

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 45

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

November 6 - 12, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The **Nation**

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Plans to solve landslides and flooding; B63bn scheme for Phuket Bay.

Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: A stirring story of wartime derring-do.

Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE ISLAND: Say "didgeridoo" not "didgeridon't"

Page 6

AROUND THE REGION: Mudslides and hysteria hit Krabi.

Page 8

PEOPLE: Around the world on two wheels.

Pages 10 & 11

LIFESTYLE: Hair-raising tips; Foody facial fun.

Pages 12

FIRST PERSON: Why Rawai should be the dead center of Phuket.

Page 21

STOOL PIGEON: Charity begins and ends in Patong.

Page 22

BUSINESS & MONEY: Rubber bounces back; Money Talks; On the Move.

Page 23

DIVING: Cementing friendly ties with Myanmar.

Page 24

GOOD LIVING: A proper Kopi shop in Phuket City.

Page 29

PROPERTY: Construction Update: Wichit; Home of the Week: Patong.

Pages 30 & 31

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 4; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; HEARD & SCENE 14; HOROSCOPES 15; THAILAND TRAVELER 16; KIDS 17; COMPUTERS, LAW 18; BOOKS 19; EDITORIAL & LETTERS 20; ISSUES & ANSWERS 21; TOON TOWN 22; SPORT 24 & 25; MOTORING 26; WINE 29; GARDENING 32; CLASSIFIEDS 33-39.

2 am reprieve for night life



Nothing was going to stop Patong enjoying its annual carnival. Photo by Boonrat Apiwattananorn

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PATONG: Entertainment venues in Patong and Kata-Karon on October 28 won an interim "unofficial" reprieve from the Governor, who said they may stay open until 2 am.

In return, venue owners agreed to call off their work stoppage and protest at the football field on Thawewong Rd.

After meeting with Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, Sompetch Moosophon, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), told the *Gazette* that entertainment venues in Patong would be "unofficially" allowed to stay open until 2 am.

He said Gov Udomsak had asked in return for the protest at the football field to be cancelled,

and for entertainment venue owners to wait "one or two weeks" for the Cabinet to come to a decision on the matter.

"The Governor has asked the Cabinet to extend the closing time to 3 am, which I believe they will approve," he said.

"But that's not enough. It's not what we want; we need [to trade until] 4 am."

PEBA Secretary Pratheep Rerksonroj told the *Gazette*, "The Governor seemed to be very worried about the situation in Narathiwat, and concerned that the protest [in Patong] might create an impression of violence. He asked us to stop [the protest] because it might affect tourism, and we accepted that."

"We will open tonight as usual," he added.

The reprieve applies only

to venues in the entertainment zones in Patong and Kata-Karon.

Few in Patong seem convinced that the reprieve will last. On its website, the long established Rock Hard Go Go Bar and Café commented: "Another strike will likely be inevitable, and bar owners are ready to continue the fight against these two-faced incompetent b*****s."

"If it was up to us, Rock Hard would not have canceled the next protest rally..."

"[The government] should fix their long-ignored internal problems instead of attacking tourism and businessmen. They should increase the police presence in high-volume tourist areas and hotels to protect tourists rather than directing them onto the highways at 12:45 am."

Carnival pictures: page 2

Phuket is totally safe, says chief of police

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: The island's highest-ranking police officer gave his assurance on October 27 that there is no possibility of the recent violence in the Deep South spreading north to Phuket.

The violence, said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Suwitt Othong, remains confined to the three troubled southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

He said it was "impossible" for an event similar to the recent tragedy that occurred in Narathiwat's Tak Bai District to occur in Phuket because the area of conflict is almost 500 kilometers away.

"There are no known linkages between the Muslim separatist elements there and Phuket's Muslim community," he said. "Phuket is 100% safe from the violence."

He added, however, that Phuket police were constantly reviewing the security situation and continually collect intelligence about activities that might be related to unrest in the Deep South.

"Although many people visit Phuket, they just come here for tourism - not terrorism. We already have security measures in place, but we do not need to publicize [the details] because we don't want to scare people who might not know the real [secure] situation," he said.

"What would be the aim of terrorists in Phuket?" he asked rhetorically. "Terrorists need to work in extensive networks, but Muslim communities vary from area to area in the South. I don't believe there are any networks or

Continued on page 2

Patong ushers in the high season



Despite continuing uncertainty over the government's plans for early closing times, Patong marked the beginning of the high season in typically high-spirited

fashion with activities including stage shows on Soi Bangla (left), parades (center) and a mini-marathon.

Phuket '100pc safe' – top cop

From page 1

individuals linked with the violence in the [deep] south here."

He added that he had spoken with local Imams and had received good cooperation from local Muslim communities. He also pointed to the non-violent nature of the recent protests in Phuket [over the early closing of entertainment venues] as evidence of the peaceful state of affairs here.

Manoch Panchalad, Secretary of Phuket Islamic Committee, told the *Gazette* that local Muslim people have been deeply moved by the events in Tak Bai, where at least 84 protesters died in recent clashes with police and army – 78 after they had already been taken into custody.

"The problem should be over," K. Manoch said. "Can't the government solve this problem? Muslim people in Phuket are concerned, but we won't take any action. Islam teaches us to remain at peace."

Plans to solve landslide and flooding problems

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: The Chief of the Phuket Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), Metha Mekarat, has outlined both short- and long-term plans that he hopes will reduce the incidence of flooding and landslides in Phuket.

K. Metha told the *Gazette* that the recent flooding and landslides were caused both by nature and by human interference.

"Some housing projects have caused watercourses to become blocked and hillsides to be stripped of vegetation," said K. Metha.

Describing these problems

as "not major", he said that the ODPM had used data from the Department of Mineral Resources, which carried out surveys over the past 12 months to identify risk areas.

The surveys found six locations along the road between Kalim and Patong that are particularly susceptible to flooding and landslides.

A further eight areas along Phra Barami Rd and Ao Por La ngka Daeng Rd in Patong are also at risk from landslides "before too long," K. Metha said.

Strategies to minimize the effect of deforestation will include covering high-risk hillsides with protective mesh.

Long-term plans include reducing the incline of entire hillsides in the risk areas.

K. Metha said Governor Udomsak Usawarakura has already set up a committee to identify and inspect all of the building developments that may have caused deforestation or blockages to watercourses.

The committee will, according to K. Metha, make "recommendations" to project developers that they solve the problems they have caused. It will, however, have no power to enforce its recommendations.

Traffic law crackdown a boon for police

PHUKET: Statistics tallied from Phuket's eight police districts between June 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004 recorded a total of 139,320 traffic violations.

The central government designated the 16-month reporting period as a crackdown on traffic violators, during which police were charged with establishing checkpoints to inspect passing vehicles.

Chatchawan Munkolsri, Deputy Chief of the Phuket Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, reported the results to the Governor on October 27 at the monthly Chief Officers' Meeting.

The most common offenses were driving without a license (69,606 cases); not wearing a helmet (53,241 cases); and not wearing a seat belt (13,386 cases).

Not included in the report was the total amount collected in fines. Police officers are allowed to keep a maximum bounty of 10,000 baht each month each from the fines they issue, up from 3,800 baht just before the crackdown went into effect.

Phuket City Police recorded the most violations (37,430), followed by Kathu (32,109) and Thalang (21,131).

– Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Plague of bugs hits coconut trees

PHUKET: Phuket's coconut trees have been attacked by an estimated one billion coconut hispine beetles this year.

Songwat Tiwthao, of the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office, told the *Gazette* that the problem was a new phenomenon, with the beetles (scientific name *brontispa longissima*) being found in Phuket only during the past two years. The biggest problem areas are Chalong and Rawai.

The coconut hispine beetle is black and smaller than a housefly. It has a lifespan of only one month, but reproduces rapidly.

Often, as many as 100 beetles will gather on one coconut tree.

"This insect is widespread in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam," said K. Songwat. "The biggest population in Thailand is found on Koh Samui."

"We have had many complaints about the beetles from local people, but because of the height of the trees it's difficult to treat them with pesticide, especially when there are so many more of these insects this year."

"The tree will still produce fruit; it's just the new leaves at the top that are damaged."

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

Aqp.Media Advertising

Reach your target market.... Contact us now !

**Airport advertising
Billboards for rent
Vinyl inkjet**

Tel: 01-8924735, 076-244095
Email: gm@aqpmedia.com www.aqpmedia.com

Coffee Lovers
Where Coffee and Tea Lovers Meet

- Robinson Department Store
- Samkong Branch
- Patong (near Royal Paradise Hotel)
- Patong (beach front)
- Kata (Kata Plaza Area)

Open daily 9.00 am. - 10.00 pm.

10% Discount

Law proposed to preserve Phang Nga

PHANG NGA: The government is debating a new law to preserve and enhance the environment in Phang Nga.

The Chief of the Phang Nga Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Jurin Inkeaw, said the law has been under consideration by the Office of the Council of State (OCS) since September. It will have to be presented to the Cabinet for approval before it can be enforced.

The proposed legislation would preserve land alongside Highway 4 (Phetkasem Rd) between Kuraburi district and Thapput district, and the sea between these two points, for a distance of 3 km from the shore. The law would apply also to three islands off Phang Nga – Koh Phra Thong, Koh Ra and Koh Yao.

The law would prohibit activities that could harm the environment in this area, such as the development of chemical factories, slaughterhouses and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) refilling stations and animal farming.

K. Jurin said building and development in the area would be controlled by the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, in line with a law that has been in force since 1995, and which specifies the maximum heights of buildings close to the shoreline.

The President of Phang Nga Tourist Association, Anupong Sa-Nguannam, said people in Phang Nga were waiting to see exactly what the new law would mean and the effect it would have on tourism in Phang Nga.

The proposed law makes no mention of the controversial "Landbridge" oil pipeline project, which would require an oil platform to be built in the sea off the coast of Phang Nga. Critics argue against the project on the grounds that any oil leak would severely damage the environment for miles around. The proposal also makes no mention of a proposal to build an airport on Koh Phra Tong.

Crackdown on illegal guides

PHUKET: The authorities in Phuket have launched a crackdown on illegal foreign tour guides, particularly Koreans.

In the past there was a shortage of Korean-speaking Thais to act as guides, so Korean guides were allowed to fill the gap.

But this year, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization has provided Korean language training to 200 Thais.

The province's Chief Administrative Officer (Palad), Vichan Busapavanich, said, "If we find people who are breaking the law we will arrest them."

B63bn Ao Phuket plan to be put to Cabinet

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: The Ao Phuket Project committee agreed on November 1 to present to Cabinet for approval a plan to spend 63 billion baht on transforming Saphan Hin and Phuket Bay into a 2,216-rai mega-development.

The 14-person committee, headed by former Phuket Governor Prof Yuwath Wuthimethee, met at Provincial Hall to review the plan by construction consultants BBMT (Thailand).

The plan, which took two years to complete at a cost of 12 million baht, designates 10 areas:

a MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions) center, commercial offices, a food center with restaurants, a hotel and serviced apartments, a shopping mall, a "Cyber City", an entertainment complex, a sports center, a hospital and a marina.

The entire development, if approved, is expected to be complete within five years, after which, according to the plan, it will generate a return of 10 billion baht a year.

Prof Yuwath said that the committee will present the proposal at a Cabinet meeting expected to be held in Trang prov-

ince on December 15 and 16, or in January next year.

Committee member and former Phuket City Mayor Phum-misak Hongsyok called for local residents to support the plan. "Saphan Hin was used for tin mining for more than 200 years, which has left the land barren," he said.

But current Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that she was worried the plan would adversely affect local fishermen and city residents, and that she will raise these concerns at the next committee meeting, for which a date has yet to be set.



WANTED: Anthony "Dirk" De Weirtdt.

B2.3 million reward offered over gem heist

BANGKOK: CB Fine Jewelry is offering a reward of US\$50,000 for information leading to the arrest of Belgian national Anthony "Dirk" De Weirtdt, the company's former factory manager, in connection with the theft of gems and jewelry totaling 18 million baht.

Bangrak District Police issued an arrest warrant for De Weirtdt, 43, on October 26.

The theft is alleged to have taken place on October 23, although the disappearance was not noticed until three days later, because of the October 25 holiday.

Suspicion was aroused when De Weirtdt failed to arrive at work on October 26.

Police officers who visited De Weirtdt's apartment and a hotel room he had rented in the Sathorn area found that he had vacated them some days earlier.

De Weirtdt is thought to use several aliases, including Dominique Jean Denis Verbestel, and to have a British passport in the name of Richard P Branson.

Anyone having information about the crime or the suspect are asked to call – at any hour – Tel: 01-9363643 (English), 01-781-3115 (Dutch), 09-8938830 and 01-3473054 (Thai), or Email: info@carlblackburn.com

'Burmese Cemetery' claims 3 more

RASSADA: Three men were found dead in the space of two days in the area of Rassada Port, an area that has come to be known as the "Burmese Cemetery" because of the number of corpses found there, most believed to be Burmese.

Two were found on the morning of October 28, near the fishing docks in Tambon Rassada, and the third around 24 hours later.

Pol Lt Pattawut Onchuay of the Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* his department received a report of fighting involving several people just after midnight on October 28 and went to investigate.

The combatants fled, leaving behind the body of the first victim. Lt Pattawut said the man had apparently died of a massive head injury and subsequent bleeding.

At about 9:30 the same morning, the receding tide re-

Brit found dead in Patong

PATONG: Police are investigating the death of a Briton named by police as Steven Harris, 46, whose body was found in his room at the Monte Carlo Hotel on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd on October 29 at around 1 pm.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on November 1, Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of Kathu Police Station said that, accord-

ing to a doctor who made an initial examination of the body, Mr Harris's neck and right elbow were broken.

Col Boonlert also said that Birmingham-born Mr Harris was last seen alive at around 10 pm on October 26 at the Monte Carlo Hotel, where he had been a guest for about a month.

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

– Siripansa Somboon

a watermark **Phuket Gazette** event in association with

SPECIAL SHOW 3 COMEDIANS !!!

JOHN MOORHEAD presents direct from London's Comedy Circuit

THE PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB

Adults only www.punchlinecomedy.com

ANDY PARSONS **COLIN COLE** **PAUL THORNE**

Wednesday November 10
Watermark Bar Restaurant

Tickets 1,700 THB - Show starts 9:00 pm. 3 course set dinner 850 THB - 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm serving

Ticket outlets - Watermark, West One Salon (Big C), Club Asia Fitness (Royal Phuket City Hotel), Phuket Gazette Office, Pun Pun Natural Juice Bar (3rd floor Central), The Deli Patong, Peppers Bar (Cherngtalay), Wine Connection (Chalong)

TAWAN CRUISES **Holiday Inn Resort** **SEA** **The Nation**

www.tawancruises.com

The heritage of Relaxation.

Rawana

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

Queer News

Hunt for Beer

NATHON PATHOM: A gang of teenage thugs picked the wrong guy to attack and rob in the early hours of October 21. Their intended victim turned out to be an off-duty police officer with a loaded pistol.

At 3:30 am, the four gang members were riding their motorbikes slowly along Rajamankha Rd in Nakhon Pathom municipality, waiting for a victim to pounce on.

From behind them, on a motorcycle, approached unsuspecting off-duty police officer Pol Sgt Wanlop Thongkong, 28. As he tried to pass the youths, they cut in front of him, forcing him to slow down. One youth stuck a length of bamboo pole through the spokes of his motorcycle, sending bike and rider crashing to the pavement.

"After this they parked their motorcycles and ran right at me," said the officer. "They smashed a beer bottle over my head and stomped all over me. After that, they found my wallet and took all my money."

"But as they were trying to steal my motorbike too, I pulled out my gun and started firing. I just kept blasting away until all six bullets had been fired. Then I phoned in for help," said Sgt Wanlop.

When fellow police officers arrived, they found Sgt Wanlop sitting dazed by the side of the road, blood gushing from the wound to his head. Around him were three motorcycles – his own and two others left there by his assailants, who fled in terror when the bullets started flying.

Police rushed the fallen officer to Nakhon Pathom Hospital, leaving behind some officers at the scene of the crime. Some time later, one of the attackers – identified as 21-year-old Taweepol Pothinee – foolishly returned to collect his motorbike. He was immediately put under arrest.

Then, while Sgt Wanlop was being taken to hospital, their vehicle passed 21-year-old Bangkok native Nasathon Visuksakon, who was standing in the middle of the road, pathetically waving for help. He had been shot in the leg.

He was arrested, thrown into the vehicle, and taken along on the ride to hospital.

When they reached the hospital, nurses there told police that another young man had just been admitted for treatment of a gunshot wound to the stomach. Sgt Wanlop then identified the young man, 20-year-old Acharayu Cheanarom, as another of his assailants. He was also arrested. Three down and one to go.

Taweepol told investigators that he and his friends had been out drinking at a local pub when one of them came up with the bright idea of smashing somebody over the head "for fun". It was only when Sgt Wanlop started pumping lead into the youths that they realized he was a police officer.

Like most thugs, the teenagers were quick to rat out the fourth member of their posse, whom they knew only by his nickname, "Beer".

At the last report, police were still searching for him.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

PHUKET'S SUB

Just an hour or so by boat off Phuket's east coast lies Koh Dok Mai or "Flower Island", a popular day-trip diving destination.

Flower Island is described on one local dive operator's website as "...a small limestone islet rising vertically out of the sea. This dive site is mainly a wall dive to 30 meters, with the hard coral Staghorn Reef sloping to the west."

"On the east side of the island are a series of caverns and caves. Great for practicing penetration techniques, and maybe search and recovery!"

The last is an unwittingly accurate statement, for, lying hidden in the balmy tropical waters just to the southeast of Koh Dok Mai, is a maritime secret dating back 60 years to World War II.

In October 1944, as the war raged in Europe and as American and other Allied forces relentlessly battled to clear the Japanese from island after island in the Pacific, a lone British submarine headed for Phuket on a clandestine mission.

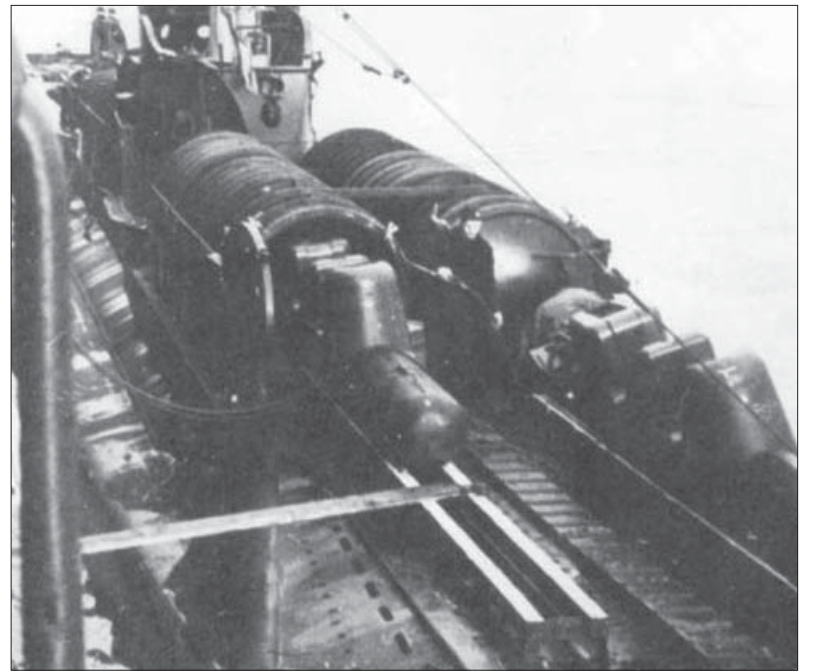
Shortly after dusk on October 27 – a calm night lit by a brilliant moon – the T-class submarine *HMS Trenchant* broke the surface of the still waters surrounding Koh Dok Mai.

The submarine's crew began preparing for the primary objective of their mission: an attack on two merchant ships under repair in the Phuket Harbor channels.

But this was to be no ordinary attack. Securely fastened onto *Trenchant's* hull was an unusual and deadly cargo, a pair of Mark II "chariots" – more commonly known as "human torpedoes".

Electrically propelled, the MK II chariot was operated by a two-man crew sitting astride the

The tropical waters around popular Phuket diving destination Koh Dok Mai are home not only to exotic marine life, but also, as **David Tuck** relates, to a hidden secret from a World War II mission that took place just over 60 years ago.



READY FOR THE OFF: Two "human torpedo" Chariots are loaded into special hangars on the deck of the mother submarine.

body of a torpedo, which carried a detachable 1,100-pound (499 kilogram) warhead intended for use as a limpet mine.

Upon reaching their objective, the crew would attach the warhead to the hull of the target before making their escape using the remainder of the chariot.

Unlike the X-class midget submarines, where the crew sat inside a watertight hull, chariot operators navigated to their target protected only by cumbersome wetsuits equipped with primitive breathing apparatus providing a six-hour air supply.

With final preparations completed, the two seven-meter chariots – the first – nicknamed "*Tiny*" – manned by Sub Lt AWC

Eldridge and Petty Officer S Woolcott, the second – "*Slasher*" – piloted by Petty Officer WS Smith and Ordinary Seaman A Brown, began their attack run to Phuket at 10 pm.

It was a nerve-wracking task. The designated launch position was around six and a half nautical miles (12 kilometers) from the target, but the MK II chariot had a top speed, surfaced, of just over four knots, or seven kilometers an hour. Underwater, forward movement was slower still.

As the chariots closed on their targets – the Italian merchant ships *Volpi* (5,292 tons) and *Sumatra* (4,859 tons) – the intense moonlight that had worked to their advantage during preparations aboard *Trenchant* now made the risk of discovery greater with each passing moment.

With Phuket still occupied by the Japanese, summary execution was the likely fate awaiting any commando-style raider unlucky enough to be captured.

To minimize the chance of being spotted by enemy forces, the chariots began to submerge

A world of difference



Spa
-RELAXATION
-MASSAGE (33 JETS)
-HYDROTHERAPY



Sauna
"THE HEALTHY HEATWAVE"



Massauna
SAUNA
SHOWER
STEAM BATH
12 MASSAGING JETS



Hydrocab
SPA
STEAM BATH
SHOWERS

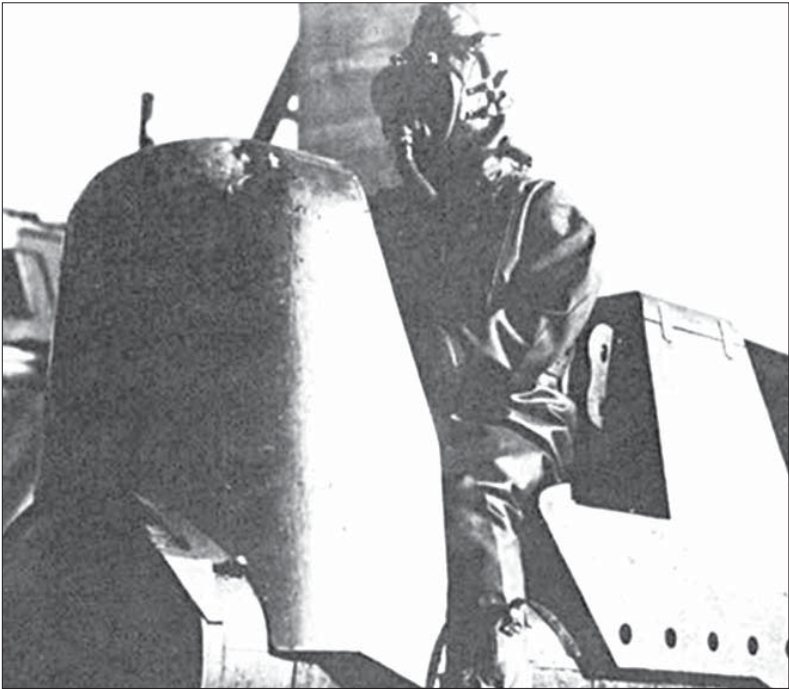
Central Festival 3rd floor
Tel: 076 224 444



PULLEEAAZE!

If you have a radio,
don't take it to the beach!

MERGED WWII SECRET



BOMBS AWAY: Close up of a Mark I Chariot minus its warhead. Due to wartime secrecy, there appear to be no contemporary photos of the Mark II version used in the Phuket attack.



STATE OF THE ART: With the Mark I Chariot, the crew sat astride the torpedo (above). With the Mark II, they sat half inside it, but still needed to wear the cumbersome diving suits.

for longer periods until, when almost 500m from the *Sumatra*, Sub Lt Eldridge began his final dive and attack run.

Maneuvering gingerly under the ship's keel, the charioteers clamped the explosive warhead to the vessel.

Nearby, PO Smith, having tried to dive under the *Volpi* but, finding insufficient clearance between the keel and the seabed, attached his charge to a nearby stanchion.

Timed fuses set, both chariots began the slow journey back to the *Trenchant*, silently waiting for them 12.5km away, close to Koh Dok Mai.

The return was, fortunately, uneventful until, when safely alongside the *Trenchant* and preparing to place the chariots on their travel chocks, danger loomed.

Listening intently on his headset, the submarine's sonar

operator heard the unmistakable noise of an approaching motor torpedo boat's screws.

Hurriedly, the chariot crews were helped aboard. With no time to waste, the decision was made to scuttle the chariots at the rendezvous point.

The disappointment of losing the chariots was quickly dispelled when, at 6:30 the following morning, two distant explosions reverberated through the hull of the submerged submarine.

Rising to periscope depth, her captain, Lt Cdr (later Vice-Admiral Sir) Arthur "Baldy" Hezlet – at 29 one of the youngest Royal Navy submarine commanders and a veteran of the 1943 X-craft attack on the German battleship *Tirpitz* – watched with satisfaction as the broken-backed *Sumatra* sank. The *Volpi* was so seriously damaged that no further efforts were made to repair her.

The Phuket chariot operation were undeniably a resounding success.

Sub Lt Eldridge was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and his three fellow charioteers were each awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The attack would also turn out to be the last British chariot operation of WWII.

There was irony in the target vessels being Italian, for it was the Italian Navy that had pioneered the use of human torpedoes.

In development since 1935, the Italian human torpedoes had their greatest success in November 1941, when three *siluri a lenta corsa* or "slow course torpedoes" (also known by their crews as *maiale*, or "pigs") penetrated the harbor at Alexandria and sank the British warships *Queen Elizabeth* and *Valiant*.

The British chariot program was developed in direct response to the Italian successes.

British wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill saw the potential of human torpedoes, and in April 1942, 60 men were

recruited to form the Experimental Submarine Flotilla and to train in the frigid waters of Scotland's Loch Erisort and Loch Cairnbawn.

British chariots would, all told, take part in nine operations, all of which – with the exception of the Phuket attack – took place in European waters.

By October 1944, the captain and crew of *HMS Trenchant*, operating from their base at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, the wartime HQ for the British Fourth Submarine Flotilla, were no strangers to combat and clandestine missions.

Just one month earlier, they surprised and sank the German sub *U-859* off Penang.

On the same patrol they also laid a minefield and landed Special Boat Section (now Squadron) commandos on the north coast of Sumatra. The commandos destroyed a bridge over the River Peudana.

But *HMS Trenchant* would achieve even greater fame in the closing stages of the war when, on June 8, 1945 she torpedoed the 13,300-ton Japanese heavy

cruiser *Ashigara* in the Banka Strait at the southern entrance to the Strait of Malacca.

The *Ashigara* was the largest enemy warship to be sunk by a British submarine during WWII and her destruction saw Lt Cmdr Hezlet win a second DSO and the US Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander), the highest honor the US could bestow upon a foreign commander.

As the years passed following the end of WWII, the story of the chariot attack on Phuket became little more than a footnote in the broader history of the global conflict.

No working examples of the British human torpedo survived the war, most being either destroyed or lost on operations, and in most cases where a chariot was lost, its resting place is unknown.

The Phuket operation, however, was distinguished not only by its destruction of the *Sumatra* and *Volpi*, but also because it was the only occasion on which the attacking chariots returned safely to their submarine.

Sixty years after the attack, the *Trenchant*'s navigating officer, Lt Cdr Robert Read DSC RN (Retd), recalls the events and the chariots' location.

"Having seen the chariots off, we moved to await their return at our rendezvous point 1.4 nautical miles from Koh Dok Mai, which lay off our position on a heading of 309 degrees," Lt Cdr Read told me from his home in the US.

So while "search and recovery" of a WWII human torpedo may not be what the local dive company had in mind, we now know that the waters around Koh Dok Mai are home not just to exotic sealife, but also to what may well be the only examples of this wartime secret weapon.

For more information on human torpedo operations, Visit www.underwatertrust.org.uk or www.edencamp.co.uk



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...



**Dreamtime
Aboriginal Art Exhibition**

Friday 29th October to Wednesday 17th November
Secondary School Foyer

On loan to Dulwich International College from the Australian Embassy
Everybody WelCome

IB World School, accredited by WES, member of ECIS, FOBISSEA and COBISSEC
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



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 Anongnat Sartpisut

Visitors heading for Laem Phromthep could be forgiven for thinking they have overshot their target and ended up in the Australian Outback instead when they see Nattaphon "Sun" Nasrito and Arun "Dam" Sangkaew there with their didgeridoos.

That most Australian of instruments has now found a niche in the Phuket music scene, thanks partly to K. Sun, a jewelry shop owner, and to K. Dum, an artist and owner of the 75 Satang gallery.

After nearly 25 years playing music in school bands and pubs, K. Sun got to grips with the didgeridoo two years ago, thanks to an Australian Aborigine friend of K. Dam's.

"I was intrigued by this strange new instrument," K. Sun recalls. "I needed to learn how to control my breathing; some musicians can blow all day. I play several instruments, but I especially love the didgeridoo."

"Anyone who wants to play successfully should have a strong body and a strong mind. He should be open-minded about new things, and be prepared to concentrate and practice a lot."

"But once you can play, you'll find it's very relaxing, stress-relieving. It's also good for scuba divers and swimmers, as it helps improve breathing."

In September, K. Dam and K. Sun, together with Wuttichai Klongyut and Pongkaew Kaewkhiew, gave the island its first formal didgeridoo performance, at the Roi Sin Tin Phuket arts show staged by the Andaman Art Club of Phuket at Lan Nawamin Square in Phuket City.



EUCALYPTUS EUPHORIA: From left, Pongkaew Kaewkhiew, Arun Sangkaew, Wuttichai Klongyut and Nattaphon Nasrito (in this case on congas) perform at Lan Nawamin Square.

A BLOW FOR WORLD MUSIC

K. Dam and K. Sun also give informal performances at Laem Phromthep every Friday and Saturday evening, and have issued an open invitation to anyone interested in handling a didgeridoo to join them.

Although K. Sun's day job

is as a designer of clothes and accessories, he is keen to share his passion for music with others. "We've played in Bangkok, at Chatuchak Market and on Khao San Rd, and we play from our hearts. We want people to know about our music," he says.

Coming to Phuket fired K. Dam's enthusiasm for the didgeridoo. He says, "I used to play the didgeridoo on Khao San Rd. My friend played it and I began to play too, although I wasn't too keen at first."

"Then I came to Phuket to

work in my friend's bar. My friend also played the didgeridoo, and I became more enthusiastic. I'd practise all day and night. I liked the way it make me concentrate, and yet was also relaxing."

"With a didgeridoo, there's just one hole to blow into, and it takes skill to make more than just a couple of notes, but if you practise, you can make a variety of sounds, and all kinds of music."

He adds, "It's up to the individual how much he practices, but if you aren't skillful, you can't make the sounds, so if you want to play properly, you have to practise a lot."

"The thing about the didgeridoo is that, even though it's just a hole, you make make it play a whole scale, doh, ray, me, fah, sol, la, ti, doh, from high to low. It can make all the sounds any other instrument can."

"Each sound can be long, arched, horizontal or vertical and so on. Nature gave eucalyptus – which is what didgeridoos are made from – a natural echo. We say we're not producing a voice from the wood, we're finding the voice that's already in it, and making it into music."

"I've played the didgeridoo for about five or six years now; I play every night, to a CD. I do it because I have to practise, but I also do it because I want to, and I do it in my free time."

"I'm also now learning the fipple flute [*krui*]. I would like to learn all wind instruments."

Anyone interested in learning to play the didgeridoo can meet K. Sun and K. Dam at Laem Phromthep on Fridays and Saturdays at 5 pm, or can contact K. Sun at Tel: 06-5263085, or call in at the "Muanda" shop in Chalong, opposite the police station.

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

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



Police target thieves on buses

Tourists are being warned to be on the lookout for thieves while traveling on buses and vans heading from Bangkok to southern tourist destinations.

Maj Gen Panya Mamen, Chief of the Tourist Police, said he had received reports of many thefts in which thieves lure tourists into a trap by offering them cheap rides from Bangkok to destinations in the South.

To prevent the thefts, police are handing out warning brochures to tourists, setting up checkpoints on roads to the South and placing plainclothes officers aboard tourist vans and buses. They have also asked the Land Transport Department to keep a close watch on transport operators.

Down up north: The North suffers from the highest suicide rate among all of the regions in Thailand, it was revealed at a seminar on suicide prevention. The North's suicide rate is higher than 15 for every 100,000 people, about double the rate in other parts of the country.

Department of Mental Health Director Somchai Jakrapandhu said suicides were linked to conditions such as HIV/Aids, alcohol dependence and depression.

Most suicide victims were aged 20 and above and experiencing family and social problems, followed by elderly people facing physical difficulties. Poison, including pesticides, and tranquilizers are the most common means of suicide.

However, K. Somchai said Thailand's suicide rate was not very high compared with that of other countries, such as Japan, which has the highest rate in the industrialized world at 24 per 100,000 people.

What's up, doc? The Medical Council plans to use its Center for Continuing Medical Education to help doctors cope with their own physical and mental problems in a bid to curb their high rate of suicide.

The center's director Prof Dr Somkiat Wattasirichaigoon said doctors could check their



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Well-known dwarf comic Somchai Janjua (inset), 38, died when a vocational school student hurled a rock through the windshield of his van while on his way to a performance in Ayudhya. The diminutive star suffered a head injury and later died in hospital. The student said he threw the rock in a fit of rage after the van high-beamed him – while he was riding his motorbike on the wrong side of the road. He claimed he had the rock with him because he “planned to throw it at a dog”. Police also arrested four fellow members of his gang.

mental health via a number of psychological tests posted on the center's website or call in problems on a telephone hotline.

Medical Council research shows that nearly half of doctors that commit suicide avoided seeking professional help and that the incidence of suicide among doctors is about six times higher than that in the general population, he said.

K. Somkiat said psychiatrists were found to have the highest suicide rate of all doctors.

Fallen felines: Sri Racha Tiger Zoo plans to build a Tiger Monument dedicated to almost 100 tigers that died from bird 'flu or had to be put down because of the outbreak.

The memorial will be erected at the tigers' burial site after it was announced that the zoo's outbreak was under control.

“The culled tigers are like heroes who sacrificed themselves for the survival of the others,” said the manager.

Of the 83 tigers that died, 39 died from the virus and 44

from the cull. The remaining 358 animals have been given medicine used in the treatment of pneumonia in humans. The animals contracted the disease by eating infected chicken carcasses.

Radio free Dharma: Deputy Prime Minister Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh promised to ensure that Buddhist monks would be able to resume giving sermons on state-run radio – following a ban in July that resulted from a sermon critical of the government.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra later denied his involvement in the ban, although he challenged monks to defrock and join a political party if they were critical of his government and wanted to challenge his policies.

Gen Chavalit said he had just learned that the ban was still in effect despite mounting political pressure on the government to lift it.

“I promise that I will bring the issue to the Cabinet's attention so that monks will be allowed to use the medium to disseminate Buddhism,” he said, adding that PM Thaksin had a policy of encouraging the use of Buddhism for national development.

High and dry? The Land Development Department warned that a series of droughts is risking turning almost seven million rai of land into desert.

Department Director Ard Somrang said lack of rain had already caused arid conditions in several parts of the country. He said his department found through surveys that many areas were suffering from repeated rain shortages, which could eventually result in desertification.

He said the survey found that 6.93 million rai – or 2.17% of all farmland – was in danger because of repeated droughts.

K. Ard said the affected areas covered more than 100 square kilometers in 18 provinces, with Nan, Phetchaboon, Chiang Mai, Phitsanulok and Nakhon Ratchasima at greatest risk.

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

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.



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

Anda Spa
10% on spa package only.
Tel: 076-340530

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



The finest steak & salad Bar on the island. A superb selection of imported steaks, fresh salads and toothsome desserts complemented by a superb choice of wines from our extensive cellar. Open daily from 18:00 - 22:15 hrs.

For reservations and more information, please call our reception desk.



Holiday Inn Resort Phuket
52 Thaweewong Road, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150, Thailand tel +66 (0) 7634 0608 fax +66 (0) 7634 0435
e-mail holiday@phuket.ksc.co.th website phuket.holiday-inn.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

The biggest news on the streets recently was about the mudslides that hit Krabi Province, and true to form, the stories got bigger as time went on.

The major mudslide that took three lives and destroyed several houses and other property happened in Khao Khram, about 20 kilometers from Ao Nang. There were several smaller mudslides in Ao Nang, but the first that most residents knew about them was when rumors filtered into town that roads might be blocked by mud.

One mudslide fell onto the back of the Viking Steak House, which is on the soi that runs behind the Ao Nang beach road. Officials closed the restaurant until the trees and debris could be cleared.

Another fell onto the back of Sabai Mansion Resort, which is about 100 meters up the road from McDonald's. In neither case was anyone hurt, but the hysteria mounted, a typical overreaction to a problem that has been with us for years, and ignored: land mismanagement and encroachment on the mountains, with clear-cutting of trees creating conditions ripe for land ero-

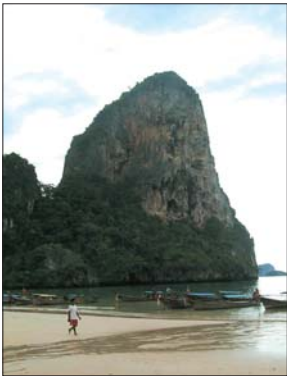
sion during the rainy season.

The individuals whose property was affected by the mudslides noted the usual finger-pointing by various government agencies, but within a few weeks the issue will probably be forgotten.

The danger may pass with the end of the rainy season, but without a unified, well planned approach to the land erosion problem, maybe Ao Nang won't be so lucky next rainy season.

Better late than never: Work has continued on the project started last year to widen the beach road, install rain drains and build a sidewalk. Last year's construction started at the beach, and made it up past McDonald's before the money ran out.

The project was resumed... but not until September. The recent rains have shown the need for a drainage system, and the new sidewalks are a welcome addition and improve pedestrian



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds



The Sabai Mansion Resort was a victim of mudslides in Ao Nang.

safety, but the question remains: Why did the construction begin in September and not earlier?

Local hotels, restaurants and businesses have been gearing up for the high season doing maintenance, painting and refurbishing, but these tasks are made more difficult by the backhoes and tons of dirt piled in one's front yard.

In several instances, hotels and restaurants had their entrances blocked for days at a time. Other businesses are waiting for the project to be completed so they can finish their

own maintenance work, but the word is this won't be until late December or early January ... or maybe in time for Songkran.

Little Italy: Common sense would dictate that Ao Nang doesn't need another Italian restaurant; at the last count, the town already had 12, and there were rumors that Pizza Company was to open a branch soon.

A number of these restaurants are run by non-Italians, who sell pizza to the budget tourist trade, but bucking the trend is Umberto Barbieri, ex-chef of the

Lavinia Restaurant, who has just opened his own place, Lo Spuntino, just up the road from the Phra Nang Inn.

Umberto is certainly passionate about his food. Although he went to cooking school in Italy, he says he learned the art of making homemade pasta from his uncle. Apparently, in the Barbieri household, adults and children alike spent Sunday afternoons making pasta.

So if you have a craving for real Italian food, take a stroll down to Lo Spuntino.

Little Germany: October 23 and 24 saw the return of the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort Oktoberfest.

The grounds were filled with food kiosks serving authentic German food and the beer – kegs of German draft flown in for the occasion – flowed freely.

There were lots of games and prizes, the most noteworthy being the team beer-speed-drinking contest, won by a team of two Thais and a Dutchman, who outdrank all opponents – including several German heavyweights.

F&B Manager Bernhard Langer said the festival's popularity will ensure its return next year. We'll drink to that.



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pruerk-pirom

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 298 sq.m.



Pruerk-lawan

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 348 sq.m.



Pruerk-umpai

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 382 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Special price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	Contract (baht)	70% Last payment (baht)
Pruerk-pirom	99.6	10,500,000	100,000	3,050,000	7,350,000
Pruerk-lawan	112.6	11,850,000	100,000	3,455,000	8,295,000
Pruerk-umpai	157.80	14,480,000	100,000	4,244,000	10,136,000



New lakeside homes

For further information please contact our office

Tel: 076-381150-2 Fax: 076-381111

Email: info@lhphuket.com

<http://www.lhphuket.com>

Free sports complex membership
(4 persons/1 unit)

Location Map



This week



ATTORNEYS AT WAR: Pramarn Luangwattanawanich (left) and Wanchai Sornsiri, two lawyers well known to Thai TV viewers, helped to raise more than 1 million baht for the children of military recruiting officers at a charity show at the Royal Phuket City Hotel recently.

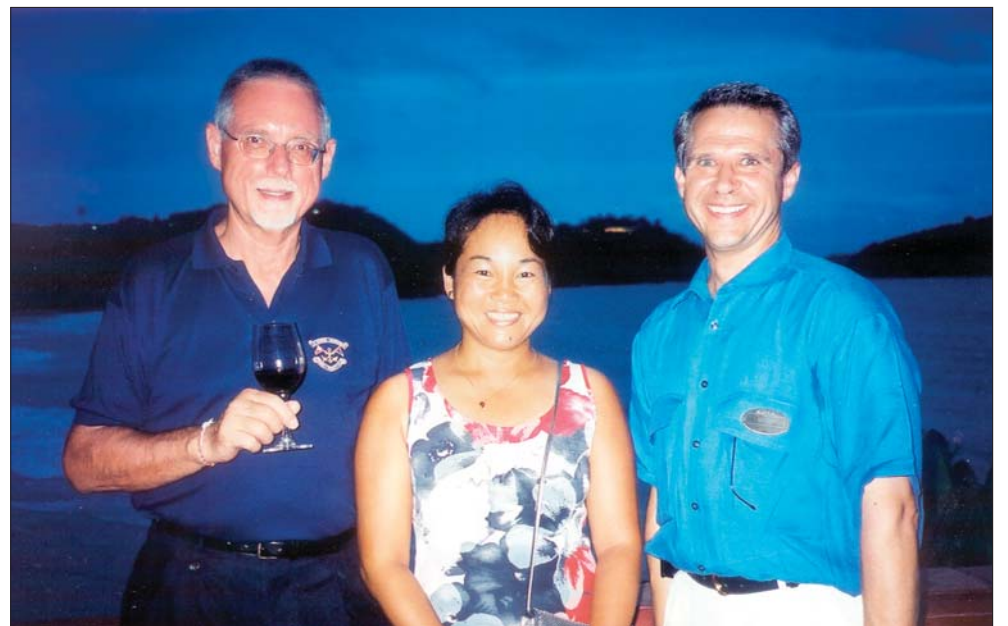
BABY BOY JOY: Baby Jackson "JJ" Plant enjoys his one-month welcome party with dad Robin Plant and mum Supaireen Jitsonah (holding cake) at their Surin Beach restaurant, Carmen, recently, with godmother Linda Cawley and friends wishing the family well.



COCK AND BULL: (from left) Steve Stokes, Dominique and Mike Reynolds, Whispering Cock owner John Woodger and his wife Ratee, Cassius Rolfe-Johnson and Franziska Hoppe celebrate the sixth anniversary of the pub as well as K. Ratee's birthday recently.



CANCER CARE: Among others at the recent soft opening of Bangkok Phuket Hospital's Cancer Center are Phuket Chamber of Commerce Chairman Pamuke Achariyachai (2nd from left) and Dr Prasit Koeysiripong (2nd from right).



BEAT THAT! (above) Jürgen Mehr and his wife Pratoom (left and center, respectively), are welcomed by Le Royal Meridien Yacht Club Resident Manager Andre Bruhart for the couple's sixth visit to the hotel.

WOODY'S SOFT OPENING: Computer guru, expert baker and *Gazette* columnist Woody Leonhard (back row, 2nd from right), and his multi-talented bakers at the soft opening of Khun Woody's Bakery in Patong.



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



INTERNA

By Anongnat Sartpisut

Thailand is a popular stopping-off point for people on round-the-world trips, but it's unlikely many travelers have arrived in the country the way Belgian Thierry Bodson has – on a bicycle ridden all the way from Belgium.

Since leaving Brussels on June 20 last year, Thierry has pedaled through Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Laos and Cambodia.

He stopped off in Phuket on his journey through Thailand en route to Singapore. By the time he gets there, he will have pedaled 26,000 kilometers.

Thierry told the *Gazette*: "I'm doing this trip by bicycle because I am very curious to know my planet ... it's worth spending time in your life to discover the planet and the people who live on it, the different cultures, mentalities and religions."

"I am very interested to meet people who are very different to myself, to try to understand them and to enjoy and share the moment together."

He continued, "Because it's so slow, a bicycle is a great way to see the landscape and connect with nature, and you don't produce noise; you don't contaminate anything."

"It's nice to cross any country or continent by bicycle. It's like climbing mountains; you have special satisfaction when you do it by yourself without any help, more than you do if you go by aeroplane, helicopter or whatever."

Thierry's first marathon cycling trip – "A long time ago," he said – was from Greece to France. Next he cycled around India, before tackling a 5,500-km 23-month trip from Alaska to Argentina. This American odyssey was, he said, "very interesting, because I crossed the planet

Left, from top, Thierry Bodson in China, near the Mongolian border, in Kazakhstan and in the snows of Kyrgyzstan.



from very cold places to hot ones."

He continued, "When you cycle, you are made very welcome in many places, because people are curious about why you are cycling. In fact, it is a good way to get in contact with people."

"But my main problem touring Asia is communication because I can speak only English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. In Asia, only a few people can speak English."

"When I was in the Americas, I could speak to anybody, in English or Spanish or Portuguese, but the less you are able to communicate with people, the less opportunity you have to get to know them."

He added, "When I talk of Asia, I mean from Turkey to here. Asia is a very rich continent of many cultures. You have all kind of cultures, from European to Far Eastern, with different religions: Hinduism, Christianity, Taoism, Buddhism, Islam ..."

He said it felt "very special"



THE BAY HOTEL
At Cape Panwa, Phuket

Phuket:
Tel: (66) 0-7639-1514 Fax: (66) 0-7639-1208
E-mail: gm@thebay-phuket.com

Bangkok Sales Office:
Tel: (66) 0-2233-3433, 0-2233-9560 Fax: (66) 0-2238-2988
E-mail: sales@thebay-phuket.com <http://www.thebay-phuket.com>

A FINE HOTEL THAT ALSO OFFERS STUDIO AND APARTMENT-STYLE ROOMS WITH PANTRIES

The Bay Winter Package

Now 01 November 2004 - 31 March 2005

Starting From Bht. **1,600.-**
Studio Room/night

- Rate includes breakfast and is applicable to residents of Thailand only
- Minimum stay of 2 nights – receive free one "Mongolian BBQ" dinner at Clockhouse
- Minimum stay of 3 nights – receive free one boat day trip to Coral Island (Excluding Lunch)

Peak season (Dec 20, '04-Jan 10, '05)
surcharge of 900 baht nett/room/night.

TIONAL SPOKESMAN



Left, the intrepid cyclist takes a break in Phuket. Above, with monks in Yunnan, China.

whether [my cycling] is a hobby or not. My work is important, but it is not the only thing that is important in my life.

Like most notable cyclists, Thierry sports a yellow jersey. This one, though, bears a logo

promoting human rights, and it is just as important to Thierry as *le maillot jaune* is to any Tour de France winner.

He said, "I like to wear this T-shirt on my trip because I like to bring this message to all the people I meet."

"Because I come from the West I'm not richer or cleverer. No, we are all equal, that is the

message I like to convey to all the people I meet on my way.

"Even in countries where people have no respect for human rights, I like to bring this message to them. That's why I wear this T-shirt while cycling."

Thierry Bodson can be contacted by email at: thierrybodson@yahoo.com

to cross China, because it is so big. "It's very challenging to cross a country with a huge population," he said.

Other highlights have included Beijing – "developing fast," said Thierry – Iran, with its Muslim architecture; Uzbekistan, the "very beautiful" mountains of Kyrgyzstan, and Thailand, "a very nice tropical country."

Each day has a surprise, according to Thierry. He said, "Yesterday I was surprised by the sunset, the day before yesterday, I was surprised because I met people I hadn't expected to meet."

He covers around 160km a day on good, flat roads and around half that on difficult terrain. "I spend a lot of time on my bicycle, eight or nine hours a day."

"You see the landscape, you stop to drink and talk with people. You think of time and about your future."

Cycling may be slower than taking the bus, but it's certainly more rewarding, Thierry said. "I

think it's boring when I get to sleep on a bus with air-conditioning. They put on a video and they close the curtains, so you don't see the country."

"Cycling lets you see everywhere, from every angle. You see the country."

He added, "I am very worried about polluting my planet, which is why I decided to do my trips by bicycle because motorbikes use petrol. A lot of petrol is used for transport, but on my trips I don't contaminate the environment."

Although he has no set plans after Singapore, Thierry may make this a round-the-world trip. "I would like to continue eastward back to Belgium," he said. "Carry on to Japan, Hawaii, the mainland United States, Canada and then Europe."

An agricultural engineer when he's not in the saddle, Thierry has worked in Africa, South America and Europe, but he quit his job to do this trip.

He said, "I don't know



QUEEN AIR BOOKING CENTER CO., LTD.

Your Travel Agent In Thailand (Since 1981)

Tel: 0-7634-0250 (Auto) Fax: 0-7634-1333 E-mail: queenabc@loxinfo.co.th
99/4 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150 (On corner of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd and Sai Nam Yen Rd).



CHEAPEST WORLDWIDE & DOMESTIC AIRLINES TICKETING

Best Deal On Airfares From Phuket or Bangkok (fares in US\$)

BANGKOK	52.-	CHRISTCHURCH	455.-	LONDON	277.-	OSLO	422.-	SYDNEY	268.-
SAMUI	44.-	COPENHAGEN	364.-	LOS ANGELES	311.-	PARIS	277.-	TAIPEI	142.-
CHIANG MAI	106.-	FRANKFURT	277.-	LUANG PRABANG	114.-	PERTH	377.-	TOKYO	395.-
ANGKOR WAT	134.-	HELSINKI	388.-	MANILA	151.-	ROME	364.-	TORONTO	477.-
AMSTERDAM	373.-	HANOI	120.-	MELBOURNE	377.-	SAN FRANCISCO	344.-	VANCOUVER	322.-
AUCKLAND	433.-	HAWAII	266.-	MUNICH	279.-	SAIGON	113.-	VIENNA	544.-
BALI	233.-	HONG KONG	155.-	NEW YORK	344.-	SINGAPORE	97.-	WASHINGTON	411.-
BEIJING	217.-	KUALA LUMPUR	77.-	OSAKA	395.-	STOCKHOLM	422.-	YANGON	125.-
								ZURICH	364.-



OTHER CITIES, BUSINESS OR FIRST CLASS, ARE AVAILABLE.

SPECIALIST IN HOTEL DISCOUNTS & TRANSPORT FOR

PHUKET (any beach), PHI PHI ISLAND,
KRABI, AO NANG, RAI LAY, LANTA, KHAO LAK



No 31/0165

SUPER VALUE PACKAGE and HOTEL BOOKING. SAVE 30 - 50 %

(Basic Package 3 Days / 2 Nights, Price for twin share includes : First class hotel, daily breakfast, city tour and airport transfer (Airfare not included)

THAILAND TOP ATTRACTIONS:

PHUKET 46.- SAMUI 50.- PATTAYA 43.- BANGKOK 63.-

ASIA DISCOVERY:

SUKHOTHAI 101.- CHIANG MAI-CHIANG RAI-MAE HONG SON (5D/4N) 218.-

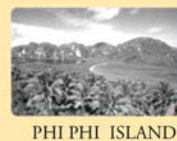
INDOCHINA & MAEKHONG REGION:

SINGAPORE 63.- KUALA LUMPUR 84.- HONG KONG 100.- BALI 64.-

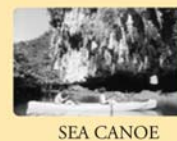
MANILA 99.- ANGKOR WAT 111.- LAOS 101.- LUANG PRABANG 155.- VIETNAM 240.-

MYANMAR 52.-

AMAZING SPECIAL DAILY TOUR with free pick up & return to your hotel



PHI PHI ISLAND



SEA CANOE



ISLAND SAFARI



WHITEWATER RAFTING



PHUKET FANTASEA



GOLF PACKAGE

REMARKS: CASH BASIS, ALL RATES IN US\$. AIR FARES DO NOT INCLUDE AIRPORT TAX OR AIRLINE INSURANCE. FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR. FARES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

HAIR CARE with Sangkhae

If anyone is equipped to know what will be "in" for hair this season, it is probably Walaikorn Iamkhorphung, the manager of the Essentials hair salon, which has just opened in Central Festival Phuket.

Part of the UK-based hair-dressing company Toni&Guy, which has shops around the world, this is the second Essentials in Thailand.

"There's no one style that will be the one for women," says K. Walaikorn. "There are several new styles and looks, but the emphasis I think, will be on color."

"But it will be not one color for the whole head, but selective color: using highlights or lowlights, say, or using color to draw attention to features such as curls or a fringe. For men, the trend will be for funky, slightly outrageous styles."

Essentials Toni&Guy at Central Festival is open every day from 11 am to 9 pm.



Is it time to feed your face?

People may chomp on *som tam* or slurp down papaya shakes because they know they taste good, but what they may not know is that they are doing their skin good at the same time.

Papaya – *Asimina triloba*, to give it its scientific name – is rich in beta-carotene/vitamin A

and vitamin C, both of which promote the production of collagen and elastin.

Collagen firms the skin and brings fullness, while elastin helps increase skin softness and elasticity.

The body converts beta-carotene into vitamin A, which is essential for maintaining healthy skin, as well as being an anti-oxidant that may protect call DNA from damage by free radicals. It is also known to be good for eyesight.

In addition, it has been claimed that beta-carotene is an effective sunscreen, though this has not yet been proven.

Too much vitamin A can be harmful, but the body converts only enough beta-carotene to make the vitamin A it needs.

Beauty may, as the saying goes, come from within, but for those who want it to come from without as well, papaya has its uses, too. It contains a natural en-

zyme which dissolves dead skin cells, so a papaya face mask should leave the skin looking bright and fresh.

BEAUTIFUL SKIN with Dhira



Here's how: mash enough ripe papaya to cover your face (and any other area that you think needs attention), apply and leave for 15 to 20 minutes. Rinse off with water.

To make the skin even softer and smoother, mix crushed ripe papaya with a little honey.

Warm the mixture gently, by

placing the bowl in warm water.

Apply it to the face, cover it with a warm towel and sit back and relax for 25 minutes. Rinse off with water.

Don't forget, of course, good skin is about more than just papaya: a balanced diet and a decent night's sleep are the truly essential ingredients for healthy, glowing skin.

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

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

Raksatt Pet Hospital (Kaorang) Phuket

Open Daily 9 am to midnight One-Stop Service

- Treatment (Medicine & Health Care)
- Surgery
- Obstetrics and Orthopedics
- Teeth cleaning and scaling
- X-ray and Laboratory
- In-Patient
- Pet Hotel
- Home Service (Pet Ambulance)
- Microchip Center
- Grooming
- Pet Shop

Well Treated, Well Cared For

14/4 Mae Luan Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket. Tel/Fax: 076-211549 Mobile: 01-8911582
www.pktanimalhospital.com E-mail: info@pktanimalhospital.com

index

turn on
your style @

Living Mall

Now - Dec 2, 2004 Save up to 60%



2,200.-*

Computer Table "Easy" Model
+ Triumph Office Chair (gas lift)
Size: W 120 x L 60 x H 72 cms.
(maple, light beech only)
Reg. 5,670.-

SOFA
BY DAY



Imported Fabric

BED
BY NIGHT



Metal frame
3 year warranty



8,900.-*

Dining Table "Parri-Pearl" Model
Size: W 80 x L 120 x H 75 cms.
(black walnut only)
Reg. 13,970.-



259.-*

Five Liter Trash Bin
Reg. 390.-



95.-*

Vases (various designs)
Reg. 190.-



199.-*

Seat Cushion Pair
(white/cream only)
Reg. 399.-



349.-*

Neo Dining Set
(5 pieces/1 set, white only)
Reg. 1,390.-



15.-*

Place Mat
(various designs)
Reg. 32.-

new

6,990.-*

Sofa Bed "Instant" Model
Reg. 15,000.-

5-step mechanism
1 year warranty



9,990.-*

"Serta" Liberty 6 ft Mattress
(mattress only)
Reg. 25,900.-



* Limited Quantities while supplies last/All items are shock price.

SHOCK PRICE

Easy Rewards

Free Gifts are easy
when you buy items at
Index Living Mall
on the same day



When you spend over
500,000 baht
receive a free
29" TV + Recliner,
value 23,800 baht



When you spend over
20,000 baht
receive a free
Personic Toaster
model PT-923N,
value 580 baht



When you spend over
100,000 baht
receive a free
Kodak Digital Camera,
value 5,990 baht



My Way-C Cabinet,
value 5,510 baht

When you spend over
50,000 baht
receive a free
4 in 1 Juicer,
value 1,890 baht



Whirlpool Microwave,
value 2,990 baht

When you spend over
200,000 baht
receive a free
Sofa Bed,
value 19,000 baht



* Contact the store for more details/Only one gift per purchase/We reserve the right to change the premium without any given prior notice.

* We reserve the right to change the product, price, or promotion without any given prior notice in case of printing errors or out of stock product.

★ Index Living Mall - Phuket Branch on Chalemprakiat Road (near Tesco Lotus) Tel : 0-7624-9549

index
LIVING MALL
Special Mall for home furnishings

HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* **Siripansa Somboon** went out and about recently and asked, *"If you could transform your partner into an item of clothing, what would it be and why?"*



Chalerm Thanyaphan
Age: 42
From: Trang
Job: Policeman

My girlfriend is a very sexy woman, and I wouldn't want to change her into anything. But if I *had* to turn her into an item of clothing, I would turn her into a sexy, see-through negligée. She is already sexy and would suit being a sexy negligée. If she were a negligée, should'd be even more beautiful.



Sirirat Wettayawong
Age: 25
From: Nakhon Sri Thammarat
Job: Guest relations coordinator

I'd transform my boyfriend into a pair of shoes because I read an article that compared men with shoes – and I liked the comparison. They would be my favorite shoes because I'd feel comfortable when I wore them – just as I do when I wear any good shoes. He's a good man; he'd be comfortable to wear.



Oliver Himmer
Age: 25
From: Berlin
Job: Engineer

I would turn my girlfriend into a pair of jeans – a pair of Levi's, actually – because I like wearing Levi's with a T-shirt, and she likes it, too. I always look handsome when I wear jeans, but then it's easy to make me look handsome. I already have many pairs of jeans, but she would be my favorite pair.



Nongluk Jitraviparat
Age: 29
From: Bangkok
Job: Business owner

A brassière! I would turn my partner into a bra because nobody can borrow my bra. No woman likes to borrow bras because all women are different sizes. If he were my bra, he would be with me all the time. He would be close to my heart and I would feel that he would stay with me forever.



Olan Sanitpram
Age: 26
From: Phuket
Job: Purchasing officer

I think I would transform my girlfriend into a pair of canvas sneakers. I would do this because I think that it would be good that we'd be a pair and could go everywhere together. And, just as I don't like constantly changing my shoes, that would mean I would have just one love.



25 MB
Inbox

Say good-bye to your regular size mailbox



100 MB



CS LOXINFO
Inbox

Enhance your business opportunity with CS LOXINFO 100 MB E-mail service.

**Special
Deal !!!**

**Subscribe 2 months,
get 1 month
free.**

Starting
now until
December 31, 2004.
For more information,
please contact
02-263-8222.

Monthly service Web 1

440.- / 40 hours

Monthly service Web 2

720.- / 80 hours

Monthly service Web 100

900.- / 120 hours

- More mailbox space upto 100 MB/E-mail
- 3 E-mails provided
- Spam Filter to prevent unwanted/junk mails
- Able to send and receive E-mails through both web mail and POP 3

- Secured with anti-virus inspecting both incoming & outgoing mails
- International roaming
- Service available nationwide (76 Provinces) through CS LOXINFO network
- 24 hours customer service

Conditions • This promotion is entitled for monthly subscription fee only and does not include extra hours service fee. • Additional hours will be charged according to the type of service subscribed and will be deducted from advance payment. • The payment should be paid in advance and the company reserve the right to refund. • Should subscriber wishes to terminate, written notice must be submitted to the Company.

For more information, please contact tel. 0-2263-8222 or fax 0-2263-8266-7 for Bangkok • Contact CS LOXINFO distributor for upcountry. • www.csloxinfo.com • CS LOXINFO PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED 973 President Tower 11th Floor, Ploenchit Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330 Thailand

CS LOXINFO
You surf the Net, We serve the Quality

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Solar power helps you feel strong and capable of anything this week, but take care not to overdo it. Make a plan that includes opportunities to rest. Communication delays are likely mid-week; you should prepare to chase up important correspondence that doesn't arrive on time.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A limiting situation threatens to become unbearable and your fiery nature could cause you to explode. Create some distance and try to dampen the sparks. There is a way to make the boundaries more elastic and gain some extra space. For Sagittarians considering a change of residence; this week offers a good deal. Pisces has a useful tip on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): As the rain starts to blow over, you will feel fresher. Inspiration will come and if you've been vaguely toying with the notion of embarking on a new career, November could be the month for change. The coming weeks should see your financial situation improving; expect a windfall soon. The number 3 holds the key on Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A new age is dawning as November gets into gear. Aquarians who are ready to embrace challenges will be spoiled for choice this week. Others admire your will to succeed and would like to involve you in their schemes, but you are advised to think very carefully before investing in anything even faintly hare-brained. Where intimate relationships are concerned, Sunday is the day to enjoy a special date.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A niggling problem could be solved by an apparently strange solution offered by a friend, so it's worth listening to any advice this weekend, no matter how ridiculous it sounds. Pisceans who are still searching for a soul-mate will be in the right place this Saturday. Go with the flow and the course of true love will run

smoothly. On Monday, Aries asks you a tricky question.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Success is just around the corner for Arians who took a gamble earlier in the year with an unusual business venture. However, you will need to make further investment and this could mean tightening your belt during November. Close scrutiny of outgoings should reveal that some budgeting is possible. Convincing family members that they can do without certain luxuries may be another matter.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): There's no need to relinquish a treasured dream just because of a few stumbling blocks. Taureans are advised to call on their reserves of patience and play the waiting game a while longer. In the meantime, family visits are on the agenda and absence will definitely have made a few hearts grow fonder. Wear the color lilac to tune into your spiritual side.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis who can't pinpoint the reason for a damp mood should find the answer is closer to home than they thought. Finding a way to lighten the atmosphere must be a priority. After Thursday the cosmic climate becomes sunnier and you will be able to devote attention to new projects. Old ideas are worth resurrecting when it comes to boosting finances.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Your life is on an even keel at the moment and this is an auspicious time to get involved in business deals. But you are advised to avoid mixing work with pleasure; if you're tempted to start a romantic relationship with a colleague, think again. On Tuesday an encounter with Virgo leaves a pleasant aftertaste. Wear the color sky blue to encourage sharp thinking.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Escapism is high on your agenda this weekend, so put boring tasks to one side and seek out that tranquil hideaway. Your energy levels will benefit from battery re-

charging and by Monday you'll be ready to take care of business again. Mid-week, a minor disagreement at work threatens to blow up into a typhoon; Leos should stay calm and let someone else have the last word.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans who find it difficult to curb their charitable in-

stincts are in danger of being taken advantage of. You will be particularly vulnerable to a sob story on Monday, but should refrain from helping. On Wednesday your natural charm attracts a special someone who could become an important factor in your life. The number 4 has the power to bring you luck this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans tempted to make a budding relationship more permanent may not get the answer they were hoping for. This is not an auspicious time to force the issue; keep this relationship casual for the time being. This week long-lost friends are likely to make a reappearance and the social scene heats up.

EXPOSE YOURSELF!

to 10-15,000 visitors a day!

Tour-Phuket.com

CAR RENT

	Suzuki Caribian Manual, 1,300 c.c., aircon 4 seats, 3 doors Rent 700 Baht/day		Suzuki Sporty Manual, 1,300 c.c., aircon 2 seats, 2 doors Rent 700 Baht/day
	Suzuki Vitara Automatic, 1,600 c.c., aircon, power steering, 4 seats, 5 doors Rent 1,400 Baht/day		Toyota Soluna Automatic, 1,500 c.c., aircon, power steering, 4 seats, 4 doors Rent 1,200 Baht/day
	Honda Jazz Automatic, 1,500 c.c., aircon, power steering, 4 seats, 4 doors Rent 1,300 Baht/day		Toyota Altis Automatic, 1,600 c.c., aircon, power steering, 4 seats, 4 doors Rent 1,700 Baht/day
	CHEVROLET ZAFIRA Automatic, 1,800 c.c., aircon, power steering, A.B.S brakes, dual airbags, 7 seats, 5 doors Rent 1,700 Baht/day		Nissan Urvan Manual, 2,700 c.c., aircon, power steering, 11 seats Rent 1,800 Baht/day (includes petrol and driver)
	CHEVROLET COLORADO Manual, 2,500 c.c., aircon, power steering, 4 seats, 4 doors Rent 1,200 Baht/day	Shuttle Service: FOR CAR (2-3 PERSONS) - Airport - city @ 350 baht/trip - Airport - Patong Beach @ 550 baht/trip - Airport - Kata Beach @ 600 baht/trip FOR MINIBUS (10 PERSONS) - Airport - city @ 500 baht/trip - Airport - Patong Beach @ 700 baht/trip - Airport - Kata Beach @ 750 baht/trip City Tour: - Car: 1/2 day @ 950 baht/car, 1 day @ 1,600 baht/car - Van: 1/2 day @ 1,100 baht/car, 1 day @ 1,800 baht/car	

Tourist Information
 Island Tour: DT License: 33/1383
 10, Soi Pradth, Ratada Rd, Talad Yai, Muang, Phuket, Thailand, 83000.
 Tel/Fax: 076-224538, 076-354311
 E-mail: info@tourphuket.com, tukavav@hotmail.com
 Call or SMS 0912555555 Mobile: 01-4078567

Location (Near Kathu Area)
 Located near Bang Wad Dam and Phuket country club with all Major amenities, shopping, restaurants and Golf course close by.

Concept
 Designed in the original Lanna style with connected pavilions allowing excellent living space for relaxation. The houses are constructed entirely of the finest TEAK wood with connecting stairways & roofs, double car park and security. Walls & gates are constructed in the same style, with garden, rain forest trees, and flowers.

Price
 For sale with freehold house title
 Price 9.5 million baht.

Space
 Built on an area of 560 sqm, with a covered area of 250 sqm. The house has two large bedrooms each with en-suite bathroom and jacuzzi, and includes a third bedroom or study.

Location (Near Laguna)
 Situated in a great location for fast access to all parts of Phuket Island, and within easy reach of Bang Sai and Surin beaches and yet tucked away next to a small fruit orchard on Chering Laine. Conveniently located near the 5-star Laguna complex of hotels and resorts with a range of pubs, restaurants, boutiques, shopping complex and golf course and within easy reach of the airport.

Concept
 A 3 bedroom luxury mountain-view home with a swimming pool and jacuzzi and beautifully constructed in sandstone, marble and wood finish. The property is situated in a small residential orchard surrounded by lush vegetation offering additional privacy and seclusion. A fenced garden area with an ornamental gate makes it safe for children and the easily-maintained garden is delightful.

Classification
 This luxurious house is priced at 9.5 million baht.

Space
 Built on an area of 536 sqm, with a covered area of 256 sqm, including covered parking for 2 vehicles, the home boasts 3 individually air conditioned bedrooms, each with its own marble-faced bathroom. A balcony accessible from all bedrooms is a feature providing space for relaxation. The downstairs features a large air conditioned living room, a dining room and kitchen area also fully air conditioned, with bathroom and laundry room. The house also has maid's quarters with private bathroom, a hot water system, USC TV system, telephone line, laundry room, store room and a cloakroom/golf club storage area.

Specification
 This house has been designed for your comfort. Exceptional quality and beautifully constructed using the finest materials. Tiles and wood feature throughout the house, giving it an elegant feel. Kitchen and bathroom appliances in this luxurious home are of European standard.

CONTACTS
 Suriya Cheewachit
 Suriya Properties
 Mobile: +66(0) 1737 1688, +66(0) 1397 3267
 Email: info@suriyaproperties.com
 www.phuket-suriyaproperties.com

The Phuket Gazette **Mini-Web**. 500 baht a month. Can you afford **NOT** to be on board?

Ask Anna for details.
Tel: 076-236555 or
Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

CENTRAL FESTIVAL
Phuket

The Andaman's World - Class Shopping Destination

Asian art & craft

on 1st Floor

Thai Asian Art & Craft features the most popular Thai arts, gifts, contemporary Asian home decor and handicraft products of Thailand.

Darasamut Intersection, 3 km. from Phuket's Downtown.

For those traveling to Chiang Mai and the North, a great side-trip is to head north west to the sleepy little town of Mae Hong Son, hidden deep in a valley ringed by majestic mountains.

For those with strong nerves – and equally strong stomachs – getting there is half the fun. The six-hour journey out of Chiang Mai is arduous – I lost count of the curves and bends on the way to this remote area – but it also offers some of the most stunning scenery in the north as the road winds its way through the mountains outside Chiang Mai.

If time and a strong stomach permit, it is certainly worth making at least part of the journey by road. But for those wary of putting their faith in bus drivers, Mae Hong Son is 30 minutes by air from Chiang Mai, and THAI flies there daily.

Mae Hong Son is often called “The Valley of Three Mists”, as it seems to have mist all year long. In the cold rainy season, a humid fog covers the sky most days until mid-morning, and during the dry season, the smoke from slash-and-burn farming lingers in the valley, held in by the mountains.

Within the town itself there are many Burmese-style temples, distinguished by their multi-tiered roofs, while the surrounding countryside offers breathtaking views.

Other attractions include the Karen hilltribe villages that are home to the long-neck women, and some mysterious caves. The long-neck Karen villages are rather like a zoo these days and not really to be recommended, except for those whose curiosity overwhelms them.

The main reason for my trip was to meet up with an old friend, Guy, an intrepid Frenchman who was the first person to set up white-water rafting in Thailand, almost 15 years ago.

Into the misty MOUNTAINS



Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

Above: Mae Hong Son airport, ringed by mountains.

Right: Uh-oh, here we go.



Guy works out of Pai, a small town in Mae Hong Son Province, and he offers a two-day-one-night trip running the Pai River. The tour description

states, “Our expedition on the Pai River will take you through the main wildlife sanctuary of Mae Hong Son Province, and being the only access to this area, the Pai River guarantees you an unforgettable wilderness trip...”

The raft trip began with a basic introduction about safety and paddling techniques, and then we were off on a tributary of the Pai, on a fleet of rubber rafts. A stop was made at the beautiful Suza Waterfalls for lunch and a swim. Beyond the waterfalls, the river cuts through

some stunning scenery, and late in the afternoon we arrived at our camp on the river bank.

The next morning, it was time to join up with the Pai River. And, as Guy had warned us the previous evening during dinner, the water suddenly became much faster and bigger with huge swells: this was where the action really began.

Here we hit (and I mean hit!) a number of different rapids one after another, and with

Guy steering (laughing and shouting instructions from the back of the raft), it was here we all woke up and began to remember our previously-forgotten paddling skills.

After a wild morning, lunch and, thankfully, a more mellow afternoon, we returned to Mae Hong Son.

This was certainly one of the best trips I have ever done in Thailand and, because I’m a totally useless swimmer, a memorable one to boot.

Getting there

By bus: From Chiang Mai, take the local bus from the city. It’s a six-hour trip and costs from 105 baht per person. Several local agencies in Chiang Mai can arrange private minibuses or taxis, which cost from 4,000 baht.

By air: THAI (www.thaiairways.com) operates four flights per day. Flights cost 870 baht each way. Flights are often fully booked, especially during the cool season.

Staying there

The Imperial Tara Mae Hong Son Hotel, 149 Moo 8, Pang Moo, Muang, Mae Hong Son, charges around 1,900 baht a room in the low season and 2,600 baht in the high season. Tel: 02-261-9000, ext.4117-9. Fax: 02-2619546-7.

Mae Hong Son Mountain Inn and Resort, 122/2 Kunlumpapas Rd, Mae Hong Son, charges around 1,050 baht a room-night in the low season and 1,250 baht in the high. Tel: 053-612-284-5, 053-611-802/3 or 053-611-309, Fax: 053-612284.

Traveller Tips:

The best time for rafting on the Pai River is between June 1 and January 31, when the river is running high.

To book tours, in particular the two-day-one-night program, along with information on transfers and accommodation, check the website of Contact Travel in Chiang Mai: www.activethailand.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


ANDAMAN
Lighting Systems


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

KAJONKIETSUKSA SCHOOL
English Programme

Kajonkietsuksa School is now running a very successful English Programme for 2-to-12-year olds. Native English teachers provide a broad and balanced education in a caring, happy environment. Classes in Thai language and culture are also taught daily so that children quickly become competent at both Thai and English.


Kajonkietsuksa School-Phuket Town

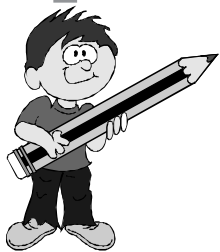
Interested parents should contact:
Khun Permkiat Ketkul at 01-8638646, or
Head teacher Khun Rampa Saeton at the school, or Director Khun Thidaporn at 01-8922874

50/6 Chaofa Rd., Phuket 83000, Thailand
Tel: (66-76) 248975 Fax: (66-76) 248976
Visit our website at www.kajonkiet.com or
E-mail us at: info@kajonkiet.com

KIDS

THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Spot the Difference



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



Brain Buster!!

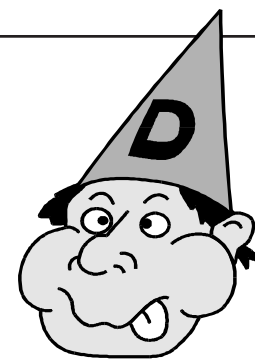
Q. Five pieces of coal, a carrot and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason for them being there. What is it?

A. They were used by children who made a snowman. The snow has now melted.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

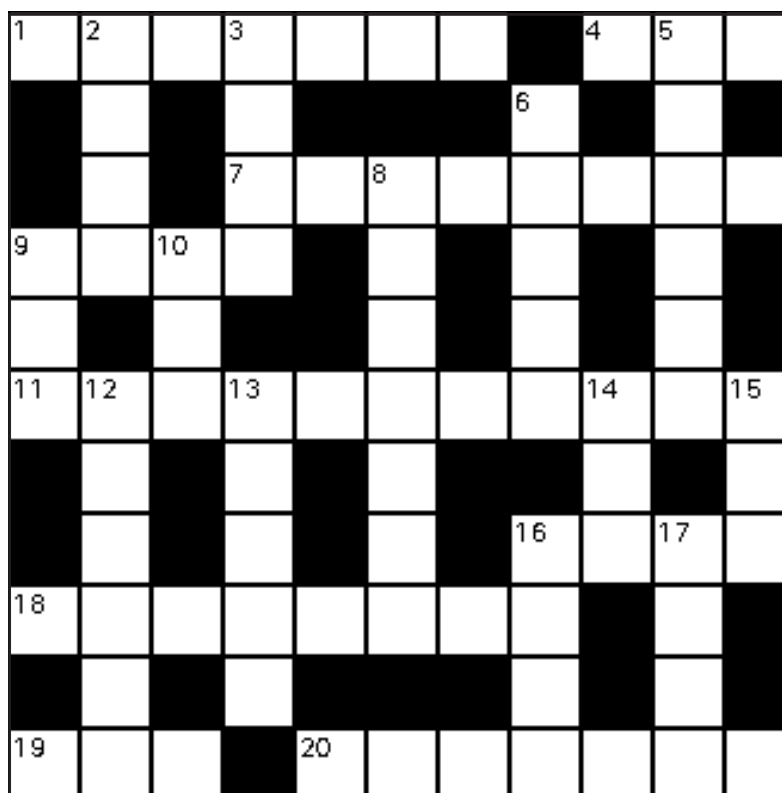
H	O	U	S	E	M	A	I	D	M
W	T	S	I	C	E				
E	N	T	R	Y	K	A	R		
X		O	M	E	T	R	I	C	
E	Y	E	B	R	O	W	Y	E	
C		E	T	S	N				
U	E	A	T	L	A	N	T	A	
T	U	X	E	D	O	H			
I	A	U		T	A	R	D	Y	
V	I	M	L		R	O			
E	S	A	T	U	R	A	T	E	D

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- What does the acronym CITES stand for?
- Which artist painted *The Scream*?
- Who is the Secretary-General of the United Nations?
- Which country is the Hashemite Kingdom?
- Golfer Vijay Singh comes from which country?
- In which country is Baikonur?
- Baikonur is home to the world's largest what?
- Who was recently crowned King of Cambodia?
- What fictional character was described as "the Napoleon of crime"?
- Boise is the capital of which US state?
- Russia's Gyda Peninsula extends into which body of water?
- Is Wellington, capital of New Zealand, on the country's North or South Island?
- Who, on July 21, 1969, said, "The Eagle has landed"?
- Precisely where did he say this?
- What is the company Gieves & Hawkes famous for?
- Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of what?
- Who, in 323 BC, supposedly said, "I am dying with the help of too many physicians"?
- What are the two main ingredients of Vichyssoise soup?
- If you were born in August 1985, what would your Chinese astrological sign be?
- Singer Robbie Williams used to be in which pop band?

Answers next week.



Never a Cross Word!

Across

- Shiny coating for wood.
- ***-Wan Kenobi.
- Person living in a place.
- Team sport on horseback.
- Tiny, to Gulliver.
- Central American empire builders.
- Three-wheeled conveyance.
- Where the cat sat.
- Ho Chi Minh's homeland.

Down

- Four-wheeled conveyance.
- He fiddled while Rome burned.
- Yellow fruit.

- You fool!
- Doubter.
- Buddy.
- Chatroom guffaw.
- Portugal and Spain.
- Midday meal.
- Miss Lupino, movie star.
- US basketball's ruling body.
- Turn from solid into liquid.
- Ancient Indian exercise.

Solution next week



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

- The 39 Steps*; 2. SpaceShipOne; 3. Ansari X-Prize; 4. Married Britney Spears; 5. Dale Carnegie; 6. Aberdeen; 7. In the White House, Washington, DC; 8. State Department; 9. Khin Nyunt; 10. Chicken; 11. To protect his feet outdoors; 12. Clara; 13. Australia; 14. Quark; 15. Green woodpecker; 16. Mercury; 17. *The Beagle*; 18. A wig; 19. Alan Hollinghurst; 20. Beans are eaten and partially digested by civet cats.

AN 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

Blake's progress; Firefox up

If you are a regular reader of this column, you'll know that I love to take Microsoft to task for all of its gaffes. Heck, I've written 30 books over the past 15 years, based primarily on the premise that you can't trust Microsoft to tell you the truth about their software – or anything else, for that matter.

But in all my ranting and raving, I have rarely recommended that people jump ship and use non-Microsoft products. There's never been any question in my mind that Windows is the best choice for most computer users; that Windows XP Service Pack 2 is the best Windows ever; that Word runs rings around other word processors; that Outlook beats the other email clients hands down; that PowerPoint is the easiest, fastest way to organize a presentation, whether the presentation's worth the bother or not.

You get the idea. I've been a member of Microsoft's Loyal Opposition for so long that my membership card is starting to self-destruct.

More and more, though, I find myself balking at Microsoft's software. MSN Messenger is nice but it doesn't talk to AOL or Yahoo, and so I recommend that you try Trillian instead.

Windows Media Player 10 works well, but I hate all the advertising and the built-in bias for Microsoft's proprietary file for-

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

mat. Unfortunately, I don't know of a PC media program that does as much as WMP 10, so I continue to live with it. Grudgingly.

But, if all goes as planned this week, I will finally, gleefully, stop using my tired old copy of Internet Explorer, and pick up with Firefox, the new kid on the block (www.spreadfirefox.com).

The immediate reasons are obvious to anyone who's been following the news: Internet Explorer is buggy, horrendously holey, and the source of so much confusion and consternation that it should be burned at the stake. (How do you burn a program? Good question.)

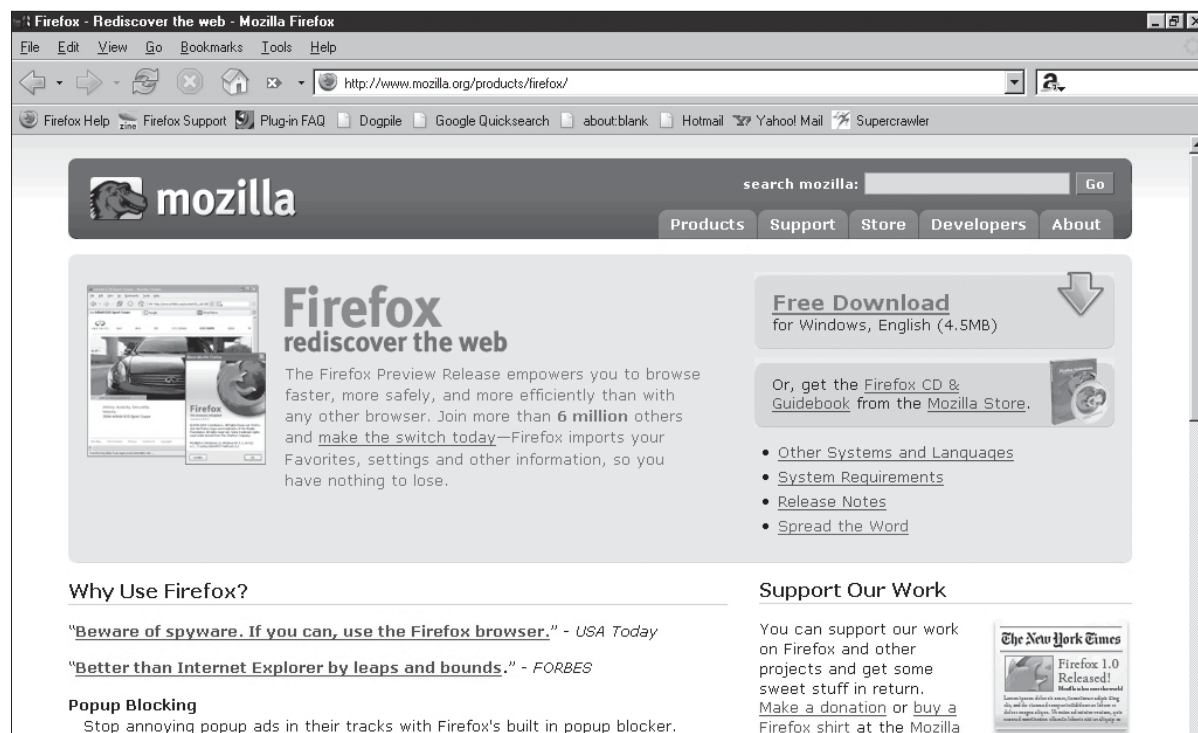
Last month, Microsoft's latest IE security patch, known as MS04-038, plugged eight known holes in IE. Or, at least, it's *supposed* to plug the holes. The patch itself is so buggy that I recommend people not install it (see www.askwoody.com).

There are several dozen widely-known security holes in Internet Explorer, and heaven knows how many more holes known to Microsoft and one or two other groups that haven't been publicly disclosed.

But (in)security is only part of the problem. Ever since Microsoft "won" the browser



Firefox
the browser, reloaded.



BLAZING TRAILS: Firefox is faster, leaner and better laid out than Internet Explorer. It was originally developed by Blake Ross, who this year is starting his sophomore year at Stanford University.

war with Netscape – using illegal monopolistic tactics, as you no doubt recall – there's been essentially no improvement to the product itself. Internet Explorer 6 was a very slightly warmed-over version of IE 5. I think it's fair to say that Microsoft hasn't improved IE in any substantial way, aside from security patches, since IE 5.01, which shipped in November, 1999 – five years ago.

Firefox brings a half-dozen truly useful new features to your Internet browsing activities, chief among them tabbed browsing. You can choose to have specific open Web pages appear as tabs at the top of the Firefox window, making it very easy to switch pages. To open a link as a new tab, right-click on it and choose Open in New Tab.

You can even bookmark groups of tabbed pages, so one click in Favorites opens a specific group of pages. Or you can make

your "home page" a group of pages, which always appear when you start Firefox. Tabbed browsing is great for doing research, running multiple searches, and the like. I don't know how I ever lived without it.

Firefox's Live Bookmarks let you look at summaries of specific stories inside a Web page, and then jump to them with a single click. BBC News, for example, supports the RSS technology that drives Live Bookmarks. Firefox comes with an integrated Search function in the toolbar, tying in to Google or any other search engine you choose.

In the final analysis, Firefox is faster, leaner and better laid out than Internet Explorer. But best of all ... it ain't Microsoft. Even if Firefox grew 10 times the number of security holes as IE (a possibility that's hard to envisage), the bad guys aren't going to go gunning for a small, non-profit organization that freely distributes its

software to anyone who wants it.

There are many fascinating stories tied in with Firefox, but the one I found most compelling has to do with the principal architect of the package. Blake Ross – who designed most of Firefox, wrote much of the program, and worked with volunteers who wrote most of the rest – is regarded as a minor god by many. Blake's a sophomore at Stanford University. Yes, you read that right. Blake just started his sophomore year.

Bill Gates was right. The people who will knock Microsoft out of the box are the scrappy young folks working out of their garages – the ones with vision and guts and know-how.

Too bad Blake doesn't live in Phuket, eh?

Download your copy of Firefox from www.mozilla.org.

– Woody Leonhard
woody@khunwoody.com

Home is where the heartache is

Mr A, a foreigner who had lived in Thailand for many years and was married to a Thai, decided with his wife to buy a home where the couple could raise their children. The home, they decided, would be in her name.

Mr A's wife found a nice piece of land on hills overlooking a bay, a lovely area to live in. She bought the land and the couple had a pleasant home built on it.

After living there for a few years, though, the couple decided the area no longer met their needs and decided to move. They put the house and land on the market.

This was when Mr A discovered that his home stood on *SorPorKor* land – state land allocated by the government for subsistence farming by poor people.



**LAYING
DOWN
THE LAW**
With Friedrich
'Sam' Fauma

Mr A was told that as long as his wife continued to live on the land, she had the right to stay on it, but the land – and therefore the house – could not be sold to anyone.

SorPorKor land is intended only for occupation by poor people, and cannot be sold. Occupancy rights may be transferred only to members of the immediate family of the original occupant.

Mr A consulted several law firms in an attempt to find a way out of the situation, but learned that there was only one solution: the government would have to change the law to make it possible for *SorPorKor* papers to be upgraded to proper land ownership titles.

In the current climate, with

the government rigorously enforcing the rules on *SorPorKor* land, this is a very remote possibility.

The different land occupancy and ownership titles in Thailand can be very tricky for anyone not familiar with them.

In addition, the building regulations and environmental laws that are applied in Phuket mean that there are restrictions on the type of structures that may be built on certain pieces of land.

It is crucial to check very carefully indeed before buying land to build on, or even buying land where there is already a building. Checking may be expensive, but it is essential for anyone who wants to avoid problems when building on land and later, when selling it.

Our advice, to anyone looking to buy land, is to get the land title, occupancy rights and access rights thoroughly checked; to have the land surveyed, and to get an architect's advice on any legal restrictions on buildings that can be constructed on it.

Phuket Universal Services

"Professional sea, air and land freight forwarder on this island!"



Thai International
Freight
Forwarders Association



**WORLDWIDE TRANSPORT
SHIPPING AGENCY**

TRUCKING / COURIER

WAREHOUSING / PACKING

CRANES / FORKLIFTS

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

PROJECT LOGISTICS

TEL: (076) 238822, 238824-6 FAX: (076) 238823, 238927-9
<http://www.phukettransport.com> E-mail: pusco@phuket.ksc.co.th

CASA BRAZIL
076-396317
www.phukethomestay.com/cb
email: casabrazil@hotmail.com

In denial of a forgotten wartime horror

The books written about the murders of six million Jews during the Holocaust would fill several rooms, but how many people are aware of the Rape of Nanking?

American journalist Iris Chang has brought to prominence a mass atrocity that many Japanese continue to deny: the deliberate murder of hundreds of thousands of Chinese after the Japanese army conquered Nanking, then the capital of China, in December 1937.

Her book, *The Rape of Nanking* (Penguin Books, London, 1998, 290pp) is subtitled: "The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II".

Estimates of the dead vary from 260,000 to 350,000. Whatever the number was, it was certainly more than the combined toll from the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"The Rape of Nanking should be remembered not only for the number of people slaughtered but for the cruel manner in which many met their deaths," Chang writes.

"Chinese men were used for bayonet practice and in decapitation contests. An estimated 20,000-30,000 Chinese women were raped. Many soldiers went beyond rape to disembowel women, slice off their breasts, nail them alive to walls.

Fathers were forced to rape their daughters, and sons their mothers, as other family members watched ... Live burials, castrations, the carving of organs, and



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

the roasting of people became routine...

"Yet the Rape of Nanking remains an obscure incident. Unlike the atomic explosions in Japan or the Jewish holocaust in Europe, the horrors of the massacre at Nanking remain virtually unknown to people outside Asia."

Chang learned about the rape from her Chinese immigrant parents. Her book details what happened in Nanking from the point of view of the Japanese, the Chinese and the expatriate community that labored mightily to save as many civilians as it could.

From the point of view of the Japanese, the Chinese were vermin, to be eradicated as efficiently as possible. This was an attitude taught in schools, hammered home relentlessly in propaganda and reinforced through rigorous military training.

The Chinese were unprepared for the ferocity of the attack, which continued for six murderous weeks. It was the prelude to a war that would last seven

more years and kill 19 million Chinese civilians.

The Western community in Nanking created safety zones in schools, churches, hospitals and consulates and managed to save almost 300,000 Chinese. Two improbable heroes were John Rabe and Christian Kroger, prominent German Nazis who were tireless in using their clout to rescue innocent civilians.

While American and British journalists present at the scene made the Rape of Nanking headline news around the world, few remember it today. And in Japan, the historical neglect has been intentional. The massacre has vanished from Japan's collective memory. Chang calls this "the second Rape of Nanking".

She writes, "One reason in-

formation about the Rape of Nanking has not been widely disseminated clearly lies in the postwar differences of how Germany and Japan handled their wartime crimes.

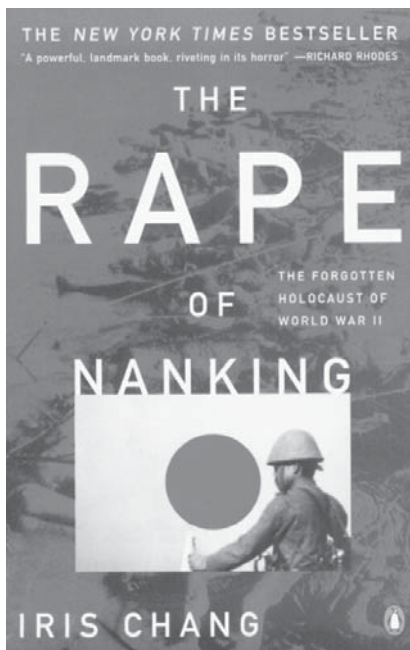
"Perhaps more than any other nation in history, the Germans have incorporated into their postwar political identity the concession that the wartime government itself, not just individual Nazis, was guilty of war crimes. The Japanese government, however, has never forced itself or Japanese society to do the same ... Many in Japan continue to treat the war crimes as isolated acts of individual soldiers or even as events that did not occur."


She quotes Ishihara Shin-taro, a leading member of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party

and author of *The Japan That Can Say No*, as saying in a 1990 *Playboy* interview: "People say that the Japanese made a holocaust there [in Nanking], but that is not true. It is a story made up by the Chinese. It has tarnished the image of Japan, but it is a lie."


At least, you might think, the publication of *The Rape of Nanking* in Japan would cause the scales to fall from people's eyes – especially Japanese students, whose textbooks are carefully doctored in any discussion of the massacre.

But this was not to be. The Japanese publisher of *The Rape of Nanking* demanded major editorial changes that Iris Chang was not willing to make. Apart from a few hardy dissidents, the Japanese remain in denial.





Teak, Maka, Redwood and Laminate floors Garden Chair Made of Eucalyptus



L 370 x W 450 x H 800mm Only 450 baht

- Screwed and glued planks
- Weather proof
- Foldable

Visit us on Chao Fa West Road,
Near Phuket Villa 2
or call Tel: 076 216212 Mob: 01 2712684

View Thailand's LARGEST portfolio of Classified Ads – over 2,000 of them – and place your ad for **FREE!** See the *Phuket Gazette Online* at www.phuketgazette.net



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

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

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

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

Contact: Linda on 01-8937749, Joan on 01-0814611 or Sii on 076-236550. Fax: 076-236542. E-mail: piwc@phuket.com

The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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

Enforcement is the key

It is always heartening to see a push for new environmental protection legislation in Thailand, the latest example being the proposed new regulations on construction along Phang Nga's scenic coastline (see news pages).

But cynics, and even the not-so-cynical, will immediately ask about enforcement. For without strict enforcement, any effort to enact new legislation will be in vain.

Examples of this sad reality are all around us, ranging from the patchy enforcement of traffic laws – as the head of the Kusunlatham Foundation remarks in his commentary on the facing page, “Perhaps if we could somehow get people to observe traffic laws better we wouldn't need to perform so many burials” – to the part played by unscrupulous, irresponsible developers in the recent floods in Patong.

There are laws in place in Phuket to limit building heights near the shoreline and protect mountainsides from deforestation – in order to to minimize erosion and flooding. There are laws protecting nature on land and in the sea, but these are regularly flouted.

Worse, in far too many cases these laws are broken with the active connivance of those whose responsibility it is to enforce them.

Rarely do corrupt officials receive exemplary punishment. All too often the only action taken against them is a transfer to another province, where they continue to profit by assisting lawbreakers. Those who pay these officials to turn a blind eye or sign a document sanctioning their transgressions rarely receive any punishment at all.

If the proposed new rules for Phang Nga – and the country's existing laws – are to be effective, the government must make it plain that breaking the law carries significant penalties. Both parties to subversion of the law must be rigorously prosecuted and handed stiff jail sentences when found guilty. These sentences must be widely publicized to serve as a deterrent to other potential lawbreakers.

In addition, serious efforts must be made to teach people from the earliest age that simply knowing the difference between right and wrong is not enough and that an active sense of responsibility is essential to the preservation of all that is good, both in society and the natural environment that sustains it.

But until the government takes an active and exemplary role – promoting social responsibility by exhibiting it and rooting out and punishing wrongdoers without fear or favor – then the cancer of corruption will continue to thrive.

Sadly, any new laws, such as those intended to protect Phang Nga's natural heritage, will have little – if any – positive effect.

– 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 Somboon

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

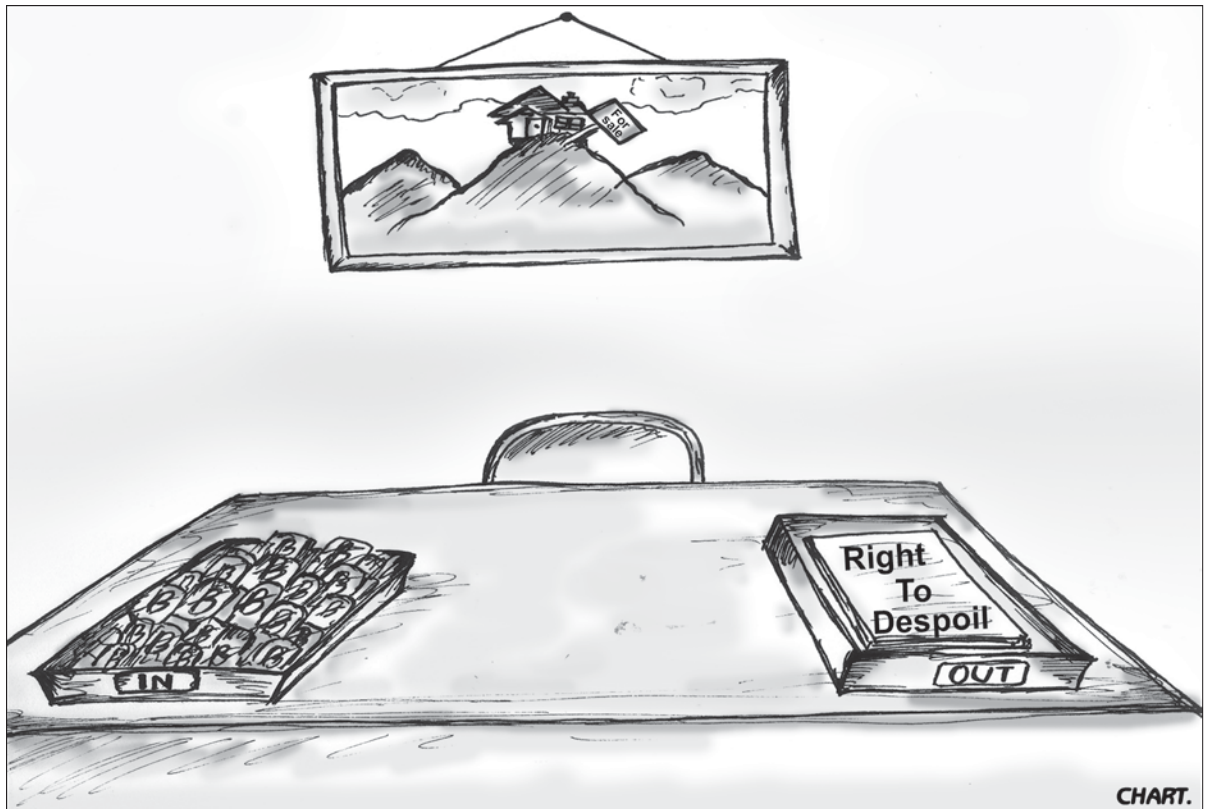
Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

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



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.

Something wrong with our rights

So now we know that if you are a Muslim demonstrating about freedom in Tak Bai you'll be stripped to the waist, have your hands tied behind your back, and be thrown into a cattle truck for five hours. If you are lucky, you won't choke on your own vomit or suffocate.

If you are a prostitute demonstrating in Patong, you'll be able to get the local authorities to back down and give you a promise that Cabinet will listen to your pleas to sell sex all night long.

As for Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, long may his nights be disturbed by the moans and death-rattles of the dying and the dead, because their blood – and the blood of the many who will now die because of bitter revenge – is on his hands.

Marcia Mallows
Patong

Early bedtime leaves tourists bad times

Regarding the much-publicized early closing times, it seems amazing to me that the Governor of Phuket can give a very transparent – and also untrue – statement about the reasoning behind this pathetic shutdown [*Gazette*, October 23].

As far as I am aware, Thailand is the only holiday destination where the government tells adults what time they have to go to bed and stop enjoying themselves.

These are people who work 48-50 weeks of the year, so most of the time they have to go to bed early, because they go to work to

earn the money they spend here. Or rather, the money they would spend here, but can't now because they are restricted.

Sean
Phuket

Serious solutions to human trafficking

If the government and local authorities are so concerned about prostitution and human trafficking and are serious about eliminating these problems, they should impose more effective laws than the recent early closing crackdown:

- Implement immediately a law that makes it an offence for those staying in hotels to take “guests” to their room after midnight and makes it illegal for unregistered guests to “sleep” in the room overnight.

This should cover any type of hotel, guesthouse or serviced apartment; in fact, any kind of resort where tourists take temporary accommodation. Offenders – the tourist concerned, the “guest” and the hotel management – should face heavy penalties, such as deportation, imprisonment, heavy fines and loss of operating licenses.

- Close down all short-time hotels.

- Introduce laws that ban local women from cohabiting with foreigners unless they are actually registered as a married couple in Thailand or the foreigner's home country.

Landlords would be expected to report any breaches of the law and face heavy penalties if they failed to do so.

- Monitor and control the number of “waitresses” and “hostesses” in all entertainment

establishments, whether frequented by foreigners or locals (a small bar doesn't need 10-15 girls to serve drinks) and register all “bar girls” at the labour department and the tax office.

- Completely ban go-go bars and any bars or discos that encourage sexy dancers, male, female or otherwise.

- Close down massage parlors, unless they are attached to and managed by large, reputable hotel chains.

- Make “lady-houses” and “lady-rooms” operated by entertainment establishments illegal, or license them and monitor closely their management and use.

Of course, these laws will never be considered; the government is playing games as usual and is following another agenda.

Paul Brent
Phuket

Leave the stray dog problem to locals

In response to the story regarding poisoned dogs at Patong Library [*Gazette*, Oct 30], I would like to say that it is the aggressive foreign women operating unauthorized dog charities who are in need of being rounded up, not the stray dogs.

These women enter the grounds of municipal buildings at night by climbing over fences, and confront government officials and Thai people at work and in their homes and try to tell us what is wrong with our country.

To the busybody wives of foreigners I say, This is not your country, and these dogs are not your business.

Laosuwan
Phuket City

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.

Burying the dead is a fact a life

Wachira Phuket Hospital sent us a letter asking us to prepare grave sites because their morgue can store only nine bodies [that are unidentified or unclaimed by relatives of the deceased].

We asked for permission to dig 1,000 graves in a cemetery, but were denied by former Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi. However, Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has approved the idea, and told us we could proceed at one of two cemeteries: one at Laem Chan in Tambon Wichit, the other at Friendship Beach.

We surveyed the Laem Chan graveyard first, but found it didn't have clearly defined vacant areas [where no bodies had ever been buried]. It would have been cheaper to use the Laem Chan graveyard as it is closer to our headquarters, but we felt that the Friendship Beach site was more suitable.

The Friendship Beach site has been a graveyard for a long time. It has about five rai each for Muslims, Sea Gypsies and Buddhists, so we began excavating and building vaults there.

We receive no funding from any government agency for this work – even though hospitals and the police benefit greatly from it.

Despite this, we are left to deal with the opposition on our own. Critics claim we are doing this for businesses purposes [such as by selling the excavated sand] but that's not true.



Suphan Buri native **Chalermkiat Ongjarean**, 58, is the President of the Kusornlatham Foundation, a charity rescue unit established by his father in 1976. The foundation lists three main objectives: assist police and government rescue workers in getting accident victims to hospital; build graveyards to dispose of unidentified or unclaimed corpses; and assist the poor – regardless of race or religion.

Despite the important role played by the foundation, it has now become embroiled in a controversy over the plan to bury unidentified bodies at a cemetery at Friendship Beach, Rawai (See *Gazette*, issue of October 30).

Although the Governor and the District Chief have both approved the plan, the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is afraid to approve the project because it is opposed by many residents, some of whom are afraid of ghosts. Others, according to K. Chalermkiat, want to use the area as a football pitch.

Here K. Chalermkiat addresses some of the claims made against the Kusornlatham Foundation and explains why it should be allowed to bury bodies at Friendship Beach.

On September 15 the District Chief gave his approval for us to dig 1,000 graves. We applied to the Rawai *OrBorTor* on August 30, but we have yet to receive their approval.

If the hospital has nowhere to bury bodies, then they must be cremated, but doing so destroys forensic evidence that might be needed later. If we bury unidentified corpses, they can be exhumed later should a relative come forward to claim them. [Many believe that the spirits of bodies disposed of without proper religious rites can haunt the living].

But now we are in a dispute with the Rawai people that seems never-ending. I have tried to explain this to them over and over

again, yet they remain opposed.

Documents prove that the area is public land, and we paid 60,000 baht to build a wall to enclose the new section. Later we read in a newspaper that someone had destroyed the wall. We reported this to Chalong Police and asked them to investigate and try to have the guilty party pay 60,000 baht in compensation [The wall has not been repaired, nor have any arrests been made in the case].

We perform burials only when there are too many bodies at Wachira Hospital. We perform about three burials a month, 10 bodies at a time. We cover each vault with a large cloth and the process is not unduly exposed to the public. Perhaps if we could

somehow get people to observe traffic laws better we wouldn't need to perform so many burials.

People say that they are concerned about how tourists will feel when they see our hearse, but funeral processions are an everyday sight in Phuket. People say Friendship Beach is a tourist area, but this section was a burial ground long before tourism developed in the area.

We began construction of the wall because we thought we were legally allowed to do so. The excavated earth was stored at the contractor's yard in Chalong, though we have since returned it to the site. There were no reports to the police about "stealing the sand", nor did we

ever try to sell it [as claimed by some critics].

After, Rawai *OrBorTor* told me that we still lacked approval to use the area. Many *Phu Yai Baan* (village headmen) in the area agreed to the plan, but one, Samran Noapai, remains totally opposed. He would prefer the site to be used as a football pitch.

So now we are being held back by Rawai *OrBorTor*, when all we want is a sanitary place to bury unclaimed bodies – which will benefit all of Phuket. We are even willing to do it at our own expense.

We are not fussy about where we site the cemetery, we just need a place to dispose of the bodies. We are not doing this as a business. Most [private] cemeteries in Phuket won't give us access. So people in Rawai have the final say. It's up to them. If we can legally site the graves there we will; otherwise we won't.

We have already been waiting three years, and that's a long time to spend trying to explain our reasons. Maybe it's too late. Many local leaders understand the necessity of our work – so why are they against us? The District Chief has tried to help us explain our reasons to them, but now all we can hope for is that the [Wachira] Hospital will get serious and help us change the public opinion in Rawai so we can finally get approval. If we do, we will still be glad to go ahead with the work.

– *Compiled by Siripansa Somboon*

Is it legal to have perched pooches?

More and more people are taxiing dogs around unsupported on motorbikes, with their dogs standing with hind legs on the seat in front of the driver, and their front paws perched tenuously on the steering column.

Sometimes there are two dogs on the same bike – one in the front basket. Poodle owners seem to be particularly fond of endangering their pets in this way. Are there any regulations that prohibit this foolishness?

Somchai H Samkong

Pol Lt Col Jirasak Siamsak, Traffic Police Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, replies:

The law has no regulations prohibiting the transport of dogs by motorbike. Transport of objects weighing more than 50 kilograms is a violation – but most dogs weigh less than that.

All drivers must have unimpeded vision to the front and to the rear, so transporting a dog that blocks the driver's view could violate this statute.

If a driver operates a motorbike while carrying a dog in one hand, that is a clear violation of safety regulations.

If an unsupported dog comes flying off his perch, thereby causing death, injury or damage to another party, the driver will be held liable. Charges in such cases could be either civil or criminal, depending on the circumstances.

Paying import duty on kid's birthday gifts

Can Thailand Post please advise why my daughter has to pay import duty on her birthday gifts?

She has never had to pay this before, and would like to know if the law has recently been changed.

My daughter turned two years old on July 5, and every day since then she has been asking about her presents from Grandma and Grandpa in the UK.

Matthew Patterson Chalong

Theera Paeprasathitthavorn, the Deputy Chief of the

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

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

Issues & ANSWERS

Phuket Customs Office, replies:

The law says that import duty must be levied on any item brought into Thailand that is deemed to be worth more than 1,000 baht, regardless of the age of the recipient.

If a person receives an item from abroad, then import duty must be paid on that item. Otherwise, we'll have people bringing things such as cars into Thailand "for a child" and not paying import duty.

If a child can't pay import duty, the parents must pay it.

Rattikron Tangvanitjaronsuk, of the 1164 call center Customs Hotline, replies:

If an item being imported is worth less than 1,000 baht, no import duty is levied on it. If the item is worth between 1,000 baht and 20,000 baht, the recipient can pay the duty at the post office, but if it's worth more than 20,000 baht, the recipient must pay the import duty at the Customs Office.

There are no exemptions on grounds of age. If your daughter didn't pay import duty before, it's because her gifts were worth less than 1,000 baht.

Private schools

My Thai wife and I would like to move back to Phuket with our children, but we can't afford the fees at an international school for two children. Are there any alternatives, other than a Thai government school?

Colin Newman

Nattee Thinsaku, Secretary of Phuket Educational Office, replies:

There are two international schools in Phuket, Dulwich International College and Quality Schools International – Phuket.

There are other private schools here that can provide an English-language program alongside Thai lessons for your children. However, at these schools your children will need to study in Thai – for Thai language – and English for other subjects such as mathematics, science and English.

The private schools I suggest you contact for details are: Darasamut Phuket School (Tel: 076-212392), Dowroong Wittaya School (Tel: 076-212137), and Kajonkietsuksa School (Tel: 076-215787).

Charity: a no-boner

Why is it that some ideas that seem so promising and well-intentioned end in abject failure, while so many cataclysms that *nobody* calls for seem to occur spontaneously and wreak havoc like a dose of the clap.

This idea crossed my mind as I sat in the van on the way back from my visa trip to Myanmar recently, my bladder fit to burst from all the beers that I chugged down during my 10-minute stay in everyone's favorite pariah state.

It was then I remembered about the Patong Cannonball Challenge, an event organized by some well-meaning bar owners in Patong months ago to raise money for local charities.

The idea was to organize a pub crawl during which participants would have to gulp down beers, for which they would receive points, while having to "pay the piper" every time they answered nature's call.

Winners would have won a "Golden Potty Award" (No, that's not some perverted new category in the Adult Video Awards).

Good fun – a bit hard on the bladder perhaps – but all for a worthy cause. But it was not to be. After all the efforts put in by Bill at Two Black Sheep to organize the event, nobody even bothered to turn up for the initial meeting. Not one person.

Clean sweep: The collapse of the Cannonball Run is hardly an isolated incident. Remember the charity started by a restaurant owner in Karon, who was gravely concerned about the state of Karon and Kata beaches and wanted to raise money to buy a beach sweeping machine to remove trash from them?



Prima donna pussy: Another satisfied customer enjoys rejuvenation at a beauty parlor on Nanai Rd in Patong.

He sought publicity and set up a webpage to facilitate donations. Not a single donation was made. Not one baht.

Throw me a bone: The biggest charity fiasco of all, however, is still going on up in Thalang, home of the "Mid Road Dog Shelter". Built at a cost of about 2 million baht of taxpayers' money and the brainchild of former Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi, the pound was supposed to serve as a home for 1,000 of the island's estimated 12,000 stray dogs – especially the ones unfortunate enough to stray into areas frequented by tourists.

As the Thai saying goes, "everyone needs to eat", and that includes dogs, which, it should be noted, prefer meat to sticky rice – and probably didn't fare well during the recent Vegetarian Festival.

The resident canines were to be fed through the generous donation by hotels of food scraps, or so the provincial government thought.

The only problem was that nobody asked the hotels in advance just how forthcoming they intended to be with their leftover food, most of which is sold to pig farms and – quite possibly – sold right back to the same hotels some time later as fresh pork. (The hotel business, it should be noted, is considered as a model of efficiency).

So just like the Cannonball Run and beachsweeper ideas, not a single donation was made. Not one bone.

While the Cannonball Run and beachsweeper ideas were unfortunate failures, the Mid Road Dog Shelter is a greater catastrophe because it is running out of food and has had to stop taking in more dogs, with the current resident population of about 400 eating dry dog food. Lets hope it isn't leftover Pedigree Dry.

As one local writer pointed out, our local government *can't even organize a dog pound*.

Imagine what would happen if we were in dire need of leadership should some greater tragedy befall us than having our streets covered in garbage and dog poo.

The island's dog advocates, it seems, were right from the start. But their mass sterilization campaign won't solve the stray dog problem either.

We have several groups on the island, with names like "Soi Dog Foundation." But what we really need is a Soi Dog Poo Cleanup Foundation. Otherwise we'll just have to deal with all the dog excrement deposited on our doorsteps by ourselves.

I guess that in Phuket the old adage is sadly true: charity really does start at home.

Stool Pigeon



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

United we stand

It really was an impressive sight, and as profound an example of people power as I have ever seen – to a man, every bar in Patong (and, from reports from friends, Phuket City too) closed. No sneaky behind-the-shutters private parties either. This was a proper, full-on strike.

Well done to everyone concerned; you did yourselves proud. Hopefully, by the time this piece goes to press, the government will have made an announcement in favor of longer opening hours in special tourist areas.

Altering the hours that bars open does not limit prostitution, it merely changes the hours during which it occurs and the nature of the venues where can take place after hours.

Take a stroll along Sukhumvit Rd in Bangkok and witness the 100-plus unlicensed roadside noodle and drink stalls that have sprung up and are now filled with prostitutes and their punters after the bars close. The area is now commonly referred to as "Thaksin Plaza".

The closure did not stop under-age drinking or drug taking. Under-age drinkers simply found venues that would serve them, while drugs remain a big problem. Virtually all tourists have seen the consequences of taking drugs here, and only the most moronic indulge.

The most ridiculous reason given for the clampdown must be the assertion by two big players in Patong, the Governor and the chief of police, that "it will stop the foreign mafia gangs".

Guys, there is no foreign mafia. Everyone knows who the "mafiosi" are and they are quite easy to spot as they dress similarly, or drive little red cars – slowly – or they park their numerous cars and motorbikes along the beach road at all times, depriving everyone else of a decent parking space. None of them are from anywhere other than Thailand.

The most preposterous statement from the other side in the dispute – the bar owners – was that "it is all about making the way clear for Jungceylon".

Jungceylon is going to kick your arses anyway. This magnificent project is going to radically change the nature of Patong, regardless of whether there is early closing, and to think that it needs the help of this clampdown to succeed is naïve.

It is going to kick your arses because it will be offering a brilliant product, totally in line with what the tourists want when they come to Patong.

Need proof? If you are a bar owner, take a quick trip to your toilet. Would your mother

be happy to use it?

Only about 10% of you could answer "Yes" and know it to be true. We are guilty of not having invested in our bars or their facilities beyond the minimum.

Jungceylon will thrive because most of you are not strong enough to stand up to any decent competition. The standard is being raised – only those with the resources to continue playing will survive.

Do not moan about Jungceylon being responsible for the clampdown, it only makes you look bitter. Besides, the clampdown has been happening in Pattaya and Bangkok, too. How does that help Jungceylon?



By Konrad Stalin

One thing that is clear about the whole situation is that it is a damning indictment of the government's relationship

with the Thai police. All the things this law is aimed at reducing are, in fact, already illegal – but the police have been unable or unwilling to prevent them happening.

[The new law] is a *de facto* admission that either the government has little influence over police in these areas, or that the police force is so short-handed that it cannot uphold anything but big-stick closing laws.

I fear this whole situation could be a mortal blow for tourism on the island, which is very sad, as the new generation of Phuket politicians has worked hard to promote travel here.

There are some very smart cookies here, and the government would do well to listen to them, as virtually all of them view the situation as the Western businesses and tourists do – as commercial suicide.

If the government really is serious about improving the island for tourism, I challenge it to sort out the following:

- Tuk-tuks. I overheard someone being asked for 1,000 baht to go to Phuket City from Toon Town last week. It costs 100 baht to go anywhere within Patong itself, even from Bangla to Soi Sea Pearl. No one has had the balls to tackle this issue.

- Car and motorbike rental operators. These monopolize the beach road parking lots. Not only are they aggressive in their sales techniques, they are also downright hostile towards anyone who has the temerity to try to park there.

- Flooding. Millions of baht have already been spent on this, I know, but how much of that money has actually been "channeled" in a direction that will prevent Toon Town from turning into Calcutta in future monsoon seasons?

Let's get our priorities right, shall we?



Prices soar as rubber bounces back

By Gategao Phetsawang

PHUKET: After years in the doldrums, the latex producers of Phuket have watched the price of rubber triple recently, making their industry currently worth around 1.1 billion baht a year.

Latex, which slumped to 15 baht a kilogram after the 1997 crash, rose to 20 baht in 2002 and now fetches 47 to 48 baht a kilo.

Figures from the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office show that each rai of rubber plantation in Phuket yields around 235kg of latex, and that, in 2003, a total of 26,341.34 tonnes was produced. With rubber fetching 43 baht a kilo last year, this was worth 1.132 billion baht.

But while demand has pushed up the price of latex, the amount of land on Phuket given over to rubber production has fallen.

In 2003, rubber trees covered 119,271 rai – of which

112,261 had trees mature enough to produce latex – but this year the total area has shrunk by about 20% as land owners sell their plantations for tourism or housing projects.

Along with palm oil, cashew nuts and coconut products, latex is one of Phuket's major agricultural products, according to Arwut Wongsawat, the acting head of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office (PPCO).

Although the latex produced on Phuket accounts for just a small amount of that grown in Thailand, the island – because of its proximity to the rubber-growing provinces of the South and its deep-sea port – is a major center for rubber exports.

In 2003, 318,768.5 tonnes of rubber were exported from Phuket, but during the first nine months of this year alone, some 320,000 tonnes passed through Cape Panwa.

Thailand has now overtaken Malaysia as the world's No 1 rubber producer, according to the Director of the Phuket Center Service for Crops and Production Resource, Verapong Tanapirrom.

He said this was because, when latex prices slumped, many Malaysian planters uprooted rubber and planted the land with oil palm, cocoa and other crops.

Malaysia is now the world's third-largest rubber producer, after Thailand and Indonesia.

About 70% of the latex produced worldwide is used in tire manufacture. The fall in vehicle sales caused by the crash of 1997 led to slump in demand for tires and this in turn resulted in a drastic fall in prices for latex.

However, demand for cars is now rising, and K. Verapong foresees the price of latex hitting 50 baht a kilo next year.

Rising oil prices have also

helped push up the price of latex, said K. Arwut of the PPCO.

He said, "As the price of oil rises, so does the cost of synthetic rubber [made from oil], so buyers are turning back to natural rubber, which, of course, is good for the latex business."

Another factor has been the booming Chinese economy. China is Thailand's main market for latex exports.

K. Arwut agreed that the price of latex could rise to 50 baht a kilo next year, although he cautioned, "It is possible that [the growth in] China's economy will slow next year."

Although Thai rubber production used to be limited to just 17 southern provinces, the Thai government recently launched a project to plant *para* rubber trees on one million rai of land in Isarn and northern Thailand.

K. Veerapong noted that Thailand will face increasing competition from Vietnam,

which has also been planting more rubber trees.

He added that the violence in the Deep South of Thailand may have an effect on Thai production – though probably a minor one – if rubber tappers are afraid to venture into the plantations in the southernmost parts of the country.

A number of tappers have been shot in recent months in the South, reportedly by separatists attempting to disrupt the economy.

But the President of The Thai Rubber Association and Managing Director of Von Budit Co Ltd, Dr Pongsak Kerdvongbudit, is optimistic about the future of Thai rubber.

He said, "China, Japan and the US are the three biggest customers for rubber from Thailand, which is now the world's biggest producer of rubber and highly competitive compared with other countries."

On the Move

Phuket's new Provincial Chief Administrative Officer, or *palad*, is 55-year-old Chon Buri native **Vitchan Busapavanich**. The holder of a master's degree in public administration from Thammasat University, K. Vitchan is the island's top-ranking bureaucrat after the Governor and Vice-Governors. His last position in the Thai bureaucracy was as Inspector with the Department of Local Administration in Bangkok. He was Thalang District Chief in 2001.



Arpornparn Bangroay from Nakhon Sri Thammarat has been named Front Office Manager of the Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort in Patong. She has 12 years' experience in the hospitality industry, having held positions with Novotel Coralia and others. The holder of a degree from Phuket Rajabhat University, K. Arpornparn was Front Desk Manager for 2½ years before her recent promotion.



Jessada Srivichian of Krabi has been appointed Chief of Accounting and Administration at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort in Patong. He is a graduate of Phuket Rajabhat University, majoring in accounting administration. Before his current appointment, he worked as Assistant Chief Account at the Novotel Coralia for six years.



A lesson for governments

On September 15, 1992, without warning, an attack was launched on the pound sterling – and the British currency was particularly vulnerable.

The government had made a huge economic mistake; it had tied the pound's value to that of the German currency, the Deutschmark, allowing only a 2.5% movement in either direction from an agreed exchange rate.

This was Britain's attempt to link itself into the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), the forerunner of today's euro currency.

The British government failed to recognize that Britain and Germany were at two markedly different stages in their economic cycles. The Germans were enjoying strong economic growth while the UK was in a deep recession.

The pound was fixed at far too high a level against the German currency, and to maintain the link Britain had to maintain base lending rates at 10%.

With the UK in recession, with over two million homes unsold in the property market – and the number growing daily – the situation was grim. The residential property market boom of the late 1980s was a distant memory; it had turned into a nightmare.

The only profits being made in the UK property sector were in foreclosure and house repossession. The government, in what must still rank as one of the most stupid actions in economic history, clung to its exchange rate agreement.

On September 15, 1992, however, Britain had an unlikely



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

white knight come to its rescue. He was the Hungarian-born, New York-based financier George Soros, and his steed was the Quantum Fund.

At the start of trading on the foreign exchange markets in London that day, an attack was launched on the pound sterling. Other speculators quickly saw what was happening and joined in the fray, but George Soros managed to raise a timely defense that any military commander would envy.

If the British government and its central bank, the Bank of England, thought it could count on its own banking system to defend the currency, they were sadly mistaken. Just about every foreign exchange dealer in London and elsewhere had one aim in mind: sell Sterling.

After little more than an hour of trading, the Bank of England, at the government's command, announced a 2% increase in interest rates. This desperate measure was ignored by the market, which smelled blood, and the interest rate increase only gave speculators encouragement; they saw it for what it was – an act of desperation.

The assault on the pound continued and the Bank of England had even more to contend with as North American foreign exchange markets opened in the early afternoon, UK time.

Interest rates were raised another 3%, to a base lending rate

of 15%, but that only added fuel to the fire. Every hour that passed saw billions removed from Britain's foreign exchange reserves. The only thing that saved the British government's position that day was closing time on markets.

The attackers ended the day in jubilant mood, only too keen to renew the battle on the following day; all of them had made huge profits.

On the nine o'clock news that night, British Prime Minister John Major effectively conceded defeat. The interest rate increases of the day were canceled and the pound was to be cast free of its links to the Deutschmark. Britain was effectively out of the Euro currency block.

The loser in this "war" was the British government. John Major made several disparaging remarks about the "men in the red [suspenders]" – the foreign exchange dealers. He did not seem to understand that they had actually saved Britain from the folly of his own government's policies.

Britain had lost, in a single day, about two-thirds of its foreign exchange reserves, but on the other side of the balance sheet, it had gained much more.

In the weeks and months that followed, interest rates fell further and the exchange rate fell to competitive levels.

On September 15, 1992, the pound was quoted at around US\$2. After the correction it fell to a much more competitive level of US\$ 1.50. The lower interest rates allowed British businesses to recover and homeowners found their mortgages more affordable. The economy quickly recovered from recession and re-

sumed healthy growth rates that continue today.

George Soros and his Quantum Fund became household names, having reaped about US\$1 billion in profit in a single day.

The Quantum Fund is a hedge fund. Very few people had even heard of this type of fund back in 1992, but the publicity associated with September 15 changed everything for the hedge fund industry.

Next week I'll discuss the development of the hedge fund industry, its challenges and prospects.

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

SIN & LEE

49 Thalang Road,
Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-211230

ON SALE:

GERMAN WURST
DUTCH CHEESE
ITALIAN SPAGHETTI
ROASTED & GROUND
COFFEE
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

CAR PARK
FOR CUSTOMERS

In recent months, a lesser-known organization of Phuket-based dive operators has been making significant progress in environmental protection in Myanmar.

Myanmar Dive Operators (MDO) is an affiliation of 14 local companies, mainly dive operators offering diving or sailing cruises in Myanmar waters, primarily in the Mergui archipelago.

Jeroen Deknatel, managing director of Fantasea Divers - Ocean Rover, explained that in 1991 Fantasea Divers discovered the now well-known Burma Banks as a diving destination and was the first local dive operator to make dive trips to Myanmar.

Mr Deknatel initiated the formation of MDO in 2002 so that dive operators in Thailand could meet regularly and discuss issues relating to operating trips to Myanmar, such as the government, its policies, the marine environment and sustainable tourism.

It was determined that the main problems in the Mergui Archipelago were shark fishing and the practice of blast fishing - using dynamite to kill fish.

Early last year, Mr Deknatel attended a meeting of Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism officials in Myanmar.

In attendance were Director General Khin Maung Lat and Managing Director Htay Aung. Mr Deknatel said, "They have a real understanding of the tourism industry and the potential of the Mergui archipelago."

As a representative of the MDO, Mr Deknatel's goal at the seminar was to plead for better environmental protection of Myanmar's coastal resources. He presented statistics, photos and film of damage from fishing compiled and documented by MDO members, and statistics and data from Paul Foley, an environmental policy specialist engaged by the MDO.

One statistic from the Maldivian government, stating that

Making waves in Myanmar



WAVE MACHINE: Members of the Myanmar Dive Operators at a recent seminar in Yangon.

one live shark is worth US\$3,200 in tourism each year compared with one dead shark being worth US\$12 only once, prompted a strong reaction.

Hotels & Tourism Minister Brig Gen Thein Saw declared that something had to be done and a seminar on sustainable marine tourism was then

planned.

In September last year, Myanmar hosted the seminar on Sustainable Marine Tourism in the Mergui Archipelago, organized by the MDO.

Present were Burmese delegates from the Department of Fisheries, National Parks officers and the Marine Police.

Representing the MDO and with the support of the World Conservation Society, which has an office in Yangon, Mr Foley attended as strategist and principal speaker at the seminar.

The members of the MDO, including Genesis, Kontiki, Santana, Yacht Solutions, Scandinavian Divers and Siam Dive n' Sail, worked hard to present their case to the Myanmar authorities, and their hard work paid off. In the last diving season there were more patrol boats and less dynamite fishing.

ally beneficial: to improve the tourism industry in Myanmar and preserve its coastal resources.

Mr Deknatel said, "The MDO members are encouraged by the feeling that we get, that the Burmese tourism authorities are listening carefully to what we have to say and are willing to act on it."

It is difficult to speak about the progress and issues of diving in Myanmar without discussing the Similan Islands. Mr Deknatel said that he believes the people in charge there are doing their best and thinks the problems have to do with lack of legislation.

"At a ministerial level I'm not sure who is in charge. The attitude is that no one wants to listen to foreigners. [But] most of us are genuinely concerned about the longevity of coastal resources," he said.

Mr Deknatel believes that the Similan situation is in need of change, but that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. He suggests that, in order to save the Similans, the number of boats and divers there needs to be regulated and reduced, and that stricter enforcement of environmental preservation laws is needed.

"Unsustainable tourism is what is going on in the Similans. Sustainable is what we hope to achieve in Mergui with the help of the Myanmar authorities," he said.

Sylvie Yaffe is a semi-retired dive instructor. She can be reached by email to: prodocs_pkt@yahoo.com

Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvie Yaffe

Dulwich to host international soccer tourney

KOH KAEW: More than 500 students from international schools throughout Asia are booked to play in the Dulwich International Football Tournament on November 12 and 13.

The seven-a-side tournament will consist of a pool competition played on the Friday, with the playoffs the following day.

For more information contact Mike Bertoia at email: mbertoia@dulwich.com

Kelleway enjoys his tee time

BLUE CANYON: David Kelleway played a masterful 74 to run away with the low-gross trophy in the latest Phuket Expat Golf Society (PEGS) tournament, played at Blue Canyon's Lakes course on October 26, beating more than 50 other golfers.

The low-net competition, however, was a real nailbiter between Hong Shen and Chris Green.

Hong, playing on the back of winning the recent Phuket Country Club (PCC) tournament,

had to make a great par on the difficult 18th to hold off a solid display from Green - who is returning to form after recovering from a broken collarbone - to win by one stroke.

The ever resilient Merv Baines was a stroke further back, taking third place.

The next PEGS tournament is the John Lowe Classic on November 18 at the PCC.

The format will be a four-man Texas Scramble with the winning team earning a place in the British Business Association of Phuket charity tournament - in aid of Child Watch Phuket - at Blue Canyon on November 27.

A couple of days earlier,

November 25, sees action in the President's Cup - a 27-hole stroke-play event - again taking place at PCC. - **Simon Cree**

Other results of the October 26 PEGS tournament:

Stableford: Division A: Winner: Geoff Parker 37 points (16 handicap). Runner-up: Heinz Bauer 36 points (16).

Division B: Winner: Johannes Borst 36 points (20). Runner-up: Peter Wyler 36 points (19).

Technical prizes: Men's longest drive: David Kelleway. Women's longest drive: Jari Knights. Nearest the pin: Hole 2: John Marinko. Hole 8: John Conant. Hole 12: K. Zack; Hole 17: John Conant.

NAT

Providing the best business solutions

Worldclass

Accounting Software

QuickBooks sage

GBS GENERAL BUSINESS SERVICES

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

HOT & WATER INSULATION

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

www.fourwindsmoving.com

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MOVERS



FOUR WINDS
INTERNATIONAL GROUP

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

e-mail: l.mulqueen@fourwindsmoving.com



Magnificent creatures like this enormous sailfish are among the challenges awaiting competitors.

Angling contest draws international interest

RAWAI: Ao Chalong will be the venue for the inaugural team game fishing competition of the European Federation of Sea Anglers (EFSA).

The event, running from November 20 to December 4, is being organized by Phuket Receptif Co Ltd, whose Managing Director Sakwuth Udomsrisak said the EFSA expects around 100 competitors for the event from Belgium, Denmark, Britain, Germany, Holland, Gibraltar, Norway, Greece and South Africa.

The competition will be divided into three classes: trolling, daylight bottom fishing and night bottom fishing.

Competitors will arrive in Phuket on November 20, and the meeting of team captains and the draw for the trolling category will take place the following day, at the Hilton Phuket Acadia.

The practice day for the trolling competition is set for November 22, with the competition taking place between November 23 and 26.

November 27 will be the practice day for the bottom fishing competition. The daylight fishing competitions will be held on November 29 and 30 and the night fishing contests on December 1 and 2.

Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third places in each class.

For more information contact Phuket Receptif Co Ltd at 100/25 Moo5 Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd (bypass road), Tambon Rassada, Phuket. Tel: 076-261195-6, Fax: 076-261197, email: info@phuket-receptif.com, website: www.phuket-receptif.com

B1m allocated to boost fitness

PHUKET CITY: A million baht in funding received from the government's Health Development Support Fund in April is being spent on new equipment and courses to improve exercise training methods.

Recent courses, organized jointly by the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development (SRD) and the Sports Authority of Thailand, Phuket branch, included three-day aerobics and yoga workshops at the Phuket Aerobics Club room on the second floor of the Surakul Stadium sports complex.

Kiatdee Attavatyanoon,

Head of the Phuket Office of SRD, told the *Gazette* that the two agencies are now researching exercise "hotspots" in Phuket in order to determine how to distribute the remaining funds most effectively.

Like most funding that comes from the Prime Minister's Office, the budget has a numerical target attached: to increase the amount of exercise performed by Thais by 10% by 2006.

For more information, contact the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development at Tel: 076-217054.

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

Phuket youth in big victory in badminton

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Phuket teenager Maneepong Jongjit and Bangkok-based partner Pollawat Boonpan beat a field of 99 other pairs from around the region to win the Under-13s doubles in the Carlson Bangkok-Chiang Mai badminton tournament held in Bangkok.

The pair won the King Bhumibol Adulyadej trophy.

Warissa Suandee, secretary of Phuket Badminton Club, said the success of Maneepong, a student at Phuket Wittayalai School, was a boost for the club, as he and his partner had beaten 99 other pairs of young athletes from Singapore, Malaysia, China and South Korea.

A total of five players from the Phuket club competed in the tournament, which took place in the Thai-Japan Dindang stadium

between October 16 and 23.

Maneepong could not be reached for comment on his momentous victory; shortly after the match he flew out to China to take part in a series of friendly tournaments.

Patong Darts League

PATONG: Patong Darts League matches scheduled for October 26 were canceled because venues were closed in support of the protest against early closing hours.

League organizer Bez of Amigo's has asked teams to reschedule these matches soon.

November 9 fixtures: Amigos v Shakers; Champs v Fat Boy Saloon; Didi's v Happy Days; Nag's Head v In-Between; Off Shore v Two Black Sheep; Valhalla v Piccadilly.

Golfers raise cash for teachers

KATHU: A total of 140 golfers played in the Thammasat University Golf Tournament at Phuket Country Club on October 30.

The proceeds of the event are to be donated to the Phuket Brains Trust, which is finding retired teachers to work voluntarily in Phuket's understaffed schools.

The winning team were Shin Tsai Yuan, Prapas Tritipkul, Teerapol Pongpittayapairoj and Kriengkrai Kittiwattanawong, who scored an aggregate total of 209 points.

Individual results were:

Flight A (0-12 handicap): 1. Kritchakorn Roongmongkolnam, 2. Blair Speers, 3. Surin Bamrungphol. **Flight B** (13-18): 1. Narongchai Wangkiet, 2. Prakan Dejsawat, 3. Dusit Mayakan. **Flight C** (19-24): 1. Sumit Kebutr, 2. Weerayut Prasertsuk, 3. Sittichai Tantawarak. **Flight D** (25-36): 1. Boonyong Nuananong, 2. Raksapong Khumkhanjum, 3. Suriya Sangangnam. **Overall Low Gross:** Shin Tsai Yuan. **Overall Low Net:** Sarit Butrnongsan.

"Beautiful furniture from a beautiful world"



Indian furniture
Water hyacinth
Balinese furniture
Lamps
Wood carvings
Textiles
Antiques
Wholesale/Retail

"The island's premier Furniture showroom"

OPEN 15th NOVEMBER

SHOWROOM:

108/74 Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd (the bypass road), Rassada, Muang, Phuket, 83000.

NEXT DOOR TO Mr. Curtain Tel: 076 261886/09 7480782 (mob).

Fax: 076 261887 Email: info@beautifulworldthailand.com

www.beautifulworldthailand.com



Beautiful World

Toyota launches IMV in Thailand



By Dhirarat
Boonkongsan

Toyota has a reputation for producing economical, good-looking vehicles popular with the middle classes, and the new Hilux Vigo pickup follows this trend, aiming to attract the eye of middle-income earners.

The Vigo is the first of Toyota's five "Innovative International Multi-purpose Vehicles" (IMVs) developed to appeal to markets around the world, and it made its international debut right here in Thailand.

Although the Vigo will eventually be manufactured at Toyota plants around the world, the only place where it is made now is Thailand, with the vehicles being exported to Europe and Oceania, as well as being sold here.

A recent test-drive event in Surat Thani province gave Thai journalists the chance to see the new Vigo for themselves.

The Hilux Vigo is being promoted as "The Perfect Drive", a vehicle with world-class innovative design, high quality and versatility, yet as comfortable as a sedan and suitable for city driving as well as off-road.

The truck comes with choice of diesel engines offering from 102bhp to 163bhp, using a second-generation common-rail injection system with an intercooler.

Less is more when it comes to the exterior, with its sleek, unfussy lines, while the interior is designed to be comfortable, with more room for passengers than previous models. The standard



PERFECT PICKUP: The new Hilux Vigo range combines workhorse power for rural duties and interior comfort for those long journeys.

cab is 1.34m long, 1.475m wide and 1.19m high; the X-tra cab, 1.84m by 1.475m by 1.19m and the Double cab, 2.130m by 1.475m by 1.195m.

The Vigo, like all other Toyota vehicles, meets the company's Global Outstanding Assessment (GOA) passive safety standards, and each vehicle comes with a security system that includes a key embedded with a microchip. If the correct key isn't inserted in the ignition, fuel to the engine is blocked.

The Vigo standard cab, with its large cargo deck, stability and

durability, high fuel efficiency and low-cost maintenance is worth an examination by anyone looking for a "working" vehicle, while the sportier Vigo X-tra cab could appeal to those looking for something suitable for city driving and recreational use.

The double cab offers more space and comfort, and may attract buyers who do longer journeys with their families.

The Toyota Vigo range is available from Phuket's Toyota dealer, Toyota Pearl, located opposite Mission Hospital on Thepkasattri Rd, T. Rassada, A. Muang, Phuket (Tel. 076-215-319, 076-215066, 076-221371/2). The standard cab costs 391,000-488,000 baht, the X-tra cab 471,000-731,000 baht, and the double cab 561,000-861,000 baht.



BUPA
Health Insurance

- **Personal Care**
protect your family from as little as 10 baht a day.
- **Small Company Care**
protect your employees from as little as 10 baht a day each.
- **Platinum Care**
2 million baht medical expense cover from as little as 50 baht per day.
- **Travel Health Insurance**
world-class protection with worldwide coverage.

Phuket Branch
Tel. 076 355815-7
Fax. 076 355814
email: phuket@bupa.co.th

**Looking for
a home in phuket?**

www.phuketimmo.com

09-866-9004 / 076-249-315

**DON'S
Foods
Co., Ltd.**

Fresh beef and sausages from Don's Foods. Chilled tender pen-fed beef. Save approximately 70% off imported beef, which means lower food costs. Special recipe hamburger patties. 6 different types of homemade sausage: American - breakfast and dinner size. English Lincolnshire - breakfast and dinner size.

**Bratwurst
Italian
Barbecue
Basil Chicken
Beef**

**Open 7 days per week
8:30 am to 10:30 pm.**

48/5 Sai Yuan Road, Moo 7, Tambon Rawai, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83130, Thailand
Tel: 66 76 289314 Fax: 66 76 289319
Email: dontek@loxinfo.co.th
www.phuket-dons.com
Call Tel: 66 1 894 6401

**Trade in your
Mercedes-Benz for a good price today!**

iD1 PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

Mercedes-Benz

Benz Phuket Co, Ltd 20/5 Moo 2 Thepkasatri Road,
T. Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket, 83000. Tel: 076-239700-1 Fax: 076-216706
www.benzphuket.com



Boat Lagoon Park Residence



A special place providing handsome homes for those who are a cut above the rest; homes that realize those dreams you have nurtured for years. The modern Sino-Portuguese style of these delightful homes combines beauty with functionality.

Special Promotion !
5 units remaining !



All houses now come with **FREE** air-conditioning units in all bedrooms and a **DISCOUNT of 300,000 baht** from the sale price. **Offer lasts September 1 - December 31, 2004 only.**

Beauty that is complemented by light breezes and the sound of running water from the lagoon, creating a soothing atmosphere that will bring tranquility and peace to your life. The Boat Lagoon Park Residence is the perfect place for that exclusive lifestyle.

A special place providing handsome homes for those who are a cut above the rest - homes that realize those dreams you have nurtured for years. The modern Sino-Portuguese style of these delightful homes combines beauty with functionality.

For more information please contact: Boat Lagoon Park Residence at Phuket Boat Lagoon
23/120 Moo 2 Thepkasattri Rd., T.Koh Kaew A.Muang Phuket, 83000, Thailand
Tel: 076-273466, 238948-9 Fax: 076-238948
www.phuketboatlagoon.com Email: property_sale@phuketboatlagoon.com

*Celebrate the Magic of
the Festive Season with Hilton Phuket*

Christmas Eve

24 December 2004

A Gold & Silver Christmas

Celebrate in style on a luxurious cruise ship on the Andaman Sea.

New Years Eve

31 December 2004

A Masquerade Ball

Our gala dinner event features a six piece jazz ensemble from Thailand's renowned Bangkok Symphony Orchestra.

or

Cruise into 2005

Ring in the New Year aboard the luxurious Nara cruise boat.

For Festive Season Bookings, Please Call



Hilton

Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

Tel : 66 (0) 7639 6433-41, 66 (0) 7639 6038-44 E-mail : fb.phuket@hilton.com

Worldwide Resorts
the places you'd rather be





IPSTAR "START EXPRESS Megabit"

Price Only 5,000 Baht/Month

by CS LOXINFO

High-speed Internet 512 Kbps. via Satellite

* Connect to Broadband Internet without boundary or limitation, available anywhere in Thailand.

* For more information and service subscription, please contact:

- Silk Telecom	0-7623-2507
- Mr. Computer and Communication	0-7623-2382-3, 0-1895-7173
- Phuket Cyber Port	0-7625-0294-5
- Island Technology	0-7627-9595-6
- Siam Wireless	0-7628-2486, 0-6951-2455, 0-4059-7050
- TT&T Phuket	0-7624-2888
- Connect World	0-7624-8910-11

CS LoxInfo Public Company Limited

973 President Tower 11th Floor, Ploenchit Rd., Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok, 10330.

www.csloxinfo.com Tel: 0-2263-8222 Fax: 0-2263-8267



You surf the Net, We serve the Quality

ZANZIBAR

Pub . Live Music . Big Screen Sports

THE ULTIMATE PUB

Performing "Live" every night
Don't Miss Kurt In Action

KURT
& The Picasso Band



For further information call 076 233 333 or email us at

Zanzibar@royalphuketcity.com

154 Phang-Nga Rd., Muang Phuket 83000

Why Thai winemakers should target India

Thailand's budding winemaking industry would do well to look at export markets within Asia, in particular that of Thailand's friend and growing trade partner, India.

Asia's small but ancient wine traditions are almost entirely unknown in the world's two largest wine markets, Britain and the US. Asian wines, in particular Thai wine, are nothing more than a curiosity in these countries.

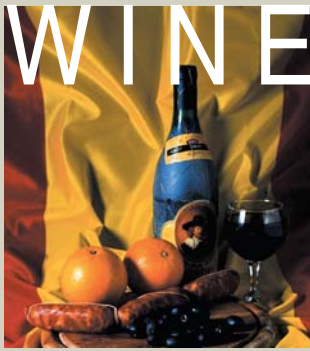
Indians, on the other hand, are quite interested in all things Thai. India has a long history of winemaking and table grape cultivation and the country's middle class is embracing wine as never before. New vineyards and wineries are springing up throughout the country, particularly in Maharashtra State.

Recent tax cuts on domestic wines are quickly building a huge domestic market in India. Last year, the Indian government reduced excise duty to zero and

set the sales tax on domestic wines at just 4%. However, India continues to play by the same protectionist rules as Thailand when it comes to imported wine, taxing it heavily.

Perhaps the recent free trade agreement between Thailand and India will open the way for some sort of tax reduction for Thai wine. Given that demand for wine in India far outstrips domestic supply, were Thai wines to gain better access to the huge Indian market it would be a clear win for Thailand, because there would be little Indian wine to sell to Thailand – even if Thailand reciprocated by lowering its own import tariffs.

More Indians are traveling abroad than ever before, many choosing Thailand as their destination. Indians educated



By Steven Roberto

abroad, particularly those studying in places such as California, often return with a newfound enthusiasm for wine.

In India, three out of five new restaurants opening in urban areas are said to be offering non-Indian cuisine. There is no doubt that Indians are rapidly acquiring new tastes and food habits and that Thai wines would likely be well received.

Indian consumers have a taste for domestic wine that is quite similar in quality and flavor to many Thai wines. Chenin Blanc, for example, is one of the most successful wines in India – and one that Thai winemakers have a lot of experience with.

Australian wineries have already moved in to seize the opportunity presented by the Indian market, with wineries such

as Cranswick investing heavily in building brand awareness there.

Unfortunately, most Indian consumers know very little about Thai wines. This is surprising and unfortunate, given the close historical, cultural and religious ties shared by the two countries.

India has a population of one billion and a rapidly-growing middle class. The market for premium wines in India grew by about 25% last year and is expected to grow tenfold, reaching about 60 million bottles annually, within the next seven to 10 years.

What are Thai wine producers and the government waiting for?

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

To the casual reader – there is only one and I know who you are – this column may seem to be nothing more than an excuse for a series of free meals at luxury resorts around Phuket's shores.

This is a fair assessment, but I do occasionally venture inland, even into town and to smaller restaurants, if the mood takes me. I happened upon the charming Kopi de Phuket during a recent nocturnal amble around the city and found myself in company which, if not quite hi-so, was certainly more than so-so.

Back for a lunchtime appointment, I and two *Gazette* colleagues are welcomed to the stylishly old-fashioned Chinese coffee house by Nannapas Nimpitakpong who – in a similar vein to Christophe Rodriguez Lopez from The Mangosteen – has a secret talent.

My travels around the island have convinced me that a Phuket restaurateurs' version of

ORIGINAL KOPI



Kopi de Phuket has stacks of snacks to go with its staple coffee.

the old television show *What's My Line?* could be a real possibility. K. Nannapas – who loves to sing – is none other than the voice of "Belle" from the Thai-language version of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Alongside this achievement my rather sexy portrayal of Dr Frank-N-Furter, many years ago in a student production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, pales into insignificance...

Kopi de Phuket, which opened some three months ago, is halfway between "The Books"

and the Tourism Authority of Thailand office on Phuket Rd. It is in fact the second Kopi; the first is a tiny coffee shop in the On On Hotel on Phang Nga Rd that has been open since 1999.

The new Kopi remains at heart a coffee house, a place for people to chat and indulge in traditional Phuket-style drinks such as the black-as-hell kopi brewed to a generations-old and, naturally, secret recipe from beans grown in Northern Thailand.

Kopi de Phuket also offers

a range of juices and smoothies but the real selling point for me is the food. The menu of traditional Phuketian food is small, but the dishes themselves are lovingly created – surely all that counts – and each day a special is offered. Prices are ridiculously reasonable: a sidewalk-stall 45 baht a dish.

We enjoy *tod mun pla* – deep-fried fishcakes – and a heavenly *moo tim khai*; somewhere between a steamed egg custard and a soufflé, it is light and slightly hot, and the dash of finely-minced lean pork surprises the diner with another layer of taste.

K. Nannapas next brings to our table *moo hong Phuket*, a rich pork-and-Chinese-mushroom stew with the aroma of star anise and cinnamon.

The gravy is so robust that it's almost enough simply to spoon this over the rice. In fact, that's exactly what we do when the pork and mushrooms have been devoured, although one could also mop it up with a nice chunk of bread with equal success. Fusion food?

Next to the table is *pla pad takhrai*, deep-fried fish fillets with lemongrass. It's slightly sweet, has just enough "bite" to it and, by virtue of the lemongrass, has a delicate, soaring

taste. Having enjoyed three of my favorite scents – lemongrass, fresh coffee and cinnamon – in as many minutes, I'm fast approaching ecstasy.

We squeeze in dessert, namely *pong tai hai*, a jelly-like mix of Chinese herbs and Ginkgo nuts. The seed of the Ginkgo tree is thought to offer medicinal benefits; the trees themselves can live for more than 2,500 years, so there must, presumably, be something life-enhancing about them.

Some reports even suggest that Ginkgo seeds have aphrodisiac qualities. I couldn't possibly comment.

The atmosphere at Kopi de Phuket is relaxed, the range of refreshments is intriguing, it's cheap and it offers an insight into a culture that seemed, until the shop opened, to have all but vanished.

Best of all, Kopi de Phuket is not Starbucks, nor part of any other coffeshop franchise business. What better compliment could there be?

Kopi De Phuket is open from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm daily except Sunday when it closes at 9:30 pm. The restaurant is at 61 Phuket Rd, Talad Yai, Phuket City, Tel: 076-212225, website www.kopidephuket.com

On the menu with

Andy Johnstone

Kopi de Phuket

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

NEW ORDER ONLINE

Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

SCT Grand Place will feature Sino-Portuguese-style shophouses with accommodation on the middle and top floors.



SCT Grand Place shophouses on target for Christmas completion

WICHIT: An arched entrance welcomes residents to the new SCT Grand Place development of Sino-Portuguese-inspired shophouses on Phattana Thongthin Rd, off Chao Fa East Rd.

The project comprises 11 three-story shophouses, all of which will be available for rent. The 11 ground-level shop units, of 60 square meters, will cost 9,000 baht a month, and the 30 one-room, one-bathroom apartments on the middle and top floors, each 27sqm in area, will rent for 4,000 baht a month.

There will be car parking for 40 to 50 vehicles, with each shophouse allocated two spaces.

SCT will provide 24-hour security, along with staff to maintain the surrounding gardens and other communal areas.

SCT has invested 20 million baht in the three-rai development.

Tanit Leepanichayabutr, project consultant of SCT Grand Place, said, "We think we are enhancing the area by developing it."

"This is a family project. We own this land. We've chosen the materials, and we've chosen materials of quality."

"We're responsible for the design, which is Sino-Portuguese, to differentiate our [develop-

ment] from similar types of property in Phuket."

Work started in March last year and the complex should be completed by the end of December.

SCT Property Development Co Ltd previously developed "Baan Sai Yuan" in Rawai.

Said K. Tanit, "SCT Grand Place is now 90% complete. We're going to wait for feedback from this development, and if it's a success we'll look at taking on another project nearby."

For more information about SCT Grand Place call Tel: 01-6484257 or 01-6464144.

Home of the Week

High-set villa



THE HIGH LIFE: Baan Sabai features 600 square meters of living space, including five bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms, and a multimedia room that has windows giving an underwater view of the swimming pool.

Located in an exclusive neighborhood at the southern end of Patong, high on the hillside overlooking the bay, this luxury villa is the ideal home or high-end rental villa.

The villa occupies a site of 1,800 square meters, and features 600sqm of living space in four Thai-style pavilions spread over two levels. A further 600sqm expanse of terrace, pool and pathways leaves plenty of space to ensure total privacy within the villa. The rest of the area consists of landscaped and terraced gardens, Thai pavilions and two waterfalls.

The property has five large bedrooms, each with a private

en-suite bathroom, while the master bedroom has a private lounge, large walk-in-dressing room and Jacuzzi bath. All bedrooms have views over the swimming pool or the tropical gardens and are tastefully decorated with Thai furnishings, silks, artwork and antiques.

Appropriately dubbed Baan Sabai, the villa boasts a large multimedia and games room. The air-conditioned room holds an American 8-ball-style pool table, a 61" TV, a Sony stereo and DVD player, and a Sony TV with PlayStation 2

video games system.

The multimedia room also has a large bar and two seating areas, one with glass windows



The Celestial Penthouse



1st Fl. (on 27th Fl.)

- 1 MBR with private pool
- Private Pool size: 2.5-3x28x0.25-1.1 m.
- Pool terrace size: 2.3x28 m.
- Water Curtain
- Huge living area

2nd Fl. (on 28th Fl.)

- 1 MBR + 3 BR
- Family area
- Library
- Balcony size: 2.5x10 m.



Note: computerized generated picture



0 2259 5326, 0 1562 4277

e-mail: kriengsak@leraffine.com
www.leraffine.com

Two-Storey Penthouse

Floor 27th, 28th at Le Raffiné Sukhumvit 31

Construction already commenced at Sukhumvit 31

Price 71,640,000.- Baht
(Area 716.40 sqm.)

Le Raffiné Sukhumvit 31 Project developer and owner: Le Raffiné 24 Company Limited. Registered capital: 350,000,000 Baht (July paid up) Office location: 54 Sukhumvit Soi 24 (Kasem), Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok 10110. Managing Director: Pimpa Vajrabukka, M.D. Residential condominium 30 floors with 45 units. Site location: On title deeds No. 2635, Klongtoey Sub-District (South Bangkok), Phraekhong District (Bangkok), Bangkok. Land area: (Type 1-1-98) approximately 598 square wah. Project encumbered and supported by Krungthai Bank Plc. Building construction permit has been approved: # 401/2547. Construction begins: July 2004. Completion expected: February 2007. The project shall be registered as the condominium after completing the construction. Common area fee will be paid by buyers in accordance with regulation of condominium juristic person.

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.

Patong

views of Patong Bay



giving an underwater view of the adjacent swimming pool. Bounded by windows looking out over the garden, the multimedia room is a great place to spend time with family or friends.

There is an exercise room that boasts top-quality equipment, including 500 pounds of free weights, dumbbells of up to 110lbs, various exercise machines and a stationary bicycle with built-in heart monitor. The gym is fully air-conditioned and bounded by floor-to-ceiling glass windows giving views across garden and Patong Bay. It has its own bathroom/changing room, a fridge and a stereo.

The main kitchen-cum-dining room is in the pavilion next to the swimming pool. The large kitchen has a cooking unit and plenty of storage space.

The large room also houses a small lounge with TV/DVD and the dining area, with a dining table that seats eight. The windows in the dining room all fold back to give an outdoor dining experience.

The area is filled with art and antiques from throughout Thailand and Burma. A small laundry with separate washer and dryer is located directly behind the kitchen.

The infinity-edge swimming pool, the centerpiece of Baan Sabai, is surrounded by three bedrooms, the lounge and dining room. Teak furniture makes the pool an enjoyable place to relax and keep cool.

Baan Sabai also has a four-car garage/workshop, accessed via a remotely controlled security gate.

Surrounded by granite walls 2.5 meters high, the property is safe and secure with



plenty of space for the largest of families. Currently staffed by two resident maids, Baan Sabai is ready to move in.

The property has *Chanote* title and is available freehold, or the current owner will sell the private company that owns Baan

Sabai. The price is 44 million baht.

For more information contact Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-280805, website: www.siamrealestate.com, email: info@siamrealestate.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



M.C. HOME DESIGN

For Homes, Hotels and Offices



We sell and install :

Curtains, Firenze Aluminium Vertical Blinds, YOKOTA (flexible) Pelmet, Slimline Wooden Blinds, Carpets and Wallpaper, Table Lamps, Cane furniture, Rattan furniture.

We also have a pelmet repair and curtain cleaning service.

52/18-19 Vichitsongkram Rd, Muang, Phuket.
Tel: 076-234892-3, 01-5357456

Baan Rim Tarn Cherngtalay

6.25 MILLION BAHT+



- 2/3-bedroom villas, Private Pool
- Close to Laguna, Phuket

- Contemporary Style
- 15 min to Airport

SOLE AGENT
CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

09 729 8804
076 270 737

baanrimtarn@cbre.com
www.cbre.co.th

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

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

A La Carte

on our delicious ready-to-eat meals (food only). Tel: 076-278019

Andaman Dental Clinic

10% on all services, except 5% on crowns & bridges. Tel: 076-344643

Aquarius Diving

15% Bookings for Open Water Diver Course or Liveaboard Cruises.
Tel: 076-282160



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

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I like weeds. Is that weird? I know I'm supposed to say the right thing here, but I can't really comply with the conventional gardener's way of thinking on this one.

There are those who will tell you that weeds are the scourge of the garden; something to be avoided like the plague. They will argue that any gardener who allows such deviants in his garden deserves to be taken out into his garden and hung by his trowels.

But what is a weed exactly? Something you didn't choose to grow in a particular area of the garden? Isn't grass a weed then? How about those crazy heliconias? Don't they automatically qualify as weeds when they pop up unexpectedly from their underground lair? Surely not.

The problem is, pretty much all new shoots look the same when they first raise their heads above ground. You really can't tell what they are. The immediate automatic reaction is to yank them up for having the audacity to be there without permission.

The alternative is to leave them until you figure out exactly what they are. I accept that if something spindly appears in the middle of your pristine, manicured lawn, then it's fair to assume that it's not grass – and you have reason to banish it.

But when something starts growing unexpected in your flowerbed, you should give it a chance to prove itself. I have prattled on in the past about the Philippine violet (*ang-kaap* in Thai), a small shrub with twin-petaled mauve flowers. This is a good example of a plant that appeared uninvited in my garden; one that the weed-'em-out brigade would have immediately expunged, despite the fact that if left alone it's actually a fairly attractive little plant.

Nothing weedy about this great little grafter



Lantana comes in a variety of colors, sometimes more than one on the same plant.

But my favorite "weed" is the lantana, or *paka krong* in Thai. It's a fairly innocuous plant, and doesn't exactly scream out at you in terms of looks – but it's one of the hardiest plants you could have in your garden.

It's a woody, prickly shrub, with small clusters of tiny flowers known as florets that bloom almost continuously. There are a number of colors, from red-or-

ange and yellow to bright white.

This native of South America is found all over Thailand, both in gardens and in the wild. Its hardiness is confirmed by the number of plants you see growing at the side of the road in the countryside.

Nobody put them there. They just sit there quietly, soaking up the sun, making the most of any water that happens to fall in their direction.

A Thai friend of mine who knows more about gardening in this country than I ever will, sniggered unashamedly when I brought my first lantana home. He looked at me in amazement,

incredulous that I would actually want to plant this "weed" in my garden.

That probably explains why you can pick up these plants so cheaply at your local garden center. A 15-centimeter lantana seedling will cost between three and 10 baht – hardly one of the crown jewels of the plant world. That's probably why the lantana is my favorite weed – I'm all for the underdog.

One of the more common uses for the lantana is as a grafter. No, that's not a Yorkshireman who works hard, it's something that can be attached easily to another plant.

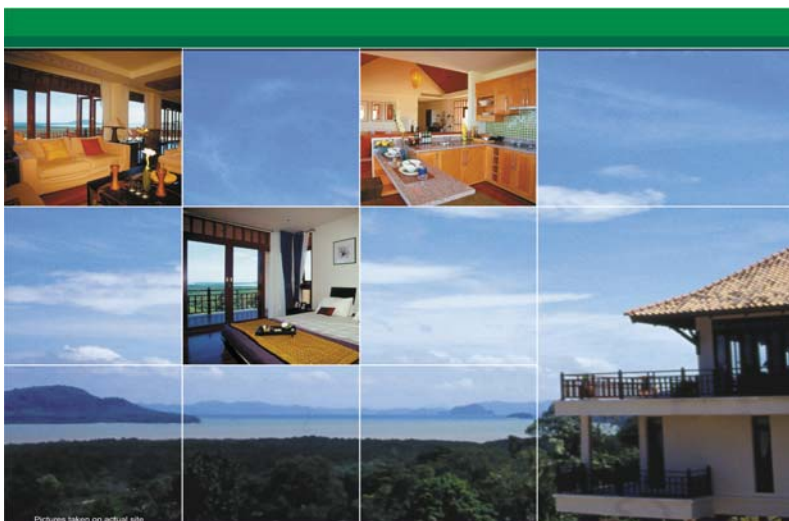
What you do is take a small, established woody tree with reasonably thick branches. Chop the end off one of the thicker branches, and make a small one-centimeter-deep nick in the end. Then take a 15-cm lantana seedling, cut the base into a wedge shape and fit it into the nick you cut into the branch end.

Bind the outside of the branch as tightly as possible with string; the idea being to fool the tree into thinking that the lantana is actually part of it. It seems to work; you can see these lantana "trees" in just about every garden center in Thailand.

In nature, one plant usually produces flowers of a single color. The beauty of grafting is that you can attach whatever color lantana you want to any part of the tree. Some of the results can be fairly bizarre – it's not uncommon to see many different colors blooming on a single trunk.

The only downside to pruning the lantana is that handling it may cause skin irritations, making your skin itch for a few minutes, so wear gloves.

Weeds can be beautiful, despite what your well-intentioned friends may tell you, though it probably won't stop them sniggering.



A Natural Paradise in Phuket Town

BAAN Rommai
Chailay

Baan Rommai Chailay 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

HOUSE & POOL
HP
CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.
House & Pool
Construction Co., Ltd. since 1995
Thai - German Management

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

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

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. Thalung, 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

design hotels™

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NEW HOUSES FOR SALE



Single house, 204sqm, for sale at 2.2 million baht. Twin house, 204sqm, for sale at 2 million baht. Located at Chao Fa East Rd. Pls contact Khun Ya for more info. Only 6 units! Tel: 01-5973398.

KATHU HOUSE

3-bedroom detached house – with Chanote title – in a perfect Kathu location. Comprising a living room, large kitchen and 2 bathrooms. Land is 230sqm, house is 125sqm. Priced at 2.9 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 09-8679116. Email: ex58@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

with 3 bathrooms – our "House of the Month" in the exclusive Anuphas Golf Ville. Fully air-conditioned, 2 telephone lines, maid's room or office, 5 mins from Big C and Lotus. Beautiful lake view at the rear and very tastefully decorated. A steal at 5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-78947406. Email: jonny_hop@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

Good price and near the sea. Pls contact for details. Tel: 06-5958512, 01-9704638. Email: nalumana@phuket.ksc.co.th

4 + 2-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA

Top quality 4 + 2 bedroom house in Kamala, near Phuket FantaSea and only 10 min walk to the beach. 4 master bedrooms on 1st floor with en-suite bathroom. 2 bedrooms on g/f – one can also be used as an office (2 phone lines) – the other as a maid's room with attached bathroom. Large living/dining room with open European kitchen, as well as a Thai kitchen. Fully furnished – all rooms with aircon and ceiling fan. Priced at 18 million baht. For more details please contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Tel: 076-279075, 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

LAND 4 SALE

Near Tonsai Waterfall, 15 min from the airport and 10 min to the beach. Quiet area with a business on the land. 1400sqm with Chanote title – can build a house. Priced at 1.36 million baht for a quick sale. Pls call for more info. Tel: 06-9504157.

GREAT INVESTMENT

8 new bungalows and a large house all in a beautiful garden setting. Located on 1 acre in a quiet area. 25 million baht. Pls call for more details. Tel: 01-8924311.

NEW VILLA FOR SALE

Beautiful 4-bedroom villa with pool. 350sqm of living space. Exceptional building quality and ready to move in. Only 13.35 million baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 01-8916143.

Land for sale
Houses for sale/rent
Condos/apartments
Accommodation
Construction
Legal & business advice
Visa/work permit
Business opportunities

We collaborate with
Thai banks and
offer a wide range
repossessed properties

BEST DEALS IN PHUKET

Ayudhya
Real Estate Brokers

107/7 M.4 Patak Rd.,
Rawai-Muang
(20 mt. from Chalong Circle)
Phuket 83100 - Thailand
Tel: 076-381 772
Mobile: 06-004 3008
E-mail us at:
info@ayudhya.net
Or visit our web site at:
www.ayudhya.net



Best sea view in Phuket above Mission Hills Golf Course. Better than land selling for 6-12 million baht/rai. The only land I know of with a complete view of Phang Nga Bay. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and up rai lots available. Chanote title. 2.8 million baht/rai. Tel: 06-5950188 E-mail: nsupin@yahoo.com



"EXCLUSIVE TO PHUKET ONE!! ON-SITE SALES OFFICES NOW OPEN"



BEACH FRONT APARTMENTS.
Spacious waterfront apartments enjoying a peaceful, tropical location. Easy access to airport.
PRICE:
14 million baht.



KALIM.
Luxurious FREE-HOLD apartments and penthouses. Stroll to the beach. Irreplaceable!
PRICE: From 6 to 26 million baht.



LAGUNA.
Top-quality family homes and terraces at bargain introductory prices.
PRICE: From 5 to 12 million baht.



CAPE PANWA.
Step from your apartment onto the sand with these superbly sited units. Nearing completion.
PRICE: From 4 to 10 million baht.

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709 Mobile: 09-2889317, 09-5862959, 01-9681992.
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

RAI AVAILABLE

in Rawai. 800sqm. Flat, good road, wall, electricity, water, ready to build. 1.8 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-8987062. Email: ebseng@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO

Condominium has been fully refurbished to a high standard and has sea views. 2.4 million baht. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: asiassiamproperties@yahoo.co.uk

SAPAM LAND 4 SALE

25 hillside rai, 5 min to Lotus beside the bypass road. 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact for details. Tel: 06-2704851. Email: lenacodystep1@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH

condo for sale with Freehold title. Property has a fantastic view, measures 92sqm and is priced at 2.2 million baht, payable in installments. 1.2 million baht initial payment, the remaining 1 million baht transferred at the Land Office. Financing available. Pls contact for info. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO

for sale. 250,000 baht total price, payable in instalments. 150,000 baht initial payment, the remaining 100,000 baht transferred at the Land Office after 1 year. Freehold title. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

OCEAN-VIEW TOWNHOUSE

Only 1 of 8 is left to be sold now. This 2-bedroom, European-standard luxury townhouse is on the hillside overlooking Patong Town and the Andaman Sea. The property is only 8.9 million baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 076-341871, 01-5697616.

RAWAI HOME

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom (150sqm) modern Thai-style home on 1 rai (1,600sqm) of land. Stays cool without aircon. Only 6.9 million baht. Tel: 07-8987062. Email: ebseng@yahoo.com

SPACIOUS CHALONG

house. Excellent condition with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (master en-suite), lounge, European kitchen, 4 aircons, parking for 2 cars and a tropical, landscaped garden. Also includes an additional studio with en-suite bathroom and aircon which can be used as a guest room or office. Total land measures 360sqm. Priced at 2.8 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-895-8629. Email: mudworks@csloxinfo.com

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

FOR SALE

18,500,000 baht

5-bedroom, 5-bathroom west-facing villa overlooking Kata Beach. One of 5 individual houses in a secure, walled compound but with no shared land and no monthly charges. Finished to a high standard with Italian granite floors, it includes a deluxe kitchen, large balcony overlooking Kata Beach, swimming pool and parking for 3 cars.



Tel: 01-2735047, Email: houseinphuket@hotmail.com
Web page: http://www.phuket.net/kata_sunset_villa.htm

Property Gazette

ABSOLUTELY BEACH FRONT



2.2 rai of absolutely beach-front land at Khok Kloy, Phang Nga- with Chanote title -for sale. 18 million baht. Pls call for details. No agents please. Tel: 01-4778988, 07-8891717.

KAMALA HOUSE

for sale. Located in a sought after area in Kamala, the house measures 90 sq wah and has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, a large kitchen and living room, big garden, aircon, and satellite TV. Full title. Priced at 3.7 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-6064649.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Kathu. 2 stories, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, patios, aircon, covered parking and close to everything: 2.2 million baht (US\$53,650). Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-2719414. Email: pritchah@hotmail.com

HIGH-END, OPEN SEAVIEW HOME



Every room with a view. Teak, Thai-Balinese-style home with a deep swimming pool. Large decks and master bedrooms. Exclusive neighborhood just 3 minutes from Patong Beach. Price: 48 million baht. Must see! Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-2662424. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

65 RAI BEACHFRONT

65 rai of beachfront land for sale in Chalong. Perfect location for a villa or marina project. Priced at 180 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-8916143.

ON THE MAIN ROAD

1 rai 1 ngan with an old house directly on the main road in Cherno Talay. Chanote title, good for restaurant, bungalow resort, shophouses, office, etc. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 06-2746511.

ON THE GOLF COURSE



6 rai available, from just 15 meters from hole 18 of the Mission Hills Golf Course. 4 million per rai or 20 million for all 6. Call for details. Tel: 06-6834996.

OCEAN VIEW LAND



320sqm of land located in Rawai - near the Mangosteen Resort - with beautiful views over Chalong Bay. For sale at 1 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-8681795. Email: paradathai@hotmail

BEACHFRONT LAND



15 rai of beachfront land for sale in Khao Ko Kao. 2.2 million baht per rai. Suitable for resort, 30km from Khao Lak. Pls call for more information. Tel: 01-6078567.

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: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

NEW KATA BEACH

apartment. 5-star! 2 bedrooms, seaview, beach and canal, pools, spa and gym. Pls contact for info. Tel: 01-4961100. Email: subs@createlabs.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

SEAVIEW NEAR GOLF

course. 12.9 rai with spectacular seaviews, near Mission Hills Golf Course. Good road, and power. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-729-8365. Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

CONDO 4 SALE

Patong Beach. 1-room apartment for sale. Cash: 450,000 baht. Freehold title. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

Properties For Rent

HOUSE 4 RENT/SALE

120 sq/wah, 3 bedrooms, two bathrooms and big garden. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Pls call for info. Tel: 01-9560473.

PANWA BAY 4 RENT

Peaceful, beachfront location. Living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garage parking and garden. Hoping to recover my large investment so will rent out at sacrifice price of 8,000 baht a month to a long-term lessee. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4729793. Email: seanomadlo@yahoo.ca

PATONG APARTMENT

for rent. Long or short term, 5 minutes walk to the beach. Pls call for details. Tel: 072-760529.

LAKESIDE RENTAL

unexpectedly available from November 1, a lagoon-side house for rent at Chuan Cheun (close to Dulwich). Two/three bedrooms, large garden, partly furnished. Only 25,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 076-239432, 01-0879237.

HOUSE FOR RENT

One bedroom, one bathroom, fully furnished & aircon. Kathu area. Pls contact Pensri for more info. Tel: 06-266-8027.

SHOPHOUSE 4 RENT

3.5-story shophouse near Rang Hill intersection for lease or rent at 17,000 baht per month. Used to be a Pan Thai Air office. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-8929092. Email: orrwanwipa@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 fully-furnished houses in Kamala - 1-bed & 2-bed - with aircon, hot water and phone. Very private area. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-4761640.

PATONG RESIDENCE

1- or 2-bedroom apartment - with kitchen and pool - for rent. Only 350m from beach. 7,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PATONG

commercial property. New 3-story shop and residence, only US\$25 a day. Suit restaurant, office, bar, etc. Excellent location. Cheap. Call for details. Tel: 07-0170135.

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, free satellite TV, phone line, many extras. For sale or rent yearly at 180,000 baht. Call Mr Sky for details. Tel: 01-3709661. Email: onesthava@yahoo.com

PATONG

shophouse. Brand new, 6 bedrooms, all en-suite, great location. For sale or rent. Inexpensive opportunity to start new business. Pls call for info. Tel: 07-0170135.

NAI HARN, RAWAI

2-bedroom, beach-residence villa townhouses with living room, kitchen and parking. 500m from beach. Price 9,000 baht and up per month. Phone or email for more details. Tel: 09-4743418. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

RAWAI LUXURY

house with pool, for rent from December 2004 to June 2005, or for short term. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-6067410.

TOWNHOUSE

for long-term rent. Best location in Patong on Soi Sansabai (Baan Benjamas). Property includes 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, Western kitchen and dining room, WC, storage room, cable TV, 3 aircons, phone line and 24-hour security. Only 50 meters to swimming pool and 3 minutes to the beach. Tel: 06-2831674, 01-8914561.

LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully furnished house in Palai Green with 2-aircon bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalong Bay. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8924311.

Properties Wanted

LOOKING FOR HOUSES

Looking for houses that are for rent or sale in the Chalong, Rawai, or Nai Harn areas. Pls contact Blue Phuket Property with details. Tel: 076-388-528, 09-7310283. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

WANTED: HIGH END

rentals. Siam Real Estate require long-term rental property for clients over 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-280805. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

LAND IN KORAT

Looking for 1 or 2 rai of good building land in Korat. Email: mikedisley@yahoo.co.uk

Accommodation Available

QUIET & CLEAN

aprtments. Fully furnished 1- or 2-bedroom apartments at a quiet hillside location in Patong. Fan/aircon, kitchen, TV, VCD, balcony, swimming pool, car parking. Best prices- daily or monthly. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-296621, 01-978-5501. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-patong.com>

BUNGALOWS-KARON

beach. Fully furnished bungalows near Karon beach available until January 11th. Also have apartments at Kata-Karon still available. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.capt-horst.com>

KATA GUESTHOUSE

Now taking bookings for the new Southern Fried Rice guesthouse-restaurant-chess club located 5 minutes from Kata Beach in the brand new Kata Night Bazaar. Budget to middle-priced rooms with aircon and fan. Opens early February. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-894-8446, 01-5972213. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

PATONG APARTMENTS

for rent. Clean, comfortable condos with all-new interior decor, big fridge, aircon, cable TV, double or twin single beds, swimming pool and parking. Please call Tel: 01-0825707 or visit our website at www.phuket-accommodation.info for more information.

ANDAMAN SEAVIEW

Hotel at Bangtao Beach has rooms for rent on a daily, weekly or monthly basis at very reasonable rates. Rooms are fully furnished with aircon, hot & cold water, cable TV, and fridge. Coffee shop on premises. Tel: 01-6285361. Email: andamanseaviewresort@yahoo.com

ATSUMI VILLAS

Enjoy total tranquility in our two-room, serviced villas, which include a large bedroom, lounge/kitchen, king-size bed, single bed, aircon, UBC/DVD, hot water, mobile phone, ADSL, tropical garden and massage and sala. 2,500 baht a night or 40,000 baht a month. Pls call for more details. Tel: 01-2720571.

Looking for a job?
www.phuketgazette.net

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

Professional real estate advice for those looking for property in Phuket

Residential Sales & Leasing
Property Management
Villa Rentals
Research & Valuation
Development & Design Consultancy

TEL: 076 239 967-9
E-mail: phuket@cbre.com
www.cbre.co.th

www.knightfrankphuket.com

Knight Frank

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.

Property Gazette

PATONG CONDO

Book your holiday in nicely decorated rooms with aircon, fan, TV, hot and cold water and kitchenette. Located in central Patong, 10 minutes to the beach. 500 baht per night. Condo is also for sale. Pls contact for info. Tel: 01-8948446, 09-8726895. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY

apartments. 1- and 2-bedroom apartments located in central Patong. Please email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

HOLIDAY RENTAL

home. English couple looking for holiday home in Karon-Kata area for mid-December 2004 to mid-January 2005. Must have cooking facilities and UBC. Up to 40,000 baht. Email: jools@annf39.freesevice.co.uk

ROOM WITH PHONE

I'm looking for a room in either Patong or Karon for 4,500 to 5,000 baht a month - no more. I will probably stay for about 2 or 3 years. Must have a bedroom with ceiling fan, living room with ceiling fan, bathroom with hot water, and phone line. Hope to hear from you - call or email, whatever's best for you. Tel: 09-470-7759. Email: wilki77@hotmail.com

APT IN PATONG

Beach area. Must have shower, fridge, TV and aircon, and be secure and in safe area. DVD player + microwave great but not essential. Nice room with double bed. Need December 12 through Jan 13, 2005. Nice view - not near noisy pub or clubs. Pictures and map of location wanted. Budget: approx 14,000 baht. Please contact with full details. Tel: 020-83726721. Email: chris1666@blueyonder.co.uk

1- OR 2-BEDROOM

house/condo. I need to rent a 1- or 2-bedroom house or condo for long term. Needs to be in or near Phuket City - NOT Patong. Prefer furnished but will consider unfurnished. Prefer NO aircon. I am a teacher, so not too expensive please. Contact with details. Tel: 06-1186177. Email: heathlymudie@yahoo.com

MY HOLIDAY

My wife and I are looking for accommodation, such as apartment with aircon, TV, fridge, hot & cold water, balcony, cleaning service with linen change and towels in the Kata-Karon area, with easy access to the beach and nightlife. We don't mind hiring a bike (but not for the evenings). The dates we are looking for are from January 6 to about February 10 - our budget is approx 15,000 baht. Email: blackbeards@digitalibiza.com

JANUARY 2005

2 pax for Jan 3-27, 2005. Quiet couple, been to Phuket many times but usual accommodation now gone. Looking for room with queen-size bed, satellite TV and pool. Email: butterfly33@yahoo.com

1-BEDROOM HOUSE

or apartment. I am looking for a furnished 1-bedroom house or apartment in a quiet location in the Kata or Chalong areas. Should have aircon in bedroom. Looking for long-term rental, 3,000-4,500 baht per month. Please call Tel: 09-1950616.

Building Services

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

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

TCM Woodbliss

Woodprimer against termites, fungi and wood-eating insects

Wood protection from 65 Baht/SQ.M.
Gypsum sealer 49 Baht/SQ.M.

*Poison-free

*Emission-free

*100% natural

one-time treatment lifetime protection



www.woodbliss.com

www.tcm-asia.com

NEW INVISIBLE DURABLE

Nano Coating

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

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: 06-5933464

Fax: 076-263204

Email: p_con@thaimail.com

Find more classified ads at
www.phuketgazette.net/

SPAS R US

Steam room/sauna and accessories, and portable hot tubs from USA. Quality equipment, designed and installed for your needs. Business and residential. California Spa Design. Please call for details. Tel: 076-263269, 09-1950610.

Household Services

LOCKUP STORAGE

500sqm steel shed with 24-hour security. Individual units from 6 cubic meters. Buy your own lock and you keep the key! Pls call for more information. Tel: 01-0825707.

ONE-STOP SERVICE

Handymen and home improvement contractor available for repairs and more - floor/wall tiling, painting, ceiling, lighting system, kitchen, bathroom, wood and furniture. Tel: 09-5913996, 01-8953185. Email: hservice@phuket.ksc.co.th

GREEN APPLE

Interior design, renovation, home extension, maintenance (home, pool & landscape) and painting of kitchen, bathroom and furniture. Pls call Pong for more info. Tel: 05-0691633.

THAI-STYLE HOUSE



Made to order using high-quality *takiantong* wood. Please call Khun Lek for more information. Tel: 01-8223977.

Property Services

MODULAR BUILDINGS

Re-locatable offices, cabins, mobile toilets and staff accom. Insulated panel system. For more info pls call or visit www.safewayphuket.com Tel: 01-8924804, 01-125-1873.

Bangkok

Get your Phuket Gazette from these outlets in the capital:

Don Muang Airport

Tel. 02-5731120

Se-Ed, Mahboonkrong Building, zone B, Phayathai Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6117165

Se-Ed, Silom Complex, 4th floor, Silom Rd, Bangrak

Tel. 02-2313244

Se-Ed, Silom Center, Rama 1 Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6581153

Se-Ed, Panthip Plaza, M-floor, Petchaburi Rd, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6566070

Se-Ed, Fortune Town Building, Ratchadapisek Rd, Huaykwang

Tel. 02-2485668

Se-Ed, Central Rama 3, Satupradit Rd, Yannawa

Tel. 02-6736342

Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6536690-8 ext. 4030

Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-2526261

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!



To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

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: _____

Island Job Mart

Gallery International Limited

Gallery International Limited invites candidates to apply for the following positions for an exciting new Restaurant and a Club concept located at the new Jungceylon Shopping and Entertainment Complex in Patong, Phuket.

Opening late February 2005 with staff to be engaged by January 1, 2005

1. Restaurant Hostesses
2. Waitresses
3. Head Bartender
4. Bartenders
5. Restaurant and Club Supervisors (two positions)
6. Cashiers
7. Cooks
8. Commis Cooks/Kitchen Helpers

Positions 1-6 should be female, be able to speak English and have a minimum of 2 years experience. **Job training and English classes will also be provided.**

Positions 7&8 can be male or female and will report to the Executive Chef. Candidates should have experience in Local, Asian and Western cooking. **Job training and English classes will also be provided.**

The company provides further long-term opportunities to its staff to join various Hotel and Restaurant operations in Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia.

Interested candidates please apply with resumé, recent photo, present and expected salary to Horst J. Soeller, 83120 Phuket, Kamala Beach, Moo 3, No 99/100 or e-mail details and application to horst.soeller@galleryhotels.com

Closing date; December 15, 2004

Gallery International Limited

Gallery International Limited, with corporate office in Patong, Phuket, invites candidates to apply for the following positions:

1. **Receptionist cum Clerk;** female, over 25 years of age with good command of English, Thai and computer-literate.
2. **Accountant/Bookkeeper;** male or female over 25 years of age with a minimum of 3 years experience. Knowledge in Hospitality accounting is an advantage.
3. **Marketing Executive;** female, 25-40 years of age with a minimum of 3 years experience in Hotel and Restaurant Marketing. Computer-literate, enthusiastic, driven, customer-focused, creative thinking and result oriented. Researching customer needs, developing and implementing strategies and procedures to boost sales and repeat business.
4. **Office Attendant;** male or female. Candidate will be attending to office chores on a daily basis and running office errands. Drivers' license is an advantage.

The Company provides opportunities for all proven staff to transfer within its Thai and Singapore operations.

Interested candidates please apply with resume, recent photo, present and expected salary to Horst J. Soeller, 83120 Phuket, Kamala Beach, Moo 3, No 99/100 or e-mail details and application to horst.soeller@galleryhotels.com

Closing date; November 30, 2004

Wired Destinations, one of Asia's top hotel reservation companies, is expanding and seeking new, qualified staff to join its team. We are taking applications for the following positions:

- Quality Control Executive
- Inventory Control Executive
- Customer Service Agent
- Executive Accountant
- Human Resources Manager

The positions are based in Phuket and require candidates who possess the following:

- Experience in the hospitality industry is a plus
- BA degree or higher
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Service minded and result-driven attitude
- Computer skills

For the executive accountant position, experience in an accounting firm is a plus.

Please contact for an interview:
email: robert@wired-destinations.com or call 076 254766-8

Wired Destinations Co Ltd
5 Soi 1 Yaowarat Road, Muang, Phuket 83000

Gazette Online Classifieds 4,000 readers every day!

amanpuri

Amanpuri Pansea Beach, Phuket, one of Thailand's top-rated resorts' is looking for energetic candidates to fill the position of:

Villa Thai Chef

- Female, aged 25-30 (2 positions)
- 2 years' experience in Thai and possibly European cuisine
- Basic English and good human relations skills.

Send CV by mail or e-mail: pnooffice@loxinfo.co.th
Amanpuri P.O box 196 Pansea Beach, Phuket 83000 Thailand or fax to 076 324100.

FREE 2 Nights HOTEL ★★★★★

ACCOMMODATION

In Sukhumvit Area
(Limited Rooms Available)

FOR BONA FIDE TOURISTS ONLY

NATIVE ENGLISH & GERMAN SPEAKERS
For Terms & Conditions

Call Michelle on 01-9308407 or Henry on 07-1277726

Urgently Required

- 1 x Office Administrator
- 1 x Boat Hostess

A new luxury motor yacht charter company is looking for 2 English speaking Thai national staff to fill the above positions.

Office administrator – should have office experience and hold a driving license.

Hostess – a five star background is essential as is a fun personality.

Please contact
gus@tawancruises.com or phone 018 943 234 for further information.

WEB & GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Web designer and graphic designer positions available at a design company in Chemg Talay with local and international clients. Should have some English skills, a good sense of humor and be willing to work hard. Top salary paid according to skill level. Please email us at info@asia-ms.com or johnny@asia-ms.com or call for an interview. Tel: 076-270 925, 01-8946 216. Fax: 076-270926. Please see our website at <http://www.asia-ms.com>

STAFF NEEDED

for café bar. 2 Waitresses, 1 Bartender, 1 Cook and 2 Public Relations staff are required for café & bar at Kata Beach. Applicants should have a basic knowledge of English, previous experience, and be well presented. All positions carry an excellent salary, 6-day work week and social security insurance. Tel: 01-5353220. Email mrd68@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.mellow-phuket.com>

RESTAURANT STAFF

Rockfish restaurant and bar, located in Kamala, requires chefs, barmen, a waitress and an assistant manager. Must speak good English and have experience in the F&B industry. Good working conditions and excellent money. Pls call or email Richard for more details. Tel: 09-2873161. Email: eat@rockfishrestaurant.com

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

Club Asia Fitness is looking for a dynamic fitness instructor wishing to receive the most up-to-date training to further their career. Please contact Khun Amp for further details. Tel: 076-354027, 07-2799794. Fax: 076-233384. Email: linn@asianwind.biz

ENGINEERING GRAD

wanted to train as a supervisor/manager for a company producing modular buildings. Must have good command of English and computer skills are preferred. Aged 20-25. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-8924804. Email: intrade@phuket.ksc.co.th

SALES CAREER

Online sales specialist... apply now! If you can sell online, you are invited to send your CV to a fast, dynamic and friendly Phuket City business. Salary based on experience. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-236616, 01-8913039. Email: siwaporn@hotel-travel-asia.com

IT EXPERT - P/T

Assist with ACDSsee image database, burning, website image upload/marketing and possible automated Net sales. Please call Brian for more information. Tel: 09-6096007.

ELECTRICAL/ ELECTRONICS ENG.

Thai national wanted for a management position. Must have very good spoken English and a background in electrical engineering or electronics. Starting salary is 20,000 baht per month plus car. Please contact by phone or email. Tel: 076-383277, 01-8954480. Fax: 076-381225. Email: guardian@loxinfo.co.th

SCANDINAVIAN

Diver seeks a sales person able to work 6 days a week in our Kata shop. Must have knowledge of diving and be able to speak and write English. Thai applicants only, good salary. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-294-225-6.

SALES EXECUTIVE

F/M, over 25 yrs old. At least 2 yrs of sales experience. Good command of written and spoken English and good computer skills. Self motivated and service-minded. Drivers license is an advantage. Tel: 076-292402. Fax: 076-292401. Email: phuket@divemaster.net

URGENT! PART-TIME

cooks. 10 days' work available for a Thai cook. Hours will be 10am-10pm, from December 23, '04 to January 1, '05. Excellent salary for the successful applicant. Must be able to speak some English. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-333251. Fax: 076-333254. Email: admin-phuket@katamanda.com

Looking for a job?
www.phuketgazette.net

25% Discount on Classifieds for Shopper Card Holders

IF YOU...

Place your ad in these pages;
Present your Shopper Card; and
Pay for the ad at our offices,

you'll enjoy a 25% discount* AND have your ad appear free of charge in the Phuket Gazette Online.

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

Island Job Mart



ArtAsia Press, Thailand's premier publisher of quality English-language magazines, continues to expand its range of superlative publications and is looking to add to its dynamic and award-winning team.

Graphic Designer

Thai national with at least 3 years' experience in computer graphics & magazine design with knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, Photoshop, Illustrator or CorelDraw, and PageMaker.

Assistant Photographer

Thai national with good knowledge of both slide and digital photography. Full on-the-job training offered. Must be willing to travel and build upon the high reputation ArtAsia Press has gained for its exceptional photography.

Please apply in person with CV and portfolio, or by mail to:

ArtAsia Press Co., Ltd.

Ban Prangthong 32/11 Moo 3, Tambon Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket, 83000.

Tel: 0 7626 4433, Office Hours: 9:00-18:00 Mon-Fri.



Marburry, an International jewelry trading company, is currently expanding its company base. We are now looking for self-motivated, dynamic, enthusiastic and responsible persons to be part of our team.

Urgently Required

SALES OFFICERS

10 Positions

- Minimum bachelor's degree in any related field.
- Good command of English is a MUST!!!
- Excellent interpersonal and negotiating skills required.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in any related sales area.

Marburry Co. Ltd.

156/22 Phang Nga Road, Phuket, Thailand 83000.
Telephone: (66) 76-232-988, (66) 76-232-989 Fax: (66) 76-232-990
Website: www.marburry.com Email: info@marburry.com

Employment Wanted

ELVIS

impersonator. Looking for regular engagements in Thailand. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-44-07980-269352 (England).

NEED TIME OFF?

Ex-bar owner will look after your bar when you need time off. Reasonable rates, references supplied. Email: mike7474@hotmail.com

PROFESSIONAL

hotelier. Indonesian male, 34, hotel school graduate with experience in Thailand as Rooms Division Manager and Sales & Marketing Manager. Looking for new position. Tel: 06-596-4268. Email: executives@ehotelier.com

ACCOUNTANT

looking for job. I'm a 38-year-old female. I have 13 years' experience in accounting and tax, and also QuickBooks, but my English is not so good. Tel: 01-9680309.

I HAVE WORK PERMIT

Hardworking Englishman, former manager of electronics service company, with background in electronic security, technical scuba diving, hotel industry, and property. Can adapt and learn quickly. Seeking position within an existing company. Have car, computer, fax, phone. Tel: 06-9525071. Email: ukthai@procom.in.th

Looking for a job?
www.phuketgazette.net

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

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.

BABY COT

Imported wooden baby cot for sale. Suitable for a baby from 18 to 24 months old. Very safe. Tel: 09-6452576. Email: jaynemac@loxinfo.co.th

FURNITURE & BEDS

for sale. Household articles for sale: Several pieces of Indonesian teak furniture; childrens' bicycles; Honda Dash motorcycle; exercise machine; water heater; pumps; stereo. Tel: 076-240591, 01-787-2096. Fax: 076-240590. Email: tsc_phuket@yahoo.com

LEAVING THAILAND

Table, sofa and 2 armchairs with special high-quality foam cushions; refrigerator; computer desk (2 pieces). Tel: 076-383027, 89-8944416. Email: dechaux@loxinfo.co.th

MOVING SALE

Satellite system with 3 dishes, digital receiver and smart cards. Can access up to 150 channels for just 18,000 baht. Only 2 months old. Has a guarantee and a year's maintenance free of charge. Please email for more details. Email: micks_2003@hotmail.com

MARES BCD

Original Mares Vector BCD for sale. About one year old and around 120 dives. Good condition. Price: 7,000 baht. Tel: 09-287662. Email: ben2travel@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

Air conditioners, steel- and wooden-frame chairs, and other sundry items. Pls call for details. Tel: 07-0397600, 09-8674872.

BED & CABINET

If you have just moved to Krabi and need furniture, I have a bed and a drawer cabinet to get rid of. 2-month-old tailor-made rattan bed, for queen-size mattress (5-feet wide), including 3 drawers. Bought for 10,000 baht, but will sell for 8,000 only. New 4-drawer wooden cabinet. Bought 1st-hand from a furniture store 2 months ago at 3,500 baht. Will sell for 2,500 baht! Or buy both for 10,000 baht. Email: eyraii@hotmail.com

ROYAL-CLASS RATTAN

furniture, opposite Phuket Shooting Range in Chalong. Please call for details. Tel: 076-280415, 09-7255194.

FRIDGE/FREEZER

Amana refrigerator/freezer, side-by-side doors, with automatic ice maker in door, 1 yr old, clean and new, cream color. Size: 66x35.6 inches. Original price: 150,000; sale price: 50,000 baht or best offer. Call Cimet at Tel: 09-9714132; 076-249295.



Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Don't miss...
Issues & Answers
www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Boats & Marine

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

**BOATS NEEDED
DEMAND IS
HIGH,
LIST YOUR
BOAT TODAY
WITH
LEE MARINE**

Perry Lafite 44



\$160,000 USD

Tayana 55



\$395,000 USD

Four Winns 18



800,000 THB

Defever 58



\$950,000 USD

Boat Lagoon
Andrew de Bruin 01 894 1530
Yacht Haven
Jim Poulsen 01 891 3237
email:
brokerage@leemarine.com
www.leemarine.com
LMB 00067PG - Leading Edge Media

CHOLAMARK BOAT CO., LTD.

Inflatable Boat Manufacturer and Life Raft Service Station.

- We offer a wide range of inflatable boats made from Neoprene/Hypalon.
- Professional repairs of all Neoprene/Hypalon dinghies, re-tubing and general overhauls.
- Parts for dinghies, repair sets, air pumps, paddles, oars, dinghy wheels, rental of dinghies.
- Outboard engines, life rafts, self-inflating life jackets, hand flares, parachute flares.
- Covers for dinghies, sun shades, cushions with closed-cell foam and anti-skid paint.
- Stainless steel work (316), Argon welding and perfect polishing.



Contact us at:

CHOLAMARK BOAT CO., LTD.

16/29 Moo 8, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Phuket, 83130 THAILAND.

Tel: +66 (0)76 283112 Mob: +66 (0)1-6934482 Fax: +66-76-283113

Email: hansboat@loxinfo.co.th

200 m from Chalong Circle, next to the Siam Commercial Bank



Penisi Ketch
refit 2003, Thai Flag

US\$ 51,000

contact

broker@thaimarine.com

076-273464



Sea Ray Laguna 21
NEW Mariner 200 Hp
great for Phang Nga

contact

broker@thaimarine.com

076-273464



DIVING/FISHING BOAT 4 SALE



60ft, 40-passenger boat in good condition with rubber dinghy, air compressor and dive tank. Insurance and Thai registration. Pls call David for more details. Tel: 074-731198, 09-2964422.

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 information. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

5 HP YAHAMA

outboard. Reasonable condition. 15,000 baht ono, or exchange for good 3hp outboard. Pls contact for details. Tel: 076-200944, 01-9705940. Email: jae@loxinfo.co.th

Bulletins

Archery

We are exploring the possibility of a small Archery Club on Phuket.

Interested latent Robin Hoods, with or without experience, should contact . . .

archery@lagunaphuket.com
or telephone Little John at 076 271 006

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

SMALL INVESTMENT
Very solid income all year round from easily managed building. Mix of tenants. 5-yr lease to start. All P & Equip 1st class. Only 1.5 million baht (UK35K/AUS\$50K). Contact Rudi. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: junavorn@hotmail.com

ASIAN TAPAS BAR

on Koh Samui. Turnkey operation. Two work permits available. 3-year renewable lease at 20,000 baht per month. Priced at 550,000 baht. Pls contact for a full sales packet. Tel: 09-8734728. Email: info@guapa.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.guapa.co.th

GUESTHOUSE 4 SALE

The guesthouse has 24 rooms and 2 apartments. The land is freehold. Special price: 18 million baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 06-6848758. Email: joerg@1nj.de

PARTNERSHIP OFFER!

I am a German businessman offering a 50% partnership in a newly established Ltd Co. in Phuket (Holiday Ownership). I have 15 years' experience in Europe and Thailand and good connections here in Thailand. Work permit is no problem! Business begins immediately, all prepared, no waiting time! Participation: 25,000 euros. Pls contact for more info. Fax: 001-1-320-213-9083 (USA). Email: lifestylexl2001@yahoo.de

KATA MASSAGE

shop. Great business. Easy to run. Low overheads. Only 180,000 baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 06-6862389. Email: andrewcampbellthailand@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Guesthouse in Patong with 14 guest rooms. Priced at 9 million baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 01-6078567.

INVESTMENT OPPTY

Long-established hotel and bungalow complex for sale with Chanote title. Available for immediate ownership as owners are relocating. 90% occupancy during high season. Priced at 69,000,000 baht, negotiable. Fantastic opportunity for either owner/occupier or investor. Pls email for more details. Email: resortinvestment@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

REST/BAR

Restaurant and bar in Key Bay on Koh Chang for sale - a tropical dream. 700,000 baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 46-709976655. Email: carl-joakim.karlsson@sas.se

BAR KATA CENTER

Good location, 600,000 baht, 6,000 baht/month. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 078-814415. Email: christophuket@hotmail.com

EASY PROFIT MAKER

Make a big profit selling Kool Mix frozen beverages, with or without alcohol. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-263958, 06-2734678. Fax: 076-263958. Email: roy@kool-mix.com For further details, please see our website at: www.kool-mix.com

LAKESIDE SEAFOOD

restaurant. Beautiful location, near Tesco-Lotus. 500 covers, 70% local and 30% farang customers. For sale due to the owner's construction business taking up most of his time. Want quick sale at 4 million baht, or full-time working partner at 2 million baht for a 50% share. Tel: 01-7894740. Email: jonny_hop@hotmail.com

BAR IN RAWAI

For pictures or more information please call Boog at Tel: 06-6831147 or visit our website: www.ounphuket.com

RESTAURANT 4 SALE

Baitong Restaurant in Karon, Phuket, Thailand. Tel: 076-323334, 09-7244307.

DEVELOPMENT

projects. Located in Patong. 10-25% shares available with excellent return. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: asiainsiamproperties@yahoo.co.uk

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.

SECURITY SYSTEMS AND GATES

Guardian Alarms, Phuket's leading security provider, has a full range of imported equipment with our 2-year warranty. Our systems are the most reliable and backed by our 24-hour call-out service. Show us your quotation and we will offer you more for your money. Contact us today for more details. We also offer complete range of attractive automated gates and shutters. Tel: 076-383277, 01-8954480. Fax: 076-381225. Email: guardian@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.guardianalarms.info.co.th

SMART LEGAL OFFICE

Legal advisor with Swedish and English translator. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8915932.

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

ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

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



Read her advice in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Fax 076-213971 or email momma@phuketgazette.net

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Business Services

SAFEWAY STORAGE
Self store with 24hr security from 600-2,200 baht/month. For more info pls call Tel: 01-8924804, 01-1251873. or visit www.safewayphuket.com

Personal Services

The Movement Center
Self-Healing Body-Mind Workshops/Private Sessions
Packages offered for residents. Call 01-797-5065 www.phuketmoves.com

ALBA WELLNESS CENTER
"EASTERN-WESTERN PHILOSOPHY"
Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Watsu, Massage & more
Call 01-719-0993 www.alba-wellness.com

The Nya Technique
"Get Fit The Body's Way"
at The Movement Center in Chalong every M/W 6:30 pm in Surin Tues at 6:30 pm. Call 01-797-5065 www.phuketmoves.com

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Tai Chi
太极拳
"Stillness in Motion"
Relax the body, calm the mind and promote self-healing. Email: serenethai@yahoo.com www.taichiphuket.com

SAFEWAY STORAGE
Self store with 24hr security from 600-2,200 baht/month. For more info pls call Tel: 01-8924804, 01-1251873. or visit www.safewayphuket.com

Personal Services Wanted

RUSSIAN NATIVE
I am looking for a native-speaking Russian for conversation, two hours a day. I will be in Patong for 2 months, from December 04 to January 05. Please send me your details. Email: ivangrozni@libero.it

Personals

BACKGAMMON
partners. Retired businessman is looking for playing partners on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

MISSING PERSON
Would anyone in contact with Wongduan "Duan" Phiewkhact, 33, last seen on Koh Samui, please contact or ask her to contact me. Tel: 09-5903332. Email: bjpe@gmx.net

MATCHMAKER
Ladies, meet your perfect gentleman through Matchmaker. Write your details and requirements on plain paper, enclose a photo, and we'll publish it free. Pls send your info to: Matchmaker, (K10), Chorley, PR7-4BS, England. Email: karen@adultfun.co.uk

HAVE YOU SEEN TUK?
Tuk (Suratanna Suwanarat) traveled to Phuket from Bangkok two months ago. Her mobile phone does not work now and none of her friends or relatives has heard from her since. We think she may be in trouble because it is not like her not to call, especially for so long a time. Please call Ann if you have seen her or have any info. Tel: 09-008008-1, 05-5786443.

SANDY / ANCHAN?
Hi Sandy, are you there? It's been a long time, do you remember Len? I would love to talk to you again. Or is there anyone who can help me, and put me in contact with Anchan (Sandy) Jantarangsi? She's originally from Chanthaburi. I have missed her, it seems, for most of my life. Tel: 61-9889 0502, 04-12478478. Email: squire5445@yahoo.com.au

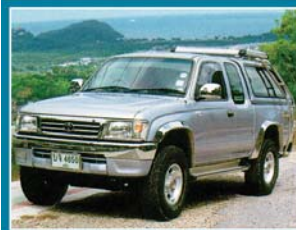
Pets

HELP US
to help the animals. Help us help to stop the cruelty, all the pain, the hunting and abuse of animals. Please contact The Word, POB 5643, D-97006 Wuerzburg, Germany. Email: hansgerodetti@yahoo.de For more details, see our website at: www.donoteatus.org

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

Trusted Suppliers of Phuket's Finest Quality Vehicles
SURE MOTORS
The Jor Charoen Motor Dealership Est. 1993



Phuket's Most Trusted & Reputable Supplier of the Finest Quality Used SALOONS, SEDANS, JEEPS & PICKUPS
New cars or trade-ins – we have what you're looking for
For more info pls call us at Tel: 076-224632, 216243 www.suremotor.com

TOYOTA COROLLA
1994, 1.6 GLI, 5-speed, good body and mechanically excellent. 1st-class insurance valid until September, 2005. Priced at 280,000 baht. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 07-8865433. Email: kensuemoyes@hotmail.com

MERCEDES-BENZ 300CE
Benz 300 CE BraBus version. Mint condition. Fully maintained, perfect engine, brand new tires and suspension. All work has been done – needs nothing. Comes with manual and many other items too numerous to list. Price: 1.25 million baht. Car is in Sukhumvit, near Emporium, in Bangkok. Contact for details. Tel: 01-7206142. Email: yucaipa2002@yahoo.com

NEW VOLVO V70
Midnight blue, VST version of current model. Fully maintained by Volvo (Thailand). Excellent condition. Koni-lbac suspension, 18" rims, Capella P700 tires – very stable for long road trips. One owner since new. Front and rear VST accessories. Price: 1.65 million baht. Car is in Sukhumvit, near Emporium, in Bangkok. Tel: 01-7206142. Email: yucaipa2002@yahoo.com

NISSAN NV
Nissan NV, year 2002, automatic, good maintenance, bronze color. For sale at 332,000 baht, or for long-term rent at 18,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-290318, 09-4744622. Fax: 076-290438. Email: nuay@hotmail.com

SOLUNA 2000
Toyota Soluna 4-door sedan, year 2000, 5-speed. New tires, brakes, aircon and stereo. Always maintained. Good car. Tel: 09-6522952. Email: donn_is@yahoo.com

Pickups

ISUZU D-MAX CAB4
Highlander 3000 turbo, 4-door, automatic, with 14,000 km. 11 months old. Sells for 790,500 baht new, will sell for 590,000 baht. Pls call for info. Tel: 07-2845344.

4 x 4s

GRAND CHEROKEE

1998 model, good condition, 176,000km, full options, dark green, first-class insurance. 590,000 baht. Pls call for more details. Tel: 07-2836716.

JEEP CHEROKEE

4x4, 4-liter engine, leather seats, CD player, 125,000 km. Tel: 076-383027, 01-8927738. Email: dechoux@loxinfo.co.th

CJ 7 4X4 JEEP

Sound Toyota turbo diesel motor, air locker and diff lock. The strongest 4x4 in Phuket. Asking price: 280,000 baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-9376961.

Motorbikes

YAMAHA TDR 250cc
Endurance bike, used daily, engine reconditioned in December 2003. Great fun to drive. 25,000 baht ono. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-3675413.

HONDA 400 CBR

Good condition, book and insurance. Pls contact for details. Tel: 07-8814415. Email: christophuket@hotmail.com

MTX DIRTBIKE

125cc Honda offroad. One year, runs well and includes book. 10,000 baht. Pls call for info. Tel: 06-2677098.

Vans

TOYOTA VAN

1994, 8-seat Toyota van, 6-cylinder, 24-valve, automatic, 180-hp engine. Top condition, no rust. 330,000 baht. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333-243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

Rentals

NEW CAMRY FOR RENT

Just 30,000 baht a month. Contact K. Kotchaphan for details. Tel: 076-328601, 09-4746615.

TOYOTA AVANZA RENTAL

New model: 5 doors, 5 + 2 seats, 1,300cc, manual. 1,300 baht/day, 8,500 baht/week. Long-term rates also offered. Pls call for info. Tel: 01-6063525.

A1 CAR RENTALS

4-door Isuzu Highlander auto: 28,000 baht/month. New Toyota Altis auto: 28,000 baht/month. New Toyota Vios auto: 22,000 baht/month. Toyota Soluna: 15,000 baht/month. All insured and special long-term prices offered. Please call for details. Tel: 09-8314703.

CRV FOR RENT

New in November 2003. All factory options, including remote security alarm, reverse distance alarm, CD changer. Metallic gold paint with gold-tinted windows. Interior is saddle-brown leather. One owner and driver from Norway since new. 1st-class insurance and 24-hour roadside assistance by Honda. 15,000 baht per week or 45,000 per month. Tel: 04-0613010. Email: crvkata@hotmail.com

DAIHATSU MIRA

for rent. Very good condition and easy to drive. Available for long-term rent at 9,900 baht/month, including insurance. Pls call for details. Tel: 01-5371050.

Wanted

RENTAL CAR

wanted. Looking for a reasonably-priced car or pickup with insurance to rent on a monthly basis. Pls contact. Tel: 01-0888690. Email: peter@howz.it

MOTORCYCLE

wanted to rent. We are coming to Phuket from January 2 and will be there until January 26. We are looking to rent a Honda Dream for this period. Email: butterfly33@yahoo.com

MOTORBIKE WANTED

Would like a Honda motorbike, 100cc, in good shape and not older than 3 years. Maximum price 15,000 baht. Do you have one for sale? Email: mange@espace.com

Others

ROOF RACK

Thule-Sweden for Daihatsu Mira or other car. 2 years old. 11,000 baht. Pls call for details. Tel: 07-8892792.

UNIQUELY Singapore

SILKAIR
where the world unravels

alliance Southern

Singapore Super Saver Free & Easy
3 days/2 nights From 5,555 Baht

Depart Phuket: Daily (Eff. until 30 Nov 04)
Package includes:

- Flights Phuket – Singapore – Phuket with SilkAir
- 2 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast.
- Airport transfers in Singapore
- Half-day city tour with English-speaking guide

Singapore Super Value
3 days/2 nights From 9,500 Baht

Depart Phuket: every Friday (Eff. Until 30 Nov 04)
Package includes:

- Flights Phuket – Singapore – Phuket with SilkAir
- 2 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast
- Airport transfers in Singapore + Night safari tour with dinner (on day 1)
- Jurong Bird Park, lunch, visit China Town, Sentosa Island and musical fountain with dinner (on day 2)
- Thai or English-speaking guide.

Fly with SilkAir, premium services at incredible prices

- Good Hot Meal
- In-flight entertainment
- Flexible schedule (3 flights a day)
- Spacious seat

For more info and reservation please contact:
Taurus Travel Co., Ltd. Patong Area Tel: 076 344521, 076 290244 info@taurus-travel.com
South Service (Thailand) Ltd. Phuket City Tel: 076 211447, 076 211432 travel@southservicesphuket.com
Sweetland Travel @ Central Festival Tel: 076 209015 – 6 booking@sweetland.net
Green Travel @ Robinson Department Store Tel: 076 256315 – 6 Fax: 076 256316
Travel Planet Holidays, Patong Beach Tel: 076 345846-7 trvplanet@hotmail.com
TAT License no. 31/0345

Sujika Gardens
PHUKET THAILAND

Developer: Pacific Rim Rich Group



Sujika Gardens is a luxury residential development located close to Bang Tao Beach and the Laguna Phuket Resort complex.

Phuket One Real Estate

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709
Mobile: 09-2889317, 09-5862959, 07-8970501.
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

OPENING PROMOTION

PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC & SPA
(Patong Branch)

DENTAL CLINIC
LASER TOOTH-WHITENING

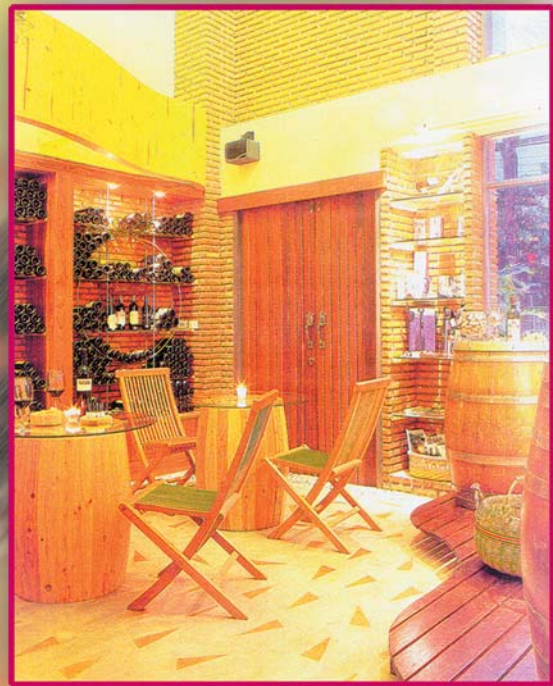
15,000.- 12,000 Baht

Spa

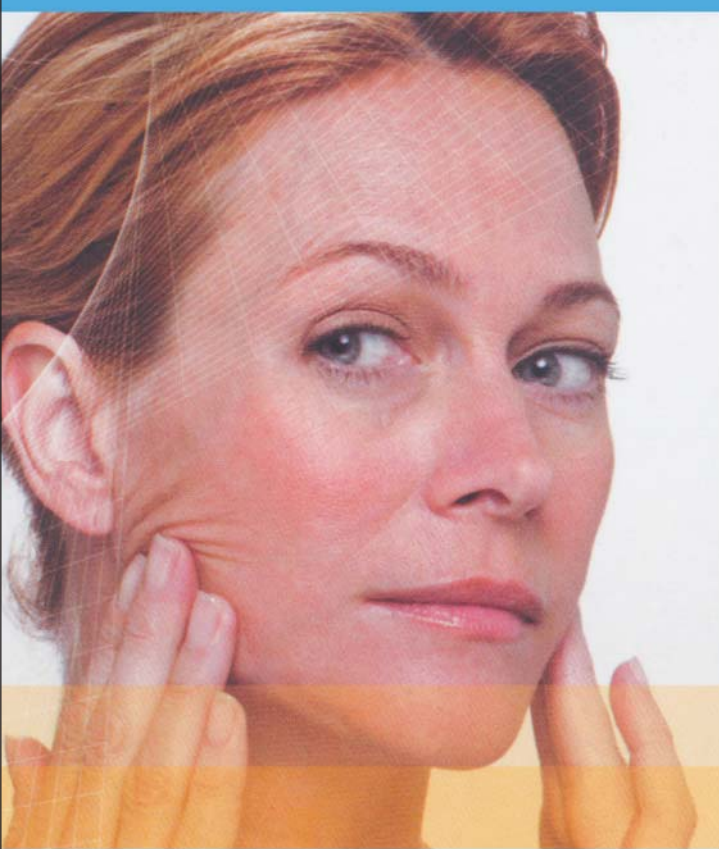
PAY FOR 1 PERSON, TAKE ANOTHER FOR FREE
Until 30 Nov '04

5/4 Sawatdirak Rd., (2nd Fl. All 4 Diving) Patong Beach, Phuket, 83150. Tel: 01-8934304, 076- 345341-2
www.promjaidentalclinic.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



Before
Photos courtesy of Robert Weiss, M.D.

After
Photos Courtesy of Flor Mayoral, M.D.

ThermaCool
Skin Tightening and Contouring
-without surgery-

Botox, Collagen injection
Permanent laser hair removal
Laser collagen replenishment
by American Board Certified Dermatologist

2nd Fl. Central Festival Phuket
Tel. 076-249621-3
www.apexskincentre.com
APEX
SKIN CENTRE

Genuine Swimming pools
Desjoyaux
Since 1966 France
N0.1 in the world

Free Spa!
Value: 249,000 Baht inc. VAT



From now on, The Desjoyaux family and partners will take care, directly, of all existing and future Desjoyaux pool owners. To celebrate this, the new Desjoyaux management is glad to present this exceptional offer.



***OFFER:**
Spa, fully equipped, capacity: 3 adults
14 air jets, 15 hydrojets, 4 vertical jets with ozonator and heater.
Free of charge for any person who orders a Desjoyaux pool with our famous crosscurrent and hydrotherapy system (minimum size: 8x4m).
Offer non-transferable, valid only in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi until 30/11/04.

Existing Desjoyaux pool owners: Where are you?
Please contact us in order to benefit of our complimentary check up for your pool.

Desjoyaux Phuket:
19/28 Moo2 Chaofa Rd., T. Wichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: +66 76 263688 Fax: +66 76 264023

