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## Heroic father burnt in rescue

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PATONG: A 46-year-old Patong man is in hospital recovering from serious burns after he ran into the searing heat of his blazing home to save his six-year-old daughter.

As the *Gazette* went to press, Chalermpon Jikpipaksin was recovering in Phuket International Hospital after the fire, which destroyed two houses in Phisit Gorani Soi 1 late on the night of November 11.

K. Chalermpon told the *Gazette* that he was asleep with his wife and their baby daughter in their wooden home when neighbors banged on the door to tell him that the roof was on fire.

He hurriedly kicked a small picnic gas bottle out the back door to prevent it exploding, then went back in to usher his wife and child through the kitchen, hesitating only to kick a second gas bottle out the door.

As he did so, flames exploded into the room and he threw himself over his wife and child to protect them.

Having got them to safety, K. Chalermpon went back through the flames to a new concrete room the couple had recently constructed, in which another daughter, aged six, was still asleep, and pushed her through a window into the arms of neighbors.

"I didn't know that I was on fire at that time," he told the *Gazette*. "I just wanted to save my daughter."

"I don't think I'm a hero," he added. "I just wanted to save all my family. I didn't know I was burned until a neighbor touched



Inhabitants sift through the charred wreckage (Photo by Sefton Hanley). Below, Chalermpon Jikpipaksin in hospital.



my shoulder and the skin came off in his hand."

Suwanna Tamchoo, a neighbor and a relative of K. Chalermpon, said she had lost everything in the blaze.

"The fire broke out in K. Chalermpon's house at around 11 pm. I heard people shouting 'Fire!' and we called the fire department. But by the time they got here, our cars were on fire and my home was burning."

K. Suwanna said her family had lost two cars – a new Toyota D-Max and a Nissan NV – and two motorbikes, all of which burned in the blaze.

Pol Maj Boonlert Onklang, from Kathu Police Station, said, "The total value of the property lost is 1,527,400 baht, including two houses, two

cars and the personal possessions in the houses. Another two houses and a car suffered slight fire damage. It looks as though the fire was caused by a short circuit," he added.

## Steep rise in revenue from land transfers

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) has collected 935 million baht in taxes and fees in the fiscal year to September 30, more than three times the amount collected in the last fiscal year.

The money was generated by taxes and fees paid by land-owners who bought or sold land, subdivided plots or sought approval for development projects between October 1, 2003, and September 30, 2004.

PPLO Chief Suphot Suwannachote told the *Gazette* that one reason for the increase between the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years was that fees had been increased substantially, as part of the central government's debt-restructuring policy.

Another factor had been the leap in the number of projects, said K. Suphot. In 2003-2004, 51 projects were submitted for approval, compared with just 10 the previous year.

"Each project submitted in 2003-2004 involved up to 10 plots of land," K. Suphot added.

He said 300 million baht of the 935 million baht collected would go to the local administration organizations where the developments were taking place.

Of the remainder, 50 million baht was excise duty and three million baht will be sent to the national Land Department in Bangkok. The bulk of the money – around 550 million baht – went to Phuket Revenue Office, to be sent to the Finance Ministry in Bangkok.

K. Suphot did not explain how, when the fees had risen steeply and the number of transactions went up five-fold, the revenue accrued only tripled.



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# Chalermtrak “chained” by election rules

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: The rules imposed by the Office of the Election Commission of Thailand (OECT) governing what MPs may do during the run-up to the election campaign periods have, according to Chalermtrak Kebsup, Democrat MP for Phuket District 2, obstructed her.

“I feel chained by the rules,” said K. Chalermtrak. “The OECT says that MPs must not campaign or take part in activities that may be construed as campaigning between November 5 and January 5, 2005.”

## Sharks to be released

CAPE PANWA: The Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and the Phuket Provincial Office will mark His Majesty the King's birthday by releasing 99 Indonesian bamboo sharks into the sea.

The release will take place at the PMBC, Cape Panwa, at 10:30 am on December 2.

January 5 marks the end of the term in office of the current government. After that day, MPs are free to campaign for election – within the laws laid down by the OECT.

Said K. Chalermtrak, “We [the Democrat Party] wanted to bring our promotional ‘caravan’ to the south of Thailand, following similar tours of the north and northeast of the country, but now we cannot. We will have to wait until January.”

The rules were introduced in the run-up to the general election in 2001.

Constituents, she said, had the impression that she was no longer interested in them, “but in reality it is these rules that have prevented me from appearing in public,” she said.

K. Chalermtrak confirmed her intention to run for parliament again as the Democrat candidate in the forthcoming election. She said that Suwit Sangiamkul, the current Democrat MP for Phuket District 1, will also run for re-election.



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# B66m in deals inked at HK property show

HONG KONG: Exhibitors at the Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition said they were pleased with the quality of visitors to the show and the general organization of it.

The event, which ran from November 12 to 14 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center, featured mostly property developers from Phuket and Koh Samui, but also attracted one developer from Bangkok and another, South Thailand Homes, looking to sell a development on Koh Lanta, in Krabi.

Although none of the 57 exhibitors came to the show expecting to make sales, five did say they had signed contracts. Royal Development International reported selling a US\$600,000 (27-million-baht) home in the Royal Samui Beach development, while apartments worth 8.2 million and 6.8 million baht respectively were sold at Allamanda and Ocean Breeze.

Gary Pearmain at Coconut Land & House signed a client for a 7-million-baht house at the Santi Thani development on Koh Samui, while Suchana Chaloe-toem, Director of The Plantation in Kamala, reported the sale of a 17-million-baht apartment.

“The exhibition is good for prospective buyers, because they can see a large variety of homes at the one show,” said K. Suchana. “This year there were many more visitors than last year. We have been very happy with the show. We have another 10 potential customers who have made appointments to come and see us in Phuket.”

Rawat Chindapol of the 900-million-baht Nirvana Phutri



More than 400 people came to look at the properties on offer at the Hong Kong show.

development in Chalong, called on the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and government departments in general to give more backing to shows such as the Hong Kong property exhibition. He said, “I’d like to see the show held in Hong Kong twice a year.”

Describing home buyers as “third-wave tourists”, he pointed out that such people, having bought homes in Thailand, would naturally be repeat visitors and would bring other people with them. The TAT should encourage such people, he said.

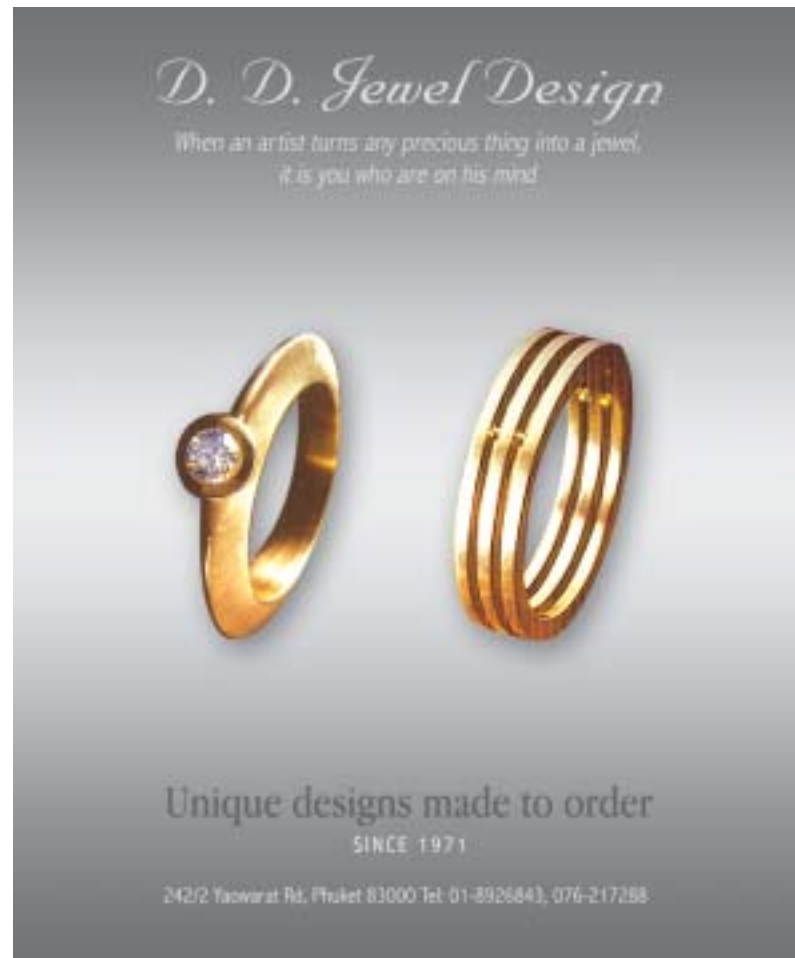
The show was not without its controversial moments, particularly when Gulu Lalvani, developer of the Royal Phuket Marina, dropped a bombshell in one of the two seminars held in conjunction with the exhibition.

During discussion of leasehold versus freehold ownership, Mr Lalvani revealed – amid horrified looks from developers and agents – that owners of villas at Amanpuri, including himself, had found that the typical 30-years-with-two-rollovers leasehold contract was not enforceable if the land changed hands.

It had cost millions of dollars to ensure that the long leases originally agreed by the villa owners would continue, he said.

Mr Lalvani then added that Royal Phuket Marina leaseholds had now been structured in such a way as to ensure that buyers there would not face a that problem.

The Hong Kong show, which was organized by the ArtAsia magazine group and Graham Doven, and co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, is certain to be repeated next year. Other shows may be launched in Dubai, Britain and Australia, the fastest-growing markets for high-end properties in Phuket and Koh Samui.



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## Governor to appeal for homes to stay on state land

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura will ask the Cabinet to allow residents in Soi Kingkaew, near Koh Sireh, to keep their homes, even though government officers have long claimed that the houses are on state land.

The Governor visited the soi on November 9 with Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment chief Thongchai Saowapong. The inspection came after residents there gave letters to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra during his visit to Phuket in August, asking him to let them stay.

More than 3,000 people live in some 800 homes on more than 300 rai of land there that the government claims is part of a 3,937-rai mangrove forest. Residents in the soi have disputed the government's claim since 1997.

The Governor said an exemption would be in line with the government's aim of improving poor people's lives. He said his first action would be to present an appeal to Cabinet asking for the residents to be allowed to stay on the land.

As the residents had also complained about poor electricity and water supplies, he also ordered the public utilities to provide services to them.

"You will be allowed to stay as you are [already] on this land," Gov Udomsak told the residents, "but I warn you that if you try to take over any more state land, you will be punished."

— Kamol Pirat

## Cabinet okays B300m for Rassada Port



The 300 million baht in improvements will see a 500-meter-long quay built alongside the existing one to relieve congestion.

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET CITY: The Cabinet has approved a plan to spend more than 300 million baht to improve Phuket Fishing Port in Tambon Rassada.

The plan includes the construction of a state-of-the-art seafood processing plant

The proposal, drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, was approved by the Cabinet on November 9.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives told the Cabinet that improvements would make it easier for Thai fish products to compete on world markets, and that, because the planned processing plant would meet European Union standards, fish

and seafood processed there could be sold in Europe.

Port manager Pramual Rakjai said the project would create a 500-meter quay alongside the existing 180m-long docks, as well as increase the paved parking area.

He said the proposal had already passed an environmental impact assessment, so work could start immediately.

"If the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives put this out to tender soon and can choose the company to do the work by the start of next year, the whole project could be completed in 2006," he said.

K. Pramual added that the port would stay open while the renovation was taking place.

## Three injured in 'visa run' smash

RANONG: One man had a leg amputated and two others required hospitalization after a minivan taking passengers from Phuket on a "visa run" collided with a water truck on November 12.

Pol Sub Lt Chatchai Pongsingto, of Ranong Town Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the accident happened on Paknam-Ranong Rd at about 12:20 pm.

The van, which is owned by Andaman Club Co Ltd, was carrying seven foreigners and a Thai from Phuket to the Andaman Club pier at Ranong.

Raoul Alexander Dieter Wildt, from Germany, suffered a smashed leg, necessitating amputation below the knee. He also

suffered a broken rib, spinal injuries and damage to his left arm and hand. Two other passengers, both Korean, received lesser injuries.

Lt Chatchai explained that the driver of the water truck rounded a bend in the road to find himself head-on with the minivan. Both the water truck driver and the minivan driver swerved to avoid a head-on smash, but the rear of the water truck and the rear of the minivan collided.

"The water truck suffered little damage, but the minivan was damaged at the rear left-hand side and its rear window was smashed," he said.

— Gategaeo Phetsawang

## Student pharmacist dies from overdose

PATONG: Police believe that a 19-year-old pharmacology student on holiday in Phuket committed suicide by overdosing on barbiturates in a Patong hotel.

Alongkorn Pitaktrirat, of Nakhon Ratchasima, had been dead for around two days when his body was found on November 10 at the Baan Bua Hotel, where he had been staying.

Pol Lt Padungpong Dukaew, of Kathu Police Station, said that officers, summoned by hotel staff, found K. Alongkorn's body lying on the bed with dried blood around the nose and mouth.

The television was on and the air-conditioning unit was running, and officers found three

boxes of Nembutal nearby, two of which had been opened.

Lt Padungpong said, "Nembutal can make people unconscious by suppressing their breathing. Taking too many [pills] may cause death."

He said that K. Alongkorn had been a student in the faculty of pharmacology at Silpakorn University, in Bangkok. He said, "His parents said his studies were going well, but he always kept problems to himself."

The cause of the suicide was a private matter, said Lt Padungpong, but he added, "We found a letter in his room saying he had had enough of living."

— Anongnat Sartpisut

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## Queer News

## Another fine mess

BANGKOK: Unscrupulous police officers extorting money from the public hardly constitutes news in Thailand – but it is noteworthy when the police themselves become victims of malfeasance.

Between March and October this year, Pol Sgt Tarnthip Preakratok managed to skim off nearly 3 million baht in fines collected by the Nongkam Police Station, where she was employed as a desk clerk.

The probe followed months of requests to inspect the station's accounting records, but Sgt Tarnthip kept stalling the investigators by telling them that the records were not up to date yet.

Finally, on November 1, investigators arranged a meeting with Sgt Tarnthip. When they arrived they found that she had absconded. Checking the records she had left behind, the investigators discovered that she had been helping herself to 90,000 baht a week.

The errant sergeant was found just four days later in her home province of Kanchanaburi – perhaps indicating why she had never climbed up the police ranks to the position of investigator – and was taken into custody.

Like many women who steal and then head straight home with the money, Sgt Tarnthip, 31, had a tale of woe for the arresting officers. She admitted to embezzling the police money, but told investigators she had done it only to help her husband of eight years, Somboon.

"We had a lot of expenses. He told me that he had lost his boss's car in Chon Buri and needed 1 million baht to cover it. He had also killed people, so we needed money to keep him out of prison. He told me, too, that he had invested in a crocodile farm and lost the money. But it was all a pack of lies."

Despite all the help she had given him in his time of difficulty, hubby Somboon (whose name means "Perfect") did not respond in kind. When his wife became the target of the police hunt, he simply disappeared.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*

Concern about the over-development of Phuket has been expressed right at the very top of the political ladder, by none other than Suwat Liptapanlop, the Deputy Prime Minister who has been charged with improving tourism in southern Thailand.

Phuket has become so overcrowded, its status as a tourism destination could soon be under threat, the Deputy Prime Minister said, and he called for four new tourist destinations to be developed: Prachuap Khiri Khan, Phetchaburi, Ranong and Chumphon provinces.

Promoting some of the new destinations would fall to Wiriya Kaenkaew, Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Region 5 office, which includes Chumphon, Ranong and Surat Thani.

K. Wiriya explained that the TAT is planning to promote Chumphon, Ranong and Surat Thani as "Green Between the Seas" tourist destinations.

She said, "The seas [in Region 5] cannot be compared with the seas around Phuket or Krabi, and that's why we plan to be a place for nature lovers and for health tourism, with indoor and outdoor mineral water bathing, spas and marine facilities, such as marinas."

"There are plenty of natural resources in these provinces, located between the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand, but we

This year a record four million passengers have already arrived at Phuket International Airport. However, some people in the tourism industry are becoming concerned that the island is about to become a victim of its own success – and be overwhelmed by the sheer number of tourists coming here.

One solution put forward by Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop is to develop other parts of southern Thailand for tourism, which may draw large numbers of tourists away from Phuket.

The *Gazette's* Dhirarat Boonkongsan gauges local reaction to the Deputy Prime Minister's proposal.

will need to improve facilities for tourists."

Sirachai Surai, Director of Central TAT Region 2, serving Phetchaburi/Cha-Am, Ratchaburi and Phachuap Khiri Khan, told the *Gazette* he did not know enough about the proposal to comment in detail, but he pointed out that Prachuap Khiri Khan and Phetchaburi are already popular with residents of Bangkok.

"We attract Thais from Bangkok, rather than foreigners, as Phuket does," he said.

Suwalai Pinradab, the Director of the Phuket office of the TAT, does not believe they pose much of a threat for Phuket, because the newcomers will be targeting a different segment of the market.

She added, "Plus, it's unlikely that the government will spend its entire tourist promotion

budget on the new destinations, because Phuket makes a lot of money for Thailand. I doubt very much the government would abandon Phuket completely while developing four untried, new destinations, which may not generate as much money as Phuket."

K. Suwalai concedes that changes do need to be made in Phuket. Earlier this month, World Tourism Organization specialist Hans Carl Jacobsen – commissioned to research and develop a national tourism plan for Thailand – outlined to a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall what he believed needs to be done to sustain and enhance Phuket tourism.

"Mr Jacobsen told us that, physically, Phuket doesn't look good, especially around the city," said K. Suwalai.

"He told us that tourists



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# Southern exposure



**KARST OF THOUSANDS:** Phang Nga Bay? Think again. If Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop's push to promote the northern parts of Southern Thailand, the Andaman provinces will be competing against the beauty of Prachuap Khiri Khan, pictured above.

expect the roads around the airport to be nice and impressive, especially the road from the airport to the city, and that there should be more trees to create an attractive aspect for visitors.

"Mr Jacobson is from Denmark, and he suggested that the buildings be painted, as they are in Europe, to make the city center appealing.

"Significantly, he also suggested that we should look beyond visitor numbers. Maybe we should be looking towards attracting fewer high-quality tourists, rather than more low-quality ones."

She continued, "Phuket has already been doing great on its own but we still need government support with things like infrastructure.

"I see no reason why Phuket cannot be developed as a world-class destination, but we need action as well as words to bring that about.

"As for the development of the four 'new' destinations, well, the plans have yet to be finalized, so I don't know exactly what they will be like, which makes it difficult to comment on them. But it will be interesting to create new destinations besides existing ones like Phuket."

But there is no need to draw tourists away from Phuket, because the island isn't overcrowded. That, at least, is how Pattanapong Aikwanich, the President of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), sees things.

"I don't think Phuket is over-crowded at all," he said.

"We can handle more than four million tourists a year, and I thought the government had said it wants more visitors to come to Phuket every year, anyway.

"In fact, the government had [Phuket Provincial] Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, representing Phuket, sign an agreement to bring 10-12 % more tourists here every year. It's a total paradox.

"But if the government now feels differently, rather than expecting us to increase tourist numbers every year, why not set an exact number for visitors and control the quality.

"It would be better if the government controlled the quality of tourists and created more interesting activities for them, and at the same time make more

of an effort to protect natural resources and the environment.

"Phuket should be developed as a place for high-end tourism, a place offering a higher standard of services for higher prices. [If this can be accomplished] I believe that the benefits of Phuket's success as a tourist destination will trickle down to surrounding provinces."

A far, far greater threat to tourism than over-development, believes K. Pattanapong, is the "Land-bridge" oil pipeline project proposed for Phang Nga province.

The PTA has already voiced its opposition to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and will continue to oppose the plan. "Oil from the pipeline could wreck the place where we live and from which we earn our living; the damage would occur quickly, but it would last forever," said K. Pattana-

pong.

Another critic of the pipeline project is Pamuke Achariya-chai, the Chairman of Phuket Chamber of Commerce. "We have already said we don't want it here, he said.

"We want to convince PM Thaksin that whatever money the pipeline brings in would be nothing compared to what would be lost if it wrecked the tourism that already brings an awful lot of money into Thailand every year."

But K. Pamuke doesn't have a problem with developing tourism to Prachuap Khiri Khan, Phetchaburi, Ranong and Chumphon.

He said, "It would be good for those provinces, but they have to think about the quality of facilities on offer, and the resources

needed to support the development of tourism.

"If they don't have the infrastructure in place, they won't succeed."

Indeed, Mantana Jareonvipasjet, the President of Ranong Tourist Association, agrees that infrastructure is important, as she says the area does not yet have the roads and electricity supply to support much development.

However, she said, "Ranong has world-class mineral water and other natural resources, like beaches, forests and unspoiled islands, such as Koh Payam and Koh Chang. We also have a very attractive golf course, although it has only nine holes.

"Ranong is attractive to tourists looking for something off the beaten track and a calm environment."

She added, "I can't see Ranong welcoming tourists in the numbers Phuket does, but then I don't think we want our area to grow too fast. We want time to develop good city plans and zones, things like that. Slower but steady growth is what we're looking for."

Fast growth would also be unwelcome in Chumphon, according to Suwannee Thammawuti, the President of Chumphon Tourist Business Association.

At the moment, the area lacks infrastructure, as well as the know-how to develop tourism to the region's best advantage, said K. Suwannee.

"Here could be a good place for diving and agricultural traveling because our natural resources are unspoiled, and we'd like to preserve as many of our natural resources as we can. We have to be careful about how we develop them," she said.

"We must have zoning, to determine which areas are for tourism and which aren't. If we can do that, tourism should not cost us our natural resources."



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**24 hr**



By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

Jet-skis are being gradually phased out in Phuket waters – or so we are told – but now there is a whole new generation of small, sporty watercraft coming in to take their place. Swimmers, stay in your pens!

Thiti Mekkapan, Managing Director of Thai Marine Center, told the *Gazette* that his company is now the sole authorized dealer in Thailand of Nautic Star boats, which are constructed in Qingdao, China, by Sino-Korean joint venture Nautic Star Marine.

A wide variety of the boats – if they can really all be called boats – is now on display at the company's showroom off Thepkasatri Rd, ranging from a 2.6-meter-long inflatable dinghy costing just 87,000 baht to the eight-seater J-Maran 480, priced at 550,000 baht, including in-board engine.

In between – for those who covet a jet-ski, but know they can no longer get one registered, is the 150,000-baht TJ2, with looks like a jet-ski mounted inside an inflatable rubber hull, thereby qualifying it for dinghy status. It will do about 30 knots.

"It is not classified as a jet-ski because it's bigger and can seat more than two people. It is designed for safety and is very buoyant.

"There are two power options on the TJ2, gasoline and turbo diesel. Weight ranges from 110 kilograms to 176kg, depending on the engine," he explained.

There's also the JM320, a little catamaran that looks a bit like a pedalo but has an outboard jet motor. It costs 150,000 baht.

Both the rubber dinghy and the JM320 can operate in water as shallow as 30 centimeters,

# Making WAVES



**PREPARE FOR LANDING:** The J-Maran 480 (above) can seat up to eight people, and can navigate Phuket's shallow coastal waters.

making them ideal for fishing or exploring shallow bays, rivers and inlets.

Residents of Patong might even consider buying one for personal transport until the municipality sorts out its rainy season flooding problem.

K. Thiti told the *Gazette* he came across the unique vessels at a boat show in Shanghai and de-

cided to import them, taking advantage of the recent abolition of duty on imported pleasure boats.

Thai Marine Center also continues its primary business of building fiberglass speedboats, and is creating its own fiberglass-hulled versions of the JM480 and the JM320.

Because they are made of fiberglass, the locally-built boats

are more robust and can travel further out to sea than the inflatable Nautic Star boats, K. Thiti says.

Thai Marine Center has ordered 10 of each of the Chinese models, and expects them to arrive soon. All the vessels come with a 10-year warranty, and Thai Marine Center staff have been trained by Nautic Star to perform repair and maintenance work.

*Thai Marine Center can be reached by turning left after the Isuzu Showroom, northbound on Thepkasatri Rd. For more information visit their website at [www.thaimarinecenter.com](http://www.thaimarinecenter.com), the Nautic Star website ([www.nauticstar-marine.com](http://www.nauticstar-marine.com)) or contact K. Thiti (Tel: 01-8926284; 076- 352135; Email: [thaimarine@phuketinternet.co.th](mailto:thaimarine@phuketinternet.co.th)).*

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# Tourist-killing cop out on bail

**S**omchai Wisetsingh, 38, the police sergeant who admitted to killing Britons Adam Lloyd and Vanessa Arscott in September, has been released from custody on bail of 1 million baht.

Judge Narong Suthamkoon granted bail after the prosecution team unsuccessfully argued that, if released, Sgt Somchai might try to tamper with evidence or intimidate witnesses.

The prosecution said it would ask the court again to order Sgt Somchai to be kept in custody – after he is officially charged. The case is now being considered by the State Attorney's Region 7 office.

A source in the Kanchanaburi public prosecutor's office said Sgt Somchai pointed out in his request for bail that he had never previously committed a crime and said that he had promised not to run away. The source said the judge instructed him to refrain from intimidating witnesses.

Although there are some 16 witnesses to the killings, almost all were reluctant to sign statements with the Kanchanaburi police against Sgt Somchai, the source said.

**Biological warfare:** In less than a year, coconut leaf hispa, also known as blue coconut leaf beetles, have damaged as much as 60,000 rai of coconut trees on Koh Samui and nearby Koh Phangan.

The Agriculture Department rates the problem as urgent and has vowed to eradicate the beetles within two years, by importing *tanbian*, a eulophus wasp that preys on the insects, from Vietnam.

"We have to take quick action, particularly on Samui, be-



**MATURE MALADY:** Wichai Chomboon, 11, of Ubon Ratchathani, suffers from a rare genetic condition that accelerates aging, giving him the appearance of an old man and poor eyesight. Though generally welcomed by classmates at his school, Wichai has often been subject to taunts outside the classroom.

Asked what kind of future he would like for his son, Wichai's father, Daeng, said he hoped surgeons would operate on his son and make him look like a child.

"Without wrinkles, he would be able to avoid taunts. Or at the least, my family hopes for some financial assistance that will pay for Wichai's medical bills. We are a poor family and are struggling to cope with our son's medical expenses," he said.

cause coconut trees are an icon there. We can't let the island lose one of its most striking features," said Agriculture Director-General Chakan Saengraksawong.

He said the beetles have damaged up to 40% of the coconut trees on Koh Samui and Koh Phangan. The Agriculture Department released the first batch of *tanbian* to coconut-tree farmers on Koh Samui on October 30.

**Keeping the faith:** The National Buddhism Bureau has called for the pulling of a television commercial that offers a free book promoting Christianity, pending a review of how much aggressive religious advertizing is permissible.

The bureau has already asked the Public Relations Department and the Office of Consumer Protection Board to check

if it has a mandate to order the commercial off-air.

"We agree that the advertisers have the right to propagate their religious belief, but we think the commercial should be suspended until a clear framework is laid down about how to campaign for each faith," said bureau director Chakratham Thammasak.

The advertiser, a Protestant

foundation, has reportedly received a large number of requests for the free book.

K. Chakratham said he was calling for guidelines because he was concerned that followers of other faiths might consider launching equally aggressive campaigns, thereby causing "pollution of faiths" and even "division of faiths".

**Police force:** Twenty-three police officers in Ayudhya have been suspended pending a probe into alleged brutality.

Assistant National Police Chief Pol Lt Gen Pichit Kuan-technakupt said the officers will be investigated for alleged involvement in the torture of volunteer rescue worker Ekkawat Srimanta, who sustained serious injuries resulting from beating and electric shocks to his genitals when he was detained at Uthai district police station earlier this month.

Friends rushed him to hospital after he emerged from the interrogation. Uthai police never filed charges against K. Ekkawat, but said they suspected him of theft.

K. Ekkawat's friends said the brutality might be payback from a police officer who had recently been reassigned to Ayudhya after being transferred out of the province two years ago because of a complaint from K. Ekkawat.

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

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Map showing location: Hongyok-U-Thit Rd., Yaowarat Rd., 7 ELEVEN, BKK-Phuket Hospital.



The Phang Nga tourism authority and the local hotel association have united to try to throw a few stones into the slow-but-steady path of the Strategic Energy Land Bridge project, better known as the oil pipeline project.

A pamphlet, in Thai only, outlining the potential environmental impact is being distributed throughout Phang Nga. The pamphlet says, among other things, that the land the pipeline will run through could be taken away from its original owners by force – if they are not willing to sell for the price offered.

In addition, there is a rumor circulating that the landbridge would be 97% owned by Chinese investors, with just 3% held by Thais. Although that seems likely, the implication of foreign ownership is making an impression on the minds of local people.

While the locals are being told that the project will make everyone in the area rich, it is far more likely that only a few powerful and already rich people will benefit from the landbridge.

Tourism and Phang Nga's natural attractions supports hundreds of thousands of Thai people in Phang Nga, and many of these are coming to the conclusion that much of the area's appeal will be destroyed – just so a select group can get rich.

The best way of stopping a project that could potentially destroy Phang Nga's booming tour-

# Pipeline protest heats up



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

ism industry is to educate local people. The release of the brochure is a positive step in the fight to save Phang Nga and its natural treasures.

**High times:** With most Khao Lak hotels and resorts fully booked since the middle of November, scuba-diving tour boats full, restaurants crowded and masses of tourists out shopping, Khao Lak is expecting its best season ever.

The first signs came in October, with tourists arriving earlier than in previous years. It seems that this high season will exceed the expectations of Khao Lak's once-worried business-people.

Happy are the ones who prepared early, while those who thought they had plenty of time

**OPEN ALL HOURS:** receiving medical attention in Khao Lak during the day may prove difficult, as most 'medical centers' there do not have qualified medical staff until about 5:30 pm.



to get ready are the ones working throughout the night to complete their shops.

**Bang Niang Bung:** As the rainy season comes to an end, road conditions in the Bang Niang Beach area are still deteriorating. The local administration organizations promise, "We are working on it," but the Bang Niang Beach main road is frequently

flooded, as the drainage system stops dead halfway along the road. The system is also too narrow to handle the deluges that wash down from the Khao Lak hillsides.

Shops and restaurants are losing custom, as tourists decide it's better to take a taxi to Khao Lak than wade through muddy water. To complete the situation, all Bang Niang Rd intersections

are now pocked with potholes up to seven-inches deep, which have already caused several serious motorbike accidents.

The owners of some of the bigger resorts in Bang Niang are getting rather cranky about the situation, and are visiting government officials on a regular basis to "express their emotions".

**Medicare where?** There are five so-called "medical clinics" in Khao Lak, but they are currently without qualified medical staff until about 5:30 pm, when the owners – doctors working during the day at hospitals in Takuapa, Phang Nga or Phuket – put in an appearance.

As the medical center in Khuk Kak looks like a government building and lacks any sign in English indicating that medical services are offered there, tourists in need will most likely continue going all the way to Takuapa Hospital for treatment.

Medical services in Khuk Kak and Takuapa are not what most tourists would call Western-standard, especially compared with the services available in Phuket. It is obvious that Khao Lak needs to develop medical services capable of serving its ever-growing number of visitors.



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Location Map





## This week



**IN THE PINK:** (above) Mr and Mrs Daniel Anisimoff (center), the first guests at the newly-opened Trisara resort at Nai Thon Beach, are presented with T-shirts by the hotel's management team.

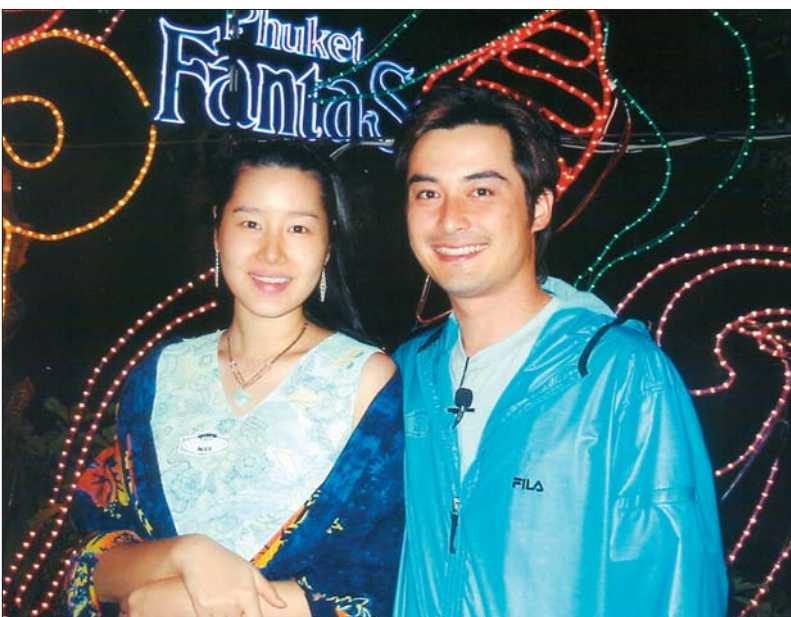
**STAND BY ME:** (right) Daren and Sasaporn Chan (left and 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), the owners of Oasis Restaurant & Café in Nai Harn, host a birthday party for Endoo Suwannaphan (holding gift) and friends on November 7.



**WEDDING BELLES AND BEAUS:** Gulu Lalvani (left) plays host at his villa to the recent wedding of David Ruff (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and niece Gitu Ramani (center).



**LA CRÔME DE LA COMMERCE:** At the grand opening of Central Festival Phuket are, from left: Wallaya Chirathivat, Executive Vice-President (EVP) of Business Development of Central Retail; Grish Attagrish, EVP Division Head of Siam Commercial Bank; Sutthichai Chirathivat, President of Central Group; and Yuwadee Picharnjit, President of Central Department Store.



**ISLAND FANTASY:** (above) South Korean beauty queen Kim Ji Youn (left) and actor and fellow countryman Lee Sae Chang enjoy a delightful night out at Phuket FantaSea.

**THUMBS UP FOR INDEX:** (from left) Somchai Tantasani, Vice-President (VP) of Index Furniture; Chanchai Mahaboon, Assistant VP Marketing; Kijja Pattamasattayasonthi, MD of Bangkok Interfurn Group; and Jarintorn Pattamasattayasonthi, VP of Index Furniture at the store's recent opening.



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Ready to strut their stuff at Zanzibar Pub on November 28 are (at back, from left) Linda Cumming, Angie Batt and Jessica Lukas. Choreographer Karen Alexander MacIver fronts the troupe.

## So hip it hurts

It was a night of good food and great laughs when the Punchline Comedy Club gave their last performance of the year.

Not a seat was empty at the Watermark and gales of laughter wafted through Boat Lagoon in a night that brought about 140 of Phuket's fun-loving residents out to celebrate British humor.

"We've had a great response so far to the launch of Punchline Comedy Club and we plan a full season of laughter for 2005," said Watermark manager **Stuart Bird**.

Phuket City's new "epicenter of fun", the Zanzibar Pub, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, is presenting an afternoon of musical and dance entertainment on Sunday, November 28, starting at 3 pm.

**Karen Alexander MacIver**, director of dance at SEA Academy, will present her cho-

reography with students tap dancing and otherwise moving to the hippest rap and songs from the shows. Among the troupe will be **Angie Batt, Linda Cumming and Jessica Lukas**.

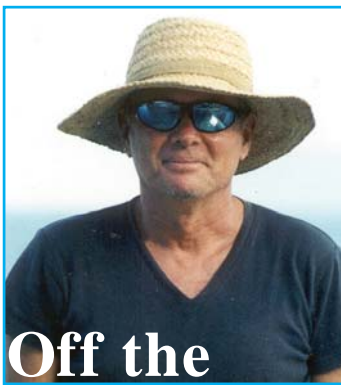
Karen is a dance teacher who has trained many of Australia's most successful dancers working in New York and Paris.

This is a great chance to check out one of Phuket's latest nightspots, a venue that has secured local guitarist **Boon-**

**kurt** and his Picasso Band to keep the crowd dancing.

Royal Phuket City Hotel GM **Ian Taylor Woodward** has revamped all the F&B outlets in Phuket City's upscale hotel. He closed the main restaurant and transformed it into Zanzibar, a quasi-African-themed pub complete with lifelike wild animals.

Tickets for the dance show can be bought at the door and are priced at 300 baht for adults and 150 baht for children under 12.



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With Bruce Stanley

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\*\*\*\*\*

Perhaps it was the fact that Chintana Daengdej moved from her home province of Petchaboon to Chiang Mai as a kindergarten-age child that helped her to land on her feet with her first job.

Straight out of Chiang Mai University 17 years ago, after graduating in communication arts with a major in journalism, she walked into a job as a roving reporter with Channel 7 TV.

Not a person to rest on her laurels, she also completed a master's degree in communication arts at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

The lifestyle of a journalist certainly seemed attractive for K. Chintana, although it was not without its difficult moments.

One of those was covering the devastation wrought by Typhoon Gay in November 1989. One of the worst natural disasters in Thailand's history, it claimed the lives of more than 500 people in Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces.

Winds in excess of 130 kmh and a storm surge of one meter left another 160,000 people homeless and 4.5 million rai of land awash.

Recalling this event still stirs up strong emotions in K. Chintana. "My boss assigned me to the story although I had no experience of reporting such a situation," she recalls. (Very few Thai journalists had had such experience.

The worst natural disaster to hit Thailand before that was in 1962 when tropical storm Harriet hit Laem Taloom Pook peninsula in southern Thailand, killing more than 900 people.)

She continues, "We - my TV crew and I - decided to drive to Chumphon but found the way littered with debris. We also had strong winds and, on occasion, high waves along the coastal roads to contend with.

"The wind almost blew me away - literally. But I didn't feel scared, I was too young to feel scared, I think."

She remembers roofs being torn from buildings and trees blown down in her path, but for her the worst part was the effect the typhoon had on people.

Indeed, one thing in par-

# Modern

Career changes are commonplace these days and the notion of just one job for life seems as archaic as a quill pen.

Chintana Daengdej, Managing Director of the Phuket International Night Bazaar, the first part of the new Chao Fa City, has made the transition from one career to another appear almost effortless, although it has taken a resolute attitude to achieve her goals.

She spoke with the *Gazette's* **Sangkhae Leelanapaporn** about life as a businesswoman.

ticular seemed to make them angry, according to K. Chintana. "The prime minister at the time - Chatichai Choonhavan - visited the province. He made an inspection but was not shown the areas that were worst affected. He talked to the media and said that the damage was minimal, which, as far as he knew, it was."

His comments infuriated those affected by the storm, and they looked to vent their anger on the only people they could: the media. "These people were injured, homeless and hungry. It was natural that they wanted to blame someone, although their anger was misdirected: they blamed us. They thought that the media were deliberately covering up the extent of the disaster.

'A group of people surrounded my cameraman and me. They started shouting at us, cursing us. They couldn't see that we were there simply to report as best we could.'

"Channel 7 is a very influential TV station. People [elsewhere in Thailand] believed what they saw on that station. The Chumphon residents affected seemed to blame us more than anyone.

"A group of people surrounded my cameraman and me. They started shouting at us, cursing us. They couldn't see that we were there simply to report as best we could. The crowd were mad. I was trying to explain what we were trying to do, and trying to calm them down."

K. Chintana sent a tape of the devastation to her studio but, despite repeated requests, it was never aired. Later, she let the crowd speak directly to the camera and this time the footage was broadcast. Simply letting people

speak and give vent to their grievances on air seemed to ease the ugly mood of the crowd.

K. Chintana and her crew remained in the area for a month or so. "I really pitied these people and became very upset on their behalf. In the end I asked to be transferred away from Chumphon.

Seeing people day after day with little food or shelter, and still searching for lost relatives buried under buildings or with injuries that had been unattended to really affected me."

Although she stayed with Channel 7 for another few years, she realized that it might be time to move on. "I didn't leave because I was upset but because I had simply had enough.

"I was tired of stories that were not news being given precedence over real news. I felt that we [journalists] should be reporting useful things," she explains.

In that year, K. Chintana laid the foundations for her business consultation and promotion company - August 1991 Communication Co Ltd. This, she says, allowed her to direct her dedication more effectively.

"August 1991 Ltd - it's still in operation - allows [us] to get to the heart of a problem or business and effect some positive change. We advise the client and identify all their strengths and weaknesses," she explains.

August 1991 Ltd's clients have included Chivas Regal, Colgate Palmolive, Central Development and many property development public companies.

Business was brisk up until the 1997 economic crash in Asia. K. Chintana then had the opportunity - albeit somewhat enforced - to return to her studies.

She studied for a doctorate

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# woman



**WORKING WONDER:** I have always considered that learning is an award for the individual – Chintana Daengdej.

in interpersonal communication, a course run between Ohio University and Bangkok University. The first academic year was spent in Thailand but the second saw her traveling to the US.

"I have always considered that learning is an award for the individual," she says.

When she returned from the US, a rector at Eastern Asia University (EAU) in Bangkok invited her to be a dean at the institute. "I spent about three years there, up until 2002. I felt that it was time to give something back to society," she says.

"I continued to work for August 1991 Ltd while also working as a dean at EAU and in 2002 I lectured in business at Chulalongkorn University."

She now lectures in business presentation at CE Enter-

prise in Bangkok, as well as – with her husband – running August 1991 Ltd and a slew of other business interests including Fashion Mall, Education Mall and the E-Square department store, all of which are in Bangkok.

She is now turning her attention to Phuket and to the International Night Bazaar to be built on 170 rai of the proposed Chao Fa City. The project will feature around 6,000 business units, including a wedding plaza, electronics stores and entertainment zones.

Where will it all end? K. Chintana says, "I want to sketch, to listen to music and be removed from society. I want to commit myself to further study and to our three children."

But that doesn't look like happening just yet...

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# A peek behind the mask at CNN

I watch a lot of CNN, and I've often wondered what would happen if the people who appear on it said what they really think, instead of striving for journalistic objectivity. I suspect we'd get broadcasts like this:

**Rosemary Church:** I'm Rosemary Church at the CNN Center in Atlanta, and I'd just like to say that I'm much more beautiful than Zain Verjee, Kristie Lu Stout, Andrea Sanke, or any of our other lovely young anchorchicks any of you dirty old goats may be lusting over out there.

First we turn to the business news, because all the major media agree that money is where it's at, newswise, and all the starving children in Sudan and dying AIDS victims in Africa can just go pound sand and take a back seat to the stock market reports. For that we go to Todd Benjamin in London. Todd?

**Todd Benjamin:** Thanks, Rosemary, and hello to all you slimy, Mammon-worshipping greedheads who get your rocks off slobbering over the stock market while Sudanese children starve.

Well, the Dow is up, the Nasdaq is down, the Hang Seng is floating, and the Footsie doesn't know where the hell it's at. Back to you, Rosemary.

**Rosemary:** Thanks, Todd. And now over to "Smiling Shihab" Rattansi, the reporter who is always smiling, for a lively and uplifting report on the latest developments in Iraq.

**Shihab:** Thanks, Rosemary. When I've got something to smile about, I'll send



you a fax. Incidentally, Zain, Kristie Lu, and Andrea are cuter than you. But it's Monita Rajpal who really sends my rocket up.

There was another bombing today in Baghdad, in which hundreds were brutally massacred. I have here an ordinary Iraqi citizen, Ahmed al-Ahmed, who has offered to give us his assessment of the situation. Ahmed?

**Ahmed:** (his face contorted with rage; waving and screaming) It is all the fault of the Americans! They have given us nothing! We have no security! No electricity! No running water! No collection of the garbage! We were better off under Saddam! At least then we could get a decent pizza! Death to the Americans! And death to the Jews who bombed the World Trade Center!

**Shihab:** There you have it, Rosemary, an average Iraqi's gratitude to the Americans for liberating him from Saddam's tyranny; his stoic refusal to whine or complain when confronted by hard-

ships, and his utter contempt for absurd conspiracy theories.

**Rosemary:** Shihab, what is your analysis of the situation there? I hope it's better than your taste in women.

**Shihab:** Well, the Shi-ites, the Sunnis and the Kurds all want to kill each other. Chaos seems inevitable.

**Rosemary:** Is it really that bleak, Shihab? Is there no hope?

**Shihab:** Look at my face, Rosemary. Am I smiling?

**Rosemary:** No. But then, you never do.

**Shihab:** (solemnly) There is one possible solution currently being debated at the UN.

**Rosemary:** What's that, Shihab?

**Shihab:** Everybody should leave.

**Rosemary:** Thank you for that upbeat assessment, Shihab. Now we wish to announce that CNN has purloined Tim Sebastian from the BBC.

Here's a brief preview of his hard-hitting new talk show, *RoughTalk*. Tim?

**Tim Sebastian:** (hunched over the table; glowering) Thank you, Rosemary. General Melchizedek Makawe, military dictator of the central African nation of Foof, a very warm welcome to our show.

**Makawe:** Thank you. A pleasure to be here.

**Tim:** (still glowering) You have

been accused of being a despicable tyrant, a robber, rapist, murderer, embezzler, pedophile, cannibal and genocidal psychopath who lives in sybaritic luxury while your downtrodden people starve. What is your response?

**Makawe:** My response?

**Tim:** (leaning forward and gnashing his teeth) Yes. Your response, you vicious wanker!

**Makawe:** My response is: \*\*\*\* them all. (Note: Here we substitute asterisks for a vulgarism not normally printed in respectable newspapers.)

**Tim:** (rearing back; aghast) \*\*\*\* them all? \*\*\*\* them all? That's all you've got to say in response to these outrageous charges of unspeakably heinous crimes?

**Makawe:** Yes. \*\*\*\* them. All of them. You, too, fatso.

**Rosemary:** (cutting in) Well, I think that

gives you an adequate foretaste of our new interview show, *RoughTalk*. Don't miss the part where Makawe rips off his penis sheath and beats Tim over the head with it, rendering him – for the first time in his career – speechless.

*S Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, but not while he's still trying to figure out what a penis sheath is.*



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# TREASURE CHESTS



One of the highlights of the grand opening of Central Festival Phuket – which was graced by the presence of HRH Princess Soamsawali – was a fashion show inspired by the concept of Phuket as “The Treasure Island”.

**Yothin Thamjamrus**, the organizer of the fashion show, explained that the clothes and accessories modeled were aimed at Phuket’s tourist market.

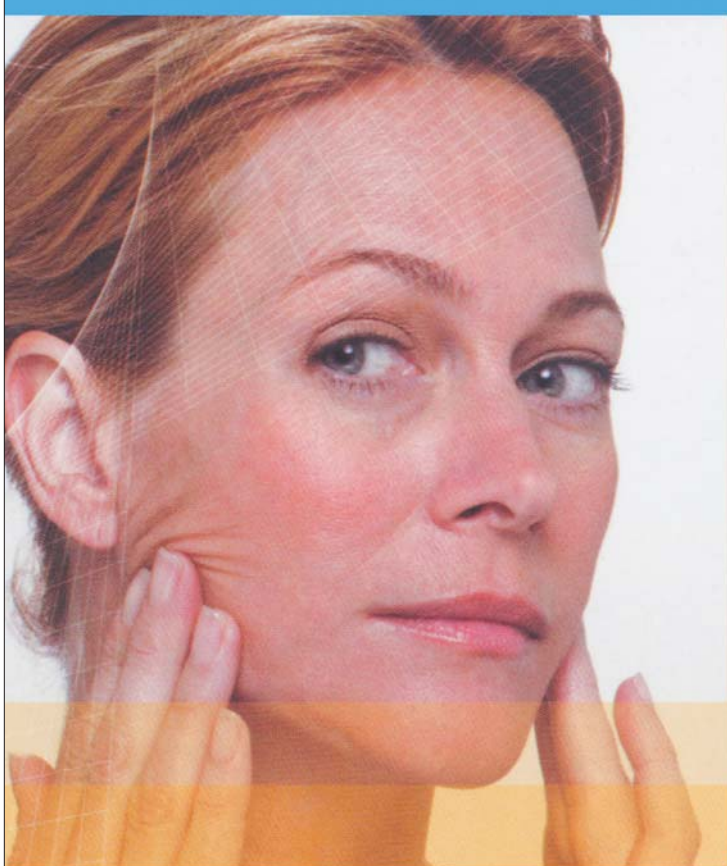
The items on display, he claimed, lend themselves to any occasion on our own treasure island: beach, casual function or an evening party.

All clothes and accessories shown are available from Central Festival Phuket.



**UP ON THE CATWALK:** (clockwise) A shimmering “coin” jacket over a bikini adds a twist to the phrase “loose change”; this year’s little black dress available just in time for Christmas; a belted shorty trenchcoat for the cooler days; MTV VJ, actress and supermodel Sonia Cooling shows that spots are, er, easy to spot; who needs Japanese Yakuza-style tattoos when you can simply buy the T-shirt?

Words and pictures by Sangkhae Leelanaporn.



Before  
Photos courtesy of Robert Weiss, M.D.



Before  
Photos Courtesy of Flor Mayoral, M.D.



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For a long time I have wondered why Phuket hotels have never tried harder to exploit what is potentially their most lucrative market for F&B products: the locals.

This is especially true of the Royal Phuket City Hotel. Over the years I have watched several half-hearted attempts to get us excited, most recently at the expense of a product that was excellent.

I'm referring to the Dynasty Chinese restaurant that was on the second floor. This was one of my favorite places to eat in town, and the crispy duck was utterly gorgeous. It always seemed reasonably busy and was one of the best bargains in town.

But now this once-great dining experience has been converted into, yawn, a "fusion" restaurant. This has its appeal, I'm sure, but I for one am thoroughly bored by the concept. When I want Chinese, I want Chinese...

Initially, the entire Chinese menu was moved to the Pickles restaurant downstairs. While the food maintained its quality, the surroundings were forgettable. Then this, too, was closed.

But Pickles was closed to make way for what is now the hottest new venue in Phuket City, Zanzibar.

Managed by the totally

charming Nikki, whose enthusiasm alone makes it worth a trip, Zanzibar is aimed at the well-to-do of the island's bright young things.

Once inside the nightspot, we were surrounded by helpful staff who were all very smartly turned out, and the level of spoken English I experienced was also first class.

Drinks were cold, reasonably priced and served promptly, although I did find the beer menu a little limited.

The décor is "modern jungle", with lots of faux tiger skin upholstery – as Austin Powers might say, "I'm the man who put the *grrr* in 'tiger', baby!" There are several statues which look like they cost a bomb and the bar is very easy on the eye, except for the stage area, which lacks any meaningful lighting. In fact, the lighting seems to have been an afterthought, and there were no lighting effects at all during the live music set.

K. Nikki reassured me that this will be sorted out in the near future. This should be a priority,

# YEAH, baby



Kurt's back: Phuket's own diminutive Rock God delivers the goods at Zanzibar.

as the venue place is being poorly presented because of the inadequate, inappropriate lighting.

The sound system is top quality, and although, when first installed it was a bit, well, crap, it has now been sorted out to suit the legend who is Boonkurt, Phuket's own diminutive Rock God.

I've known Kurt as long as I have been in Phuket, and some of my most memorable evenings have been spent in his company. He's a bundle of talent and energy unlike any other in Thailand.

If you are new to the island

and have not experienced Kurt, then check him out; he knocks all the posing, trouser-swinging, leg-ends-in-their-own-lunchtimers into a cocked hat.

He is a major asset to the venue and the management has shown smarts in getting him to play there. I just hope they look after him well.

The management seems to have set its sights on attracting a younger crowd, judging by the house playlist: hard dance music, crap R&B and hip-hop and nothing to sing along to.

Although there is some excellent R&B and hip hop out there, it seems that unless it contains the words pimp, ho' or niggah, Thai DJs won't play it.

I am sick and tired of looking at DJs who concentrate more on beat matching – which they mistake for mixing – than looking at the floor to check out who's there and whether they're dancing.

To appeal to an older, more affluent crowd, they would need to change their music policy. I am just dying for someone to take the plunge in the city and play music for me and my peers.

There are loads of us and we want somewhere that meets our needs. This place is potentially a regular haunt, if they sort the tunes out. And we have more cash to spend than the kids...

Things were quiet during my first visit, and I was thrilled to see Nikki getting the staff going, offering them 50-baht tips to dance and generally rallying the troops; a smart lady indeed, as those of us in the business know that quiet nights can destroy the souls of normally bubbly staff.

A weekend visit was an altogether different experience, as the place was jumping, and I believe it can only grow from there.

I love the animal prints, by the way. All it would have taken would have been a good bit of lounge music and I would have turned into Austin Powers. Yeah, baby.

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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: A man rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and then left on Friday. How come?

A. The man's horse was called Friday.


ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. William Shakespeare; 2. Slovenia; 3. Vistula; 4. Sir John Harington; 5. Turkey; 6. Persians; 7. The lower house of the parliament in the Netherlands; 8. Antarctica; 9. Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor; 10. Nevado del Ruiz; 11. The Kola Superdeep Borehole in Russia; 12. 12.26 kilometers; 13. Thrust, lift, drag and weight; 14. Sir Isaac Newton; 15. Illustrating children's books; 16. A thin slice of meat or fish, stuffed, then rolled and cooked; 17. ExecutiveOne; 18. Will Smith; 19. May 28, 1968 in Melbourne; 20. Jonny Buckland.

Solution to last week's crossword

C	O	P	Y		F	J	O	R	D	S
Y		E		C	E		A		E	
P	E	R	H	A	P	S		T	I	N
R		P		P	S					T
U	R	L		E	M	E	T	I	C	
S		E					N		U	
	E	X	P	E	R	T		J	O	G
S				V		Y		U		A
A	I	M		A	S	P	I	R	I	N
I		E		D		E		E		D
D	E	N	V	E	R		I	D	E	A

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Which famed adventurer was known in France as "Le Boy"?

2. From which language does the word chocolate originate?

3. When first introduced, it was called the Radarange. What is it called these days?

4. In Who Framed Roger Rabbit? who provided the voice for Jessica Rabbit?

5. Which golf course, at par 77 and 8,325 yards, is the longest in the world?

6. Which famous skyscraper was hit by an aircraft in 1945, leaving the 78th floor devastated?

7. Which US president died of pneumonia contracted during his inauguration a month earlier?

8. What was the artist Rembrandt's family name?

9. Name the beverage described by its inventor as an "esteemed brain tonic and intellectual beverage".

10. What officially begins at 50 miles from the Earth's surface?

11. In 1952, Albert Einstein was nominated for the presidency of which country?

12. Who said, "What scientists have in their briefcases is terrifying"?

13. What sport was initially called sphairistike?

14. In which year were color images first shown on a TV screen?

15. What is the correct word for the study of fish?

16. What was the profession of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes books?

17. Which is the only fruit that has seeds on the outside?

18. How many vertebrae are there in the human spine?

19. In which year was the MTV channel launched?

20. Where is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula?

Answers next week.

Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Guard at the Tower of London.

6. Room in the roof.

7. Half a crown?

10, 11 Former US president.

13. Soldier with a commission.

16. It's often used with "verily".

17. Fashion.

19. Drily amusing.

20. The people next door.

Down

1. Grown-up caterpillar.

2. Do extremely well at something.

3. Consumed.

4. Auditory organ.

5. Bullfighters.

8. Having no name.

9. Every year.

12. Anger.

14. Someone from Prague, perhaps.

15. Cowboy competition.

18. A rest for Tiger Woods?

		1		2		3			4	
5										
6						7		8		9
10					11	12				
13					14		15		16	
17	18						19			
20										

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# HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* **Siripansa Somboon** visited the FIFA Under-19 Women's World Cup and asked some of the players, "After soccer, what's your goal in life, and why?"



**Katie Radchuck**  
Age: 18  
From: Canada  
Occupation: No thanks!

Work little, party hard and be happy! I'd like to live in a hot country and maybe open up my own scooter shop. I'd spend my days lazing around on the beach or go surfing.



**Meagan Holmes**  
Age: 17  
From: The USA  
Occupation: Student

After soccer, my goal is to settle down and have a nice family. I want to get married and possibly become a doctor of some sort. That would make me over the moon!



**Kelsey Davis**  
Age: 17  
From: The USA  
Occupation: High school senior

After soccer, my goal in life is to graduate and start a family. I want to help people and touch lives by giving love and faith back to people. I also want to come back here!



**Park Hee Young**  
Age: 15  
From: South Korea  
Occupation: Student

I suppose that I really want to carry on playing football because, you know, I really like it. It's great fun, it keeps me healthy and it stops me being "as sick as a parrot"!



**Olga Peshina**  
Age: 17  
From: Russia  
Occupation: Student

After this tournament, I want to carry on with my studies and I want to continue playing football. My "goal" is to do most of the scoring for whichever team I play for.

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): The outlook for this week looks good. A slight shower of negativity on Tuesday should pass without lasting effect, but keep your distance from gathering storm clouds on Thursday. The color sapphire blue will help you tune into the truth.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you are not at your liveliest, you must accept that pushing yourself to the limit will lead to no great accomplishments. Spend time contemplating your navel this weekend and you will be ready for anything when Monday dawns. A spur-of-the-

moment trip before the end of the month is very likely, so keep your agenda open.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns will be in night-owl mode this weekend, but boring friends will probably let you down. If others are intent

on damping your spirits, seek out a new social scene. Take good care of personal possessions on Thursday, as you will be subject to a bout of forgetfulness.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): With problems dealt with, Aquarians will be ready to have fun in the sun. Head for the beach for fresh sea air. Your cool, level-headed approach to life works wonders on Wednesday when a business agreement needs finalizing. Watching others get steamed up over a minor hitch will be good entertainment value.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): The signs are encouraging for Pisceans wanting to rekindle a romantic relationship. If you are prepared to be honest about your feelings this time, Cupid will shoot a second arrow. On Monday ask for advice before committing to any contract; important clarification is certain to be lost in translation.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): You will start the week keen to round off unfinished tasks and set sail on a new journey. Romance benefits from an extra sprinkling of sensual stardust. Arians in a relationship will notice that their partners are more relaxed lately; single Arians will meet someone interesting this weekend. The number 8 is lucky on Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Taureans would appreciate having as many legs as a millipede this week to keep up with what's going on. But as long as you prioritize, there's no reason why having only two legs shouldn't enable you to leap ahead. While others are inclined to lie on the beach this week, most Taureans will be sniffing out possibilities of financial gain.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your instincts are good on Monday, but beware of false alarms on Tuesday and Wednesday. Hot-headed Geminis should wait until the end of this month when astral conditions will make it just about impossible for you to fail in business.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Go it alone at work this week. It will be hard to persuade others to see your point of view, but if you take responsibility for your own decisions, the outcome cannot fail to impress those who matter. Watch out for a snake in the undergrowth this weekend; a personal relationship could be shaken by untoward interference.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You should be the first to hear a rumor that could point you in the right business direction this week. You might have to quickly cover a lot of untouched ground, but the outcome will make all your effort worthwhile. Wear pale seashell pink to be in harmony with your surroundings.

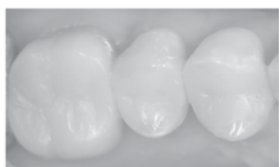
**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your sharp sense of humor comes in useful this weekend. Not everyone will be able to see the funny side but you have the power to lighten a potentially serious situation. A dream is about to come true, but your good fortune could prompt some soul-searching.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Feeling rebellious, you will be ready to take a stand this week, but don't protest in the wrong places – sometimes it's better to accept limitations and act within the bounds. A tidal wave of romantic passion is about to knock you sideways. Wear chili-pepper red to activate your sensual side.

## Metal-Free Restoration



Before

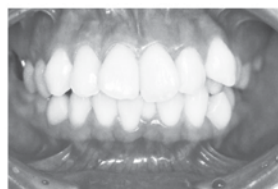


After

## Laser Tooth Whitening



Before



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# Horror in a manmade hellhole

**T**ahar Ben Jelloun is a Moroccan who emigrated to France in 1961, when he was 17, and became a fixture in the French literary establishment. His latest novel, *This Blinding Absence of Light* (The New Press, New York, 2002, 190pp) won the big kahuna of cash prizes, the International Impac Dublin Literary Award 2004.

It is a simple story, told in a simple style, but of unimaginable horror and based on real events, drawn from the testimony of a former inmate of Tazmamart Prison, a special hell built in the Moroccan desert for political prisoners.

On July 10, 1971, under orders from coup plotters, military academy cadets invaded the Skhirat Palace of King Hassan II of Morocco and gunned down 100 guests at the king's 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday party. The king escaped. The senior coup plotters were executed and the junior officers were sentenced to a living death.

The narrator is a 27-year-old lieutenant who finds himself buried underground with 22 comrades. There is no

light. Prisoners are confined to cells 10 feet long, five feet wide, five feet high. The cells are freezing in the winter, stifling in the summer.

There is a hole in the ground for sanitary needs. Each prisoner gets a daily five liters of water for drinking and washing. Meals never vary: dry bread and noodles. There is no contact with the outside world, and no medical attention.

After 18 years, all but four of the 23 are dead. This is the tale of a survivor, whose rigid mental discipline and firm Islamic faith saw him through.

He attributes his religious faith and stiff moral spine to his mother, who threw her husband – “a bon vivant, a monster of egotism, a dandy” – out of their house in Marrakesh and raised her children herself.

The husband became court jester to King Hassan II, famed for his phenomenal memory for Arab poetry. One of the few comic passages in the novel is the father's abasement at the feet of the king after his son has been wounded in the coup attempt and thrown in jail.

“I disown this unworthy son, I con-

sign him to public condemnation, to eternal obliteration, I strip my name from him, I throw him into the gutter so that rats and mad dogs can rip out his heart, his eyes, his liver and tear him into pieces to be thrown into the sea of utter oblivion.” And so on for an entire page.

The son has inherited his father's prodigious memory, however, and his retellings of novels and movie plots are a source of consolation for his fellow prisoners.

Another inmate has a preternatural sense of time and keeps track of minutes, hours, months and years. Yet another is a spiritual leader, leading the others in Koranic prayer. Their solidarity is based on a bedrock of religion:

“Believing in God, praising His mercy, saying His name, glorifying His spirituality – all that was a natural necessity for me and I expected nothing in return, absolutely nothing. I had reached a state of renunciation and inner asceticism that greatly comforted me. I, who had previously maintained that a person never changes, had become someone else. I was confronted with a different self, freed of all the fetters of the superficial life, need-

ing nothing, demanding no indulgence. I was naked, and that was my victory.”

Finally, a guard, sympathetic to a fellow Berber, smuggles out a letter to one inmate's sister. Eventually this leads to a human rights crusade and liberation for the four survivors.

Prematurely aged, nearly toothless, five inches shorter from his ordeal in his low-ceilinged cell, the narrator is finally reunited with his dying mother.

Was this slender 190-page novel really the best in a year that saw two undisputed giants published: William Boyd's *Any Human Heart* and John Updike's *Seek My Face*?

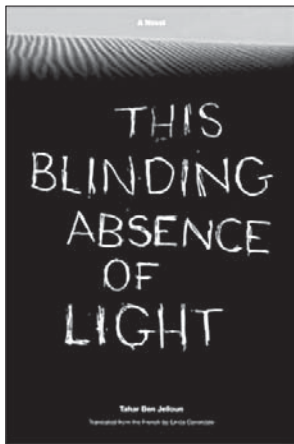
Like the Man Booker Prize, the International Impac Dublin Literary Award can be politically motivated. Undoubtedly referring to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, the judges' citation reads: “It is a story read against a continuing background of deprivation and inhumanity in today's headlines.”

That said, *This Blinding Absence of Light* is a minor masterpiece and a harrowing testimony to the indomitability of the human spirit.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# Dump the parallel port dinosaur

**A** large percentage of the email I receive is about Internet connections: what's the fastest connection, how do I get it, what do I do when it starts going in fits and starts ... that kind of thing.

That's why I thought it unusual when two different friends asked me about USB ports in the same week. I figured it was an omen, or something. At any rate, the TTT/CAT Hi Net ADSL connection that I've been using for many months has turned sour – the line drops several times a day, and I rarely get more than 300 kilobits per second (Kbps) speed out of a 2-Mbps (that's 2,000 Kbps) line.

So, instead of kicking the CAT again, now would seem to be an opportune moment to bring you up to speed on USB. At least, that way I can avoid snarling at people who say Phuket will become an “IT Paradise” with a piddling 155-Mbps line to Bangkok. Harumph.

Back to ports. When you connect a “peripheral” – say, a printer or scanner – to your computer, there has to be some sort of connection between the PC and the peripheral. While various wireless options, including Bluetooth, infrared and radio-frequency connections, have their advantages, most hardware gets plugged into a PC with a plain old wire. The PC socket that a

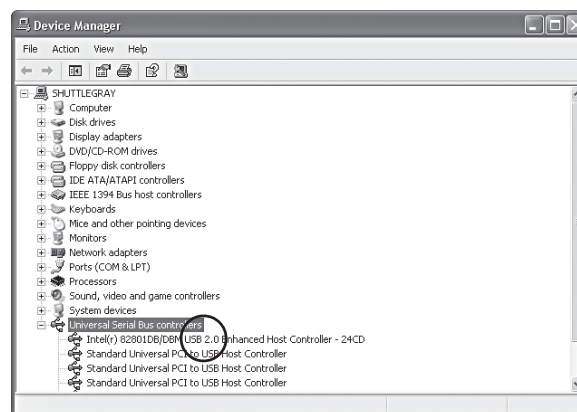
wire plugs into is called a port.

In the good old days, when computers were powered by little squirrels running in circles and mice got gummed up with pterodactyl droppings, printers were invariably connected to PCs using a cable with a long, thin D-shaped connector on the end of it, that contained 25 strands of wire. That D-shaped connector plugged into a port on the computer called the parallel port. It was called “parallel” as data could, in theory, be transmitted on each wire individually.

Although the parallel port went through several incarnations, in the end it joined the pterodactyl, primarily because data going through the parallel port, by and large, only went in one direction: from the PC to the printer (or other piece of hardware). That makes it very difficult to get Windows to recognize what hardware is where.

There were many other problems, too. By today's standards the flow of information was downright leisurely. Mating 25 little pieces of wire sticking out of a connector with matching receptacles on the parallel port inevitably drove many a poor computer geek to drink. In short, the parallel port took its rightful place next to the electric typewriter – an old workhorse largely put out to pasture.

You may be surprised to know that the Universal Serial



Bus – USB – has been around for a long time. Chances are good that any PC you own has a USB port. The original version of USB was slow and prone to power problems; more than a few thousand mother boards fried when too many USB-connected devices ran at the same time.

The current version, codified in 2001 and known as USB version 2.0 or Hi-Speed USB, has rapidly become the 800-pound gorilla of the PC-interface business. USB hardware automatically identifies itself to the PC, so Windows can handle the setup.

USB is fast, reliable, and it doesn't catch on fire – all noble attributes.

USB beats the parallel port to pieces, in every situation I've encountered. While it's true that USB ports suffer from occasional identity crises, the confounding antics of parallel ports defy description.

In short, if you have the option, use the USB port.

By the way, if you're wondering whether you have USB 2.0 or are stuck with an older version, in WinXP go to your desktop, right-click My Com-

**Windows Device Manager tells you if you have the newer, much faster USB 2 ports installed, or if you're still struggling with USB 1.1, or even (ugh!) USB 1.0.**

puter, then Choose Properties, and then click the Hardware tab.

Click the button marked Device Manager. Somewhere near the bottom of the list, you'll see an entry that says Universal Serial Bus Connectors – double-click on it. If you have USB 2.0, you should see some description that includes the words “USB 2” and/or “Hi-Speed USB”.

If you don't have USB 2, it's very easy to install. Ask your favorite computer shop for a “PCI USB 2 card”. A PCI USB 2 card goes in your computer just like any other card, and when you're done, you'll have four full-fledged USB 2 slots on the back of your PC.

A month ago I picked up a handful of generic PCI – USB 2 cards at Panthip Plaza in Bangkok for a couple of hundred baht each. They installed in no time, and they run like the wind.

Which is more than I can say for TTT/CAT Hi Net at the moment. Don't get me started.

– Woody Leonhard  
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## Sustainability is the key

Tourists landing at Phuket International Airport are now greeted by an attractive sign that reads, "Welcome to Phuket: Ready to be Regional Tourism Hub".

The banner might be a paradox to first-time visitors who, knowing little more about the island than what they have read in promotional travel brochures, expect Phuket to be a tropical paradise.

For Phuket residents, however, the banner is simply another manifestation of a sad reality: as the pace of development here continues unabated, Phuket is rapidly approaching its sustainable limit.

The number of Phuket residents who now make their way to Khao Lak in an attempt to find some of the peace and natural beauty that originally attracted them to Phuket is a clear indication of this.

Some local tourism industry officials may view Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop's idea [see Inside story, pages 4-5] to direct more government funding to promote tourism in Prachuap Khiri Kan, Petchaburi, Ranong and Chumphon provinces as a form of abandonment, but the plan is not without merit.

If successful, the scheme would spread the benefits of tourism across the region. It is also in line with the TAT's current promotional slogan: Unseen Paradise.

The promotion is described on the TAT website as follows: "Unseen Paradise is a sub-theme of the Unseen Thailand tourism promotion campaign to entice residents of Thailand to travel around the country and caters to the lifestyle needs and interests of residents of Bangkok and other urban centers throughout Thailand."

Sadly, Phuket has become one such urban center.

The shifting of some state resources to less developed areas should not be viewed as abandonment. Phuket will continue to be strongly promoted internationally – as will be necessary for it to reach its heady goal of 10-12% annual tourism growth under the Governor's current provincial development plan.

Despite its worsening environment and burgeoning population, Phuket continues to attract private sector investment, both domestic and foreign, that is the envy of all other southern provinces.

Meanwhile, the "build-it-and-they-will-come" mentality that has long characterized the development of Phuket should be reconsidered. The focus should now be on real sustainability, improving infrastructure, effective enforcement of building codes and zoning laws, and environmental protection.

Meanwhile, development of other areas in the region might give Phuket residents better holiday options in the future – now that Khao Lak is starting to resemble the Phuket of 10 years ago.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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

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## Letters

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

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

### Visa run companies exploit Burmese

I have been traveling around Thailand for some months now and I made my second trip to Ranong recently. I was hoping to visit the southern Myanmar town of Kaw Thaung for the second time.

My first trip to the port town of Kaw Thaung was great. I spent two nights with some friends, meeting many of the friendly, local people.

This time I went with a visa run company based in Phuket. We arrived in Ranong and were taken directly to Immigration, where we were "stamped out of Thailand".

After that, instead of being taken to the jetty for the short crossing to Myanmar, we were taken to a restaurant in Ranong. There, we were told that due to the recent changes in the Myanmar government, it was not safe for us to make the crossing.

The solution to this problem was that we should give our passports to one of the employees of the visa-run company, who would make the crossing to Myanmar on our behalf and have us "stamped in and out of Myanmar". About one and half hours later, he returned with our passports and we left for Immigration – where we were individually stamped back into Thailand.

As far as Thai Immigration was concerned, we had made the crossing. The visa-run company saved a lot of time by us not having to get in and out of the boat and probably saved money on the boat transfer, as the company employee took only one place in the longtail boat.

It seems these companies

are fiercely competitive and will even break the law to provide the visa runs at the cheapest price possible.

And so once again Myanmar people have been disadvantaged by unscrupulous companies.

In the future, I will make my own way to Ranong and Kaw Thaung.

J Waldon

### Casting the first stone in Patong

So the government, according to Sompetch Moosophon, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association in the *Gazette* of October 23 is to blame for Phuket's flesh trade.

"[Women coming from other provinces to work in bars] ... have escaped from bad conditions at home, from poverty and problems that the government has never fixed."

I do not agree with K. Sompetch. Most of the women working in bars in Phuket are escaping the reality of their irresponsible lives, not from poverty. They had children at too early an age and are now unable to do any form of professional job.

Further, individuals are responsible for their own actions, not governments.

The Thai government has given everyone the opportunity to receive an education and there are many jobs available in Thailand, especially in Phuket.

Does K. Sompetch really consider that every poor woman should try to improve her lot by becoming a prostitute? A moral and proud woman would never become a bar girl.

The sad truth is that it is

easier to earn a good salary by working as a bar girl than it is to find a respectable job!

The economy of Patong by night has been built upon the shoulders of such "poor women".

Brigitte Balfour  
Patong

### Stop whining, and pack your bags

I'd like to add my views to those of all the people complaining about such things as seaweed on Patong beach, long queues at the airport and noisy sporting events.

I say to these people: wake up, please. Phuket is a very popular tourist destination, and tourists create a lot of pollution.

Tourists create long queues at check-in counters everywhere, especially at an airport built to handle far fewer people than it presently does. Tourists need entertaining, whether it's boat racing, Thai boxing or soccer. More tourists mean longer queues, more pollution and louder noise.

As the song goes: *They paved paradise, put up a parking lot*. Well folks, the lot is getting full and, sadly, the parking attendant isn't up to the job.

If tourists stopped coming, what would that mean? No pollution, no long queues, no loud noise, no inflated land prices, no drug abuse or excessive drinking, less road carnage. The bar girls could go home and Phuket would again be a great place to live.

Of course this isn't going to happen. Tourists are Phuket's main source of revenue, so if you can't cope with the current situation, the solution is simple: move!

Graeme Eaton  
Thalang

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.



# Time to tidy up the tailor trade

**A**round one-third of tourists who visit Phuket will visit a tailor, especially tourists from Europe, as they find it difficult in Thailand to find off-the-peg clothes big enough to fit.

While most of the tailors in Patong are decent, about 30% of them don't seem to care about how well they serve their customers.

Some people see this business as their chance to make a quick buck. They will open a shop, make a killing from tourists, then pass the shop on to somebody else. They are usually foreigners – Nepali, Bangladeshi or Burmese – and they come to Thailand because the country is not strict about registering companies, and there are no limits on the number of businesses that can operate in one area.

If someone wants to open a shop in an area that already contains a large number of the same kind of shop, they can.

These people don't see things as we – the people who have been in business for so long – do; we see it as a long-term thing. But all they are interested in is getting their salary and commission and they don't care whether the customer is happy with their clothes or not.

Also, it doesn't really cost that much to go into business as a tailor, because, although you have to pay rent, you can get the fabric on credit.



thronged with men, usually Nepali or Burmese, who often try to hustle customers into the shops they work for.

Here, one tailor, a Thai, who has been in business in Phuket for more than 17 years, gives his thoughts on the touts, and the tailors who employ them.

Understandably worried about reprisals, he spoke to the *Gazette* on the condition of anonymity.

My customers often tell me that they don't like to walk through certain parts of Patong because of the touts who touch them, grab them and try to drag them into shops.

Some tourists who would like to have a suit made change their minds when they see how the touts act; they are worried that the tout might threaten them or put undue pressure on them to buy.

These touts also try to get a sale by telling the customers sob stories about their families. They will say, for example, that their

child is seriously ill, but they don't have enough money to pay for its treatment. They try to make the customers feel sorry for them so they will buy a suit.

Some tourists don't mind because they have money to spend, but I believe everyone should be free to choose where they have their clothes made, and the style and color and quality of the fabric, and they shouldn't be pressured into getting something they don't want.

If the customer wants help, though, of course, we're happy to give it.

It's probably only around 20% of the tailor shops in Patong that have touts who behave in a bad way, but I'm not happy about them, because their behavior has a bad effect on [the reputation of] all the tailoring businesses here.

I have always had a policy of not pushing customers or shouting at them to try to get them into the shop. Sometimes new staff try to do it because they've done it in the past, but I always tell them not to do it while they are working for me.

I think there are more than

enough tailor shops in Phuket right now. The government might make money from the registration fees, but I'm not sure the money makes up for the damage done to the reputation of Thailand by the actions of the touts.

The number of tailor's shops around means there is a lot of competition for trade, and that's why some shops employ aggressive touts.

Three years ago, I remember we had officers coming round, trying to catch touts who annoyed tourists, and checking on their work permits. Unfortunately, though, they didn't do it for very long.

I would like to see another crackdown, and for officers to be more serious about taking action against touts. I'd also like the government to limit the number of the same type of businesses that set up in an area, as happens in other countries.

Also, I would like other tailors to try to give better service to their customers. They should think about how they would like to be treated if they were customers, and treat their customers in the same way.

That's the way to do business – give your customers good service so they recommend you to their friends; then their friends will walk through your door of their own accord rather than because they've been dragged through it by some tout.

## Where can I study a serious spa course?

I'd like to do a spa and massage course leading to a recognized qualification. Is it possible to do this in Phuket? I'm looking for something serious.

Peter Pan  
Phuket

**Pakin Raktae-Ngam, Chairman of the Phuket Spa Business Club (PSBC), replies:**

The school must be certified to run spa courses by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health.

Alternatively, in November, the PSBC, in conjunction with Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, is launching the "Center of Phuket Spa Management", which will concentrate on training, consultancy and recruitment for spas.

For more information, call Tel: 076-202556.

**Rachawutt Phacharoen, Manager of the Phuket Spa Academy, replies:**

We have been operating our spa training course, in coopera-

tion with Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Medicine, for 10 months. It is certified by the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

We offer courses as follows: Spa treatment, 320 hours, for 50,000 baht; spa management, 60 hours, 30,000 baht; Thai massage, 80 hours, 15,000 baht; aromotherapy, 60 hours, 15,000 baht.

We also offer other courses in reflexology, hydrotherapy, body massage and other treatments.

For more information, call the academy at Tel: 076-273394.

**Pinit Soysuwan, teacher at Phuket Traditional Thai Massage School, replies:**

Our school has been certified by both ministries. Our main course is a massage entrepreneurs' course, which provides a total of 375 hours of tuition and costs 19,000 baht. This course is in three parts: beginners, 90 hours, 5,000 baht; intermediate, 144 hours, 7,000 baht; advanced, 141 hours, 7,000 baht.

We also do a supplementary course, for people already experienced in Thai massage.

For more information call us at Tel: 076-211456.

### Rights to unpaid commission

I recently terminated my employment with a tourism-related company in Patong. My former employer is refusing to pay my outstanding commission.

Who should I contact about the possibilities for claiming my outstanding payments?

PM  
Phuket

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

To claim commission agreed with your employer but still outstanding, you should contact our office at Tel: 076-211995 or 076-220760 during government office hours.

### Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.**

**Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.**

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## How to register a land lease

Can a 30-year land lease be registered with the Land Department one, two or even three years after the lease was signed? If so, who is required to be present and sign the registration?

John  
Phuket

**Jarong Nilrat, Land Officer of Phuket Provincial Land Office, replies:**

If the lease is for three years or more, it must, by law, be registered with the Land Office. Even if the lease has already been

signed for three years and still hasn't been registered with the Land Office, it should be registered with the Land Office and registration will apply retroactively from the date of the start of the lease.

Both the landlord and the tenant must be present at the Land Office with the necessary documentation: the land title, ID card – or passport for a foreigner – and a house registration, or if the tenant is a company, the company registration and the most recent annual report.



# Vans set to take on pickup trade

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET CITY: The ubiquitous pickup, often referred to as the workhorse of Asia, has a new competitor on the streets in the form of commercial vans.

Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, Director of Muang Mai Yontrakan Phuket Co Ltd dealership, believes that Citroen Berlingos and Peugeot Partners will become the popular choice for people looking to transport goods that need protection from the elements.

"We have not sold a massive amount of vans, but we do sell to people whose businesses call for them to deliver things, but who feel a pickup doesn't meet their needs," he said.

"Because they are covered, commer-

cial vans protect their contents from the rain, sun and other elements. They're usually easier to load and unload than a pickup.

"And they don't take up much parking space."

K. Thaneth added that the vans have another advantage over their open-backed counterparts: the high sides can be used to advertise. He said, "You can use them almost as mobile billboards, depending on how they are decorated."

Although K. Thaneth has sold only about 10 vans since April, he has no plans to stop selling them. "They're not volume sellers, they're more for the niche market, for people who are looking for a vehicle which fits their purpose and has European standards," he said.

He continued, "Of course, most Thai people still prefer a pickup, but the Berlingo and the Partner are more suitable for people who have a medium-sized amount of goods to deliver, such as flowers, baked goods or laundry, that wouldn't take up the large space available in a pickup."

K. Thaneth said his company's approach to marketing commercial vans is to go direct to members of target groups.

So far, the company has approached hotels and restaurants, and businesses such as seafood suppliers, who might be especially interested in the vans because they can be refrigerated.

Another target market is tailors' shops.

However, he said, there is something

of the shock of the new when it comes to persuading Thai people of the merits of a commercial van. "There is nothing else like these vans currently available in Phuket. Thai people are used to using pickup trucks for delivery jobs, and the idea of using a van is new to them," he said.

One big disadvantage of the vans' appeal to customers compared with pickups is the price. New Berlingos and Partners currently cost from 650,000 to 695,000 baht, while the cost of most Japanese or Thai-made pickups range from half to two-thirds of those amounts.

However, K. Thaneth said his company hopes to tempt new buyers with hire purchase and credit deals, and with offers such as free service and maintenance.

# US dollar falls as trade deficit continues

At the time of writing, the US currency is poised to push through US\$1.30 to the euro and the Japanese yen is at 105 to the dollar. Compared with rates around three years ago – when the euro was valued at 83 US cents – this is a major change.

To the casual observer this may even suggest that the US dollar is in some sort of crisis. In fact, the weakness of the dollar has only one real cause: the US current account deficit.

This deficit is the broadest measurement available of where the US stands in relation to other countries, in terms of living within its means or otherwise.

The largest component of the current account is the balance of trade, but it also includes dividends and royalties. Not surprisingly, the largest contributor to the US current account deficit is the trade deficit – an excess of imports over exports.

Global economics, despite appearances at times, do have their own logic. The values of currencies are based on the demand for a currency.

To use the US dollar as an example; where a country imports more than it exports it is said



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

to be running a trade deficit. When foreigners are prepared to fund this deficit by investing – in this case – in US assets such as bonds, shares, currency deposits and the purchase of US businesses and real estate, the deficit can carry on indefinitely.

In the current situation, the American government is fairly relaxed about letting the value of the dollar fall against other major currencies. This "falling" is the natural way to remove a trade deficit.

A fall in the dollar makes US exports more competitively priced and imports more expensive. Both positions eventually will aid the US dollar as exports rise and imports fall.

There is evidence of a slowdown in capital flows to the US mainly because investors are concerned that the value of their investments may fall in comparison with the currency of their own investments.

This is increasing the pressure on the US dollar, but the American administration is not unduly concerned – the worrying is being done by other countries.

The value of the dollar against the euro prompted the president of the European Central Bank, Jean Claude Trichet, to issue a statement in early November, voicing his concern. He has good reason to be worried; an expensive euro will have a negative effect on exports from the Euro Zone.

In good economic times this may have little effect on overall Euro Zone growth, but "the zone" is not enjoying rude health. Pressure on exports is not being offset by domestic demand, which remains feeble to weak.

The largest economy in the zone is Germany, which accounts for about one-third of the zone's economy. The latest figures from Germany reflect a contraction in manufacturing output, and domestic retail sales figures are grim.

In Japan, where earlier in 2004 a recovery seemed underway, doubts are beginning to emerge, with some recent statistics looking discouraging.

Japan is being assailed on three fronts: a weak US dollar; the beginning of a slowdown in Chinese economic activity (and

when it is noted that the Chinese currency has a direct link to the dollar, this has more serious implications); and indications of a slowdown in the global economy. The Japanese economic recovery is overly reliant on the country's export sector.

During the third quarter of 2004, it was common to hear concerns about the US economy. Even US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan started talking about a "soft patch".

In late October this year, the first official figures were released on US gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter, and they came out at a healthy annualized rate of 3.7%. The "soft patch" was not very soft. Euro Zone leaders would be dancing in the streets if they could manage to duplicate US growth.

There has also been much

talk in America about job creation, with many predicting gloom and doom. Against consensus estimates of 190,000 new jobs created during October, 340,000 were delivered.

Returning to the US trade deficit, much of the problem is caused by slow economic growth in Japan and Europe, which is resulting in reduced domestic demand for imports, including from the US.

American consumers still carry on their shoulders too much of the responsibility for global economic growth.

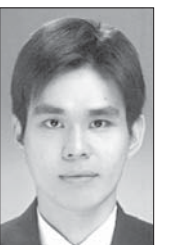
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## ON THE MOVE



**Wannapa Rakkeo**, 35, well known in the hotel industry in Phuket through her work as Group Director of Marketing Communications for Central Hotels and Resorts Group, has moved to Bangkok to take up a new position as Public Relations and Communications Director at the Conrad Hotel there. K. Wannapa, who spent her childhood at the Thai Embassy in India, is a graduate of Chiang Mai University. After graduation, she joined Cathay Pacific as a flight attendant. She subsequently worked at the Hard Rock Hotel in Pattaya and the Marriott Resort and Spa in Bangkok.

**Phumipat Kooarun** has been appointed Sales and Marketing Manager for the Andaman Group, which operates the Phuket franchises of the Oishi and Pizza Company restaurant chains. A Phuket native, K. Phumipat holds a degree in business administration from the Thai Chamber of Commerce University in Bangkok. He previously worked as a sales representative with the Thara Patong and Kamala Bay Terrace Resort hotels.



Le Meridien Thailand Resorts has announced that **Treechada Katacha** has been appointed as its new Group Sales Manager. A native of Songkhla Province, 28-year-old K. Treechada graduated from the Prince of Songkhla University's Phuket Campus with a degree in hotel and tourism management. Before joining Meridien, she worked as Sales Manager at the Novotel Coralia Phuket.

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## Wahoo angles to success in sportfishing classic

CHALONG: Twenty five teams from 19 countries took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Phuket International Sportfishing Classic, which was held in Chalong Bay from November 11 to 14.

The Wahoo team played their lines well and finished as overall winners, reeling in prize money of 200,000 baht in the process.

In second place was the Luxxel team from Japan, who netted 100,000 baht, while Oily Reelers hooked 50,000 baht for their third-place win.

The Top Individual Angler

prize went to Spain's Michael Bretag while the award for the Top Lady Angler went to Canadian Lisa Streu. The USA's Sara Grinenr took the honors in the Top Junior (Under-16s) category.

In the Top Individual Species Contest, Ron Tattersall won the tuna prize with a 2.9-kilogram specimen and Lisa Streu took first prize with a 7kg barracuda. The heaviest king mackerel netted was Tony Connelly's 5.5kg beast. Donnie Bogan landed an 8.9kg wahoo and Jim Fourier brought in a 5.7kg Dorado.



Dulwich International College Over-15 boys A squad (in dark shirts) proved too tough to beat in the tourney, winning their age division against rivals from as far away as the UK.

## Beginner tennis courses launched at Laguna

BANG TAO: Advanced tennis coach Stefano Breschi has launched a series of "Introduction to Tennis" training programs and workshops at the Laguna Beach Resort.

Mr Breschi, who has spent the past two years training with Tennis Coaches Australia, offers a range of programs, including three-day clinics and weekly lessons for individuals to group classes.

Anyone interested in joining the courses or wanting more information can contact Mr Breschi at Tel: 01-8932672 or by email: stefb@ksc.th.com

## Local schools do well in international soccer tourney

KOH KAEW: Nearly 600 players from more than 10 international and Thai government schools in Phuket took part in a two-day football tournament hosted by Dulwich International College on November 12 and 13.

Young competitors came from as far away as Nepal, In-

donesia, South Korea and the UK, and as near as Darasamut and Morning Star schools in Phuket, with the Phuket schools winning three of the seven categories.

Winners in the seven categories were as follows: Over-15 boys, Dulwich International

College A; Under-15 boys, Surakul School Phuket; Under-15 girls, Dulwich International College A; Under-13 boys, Plookpanya School Phuket; Under-12 girls, Harrow International School; Under-11 boys, Darasamut School Phuket; Under-9 boys, Bangkok Pattana School.

A friend of mine sent me a text message asking if I'd been following the latest World Golf Championships from Ireland. Based on past experience with his messages, I knew he really meant to ask about the fortunes of his hero, Tiger Woods. My reply was, "Did not follow. Heard Els won. Tiger in lower top 10 as usual."

The shocking revelation of the message was that, as this year draws to a close (only silly-season events remain), Tiger still hasn't snapped out of his slump. He's become just a solid money-earner on tour; another Tom Kite.

For those of you who took up the game more recently, Tom Kite was the great pretender of his era.

He won a few tournaments every year, was constantly in the top 10, but went cold at major tournament time. Though undoubtedly a top-class player, Kite compiled a phenomenal earnings record without ever setting the world alight.

Is Tiger destined to be the new Tom Kite? No one would have dared say such a thing a few years ago. At that time, Tiger appeared likely to win every major for the next 10 years than become another Tom Kite.

Of course this is all speculation. Tiger is still close to his best. The swing keys he's been working on are coming together; he's playing well and is apparently excited about his game.

But I've heard that for a year now. And why someone who was the universe's best golfer by a light century has to find a new swing beats me. Can

# Has the Tiger been tamed?



we even think it yet? Is Tiger toast, history, washed-up, done, cooked, over the hill?

Apart from Jack Nicklaus and perhaps Gary Player, one of the modern game's most reliable statistics is that, no matter how great or dominant a player becomes, he has a period spanning around seven or eight years to win his majors. In fact, most pros only had the odd major win outside of their hot four- to five-year winning span.

Few modern players can claim this status - Palmer, Watson, Ballisteros, Faldo, Norman and Price. When all's said and done, Els and Singh will probably be hard to ignore.

Tiger certainly had a place reserved alongside Nicklaus as a special case. But, when Augusta comes around again, it will be 2005 and eight years (yes eight) since Tiger's triumphal entry into the elite circle of major winners. So, as things stand right now, and if Tiger is in fact a mere mortal, he may (or may not) have just one more major left in him.

Now, I know Tiger is not in a slump, and even if he had been, he is now close to his best again.

He says so himself. But, assuming he is, what happened?

There are various theories. We've all heard of the "Butch breakup". Okay, the timing looks pretty likely, and I think he was crazy to break up such a team.

I mean, who on earth would have split up Muhammed Ali and Angelo Dundee, The Beatles, Superman and Lois Lane, Brian Clough and Peter Taylor, Beckham and United and so on?

But is Tiger just going to forget everything his mentor taught him overnight?

There are several other theories being thrown around. Maybe his desire is not there anymore? Rubbish! Tiger will not rest until he's beaten Jack's major record.

He's changed equipment too many times? Garbage! In 2000 Tiger could have beaten the rest using a hockey stick.

The others have caught up? Balderdash! Maybe they don't lie down like they used to, but with the exception of gutsy Bob May, they were behind by 10-15 shots in the majors of 2000.

Possibly the most plausible answer is the "Parnevik conspiracy". Gossip reports that Jesper was recruited by the Florida gang: Norman, Singh, Apple, Allenby, O'Meara, and many more of the Tour's "nearly men" who happen to be Tiger's neighbors.

The rumor goes that a secret plan to derail Tiger was hatched in the kitchens and dens

of golfers' alley. Something really dramatic was needed for him to take his eye off the ball.

Parnevik's beautiful *au pair*, Ms Elin Nordgren, was to be Tiger's Delilah.

The fact that they might live happily ever after was not important. In fact, all the better if they did; Tiger's eye might stay off the ball. He certainly went off the boil around this time. Coincidence or not?

In my view, though, he's not in a slump. No, no, not at all, he's very close to his best in fact, getting there, very excited, blah, blah, blah. Tiger's problems are reversible.

First, he needs to give Delilah a baby and send her back to Sweden for a few years. He can hook up with her every silly season without too much damage.

Second, he needs to get off the "meat and iron" diet. No pro-golfer in history has improved his golf over the long term by changing his fundamental physical shape by bulking up to the extent Tiger has.

He needs to get back to looking more like the superbly-toned and flexible 400m track star he looked like in 2000 than the Frank Bruno he more closely resembles today.

When a player rotates his torso through impact as fast as Tiger does, timing is critical. His hands and arms have probably got as slow as Bruno's - and his frequent forays into right field show it.

Also, he needs to start hitting golf shots, not making golf swings. Although technology has allowed many of the pretenders to catch up off the tee, Tiger is still the world's finest shotmaker, bar none. He may have forgotten more shots than most of the tour's robots have in their bag.

Tiger should get back to a coach like Butch Harmon, who constantly reminded him to hit all kinds of shots to make sure he didn't get too wound up with his swing.

Finally, he needs to face reality. All is not going according to plan. Success is not just around the corner if he just "stays the course".

My fear is that Tiger will follow the norm and win (maybe) just one more major before he retires from the tour and turns to politics. Heaven forbid.

Tiger Woods is the best thing that has happened to the game of golf in a long, long time. Let's hope he's not just the next Tom Kite.

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# Raising the bar on turtle awareness

It is quite common for those in the Thai dive industry to voice their opinions about what can and should be done to improve environmental conditions around Phuket. Frequently, the criticism is directed at various Thai government agencies.

A few dive operators have taken the initiative and used their own time and funds to give back to the environment. However, what is not so often heard is praise for any government bodies in Thailand. This is a pity, because credit should be given where it is due.

There are some agencies that are working very hard for conservation and are genuinely concerned with the environment and marine animals, especially around Phuket.

One such agency is the

Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), which is a division of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. The PMBC's Marine Endangered Species Unit specializes in protecting the declining populations of sea turtles, dolphins, dugongs and whales, to name a few species.

The center's Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong spoke recently about the declining sea turtle population and the PMBC's efforts to save them.

He pointed out that in Thailand, there are four kinds of sea turtles: leatherback, olive ridley, hawksbill and green turtle. The most common are

the hawksbill and the green turtle, which are often seen by divers. They can be found around the coast locally, and in the Similans.

**Beneath the SURFACE**  
By Sylvie Yaffe

The PMBC has so far this year received more than 30 turtles to care for, most of which need medical care.



community that watches over marine life. Dr Kongkiat said, "The local communities and villagers are also concerned about nature, especially in Phuket."

"Every time they find a stranded turtle they phone us. However, the more distant the communities are from Phuket, the less they care about these animals".

The PMBC is trying to promote awareness in the villages and other communities, recruiting conservation volunteers near sea-turtle nesting sites and teaching children to become more involved by helping the PMBC gather data.

No discussion about environmental

issues in Phuket can be complete without including the Similan Islands, and it could be said that the most concerned people seem to propose the same solutions.

Said Dr Kongkiat, "The [Similans] national park has many good regulations already, but it can be difficult to get tourists to follow the rules."

"The number of tourists should be regulated; every place should have a regulated capacity, and a quota for each year, and there should be a maximum number of tourists who can be in the national park at any one time."

"In general, I think the dive operators don't want to see their business ruined, so they try to preserve the environment, but sometimes people just don't care enough about nature. They need to care more."

Dr Kongkiat believes the rise in the number of tourists will have a direct negative impact on the national park, with garbage, detergent and sewage from boats increasing the amounts of seaweed and algae, and creating an ecological imbalance.

Also, no matter how careful divers are, a small mistake can damage coral, especially in a strong current.

Dr Kongkiat said, "I myself don't want to see the development of buildings or anything for the comfort of humans in a national park. People want to go there to see nature, not a luxury building or hotel."

Every little bit helps and anyone can become involved. The following can be reported to the PMBC: stranded sea animals, dead or alive; turtle sightings (species and location); illegal fishing, and anyone selling or trading sea-turtle products.

The PMBC phone number is Tel: 076-391128 or 076-391042, and Dr Kongkiat can be reached by email at: kongkiat@phuketinternet.co.th

Between 30 and 50 injured turtles are brought to the center each year; 30 have been brought to the PMBC already this year. The majority of them are caught in nets and, at best, end up losing a flipper; others are killed or injured by the increasing boat traffic.

Even after rehabilitation at the PMBC, crippled turtles cannot always be returned to the ocean, and end up staying in captivity for their entire lives, which can be as long as 70 years. The PMBC has been trying to find ways of attaching artificial appendages, but so far without success.

According to statistics, the decline in the sea-turtle populations started in the 1950s, with the harvesting of turtle eggs. Then, in 1965, trawlers were introduced, and, for 12 years from 1973, sea turtles were exported as food.

Fortunately, possession of any turtle product is now illegal. But whereas in 1950, there were more than 2,500 sea-turtle nests along the coasts of Thailand, the

number is now estimated to be only 300.

Obviously, more needs to be done to protect every turtle. Although the predominant threat now comes from fishing nets, the development of coastal areas and the subsequent degradation of feeding habitats threatens the future of not only turtles but also of dugongs.

Sea turtles feed on the sea grasses which grow in many places around the coast of Phuket. The areas where the sea grasses grow are facing destruction, not only through development in the immediate area, but also from the run-off from construction sites elsewhere.

Garbage can be deadly as well; a piece of a plastic bag and some other plastic scraps that looked like sea grass were recently found in the stomach of a dead turtle and were determined to be the cause of death.

There are two major nesting sites which the PMBC, with help from the Royal Thai Navy, has been studying and protecting: Koh Huyong in the Similan Islands and Koh Kram, a military base to the east of Phuket, near Phang Nga.

It was determined by the use of transmitters that the turtles will travel far from their nesting grounds to feed. Sea turtles born on Koh Huyong traveled all the way to India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of nine turtles studied, only one stayed in Thai waters. The average migration time was 22 days, although one turtle took 43 days.

On the east side, sea turtles hatched on Koh Kram traveled all the way to Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam.

During the nesting period the sea turtle will stay within five or six kilometers of Koh Kram. It is quite risky for them to be so close to the shore, because of trawling, nets, boat traffic and development.

It is not only the dive com-

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45 Ft 1990	Carver 45 Caterpillar, 2 x 205 Hp	THB	6,500,000
38 Ft 2000	Flybridge Watertaxi Yamaha, 2 x 200 Hp Reduced to	THB	2,000,000
36 Ft 1994	Island Gypsy Europa Perkins, 2 x 225 Hp	US\$	169,000
29 Ft NEW	Prowler Motor Cat Honda 4 stroke, 2 x 50 Hp	THB	POA
21 Ft 1997	Searay Laguna 21 Mariner 200 Hp (50 hrs)	THB	1,200,000

Sail			
63 Ft 1993	Wooden Penisi Ketch Isuzu, 115 Hp	Reduced to Euro	100,000
60 Ft 1982	Penisi Ketch Hino 175 Hp	US\$	51,500
60 Ft 1998	Penisi Sloop Yanmar 50 Hp	US\$	45,000
48 Ft 1998	X yacht 482, race-fitted Yanmar 75 Hp	US\$	375,000
42 FT 1981	Vagabond 42 Ford Lehman, 65 Hp	US\$	105,000
33 Ft 1984	Reinke, Alu cutter Volvo, 24 Hp	THB	1,350,000
33 Ft 1986	Nauticat 33 Ford 90 Hp	THB	3,500,000
30 Ft 1988	Jeanneau Sunlight 30 Yanmar 18 Hp	US\$	40,000

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# Reigning champs USA on top in FIFA qualifiers

PHUKET CITY: Reigning FIFA Under-19 Women's World Champions USA trounced South Korea 3-0 and beat the Russian squad by the same margin in their first two matches of the Phuket leg of the championships.

The USA squad made full advantage of their greater size against their Korean opponents in their match on November 11, and although the canny Koreans – currently the Asian Under-19 Women's Champions – appeared to be able to turn on a dime, it was outright power and skill that won the day.

The USA launched themselves into the lead in the 15<sup>th</sup> minute, following a tackle in the penalty box by Korea's Park Mi Jung on Sheree Gray that Greek referee Antonia Kokotou dubbed foul.

Angie Wozniak powered the ball into the back of the net to take the USA 1-0 up.

Taking first blood gave the USA the taste for more goals, despite some impressive attacks by Korea, particularly Park Eun Sun. Her run at the net was checked by the American defense who then sent the ball in the opposite direction straight to the boots of Amy Rodriguez, who put the USA 2-0 ahead before half-time.

Never-say-die Korea entered the second half with a string of attacks at the other goal but lost possession when they tried

to pass the ball, but the Americans were just too quick for them.

A handball in the 66<sup>th</sup> minute by Korea saw another penalty shot at their goal but Jun Kim Kyung executed a dramatic and successful dive to regain some national pride.

Some well-coordinated team play from the USA gave Jennifer Richmond the opportunity to dribble the ball past Korea's defense and right into the penalty box before passing it to Rodriguez who released the ball to teammate Gray in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute for her second – and the final – goal of the match.

The final score was 3-0 to the USA, who took three points from their victory.

The Russian team stole a march on current European Under-19 Women's Champions Spain on November 11 with a 4-1 victory. However, the Russians

were to see the same scoreline inflicted against them in their tussle with the USA on November 14.

A penalty from the USA's Angie Wozniak after a mere 120 seconds was followed by a Jessica Rostedt goal in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute. Russia's Ekaterina Sochneva pulled one back in the 46<sup>th</sup> minute, but Rostedt found the goal again in the 60<sup>th</sup> followed just three minutes later by another goal for the USA by Megan Rapinoe. The match ended 4-1 to the USA.

The Americans have now departed Phuket to play the quarter finals in Bangkok. Interest is focused on Russia and Spain to see which of them will join the USA in the capital while Korea – who were beaten 2-1 by Spain – look hopelessly out-gunned.

– Anongnat Sartpisut



**COLD WAR:** Despite Russia pulling one back in the 46<sup>th</sup> minute, the USA's 4-1 victory was never really in question on November 14. The USA are currently leading their division.

## Phuket International Soccer 7s tournament set for kick off

KARON: A total of 24 teams from 12 countries have so far confirmed they will be taking part in the Phuket International

Soccer 7s tournament which is due to take place at Karon Stadium over the weekend of November 27 and 28. The event will

bring to Phuket between 300 and 400 amateur players from around the region.

More information about the tournament can be found at the International Soccer 7s website, [www.soccer7s.reperages-thailand.com](http://www.soccer7s.reperages-thailand.com). Details can also be obtained from email: [soccer7s@reperages-thailand.com](mailto:soccer7s@reperages-thailand.com)

## Japanese riders leave others in their wake

NAI HARN: Japanese riders dominated the third and final round of the Asian Wakeboard Pro-Tour, taking the Men's Masters title, first and second place in Men's Open competition and all three places in the Women's Open, at the Nai Harn lagoon on November 13 and 14.

Naosuke Hatakeyama won the Men's Masters with 62.5 points, 21 more than Singapore's Kevin Tan, who was came second. Third place went to Tan Kay Tuck, also of Singapore, who scored 39.5 points.

Manabu Nagatsuka won the Men's Open with 75.5 points, while Kosuke Mori, who scored 74 was second. Third place went to Thailand's Bunyaro Jumarung, on 71 points.

The Women's Open was won by Yoshiko Ishimaru, who scored 68 points; second was Kiyomi Shioda on 58 points and third Ayako Miyazaki with 48 points.

Pairat Vareesri, the Deputy Chairman of the Asian Wakeboard Association, told the *Gazette*, "This event has been a great

success here in Phuket. We had more spectators and entrants here than at the earlier rounds in Japan and Singapore.

"If possible, we'll bring the tournament to Thailand again."

– Anongnat Sartpisut



Up, up and away! One of the contestants in the Men's Open category gets airborne at the Nai Harn lagoon.

## King's Cup Regatta in 18<sup>th</sup> year

KATA: One of Phuket's premier sporting and social events, The King's Cup Regatta, will be held this year from December 4 to 11, with its headquarters, as usual, at the Kata Beach Resort.

Media Relations Director Duncan Worthington said he expects more than 100 yachts to enter the regatta, with entries coming from Asia and as far away as Europe.

This year's competition will be separated into 10 categories: Racing A; Racing B; Premier Keelboats; Sunsail; IRC Racing; Ocean Rover Keelboats;

Multihulls, Trimarans and Catamarans; Classic Vessels; Sports Boat; Beach Catamarans.

Customs and Immigration check-in, registration, skippers' party and an opening party at the resort will take place December 4 and 5.

Racing will take place from December 6 to 11, starting at 8:30 am. December 9 has been designated as a rest day.

For more information visit [www.kingscup.com](http://www.kingscup.com) or contact at the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Office at Tel: 076-383325, 076-273380.

## Patong Darts League results

November 9 results: Amigos\* 4 Shakers 5; Champs 6 Fat Boy Saloon\* 3; Didi's 4 Happy Days\* 5; Valhalla 4 Piccadilly\* 5; (\*Winners of beer leg). Postponed=Nag's Head vs In-Between; OffShore vs Two Black Sheep (Home teams first).

Standings as of November 14: 1. OffShore (31points); 2. Happy Days (30); 3= Champs, Piccadilly (27); 5. DiDi's (25); 6.

Nag's Head (24); 7. In-Between (23); 8= Amigos, Two Black Sheep (18); 10. Shakers (10); 11. Fat Boy Saloon (9); 12. Valhalla (1).

November 23 match-ups: Amigos v In-Between; Champs v Shakers; Didi's v Piccadilly; Nag's Head v Two Black Sheep; OffShore v Fat Boy Saloon; Valhalla v Happy Days (Home teams first).

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# Ford to get back in Focus

The best-selling car in Ford's recent history, the Focus, has received a major facelift for 2005, along with some upgrading of its highly successful Duratec Ti-VCT (Twin independent Variable Cam Timing) engine.

Unveiled at the recent Paris Motor Show, the new Focus – slightly larger than the model it replaces – looks more muscular and features cleaner styling than many of its family hatchback/saloon rivals.

The Focus family consists of 3-, 4- and 5-door models as well as a spacious station wagon.

Ford has been in the news for less-than-positive reasons in recent months, with the closure of Jaguar's Browns Lane factory in Coventry, England, and its Formula 1 team and racing-engine facility – Cosworth – up for sale.

There is even talk of moving production of Jaguars – often called "Coventry's Finest" – to the US, the main overseas market for the luxury brand, due to the weakness of the US dollar against the British pound.

On a more favorable note, 29-year-old Ford driver Markko Märtin from Estonia won last month's Rally de France in the Focus WRC, having dominated the event throughout.

Märtin and co-driver Michael Park won seven out of 12 of the stages on the asphalt roads of the Mediterranean island of Corsica, with their teammates, François Duval and Stéphane Prévot, winning another three in similar Focus models. This rally win may be crucial in determining whether Ford remains in the World Rally Championship in 2005.

This year Ford dropped into third place behind Toyota for the first time. General Motors remains at the top of the global automakers but must be looking nervously over its corporate shoulder as the Japanese prosper.

These events have greatly heightened the importance of the



**BACK ON TRACK:** Ford is hoping that its new Focus models will improve the giant automaker's competitiveness in global markets.

road-going Focus adding to Ford's future profitability, though, in terms of numbers sold when compared with Jaguar sales, it is already significantly more valuable than the luxury marque.

The latest Focus features a number of new technologies, including a key-less entry and ignition system, a reflecting windshield that blocks out almost five times the level of solar radiation as a standard tinted screen, significantly improving the air conditioning's efficiency, and Bluetooth for your mobile phone.

There is also – for the first time at this level – adaptive headlights that turn the beam in line with the front wheels. Ford's ap-

proach to this new technology is to use halogen rather than xenon lamps, making it less expensive and therefore a more affordable option for its customers.

There are four gasoline engines: a 1.4-liter delivering 79bhp (58 kW); a 1.6 producing 98bhp; another 1.6 with VVT (Variable Valve Timing) producing 113bhp; and a top-level model of two liters with 143bhp (105kW). The Ti-VCT system on the 1.6 VVT engine offers more torque and 14bhp more than the standard 1.8-liter unit it replaces, while reducing fuel consumption by around 5%.

There are also two common-rail diesel engines, of 1.6- and two-liter capacity, producing 108bhp and 134bhp, respectively.

All the gasoline engines are available with four- or five-speed automatic transmission, while the two-liter diesel can be mated to a six-speed manual gearbox. In



addition, one can opt for continuously variable transmission (CVT) – a system developed jointly by Ford and Germany's ZF – on the 1.6 diesel. The CVT can switch between fully automatic and seven-speed manual, and is claimed to cut fuel consumption by up to 8%.

The Focus has been with us for more than six years, with over four million sold world-

wide. Ford's top brass hope that the latest incarnation will do much to improve the company's fortunes.

Although it's a shame that the Formula 1 outfit had to go, there is still hope for the UK-based rally team, thanks to Markko Märtin's French success.

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



By Jeff Heselwood

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# Savoir fare

There had been a distinctly "gamey" taste to my toast of the last few mornings, a sensation strong enough to mask the flavor of Marmite and even Patum Peperium – The Gentleman's Relish, as some like to call it.

Legions of ants finally discovered the cause. A poor unsuspecting *jing jok* had found a home, indeed, a final resting place in my toaster.

A settling Ricard *et l'eau* some hours later as we arrive at Dibuk Restaurant revives my appetite sufficiently to view the French menu with gusto.

The understated near-colonial-era atmosphere and utterly charming staff play no small role in this.

Some praise is due to the staff, not least because they have all stayed with Soontaree "Nok" Thiprat – the owner and head chef – since at least the time that the restaurant moved from its original site in Patong to Dibuk Rd some three years ago.

They have the uncanny and – dare I say it, rare in Phuket – knack of anticipating a diner's request or question.

"Is," I begin, "the salami..." Quick as a flash came the response, "No sir, it's pork, not beef, salami."

"Might I have some..." I venture and hey presto! some warm French bread appears.

"May I...?" and my wine glass is filled in a trice.

Tops marks all round.

K. Nok herself is too busy to pop her head around the door and greet us until much later. She works like a Trojan seven days a week, running her restaurant and taking care of two children. She



ABOVE: L'assiette de charcuterie with jambon and scrummy homemade paté.

learned her fine repertoire of French dishes about seven years ago, but it's as if she has been cooking French food since childhood.

There is a slight delay in the first couple of dishes – *l'assiette de charcuterie*, an assortment of hams, salamis and paté – arriving. Never mind; it gives us the opportunity to drink more – oops – I mean relax.

Remember being able to sit in a restaurant and simply relax? I do, and fancy Catherine Deneuve here in a blue haze of Gauloise smoke, perhaps escorted by Alain Delon – probably discussing ducks going to Moscow or something similarly earnest.

I catch the waiter's eye. "The duck paté..."

"Yes sir, it's homemade. K. Nok made it yesterday. She imports the ducks. Better taste than Thai ones."

Indeed the paté is tasty, so too is *la mousse de foie de veau*. Yes, veal; all very cruel but also very yummy on lashings of warm

bread. Barely have I brushed the crumbs from my fingers than succulent small white fish, breadcrumbed and deep-fried, arrive.

More seafood, in the form of heady *les moules farcie* – mussels stuffed with garlic butter – make up the quartet of starters.

My lightweight dining companion is herself *farcie* and I alone have a main course. But which main? K. Nok tells me later that lamb shank *l'osso buco* and leg of lamb in thyme sauce are two of the most popular on the menu, but no, I go for Provence-style roasted quail.

A splendid choice. The duo of birds are stuffed with garlic and bay leaves, and have rashers of good bacon across their backs to keep the meat moist. A heavenly taste and good enough for me to pick the delicate little things up in my hands and affect the manners of the 11<sup>th</sup>-century French landed gentry. Quite appropriate, actually, as my ancestry is Norman, you know, 1066 and all that...

Convivial surroundings, a delightful ambience and gorgeous food presented by dedicated staff, all in one of the best-kept secrets in Phuket City.

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Dibuk Restaurant, 69 Dibuk Rd, Muang, Phuket City. Tel: 076-258148. Open from around 6 pm until the last patrons leave.

## On the menu with Andy Johnstone

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# How to keep wine glasses

Q My wine glasses get cloudy after three months of dish-washing. Nothing I try keeps them shiny. What can I do?

A I would need to know more about the water you use, how you wash the glasses, and the glasses themselves.

Many fine wine glasses, especially those that are hand blown, have high calcium oxide (lime) content. Depending on the mineral content and pH of your water, washing at too high a temperature could cause the lime to reduce the brilliance of the glass.

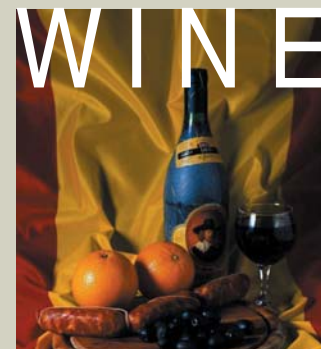
First check the temperature of the water in your dishwasher. After that, check the mineral content of the water. If it is too high, it is possible to reduce the impurities by filtration, or remove them entirely by ion exchange. If that doesn't work, perhaps you could try washing them by hand with a non-detergent liquid.

A strong solution of vinegar can sometimes remove film from glasses and improve their brilliance. In difficult situations I recommend rinsing glasses with bottled water before drying.

Q What is ethyl carbamate and should I be worried about it in wine?

A Ethyl carbamate – urethane – is sometimes found in wines made from grapes grown in high-nitrogen soils. It is also commonly found in other fermented beverages and foods, such as soy sauce, toasted bread and olives.

In the presence of alcohol and heat, the amino acid arginine can form urea, which then goes on to become urethane. There is no epidemiological data on the effects of ethyl carbamate on humans, but an increased incidence of lung tumors is observed in mice exposed to it by inhalation. For this reason, those who work with sprayed-on urethane insulation may be at risk.



By Steven Roberto

The quantities found in foods and beverages, however, are considered too low to warrant concern.

Winemakers can limit the amount of arginine in wine by minimizing fertilizer use, selecting strains of yeast that can metabolize arginine and thereby produce low amounts of urea; and by avoiding exposure of the wine to warm temperatures during transport, and so forth.

Q Why don't people drink white wine with red meat?

A You can if you like, but most people don't because white wine is served chilled while meat dishes are usually served warm. White wine also clashes with red meat as it has less tannin than red wine, and tannin combines with fat in meat to produce a perception of harmonious flavor for most people.

The types of white that do work well with red meat, especially with grilled pork sausage, are the German or Austrian Rieslings. Try the combination next time you grill sausages and veggies. You will be amazed at how wonderfully well the wine and meat work together.

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](mailto:stevenroberto@lycos.com)

## 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

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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

# Neramit Hill project enters Phase II

KATHU: Work is due to start next month on the second phase of the 55-rai Neramit Hill housing development, located on the hillside off Soi Bangthong, on the eastern side of the hills dividing Patong from the rest of Kathu.

Almost all of the 37 one- and two-story units in Phase I, construction of which started in mid-2003, have already been reserved. Both stages combined, with the Phase II comprising 40 dwellings, will cover 35 rai and represent an investment of 300 million baht.

Phase III, to be built on the remaining 20 rai, is still in the planning stage. The entire estate should be completed by mid-2007.

Phanom Kajanathienthao, Managing Director of Knight Frank Chartered (Thailand) Co Ltd, the sole agent for Phases II and III, said, "The idea is to offer comfortable homes with functional living space that meets modern needs, but within a natural environment."

Phase II will feature two types of "standard home" designs: Chomduan and Chomdao. Both are 190-square-meter, two-story designs with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living

**December will see work start on Phase II of the Neramit Hill project, which will feature modern designs such as the multi-level Chomtawan style (left).**



room, dining room, kitchen, terrace and parking space for two cars. Prices for these homes start from four million baht.

There will also be four superior, "non-standard" designs available: Chomtawan, Chomchan, Chomprai and Chompana. All four will offer from 338sqm to 420sqm of living space, at prices starting from 8 million baht.

Said K. Phanom, "The developers have selected quality

materials for the interiors, such as teak parquet flooring in the bedrooms and American Standard sanitary ware in the bathrooms.

"The electricity cables for the estate will be underground, and each home will have concealed interior wiring. Each will be protected by an anti-termite system, too.

"The estate will have 24-hour security, a clubhouse, fitness facility and swimming pool,

although we can arrange the installation of private pools for residents who want them."

K. Phanom added that the developer, Daan Suan Neramit Group, has also included measures intended to counter the effects of flooding and landslides of the type experienced near Patong last month.

For more information call Knight Frank at Tel: 076-322107 or 02-6438223.

## Home of the Week

**E**nvironmentally-friendly may not be the first words that spring to the minds of visitors as they approach Gary and Wanida Ebsen's comfortable home in Rawai, but behind the stylish exterior, that's what it is.

When the Ebsens set about building a home for their family, they decided to use an energy-efficient design developed by the Thai government – and available free from National Energy Policy Office – to reduce the demand the current housing boom is putting on Thailand's electricity grid.

Gary said that while the idea of saving money on installing and running a cooling system was appealing, the main attraction was being able to live in a modern Thai-style home specifically designed for life in the tropics.

He said, "The energy-saving concepts behind this type of house are quite simple and require more a change in thinking and common sense than money."

"For example, homes in Europe and North America are primarily designed and use materials to best retain heat, while in Phuket the efforts you put into preventing heat buildup are the key to substantial energy savings."



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Rawai

# Keeping eco-cool

"If you are willing to accept some design limitations and be thoughtful in selecting building materials, you can easily build a house in Phuket that does not require air conditioning."

The single most effective energy-saving technique the Ebsens employed was to position their home exactly where it would make the most of Phuket's prevailing year-round breezes.

The front of the house faces slightly northeast, and there are twin oversize double windows on the north and south sides of each room.

"This allows the prevailing winds from the northeast to blow straight through our home for six months; the winds then reverse and blow through from the southwest the rest of the year," explained Gary.

"To enhance this effect we use double doors, but only on the north and south sides of the house and all windows facing east and west are shaded by eaves.

"Most of the windows have old-fashioned louvered wooden shutters rather than glass, allowing good airflow even when they are closed."

The traditional Thai-style



The high-set design and the bottom-opening shutters allow Phuket's year-round breezes to keep the house cool.



steep-angled roof with its light blue tiles helps reflect heat and glare away from the house and the deep overhang helps shield the sides of the house from the sun. The overhang also allows windows to be kept open during all but the most severe rainstorms.

Thai houses were traditionally built on stilts which allowed air to flow under the house, while also preventing moisture seeping from the ground into the rooms.

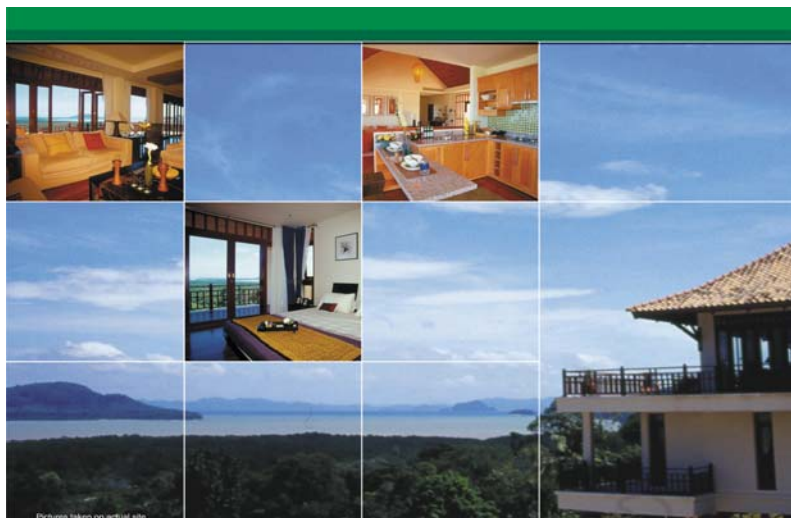
Said Gary, "Dry, cool, well-ventilated rooms are healthier and don't experience the mold

and mildew problems commonly found in enclosed spaces in the tropics."

The house has two large covered patio areas surrounded by tropical gardens, all set in a one-rai walled compound.

The land title is Chanote and the asking price is 6.9 million baht.

For more information contact Gary Ebsen at Tel: 07-8987062 or by email at: ebseng@yahoo.com



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Coup de grass

The rainy season is fine by me, as it makes one aspect of managing the garden much easier: there's no need to wield the hosepipe anywhere near as often as is necessary at other times of the year.

Over a couple of weeks, I had to resort to applying water to the garden just once or twice.

Nature is much better at watering the garden than I am, anyway. And it shows. The spurts of growth that some inhabitants make during the rainy season are astonishing. I'm sure some of them look bigger by late afternoon than they did in the morning.

The downside to this burst of enthusiasm from the Bert garden is that I have to counter-attack, and that's exactly what I did. I set to with the pruning shears and actually worked up a sweat. I was at it for so long in the blazing Phuket sun that my beer warmed up. I'll try not to let that happen again.



I don't know what it is, but there's something about pruning that seems to bring out aggression in people, especially "blokes".

How many other pastimes or leisure activities allow you to hack mercilessly at everything in your path, with the excuse that it's for the greater good?

Pruning doesn't have to be like a Saphan Hin teenage motorcycle race though. You don't need to take out all your driving-home-through-Phuket-traffic frustrations on your plants, but equally, you shouldn't be worried about occasionally being ruthless in the garden.

There are those who will argue that pruning is an incredibly complex matter, but for simpleton gardeners like me, that's just not true.

Prune whenever and wherever you want to make the place look neater and tidier, to trim a hedge or even to remove a plant that's not performing.

There's a lot of nonsense put forth by so-called experts about pruning, but here are a few Bert tips, for what they're worth:

1. You can prune at just about any time of the year.
2. You should cut in such a way that you think the whole thing either works better or looks better; make it the shape you want and encourage it to grow in the direction you tell it to.
3. Take your time and cut carefully and gently, the machete-slash approach isn't ideal.
4. Aim for a clean, neat

cut, as growth behind it will be quicker.

5. When you're pruning large branches, first make a small cut underneath to stop the bark from tearing all the way down the limb.

6. If you're not sure what your intentions are, prune in stages, a bit at a time; you can always take a bit more off if you need too, but received wisdom suggests that it's not that easy to stick bits back on again.

7. Be utterly ruthless if that's what's needed.

**SHORT CUT TO SUCCESS:** (left) Absolute surgical precision is not necessary to remove a limb or two...

...but a clean cut will promote new growth more quickly.



Don't worry about cutting off flowers or fruit when you have to.

Obviously, if you were running an orchard or a durian farm you'd need a different approach with a little more science behind it; you'd prune at certain times of the year and in a certain way in order to maximize your crop.

There are some plants for which pruning is essential to promote new growth. Many plants,

such as heliconia and some members of the lily family, have a single flower or group of flowers on the end of a stalk rising from the ground.

Just about all of these plants will benefit greatly from having the whole stems cut back completely once the flower has finished. That stem will flower only once, so its job is done.

Pruning shears, or secateurs as most Brits call them, are just about the only tool you'll need. You can pick up a pair for around 100 baht, or make do with a pair of kitchen scissors.

If an area that needs dealing with is out of reach, extendible pruners are the answer. One of the larger stores, such as Homepro, should be able to supply you with what you need for a few hundred baht.

If want to take pruning to the extreme, then you can even sculpt your plant into the shape you want – topiary as it's known to those who are into this kind of thing.

With the speed of growth here, it doesn't take long to train your plants to grow to almost just about any shape.

We need to prune here – regularly. Jungles can literally start overnight.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### WOODEN HOUSE PATONG



Wooden cottage on Nanai Rd, with a nice garden, privacy and views. 3.2 million baht. Pls email for info. Email: nicosmic@hotmail.com

### LUXURY HOMES IN PATONG



New 2-story homes - covering 150sqm - with carport, large living/dining room with aircon, 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Freehold land, 4 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 01-8957597. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com Website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### HOUSE IN NAI HARN

Features very high-quality construction, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge room, dining room, kitchen, terrace and separate laundry/storeroom. Western kitchen with European appliances and granite benchtops. Built-in wardrobes and aircons in all bedrooms and lounge room. Solid travertine flooring throughout, 12-volt halogen lighting throughout and many more features too numerous to mention. All this just 2 minutes from beautiful Nai Harn Beach. Must be sold due to relocation overseas. Excellent value at 5.8 million baht negotiable. Tel: 076-289013, 01-8935952. Fax: 076-289013. Email: seasail@samart.co.th

### 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\_5@hotmail.com

### LAND KALIM BEACH

34.5 rai near Swiss Home Resort. 2km from Patong. 7 million baht/rai. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-8407885.

### TOP OF KAMALA



Direct access to the main road. Underground power & water supply, and excellent location with views overlooking the bay. Contact Phuket LandSearch for details. Tel: 076-290509. Email: sales@phuketland.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 details. Tel: 07-2662424. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

### ON THE GOLF COURSE



6 rai available, from just 15 meters from hole 18 at the Mission Hills Golf Course. 4 million per rai or 20 million for all 6. Call for details. Tel: 06-6834996.

### LAND IN KAMALA

1,200 meters along the road, ready to build with a 2.60 meter high wall around the property already. Priced at 2.95 million baht. Pls call for info. Tel: 01-5691143.

### 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.

### 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



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### 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.

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# 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.

## LAND & HOUSE

Large house on 189 sq wah for sale. 2 stories + 1 office, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, Jacuzzi and waterfall, and 8 aircons. For more information, please call K. Anny or K. Wasana at Tel: 07-8923133 or 01-536-5186.

## LAND FOR SALE



71 sq wah near Cherng Talay, just 4km to beach. Price is 500,000 baht, Chanote title. Pls call for info. Tel: 01-6078567.

## CONDO 4 SALE

Patong Beach. 1-room apartment for sale. Cash 550,000 baht. Freehold title. Pls contact for details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## 2-BEDROOM APT

on the 10th floor of the Waterfront Condo (Karon) is for sale at 12 million baht. Please contact Jay for more info. Tel: 09-8745286.

## BEAUTIFUL LUXURY

apartment for sale at Surin Beach. The apartment (only 2 apartments per villa) is located in Suriyana, a small but very exclusive development in Surin Beach. 215 sqm with a huge living room, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen with Teka appliances, and an office. Beautiful lake views and use of a 32-meter swimming pool in a tropical garden. Priced at 12.5 million baht. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-8753289. Email: regents@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 1 RAI: CAPE PANWA

1 rai beside the sea at Cape Panwa for sale at 9 million baht/rai. New road, electricity and beautiful sea and sunset views. Pls call Andrew for more info. Tel: 06-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## BEAUTIFUL

beachfront property for sale in the Khao Lak area. 2-story family house on a quiet & idyllic beach within walking distance of resorts. The house is 120sqm and includes 2 master-bedrooms with en-suite baths, a large terrace & balcony with fantastic seaview, and aircon. Land size is 680sqm. Priced at 7 million baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

## 3 RAI + W/SEAVIEW

3 rai for sale at 12 million baht, and 5 rai free. Good area, Nor Sor 3 title. Pls contact for details. Tel: 66-06682296. Email: smith@taurus-travel.com

## LAYAN SEAVIEW

6 rai with spectacular sea views, sale by owner, Nor Sor 3 Gor title, located very near Laguna. Tel: 01-7371688. Fax: 076-273083. Email: riding@loxinfo.co.th

## SURIN BEACH LAND

for sale. On the same mountain as the Amanpuri resort and The Chedi hotel. 7 rai (11,000 sqm) for sale with beautiful sea views over Bang Tao Beach. 5 minutes' walk to Surin Beach and to Bang Tao Beach. Highest point is 74m. Ideal for a quality estate or boutique hotel. Last piece of land with a sea-view in Surin Beach. Contact during the day for more info. Tel: 09-8753289. Email: regents@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 1-RAI PLOT

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## LAND FOR SALE

in Anuphas Golf Country Club. Pls contact for details. Tel: 09-8718333, 01-6913351

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## LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE



The famous Lighthouse Restaurant - with five waterfront luxury rooms and three offices - in Ao Chalong is seriously for sale. Potential to develop residential units on unused property. Please email for more information. Email: maipenrai@hushmail.com

## 2.75 RAI IN RAWAI

Chanote title, road and electric. 2.75 rai for sale at 1.9 million baht/rai. Pls call Andrew for more info. Tel: 06-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## RAWAI VARIOUS

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apartment for rent. Long- or short-term, 5 minutes' walk to the beach. Pls call for details. Tel: 07-2760529.

## SUPERB PRIME-VIEW HOUSE



Thai-Balinese teak-roofed house for rent. 1 master bedroom w/large balcony and open sea view + 2 additional bedrooms. Also has a small guest house with master bedroom and a dynamic view. High-season and long-term rental now available. 200,000 baht per month. Longer terms negotiable. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-344044. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

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## APARTMENT

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## 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

## 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.

## 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 RESTDENCE

1 or 2 bedroom apartment with kitchen, pool and only 350m from the beach for rent at 9,000 baht/month. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT



in Chalong area. Fully finished, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and small garden. Price is 18,000-20,000 baht per month. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-3965636, 04-0519353.

## BIG ROOM FOR RENT

400m from the Patong Beach Hotel. Service, aircon, hot water and cable TV. Pls contact for details. Cheap price! Tel: 09-6455134. Email: js\_0704@hotmail.com

## HOME FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, garden and parking. Price is 35,000 baht/month. Pls contact K. Jongrak for more info. Tel: 076-225444.

## 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.

## Property Wanted

## CONDO, APARTMENT

or small house wanted to buy in nice area of Patong, Karon, Kata, etc. Foreign freehold or leasehold pref. Email details or call. Tel: 09-2908939. Email: stevebell247@hotmail.com

## RAWAI/NAI HARN

Looking for small furnished house or apartment close to Nai Harn Beach to rent until late February. Price guide: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-5374130.

## APPARTMENT

One bedroom or studio apartment for two with aircon, pool, TV and phone, wanted to rent for one month from 17/12/2004. Should have seaview and be near beach and town center of Patong. Email: phampton@number28.co.uk

## FOR A FOREIGNER

Looking for property under 650,000 baht - a condo, townhouse or house that a foreigner can buy. Please forward details and photos if you have them. Email: rogerthai@hotmail.com

## WANTED:SEAVIEW

land. 1-2 rai in Phuket with seaview. Email: happier@myway.com

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## 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](http://www.phuket.net/kata_sunset_villa.htm)







# Island Job Mart

International Property Consultants,  
Agents, Valuers, Property Managers

**Knight Frank**

## ◆ Project Manager (Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, over 30 years old  
Bachelor's degree or higher in engineering, management or related fields  
At least 2 years' experience at management level, strong leadership and problem-solving skills and the ability to work under pressure.

## ◆ Office & HR Manager (Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, over 30 years old  
Bachelor's or Master's degree in management or related fields  
Have knowledge of Thai labor laws  
At least 5 years' experience in managing a corporate office environment at management level.

## ◆ Sales Assistant/Sales Assistant Manager/Villa Rental Manager (Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Bachelor's or Master's degree in sales and marketing or related fields  
Strong leadership and good interpersonal & management skills at management level  
Strong selling skills, self-motivated and able to work independently  
Ability to travel to key markets such as Hong Kong, London and Singapore and committed to success.

## ◆ Marketing and Sales Support Staff (Bangkok & Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, over 27 years old  
Bachelor's degree or higher in sales and marketing or related fields  
Good interpersonal skills, service-minded, self-motivated and able to work independently.

## ◆ Assistant Accountant (Bangkok & Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Female, over 25 years old  
Bachelor's degree in accounting  
At least 3 years' experience in overall accounting and finance.

## ◆ Administrator (Bangkok & Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, over 22 years old  
Vocational degree or higher in related fields  
Basic knowledge of computers and office automation  
Good interpersonal skills, detailed, service-minded and well-organized.

## ◆ Technician (Bangkok & Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, male, over 22 years old  
Vocational degree or higher in mechanical/electrical engineering  
At least 3 years' experience with high-rise buildings or villas.

## ◆ Messenger (Phuket)

Qualifications:  
Thai nationality, male, over 22 years old  
Vocational degree or higher  
Good knowledge of Phuket Province  
Own transportation with driving license.

Positions 1-6 require a good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy.  
Males must be exempt of military service.  
Knowledge of real estate is an advantage for all positions.

Interested candidates are invited to write in with a full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and include a recent photo. Please send mail to:

**Knight Frank Chartered (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
Central Waterfront Suites 16th Floor, 224/21 Moo1 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket, 83100.  
Fax: 076-396786 E-mail: waraporn@knightfrankthailand.com www.knightfrankphuket.com

**LAGUNA**  
RESORT & HOTEL

[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)

The largest hotel and resorts group in Phuket and the finest integrated resort in Asia, Laguna Phuket comprises Dusit Laguna Resort, Laguna Beach Resort, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Banyan Tree Phuket and the Allamanda Laguna Phuket. We are currently seeking highly efficient female staff to fill the following positions based in Phuket:

## AIRPORT HOSPITALITY CENTRE OFFICER 2 positions

- ✓ 1-3 years experience in front office or guest relations in the hotel business/service industry or a related field
- ✓ Excellent command of English and computer skills
- ✓ Pleasant personality
- ✓ Female

The successful candidates will be offered attractive salaries and fringe benefits. Please apply in person or send application, resume and recent photo to:

**Group Human Resource Director**  
**Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.**  
390/1 Moo 1 Cherm Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-324 444 Fax: 076-271718  
Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com



**PCS**

## HR/ADMIN - URGENTLY REQUIRED

- Responsible for the recruitment/training of all workers and to provide office admin support.
- Female 25+, outgoing personality, good planning, computer and organizational skills are essential.
- Good command of English is essential. Full training will be provided.

Other jobs available: Pest control/hygiene operators, English speaking security guards & cleaner. Samui position also available.

Good salary and allowance. For more details contact: Stephen on 06-1755881, stephen@pcs.co.th, www.pcs.co.th

## SALES STAFF

wanted. Male/female, good command of English, able to drive a car (valid driving license) & computer literate. With or without experience. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

## ENGLISH TEACHERS

Native speakers required with a TOEFL cert. and/or degree. Pls contact for more details. Email: eccpkt@ecc.ac.th



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



## Sales Executive - Phuket, Samui & Krabi (1 position)

CPK Plantation, the producer and distributor of Chateau de Loei wine, offers an excellent employment opportunity for an ambitious candidate who is interested in a secure and rewarding career with this dynamic company. Position is based in Phuket.

- University graduate, male or female
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Sales experience in the alcoholic beverage market is an advantage
- Enthusiastic, confident and desire to succeed

Applications together with a recent photograph and expected salary should be sent to:  
CPK Plantation, Sales and Marketing Director,  
7/4 Soi Soonvijai, Petchburi Rd, Bangkok, Huaykwang, Bangkok 10320  
Fax: (66) 2718 2403 Email: marketing@chateaudeloiei.com

## TWO OFFICE POSITIONS

Permanent senior and junior positions for Thai nationals:

Senior: Must have very good spoken and written English skills, computer skills, a bright personality and an ability to work unsupervised.

Junior: Must have good spoken and written English skills, basic computer skills and a bright personality.

Salary in line with experience & training is provided. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 076-232962. Fax: 076-232961. Email: info@sailing-thailand.com

## EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTOR

Dive Asia is looking for a Sales Manager for our Patong office. Successful applicant should be a diving instructor, be fluent in German and English and have previous experience in sales. Dive Asia offers a competitive salary and will supply a work permit. Tel: 076-330598. Fax: 076-284033. Email: juergens@diveasia.com For more info, see our website at: www.diveasia.com

## MARKETING

manager. Real estate company requires a Thai person with good English and marketing experience with website knowledge. Good prospects, salary and incentives. Car driver's licence is an advantage. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-280805. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

## SECRETARY NEEDED

for dive center in Karon. Must have good English skills and a car driving licence. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-398040. Email: info@sunrise-divers.com

## 2 ONLINE SALES

operators. If you can write in English and make bookings, answer inquiries, and want to work from a smart Phuket town office, mail us your CV now. Tel: 076-236616, 01-8952206. Fax: 076-236-617. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

## HAIRDRESSER

wanted. Angel Hair, a new, high-class beauty salon in the center of Phuket City is looking for a professional, English-speaking hairdresser. Should be good-looking, 22-32 years old with more than 2 years' experience. Call Toi for info. Angel Hair, 32 Rassada Rd, Phuket. Tel: 01-3267431.

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Female, good English skills, email and computer literate, able to process all office documents. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-280397, 01-5848502. Email: admin@philkade.com

**Find more Recruitment Classifieds  
at  
[www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!**



# Island Job Mart



**RAYAVADEE**  
KRABI / THAILAND

RAYAVADEE, A PRESTIGIOUS, WORLD-CLASS RESORT SITUATED IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF KRABI, NOW HAS OPENINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
- SPA MANAGER
- CREDIT MANAGER
- FINANCIAL SECTION MANAGER
- COST CONTROLLER
- GUEST SERVICE ATTENDANT
- THERAPIST
- BOAT CAPTAIN

ALL MANAGERIAL POSITIONS REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- PLEASANT PERSONALITY AND GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- SERVICE MINDED
- SOME YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SPECIFIED FIELDS
- EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND COMPUTER LITERACY
- ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE ABLE TO WORK IN KRABI

WE OFFER FANTASTIC WORKING CONDITIONS/ENVIRONMENT AND A VERY GOOD REMUNERATION PACKAGE. INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE WELCOME TO APPLY IN PERSON OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION WITH COMPLETE RESUMÉ AND RECENT PHOTO TO:

RAYAVADEE KRABI, THAILAND  
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
214 MOO 2, TUMBON AO-NANG, AMPHUR MUANG, KRABI 81000  
TEL: 075 620-740-3  
E-MAIL: ASSTHR@RAYAVADEE.COM

## 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 and system maintenance, and networking issues (TCP/IP, LAN).

- ▶ Male or female, Thai nationality
- ▶ Diploma or degree in computers or a related field
- ▶ At least 2 years' experience in networking and hardware maintenance
- ▶ Good interpersonal skills
- ▶ Good command of spoken English would be an advantage

### III. ASSISTANT DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

- ▶ Male or female, Thai nationality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any field
- ▶ Strong command of English would be an advantage
- ▶ Able to work as part of a team

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



### "A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World"

Pimalai Resort & Spa, a deluxe beachfront resort on Koh Lanta, is currently looking for qualified and dynamic persons to join our team:

1. IT Officer/Supervisor
2. Reservation Officer
3. Japanese-speaking GSO (Front Desk)
4. Night Auditor
5. Room Attendants
6. Laundry Supervisor
7. Spa Therapists
8. Housekeeping Supervisor

All positions are for Thai nationals only. 1-to 2-yr's experience essential. Candidates for position 1 must have a good knowledge of TCP - IP, be able to maintain a network of 50 PCs & W2000 Server. Position 2: Fidelio Front Office experience and good English and Japanese skills (verbal/written). For these positions please forward your application with a recent photograph and salary expectation by fax/email to Rooms Division Manager rdm@pimalai.com. For positions 3-7, please send to Human Resources Office hr@pimalai.com

For further details, please visit our website at [www.pimalai.com](http://www.pimalai.com)  
Address: 99 Moo 5, Ba Kan Tiang Beach,  
Amphur Koh Lanta, Krabi, 81150.  
Tel: 075 607 999 Fax: 075 607 998/987

We are looking for dedicated, responsible, and self-motivated personnel to crew Phuker's first and best luxury megayacht available for charter.

#### Positions available

Receptionist/Secretary  
(Boat Lagoon Office)

#### Requirements

Fluent English-speaking Thai national  
Good computer skills. Knowledgeable in Microsoft programs.

1 Captain

International certification license for up to 500-ton Motor Vessel.

1 Engineer

Engineer certified for 1500hp engine.

1 Chef

Minimum 1 year experience as Sous Chef in 4/5 star hotels.

1 Assistant Chef

Minimum 2 years' kitchen experience for 4-5 star hotels.

1 Steward/Deckhand

Minimum 2 years' experience on cruise liner or private yacht.

1 housekeeper/cleaner

Minimum 1 years' experience in housekeeping with 4-5 star hotels.

It is desirable for the above personnel to speak English or other languages. Please fax/ email us your resumé.

**KINGFISHER**  
MARINE

23/109-110 Moo 2 Thepkasatri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand  
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WORK FOR A REPUTABLE COMPANY.

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FOR MORE DETAILS E-MAIL:  
[mktmanager@qrinternational.com](mailto:mktmanager@qrinternational.com)

### SALES MANAGER

- Sales supervisory experience
- Speak, read and write English
- Own transport

### SALES EXECUTIVE (FULL TIME & PART TIME)

- 22-35 yrs old, college graduate
- Active with pleasant personality
- PR or sales background
- Good English

#### Asean Journals Co Ltd

02-3324600-5 Email: [ajapply@yahoo.com](mailto:ajapply@yahoo.com)  
What's on South 076-321373, 076-202115

### Employment Wanted

#### EMPLOYMENT

Canadian female seeks employment in Rawai area. Skills include sales and marketing, real estate and advertising. Please send offers by email to: [armstrongmarketing2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:armstrongmarketing2002@yahoo.co.uk)

#### PROPERTY SALES

professional. 38-year-old Englishman, with extensive knowledge of selling real estate to overseas clients, seeks employment or partnership in property agency or business partners to start up new company. Please contact P Collier. Tel: 076-292-749, 09-0094349. Email: [pcoll2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pcoll2003@yahoo.com)

#### PROCUREMENT

manager. French national, 29 years old, currently living in Bangkok and looking forward to settling permanently in Phuket. I am a French/English bilingual, and I also speak Italian, Spanish and some Thai. I have 6 years' experience in procurement at management level. I am looking for any position as long as it is in Phuket, preferably Kata-Karon area, and am available immediately. Tel: 07-9731613. Email: [izanga@wanadoo.fr](mailto:izanga@wanadoo.fr)

#### TOUR GUIDE

If you are looking for new staff, English speaking, hard working, honest, please feel free to contact me anytime. Email: [chanakoon@yahoo.com](mailto:chanakoon@yahoo.com)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### CHEST AND FRIDGE

w/ freezer, metal and wooden chairs and tables for sale. Tel: 07-0397600.

### SATELLITE RECEIVER

6-foot digital antenna with European channels + 29-inch TV + video recorder + TV stand + 3 remotes. All are in good condition. For sale at only 18,000 baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 04-0603477.

### ROYAL-CLASS RATTAN

furniture, opposite Phuket Shooting Range in Chalong. Please call for details. Tel: 076-280415, 09-7255194.

### 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. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-2712684.

## Articles Wanted

### CHESTERFIELD SOFA

Wanted: 2- or 3-seat leather Chesterfield sofa. Seller delivers. Please email with details. Email: agj\_68@yahoo.co.uk

## Boats & Marine



**60ft Penis Sloop**  
Yanmar 50 Hp  
Many bunks  
**US\$ 45,000**  
contact  
[broker@thaimarine.com](mailto:broker@thaimarine.com)  
076-273464

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leisure



**Riviera 39**  
In Top condition  
Cummins engines  
**US\$ 275,000**  
contact  
[broker@thaimarine.com](mailto:broker@thaimarine.com)  
076-273464

**THAI MARINE**  
leisure

### YACHT WANTED

Sailing or motor yacht wanted in Thailand, Malaysia or Singapore. US\$150,000. No brokers. Please email pictures and all relevant info. Email: scan\_tours@yahoo.com

## LEE MARINE

**JOIN LEE MARINE AT THE PHUKET BOAT SHOW BOAT LAGOON MARINA DEC 9-12**



**Kelsall 44 Catamaran**  
**9,550,000 THB**



**X-Yachts X-412**  
**\$149,000 USD**



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**\$995,000 USD**



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**Boat Lagoon**  
Andrew de Bruin 01 894 1530  
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### DIVING/FISHING BOAT 4 SALE



60ft, 40-passenger boat in good condition with rubber dinghy, air compressor and dive tank. Insurance and Thai registration. Please call David for more details. Tel: 074-731198, 09-2964422.

## 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](mailto: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

### BIOTECH OPPORTUNITY NOW

Office Xpress is assisting ATR Aquaculture in business development. ATR is seeking 5 million baht investment to develop abalone production technology. Further info and business plan available on request. Tel: 076-282403, 09-8736904. Email: [mike@officeexpress.org](mailto:mike@officeexpress.org)

### BRAND NEW BAR

Never-opened, fully-fitted bar and restaurant with living accommodations. Includes shop/office, car park, brick BBQ, pool table, new sound system and flat-screen TV with UBC. Too much to list, must be viewed. Ill health forces reluctant sale. 3-year lease, 900,000 baht. If genuinely interested, act quickly! Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-2892297. Email: [bountyasia@yahoo.com](mailto:bountyasia@yahoo.com)

**BUNGALOW RESORT**  
in Chalong with 9-year lease for sale at 1.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-0385184.

### BAR IN RAWAI

For pictures or more info visit [www.ounphuket.com](http://www.ounphuket.com) or call Tel: 06-6831147.

### PHUKET TOWN

Well-known, successful food outlet with solid expat customer base. Unique, easy to run and good turnover. Quick sale due to other commitments. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-2736315, 01-8935135.

### MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. Good location on Patong Beach. 60% local customers, easy to run. Rent is 15,000 baht/month. Call Tel: 01-7356684 for details.

### GOOD RETURN ON NEW HOTEL

Office Xpress has negotiated a conservative agreement with the owners of a new 30-room, 15-shop hotel complex. Now I need 2-3 investors to assist with the start-up investment of 3 million baht. Please call for info and a proposed business plan. ROI approx 3.0 in three years. Tel: 076-282403, 09-8736904. Email: [mike@officeexpress.org](mailto:mike@officeexpress.org)

### BAR FOR SALE

Excellent location & fit-out, full entertainment license 3-4 + registered B2m Thai company. Work permit possible and low overhead. Pls contact for an inspection. Best offer wiwo. Email: [cocodior@hotmail.com](mailto:cocodior@hotmail.com)

### PUB FOR SALE

Cherng Talay Thai pub with live music every night. Fully equipped, good profits & low rent. 395,000 baht for quick sale. Tel: 07-8977249. Email: [tipriya@hotmail.com](mailto:tipriya@hotmail.com)

### BUSINESS WANTED

Looking to rent an inexpensive bar, restaurant, shop or guesthouse in Patong with excellent potential in a good location. Pls call for more information. Tel: 01-8162066.

### BEAUTY SALON

for sale. Completely remodeled and fully equipped. Great location, low monthly rent & good profits. 240,000 baht for quick sale. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-8977249. Email: [tipriya@hotmail.com](mailto:tipriya@hotmail.com)

### BUSINESS OPPTY

Garage and car-care business for sale. Good location on a corner of a main road in Kata. Year-round business. 180,000 baht. Pls call for info. Tel: 01-3101433.

### GUESTHOUSE 4 SALE

Guesthouse, with all books in order, for sale. Located in Patong, only 80 meters from the beach, the property includes 17 rooms, 1 owner apartment, restaurant and travel shop. Guesthouse is now fully booked! Contact for details. Tel: 06-6848758. Email: [proline.publishing@1nj.de](mailto:proline.publishing@1nj.de)

### INTERNET CAFE

for sale. Good location in the Rawai area, and close to many bungalows. Just 320,000 baht. Pls call K. Poramat for more info. Tel: 076-288636, 04-0647048, 06-6821008

### FACTORY 4 SALE

Drinking-water factory - 450 sqm - on Koh Lanta, Krabi, for sale at 1.2 million baht. Pls call Tel: 01-8931739 for details.

### VENTURE CAPITAL

bamboo factory. We need venture capital to setup a small factory to produce rattan and bamboo furniture. The investment is not high but the returns are good. Contact us! Tel: 06-6848758. Email: [thailand\\_bamboo@hotmail.com](mailto:thailand_bamboo@hotmail.com)

### TAILOR SHOP

for sale. Good location on Patong Beach. 10,000 baht/month. Please call Tel: 073-342488, 01-7356684.

### RESTAURANT

for sale. Thai restaurant - Isarn style - fully equipped, good business & cheap rent. 195,000 baht for quick sale. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-8977249. Email: [tipriya@hotmail.com](mailto:tipriya@hotmail.com)

## Business Products & Services

### 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](mailto:guardian@loxinfo.co.th) For further details, please see our website at: [www.guardianalarms.info](http://www.guardianalarms.info)

### KITCHEN FOR FOOD

production available in Patong. Quite sizable and cheap rent. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 06-2688061. Email: [schendl@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:schendl@loxinfo.co.th)

### RANONG DAY TRIP

1,300 baht. Tour bus (not minibus). Big seats, price includes lunch, dinner and snacks. No extra charges. Please contact us for details. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: [kingrw80@hotmail.com](mailto:kingrw80@hotmail.com)



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**220 Dauntless**

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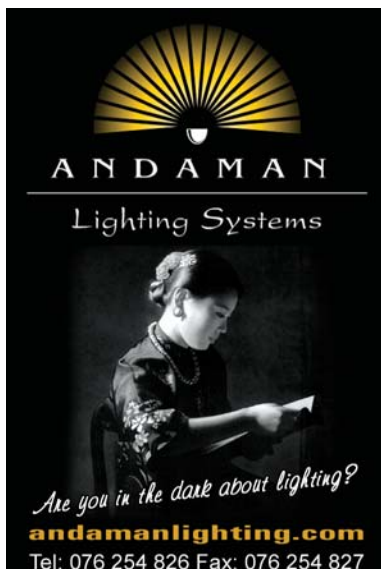
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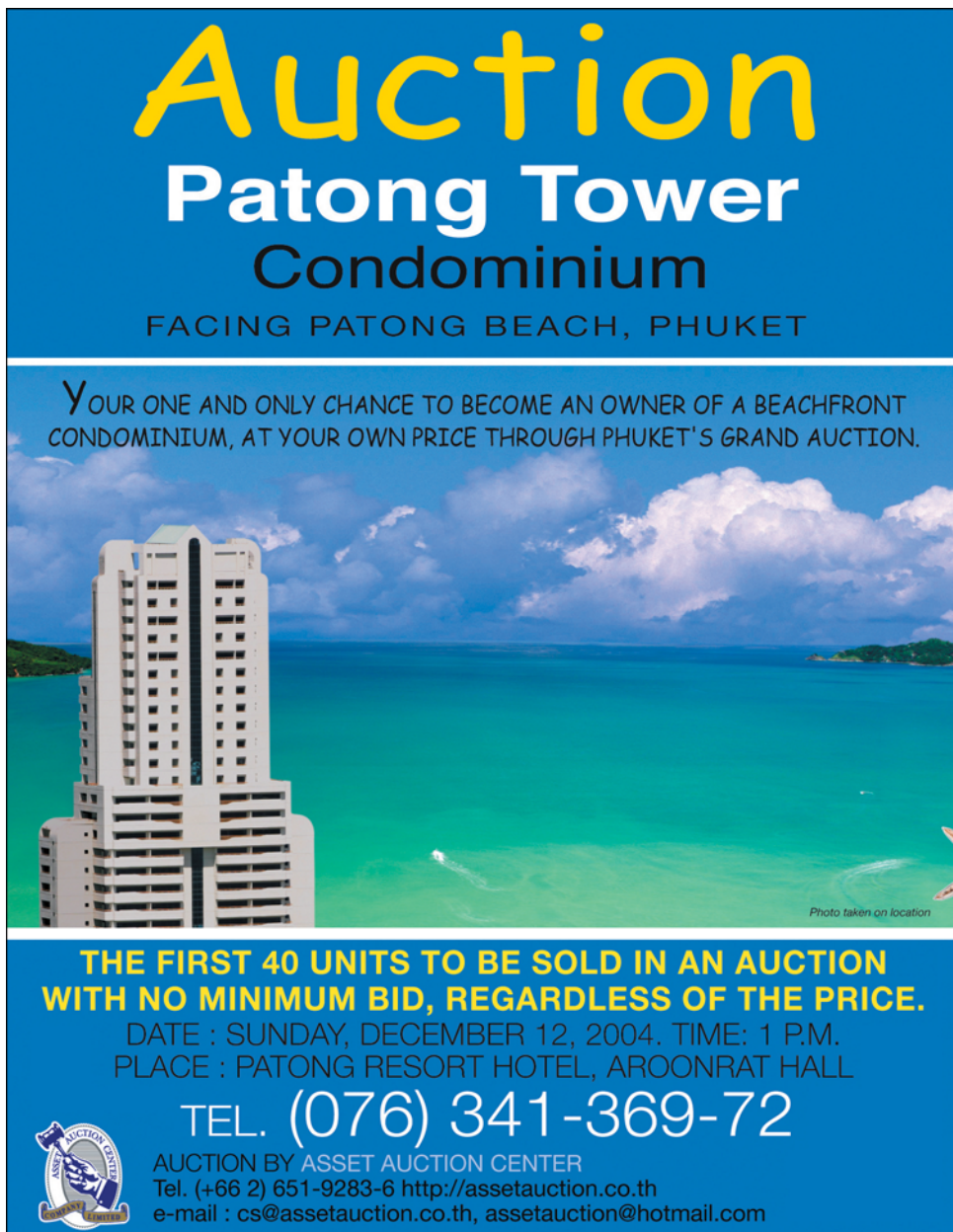
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