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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: US donates 'bomb blankets' to Phuket; Gearing up for the election.

Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: Will Phuket become a special administrative zone?

Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE ISLAND: The panorama of Panwa.

Page 6

PHUKET PEOPLE: No longer ice cold for Aleks.

Pages 10 & 11

LIFESTYLE: The lowdown on beachwear.

Page 12

AROUND THE REGION: A blue new year for Samui.

Page 14

CLASSIC CLASSIFIEDS: The proofreader's pleasure and pain.

Page 21

FIRST PERSON: Minimart distribution 'unfair', claims Pad Thai vendor.

Page 23

BUSINESS & MONEY: Yacht Haven expansion; Money Talks on Crime Inc; On The Move.

Page 23

SPORT & LEISURE: Third-age cycling; 'VIP' football, Blue Canyon golf challenge.

Pages 26 & 27

TRAVEL: Vine times in Hunter Valley.

Page 30

PROPERTY: Home of the Week: Chalong; Kata Gardens update. Doven revisits the doctor.

Pages 33, 34 & 35

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 4; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; OFF THE WALL 10; HOROSCOPES 16; KIDS 19; MOMMA DUCK, YOUTH 'N ASIA 20; EDITORIAL & LETTERS 22; ISSUES & ANSWERS 23; COMPUTERS, BOOKS 24; MOTORING 28; GARDENING 36; CLASSIFIEDS 37-44.

Noisy venues face closure

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET: In a move that will be welcomed by many island residents, owners and managers of "noisy" and "dark" bars are being warned to clean up their acts – or face temporary closure.

From December 18, officials began monitoring the volume of noise in entertainment venues and checking that venues are adequately ventilated. The program is part of a nationwide crackdown, Wisut Romin, the Deputy Secretary of Phuket Provincial Administration Office, told the *Gazette*.

"Noise must not exceed 91 decibels, while the venue should be properly lit and ventilated, and there should be proper emergency exits, too," said K. Wisut.

He said that Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura was due to lead a monitoring sortie on Christmas Eve.

"Those who break the regulations will be fined 100 baht," K. Wisut said.

"It's not a great deal of money," he admitted, "but we will keep records of who has been punished. In the case of persistent offenders, we will get an order from the Governor to have them closed down for, say, 15 or 30 days."

Meanwhile, in a separate crackdown, undercover inspectors are visiting shops and stores to check that they are not selling alcohol outside permitted times or selling alcohol and cigarettes to minors.

Said K. Wisut, "The 253rd declaration of 1972 Revolutionary Council states that shops



The 116-foot *Yanneke Too* (above) on her way to winning the 5th Phuket Invitational Superyacht event on December 20, when 10 superyachts set off from Nai Harn for Phuket's annual offshore race for premier luxury yachts.

The 104ft *Naos* came second in the "non-competitive" race, while *Sunshine* came third.

Adam Frost, of event organizer SEAL Superyachts, said that this year the event attracted a record number of entrants, with internationally-recognized yacht-builders Feadship already expressing interest in supporting the event next year.

with liquor licenses are allowed to sell alcohol only between 11 am and 2 pm and 5 pm and midnight."

This law applies only to shops, said K. Wisut. Entertainment venues can sell alcohol at any time during the hours they are allowed to open.

He added, "Shopkeepers breaking the law and selling cigarettes and alcohol to under-18s, and alcohol outside permitted hours, have been put on notice that we are watching them."

K. Wisut also said that the government is offering a reward

for tip-offs from the public. "Members of the public who report a shop that is breaking the law can expect to receive a bounty of up to 30% of the fine levied on the shop. That has been an incentive for people to report shopkeepers to us."

Vendors found selling alcohol or cigarettes to minors can be fined up to 30,000 baht, jailed for up to three months, or both. Minors caught buying alcohol and cigarettes will have to do community service.

Shopkeepers caught selling

Continued page 2

Number of business registrations continues to surge

By Siripansa Somboon

PHUKET: The number of new businesses registered on Phuket so far this year has increased by nearly 50% over the number of new businesses established last year, according to statistics from Phuket Provincial Business Development Office (BDO).

BDO head Yongyuth Kasetuntorn told the *Gazette* 1,452 new limited partnerships and limited companies were registered from January 1 to November 30 this year, 470 more than during the same period last year.

However, only 208 businesses were de-registered – 106 fewer than last year, he added.

K. Yongyuth said that spa and resort businesses in Pa Khlok – where land is still relatively cheap – formed the largest single category of registrations, and that foreign investors in Phuket businesses were most likely to be English, Swedish, Japanese or Korean.

The boom in new businesses on the island has resulted in a windfall for the BDO. Registration fees collected by the BDO during the period rose from 18.9 million baht last year to 29.6 million baht this year.

K. Yongyuth said, "It's difficult for me to forecast what the new business situation will be during the coming year because, despite the limited size of Phuket, lots of people come to live and do business here."

"But so long as things stay quiet politically and the price of gasoline doesn't rise too much, I'd say investment will continue to rise."



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Minimum wage set to rise

PHUKET: Phuket's lowest-paid workers could be in line to receive a New Year present – a five-baht-per-day increase in the minimum wage.

The Chief of the Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare Office, Patom Phetmanee, told the *Gazette* on December 17 it was likely that the minimum wage in Phuket will rise on January 1, from 168 baht a day to 173 baht.

K. Patom said, "While Phuket's current minimum wage is 168 baht a day, in Bangkok it is 170 baht, but the Ministry of Labor is now considering our request to increase the minimum wage here by five baht."

The Labor Ministry has already approved a five-baht-a-day increase in the minimum wage in Bangkok, to 175 baht a day, effective from January 1. If the Phuket increase is approved, the province will have the second-highest minimum wage in the country, after the capital.

It is currently an employee's rather than an employer's market in Phuket, according to Penchan Boonhok, the Director of the Phuket Department of Employment.

Figures suggest that around 2,000 people a month are leaving their jobs, so confident are they of being able to find new ones.

"By contrast, though," said K. Penchan, "employers currently have around 1,000 vacancies, and demand for staff is only going to increase because of new businesses such as hotels, spas and shopping centers, such as Jungceylon [in Patong]."

– Anongnat Sartpisut

Two surrender over vicious attack

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

CHALONG: Two people accused of being involved in the death of Koh Racha Yai restaurateur Dern Wora-ngon and the beating of his nephew, Jantree Mahanwongpan, have handed themselves in to Chalong Police Station.

K. Dern and K. Jantree were ambushed by a man and two teenagers at Bangkhontee Beach

in Rawai early in the afternoon of December 10. K. Jantree escaped by fleeing into the sea and reported the attack to Chalong Police Station, while K. Dern fought the attackers.

Police arrived at the scene to find K. Dern had been beaten to death with a three-inch piece of lumber that was found near his body, which had also sustained injuries police believe were caused by a sharp weapon.

The investigating officer, Pol Maj Peerapan Meemak, told the *Gazette* the two accused, Prawit Salee – also known as Tailee Salee – and an 18-year-old presented themselves at the police station and were later released on bail.

Maj Peerapan did not disclose the amount of bail.

The pair's surrender to police follows that of the third assailant, who turned himself in to

Chalong police within hours of the attack.

He said, "Based on the results of the autopsy on K. Dern, both men were charged with being accomplices to attempted murder, but they denied the charge and declined to make a statement to the police."

Maj Peerapan added that officers are gathering more evidence and he expects police to press charges by January 17.

US to donate B1m 'bomb blankets'

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: Phuket is to receive two "bomb blankets" worth 500,000 baht each from the US Embassy, to use in the event of a suspected terrorist attack.

The blankets would be placed over suspected bombs to catch shrapnel and fragments in the event of an explosion.

The blankets are due to be handed over to Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarakura on December 27 by David Turner of the US Department of Defense at the US Embassy in Bangkok.

The acquisition of the blankets was one the counter-terror-

ism measures referred to by Gov Udomsak on December 20, following reports in the Thai national press that Phuket was on a list of potential targets drawn up by suspected Islamic militants investigated by police.

"We are examining Phuket's security seriously," said Gov Udomsak.

"Local administration staff and police are being conscientious."

The Governor said government officers and police were working with tourism operators to identify potential suspects, and that the provincial police, marine police and Royal Thai Navy are

preparing to set up checkpoints on land and at sea.

Special attention would be paid to crowded areas, such as Patong and sports stadiums, the Governor said.

He added, "We are cooperating with everyone we can, but, at the same time, if local people have any relevant information, we will be happy to hear from them."

The donation of the bomb blankets follows the US Department of Defense handing over anti-terror gear worth 2 million baht to Royal Thai Police Region 8, which includes Phuket, in November.

TAT to double F1 boat race sponsorship

PHUKET: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) could be set to double its sponsorship of next year's F1 powerboat Grand Prix, to 60 million baht.

Swin Chatsuwan, Managing Director of Paragon Events, which has won the contract to organize the race, said on December 14 that the TAT had agreed to provide full sponsorship.

He added that the race – the first event of its kind in Thailand – will be known as the "Phuket Grand Prix".

A total of 24 Formula 1 powerboats are expected to take part in the Grand Prix, due to be held on March 13 at Phuket Deep Sea Port, Cape Panwa.

The TAT had previously agreed to provide 30 million baht in sponsorship, but had said it would be prepared to provide more if it was obvious the event would benefit Thailand.

The TAT sponsorship proposal was put before Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop when he visited Phuket on November 19.

At time of going to press, a decision had not yet been made, but K. Swin is optimistic that the sponsorship will be approved.

New site for Phuket aquarium

THALANG: Representatives of the Phuket Sea Shell Co met Governor Udomsak Usawarakura on December 20 to seek his support for the plan to build an aquarium on 50 rai near Phuket FantaSea at Surin Beach.

The island's sole aquarium,

at Ao Makham and run by the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), closed more than two years ago for renovations, which were supposed to take a year to complete, but the project has since stalled.

Gov Udomsak earlier this year called for private investors to revitalize the project. However, Phuket Sea Shell declined the offer, saying that the 12-rai set aside at the PMBC was not enough.

However, Phuket Sea Shell has now suggested building an aquarium on 120 rai of government land near Surin Beach.

Phiboon Pheunthonglor, a consultant from the Teerachai Group, which is working with

Phuket Sea Shell Co, said plans for the aquarium had already been drawn up, ready for submission to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

The proposal must first be approved by the Interior Ministry in Bangkok. If it is approved, said K. Phiboon, construction could start early in the new year.

Sin season crackdowns

From page 1

alcohol outside permitted hours will be banned from selling alcohol for a period determined by the Governor's Office.

Despite the concurrent crackdowns, K. Wisut said that entertainment venues will be allowed to stay open until 6 am on New Year's morning.

During the latter part of this year, nighttime venues have been the focus of a battle between the government, which

has commanded them to close at midnight or 1 am, and bar and club owners, who claim the early closing has cost them millions of baht in lost income.

However, K. Wisut said, "The law states that entertainment venues will be allowed to open until 6 am on January 1, 2005, because it's a time for celebration," though he added that the law applies only to venues such as bars and clubs, not to stores.

Time to Give



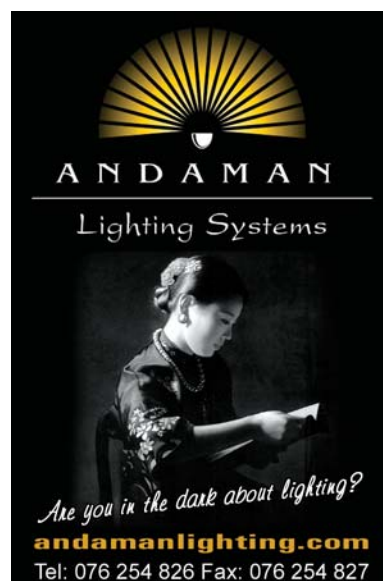
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TAT to celebrate B300m high-season bonanza

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects no less than 300 million baht to be injected into the Phuket economy over the upcoming holiday period from December 23 to January 2.

TAT Region 4 Director Suwalai Pinpradab told the *Gazette* on December 15 that a recent check of hotel occupancy rates and advanced bookings indicates that most island hotels

will be fully-booked, or at near-capacity, for the period.

To ensure that everybody has a good time, TAT is teaming up with the provincial government, Thai Airways and Central Festival Phuket to host Phuket Countdown 2005, a series of cultural performances, live concerts, and an international food festival and beer garden.

The event, with a total budget of over 3 million baht, will take place at Central Festival Phuket Lan Lom Garden [the

forecourt in front of Phuja Nirvana], said K. Suwalai.

The highlight would be on New Year's Eve, she said, when festivities will get underway at 5:30 pm. No fewer than 40 singers and other entertainers from Bangkok will be on hand to help Phuket ring in the New Year, which will be greeted with a 10- to 15-minute fireworks display.

"During the countdown on December 31, we will invite guests from different nationalities to come on stage and give ev-

eryone a new year's blessing in their own native language," said K. Suwalai.

"Everyone who attends will receive a free balloon and be asked to make a wish for 2005. At the stroke of midnight, all the balloons will be released in unison and will float up to the sky," she added.

The TAT, noted for its use of colorful slogans to entice tourists to the Kingdom, will then officially declare 2005 as the year of "Happiness on Earth".



Pol Col Paween Pongsirin: These arrests were two of the biggest made this year.

Police bust major soccer gambling ring

PHUKET CITY: Police have arrested the suspected "bankers" of a multi-million-baht gambling operation in Phuket City.

Somkid Korkiatiwong, 40, and Somchai Santi-Amornrat, 51, both of Kra Rd, were arrested at a home on Takuatung Rd on December 19.

The arresting officers found a computer, fax, two photocopiers, a bankbook, three large hessian sacks and 10,000 baht in cash, along with "betting slips" relating to soccer matches in England, Germany and Italy.

There were also records relating to 978 betting slips worth a total of 284,720 baht, suggesting that nearly 180,000 baht was gambled on one match alone.

Bank records showed that around a million baht passed through the account almost every day, even more at weekends when big matches were played.

Pol Col Paween Pongsirin, Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station, said the arrests were made after months of surveillance.

Police arrested gamblers nearly every day, he said, but these two arrests were among the biggest this year.

Pol Col Paween added, "Arrests of all kinds – robbery, accidents and other crimes – totaled around 3,000 this year, and they don't show any sign of decreasing."

– Anongnat Sartpisut

Appeal for presents for poor children

PHUKET: The Phuket branch of the Alumni Club of Chulalongkorn University is collecting toys, games and books to be passed on to some of the province's poorest children.

The club has a collection point outside the Tops Marketplace supermarket on the ground floor of Central Phuket Festival.

It is the first time the Alumni Club has done such a collection in Phuket, but club chief Rojana Raktae-ngam said, "If we get a lot of presents, we will ask the Phuket Educational Service Area Office to choose poor schools for the presents to be given to."

The collection point will be open until January 10.

Phuket gears up for national elections

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Election Committee (PEC) expects a high voter turnout in Phuket for the upcoming general election, which will be held from 8 am to 3 pm on February 6.

PEC Chairman Dr Prapa Kayee said, "There was a low turnout, 74%, in the last general election. This time we think people are more familiar with the voting system, so we expect a better showing."

"We also gave full instructions to some 4,000 new voters [18-year-olds] about how to vote."

"We cannot yet announce how many eligible voters there are in Phuket, but we expect the number to be similar to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) election held on March 14 [this year]."

"In that election, Electoral District 1 [which covers Phuket City and immediate environs] had a registered population of 139,000 people and 91,139 eligible voters."



Phuket Election Committee Chairman Dr Prapa Kayee (above) expects more people to cast their votes in the February 6 national elections than in the previous election, which saw 74% of eligible voters turn up at the polls.

"District 2 [which covers the rest of the island] had a population of 131,560 people and 92,494 eligible voters," she said.

The last working day for the

current government will be January 5. Thais living overseas will be able to cast absentee ballots from January 20 to 30, she added.

Only four candidates have been confirmed by the PEC thus far, although the PEC will also accept registration forms from January 10 to 14 for those seeking district seats, and from January 7 to 9 for parties to register for the party list ballot.

In District 1, Thai Rak Thai (TRT) candidate Dr Sriyada Palimapan will challenge incumbent Democrat Party MP Suwit Sa-Ngiamkul, while in District 2 Chalermklak Kebsup, also an incumbent from the Democrat Party, will take on TRT's Wisut Santikul, a former *OrBorJor* Vice-President and Democrat Party member.

Those in the entertainment industry should note that it will be illegal to buy, sell or distribute alcohol from 6 pm on February 5 until midnight on February 6. Those found guilty of violating the alcohol ban will face up to six months in prison, a fine of up to 10,000 baht, or both.

Tiger Airways launches January promotion

PHUKET: Tiger Airways has announced special fares of 1,222 baht for one-way flights between Singapore and two destinations in Thailand, Phuket and Haad Yai, during the month of January.

Total taxes on outbound flights are 850 baht per flight, and

flight tickets must be bought between December 22 and January 2.

Salinla Seehaphan, Manager of Tiger Airways (Thailand) told the *Gazette*, "Usually, only 10% of the seats on each flight are available at this price, but in

January 2005 we are offering 10,000 seats at this rate."

Currently, Tiger Airways offers three daily flights between Bangkok and Singapore, and one flight daily between Singapore and Phuket and Singapore and Haad Yai.

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Queer News

ICONIC IRONY

THALANG: An Isuzu pickup driven at high speed by a Chalong police officer slammed into the Heroines' Monument in the early morning hours of December 18. The officer was badly injured and his vehicle wrecked, but fortunately neither of the iconic statues was damaged.

For those who just landed in Phuket, the two heroines depicted in the statues are Thao Thep Krasattri (Chan) and Thao Thep Srisoonthorn (Mook), sisters credited with leading the islanders in beating back an invasion by Burmese slavers over 200 years ago.

The two sisters, about whom very little is actually known, are listed as national heroes and are revered by some Phuket people as high deities.

Tourists arriving in Phuket for the first time are often shocked when their airport taxi comes barreling towards the monument, only to have the driver take his hands off the steering wheel momentarily to *wai* the two heroines. Yet few accidents have actually been recorded as having resulted from this practice.

But it's unlikely that Pol Cpl Panya Dee-on of Chalong Police Station was attempting to *wai* the two figures when he impacted with the monument's base at 2:40 am. A witness said the car drove straight into the monument and police theorize that the Cpl Panya (whose first name means "Intelligence") simply fell asleep at the wheel.

Responding to the accident, which was reported immediately to the Tha Reua Police Box at the roundabout, were volunteer rescue workers from the Kusonlatham Foundation, who pried an unconscious Cpl Panya from the wreckage, administered first aid and rushed him to the Wachira Phuket Hospital for treatment to his forehead and chest.

There was no report of his blood alcohol level being tested by either breathalyzer or blood sample.

"We believe he probably fell asleep at the wheel," said an officer at the scene.

"We'll have to wait until he wakes up to find out what caused the accident," said another.

Ironically, Thalang Police usually set up a checkpoint near the monument on Friday and Saturday nights in order to conduct spot sobriety checks on drivers after the bars close. Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarakura recently issued a warning that those caught drunk driving over the holiday season would given the highest possible fines.

Cpl Dee-on, who was driving northbound, likely passed straight though one such checkpoint – before driving straight into the monument, which is well-lit and surrounded by steel and concrete poles in order to prevent just such an occurrence.

Source: Siang Tai Times

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Crossing the

Based on a random survey of 298 island residents, the Nida research team, headed by Juree Vichit-Vadakan, found that a clear majority of Phuket residents, 64%, thought that Phuket would benefit from a different form of administration. Only 12% favored the status quo, with a Governor appointed by the Ministry of the Interior (MoI).

"Our researchers found that the current administration was ineffective in coordinating the work among state agencies," said K. Juree.

"Phuket has 20 local administrations and 33 offices under the MoI. Combined with other state agencies, there are a total of 69 units in the chain of command. The role of the central government is to coordinate the work among all these agencies, but we have found that it is ineffective in this regard. This is evidenced by the current inability of local bodies to enforce existing regulations," she said.

The Nida poll found that 41% of respondents were dissatisfied with the work done by the Governor's office, while only 25% expressed satisfaction; the remainder – a disturbing 34% – had no opinion at all.

K. Juree explained that Phuket's unique characteristics, especially its economy, make it suitable for establishment as a special administrative zone. Despite its tiny size, Phuket has an annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of 231,186 baht, by far the most compared with any province in southern Thailand.

"Phuket is a now a world-class destination, with 90% of its 70 billion GDP in 2003 coming from the tourism industry," said the researcher.

K. Juree acknowledged that the government has recognized Phuket's special status in its plans to develop Phuket as a "special economic zone". But she points

With only three districts and a registered population of less than 300,000, Phuket is a tiny province by Thai standards. Yet with Phuket's 4 million visitors annually, the island's tourism economy is a major source of revenue for the national coffers.

Many Phuket residents feel a growing resentment at having to pay so much in taxes to Bangkok while receiving so little in return. The central government, they say, is slow to understand or react to local needs or Phuket's unique development needs. Establishing Phuket as a special administrative zone, with an elected governor, would go a long way to rectify these problems, they say.

A recent research study by the National Institute of Development Administration (Nida) concluded that Phuket would be better able to deal with the pressures on the island if the province were declared a special administrative zone.

Gazette reporter Kamol Pirat reviews the Nida findings and gauges the reaction of some important players in Phuket.

to the island's inability to deal effectively with basic issues, such as garbage disposal and wastewater treatment, as signs that an alternative administrative system, is also needed.

"In 2003, Phuket generated an average of 490 tons of garbage daily, while its disposal capacity [at the island's incinerator] was just 250 tons. Last year, Phuket generated 102,192 cubic meters a day on average, but its wastewater treatment capacity is only 25,334m³/day. Phuket is also troubled by an insufficient public water supply and lack of adequate public transport," she said.

K. Juree feels that if left to its own resources, Phuket could tackle many important local problems.

"With the current administrative system, it's not possible to allot the budget to meet local concerns because local people cannot take part in the planning process," she said.

The Nida researchers rec-

ommended a special administration model for Phuket, based on models used in Pattaya and Bangkok, which have elected leaders. The key would be to allow members of a provincial council to oversee the work of the Governor, who would also be elected. The special administration would report directly to the central government and would have the power to launch any activities it authorizes, apart from matters relating to the military, international relations or finance.

Many local leaders agree with the concept. Former Phuket Mayor Phummasak Hongsyok told the *Gazette* that he agreed with Nida's conclusions. "Under the current administrative system, government officers stay only a few years. How can they administer effectively?" he said.

"Only a small amount of the taxes on the estimated 73 billion baht the province will generate this year will be allocated back to us; that's why we won't be able

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great autonomy divide



By establishing Phuket as a special administrative zone, Phuket could plan, fund and undertake needed projects, such as the widening of the bypass road (above), on a more timely basis, or so proponents say.

to solve our problems. Yes, we should pay taxes to the central government, but we should also be allowed to collect taxes locally," he said.

"We have been talking about making Phuket a special administrative zone for a long time. This would create unity, as there wouldn't have to be 20 different local administrations," he said.

"The faster we can become a special administrative zone, the faster we can solve Phuket's problems – especially environmental problems," adding that he thought the central government should still play a strong role in order to keep "influential figures" and "mafia" types at bay.

"In this way, we could control our own affairs. Public util-

ity work, for example, could be planned and carried out right on the island. At the moment, we still need to get permission from the MoI just to increase water rates," he said.

"The central government should provide Phuket people with the authority and freedom to make their own planning and investment decisions because we understand the issues more clearly than outsiders who stay here only a little while before leaving," he said.

"Urban development programs around the world emphasizes the importance of local administration. According to our constitution, Thailand is supposed to be going through a period of decentralization, but the central government is unwilling

to hand over control to local bodies."

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said that while serving as a party list MP for the Democrat Party in 2001, she introduced draft legislation to establish Phuket as a special administrative zone, but that the Thai Rak Thai (TRT)-controlled House would not even consider it.

K. Anchalee agrees that Phuket takes in sufficient income to pay for its own development needs, and said that an alternative administrative system could be put in place in short order – if

the central government wished to do so.

Not surprisingly, the head of TRT's local office, Dr Sriyada Palimapan, disagrees. Due to stand as TRT candidate for Phuket District 1 (encompassing Phuket City and its immediate surrounding areas) in next year's general election, and recently engaged to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's cousin Saravuth Shinawatra, she is just about as well-connected to the ruling party as one can be.

"I would have agreed if you had asked me six years ago, but not now. I don't attach that much importance to the idea of a special administration for Phuket because right now the PM has already decided to promote Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi as world-class tourism destinations. That means that bud-

get requests for all three provinces will be fast-tracked directly to the PM for his consideration.

"If we want to have a special administration, we have to look back on how ready we are and consider whether the real issue is budgetary or administrative. Once we do that, we could make the necessary corrections," she said.

Dr Sriyada pointed out that the government has already approved budgets for many large projects, including an International Convention Center and a new dam.

"We've been granted bud-

gets for these necessary projects, so there is no need to think about a special administration now. Instead, we should be thinking about ways to better use the budgets we do receive," she said.

"Even if the Governor were elected, he would still have an annual budget of only about 1 billion baht [as at present], which wouldn't be enough to make any real improvements. We would still need central government support."

Dr Sriyada told the *Gazette* that she was the only person who went to meet the PM and other Cabinet members during visits here, and that she never saw Phuket MPs meeting with them to discuss Phuket's problems.

"Are these really Phuket's representatives?" she asked rhetorically, adding that

Phuket still needed someone with an inside track to the TRT Party even if the TRT candidates failed at the polls.

"It doesn't matter who wins the election. As long as we have a representative to the TRT, we can get budgets approved quickly," she said.

As reports currently favor the TRT to win the February 6 national election, and even if the TRT fails to pick up a seat in Phuket, it appears that the province is in for a rough ride over the next four years, and any talk of declaring the island a special administrative zone will remain just that – only talk.



"It doesn't matter who wins the election. As long as we have a representative to the TRT, we can get budgets approved quickly."

– Dr Sriyada Palimapan, TRT candidate for Phuket District 1.

CORRECTION

The caption in Inside Story (*Does Phuket have enough golf courses?*) last week included inaccurate information. The picture showed the 14th hole of Loch Palm Golf Club's old course. Loch Palm's second course is due to open late next year. The *Gazette* apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

Merry Christmas! We're having one. Greetings of the season and very best wishes from the Management & Staff of the Aspasia Phuket to all our guests, owners, suppliers and friends. Our gifts included a spa, a deli, a bakery, a wine shop, a boat, two restaurants and a partridge in a pear tree. What did you get?

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A panorama for the people

By Anongnat Sartpisut

It may be a 10.5-kilometer trek from Phuket City, but most visitors to Khao Khat tower would agree that it is well worth the trip. Perched on a hill on Cape Panwa, the tower – which was officially opened on December 10 – affords a panoramic view of the islands and beaches around the cape, as well as mangroves and rubber tree plantations, as well as, in the distance, Phuket City.

The tower is – literally – the pinnacle of a 60-million-baht, 18-month scheme intended to attract more tourists to the area.

Kreetha Sae-tan, President of the Wichit Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), explained, “The *OrBorTor* committee decided we should have more tourist attractions in Wichit.

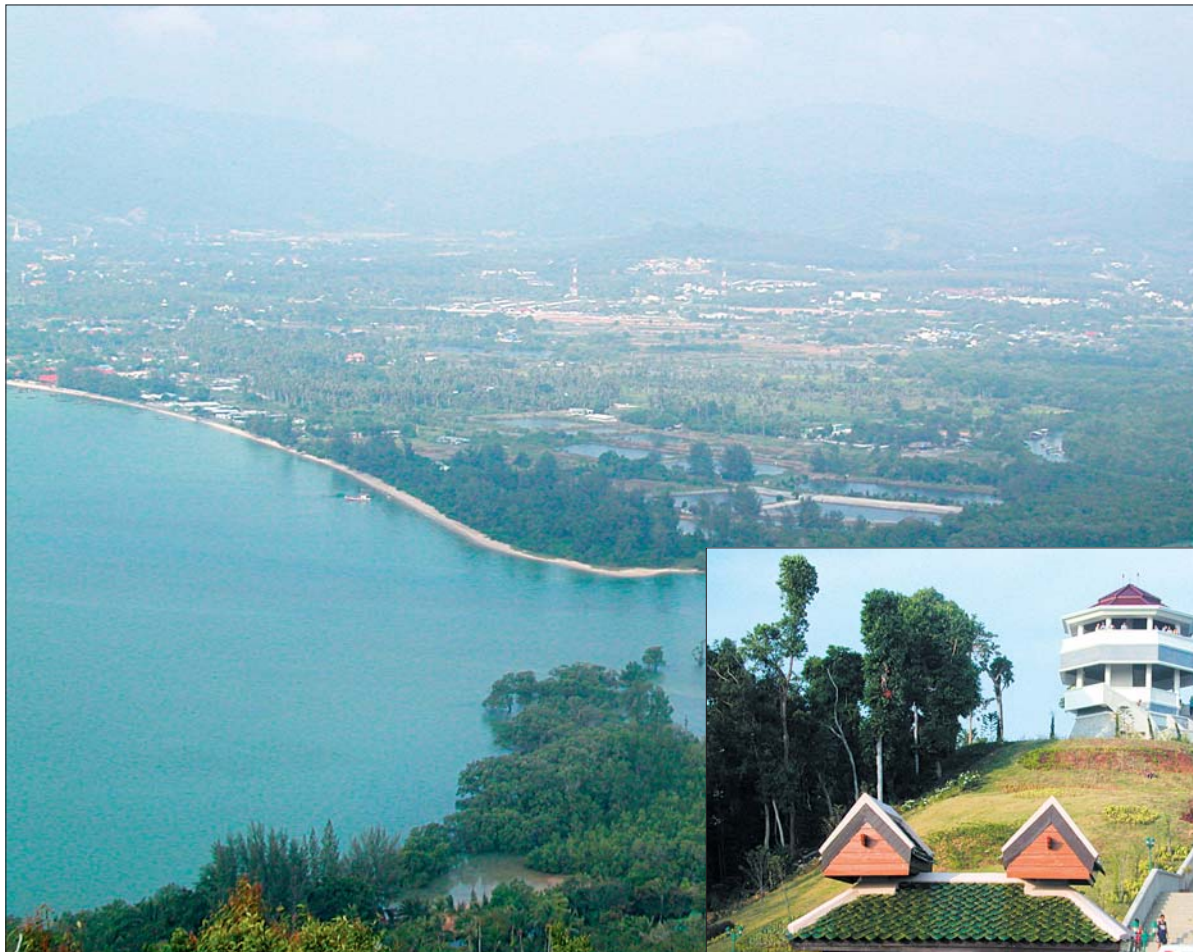
“We looked at the high hills and thought, ‘Other places in Phuket have a viewpoint; why don’t we have one?’”

At that time, the land marked as the site of proposed tower was already government land set aside for public use, under the control of the *OrBorTor*.

Said K. Kreetha, “Locals had taken over some of this land for agriculture, but we asked them to give it to us for this project, and most of them were happy to help.”

The money for the project was provided by the Interior Ministry’s Phuket Development Plan budget for 2003.

The funds were used to create a pleasant approach to the



The Khao Khat Tower (right), which is open to the public free, offers superb views of the islands off Phuket’s east coast and of Phuket City.

tower and its stunning views, including footpaths, signs and shelter-giving roadside salas.

In addition, some 24 million baht was spent on building facilities, such as shops, toilets and a car park.

The tower will be guarded by 24-hour security, and will also have its own designated rubbish collection.

K. Kreetha said, “Around 100 people a day have been visiting the tower and the feedback has been very positive.

“Kata and Laem Phromthep viewpoints give beautiful views, but only on one side. Khao Khat, though, gives a panoramic view of Koh Maiton, Koh Eaw, Phuket City and more.”

K. Kreetha added that the



afraid the tower would ruin a beautiful area, even if it would provide Wichit with a tourist attraction.

But once the structure was complete, he said, “I think it has been 100% successful. Plus, people find it interesting, and more and more of them are going to come here.”

Even before it becomes part of the tourist circuit, the tower has been well received by locals.

Wichit resident Uthairat Boonying said, “I haven’t been to Khao Khat for a long time, but [now the tower is there] I will try

to make time to take my family there.”

Narumol Thongmangkorn, who works in Wichit, said, “The tower is nice, a good marriage of nature and architecture.

“And the view is great, better than at Khao Rang or even at Laem Phromthep, where you get only a sea view. Here,

you can see beaches, islands and the city, too.”

OrBorTor has asked the regional office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to support the creation of a “summer flower garden” on 10 rai along the approach to the tower, in an attempt to attract even more tourists.

Wichit *OrBorTor* Administrative Officer Chaiwat Puengrang said that at first he was

Admission to the tower is free. The opening hours are 8 am to 7:30 pm, though they are subject to change. Wichit *OrBorTor* has more information at Tel: 076-214418 or 076-245339-40, Fax: 076-214934 or Email: info@phuket-wichit.com.

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

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The spa treatments at **THAI PRIVILEGE**, combined with natural Thai herbs, are helpful in eliminating these symptoms. You may be curious as to why we have chosen to set up our spa in a shopping center. The reason is that we want to help our customers feel the absolute best they can and thus it made sense to make ourselves as accessible as possible.

At **THAI PRIVILEGE**, visitors will find themselves smiling and relaxed while their muscles are gently massaged by caressing hands while listening to soft music in a smooth, peaceful atmosphere.

The Perfection of the Art of Massage

The thing that distinguishes **THAI PRIVILEGE** from other massage spas is the quality of our massage therapists, all of whom have been well trained by the distinguished Ms. Nunnapatt Sucharit.

She said that good therapists must hold three faiths, including faith in oneself, faith in the therapeutic profession and faith in the organization. Nowadays, people really need a place and a space to rest their bodies, minds and souls and our spa was created for that purpose.

Ms. Nunnapatt tends to emphasize the **THAI PRIVILEGE** service philosophy and hopes the customer has confidence in our services. Many people live very



busy and hectic lives nowadays though few people realize that such stressful lifestyles can cause a great loss of energy, especially when the body is not given an opportunity to come back to its natural state of balance. One of the best ways to regain and refresh both body and mind, within a short period of time, is to have proper massage treatment.

There are many methods and techniques that we use at **THAI PRIVILEGE** to help alleviate these discomforts, one of these is to sit in a tuned environment, amidst soft, delicate music, warm lighting and scents, combined with the respectful and knowledgeable touch of a smiling, friendly therapist. Of course, we offer many other spa programs to ensure your entire body and mind will be refreshed.

THAI PRIVILEGE was founded by Ms. Surangrat Chirathiwat, is based on a faith in the science and art of spa. Ms. Surangrat Chirathiwat and Ms. Nunnapatt Sucharit, combined their wealth of talents and skills to create a wonderful world of massage that customers will recognize as the **THAI PRIVILEGE** difference.

From the beginning, both discovered that people need a sense of balance and that the environment greatly influences this important state. As a result, **THAI PRIVILEGE** features a

well-designed, peaceful decor. This, of course, you can judge for yourself everytime you enter to the **THAI PRIVILEGE's** rejuvenating program.

Exuberant and Friendly Atmosphere

THAI PRIVILEGE is a spa designed with warm Thai and Oriental décor all set amidst a pleasant atmosphere. Thai hospitality focuses on providing the best services, and this aspect of the culture has been combined in every course of our center.

We named it **THAI PRIVILEGE** to refer to a tranquil and relaxing place that everyone could relate to and enjoy. The design arose from the unique needs of the customer together with the ideology of the human body and the privilege of discovering the body and mind connection.

Ms. Surangrat maintains that the unique approach of **THAI PRIVILEGE** must focus on providing quality services that are simple, clean, quick and safe. The suitable time for each treatment is 30-90 minutes, as any time over 90 minutes has the potential to leave the muscles feeling tired. We are always looking out for our customers best interests and health and we want all to experience the utmost benefits of a Thai Privilege massage.

THAI PRIVILEGE always focuses on safety and we use naturally based spa products and our facilities are designed to achieve maximum therapeutic results.

Oils and scrub materials have been closely controlled by Ms. Surangrat herself and manufactured at **THAI PRIVILEGE's** factory. All products are a perfect mixture of Thai herbs, vegetables and fruits, whether they be cucumber, tamarind, honey or aloe vera. All concoctions are of which are made fresh on a daily basis in order to offer only the best for our customers. All towels, clothing and equipment are changed and cleaned regularly to ensure the highest hygienic standards.

Energy Reinforcement and Health Restoration

There are several principles that **THAI PRIVILEGE's** staff always keep in mind. First is the notion of providing the best service possible by using all their tools and expertise to alleviate any stressful or unhealthy symptoms and to promote healing and relaxation of the client's mind and emotions. Knowledge of human anatomy and massage techniques have been imparted to **THAI PRIVILEGE's** staff by experts in their respective fields and this knowledge is implemented to

protect against any possible harm to the clients.

THAI PRIVILEGE's treatments are based on human internal force, especially a focus on breathing to ensure guests will find calmness and full relaxation. This also requires cooperation from our visitors as their bodies and minds should be ready to trust the treatment and ultimately to heal and relax.

From the first time you enter the venue, your five senses will find relaxation and a feeling of caring. A glass of warm water will be served to adjust internal temperature and promote circulation. A kind suggestion will also be followed, as your selection must be matched with your purpose. During your hour with us, perhaps a deep sleep will arise and when you awake, you will find yourself feeling like a brand-new person. A glass of warm ginger juice will be served shortly thereafter.

THAI PRIVILEGE's treatments are set up to ideally suit the human body and are usually not over 2 hours in duration, as too much massage can create swelling of the muscles.

Ready for a one-day trip...

You will find the **THAI PRIVILEGE SPA** on the 3rd floor (next to SFX Cinema) of Central Festival Phuket. **THAI PRIVILEGE** offers spa services that are different from others and even our choice of location sets us apart as we are not located in a hotel or at a beauty center. We are set up for discriminating customers who have only a short time for a body adjustment, compared to a standard spa, at a reasonable price.

After an initial treatment, you may decide to practice your shopping skills at Central Festival Phuket and then return to **THAI PRIVILEGE SPA** for some more privacy, comfort and relaxation. **THAI PRIVILEGE** is open 10.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m. For more details please call 0-7620-9009~12



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Expiry Date: Jan 31, 2005

This week



CHUBB CHECKED: Leslie Bird (left), GM of Chubb (Thailand) Southern Thailand Ltd is congratulated by the Deputy GM Phuket International Airport, Chan Chiamcharoen, at the opening of the security company's Phuket office.



STUDENT BODY: Students of the English program of Mass Communications at Rajabhat University Phuket, accompanied by Ajarn Eva Mooney (red blouse), meet *Phuket Gazette* staff Natthira Susangrat (front row left) and Oliver Jolis (seated) staff during their visit to newspaper's offices.



SIMPSON SHIPMATES: Representing Simpson Marine at PIMEX 2004 are (from left): Alan Pickering, Director of Simpson Marine (Singapore); Donald C.P. Laird, Business Manager (Singapore); Clarice Jamain, Langkawi Office Manager; Simon Theseira, Yacht Broker (Malaysia); and Mike Simpson, Managing Director (Hong Kong).



BORN AGAIN: At the opening of the "Reborn of the Wooden Barges" exhibition at Cental Festival Phuket are, from left: Naratipe Ruttapradid, Exhibition and Store Manager; Vichan Busapavanich, Chief Administrative Officer for Phuket; Saiyart Sema-ngern, master carpenter; and Wilaiporn Pitimanaree, GM of the shopping mall.



SQA SQUAD: At the opening of the Sequences A Creation (SQA) architect's office at Baan Maksong are, from left: Kenneth Abday; Sarapob Wandee; Chusit Atijit; Yap Swee Hong; and Kritsadapong Tanthong.



SANTA'S BIG HELPERS: Elephants replace reindeer at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket's Xmas tree-lighting and circus extravaganza.

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Occasions for celebrations

Tis the season to be jolly and if you happen to be on Phuket this time of year, there's a remarkable variety of places to have a great time.

A circus from Australia will be entertaining guests at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket on New Year's Eve, while an ensemble from the Bangkok Symphony will play at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia.

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort has five different parties, including a "Rumble in the Jungle" – no, not boxing – in the Grand Ballroom.

I plan to welcome 2005 in the arms of two of the most exciting women in Phuket.

Renowned international playgirls **Dewi** and **Majuree** have opened La Diva Lounge and Restaurant in hustling Patong Beach and it has become the place for the those wanting a little walk on the wild side.

Majuree is well known as a former hostess at Ka Jok See restaurant in Phuket City who kept her sophisticated clients dancing late into the night. Dewi, a Thai who lived in Switzerland for 30 years, seduced Majuree away to open a nightspot that is full of glamor and sophistication.

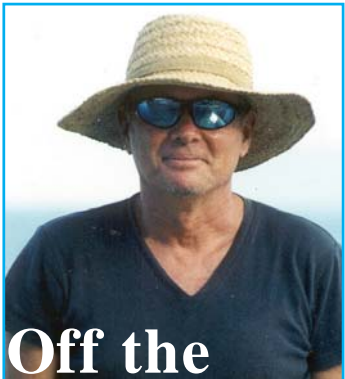
La Diva has been created to offer a fusion of the latest Euro trends and the best of tropical modern Thai designs.

There's a great cocktail menu which features unique martinis, such as the popular yoga martini, and a Thai food menu

that treats favorite entrées with a fresh approach.

"Diva means goddess. Diva is an attitude. Divas love themselves and do not let anyone take that self love and self respect away," explains Dewi.

Dewi and Majuree have created a glamorous spot for the diva that lies within all of us to play. This place is serious fun.



Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

Flavors on the move:

Cathy and **Arkam Poliyam** have moved their popular Naka Flavors restaurant from Naka Thani Village to the inner courtyard at Patong Beach's Ban Thai Resort. It is now simply called Flavors,

and it is another recommended choice for a memorable holiday dinner.

Cathy and Arkam have a cult following among those who appreciate French cuisine infused with Thai spices and herbs.

Chef Arkam was trained in the kitchens of the Bangkok Hilton and Le Meridien Phuket, where he learned the secrets of how to entice the most flavor from local fresh ingredients.

Samples of his current menu at Flavors include honey yellow curry supreme of duck on orange fresh ginger coulis, and grilled tiger prawn flambéed with XO Cognac, and his famous lobster bisque perfumed with VSOP Armagnac.

"Finally, Chef Arkam has a restaurant that is elegant with a chill-out ambience that deserves his cuisine," says his adoring

wife, Cathy.

China Inn is perhaps the most photographed shop front in all of Phuket, and deservedly so.

A Sino-Portuguese house on Thalang Rd – Phuket City's Road of Culture – it was once home to a distinguished local family that included members of the Thai diplomatic corps.

Recently, though, the glazed ceramics and intricately carved wooden doors had fallen into disrepair.

Then **Noi Promchan** decided to renovate the house and open the China Inn, a garden restaurant which is one of the most beautiful places to have breakfast, lunch or dinner in the city.

K. Noi, well known as a clothing and interior designer specializing in Chinese styles, has filled her new café with authentic furniture, such as large opium beds once used on the island.

Her menu is a mix of local Thai cuisine and Mediterranean favorites.

She serves a full Western breakfast every morning except Monday, when she takes a day off for shopping.

Seating wraps around an elegant outdoor garden as well as in the perfectly-restored interior. This is a great addition to the dining options in Phuket City.

Thalang Rd is getting a number of new and interesting businesses now that the major shopping centers are driving many of the city's merchants out of business.

Also on Thalang Rd, across



Dewi (left) and Majuree with the Mde Mueller statue at La Diva.

from grocer Sin & Lee, is Aura Scent and Yoga, which offers massage oils and beauty products created by Her Majesty's Royal Projects at wholesale prices.

There are also evening yoga classes conducted by the Director of Layana Spa, **Orasiri Ruktae-ngam**, which are perfect for those who want gentle stretching for greater flexibility.

Across the road is the new Bookstore Café, which rents impossible-to-find classic Western films.

I checked out Francois Truffaut's *Jules and Jim* recently; the last time I had seen this film was in 1965.

The owners plan to install a small theater upstairs to show independent films for those of us underwhelmed by standard movie fare shown on the island.

Perhaps 2005 will see the – I would say renaissance but birth is more appropriate – of foreign culture in Phuket. Time will tell.

The

Aleksandara "Aleks" Retinskaya is probably as far from home as she could possibly be – if not in spatial terms, then in probably every other way imaginable.

While Phuket is an island, surrounded by sea, Aleks's home, Khabarovsk, is on the eastern seaboard of Russian Siberia. Khabarovsk does lie on the water, in this case, the Amur River, which is almost on the border with China.

Phuket's temperature rarely drops below 20°C, while it's common for Siberia to experience temperatures of -45°C in winter, although at the time of writing, it's a comparatively balmy -28°C.

And while the settled population of Phuket hovers around 250,000, Khabarovsk is an industrial city, the second largest in the Russian Far East, as well as the economic center of the region, and home to up to 700,000 people.

So how did a beautiful young woman from the Russian Far East make it to Phuket?

Aleks, 25, first saw the potential of Phuket three years ago when she came here as a tourist. She realized then that she might have a future in the island's property market, as it was attracting interest from Russians, many of whom didn't understand English, let alone Thai.

As a child, Aleks set her sights on a career in space. "I dreamed of being a cosmonaut, so I could fly into the cosmos like Yuri Gagarin," she said.

But later, she brought her dreams down to earth. She explained, "I wasn't bad at science, but then I realized that I prefer human relationships, so I became more interested in a career such as the one I have now."

Aleks's her first job after



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new Russian front

Ask people to sum up Russia in one word and the majority would undoubtedly say "cold".

Aleksandara Retinskaya is well qualified to talk of the chill that runs through her native country, where, in her home town of Khabarovsk, temperatures routinely reach -45°C.

But 20-odd years of harsh winters were enough for her, and some three years ago, she visited Phuket, seemingly a world away from the former Soviet empire. Here, the translator and real estate agent tells the *Gazette's* Gategaeo Phetsawang about her life, what motivates her and why she came in from the cold.

graduating from Moscow University in Business English and Japanese, was as an interpreter and customer relations officer for a Russo-Japanese company.

She stayed there for three years, before moving to Phuket as a sales executive with PhuketOne Real Estate.

Aleks believes that so few of her Russian clients speak English partly because they grew up when the then-Soviet government was dissuading Russians from having contact with the West, and partly because the former Soviet Union was so huge that citizens never saw the need to know a foreign language.

But, she said, "Now the world is much smaller, everything is closer, and you can move from one place to another easily."

"We're free to talk and make friends, but we need to be able to communicate to do that."

She enjoys having access, through her job, to people from all over the world, and seeing them connect with each other. And it's her job to connect potential purchasers with information about the property they want to buy.

She said, "The important thing in interpretation is to just interpret exactly what people say, not to embellish it or alter it in any way."

In Phuket, English is the language Aleks is most likely to communicate in, and it is good

for her to hear so many different accents.

She said, "Even my English also has some Russian accent, and when I start to speak with an American, Canadian or Australian, who has different intonation, I need to take a few minutes sometimes to familiarize myself with their accent."

She continued, "I want to learn Thai, but it is very difficult. So far, I understand just a few Thai words; in fact, Thai seems to be the most difficult language for me. English and Japanese are easier because they aren't tonal."

Aleks believes that language is useful in breaking down

barriers. "If people hear you speak their language – even if it's just a few words – they feel more relaxed," she said. "Sometimes they're surprised, because they don't expect you to speak their language. They may laugh, but they can be more open toward you."

Aleks feels there is big potential in her current job. She said, "When there was a property exhibition in Moscow, we found there was great interest in property in Thailand."

"I have just started working in this business and I like the company... It's like one big family. It's not good when you have a bad experience, but I haven't been in this business for very long, and many things are still new to me, and it is interesting."

"The important thing in interpretation is to just interpret exactly what people say, not to embellish it or alter it in any way."



Swapping *venki* for sandals, and fur hats for sun hats, Aleks has made the transition from a translator in Siberia to a successful businesswoman in Phuket.

"If people hear you speak their language – even if it's just a few words – they feel more relaxed," she observed.

She added, "I like living here because it's very warm. In Russia it is very cold now, so many Russian tourists are coming here."

"Real estate development should be good for encouraging them to stay longer in Thailand. I'd like to stay here for a long time... Time passes rapidly here because there are no seasons; it's always comfortable."

Aleks said it has been known for people on their first visit to Phuket to turn up at the office and announce that they

plan to stay here. One of her tasks is to give them more understanding of Phuket, and Thailand as a whole.

By the time she is 50, Aleks would like to be running a large, successful real estate company.

She said the company could well be in Phuket. "But it's diffi-

cult to predict what Phuket will be like then. I just hope it retains its natural beauty.

"The government should control development, so it stays beautiful."

"That way, people who come here once will want to come back again – just like I did."

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For beach boys ... and girls

High season is most definitely upon us, and so are a good proportion of the 4 million or so tourists who visit Phuket each year.

The beaches are the hang-out of choice for most tourists, which is good news for local businesses such as hotels and restaurants, and for those who like to fade into the background.

But now's the time when those who like to be noticed on the beach may appreciate a little help – in the form of some eye-catching swim wear.

Chatraporn "Nuch" Kingkaew is the owner of the Kenya beachwear store at the poolside at the Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort Hotel, where these pictures were taken.

"About 90% of our customers are tourists, and they prefer two-piece swimsuits," said K. Nuch. "The most popular styles are costumes with flowers or multi-colored designs, which look very fresh."

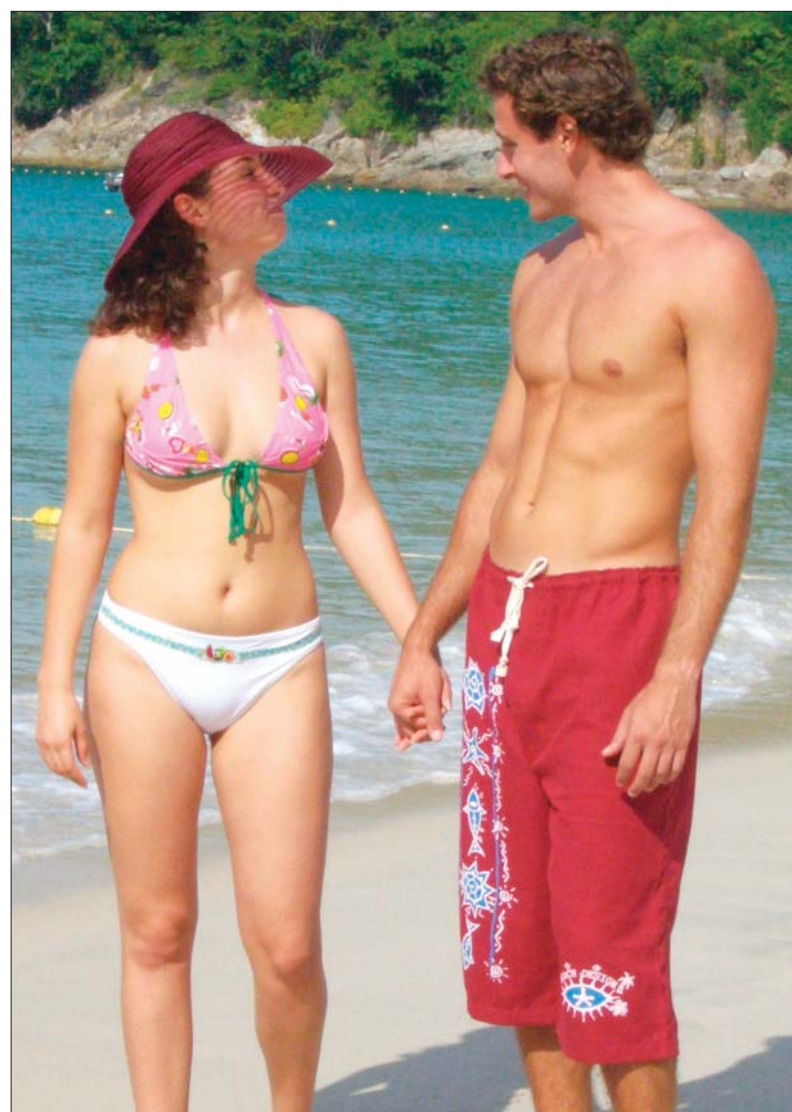
Kenya – which has three branches on Phuket – stocks around 200 items of swimwear, some of which have been imported from Hong Kong, Brazil,

France and Italy. Prices range from 700 baht to 3,500 baht.

Thanks to Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort Hotel, and to models Oliver Jolis, 26, from the US, and Ukrainian Valeriya Volovych, 19, who is an F&B trainee at the hotel.



Words and photographs by the *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanaporn and Dhirarat Boonkongsan.

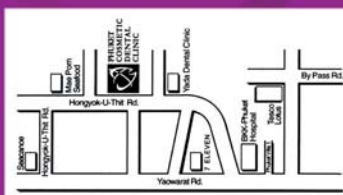


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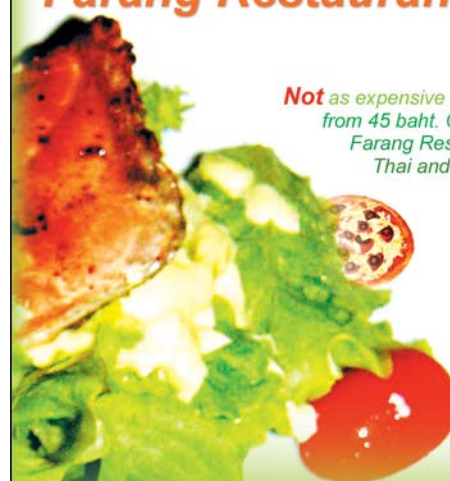
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Samui set for a blues New Year

The long-awaited Koh Samui World and Blues Music Festival will get underway on December 29, and promises to be the most exciting musical event the island has ever hosted.

One of the many wonderful talents scheduled to perform during the 10-day event will be Zakiya Hooker, daughter of legendary bluesman John Lee Hooker. How's that for blues pedigree? Zakiya will travel all the way from the US with her band, along with blues ensemble Caravan Of All Stars.

Other acts will include well known international act Boogie With The Hook, along with Bangkok-based blues acts Soi Dog Blues Band, Cannonball, Jungle, Mekong Doctor Blues, FLOW, Blue on Blue and the ever-present Todd Tongdee and his world music guests.

Performances will take place at 10 different venues across the island, including a stage specially set up at Bophut. Eat your heart out Phuket!

For a complete timetable, artist profiles and more information about the event, visit the Website (do enter spaces when typing in URL into web browser): www.kohsamuiworldandbluesmusicfestival.com

Immigration goin' mobile: Samui will soon have a mobile Immigration service, with service expected to begin late in December. The service will be available first in Chaweng and Lamai, with the unit making its way to Koh Phangan and Koh Tao later in the year.

The local Immigration office also plans to upgrade its website with a question and answer section, and to improve facilities at its office in Nathon.

These upgrades should make it more convenient for tourists and residents to conduct business with the Immigration Bureau.

So who's behind all this?

SCHOLARSHIP SHAKE: Samui International Academy Headmaster "Mr Colin" (left) shakes hands with Michael Grover, CEO of Samui development firm Coconut Land & House, who donated 100,000 baht to the school's scholarship fund. Standing with them is Linda Cartledge, the new Director of Development at the Academy, who initiated the scholarship fund idea.



Look no further than the new chief of Samui Immigration, Pol Lt Col Narin Khumkhaen. He was transferred from Bangkok along with fellow officer Jun-juckapong Puengpat, who will serve as Samui Immigration Inspector.

Both are expected to work on Koh Samui for approximately two years, and in that time they hope to make significant improvements to Immigration services on the island.

Their stated goal is: "fast, reliable problem-solving", and they hope to provide the best possible service, thus ensuring that tourists feel comfortable

enough on Samui to return time and time again – as long as they

have they appropriate visa, that is.

Birthday bash: Bernd Schilling, former president of the Samui chapter of the Rotary Club, recently celebrated his birthday by hosting a party at Chez Andy, one of the island's most popular restaurants.

About 100 people attended the fun event, during which a new CD entitled *The Best Is Yet To Come* was launched. The album is a compilation of original songs by Samui-based singer/songwriter Edgar Murray, aka Mr Coconut.

The CD is available at island restaurants and supermarkets for 400 baht. For

every CD sold, 50 baht will be donated to the Rotary Club's many community projects, such as new schools and other programs for needy youngsters living on the island.

Helping out: Michael Grover, CEO of Samui development firm Coconut Land & House, donated 100,000 baht to initiate a scholarship fund on his company's behalf. He has joined forces with Samui International Academy Headmaster "Mr Colin" to help meet Samui children's education needs.

Mr Colin praised the partnership, saying: "Coconut Land & House has been remarkably generous and donated 100,000 baht for the first sponsorship. Moreover, the company has graciously offered help in much needed renovations."

The establishment of this relationship was the brainchild of Ms Linda Cartledge, the new Director of Development at the Academy. She expressed hope

that other businesses would follow Mr Grover's example and help promote education on the island.

Muay Thai: Samui-based Stephan Fox, Vice-President of the World Muay Thai Council, takes an active role running the council's training camp in Lamai. The fourth World Thai Boxing Championship, recently held in Bangkok, was the largest such competition so far, with boxers from 69 countries taking part.

About 700 people traveled to Thailand to take part in the competition, which continues to gain in popularity. More and more Muay Thai enthusiasts are helping to export Thai culture around the globe. There is now live coverage of fights broadcast every month from Koh Samui, and information is always available at the council's informative website: www.wmtc.nu

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

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander
Sammy Swan



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CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Minor loss of face



is predicted for Capricorns this Christmas. However, there will be a chance to compensate early in the New Year, so make a mental note to do so. If your birthday falls this week, at least one gift will put a smile on your face. A midweek dream holds subtle clues as to where a personal relationship is heading, but don't react too quickly.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians should take



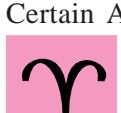
advantage of Christmas by selecting a special gift for someone they want to impress. Romance is looking rosier as the last days of 2004 drift away over the horizon. You may not appreciate meeting work deadlines over the holiday period, although the benefits are guaranteed to outweigh the effort.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Money matters remain a



cause for concern and those Pisceans who are still swimming against the tide of solvency should find ways of economical enjoyment this Christmas. You can look forward to a healthier bank balance in January, but there will be no sudden windfalls, despite what others promise. When it's important to make the right impression, the color silver can encourage smooth talking.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Certain Arians will not find it

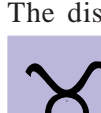


easy to get into the festive spirit as someone close is likely to be blowing hot and cold.

What the heavenly bodies have in store for you

If all your attempts to meet halfway under the mistletoe are brushed aside, seek pastures new. Take advantage of a social lull midweek to examine your motives for wanting this relationship to work. It could be that all the effort is really not worth such scarce rewards.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The distant tinkling of sleigh



bells may appear to be moving in the wrong direction, but Taurians need have no fear. Santa's late arrival will certainly

be worth the wait. While the gifts you receive probably won't have so much material value, there's something far more precious coming your way. This should turn out to be the most enjoyable Christmas for many years.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Copious amounts of festive fare are



about to have an unbecoming effect on your waistline. Geminis who value their appearance should exercise restraint, particularly if there's a special someone you wish to impress. A slightly complicated romantic tangle is about to unfold; you will be surprised to discover that a platonic friend has been harboring secret desires. Number 4 is lucky on Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You have been skirting an important



issue that needs to be faced this week. Others are guilty of the same crime, but some-

one must call the shots and that person is you, as, true to your nature, you cannot leave unfinished business on the back burner until the New Year dawns. Those Cancerians who are not afraid of hacking their way through thick jungle growth can expect to find a serene clearing on the other side.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your



cup of mulled wine runneth over this Christmas when you discover what Santa has brought. The only downside this week could occur on Wednesday when someone misunderstands your words. There will be nothing you can say to clarify the situation; silence is golden. A friend's misfortune later in the week causes you to count your blessings. Wear the color ivy green to promote the feel-good factor.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The week unfolds into a time

of contrasts for Virgoans. After unwrapping gifts and enjoying the Christmas spirit this weekend an unusual mood of boredom could descend, causing you to wonder if something is lacking in your life. Spend quality time midweek meditating on New Year resolutions and you will realize what your focus for 2005 should be. The color aquamarine will encourage deep insight.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A last minute change of plan



on Christmas Day necessitates emergency gift-buying. Rather than trying to find a personal gift for someone you really don't know very well, splash out on a decent bottle of plonk or two to accompany the turkey. Remain ambivalent when someone invites you to a New Year party – a much more exciting offer is winging its way towards you. Number 1 is lucky on Sunday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The stars are smiling on those Scorpios who are ready to



take a leap into the unknown. Life has been somewhat mundane lately, but the chance to strike out in a challenging new direction lies just around the corner. Take a gamble where potential love is concerned this weekend; the atmosphere of seasonal cheer helps everyone to lose inhibitions. The color holly berry red highlights your sensual side.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-



December 21): If you've been content to coast along in neutral but someone has started putting pressure on to move a relationship into a higher gear, make your intentions clear. Sagittarians will face a series of personal challenges this week, and how they are handled will dictate the course of events that await you in 2005. There is a way to have your Christmas cake and eat it too. The number 5 is auspicious on Wednesday.

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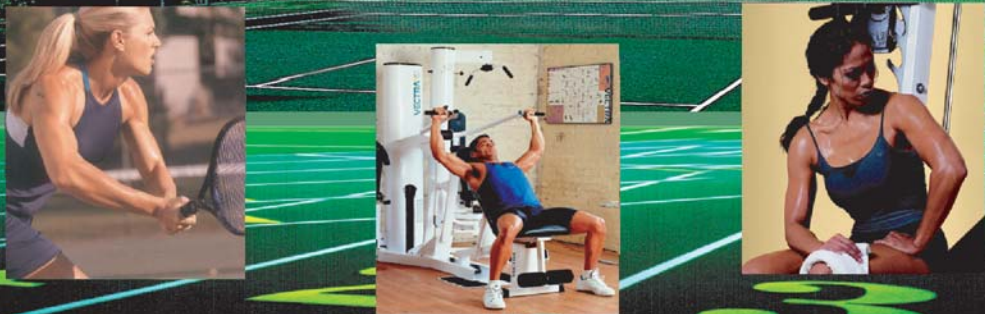
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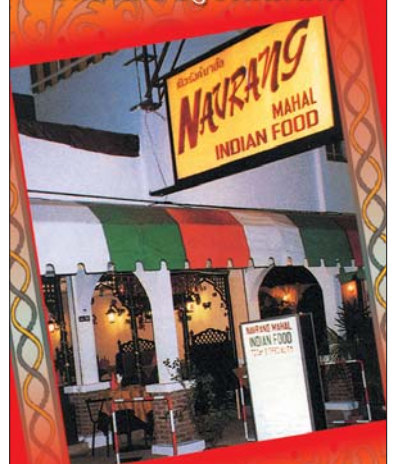


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I	E	R	R	N	B	I	Y	L	U	X	I	N	T	G
Y	R	E	F	N	I	F	U	N	I	C	K	E	L	G
C	B	O	G	F	S	T	E	M	M	K	S	U	O	U
H	Z	R	N	S	W	T	B	Q	S	J	R	G	L	T
F	U	Q	C	K	R	W	E	R	O	O	A	D	Q	E
A	Y	Y	F	B	N	M	A	X	U	P	E	A	R	N

Brain Buster!!

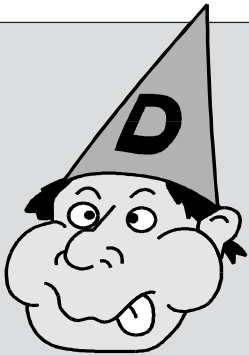
I run over fields and woods all day.
Under the bed at night I sit not alone.
My tongue hangs out, up and to the rear,
awaiting to be filled in the morning.
What am I?

Answer: A shoe.

SOLUTION TO
LAST WEEK'S
CROSSWORD

C		G	O	B	I		S		M
O	D	O	R			M	A	I	N
N		A		P		L		A	
S		E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	R
T	E	T		E		S		N	U
R		E	R	R	A	T	I	C	
U		R		F		E		E	W
C	O	N	Q	U	E	R	O	R	
T		I		M			V		E
E	S	T	E	E		A	N	O	N
D		Y		S	A	I	L		T

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. What is a caryatid?

2. "Richer iguana tails" is an anagram of which pop diva's name?

3. What are *churidars*?

4. Who wrote the novel *Moby Dick*?

5. Who had hits with *Extreme Ways*, *We Are All Made Of Stars* and *Porcelain*?

6. What might have a fuller, a pommel and a tip?

7. Grendel's mother appears in which Old English epic?
8. Where was Poldhu Wireless Station?

9. Why is it famous?

10. Where were the world's first set of traffic lights installed and when?

11. At the intersection of which streets were they installed?

12. What are *kinzokuseinohashi*?

13. What are the two meanings of the word tectonics?

14. What, to a social geographer, are LEDCs and MEDCs?
15. Who, in 1907, invented the outboard motor?

16. What is a grackle?

17. A strong breeze, approximately 24-30 knots, would be rated as what on the Beaufort Scale?

18. What comprises the cycle of a four-stroke engine?

19. Where is the city of Shiraz?

20. The city is famous for what?
- Answers next week.

Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Not workable.

7. Say hullo to a Roman.

8. Greek state renowned for toughness.

10. Lunatic.

12. Bark like a lapdog.

15. Candle material.

16. Jesse James or Billy the Kid, maybe.

19. Of a horse.

20. Drink heartily.

23. See-through.

Down

1. Revenue.

2. Spherical veg.

3. Chopper.

4. Msitake.

5. Cut short.

6. He tells whoppers.

9. Flittermouse.

11. Bloodsucker.

13. Usually causes a computer problem.

14. President Eisenhower.

17. Run away to vote with these.

1		2		3		4		5		6
7				8						
			9							
10		11				12				
						13			14	
	15				16					
17				18						
19						20	21			
						22				
23										

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. A black-tipped plug clogging a pore of the skin; a blackhead; 2. Ichthyolatry; 3. Basihyal; 4. Justin Timberlake; 5. On your arm; 6. Banjo; 7. Goa, Damao and Diu; 8. Ancient Egypt; 9. Brandenburg Gate; 10. Johann Sebastian Bach; 11. Cardiff, Wales; 12. Hamid Karzai; 13. Montserrat; 14. Unicameral; 15. Oysters; 16. 23; 17. Limestone; 18. Gamma rays; 19. John Steinbeck; 20. Nauru.

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All's fair in love, sex and marriage

Dear Momma Duck,

What do you think about Senator Rabiabrat Pongpanich's recent remark reported in the national press, "The wife should service her husband the way that a prostitute does"?

Nok Noi, Phuket

Dear K. Nok Noi,

Sen Rabiabrat from Khon Kaen is a member of parliament and fully supports the concept "one husband and one wife".

She distributed some strongly-worded stickers to the public bearing such legends as, "This is my husband. Don't you dare touch him," and, "Together we live, but if we split, you'll die". Even though her actions and speeches are too blunt, they may be suitable for these times.

A poll on a popular morning television talk show had more than 80% of respondents agreeing with them.

I do agree with her remarks – to a certain extent – because sexual compatibility is an important factor in the success of a marital relationship.

This is not a new concept in Thailand, or elsewhere, and is espoused by modern-minded Thai doctors, especially on TV programs.

However, relationships

vary from one couple to the next and an open-minded husband may prefer his wife to make the overtures instead of him initiating sex all the time. To him, this shows her love and her need for his affection. However, to many Thais this type of behavior is quite contradictory to our customs and culture.

The wife has to consider to what extent she and her husband can satisfy each other in their performance. How can a wife compete with a prostitute, whose trade is to perform up to the satisfaction of her clients? Many "ladies of the night" are masters – or perhaps that should be mistresses – of their craft.

Will all the hard work of a housewife restrain the husband from fooling around? A suitable motto of marital relationships may be: "You win the battle but lose the war".

The government is aware of the high divorce rate, and that is why there are pronouncements and advice about family activities, as well as the appropriate attitudes of the husband/father.

This is to encourage Thai men to spend more time with their families and to improve their relationships with their spouses.

A successful marriage can



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

be achieved only if both parties are willing to devote themselves to sharing responsibilities and chores, and to making time to discuss and exchange views.

Dear Momma Duck,

I am trying to decide between two men I like, one a foreigner and the other a Thai. Could you tell me, from your experience, what you think are the good and bad aspects of Thai and foreign men?

Princess Worried

Dear Princess Worried,

I'm glad that you're exer-

cising caution in the search for Mr Right. Please take your time and enjoy your search. I do not have any personal experience with Thai men, so it is very difficult for me to compare them with foreigners. Mind you, there are good and bad men and women of every nationality and culture.

There are many types of *farang* men; some of whom are very wealthy, some are deceptive and fake, some are middle class and some are downright contemptible.

You must think carefully before you decide to marry, whether to a foreigner or someone of your own nationality.

I have interviewed many Thai women from all walks of life. Some of them have had both Thai and foreign husbands or boyfriends, and what follows is a précis of their comments.

During the courting period, a Thai man can be very attentive and willing to please his girlfriend in many ways, but once married, he will often seem to have less time for his wife and begin to chase after other women.

A Western man tends to be more consistent and a better family man. He tries to set a good example to his children and will,

in many cases, raise and support the young children from his wife's first marriage.

A Thai man tends to get along more easily with the girl's family because they come from similar backgrounds and share the same culture. There will obviously be fewer cultural or language barriers than in cross-cultural marriages.

However, a Western man tends to be far more covert about, for example, an extra-marital affair while some Thai men love to disclose and even boast to their friends about their "bit on the side".

Although a Thai man loves to be the leader of his family, he is generally unwilling to take responsibility or share in doing household chores, including raising children, whereas the Western man is usually the opposite.

You can discuss many subjects openly with Western men without feeling embarrassed, and in their culture, the Western man loves to have his girlfriend or wife along with him wherever he goes and always consults her opinion.

Again, keep an open mind and take your time. I have mentioned only a few important points here for you to consider. And good luck.

Life imitating art imitating life

When you watch a movie, you generally know a little about what you are going to see, whether it is going to be a love story between two seemingly opposite individuals, or an action-packed film of outrageous car chases and high-speed antics.

We now watch so many films that the majority of us may view our lives in film-like terms.

I'm not talking about laughable storylines, such as the one in which US president's airplane

is hijacked and it's up to him to save the day, but I hope you get what I'm trying to say.

We seem to forget that movies are – generally – inspired by reality, that they aren't simply dreamed up. And those that are... well, how well did they do at the box office?

But what is my point? We watch too many movies and perhaps we're starting to think that what we see will stay on the screen, but clearly it won't.

Two of the tallest buildings in the world are used every day

by thousands of people, until one fateful morning when airliners are hijacked and deliberately flown into the buildings.

It sounds like the plot of the latest action movie, but I'm sure it is obvious that I'm describing the events of 9/11. Few would have thought that such a thing could happen, but it did.

Older generations seem to think they are omniscient, yet clearly they aren't.

In perhaps a similar way, teenagers are often told what not to do – for perfectly good reasons – by those who love us. Do we listen? No!

We always think that we, not our parents or uncles or aunts or anyone else who is trying to look out for us, know what is best for us.

Our rationale is that if we make a mistake, or look like we are going to, then we should be allowed to make it. That way we should learn from it and won't do it again. But is this always the case?

About a month ago, a close friend of mine was seriously injured in a car accident. We had been waiting for him to join us, and when he didn't arrive, we were worried.

Two other friends, who were driving back from a shopping center, saw what looked like his car wrapped around a telephone pole and went to investigate.



Youth 'n ASIA

By Lauren Moorhouse

The dread that they felt when they looked in the back seat and found a duffle bag belonging to our friend was unbearable.

I'd never seen so many people come together as we did as we waited in the hospital for news of his condition. Over the course of the next few weeks, letters and cards were sent and visitors came everyday (even if they couldn't actually see him) to show support and love in a time of sadness but hope.

We'd driven past the accident scene many times, and although we'd known there was a possibility that something could one day happen to ... well, anyone, we never thought it could happen to someone we knew, or – even worse – ourselves.

My friend was lucky and survived. Many others are not – and do not.

Christmas is now upon us, a time when Christians – even those who are only nominally Christian – come together with family and friends to mark the birth of the Son of God. Oh, and let's not forget the giving (and receiving) of presents.

For so many people now, Christmas is solely about the gifts, even though the holiday's origins lie elsewhere. Too many people have become caught up in the hype around Christmas and the tinsel, baubles and fairy lights.

But really, especially around this time of year, we should remember all the great things we have in our lives and how we are truly blessed to have them.

This year, take the time to think about who's really important to you and spend time with them, rather than allowing yourself to get caught up in the silly madness that the Christmas season brings.

After all, there's the old saying, "You don't know what you have until it has gone."

The greatest gift anyone can give this season is their time and love to another, because we don't know what the future has in store for us.

We should take full advantage of the time we have.

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The classic classifieds just keep on coming

The year is almost over, and editors around the world are desperately compiling their year-end reviews. While I am happy to leave the review of my own end in the capable hands of another, the *Gazette's* Grand Classified Ad Review again falls to me.

Classified ads are often thought of as a social barometer of sorts, and judging by the 2004 offerings, the people of Phuket are as diverse and enterprising as ever.

People are selling their houses. Or trying to. People are selling their businesses. Or trying to. Others are selling their pickup trucks – and are generally succeeding. People – generally men – are looking for love. Or trying to.

One wonders why, in a place like Phuket, so many chaps go to the time and effort of looking for that special person – a soul mate with no children, no history, and not be/never have been a bargirl. It calls to mind the McCarthy witchhunts.

But some blokes don't seem to mind. Quite the opposite in fact:

SEEKING BAD GIRLS

I, an American senior, will be visiting Patong soon, for an extended period. I wish to meet attractive, well built women for fooling around. Rent free accomodations will be provided...

Hmm, he's just looking for a piece of totty for an old Yank.

Some advertisers perhaps disguise their true intentions with smoke and mirrors, or even oil:

FRIENDLY FARANG MASSAGE

Friendly Farang man will give oil massages to Thai ladys, please phone...

The uncontested winner of this year's Mr Oleaginous award.

This enterprising, nay, altruistic chap obviously feels that the time is right to exploit a market, that of "Foreign Women of a Certain Age", or FWCA for short:

LONELY WOMEN EXPATS

someone to talk with, picnic with, have fun, excitements even romance adventure with? i may have the magical key to a womans happiness... being a unique foreigner like you... i understand how lonely you could be sometimes... My hugs and kisses...

"...magical key to a womans happiness"? I can well imagine the lock he envisages putting his clef in. Away!

LOOKING FOR GIRL

Hollo .Am want to fine a girl beetween 25 to 35 years old. Send some pictures off you if its posible...

Novices to the Land of

As another year draws to a close, the *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone looks back at some of the more memorable classified ads posted throughout the year on the *Phuket Gazette* website or in the print issue of the paper, together giving a form of précis of what Phuket people are hoping to find, trade or simply off-load.

While names have been omitted to protect the innocent, all the ads are featured here in their full unedited glory as supplied to *Gazette*.

Smiles please note: the *customer* pays the bar fines.

CANADIAN SEEKS YOUNG WIFE

The young wife's young and useful (which, in British parlance, means "good in a fight") husband might take exception...

But it is not just men who are looking for a significant other.

FFF...SO GOOD!

Any guy who to have a fun time with Thai girl. FFF send me email & your photo to...

I didn't know that people could stutter when typing.

Showing off her business acumen, however, is this advertiser:

36 years old, MBA-US, virgin, alone. Not necessary to talk or meet. You just send your profile with picture(s), an essay about yourself, plus two recommendation letters. Applicants are required to be very rich and must live permanently in a developed country. And for your profile to be considered, there is an application fee of US\$100.

I wonder how much she received in her inbox. Very little in the recent past, by the sound of things.

It is widely-accepted that *Gazette* readers are in the upper echelons of the foreign intelligentsia living in Phuket, and as such are no doubt familiar with George Bernard Shaw's maxim that England and America "...are two countries separated by a common language".

Let me teach you English American stlye. Your place or mine. Groups welcome.

USED TODDLER

Do you need slightly used toddler stuff? We might have them. Please contact...

GBS's words ne'er rang truer.

However, it isn't just the native English-speakers at whom we can laugh. There is a world of foreign tongues out there to enjoy, fluent in such diverse dialects as Thinglish and Engrish:

XXXXX'S LOGTSTICS

Jeep Pajaro, minibus and gity car for rent. God drive for day or month. Tel:..

I bet He doesn't have trouble parking in town. But stay genuflecting, dear brethren:

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Of the thousands of classified ads placed with the *Phuket Gazette* throughout 2004, this one gets our vote as the best of the year.

36 years old, MBA-US, virgin, alone. Not necessary to talk or meet. You just send your profile with picture(s), an essay about yourself, plus two recommendation letters. Applicants are required to be very rich and must live permanently in a developed country. And for your profile to be considered, there is an application fee of US\$100.

SUZUKI BANDIT 400

Good condition rides, well new replay...

Every little bit helps on Phuket's roads, I suppose.

The property market in Phuket may be full of movers, shakers and wannabes, but it is also overflowing with people who pay scant attention to what their ads really say:

BIG NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly fished, fully furnished, big house with 3 aircon bedrooms...

It might be a good idea to check the damp-proof course, I think.

LONG TERM LEASE

Palai Green, new houses 2 aircond bedrms, hot shower, kitchen, living, patio, garage. Fully furnished, beautiful garden, quiet, peachful area...

LUXURY VILLA

Luxury villa on 2,800 sqm of land, freehold title. 350 sqm indoor living area. Marble, Jacuzzi, 3 bedrooms, big game room...

"I say old chap, I just bagged a bally tiger in the study."

XXXXX VILLAS

Peace & quiet in a tropical garden in Rawai. 1 bedroom lunge...

It's amazing what some accommodation providers offer their guests these days.

Fully furnised, 1 bedroom house, airco, TV, dvd, quiet area, 5 min. from the beach and chopping centre...

No cracks about "swinging one's ax", please.

EXCEPTIONAL SEAVIEW

On this 18 rai chanote gentle slop...

Bad case of subsidence there, I'd say.

DETACHED HOUSE ON RIVER

An extremely bad case of subsidence, obviously.

Similar fun and frolics can be found from the those seeking to go mobile:

LONG TERM RENTALS

Ford Ranger four doors pick up, nice driver, good price...

And nice passengers too, I'm sure.

SPEEFBOAT FIBERGLASS

Im long for 6 people...

Six petite people that is, but that can be beaten:

18" THAI SPEEDBOAT

People are also on the move career-wise, and companies are looking for people of the world, obviously:

We are tour agency urgently require one accountant, must hold degree in accounting with 1-2 experiences...

Imagine being stuck in a lift with the lucky candidate. "Have I told you about the time I...?" "YES."

URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are looking for Front Office Manager/Secretary to join our team, should have a good command of English and bright personalities...

One is never alone with schizophrenia.

DISTRIBUTOR - PLASTIC BAGS

S'pore company seeking aggressive & experienced distributors of LONG LIFE storage plastic bags!!

The double exclamation marks and capitals indicate just how dynamic this job must be, although it would carry little cachet at a dinner party. Beats calling oneself an "entrepreneur" or "property developer", though.

KOCK JOBB SÖKES

Hej! Mitt namn...

A rough Swedish translation (my thanks to Marit, the rough Swede who does it for me) suggests that this prospective employee is actually seeking a position as a chef.

But the market place finds all sorts of weird and wonderful items being traded or services wanted:

PROKENEX GOLF SET

Full set of brand new graphite with black bag. Dad bought me as a birthday present but I prefer soccer. Tel...

"Dad bought me as a birthday present"? From whom? A stork? More for the chicks with:

CHEEP TV WANTED

And perhaps all erring husbands beware:

MEAT SLICER

I'm looking for a second hand Meat Slicer in immaculate condition. Please contact me.

And then there's this one:

SEEKING TAXIDERMIST:

A cool little blue bird crashed into my window and died. I am seeking a taxidermist to stuff him...



This one gets my vote as one of the best of the year, despite my preference for stuffed turkey, or generally stuffing birds.


Roll on 2005.



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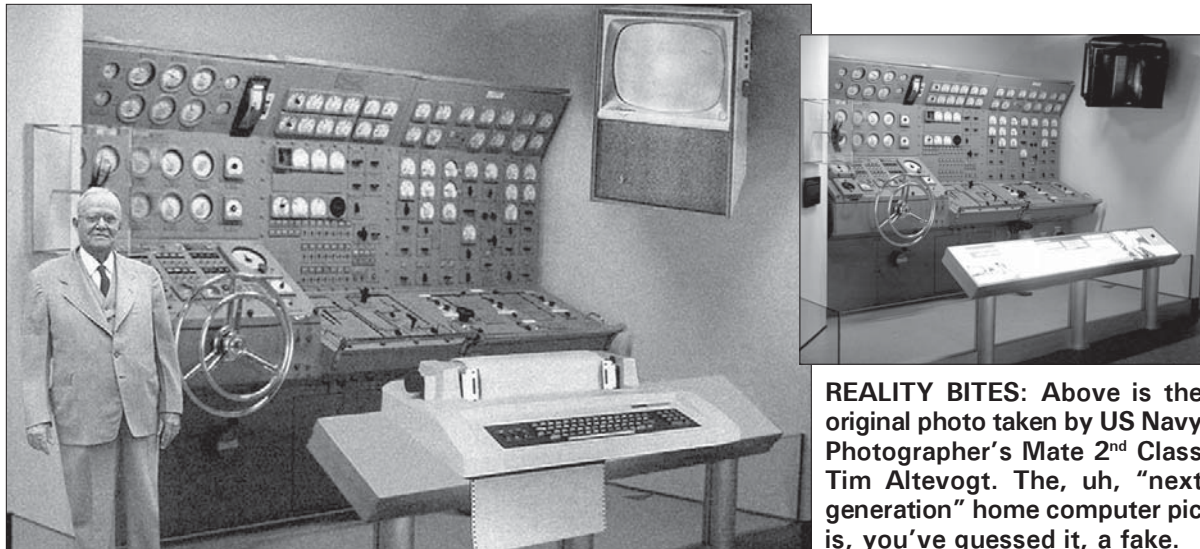
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I have seen the future!



REALITY BITES: Above is the original photo taken by US Navy Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Tim Altevogt. The, uh, "next generation" home computer pic is, you've guessed it, a fake.

Expecting a new PC for Xmas? This "little" baby is on the 'Net although not for sale. But can you always believe what you see and read on the Internet? Read the following – it's true, I promise – and learn...

Q A friend sent me a picture from a 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. It shows what the scientists at RAND Corporation at that time figured a "home computer" might look like in 2004. Amazing, isn't it?

LK

A Well, yes and no. In fact, the picture isn't from a 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics*. It's a doctored photo of a current display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. The original, full-color photo shows the control panel from the maneuvering room of the nuclear submarine *USS Polk*, circa 1960, which is part of a Smithsonian exhibit called "Fast Attacks and Boom-ers: Submarines in the Cold War".

The urban legend site at www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/computer.asp describes how a photo of that exhibit came to look like a 50-year-old shot of the future of computing.

The Internet provides fertile ground for all sorts of urban legends. Yes, I know that your hairdresser's uncle woke up with a gash in his side, and discovered someone had removed his kidney. Yes, the Lovenstein Institute proved that President Bush has the lowest IQ of all US presidents

of the past half-century (www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/presiq.htm). And Bill Gates will donate 10 cents to the Pediatric Prognosticators Foundation for each copy of a message that you forward...

If you read something that's too far out to be true, take a quick look at www.snopes.com, which dishes out the low-down on many online hoaxes.

Thanks to Big Bill for the heads-up. I was taken in by this "legend" until he pointed me to the real story.

Q I have surfed to some websites that I am not proud of. How do I remove them from the pull-down menu of sites visited?

CP

A Many people get redirected to "extracurricular" sites without trying. John Zuccarini was arrested in the US recently for running thousands of domains that involved slight misspellings of common search words, such as Britney Spears, Disneyland and Teletubbies. If you mis-typed one of those domain names, you were sent to a sex site, which paid Mr Zuccarini for the referral.

More than that, Zuccarini "hijacked" the Internet Explorer "Back" button, so if you tried to get out, you were ping-ponged around to other less-than-scrupulous sites. Ka-ching.

If you're using Firefox, the default setting is to keep the past nine days' browsing in the History folder. To clear the History files and URLs in Firefox, click Tools | Options, select Privacy, and click the Clear button to the right of the History label.

To remove the entries that

appear when you click Internet Explorer's History icon on IE's toolbar, start Internet Explorer, click Tools | Internet Options | General, and check the box marked Clear History.

Removing the entries in IE's drop-down Address bar (the one into which you type web addresses) isn't

nearly as easy – you have to clear out a bunch of Registry entries. But don't worry, you won't break

your PC by doing it. In Windows XP, here's how:

Click Start | Run, type regedit and click OK. In the Registry Editor, navigate to the folder HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURLs and delete all the keys beneath that entry. Click File | Exit to return to Windows. (Note: in Windows 98 the final command is Registry | Exit)

Q I bought a program that enables me to write reports but it has a limited number of times that I can use it – only 10 before I must register it. How can I use the program without triggering the dreaded screen that says "You have only ... more times left"?

KH

A You probably can't. Each program is different. It sounds to me like you're using a shareware program. If that's the case, and you continue to use it, why don't you pay for it? Small-time developers make a living out of solving specific problems, and relying on people to pay if they can put their program to good use. It's good karma, too.

– Woody Leonhard
woody@khunwoody.com

COMPUTER Q&A

By Woody Leonhard

Bright lights in a dark world

In 1960, David Halberstam was a 24-year-old reporter for *The Nashville Tennessean* when a group of black students launched a sit-in at Nashville's department stores. He covered the story for a year before joining *The New York Times* and taking off for the Congo and Vietnam.

More than 40 years later, he has returned to the life stories of eight of these courageous students, six men and two women, in *The Children* (Fawcett Books, New York, 1998, 783pp).

The leadership core of the group were three aspiring ministers at Nashville's American Baptist College, a poor Baptist seminary – John Lewis, Bernard Lafayette and James Bevel – and Diane Nash, a beautiful co-ed at the elite Fisk University in the city.

The three men shared a poor rural background in the Deep South, and Chicago-born Nash was shocked and humiliated by segregation.

They were all tutored in non-violent workshops at the First Baptist Church in Nashville by Reverend Jim Lawson, an academic who had studied Gandhi's teachings for four years in India.

The book's prologue is a prime example of how Halberstam gets inside the heads of his subjects.

"Years later she could recall almost every physical detail of what it had been like to sit there in that course on English literature. Diane Nash could remember nothing of what Professor Robert Hayden had said. What she remembered instead was her fear. A large clock on the wall had clicked slowly and loudly; each minute of which was subtracted put her nearer to harm's way. What she remembered about the class in the end was her inability to concentrate, and the fact that both her hands were soaked with sweat at the end of the class and left the clear handprint of her fear on the wooden desk. It was always the last class that she attended on the days that she and her colleagues assembled before they went downtown and challenged the age-old segregation laws at the lunch counters in Nashville's downtown shopping center."

What she and her comrades shared was a powerful common identity, one that transcended class or family ties, and an idealist Christian faith buoyed by sermons and freedom songs.

And what they accomplished in a mere five years was

nothing less than the complete dismantling of segregation.

They were there at each stage of the battle: the Freedom Rides, the voter registration drives in Mississippi and Alabama, and the climactic demonstrations in Selma that led directly the 1965 Voting Rights Act that effectively enfranchised blacks in the South and led to a whole new political order.

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Bevel and Nash, by now married, designed the strategy for the Selma campaign. Lafayette had laid the groundwork, organizing the local community and surviving an assassination plot.

Lewis led the protesters over the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday where, in front of national TV cameras, they were viciously beaten and teargassed by Alabama state troopers and the posse of Sheriff Jim Clark.

While they won all their battles, they lost the war. On the evening of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, an adviser found President Lyndon Johnson severely depressed.

"I think we have just handed over the South to the Republican party for the rest of our lives," he said.

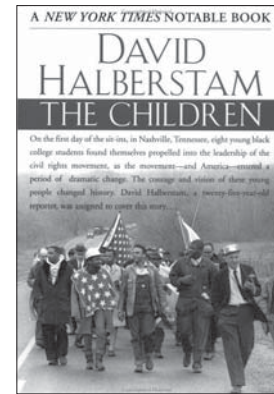
The students were also in for hard times. Their organization, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee – abbreviated to SNCC but pronounced "snick" – was taken over by the bombastic Stokely Carmichael and driven into the ground.

After her divorce from the adulterous Bevel, Nash worked a series of clerical jobs as a single mother in Chicago, putting her two sons through school. Bevel, badly overworked, suffered a nervous breakdown and was driven out of the civil rights movement. Lafayette advanced his brilliant academic career. Lewis became a congressman for Georgia, and, shortly after his arrival in Washington DC in 1986, he was approached by a white congressman from Mississippi named Sonny Montgomery.

The two discovered that they had been on the same bus during the 1961 Freedom Rides: Lewis as a protester, Montgomery as a member of the Mississippi National Guard protecting him.

"You've come a long way, Congressman," Montgomery said.

"So have you, Congressman," Lewis answered, "so have you."



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Thalang marina boom continues apace

By Kamol Pirat

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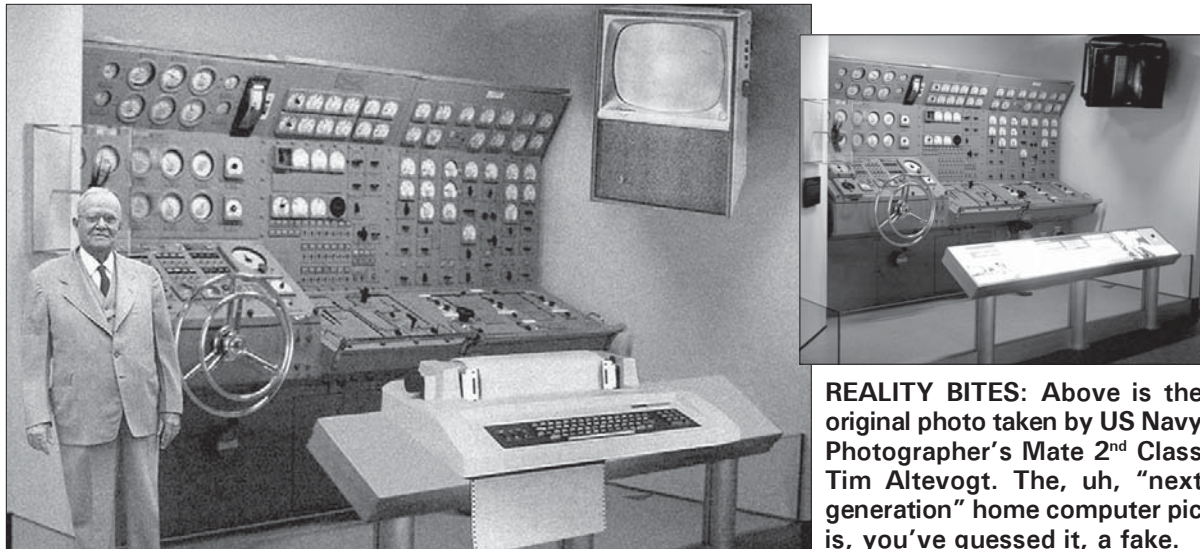
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I have seen the future!



REALITY BITES: Above is the original photo taken by US Navy Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Tim Altevogt. The, uh, "next generation" home computer pic is, you've guessed it, a fake.

Expecting a new PC for Xmas? This "little" baby is on the 'Net although not for sale. But can you always believe what you see and read on the Internet? Read the following – it's true, I promise – and learn...

Q A friend sent me a picture from a 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. It shows what the scientists at RAND Corporation at that time figured a "home computer" might look like in 2004. Amazing, isn't it?

LK

A Well, yes and no. In fact, the picture isn't from a 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics*. It's a doctored photo of a current display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. The original, full-color photo shows the control panel from the maneuvering room of the nuclear submarine *USS Polk*, circa 1960, which is part of a Smithsonian exhibit called "Fast Attacks and Boom-ers: Submarines in the Cold War".

The urban legend site at www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/computer.asp describes how a photo of that exhibit came to look like a 50-year-old shot of the future of computing.

The Internet provides fertile ground for all sorts of urban legends. Yes, I know that your hairdresser's uncle woke up with a gash in his side, and discovered someone had removed his kidney. Yes, the Lovenstein Institute proved that President Bush has the lowest IQ of all US presidents

of the past half-century (www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/presiq.htm). And Bill Gates will donate 10 cents to the Pediatric Prognosticators Foundation for each copy of a message that you forward...

If you read something that's too far out to be true, take a quick look at www.snopes.com, which dishes out the low-down on many online hoaxes.

Thanks to Big Bill for the heads-up. I was taken in by this "legend" until he pointed me to the real story.

Q I have surfed to some websites that I am not proud of. How do I remove them from the pull-down menu of sites visited?

CP

A Many people get redirected to "extracurricular" sites without trying. John Zuccarini was arrested in the US recently for running thousands of domains that involved slight misspellings of common search words, such as Britney Spears, Disneyland and Teletubbies. If you mis-typed one of those domain names, you were sent to a sex site, which paid Mr Zuccarini for the referral.

More than that, Zuccarini "hijacked" the Internet Explorer "Back" button, so if you tried to get out, you were ping-ponged around to other less-than-scrupulous sites. Ka-ching.

If you're using Firefox, the default setting is to keep the past nine days' browsing in the History folder. To clear the History files and URLs in Firefox, click Tools | Options, select Privacy, and click the Clear button to the right of the History label.

To remove the entries that

appear when you click Internet Explorer's History icon on IE's toolbar, start Internet Explorer, click Tools | Internet Options | General, and check the box marked Clear History.

Removing the entries in IE's drop-down Address bar (the one into which you type web addresses) isn't

nearly as easy – you have to clear out a bunch of Registry entries. But don't worry, you won't break

your PC by doing it. In Windows XP, here's how:

Click Start | Run, type regedit and click OK. In the Registry Editor, navigate to the folder HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURLs and delete all the keys beneath that entry. Click File | Exit to return to Windows. (Note: in Windows 98 the final command is Registry | Exit)

Q I bought a program that enables me to write reports but it has a limited number of times that I can use it – only 10 before I must register it. How can I use the program without triggering the dreaded screen that says "You have only ... more times left"?

KH

A You probably can't. Each program is different. It sounds to me like you're using a shareware program. If that's the case, and you continue to use it, why don't you pay for it? Small-time developers make a living out of solving specific problems, and relying on people to pay if they can put their program to good use. It's good karma, too.

– Woody Leonhard
woody@khunwoody.com

COMPUTER Q&A

By Woody Leonhard

Bright lights in a dark world

In 1960, David Halberstam was a 24-year-old reporter for *The Nashville Tennessean* when a group of black students launched a sit-in at Nashville's department stores. He covered the story for a year before joining *The New York Times* and taking off for the Congo and Vietnam.

More than 40 years later, he has returned to the life stories of eight of these courageous students, six men and two women, in *The Children* (Fawcett Books, New York, 1998, 783pp).

The leadership core of the group were three aspiring ministers at Nashville's American Baptist College, a poor Baptist seminary – John Lewis, Bernard Lafayette and James Bevel – and Diane Nash, a beautiful co-ed at the elite Fisk University in the city.

The three men shared a poor rural background in the Deep South, and Chicago-born Nash was shocked and humiliated by segregation.

They were all tutored in non-violent workshops at the First Baptist Church in Nashville by Reverend Jim Lawson, an academic who had studied Gandhi's teachings for four years in India.

The book's prologue is a prime example of how Halberstam gets inside the heads of his subjects.

"Years later she could recall almost every physical detail of what it had been like to sit there in that course on English literature. Diane Nash could remember nothing of what Professor Robert Hayden had said. What she remembered instead was her fear. A large clock on the wall had clicked slowly and loudly; each minute of which was subtracted put her nearer to harm's way. What she remembered about the class in the end was her inability to concentrate, and the fact that both her hands were soaked with sweat at the end of the class and left the clear handprint of her fear on the wooden desk. It was always the last class that she attended on the days that she and her colleagues assembled before they went downtown and challenged the age-old segregation laws at the lunch counters in Nashville's downtown shopping center."

What she and her comrades shared was a powerful common identity, one that transcended class or family ties, and an idealist Christian faith buoyed by sermons and freedom songs.

And what they accomplished in a mere five years was

nothing less than the complete dismantling of segregation.

They were there at each stage of the battle: the Freedom Rides, the voter registration drives in Mississippi and Alabama, and the climactic demonstrations in Selma that led directly the 1965 Voting Rights Act that effectively enfranchised blacks in the South and led to a whole new political order.

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Bevel and Nash, by now married, designed the strategy for the Selma campaign. Lafayette had laid the groundwork, organizing the local community and surviving an assassination plot.

Lewis led the protesters over the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday where, in front of national TV cameras, they were viciously beaten and teargassed by Alabama state troopers and the posse of Sheriff Jim Clark.

While they won all their battles, they lost the war. On the evening of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, an adviser found President Lyndon Johnson severely depressed.

"I think we have just handed over the South to the Republican party for the rest of our lives," he said.

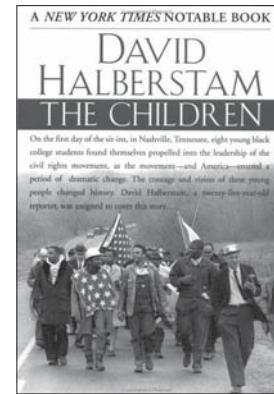
The students were also in for hard times. Their organization, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee – abbreviated to SNCC but pronounced "snick" – was taken over by the bombastic Stokely Carmichael and driven into the ground.

After her divorce from the adulterous Bevel, Nash worked a series of clerical jobs as a single mother in Chicago, putting her two sons through school. Bevel, badly overworked, suffered a nervous breakdown and was driven out of the civil rights movement. Lafayette advanced his brilliant academic career. Lewis became a congressman for Georgia, and, shortly after his arrival in Washington DC in 1986, he was approached by a white congressman from Mississippi named Sonny Montgomery.

The two discovered that they had been on the same bus during the 1961 Freedom Rides: Lewis as a protester, Montgomery as a member of the Mississippi National Guard protecting him.

"You've come a long way, Congressman," Montgomery said.

"So have you, Congressman," Lewis answered, "so have you."



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The take-it-easy rider

Most weekday mornings, Tawat Kantiworapon is at the fresh market in Phuket City at 5 am, ready to join fellow members of Phuket Cycling Club on a 34-kilometer round-trip cycle ride to Rawai Beach.

At the weekend, K. Tawat and his colleagues cycle to Phuket International Airport, a distance (round trip) of about 60km.

Impressive enough for anyone of any age, but K. Tawat is 63 years old.

K. Tawat, who works in a baby goods shop, took up cycling in 1999. "A friend I hadn't seen for two months came to see me, and I was surprised at how slim he was," he recalls.

"He told me about one of his friends, who had been to see a doctor because of health problems brought on by being overweight, and how the doctor had told him, 'You are rich, you drive a luxury car, so why do you neglect your health?'"

"That made me think about the importance of exercise, and I started to jog to Rang Hill and Suan Luang park. I did that for about a year and a half, but then the doctor warned me that running could make my knees deteriorate, and suggested I try cycling and swimming instead."

K. Tawat adds, "Before, I weighed 83 kilograms. Now I weigh 73kg."

The cyclists usually set off for Rawai Beach at 5 am. "When we reach Suan Luang," said K. Tawat, "it is time to meet friends and talk."

"Cycling makes us happy. Sometimes we get rid of our stress; we cycle slowly, and sing songs. We'll talk through problems."

"Our group is usually five or six strong, and we all wear helmets for safety. At the weekend, we usually go to the airport, but sometimes we take different routes, depending on what the group decides."

"But, on the way back, we always stop near the Heroines' Monument in Thalung to have breakfast and talk."



Tawat Kantiworapon, Bronze medal in the category of 50 year and over in Surat Thani on July 29, 2001.

It's never too late to be a cyclist, K. Tawat says. "One of our members is 72 years old," he notes.

"Cycling is good for the health; it helps you sleep and it doesn't damage your legs. Normally, we cycle 32km during the week and 40-50km at the weekend. It can be hard, but if you get tired, you can take a break."

"Cycling has made me look strong and young. Before, I used to get colds all the time. But I haven't been to the hospital for a long time, apart from my annual checkup."

"I could cycle all the time - it's like a drug. As soon as I wake up, I'm cycling, although I do tend to take Mondays and Tuesdays off."

K. Tawat had cycled as a child and was at first reluctant to invest in any kind of modern equipment.

He says, "I thought that, as I was old, I shouldn't buy a sports bicycle, but I realized that there is a difference between old-fashioned bicycles and new ones. The new bicycles have gears, which

makes cycling much easier, so I bought a new bicycle."

K. Tawat recommends that new cyclists spend between 10,000 and 20,000 baht on a quality mountain bike. "Most beginners choose a bike for 4,000 or 5,000 baht, but these don't last long," he warns.

The cycling club has morning and afternoon groups, although the afternoon group tends to be the preserve of juniors and young cyclists.

Although K. Tawat declares that "Cycling is good for health," he is the first to admit that that's not always the case on the roads of Phuket.

"Phuket has no good roads for cycling," he says, "If you are not watching all the time, it is dangerous. We should have bicycle lanes as they have in China or Australia."

- Anongnat Sartpisut

Anyone interested in contacting the Phuket Cycling Club should telephone: 076-216867, or Piyawat Sae-Koo at Tel: 01-5978455.



VIPs say 'thank you'

Bangkok VIPs team included (from left): Tanya Pohwijit, assistant secretary of the Thai Football Association (TFA); former Thai national coach Wittaya Laohakul; and actor Noppachai "Joker" Matta-weewong. The Bangkok VIPs v Phuket VIPs friendly soccer match at Surakul Stadium on December 18 was organized by the TFA to thank

MotoX win for Worapong

RAWAI: Worapong Sangnak beat Taweesak Taweesaman by 12 points to win the overall Phuket Motocross trophy (Grade A) competition held off Soi Suksan 1 in Rawai on December 19.

Although Worapong came third in the 10th race of the competition, he managed to score enough points in his preceeding

heats to win the event overall and take the trophy.

The results were as follows: 1. Worapong Sangnak, 154 points; 2. Taweesak Taweesaman, 142 pts; 3. Sanya Nuanpab, 121 pts. Phuket Supercross Club is currently drawing up a schedule of dates and venues for a season of events in 2005.

- Anongnat Sartpisut

Junior football cup

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), in association with the Phuket Sports Association, is organizing the Phuket Football Cup, a five-a-side tournament for players under 13 years of age. The competition will be held at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex on December 26 and 27.

Teams are limited to eight players and each team must pay an 800-baht entry fee, plus a 500-baht insurance charge. Each half will last 10 minutes, and play will following international rules as specified by Fifa.

Entry for spectators is free. For more information call 076-250110 or 01-4153220.

Open invitation to play a round

THALANG: Amateur male golfers with handicaps of 18 or lower and female golfers with handicaps of 28 or less are invited to enter the Blue Canyon Open 2005.

The tournament will take place at Blue Canyon Country

Club, Thalung, on January 29 and 30. The entry fee is 6,000 baht per person; applications must be received by noon on January 14.

More details are available from the club by email: golf@bluecanyonclub.com or Tel: 076-328088.

Valhalla victorious as climax nears

PATONG: As the 22-week Patong Darts League reaches its climax, there were some upsets in last week's play.

Perhaps fearing it was almost time for the valkyries to carry their weary bodies off, Valhalla pulled off a shock 3-0 win at home against Didi's, quadrupling their point total from one to four in the process.

Meanwhile, the merry men at Amigos managed a 3-0 upset against the league leaders OffShore.

OffShore maintained their place in the standings by winning

3-0 in a make-up match against Two Black Sheep.

In the last week of play, contenders such as Happy Days, Nag's Head and Piccadilly can only hope for the ultimate upset of all, Valhalla on the road at OffShore, for help in catching the league leaders.

Results of December 14 matches: Amigos* 5 OffShore 4; Fat Boy Saloon 2 Piccadilly* 7; Nag's Head* 3 Champs 6; Happy Days 8 In-Between* 1; Shakers* 7 Two Black Sheep 2; Valhalla* 6 Didi's 3. (* = Winners of beer leg.)

Standings after December 14: 1. OffShore (43pts); 2. Happy Days (41); 3. Nag's Head (39); 4. Piccadilly (38); 5. Queen Mary (35); 6. Champs (32); 7. Didi's (30); 8. Amigos (26); 9. Two Black Sheep (19); 10. Shakers (18); 11. Fat Boy Saloon (11); 12. Valhalla (4).

December 28 match-ups: Amigos v Champs; Didi's v Nag's Head; Happy Days v Fat Boy Saloon; In-Between v Shakers; OffShore v Valhalla; Piccadilly v Two Black Sheep. (Home teams first).

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to Surakul

Surakul Stadium administrators for hosting the recent Fifa Under-19s women's world championship. Bangkok VIPs resoundingly defeated Phuket VIPs 5-2.



EVERYONE A WINNER: The Phuket Provincial Sport tournament held at Surakul Stadium from December 15 to 17 saw pupils of 38 schools compete in 10 disciplines – including pñtanque, athletics and badminton – across the ages from 5 to 18. Darasamut School came out on top in the championship, taking first place overall in four age groups. Puttamongkon Nimit School, Satee Phuket School and Muang Thalang School all came equal second overall, with each winning trophies in three age categories. Young No 11 seems barely able to contain his enthusiasm.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

PM's Cup soccer tourney

PHUKET CITY: Crowds around the centerline had the best view of the action taking place in the final of the Phuket round of the Prime Minister's Cup women's soccer tournament, which took place on December 18 at Surakul Stadium.

The tactics of the Kathu B and Surakul Yim teams were evenly matched with both teams finding it difficult to create scoring opportunities, particularly throughout the first 30-minute half.

Scores were pegged at nil until the 26th minute when Kathu B's Jiraporn Rodkaew broke through Surakul's defense to pass the ball to teammate Kesinee Inthongaiad, who sent the ball over keeper Kusuma Sabua's head and into the goal.

Sensing a defeat, Surakul upped the pace of their offense in the early stage of the second half and looked set to score in the 46th minute. Surakul's Wijita Maliwan made a shot at Kathu's

goal but saw the ball miss the left-hand post by a hair's breadth.

A few more exchanges followed but a scant five minutes before the final whistle, Kathu's Kornwipa Yodwongse scythed through the defense to pop the ball in Surakul's net from less than a meter out.

The final score was 2-0 to Kathu B, who won 14,000 baht for their efforts while runners-up Surakul took home 7,000 baht.

Kathu also won a place in the regional tourney, although the location and date are yet to be set.



THEIR CUP RUNNETH OVER: Kathu B Women's Soccer team (in red) were victors in the recent Prime Minister's Cup soccer tourney, beating Surakul Yim 2-0 in the final.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The factory team of Aston Martin convincingly won the 1959 Le Mans 24-Hours endurance classic, with Carroll Shelby and Roy Salvadori sharing the driving of the three-liter DBR1.

However, now that Ford has pulled the plug on its Formula One effort with Jaguar, it is ironic that Aston Martin, also part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group, will return to Le Mans in June 2005 to contest the epic race.

Jaguar Racing has been sold to Dieter Mateschitz of Red Bull fame and will next season turn out in the familiar Red Bull colors. Drivers have yet to be announced, but favorites for the job include this year's No 2 Jaguar man, Austrian Christian Klein, and newly-crowned F3000 champion Vitantonio Liuzzi.

The racing Aston Martin DBR9 – based on the road-going DB9 – was recently unveiled at the firm's Gaydon headquarters in central England. An intensive testing schedule is planned for the winter, followed by the car's race debut at the Sebring 12-Hours in Florida in March.

In recognition of Aston Martin's 1959 victory, the DBR9 will carry the same green-and-yellow livery as the machines that dominated sports-car racing in the 1950s. Aston Martin will build 12 of the new DBR9s, which will be run by three individual private teams on behalf of the factory. A further limited run of 20 cars will be built, to exactly the same specifications, and made available to selected customers to race or keep in private collections.

The DBR9 GT race car, although based on a standard DB9, is significantly modified for competitive use. The bonded alumi-



Aston Martin will return to the classic Le Mans 24-Hours race in June 2005, in the racing-version of the DBR9 (above and below).

num body is retained, but all other panels are of lightweight carbon fiber, while the six-liter V12 engine is substantially modified to provide 600bhp (440kW) and torque in excess of 700Nm.

Styled in-house by Aston Martin's own design team, using advanced computational fluid dynamics to optimize the aerodynamics, the carbon-fiber panels help maintain the overall weight of the finished article at just 1,100 kilograms.

Aston Martin was formed in 1914 by Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford, taking its name from a combination of Martin's family name and the Aston Clinton hill-climb race held in rural central England, where he had notched up many successes at the wheel of a modified Singer.

Bamford & Martin Ltd had been incorporated a year earlier, to sell Singer motor cars in London, but it was not until Martin acquired an Isotta Fraschini chas-

sis and installed a Coventry Simplex engine that the firm began making autos.

The first car to actually be named Aston Martin came in 1921, although by that time Robert Bamford had left the company.

Over the years, Aston Martin has had a number of owners, the most famous being Sir David Brown, who acquired the company in 1947. Sir David was a keen follower of Aston Martin's racing fortunes and the 1959 Le Mans win and the Sports Car Championship the same year rewarded the industrialist for his support of the ailing company.



After a further succession of owners, Ford eventually bought 75% of Aston Martin in 1987, before taking up an option on the remainder of the shares in 1992.

Aston Martin's return to motor racing heralds a new chapter in the life of the revived company. Aston Martin Chief Executive Dr Ulrich Bez commented: "We need to create heightened awareness for Aston Martin

around the world and motor sport will allow us to do that."

A win at Le Mans would certainly accomplish that, but there is a long way to go for the resurrected team: no drivers have been named, but Britain's Johnny Herbert is currently without a race seat and would be a natural to join the British-based team.

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



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A view of the vintner's valley

A short way north of Sydney, Australia, Hunter Valley is a wine-lover's nirvana. Even confirmed teetotalers would admit, it's one of the most picturesque parts of New South Wales.

Better still, there's a wide variety of ways of getting around the valley, from horseback treks to buggy rides, or even a balloon flight in the early morning when the vineyards will be laid out in dawn's early light like a verdant checker board. The energetic can even do it by pedal power on a bike.

The first vines were planted there in the middle of the 19th century, and today the Hunter Valley is practically synonymous with the term "fine wine". The white wines tend to be Semillon and Chardonnay, while the reds are taken up with Pinot Noir and Shiraz.

Once planted in the Hunter Valley soil, the grapes tend to taste marvelous, and almost all the 60 or so wineries in the region encourage visitors and offer free tastings. The natural corollary that if you like what you taste, there would be little harm in buying a case or two to take home. A number of wineries levy a small entry charge, which is refunded on purchases.

Some of the most interesting vineyards include Drayton's Family Wines near Pokolbin, which has been going for more than 140 years and is well known for its ports. Nearby Lindemans Wines traces its origins to 1842, when visionary viticulturist Dr Lindeman planted the first vines. And while the Hermitage Road Cellars and Winery – the largest in the district – may lack atmosphere, it runs informative tours which explain the process and history of winemaking as well as elementary wine appreciation.

The best place to base your-

self in the Hunter is the charismatic town of Cessnock. Within striking distance are Maitland, first populated by convicts in Victorian times, and Morpeth, which was once an important river port, but whose old warehouses and godowns now host art galleries and craft boutiques.

And – as a reminder that the Hunter Valley's history doesn't begin and end with grapes – Aboriginal rock carvings and cave paintings dot the area. These are best visited by horse.

A little south of Cessnock lies the Wollombi Tavern, once home to Mel Jurd, now better known as Dr Jurd thanks to his much admired Jungle Juice. The pub that used to stand here burned down one Christmas when Mel accidentally set fire to it after an extremely good party.

The pub was rebuilt, thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbors, and remains a landmark watering hole – though patrons are advised to approach Dr Jurd's signature cocktail with caution. There are plenty of beers and a host of wines to choose from as well.

Cessnock Correctional Centre has its own vineyard, and inmates have produced some prize-winning vintages. Who says a life of vine doesn't pay?

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters



Just a few of the many delights that can be found in Hunter Valley.

Viticulture and winemaking are now practised at the local gaul and it would be criminal to miss out on some of the fine wines made by the felons.

Riding takes many forms in this part of the world from buggies and horses to hot-air balloons.



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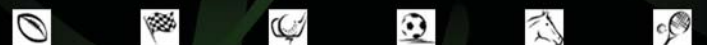
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Home of the Week

Chalong

A sense of space in the south

Chalong is the location of a five-bedroom home with a master bedroom – with an en-suite Jacuzzi – three living rooms and a guest villa in the garden, which is currently up for sale.

Hidden away within a tropical garden, on a 2,016-square-meter plot just off a quiet street, the house also has a 72sqm swimming pool.

A formal living and dining room lies at the front of the first floor. The same level also has a second living room with a timber bar.

Paneled timber cupboards and granite worktops are features of the Western kitchen, which is well-equipped with European appliances.

A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor, where there is a double bedroom with en-suite



bathroom, and a third living room. In total, three of the property's five bedrooms have fitted wardrobes and four have en-suite bathrooms.

Luxurious finishing touches such as stepped ceilings, cornices and skirting boards add to the feeling of quality and elegance, as are the custom-made curtains.

A double carport, laundry and maid's room are within the main building, which is served by UBC cable TV, two telephone



The home has plenty of room to relax (above), and comes complete with a fully-equipped Western kitchen (right).

lines, well water, a hot water system, four septic tanks and home security system.

A self-contained guest villa within the grounds comprises a large bedroom, en-suite bathroom and kitchen.

The land title is Chanote and the asking price is 23 million baht.



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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sarpiat

Sowing the seeds of prestige

KATA: Around 300 million baht is being invested to turn five rai of land off Kata Noi Rd into an estate of 33 prestige homes.

Kata Gardens, which will lie adjacent to the renowned Mom Tri's Kitchen restaurant, is the latest development by Bangkok-based Raimon Land Co.

Builders went on site this month and the estate is due to be completed during the first quarter of 2006.

The development will comprise 11 three-story buildings, with one accommodation unit per floor.

Buyers will have a choice of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The top floor of each building will be a penthouse with its own plunge pool.

The one-bedroom apartments on the first and second floors will have 112-115 square meters of living space and cost between 6.9 million and 7.2 million baht each.

The two-bedroom apartments, ranging from 180sqm to 183sqm, will cost between 11.4

A computer-generated artist's impression of one of the prestigious homes to be built at Kata Gardens.



million and 11.9 million baht, while the three-bedroom apartments, with 253sqm of living space, will be priced at between 17.7 and 18.2 million baht.

A one-bedroom penthouse, of 186sqm, will cost 9.9 million

baht; a two-bedroom, 276sqm unit, 16.3 million baht; and a 382sqm three-bedroom apartment, 25.9 million baht.

The development will be powered by underground electrical cables, and each unit will

have up to three telephone lines installed.

There will be mains water supply, while a reservoir will provide a two-day reserve supply for each building. There will also be 24-hour security with CCTV monitoring and recording.

The estate will have its own restaurant, fitness center and shopping center, as well as two swimming pools, an on-site management office and secure underground parking.

Raimon Land Chief Executive Officer Nigel Cornick said, "We can assure buyers that we are serious developers with a quality product profile, which sets us apart from other developers."

Previous Raimon Land projects include The Lakes Condominiums in Bangkok and two separate The Lofts projects, also in Bangkok, and North Shore Condominiums in Pattaya.

The architects for Kata Gardens are Tandem Architects and the building contractor is Vasi Co Ltd. Finance has been provided by Siam City Bank.

More information is available from Raimon Land at Tel: 076-284289, Fax: 076-284466, Email: info@katagardens.com or at the website: www.katagardens.com.

Life

Most people with the title of "doctor" work at healing sick people. But Calum Ferguson, the self-described "Stone Doctor", specializes in treating rocks and stones. But before you begin placing a call to make an appointment for your pet rock, read on.

As the Phuket development boom careers on, homebuilders and developers are creating ideas for dream homes using materials chosen sometimes more for their visual appearance than for their practicality.

In areas exposed to ocean spray, monsoon rains, wind and tropical sun – that means most of Phuket – wood is highly questionable as a building material. Doors and window frames warp after only a few years, often causing heated arguments between the developer and the owner.

New homes and villas are now built using a wide variety of other materials, including stone, for walls, floors, paths and patios. Stone can lend a stunning appearance when a luxury villa is new, but a deteriorating luxury villa, on the other hand, can be quite a sorry sight.

Although stone is far more resistant to the elements than wood, it can deteriorate when exposed to heavy tropical rain, hot sun and salty air. In outdoor areas, sedimentary rocks such as sandstone are particularly vulnerable to weathering and discoloration.

When that happens, it's time to call your friendly neighborhood Stone Doctor.

"You will get 'yellowing' from the sun where the wrong kind of sealer has been used," explained Mr Ferguson.

"The wrong sealer is one which does not block ultraviolet rays, so it shouldn't be used in areas where the sandstone is exposed to sunlight," he continued.

"So how about going au naturel?" I asked, thinking of the absurdity of having to apply a seal around something that is probably already hundreds of millions of years old already.

No dice.

"If you don't use a sealer at all, the sandstone will turn black,

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in the stone age

moldy and waterstained," he said bluntly, giving me the bad news just like a real doctor would.

By using a quality sealer with professional maintenance, these problems can be avoided and the sandstone will retain its natural beauty, he said.

"But what if the condition of the rock already appears terminal?" I asked.

"In most cases where these problems already exist, recovery is possible. To rejuvenate the stone, a careful cleaning process using professional products must be used. The simple use of high-pressure water has, in many cases, totally destroyed the stone and left it in a disintegrated condition."

Rejuvenate? An inanimate object? Next he'll advise aromatherapy, I thought to myself.

But seriously, it's well-known that certain stones are appropriate for certain applications – and not for others. For example, highly polished stone, especially marble, should not be used outside. Being calcified, it is soft and sensitive to the natural acidity in rainwater. Even when kept dry, it can even be worn away by physical wear – just look at the marble staircases



SICK SLABS? Stone Doctor Calum Ferguson has remedies to treat all kinds of stones suffering from the elements in Phuket.

in old Chinese hotels in Penang.

In addition, polished surfaces are dangerously slippery when wet.

There are also a number of indoor applications where marble can be difficult to maintain, because it is sensitive to staining from acidic liquids such as ketchup, cola and red wine. Marble used as a work top or kitchen counter must be specially treated, he said.

Granite is one of the best stones for flooring, as it is hard wearing and not as sensitive to harsh conditions. However, even

flamed granite can suffer from "leeching", especially where minerals from the cement pass through the surface and cause discoloration.

"Like most of these conditions, granite can also be revived with the proper professional attention," said Mr Ferguson.

"As with most things, the longer you leave it untreated, the harder and more expensive it will be to fix. Stone can be beautiful when it looks natural – and extremely ugly when it is neglected in unnatural conditions."

So, just as with medicine, when it comes to building with stone, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven



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Le Raffiné Sukhumvit 31 Project developer and owner: Le Raffiné 24 Company Limited. Registered capital: 350,000,000 Baht (fully paid up). Office location: 54 Sukhumvit Soi 24 (Kasem), Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok 10110. Managing Director: Pimpa Vajrabukka, M.D. Residential condominium 30 floors with 45 units. Site location: On title deeds No. 2635, Klongtoey Sub-District (South Bangkok), Phraekong District (Bangkok), Bangkok. Land area: (Type 1-1-98) approximately 598 square wah. Project encumbered and supported by Krungthai Bank Plc. Building construction permit has been approved: # 401/2547. Construction begins: July 2004. Completion expected: December 2006. The project shall be registered as the condominium after completing the construction. Common area fee will be paid by buyers in accordance with regulation of condominium juristic person.

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Gardening

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No fairy on this Christmas tree

As some of you may have noticed, it's Christmas. In the UK, the festive season starts in earnest in early November – or even mid-October – when shops start putting up their Christmas streamers and wrapping tinsel around their counters and light fittings.

This is the time of the year when those from less tropical climes tend to think of snow crunching underfoot, log fires crackling, snowman-building and mistletoe.

However, we hardly ever hear the festive season mentioned in Thailand; the only Thai I have met who has referred to it was a lady at a local garden center.

She had an impressive array of poinsettias at the front of her yard. "Kisseemas," she kept saying, pointing towards them, convinced I had no idea that elsewhere they are called the Christmas plant.

Even the Christmas tree doesn't really work here, despite the best attempts of window dressers at the shopping centers. There aren't too many fir trees in Phuket, baubles or not, especially with snow romantically piled on their branches.

But we do have an alternative Christmas plant in Phuket, and it's not one you would im-



The red fruits of the Christmas palm are the closest to baubles on a real Christmas tree that a person in Phuket is likely to see.

mediately associate with Santa Claus or yule logs. It's a palm tree that originated in the Philippines, and it should definitely be adopted as the southeast Asian Christmas tree. It's the Manila palm, otherwise known as the Christmas palm.

It gets its festive name because of the very showy clusters of glossy, brilliant red fruits that in a certain light could pass for Christmas decorations.

I admit, though, that it

would take several large bottles of Tiger for most people to be convinced that they looked like Christmas tree ornaments.

In Latin, the Christmas palm is known as the *veitchia merrillii*. It's a neat, compact little palm that looks a bit like a dwarf version of the royal palm found all over Phuket.

It has a single, slender gray trunk that is smooth and sectioned – like most palms – by leaf scar rings. When I was younger,

I used to wonder why palm trees had these rings around them, and was amazed when I found out that they were simply the marks left when the leaves drop off as the palm grows.

There's a short green "crownshaft" towards the top, which supports a dense crown of around a dozen feathery leaves. These are arched and about 150 centimeters long, with leaflets that are about 50cm long. Christmas palms generally grow to a height of about five meters.

This palm, like most others, is fairly easygoing in its demands, and will grow in most soils except those that are constantly soggy. If it gets too wet, the roots will rot and your Christmas palm will metamorphose into a rather unattractive version of a yule log.

The Christmas palm is moderately salt-tolerant, but don't expect it to be happy on the beach. It prefers full sun but will

take some shade, and appreciates regular waterings. As long as you don't leave it without any water long term, it won't complain.

The red baubles are actually the seeds. If fresh, these will germinate within one-to-three months. If you see any lying around, pick up a few and plant them in some moist potting compost. They're fairly easy to germinate, but you'll need a little patience – palms aren't exactly the Phuket airport taxis of the plant world.

Christmas without snow and mistletoe? No problem – we've got the beaches and 34°C. I'll take that any day. Merry Christmas.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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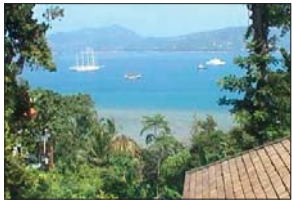
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Property Gazette

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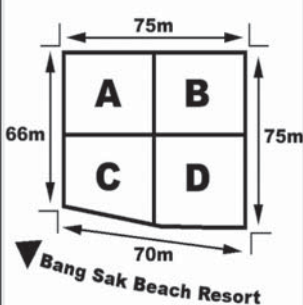
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Property Gazette

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Credit Coordinator

- ▶ Must be able to work accurately
- ▶ Good command of written and spoken English.
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any relevant field

Interested applicants please submit your resumé /CV to
employment@hoteltravel.com
 or call 076-282808 Khun Wiparat for further information

WEB / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Important Phuket company is looking for: Web designer, graphic designer or IT professional.

Important: must be able to speak English well!

Please contact for more information or to apply.
 Tel: 07-6281510. Fax: 07-6280775. Email: daniel@informaticplus.com

SECRETARY NEEDED

1. Good spoken & written English.
 2. Computer skills in Outlook, Word, Excel and Internet Explorer.
 3. Some accounting skills.
 4. Friendly personality essential.
 5. Female, age 23-30 years.
- Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-273-379, 09-4741246. Fax: 076-273379. Email: nid@octopusasia.com

GOOD ENGLISH

essential. Thai lady required; 20-30 years old; excellent at reading, writing and speaking English; hard worker; good organizer; own transport; some computer knowledge; possibly sales or construction background; smart appearance. Varied work involving property, construction and villa management. Not office-based. Patong, Kathu, Chalong, Kamala areas. Good salary, plus commission. Tel: 06-6866166.



Dive Supply Co., Ltd.

Is looking to recruit for the following positions at our new head office in Chalong:

- 2x Sales Representative for diving equipment sales
- 1x Secretary/Receptionist
- 1x Accounting Assistant

- All positions for Thai nationals 25 years and up
- Salary range from 12,000 to 20,000 baht depending on experience, knowledge and competency
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Excellent telephone skills

If you think this is you,
 please contact;
 Khun Pen 076/342511 or send email to
 info@divesupply.com

Tai Pan

We require the following staff for our new fitness spa and restaurant opening soon in central Patong.

Restaurant

1. FIRST COOK
2. COOKS
3. KITCHEN ASSISTANTS
4. CASHIERS
5. BARTENDERS
6. WAITERS

General

7. MAINTENANCE MAN
8. OVERNIGHT CLEANERS

All positions require a minimum of 3yrs' experience

Tel: K. Vichit 06 7855378

SECRETARY NEEDED

Marine engineering company, internationally directed, needs a Thai national with a good command of English. Duties: internal accounting, handling travel arrangements, visa applications, work permits, HR. Full-time 9-5, with flexi-hours, as we operate 24/7. Tel: 076-344758. Fax: 076-344759. Email: intec3@phuket.ksc.co.th



ASSISTANT WANTED

The ideal Candidate will be / have

Young Thai National
 male / female

Good English
 communication skills

Genuine photography &
 Photoshop interest
 (experience would be beneficial)

Ability to learn new skills

Enthusiastic and self
 motivated team player

Position offers good future
 prospects and rewards for the
 selected candidate. Please
 apply in writing with CV.
 Fax to 076-292773, or email:
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 www.helicam-asia.com

MAGAZINE DESIGNER

Freelance Thai magazine designer required part-time for new projects at publishers big island media. Creative style essential. English, computer skills useful. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 076-236836, 09-6472731. Email: bigislandmedia@yahoo.com

SALES ASSISTANT

Female Thai national, must speak good English, good basic salary + bonus. Full-time & long-term (not seasonal), start immediately. Pls call Jack for an interview. Tel: 05-1128795, 09-7480782.

NANNY WANTED

Full-time English speaking nanny required for 2 children, also some cleaning. Room and bike supplied. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-0090404.

NANNY NEEDED

9am to 5pm, looking after two 2½ -year-old children. Must speak good English. Good salary. Pls call for more info. Tel: 09-7480782, 01-6546100.

1 COOK

2 waitresses wanted. 2 Vikings restaurant wants to employ 1 cook and 2 waitresses. Contact 2 Vikings. Tel: 07-9848163. Email: gymworld@loxinfo.co.th

A MAID

& a gardener wanted. An English-Thai family are looking for a maid/nanny and a gardener/handyman. Live-in or out. English-speakers preferred. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com

SECRETARY

Junior Secretary required for an international Real Estate office. Good English and computer skills necessary. Please fax or email CV. Tel: 076-270376, 09-8733564. Fax: 076-271193. Email: lagunaphuket@exotiquealestate.com For further details, please see our website at: www.exotiquealestate.com

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Agents for Classified Advertising

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Tel: 076-280400/3

NAVA Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town

Tel: 076-232398/9

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket Town

Tel: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076 344521-2

Ala Carte

Kamala main road, Cherno Talay

Tel: 076-278019

PHANG NGA

Maew Internet Shop, Khao Lak

Tel: 076-420627

Avalon Creative Group Co Ltd, Khao Lak

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The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City
 Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

Island Job Mart

The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

- ▶ Thai, age 23 up
- ▶ Bachelor's degree or higher (in any field)
- ▶ Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- ▶ Must have a car driver's license
- ▶ Accounting experience would be an advantage, but the Gazette is willing to provide training for a novice with good interpersonal skills and unquestioned honesty

II. Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works, and a keen interest in sports. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car drivers license.

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
- ▶ Creative and hard working

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, 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: mem@phuketgazette.net

Urgently required

Shop Manager

- ▶ A good command of English (spoken & read).
- ▶ Working or training experience in management or sales.
- ▶ Computer knowledge

For more information please contact
Khun Tom Tel: 04-8437030

HOTEL IN PATONG

The Hilltop Hotel, at No 24 on 50 Pi Rd in Patong, is looking for staff to work in all positions in the kitchen, restaurant and bar. Call 076-296787 between 8 am and midnight.

PROPERTY SCOUT

Real estate broker urgently requires a Thai person with good English to follow up property and land listings. Must know Phuket Island and have transport. Good salary plus commission. Tel: 076-280805. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siamrealestate.com

ADMIN STAFF

wanted. 3 computer literate (MS Office) administrators with accounting skills and some English-language ability wanted for Khao Lak, Koh Samui and Koh Tao. Tel: 09-8145532. Email: ayaspa55@hotmail.com

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We are the No 1 importer of an advanced water-treatment technology from America that can be used in every swimming pool to reduce or eliminate chlorine or other chemicals. It is able to purify pool water to drinking-water standards. Areas available: Bangkok, Phuket, Samui, Khao Lak, Hua Hin. Applicants must have some knowledge of swimming pools, be able to speak English, have computer skills and be prepared to travel. Positions are open to males and females. Applicants must have own transport and telephone. Product knowledge and training will be provided. If you have the ability and the desire to succeed then we would like to hear from you. Please contact Malcolm David Wood (International Marketing Manager) at Tel: 01-8920320 or email a resum with a recent photo for consideration. Email: asiatech@mail2world.com

Employment Wanted

JOB WANTED

Thai man with Swedish-, English-, and Thai-language skills, and international experience, can help your business grow. Please call or email with details. Tel: 01-3081026. Email: jayphuket@hotmail.com

SEEKING HOTEL

work. Korean male, 34, with good computer skills (Mac and PC) and knowledge of graphic tools (PhotoShop, Illustrator), wishes to work in a hotel as PR, AD or Customer Service Manager. I speak Korean, English and Thai. Email: gagicon@freechal.com

SEEKING COMPUTER

job. Thai male with 4 years' experience in computer support is seeking job in Phuket. Can design, configure and install network WAN, LAN, Wireless LAN, G.VDSL, NAT, firewall, proxy, Web server, mail server, disaster, clustering, IPTable, maintenance system. Also hardware repairs; software installation and de-bugging; and Web programing. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 66-66915209. Email: lertnoparat@hotmail.com



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Wooden upright piano, good condition, burgundy color, made by Schafer & Sons. Pls call Paulin for more info. Tel: 01-8923709.

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2x direct-drive turntables, 1x mixer, all leads, small selection of records ideal for a small bar/disco-theque. Can see working. Price 14,000 baht. Pls call Marc for more info. Tel: 07-2658330.

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9'x9', some have side covers, portable. Price: 1,500-2,500 baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 09-5944067.

RESTAURANT

supplies. Stools, register, stereo, etc. Pls call for details. Tel: 07-8934960.

USED OFFICE

equipment. Aircon Saijo Denki 26,000 BTU, used 6 months: 23,000 baht, show-case. VIRA AIR 20,000 BTU: 12,000 baht. Tel: 01-893-1739.

ROYAL-CLASS

rattan furniture, opposite Phuket Shooting Range in Chalong. Now 10% discount. Tel: 076-280415, 09-725 5194.

MOBILE AIRCON

1 year old, never used, excellent condition. 3,500 baht. Tel: 076-346258. Email: waraporn_team@hotmail.com

Articles Wanted

FISHING EQUIPMENT

wanted. Penn 30 or 50 with matching rods. May consider other trolling equipment. Pls call K.Dao. Tel: 01-894-5012.

MEAT SLICER

I'm looking for a secondhand meat slicer in immaculate condition. Please contact me. Tel: 078-960790, 07-8960790. Email: psaunter@hotmail.com

LP TURNTABLE

I wish to buy a turntable for LP and SP records. It has to be in very good condition. Please call or email with offers. Tel: 076-264520. Email: goran.crnla@gmail.com

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Fully Equipped
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29-foot fiberglass motor yacht with Thai registration. 2 x 280hp Mercruiser engines. Price: 3.5 million baht ono. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

27-FOOT BOAT FOR SALE



British-built, 27ft aluminum commercial or recreational boat, with Perkins 80hp marine engine. 1.5 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 07-265-9977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

34FT SAILBOAT

Thai registered, 1995 Australian-built, 34ft sailing boat. Steel hull, GPS, depth sounder, radios, complete refit in May 2004. Ready to sail. 1.9 million baht. Photos available. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-8927847. Email: colonapt@loxinfo.co.th

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Bulletins

Archery

We are exploring the possibility of a small Archery Club on Phuket.

Interested latent Robin Hoods, with or without experience, should contact . . .

archery@lagunaphuket.com
or telephone Little John at 076 271 006

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City
Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong
Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
01 273 2053 and 07 279 5636.

Business Opportunities

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with good design and people skills needed to take over a reputable, Thailand-based web design company founded in 1998. If you are a friendly person who is clever, fast and knows his stuff, you could have a ready-to-run business plus clients in your hands today! Price and conditions will be discussed during an interview. Only serious enquiries will be considered. Tel: 076-423745, 01-2739279. Fax: 076-423745. Email: info@avaloncreations.com For further details, please see our website at: www.avalon-webdesign.com

MASSAGE SHOP
for sale. Good location at Patong Beach, 60% local customers, easy to run. Rent is 15,000 baht/month. Pls contact for more information. Tel: 01-7356684, 04-1871939.

INVESTORS WANTED
Danish grillhouse chain seeks investors on a franchise basis. We currently have 3 shops running, two in Patong, one in Karon. Franchise concept amount is 350,000 baht. We are looking for franchisees in Kata, Kamala, Phuket City and Krabi. Pls contact Mr Kim Kristiansen Tel: 076-344900, 06-2989500. Email: la@grillhousedk.com or visit www.grillhousedk.com for more info.

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BUNGALOW RESORT
in Chalong with 9-year lease for sale at 1.5 million baht. Pls call for more information. Tel: 09-0385184.

BAR FOR SALE

Large, successful, established bar in soi off Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, sound system plus all fittings. Tel: 06-2832285.

TOUR OFFICE

for sale. Travel and tours with translation service & language training. Located in Rawai-Saiyuan, for sale at 350,000 baht. Pls call K. Nok for more details. Tel: 06-0960414.

PUB FOR SALE

Pub with live music every night. Good location, good business. Call for details. 395,000 baht. Tel: 07-8977249. Email tipriya@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

Near Naiharn Beach, includes accommodation. Long-term lease, price is 600,000 baht, rent is 25,000 baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 09-289-2297.

TAILOR SHOP

for sale. Good location on Patong Beach, cheap rent. Pls contact K. Yupa for more info. Tel: 01-7356684, 04-1871939.

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1 year old in Soi Bangla, Patong. 3-year lease. Personal reason for sale. 1.65 million baht ono. Tel: 06-1371206.

100% FUNDING

for startup or business expansion. Private investor funds. US\$ 1 million-25 million. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-9752326. Email: siam_int@msn.com

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ANDAMAN SEA

Kayak. Phuket A&K Reisen Co Ltd. (Andaman Sea Kayak) ISO 9001:2000 certified. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-235353, 01-6932945. Fax: 076-235098. Email: andamaseakayak@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.andamaseakayak.com

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Wanted: pretty lady to accompany me on holidays in Phuket. If you are interested, please email pic and short message to me at: west_956@hotmail.com

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27-year-old Thai tutor looking for students. Private instruction only. Please call. Tel: 01-9700859 Email: speakgoodthai@hotmail.com

Personals

ENGLISH-SPEAKING

Thai lady. I am a 45-year-old European man living in Phuket. I would like to meet a nice English-speaking Thai family lady (25 to 35) for a long-term relationship or marriage. No bar girls or money honey. If interested, email me with your photo and phone number. Email: euroman20@hotmail.com

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Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

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I am a farang, age 32, and live in Puket. My life is here now. I am secure, but there is just one thing missing. If you are in your 20s and respectable, BUT also have a big sense of fun and humor, please send me your photo and tell me about yourself. I speak pretty good Thai and don't care what your work is or what class you are. It is your heart and mind I'm interested in. Hope to hear from you soon. PS If you like to drink, that would be great. Not every day, but just sometimes! Email: kondeow@yahoo.co.uk

PRETTY EDUCATED

Thai lady. Looking to meet pretty, educated Thai lady for friendship and dating. Not over 28 years of age. No children please. Email: rogerthai@hotmail.com

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