

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 41

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

October 9 - 15, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: City bus firm dumped after year of losses; Australian help sought for Chalong marina plan. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Bringing Patong's sewage under control. **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE ISLAND: An art gallery – with a pool. **Page 6**

AROUND THE REGION: Official help for 'Confused of Krabi'. **Page 8**

PEOPLE: Doctor Abalone explains the shell game. **Page 10**

OFF THE WALL: Bruce and the Finnish girl – and the bathtub full of wine. **Page 11**

LIFESTYLE: Sassy style for the office. **Pages 12**

FIRST PERSON: Phuket missing out on 'Muay Thai tourism'. **Page 19**

BUSINESS & MONEY: Puppet regime; Money Talks; On the Move. **Page 21**

DIVING: Having a reef ball on Earth Day. **Page 22**

GOOD LIVING: Szervusz with a smile. **Page 25**

PROPERTY: The agony of Samsara; A birthday gift for Phuket. **Pages 26 & 27**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 4; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; HEARD & SCENE, HOROSCOPES 14; KIDS 15; COMPUTERS, BOOKS 16; LAW, THAILAND TRAVELER 17; EDITORIAL & LETTERS 18; ISSUES & ANSWERS 19; EDGEWISE, TOON TOWN 20; SPORT 22 & 23; MOTORING 24; WINE 25; GARDENING 28; CLASSIFIEDS 29-35.

Phuket F1 races get thumbs-up



Eight-time World Champion Guido Cappellini, of the Tamoil Team, is one of the stars expected to race in Phuket. Cappellini is not having a good year. He crashed at more than 200 kmh in the most recent round, in Malaysia, on September 26.

Photo: World Racing Images. All rights reserved. www.worldracingimages.com

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: Phuket is to host a round of the world's premier inshore powerboat racing championship, the UIM Formula 1 Powerboat Grand Prix, it was confirmed this week.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce Chairman Pamuke Achariyachai told Governor Udomsak Usawarakura on October 5 that championship organisers UIM had selected Phuket Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa as the venue for one of the races in the 2005 championship.

The event is expected to bring 12 of the world's top powerboat racing teams to Phuket between March 8 and 14.

Hoteliers in Kata and Karon have already pledged to provide 130 rooms for the teams.

Eight months later, in November – if all goes well – the island will host Class 1 powerboat racing, featuring the much larger offshore racing boats.

K. Pamuke said F1 officials had approved Phuket as a venue after they came to the island last month to inspect facilities for competitors, support crew and spectators.

He said Gov Udomsak had agreed to ask the government for 30 million baht to promote F1 boat racing in Phuket.

As a result, the governor is to submit a funding proposal to the Tourism Authority of Thai-

land and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

"We will ask the government for this money because this event is enormous and very important," K. Pamuke said.

The Gazette understands that local organizers expect to raise another 90 million baht from the private sector.

"If the first race here is successful," K. Pamuke added, "the races could become a regular fixture on the calendar for the next 10 years or so. This is the kind of event that gets global coverage."

He added, "If we are lucky, Phuket will have two major boat racing events next year, one in March and one in November."

Bangkok talks offer some hope for Patong

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PATONG: The entertainment industry in Patong was this week keeping its collective fingers crossed that Interior Minister Bhokin Bhalakula will be sympathetic to its plight after the recent imposition of earlier closing times.

A three-man delegation emerged in optimistic mood from a meeting on October 5 with Pichet Sathirachawal, the ruling Thai Rak Thai party's Chairman of Candidate Selection for the Andaman region.

The delegation consisted of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) President Sompetch Moosophon and Tiger Complex operator Piya Issaramalai.

K. Sompetch told the Gazette that K. Pichet had promised to discuss Patong's pleas with K. Bhokin as a matter of urgency.

He added, "We are coming back to Phuket now to await the results of discussions, which we expect in the coming few days."

Before going into the meeting, K. Sompetch said that he hoped the green light would be given for a closing time of 4 am, adding that he believes that "political game-playing" ahead of next February's general election is the real reason behind the government's Better Social Order policy.

He also called for the government to take the issue of zoning seriously and to make sure that "good" police officers – those who would do their job in strict accordance with the law – are given the task of patrolling the entertainment areas.

Continued on page 2

Phuket's Arcadia transforms into a Hilton Worldwide Resort in October 2004.

The perfect family holiday setting.

Visit www.Hilton.com or call your travel agent

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

Hilton
Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

Worldwide Resorts
This place is special. So is our hotel.

OrBorJor sets annual budget at B405m

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has set a budget for 2004-2005 of 405 million baht.

Members met on September 30 and voted unanimously for the budget, which is 42 million baht – 11.6% – higher than the one for fiscal 2003-2004.

Almost a quarter of the budget is earmarked for promoting tourism. Education projects and programmes to improve local quality of life will receive spending allocations of tens of millions of baht.

More than three quarters of the budget – 312 million baht – will come from *OrBorJor* taxes. Vehicle tax accounts for 145 million baht of this, and Value Added Tax (including that paid by hotel guests) for an additional 141 million baht.

Other revenue sources are the local tax on tobacco, which is expected to raise 25 million baht; tin royalties (600,000 baht) and fuel tax (500,000 baht).

A further 93 million baht will come from “other sources”. A large chunk – 50 million baht – is expected to come from the controversial hotel rooms tax (which the *OrBorJor* refers to as a “charge”, not a tax).

The *OrBorJor* also expects to receive 11.9 million baht in rental income; 2.5 million baht from penalties levied on private companies that have broken contracts with the council, and 27 million baht in government grants.

K. Anchalee said 117 million baht of the budget would be used to stimulate the economy of Phuket and promote tourism,

supporting government attempts to market Phuket as a world-class destination.

“This spending will include new projects, such as building a beautiful gate at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint, to give tourists a good first impression of Phuket,” she said.

Education will be a priority for the *OrBorJor*, she added, with 71 million baht being budgeted for educational programs. Another 60 million baht will be spent on projects to improve the quality of life, and 25 million go toward protecting and improving the environment.

“This budget will be in line with our 2005-2007 plan to develop Phuket into a better place,” the President said. The fiscal year began on October 1.

– **Kamol Pirat**

Patong optimism after talk in Bangkok

From page 1

“The government is punishing us, the businesspeople and the entertainment industry staff of Patong, rather than dealing effectively with those whose job it is to police the industry,” K. Sompetch said.

“Tourists are choosing Patong – where they can party all night – instead of Phuket,” he added.

Meanwhile, Prateep “Ott” Rerksonroj, owner of the Dragon Bar on Soi Easy in Patong, and secretary of the PEBA, along with other representatives of PEBA and their counterparts from the Phuket City Entertainment Business Association, petitioned Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarakura today. The Governor told them that he could do nothing without approval from Bangkok.

K. Ott said he fears that the crime rate on the island will grow as a direct result of the enforced early closing schedule.

“The same amount of businesses trying to attract customers from among a dwindling number of tourists will result in more crime in Patong – especially violent crime – as people fight to keep their businesses alive,” he warned.

Hutjenband Georges, owner of the Angel Bar in Patong, said that 2004 has been the worst in his four years running the bar.

“It’s never be like this before. Around 90% of our customers have gone [because of the early closing time] and I’m not sure how much longer we can survive this downturn.”

Comments from foreigners the *Gazette* spoke with last night were uniformly negative.

Sean Healey from England said that he has been to Phuket many times but is not sure whether he or his friends will come again.

“Fifteen pals of mine had considered coming to Phuket but have now changed their minds. They’ll go to Singapore, Cuba or somewhere else instead.”

Israeli Uri Nachcmi described the current 1 am closing time as “ridiculous”.



Firefighters in dramatic rescue

Gotcha! Firefighter Thawatchai Thippairat of the Phuket City Fire Department’s Soi Panieng Station holds up *Nong Tok* (Little Fallen One) after rescuing the kitten from a Samkong sewer in a two-hour operation on September 25.

The cat has been adopted by nine-year-old Natacha Kit-chakarn, who called the firemen after hearing its subterranean cries.

City bus firm dumped after year of losses

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: Phuket City’s buses are to be run by a new company after the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) decided not to renew its contract with Andaman Trans Thai. The contract expired on September 30.

The new contractor is Lucky General Transport, which will start running the bus service in two months’ time. Meanwhile, the service will be run by the *OrBorJor* itself.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said the decision not to renew the contract with Andaman Trans Thai was made because it had resulted in the *OrBorJor* losing 500,000 baht a month.

“Under the old contract, the *OrBorJor* paid for the fuel for the buses and the wages for the drivers and conductors, and all the maintenance costs for the buses as well.

“The company managed services and collected fares and fees for the advertisements that appear on the buses. But the *OrBorJor* had to sue “Best Studio” for 1.9 million baht after it did not pay the fee for its advertisements for more than nine months.”

In contrast, said K. Anchalee, the *OrBorJor* expects to make a surplus of 125,000 baht a month through the new contract with the new company.

She said, “The new company will carry the full responsibility for running the services, including paying for fuel, staff wages and the cost of maintaining the buses.

“The new contract should be better for the people of Phuket,” she said.

the beach at your doorstep...?

INDIGO REAL ESTATE

Contact or visit us for more information on how we can help you get the best possible deal on property in Phuket.

PREMIUM PROPERTIES SOUND ADVICE

www.indigoRE.com

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

KAMALA BEACH: 16 BEACH ROAD. SURIN BEACH: UNIT A, THE PLAZA.

HOUSE & POOL CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

House & Pool Construction Co., Ltd. since 1995

Thai - German Management

* Private & commercial construction
* Renovation / alteration
* Swimming pools & Jacuzzi
* Architecture design
* Building permission

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

Warning over fireworks during Vegetarian Festival

PHUKET CITY: Government and law enforcement officials have warned the public to refrain from using large firecrackers and other explosive devices during the annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which starts October 14.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Pol Col Paween Pongsirin warned that anyone using dangerous fireworks would be prosecuted. Only low-charge, ceremonial firecrackers in strips will be permitted, he said.

Col Paween also advised festival-goers to leave their valuables at home or in their hotels to prevent them being stolen.

Phuket’s outgoing Chief Administrative Officer, Visawa Sasismith, told the *Gazette* that Governor Udomsak Usawarakura had issued an order forbidding the use of high-charge firecrackers, bottle rockets and other such devices.

He also urged parents to control their children during the festival to prevent them from creating a public nuisance, such as by throwing firecrackers at innocent bystanders.

A list of this year’s Vegetarian Festival activities appears on the *Gazette* website, at www.phuketgazette.net/bulletins/index.asp?Id=797

The Life Spa

The Life Spa offers you high quality service and has also prepared the best of products and treatments including a variety of massages. Customers will enjoy a sense of refreshment and relaxation.

We have a highly-supportive team of professional therapists with experience and creativity.

Discount 20%

C&N Resort & Spa
3 Sirirat Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150 Thailand
Tel: (+66) 0 7634 5949-50, (+66) 0 7634 5957-60 Fax: (+66) 0 7634 5958
www.cnhotelpatong.com E-mail: cnhotel@hotmail.com

A clean sweep in Pa Khlock



Local kids can be seen picking up rubbish in the Pa Khlock area on the first Sunday of every month, thanks to a joint initiative by local mosques and the tambon administration organization to instill a culture of cleanliness in the community. This cheerful crew was photographed cleaning up verges along the main road on October 2.

PO plans to solve mail problems

PHUKET: Mail is to be transported directly from Chumphon to Phuket as one of a series of measures aimed at improving speed of delivery and reducing the amount of misplaced or undelivered mail.

The new system, to start in January, will replace the existing one, whereby the post bounces through several southern provinces on its way to Phuket.

Phuket Postmaster Visal Pongtiwattanakul told reporters on October 1 that the post office was reacting to complaints about late or lost mail by investigating the possible causes.

Many of these, it seems, are not the fault of the postal service or its workers.

K. Visal said, "There are several reasons, such as the addressee refusing to accept an item; the recipient's home not having a mailbox, or the post being delivered to someone other than the addressee, who forgets to pass it on."

"Sometimes the addressee has moved, or the envelope is improperly addressed – the tambon, moo, road, soi or house number is missing, for example."

"Also, Thailand has many

holidays. When the post office is closed, items are stuck in the system until the office reopens after the holiday.

"Delivery staff leave and are replaced by new staff who don't know the area and take time to become familiar with it, or the vehicle bringing the post to Phuket is late, or there isn't enough room to bring all the post to Phuket, so some has to be left behind until the next collection."

But, K. Visal added, "We now know the problems, so we can look for short- and long-term solutions."

"In the short term [until the Chumphon-Phuket deliveries are implemented], we will send more bags to Surat Thani to collect mail for Phuket and there will be more delivery vehicles coming from Surat Thani to Phuket."

"Second, our delivery people will work overtime, including on public holidays."

"In the long term, we will reorganize the way the mail is collected and delivered on the island. In the past, a post office in one area would be responsible for collecting the mail, which would be sorted at an office in another area, while a third post

office would be responsible for organizing deliveries.

"Soon, though, all three functions will be carried out by the post office in each of the island's five postal districts."

"We've taken on temporary staff to enable us to start solving the problems and the permanent staff should be in place by January 2005." – *Anongnat Sartpisut*

Skills shortage in services

PHUKET CITY: Phuket is facing a recruitment crisis, with a shortage of workers who have the experience and foreign language skills required by the island's service sector, the head of the Phuket Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare Office, Patom Phetmanee, warned on September 30.

Speaking at Phuket City Hall, K. Patom said, "There is a great need for labor, especially in the hotel sector."

He called for better co-ordination between employers and educational institutions, saying, "We need to send students for training in the workplace in their last semester of study."

Ozzie expertise to be tapped for Chalong marina

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET: Australian experts are being sought to help in developing the master plan for the proposed public marina project in Chalong Bay, Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit has told the *Gazette*.

The Vice-Governor met Ian Davey, Commercial Consultant for the Australian Embassy in Thailand, on October 1. V/Gov Niran told the *Gazette* that Mr Davey promised him that a professional consultant would be found for the marina project.

"The Governor expects that the project will be located at Chalong Bay, as it already has a 'one-stop' service that allows mariners sailing into Phuket [waters] to clear Customs, Immigration and Marine Department procedures in one place," he said.

"We have already looked at the proposal with marina experts from overseas, and have concluded that this is a good loca-

tion for berthing boats, even during the monsoon season.

"The current marina capacity in Phuket is not enough to accommodate the high number of boats that are coming here. We believe Australia can provide us with consultants who are experienced in this field," V/Gov Niran said.

"We already have a plan developed by Thai university professors, but we still want to benefit from the experience of overseas experts from countries such as Australia."

"We asked staff at the Australian embassy to look for marina experts who would be available to do some consulting work for us."

"They could also provide instruction to government departments that would be connected with the marina."

"After we develop the project's master plan we will present it to the government for discussion," the vice-governor said.

E-government launch delayed

PHUKET CITY: Plans to set up a "one-stop shop" website, through which Phuket people could conduct transactions with government departments, have hit a glitch.

Dr Rattana Wetprasit, Acting Manager of the Phuket office of the Software Industry Promotion Agency office, admitted on September 30 that it was impossible to say when the website would be up and running.



Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.

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

Your One-Stop Shop For Overseas Travel

Let Us Organize Everything For Your Next Trip

- Airline reservations and ticketing for destinations anywhere in the world
- Visa procedures
- Car rental
- Hotel bookings
- Travel insurance
- Cruise reservations
- Tour packages
- Visa run packages

Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.

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

ANDREW PARK

Property Agents & Consultants

Land and Villa Sales

Properties For Rent

Development and Hotel Consulting

Luxury Vacation Villa Rentals

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

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

Queer News

The mystery of the 'human bar code'

PHUKET CITY: After undergoing an emergency appendectomy, a patient at Bangkok Phuket Hospital found himself unable to enter Big C Supercenter without setting off the magnetic anti-theft security devices.

Confused, embarrassed and unable to fulfill his rightful role in the Phuket consumer economy, 44-year-old Prapet Tiranon returned to the hospital and asked physicians to X-ray him to see if they had perhaps left something inside him that could account for his transformation into a "human bar code".

But all the tests were negative and K. Prapet was sent home. Fearing further embarrassment, he steered clear of Big C. But when he joined the throng at the opening of Central Festival, he set off the security device there as well – again causing him a great deal of embarrassment.

K. Prapet, who lives in Pa Khlock, was quoted as saying, "It was embarrassing. People looked at me as if I were a chronic thief. My family didn't want to go shopping with me anymore."

Desperate to solve the mystery, he took his story to the press. A meeting of doctors and store officers at Big C was arranged and, with all eyes upon him, he passed through the device – setting it off.

The doctors were initially confused, for they had already passed a bag containing all of the same equipment used in K. Prapet's surgery through the security check – without setting it off. What could account for it? Had K. Prapet really become a human bar code?

Then someone had the bright idea of bringing K. Prapet inside Big C and running the bar code scanning device at the checkout counter over his person. When it reached his pocket it went off.

"What's in your pocket?" he was asked.

"My wallet," came his reply.

It turned out that the scanner was being set off by a security bar code sticker that was stuck on the inside lining of his wallet. Once the offending sticker was removed, K. Prapet was able to walk straight through the device without setting it off. The mystery had been solved. K. Prapet was neither a human bar code nor the victim of medical malpractice.

K. Prapet, owner of the Ban Pae Seafood Restaurant, slunk off without talking to the press, while physicians and other personnel from Bangkok Phuket cheered in celebration at having been cleared of suspicion of shoddy workmanship.

As it turns out, what happened to K. Prapet could have happened to any island consumer. The magnetic strips are commonly hidden away in merchandise to prevent theft, either by shoplifters or store employees. They are often inserted at the factory, but are meant to be deactivated by the scanning device at the time of purchase.

When this doesn't happen – or when the goods find their way onto the black market – they can trigger alarms and cause the unsuspecting buyer a good deal of embarrassment – as K. Prapet learned.

Source: Siang Tai

Patong's first water treatment plant opened in 1989. It was capable of treating 2,250 cubic meters of wastewater a day. Three years later, it was extended to allow a further 3,000m³ to be treated each day.

However, while the plant, off Rat U-Thit Rd, has a daily capacity of 5,250m³, Patong now produces between 7,000 and 8,000m³ of wastewater a day, says Wiriya Tevanukul, Sanitary Engineer of Patong Municipality.

The new "second phase" wastewater treatment facility is due to come into operation on November 1. With a planned daily capacity of 9,000m³, bringing the total to more than 14,000 m³ a day, it should meet the water treatment needs of Patong until 2010.

The municipality will now look at ways to find the funding for construction of a third plant, with a capacity of 7,750m³ a day. This, in combination with the other two plants, should, it is estimated, provide enough treatment capacity to last until 2020.

The current plant treats water using the activated sludge process, which will also be used for phases two and three.

Sewage entering the plant is mixed with "activated sludge" which contains bacteria and other microorganisms; oxygen is added to the mixture, which is then stored in tanks while the bacteria and other microorganisms, stimulated by the oxygen, break down organic waste.

To test whether water has been properly treated, engineers measure Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) – the amount of oxygen required by bacteria to break down organic materials in water.

Put simply, it is a way of measuring how much "organic material" is in water. In the case of Patong, which does not have dedicated sewerage, this material includes feces, waste food, laundry waste and anything carried

After more than five years of waiting, it looks as though Patong may finally get its new wastewater treatment plant working in time for the high season.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangura called for a special effort to be made to finish the second phase of the municipality's wastewater treatment system before the start of the high season, because the first phase cannot cope with the amount of wastewater the town generates, allowing untreated water to flow directly into the sea.

One of the most obvious effects of this was the bright green seaweed that washed up on the beach earlier this year. Another is the persistent smell of sewage in some of Patong's streets.

The second-phase treatment plant is due to open next month; while those who live and do business in Patong are counting the days to its opening, some are already raising questions about just how effective the new plant will be.

The Gazette's Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Gategaeo Phetsawang take a close look at the current state of affairs.

wastewater can be as high as 100mg/l.

In theory, the existing plant can treat wastewater until it has a BOD of 2 to 4mg/l. Some of the treated water is used to water plants and put out fires, while the rest flows into a canal and thence to the sea.

Patong Municipality has facilities for collecting wastewater from around 60% or 70% of the municipality area. The main part not connected is the Nanai community. There are plans to link Nanai into the system in the coming 12 months.

In addition to the municipal treatment plant, each hotel with more than 200 rooms must have facilities capable of treating twice the amount of wastewater it generates.

The General Manager of the Royal Paradise Hotel, Dr Jirachai Amornpairoj, told the Gazette that although he welcomes the opening of the phase two treatment plant, he is not convinced it will solve what he calls the "chronic problem" of Patong's wastewater.

He said, "Still we can't manage and control 100% of the wastewater. Half of it flows into the sea."

"People staying or living on the higher floors of buildings round here can see water [entering the bay] colored red or black, especially when it's raining."

One indicator of the problems in Patong, said Dr Jirachai, is Klong Pak Bang, from which, for the past four or five years, wastewater has been flowing directly into the sea. "10 years ago," said Dr Jirachai, "the water was clear."

Another indicator was the bright green seaweed that proliferated along Patong Beach earlier this year, "fed" by the sewage. At one stage there was so much seaweed that business people and Patong Municipality had to arrange beach patrols to gather it up.

Dr Jirachai said, "The seaweed is like an indicator to tell us that [the problem is] wastewater. We also had guests who complained they had developed rashes after swimming in the sea. "A former Tourism Author-

Relaxation Health Comfort

FANTASIA

"A world of difference"

Central Festival 3rd floor Tel: 076 249 590 Fax: 076 249 591

Expert Property Advice

- Sales (land & property)
- Consultancy
- Rentals
- Estate management
- Rental management
- Relocation advice
- Maintenance, repairs & construction

Local knowledge.
Global presence.

LYNX management group Chesterton PETTY 卓德

076 239944 / 01 893 3434
info@lynxmgmt.com



Seaweed lines Patong Beach earlier this year, a sure sign that sewage treatment was inadequate.

A FRESH START

ity of Thailand (TAT) director told me they had been inundated with complaints from tourists about the wastewater in Patong.

"The water quality situation is getting critical and I think Patong Municipality should solve this problem before everything else.

"The problem is getting

worse and the more people come here, the more pollution will be created."

He continued, "If the second plant works, it will improve the situation, but it won't solve it 100%. Patong is very important and people should no longer leave wastewater to be dealt with by the sea.

"People have been waiting for many years for the municipality to solve this problem. But now I am still not sure [whether] the new plant will actually be effective."

Panu Maswongsa, Director of Marketing for the Patong Resort, was also sceptical.

"Even if we have two wastewater treatment plants, I don't think they will be enough to handle the wastewater in Patong.

"Within the next year, the Jungceylon mall is due to open,"

he pointed out. "That's a big project and it will include two hotels as well."

The Patong Resort has 325 rooms and its own wastewater treatment facility, and it is also connected to the Patong Municipality treatment system.

Water treated within the hotel is used to water the hotel grounds, said K. Panu.

Patong's inability to treat sewage has been a cause for complaint from guests, he said. "Many complain about the bad smell from the sewage, especially when it is raining."

The problem, he says, has been getting worse, not better. "The worst thing I have ever experienced during the 19 years I have been in Patong is the seaweed on the beach this year."

Apichart Asa is General Manager of Phuket Grand Tropicana Hotel. He estimates that each of the 370 rooms at his hotel generates between 0.5 and 1m³ of water a day. Like the other major hotels, The Tropicana has a plant capable of treating twice the amount of wastewater it generates.

He agrees with his counterparts that the wastewater problem is getting worse every year.

He said, "We may not have figures on how bad the situation is, but we do have the opinions of people who visit Patong – and they know how bad the water here is. In surveys, tourists always mention the dirty water."

In the firing line since the new municipal council was installed at the end of August is Chairat Sukbal, the Deputy Mayor in charge of public works.

"[Water treatment] is a real priority," he told the *Gazette*. "If Patong's water is bad, the whole of Patong's tourism is bad too."

Although Patong has a settled population of just 11,000,

K. Chairat estimates that around 300,000 migrants work in the town, and it is visited at least once by almost all of the three million-plus tourists who come to Phuket each year.

Every new house and small business in Patong has to have a wastewater pipe linked to the Patong Municipality system, he explained.

"A licence to construct will not be issued unless our officers are satisfied the building complies with laws on this," said K. Chairat.

However, until this year, the municipality hasn't had anything like the facilities it needs to handle the waste produced by all the residents, workers and visitors.

K. Chairat said one of the main causes for the delay in constructing the second phase of the treatment plant has been cost. The budget for the plant was approved in 1999, but then the price of building materials started to rise, taking the project cost well beyond the 200-million-baht budgeted for it.

Another reason for the delay, said K. Chairat, was the legal action surrounding the allegations that a previous management team had extorted money from the then-contractors.

He said, "That happened under the old management team. Although the legal action is still proceeding, we have employed a new contractor to complete the work."

K. Chairat said he expected the new plant to treat water to a higher standard than previously, although the 24-hour pumping operation may make the process more expensive.

"It may cost more, because of the electricity it will use, but we have no plans to pass this cost on to local people," he said.



Cost overruns and extortion allegations have delayed phase two.
– Chairat Sukbal

The Fine Art of World-Class Coffee with
2002 World Champion Barista Fritz Storm

There's a storm brewing at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket this month as former World Champion Barista, Mr. Fritz Storm from Denmark, joins us for two special days.

Enjoy **FREE COFFEE**, prepared by somebody who really knows how to make it, at:

Village Bakery
15 - 16 October from 11am - 2pm

AND
Loy Krathong Lounge
15 - 16 October from 4.30pm - 7pm in conjunction with an extra special "Fire & Ice" cocktail featuring hot and cold culinary creations priced at Baht 490++

* 20% discount exclusively for Club Grande members!

Seating during "Fire & Ice" is limited, so make your reservations now - contact: 076 324 101 to 7

Brought to you exclusively by:

Bangkok Phuket Cancer Center

Multimodality team approach

Highest standards

Comprehensive Cancer Center
Co-ordinated with Cancer Network (Samitivej Hospital)

Bangkok Phuket Hospital : Emergency Call ☎ **076 25 44 25**

www.phukethospital.com info@phukethospital.com

24 hr

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

With the opening last month of the Phuket Fine Art Gallery, collectors in Phuket can now source the work of some of Thailand's best-known painters without having to travel all the way to Bangkok.

The gallery, east of Baan Kian, on the road from Thalang to Cherng Talay, offers a wide variety of paintings – including watercolors, oils and acrylics – and is a must-see for art enthusiasts.

The grand opening exhibition on September 19 was presided over by former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and featured 120 works of art by famous names in Thai painting, including Thai National Artist Pratuang Em-jaroen, Thongchai Rukprathum, Itipol Thanchalok and Preecha Taothong.

Owner Kanyarat Tiewsakula told the *Gazette* that prices range from 50,000 baht to half a million baht, but she stressed that the gallery is about more than just making sales.

She and her partner Nirut Polnakarn want the gallery to serve as a place where local art students can draw inspiration from the creative genius of some of Thailand's finest artists.

K. Kanyarat explained that she is also happy to give local artists a new venue to display their work.

K. Kanyarat, a Phuket native, said that the idea of opening a gallery sprang naturally from the owners' shared love of art. The couple are well prepared for the business side, too, as they already own a number of mini-marts, and souvenir and crafts shops in Phuket City and in Karon.



Art is found both inside the building and outside, by the pool. Above, details of paintings by Sompoj Singthong (top) and Witcha Yodnin.



ART BY THE POOL

The gallery is intended to meet the interior decoration needs of upscale homeowners, especially discerning buyers building vacation or retirement homes on the island.

The best-selling items so far have been paintings of the Buddha and other works with characteristically Thai themes, K. Kanyarat said.

Phuket Fine Art also welcomes student groups and other people interested in touring the gallery.

"We don't charge an entrance fee, but for student groups we do ask that people let us know a few days in advance of when they plan on visiting.

"There's no need to feel obliged to make a purchase. We don't follow visitors around; we allow them to take in all the paintings at their leisure," she added.

The gallery is just a short drive from Laguna Phuket and many other luxury villa projects. The entire property, which cov-

ers two rai of land, cost about 15 million baht to build. The main gallery has an area of 175 square meters.

"We built a swimming pool at the center as a place for guests to relax, socialize and meet the artists during exhibition openings. The gallery can accommodate up to 200 people," she added.

For people who have already visited Phuket Fine Art, there will always be a good reason to make a return trip, as ex-

hibitions change every month.

The next big exhibition planned is a "one-man show" by Silapakorn University Associate Professor Taworn Ko-udomwit, who already has three paintings on display at the gallery.

Phuket Fine Art, open Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm, is at 185/30, Baan Kian Rd, Moo 4, Thalang. For more information contact K. Kanyarat or Nirut (Tel: 09-7298991; 06-2775358; Web-site: www.phuketfineart.com).

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

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



Infanticide mom gets 25 years

The Criminal Court sentenced 24-year-old Nongnuch McCavini to 25 years in jail for leaving her four-day-old son to die at a dumpsite in Bangkok last October.

The infant, nicknamed Apec, was barely alive when a gas station attendant found him. He later died of respiratory failure. The court heard he suffered a "torturous" death due to a lack of oxygen. He had been triple-wrapped in plastic bags.

Nongnuch pleaded guilty during interrogation, but claimed later in court that she had no intention of killing her son. She said she had hoped someone would find him and take care of him.

Nongnuch was married to a Briton and had lived in England with their only son. During a visit to Thailand, she had an affair with a taxi driver and became pregnant.

She left the baby at the dumpsite because her husband threatened to divorce her if she kept it.

Cattleclism: A woman was killed and six others were injured when a buffalo ran amok in a market after escaping from a slaughterhouse in Pathum Thani.

Kesa Pongchareon, 42, was gored by the buffalo and died on the way to hospital.

Kesa's husband, Sompong Pongchareon, 45, told police he had been taking his wife, a masseuse, to a customer's place in the market when he heard a scream of "Look out, mad buffalo!" and saw the animal heading their way.

The couple tried to take cover in a nearby pharmacy, but K. Kesa was too slow and was gored. Six others were injured, including a man who was speared in the chest and suffered damage to his left lung.

Villagers later shot the buffalo dead. Police said they would track down the animal's owner and demand compensation.



Police officers in Bangkok's Lat Krabang District prevent an enraged man from attacking murder suspect Sompong Buathanom during a crime re-enactment.

Sompong is charged with murdering 15-year-old Issara Puangput by dousing him with gasoline and setting him alight. More than 50 police officers were dispatched to protect the suspect from a crowd of 100 angry relatives and friends of the victim.

Top-down orders: Deputy Prime Minister Vishanu Krungnam urged teachers to complain to police if their superiors coerced them into having sex.

Teachers had claimed that superiors in the Ministry of Education might blackmail them into having sex, in return for not being laid off under phase three of the government's bureaucracy reform scheme.

"If it's true, they should tell police, inform school directors and write me a report," said K.

Vishanu.

He added that the reform scheme, which aims to lay off 5% of poorly performing government officials, could be reconsidered if it is widely criticised.

Although the plan appears to open the door for superiors to bully subordinates, K. Vishanu said the chances were small because removing an official required nine separate steps.

Laying off inefficient officials is the third phase of the reforms, and follows an early re-

tirement program and the downsizing of agencies. Civil servants will be required to undergo two performance reviews; those who fail both reviews can resign with eight months' severance pay or undergo skills training.

School of hard knocks: A school director in Kamphaeng Phet was transferred for caning a 19-year-old female student who repeatedly played truant and was found in a rented apartment with a male friend.

Sak Ngarm Wittaya School director Anon Bualom admitted caning the teenager 39 times, leaving her with bruised and swollen buttocks, and a fever.

Fundamental Education Commission Secretary General Pornnipa Limpapayom transferred K. Anon to Kamphaeng Phet Educational District 2 Office and ordered an investigation.

The Education Ministry has banned corporal punishment in schools. If it is ruled that K. Anon committed a non-criminal offence, he could face a 5% salary cut for up to three months.

K. Pornnipa said K. Anon should have alerted the student's parents instead of resorting to the cane. She said her office also issued a memorandum to schools across the country stating that they must not cane or use any other form of violence against students.

The girl's mother said she would pursue legal action against K. Anon.

"I want this case to be a precedent, so that other students will not suffer such punishment," she said.

Corruption costs: The National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) broke no laws when it increased the salaries of its mem-

bers, one of its commissioners said.

K. Wichianchote Sukchoerat was responding to allegations made by Pratin Santi-prapop, chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Corruption, that the commissioners broke the law by increasing their own salaries.

Wichianchote said that the NCCC Act empowered the anti-graft agency to issue a directive to approve pay increases for commissioners.

He said the pay-rise directive had also been scrutinized by the Council of State, which is the government's legal advisory board.

The NCCC issued a directive on July 29 giving its chairman a monthly pay increase of 45,500 baht, taking his salary to 154,000 baht, while other commissioners received pay rises of 42,500 baht, taking their salaries to 147,000 baht.

Missing millions: Over 2.4 million baht mysteriously disappeared from a Bank of Ayudhya ATM, the manager of the bank's Naresuan University branch in Phitsanulok's Muang District said.

Pornnee Boontha-makul, 47, lodged a complaint with Phitsanulok Police that the money had vanished from a cash machine, but Pol Col Chalerm Suwannara-tosod and investigating officers found the back panel of the ATM was securely locked and there was no trace of a break-in.

Police are now questioning bank staff members.

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

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

FREE!

See the
Phuket Gazette
Online at

www.phuketgazette.net

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.
Significant - and genuine! - discounts at more
than 300 places, including:



Suan Luang Clinic
10% off all dental services.
Tel: 076-222579

Bluefin Mexican Tavern
10% off food and drink. Tel: 076-330856

Scampi
10% off all food and drink. Tel: 076-238806

Fantasea Divers
20% For daytrip diving. 15% for M/V Fantasea
liveaboard cruises. Tel: 076-281387

Ghadafi Halal Food Restaurant
10% off food only. Tel: 076-340639

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

**Free Wi-Fi Hot Spot
@ Canal Village**



Enjoy free wireless Internet with your coffee
@ Canal Village Bakery, Laguna Phuket

Tel: 076 324 453 Ext. 256

CANAL VILLAGE
LAGUNA SHOPPING



Some help on red-tape intricacies

Many expats and newly arrived residents complain about the complexity of Thai labor laws and immigration requirements.

One of the most common complaints heard is that you will get a different answer to the same question from two different government employees in the same office. To address these issues, the Krabi authorities are making efforts to educate foreigners and local Thai business owners about the requirements, and about the responsibilities of holders of visas and work permits.

On September 13, the Krabi Provincial Department of Employment and the Krabi Department of Immigration held a joint seminar at the Ao Nang Villa Resort.

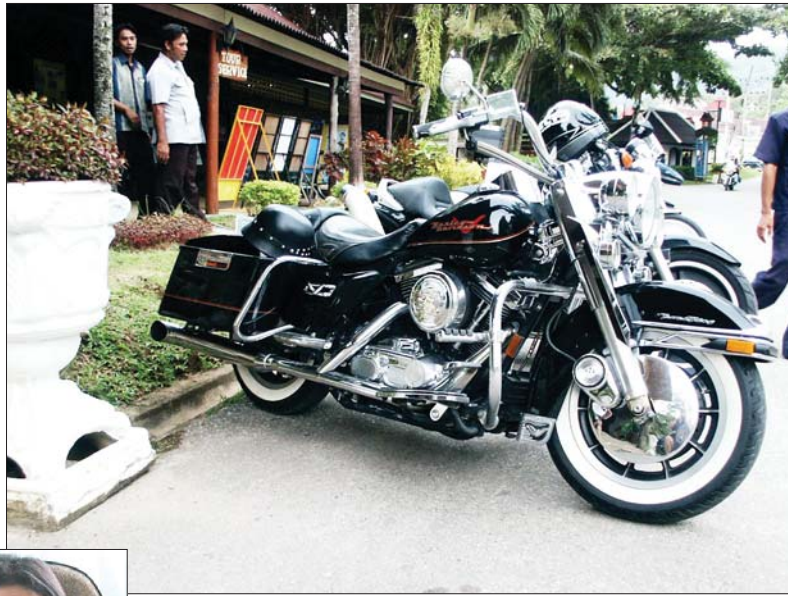
The morning session was run by the Labour Department, which supplied English translations of the Alien Work Act, as well as an English translator for the proceedings.

The meeting was well attended by business owners from Phi Phi, Koh Lanta and Krabi. Ingorn Chuayjuan, head of the Labour Department, presided over the session, handling numerous questions and inquiries.

The afternoon meeting was chaired by Pol Lt Col Sakrapree Suekamnerd, head of Krabi Immigration. After the meetings were finished, we had a chance to chat with K. Ingorn, who recently took over as head of the Krabi Provincial Labour Department.

She stressed that Thailand wants to attract "quality" foreigners, those with special skills or those with a high level of education. The aim of the Labour Department is to have Thai people learn new skills from their foreign employers.

As a result, the foreigners Thailand wishes to attract to the country as investors should be



Above: Just a few of the 1,300 big bikes that took over Ao Nang recently. Left, Labour Department Chief Ingorn Chuayjuan



only in occupations that cannot currently be performed by Thai people.

K. Ingorn said her department would make a special effort to discuss

with foreigners considering setting up business in Thailand whether their proposals would meet the requirements of the Labour Department.

Although the Governor of Krabi has the final say in the

signing of work permits, K. Ingorn's office can be of invaluable assistance in making sure foreigners are following the correct procedures.

Motorcycle invasion: September 3 saw the arrival of the 3 Nation Charity Ride in Krabi. Some 1,300 motorbikes and riders participated in a weekend of fun and festivities, but the ultimate goal of the 50-plus motorcycle clubs, from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, was to

raise money for charities in the Krabi area.

In addition, the motorcyclists used the event to promote motorcycle safety, stressing the importance of wearing helmets at all times, riding with lights on and obeying all traffic laws.

Hundreds of very expensive, beautifully-maintained motorcycles riding through the area were truly a sight to be seen.

And – a testament to their seriousness about safety – not a single accident was reported during the weekend, despite there being an extra 1,300 motorbikes on the roads of Ao Nang. If only the locals could ride so well.

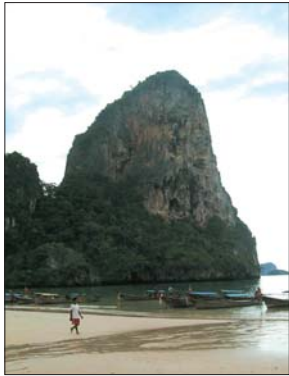
For more information about this group and their activities, visit their website at www.3nationcharityride.com.

Signs of progress (maybe): A count of essential facilities in Ao Nang reveals how the place is growing:

	2004	2000
ATM machines	23	4
Italian restaurants	12	5
Dive shops	17	10
Tailors	29	19
7-Elevens	2	0
Long-tail boats	900	175
Rot salaeng taxi	45	0

ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds



Acne clear water lotion
Ultra-refreshing
(oil-free formula)
For oily skin
Prevents acne and acne scars

Acne clear water lotion
Refreshing
(oil-free formula)
For combination skin
Prevents acne and acne scars

Acne clear water lotion
Moisturizing
(oil-free formula)
For dry skin
Prevents acne and acne scars

light texture

ultra-refreshing

moisturizing

ettusais

A series of skincare products to resolve the problems caused by acne.

Effective against acne and acne scars and prevents pores becoming clogged.

Acne Skincare Series

○ Alcohol-free ○ Fragrance-free ○ Colorant-free ○ Mildly acidic ○ Allergy tested

*** Available now at the Cosmetic Department at Central Festival Phuket.

Special offer!

Free samples for the first 100 lucky people who present this coupon at ettusais counter cosmetic department on the ground floor, Central Festival Phuket. (Available from today until stocks last.) www.ettusais.co.jp



This week



CHINESE WHISPERS: Members of the Beijing press are welcomed to Phuket by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (blue blouse) and *OrBorJor* member Sommai Maipongpattana (back row, blue shirt). Angsana Sihapitak (flowery red blouse), Minister Counsellor of the Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing accompanies them.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: The German Honorary Consul to Phuket, Dirk Naumann (back row, center), presents playground equipment and building supplies to the Saiyuan Development Kindergarten on behalf of the Rommel family. A total of 150,000 baht was donated by the family in memory of their late relative.



THE NAVY LARK: (from left) R/Adm Likit Charoensaph and V/Adm Pairoj Theerachai of the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Area Command, Mrs Saowanee Theerachai and Chief of Staff of Third Naval Area Command R/Adm Amornchot Sujirat at a recent "thank-you party" for the media at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel.



IBAP, WE BAP: Among those at the recent IBAP business fair at Central Festival Phuket are IBAP Secretary O.B. Wetzell (back row, 2nd from left), Dr Prasit Koeysiripong (pink shirt), Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Dr Bodin La-ied (respectively front row right and 2nd from right).



RE-ANIMATORS: Phuket Vice-Governor Winai Buapradit (seated, left) and the Director of Phuket Polytechnic College Thanomsri Ratabut (seated, right) congratulate the 40 students who completed the first three months of a six-month pre-professional animation course under the aegis of Sipa, the Software Industry Promotion Agency.



APEX OVER BASE: At the opening of the Apex Skin Center at Central Festival Phuket are (from left): Dr Nantapat Supapannachart, Dr Sriyada Palimapan, and Saengchai Wasoonthara. Thermage therapy specialist Gary Wilson stands behind the trio.



Can you afford to be without it?

It's only 500 baht! (plus VAT)

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

THE ABALONE PIONEER

Gazette: What was your background before you opened the Phuket Abalone Farm?

Dr Sithisak: I am 42 years old and I was born in Bangkok. After I graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Chulalongkorn University, I came to southern Thailand, to Surat Thani, where I farmed prawns for more than 10 years.

However, in time, the price of prawns on the world market started to fall, mainly because of the huge supply from countries such as Vietnam and India. I believed that the Thai prawn industry could not last much longer, so I decided to come to Phuket to set up a different business here.

I discovered that the sea around Phuket was ideal for abalone farming. The salinity of the water made for good breeding conditions, while the international airport meant I could export fresh abalone to Taiwan and Japan. Plus, Phuket had no heavy industry that could damage the environment around an abalone farm.

Moreover, there was the potential to expand into nearby provinces such as Phang Nga and Krabi, with Phuket at the center of the Thai abalone business in the future.

Gazette: What else inspired you to set up this business?

Dr Sithisak: I saw that many of the goods that Thailand exported were low value – rice, for example – but Thailand imported high-value goods from abroad. I thought a better way for Thailand would be to export high-value goods instead of low-value ones.

In addition, I went to Taiwan and I had the chance to taste abalone soup. I knew they had abalone farms in Taiwan and I thought that we could have them in Thailand, too.

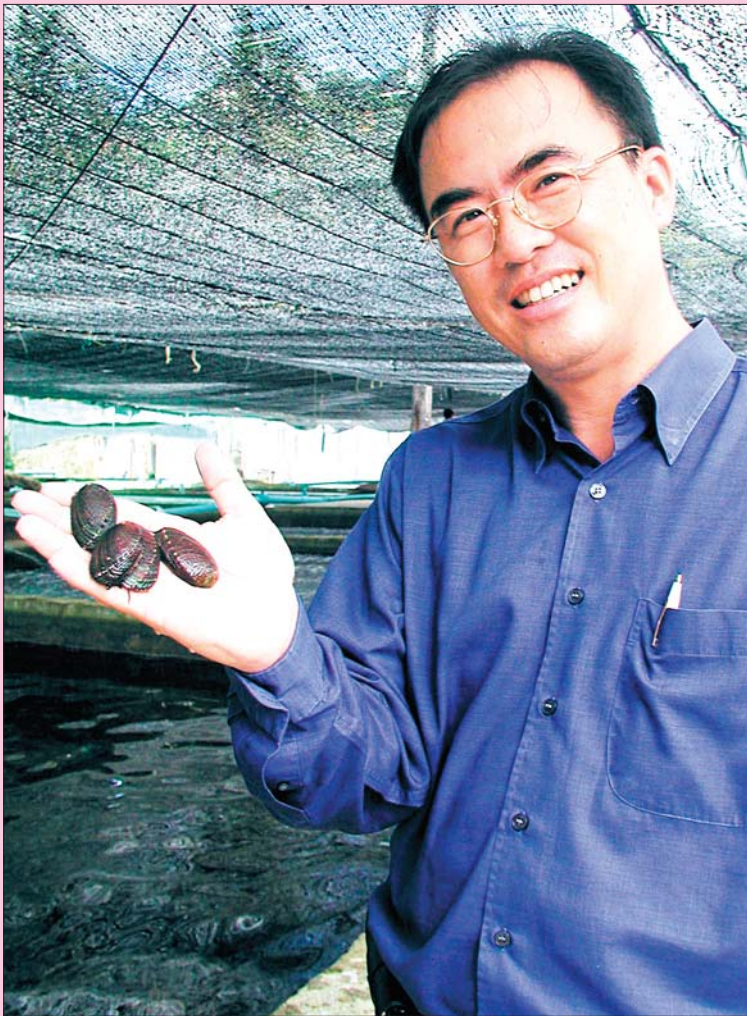
After that, with the help of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, I spent more than three years trying to breed Thai abalone.

I wasn't very successful at first, because Thai abalone grow slowly, plus it's not popular on the world market, so it is difficult to sell.

Then I discovered that aba-

Dr Sithisak Muangsin is the Managing Director of Phuket Abalone Farm, a business he established seven years ago. It was the first commercial venture of its kind in Thailand and required an investment of more than 60 million baht.

Dr Sithisak, a veterinarian graduate of Chulalongkorn University, talked with the *Gazette's* Kamol Pirat about the future of breeding and farming the high-value molluscs.



Dr Sithisak Muangsin with abalone, at his Phuket farm.

lone from Taiwan could be farmed here. It is also more popular on the world market and grows faster than the Thai species, so I changed to breeding that.

I export young abalone, aged around three months, to Taiwan, where it is reared for two to three years, before being exported to Japan. Japan is the main market for Taiwanese abalone – 60% of the abalone from my farm ends up in Japan, while 40% stays in Taiwan.

I could export mature abalone to Japan, but I'm so busy meeting the demand for young abalone from Taiwan that I don't have the time or resources to

export grown abalone to Japan.

The demand from Taiwan is about 500 million young abalone a year, but the country has the capacity to breed just 50 million.

However, I still plan to rear abalone to maturity then export them direct to Japan. I will invite Thai farmers to establish abalone farms and I will help them start up in business and advise them on what to do. When the abalone is mature, I will buy it back from them.

Gazette: How much money would it cost to set up an abalone farm?

Dr Sithisak: I estimate it would cost not less than five million baht to make six cement wells to hold the abalone. But if an investor is willing to spend more than 10 million baht on a big abalone farm, he will find that is more profitable.

Gazette: What difficulties are there in running an abalone farm?

Dr Sithisak: The first problem that would face a newcomer is finding a suitable place for the farm, one where the water has the right level of salinity. Phuket has the right kind of water and has places to plant seaweed for feeding the abalone.

In addition, you have to wait a long time to get a return on your investment as the abalone life cycle is long, and the earliest they can be sold for food is six to eight months of age.

Gazette: Were you the first person in Thailand to invest in abalone farming?

Dr Sithisak: Yes. We are the first Thai venture to go into commercial farming of Taiwanese abalone, and Phuket Abalone was the first producer to use abalone to make abalone sauce. Our Lee's Kitchen sauce can be seen on the shelves of supermarkets around the country.

At present we have no competitors. Australia is a major supplier, with an industry that harvests naturally growing abalone and exports them to Japan, but that is different from abalone farming. However, I can see that in the next four or five years, countries such as Vietnam will become strong competitors.

Gazette: After seven years in this business, are you a success?

Dr Sithisak: I can't say that the abalone farm has been an undiluted success, but I can say business has been better over the past couple of years because of the demand from Taiwan for young abalone, and I think things will improve even more.

There is already heavy demand in China for abalone, and we are able to export about 10,000 tons, or 10 million kilograms, a year.

Our main market is Asia; most of our produce is exported to China and Taiwan.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has predicted that the Chinese economy will grow by around 7% a year for the next 16 years, so it's unlikely the price of abalone will fall.

People in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines have asked me to supply young abalone to them but I haven't been able to do this because I don't have enough abalone to sell to them.

At the moment, I export only to Taiwan, but I could export elsewhere if I had enough. If Thai farmers want to run an abalone farm to meet this demand, I will sell them young abalone, although I'm not sure how many people would want to enter the business.

Gazette: Do you have any plans to invest in other countries?

Dr Sithisak: No. I want to run this business in Thailand and I want to stay in Phuket or Phang Nga or, maybe, Krabi. This is a lovely area and I am very happy to live here.

Phuket Abalone Farm Co Ltd is at 35/4 Moo 1 Thepphratan Rd. Tambon Rassada, Phuket City. Tel: 076-252944. Website: www.phuketabalone.com

Mother and Child International Childcare Center
Enrollment Open!
 Accepting children from 18 months to 5½ years old.
 All nationalities welcome.
 Office hours: 9 am-3 pm Mon-Sat
"Quality Care For Your Children"
 Fully Licensed
 Classes from Monday to Friday 9 am-3 pm
 Babysitting services available.

5 Sirirat Road, Patong Beach, Phuket Thailand 83150
 For inquiries, contact Tel: 076-292933, 06-7888080
 E-mail: motherchilddevelopmentcenter@yahoo.com

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

Somboon Churchill
 20150 Exp: 01 Jan 2005
Gazette Shopper
 The discount card for savvy local residents
 Completely useless outside of Phuket

Significant – and genuine – discounts at more than 300 places, including:
Da Maurizio
 10% off all food and drinks.
 Tel: 076-344079

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

Dulwich International College
 British education at one of Asia's finest day and boarding schools

Co-educational day and boarding...
 Safe, beautifully landscaped campus...
 Superb resources and facilities...
 Close links with Dulwich College, London...
 Active, caring boarding programme...
 From 18 months to 18 years old...
 Pre-school to Year 13...IGCSE and IB...
 Small class sizes...Boarding from 9 years old...
 New Primary School on campus...

Back in Time
 Wednesday 13th October, 19:00 in the college Auditorium
 Charity Concert featuring music from the 50s, 60s and 70s
 as well as classical and traditional music
 Tickets, 300 bt. for adults & 150 bt. for children,
 available from Reception or on the night
 Join us for a Magical Musical Tour:
 Everybody Welcome

IB World School, accredited by WES, member of ECIS, FOBISSEA and COBISCE
 Tel. 076 238 711-20, 02 512 0466-7 Fax. 076 238 750, 02 512 0468
<http://www.dulwich.ac.th> info@dulwich.ac.th

Debbie Cook at Dulwich International College tells me that many of the school's best music students will be demonstrating their remarkable skills at a concert for the community on Wednesday, October 13.

The evening will include everything from Bach to African drumming, including jazz, pop and rock music from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Proceeds will be used to support the 15 Dulwich students who will represent Phuket at the FOBIS-SEA music festival in Seoul, South Korea, in November.

Here's a chance to elevate your spirits and check out the talent at Dulwich. Call 076-238711 for ticket information.

Screamy dreamy:

Debbie Dionysius, Director of Destination Marketing at Laguna Phuket, has sent innumerable enthusiastic emails about the charity concert the resort is hosting on Sunday, October 10.

It's not surprising, really, as the stars of the show are Michael Learns To Rock, a trio of hunky Danes who have set girls across Asia screaming with their romantic ballads.

Concerts at Laguna Phuket are always a treat and this one, co-sponsored by the *Gazette*, is raising money for a good cause: local attempts to help children at risk from HIV or sexual predators.

You can scream directly into the rugged faces of these three hunks for 4,000 baht – and that ticket even includes a private meeting with the trio after the concert – or you can scream

Wine, women and song

adoringly from the back for just 500 baht. Call 076-324453-7 (ext 0) to reserve tickets.

What? No song? Those of you familiar with Mediterranean culture will know how the men there crowd into small bistros and entertain one another into the wee hours with endless chatter.

I have always wondered what these guys talk about all night, but now I know. It's wine and women.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Fiorenzo Dogliani

from the Beni di Batasiolo vineyards of Piedmont, Italy. His family has been growing grapes and producing excellent wine in this region since the 1840s. They have expanded and now have 336 acres – about 750 rai – under cultivation.

Fiorenzo brought with him Lorenzo Vivaldi, a friend from Piedmont and Chef of the Antica Corona Reale – a family restaurant that has been in operation since 1836 – who created a fantastic winemaker's dinner at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

Sponsored by wine distributor Italasia, the feast was your typical six-course extravaganza, featuring rare white truffle, which, I was told, cost many thousands of dollars a kilo, and six delectable wines from Fiorenzo's backyard.

But my favorite part of the evening was Fiorenzo bragging



A Finnish girl and a bath of wine: At the Beni di Batasiolo wine dinner (from left) Fiorenzo Dogliani of Beni di Batasiolo, Chef Lorenzo Vivaldi and Gian Carlo De Cesare, Branch Manager of Italasia Group.

about his love of women and how once, in his youth, he had met a lone Finnish lass and taken her back to his apartment.

There, she found cases of the family's best sparkling wine and insisted that they take a bath in the stuff. Fiorenzo, the very model of an Italian playboy, happily obliged.

Intoxically artistic: A few nights after the wine dinner, managers of Phuket's very best resorts gathered for an evening at the TwinPalms Phuket for a wine event sponsored by FIN, Fabulous is Needed, a Bangkok lifestyle company dedicated to fine wine and art.

FIN promotes only 30 labels from select vineyards, chosen for their distinct taste, which could be described as "art that can be tasted". Three of the signature

wines carried by FIN have labels designed and painted by artists.

"The Lovers", male and female figures created by French sculptor Sophie Pigeon, for example, features on the label of every bottle of Chateau Bel Air Bordeaux Superieur rouge.

The inspiration for FIN's art-and-wine combination comes from Benjawan Wisootat, of the successful event management firm Optimum, and her partner, Jan Ganser, who has been 20 years in international marketing.

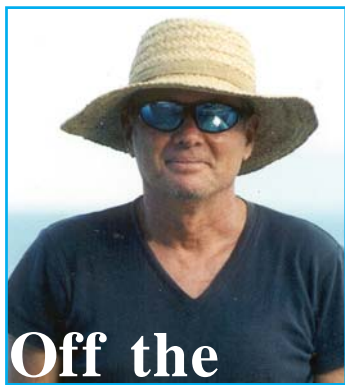
"FIN has been formed in order to provide art and wine that is fabulous to customers who understand the finer things in life –

and who are themselves fabulous," explained Mr Ganser.

Well, there certainly were some fabulous people at the FIN launch at TwinPalms Phuket.

Start wining: For those of us a bit less fabulous, Michael Cowan of C9 and Steven Roberto of Baan Rim Pa are forming a wine club for those who want to learn the basics of wine appreciation. (See also wine column, page 25.)

Michael will be the organizer, while Steven's task will be to explain what to consider when presented with an unfamiliar bottle of red, white or sparkling. I'll keep you posted.



Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

**Looking for
a home in phuket?**

www.phuketimmo.com

09-866-9004 / 076-249-315

Prime Phuket Property
Luxurious Tropical Villas for Sale with Private Swimming Pools



Located at Soi Samakee 2, Saiyuan (10-minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai Beach)
Contact: 01 89 230 89 E-mail: nplaw@loxinfo.co.th

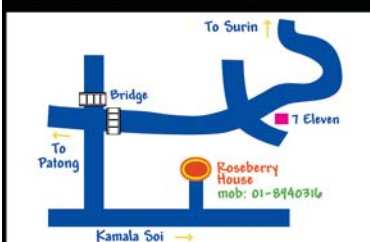
AT HOME WITH ROSEBERRY



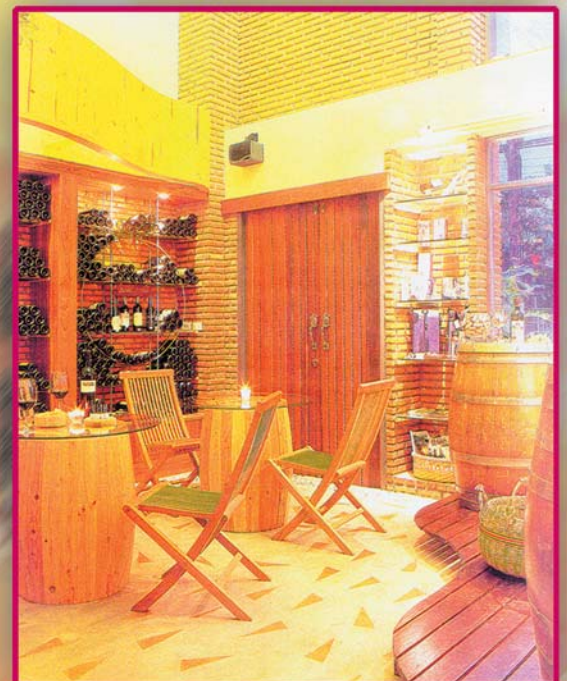
Hand Made
• Massage Oils
• Essential Oils/Burner Oils
• Salts, Scrubs & Shower Gels
• Crystal Jewellery & Clothes

ROSEBERRY HOUSE
Monday-Friday 11-3

51/2 Moo 4, Kamala, Kathu,
Phuket 83120 Tel/Fax: 076-279681
e-mail: roseberry@loxinfo.co.th
www.oils-by-roseberry.com



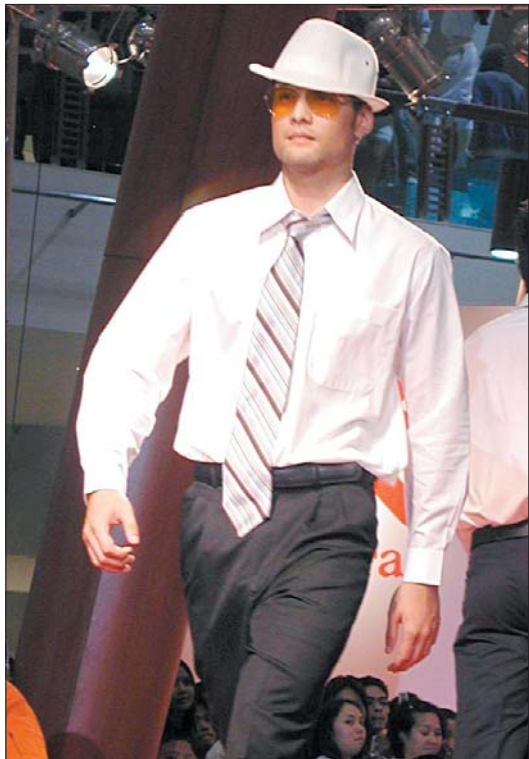
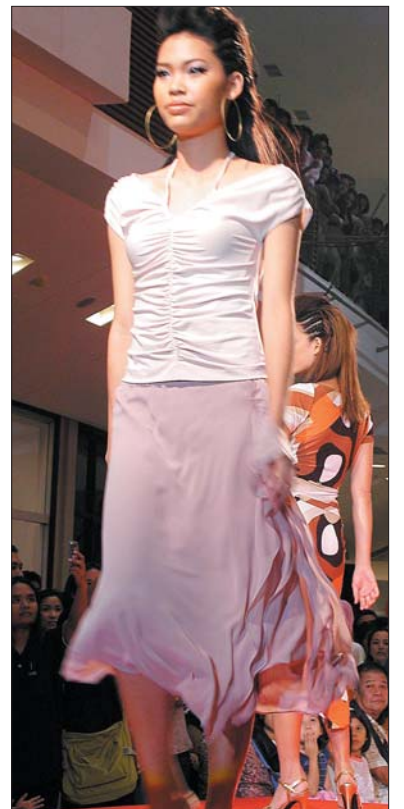
Distributor of Heineken and Tiger Beer



M M Wine Company Limited

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

OFF TO THE OFFICE



Workplace fashion, and just a smattering of off-duty casual items, remain the focus this issue.

Blacks and browns continue to be popular colors for the well-dressed executive and woman – or man – about town. Diagonal stripes for men and asymmetric block prints for women feature strongly.

Modish details and accessories for women include cravats worn long and loose, while colorful purses are a trendy choice.

Many of the big fashion houses – Eclipse, Ep, Espada, G 2000, Claudia Kleid Black & White, Andrew Brown and Daniel Hechter – boast these styles in their current ranges.

For women, shoes and strappy sandals should be high-

heeled, the most stylish ones coming in gold and/or *de rigueur* black.

Large-frame sunglasses are a must-have for both sexes and oversized gold hoop earrings – almost long enough to delicately brush the shoulder – are almost mandatory for a girl's fun night out.

Find these up-to-the-minute styles at Central Festival Phuket.

ORIENTAL CLOSET'S Exclusive Annual Sale

up to 30% off
(on selected items)

9-17 Oct04
(closed on Monday)

99 Dibuk Road, PhuketTown
Tel: 076 258 059, 01 831 2866
Email: oriental_closet@yahoo.com

D. D. Jewel Design

When an artist turns any precious thing into a jewel,
it is you who are on his mind



Unique designs made to order
SINCE 1971

242/2 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: 01-8926843, 076-217288
Call us and we will pick you up.



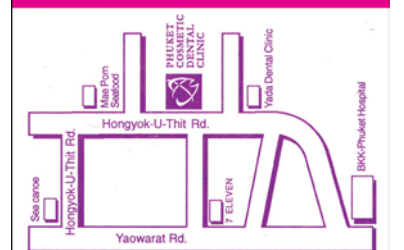
PHUKET COSMETIC DENTAL CLINIC



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

- Tooth whitening by plasma arc
- Dental implants
- All-ceramic crowns
- Ceramic veneers

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





Central 57th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating Central 57th Anniversary

Best of Friends for 57 Years - Together with Prizes Totalling 57 Million Baht

Your Chance to Be Rich - For every Bht 800 you purchase* (including ZeenZone, MARKS & SPENCER, B2S, Supersports @ Central), get a lucky raffle ticket for 57 prizes:

- Savings Account with Bht 1,000,000 on deposit - One prize
- Samsung 29" TV worth Bht 12,900 - 56 prizes (Raffle drawing - Central Future Park Rangsit, Nov. 12, 2004 and announcement of winners on Nov. 17, 2004 at Customer Service Counter, every branch.)



Get Great Premiums** When you splurge on regular-priced merchandise - conditions apply (includes ZeenZone and MARKS & SPENCER @ Central Stores)

- Every Bht 5,000 get a FREE 3-pc Multi-Purpose Bag Set value Bht 695
- Every Bht 10,000 get FREE Giant Towels and Bag value Bht 1,490
- Every Bht 20,000 choose a FREE GIFT from Twin-size Blanket value Bht 5,600 or Twin-size Bed Spread (4 pcs) worth Bht 5,145
- Every Bht 40,000 get a FREE Central Gift Voucher value Bht 8,000 good towards purchasing merchandise in Housewares, Gift, Linens/Domestics, Furniture, Small Appliances, and Bath/Towels Departments



Get a Premium and BONUS FREE Gift. For Central Card members when purchasing regular priced merchandise with your Central Card - single card account, conditions apply (including ZeenZone and MARKS & SPENCER @ Central Stores)

- Every Bht 5,000 get a BONUS CD Box worth Bht 350
- Every Bht 10,000 get a BONUS 3-pc Multi-Purpose Box set worth Bht 790
- Every Bht 20,000 get a BONUS Steam Iron worth Bht 2,590
- Every Bht 40,000 get a BONUS Benetton Bag worth Bht 4,190



* Must be purchased within a single business day at one branch; excluding non-participating merchandise and vendors (NOTE: *Net Participating in Promotion* Signs at Sales Counter)

**Central reserves the right to substitute premium merchandise without prior notice

Oct. 21 - Nov. 8, 2004
@ Central Festival Phuket

HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* Siripansa Somboon went out and about and asked,
"What is your most precious possession, and why?"



Kathy Graham
 Age: 33
 From: Australia
 Occupation: Journalist

I don't have any really precious possessions because it's too stressful for me. It's better not to own much at all. I think that's a great idea for me and everyone else. That thought is my most precious possession.



Krisada Bunnao
 Age: 34
 From: Phuket
 Occupation: Businessman

My most precious possession is my business – it's a job that I love doing and a business that I love to be in. There's nothing to compare with the feeling of happiness I get from work. It brings good things into my life.



Thawika Kerdphol
 Age: 20
 From: Bangkok
 Occupation: PR Officer

My most precious possession is my wallet. It's where I keep all my money and, also, important documents such as my ID card, my driving license, my credit card and pictures of the people I love.



Kwannapa Tipayachai
 Age: 33
 From: Nakhonn Pathom
 Occupation: PR Representative

My most precious possession is my eye-pencil because a lady without eyebrows is like a house with no roof. My face looks like tofu without eye-brows but when I draw them on I become beautiful.



Mantana Tantachon
 Age: 30
 From: Phang Nga
 Occupation: Beautician

Money is my most precious possession. I have to work hard for it, but I can buy anything. My car is also precious to me because I must have a car to go to the shopping mall or to travel to anywhere beautiful.

In the Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): If you've been earning peanuts recently, this week offers a chance to make changes in your working life. You may believe that a job offer looks too good to be true, but don't doubt it. Grab this opportunity quickly or someone else certainly will.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Keeping secrets will be hard this week, and others have caught the scent and are hot on the trail. Share the secret – if you needed a reason for partying. But, with your birthday looming on the horizon, perhaps you should save the celebration for then.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians should be back on track after re-

cent rocky times. You will benefit from spending time with friends this weekend. Travel plans feature soon, and an encounter on Saturday suggests an unusual destination. Expect a pleasant financial surprise on Monday or Tuesday. Wear the color sapphire blue to dispel anger and promote tranquility.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If Capricorns don't make that romantic move they've been considering this week, any chances of making a dream come true will vanish. The object of your interest has other fish to fry, so overcome your natural shyness.

As the week progresses, events unfold to reveal a tempting business investment. Guard

against believing that gray areas are unimportant.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians who are suffering from itchy feet should make the effort to escape for a while. Even a long weekend will do wonders for you. You've been getting so caught up in the daily drudgery of making ends meet that your usual pizzazz has gone somewhat flat. On Wednesday, the number 2 holds promise.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Most Pisceans will be riding the wave of happiness that helped last week to go smoothly. Make the most of these conditions to set new schemes in motion, and approach others who are of influence; it will be hard for anyone to refuse your charm at the moment. On Thursday, you are frustrated when Cancer sidesteps an important issue; wear seaweed green to aid smooth-talking.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Group activities are highlighted this weekend for Arians. It's just as well that there's plenty going on as your boredom threshold is liable to be low. If concentrating on tedious tasks is difficult, take

a couple of days off and seek unusual pursuits. Friends will be happy to join in. Next Tuesday, Virgo has an interesting point of view concerning mutually beneficial business.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Smoothing over problems, rather than meeting them head-on, is a common Taurean trait. However, if you don't sort out a particularly knotty matter this week, events could escalate and lead to a situation that will be hard to get out of. If you're searching for suitable gifts to give to family members, Sunday is the best day for tracking down bargains.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You are advised to think before making promises this weekend. Generous offers made now could cause future regret. There is probably a solution whereby you can meet someone halfway, yet also keep your pride intact. Share some romantic moments this Saturday; the love of your life will appreciate a spontaneous gesture.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Overcome your frustration this weekend at an unobtainable goal. Forces beyond your control will

soon be blown away by the wind of change, and you must wait patiently until this happens. To occupy yourself meanwhile, turn your attention to jobs around the house and garden. The colors aubergine and jade green will help to balance energy.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Sorting fact from fantasy will take some energy this week. If you believe someone's pie-in-the-sky story, you'll find yourself on a wild goose chase. At work, you've probably been doing more than the lion's share recently; Monday is a good day to put your paws down and seek ways to delegate. Aries has important news to relay mid-week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): If wishes were elephants, monkeys would fly. Unfortunately, you cannot have everything your heart desires this week. But one dream is set to come true, even though evidence has been pointing to the contrary. Many Virgoans are about to be pleasantly surprised by news from afar. On Thursday, a close friend asks for urgent advice and you are the perfect person to offer some pearls of wisdom.



Don't miss it...

Phuket & Samui PROPERTY EXPO
Hong Kong - November 2004



Property agents and their potential clients alike found the Phuket & Samui Property Expo in Singapore in March both fun and informative. Don't miss the next one in Hong Kong in November.

Enquiries: www.ap-expo.com
 E-mail: jade@aapress.net or
graham@ap-expo.com
 Thailand: Graham Doven 66 1 897 0225

Sponsored by
HOMES
The Journal of
Samui
Magazine
 and
Phuket
The
Phuket Gazette

The
Phuket Gazette

Wherever you stop for shopping, don't forget to pick up your weekly
Gazette every Saturday at:

Tesco Lotus

- Se-Ed Book Center (2nd floor)
- Kiosk opposite Watson's

Big C

- Se-Ed Book Center (Ground floor)
- Kiosk in front of MK Suki (1st floor)

Home Pro

- Se-Ed Book Center

Robinson Department Store

- Bookstore (1st floor)

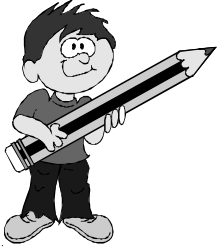
Central Festival

- The Books (3rd floor)

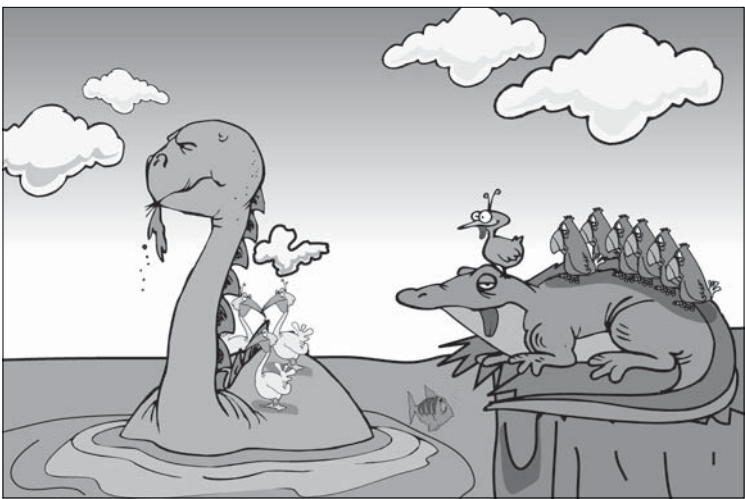
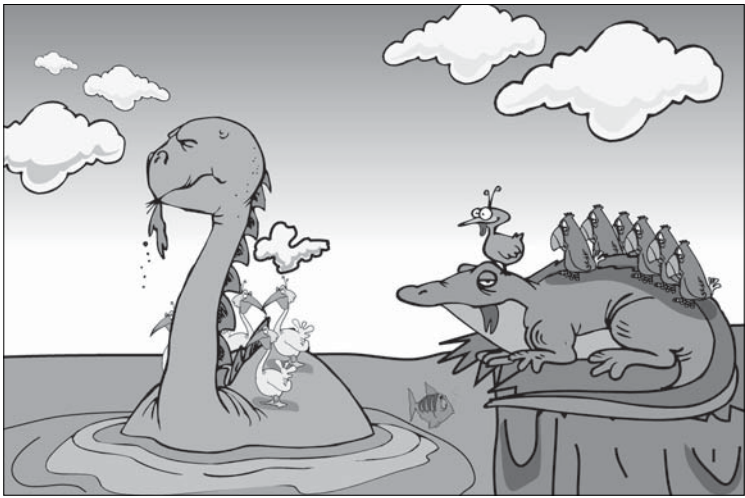
KIDS

THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Spot the Difference



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



Brain Buster!!

Q. Famous African tracker and guide Stanley Deadstone says that, in the Kruger National Park, he can point his car north on a straight road, drive it for one kilometer, and without turning around, end up one kilometer south of where he started. How does he do this?

A. He drives his car in reverse.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Gulf of Bothnia; 2. Lowering a lifeboat from a ship; 3. Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck; 4. 1783, in Paris; 5. 13; 6. Ernest Hemingway; 7. Salt; 8. Valetta; 9. Yusuf Islam; 10. Defenestration; 11. Guano (bird feces, for fertilizer); 12. 27.5 million; 13. Riel; 14. Nimbus 2000; 15. Cedar tree; 16. Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation; 17. Columbia, on April 12, 1981; 18. 1.728 million kilometers; 19. Road Runner; 20. Pen.

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. In what year was the Panama canal completed?
2. After whom was the Teddy bear named?
3. Who, in 1875, was the first person to swim the English Channel?
4. Name the singer with the band Jamiroquai
5. What is an *umiak*?
6. In photographic terms what do the letters SLR stand for?
7. Who played the part of Batman in the original television series?
8. What is Harry Potter's owl called?
9. Which is the second largest country in the world?
10. How many seconds are there in August?
11. Who said, "And the sea will grant each man new hope, as sleep brings dreams of home."
12. Who is the drummer for the band Michael Learns To Rock?
13. By what other name is the town Qaanaaq, Greenland, known?
14. What is special about a pachydermous animal?
15. With what color ink did car maker Enzo Ferrari sign his name?
16. Food à la broche is cooked how?
17. Who, in 1946, invented the bikini?
18. What was the inspiration behind its name?
19. How often does the asteroid Toutatis 4179 orbit the Earth?
20. When was its last approach?

Answers next week.

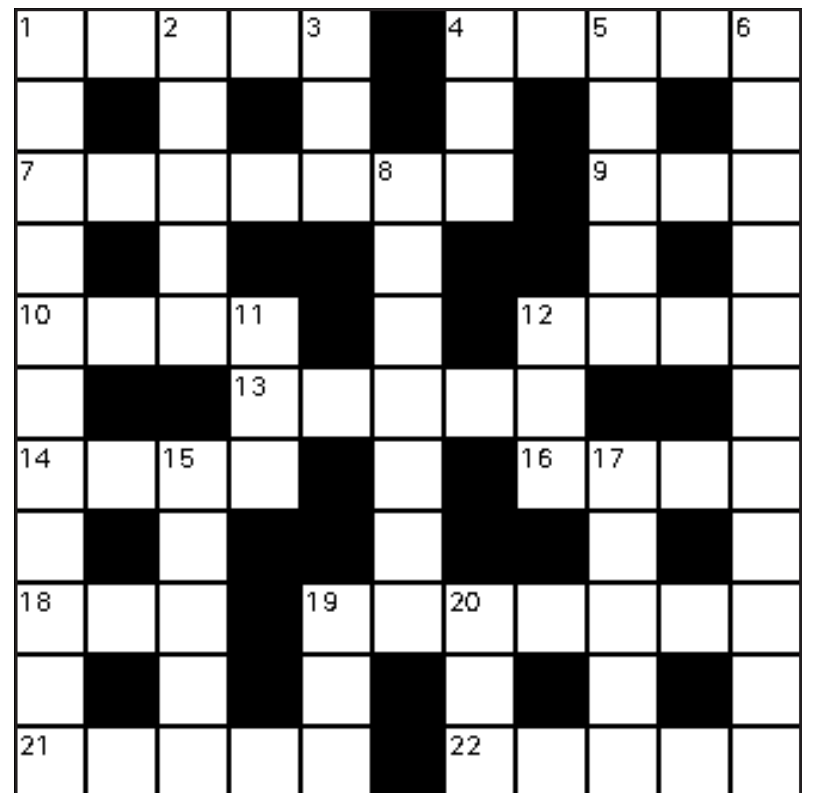
Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Legal process.
4. Well endowed.
7. Imaginary line around the world.
9. Tool for boring.
10. Come into the garden, ****.
12. Cable TV sports channel.
13. Hawaiian greeting.
14. **** Dick, the white whale.
16. Having lots of money.
18. Spinning toy.
19. Unimportant Pursuit?
21. Cowboy spectacular.
22. Room in the roof.

Down

1. Instrument for measuring temperature.



2. Japanese truck and auto maker.
3. Item for sale at auction.
4. Watering hole.
5. They're used for examining bones.

6. Gloomy.
8. This month.
11. 86,400 seconds.
12. It's on the side of your head.
15. Animal that walks on two legs.
17. Stupid person.
19. Cube root of eight.
20. Irish separatist organization.

Solution next week.

Solution to last week's Crossword



Board&Bread

CASA BRAZIL

076-396317

www.phukethomestay.com/cb

email: casabrazil@hotmail.com

Slaughterhouse politics

Bush's Brain (John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, 2003, 395pp) is not primarily about George W Bush – who gets off rather lightly – but about Karl Rove, his chief political adviser. The point of the book is in its subtitle: *How Karl Rove Made George W Bush Presidential*.

Authors James Moore and Wayne Slater are veteran Texas journalists who dig deep into Rove's history to create a devastating portrait of the man who directed the campaigns that made George W Bush Governor of Texas and then US President.

The Democrats, fresh from their successful convention in Boston, are still nervously looking over their shoulders at Karl Rove.

"It is in Karl's nature to engulf and devour and control and to rule," says one long-time Texas lobbyist.

Just how powerful is Karl Rove? "Episodes of dirty tricks, well-timed investigations, and electoral legerdemain, have turned Karl Rove into a political enigma," the authors write.

"In an evolutionary chart of the political consultant, Rove represents a new species of adviser. He is the product of

the permanent campaign, the co-president, whose relationship with Bush, and his faithful guidance, have put him at the heart of power in a manner unknown to previous political consultants and US electoral history."

Karl Rove's political life began at Olympus High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, where he ran an extravagant campaign for president of the student senate.

"Karl Rove moved through the hallway of Olympus High in the late sixties like a thunderstorm, full of noise and electricity.

"He was going in all directions at once, pieces of motion, everything flung out in all directions, arms, hands, mouth – mostly his mouth, which moved in an avalanche of words. Rove was always talking. He had opinions on everything."

So taken was Rove with politics that he never finished college but secured himself a sinecure in Washington as executive director of the College Republicans, with an office at the Republican National Committee. Here he met Lee Atwater, "the bad boy of testosterone politics".

Lee Atwater would go on to direct George Bush's famously dirty campaign

against Michael Dukakis in 1988, while Karl Rove would adopt the son.

First Rove engineered the campaign that got Phil Gramm, Democrat-turned-Republican, elected to the US Senate in 1984, and two years later turned his hand to Bill Clements's campaign against Mark White for Governor of Texas.

"Anti-White messages are more important than positive Clements messages," Rove wrote in a strategy memo, "Attack. Attack. Attack."

Rove was widely believed to have staged a phoney wiretap in his office to discredit the White campaign. Clements won and in 1992 Rove mounted the Bush II juggernaut against popular governor Anne Richards. He scored an upset victory, amid a whisper campaign about lesbians in the state government.

George W Bush is seen as a man of principle, at least in the early stages of his political career. "Here's what I'll do and here's what I won't do," Bush says at an early campaign meeting.

"On the attacking thing, I'm not doing this bit where we're tearing down. I'm not doing this same old kind of stuff. If that causes me to go in the wringer, that's fine. But I'm not going that route."



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

However, principles were something he could not afford in his 2000 presidential race.

After Bush's defeat by John McCain in the New Hampshire primary, the Rove forces were freed to swarm all over the Vietnam veteran in the crucial South Carolina primary in what was dubbed "slaughterhouse politics". The rumors were vile,

spread by direct mail and phone calls.

Having gained the White House for George W Bush, Rove reigns supreme in identifying the issues that will keep him there.

"Rove is Nixonian in his cynicism and manipulation of patriotic themes," reports a political consultant who has worked for both parties. "The irony is that W, in many ways, is the anti-Nixon."

"Nixon was brilliant but self-destructive. W is dull but, in Rove's hands, maniacally disciplined. It's like Rove is Nixon's heir. Cold-blooded. Ruthless. Paranoid. But unlike Nixon, Rove has figured out how to mask it all behind Bush's smile."

How successfully Rove manages to sell Bush – and discredit John Kerry – will likely determine the upcoming presidential election.

Hungry for news? How to get fed

Next to food, sleep and sex, what most people need most regularly is news. For foreigners living in Thailand, the English-language daily newspapers usually fill the void, with reasonable coverage of events from afar.

But in places such as Phuket, where the dailies often don't arrive until noon, anyone desperate for a news fix is likely to endure sweaty palms until then.

But the good news is that now the suffering can be ended. And as with so many problems, the cure lies in new technology and the Internet.

For some time now, many newspapers and other media organizations have been adding sound bites and video clips to the articles they've been posting online. Live radio over the Internet also delivers instant access.

However, a lot of time still

has to be wasted scanning headlines, articles and links that have no immediate relevance.

I recently tested free email services from the BBC, CNN, *The Independent* (UK), *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and News Ltd Australia.

With the exception of CNN, they all provided an adequate compilation of each day's local and international news and saved a lot of time and effort jumping from site to site: all I had to do was open my email.

KHUN ALAN'S COMPUTER

By Alan Morison

CNN sent me about five times as many messages as the other organizations, with just

one story mentioned each time. Often, the stories were either irrelevant or were produced for a purely America-based audience.

Much better were the newspaper emails, which arrived at various times of day, depending on their deadlines, and which varied from the simple text headlines of *The Independent* to the twice-daily HTML updates from *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

But the BBC trumped them all by offering delivery timed to your choosing (8 am Thai time, for example) and complemented by a News Alert function that pops up when a particularly big news story breaks.

The BBC also offers news by email, a desktop ticker, services for mobiles and hand-held devices, RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summaries, depending on who you believe) news bulletins, as well as TV and radio for paying subscribers.

For news about specific subjects, Google News is even better. You can specify any topic, then have news alerts about it delivered at regular intervals.

Requesting news alerts about "Thailand", for example, will trigger a flow of interesting headlines and summaries, although sport tends to predominate and the news of the day is not ranked in any particular order.

Hardcore news junkies are now turning to RSS, which delivers feeds, or channels, to your desktop. *The New York Times*, for example, offers feeds in 27 categories, while Britain's *Guardian* newspaper sends out a dozen.

All you have to do is search Google then choose and download software called a News Reader, which will allow you to harvest news from many different sources.

"Personalization" of delivered news remains the Holy Grail. As big players like Yahoo and Microsoft seek, with ever-improving technology, to surpass Google's search capacity, it surely can't be long before each of us can fine-tune our information sources to the point where we can learn, speedily, what we need to know – and not have to waste time with unwanted "news".

Of course, there's always the joy of what's known in the newspaper business as "random access", of discovering interesting things in stories that you didn't intend to read in the first place.

For example, you could be scanning the *Phuket Gazette*, stumble upon a column about computers, then find that you've read it right to the end.

Guest columnist Alan Morison is a former CNN staffer and *Phuket Gazette* Deputy Editor. He'll accept anything, relevant or not, at alanmorison@hotmail.com. Woody returns next week.

"Friendly service that you can trust"

Run by Wanida "Mamma Duck" Hongyok

Our products:

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

Standard check lists:

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



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



Providing the best business solutions

Worldclass Accounting Software



Accounting & Tax Services

Thai Tax Courses (in English)

Tax Clinic (For your tax solutions)

Phuket: 076 234993

H.O.: 02 9489393 Sukhumvit 38: 02 7136655

Pattaya: 03 8378178

Samui Branch: 0 7723 0831

info@thaiaccounting.com

www.thaiaccounting.com



Bikes are sheltered from the rain under an old fern-covered roof in Takuapa.

- Photo by Franky Gun.

Soaking up a bit of history in Takuapa

Working for an event management company does have its little perks, such as being invited to sample the delights of the new Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort.

The resort is about 12 kilometers north of the center of Khao Lak, on the stunning 10-km stretch of deserted Bangsak Beach. It feels a long way from the bedlam of construction taking place at the heart of Khao Lak.

The Meridien is next to the Similana Resort, a favorite with old Phuket hands who used the area as a hideaway a few years ago. Then, the Similana was the place to visit. In fact, it was the *only* place around, which just shows how fast the Khao Lak area has expanded and developed over the past five years.

Located in superb gardens overlooking the sea, Le Meridien is one of the finest new resorts in the South. Its low-rise buildings, spacious rooms, swimming pools and excellent service combine to make this an outstanding hotel. The staff are extremely friendly, ensuring that all guests feel very much at home.

Simply hanging out by the pool is relaxing and enjoyable – though this is the monsoon season and Khao Lak has even higher rainfall than Phuket does.

In the afternoons, the southwest monsoon rains often drive in with a real force. It's a wonderful sight: the dark clouds ap-

pear on the horizon as the wind picks up and the once-calm sea suddenly starts pounding onto the beach. This is one of the main reasons why Khao Lak is always much greener than Phuket, but then you can't have everything.

We spent a sunny morning around the pool and had a wonderful brunch – thumbs up to General Manager Jean Louis Ri-

poche for coming up with the great opening promotion of serving breakfast/brunch from 6 am until 2 pm; it always feels a little dec-

adent to order a full breakfast at noon.

Then it was time to explore. Takuapa, about 15 km north of Khao Lak, is one of the oldest towns in the area. The old town lies about 2km south of the new main center and is definitely worth a visit.

The old town is steeped in history, with many of its old wooden shophouses still intact. The ruins of the old fortifications and walls are clearly visible and it is easy to spend an hour ambling along the streets, passing locals sitting outside their houses and shops. Everyone is friendly and intrigued by their visitors.

The history of Takuapa can be traced back almost 2,000 years. During its heyday, the town was an important port on the Malay peninsula trade route (also known as the Silk Pathway), where Indian and Persian merchants unloaded their cargo to be taken overland to Surat Thani.

Archaeological evidence of Indian culture exists to this day. For example, a statue of the god Vishnu was discovered in Amphur Kapong and is now on display in Thalang National Museum in Phuket.

After this short spell of history and culture, it was back to the hotel for cocktails. The Meridien's Sunset cocktail bar, located right on the beach, is another must for anyone passing the resort.

Getting there:

By car: head north over Sarasin Bridge and take the main road north toward Takuapa, making sure not to make the mistake of turning right to Phang Nga – which will add at least an hour to the journey. The drive is an easy one-and-a-half hours on fairly quiet roads.

By bus: buses leave the local bus station in Phuket City for Takuapa hourly. The aircon bus fare for the two-hour trip is around 70 baht.

Staying there:

Le Meridien Khao Lak Resort is currently offering five-star luxury at a low season special price of B3,000++ for a single/twin room per night, with their excellent breakfast/brunch included in the price. This special rate is valid until October 31. Tel: 076-427500.

Psychiatrist
Tel: 076-225667

Why the mail must go through

Mr X, who was working in Asia, decided to buy a couple of homes in Thailand. Because of the law barring foreigners from owning land, he decided to buy a condominium in Phuket and another in Pattaya.

While Mr X was soon able to enjoy his condo in Phuket, the purchase of the one in Pattaya became a saga.

First, Mr X had to wait many years until the building was completed. According to the purchase agreement he signed, he was due to make the final payment at the same time as the property was registered in his name at the Land Department.

Mr X waited for the developer to inform him of the date the condominium would be completed and the date when ownership rights to the unit would be registered in his name.

Work commitments meant he was unable to return to Thailand during this time, but he remained in constant contact with the staff at the developer's office. When he later moved, he left his new contact details with a salesperson there.

However, when he returned to Thailand after two years, Mr X discovered that the condominium had been completed – and ownership of "his" unit had been transferred to another person.

Mr X established that the developer had tried to contact him to inform him of the date of transfer and his final payment. However, Mr X never received the letter.

He therefore applied in court to have the developer transfer the unit into his name or refund the money he had already paid, plus interest.

It was another year before the case came to court. During this time, Mr X discovered that the developer had tried to contact him several times, but that all the letters had been returned undelivered. The developer had even tried to contact him via his embassy, but had failed.

The developer was willing to negotiate with Mr X to find a solution, but was not willing to give him a full refund. Instead, he offered Mr X another unit

LAYING DOWN THE LAW
With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma



in the complex, but this was more expensive than the one Mr X had originally agreed to buy, because it was larger and on a higher floor. If he agreed to this option, Mr X would be expected to pay the difference in price.

Mr X and the developer did finally agree on an amount and payment terms, and signed an agreement in court to that effect.

Both parties held to their side of their deal and now Mr X is the contented owner of a condominium unit in Pattaya, which he likes very much – so much so that, having moved permanently to Thailand, he is thinking of selling his unit in Phuket.

The lesson to be learned is the importance of ensuring that anyone you are doing business with is properly notified of any change of address. Don't just tell an employee. Advise the other party in writing, preferably by registered mail and with a return answer card, because you then have confirmation that the letter reached its intended destination.

This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket City. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222-196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.

GOURMET HOME SERVICE

FOR THE FINEST KITCHENS IN PHUKET

Now, you can order from our extensive range of imported gourmet food and local items and have them delivered to your managed villa estate or private home. Beef, Veal, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Seafood, Cheese, Ham, Vegetables & Wines.



PHUKET MEAT IMPORTERS

For a product list please contact:

Tel: 076-253024-9 Fax: 076-216425

Email: salespmi@cscoms.com

The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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

Early closing is not the answer

One of the constant pressures on an English-language newspaper in Thailand is that it is perceived as having a much broader reach than a Thai-language one. This is undoubtedly true, especially when a website is added to the equation.

As a result, the *Gazette* often comes under fire for “ruining tourism” or “wrecking the property industry” because it puts Phuket’s problems out there in front of a huge international audience.

In one sense, Patong, with its world-wide reputation, is rather like the *Gazette*, with its global readership.

Outside of Patong and the other playgrounds of foreign tourists, one can find much raunchier entertainment (so the *Gazette* is informed) than that available at establishments within these areas, yet these other venues have hardly been touched by the government’s Better Social Order policy.

In many cases they are owned by the very people who are supposed to be carrying out the crackdown, or by people who have formed close associations with them.

These establishments are run by Thais for Thais. The world in general does not know they exist. But Patong is known around the world, its sleazy reputation spread by word of mouth and the media.

That reputation may no longer be deserved, in part because of the Better Social Order policy, but also because of the change in tourism demographics, with more families visiting the island than in the past. Yet the reputation persists, and is seen by many as damaging to Thailand.

Could this be the real reason for the persistent battering Patong has received over the past couple of years, rather than the stated aim of reducing youth crime?

It seems likely. Authoritarian governments tend to have a penchant for cleaning up sleaze; it does not fit with their self-image as the orderers of society. The mere existence of sleaze suggests that the government may not be in full control.

As has been pointed out many times, Thai youngsters do not, in general, frequent Patong – it’s too expensive. So the stated aim of the Better Social Order policy is not being furthered by early closing hours.

Implementing a policy that, in effect, closes down Phuket’s party town is not going to make the sleaze go away, nor repair the country’s reputation. At best, it will drive the sleaze underground – where it will become harder to control and more prone to exploitation by criminal elements. Meanwhile, those tourists who enjoy the simple pleasures of drinking, chatting and dancing the night away will go to other countries for their vacation.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

In association with **The Nation** Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Investigation Team: Dhirarat Boonkongsaen, Gategaeo Phetsawang,

Kamol Pirat, Anongnat Sartpisut, Siripansa Sombon

Desk Editors: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Marketing Manager: Oranee Pienprasertkul

Website Services Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Distribution Manager: Passara Kaewbumroong

Financial Controller: Benjawan Lukthan

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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

Copyright © 1994-2004 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

In Patong, the government combines early closing of bars with power-saving measures.

Ooh dear! What are we going to do now?

Ya gotta be kidding!



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.

Put justice ahead of revenue, *Gazette*

In projecting the concerns of its major advertisers, the *Gazette*’s latest outburst of editorial opinion on the rights and wrongs of the land scandal investigation [October 2 issue] ignores one important fact: those guilty of these misdeeds are greedy people who will stop at nothing.

Look up your own files on unsolved murders connected to land scams. Now the *Gazette* wants all this forgotten in the interests of preserving the Phuket property industry.

There are plenty of people on the island who bought land cheaply knowing the titles were dubious. Are they “innocent victims”? Hardly.

To say it’s all “just politics” simply plays into the hands of the corrupt. For once, the *Gazette* should ignore the interests of the rich and make a stand.

No honest person wants to live on an island where even a good newspaper turns a blind eye to evil out of economic self-interest. Let justice be done.

Martin Savaloy
Patong

actually carry the status of a city, independent of Phuket City, with all that this would imply? Will it have a democratically-elected council, its own tax-collecting powers and budget, public-services infrastructure, public transport and so on?

Also, why is it being built so close to Phuket City? If the central government or the Governor of Phuket decided that a new city was required, surely it would have made more sense to build it in the central or northern part of the island and not squeeze it into the already densely-populated south-east corner of Phuket?

Has anyone examined the environmental impact of another 10,000 shops and homes built in this area? The increase in traffic alone will almost certainly create chaos at peak times. These are all rhetorical questions, as I doubt anyone can, or will, give simple answers to any of them.

However, I hope this letter causes some thought as to the possible impact of this development on this once-beautiful island.

John Lunn
Phuket

A good night in Patong...

I am an Englishman, aged 56, who has been to Thailand many times. My friends and I are going to Phuket for the first time in October, and are dismayed that bars there will be closing at 1 am.

We are not “druggies” or troublesome individuals; just tourists who like having a good time and meeting the local people. We like going for a night out and don’t like having to go back to our hotel at 1:30 am because everything is closed.

We have a similar situation here in England, but our government is considering *extending* the opening hours.

The authorities in Phuket are going backward. The answer has to lie with the local population who, at election time, should get rid of those people who want to go back to the dark ages.

Phuket is a tourist area and should cater for tourists, not put them on a curfew like naughty boys.

Phil
United Kingdom

...or goodnight for Patong?

I have been going to Phuket with some friends for the last six years and have just heard that the bars there are now closing at 1 am.

We work hard all year for our holiday and to be told what time to go to bed is ridiculous. Perhaps it’s time to find a new holiday destination.

It’s a shame because we love Thailand and her people.

Bruce
Guernsey

Needled by the tailor’s touts

I had heard that gambling is not allowed in Thailand but in Patong recently I saw people, Burmese, I believe, playing snooker for money.

In addition, two men from a tailor’s shop dragged me to their shop and then kissed my girlfriend. Is this allowed?

These two men should be jailed or deported. Either would be good for Thailand.

Mick
Patong

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.

Muay Thai in Phuket: a lost opportunity?

In recent years, the popularity of Muay Thai has boomed in the West. Watching authentic Muay Thai and studying it in its birthplace is a dream for many foreigners.

Every year thousands of Muay Thai enthusiasts head for Thailand. Many stay six to 12 months, returning year after year. Yet for most, Phuket is not on their itinerary.

On my first visit to Phuket, in 1998, I stayed in Patong and was not impressed with the staged bouts I observed there. After watching three rounds of aging boxers slapping each other with over-sized gloves and then posing for tips at each table, I left.

A travel agency told me that for the "real thing" I had to head to Phuket City, and book seats in advance.

With 1,000-baht ringside tickets and a 600-baht car and driver I headed to my destination. When I got close to the stadium, I could hear the roar of the crowd. Surely this must be it? Proudly displaying my ringside ticket, I was ushered to my seat. One row behind me, I discovered, was the 500-baht section – with the exact same view.

I also noticed that, despite this being a Friday night, the stadium was only about 50% full. Among the crowd were a group of Asian "zero dollar" tourists and a few Scandinavian couples. The "roar of the crowd", it turned out, came from the stadium's gambling corner.



Steve Illyes operates the Phuket Muay Thai Camp and Gym in Kata. He has been a Muay Thai enthusiast for more than 20 years, traveling extensively in Thailand and visiting dozens of training camps. Here he compares development of Muay Thai in Koh Samui and Phuket and makes some suggestions on how Phuket could benefit more from 'Muay Thai tourism'.

As it turned out, most of the fighters were just kids trying to catch the eye of a Bangkok promoter. Of the 20 fighters, only a handful were from Phuket. Most came from Krabi, Phang Nga or nearby islands. The restroom, with one working stall, doubled as the shower, dressing room and storage room for the fighters. I avoided Muay Thai for the rest of my stay.

Fast forward to August 2004 and little has changed. A second stadium has opened in Patong, with nicer facilities, but with a similar fight quality. Seats in the Patong Stadium are pricier – 750 baht for regular and 1,200 baht for ringside seats – even though every seat is effectively ringside because of the venue's small size.

The only major change in Phuket is that the Phuket City Stadium has matched the Patong Stadium prices, thus dealing another blow to Muay Thai in Phuket.

In sharp contrast is Koh Samui's Chaweng Stadium, where we recently traveled to match our 180-lb fighter from the US. We were unable to find an opponent for him in Phuket after five weeks of searching, but after one phone call to Samui, we were told: "No problem, come on down".

Every street corner on Koh Samui had posters – in Thai and English – advertising upcoming fights. There are not just one but three title bouts, two of them World Muay Thai belts. The best of the best, Thai and Western fighters professionally trained and matched up, their fights broadcast live by Star Sports, Thai TV and KTV Korea.

They do this three or four times a week. In five years in Phuket, I can remember only one title bout, and that was arranged by an outside promoter.

In Samui, streams of tourists filed into the stadium, which was air-conditioned and well

decorated. [Prices for VIPs are 700 or 1,000 baht a seat. Thais are charged 150 baht.]

The stadium quickly filled to standing-room-only, and the following 10 fights were unbelievable.

Even during the last fight – our boy – 95% of the crowds stayed to cheer on the fighters. We were there from 8 pm to 1 am and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Why can't this happen in Phuket? It has better infrastructure, more tourists, higher per-capita spending and more international exposure than Samui.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Offer value for money: Phuket venues need to match their pricing with the quality of performance they offer in order to attract repeat customers. In its current state, Muay Thai enthusiasts will not return to Phuket.

2. Credibility: Fake show fights, lack of training camps and mismatches all contribute to Phuket's current lack of credibility.

People have to travel thousands of miles to get here. They want to get what they came for.

3. Poor marketing and education: Every 10-year-old on Samui and in Chiang Mai knows Muay Thai rules and the names of the top fighters. Muay Thai is mandatory in the military and in many schools in Isaan.

We need people to provide reliable information about Muay Thai venues here.

There needs to be better planning and communication. The best we get now is a flyer, in Thai, the day before the event.

4. Training camps: As recently as one year ago, Phuket had only one camp and that was barely adequate by Western standards. Samui has more than 15 gyms and camps.

5. Phuket needs to stop overpricing. This serves only to reinforce negative feedback, hurt the island's reputation and keep potential new customers away.

As a result, stadium owners and training camps lack funds to improve their facilities.

A new stadium costs about 10 million baht, but with only a dozen or so Westerners paying the full price, the chance for return on investment is slim.

I will not go into the current practice of dual pricing, except to say that it obviously will not entice resident foreigners to attend Muay Thai matches on a regular basis.

The Phuket Government, Tourism Authority of Thailand and private sector all need to realize the huge potential benefits from long stay, low-season tourism that Muay Thai could bring – and take steps to reverse the current situation.

We are missing out on good job opportunities and, worst of all, depriving our young people of the chance to learn their own cultural heritage and a valuable skill that develops discipline.

Is my car still mine?

I live – on and off – in Phuket and have a house here.

I bought a car from Ford in Phuket and they asked for the house documents and my passport. They went to immigration, got a new stamp in my passport and registered the car in my name (all very efficient).

However, each time I re-enter Thailand I am on a tourist visa. Can I still own the car, given the stamp in my passport? Or is the only stamp that counts the one you had in your passport at the time the car was bought?

Also, are there any implications vis-a-vis the validity of the vehicle's insurance? Is my car still legally mine?

Dick Richardson
Phuket

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

Yes, you are still the owner of the car.

Chotima Silaphan, sales manager of Ford, replies:

Yes, your vehicle is still covered by insurance.

TOTal failure

I am still waiting for my ADSL service from TOT (Telephone Organization of Thailand) two months after applying for it, and I don't know how much longer I will have to wait. I was told at first that my location was within range of the exchange but after a month, a technician arrived and told me that the quality of my line was not good enough and it had to be repaired.

Two weeks passed and I had a weak ADSL signal. Another technician came to set up my router, only to tell me that the access node in Phuket City is not up and running yet.

Nobody at TOT seems to know the answers to my questions. I am promised that a technician will come, and we agree a time, but the technician fails to

show up. I have just about given up.

Fyre
Phuket

Somchai Jittphiphatkul, sales engineer of TOT's Phuket Office, replies:

You can send an email containing your number, location and a description of your problem to totpkt@tot.co.th or call me at 076-212222 and we can figure out what the problem is and solve it properly.

Your distance from the telephone exchange will probably affect the signal and line quality, but if you are not far away, we can improve things faster. But we need more information from you so that we can check with our technicians and follow up.

Registering an absent father's name

My son's girlfriend – a Thai citizen – is due to have a baby in Phuket this year. Can the baby be registered in my son's name if he cannot be there due to illness?

Shaz Courtney
United Kingdom

Karnjana Hongboonyanurak,

Registration Officer at Muang District Office, replies:

We can register a birth without the father being present. All we need is a copy of the father's passport. We also need a Thai translation of the passport; we have to fill in the father's name correctly on the certificate.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

Do I really need a work permit?

I am a shareholder in a registered Thai company that has recently bought a boat for fishing charters. I have been told that, because I am a shareholder in the company, I can go out on the boat at any time to supervise the Thai crew and that I do not need to have a work permit to be able to do this legally. Is this true?

Peter Garrett
Kathu

Kitti Nuisri, Chief of Foreign Labor Division, Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), replies:

No. It's not true. You must have a work permit, because going out to supervise the Thai crew is considered to be work.

To apply for the work permit, you have to go to the PPEO with the required documents: visa, passport, graduation certificate or documents listing your work experience and the registration of the company you work for. You must also bring along three 5x6cm photos to accompany your application.

The approval process should not take longer than one month.



The seafront at Eastbourne – a far cry from Nai Harn Beach.

SODDIN' BOOTS

There are ghosts here in Eastbourne. I feel their presence when I read the epitaphs carved into the many memorial benches that line the seafront promenade. "In loving memory of..." my wife, my husband, my daughter, my dog, and so on.

One I came across the other day in front of the Grand Hotel stood out from the rest. It was a tribute to a pioneer "aeronaut/parachutist" Dolly Shepherd, who died in 1983 aged 96.

When I got home I looked the name up on the Internet. Sure enough, there was Dolly. Indeed she had led a remarkable life.

In 1904, at the age of 17, Dolly made her first parachute jump from a balloon, after only 30 minutes of training. Parachuting was rare enough in those days, but for a woman to jump was almost unheard of.

Nearly as daring as the

jump itself was the fact that Dolly was wearing knickerbockers as she fell through sky – today's equivalent of bungee jumping naked from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Four years later, Dolly made parachuting history when she rescued a girl called Louie, who was jumping from the same balloon. Louie got into difficulties so she had to cling to Dolly as the two of them descended on a parachute built for one. This was the first mid-air rescue and tandem parachute jump.

Louie landed unscathed but Dolly damaged her back and was paralyzed. She might have been disabled and unable to speak for the rest of her life had not doctors pulled and stretched her back, twisted her limbs until they were straight and submitted her to electric shock treatment. Such was the medical practice of the day. But it worked.

After eight years, Dolly gave up jumping. During World War I she served as a driver/mechanic on the Western Front. She spent the last 20 years of her life in Eastbourne. As a tribute to Dolly's remarkable life, her daughter, Molly, also a parachutist, jumped from a plane on Dolly's 83rd birthday.

Such is one of the more remarkable stories behind the inscriptions on the memorial benches. But stories told by the living can be equally fascinating.

One recent gray and lonely afternoon I sat in a small shelter

watching the white-capped waves pounding the pebble beach – with its ranks of wooden breakwaters, biting winds and screaming seagulls, Eastbourne Beach is a far cry from Nai Harn.

Also sheltering from the storm was an old man. I noticed the title of the book he was reading: *The Miracle of Dunkirk*. We struck up a conversation.

"We marched in our sleep," he said. "When we were taken off in a fishing boat, we slept in smelly nets and slimy bilges."

I was reminded of a story told to me by my father, who was

also evacuated from Dunkirk. When he and his unit were finally picked up

by a ferryboat, they collapsed on the deck and slept like the dead for a couple of hours. Then someone discovered that there was a restaurant on board, and a wine cellar.

My father and his unit ate and drank like kings on their way back to England. The meal over, the poor soldiers were presented with a huge bill. After fighting for their country in France, none of them had any English money with them.

There was a row with the waiter, and a bigger row with the ferry captain. Eventually, the commander of the unit wrote an IOU; history does not relate whether it was honored.

The old soldier said, "We were not heroes. We were scared, shit scared. We had no choice. What I remember most were my sodding sodden boots. I still cuss those sodding sodden boots."

The storm had cleared. I made my way home with my dog past the lines of memorial benches with their carved inscriptions.

Okay, children, it's early to bed from now on

So, the much-dreaded 1 am closing has finally hit us and, as widely predicted, its enforcement is rather patchy.

Of course, the bars on Bangla and all the obvious places close on time, but elsewhere in town it is still possible to drink until the early hours and beyond.

It seems the overriding factor influencing whether or not a bar is subject to 1 am closing is the ethnicity of the owner; the majority of the bars that never close are owned by Thais.

I have always maintained that the

government motives for introducing early closing involved nothing more than populist politics; the people who elect Mr Thaksin do not live in Bangkok or Pattaya or Phuket. No, the vast majority of them live in rural Thailand and work on the land.

These are the people Mr Thaksin needs to keep happy, and they are very old-fashioned and conservative. One sure-fire winner with these folks is to crack down on those elements that embarrass them – the things they feel reflect badly on Thailand.

I hoped for a long time that the motives stated above were true because, as we all know, what politicians promise and what they deliver are rarely the same thing.

So I hoped these draconian nightlife proposals were there for the benefit of the "Angry of Udon Thani" brigade – that there would be lots of noise about "these bloody foreigners ruining our country", then everything would be left well alone and we could continue to thrive and enjoy ourselves and occasionally make some money.

I now fear that this is not true. There are three possible explanations, all of them worrying.

The first is that the politicians actually believe their xenophobic rhetoric and they are on a genuine moral crusade and really do think that all Thailand's ills are the result of the influence of "bad foreigners" in the holiday destinations.

In answer to that, we all know that the exploitation in the "chicken farms" – village brothels – upcountry would make anything that Patong offers look very tame indeed.

We also witness that every Moo Baan has a karaoke shack and, trust me, in major regional

towns like Haad Yai, huge karaoke and sing-a-song bars exist and anyone who has visited one knows that one definitely does not go there for the music.

The border area at Haad Yai is also possibly Thailand's biggest red-light area, eight streets of garish neon topless a-go-gos catering to a very large Malaysian market every day.

One cannot check into a 700-baht-a-night hotel in Haad Yai without being offered the services of a girl all night for 1,400 baht by the bell boy in the lift.

Thailand's domestic sex industry is massive compared with that which exists in the Western tourist hot spots.

Nothing is being done to control these areas – they are not even discussed – so I don't see how this explanation can be true.

The second theory is that, in line with several statements from the Ministry of Interior and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the government is trying to socially engineer a massive change in the nature of the tourists coming to Thailand.

Introducing early bar closing, they reason, will discourage all these subversive "bad foreigners" and encourage "nice" ones instead.

This is at best naïve and, at worst, economic vandalism of the worst kind. What this utterly preposterous piece of legislation fails to understand is that nice foreigners like to drink until 2 or 3 am, too. No, really, they do, especially when they are on holiday.

In fact, one of the elements of a holiday is being able to stay up late and party with other nice people because you don't have to get up for work in the morning; if a holiday is anything, it is a 10 day-long weekend.

Here's the third, more sinister proposition...

Because of the – frankly racist – way this law is being implemented, it could be viewed as a deliberate attempt to drive foreigners out of foreign-owned nice bars (with adequate fire escapes, decent toilets, good service and so on) and into unsafe, scruffy bars that do not have licenses, do not pay taxes and expose people to the worst the country has to offer. That makes a lot of sense.

It is also, by the way, precisely what is happening.

Konrad Stalin may be reached at konradstalin@hotmail.com.



By Konrad Stalin

AM Production
DIRECT EXPORT

Made to Order
New T-Shirt

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

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

Thai Chiropractor
Come feel the difference

Tel. 07-279-7553

Puppet regime to be staged in Phuket

By Dhirarat Boonkongsae

PHUKET CITY: Some 55 members of the Bangkok-based Joe Louis Theater troupe are relocating to the Phuket International Night Bazaar (PINB) on Chao Fa West Rd.

The group plans to stage regular performances from November 2005 in a new theater to be built by PINB.

Company founder Sakorn Yangkhiawsod, better known as "Joe Louis", was named Thailand's National Artist in 1996 for reviving the *Hun Lakorn Lek* style of puppetry, which uses small hand puppets.

But the troupe has fallen on

hard times in recent years. In 1999, K. Sakorn's home in Nonthaburi burned down and all 50 of his puppets were destroyed.

The 55-member Phuket troupe, of whom 20-25 are performers, found it difficult to make ends meet at its former home at the Suan Lum Night Bazaar in Bangkok, where it had staged three performances daily for years.

The company has already paid former landlords Bangkok Market Place Co 2.1 million baht in compensation for ending its lease, which had 19 months remaining on it.

Company President Pisutr Yangkhiawsod told the *Gazette*

the group is looking forward to working at PINB, which will begin construction of the 1,000-1,500-seat theater in March. Construction cost is estimated at about 30 million baht.

"We consider the contract between us and PINB to be fair. They understand that we are artists," he said.

Under the agreement, PINB will hire the troupe at 300,000 baht a month and pay all operating costs.

Ticket prices are still under consideration, but will probably be pegged somewhere between 1,000 and 1,800 baht as part of a package that would include a sumptuous dinner. The new con-

struction at PINB will comprise three pavilions, one dedicated to the theater.

The 30-year lease agreement, with an option to renegotiate every three years, appears to offer the troupe something it has lacked in the past – long-term financial security.

The company will handle the artistic and public relations side of the business, while PINB will be responsible for theater construction, marketing and day-to-day financial operations.

When completed, the new theater will seat up to three times as many people as the old theater in Bangkok.

The lucrative tourist market

looks set to provide most of the customers for the shows.

PINB Managing Director Chintana Daengdej told the *Gazette* that her company felt fortunate in reaching an agreement with the theater company.

"We reviewed the troupe's financial difficulties and talked to them in depth before signing the contract," she noted.

She confirmed that the company was still working out its pricing policy, but said that it has no plan to implement a two-tier pricing policy, whereby foreigners are charged more for the same service or product than Thais. Students, however, might be given discounts, she said.

Ups and downs not for everyone



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Good investments, for the majority of investors, are the ones that are not cyclical.

But most investments are by nature cyclical; even cash is subject to fluctuations in interest rates.

If treated as fixed deposits, bonds offer guaranteed returns, but only if held to maturity. In the event of early encashment, a bond is subject to the current market value. Short-dated bonds in most currencies offer a very low yield.

When very attractive yields are offered, one must query the origin and the creditworthiness of the issuer. A prime example of this is Argentina, whose government appears to feel that it has no obligation to repay its loans.

Equities are always subject to economic cycles, as well as changes in short-term interest rates, which are managed by central banks. Many of the best investments may appear somewhat mechanical in nature, but they are predictable and not really part of economic cycles.

Investments in ground rent are one example, and are best undertaken by use of a mutual fund/unit trust. These investments involve the purchase of land in the UK at a huge discount on its actual price, and the land will always be in an urban region.

The reason for this is that the land has already been developed, and occupied by a house, apartment block, embassy or whatever. A leasehold contract exists on the property and the owner of the building has to pay a fixed yearly sum of money to the owner of the land. This is known as ground rent.

The landowner or ground-rent holder has total security. In the unlikely event of the lease-

holder failing to pay, the property is sold at auction and a new leaseholder is acquired. A very significant percentage of UK property is held in this manner. Most leases are for 99

years but can be for as long as 499 years.

The basis of this form of investment goes back 500 years. It came into being because the British aristocracy wanted to get an income from their land without giving up ownership.

A similar UK investment is one in student-accommodation funds. These exist because the UK has around 90 universities and a student population of circa 2 million, but a huge shortage of accommodation suitable for students.

Many of the students seeking accommodation are from other countries or elsewhere in the UK. The universities, however, can only accommodate about 22% of them in what are usually Victorian-era conditions, and these educational establishments are not in a financial position to either extend or renovate their facilities.

The fund buys large blocks of suitable accommodation and will sometimes renovate derelict properties for this purpose.

There is a mutual fund that invests in these areas. It's managed in London by a company called Brandeaux.

This company has been hugely successful with a range of ground-rent and student-accommodation funds.

All of these funds have been "capped", meaning that no new money is allowed into them, which is ideal for existing investors as their returns are not diluted by new money being placed on deposit awaiting investment opportunities.

Since the downturn in stockmarkets in early 2000, Brandeaux has been besieged by investors with cash to invest. They currently have one fund open that invests in ground rents,

student accommodation and other commercial real-estate opportunities. The fund has three currency classes: sterling, euros and US dollars. The returns on these funds have been excellent, and so far they have never lost money.

Brandeaux, however, will not deal directly with private investors unless they place a minimum of £100,000 (about 7.5 million baht), can prove themselves to be "professional investors" and sign a declaration stating that none of the money has been borrowed.

But there are ways of investing with the company without having that amount of money available.

The company has an excellent website but it requires a password, which I'm not permitted to reveal. Interested parties may, however, contact me for more details.

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.

On the Move

Martin Bizel, 22, from France, has been appointed Phuket Sales Manager for the Wine Connection Company Ltd. Mr Bizel, who studied in Lyon, spent three months in Bangkok as a Wine Connection trainee. He traveled around Thailand before deciding to base himself in Phuket.



Parichart "Tim" Kotrajarus, from Chiang Mai, has been appointed Director of Guest Relations at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, with responsibility for the resort's front office operation. Previously, she was the resort's Director of Events and before that she was involved in sales.



Also at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, **Samart Damrongkul** has been promoted to Recreation Manager from his previous position as Assistant Manager. K. Samart has been at the resort since its pre-opening in late 2002 and is responsible for the extensive activities programs for adults and children.



VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS SOAR

	Aug '04	Aug '03	% change
Ltd company registrations	95	53	79
Ltd companies increasing capital	18	22	-18
Companies deregistered	4	13	-69
Ltd partnership registrations	26	12	117
Ltd partnerships increasing capital	0	7	-100
Partnerships deregistered	2	8	-75

mcevely & collins

advocates, solicitors & arbitrators

Property Conveyance,
Commercial Transactions, IP, Litigation,
and Immigration

Thai, American, Dutch and German Attorneys.

Registered with the Law Society of Thailand

www.legalthai.com

Affiliates throughout the Pacific Rim

Phuket Office:

6/1 Prabaramee Road, Patong
Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: 66 76 296 881
Fax: 66 76 296 885
E-mail: phuket@legalthai.com

Bangkok Office:

Two Pacific Place, Suite 1106
142 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey
Bangkok 10110
Tel: 662 305 2300
Fax: 662 653 2163
E-mail: info@legalthai.com

Having a ball on Earth Day

Phuket was very busy on Earth Day, with many people donating time, money, skill and resources. CMAS Thailand Diving Association (CTDA) worked some of the northern beaches while the Dive Operators Club of Thailand (DOCT) and the Reef Ball Foundation were in the south.

The new five-star Racha Resort also played a big part, hosting activities on Racha Yai Island and providing free accommodation. Together with Racha Sea Master Divers, it donated 2 million baht to the initial phase of Thailand's first reefball artificial reef project.

The resort has made a serious commitment to preserve, protect, restore and enhance Phuket's marine environment and promises to be a focal point of marine research in the area.

It has already provided office space for the Phuket Marine Biology Center (PMBC), the Marine Police and other government agencies that have a role in coastal resource management.

Dive companies taking part in the clean-up included Dive Asia, Marine Project, Santana Diving, Scandinavian Divers and Sea Bees Dive Center. This is not many, considering the number of dive boats that operate out of Phuket in the high season.

The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources provided mesh bags and supported the clean-up effort with 25 divers,

adding to the 150 other volunteers.

After the clean up, Racha Resort provided lunch for everyone. The festivities continued as DOCT divemaster trainees got their divemaster certificates.

Thirteen Thai nationals completed the course and Suwit Khunkitti, Minister Of Natural Resources and Environment, was there to congratulate the successful candidates.

The PMBC announced that 345 kilos of garbage were collected, 111kgs of which was fishing gear such as netting.

Further north, the recently-formed CTDA also participated in Earth Day, holding its first clean-up along Mai Khao and Nai Yang Beaches in cooperation

with Aqua Divers, Dulwich International College, the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, and the Nai Yang Beach Resort.

Volunteers, including Dulwich

students and local Thai residents, managed to fill two garbage trucks. The CTDA and Aqua Divers will continue to organize monthly beach clean-ups.

A few days after Earth Day, CTDA members joined up with some National Park Rangers and continued in the spirit of Earth Day by going to No 4 Island in the Similans and removing trash, both above and beneath the surface.

Reef Ball Foundation: So what, exactly, is a reef ball? It is a hemispherical structure intended to simulate natural reef formations and provide a habitat for marine life. It is made using a patented fiberglass mold, which is filled



Suwit Khunkitti, Minister Of Natural Resources and Environment, gets a close-up view of Phuket's beach garbage problems.

with an inexpensive concrete mixture. Coral that would otherwise die is transplanted onto the structure.

Any number of reef balls can be made from single mold. The one bought by The Racha and Racha Seamaster Divers makes reef balls about a meter in diameter.

The Reef Ball Foundation starts programs only when there is a solid commitment to monitoring and protecting the reef balls.

Fortunately, Racha Resort has demonstrated this commitment by providing offices and

accommodation for marine researchers so they may conduct their research.

The launching of the reef ball project in Thailand began with a conference that brought together government officials, members of the press and DOCT representative Holger Schwab.

The guest of honor, Minister Suwit, presided over the ceremony to put the very first reef ball in place at Bungalow Bay at Racha Yai.

He also announced a Save Phuket Program, about which we will learn more in the future, and showed genuine support for the reef ball program.

He commented, "We should be in harmony with nature...the beach clean up should not be once a year but every day."

Mini-marathon aimed at aiding schools

RAWAI: The Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa has issued an invitation to allcomers to enter its inaugural "Evason Phromthep Mini Marathon 2004", due to take place on October 24.

Funds raised by the event will go to the Wat Sawang Arom School and Baan Pitak Dek (Phuket).

There will be two courses – the main one of 10.5 kilometers and one of 4km for fun runners – and seven classes: Under 19, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, Over 49 and Open.

The 10.5-km run will start from the Rawai triangle near the sea gypsy village and follow a circular route taking in Rawai Beach, Laem Phrom Thap, Nai Harn Beach, Soi Kok Makham and the Rawai Tambon Administration Organisation (*OrBorTor*) building.

The fun run will start from the same point, but participants will run only half-way to Laem Phrom Thap Cape before returning to the start point via Laem Son and Rawai Beach.

Anyone who reaches the finish line in either run will receive a medal, while trophies will be awarded to the first three runners in each age category in the 10.5-km race.

Entry in the 10.5-km race, plus a T-shirt, costs 200 baht per person, while entry in the 4-km event will cost 150 baht a head.

The event is open to visitors as well as residents; Wat Sawang Arom School may be able to organise accommodation for anyone who needs it.

Entry forms are available from Friday (October 1) from the Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa (Tel: 076-381010-7, ext 1420; 01-8914256; 07-2767746 or 09-8676383) or from *OrBorTor* Rawai (Tel: 076-288651).

PATONG DARTS

September 28 results: Champs* 5 Nag's Head 4; Didi's* 6 Valhalla 3; In-Between* 5 Happy Days 4; Off Shore 6 Amigos* 3; Piccadilly* 6 Fat Boy Saloon 3; Two Black Sheep 7 Shakers* 2. (* Winner of beer leg.)

October 12 fixtures (Home teams first): Fat Boy Saloon v Happy Days; Champs v Amigos; Nag's Head v Didi's; Shakers v In Between; Two Black Sheep v Piccadilly; Valhalla v Off Shore.

Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvie Yaffe



The roof is sealed

...with polyurethane rigid foam which can be applied from below on gable roofs and from above on flat roofs. In either case, the oven effect induced by exposure to sunlight is avoided, and excess heat inside rooms, by way of the roof, is prevented. By insulating roofs of all kinds we achieve the best K values. Non air-conditioned rooms maintain comfortable temperatures with the insulation.

The insulation

...can be installed against water, heat, cold and sound. At the same time it usually serves against unwanted vermin. In addition to roofs, ceilings, walls, floors, boats, tanks and cooling rooms can be insulated.



WATERPROOF! Roof Insulation
Roof Redevelopment
With PU-foam we stop the oven effect!

S SOUTHERN INSULATION & CONSULTING 64/52 Choafa Rd., M. 1 T.Vichit, A.Muang Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel. 076-264483 Mobile. 01-5372366 Fax. 076-264486 Email :st-insulat@Thaimail.com

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

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

www.fourwindsmoving.com

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MOVERS

For all your moving requirements
to and from Phuket
Call Liz Mulqueen
Tel: 01-820 1557

FOUR WINDS
INTERNATIONAL GROUP

e-mail: l.mulqueen@fourwindsmoving.com



The US team, led by the trophy-bearing Randall Coleman, scored a 13.5-10.5 victory over the European team, under the captaincy of Peter Hamilton (3rd from right), at Blue Canyon Golf Club's recent Ryder Cup tournament. The two teams are pictured after the tourney.

Tourney raises cash for former golfers

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: A total of 240 golfers took part in the inaugural Golf Teacher's Charity Tournament, which took place at Phuket Country Club on October 3.

Prachuab Subcharoen, President of the Thai Senior Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) said the tournament had been organized to support senior pro-golfers in Thailand.

He said, "All proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Senior PGA Foundation, which helps older professional golfers, golf teachers and their families.

"If a golfer is injured, for example, we can provide a grant of 20,000 baht towards their medical bills, or 70% of the bill if it is over 20,000 baht.

"And the foundation will give the families of golfers who have died 50,000 baht."

He added, "We expect to raise about 700,000 baht in tournament registration fees. After expenses, we will probably have about 400,000 baht left to donate to the foundation."

Although the tournament was held some time after June 28, the date of Thailand's official Teachers' Golf Day, K. Prachuab said the event was a big success nevertheless.

Teachers' Golf Tournaments will also be held in Chon Buri and Nakhon Pathom, on dates to be announced.

Phuket Country Club intends to run golf summer schools next year, for Thai and foreign golfers and would-be golfers aged seven to 18 years. Instruction will take place four hours a day, for five weeks.

Courses will have a maximum of 20 students and will be taught by club pros Wirun Boonkreaw and Somsak Bamrongrak. The cost is 8,000 baht, including a textbook and equipment. Bookings will open in March for the normal summer school and in July for Dulwich International College pupils.

Results: Team champion were "Gift and Golf" – Weera Patee, Vatcharin Naosiri, Mana Samart and Tongchai Sukwutikul – with 205 points, and runners-up were Phuket Golf Association – Panu Maswongsa, Surin Bamroongphon, Nobuyuki Baba and Karun Panitpichetwong.

Individual winners: Flight A (0-12): Surin Bamroongphon 76(2); Manus Jaoyon 79(12); Kreangkan Pipatsombat 81(12).

Flight B (13-18): Vatcharin Naosiri 83(14); Weera Patee 84 (18); Sompong Tangrek 84 (18).

Flight C (19-24): Tawatchai Meesit 86(24); Thep Siri wattanapayoon 92(24); Tawatchai Jerkwon 93(24).

Flight D (25-36): Tanat Pengdej 95(27); Mana Samart 100 (36); Wan-yuk Sithikul 101 (36).

Overall Low Gross: Panu Maswongsa; Overall Low Net: Somchai Sakultab.

Seara
SPORTS SYSTEMS

Specializing in planning, design and supply of commercial and home fitness equipment. Building Thailand's sporting and recreational facilities.

Sports Engineering And Recreation Asia Ltd. 100/430 Chalermprakiat Ror 9 Road, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076 355 040 Fax: 076 355 039 E-mail: phuket@searasports.com, E-mail: cj@searasports.com

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar* it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**
phuketgazette.net/calendar

PHUKET
MISSION HILLS
GOLF RESORT & SPA

5 TARGET GREENS DRIVING RANGE

" This Championship golf course by Nicklaus Design allows the golfer to enjoy the true Phuket experience. " With incredible ocean views, this course is well worth playing when traveling through Thailand.

NICKLAUS
DESIGN

MISSION HILLS PHUKET GOLF RESORT & SPA
195 Moo 4, Tambol Pla Khlok, Amphur Thalang
Phuket 83110 Thailand
Tel : +66 76 310 888, Fax : +66 76 310 899
Website : www.missionhillspuket.com
E-mail : info@missionhillspuket.com

Ocean Green

"...Enjoy The Game of Life..."

FITNESS EQUIPMENT
The leading fitness equipment supplier

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

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

It's motor-show time again, only this year it's Paris, not Frankfurt. The two significant European auto shows alternate between France in the even-numbered years and Germany in the odd-numbered ones.

The auto manufacturers have the difficult job of diverting the journo's attention from Paris – always delightful in the fall – and persuading the writers that the new vehicles deserve a few column inches. This is sometimes no easy labor.

The show does have stars and one of them is the Ferrari F430, successor to the top-selling 360 Modena.

Powered by a 4.3-liter V8 developing a hefty 490bhp, the new supercar uses much F1 technology, including an electronic differential, suspension settings that can be changed from the steering wheel, and an electro-hydraulic gearshift that allows changes in milliseconds.

Another welcome model on show is the new VW Golf GTI, the fifth incarnation of the hot hatch. This one is more sports-minded than its predecessors and has lower suspension, a two-liter turbo engine and a six-speed gearbox. A top speed of 235kmh is quoted, with a 0-100kmh sprint time of around seven seconds.

Over at the BMW stand, a sports package for the Mini Cooper S is on offer. This boosts power to an incredible 210bhp (155kW) and gives a top speed of 230kmh. The upgraded Cooper S takes just 6.6 seconds to hit the magic 100kmh.

BMW is also showcasing its 320CD convertible, the

world's first soft-top diesel sports saloon. Its two-liter, four-cylinder motor produces 150bhp and an outstanding 330Nm of torque, propelling it to a maximum speed of 210kmh.

The Bavarian company is also showing off its new, entry-level 1-series, although most of the European press have already sampled the baby BMW. A full report on the new 1-series will appear in a future *Gazette*.

Mercedes-Benz is unveiling a number of models, including the latest version of the A-Class and

a new – previously unseen – B-Class. The second-generation A-Class will be available with gasoline or diesel power, with outputs ranging between 82 and 140bhp (60-103kW). Slightly longer than the outgoing model, the A-Class still represents an engineering miracle.

Audi has on display its new A4, the last of the revamps after the A8 and A6. Nicely rounded compared with the older, boxy look, the latest A4 is sure to be a top seller in the executive car stakes.

This being Paris, Citroën, Peugeot and Renault all have something to show. The nicest example on display is the little Citroën C2 VTS sports model with a 1.6-liter motor, while sister company Peugeot is showing off a number of concept cars including the 907, the ultimate grand tourer. The long-awaited compact, the 1007, is also on show.

Volvo, part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group, is showcasing its first V8, which will find its way into the XC90 SUV. The 4.4-liter V8 is mated to a six-

speed automatic transmission and is intended to take on the all-important North American market, where the original XC90 has already been a resounding success.

Paris offers a great show this year with many more exciting models but, sadly, space does not permit them all to be featured in this article.

Besides, I'm off to look around Paris...

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

FRENCH COLLECTION



Clockwise from top left: Citroën C2 VTS; BMW 320CD; Mercedes-Benz A-Class and Volkswagen Golf GTI.

All you can eat
Japanese Buffet



1st fl. Index LIVING MALL Opening Soon
JAPANESE BUFFET RESTAURANT

It's hard getting an education in fine wine

Q Can you recommend any classes or clubs in Phuket where I can learn more about wine?

A Unfortunately, there are few options here for a structured approach to learning about wine.

None of the schools and colleges in Phuket offers wine courses to the public, so studying on your own seems to be the only option.

The best book I know of for beginners is the revised edition of Hugh Johnson's *How to Enjoy Your Wine*, published by Simon and Schuster.

The Wine Spectator's website is another possible source of knowledge. It offers structured learning about wine on its website for a fee. For more information see: www.winespectator.com.

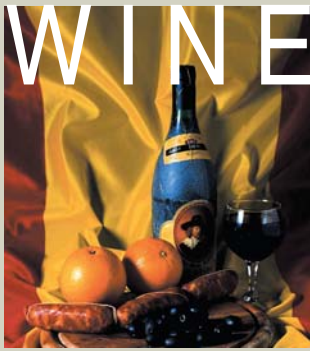
There are a few wine lovers in Phuket who hold their own informal

tastings and get-togethers, and there's a group that meets regularly at the Green Man pub near Chalong Circle.

Many wine merchants in Phuket also arrange wine tastings from time to time. You could check with MM Wine, Wine and Taste, Wine Connection or any of the other wine dealers here to see what's on offer.

The only serious wine club in Phuket that I know of is called Krewe of Vitis and is led by yours truly.

The club meets irregularly in Patong to taste and learn about wine, greet visiting winemakers, and so forth. For more information you can contact me at the email address at the end of this column.



By Steven Roberto

Q I own a restaurant and we charge a 300-baht corkage fee. Lately, some of our wines are coming to us with screw-top bottles, not corks. I'm not sure what to do or say about the corkage for these wines. Have you any thoughts?

A The term "corkage fee" is misleading. The corkage fee is not a charge for the job of removing the cork, but is meant to offset the lost opportunity to sell wine when a customer brings his own. I see no need to say anything, as it's your prerogative to charge for the lost sale; the type of cap is irrelevant.

Q In a restaurant recently, I ordered a glass of white port, which was ad-

vertised as a dessert wine. But it wasn't sweet at all. I sent it back and complained to the manager. She said that not all dessert wines are sweet, which I felt was incorrect. Was she in error?

A By definition, dessert wine is any wine enjoyed after a meal. This could include champagne, sherry, dry white port and even red wine. Many dessert wines are sweet and/or high in alcohol, but by no means all.

When dining out, I try to appreciate new experiences and keep an open mind when encountering the unfamiliar.

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

SZERVUSZ WITH A SMILE

An uncomfortable Hungarian hush descends when I ask Susan Csenki – co-owner of Patong's Kicking Donkey guesthouse, Restaurant & Bar – about the inspiration behind the name. "Why not," I venture, "Spectacular Burro or even Striking Ass?"

I expect a slap for my impudence but, thankfully, I receive an explanation – of sorts. According to Ms Csenki, a friend managed to name the restaurant and put up a sign before she or her partner and chef, Tibor Kobasc, could do much about it.

That sign may have gone but those in need of substantial amounts of hearty fare need only look for the Hungarian flag – three horizontal bands of red (top) white and green – toward the end of Soi Wattana.

And hearty indeed is Hungarian cuisine. It's just the thing to give one the energy to ascend Kekes, the highest point in Hungary, or to soak up the *barack p linka*. The what?

Barack is Magyar for apricot and *p linka* is a slightly strong fruit brandy. One can also find *cseresznye* (cherry), *k rte* (pear), *alma* (apple) and *szilva* (plum) *p linka*. I can barely find my head after a couple of shots and lose the ability to pronounce

egeszsegedre – the Hungarian for "Cheers!" – after a few more.

At the heart of Hungarian cuisine is *guly sleves* – goulash to you or I. Mr Kobasc (who pops his head out of the kitchen long enough to say "Szervusz" – Hello!) makes his *szegedi guly sleves* the traditional way. Almost. Olive or another light oil replaces the customary pork lard for

this rich and spicy beef soup, stained red and scented with paprika.

Too busy eating to talk, I just listen to Ms Csenki's lyrical accent as a modern take on traditional Hungarian music plays in the background.

Embroidery by Ms Csenki's grandmother and authentic Hungarian horsewhips grace the walls – the latter were declared strictly "hands off" after a handful of Hungarians, from the five plane loads who visit Patong every year, had a crack with them.

Paprika is, of course, at the heart of Hungarian food. Used in varying quantities and combinations, it never becomes monotonous. The spice – rare in Thailand – is used to delightful effect in the *hortob gyi h sos palacsinta*, thin pancakes stuffed with chicken and topped with a velvety paprika and sour cream sauce.

On the menu
with
Andy Johnstone

Kicking Donkey



Szegedi guly sleves, of course. With paprika, of course.

The *p linka* is flowing, the used plates are piling up and the next robust dish comes along. *T lt tt k poszta* is a combination of minced pork, rice, onion, garlic and black pepper not unlike Greek *dolmades*.

I voice this comparison – worrying whether this may incur a horse-whipping – to Ms Csenki, who tells me that the two do indeed share a common heritage.

The Hungarian version is bigger and is served hot on a bed of spiced and pickled cabbage –

Ms Csenki makes her own – with sour cream on top.

The subtle punch of pepper and the sourness of the cream and cabbage coalesce well to make this one of the cuisine's highlights.

More food – in the form of a pork steak topped with a *r t t ille* of onions, garlic, red peppers and paprika – is brought to us. I skipped breakfast and lunch yet still I am starting to feel full.

But the steak is tender, the sauce chunky, sweet and gloriously red, and the roasted potatoes have that delicious hint of

caramelization that makes them all too easy to eat.

Ms Csenki senses that no more food can be eaten and sensibly produces a Hungarian digestif. Made by Zwack and called Unicum, it is a mere 40  proof – compared to the *p linka*, which is 50 -plus. And, by thunder, this bitter panacea goes down a treat and has me feeling half-way human within moments.

I make to leave but pause and consider the name Kicking Donkey a few more times – before turning my attention to the Striking Ass passing by outside.

Kicking Donkey Guesthouse, Restaurant & Bar open from 4 pm until the last patron cannot stand. 80/19-20 Soi Wattana, Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 076-341223.

NAVRANG MAHAL
Indian Restaurant

Authentic and a friendly atmosphere.
Vegetarian, non-Vegetarian and Muslim food at their very best, prepared by our Chefs from India. South Indian food is also available.

For free transport in Patong, call us.

58/11 Soi Bangla, Patong Beach, Phuket
Tel: 076-292280 Fax: 076-292281

Mom Tri's Kitchen

Seafront restaurant dining among lush, tropical gardens, overlooking the Andaman Sea. Light and healthy meals are served for lunch and fresh original dishes are featured for intimate dinners.

Open: 0630 to 2330 hrs.
Reservations: 076-333568

Mom Tri's Villa Royale 12 Kata Noi Beach, Phuket 83100 Tel: 076-333568
E-mail: info@villaroyalephuket.com, www.villaroyalephuket.com

www.SWEET-ICE.net

ITALIAN HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

Hotels and Restaurants Supplier

...since 2000 we have made your life sweeter.



Sweet Ice Co., Ltd.

399 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-398304 Fax: 076-398305 Mob: 01-2787117
E-mail: ube@sweet-ice.net

The agony of Samsara: shades of Zimbabwe?

Why do the powers that be keep picking on one development project? Could it be because because Samsara is highly visible?

It may be true that the law was broken by corrupt land officials; that's clearly been the case throughout the country.

There is wide suspicion (gosh, could it be true?) that the Phuket electorate's less-than-wholehearted support for the ruling political party is of some relevance to this issue.

But, while the Thai government is constantly promoting Thailand, both as a great country for foreign investment and as a great vacation destination, many of its actions suggest that this vision is not clearly appreciated by everyone.

The closing of entertainment venues at ridiculously early hours on a tropical island resort shows total ignorance of the tourism industry and the income that it generates.

The reason given for early closing is to combat problems with Thai youth. Are the authorities suggesting that foreign tourists are responsible for these problems?

Are they also suggesting that

foreign investors are responsible for corruption among Thai government officials?

It would seem so after reading a recent report in the *Gazette*. In it Pol Maj Gen Kosin Hintao said, "After the aerial inspection we have proved clearly that the land documents for [Samsara] are not genuine, and yet it was used for the building of million-dollar homes for sale to foreigners. This land must be returned to the state."

As for the homes, he said, "It will be up to the Cabinet to decide what to do with them. But there is no way that they will become private property, even if they have already been sold, because the project is based on a breach of the law."

Maybe we should consult the Baan Manik pig, if it can be found. Possibly the best solutions to all this are inside its concrete head.

"The buyers of the houses can sue the project owner, Pacific Villa Co (PVC), for the return of their money."

The *Gazette* quoted Somchai Duangkae, Director of PVC, who retorted, "The Samsara land papers are 100% genuine and we have evidence of this, approved by many government offices."

"If we can't trust documents approved by the government, who can we trust?"

He has a good point, but, as Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has clearly shown, government documents are only as trustworthy as the government itself.

It's time for the Thai government to take decisive action, and not keep the Samsara project – and other foreign investment – in limbo.

Perhaps a few famous quotations would help clarify the situation:

"I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution." – Ulysses S. Grant.

"The one great principle of English law is to make business for itself. Laws are generally found to be nets of such a texture, as the little creep through, the great break through, and the middle-sized are alone entangled in." – William Shenstone.

And of course, let's not forget the most famous of all from Charles Dickens: "The law is an ass – an idiot."

Maybe we should consult the Baan Manik pig, if it can be found. Possibly the best solutions to all this are inside its concrete head.

PROPERTY & HOMEZONE

By Graham Doven

Construction Update



Artist's impression of the park being built in Phuket City.

A birthday present for people of Phuket

PHUKET CITY: This may be HM Queen Sirikit's 72nd birthday year, but it's the people of Phuket City who are getting the gift – in the shape of a new public park.

The 39.6-million-baht *Suan Chalermparakiet 72 Pansa Maha Rachinee*, or "The HM Queen Sirikit 72nd Year Park", will cover six rai between Thalang Rd, Klong Bang Yai and Dibuk Rd.

Work, started in August last year, was originally scheduled for completion this August. However, a delay in the release of part of the land has led to an overrun.

Sernsaks Sintucharoen, head of the Architectural Department of Phuket City Municipality, said that 50% of the park has already been completed and should be open to the public before the end of the year, with the rest opening before February.

He said, "The idea for a new public park here was first put forward by Phummasak Hongsyok when he was Mayor of Phuket City. It is also in accordance with the government's policy of in-

creasing green space and improving the local quality of life.

"We intended the park to be 10 rai, but then the Tourism Authority of Thailand asked for one rai and the Phuket Treasury Office asked for three rai, so the park ended up being just six rai."

The park will feature a children's playground and an general-purpose building where, according to K. Sernsaks, "people can meet, talk and relax."

"People can stroll around in the park and get a breath of fresh air in the center of town, or enjoy the facilities and activities that will be set up here."

K. Sernsaks said 5.5 million baht has been allocated for an eight-meter statue of "Hai-Leang", the Golden Water Dragon of Chinese myth, that will stand at the entrance to the park.

There will also be parking for 199 cars and 47 motorbikes; this will be paid parking, although the fees have yet to be set. The contractor for the project is Phrae Thumrongwit Ltd.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

Sai Taan

Affordable Luxury Homes

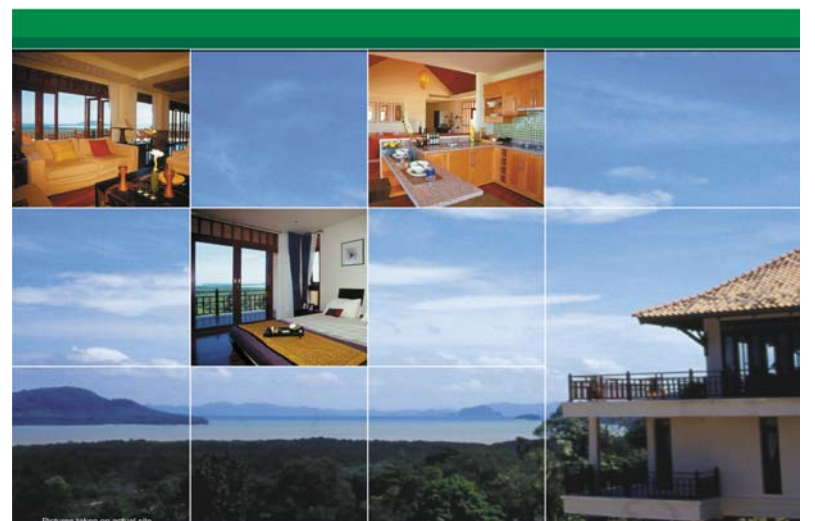
Tel: +66 (0)7627 1255 Fax: +66 (0)7627 1256
Email: info@sai-taan-phuket.com
Web: www.sai-taan-phuket.com

ANDAMAN

Lighting Systems

Are you in the dark about lighting?

andamanlighting.com
Tel: 076 254 826 Fax: 076 254 827



A Natural Paradise in Phuket Town

BAAN Rommai
Chai Lay

Baan Rommai Chai Lay Co Ltd: 79/4 Moo 3, T. Rasada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.
Tel: 0-7624-0991-2 Fax: 0-7624-1287
www.baanrommai.net
E-mail: info@baanrommai.net
Open Daily 9 am - 7 pm

ELLESS®

WATER SAVING SYSTEM

Contact us for a personal demonstration
Telephone / Fax 076 280 042, Mobile 01 787 4280
e-mail: info@elless.org <http://www.elless.com>

Home of the Week

Cape Panwa

Spacious family lifestyle on the scenic east coast

On Cape Panwa, in the southeast of the island, lies one of Phuket's first upscale Western-style housing developments, Vanich Bayfront Ville.

Work on this collection of stylish, modern homes nestling on a cliffside overlooking the islands of Chalong Bay, began during the spate of property development that took hold in the mid-to-late 1990s.

The estate was a hit with those who appreciated the visual splendors of the dramatic coastline and the relative peace and quiet, away from the more obvious tourist places.

People from Bangkok seeking a weekend retreat within 10 minutes of Phuket City were a prime market for these homes, as were Westerners attracted by the smartly-finished properties and good infrastructure.

There is still much greenery around those early homes, evidence of the market's shifting priorities as west-coast homes and those closer to Dulwich International College have become more sought after.

The spacious grounds are ideal for exuberant children or pets. For those with an eye for a bargain and a desire for peace and quiet – as well as a dramatic setting – the estate is well worth a look.

The featured home is a tastefully decorated, three-story Thai-roofed property. Although designed as a two-bedroom house, there is potential to create at least two more bedrooms.

On the lower floor, a covered car-parking bay opens onto a terraced area leading to twin rooms. These are open-walled but covered, and could easily be converted into bedrooms.

There is already one bedroom, with an en-suite bathroom, on this floor, as well as a six-meter-square living room/office, which could also be used as a bedroom. The stairs to the upper floor are flanked by a laundry room and a storage closet.



Above: The view of the bay from the upstairs terrace.

Right: The side of the elegant Thai-style house.



Left: The whirlpool bath has its own stunning view.

On the fully air-conditioned middle floor are the master bedroom – with en-suite bathroom, a living/dining area and the kitchen, surrounded by well-shaded balconies.

Two sides of the villa are surrounded by rolling grasslands, while the pleasant clubhouse area and swimming pool are only a short stroll away.

On the top floor the house

has its own whirlpool bath overlooking the ocean.

There are also steps leading down the cliffside to a cove, off which there are moorings for boat-owning residents. The asking price is around 15 million baht.

More details are available from Phuket LandSearch at Tel: 076-290509, website: www.phuketland.com

Exclusive Townhomes at Phuket's Finest Address



A refined yet affordable entry into the exclusive lifestyle at Laguna Phuket, our new Townhomes prove that luxury need not be over-priced.

MODEL HOME OPEN DAILY

laguna
TOWNHOMES

Sales Office at Canal Village
Tel: 66 (0) 7632 4366

E-mail: property@lagunaphuket.com
www.lagunatownhomes.com



If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar* it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

phuketgazette.com/calendar



49/1 Moo 6 Vised Road, Muang District, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 7638 3945 Fax: +66 (0) 7638 3946 www.rawana.com
BKK Tel: +66 (0) 2377 6863, +66 (0) 2377 3580 Fax: +66 (0) 2378 0100

BAAN RIM TARN
Cherng Talay



22 villas + pools
2, 3-bedroom
Laguna area
Sole Agent

6.25 million baht +

CHOM TAWAN
Bang Tao Beach



Completion 2005
2, 3 & 4-bedroom
apartments & villas
Reservations taken

13 million baht +

LAYAN ESTATE
Bang Tao Beach



Malibu-style villas
Large plots, "infinity"
pools & gardens
714m² + living area

28 million baht +

THE PLANTATION
Kamala



Ocean views
2+1-bedroom condo units
& 3, 4-bedroom villas
Show unit open

17 million baht +

SRI PANWA
Cape Panwa



Ocean views
3, 4-bedroom villas
Show unit open
Sole Agent

47 million baht +

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

Professional real estate advice for those looking for property in Phuket

Valuers/Residential Sales & Leasing
Retail/Commercial
Property Management/Villa rentals

12/9 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Road
Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-239967-9, 06-8932378

Email: phuket@cbre.com www.cbre.co.th

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Is "obsessing" a word? I have the funny feeling that it's one of those that the Americans made up, like "burglarize" instead of "burgle" or "dove" instead of "dived". I mean, they do have a knack of inventing new words, with the assumption that the rest of the world needs these additions to the English language.

The reason I ask the question is that I think I'm beginning to "obsess" about trees; I have talked about them rather a lot recently.

Some of you may remember me writing, a few weeks ago, about the logs with roots that had appeared near the *Gazette* offices. Well, three more trucks arrived the other day, laden with more cargo to be planted there.

I'm beginning to wonder what they've got in mind for this area. It's difficult to tell what type of trees these are yet because there is so little to go on. There aren't even branches at this stage, let alone leaves, though some of the original batch are now showing signs of life; small, healthy-looking green shoots are starting to appear. The process of transplanting mature trees obviously works.

On behalf of those seeking

A regal palm – cheap, too



mature trees. I decided to put down my beer, get off my sizeable behind and go and do a little investigation. There are dozens of

garden centers in Phuket, but most of them rub their hands together with glee when a *farang* appears. The sweet smile doesn't

Given the right conditions, the Royal Palm can grow to truly regal heights.

hide the fact that the price has just doubled.

One of my favorite garden centers is on Chao Fa West Rd, just south of the Kwang Rd traffic lights. You'll know you're at the right spot when you see dozens of palm trees lined up.

This is one of the few places in Phuket where you'll be charged a fair and sensible price. The owner is very helpful, and should you want a ready-grown palm, this is the place to go.

The most obvious is the Royal Palm, or *palm khuat* in Thai. It's obvious because, next to coconut palms, these are probably the most common palm in Phuket. These are the ones you see growing in many gardens, planted purely because they look good.

They don't do much apart from just sit there and make the place look tropical, and neither are they particularly expensive. A six-meter version that's already been growing in somebody else's garden for around eight years can be yours for around 1,500 baht, a ridiculously cheap price.

If you do decide that you want to go for one of these, it will probably arrive with its roots wrapped in some form of plastic bag. The Thais use a slightly indelicate English word for this. Imagine something a little smaller made of very thin rubber and you've got the idea.

The plastic bag should be left on, but with slits made in it before the tree is planted. If the

soil is moist and composty, then so much the better. The original roots are cut away for transportation, and, as you can imagine, there's not a great deal left, so the maximum time these trees can have their remaining roots wrapped up this way is a couple of weeks. Make sure they go into the ground as soon as they're delivered.

If you like the idea of having palms in the garden, but have an area that needs something a bit bushier, then you need a golden palm. In Thai, it's known as *maak leuang*.

Also a common sight in Phuket gardens, this is a tufted-style palm with several shoots growing from a central point. A three-meter version will set you back the princely sum of 800 baht, and one four meters tall will cost you 1,500 baht. They take a fair time to grow, which accounts for the difference in price.

The Thai name, which translates as "yellow palm" is a bit of a misnomer. Put one in a pot, and a yellow palm is exactly what it is, but plant one in the ground and give it the freedom to stretch out and the color is green rather than yellow.

Am I "obsessing"? Probably. But once people realize how ludicrously inexpensive it is to have a few decent-sized palms in their gardens, I don't think I'll be the only one.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com

HomePro Double Sticker

It's doubly amazing! For every 5,000 baht* you spend at HomePro or The Power, you now get 1 token sticker and 2 great ways to claim superb free prizes.

Step 1

In addition to your token sticker, you receive a bonus coupon offering one of the following:

A. 1 or 2 extra token stickers.

B. Product discount on leading brands up to 10,000.- value.

C. 25% discount on latest collection from LACOSTE.

Step 2

Keep collecting token stickers and claim prizes with a total value 422,430.-

Your old token stickers can be used with your new ones to claim prizes, so keep collecting them!

Double Bonus promotion will continue until 23rd February, 2005.

*Under following condition as listed. HomePro reserves the right to change, or make substitutions for product details, specifications and prices without prior notice. The previous batch of prizes can be redeemed up to 17th Oct. 04.

The Power
DIGITAL LIVING BY HOMEPRO

7th Oct. 04 - 23rd Feb. 05
At all HomePro and HomePro Plus

HomePro
Home is HomePro
www.homepro.co.th

Alila
HOTELS AND RESORTS

Alila PHUKET VILLAS

Surprisingly different...
in a uniquely new dimension

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

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

www.alilaphuketvillas.com

For more information
Sales Office 382/30 Moo 1 Srisoonthorn Road, T. Chergtalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Phone +66 7632 5667-71 Fax +66 7632 4313 Mob +66 1894 2386 +66 9873 2837
sales@alilaphuketvillas.com www.alilaphuketvillas.com

a member of design hotels™

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

ABSOLUTELY BEACH FRONT

Absolutely beachfront land – with Chanote title – for sale. 0.87 acres/18 million baht. Pls call for details. No agents please. Tel: 01-4778988, 07-8891717.

DREAM

land. Are you searching for unspoiled, natural beachfront land similar to Koh Samui's Chaweng Beach of 20 years ago and at yesteryear's prices? If so, you'll enjoy our website! For further details, please see our website at <http://www.property.samui.de.vu> Tel: 01-8914260. Email: marksmarketing@arcor.de

PATONG APARTMENT

for sale. 57-year lease. 1 bedroom, 126sqm. Fully furnished, 3 years old. Expat community. Please email for more details. Email: beijingkirk@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

good price. House at Kata Beach – near the sea – available. Pls contact for details. Tel: 06-5958512, 01-9704638. Email: nalumana@phuket.ksc.co.th

1-RAI PLOT

1-rai plot (40m x 40m) in luxury development with underground electricity and 24-hr security. 600m from Mission Hills Golf Course, 8 mins to airport and Nai Yang Beach, 20 mins to Dulwich and Tesco. For sale at only 2.2 million baht. Pls call for more details. Tel: 01-3430777.

200M FROM BEACH



200m from Mai Khao Beach. Phuketvillage project: new 100sqm houses on 50sq wah of land with shared pool. Built to Swedish standards. Prices from 3.9 million baht. Phuketvillage: Real estate, constructor and landowner. Tel: 09-2002497.

2 TOWNHOMES 4

sale. Properties measure 103 sq/meters and have golden views of Kathu. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, garden and car park. Excellent location, about 6km from Patong Beach. Priced to sell at 1.5 million baht. 1 house has good rental income potential. Pls call for more details. Tel: 01-8920404, 06-5939881

SAMUI LUXURY

home. 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home on the beach with stunning views. 10 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-2764604. Email: forsaletoyou@hotmail.com

LAND IN MANY

locations. 2 rai opposite Mission Hills Golf Club at 2.2 million baht/rai. half rai 150m from sea for 1.5 million baht, 2 rai in Rawai at 3 million baht/rai. 80 sq wah at Saiyuan for 1.3 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 06-6829922 or Email: relaxphuket@thailand.com

LAND FOR SALE

Directly on the Banyan Tree Golf Course at Laguna Phuket. 1,050sqm/262.45 sq wah. Price: 7.872 million baht. Please telephone or email for further information. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

LAND IN PHUKET

Land available in all areas of Phuket. Ideal for investments. Prices start at 400,000 baht/rai. Pls email for complete list. Email: landinphuket@yahoo.com

10 RAI OF LAND FOR sale. 10 rai of land for sale near and overlooking Patong Bay. 2 million baht/rai. Serious buyers only. No brokers. Pls email for more info. Email: patsuth@yahoo.com

URGENT- LAND FOR

sale. Urgently need to sell 2.95 rai in Khaolak/Bangsak Beach due to private reasons. Very nice lot approximately 300m from the beach. The land also has a concrete road and telephone/power lines in front. Chanote title. Price: 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Pls call for more details. Tel: 05-0752409.

HUS I PHUKET

House in Phuket

www.phuketvillage.se

E-mail: info@phuketvillage.se,

Tel: 09-2002497, Svenska Tel: 06-6865604

Phuket Village Co., Ltd., Thamaprao Marine Co., Ltd.

25/5 Moo 10 Thamaprao, Thalung, Phuket.



Available from Oct. 2004, Chanote Sale / Lease

Swedish-standard design, 100sqm, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.(with septic tank), pressure pump, open-plan kitchen and living room.

3 A/C, marble, refrigerator, fully-furnished. Furniture design by our own furniture factory.

Facilities: pool, clubhouse, restaurant, tennis, broadband, underground cables, security, 36' fiberglass speedboat 2x200 hp, Scandinavian school (future)

Location: 5 min. from Mission Hills golf, 10 min. from Airport, Price from B.3.5 million

Knight Frank

www.knightfrankphuket.com

For professional, factual and honest advice about purchasing property in Phuket, talk to the market leaders – Knight Frank.

Nobody sells more real estate than us.

To obtain your free copy of our Phuket Property Investment Report contact :

Stephen O'Brien
stephen@knightfrankthailand.com
076 396 777 or 01 825 5126.

All classifieds in these pages are

PAID!

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

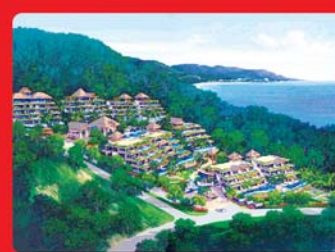
Gazette Classads - they work!because they're real.

Phuket One Realestate

www.phuketonerealestate.com
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com

"EXCLUSIVE TO PHUKET ONE!! ON-SITE SALES OFFICES NOW OPEN"

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709.
Mobile: 09-2889317, 09-5862959,
07-8970501.



KALIM. Luxurious FREEHOLD apartments and penthouses. Stroll to the beach. Unique!
PRICE: From 6 – 26 million baht.



CAPE PANWA. Apartments with direct beach access. Nearing completion.
PRICE: From 4 – 10 million baht.



AO MAKHAM. European style, value priced villas with breathtaking ocean views.
PRICE: 14 million baht.



KATHU. Tranquility guaranteed with these 2-bedroom lakeside apartments. Great value!
PRICE: 3.5 million baht.

GOLF COURSE LOTS

Exclusive 1-rai serviced lots on Phuket's only oceanfront golf course. Only 4 lots left. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bebphuket@yahoo.com

NEW HOME IN

Rawai. New home in Rawai with secluded mountain view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and big kitchen/living area. Covers 120 sq wah. 4.5 million baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 01-7284821. Email: d@ davidherrick.com

NEW HOUSE IN

Kathu for sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with big open kitchen, living room and private garden. UBC and 2 aircons. Covers 110sq wah and has Chanote title. Close to golf courses in Kathu. 3.5 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 04-0511651.

3 RAI OF LAND FOR

sale. 3 rai – with Chanote – at Klong Muang, Krabi, for sale. 350m from beach. Call for details. Tel: 01-4018434.

RAWAI LAND FOR

sale. Covers 169 sq wah [676sqm]. Price is 1.5 million baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 01-8922932.

PATONG SEA VIEW

House in Patong with sea views, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large European kitchen and 500sqm of land. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 01-7471862.

Gazette Classads – 4,000 readers a day!

Deadline for all other pages: Saturday 12 noon.

Property Gazette

Accommodation Available

NEW & FULLY

served. Brand new 2- and 3-bedroom apartments with sensational views of Patong Bay. Well furnished, aircon and private parking. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4584143, 01-0854514. Email: myhotel2004@aol.com

PATONG LUXURY

apartments. 1 - and 2-bedroom apartments located in central Patong. Pls email for info & photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

AIRCON ROOMS

with kitchens. Large, clean rooms with full facilities - TV, fridge, kettle, toaster, laundry, etc - available now. From 500 baht/day. Pls contact. Tel: 01-0854514. Email: myhotel2004@aol.com

PATONG CONDO

Book your holiday in a beautifully decorated studio apartment. 5,000 baht for October. Also available for sale. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: hoffterje@hotmail.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Fully furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo located in the Kalim/Patong area. Includes fitted kitchen, pool and many other facilities. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-8920038.

END OF LOW SEASON

special. Beachfront hotel with aircon rooms, cable TV etc. from 499 baht/night for a double room. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-345518, 01-8920038.

ANDAMAN SEA VIEW RESORT

Rooms for rent on a 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.

Accommodation Wanted

APARTMENT / HOUSE

wanted. Swiss citizen, 65, looking for apartment or house with at least 1 living room, 1 bedroom, bathroom and kitchen for long-term rent. Max rent: 12,000 baht/month. Urgent. Email: cafespatz@gmx.net

THAI-STYLE VILLA

needed. One of my clients seeks a spacious villa or traditional Thai house to rent for 2 months, starting from December 1, 2004. Ideally located near Phuket Boat Lagoon or Surin Beach. Villa must be furnished and house maid must be available. Tel: 076-280455, 01-2738160. Fax: 076-280431. Email: ppe@loxinfo.co.th

WISH TO RENT

an apt or villa in central Patong, from 23 December to 8 January. Must have a minimum of 2 big bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living room with balcony. Must be fully furnished. Email: greven34@hotmail.com

WANT TO RENT

I am looking to rent a small, one-bedroom house or bungalow, preferably with separate bedroom, with kitchen, furniture and TV, in Kamala toward the end of October. Must be in a quiet and safe area. I can pay up to 8,000 baht a month. Email: th246810@hotmail.com

Building Services

P-CON

Phuket Construction and Home Services Co Ltd
Roofing, floor, walls, tiles, cleaning, painting, plumbing, aircon, electrical systems, repairs and other work done by our professional team.

Call: 09-1960852

Fax: 076-263204

Email: p-con@chaiyo.com

TCM Woodbliss

Woodprimer against termites
fungi and wood-eating insects

Woodprotection from 65 Baht/SQ.M.
Gypsumsealer 49 Baht/SQ.M.

*Poison-free
*Emission-free
*100% natural

one-time
treatment
lifetime
protection



www.woodbliss.com

www.tcm-asia.com

Nano Coating

NEW INVISIBLE DURABLE
Save 80% time & money
on maintenance
always easy to clean
easy to apply

From 50 Baht per SQ.M.
Carglass kit 500 Baht
windows - bathroom - pools
kitchen - car glass - stone - wood
ceramic - marble - granite - metal

TCM Asia Co., Ltd., Kamala, Phuket
info@tcm-asia.com
Tel.: 06-9439834 / 07-2945828

SPAS R US

Steam room/sauna and accessories, and portable hot tubs from USA. Quality equipment, designed and installed for your needs. Business and residential. California Spa Design. Please contact for detail. Tel: 076-263269, 09-195 0610.

Find more classified ads at
www.phuketgazette.net/

Home Secure

Professional advice,
Sales and complete
Service for

Burglar Alarm
Systems for
Home & Office
All Security Systems,
Closed - Circuit
Televisions,
Remote - Controlled
Gates

Home Secure
Tel: 01-5376705, 01-6933433
sakrapob@hotmail.com

84/5 Wichit Songkhram Rd, Wichit,
Muang, Phuket 83000



phuket home services

repairs • maintenance

renovation • roofing

electrical • plumbing

air conditioning

woodwork • stonework

metalwork • landscaping

demolition • removals

office : 076 324 400
24 hrs : 01 60 60 200
www.phukethomeservices.com

Household Products

BEAUTIFUL WORLD

furniture. Beautiful World Furniture now open featuring new stock from India, a selection of water hyacinths, Chinese furniture, ceramics, wood carvings, rugs & carpets, Balinese furniture and lamps. Show room: 106/74 Chalermpakiat Ror IX Rd (the bypass road), Rassada, Muang, Phuket, 83000. Open every day from 10 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-261886. Fax: 076-261887. Email: info@beautifulworldthailand.com

Help us to help the animals



สมาคมช่วยสัตว์ ภูเก็ต

Call: 076-263737

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar*

it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

phuketgazette.net/calendar

Have something to sell? Tell the WORLD!

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette
appear FREE OF CHARGE in the

Phuket Gazette Online

Always on top in **Google**
10-15,000 visitors a day!

PhuketGazette.Net/Classifieds

Focused exclusively on **Phuket** -
and delivered to the world!

Would you like to keep up on what's happening
in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road,
Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE
for a full year - **52 issues!**

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 8,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card)

Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Last 3 digits
on back of card

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity,
please **airmail**.
Do not Fax!

Island Job Mart

Dusit Laguna

RESORT
PHUKET • THAILAND

Dusit Laguna Resort is a 5-star luxury resort in Phuket, Thailand, and a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behaviors that reflect a commitment to excellence to fill the following posts:

Executive Secretary to General Manager

Qualifications:

- Thai female with a bachelor's degree in a related field from a recognized university or a degree from a secretarial college.
- At least 4 years' consecutive executive secretary experience.
- Excellent written and spoken English and Thai.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Executive Housekeeper

Qualifications:

- Thai male / female with a Bachelor's degree in a related field from a recognized university.
- At least 5-years executive housekeeping experience in a hotel.
- Excellent written and spoken English and Thai.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé with a recent picture and references to:
Human Resources Department

Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket
390 Srisoonthorn Rd., Talang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 66 0 7632 4324 Fax: 66 0 7632 4174
Email: dlpcareer@dusit.com



Tai Pan is a long established leisure company operating in Phuket. We now require a team of staff for our new five-star fitness spa and restaurant opening in central Patong in December 2004.

F + B Manager

Duties

- Set up, launch and ongoing management of restaurant and bar.
- Recruitment/training/stock + ordering/cash controlling

Qualifications

- Aged 25-40 years
- Minimum of 3 years' senior management experience
- POS and computer literate
- Degree plus excellent good spoken and written English

Accountant

Duties

- Set up accounts and admin systems.
- Accounts/tax/reports/payroll/personnel records /internal auditing/submissions to Tax Department

Qualifications

- Aged 25-40 years
- Degree in accounting
- Minimum of 3 years' senior responsibility
- Hospitality industry experience
- Good spoken and written English

Reception Sales

Duties

- Manager and 5 reception sales staff required.
- Reception duties plus membership sales.

Qualifications

- Aged 23-35 years
- Minimum 1 year in high-class hospitality setting
- Degree qualification
- Excellent spoken English
- Energetic and enthusiastic personality
- Good appearance
- Computer and POS experience

Competitive salaries negotiable according to age and experience.

Telephone K. Thip - 09 649 3612

MANGOSTEEN

front office. The Mangosteen Resort & Spa, a new 5-star boutique resort close to Nai Harn Beach, is looking for a Night Auditor with a minimum of 5 years' experience and a good command of the English language. Flexible to work day or night shifts, at night, you will be responsible for the safety and control of all facilities at the resort. Above-average income and good working environment. Please contact for more information and to apply. Tel: 076-289399. Fax 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteen-phuket.com

MANGOSTEEN BAR

The newly-built Mangosteen Bar is opening soon. 58 meters above sea level and offering beautiful views over Phuket, the lounge-style bar will feature the finest live jazz music and the coolest drinks on the island. We are looking for: 1. Bartender. Minimum of 5 years' experience and good English language skills required. 2. Waiters/waitresses with at least 5 years' experience and good command of the English language. Pls contact to apply. Tel: 076-289-399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteen-phuket.com

COMPUTER I.T. STAFF

wanted. Website design and web hosting. Must know the basics. Good opportunity. Basic salary plus commission. Also seeking sales/admin staff. Pls email for more info. Email: bnsn@sanoot.com

Showroom Manager (Bangkok/Phuket)

The international leader in kitchen appliances & furniture, sinks and bathroom taps requires an experienced professional to manage our showroom team in order to generate new sales opportunities. The successful candidate will also develop strategic relationships to create a business strategy for each customer.

Male/female, age 28 years up.
Bachelor's degree in any field.
Background in purchasing, organizing projects (kitchen appliances/kitchen furniture/taps) an advantage.
At least 3 years' experience in relevant markets is a must.
Fluency in spoken and written English is a must.
Own car is a must.

Teka Phuket Showroom

52/15 Vichitsongkram Road,
T. Talad Nua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-234593, 234661
Fax: 076-234660
Website: www.teka.co.th



WANTED

A leading tourism business seeks highly motivated individuals with strong English skills for the following positions:

Executive Assistant

- Experience with accounting forms
- Good administrative & telephone skills
- Hotel experience is a plus

Marketing Manager

- 3+ years experience in tourism marketing
- Strong overseas and local agency relationships
- Thai nationality

Please send CV via fax to 076 273 328 or email to resv@limestoneadventures.com



Peach Hill Hotel & Resort
and
Andaman Cannacia Resort & Spa

are currently recruiting for the following positions:

1. Spa Manager
2. Training Manager
3. Executive Housekeeper
4. Reception
5. Reservations

Personnel Department:

2 Laemsai Rd., Karon, Muang, Phuket, 83100
Tel: 076-330603, 076-330520-1 Fax: 076-330895
Email: personnel@peach-hill.com

PUB MANAGER

& asst manager. Local Thai nationals and international applicants considered. Please post or email your CV with a current photograph to: HRD Department, Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub, No 5 Soi Bangla, Kathu, Patong Beach, Phuket, Thailand 83150. Pls contact for more info. Email: scruffymurphys@loxinfo.co.th

SALES

representative. Food company is looking for a salesperson with English skills, sales experience and use of own car. Salary + commission. Please send your resumé to apply. Tel: 076-381772, 04-0535780. Fax: 076-381772. Email: info@tropijam.com. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.tropijam.com>

PERSONAL DRIVER

I'm looking for a personal driver, a Thai male with car license and experienced at driving in Phuket. Good personality and fluent in English, age between 30 to 40 yrs. Salary starts at 15,000 baht with 3 months' probation. Must be available to make an immediate start. Tel: 076-290068, 01-9584229. Fax: 076-290068. Email: kchai007@hotmail.com

PR FOR

restaurant. Rockfish Restaurant and Bar is seeking a Marketing Coordinator to promote one of Phuket's leading restaurants. The successful candidate will have previous experience, good English skills and be highly motivated. Please contact us for more information. Tel: 09-2873161. Email: eat@rockfishrestaurant.com

OFFICE SECRETARY

required. A motivated Thai national, fluent in English, is required for front office duties. Able to use Word & Excel and must hold a valid driver's license. Only those experienced in secretarial work need apply. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 076-239111, 01-7979655. Fax: 076-238974. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

DIVE SHOP STAFF

urgently required. 1 Sales Manager: fluent in German & English. 2 Sales Staff: must be Thai nationals, female, fluent in English, and aged 22-26. 1 Driver: must be a male Thai national, aged 22-26 with some English-language skills. Tel: 076-330598. Email: juergens@diveasia.com

Island Job Mart

The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. ACCOUNTING MANAGER

This is a new position in a rapidly expanding company. Qualified candidates will be Thai, aged at least 28, and have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree or higher in accounting
- ▶ Minimum 2 years' experience in accounting management
- ▶ Knowledge of tax and other statutory filings
- ▶ Ability to communicate effectively in English

The successful candidate will be the chief financial manager of the company. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with the importance of the position, which reports to a major shareholder.

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Rungtip Hongjakpet, Managing Director, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: rungtip@phuketgazette.net

MUSICIANS WANTED

to join a band. We require 2 violin/fiddle players, bassist, drummer & vocalist. Pls email Molly Malone's Irish Pub, Patong Beach, Phuket for more details. Email: mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th

SECRETARY TO MD

A luxury resort 200km from Phuket needs an experienced secretary with good computer literacy and translation skills. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-9156879.

SALES REP NEEDED

We are a representative of Høgen-Dazs ice cream in Phuket and require a sales representative to be responsible for taking care of hotel and restaurant clients. Please call for details. Tel: 076-292801-5. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com

STAFF WANTED

Internet café in Patong seeks staff. Pls email CV to apply. Email: supitchaj@hotmail.com

PART-TIME

secretary. Real estate agency seeks a part-time secretary in Chalong. Please email your resume to apply. Tel: 076-381772, 04-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

URGENTLY SEEKING

staff. We are urgently seeking the following staff: Receptionist, Waiter and Waitress. Basic understanding of spoken English is required. Tel: 076-292801-5. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com

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

Wanted

Cook for private estate in Kamala

Requirements:

- Female
- Live-in
- Fair English

Contact Bow:

Tel: 076-279977-80
Fax: 076-279961

IRISH PUB SEEKS

staff. Molly Malone's Irish Pub is seeking: Bartenders, Waiters/Waitresses, Cooks/Asst Cooks and Cleaners. Please apply in person at Molly Malone's Irish Pub, 94/1 Thaweewong Rd, Patong Beach (next to McDonalds). Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-292771. Email: mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th

ONLINE BOOKING

Officers. We are looking for motivated staff to join our team. Applicants need to be able to work independently, must have a good command of written and spoken English and be Thai nationals. German speakers welcomed. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-242785. Email: sales@thailandholidays.de

SECRETARY/

accountant/sales. We are a start-up real estate firm looking for a secretary who can also do some light accounting work as well as handle some sales. Candidate must be a Thai female with good English language skills. Please email your CV to apply. Tel: 076-388226, 01-5376866. Fax: 076-388226. Email: platinumresidence1@hotmail.com

RECEPTIONIST

required. Experienced female receptionist required by a hotel in Patong. Must be an English-speaker. Please call to apply. Tel: 01-8950231.

Employment Wanted

HOME HELP/COOK/

Nanny. I'm a superb cook, love children, and am extremely clean and tidy. Sensible and long-term work required. Full-time salary around 20,000 baht. Willing to negotiate, and part-time arrangements too. Interested parties please contact email address. Email: andredecio@yahoo.com

MANAGEMENT

skills. Need a manager with experience? I've worked in many departments in several industries and need a challenging project. 7 years in Thailand. Tel: 07-8898617. Email: andredecio@yahoo.com

EUROPEAN HOTEL/

resort. 12 years in Thailand. Hotel management training. I am looking for suitable management position in the south of Thailand. Very strong on customer service and understanding the bottom line. Salary negotiable. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

DIVE VIDEOGRAPHER

Fully equipped and experienced videographer looking for work with dive shop in Phuket/Khao Lak. Ready for immediate start. Tel: 04-0633510. Email: neilmitchell@hotmail.com

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

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.

CAR PORT CANOPY/

tent. Big green carport canopy, large size. Approx 10' X 20', suitable for car or pick-up truck, or use for extra shade in your garden. 3,900 baht. Fully collapsable, easy to assemble. Tel: 07-2731599. Email: geddd5@hotmail.com

WOODEN BABY BED

for sale. Like new, bought in Europe, 2 sleeping levels. Price: 4,000 baht. Tel: 01-8919914. Email: bluecomthai@hotmail.com

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.

BABY ARTICLES

One push chair from France. One baby bed suitable for a 1-year-old baby. Very, very good price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9792082. Email: nakaflavors@yahoo.com

FLATSEAMER

sewing machine. Yamato FD-62. 4-needle, 6-thread industrial sewing machine with feeding arm. Great for light-to-heavy materials. Applications: Especially good for lightweight and heavy-duty material. The FD series is highly versatile. The Yamato FD-62 is great for anything from shirts, underwear, wetsuits, sportswear, shoes, dresses, pants, shorts, elastic fabrics, and other clothing items. Any project that requires a beautiful flatlock stitched seam should use this machine. Paid 340,000 baht. Will sell 240,000 baht OBO! Need to sell as going back to the US. Have two machines I bought to make wetsuits and never really used them. This machine and a zig zag. Not a commercial ad; for sale by private owner. Tel: 02-994-8044. Email: jrmjacobs@hotmail.com

BACHELOR PAD

moving sale. Stylish teak coffee table, dresser, low desk with rolling chair, silk rugs, block-weight set, fit ball, floor pillow collection, small bookshelf, kitchen counter with drawers, rice cooker, water boiler, American-style bed (single), iron w/ board, Sony 5.1 speaker system. Tel: 06-2667968. Email: pugfi@hotmail.com

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

We have a Krueger-brand exhaust hood - in very good condition - for sale. If interested, contact us. Ready to give a very good price. Tel: 01-979-2082. Email: nakaflavors@yahoo.com

SAMSUNG 27" FLAT

screen TV. Tantis model, reduced turbulence speaker system, excellent condition. 8,000 baht. Tel: 01-8117613.

Articles Wanted

BASIC

motherboard. Looking for just a basic motherboard with CPU and 64K - or more - memory. Or old PC minus monitor, keyboard and mouse. Would like to spend around 4,000 baht. Email: ronvolz@hotmail.com

BOXES FOR MOVING

I'm moving the family to Chiang Mai. I need some boxes for packing. Anything would help. Please call anytime. Tel: 06-2725078, 07-2731599. Email: sk2max@hotmail.com

LAPTOP WANTED

Wanted: recent model laptop in good working order. Pls contact for more info. Email: phim@thai.com

RECENT MODEL

laptop wanted. Must be powerful, Mac or Pentium 4, with CDRW, LAN, etc. For student. Email: resortmanagerth@yahoo.co.uk

MOBILE

air-conditioner. Wanted: mobile air-conditioner on wheels (Central or similar brand). Please contact for more info. Email: phim@thai.com

TELEPHONE LINE

Urgent need of a telephone line in Nanai 2, Patong. Seller must be somewhere near Nanai 2. Email: dreamy_dove2003@yahoo.com

SAXOPHONE

Alto saxophone wanted. Secondhand and in good condition. Prefer well known brand such as Yamaha. Please call Donna (06-1200752) or Andrew (01-8941530), or email avatea@loxinfo.co.th

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Boats & Marine

Prowler Power Cat 9000



SALE Ultra-light, ultra-strong
Low fuel consumption
Ideal family weekender
Perfect for Phang Nga Bay cruises
Price negotiable

Thai Marine Leisure, Phuket Boat Lagoon, Thailand
Email: broker@thaimarine.com, tel (66-76) 273 464, 239 111, fax 238 974

ASIA PACIFIC
SPECIALIST INSURANCE SOLUTIONS
QBE THAILAND

**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

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

SPEEDBOAT
for sale. Fiberglass, Yamaha 115 outboard. Seats 4/6. For sale or long-term rent. Price negotiable. Cost 450,000 baht last year and has had little use. On trailer, ready to tow and use. Fully serviced. Email: adrianbrydson@yahoo.co.uk



Thai Flagged
36ft Flybridge
2 x 200 Hp Yamaha
THB 2,000,000

contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-273464

BOAT REQUIRED
for rent. To sleep 3 people, for tourists arriving October 21 for minimum of 1 week, to tour islands around Phuket. Email with rates and conditions. Tel: 44-820541. Email: pe001d4187@blueyonder.co.uk

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.

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

**SELL YOUR
BOAT TODAY!**

**REGISTER
YOUR YACHT
WITH
LEE MARINE**

Gib Sea 114



\$98,500 USD

Challenge 30



\$66,000 USD

Warwick 115



\$4,950,000 USD

Grand Banks 49



\$549,000 USD

Boat Lagoon
Andrew de Bruin 01 894 1530

Yacht Haven
Jim Poulsen 01 891 3237

email:
brokerage@leemarine.com
www.leemarine.com

LMB 00064PG - Leading Edge Media



Jeanneau Sundance 36
Fully equipped
Ready to sail
THB 2,520,000

contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-273464

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 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
01 273 2053 and 07 279 5636.

Business Opportunities

KATA BAR FOR SALE
Very nice bar located in the center of Kata. 6,000 baht/month and a 2-year contract. Price is 600,000 baht. Pls contact for details. Tel: 07-8814415. Email: christophuket@hotmail.com

KAMALA BEACH BAR
Well established, year-round restaurant/bar for sale in Kamala Beach. The 40-seat facility is fully equipped, well stocked and includes A/C, draft beer tap and a pizza oven. Priced at 1.2 million baht with a 7-year lease at 6,000 baht per month. Pls call after 4 pm for more details. Tel: 076-385940. Email: lewisowens1@hotmail.com

LAUNDRY IN KATA
4 sale. Good opportunity to own an established business that has many customers and is busy year round. Tel: 06-9511059.

GREAT RESTAURANT
& café. Best location in a busy area among many hotels and guesthouses. Big, 60-seat garden with rattan furniture. Everything is new and beautiful. Total area: 200sqm. 40,000 baht per month rent with a 4-year contract. 2.7 million or make me an offer. Relocating, need to sell quickly. Tel: 09-8093566. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT 4 SALE
In Karon. Fully equipped and includes 3 guest rooms in back, each with a toilet. 10,000 baht/month. Pls call for more info. Tel: 06-2692047.

PATONG
guesthouse. Small, easy-to-manage boutique-style guesthouse in Patong. Over 5 years on lease, 1st-class plant & equipment. Very genuine business. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com

BUSINESS FOR RENT

Area w/5 houses, 5 apartments and bar/restaurant on Soi Nanai available on a 12-or-more-year contract. Pls mail for info. Email phuketopportunity@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

RESTAURANT
for rent. New restaurant in Kamala, fully equipped with a long, new lease. Tel: 076-279111, 01-8934911. Fax: 076-279112. Email: theclub@granis.net

Business Products & Services

INT'L DRIVERS LICENSE

5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years; or 6,000 baht for validity up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-0068736.

VISA AND DATING

service. Fiancé, settlement and Schengen visas: 6 years' experience. Looking for a Thai girlfriend? Tel: 076-248626, 07-2679780. Fax: 076-248626. Email: admin@phuketdeafagle.com

DAY TRIP RANONG: 1,300 BAHT

Tour bus with big seats-not a minibus. Price includes lunch, dinner and snacks on board. No extra charges. Pls call for details and bookings. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

SECURE DATA

backup. Secure your critical data. Documents, photos, music and data require safeguarding. Power surges, hardware problems and human error means lost data. Backup services starting under 1,000 baht. Tel: 076-282486, 09-0093524. Email: tech_savvy@myway.com

Don't miss....

Issues

Answers

www.phuketgazette.net/
issuesanswers/index.asp

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.

COMPUTERS

and lcd monitor. Cel-400 (basic: 5,900 baht) and Cel-733 (loaded: 9,600 baht). Both computers include mouse, 15" CRT monitor and keyboard. Also have 15" Panasonic LCD monitor. Asking only 6,900 baht. Tel: 076-282486, 09-0093524. Email: cessauna@yahoo.com

COMPAQ PRESARIO

notebook. For sale: Presario 1500AP notebook. 2.25Ghz Pentium 4 with new 40GB hard drive. DVD/CD writer. Windows XP with original system disks. 2 years old. Always used with external monitor and keyboard, so internal screen and keyboard untouched. 30,000baht. Tel: 01-9782025. Email: tonydaniels@email.com

Personal Services Wanted

CARER FOR ELDERLY
person. Need reliable, compassionate, skilled full-time caregivers for combative dementia patient. Some English required. Interviews in Karon in mid-October for immediate start. Email: catmilan@aol.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

partners. Retired businessman is looking for playing partners on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

SINGLES CLUB

seeks new male and female members. Pls email for info. Email: khunmiealsingles@hotmail.com

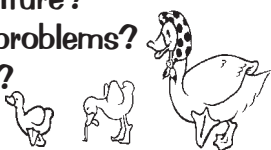
LOOKING FOR A NICE
guy. I am Lin. I am 20 years old and am looking for a nice guy, preferably from Austria, Germany or Switzerland. But all other nationalities are also welcome. Just write me an email; I will reply to all messages and will send a picture in my first reply. Please do also send me a picture. Email: hokyok_saeang@hotmail.com



Do Not Drink Tap Water!

ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

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



Read her advice in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Fax 076-213971 or email momma@phuketgazette.net

View Thailand's LARGEST portfolio of Classified Ads – almost 2,000 of them – and place your ad for **FREE!** See the *Phuket Gazette Online* at www.phuketgazette.net

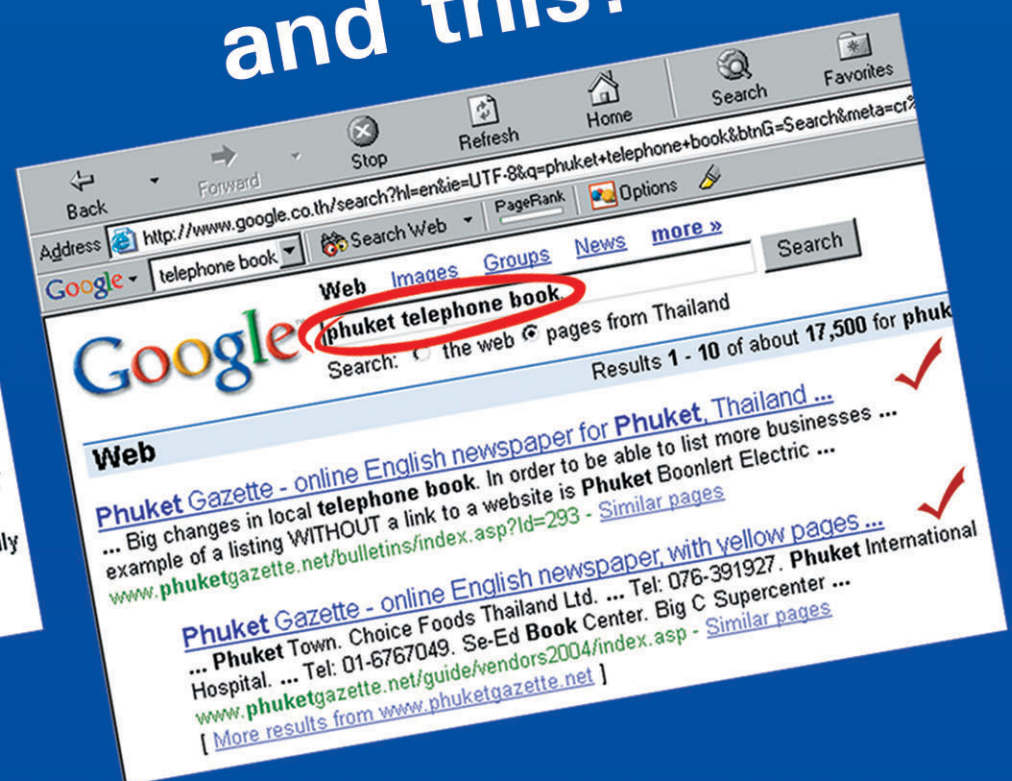
**Place your Wheels & Motors ad online
and it will appear in the next available issue
of the Phuket Gazette, free of charge.**

Where else can your business get **Exposure** like this?

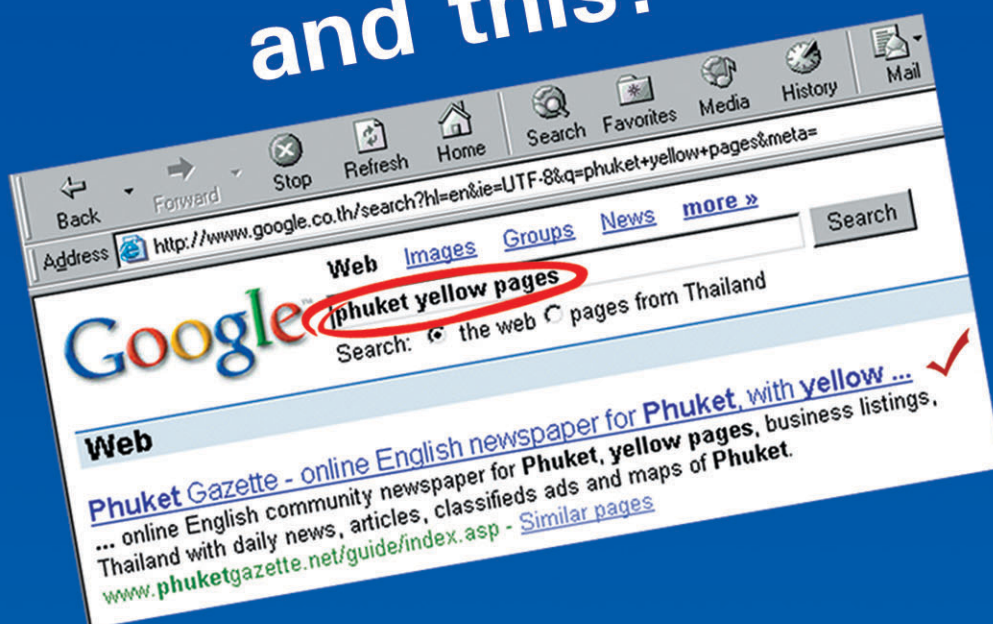
and this?



and this?



and this?



and this?



Don't miss the deadline for listings: 30 October 2004 !

Enter/Update your listing NOW at: **PhuketGazette.Net/Guide**