power (which runs duty-free shops in most of Thailand's international airports), K. Phummisak's Chao Fa City, Wang Thalang and Phamonkij Witsavakram.

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*) has backed Phamonkij Witsavakram to refurbish the abandoned Lucky Complex at Saphan Hin and run it as a duty-free plaza for 25 years, but this plan has yet to be considered by the Customs Department.



The Rutters say their ideas have been misunderstood.

## Funfair developers answer critics

RAWAI: The would-be developers of a controversial British-style "fun fair" on seven rai of seaside land in Rawai expect to hear soon whether the project will be approved and are defending the idea in the face of criticism that it is inappropriate for Phuket.

Steve Rutter and his wife Sharon, of Manchester, England, plan to create a small fairground for children and young adults – and a clubhouse where their parents can be entertained while the kids play.

Mr and Mrs Rutter experienced opposition after their plans were first unveiled in the August 14 issue of the *Gazette*, their critics claiming the park would be a noisy eyesore.

But, they say, their idea has been misunderstood.

Mrs Rutter said, "We have three children of our own, but after dark there's nothing, really, for children to do. Phuket is becoming a family destination, and we're trying to give those families something to do."

Her husband, who worked on fairgrounds for seven years after leaving school, but is now the boss of a successful security firm in Manchester, agreed. "There's nothing like this anywhere on the island," he said.

The Rutters have spent a year acquiring the equipment for the park, which includes an Octopus ride, four bouncy castles, a cup-and-saucer ride, a 30-foot tall slide and a "soft play" area.

If approved, the funfair would be in the center of the site, which is now surrounded by 26 bungalows that the Rutters plan to renovate. At the beach end of the site would be the clubhouse, an enclosed venue for entertainment aimed at adults – but suitable for children – such as cabaret shows, disco parties and karaoke.

There will also be food outlets, entertainment rooms for children, with PlayStations, videos and games, and air-conditioned rooms where nannies will care for very young children while their parents have some time to themselves.

The ride operators and maintenance staff will be expatriates, experienced in looking after such equipment, but most of the other staff will be Thai. The Rutters expect to create 30 jobs for locals.

As for the critics? Mr Rutter said, "The clubhouse is a closed building, so it will be quieter than many other venues on the island, and the fairground will be smaller than many travelling fairs in the UK. Some of the rides are of the type you would find in a municipal park in Britain."

"We're building a three-meter-high wall round the park, so the only time you will be able to see it is if you're standing right in front of the entrance."

"I wish people had come to talk to us first and let us explain, before criticising us."

– Alison Winward

## Gas bottle blast damages nine homes

WICHIT: A gas explosion in the late afternoon of September 15 wrecked a house in Jomthong Thani housing estate on Kwang Rd and damaged roofs and interiors in eight other houses nearby. Luckily, no one was killed or injured.

Pol Maj Yongyuth Krongmalai, of Phuket City Police station, told the *Gazette* that investigating officers believe that gas leaked into the single-story house

after the pipe from an LPG gas bottle became disconnected from the stove in the kitchen.

The explosion may have been sparked by one of the electric appliances in the house that had been left plugged in, he theorized.

Maj Yongyuth explained that the tenant of the house, 28-year-old Cheryl Eung Moon from South Korea, who had moved in just two weeks earlier, was not

at home when the explosion happened at around 5:30 pm.

The blast caused a fire but people living nearby quickly extinguished it. Maj Yongyuth said that no one was injured because most people in the area were still at work.

Mr Moon came to Phuket to learn Thai and was hoping to open a business here.

He has been charged with negligence leading to fire or likely to endanger other people's lives.

## New Zealander dies in bike smash

KARON: Terence Wayne Garnett, 41, from New Zealand, died when his motorbike collided with a six-wheeled truck outside Karon Municipality offices on Patak Rd early on September 16.

Mr Garnett, originally of Palmerston, arrived in Phuket on August 17 for a three-month stay.

He was wearing a crash helmet when he collided with the truck at about 1:30 am, but sustained fatal head injuries and died at the scene.

Pol Maj Anek Mongkol of Chalong Police Station said, "It was raining and Mr Garnett's motorbike slid on the road."

## Pongpayome appointed Gov of Korat

BANGKOK: Pongpayome Vasaputi, the former governor of Phuket, will take up the post of Governor of Nakhon Ratchasima (also known as Korat) in October.

The announcement came on September 14 at a meeting of the Cabinet in Bangkok, during which Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra approved transfers of senior government officers.

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## Queer News

### Cut and run

CHONBURI: In the latest incident involving a philandering lover, a jealous girlfriend and a sharp knife, a young man from Petchaboon province awoke on the morning of September 4 to find a very private part lying in a pool of blood on the floor next to his bed.

The victim, 20-year-old Amnart Pinkratok, was rushed to Sriracha Hospital by a friend, who carried the severed member in a plastic bag in the hope that doctors would be able to reattach it.

They couldn't. Despite several hours in the operating room, the penis had been deprived of oxygen for too long and had suffered cell necrosis – the arch-enemy of all reattachment surgeons.

Poor Amnart's testicles were also damaged in the assault, though the extent of the injury was not reported – nor whether having testicles would now serve any purpose.

K. Amnart, whose name means "power" in Thai, was described as a handsome young construction worker who had been living in Si Racha district with his girlfriend, 28-year-old factory worker Tanamonwan Chaosuan.

Her surname translates as "gardener", possibly indicating that she comes from a lineage skilled in the use of shears.

K. Amnart's trysts with other women invariably led to arguments and fits of jealous rage on the part of K. Tanamonwan, the last of which is certain to put an end to his butterfly behavior.

K. Tanamonwan was last reported to have fled the scene after the attack and to be still at large.

Source: Daily News

It has been seven months since import duties on yachts were scrapped on February 18, with people importing yachts now having to pay just 7% of the boat's value as value-added tax (VAT) – a massive change from the 237% of the boat's value imposed as import duty some two years ago.

Kritpetch Chaichuay, Chief of the Phuket Marine Office, explained, "The purpose of reducing the taxes on imported boats is to have more boats from overseas registered in Thailand. Having more leisure boats registered in Thailand brings investment to the related businesses, including yacht-charter businesses and marinas, which are now growing.

"Now boats that used to be registered in Hong Kong and Singapore are registered in Thailand."

However, the tax cuts have done little to help the local boat-building industry. One of the first companies to take advantage of the tax cuts is Sunsail (Thailand), which has imported 19 yachts since the taxes were dropped – the first yachts imported by Sunsail since 1999.

Managing Director Kevin Quilty said, "We have 39 rental sailing yachts, all imported from France. They have to be imported because no company in Thailand makes yachts that meet our requirements.

"The boats we import have been made in a large factory that has customers worldwide. And it's certainly important for a customer to be familiar with the [name of the] boat maker before renting the boat."

Martin Holmes, General Manager of boat brokers Lee Marine, agreed. "Some people want to own an imported boat because it's a well-known make," he said.

He also agreed that in addition to the brand-name barrier, locally-made boats cannot compete on quality against their overseas competitors. "We believe

# Raw deal for

imported boats are of higher quality than locally made boats.

"Not every boat owner wants to keep his boat in Thailand. Some people want to sail around the world. They know that Thai-built boats cannot perform the same as the boats we sell right now," he said.

Although Mr Holmes said local boatbuilders' skills had improved in recent years, he said that they still could not compete with the experience of boatbuilders overseas.

"Thai workers' skills have developed in the past few years because more people with boats have come here. People who work in the [local] marine industry now are more professional; they have learned how to take care of more types of boats.

"The boats we have imported to Thailand include those built at the one of the largest and best-known boat yards in Australia and we also have boats made by Ferretti of Italy, which has 100 years' experience in building boats," he said.

Philippe Zircon, General Manager of yacht charter and brokerage Thai Marine Leisure, however, disagreed. He rated the skills of some local boatbuilders as being of international standard.

"[Phuket-based boatbuild-

The abolition of duty on boats brought into Thailand was greeted by cheers from Phuket's marine leisure industry. But the island's boatbuilders have yet to realize any benefits – quite the reverse, in fact. The *Gazette's* Dhirarat Boonkongsaen and Kamol Pirat report on how the zero duty has actually put local boatbuilders at a disadvantage.

ers] Latitude 8° can build boats of the same quality as those made in Europe. They use the same quality materials and engines, and they use different designs," he said.

However, Mr Zircon rated cost as the major factor impeding the development of the local boat-building industry. "Locally made boats are more expensive than imported ones because of the materials and the different designs available, not because of where they are made.

"We have built only one boat locally, a catamaran. That was only an experiment in 2001, when the taxes on imported boats were still high.

We decided to make a boat to see if we could make one cheaper [than importing one]. After that we decided to import boats instead of building them here," he said.



"It's a pity that we have to import what has just been exported from our own country, and pay about 30% tax."

– Thiti Mokkapun  
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# Phuket's boatbuilders



One of the 19 yachts imported by yacht-charter company Sunsail is loaded onto a freighter bound for Phuket just days after the duty on boats imported into Thailand was dumped earlier this year.

K. Thiti explained that, in a bizarre twist, some parts, including engines, are made in Thailand, but for export only. They must therefore be reimported by the boatbuilder, incurring 30% import duty on the way in.

"It's a pity that we have to import what has just been exported from our own country, and pay about 30% tax," he said.

Mark Horwood, Managing Director of boatbuilders Latitude 8° in Chalong, told the *Gazette* that he believes that cancellation

of the 30% tax on imported parts would be helpful, but is not critical to his business.

"While imported boats are exempt from tax, and while we pay import duty on parts and the costs involved in transporting them here, our boats are more ex-

pensive than imported ones.

"But we don't build many boats, so dropping the tax would not have much effect on the number of orders we get," he said.

"Cheaper boat parts would help me a little, but it's not everything. Boat prices depend on the quality of the materials and how the boats are made."

Looking to even the playing field for local boatbuilders is the Marine Alliance of Thailand (MAT), the consortium of marine leisure industry representatives that lobbied extensively for the import taxes on boats to be scrapped.

Jan Jacobs, MAT Treasurer and Director of Thai Marine Leisure, told the *Gazette* that the Alliance is continuing its campaign for taxes on boat parts to be dropped.

"Our lobbying to reduce the tax on imported parts to zero continues. It will benefit local boatbuilders and the [marine] industry here as a whole.

"Boatbuilders find themselves in a difficult situation, although there are ways – complicated ways – around it. You have to register as a [Board of Investment – BoI] company, pay the 30% import duty on parts, build

the boat, export it and then reimport it," he said.

"[The MAT] knows who to lobby, and the best way of doing it. We will eventually have the MAT registered as an official association – as well as try to get more boatbuilders as members.

"That way the MAT will be recognized by more government departments and as an official body, not just as a collection of business owners."

Panjit Pissawong, Chief of Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, told the *Gazette* that much of the decision to dismiss the 30% tax rested upon trade negotiations with Australia, where most of the imported boat parts come from, and with which Thailand signed a free-trade agreement (FTA) that will come into effect on January 1 next year.

"I have received a report about this already," said K. Panjit. "We hope that the FTA will be the solution. But first we need a list of the goods boat-making companies import from Australia, so we can make a new agreement with Australia on those items.

"We need to make sure it's fair for both countries," K. Panjit said.

## Superbrands



## Oishi Ramen



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By Stephen Fein

There are now two stadiums staging genuine Muay Thai boxing in Phuket. The newest one, Patong Boxing Stadium, is located next to the Rock'n Bowl bowling alley in Patong and stages an exciting fight card every Monday and Thursday night, starting at 8 pm.

Opened last October, the stadium gives Patong residents and tourists alike a chance to enjoy real – as opposed to staged – Muay Thai bouts. Like Muay Thai stadiums across the country, the action kicks off with lightweight combatants, referred to affectionately by some as “pocket warriors”.

On the night we attended, the first combatants tipped the scales at just over 70 pounds (32 kg). The intensity of the fighting and the weight classes increase over the course of the evening, culminating in two feature bouts.

As far as Muay Thai stadiums go, Patong is quite comfortable. It seats just over 1,000 people and there isn't a bad seat in the house. It also home to a Muay Thai camp with over 20 fighters, about half of them under 18 years of age.

Chaiya Suttikul, who along with brother Chaiyanan built the stadium for about 10 million baht, told the *Gazette* that about 80% of the spectators are tourists, around half of whom come with tour groups.

But there is a sizable crowd of locals who come to bouts as well, most to gamble (Thai boxing stadiums are among the few places in Thailand where it is legal to gamble). The punters' excited yells and gestures, along with the smell of liniment inter-



FRIDAY'S ALL RIGHT FOR A FIGHT: Muay Thai fans now have a venue in Patong where they can see local boxers duke it – and boot it – out.

## Trading blows

mingled with cigarette smoke, make this a legitimate Muay Thai experience.

Happily, you're unlikely to be propositioned by hustlers of dubious gender or to have huge snakes draped over your shoulders by touts, as happens at other tourist-orientated Muay Thai rings across the country.

One of the most common complaints about Muay Thai stadiums is the heat. But in Patong, fans blow cooling mists of air throughout the stadium, keeping the air cool and comfortable.

Attractive young women in black T-shirts and jeans deliver

beer right to your seat. A bottle of Heineken is reasonably priced at 70 baht. There is also a menu that includes Western food.

When you finish your meal you can also light up a cigarette, because the place is not air-conditioned, technically speaking. At how many professional sporting events in the world can you do that nowadays?

The stadium is well equipped for the boxers, too. Unlike many Muay Thai stadiums, it has separate locker rooms for the blue and red corners. Other facilities include a committee room, doctor's clinic, referee

room and souvenir stand (this is Patong, after all). An extended, heavy-duty bar beckons big winners to celebrate, or those who have lost hefty wagers to come drown their sorrows.

As at any Muay Thai event, the action is accompanied by the rhythms of *klong* (drum), *ching* (hand cymbal) and *pee* (woodwind), here played by a trio of older gentlemen and amplified to ear-splitting volume as the excitement builds during each round.

Between rounds, rock music blares while the ring announcer chimes in with informa-

tion about the bout and reminders in English and Thai about the merchandise on offer at the souvenir stand.

The Patong Muay Thai Boxing Stadium may not appeal to everyone, and at 1,000 baht for a ringside seat and 700 baht for general seating, it is more expensive than its rival at Saphan Hin in Phuket City.

At those prices, some might wonder if perhaps some of Patong's other nocturnal attractions might offer better value for money. On the bright side, if you want a romantic night of boxing with your local sweetheart, she can get in for just 100 baht. Thai men pay 160 baht.

Mercifully, K. Chaiya said the management is now considering changing the pricing policy to make fight nights more affordable for resident foreigners.

On the night we turned up, there were nine bouts on the card. The last of these was a cracking 137-kg bout in which the lightning-quick Yodchay of Pypaya Camp outclassed opponent Lekpetch of Krabi, stopping him in the fourth round.

As the crowd filed out into the drizzling rain, a fight broke out near the exit and spilled out into the parking lot.

Everyone gathered around to catch a view of this unscheduled 10<sup>th</sup> bout, but soon after, the excitement died down and the crowd dispersed to do whatever it is one does for entertainment on a low-season Thursday night in Patong.

*Patong Boxing Stadium is located at 2/59 Soi Kebsup 2, Sainamyen Rd in Patong. For further information contact Stadium Supervisor Somchai Khamphan (Tel: 06-1203682; Tel/Fax: 076-345578).*

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it can be the start of a friendship.*





# Lao slave girls freed from sweatshop hell

**S**ocial Development and Human Security Minister Sora-at Klinpratoom led a police raid to rescue 18 Laotian girls from the Bangkok sweatshop where they were being held as slave laborers. The operation came just a few days after an earlier raid on the same factory in which 44 other slaves were liberated, 17 of them minors.

The husband and wife who own the factory were arrested for illegally detaining persons aged under 18 and forcing them into slave labor. They were also charged with providing shelter to illegal immigrants. They were identified as Somchai Phukiddee, 54, and his wife Yaowarat, 52.

A search of the makeshift jeans factory found the 18 girls, who were aged between 11 and 14, hidden in a secret three-by-four-meter chamber. One of the girls told police she had been working at the factory for six months without pay, and that she and other girls were forced to work from 6 am to midnight.

K. Sora-at said the couple claimed that they had paid the girls' parents to hire them. Such an action was a form of human trafficking, the minister said.

In the living room on the ground floor, police also found a picture of the couple with Acting Police Commissioner Pol Gen Sunthorn Saikwan.

**Popular policy:** More than 6,500 alleged offenders have bought into the fledgling Freedom Insurance Scheme, enabling them to post bail using an insurance policy. So far, 982 million baht



Police managed to arrest only about 30 of the 500 or so motorcycle racers who tore through the Phayathai District of central Bangkok recently, vandalizing a police booth and terrorizing local residents and motorists along the way.

in bail has been posted, said Chalee Visuthvatanasak, head of the division of the Insurance Department that issues the policies.

The scheme is an innovation in the justice system. Policies can be bought either before or after the alleged offense has been committed, but premiums differ.

If taken out before the offense is committed, 0.5% to 1% of the possible bail money required will be charged. If taken out after, offenders are charged 5% to 20%. Pre-offense policies cover only counts of a reckless or negligent (as opposed to deliberately criminal) nature.

**Aerial adverts:** Commercial aircraft flying domestic routes will soon have to pay tax for advertisements painted on their fuselages, the director of Bangkok

Metropolitan Administration's Finance Department said.

Thirachai Thiensanchai said he had already informed Don Muang District Office that it must collect tax from the airlines.

"Advertisements on airplanes have become increasingly popular and the airlines will have to pay tax," he said.

**Water management:** A proposed bill would require provinces to pay for water taken from rivers outside their boundaries and for diverting floodwater into rivers in the rainy season, said Thammasat University law professor Amnat Wongbandit, who drafted the bill.

If passed, the legislation would prevent the government from unilaterally deciding on new dam projects. Instead, the

river basin committee for the affected river would have the final say. The committees would also be empowered to decide whether to release water for irrigation purposes.

K. Amnat added that a National Water Resource Committee, to be chaired by the Prime Minister, would make decisions on compensation payments.

The legislation would be the first specifically addressing key water resource management issues.

**Krabi rape case:** The father of an eight-year-old girl who claims she was raped in the toilet of a Krabi school last month committed suicide by swallowing pesticide after the child's family allegedly received threats warning them to drop the case.

"He killed himself because

we received threats telling us to drop the rape claim," the man's wife said.

She alleges that a woman called Wan offered the family 200,000 baht to drop the case, but they refused. Police later found out that Wan is a police officer's wife and close to teachers at the school where the alleged assault took place.

The investigating officer said the investigation was going slowly because the school had not fully cooperated with police.

**Deadline for spas nears:** Spas across the country have until the end of this month to register and receive Public Health Ministry certification – or face closure.

The Director General of the Health Service Support Department, Dr Rewat Wisarutwej, said his department has already developed three logos for Thai spas based on the winning design from a contest, for which the winner was paid 30,000 baht

The first is for health spas, the second for beauty spas and the third for world-class spas that offer five-star services.

He said he would seek police cooperation to ensure that only registered spas were allowed to operate.

One of the three new logos to classify Thai spas.



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

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# The key is money, as usual

Earlier than ever, Khao Lak business people are busy preparing for the coming high season. The ones who managed to rent or buy a shophouse along Highway 4 can count themselves lucky, as prices are skyrocketing now.

Shophouse prices in Khao Lak are now in the region of 2.5 to 4.2 million baht – up to treble the rate just a year ago. Rental prices for this type of property are around 12,000 baht a month at the cheaper end of the scale, and up to 25,000 baht for the bigger, more exclusive shophouses.

It is still possible to get a good deal on one-story sales units with a ground-floor storage room, like those at the Khao Lak Meeting Plaza, halfway between the center of Khao Lak and Bang Niang Beach.

However, most shophouse owners in Khao Lak want at least one year's rent in advance, which makes it almost impossible for local people to start a business here, unless they already own some land along the highway. Only a few landlords are asking for key money at present, but this add-on will inevitably become common practice.

**Men at work:** A large new resort is under construction in the north-western part of Bang Niang, and heavy trucks loaded with soil have converted the already-bumpy roads into deep and dangerous sand and mud traps, making it almost impossible for cars and motorbikes to pass.



**MAKING TRACKS:** A heavy truck loaded with soil tries to negotiate the muddy track to its destination – a large new resort under construction in the northwestern part of Bang Niang.

However, it appears that a solution is in the offing and this unbearable road situation may end soon with the allocation of a budget of 4 million baht to construct proper roads along this part of the beach.

But the road project can't start while the only two connecting roads are in private hands, so members of the Phang Nga Provincial Administration Organization are now pressing landowners in Bang Niang to donate money to buy the land and sign it over to the government.

This piece of land would then connect a new road system with the Bang Niang main road.

The big problem, however, is that this may require each and every landowner in the area to contribute toward the purchase. Also, it appears unfair that the donations expected will not be relative to an individual's land holding. One would imagine that owners of big resorts should pay much more than owners of small private houses.

As there is no obligation for residents to contribute, the outcome may be that many will give little or nothing, which could result in the whole project grinding to a halt.

A meeting to discuss the matter was due to be held at the Baan Rak Talay Resort, to which

Bang Niang residents and landowners were to be invited in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

**Big clean-up:** The annual Khao Lak beach clean-up day is set for September 25, but this time with a difference. Instead of just cleaning the beaches at Khao Lak, volunteers will also travel to the Similan Islands in a boat sponsored by Sea Dragon dive center.

Divers will clean up the reefs on Island No.8, while the non-diving group will clean the beach on Koh Similan.

The event has been praised and supported financially by local National Park authorities, who want to market the area more aggressively and increase

awareness of eco-tourism possibilities. With this objective in mind, it is important to keep the park clean and habitable for its abundant marine life.

**Big jobs:** The recently installed drains along the connecting road to Bang Niang beach doesn't appear to be working. Construction workers are now busy excavating the brand-new project to correct building mistakes. Isn't it great to see a well-planned project succeed?

**Black gold:** Building up a destination's reputation can take many years of painstaking work and forward planning. Unfortunately such a reputation can be lost in a matter of days.

Khao Lak residents and business people, especially the Phang Nga Tourist Association, are nervous about the proposed plans for an oil pipeline in the Phang Nga area.

While supporters of this project maintain that it will not affect the environment or marine life, the reality is that the process of loading or unloading tankers can spill tons of oil into the sea. This level of spillage is considered normal and "not a cause for concern".

I am trying to get some hard facts on the issue, and local interested parties are busy gathering reliable information about the potential negative impact of the oil pipeline.

Hopefully this project can be stopped. I would urge beach clean-up volunteers and others concerned about this issue to share their thoughts.

Interested parties should contact the Phang Nga Tourist Association at Tel: 076-443443, Fax: 076-443444, Email: palm\_as1@hotmail.com



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By Franky Gun

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# This week



**FOR THE FUTURE:** Phuket International Women's Club President Joan Watson hands scholarship funds to a student from Phuket Vocational College on September 14. Forty-three other students also received grants from the club toward their education.



**SECURITY DETAIL:** (from left) Narcotics Suppression Bureau Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Watcharapol Prasarnrajkit, Narcotics Control Board Secretary-General Pol Gen Chidchai Vanasatidya, the Myanmar Police Force's Director-General Pol Maj Gen Khin Yi and the Secretary-General of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation MR Disnadda Diskul attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Thailand-Myanmar Bilateral Drug Law Enforcement Cooperation meeting at the Pearl Village Hotel earlier this month.



**ON SONG:** Launching the Star Maker multimedia vocal training system in Phuket are (from left): Jamras Jaikla, MD of the Yamaha Music School Phuket; Jirawijak Amornpairaj, MD of A R Electric Corporation; Maneenuch Samerasut, singer and vocal coach; and Tianchai Chatramongkholkul, Star Maker committee member.



**ABSOLUTELY TIMELESS:** Shannon Bunna (left), owner of Yoonique's Bar, and friends Sunanta Pattana (center) and Adrienne Foley dance themselves dizzy at a '70s-theme party at the Nai Harn Beach bar last month.



**FRUIT OF THE LIONS:** David Brook (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) of the Island Lager Bar 2 and guests celebrate the bar's opening in the new Soi Lion, off Soi Bangla, Patong, on September 8.



**FINE HERBS:** Hotel management students of Phuket Rajabhat University join their Dean of Faculty Administration, Saman Chaisorn (center), and the Head of the Phuket Cultural Center, Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana (right), at the university's recent Thai herb and food exhibition.

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# BENZ IN THE FAST LANE

**Gazette:** Did you always dream of becoming an actress?

**Benz:** The thought never crossed my mind. Actually, like many of my friends in secondary school, I studied science and dreamed of becoming an engineer or an architect. I wanted to be a woman engineer.

When I was young, I didn't have much self-confidence. I was reluctant to join in anything. I got my first job on Thai TV when I was asked to be an advertising model, and since then I have worked continuously in entertainment. I didn't think I could work as an actress – that I didn't have the talent – but I tried it and I found I could.

**Gazette:** Has it been worth giving up your original dream of being an engineer?

**Benz:** It has been worth it for me, even if I did miss out on some of my childhood through being involved in acting since I was 14 years old. I couldn't join my friends doing extra-curricular courses. I didn't have time to go on holiday with them. I didn't get the chance to go to Dream World.

If I had free time, such as at the weekend or after finishing class, I had to work. I lost part of my life.

But if I were an engineer now, or anything but an actress, I doubt my life would be better than it is now. As a woman, it is difficult to be an engineer, because most engineers are men and you have to make them believe that you are capable of doing the job. I graduated at the same time

Do-Ree-Mee Do-Ree-Mee Sol-La... probably every youngster in Thailand can sing this song, one of Pornchita "Benz" Na Songkla's biggest hits. K. Benz is as well known as an actress as she is as a singer, and in the 10 years since she entered showbiz at the tender age of 14, her resumé has grown to feature countless acting appearances on Thai TV, as well as MCing events and modeling.

K. Benz was recently in Phuket for the opening of Central Festival, and spoke with the *Gazette's* Anongnat Sarpisut about her life and career so far.

as my friends. I'm already established in my career, while they are still trying to start theirs. But I don't know what will happen in the future. Maybe my friends' careers will overtake mine.

Most people treat me with respect, although some people react badly towards me because they think actresses are silly. I'm happy to meet anyone who likes me and appreciates what I do.

**Gazette:** What is your personality?

**Benz:** I am a straight woman. I think a lot even when I'm not speaking. My face is serious when I am working because I am concentrating so hard, but if someone sees me on the street and I look serious, they should come up and say hello and they'll find that I am not so serious!

**Gazette:** Which acting roles are you most proud of?

**Benz:** [My roles in] *Tabtawan* and *Sapai Rai Sakdina*, because I had to play so many as-

pects of personality in each of them and they gave me the chance to show what I could do.

In *Sapai Rai Sakdina* I played a woman from the countryside who becomes a successful singer, and I had to act happy, sad, cry, laugh, many things. It was like real life in a way; you have to overcome many difficulties to become a success.

In *Tabtawan*, I played a woman who bottles up her emotions until, finally, she goes crazy. I found both these roles challenging.

**Gazette:** Who is your favorite actor or actress?

**Benz:** I appreciate many people, such as Jintara Sukkapat and Pissamai Wilaisak. I had admired them for a long time, and then I got the chance to work with

them on *Soul Mate (Koo Gam)*. I saw how professional they are; they do their homework, they are always punctual and they concentrate, but they also enjoy relaxing with everyone as well.

**Gazette:** What do you think when people say actresses are beautiful?

**Benz:** They're right, though I don't think it applies to me! [laughs]. I'm embarrassed about not being beautiful.

If you made a list of beautiful actresses, I wouldn't be on it. I look like normal people; you can find this face everywhere. I am not that different from other people.

But people know that I have got to this point in my career because of my attention to my work. I'm grateful to have been offered different roles which aren't about being beautiful.

I prefer to rely on my work rather than beauty because I

**Gazette:** What do you need to make a life in showbiz?

**Benz:** You need to decide for yourself whether you want to do this kind of work or not. If you love it, you will try to do it more than anything else.

It's like any other occupation, except that everyone sees what we do. We need to set a good example, because we have such high profiles.

Thai people should show respect for older people, and I should do the same in my career. We should *wai*, show interest in people and smile, although how we act depends on the situation.

I've been in showbiz since I was young and I do these things. Now I am older, I see younger people behaving in ways I don't like. We shouldn't do things that are bad for Thai culture.

**Gazette:** What is your opinion of Thai TV?

**Benz:** Thai TV is developing fast. Actresses now do more than cry all the time; their characters get to fight for what they want.

As for modeling, well, models who want to be known outside Thailand are going "inter" – international – which means they are starting to copy foreign models, and wearing clothes that

in the past they would not have been willing to wear.

I stopped doing fashion shows three years ago, so I can't really comment further. I still model in books and advertisements, and on television, though. I'm selective about the work I do, and I talk with my mother about what I should wear and how I should pose.

I turned down one job because it was nearly nude modeling. I'll do sexy work but not ugly nudes.

**Gazette:** Has your acting career cost you your privacy?

**Benz:** I need privacy sometimes but I am very happy to have people recognise me, although there are times when it is not so good to be so well-known. For example, if I am out with my friends, sometimes I want to wear a short skirt to go shopping, but I won't because it doesn't look [polite].

I try to behave in the same way personally as I do professionally, so I don't have to worry that I will disappoint someone who meets me when I'm not working by being different from the way I am when I'm working.

My mother pointed out that if, some day, I was walking down the street and people didn't acknowledge me, I would be upset. So, if someone approaches me, even if I'm in a hurry and don't have time to talk to them, I will



'I'm selective about the [modeling] work I do, and I talk with my mother about what I should wear and how I should pose' – Benz in Phuket with her mother.

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**Benz cuddles up to a friend:** 'It is hard to establish a loving relationship with one person when your job requires you to get professionally so close to so many men,' she says.

at least smile. A smile is enough to establish a link.

My mother says that today everybody loves me because I am well known, but if one day, I am not so well known, nobody will look at me. You must treat everyone in the same way, whether you like them or not. Some actresses

act badly and then they can't get work because of it.

**Gazette:** Are you in a relationship?

**Benz:** I have so much work right now that I don't have time to think of anything like that. In the past, I preferred men who

were pale and pretty. Now, oh, I am so *old* I can't be so choosy! [laughs].

Actually, I want someone with a good sense of humour, and if possible, I want a man who is not in showbiz. This is a small industry where everyone knows everyone else, so it is hard to establish a loving relationship with one person when your job requires you to get professionally so close to so many men.

**Gazette:** Do you have plans to appear in foreign films? How do you think it would be different from working on a Thai film?

**Benz:** If somebody contacts me about an interesting role, I'd like to try it, but I'm happy with my career as it is right now. If you think about foreign films, someone 50 or 60 years old can still be an actor. It's different in Thailand, where actors of 40-50 years are too old to be stars and have to play uncle or auntie.

We shoot the film and maybe get a million baht, which is nothing compared with what actors in other countries get, even taking into account the cost of living and other factors.

While actors in other countries can earn enough from one film to keep them for the rest of their lives, actors here are often working on two or three films at once to earn enough money for their daily life. However, our film industry is developing fast.

**Gazette:** What are your plans for the future?

**Benz:** I will go on working; I have more jobs. I still love working in entertainment, as I am doing so well out of it. For example, it helps us in business outside entertainment. On the other hand, our lives are not our own. We don't know what the future holds for us - if we're offered an opportunity, we really should take it.

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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Someone's tactless words could upset your balance this weekend, but you should shrug them off. Interesting possibilities are about to blow your way, and languid Librans should strike while the iron is hot – don't let the rainy season be an excuse for inertia. An important appointment on Wednesday could raise concern, but a second opinion should clear the air.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Any Scorpions nurturing a secret passion could find that it's become common knowledge. This should be viewed as a good thing; the stars are on your side and romance is set to flourish – if you're serious. Communications may be hindered so check to see whether an important letter has been received. The color amber will inspire confidence.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Astrological influences will shine a light on those Sagittarians who face a work-related dilemma this week. Personal problems may take a little longer to resolve, but this depends on how far you are prepared to go to understand another's feelings. As September closes, you will be wondering if the grass may be greener on the other side.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A mislaid possession reappears, though mystery surrounds its disappearance. Capricorns who are suspicious of another's motives should listen to their inner voice. At work, take part in meetings that could affect your job description or your life could become unnec-

essarily busy in the near future. The color amethyst will stimulate confidence when dealing with overpowering characters.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Be careful who you do a favor for this weekend as they may expect more than you are prepared to give. After Monday, your energy will be directed towards sorting out a business matter that has soured. It's important to sweeten this situation before the end of September, so make sure you say the right things to people who can pave the way to success.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Surprise visitors from overseas could spice up your life this week. Pisceans who haven't been getting out and about much recently will be happy to play tour guide. Your love life is subject to some ups and downs, but this turbulent period should lead to better understanding. Avoid temptations to spend more than you can afford; next month is bound to bring some rainy days. Number 4 is lucky on Monday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Take a tactful rain check on an invitation that fails to float your boat this weekend. There's no point in forcing yourself to mix in a social circle that isn't of interest. Tired Arians would benefit from getting more exercise. This doesn't have to mean running marathons; regular beach walks will soon have you feeling fitter.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): With romantic stars so well highlighted this month, Taureans can indulge in a spot

of mild flirtation. Others are attracted to your new-found confidence and would like some to rub off on them. Guard against giving away too many of your feel-good secrets. If you have been eyeing someone special, this weekend is the perfect time to make a move.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Boggling yourself down in imaginary problems is certain to cast a cloud over the weekend. Geminis need to lighten up and focus on all the advantages at hand. Your financial luck is about to improve by leaps and bounds; if this doesn't happen before the end of September, it certainly will at the beginning of October.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Conflicting forces are likely to affect Cancerians this week. Stand still for a while if you can't work out whether you're coming or going; answers will come more easily than you imagine. Where romance is concerned, your immediate enemy is infatuation; once you can get past this negative state of mind, someone else is ready to make his or her feelings known.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Permanent improvements in your living situation are indicated. However, this may involve spending more cash than might be desirable at the moment. Your practical approach to financial matters should enable you to make sensible decisions. A lazy mood overtakes you mid-week when all you want to do is lie around in your lair. This is all well and good, but remember to check your appointment book.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Optimism flows thick and fast for Virgoans this week. As your outlook on life becomes more positive, there are signs that a new direction looks inviting. If you are determined to do more than just make ends meet, this is the right moment to accept that challenge. Sagittarius has been noticing you from a safe distance and is preparing to edge in closer.

# GOOD FOR

## Hair

The shelves in pharmacies and beauty shops may be groaning under the weight of bottles of ready-made shampoos and conditioners, promising beautiful, healthy hair. But could the key to making every day a good hair day be found in the food market as much as at the beauty counter?

Before the advent of commercially manufactured hair treats, generations of women relied on natural products made from simple ingredients easily obtained from the average market.

Not only are these products easy to make, they also have the added advantage of being cheaper than many ready-made products.

Here are some simple "recipes" to try at home:

**Citrus hystrix (kaffir lime)** adds shine and creates highlights. Boil two glasses of water, and add one lime, chopped up. Boil for five minutes, then strain and leave to cool. Add this water to the final rinse of your hair.

**Eggs** add volume to the hair. Take two raw eggs and beat them into a foam. Apply to the hair and cover with a shower hat or warm towel. Let the eggs do their work for about 20 minutes, then rinse them out and shampoo as normal.

This treatment is suitable for all types of hair. Applying it at least once a week should give the hair more volume as well as making it soft.

**Honey** reduces oil on greasy hair. Mix together one teaspoon of honey, one egg, one teaspoon of lime juice and one teaspoon of water. When these ingredi-



ents are blended together thoroughly, add one teaspoon of milk powder and blend again until the mixture looks like cream.

Apply it to the hair, cover with a plastic bag or a warm towel and leave it for about 20 minutes, then wash it out using shampoo.

**Coconut oil** smooths the hair. Cover your hair in coconut oil and leave it on for two or three hours. Shampoo until the oil has all been removed. A good way to tell if it has been washed out properly is to place

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# FOOD HAIR

with Sangkhae

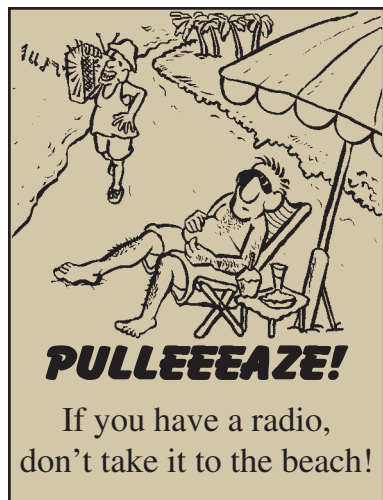


**BAGELS FOR YOUR LOCKS?** Clockwise, from top left, Kaffir lime, eggs, crushed mint and honey and limejuice can combine to make your hair glow.



your fingers firmly on your head and run them along your hair, pressing in against the side of your head. If your hair "squeaks", the oil has gone.

**Mint** guards against dandruff. Crush a handful of fresh mint and mix it with conditioner. Massage into the hair and leave for 20 minutes before rinsing.



## Starry, starry night

It was the most remarkable party I've ever attended in Phuket. All of the reported elegance and sophistication that one assumes is a matter of daily life at our world-famous Amanpuri came rolling down the hill and landed at the very grand opening of the Oriental Spoon restaurant at TwinPalms Phuket.

Olivier Gibaud, the convivial GM, invited the movers and shakers of the island's hospitality industry and nearby über-affluent villa owners to an evening of raw oysters, imported Swiss chocolates and selections of cheeses from around Europe.

The oysters were a mix of French, Sydney rock and local Thai laid out on huge blocks of ice set in the water court which surrounds the Oriental Spoon.

The rounds of cheese were laid on the counters around the cocktail area and the snappy wine room was transformed into a wonderland of bite-sized chocolates of every color and taste.

The lighting was low and the music was sexy. I hope this magnificent event is only the beginning of more great things to come out of this very regal resort set across from Surin Beach.



Friends and former colleagues turned out in force to support Olivier Gibaud (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the grand opening of Oriental Spoon. From left, Jean-Louis Graindorge, Production Manager of GalloThai; Sylvain LaPointe, Executive Sous-chef at the Arcadia; Delphine Seigle and husband Philippe, Regional Manager of Le Meridien; and Dominique LaPointe, GM of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club.



### Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

attending a charity event she is organizing on behalf of some of the least-fortunate members of Phuket society: dogs.

Yes, lovely Athena can usually be found feeding stray dogs at the local temples. She and husband Howard work hard on behalf of the

Phuket Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to ensure that the island's dogs are given food and medical care.

"Rather than put these poor dogs into a pound where they are most likely to be ignored, we be-

lieve that Phuket needs a permanent mobile clinic to sterilize the animals, thereby reducing their population," said Athena.

The PAWS gala is called an evening of Gastronomical Delight and Culture and includes welcome drinks at the restaurant's upmarket Martini Bar, followed by a five-course gourmet dinner paired with matching wines.

The menu is too extensive to list but features bouillabaisse with tiger prawns, roast rack of lamb and a seafood platter with oysters, black and blue crabs, mussels, clams and cockles served with an array of dips. This is a chance to have an unforgettable evening for a good cause.

Call Athena at 01-5979416 for your reservation. Tickets are only 1,400 baht a person.

**Dog day:** Sorry you missed the party? Well, Athena Cant was there looking extremely fetching in blue silk. She tells me that next Saturday, October 2, everyone has the chance to experience the magic at TwinPalms Phuket by

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Since early 2002, a little bar on Soi Seadragon, just off Soi Bangla, has been a focus for late-night, long-haired rockers while the soi itself – once known for its ping-pong-ball shows – is slowly reinventing itself as a live-music area.

One such place, the Coyote Bar, is the pride and joy of Freddy Bates from Bergen, Norway. He washed up on Phuket three years ago for an extended holiday and decided to stay on. Unlike many folks here, Freddy had never visited Thailand before the visit that saw him become an expat.

Freddy had been a bar owner in Scandinavia and decided to be the same in Thailand. As he puts it, "It was the most normal thing for me to do. I was in a strange country, unable to speak the language so it was very comfortable to dive right back into what I knew best."

Like many "Scandihooligans", rock music of the leather-jacket, patchouli-oil, beer-guzzling, guitar-solo variety is his preferred choice of music.

Boy bands and R'n'B don't get a look in here and I wish that other bar owners took a similarly brave stance by playing music for the punters, not the *phu ying* staff.

I submit that Freddy's music policy is one of the reasons why he is busy from opening time to closing time, seven nights a week during both the high and low seasons.

No one can expect to become a millionaire with a shop-house bar, but Freddy has kept the Coyote open and rocking for more than two and a half years on what is a hard soi to work.

The bar has attracted a fine selection of local musicians and is fast gaining a reputation as a top spot for a good jam session. The best kind of jam sessions – the ones that become legendary – usually happen in pubs with a great music policy and a landlord who both loves his tunes and who



Right, Fender-bender: Nom on bass guitar is a regular in the band.

Below, Nightmare on Seadragon St: Freddy mugs for the camera.



# HOWLIN' DOWN AT THE COYOTE

looks after the musicians.

In fact, attracting the musicians first as customers is also vital as otherwise they might ask themselves just why they should pitch up to an empty pub and make it busy.

The house band at Coyote Bar is known as the Coyote

Blues. The line-up is an ad hoc group comprising some of Phuket's finest rocking tub-thumpers, warblers and plank-spankers, all of whom appear at some point during the week although some are on stage every evening.

At the heart of this loose association are the talented trio of K. Nom on bass guitar, K. Peek on drums and the mighty K. Arja on main plank – that's lead guitar to the boy-band aficionados out there.

On any given night there could be up to 10 local musos and a smattering of expats and

holidaymakers joining them on stage.

Typically, a rock-till-you-pop set is played with pieces from Led Zep, Deep Purple, Motorhead, Rainbow, Whitesnake and Clapton. I am sad to report that *Hotel California* also raises its head, usually at the request of some non-muso who thinks

that every self-respecting muso considers it to be a great song.

But never mind. When the band rock, they really rock.

It's a no-holds-barred, heads-down, see-you-at-the-end-if-we-are-all-still-alive romp

through the metal classics where any lack of talent or ability is more than made up for with enthusiasm.

Prices are keen and the staff are very friendly although the toilets could do with a lick of paint, but then, that's just rock 'n' roll and I like it.

The Coyote Bar is a place for those of us who are still head bangers at heart, and as hoary old rockers AC/DC sang, "For those about rock, we salute you."

*The Coyote Bar is situated 100 meters down and on the left-hand side of Soi Seadragon, off Soi Bangla, Patong. It doesn't have a phone – you'll just have to go there in person.*

## After DARK

by Sam Vimes



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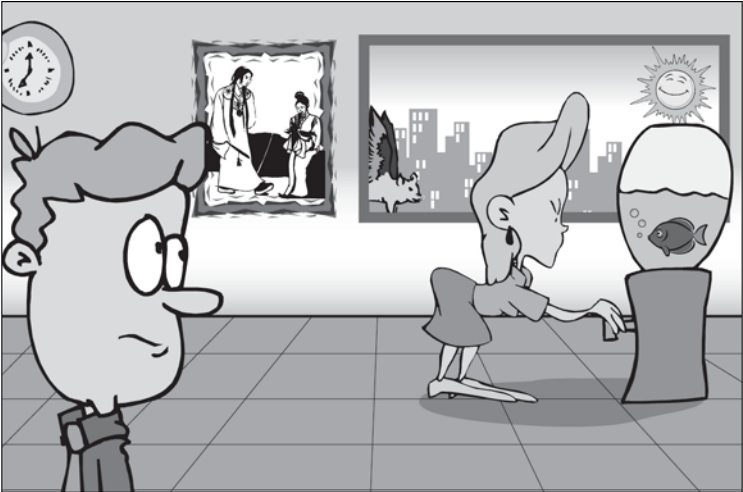
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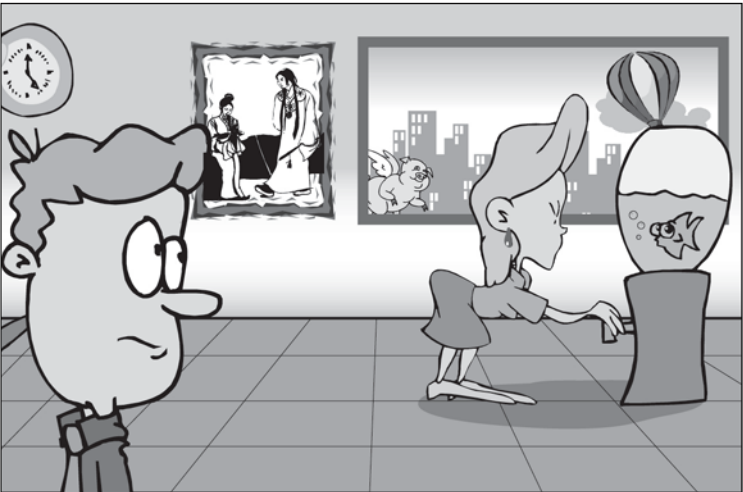
THE FAMILY

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!!

Arthur the farmer was heading for market carrying a dog, a chicken, and a sack of seed, when he came to a ferry across a river. The ferryman told him he he could ferry Arthur and only one of the three items across the river at a time. Arthur couldn't leave the dog alone with the chicken or the chicken would be eaten. And he dare not leave the chicken with the seed or the seed would be eaten. So how did he get all three across?

First Arthur took the chicken across, then he came back and took the dog over. He left the dog on the far side of the river and returned with the chicken. He then left the chicken on the land and took the seed over. Finally, he returned and collected the chicken.

- ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ
1. Hawaii; 2. Stamps; 3. Sand; 4. Johann Rudolph Wyss; 5. Martin Sheen; 6. A donkey and a horse; 7. Red, blue and yellow; 8. Aubergine/eggplant; 9. Frans Hals; 10. Time; 11. The starling; 12. Madagascar; 13. Contradiction; 14. The Cheka, forerunner of the KGB; 15. United Nations; 16. Cut into long thin strips; 17. Pastry chef; 18. Amblin' (1968); 19. December 2, 1978 in, British Columbia, Canada; 20. A Scandinavian goat's-milk cheese.

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which is the largest joint in the human body?

2. In what year did composer Franz Schubert die?

3. Which professionals take the Hippocratic oath?

4. What may be vulgar, Egyptian or dyadic?

5. Whose autobiographies were called *Boy* and *Going Solo*?

6. Who fought in the "Six Day War" in 1967?

7. How is fish 'à la Normande' cooked?

8. Who or what is Pico Duarte?

9. Mr Burns and Smithers appear in which TV show?

10. What is the word for a billionth of a meter?

11. What is the name of the Pyrennean principality between France and Spain?

12. In what year was the Magna Carta signed?

13. How long was the longest continuous war in history?

14. Who invented the phonograph in 1887?

15. In what Spanish province was painter Salvador Dali born?

16. In which body of water are the islands of Ios, Paros and Naxos?

17. Who said, "I can resist anything except temptation"?

18. In terms of communications what do the letters GSM stand for?

19. In *Star Trek Deep Space Nine* who plays the part of Captain Sisko?

20. What is a more common term for a lycanthrope?

Answers next week

Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Floating around aimlessly.
4. Organ for breathing.
8. Machine part.
9. State between Mississippi and Georgia.
10. German mommy.
11. Concepts.
13. Convent inhabitant.
14. \*\*\*\*\* utan.
15. House lizard.
16. Not professional.
18. Fruit seed.
19. Fencing sword.
20. It's used for rubbing out.

Down

1. Provide room for.
2. Yachting competition.
3. Pink wading birds.
5. Ms Thurman, actress.
6. Locust's little cousin.
7. One who feigns illness to avoid work.
12. Breaks out of jail.
17. Best in the pack.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

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

The Gazette's Siripansa Somboon went out and about recently and asked, "If you could take one possession with you into the afterlife, what would it be, and why?"



**Narathit Dumwan**  
Age: 25  
From: Bangkok  
Occupation: Student

I would take all my money into the new world with me because money can buy anything. Money can even buy happiness. I would give money to the Devil in order to get special treatment, because I know everyone likes to get money under the table.



**Karen Wilke**  
Age: 31  
From: New York  
Occupation: Teacher

I would take my favorite pair of shoes with me after I died, because I could go for long, relaxing walks anywhere I'd like to. I'm not afraid of anything. I believe that I would be happy to take the trip into the next world; it would be exciting.



**Nathan Doman**  
Age: 24  
From: Wales  
Occupation: English teacher

I would take a mobile phone so I could call my friends and family and say "hi" to them – though I don't know if they would be able to connect calls from the afterlife to this life. I hope they have the right network in heaven for my mobile phone.



**Nuttaya Thosanut**  
Age: 25  
From: Bangkok  
Occupation: Accountant

I would take my engagement ring so I could look at it instead of my boyfriend's face whenever I missed him. It's a symbol of the love he has given me. I hope it finds me a soulmate in the next life, but I can't say whether my love would be the same as I have in this life.



**Tom Howrie**  
Age: 37  
From: Scotland  
Occupation: Student

I would take a soccer ball with me into the afterlife. I like playing soccer and if I could I would play every day, just as I do now. Maybe that way I could forget that I was dead. This would make me happy, even if I have to play soccer all by myself.

## The guru and the culture vulture

**M**y old guru, Master Chang Shou, is a Taoist shaman from China. I recently briefed him on developments here.

**Me:** Thailand now has a Ministry of Culture, Master.

**Master:** Oh, good. Errrr... what does a Ministry of Culture do?

**Me:** It promotes Thai culture and tries to revive old traditions. I'm hoping they'll revive slavery. The Thais used to have slaves, you know. I've always wanted to have a slave; it would give me a very civilized lifestyle.

**Master:** Civilized for you, maybe, but probably not for the slave.

**Me:** Thailand has a drug problem, so maybe they should enslave the drug dealers.

**Master:** I doubt that drug dealers would make good slaves, my son. Maybe they should enslave all the foreigners instead.



**Me:** Foreigners wouldn't make good slaves either, Master. I, for instance, would make a terrible slave.

**Master:** They wouldn't get much work out of you, that's for sure. But tell me about greed, my son.

**Me:** What about it?

**Master:** Is greed an ancient Thai tradition? Or is it something new? Because right now it seems to be everywhere. Every Thai I meet yearns with touching nostalgia for the good old days of the

bubble economy, when credit was limitless, borrowing never ended, people lit their cigars with 500-baht notes and everybody was rich.

**Me:** People say that greed is a pernicious import from the decadent West.

**Master:** Well, they ought to get rid of it. Why doesn't your rich prime minister set a good example by giving a whole bunch of his money away? That would give greed a good knock on the head.

**Me:** It's not a Thai tradition for rich people to give their money away, Master. Their tradition is to try to get even richer, because you can never have enough.

**Master:** What about all those skin whiteners they advertise on TV? Are they part of Thai culture?

**Me:** Thai culture values everything that is *suay*, *sabai*, *saduak* and *sanuk* (beautiful, comfortable, convenient and fun). Skin whiteners help make women's skin more beautiful, so they fit right into Thai culture.

**Master:** Who says white skin is more beautiful than brown?

**Me:** The Thais say so, Master.

**Master:** Well, it seems to me that it is a sin against Thainess for any Thai woman to try to whiten her naturally dark skin. This is a brazen attempt to pervert the natural order of things. It offends Heaven and sows chaos within the Tao.

**Me:** The Thais would say you're an old-fashioned fuddy-duddy, Master.

**Master:** Do you think the ministry will crack down on mobile phones? They're not part of Thai culture.

**Me:** Oh, but they are, Master. Mobile phones represent the very essence of Thai culture.

**Master:** And what precisely is the essence of Thai culture, my son?

**Me:** *Sanuk*. Having fun. That's what the Thais are all about. The Thais are a gregarious and fun-loving people who love to chat with their friends. The mobile phone helps to fulfill this need perfectly. It is a maximum *sanuk*-ifier.

**Master:** Is that what life is all about? Having fun?

**Me:** Yes! Having fun is a good part of what life is all about.

Life wouldn't be any fun if we didn't have fun. I myself detest mobile phones, but they make many people happy. If something makes people happy, it can't be all bad.

**Master:** Hmmm. I suppose not. Now, do you think the Ministry of Culture will ban chilies and *somtam*? I understand that chilies and papaya are not indigenous to Thailand; they were imported many years ago.

**Me:** Fear not, Master. It is part of the genius of Thai culture that it can absorb what is best (and sometimes what is worst), in foreign

cultures and transform it into something uniquely Thai.

So long as a foreign import does not violate the four cardinal Thai values of *suay*, *sabai*, *saduak* and *sanuk*, it will be accepted and integrated into the warm and capacious bosom of mother Thailand.

**Master:** Gosh. Maybe we should have a Ministry of Culture in China, too.

*Master Chang and S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when they are deep in cultural meditation.*

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# The old master shows his age

**A** quiz: Who wrote this? "Late afternoon, Chloe and Kelly were having cocktails at the Rattlesnake Club, the two seated on the far side of the dining room by themselves: Chloe talking, Kelly listening, Chloe trying to get Kelly to help her entertain Anthony Paradiso, an eighty-four-year-old guy who was paying her five thousand a week to be his girlfriend..."

"They'd made their entrance, the early after-work crowd still looking, speculating, something they did each time the two came in. Not showgirls. More like fashion models: designer casual wool coats, oddball pins, scarves, big leather belts, definitely not bimbos. They could be sisters, both remembered as blondes, their hair cropped short. Today they wore hats, each a knit cloche down on her eyes, and sunglasses. It was April in Detroit, snow predicted."

Any Elmore Leonard fan will recognize the voice of the master – a prose

style as distinct as Hemingway's and Faulkner's. Pushing 80 now, Leonard is the author of 40 novels. He started off writing pulp Westerns and when that genre lost popularity, turned to crime stories.

Populated by ex-cons, small-time hustlers and world-weary women, Leonard's early plots moved on an axis between

hard-scrabble Detroit and glitzy Florida. He's moved further afield since then – Hollywood, Mississippi, Rwanda, Cuba – but has now returned to his old stomping ground of Detroit in his latest novel, *Mr. Paradise* (William Morrow, New York, 2004, 291 pp).

In contrast to the current crop of tinker-toy thriller writers who whip their cardboard characters along ready-made plots, Leonard is famous for letting his quirky characters decide how the story will end. They develop organically, in conversations with each other.

So it is with Chloe and Kelly. They are roommates, sharing a fabulously expensive loft; Chloe an ex-Playmate of the

Month and 900-dollar-an-hour hooker, Kelly a runway and lingerie catalogue model. Chloe inveigles Kelly into dressing up as a University of Michigan cheerleader with her to entertain Mr Paradiso, a retired personal injury lawyer, while he watches tapes of old football games.

Only this night, two contract killers come in and shoot Mr Paradiso and Chloe. Kelly happens to be upstairs with Montez Taylor, Mr Paradiso's pimp and driver, an ex-con and former client.

Angry at the old man for reneging on a deal to leave him the house when he died, Montez had arranged the hit through a shady lawyer named Avern Cohn, who has developed a lucrative sideline hiring out two ex-con killers, Carl Fontana and Art Krupa.

With Chloe dead, Montez Taylor wants Kelly to impersonate her until she retrieves from a safe deposit box a stock certificate made out to Chloe by the grateful old man.

A parallel plot strand follows homicide detective and lonely widower Frank Delsa as he investigates the dual murder

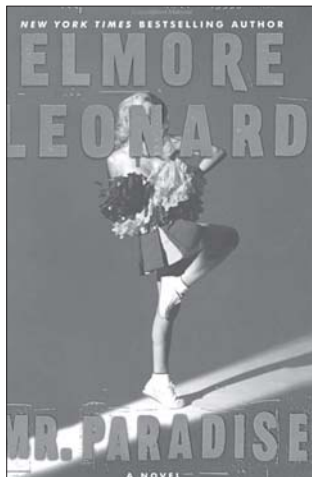
and other related cases of drug killings and professional hits.

The black humor ethos of squad rooms, crime scenes and autopsy wards is perfectly captured. A sign in the office of the homicide squad reads: "Too often we lose sight of life's simple pleasures. Remember, when someone annoys you it takes 42 muscles in your face to frown. But it only takes 4 muscles to extend your arm and bitch-slap the mother\*\*\*\*r upside the head."

As unpredictable as Leonard's plots can be, you just know Kelly and Frank will fall in love, and they do. The first half of this novel is as good as anything Leonard has written, but the last half collapses in a series of wild improbabilities.

Kelly, Avern Cohn, Montez Taylor, Carl Fontana and Art Krupa all wind up back in Mr Paradiso's living room – the scene of the crime – when Frank arrives for the final confrontation. It all makes for a lame, contrived letdown of a finish.

I hate to say it, but the old master is losing his touch.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# WinXP Lite: lots wrong, a little right

**Y**ou may recall that the Thai Information and Communications Technology Ministry (ICT) negotiated a deal with Microsoft Thailand (MST) to provide Windows XP on ICT-approved PCs for the fair price of 1,500 baht.

A stripped-down version of Office XP, without Outlook, was included in the package.

Although the only way you could buy these copies of WinXP and Office XP was pre-installed on PCs provided by the ICT, it was a great deal, both for Microsoft (which presumably prefers that Windows users run legitimate copies of its software) and for the people of Thailand.

The deal was revolutionary; Thailand was the first place in the world where Microsoft had adjusted its prices to reflect the local economy.

About six months ago, Andrew McBean, MD of MST, was quoted in Thai newspapers as saying that Microsoft was working on similar packaging for Windows XP – the computer press started calling it "WinXP Lite" – to appear in many markets, primarily in Asia, where the price of Windows exceeds a month's salary for many computer users.

Mr McBean stated, quite directly and without any weasel words, that Microsoft would unleash these new versions of Windows XP shortly after it shipped WinXP Service Pack 2.

More than a little confusion followed Mr McBean's announcement. Microsoft had been

denying for years that it would adjust prices in different countries to reflect the local economy and one press account said that Microsoft itself had labeled Mr McBean's remarks "inaccurate".

Guess what? Service Pack 2 came out in early August. Two weeks later, MS announced the "Windows XP Starter Edition Pilot Program" in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The announcement is short on details, but apparently WinXP Starter

Edition is a single-language (Thai, Malay or Indonesian) version of Win-

XP "tailored to local markets, in local languages."

Two more countries, as yet not specified, are slated to get versions of WinXP SE this year, with more to follow after the 12-month pilot program.

WinXP SE is a stripped-down, single-user version of WinXP Home Service Pack 2 allowing one user account per PC. Peer-to-peer networking is disabled, which means you can't share files, a printer or an Internet connection among PCs.

For reasons I don't begin to understand, screen resolution is supposedly capped at 800 x 600, although it's hard to believe MS will zap out third-party video drivers, all of which can go over 800 x 600.

Perhaps most bizarrely of all, Microsoft says WinXP SE will allow only three programs to run concurrently, and each of those programs can have at most three screens open. I'm not sure what constitutes a "program". I

hope Windows Firewall isn't one of the three, and that antivirus programs run under the radar.

If you run Outlook (with Word as your default email editor), and there's an antivirus program going in the background, are you completely stuffed up?

As far as I can tell – the announcement dances around the point. While "first-time PC users" rate as the official target of this new version of Windows XP, I don't see any specific ways that first-time users get more help, other than a local-language Getting Started CD.

There's also no official talk about Office. I'm guessing that Office is not in WinXP SE, and that it has been replaced with a variant of Microsoft Works. That's a pity, because many people who are just starting out with PCs want to learn how to use world-class applications, including Excel and PowerPoint. Works has neither of those.

'Tis a strange world we live in. Microsoft's press release quotes many of Thailand's IT heavyweights lauding WinXP SE in glowing terms. But if the specs that Microsoft published are accurate, the version of Windows (and non-version of Office) that's been made available falls far short of what many Thai people need.

Microsoft has put a lot of effort into cutting pieces out of Windows for this special offering, and I don't understand why. If MS had merely provided a fully-functional copy of Windows XP Home and Office XP (or 2003), both of which already ship with extensive Thai-language support, there would be much less temptation to install pirate copies of both.

Microsoft wouldn't have had to pay to strip out potentially useful features, and it wouldn't have had the additional support burden of unique copies of

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WinXP. (Are WinXP SE Thai users going to get security patches as quickly as WinXP SR2 users?)

And can somebody tell me again why MS couldn't take Internet Explorer or Media Player out of Windows for the anti-trust regulators?

As things stand, particularly with the limitations on concurrent active programs and screen resolution – and apparently no Microsoft Office – WinXP SE users are truly second-class citizens.

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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## Shopper's Paradise looks like a muddled nightmare

There seems to be considerable confusion in the halls of power over how to implement government plans to turn Phuket into a place of pilgrimage for shoppers. The latest plans for a duty-free zone (see news pages) are, according to the island's Chief of Customs, in line with the government's aim of making Phuket a "shopping paradise".

But there is a fundamental difference between Hong Kong and Singapore, on the one hand, and Phuket on the other. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are discrete political and economic entities. Phuket is not – it is just one of Thailand's 76 provinces.

If Phuket is to become a shopper's paradise – in other words, a duty-free zone – without the rest of Thailand having the same privilege, then some version of Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" deal is going to have to be worked out. There will have to be checkpoints manned by Customs officials, who will examine not only the goods that foreigners are taking out of Phuket – but also those carried by Thais.

Failing this, having a duty-free zone in Phuket where Thais may buy duty-free goods will, in effect, turn the whole of Thailand into a free port.

Decisions have yet to be made on whether Thais will be allowed to shop in the proposed duty-free zone, but opinion seems to favor letting Thais shop, with various scenarios proposed. It takes only a little imagination to see that any of these options will spread duty-free goods across Thailand.

For example, take the proposal that would allow Thais to shop duty-free only when they can show they are from outside the province and have stayed here two days.

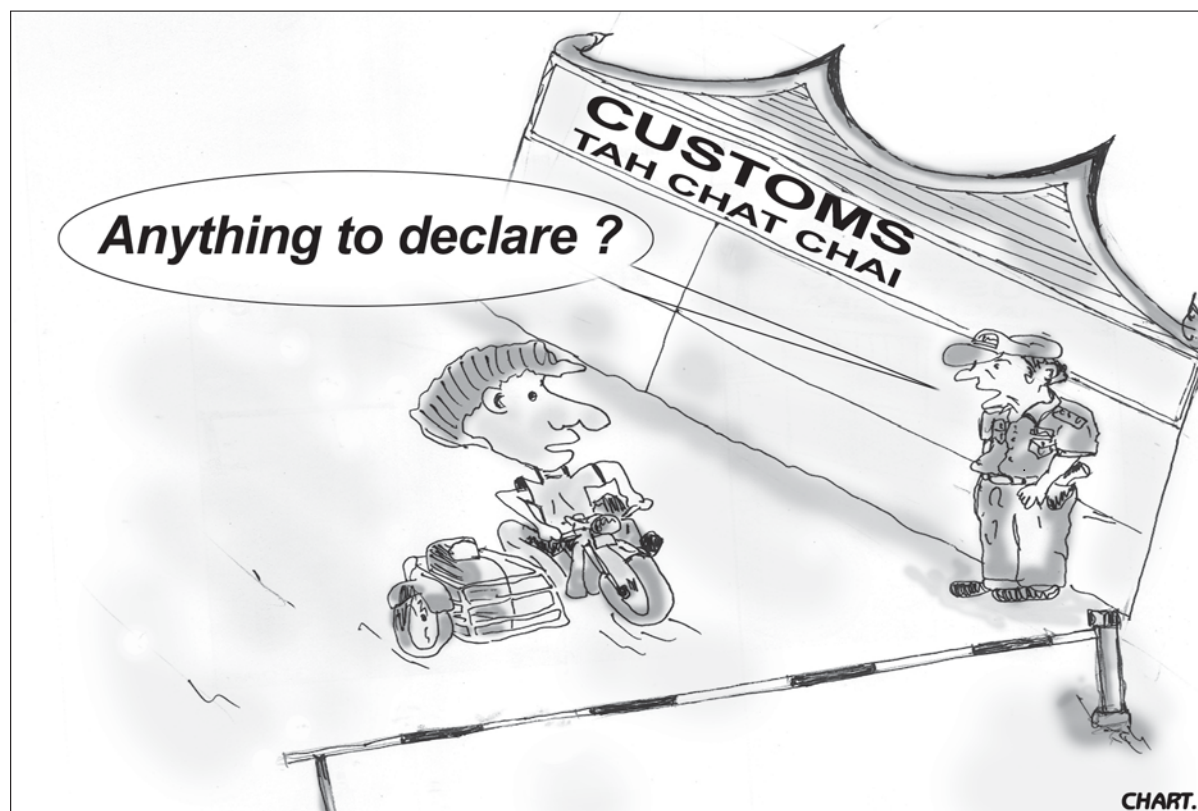
Somchai would be able to drive his pickup truck into Phuket, spend two nights at a cheap hotel, stock up on duty-free wine and haul it back to Bangkok. Now multiply that by 10,000.

The greatest irony is that, under any of the various options proposed, the people of Phuket would be excluded as the only Thai citizens not allowed to shop duty-free.

Not only that, but even if Thais were barred from duty-free shopping, shopowners outside the duty-free zone would soon be driven out of business. After all, what Hongkonger in his right mind is going to pay full customs duty on watches, wine, perfume or jewelry in Phuket City or Patong when these items are on sale for a fraction of the price in Phuket's duty-free zone?

Clearly, a great deal more thought must be given to this project.

– The Editor



## Letters

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

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

### Sustainable fishing policy needed

I want to congratulate the *Gazette* for the article (*Beneath the Surface*, issue of August 28) on the shark-meat industry. In it you correctly stated that the current rate of shark fishing is unsustainable. This is a message that needs to be heard more often in Asia, where shark products are all too frequently on the menu.

It was interesting to learn that the European Union, and particularly Spain, are among the largest supplier of shark fins to the global market. Spain receives vast sums of EU money to maintain its fishing fleet and there can be no doubt that these subsidies contribute to the overfishing of many shark species.

EU fishing subsidies are designed to prop up an industry that is failing because of seriously-depleted global fish stocks.

The sad truth is that the current subsidy regime only encourages fishing, resulting in the continued decline of fisheries. This is detrimental to all parties but none more so than the fishing industry itself.

Thankfully, the EU began the process of phasing out some of the most harmful subsidies in 2003. In addition, it tabled a proposal to the World Trade Organization aimed at placing restrictions on the subsidies granted by nations such as the United States and Japan. These were historic moves toward creating a sustainable fishing industry.

In October the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species will be held in Bangkok. At the convention some shark species may receive

protected status, which is a step in the right direction. However, simply supplying greater protection to a few select species while pumping billions of dollars into the exploitation of others is never going to amount to a sustainable policy.

It's time to let market forces work for sustainability by allowing the market, and not government support to special interests, determine the size of the world's shark catch.

Brian Thomson  
Phuket

### New immigration staff still not enough

I am very pleased to see that 15 new Immigration Police officers are being added to the staff at Phuket International Airport (*Gazette* Online, September 17; see also news pages in this issue).

I have experienced waits of more than one hour lately, which is nearly the same time as it takes to fly from Singapore.

However, I do hope they will give the new recruits training. On Friday evening I spent more than five minutes with an officer who had never seen a retirement visa stamp and did not know how to proceed.

Discussions with two other officers did not help, so I finally assisted by explaining the procedure, showing him the expiry date and where to stamp the passport.

Maybe the senior officers should take a trip to Singapore and study their system, as the processing time there is routinely less than 30 seconds per person.

John B  
Phuket

### Stamp of approval for passport office

My wife and I recently went to Bangkok so she could renew her passport and change it to her married name. Knowing how some government offices operate, I expected we would have to spend several days in Bangkok.

We arrived Don Muang Airport at 10:15 am and took a taxi direct to the Passport Office. I was surprised to find it was a nice modern building, clean, with ponds and fountains at the front.

At the entrance, there was an inquiry desk, staffed by two smartly-dressed ladies. They gave my wife clear and precise instructions on where to go, up an escalator to a large cinema-style waiting area.

There must have been 20 or 30 windows for receiving applications. Everything was spotless and gleaming, with marble floors and stainless-steel fittings, nice by any international standard.

It took just 15 minutes for my wife to complete her application and have her picture taken with the latest equipment. The lady told her we could collect the new passport two days later, any time after 8 am.

Two days later we arrived at 8:15 am, went to the designated window and, sure enough, the passport was ready and we were in and out in just five minutes.

I cannot recall receiving better service at a government office, overseas or in Thailand.

Congratulations, Thailand Passport Office, for great service!

John Darroch  
Phuket

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



# Free HIV treatment is a huge success

Until recently, HIV patients in Thailand had to buy imported medicine, which cost anything from 8,000 to 20,000 baht a month. Most patients could not afford this, which meant they would eventually die from Aids.

Two years ago, the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO), under the Ministry of Public Health, launched the Thai-made HIV medication GPO-VIR. But that only made a difference to the patients who could afford to buy it. It meant nothing to those who couldn't afford it, and there were many patients who could not, even though it cost only 1,370 baht for a month's supply of 60 tablets.

It was especially difficult for HIV patients to be able to afford the medication as they were usually too ill or too lethargic to work, while their lack of antibodies meant they had little resistance to disease, so they were often ill.

Since August 1, however, the Social Insurance Office (SIO) has been funding medication for HIV sufferers, up to a limit of 5,000 baht a month per patient.

My patients are like new people; I hardly recognize them when they come to see me for their check-ups. They can work, so they are returning to their jobs and re-joining the community. Because they are working – rather than lying in bed ill – they are paying tax to the government, which means they are, in a way, partly



## FIRST PERSON

The Social Insurance Office's launch of the free HIV-medication scheme on August 1 has given HIV-positive people a better chance of having a normal life expectancy. One person who every day sees how the free-medicine scheme improves HIV sufferers' lives is specialist Dr Rapeepan David, Full-time Internist at Phuket Mission Hospital.

Here she gives her opinion on how effective the new free-medication scheme is, and how it might be improved.

repaying the cost of the GPO-VIR.

I am very happy that this funding has been introduced. On August 1, every one of my HIV-positive patients became eligible for free medication, and they all started taking GPO-VIR. I have been advising them on how to take care of themselves and how to take the medicine correctly: the dosage and the timing, things like that.

When they first start taking the drug, patients suffer side effects, but these usually last only about a week.

I think some people have been worried that the free GPO-VIR is not as good as imported medicine, but there is no dif-

ference between them in terms of quality and effectiveness. Instead of buying medicines from abroad, the GPO bought a formula so it could manufacture the medicine itself. GPO-VIR contains exactly the same chemicals – D4T, 3TC and NVP – as the imported treatment.

The patients must take the medication every day because if they miss even one dose, it is highly possible that the virus will become resistant to the drug and the pills will no longer be effective. Of my 30 HIV patients who have tried GPO-VIR, only two have suffered side effects so badly they are unable to take it. That's a high rate of acceptance.

Those who suffer severe side-effects must use "formula two" medication. Thailand doesn't have the formula for this, so we have to import it. These medicines cost 7,000-8,000 baht a month per patient, and because the SIO pays a maximum of 5,000 baht a month per patient, the patients must pay the rest. Some of them cannot afford this.

I would like to appeal to the SIO to help the few people who are unable to afford the formula two medicine. Some of them try to buy it day-to-day, but they may be able to afford it one day, and not the next. As it is not effective if it's taken that way; they may as well not take it at all. Could the SIO consider them a special case?

I think about my patients who died [before the scheme was introduced]. If they had had access to GPO-VIR, they need not have died. They were desperate to buy medicine, they did their best to buy what they could afford. Some days, they could buy two tablets, some days just one, and the medicine was not effective because they were not taking it regularly.

Right now, we cannot cure HIV, but we can help patients to live longer and have better lives. When my patients get depressed, I encourage them to think of their families and their children. By funding this HIV treatment, the SIO is not only helping patients, it is helping their families and the community at large.

## Unfair rules for girl who got engaged

My Thai fiancée recently went to apply for a job as a spa therapist with one of the international spa chains that operates out of a five-star hotel in Cherng Talay.

She had to spend a lot of time preparing, then had to drive a motorcycle 20km through the pouring rain to get there. She was not selected, and as she felt she had been the best in her interview group, she asked why she was not chosen.

She was told that it was because she was engaged to be married. This could cause trouble "in the future", they told her.

If this is the case, the spa should state this in its job advertisement and spare ineligible applicants all the trouble. She was crying for hours afterwards.

Is it legal in Thailand to discriminate in this way? If so, is there a solid basis for a civil case here?

Heartbroken  
Sam Kong

**Rungsan Imsomphot, of the Phuket Office of Labour Protection and Welfare, replies:**

We can protect people from unfair treatment from the time they start work until they quit.

In this case, however, we cannot help because the spa company has its rule for selecting employees and it has the legal right to apply these rules.

You may contact the Labour Protection and Welfare Office at Tel: 076-220760.

**Yothin Jantarochai, a lawyer with the Phuket Provincial Prosecutor's Office, notes:**

There is no law to support such a case. The spa company can reject her for the reason it gave, and she cannot bring a case against the company because it has done her no harm.

## Whose a pretty import, then?

I got a parrot for my birthday and I would like to bring it to Phuket this November. Given the bird flu situation in Thailand, is this possible? And if it is, what papers or documents would I need?

Jack van Oers  
Netherlands

**Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), replies:**

There have been no cases

of bird flu in Phuket, and you can be sure that we are free of it.

Anyone wishing to bring an animal – of whatever kind – to Phuket should obtain a certificate from a vet in the animal's country of origin confirming that the animal is healthy.

When the animal arrives in Phuket, the owner must show this certificate to the Phuket International Animal Quarantine Station at Phuket International Airport.

## 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.**

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## International driving license

I hold a Thai driving license valid for five years, and a one-year permit to stay. I would like to apply for a Thai International Driving License. How do I proceed, what is the fee and how

long does it take to get the license?

Joe Cassini  
Patong

**Teerayuth Prasertphol, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), replies:**

You should bring a copy of your Thai car driving license, passport, visa, address confirmation paper (this confirms your address in Thailand and is available from Phuket Provincial Immigration Office) and three 3-inch pictures to the PPTO office, along with the fee, which is 505 baht.

It takes around one month to process an international license, which is valid for one year only.

## Public swimming pools in Phuket

Are there any Public Swimming Pools in Phuket. I would like to swim laps somewhere. What are the fees and opening hours?

Tom in Kata

**Suwannee Sirsuk, coach of Phuket Swimming Club and coach of Phuket swimming teams, replies:**

Phuket City Municipality has a 25-meter pool opposite Saphan Hin tennis courts. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday between 10 am and noon and from 2 pm to 9:30 pm. You must be a member to swim there.

For under-18s, membership is 45 baht a year, plus 5 baht per visit. For those between 18 and 24, membership is 65 baht a year plus 5 baht a visit. For swimmers over 24, membership is 105 baht a year plus 10 baht a visit.

For more information, contact the Youth Center at Tel: 076-216866 or 076-250163.

The Sports Authority of Thailand, Phuket branch, (SAT) has a 50-meter pool near Saphan Hin football field, close to Klong Bang Yai. It is open Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 9 pm, and at weekends from 8 am to 8:30 pm.

Membership for under 18s is 200 baht per year and pool entrance is 10 baht per time, or 20 baht for non-members.

For 18s and over, membership is 300 baht a year, and pool entrance 20 baht per time, or 40 baht for non-members.

For more information call the SAT at Tel: 076-250110.



I visited the Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalang a few weeks ago. It seemed to me that the general conditions there are not very good. There are already about 300 dogs impounded there, and some of them are sick.

I have told the Public Works Office to improve the fencing because, the way it is now, smaller dogs can escape underneath it. I don't want any local residents there to have to suffer wandering dogs, or sanitation, noise or any other problems related to the facility.

Also, there should be weekly visits by veterinarians. We are lucky that some dog-lovers have been volunteering their time and helping the dogs there.

I have ordered that no more dogs be sent to the shelter until the fencing is fixed. Each Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and municipality has been ordered to contact hotels and big restaurants to get donations of leftover food to help feed the dogs.

There are now four employees paid by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization to look after the dogs. Previously, there was only one employee.

When the facility reopens, the shelter will contact each *OrBorTor* – especially those in areas popular with tourists – telling them how many dogs can be brought to the shelter, and when. However, in some areas we will first try to sterilize and release strays [as advocated by the charities on the island].

Margot Homburg Park, founder of the Soi Dog Foundation, recently came to meet me. She told me that last year her group neutered and released 158 strays, but that this year they have already sterilized 284 dogs, spending about 300,000

# Improvements ordered at Thalang dog shelter

baht – all raised through private donations.

I think the local administrations should set up rules to register all dogs within their jurisdictions and record the births and deaths of all dogs, just as we do with people.

Coupled with careful monitoring of all new dogs coming into Phuket through the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint, that would be the best way to control the stray dog population in Phuket.

**Indian exchange:** Leela K Ponappa, India's Ambassador to Thailand, visited Phuket at the end of August and we discussed establishing direct air links between Phuket and Port Blair. This is something I would really like to see happen.

We also discussed a student-exchange project, whereby 100 promising Thai students would be given scholarships to study Information Technology in Bangalore, and about hiring IT experts from Bangalore to come to Phuket and teach. The Prince of Songkla University is interested in this.

Finally, we discussed the possibility of opening a small branch office of the

Indian Chamber of Commerce here in Phuket. Currently there is only one Indian Chamber of Commerce in Thailand, located in Bangkok. We were in agreement on this point.



THE GOVERNOR'S  
LETTER

**Reporting for duty:** When the new mayor of Patong [Pian Keesin] and his team came to introduce themselves to me, I told them that problems such as sanitation and ugliness in their municipality had reached the point where even the foreign media were reporting it.

I told [them] to expedite improvements, because the environment is a top concern for most tourists.

First, I ordered them to finish phase one of the water treatment plant and have it up and running within two months – before the start of the high season. I also told them to do whatever it takes to stop the release of untreated wastewater into Patong Bay through Klong Pak Bang [which enters the bay under the bridge at the southern end of Patong Beach].

Other things that I suggested were that they solve the traffic problem in

Patong by building new roads and widening existing ones. I asked them to come up with a plan and then to submit a request to the central government [through the governor's office] in order to buy any private land that might be needed.

They also need more parking areas, because right now so much land has been developed for business.

I told them that the problems Patong now faces are the result of mismanagement, such as approving inappropriate businesses and projects that create eyesores. I told them to focus more on aesthetics when approving projects in the future.

**Beautiful road:** The traffic problems at the Thai Naan and Tesco-Lotus intersections are worsening, but Central Festival has donated six million baht to improve access to its shopping center. Some of this will also be earmarked for the Beautiful Road Project, whereby Central will adopt a stretch of Thepkasattri Road and help keep it clean and attractive.

Governor Udomsak  
Usawarangkura

Health insurance is all about risk and either taking that risk yourself, or paying someone else to take the risk for you. We are all at risk of falling ill or getting injured and when we do incur hospital bills, someone must pay.

Where people become confused about health insurance is in the area of how much risk they are prepared to take themselves, and how much they want their insurance company to absorb.

Four options exist for those considering health insurance: worldwide coverage from an international health insurer; coverage from a Thailand-based insurance company; coverage from the Thai Social Security Fund

## Take the risk, or take insurance

(for all employees of companies); and finally, no coverage.

Fully comprehensive health insurance coverage from an international company with no exclusions is available but it is probably the most expensive of the insurance options.

To reduce the cost of your insurance premium, take on some of the risk yourself. If you do not elect to insure yourself against, for example, outpatient care, your insurance premium will be reduced dramatically.

You may also reduce your premium if you elect to pay part



By Dr Peter Davison

– the first 50,000 baht, for example – of your bill. This is called a policy excess.

International insurance companies, when setting the premium, take into consideration where you are likely to be hospitalized. This is usually decided by your country of residence.

If you are resident in Thailand, you will usually pay a lower premium than if you are a resident of the USA or Canada. Generally, these insurance companies will insure people for most countries, excluding the USA and Canada. You can expect to pay considerably more if you want your insurance to cover you for treatment in these countries.

Thai health insurance is a cheaper option, although it will cover you only for treatment here in Thailand. In some cases, cov-

erage is not extended to expats. If you are insured with one of these, then you will need to take out additional coverage for trips outside the country. Some policies offer additional coverage with up to six trips per year for only a few thousand baht.

For those who are working and contributing to the Social Security Fund, limited health insurance coverage is available. This scheme, whereby 5% of the employee's wages is automatically deducted (up to a maximum of 600 baht per month) and the employer contributes another 5%, is compulsory for all employees in Thailand.

Holders of this insurance are limited to which hospitals they can attend. In Phuket, only the Mission Hospital and Wachira Phuket Hospital can be used.

It is claimed that, with this insurance, you may go to any hospital in an emergency although it is a requirement of the scheme that you be transferred to a hospital that is in the scheme within 24 hours. Scheme holders usually have to pay toward meeting their hospital bills and comment that the benefits of the fund are low.

The Social Security Fund website – [http://www.sso.go.th/eng/index\\_en.html](http://www.sso.go.th/eng/index_en.html) – offers information in English.

Finally, there is the self-pay approach, where you do not take insurance and pay for treatment yourself if you are hospitalized.

Taking all of the risk yourself, particularly for younger people, may be a reasonable alternative.

A common omission from health insurance is a medical evacuation component. Repatriation by air ambulance in cases of serious illness is extremely expensive. The same is true for repatriation of your mortal remains in the case of death.

Each of the insurance options is different and no one option is suitable for all cases. Deciding on taking out health insurance does not need to be complicated. Just remember:

Seek advice; read and understand the policy; understand what you are and are not covered for; know what exclusions, if any, are detailed in the policy; be aware that you may need to pay your hospital bills first and then claim them back from your insurance company. Not all companies will pay hospitals directly.

Note that no health insurance policy will cover you for pre-existing medical conditions. This includes any condition that you may or may not have been aware of, regardless of whether you have sought professional treatment or not.

Peter Davison is the Manager for International Services at Phuket International Hospital. Questions or comments may be sent by email to [peter@phuket-inter-hospital.co.th](mailto:peter@phuket-inter-hospital.co.th) or by fax to 076-210936.

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# New player emerges in franchising

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: Franchising is a 100-million-baht business for the Andaman Group, which holds several major contracts in Phuket and is adding more with breath-taking speed.

The company was registered in July last year but expanded considerably this month with the opening of Central Festival Phuket, where many of its operations are located.

Andaman Group President Thanaseth Kulwaraaree told the *Gazette* the group expects to invest up to 100 million baht over four years in six affiliates.

Those businesses include Pan Andaman Bakery & Supply, which manages In & Out the Bakery Café; Pan Andaman Food, which manages Oishi Ramen – recently opened in Central Festival; Mirage Creation, an events organizer and catering service; Andaman Alliance,

which manages The Pizza Company at Central Festival; and Sweet Bee, which runs Aden, the organic and health food store and café on Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City.

The opening of Oishi Ramen made the Andaman Group the first Oishi franchisee in Thailand, and the company will be building on that rapidly, adding Oishi Buffet in the Index Living Mall in November, Oishi Sushi Bar later this year, possibly also at Central, and Oishi Shabushi and Oishi Express next year, at locations to be decided.

Said K. Thanaseth, “The maximum investment will be 100 million baht within four years. We will invest an estimated 50 million baht this year, including 18 million baht for Oishi Buffet, and 12 million baht for Pizza Company.

“Another 9 million baht has been spent on building the bakery for In & Out the Bakery Café, 5 million baht will be

spent on setting up three In & Out Bakery Café branches [one is already open in Central Festival and will be joined by another at the end of September. The third will open in Big C next month]. The rest of the investment is for Aden and Mirage Creation.”

He explained why the group opted to become involved in franchising. “You get a business with an established reputation, and most franchises abroad are successful,” he said.

“I have managed small franchises before and they did quite well. We believe that Oishi will do very well; Japanese food is now popular, as is organic food.”

K. Thanaseth first went into the franchise business five years ago, when he opened a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop. He also holds the franchise for NaRaYa bags, kitchen products and children’s wear, and manages Jim Thompson Thai Silk and Phuket Cafeteria at Phuket Inter-

national Airport. He did have a franchise for Pizza Today, but has since dropped it.

The company, he said, intends to spend at least 2 million baht on advertising this year, but hopes in return to get 30 million baht in sales. Oishi Buffet is expected to be the first new franchise to show a profit – within a year or two – while the others should be in profit within three or four years.

Andaman Group’s Oishi Buffet at Index Living Mall is due to open on October 23; it will be aimed at “A-class” customers and tour groups from Korea, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. The buffet will cost 499 baht per person.

The cheaper Oishi Express, to be opened at Central Festival Phuket, will target more local customers, and will serve a 299-baht-a-head buffet.

Andaman Group is looking to expand beyond Phuket, and is eyeing Haad Yai and Krabi.

## ON THE MOVE

Bangkok native **Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree**, 41, has been appointed General Manager of Central Festival Phuket.



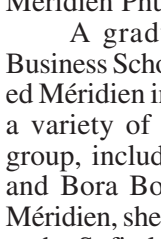
She holds a degree from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, where she majored in English, and a master’s degree in marketing management from the University of Notre Dame Business School in the US.

K. Wilaiporn’s last post was as Vice President for Marketing & Leasing with Central Pattana Co. She has also worked as Marketing Director for L’Oreal (Thailand) and as Brand Manager for Coca-Cola Thailand.

**Nitima Niphattanaphan**, also of Bangkok, has been appointed Theater Manager of SFX Coliseum Cinema at Central Festival Phuket. She graduated with a degree in business economics from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and has more than 10 years’ experience in the Phuket hotel industry.



Le Méridien Thailand Resorts has announced the appointment of Frenchwoman **Catherine Magat**, 31, as Director of Sales and Marketing for Le Méridien Thailand Resorts, which includes Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort and Le Royal Méridien Phuket Yacht Club.



A graduate of Toulouse Business School, Ms Magat joined Méridien in 1999 and has held a variety of positions with the group, including posts in Tahiti and Bora Bora. Before joining Méridien, she was Sales Manager at the Sofitel Roissy Paris Charles de Gaulle Aéroport in France.

# Economies stuck in a strange loop

**N**ormally, economic cycles follow a trend and it is fairly easy to predict what will happen next. But if one looks at the US economy right now, it does not appear to be following the standard pattern, this time at least.

The US should be recording good economic growth, the central bank should be raising short-term interest rates to ward off future inflationary pressures and the bond market should be in reverse, with long-term interest rates rising.

In the second half of 2003 and for the first quarter of 2004, it appeared that the US economy was following the script. The economy was growing at a rapid clip, the US Federal Reserve (central bank) had managed to start the process of raising interest rates, and long-term interest rates, as measured by 10-year Treasury bonds, had risen from lows of 3.1% and were starting to approach 5%.

The stockmarket had risen substantially, buoyed by strong corporate profits growth and more of the same was anticipated.

Then it all started to go a little pear-shaped; economic growth slowed and 10-year Treasury bonds retraced their steps from a yield of 4.9% to around 4.1% or 4.2%.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, started to refer to the economy hitting a “soft patch”. Analysts in general found themselves in a quandary about the “soft patch”. Maybe Greenspan is right and there is nothing to worry about – but maybe he is wrong.

The problem is that Greenspan has to make these comments, because if he makes a negative remark, many will “batten down the hatches” and what he says will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Although this article was written before the meeting of the Fed on September 21, it is predicted that the Fed will raise short-term interest rates from 1.5% to 1.75%, despite any “soft patch”. It has no alternative. If it decides to postpone this increase, there would be a widespread reaction of, “The Fed knows something that we don’t, and it must be bad.”

The US stockmarket does not quite know what to make of all this. Measured by the Dow Jones industrial index, “the Dow”, the market has spent the last six months tracking backward and forward in what is known as a “trading range”.

The market hits a peak of around 10,500 then falls to just above 10,000, then rises again. This pattern seems to be repeated endlessly.

A substantial amount of investors’ money has ended up in safe stocks such as utilities, which virtually guarantee a reasonable and stable dividend



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

yield. With short-term interest rates at such low levels, there is little attraction in holding cash, while bonds carry the prospect of capital losses.

Because of demand, the “safe stocks” have, in general, become very expensive, and there are few places now in which to hide.

The hedge fund industry has had, generally, a horrible year.

It doesn’t matter whether markets are rising or falling, hedge funds can make money in either direction, but stagnation is another matter. Even the fortunes of the US dollar give no cheer: the currency is acting in a similar fashion to the stockmarket – virtually directionless.

Globally, with a few generally small exceptions, the trend is similar. Japan, for example, posted a rise in Gross Domestic Product of 0.4% for the second quarter of 2004.

Revised figures were due to be published in early September and economists were rubbing their hands in anticipation; many were predicting a rise to 0.8%. In fact, the revised figure was downwards, to 0.3%.

The Euro zone is showing some improvement, but it is slow, and most member states have recorded little improvement in domestic demand and are relying on exports, although France has shown some life recently in its domestic retail sales.

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

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## Nag's Head confusion ploy fails

PATONG: Peter and friends from Football Crazy, who were playing in the Patong Darts League temporarily out of the Dog's Bollocks bar, have moved back to their old headquarters on Soi Saen Sabai, which has been renamed the Nag's Head – hopefully the team's last name change for a while.

Despite all the confusion, Nag's Head lost their September 14 fixture to Off Shore, 8-1.

The league table is completely bunched up at the top, with eight teams separated by just three points. However, several matches need to be made up, namely: Valhalla v Fat Boy Saloon; Fat Boy Saloon v Amigos; Nag's Head v Shakers and Valhalla v Shakers.

**September 14 results:** Fat Boy Saloon\* 2 In-Between 7; Didi's\* 2 Champs 7; Nag's Head\* 1 Off Shore 8; Piccadilly\* 6 Shakers 3; Two Black Sheep\* 4 Happy Days 5; Valhalla 4 Amigos\* 5 (\* = winners of beer leg).

**Sept 28 fixtures (home team first):** Champs v Nag's Head; Didi's v Valhalla; In-Between v Happy Days; Off Shore v Amigos; Piccadilly v Fat Boy Saloon; Two Black Sheep v Shakers

# Gov proposes stadium for Mai Khao

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has ordered the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) to conduct a feasibility study into the construction of a major new sports stadium in the Mai Khao area, in the north of the island.

Gov Udomsak envisions Phuket hosting major sporting events in the future and feels that the 20,000-seat Surakul Stadium, Phuket's biggest, is just not large enough to attract or accommodate them.

"Surakul Stadium is small and old compared with Supachalasai Stadium [in Bangkok]. It can't host big sporting events. Why don't we, together with Phang Nga and Krabi, build a big stadium so we can host national-level events? Surakul Stadium could then serve as a training field," he said.

The Governor, who has long wanted a large new stadium built in the Mai Khao area, said, "We must first conduct a feasibility study and consider the benefits such a venue would bring to the local community."



This pitch is a bit muddy – that new stadium in Mai Khao sounds like a good idea ... kids from Darasamut Phuket School and Baan Ao Nam Bor School battle for the ball in the recent Phuket Provincial Sports tourney at Saphan Hin.

Gov Udomsak was speaking at a seminar on September 16 at the Phuket Provincial Health Office, the topic of which was Phuket's readiness to host the Southern regional round of the 21<sup>st</sup> National Youth Games.

The tournament will take place from November 20 to 30, with winners going through to the

national finals in Chaiyaphum province, from March 20 to 31 next year.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 young competitors are expected to vie for medals in 27 sports, including boxing, track and field, badminton, basketball, cycling, football, handball, golf, Thai boxing, pétanque, rugby, sepak

takraw, swimming, table tennis, tae kwon do, snooker, softball, tennis, soft tennis and weightlifting.

The opening and closing ceremonies, and some other events, will take place at Surakul Stadium, which is now being refurbished at a cost of about 50 million baht to host the Fifa Under-19 Women's World Championship 2004, also in November.

The Phuket Games are posing quite an organizational challenge. The SAT has budgeted 3.1 million baht for the tournament, and no fewer than 14 different committees are involved. The Governor expressed concern that having so many committees involved might confuse the organizational effort and result in duplication of work.

"I am not sure if it's really up to world standard to have so many committees involved. It seems more like the organization of a temple fair ... People trust Phuket to do a good job organizing this event, so we have to do the best we can," he said.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

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# WBC champion Pongsaklek to defend title in Karon bout

By Anongnat Sartpisut  
& Stephen Fein

KARON: WBC world flyweight boxing champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam will defend his title during the 42nd Annual WBC Convention, to be hosted by the Phuket Arcadia Hilton Hotel from October 4 to 9.

The fight will take place on October 8 in Karon, though a precise venue has yet to be decided.

According to the popular website boxingtalk.net, Pongsaklek's opponent will be 15th-ranked Carlos Bouchan of Mexico, who holds the Central American Boxing Federation and Mexican flyweight titles.

Pongsaklek, 27, was earlier tipped to defend his title against 8th-ranked Diosdado Gabi of the Philippines, who had boldly predicted a win by a knockout against the Thai champ.

Pongsaklek has fought 62 bouts during his professional career, never losing a fight, and being held to a draw only twice. In 31 of these bouts his opponent ended up on the canvas.

The Thai champ won the title on March 2, 2001, and his most recent defense was in Khon Kaen last July, when he knocked out 15th-ranked Luis Angel Martinez in round five. His fight against Bouchan will be his 11th title defense.

WBC publicist John Brister told the *Gazette* that this year's convention could be one of the



Pongsaklek with his WBC flyweight belt. His opponent in the Karon fight will be 15th-ranked Carlos Bouchan of Mexico.

—Photo by The Nation

most important ever for the organization.

"Ratings, mandatory world title defenses, medical and safety issues, and much more are discussed, voted on, and resolved [at annual conventions]. This is an election year for WBC officers as well. These meetings are open to the public and me-

dia, and no credentials are needed to attend."

Speaking on Phuket's readiness to host the event, Asian Boxing Council and organizing committee member Kiate Gunjanasirigul told the *Gazette* that site selection, promotion and preparations for the opening and closing ceremonies were about "80% complete" and that everything should be ready by September 29.

K. Kiate said that 300 attendees had already confirmed, including boxing promoters Bob Arum, Garry Shaw and Akihiko Honda. World-famous boxers expected to attend included the WBC's Super-Bantamweight champ, Oscar Larios, and Heavyweight champ James Toney.

K. Kiate added that PM Thaksin Shinawatra might attend the event as official host, depending on his schedule.

The only sticking point, he admitted, is where the fight will actually take place. It was originally expected to be staged at Karon Stadium, but there is now some doubt as to whether the event can actually be held there.

There is the potential for damage to the football pitch because the stadium is scheduled for preliminary rounds in the Fifa Women's Under-19 World Championships in November.

## Cricket Union on launch pad

PHUKET: The nascent cricket scene in Phuket will receive a boost on Sunday, October 10 with a launch party for the Phuket Cricket Union (PCU).

The aim of the PCU is to develop the game on the island at a grass-roots level and to make Phuket a regular venue for international events, such as last April's inaugural cricket sixes.

The Green Man Pub is the

venue for the party, which begins at 12:30 pm. An entrance fee of 285 baht for adults and 50 baht for children will include a buffet lunch and the chance to become a founding father – or mother – of the Cricket Union at half-price.

For further information, please contact Rich Brown at Tel: 01-7193414 or Mark "Scarfy" Whetton at Tel: 06-1208346.

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# Audi ready to roar

It has been a while but the Audi TT has finally grown up. Launched as a concept vehicle at the 1995 Frankfurt Motor Show, it became a production reality in 1998, although equipped with a rather insipid 1.8-liter turbo motor applying around 180bhp (132kW) to the road through a five-speed 'box. A more potent 225bhp (165kW) turbo lump with a six-speed transmission and four-wheel drive was also offered.

To keep the TT on a par with its more expensive German cousin, the Porsche Boxster, Audi has taken the bold decision to slot in the same 3.2 V6 unit as used in the Golf VR6. This unit produces a thumping great 247 bhp, and is perhaps what the TT should have had all along.

The extra power available under the right foot is immediately apparent but four-wheel drive and all the usual electronic devices keep everything under control.

Authoritative German motor magazine *Auto Bild* compared the new TT 3.2 favorably with the Nissan 350Z and Alfa Romeo's new GTV, both of which are equipped with six-cylinder motors. The magazine described the Audi's engine and gearbox as "significant advances".

The gearbox is a unique affair, being a direct-shift 'box with two clutches – one for the odd-numbered gears and one for the even-numbered ones. The complex set-up enables gear shifts without any interruption to the vehicle's momentum.

The DSG (Direct Shift Gearbox) is the first sequential manual of its type, dispensing with a clutch pedal and enabling



**SET TO SCREAM:** The new Audi TT, with its 3.2-liter V6, races from 0-100kmh in just 6.4 seconds and has a top speed – electronically limited, of course – of 250kmh.



By Jeff Heselwood

the driver to shift by using the center-mounted lever or twin paddles on the steering wheel. Audi's parent, Volkswagen has registered over 70 patents on the

DSG which, it says, produces both greater performance and improved fuel economy.

Although there is no torque converter as on a regular automatic transmission, the DSG can also be left in automatic mode for more leisurely motoring.

The latest TT 3.2 produces 247bhp (184kW), although Audi conveniently rounds this up to 250bhp in all its press blurbs. Maximum torque is a respectable 320Nm produced between 2,800 and 3,200rpm, giving the TT excellent driveability.

The 0-100kmh sprint takes just 6.4 seconds thanks to the traction provided by Audi's pioneering Quattro four-wheel-drive system. As with all other high-powered German cars, top speed is electronically topped at 250 kmh – the result of a "gentlemen's agreement" between German auto manufacturers.

The TT 3.2 boasts larger brakes, stiffer springs and dampers, and thicker sway bars

than its feeble antecedents. Additionally, the rear spoiler is a little larger and there are newly designed aluminum wheels. In other outward respects, the TT retains its overall good looks.

Audi came into existence due to a falling-out between August Horch and the other shareholders in the Horch auto company in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. August left and formed another company only to be told that he could not use his own name.

Instead, he called the firm Audi, the Latin version of "hark" or "listen". Who said the Germans are not imaginative?

The TT is not built at Au-

di's headquarters in Ingolstadt, Germany, but at Győr in the northwest of Hungary, although the galvanized bodies are built and painted in Ingolstadt before being shipped to Hungary. Győr is also home to one of the world's most efficient engine plants, producing a range of motors for Audi's other models, including the top-of-the-range A8.

The TT, with its beautiful curves and synchronized switch gear, revolutionized coupé design when it was first introduced. The TT 3.2 is a huge improvement on that achievement.

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



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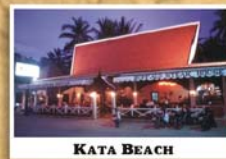
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# Falling behind the best in Asian dining

**Q** We travel to Phuket often and enjoy reading your column. We wanted to ask you why there is such an absence of good wine and refined dining in the hotels here. Phuket offers a handful of exciting restaurants, but in the hotels we find little to rival other Asian destinations, such as Singapore and Shanghai.

**A** Answering this question will probably win me no points with my friends in the hotel industry, so let me first say that there are hotels in Phuket which do offer exciting and memorable dining experiences.

However, to be honest, I would have to agree that hotel dining in Phuket is generally rather unremarkable. There are several possible explanations.

Phuket's reputation abroad developed much more quickly than its infrastructure and human resources. The island's inhabitants still struggle to catch

sight of their own reputation and to replace a culture of indifference with one of service. This may sometimes lead to hotel dining being criticized because high expectations are dashed by exaggerated minor imperfections.

But the primary cause of lackluster dining in my opinion is hotels' fixation with cost accounting. Chefs, wine buyers, and staff at some hotels are too far removed from their suppliers and customers to develop the relationships and the deeper understanding needed to deliver dining excellence.

Their culinary passion is scuppered by bureaucracy. Issuing purchase orders from computers may be as close as they get to the products they deliver.

Accountants tend to view inventory as a liability rather than an asset, so they get the hotel to avoid investing in great vintages, and instead recommend sourcing small quantities of wine on consignment.

What they don't realize is that this actually increases ordering costs and results in stock shortages, which hinder forming constructive relationships with their suppliers.

Also, for reasons I don't fully understand, the

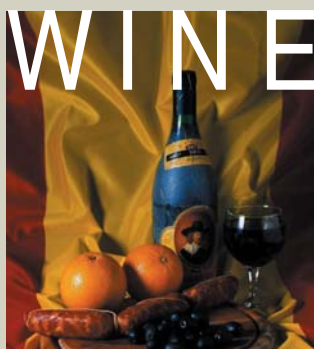
hotel industry seems to have a high turnover in management, and managers with a true passion for food and beverage are often transferred to other hotels after a year or two on the job. This disrupts the hotel's dining program and reinforces a bias towards inertia among staff.

Finally, great hotel dining seems always to result from the work of talented and passionate individuals who buck the rules and follow their hearts.

Unfortunately, people like this don't usually advance very far in a structured hotel environment and that is why they are often found running their own independent restaurants. Indeed, the truly great hotel restaurants are often operated as independent establishments, but this is not yet common here.

As I said, great hotel restaurants are to be found in Phuket but, for the time being at least, you must do a bit of searching to find them.

*Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Wine and Beverage Director for the award-winning Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com*



By Steven Roberto

**G**oing – as opposed to becoming – over the hill is fairly common in Phuket if one travels to Patong from east of the spine of granite that runs north-south on the island. That said, the occasional crick in my back and a sprinkling of gray in my stubble – and elsewhere – indicates that Time's winged chariot is bearing down upon me with indecent haste. It makes a change from tuk-tuks, I suppose.

We cross the hill in caravan and arrive at Nakalay Point's Thavorn Beach Village & Spa just as the sky is beginning to bruise and within minutes before the heavens open. Our intention is to dine alfresco at one of the resort's five restaurants or – using the current argot, “food outlets”, but we cannot without being drenched. Pity.

Not to be deterred, we happy – and dry – four remain inside and find our host for the evening, F&B Manager Hatai Thantharanon. K. Hatai's challenge tonight is to satisfy both a vegetarian and a person who looks upon seafood with suspicion at the same table. We leap straight into the menus and, unsurprisingly, seafood features on the menu in scads.

Nevertheless, said dining companions find dishes aplenty to interest them, and as I gallantly rescue our vegetarian friend from her usual fried rice with vege-

## The pros of being over the hill

### On the menu

with  
Andy Johnstone

#### Thavorn Beach Village & Spa

tables, I espy a novel rice dish: tom yam risotto. We all tuck into this and by Jove it works, even without the prawns. The creamy Arborio rice absorbs the taste of chili oil and lemon grass splendidly and this feisty foe of fusion food is forced to eat his words. And someone else's food.

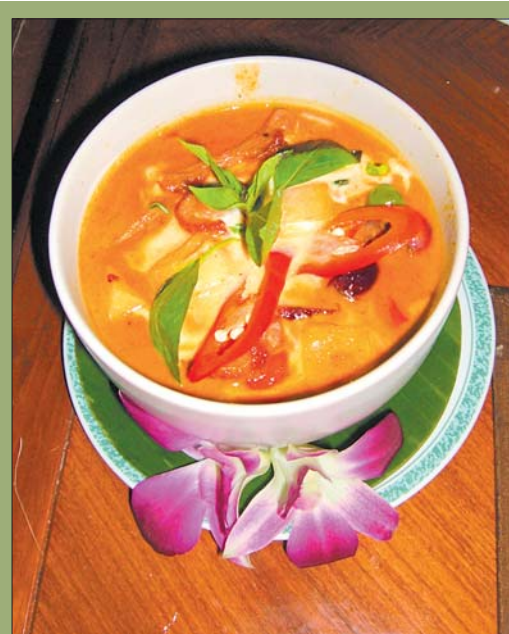
More traditional starters, such as mixed satay, Caesar salad and *yam talay*, arrive with the mix of seafood, noodles and chili coming a close second to the risotto in the starter stakes. A little tart, but we love it.

Our hostesses for the evening are charming and know to seat and serve the female members of our foursome first. Pay attention please, restaurateurs of Phuket – it's ladies first.

We return to the menus and order a carafe or two of house white and house red. K. Hatai advises us that the wine list is about



**A SUMPTUOUS SIGHT:** The stars of the night were *gaeng phed ped yaang* (grilled duck curry with cherry tomatoes, right) and the tropical fruits layered with pastry and ice cream (above) for dessert.



to receive a shake up, and that a number of different house wines – not only French but also Australian and Italian – will be added.

I plump for *gaeng phed ped yaang* (grilled duck curry with cherry tomatoes), although I am sure that black grapes rather than cherries feature. Despite that, it is a rich, delicious dish with a generous amount of tender duck. Other choices on the table are *por pia tord jae* (deep-fried vegetarian spring rolls) and *tom yam goong* (spicy, sour shrimp soup).

Grilled duck breast with ginger and a tower of spinach rice is the undoubted star of the evening. Even the vegetarian among the quartet agrees, although she is merely going on looks. As with all the dishes, presentation is first-class but degustation is necessary and our taste buds confirmed what our eyes suggested.

Matthias Weismann, GM of the resort, gladhands his way around every table and spends a few minutes chatting with diners. Personal touches like this endear a place to one, and he hinted at a food promotion to come that should eclipse even the success of the recent Korean food promo. Journalistic omerta prevents me

from spilling the beans – for now.

Almost anything would be a let-down after the main courses, but we carry on to dessert. Best of our choices – which include tiramisu and chocolate tart with chilled orange sabayon – is the tropical fruits layered with pastry and ice cream.

Sated, we brave the drizzle and admire a rather fine and – for Thailand – alarmingly tasteful sculpture of a dragon being cradled in the arms of an important deity of some kind before we meander back to our cars to go over the hill. Again.

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# Taking action on the missing pig

**W**hy is it that nobody ever comments on my deeply researched columns – the ones whereby I sit down with somebody and talk about their business or their multi-million-dollar investments, and listen to how they succeeded against all odds?

Perhaps it's because of the nature of the column itself. The subject normally covered in this column is property, which is very important, especially as every man and his dog with title to land on the island are selling it to buyers who want to build houses and hotels, but is not always a massively inspiring topic.

But when I write about the disappearance of a concrete pig from Baan

Manik (*Gazette*, September 11 issue), the whole readership is suddenly aflutter.

This single issue sparked more comment, response and even action than any subject I have previously covered. I was not the only one who was inconvenienced and somewhat disoriented by the pig's untimely disappearance. However, matters have taken a turn for the positive, as events this week have shown.

A senior member of the Hash House Harriers (H3) went to the village to question the locals as to the pig's whereabouts. He reported that he got no further than puzzled smiles and laughs.

However, as the H3 apparently used the location as a rendezvous, the concrete pig had considerable significance for Hashers. So they want to see it return.

Meanwhile, a local businessman, who asked not to be named, has offered to sponsor the pig's return. There could be some question as to his motives, however, as there was mention of the new pig (in fiberglass, not concrete) being mounted on a pole, perhaps even equipped with wings and emblazoned with some sort of advertising.

There has already been some resistance to this notion from the growing Pure

Pig lobby, who want to see the pig returned in all its original, earthbound, unwinged and non-commercial glory.

Hopefully, this column will get back to more serious and informative matters next week.

But for now, here's another oddity: I recently passed one of those hotels in the middle of a ricefield, and being unsure why anybody would build a hotel in such a location, I asked my secretary, who was driving me to the airport, if she knew the reason.

She was at a loss, so I suggested that the hotel was possibly built for "short time" occupancy. "Yes," she perked up. "Short time – just two or three days." I decided not to pursue the subject.

## PROPERTY & HOMEZONE

By Graham Doven

### Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

**RAWAI:** After just one month of marketing, nearly a quarter of the homes on the select Royal Estate The Park have been sold.

Phuket-based developers Erawana plan to build 18 homes on the seven-rai site in the Sai Yuan Hills, between Nai Harn and Rawai Beaches. Four have already been sold.

The Thai/Balinese style homes are being marketed mainly to foreigners wanting to establish a permanent home in Phuket, although Project General Manager Jon Vanasin says there has also been great interest from Thai would-be purchasers.

K. Jon said, "We launched our marketing only one month ago. We are in the low season now, and we hope that, in the high season, the homes will sell even faster."

He said the development

was named "The Park" because it lies on what was once a fruit plantation, where mangosteen and durian were grown.

"The Park is in a green area, but it has a residential resort environment, with a common pool and a club house," he explained.

Despite its tranquil atmosphere, The Park is still within easy reach of restaurants, shopping centers, supermarkets and hospitals.

K. Jon said work on the 100-million-baht project started in January and should be complete by October next year.

Of the 18 dwellings, five will be single-story and the remaining 13 will be on two floors.

## Park project selling well



**Warm welcome:** Artist's impression of one of the single-story homes being built by Erawana at Royal Estate The Park.

Each one-story property has around 240 square meters of usable area, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area, a dining area, separate maid's quarters – with bathroom – a covered garage, and terraces.

The two-story homes have approximately 260sqm of usable space. On the lower floor of each there is a living area and a dining area, as well as a guest bathroom, and on the upper floor, a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, two additional bedrooms and another bathroom.

The maid's quarters, with

their own bathroom, lie outside the main house, built into the covered garage.

K. Jon said, "The buildings have been designed to be airy, with a real sense of space, and we have used mirrored windows because foreigners – our target customers – love the sun."

"Services and facilities in-

clude 24-hour security and termite protection, and we have local authority approval to install water and electricity supplies."

The homes cost between 5.9 million and 10 million baht.

The building contractor is GBG Co Ltd, which has been in business for more than 15 years, working mainly on projects around Haad Yai.

In addition to The Park, Erawana has three other projects in Phuket. There are two mass-market, affordable developments in Pa Khlock, near the Heroines' Monument, comprising 39 units and 27 units costing between 0.95 million and 1.39 million baht each.

The third project is the up-market Sirinthara estate, of six Ayudhaya-style villas, also in the Sai Yuan Hills.

Further information is available from the Erawana Group, at 48/4, Moo 7, Soi Sai Yuan, Tambon Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-289556-9, or contact K. Jeab at 09-4741124. Website: [www.erawana.com](http://www.erawana.com)

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## Home of the Week

Wichit



# Katamanda home on sale

**S**tunning sea views, intelligent design, top-quality fixtures and fittings and luxury private estate surroundings make this three-level villa in Kata a dream home.

The property is reached via a concrete road which meanders through the exclusive Katamanda estate, past manicured lawns and tropical trees and plants, to the far end, which overlooks Kata Noi Beach and where there is a back entrance leading down to the beach, a five-minute walk away.

The entrance to the villa is up a steep driveway leading into a two-car garage. Off to the right there is a cavernous open storage and laundry area, along with a large guest bedroom/living room and bathroom.

A flight of steps leads to the middle floor, where visitors are welcomed by a waterfall and carp pond. Large teak doors open onto a palatial L-shaped living room.

Huge, low-maintenance glass and aluminium sliding doors – which give maximum views of Kata Noi Beach below – open onto a wide terrace. On

the left side there is a large sala, reached by a small bridge, and a 24-square-meter infinity-edge swimming pool.

The Western kitchen, off the dining area, boasts a complete range of high-tech appliances, has marble worktops and tiled splashbacks, and masses of teak cupboard space, and features well-matched terracotta floor tiles.

On the same floor there is a second bedroom with ensuite bathroom and another toilet, and a study/office with views over the bay.

Leading from the marble-floored living room is a teak staircase to the upper floor, where there are two master bedrooms, one on each side of the villa. These are identical, with teak floors and built-in wardrobes and luxurious ensuite bathrooms.

Slate floors lead onto the terrace, which has stunning views of Kata Bay.

The two-year-old villa must be seen to be appreciated. The English owner had a large say in the design and the result is a well thought-out, practical design. The build quality, structure and interior fixtures and fit-

tings are second to none on the island.

The villa is on 700sqm of land with Chanote title. The internal area is 300sqm. Utilities include two telephone lines, UBC television, mains water, back-up water storage, water filtration and three-phase electricity. There is air conditioning throughout and recessed ceiling spot lighting.

The Katamanda estate covers 28 rai and has been divided into 44 villa plots.

Most villas are completed and occupied, some under long-term rental agreements with owners. The remainder should be completed by early next year.

Katamanda has resort-style recreational and management facilities. The infrastructure includes paved private roads, extensive landscaped gardens, perimeter walling and 24-hour security.

The asking price for the house is 43 million baht.

For more information, contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, Tel, 076-280805, website, [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com), email, [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

What is it with these Latin names for plants? What are they thinking?

There are people in the world who are very knowledgeable about flora who argue that naming plants is a lot more complicated than a committee of academics just sitting around inventing strings of words in Latin.

The committee, however, will contend that there's a system behind it – it's supposed to explain the family, genus and species, plus the plant's scientific origins. That's what they say, anyway. But even this system has its downside, as these so-called "experts" keep changing their minds.

This happened with a plant called torch ginger, which is fairly common here in Phuket. At various stages in its history, it's been called *nicolaia elatior*, *phaeomeria magnifica* and *phaeomeria speciosa*. See what I mean? Let's just stick to torch ginger and try to reduce the confusion.

I'm convinced, however, that in the naming of one plant the academics were just having a laugh. I think they wanted to invent a Latin name for it purely to see if anyone would notice, and

# Glorious, by any name

came up with *gloriosa superba*, for what the rest of us know as the glory lily. In Thai, it's called *daa-wadeung*.

But they weren't wrong in their description of this plant. It really is magnificent, and one that usually grows wild in Phuket gardens. Originally from tropical areas of Africa, it has made its way to this part of the world, and seems to be particularly happy with the sea air and climate we have here.

The flower of the glory lily consists of six narrow red or red-and-yellow petals which cluster together, with six protruding stamens sticking out at right-angles below.

The color is almost Day-Glo in intensity; pass one of these bushes in full bloom and the color screams out at you.

The glory lily is what's known as a tuberous plant, be-

**GLORY BE:** It may have a rather uninspired name, but the *gloriosa superba* – or glory lily – has a flower that is anything but dull.

Photo by Kenneth R. Robertson, Illinois Natural History Survey, USA.



the leaves have tiny snake-tail coils at the end. They use these to wrap around whatever is nearby and use it for support. This is not your average lily.

*Gloriosa superba* is at its most dramatic when it seems to bloom out of some other plant. Because any green shrub can provide support, its flowers can seem to appear out of a totally unrelated hedge.

The lily's own vine is a bit weak and pathetic when it stands alone, so it's best combined with something else. This could be another vine on a trellis, a shrub, or a fence with morning glory or something similar.

You probably don't even need to plant it – if you live in Phuket there's a good chance that it's already in your garden or nearby. I had to walk only a hundred meters from my house to find one.

If you want to grow a glory lily yourself, pluck a well-ripened seedpod off, take it home and allow it to dry out for a while. Then stick the tuber on its side a few centimeters below the surface in some compost and wait a few days for the seedlings to appear. Nothing to it.

The only thing left to do is to give it a new name. You can call it absolutely anything you want, but please try to be a little more imaginative than the experts who last named it.

a small green lump which gradually turns yellow and develops into a miniature flower. The flower gradually gets bigger and develops into the full-blown Day-Glo petals.

The petals sit there for a while to allow the fertilization process to happen. Then they lose their color and die. Beneath the flower a pod forms and grows as the flower disappears. The finished article is a seed pod, which eventually drops off the plant to start the process all over again. It's biology for beginners, and you can watch it happen.

Even the leaves of the glory lily are distinctive, and give the plant another common name – the climbing lily. From a distance, they look like any other lance-shaped, 8-cm-long leaf, but close-up, you can see that the tips of

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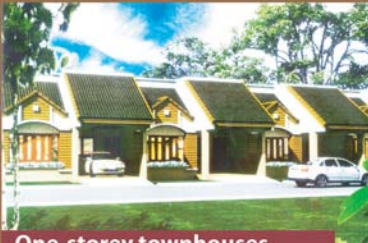
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rental. 3-bedroom villa on the western tip of the southern headland of Kata Beach. Villa has a built-up area of 3,400sq ft, is sited 15 meters above the sea, and has spectacular Andaman Sea views. A 6m x 15m infinity pool is sited on the edge of rocks overlooking the sea. Villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is very private. Thai, Japanese, and Balinese design influences and artifacts feature. Excellent Thai live-in cook and live-in maid provided. Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg For further details, please see our website at <http://www.housephuket.com>

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Special low-season, long-stay promotion at a beachfront hotel. Includes ABF and use of facilities. 18,000 baht/month. Please call for details. Tel: 076-345518 or 01-8920038.

### ANDAMAN SEA

view resort. Rooms for rent on daily, weekly or monthly basis at very reasonable rates. Rooms are fully furnished and have aircon, hot and cold water, cable TV and access to a coffee shop. Call for details. Tel: 01-6285361.

**PATONG LUXURY**  
apt. 1- & 2-bedroom Central Patong apartments available. Pls email for info & photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

## Building Services

### phuket home services

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24 hrs: 01 60 60 200  
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Roofing, floor, walls, tiles  
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Call 09-1960852  
Fax: 076-263204  
Email: p-con@chaiyo.com

### SIAM HOME & CAR SERVICES

Siam Home and Car Services provides repairs and maintenance to electrical items, aircon and plumbing. Also offers painting, woodwork, stonework sand-wash tiles, gardening, security and car insurance. For complete care of your car or home, call us today. Tel: 076-325391, 01-408-3800.

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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. Call Tel: 076-263269, 09-1950610.

### Looking for a place to stay?

Check out the latest **Accommodation Available** ads online at **[phuketgazette.net](http://phuketgazette.net)**

## Household Services

### NOW OPEN CHEETA HOME FURNISHINGS

Your one-stop shop is now open for Italian-style, export-quality solid wood furniture, curtains. Roman, Venetian and vertical blinds, carpets, wallpaper and re-upholstering service. Open 7 days a week.

Phone/Fax: 076-261358. Call Vince on Tel: 01-9035622 for English or 01-6912776 for Thai. On the bypass road, 1km north of Tesco-Lotus towards the airport road.

## Household Products

### WINE STORAGE UNIT

Sanyo. Nearly-new (purchased in July) Sanyo Wine Storage unit. Warranty card and receipt available unsent. Will hold about 48 bottles easily, and about 80-85 if some shelves are removed and bottles stacked. Good controls, well insulated. I like this unit, and am selling it because I am buying a much larger one that will hold 180 bottles. This is perfect for storage of this capacity; I just want the bigger unit. I love wine. I paid 15,900 baht for this unit in Phuket City. Will sell for 11,500 o.b.o. Can see, it is full of wine right now. Tel: 076-296204, 07-0291882. Email: jcorti@loxinfo.co.th

### \$ DOLLAR

Curtains for all your window furnishings. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-2760529.

## Property Services

### IBAP BUSINESS FAIR

Relocatable offices, homes or extra accommodation for the mother-in-law. Check out our economical and unique system at the IBAP business fair on September 25-26 at Central Festival Phuket or call for more details. Tel: 01-8924804.

### PHUKET WATER

gardens. Phuket Water Gardens offer water feature construction including koi ponds, waterfalls and more. Call for details. Tel: 07-8814984.

### Don't miss....

Issues & Answers

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

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Tel. 02-2526261

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.

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# Island Job Mart

## RADI

Radi Medical Systems conducts applied research as well as developing, manufacturing, marketing and selling its own innovative technical medical products and services within the field of interventional cardiology. This is carried out in close co-operation with doctors and associated clinical staff in order to improve patient care. Radi was founded 1988 and has grown successfully through the years. Average numbers of employees in 2003 were 218 worldwide. A major part of these, 150, are located in our headquarter in Uppsala, Sweden. Net sales 2003 were 346 million Swedish Krona (approx 45 million USD).

In 2003, a new subsidiary was started in Thailand. The company is the base for considerable investments. Radi Medical has decided to set up a manufacturing plant for our products. The plant will also comprise Radi Medical's regional head office for sales and marketing in South-East Asia. The location of a production unit in Thailand will enable us to streamline the production. We will be able to handle today's subcontract work in a more profitable way.

**Preferred profile for all positions:** bachelor degree or higher; at least 5 years' experience; strong in both written and spoken English; experience of quality tools and systems such as ISO 9000 & GMP.

**All positions are full-time and based in Phuket.** (Please also specify your expected salary in your application)

### Production Manager

- Responsible for managing the entire plant including materials planning, supplier management, production planning and control, manufacturing-related engineering, cost reduction, quality assurance and safety control.
- Responsible for organization development & plant automation.

### Production & Service Engineer

- Install and maintain the machines and the equipment in the production and the clean room.

### Production Supervisor

- Supervise production
- Support installation & modification projects.
- Improve working methods.
- Enforce production to follow & work according to procedures, work instructions and process parameters provided.

### IT/Electrical Engineer

- Provide electrical/computer support in production
- Provide support to installation /modification projects
- Responsible for IT support.

Please email application with CV & letter of reference by 4th October, 2004 to lars.tenerz@radi.se and sue.prapapan@radi.se. For more information call Sue Prapapan (01-8938265) or visit our website [www.radi.se](http://www.radi.se)

### Radi Medical Systems Company Limited

104/7 Soi Chalernpol, Chaofa West Road, T. Wichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand

## ESC

INTERNATIONAL

Expatriate Service Center is a diversified service center for expatriates in Phuket. We're looking for a suitable candidate to fill the following position:

## Experienced Legal and Law Professional

- \* Master's degree in Law
- \* 2-4 years experience in:
  - Company Registration
  - Visa and Immigration
  - Property Law
  - Family Law
  - Contract Law
- \* Sense of responsibility, reliability and possess pro-active problem solving skills.
- \* Be fluent in spoken and written English.

Interested persons please reply by  
Email: [investthailand@yahoo.com](mailto:investthailand@yahoo.com) or  
Tel: 07-2779242

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

EARN 30,000-50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

An international company specializing in sales of a unique and exclusive product/service has vacancies for

### FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT PHUKET BRANCH

- 25-35 years' of age
- Must speak English
- Be self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but not absolutely necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and fully comprehensive training

Please submit an application in English only with curriculum vitae and recent photo to:

**Svenson Hair Center Thasia Limited**  
2nd Fl, Room No 209A, Central Festival Phuket, Tambol Vichit, Muang, Phuket, 83000 Tel: 076-249657-9

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

### 1 GM (1 Position)

- Male aged between 35-45 years
- Fluent English
- 5 years' experience in F&B

### 2 Sales Manager (1 Position)

- Male or female
- Fluent English
- 3 years' experience

### 3 Sales Coordinator (1 Position)

- Male or female
- Fluent English
- 2 years' experience

If interested, please call:  
**Human Resources Department**  
Tel: 02 5834540-2

## FREE EDUCATION

A diveshop in Kata is looking for a Thai divemaster and someone who wants to receive 3-4 months' free training to be a divemaster. Pls call for more details. Tel: 09-8749147.

## SECRETARY

to office manager. Skilled typist in Word and Excel; English and Thai proficiency a must; salary commensurate with experience and ability; Thai male or female under 30 years old. Call for appointment. Jairak Enterprise Ltd, Part, Soi Taling Chan, T. Talad Yai, A. Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-256564. Fax: 076-214803. Email: [oyjairak@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:oyjairak@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## PROPERTY

secretary. Are you self-motivated, experienced, sociable, and fluent in English, as we require a secretary who can get the work done. Salary commensurate with experience. Send CV. Tel: 076-236616, 01-8952206. Fax: 076-236617. Email: [siamuk@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:siamuk@loxinfo.co.th)

## SECURITY MANAGER

International security provider requires internal Security Manager. Based in Bangkok, applicants should be aged 30 years up and have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the private security industry. Thai-speaking expats with military or police backgrounds are welcome to apply. Tel: 076-354762, 01-8924992. Fax: 076-354726. Email: [sth\\_phkt@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:sth_phkt@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## DIVING CENTER

manager. Well-established diving company based in Phuket seeks General Manager for new Khao Lak branch. Please email CV to apply. Email: [workinkhaolak@hotmail.com](mailto:workinkhaolak@hotmail.com)

## DRAFTSMAN

urgently required. Draftsman with skill in AutoCAD 2000 wanted. Skills in any related field would be an advantage. Tel: 076-215710.

## MAID WANTED

I need a helper in the kitchen. The successful candidate must also be able to do housework. Rawai area. Pls call for details. Tel: 076-273427.

## SALESLADY

required for property developer in Phuket. Fluent in Thai and English, and computer literate. Pls send CV and photo by email to apply. Email: [sales@thaistylehouse.com](mailto:sales@thaistylehouse.com)

## WANTED: DRIVER/

delivery. Khun Woody's Bakery is looking for a slow, safe part-time driver who will deliver our products with great care. Driving experience, current license, and a friendly personality a must. 9 am to 11 am, six days a week. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-7298665. Email: [woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com)

## SECRETARY/SALES

assistant. Property development company seeks a hardworking Secretary/Sales Assistant with excellent written & spoken English, computer literacy - including Excel and Word - the willingness to take responsibility and work under pressure. Tel: 01-8916143. Email: [info@sea-property-phuket.com](mailto:info@sea-property-phuket.com)

## DRIVER WANTED

Siam Diving Enterprises requires an additional driver. Position is based in Chalong but will be required to drive outside of Phuket. Applicant must hold current driving license. Tel: 076-281401-2, 01-0794137. Fax: 076-281400. Email: [sdephuk@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:sdephuk@loxinfo.co.th)

## SALES ASSISTANT

needed. Siam Diving Enterprises requires additional sales staff. Applicants must have excellent spoken and written English and a current driving license. Call to arrange interview. Tel: 076-281401-2, 01-0794137. Fax: 076-281400. Email: [sdephuk@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:sdephuk@loxinfo.co.th)

## MAID/NANNY

wanted. Live-in (or full-time - negotiable) maid/nanny needed for servicing new private house in Nanai Rd, Patong for laid-back Thai/farang couple with newborn boy. Good salary and benefit package for the right person. Please call for details. Tel: 01-9780657. Email: [gthansen@pacific.net.sg](mailto:gthansen@pacific.net.sg)

## NEEDED URGENTLY

1. Admin Assistant. Good written and spoken English a must. Accounting knowledge would be an advantage.
2. Sales Representatives - 10 positions available. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7191438.

## RECEPTION INTERNET

café. We're looking for a Thai national, woman, to work as a cyber café receptionist. Possibility of lodging. The applicant must speak English. Patong area. Please contact Khun Yupha by Email: [reservation@liontchai.com](mailto:reservation@liontchai.com)

## RECEPTIONIST

Premier project-management firm in Cherng Talay is looking for a receptionist to start immediately. The successful candidate will be fluent in Thai/English and highly organized, with skills in computers and client relations. Experience in a hotel or foreign company preferred. References required. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-325402. Email: [tum@dmg-thailand.com](mailto:tum@dmg-thailand.com)

## SECRETARY NEEDED

A diveshop in Kata needs an English-speaking secretary. Pls call for details. Tel: 09-8749147.

## WANTED - DELICATESSEN STAFF

Thai female, age 21-35. Must be well presented in appearance and manner and have a friendly, confident and outgoing personality. Prior retail experience preferred. Call now for an interview. Tel: 076-282407, 01-6919679. Fax: 076-383186. Email: [choice@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:choice@loxinfo.co.th)

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

A new & exciting luxury charter business based at the Phuket Boat Lagoon is looking for an office administrator. Candidates must be fluent in English and hold a (car) driving license. Some accounting knowledge is preferred as is experience in sales. Please call or email to apply. Tel: 01-0838755. Email: [marcusoverman@excite.com](mailto:marcusoverman@excite.com)

## RECEPTIONIST

required. Experienced female receptionist required by a hotel in Patong. English speaker a must. Pls call to apply. Tel: 01-8950231.

## SECRETARY/

Assistant. SweThai Real Estate is setting up a new office and is looking for a Secretary/Assistant for duties in and out of office.

- Male or female aged 23 years and above.
- Excellent command of written & spoken English.
- Computer literacy in MS Office and the Internet.
- Good office organization skills.
- Accounting knowledge, preferably with a degree.
- Own transportation and a driving license an advantage.
- Salary in the 8,000-12,000-baht range depending on experience and competency.

Apply with resum  and a recent photograph to: SweThai Real Estate Co Ltd 52/18 Moo 2 Chao Fa Rd T. Wichit A. Muang Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-354408, 01-8921097. Email: [resume@swethai-realestate.com](mailto:resume@swethai-realestate.com)

## PADI INSTRUCTOR

A diveshop in Kata is looking for a German-English-speaking or a Swedish-English-speaking PADI dive instructor. Work permit possible. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-8749147.

Looking for a job?  
See [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



# Island Job Mart



**Property Care Services (Thailand) Co. Ltd.** is the leading one-stop service provider for all property-related services such as cleaning, security, pest control, hygiene and electronic security systems. Due to further expansion we are actively seeking to fill the following positions in our Phuket office:

All positions require excellent command of both spoken and written English.  
All positions require knowledge of Microsoft Office

## Administration Officer

- Female, age 26+, bachelor's degree in the secretarial, administration or related fields.
- At least 3 years' admin experience
- Good numerical, planning and organisational skills are essential

## Administration Assistant

- Female, age 22+, educated to high vocational education certificate or bachelor degree level
- At least 1 years' admin experience

## Site Manager

- Male/Female, age 28+, educated to high vocational education certificate or bachelor degree level
- At least 3 years' client-servicing/management experience
- Good communication, planning and organisational skills

## Janitorial Service Manager and Security Service Manager (2 positions)

- Male/Female, age 35 years+, educated to high vocational education certificate or bachelor degree level
- At least 7 years' janitorial or hospitality/security experience
- Good planning and organisation skills are essential
- Good time-management skills, with the ability to handle many contracts

Please send your resumé along with covering letter in English and 3 recent photos to

**Property Care Services (Thailand) Co. Ltd.**  
371/21 Yaowarat Road, Tambon Taladyai, Amphur Muang, Phuket, 83000  
Or for more information please contact: Stephen on 06 1755881  
email: stephen@pcs.co.th www.pcs.co.th

## The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

### I. ACCOUNTANT

- Thai, age at least 23
- Bachelor's degree or higher in Accounting
- Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- Car driver's license
- Accounting experience would be an advantage, but the *Gazette* is willing to provide training for a novice with good interpersonal skills and unquestioned honesty.

### II. IT Technical Support officer

**Responsibilities:-** The Technical Support officer will focus, at least initially, on hardware, system maintenance and networking issues (TCP/IP, LAN)

- Male or Female, Thai Nationality
- Diploma or degree in computer or related fields
- At least 2 years' experience in networking and hardware maintenance
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good command of spoken English would be an advantage.

Applications may be sent by letter or email to the Managing Director and should be accompanied by a resumé with full details of work experience.

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### ERICSSON P900

for sale. 3-month-old Ericsson P900 for sale for 20,000 baht. Pls call. Tel: 07-8870520. www.thaichanote.com

### WISET RD 2<sup>ND</sup> HAND

Final week of closing-down sale. Chinese medicine chest, photocopy machine, new Ergus inverter, Chinese closet, pictures, new & used clothing, shelving, lamps & much more. Pls call or visit. Tel: 076-288591.

### EURO PALLETS

for storage or shipping. Buy them, use them and then sell them for the same price. Save handling costs in Europe. 500 baht each. Tel: 01-2712684.

### USED RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

Used restaurant kitchen equipment for sale: bakery reversing dough sheeter; bakery bread slicing machine; gas grill with stainless steel stand and enclosure; bain-marie; long beer refrigerator; fume collection hood and fan; and chest freezers. Good low prices. Items can be seen by contacting Don at Tel: 01-8946401 or by visiting Don's Mall on Sai Yuan Rd, Rawai.

### GOLF CLUBS

Callaway Steelhead irons with graphite shafts and all-weather cart bag. Full set of irons (3 thru 9), PW and SW. Steelhead X.16 type irons. As new. 17,500 baht. Email: bobphiphi@hotmail.com

### MIZUNO GOLF CLUBS

Brand new Mizuno golf clubs. Model Mp 30, Nipon steel shaft flex R. Asking 32,000 baht. Tel: 09-195-6988. Email: mtanpradit@msn.com

### DIGITAL CAMERA

& receiver. Digital Fuji camera, just a few days old. Comes with 8Mb memory, USB port for the computer, and a year's guarantee.

Digital receiver: can see Astro, Chinese, English, Japanese, Indian, Thai and German channels. Must go asap. Email: dreamy\_dove2003@yahoo.com

### SURFBOARD 4 SALE

6'2", still in very good condition. Removable fin system for traveling, leg rope and board bag. 9,000 baht. Also have surfing DVDs - all brand new, 9 different titles. 250 baht each. Tel: 09-4751090. Email: t\_phunk@hotmail.com

### MANY ITEMS

for sale. Clearout! Many good-quality household and electrical things for sale. Too many to mention here. Please contact me and I will send a list to you. Tel: 07-2773917. Fax: 076-325108. Email: stewcliff@myway.com

### 3-PIECE SOFA

& table. Bottle-green two-seater and 2 one-seaters plus a glass coffee table. Leather/PVC mix. 3,500 baht. Tel: 07-2773917. Fax: 076-325108. Email: stewcliff@myway.com

### DIGITAL WASHING

machine. LG 6.5kg top loader. Fully automatic. Auto resume after power cut. Perfect condition. 7,000 baht. Tel: 07-2773917. Fax: 076-325108. Email: stewcliff@myway.com

## Articles Wanted

### POOL TABLE

wanted. Minimum 8' x 4'. American-type preferred but not essential. Slate must be in good condition, but otherwise condition not too important. Tel: 06-6826828. Email: mark.stevens@jci.com

### BOSE 802 SPEAKERS

Wanted urgently: Bose 802 speakers in good condition. Tel: 01-8112303. Email: nik@matoskacafebar.com

### WANTED

in Thailand. Where can I find a source of Vermiculite in Thailand? I have looked everywhere. Thank you. Tel: 045-651310. Email: kamniam2@hotmail.com

Find more classified ads at  
[www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)

## Boats & Marine



**FOR A FREE OF CHARGE INSURANCE QUOTE FOR YOUR BOAT, COMMERCIAL OR PLEASURE**

Please contact:  
Tel: 076-239111, 076-273320  
Fax: 076-238974  
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

### DIVE EQUIPMENT

US regulators for sale. 1-5 sets. Good condition. Pls call for info. Tel: 09-8749147.

### BOAT FOR SALE

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

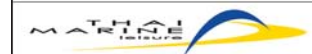
### NEED BOAT

I'm looking for a beautiful white boat to charter for a private and sophisticated Christmas Eve party. The capacity required is about 35-40 people. Only needed for one night. Tel: 01-7970714. Email: loogpatt@hotmail.com



42ft Westsail Lying Langkawi well-built Ketch  
Euro 80,000

contact  
[broker@thaimarine.com](mailto:broker@thaimarine.com)  
076-273464



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55ft Benford steel trawler  
Industrial strength,  
Yacht-quality finish  
Only US\$ 979,000

contact  
[broker@thaimarine.com](mailto:broker@thaimarine.com)  
076-273464



### 27-FOOT BOAT FOR SALE



British-built, 27ft aluminum commercial or recreational boat, with Perkins 80hp marine engine. 1.5 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 07-2659977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

### 25-FOOT SAILBOAT

Thai-registered fiberglass 25-footer - with lots of extras - for sale. Can be used for charter. US\$20,000. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-9401860.

### BRAND-NEW

wooden boat. Newly-built wooden passenger boat, antique look, 23 meters long, 4.8 meters wide. Made of *Mai Takian Thong* timber. Can take 60 passengers. Hino 420hp engine. Selling at 5 million baht. Boat is still under construction and will be finished in October. Tel: 02-5592936, 01-8159207. Fax: 02-5592543. Email: yhwang@asianet.co.th

### SEA EAGLE BOATS

Sea Eagle inflatable boats, kayaks, tenders and sports and rescue boats available. For details, please email: jimmyross@aol.com or see our website at: [www.sea-eagle.com](http://www.sea-eagle.com)

### ANCHOR FOR SALE

100 x 130 cm, weight about 40-50 kilograms. 2,500 baht ono. Email: lovephuket2000@yahoo.com



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

### GREAT DEALS ON PRE-OWNED YACHTS THIS WEEK AT LEE MARINE

Roberts 56



\$265,000 USD

Prout 45



\$390,000 USD

Hatteras 63 Custom



\$215,000 USD

Bertram 42



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Yacht Haven  
Jim Poulsen 01 891 3237  
email:  
brokerage@leemarine.com  
www.leemarine.com

LMB 00056PG - Leading Edge Media

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

#### Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

#### Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on Fri at 7 pm

#### Patong

Patong Hospital

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

For more info, please call  
01 895 4763 and 01 891 2895.

## Business Opportunities

### PATONG BAR

for sale. Includes all stock, furnishings, licenses and sound & light system. Bar has dance area/stage with mirrors and 4 aircon units. The property is double-width, on 2 levels and has a patio. Price: 29,900 euros (20,000 GBP/36,500 USD) for purchase + 700 euros rent. 5-year lease. Email or call for details. Tel: 06-9486850. Email: patongbar@yahoo.com

### WANT TO OWN A BUSINESS?

Thai businesses - bars, restaurants, nightclubs, hotels and resorts - for sale at prices to suit all budgets. Tel: 02-2318190, 07-034 0568. Fax: 02-2318121. Email: phil@thaisunshinebusinessadvisors.com or for more details, please see our website at <http://www.thaisunshinebusinessadvisors.com>

### BEAUTIFUL

restaurant in one of the best locations in Patong on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. Large outside area seats 60 but easily 20 more. 40,000 baht/month and a 4-year, renewable contract. Everything is brand new and the staff are very good. 3.2 million baht or give me a offer. You must see this beautiful place. Tel: 09-8093566. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

### SEEKING MLM

leaders. US\$4 billion health care company seeks quality leaders for network launch in Thailand. Email for info. Tel: 02-7269918, 06-3418781. Fax 02-7269918. Email: makelifegood@aol.com

### THAI RESTAURANT

for sale. Fully equipped Thai restaurant, 2 staff, laundry included, low rent, great location, only 250,000 baht for quick sale. Owner too busy with other businesses. Tel: 07-8977249. Email: tipriya@hotmail.com

### 30% INTEREST

on loan. Business needs to be loaned 120,000 baht for 6 months. You get 156,000 baht after 6 months. Call for details. Tel: 076-8934960.

### BUSINESS OPP

Bungalow resort in Chalong with 9-year lease for sale. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-0385184.

## Business Products & Services

### DAY TRIP

to Ranong. Tour bus (not mini-bus) day trip to Ranong includes lunch, dinner and refreshments on board. 1,300 baht - and no additional charges. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrv80@hotmail.com

### MALE MANIKINS/ DOLLS

Different models available for a nice display. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

### VISA AND DATING

service. Fiancée, settlement and Schengen visas: 6 years' experience. Looking for a Thai girlfriend? Tel: 076-248626, 07-2679780. Fax: 076-248626. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

## Computers

### COMPUTERS

English Computerman - new & used PCs, repairs, parts, accessories & software. ADSL Internet - no phone, no problem. Pls call for more info. Tel: 09-4735080.

### COMPUTER PARTS

Computer parts and accessories delivered free. New & used PCs & notebooks. I also conduct mobile repairs. Please call me for help with your computer or for more information. Tel: 09-4735080.

### COMPUTERS FOR SALE

Upgrading home computers and need to sell three excellent computers used by family. Email for details. 7,500 to 12,400 baht price range. Email: cessnausa@yahoo.com

### 15" MONITORS

wanted. I am looking for 4 used 15" monitors. If you have any, please call me between 9am and 5pm, or email with full details. Tel: 076-282403. Email: areeyah@yahoo.com

### LAPTOP & DESKTOP

Dell Laptop and Dell desktop computers. Computers are 100% complete working systems. Asking 19,500 for both together. Tel: 076-282486, 09-0093524. Email: cessnausa@yahoo.com

### 17" LCD FOR SALE

I have 2x LG 786LS LCD just over 1 year old at 15,000 baht each. Can be seen working. For sale due to upgrade to 22". Make it easier on your eyes! Tel: 01-0854514. Email: trying2trade@aol.com

## Personal Services

### PHUKET STORAGE

Store your car, boat or container at a safe and secure yard in Rawai. We also do small lots. Call for details. Tel: 09-9088675, 01-5971140.

### SWEDISH

translator available. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-21 2172. Email: info@seacanoe.net

### MAID OR CARE

giver. My wonderful housekeeper is available for home or personal care. Pls call for details. Tel: 07-2844425.

### NIA: GET FIT THE

body's way. Nia classes at The Movement Center, Chalong, every Monday and Wednesday at 6:30 pm, and at the Alba Wellness Center at Twin Palms Phuket, Surin, every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 pm. Visiting practitioners coming from Sept to March. Tel: 01-7975065. Email: phuketmoves@yahoo.com

### LEARN THAI

Conversation and lessons in your home with charming lady Thai teacher. Tel: 01-797-1497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

### THAI LESSONS

Learn Thai at home in Bangkok. Pls mail for more info. Email: oriental\_ss2004@yahoo.com

### ATSUMI HEALING

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### BABY SITTING

& housework. Do you need your children looked after or any house work done? Washing, ironing - I can do it for you. My name is Nok and I'm a 24 year old, non-smoking, non-drinking lady with experience taking care of young children. If you are in Kathu, Patong, Karon, Kamala or Surin and you need my help, call me. Tel: 09-2087205. Email: sodanok46@hotmail.com

### OSTEOPATHY

By licensed osteopath. Specialist for back problems. Sport massage, acupressure, manipulation. Tel: 01-0778940. Email: lejardin@phuket.ksc.co.th

## Personal Services Wanted

### TRANSLATIONS

Need a translator capable of translating English to Chinese and Malay. Pls contact me to discuss. Tel: 076-346142, 09-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

## Personals

### LOOKING TO KNOW

I am a man of 51 from the USA, looking to get to know a nice girl with a good job for a long and serious relationship. Age 23-30 living in Phuket. I am planning to live in Patong Beach in the near future. I will be visiting Patong in October. Please e-mail me with pic if possible. Email: ydelk@hotmail.com

### SMART ENGLISH

guy in Phuket. I would like to meet any ladies for dinner who like to go to nice places, who can speak English, and who like to have fun. I enjoy good times and would like to share with a nice, good looking lady. Please send your details with photo and telephone no. if possible. Email: phuket@mail2world.com

### YOUNG THAI GIRL

seeks love. My name is Aom. I'm a 20 year old lady from Udon Thani. I've started living and working in a factory in Chon Buri province. I would like to know someone who is honest and also seeking real love as I am. Please write to me if you are interested in getting to know me. Email: pojamaah@yahoo.com

### SAMUI HOLIDAY

Farang aged 50 looking for young Phuket lady to join him for holiday on Samui late Sept/early October. Five days of beach fun - no strings attached. Email: martinsavaloy@hotmail.com

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