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## IN THIS ISSUE

**NEWS:** The first days after the tsunami: special reports and pictures. **Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** Survivors' stories. **Pages 4 & 5**

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** If you knew sushi... **Page 6**

**AROUND THE REGION:** Italians restaurant takeover. **Page 8**

**PEOPLE:** From Hong Kong to Phuket for Leslie Bird. **Pages 10 & 11**

**LIFESTYLE:** An odd couple of choices in Ear Candy; Magarita time. **Page 12 & 13**

**STOOL PIGEON:** The bird feathers his nest. **Page 17**

**FIRST PERSON:** Decentralize to thrive. **Page 19**

**BUSINESS & MONEY:** Boat brokers; Money Talks; On the Move. **Page 21**

**SPORT:** Diving; Darts; Prime Minister's Cup football; Under-13s football challenge. **Pages 22 & 23**

**GOOD LIVING:** A moving meal at Regatta. **Page 24**

**PROPERTY:** The blossoming Orchid; Home of the Week: Kathu; Doven meets David, Simister, that is. **Pages 25, 26 & 27**

**GARDENING:** Bloomin' Bert pledges his allegiance. **Page 28**

## PLUS

**AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; THAILAND TRAVELER 14; KIDS 15; LAW, HOROSCOPES 16; TOON TOWN 17; EDITORIAL & LETTERS 18; ISSUES & ANSWERS 19; BOOKS, COMPUTERS 20; WINE 24; CLASSIFIEDS 29-35.**

## Relief effort begins

Millions of baht in aid and support are on their way to Phuket and her neighboring provinces as work starts to repair the havoc wreaked by last Sunday's tsunami.

Within 48 hours of the disaster – when the death toll stood at around 1,000 and more than 7,500 people were recorded as injured – companies across Thailand were donating goods and services to the victims.

National carrier Thai Airways International (THAI) carried medical staff from Bangkok to Phuket, the injured and bereaved from Phuket to Bangkok, and transported the bodies of the deceased for free. Four other Thai commercial airlines on Tuesday also launched free flights for the afflicted.

THAI sent staff from its Family Assistance and Support Team – trained in counseling – to Phuket International Airport to assist and support traumatized passengers, while hundreds of volunteers provided similar assistance at all the hospitals on the island.

Donations of food, water, clothes and survival kits were pledged, along with at least a million baht in cash from various sources, while the CAT and Advanced Info Service (AIS) offered free mobile phones and phone calls, as well as free domestic and international calls.

Most poignant of all was Tuesday's announcement from the Poh Teck Tung foundation that it was donating 600 coffins to the effort.

The Finance Ministry announced that charity contributions would qualify for full tax relief, while the government threatened to punish companies found to be hiking their prices to profit from the misery.

But in Phuket, Tourism Council of Thailand President

**SAVED:** Safe in the arms of a nurse is 20-month-old Hannes Bergstrom, from Sweden.

Hannes was later reunited with his father and grandparents, after relatives in Finland saw his photograph on the *Gazette* website and contacted his uncle, who lives in Pattaya.

His mother, Susanne, was still missing at the time of going to press.



Vichit Na Ranong called on the government to expedite assistance.

"It's too early to estimate the total cost of the damage, but we must begin the clean-up as soon as possible," he said on Tuesday. "We can't afford to wait for three months. The government must move faster – not just with financial assistance, but also in putting people and equipment to work removing debris and restoring the environment."

"I don't think the general clean-up will take a long time, but to redevelop the resorts to their former beauty will take longer. We should strive to make the island even more attractive than it was before the disaster,"

said K. Vichit, a hotelier and former Phuket Senator.

The Association of Thai Travel Agents estimated that the tsunami will cost the provinces most affected – Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Satun, Ranong, Songkhla and Surat Thani – at least 30 billion baht in loss of tourism revenue alone – before the cost of cleaning up and repairing the damage.

Napasorn Kakai, Assistant Director of the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), on Tuesday said that more than 200 beach hotels and resorts at the most popular beaches, including Patong, Kata and Karon, and with a total of 3,000 rooms – are too damaged to be open.

In Patong, where businesses and hotels along Thaweewong Rd were demolished by the tidal wave, the municipality on Tuesday approved a 20-million-baht budget to begin clean-up operations.

Mayor Pian Keesin backed K. Vichit's calls for more help from the central government, saying, "I think the central government should provide us with special budgets to fix roads and damaged utilities, such as the power supply system."

A United Nations-coordinated international relief effort was also announced on Tuesday, but at time of going to press it was not clear how much money or aid would be directed to Phuket.



# Island icon Rawut dies of heart attack



Sor Wongnui, K. Rawut's driver of 37 years, holds up two photos of the late MP. K. Sor kept the photos in his wallet at all times.

## Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Former Phuket MP Rawut Chindapol is dead of a heart attack at age 47.

The Phuket native was famous for leading the resistance to a tantalum factory on the island decades ago, leading a crowd that burned the factory to the ground in 1985.

He was also the owner of the Naithon Beach Resort and a Member of Parliament from 1986 to 1991, first with the now-defunct Palang Mai Party and then with the Chart Thai Party.

K. Rawut suffered a heart attack at his hotel about 2 pm on December 19, and was rushed by Sor Wongnui, his driver of 37 years, to Thalang Hospital, losing consciousness on the way.

He was later transferred to Bangkok Phuket Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at about 7 pm.

K. Sor, 55, told the *Gazette* that K. Rawut had been fine in the morning when they went shopping at Tesco-Lotus together.

"I had heard that he sometimes suffered chest pains and had difficulty breathing, but he didn't see it as serious and never went to see a doctor about it," he said, adding that K. Rawut had given up both smoking and drinking alcohol some 15 years ago.

Many friends and well-wishers went to pay their last respects to K. Rawut at Bangkok Phuket Hospital, where his body will be kept until his cremation ceremony early in the new year.



## In Brief

**KHAO LAK:** A grandson of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was among those killed when tidal waves smashed into southern Thailand.

The body of Bhumi Jensen, 21, was found at the resort of Khao Lak, in Phang Nga province, about 100 meters away from where he was last seen before the waves hit.

**PHUKET:** Wachira Phuket Hospital appealed for blood donors, especially those with rare blood types, such as rhesus negative, or Rh-, types.

The hospital, and others on the island, collected donations of food, clothes and toiletries for people – locals and tourists – who lost their belongings, while volunteers headed for the hospitals and other places where tsunami victims had gathered – such as Phuket Provincial Hall – to translate for bewildered visitors.

Muslim community leaders appealed for donations of white sheets for Muslim dead to be buried in.

**BANGKOK:** The Tourism Ministry supplied more than 1,000 rooms in Bangkok to accommodate foreign tourists whose hotels in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi were destroyed.

Domestic airlines arranged special flights to send foreign tourists from the three provinces to Bangkok. All costs were to be shouldered by the ministry.

**PHUKET CITY:** Fishermen who lost their boats – and livelihoods – are to receive a minimum of 12,000 baht each in aid from the government, Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Newin Chidchob said when he visited Phuket.

In addition, fishermen will also be given a one-year moratorium on repayments on subsistence loans provided by the Department of Fisheries.

If the compensation plan is approved by the government, the money should come through very early in 2005.

**PHUKET:** Phuket businesses that escaped the worst ef-

fects of the tsunami were those which rely on the sea for business: the Yacht Haven and Boat Lagoon marinas.

Gus Overman, general manager of Yacht Haven-based Tawan Cruises, said, "The water level went up, then the water went down very quickly; there were current streams and the water moved around a lot, but there wasn't much damage at all. I was told something similar happened at Boat Lagoon."

A **TSUNAMI** – from the Japanese *tsu* meaning harbor and *nami* meaning wave – is the result of a landslide, a (sub-marine) volcanic eruption or an earthquake. The latter, caused by a subduction of the Indian and Burma plates where they meet – called the Andaman Thrust – resulted in the Magnitude 9 earthquake on Sunday, December 26.

The effect of a tsunami will be influenced by the relative tidal height of the sea at the coastal area where impact occurs.

One factor that affected the strength of the earthquake just off the northern coast of Sumatra was the depth at which it occurred, which was a "shallow" depth of just 10 kilometers below the seabed.

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# Counting the cost

**P**huket – and, with a few exceptions, Thailand in general – has never suffered in this way before, and a fascination with statistics – the dead and the missing, the rebuild cost and possible damage to the economy – fails to take into account the effect on people.

Ahead of us in the queue into Patong Hospital are three trucks, one military and two civilian, each carrying an estimated 40 empty coffins still in their plastic wrapping. Young soldiers begin unloading the coffins.

Beside the car park, which is crammed with pickup-trucks and tuk-tuks full of donations of food, clothing and toiletries, carpenters are hastily assembling makeshift coffins from plywood.

These are all still empty, but some 50 or so in the underground car park, and just outside the mortuary, are full.

Other young soldiers and hospital staff as well as volunteers, begin the task of transferring corpses into the caskets.

Photographs of ID cards, jewelry – and the deceased – are on each coffin.

Folders full of photographs of the deceased are being pored over by anxious relatives and friends.

The images are harrowing; post-mortem photos always are. A weary-looking maternity nurse, wearing a pink gown, hands a photo-folder of children to a young mother before handing us paper masks.

It is hot today, very hot, and I will never again complain about

the stink of garbage or sewers in Patong.

The nurse tells us that she and her colleagues have been working around the clock since Sunday and expect to do so for the foreseeable future.

Through a doorway, I see six motionless figures on the floor. One stirs; this is the ad-hoc rest area for exhausted staff, and then the hospital director walks past carrying polystyrene boxes of food for some of his personnel.

People are calm, and apart from one young woman in tears, there is little in the way of visible signs of emotion. The Thai *jai yen* or “cool heart” approach is holding them together.

The nurse tells us that they are holding 155 bodies but “more are on their way”. Some 60 of the bodies at Patong Hospital are those of foreigners but most – for now – are Thais.

The media from around the world are focusing – naturally – on the dead from their countries. There is a risk, however, that Thais may end up as the forgotten of this disaster.

They were working on the beaches setting up their sun-loungers, organizing food stalls and preparing their bags and trays of trinkets to sell to tourists. Some were bargirls on their way back home, tailor's touts on their

way to work or tuk-tuk drivers out looking for a fare.

Many of them would not have been registered as living in Phuket, their names may never be known, and there may be no-one to grieve for them.

Cynicism about Thailand is easy to develop, but at this time, with what seems like the entire island – foreigners and Thais alike – pulling together, my faith is restored.

– Andy Johnstone

Clockwise from top left: Anxious friends and relatives gather at Phuket Provincial Hall, searching for news of loved ones.

Makeshift coffins are readied at Patong Hospital.

Chaos at Koh Sireh Bridge.

(On page 2) Devastation at Kamala.



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With overburdened landline and mobile phone services already useless, *Gazette* columnist Woody Leonhard managed to send an email to the *Gazette* from his home in Patong, just minutes after the first wave hit.

He said: "A giant wave went up the beach, at least as far up as the beach road. We've had ambulances coming by for about five minutes. People are running from the beach as fast as they can. The beach is devastated..."

There were a lot of people on the beach, [and they were] swept away by the wave. The beach is covered in broken wood now."

*Kjell Sköld, of Gothenburg, Sweden, was with his wife, Bibi, and children Stephanie, seven, and 10-year-old Sebastian, in a beach bungalow at the Andaman Bay Resort, Bang Tao Beach.*

He said, "The seawater went out then came back in very, very quickly, taking everything with it."

When the water came into the bungalow, we put everything on the beds ... all the windows were closed, so the water kept pushing everything up to the roof.

It pushed us up to the roof, then the roof came off and we floated away.

Afterward we got Stephanie to safety in a taller, stronger building, but Sebastian was missing.

We found him a few minutes later, in a tree. He'd been swept there by the flood. I really can't put into words what it feels like to be missing your son.

We're on holiday for three weeks and this was our fourth day. We're supposed to be going to Koh Lanta tonight, but this small backpack is all we have now."

**Swede Marie Holmberg, her husband Henrik and her parents Denis and Gun Larsson went to see the chaos caused by the the first wave to hit Karon Beach, but found themselves caught up in the second one.**

"We were standing there taking pictures and the water started coming back, faster and faster, so we started to run away but my parents didn't run fast enough, and it caught them.

They were hit by debris floating in the water.

"We tried to get a tuk-tuk, but – for once – none would stop, they just drove past as fast as they could.

We walked back to our hotel and got a car to a clinic, and the clinic sent us here, to Phuket International Hospital. My father's injured toe doesn't look very good at all."

# Survivors'

December 26, 2004 will be a day long remembered in Phuket and the surrounding provinces; it was the day a tsunami hit the region, killing thousands of people and injuring thousands more.

What happened that day can best be described by the people who were there, by those who experienced or witnessed the devastation. Here are their stories.



Paul "Bez" Berridge, is co-owner of the popular Amigos Bar on Soi Sea Dragon in Patong. He said, "[Soi] Bangla is a wreck. All the bars are flooded out and there's no electricity or running water."

Expat Briton Frances Wood was feeding stray dogs at a temple near the Reggae Bar at Nai Harn Beach when the first two waves struck. She said, "Suddenly, all these people came down the road in a rush.

They said something about a big wave, but we thought it was nothing more than just a big ordinary wave, but we turned round and looked towards the beach and there was this wall of water; it would have been over the tops of the trees that used to be there.

I jumped into my vehicle and went home, got my dogs and as many of my neighbors as I could and drove to the Kata viewpoint.

We stayed there a couple of hours then I went home. I live a

Vehicles were thrown by the force of the waters like child's playthings, a familiar scene island-wide.

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# stories

*couple of kilometers inland, and people drinking at Mimmi's, near where I live, didn't know a thing about the wave, nor did my neighbors.*

*The only police I saw, though, were two motorcycle policemen on the way to the viewpoint, and I met people there who weren't impressed. They said it had crossed their minds that in the event of a terrorist attack, they wouldn't feel too secure."*

**Sirikorn Johnstone was on a boating trip, a treat for staff of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. She said, "There were two boats and I missed the first one because I stopped to help a man who had dropped his bag and belongings.**

**We were on the way to the Similan Islands when the sea changed color to a yellowy blue. Straightaway, the captain said we were turning back, but then the boat in front just "disappeared" below the sea.**

**There were 14 people on board and everything just disappeared. There were no bodies, nothing.**

**After about three hours we were rescued by the Royal Thai Navy. There were about 30 boats, all waiting to put passengers on the navy ship, but some of the bigger speedboats were forcing smaller boats out of the way, so their passengers could get on first.**

**The navy threatened to use force against them, though, and they stopped, so we could get on board. The ship took us to Phang Nga."**

Chalermkiat Ongjarean is chairman of the Kusonlatham Foundation, a voluntary organization that takes injured people to hospital and recovers dead bodies. He said, "Between 10 am on December 26 and mid-afternoon on December 27, I had three hours' sleep.

We have had 40 staff and 60 volunteers – Thais and foreigners – working round the clock recovering dead and injured people. I've been working mainly in Patong.

I would say most of the dead did not die from drowning but from being hit by large, heavy objects.

I have never experienced a day like December 26, nor has Phuket."

Boontham Nillapong was with his parents and the handful of items they grabbed from their home in the Sansuk community, near Saphan Hin, as they fled the wave.

He said, "I went to the temple, but when I got home, I found the neighborhood under water. I got into the house, though, and managed to grab my dog, who was floating on the water on a mat.

*I was very afraid when the*



The scene outside Patong Hospital the day after, with coffins stacked ready to be used.

*neighbors told me their houses were already gone or so full of water they could not return.*

*More than 100 houses have gone, and some of the neighbors fled to higher ground.*

*My house is destroyed; I can't live there any more. All I could grab were the clothes hanging in front of the house.*

*It took a long time to get away, though, because so many other people were trying to flee too. The water rose and fell again while we were trying to get out.*

*It happened without any real warning."*

**Sun, a teenage girl, who was among scores of residents who sought sanctuary inland in Phuket City, had been unable to contact her father in the hours after the first wave struck.**

**She said, "I saw my dad's fishing boat being hammered by the water; they [the fishermen] were all in the sea.**

**I couldn't phone my dad and I don't know where he is now."**

**I was involved in treating people following the [1996] Port Arthur Massacre in Tasmania but never something of this magnitude, with hundreds of casualties."**

One woman who fled with her two young daughters to the temporary shelter at Phuket Provincial Hall said, "I took my daughters from our home on Koh Sireh because I was too afraid to stay there.

"I don't want to go home. The bridge from Phuket to Koh Sireh was hit by fishing boats, which had been swept along by the tide, and it's nearly broken."

Kunthika Saengnak, a public relations officer for the Club

Andaman Beach Resort in Patong, said, "The wave came off the beach and right into the hotel. A lot of guests were crying. It was awful, but worst of all was that the phone system was dead, so I was unable to contact anyone for help."

**Pol Col Teeraphol Thipcharoen is superintendent of Kathu Police Station. He said, "My officers said they felt some kind of vibration as they finished their regular parade at 8 am.**

**Then we heard from the**

**police at the beaches that the sea was ebbing further and further away. People were curious and went to take a look, then, at around 10 am, they saw a wave as high as a hill rushing towards the shore.**

**They ran away; some got away but some didn't and they were lost in the water. The water hit the buildings, cars, boats and people, and it wasn't long before the next wave came in.**

**The water ran along the blocks of the sois to the secondary roads, and shops were swept away.**

**People who stayed in their hotel rooms were safe, but not those on the beach."**

Peter Davison is Manager of International Services at Phuket International Hospital. He said on December 27, "I probably had about four hours' sleep last night, so I'm very tired now.

Our staff have been absolutely wonderful. They've been working double shifts, staying on at the end of their shifts, coming back on after their shifts.

I was involved in treating people following the [1996] Port Arthur Massacre in Tasmania [where 35 people were shot dead] but never something of this magnitude, with hundreds of casualties."

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By Stephen Fein

For those who find themselves falling into a culinary rut, a new dimension has been added to Phuket's dining with the opening of the Oishi Japanese Buffet Restaurant, on the ground floor of the Index Living Mall, on the bypass road in Phuket City.

I have always found Japanese rather inaccessible and even frightening at times – after all, they eat pufferfish, don't they? Past experience had also taught me that a buffet table can bring out some of the very worst in human behavior, from gluttony and slobbery to jostling for position like pigs at a feeding trough.

So I wasn't sure quite what to expect from my first-ever Japanese buffet. But all the while, the Homer Simpson side of my brain kept calling out to me: "Hmm... all the raw fish and squid you eat..." I had to give it a try.

Oishi was a pleasant surprise. The first thing that struck me was just how clean, orderly and highly sanitary the whole operation was. Next came the mind-boggling selection. Oishi is divided into a number of different sections. Some of these, such as the *Teppan Yaki* (grilled food) area, allow the diner to select the food that will be cooked by the restaurant's many specialty cooks. The *Teppan Yaki* selection alone probably offers more dishes than many restaurants offer in total – but it's only one of more than 10 sections at Oishi.

Kinoko and Nima Shitake mushrooms, beef in Korean sauce, prawns, salmon, Saba *sashimi*, US beef, *yaki-mono* mixed grill – it wasn't easy to decide what to eat when everything looked so appetizing – and there was no way one could try it all.

After choosing, I used tongs to place the food to be cooked on a plate. The finished product, prepared to my exact specifications, was then delivered piping hot to my table by one of the many attentive service staff.

The same system was used for stir-fried and steamed foods. One selection, "ice fish", was featured in the December promotion. It was a bizarre looking creature indeed, and its strange appeal was even further accen-

The range of dishes to choose from at Oishi is enormous, with diners choosing each item to be prepared by the army of cooks on hand, exactly how each diner prefers.



# Succulent surprises

tuated when the staff told me it came from the North Pole, where it somehow eked out a living underneath the polar ice cap – or at least it did, until it was somehow plucked from its icy domain and transported, still fresh, all the way to a buffet tray in tropical Phuket.

Rather than ponder how they catch ice fish (nuclear submarines pulling nets, perhaps?), or the environmental implications thereof, I decided to order one. I chose for mine to be steamed to preserve as much of the texture and flavor of the fish as possible. It was a wise choice, because the flavor is very subtle and the flesh truly unique – white and very firm, more like a crustacean than a fish. With just a few drops of soya sauce and some stir-fried broccoli, asparagus and Chinese cabbage on the side, it was a perfect starter.

For those seeking to expand

their gastronomic boundaries, Oishi is without doubt worth trying out. Frogs, enormous squid and octopus, Alaskan king crab and tray upon tray of *sushi* and *sashimi*, all laid out in such colorfully attractive rows that one actually feels guilty about marring the sushi chef's meticulous arrangement by removing a piece.

There are over 200 items on the Oishi menu, about 100 of which are available on any given day. Then there are monthly promotions, which for January will be fish from the North Atlantic.

General Manager Kongsak Chunharatchaphan said the restaurant is operated on a franchise basis by Phuket-based investors the Andaman Group, and is the first Oishi outside Bangkok, where there are eight.

Oishi in Phuket is also unique because while the set price of 499 baht (before the twin terror taxes are applied) includes "all-you-can-eat", they do apply a slight charge – about 30 baht – when customers take food and then fail to eat it. This, he said,



One of the first things diners will notice at Oishi is how clean, orderly and highly sanitary the whole operation is.

was to prevent waste – from guests whose appetites are bigger than their stomachs. Not a bad strategy, because that will likely include just about every customer that walks through the Oishi door and catches a glimpse of their sumptuous buffet.

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# Senate calls for Tak Bai compensation

**T**he Senate Social Development and Human Security Committee called on the government to compensate the families of victims of the Tak Bai protest and to bring to justice the officials responsible for the deaths of at least 85 unarmed protesters.

In its report submitted to the government, the committee said the negligence and carelessness of the security officers in charge of forces had resulted in the deaths of at least 85 people.

Committee chairman Dr Niran Pitakwatchara said the authorities had to deal with the officers in charge in accordance with the Thai Penal Code.

The report said security officials intentionally fired live rounds into the crowd, killing seven protesters. Moreover, the transfer of 1,300 protesters who were piled on top of one another in transport vehicles resulted in the deaths of 78 people. This was not only a violation of human rights, but also a gross violation of the law, they concluded.

**Panderers punished:** The Southern Bangkok Criminal Court sentenced Jiri Kolmanto, a Swiss national, to two years in prison and a 8,000-baht fine for having sex with an underage girl. The court also sentenced three Thai women to five years and one-month imprisonment each for procuring an underage girl for sex.

The four were arrested at a Bangkok hotel in June. The court reduced the jail sentence for the women from eight years, citing their "helpful testimonies" in the trial.

**Bus death:** The family of Assumption University student Piyathida Chotemanas, who died in September after falling from a



**SOBER MESSAGE:** Presenters act out the arrest of a "drunk driver" during a press conference to publicize a joint public-private campaign against drunk driving.

public bus, has filed a 12-million-baht civil suit against six defendants from the company that operated the bus and the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority, which granted the concession.

K. Piyathida hit her head on the pavement on Ramkhamhaeng Rd in Bangkok after she fell from a No 207 bus while standing near the exit. The bus doors failed to shut while the bus was in motion.

The damages sought are based on what K. Piyathida could have been expected to earn over 20 years, plus funeral expenses. The Civil Court will rule on April 11 if the case has cause for a judicial review.

**Film ratings:** Local film-makers welcomed Cabinet support of a draft bill to reshape the film industry with the introduction of a rating system, but movie indus-

try insiders want to see how the system works before they hail it.

"It's good news, but we have to wait and see who will be on the board that sets the rating rules," said Surasak Sunpituk-

saree of the Federation of National Films Association of Thailand.

If approved by Parliament, the bill will introduce a rating system and effectively end a cen-

sorship policy that has long been seen as obstructing film-makers' creativity as well as restricting moviegoers' freedom to enjoy the art of film-making.

The bill calls for the establishment of a National Film Policy and Planning Board to issue guidelines and rules about the rating system and set up a committee to evaluate films.

**Bad choice:** A self-confessed burglar who allegedly stole more than 10-million-bahts' worth of property over the past few months saw his crime spree come to an abrupt end after he broke into the home of the Prime Minister's nephew, Surawat Shinawatra, stealing over 1 million baht in valuables.

Police discovered items that had been stolen from K. Surawat's house in several pawnshops in Pathum Thani. They used documents to track down the thief, 35-year-old Pairoj Boonruang, who was arrested in Bangkok.

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



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# Mamma mia! More Italian restaurants

To say that development in Ao Nang is booming would be an understatement, as testified by the many returning tourists who are stunned at the changes that have taken place here over the past few years. Many of these remark on all the new shops, restaurants and construction projects dominating the Ao Nang landscape.

As it is hard to keep track of all the new businesses, I have put together a list of what's new in Ao Nang for this high season. One of the things that strikes returning tourists, apart from having a tailor shop on every corner, is the number of Italian restaurants.

Not long ago, I wrote a tongue-in-cheek article about how Ao Nang was poised to become the next Little Italy. At the time, I thought the town had already reached its saturation point with a dozen Italian restaurants.

How wrong I was. Not only has the trend continued, it is accelerating. No fewer than six new Italian restaurants will open in Ao Nang this season, with a num-

ber of Thai restaurants posting signs for pizza, pasta and sa-paggetti.

This situation is almost comical, except to those Italians who are trying to offer genuine Italian cuisine. These include: Babylon Pizza and Steak Restaurant; Coliseum 1 and Coliseum 2, its sister restaurant across the street; La Panza; and Pasta-Pizza.

There are also some new venues on the island where you can't get a pizza, however.

Dean's 2 Restaurant: Offers Swedish specialties and can be found 100 meters past McDonald's, on the right hand side as you leave the beach.

Dr Somboon Clinic: You no longer have to travel to Krabi Town for your minor aches and pains. Open early mornings and evenings to treat common tourist maladies: sunburns, stomach-aches, scrapes from motorbike mishaps.

Jeanette's: Jeanette Gron-dahl has opened her new restaurant right on the beach road. She ran a restaurant in Phuket for five years before coming to Ao Nang



**PROVINCIAL CONCERTS:** Krabi is organizing a week-long concert series, funfair and product fair over the holidays at the grounds of Provincial Hall. Best of all, it's all free, including Big Ass!

The concert schedule is:  
January 1: Khon Mai Laa;  
January 2: Ai Nam (Steam);  
January 3: Clash;  
January 4: AB Narmol;  
January 5: Ekachai Sirichai;  
January 6: Big Ass.

and her new restaurant offers Swedish and Thai fare in a pleasant ambience.

Absalon Steak House: Denis Olsen, formerly of Viking Steak House, has opened his own steakhouse, specializing in imported beef and Danish food. It's on the second soi behind the beach road, directly behind Jeanette's restaurant.

Tattoo de Café: A breakfast shop and tattoo parlor in one. What will they think of next? In front, enjoy fresh-brewed coffee. After your caffeine buzz sinks in,

step back into Nut Tattoo Parlor for a quick tattoo or body piercing. On the beach front road next to Planet Ao Nang.

Absolut Restaurant: This is another Scandinavian restaurant with homemade Swedish cooking by Sarah Tjerstrom, who spent the past four years in Ao Nang as a tour leader before opening her new restaurant. Absolut is directly opposite from McDonald's, which as you may have noticed by now has become a bit of an Ao Nang landmark.

Sawadee Restaurant: A

small Thai restaurant offering home cooking by local residents. Word has it that the massaman curry is excellent and the prices are inexpensive. To get there from the beach, pass through Ao Nang village and the 7-Eleven (another landmark) and you will see it on the left-hand side.

**Dance till you drop:** Ao Nang will be hosting its first major rave party, "Green Spirit-Krabi". It is being organized by Stefan Scheidegger, owner of Wanna's Place.

This party is a two-day dance fest with 12 DJs playing music non-stop for 32 hours, starting at 10 am on December 31. A free camping area will be set up next to the party zone, and a first aid tent and portable toilets will be available. The rave will be held on a private farm near Soi NaThai.

It may sound like Woodstock, but Stefan stresses that this party is about good music and good clean fun. The organizers are actively discouraging the use of "hard" drugs, although they have not specified which drugs they consider to be "hard".

Tickets sales have been brisk, they say, with 400- and 750-baht tickets available.

For details, see the website at [www.greenspiritkrabi.com](http://www.greenspiritkrabi.com) or call Stefan at Tel: 075-637484 or 01-8940208.

## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds



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Golf Excellence	90 minutes	1,800 Baht
Deep tissue massage before playing golf or other sport, with Healing oil to release anxiety, preventing Repetitive Pain Syndrome		
Siam Aroma Therapy	90 minutes	2,400 Baht
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Foot Care and Reflexology	60 minutes	350 Baht
63 reflexive points pressure on feet & leg massage with Tea Tree oil to rebalance body systems & relieve tired legs (regular price 600 Baht)		
Aroma Therapy for Relaxation	90 minutes	1,200 Baht
Body massage with aromatic essential oil, for reviving mood & overall relaxation, balancing body systems and nourishing skin. (regular price 1,800 Baht)		
Siam Thermal Therapy	120 minutes	1,800 Baht
An ancient warming Thai remedy with salt pot and lily leaves to detoxify & cleanse the body, relieve muscular aches & pains and strengthen veins (regular price 2,400 Baht)		

Open now on 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Central Festival Phuket (close to SFX Cinema). For more information, please contact 0 7620 9009~12.



## This week



**GOING POSTAL:** Among others at the opening ceremony for the Phuket Post Office Museum are: (front row) Visal Pongtiwattanakul, Postmaster of Phuket Post Office, and Surin Phonkuaw, MD of Regional Thailand Post Offices (respectively 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from left); and Niran Kalayanamit, Phuket Vice Governor, and Kusol Yamyuen, Post Office Region 8 Manager (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from right respectively).



**WEDDING BELLE:** Korn Thapparansri (right), Minister for Science and Technology, attends the recent wedding of Miss Charussri Nilat and Paitoon Chutimakornkul, Deputy Editor of *the Siam Sport* newspaper, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



**TAT TREAT:** (above) Wanaphapar Suksombol (front row left), Assistant Chief Director of the Krabi Tourism Coordination Center, Sountorn Chaokijka (back row 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), the Managing Director of Southern Lanta Resort Co Ltd and others on Koh Lanta promoting a new Phuket-Koh Lanta travel service.

**THE OFFICE PARTY:** (left) CB Richard Ellis staff, including MD David Simister (2<sup>nd</sup> from right); James R Pitchon Executive Director of the Phuket office, (in amusing boy scout uniform); Phuket Sales Manager Khanitha Jarukirati (right), and guests enjoy their Christmas party at the Reggae Bar, Bang Tao Beach.



**MONTE CARLO OR BUST!** At the soft opening of Phuket Monte Carlo Lifestyle Apartments are, from left: Marketing Director Raksak Visavaplanot; MD of PhuketOne Real Estate Larry Cunningham; Chief Operations Officer of Paradise Properties Phillip Gill; Project Manager Chart Visavaplanont; and The Heritage's Project Director Tanan Tanphaibul and Sales Director Suttida Tanphaibul.



**HI SO-AND-SO:** The island's glitterati joined Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa PR Manager Kymberley Sproule (gray blouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) at the rebranded hotel's opening bash on December 10.



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Leslie Bird joined what is perceived as one of the most boring institutions in Britain – the civil service – straight from school. But, oddly, thanks to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, when he was 22 years old he worked in Australia, Africa and Hong Kong – all within the one year.

Of his transfer to Hong Kong, then a British colony, he said, "It was the first time I had worked in Asia. I was working with the British government."

"My job related to military and security issues. It meant I worked very closely with the Hong Kong police, so my job was very similar to that of the police."

He continued, "Most of my first year in Hong Kong was spent in school learning to speak Chinese, because I had to deal with people not only in Hong Kong but also in mainland China, so it was important for me to learn to speak Chinese."

"Later, when I became a police officer, I had to work in a village in a rural area of Hong Kong. I lived there for 18 months. Besides me, there was an Italian priest, who couldn't speak English, but Chinese."

"And I couldn't speak any Italian, so there we were, two white men having to talk in Chi-

# Responsibility is more than a civic duty

For many people in Britain, a job in the civil service is seen as a boring option, a life of paper-pushing in a grim office. But for Leslie Bird, the civil service was the springboard for a career that took him to Australia, Africa and Hong Kong, where he became a police commander during one of the most interesting periods of the then-colony's history.

However, after falling in love with the scenery of Phuket, Mr Bird decided to move here, and he now has been general manager of Chubb (Thailand) for two years.

A keen runner, he has competed in the Laguna Triathlon and this year was one of the organizers of the inaugural "Kids' Tri" junior triathlon.

The *Gazette's* Dhirarat Boonkongsan visited him at his office in Surin to talk about his life and career.

nese. The Chinese people thought it was very funny," he laughed.

Making the switch from career civil servant to police officer was something of a natural progression. Said Mr Bird, "We worked very closely with the

Royal Hong Kong Police and the military."

Eventually, he moved permanently to the police force – even if he does like to joke that it happened "by accident" – joining the service as an inspector.

The most interesting part of

the job concerned undercover working. "It involved dealing with people coming to the border attempting to carry out illegal activities. Most of the work that I had to do was during the night," he said.

Mr Bird worked his way up through the hierarchy until, eventually, he became a commander.

Uncompromising Mr Bird is proud that his rise through the ranks was propelled by his conscientiousness in doing his job, rather than anything else.

"I never really had any ambitions of progressing to the upper ranks," he said. "I was too involved with my job, making sure I carried out my responsibilities 100%, and the promotion came about because of the quality of the work that I was doing."

"Eventually, as police commander, I had 2,000 policemen working for me. It was a huge organization. My responsibility there was the reward, the recognition for the way I had done my job."

He continued, "The most important things for a police officer are integrity and honesty. He must also never forget that he is there to serve the public. Officers' authority gives them power over other people, but they should not forget that they are there to serve

the public. I always reminded my guys to help people, not to impose on them."

"A good police officer is one who believes they are there to help people, not cause a problem. I am talking about the police in general around the world."

They should use their powers to solve problems, not create them."

The job, by its very nature, pitted Mr Bird against some nasty criminals, and it was at times like these, he said, that his training came in useful.

"As a law enforcement officer, you should always be better prepared. You

**'As a law enforcement officer, you should always be better prepared. You should not be afraid. If you let the fear interfere with your job, then you cannot achieve your goal.'**

should not be afraid. If you let the fear interfere with your job, then you cannot achieve your goal. If you plan properly, though, there is nothing to fear," he said.

But, of course, even after the best planning in the world, there can still be casualties, as Mr Bird knows full well. He said, "In a situation, some of my people were killed during an operation, and inside, I still worry about that."

Another enemy faced by police officers is depression. "The police have to face angry people, and not nice situations," he said, "and it's not unknown for officers to suffer from depression."

What were relations like

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For Leslie Bird, a former police commander in Hong Kong with 2,000 officers under his command, old habits die hard: 'The most important things for a police officer are integrity and honesty. He must also never forget that he is there to serve the public,' he said.

a lot of illegal activities on the border between China and Hong Kong."

After the handover, Mr Bird was offered a job back in England, but, he said, "I preferred to live in Southeast Asia. I moved to a security business in Hong Kong, working in aviation security."

After three years, the company was taken over by the international security firm Chubb, and when Chubb was looking to establish a base in Thailand, Mr Bird was a natural choice to head it up. He explained, "I'd been coming to Phuket every year since 1980, I knew the island very well, and I loved it."

He had also already identified the potential of the security industry to boom here. "There are a lot of five-star hotels and much high-end residential real estate, as well as the schools," he said.

There's very little difference between commanding police officers and commanding security guards, as Mr Bird sees it. He explained, "The discipline, integrity, honesty are shared by people who want to protect."

"The clients who pay us are like people paying tax for police to protect them, they expect us to take care of their property and people."

"Our security guards should know that they are there to help. We teach our people by being a good example, that we have to have discipline."

between the police and the press on Mr Bird's watch? He said, "The press has a job to do. They have to keep the public informed what is going on."

"Keeping the press informed was always a part of my job, because the job I used to do

usually involved eye-catching situations involving chases and gunfire, things like that, so people would want to know what had happened."

"I would always make time to hold a press conference, because journalists have many

sources and they'd put everything they got together anyway."

When Hong Kong was handed back to China in 1997, Mr Bird was Commander of the Cross Border Liaison Committee. He said, "I think I was given the job because I had a lot of ex-

perience in border issues and I personally knew many senior Chinese government officials. I was seen as being familiar with them and the problems there."

The job entailed, he said, "preventing and detecting terrorists" at a time when "there were

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EAR CANDY

by ANDY

# Classic tunes given new breath of life

It was the 1989 anthem *Ride On Time* by Black Box that brought Italia House music to the fore, a position they look unlikely to relinquish for some time to come. Born out of this melting pot of style and contemporary sound was Irma Records, from Bologna, which can trace its ancestry back to – dare I use the phrase? – *The Second Summer of Love* in 1988.

Umbi Damiani and Massimo Benini brought together a camarilla of like-minded DJs and producers, including the legendary Cesare Collina aka Tito Valdez, with one goal in mind: making and promoting excellent dance music, with a nuance of humor.

Irma has gone in a different direction with *Mondo la douce*, and not lost its way. The 18 tracks selected by the Italian Lounge DJ Robert Passera are pastiche '60s and '70s easy-listening sounds and samples from around the world, including two versions by Capiozzo & Mecco of the theme to *The Odd Couple*. Version 1 is all Hammond organ, “va-va vi” and finger-snapping while V2 challenges – and beats – anything the jazzy TV-theme meisters The James Taylor Quartet have released for years.

Track 12, *Right Guys Meet Right Girls* by Macchiato Caldo begins with



“Here’s to love ... the one search that never ends” and launches into blistering bass samples, milky-warm flutes and splendid trumpet work by Claudio Schiffer.

*I Really Want You* by Arkestra One is possibly the most erotic and mesmerizing dance tracks since Donna Summer’s *I Feel Love*, but, as with other great love songs, there is just the hint of menace between the lines. Get involved with this chick and she could end up boiling your bunny.

This is unbelievably good party music that will have you playing “Guess The Sample” – unless you find something else to do – all night. Don’t miss it.

*Mondo la douce*, Irma Records,

Douce 515354-2. Total playing time: 71 minutes, 23 seconds.

The direction of trumpeter Tomasz Stanko’s music is, to quote him, “...from chaos to order, from fury to lyricism”. His eloquence in words – reminiscent of St Francis of Assisi’s “...where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light...” – is matched by his musicianship.

Stanko, a graduate of the Krakow Music Academy, formed The Jazz Darlings, his first band, in 1962, citing luminaries as Coleman, Coltrane and – naturally – Davis as his inspirations. This 12-track collection, *Selected Recordings*, covers the years 1975-1998, the period that many of his fans regard as his best.

He began experimenting with Nordic and Baltic folk influences, and track 12, *Balladyna*, documents an important development in European jazz, particularly the symbiotic relationship between Stanko and Finnish drummer Edward Vesala.

*Morning Heavy Song*, from 1996’s *Leosia* is very slow and thoughtful, with blues elements lending an interesting twist to the tune. One can hear Stanko’s complete mastery of the trumpet. Whatever comes out seems to be precisely what Stanko wanted, such is the sense of control that is communicated.

Track 10 is *Litania*, from the 1997

**TOMASZ STANKO**  
**SELECTED**  
**RECORDINGS**  
**ECM**

:rarum

album of the same name. The album, a tribute to Stanko’s early mentor, Krzysztof Komeda, is a collection of his works, reinterpreted for the *fin de siecle*.

This composition, as with the rest of *Selected Recordings* is both beautiful and hauntingly lonely.

Too few people are familiar with Stanko’s work and style, but a sea of change deserves to happen with this collection.

*Selected Recordings*, Tomasz Stanko, ECM Rarum 014 209-2. Total playing time: 63 minutes, 41 seconds.

Albums reviewed were provided courtesy of CD Warehouse Asia. Email: [info@cdwarehouse-asia.com](mailto:info@cdwarehouse-asia.com). Website: [www.cdwarehouse-asia.com](http://www.cdwarehouse-asia.com).

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## COCKTAILS with Dhrirarat

## Margarita

# *¡Hola!* Margarita- Thai!

Of all the countries in the world, the margarita cocktail is probably most closely associated with Mexico – the main alcoholic ingredient is, after all, the Mexican national spirit Tequila.

But staff at the Bangsak Grill at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort have found a way of putting a real Thai twist on this Mexican drink – by adding roselle.

Roselles are the burgundy-colored fruits shaped like fancy tulips which are sometimes found at Thai market stalls, and which have a taste rather like rosehips.

The Roselle Margarita is the signature drink of the Bangsak Grill, but it is just one of 10 different types of margaritas containing Thai herbs available at the bar.

“We prefer to create Thai-style food, so we use ingredients used in Thai herbal preparations, such as ginger,” said restaurant manager Banchong Tanaen. “Roselle is supposed to be good as an aid to relaxation.”

K. Banchong added, “We prefer to make our own roselle syrup from fresh roselles, as syrup made from dried roselles tends to be rather sour.”

Margaritas – Thai or not – are usually served in a glass with a salt-edged rim. K. Banchong gave one theory as to why this is so.

“It’s traditional to drink tequila with salt,” he said. “People usually put the salt on the back of their hand, then lick it off and squeeze a lemon into their mouth before drinking the tequila.”

“But, also, the glass does look much nicer with the salt decorating the rim, especially with a curl of lime, as we decorate our margaritas here.”

## Ingredients (one cocktail):

1oz Tequila Gold  
½oz Triple Sec  
2oz roselle juice  
½oz syrup  
½oz lemon juice.

## Method:

Place in a cocktail shaker and shake.



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# Traveling North

**W**e'd been in Chiang Mai for a couple of days before I realized that my friend, on her first trip to the North, was a little disappointed. Not disappointed with the friendliness of the Northern folks, nor the peaceful side streets or the temples, and certainly *not* the shopping.

"But where are all the paddy fields, mountains, hill-tribes and nature I've heard and read so much about?" she said.

I'd heard this before from foreign tourists flying into the ancient capital of the Lanna kingdom expecting to find small villages, paddy fields, and colorful hilltribe folk on their doorstep.

These days this is sadly not the case because Chiang Mai – despite its friendly and still peaceful character – is now a vibrant, cosmopolitan city.

We decided to rent a car to discover the real Northern sights. But where to go? Mae Hong Son? Chiang Rai? The Golden Triangle? All perhaps would be blighted by too many tourists instead of intrepid travelers.

So with a little advice from

## Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

friends, the offer of a superb room by the Amari Rincome Hotel staff and a road map, we decided to explore a place I discovered a few years ago on a previous trip: Doi Ang Khang – the site of the His Majesty the King's first Royal Agricultural Project.

The main road north out of the city brought us to Chiang Dao, where, on the banks of the Ping River, is one of Thailand's largest and most famous elephant camps. It was a stunning sight and well worth stopping to see the elephants bathing in the river. The *chang* often bathe before 10 am, so arrive early.

For another 20 kilometers or so, the road followed the wooded banks of the river as the mountains slowly came into view on both sides. The scenery then changed, and we turned off the main road to begin our ascent into the foothills.

This was the North that my friend expected. There were small villages nestling on hill-sides and, as we continued to climb, we realized just how close we were to the Burmese border.

This point was reinforced by the many military checkpoints en route. Fortunately, a foreigner wending his way through the mountains is likely to be seen as something of a novelty. We encountered no problems, but did receive a few curious yet friendly looks and a snappy salute before being waved on.

The last 30km of the journey was the most stunning. The road snaked across magnificent mountains. The air was cool, clear and crisp, even at the hottest time of the day. The colors were vibrant: ice-white flowers and a burning blue sky.

Mother Nature lends a hand in preventing the hoi polloi from reaching this oasis; the terrain was simply too extreme for tour buses, thank heavens. Beware, however, of the locals driving their pickup trucks – often laden down with produce or people – in the middle of the road



**DON'T FORGET BEHIND THE EARS:** Watching elephants bathe in the Ping River is marvellous sight, but you have to get up early to see them.

The sign indicated that there was another 10km to our destination. We reached a road-side shack some 1,900 meters above sea level and imbibed wonderful green tea.

Hilltribe ladies gathered around, trying to sell an assortment of dried fruits, teas and other local products to us. A wonderful 20 minutes was spent there as we tried to explain in our basic Thai who we were and where

we were heading. We chatted happily and took in the scenery: a huge deserted valley with the Burmese border on the mountains across the other side.

We were finally in the true North!

*Bill Owen is General Manager of Oriental Leisure Co Ltd, a leading event management company in Phuket. He can be contacted by email at: owen\_b@hotmail.com.*

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**How to get there**

Daily flights on Thai Airways, Air Asia, One-Two-Go and Nok Air. Air Asia seems now to be far more efficient, but still offers unallocated seating, so be prepared to fight for a good seat. Check rates via the Internet or with your travel agent for the best deals on flight tickets.

Car rental: North Wheels offered a new Toyota Vios for 1,400 baht a day, including full insurance and delivery/pick-up from anywhere in Chiang Mai City. Tel: 053-874478. Website [www.northwheels.com](http://www.northwheels.com).

**How to get to Doi Ang Khang from Chiang Mai**

Take the main highway North out of the City on Route 107 and drive through Mae Rim and on to Chiang Dao. From Chiang Dao, take the left turn onto the smaller mountain road of Route 1178. This is the most spectacular part of the trip. Head through the small settlements of Baan Arunothai and Baan Luang. The distance from Chiang Mai to Doi Ang Khang is around 180km and the route is well-signposted.

**Driving Tips**

Allow at least 4½ hours for the journey, including rest stops, and ensure you have a full tank of fuel. There are no gas stations for the final 60km of the journey and it is not a place where you would wish to run out.

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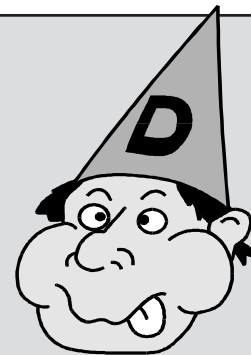
If a sundial is the timepiece with the fewest moving parts, what is the timepiece with the most moving parts?

Answer: An hourglass, which has thousands of grains of sand.

### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. A supporting column carved in the shape of a person; 2. Christina Aguilera; 3. Tight trousers worn by people from the Indian subcontinent; 4. Herman Melville; 5. Moby; 6. A sword; 7. *Beowulf*; 8. Cornwall, England; 9. The first transatlantic radio broadcast was made from there in 1901; 10. Outside the House of Commons in London in 1868; 11. George and Bridge Streets; 12. Japanese cooking chopsticks; 13. The science of architecture and the branch of geology studying the folding and faulting of the earth's crust; 14. Less (and More) Economically Developed Countries; 15. Ole Evinrude; 16. A black Asiatic starling often taught to mimic speech; 17. A Force 6 wind; 18. Intake, compression, ignition and exhaust; 19. Iran; 20. Carpet production.

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- When popsicles first appeared in 1905, what were they called?
- Who were they named after?
- Who was Fulgencio Batista and what did he do on January 1, 1959?
- Who led the army that ousted him?
- And what was this ouster's profession?
- Which director of the FBI was born January 1, 1895?
- Shakuntala Devi is famous for what reason?
- Who wrote *The Catcher in the Rye*?
- Comoros, in the Indian Ocean, has endured how many coups since 1975?
- Approximately how many miles of coastline does Andorra have?
- What is a caldera?
- The line, "Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself," comes from which literary masterpiece?
- Who wrote it?
- Where and what is the suprasternal notch?
- Where is the Cave of Swimmers?
- What is the capital city of Costa Rica?
- When might one use the Japanese phrase *moshi moshi*?
- Whaam!* is a 1963 painting by which late artist?
- What is the capital city of Lichtenstein?
- "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; What is essential is invisible to the eye," appears in which famous story?

Answers next week.

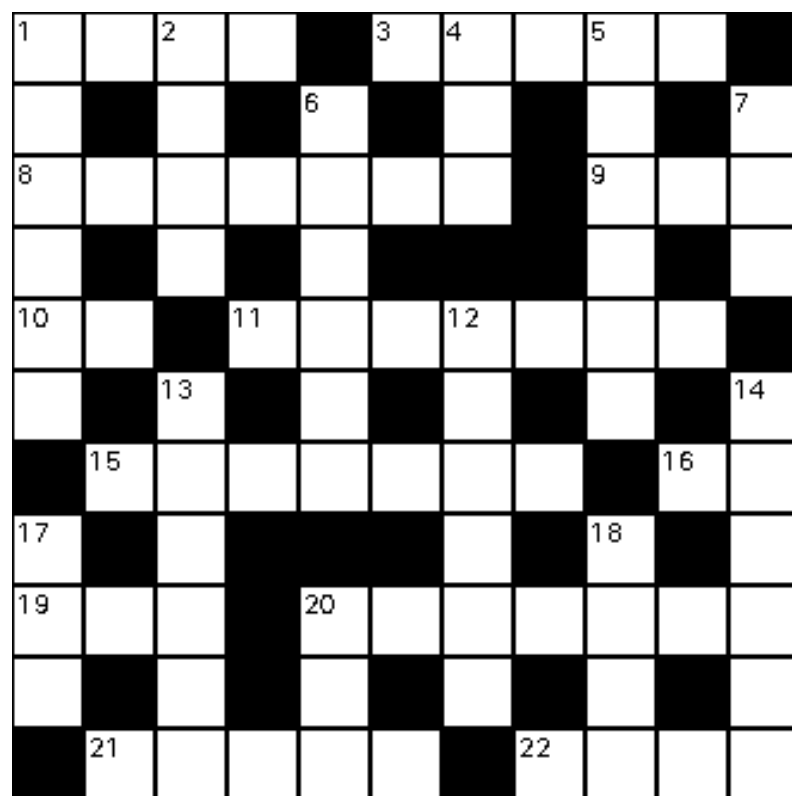
## Never a Cross Word!

### Across

- Yamu or Cod, for example.
- Marsh.
- Planet closest to the Sun.
- Getting on a bit.
- With reference to.
- Halloween veg.
- Tooth filler or puller.
- Agreed.
- Sugar spirit.
- Cargo.
- Vermont or Texas, for example.
- Legend.

### Down

- Photographer's equipment.
- Andean country.
- The reason for something.
- Short-sighted.
- Eighth month.
- Poem of praise.
- Fishy zodiac sign.
- Give the go-ahead.
- Rough drawing.
- Raw material for iron.



- Not easy on the eye.
- Overweight.

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### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD





# Trouble on the home front

Mr L, the legal owner of an exclusive house in Thailand, rented out his home for a substantial amount and, as surety of payment, asked for a few months' rent as deposit.

It wasn't long, though, before Mr L's tenant disputed some of the terms written in the agreement or discussed orally, and stopped paying the rent.

Discussions between the Mr L and the lessee led to endless emails going back and forth between the pair, as well as threats from the tenant to report Mr L to the Revenue Department, as well as other action that would make life difficult for him.

Mr L decided to sell his home, but the buyer held back on buying the property because of the problems with the lessee. This put Mr L under more pressure to resolve the dispute, but relations had deteriorated so much by then that he could not even talk to the tenant to find a resolution.

They could agree on all matters except the payment terms, as a mere promise by the lessee was not enough for Mr L to commit to canceling the case in the court.

Official notices had been sent to the lessee canceling the lease agreement and telling the tenant to vacate the property and pay the outstanding rent, but the tenant did not respond.

Mr L decided to take the matter to court. He hired a lawyer and a case for eviction and payment of unpaid rent was filed with the court.



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

The lessee did not file any defense with the court until the first hearing for witnesses, when he petitioned the court to accept his defense. It is at the court's discretion whether or not it accepts such petitions.

The weekend before the case hearing, though, both parties met and tried to resolve the matter out-of-court. They could agree on all matters except the payment terms, as a mere promise by the lessee was not enough for Mr L to commit to canceling the case in the court.

As they could not agree, both parties met in court, where they found an easy solution to the settlement.

This was to have the lessee pay the settlement agreed upon to the court within a certain period, and sign an enforceable agreement to make certain payment and move out of the premises by a specified date.

Although both Mr L and the lessee finally came to an agreement, it was a long and costly process that neither party originally wanted. While not going to court is usually preferred, it is sometimes the only way to resolve such disputes.

*This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket City. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.*

In The Stars

by Isla Star

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns with a birthday this week may find it hard to summon enough energy for yet more socializing. If your batteries are seriously depleted, delay the party until later this month. You can look forward to a smooth passage with no mountains to be moved in 2005. Your dormant artistic talents will be brought to the surface and it will be a time to learn new skills.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians who are worried that they've invested too much energy and money in a worthless endeavor have no cause for concern. As January unfolds, you will discover there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow after all. An important resolution for 2005 is to have more confidence in your abilities; "where there's a will, there's a way" is the motto for this year.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Finances are no longer subject to the gray cloud that has been hovering over your head for the past few weeks. Those Pisceans who are desperate to get away for a break will finally be able to plan their escape this

month. When you are swimming in fresh water, it should be possible to see the future more clearly. The forecast for 2005 is promising, with the focus firmly on business opportunities.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Of all the zodiac signs, Arians are likely to be welcoming the New Year with the most enthusiasm. During December you should have already received positive indications of how much better life will be this year. The only area which will take time to improve is that of personal relationships. Impulsive ideas concerning money should be followed up on Wednesday. Wear silver to streamline your energy.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Having recovered from a rocky roller coaster ride during the first

half of 2004, Taureans are in the right frame of mind to sharpen certain skills that have been neglected for too long. Use the first few days of 2005 to decide which direction you really want to travel this year. The world is your oyster now, but there is an indication that you will choose the wrong turning at an important crossroads further down the track.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Last year was a lively one for Geminis. You will be relieved to know that 2005 should be less demanding, but equally rewarding. The emphasis this year will be on appreciating your achievements and simple enjoyment. This week sets the pace with a mellow atmosphere. If you have problems relaxing, go for a spa treatment followed by a beach walk at sunset.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Cancerians have naturally astute instincts when it comes to judging character. Heed the alarm bells going off in your head midweek, when a new business acquaintance is made. Others will be more easily fooled and could take careful convincing not to get involved. This year, you will be appreciated more and this should lead to a healthier bank balance.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): The focus for 2005 is firmly on family. Many Leos can look forward to happy reunions with good cause for celebration. If you're single and searching, rest assured that your soul mate is feeling just as frustrated and cosmic energy will certainly bring you together before this year is out. Your financial outlook will brighten after February. The color baby blue is especially lucky this week.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your earthy character is appreciated by friends this week. Virgoans can usually be relied upon to come up with practical solutions, so prepare to put your thinking hat on. A long-standing romantic interest is about to be reciprocated, but obstacles need to be overcome. If these involve

cultural differences, get advice from an experienced third party before leaping into the unknown. The number 8 holds promise on Saturday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): The coast is finally clear of obstructions, so Librans can relax more. Not everything will be smooth sailing, but you will appreciate calmer conditions this week. It's high time you put your own needs first after having taken care of everybody else's creature comforts so well lately. Magic is in the air on Tuesday, so dare to wish upon the first star you see.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): If you're feeling less than perky during the first week of January, give yourself permission to lie low and recuperate. This is an auspicious time for scheming and dreaming; bright ideas should be noted down for future inspiration. Midweek, you have a golden opportunity to compensate for an error made in the heat of the moment. As far as the rest of 2005 is concerned, Scorpios can expect a year full of surprises.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians who are ready for some good news will be on the receiving end of overdue glad tidings this week. Delayed communication finally arrives and should be even more positive than you were hoping for. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, resolve to be more open and honest about your feelings. If you can do this, look forward to an oasis of romance and passion in 2005.

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# Unloading the wish list

I trust you all had a fabulous Christmas and I wish you all the best for the new year. A year end is always a time of reflection, as well as a time for hope. Here follows my eight big hopes for Toon Town for the coming year.

I hope that:

**ALL THE WORK** done on the drains this year (and it was a real pain the arse) was done correctly and that later this year Patong's roads are not transformed into Venetian-style canals.

**SOMEONE WHO CARES** about Patong's future as a world-class resort and who has the political clout finally gets the balls to take on the tuk-tuk drivers, and either regulates the industry, forces them to use meters or – better still – replaces them all with “baht buses” and taxis, just as they did in Pattaya.

These people are making a mockery of local government and the law and have no shame in doing it. They might blockade the airport road for a few days, something which has always, within hours, “persuaded” the local government to back down over whatever it was planning to do, so might I suggest that a few bulldozers be brought in from off the island?

**TESCO-LOTUS STARTS** to serve the expatriate community again with their own branded products.

**THE FABULOUS CHIP SHOP** that has moved from opposite the Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phuket City to Toon Town is an unbridled success.

**CARLSBERG RETURNS** to Thailand and with the English-style bitter promised a few months ago.

**SOMEONE STARTS SELLING YORKIES'** bacon, sausages, black puddings, pork pies and so on. I can't get 'em since Food Glorious Food closed down. I have Yorkies's number if anyone wants to get in touch with them.

**THE C.A.T. LINKS** Phuket directly to the Internet backbone, instead of having the whole island rely on a connection that the average Taiwanese housewife takes for granted in her home. The appetite for bandwidth on this island is limitless, and, frankly, every time the powers-that-be hold meetings and make pronouncements about Phuket



By Konrad Stalin

“Cyber City”, they are offering themselves up for ridicule.

Phuket Cyber City has become the phrase of choice when anyone has Internet problems, as in “Sh\*t connection, mate?” “Yep.” “Ah-ha, Phuket Cyber City...”

It is astonishing that in Haad Yai, everyone can connect at blistering speeds that we in Phuket can only dream of, while people in Phuket, a major contributor to Thailand's Gross Domestic Product, are fobbed off.

**PATONG DJs** finally get over R&B.

**From the hip.** Last month, the most incredible moan about my column came into the *Gazette* from someone of the moniker “Marsha Mal-lows”. In the past, I have had whingers request that I stop writing about a variety of things, including tea bags, chocolate

biscuits, Soi Sea Pearl (accompanied by a death threat, charming), kebabs, curry, Chalong, fun fairs, water parks and breakfasts.

I tolerate them all with good humor. However, “Marsha” took exception to me writing about – of all things – Jungceylon.

Now, my column is about Patong, and Jungceylon is the biggest story in Patong at the moment. I wrote about it twice last year. Hardly excessive, and a case could be made that I would be neglecting my duties if I did not write about it all, so clearly Miss Mal-lows has what American psychologists like to call “issues” with either me or my column, and was using Jungceylon as a stick to beat me with.

So here is what I suggest you do, darling: when you open the paper and you see my column there, **DON'T READ IT.**

As recompense for the enormous 20 baht you have spent on the paper, each month I will work what percentage of the entire paper my column accounts for – typically about 2% – and I will personally refund you that percentage of the cover price. This works out to about four *satang* a month.

Let me know where to send the check.

Konrad Stalin may be reached at [konradstalin@hotmail.com](mailto:konradstalin@hotmail.com)

# Doin' the right thing

If there's one thing that infuriates law-abiding Patong bar owners more than anything else, it has to be the fly-by-night vendors who set up on public sidewalks to sell cans of beer or of ice-filled Styrofoam boxes.

With no overheads, no license, no rent and certainly no taxes, they can sell ice-cold cans of beer at supermarket prices and still make a tidy profit, sucking would-be customers away from bars that play by the rules.

Many bars in Patong have already given up selling cigarettes – and it's not out of concern for their patron's health. It's because of the legions of unlicensed cigarette vendors who walk up and down Soi Bangla selling the death sticks.

Again, it's impossible for bars to compete with all the illegal competition.

If bars aren't given a fair chance to generate income on beer and cigarettes, what's left? Can they survive on lady drinks and bar fines alone? I doubt it.

Now that the government has concluded Operation Dumbo Drop in the Deep South, it's turning its full attention back to its social-engineering campaigns: no more retail alcohol sales between 2 pm and 5 pm; the ban on selling cigarettes to minors will now be enforced; discos which are repeatedly caught playing music over 91 decibels will be shut down. Or so we are told.

But a frightening adjunct to these campaigns, which are supposed to engender social harmony, is the fact that the public is again being encouraged, with the promise of financial rewards, to inform on offenders. Is that really the way to promote social harmony?

It will be interesting to see just how this will play out in Patong, where minors are still heavily involved in *selling* beer and cigarettes, some even wandering about with trays suspended from their shoulders like characters from a US Prohibition-era gin joint. The mind boggles.

**Rat run:** Stool Pigeon discovered something he had been trying to find for years recently: a secret passage connecting Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and the beach road.

Most of the sois off the beach road between Soi Bangla and Sawatdirak Rd lead into tout-infested labyrinths of mini-massage parlors, tailor shops, pirate video vendors, trinket stalls and the like. To me, they are like the tourism equivalents of Dante's Hell, filled as they are with flatterers, astrologers, falsifiers, fraudulent counselors and thieves. And they are all dead-ends, except one.



**GETTING HAMMERED:** Plenty of people find the ubiquitous “hit the nail” bar game fun, but is it a good idea to have a hammer on hand at so many drinking joints in Patong?

Starting at the Irish Bar on the beach road, just walk between the strip of beer bars on Soi Dongtan all the way to the end. If you pass between the St George's Bar and the new UK bar (both run by Terry and Yuy), you're heading in the right direction.

When you reach Tiger Bar at the end of the soi, look to the left for a hole that has been bashed through a cement wall by some good citizen. Duck through, and when you emerge on the other side, turn right. Follow your general sense of direction in the direction of Rat-U-Thit, passing by a new building project. The only tricky part is passing over a fetid stream, which, from its color and smell, appears to be little more than a rivulet of human waste. Hey, it's gotta go somewhere!

Fortunately, another good citizen – or could it be the same one? – had the courtesy to put cinder blocks down, so if your coordination is better than Stool Pigeon's, you will be able to hop, skip and jump across without getting your feet covered in muck.

Once you have, you will eventually emerge on a small soi lined with small shophouses that comes out right across the street from the entrance to the Royal Paradise Hotel, which explains why this passage is popular with ladyboys.

If you are unsure, just follow the steady stream of tourists who also use the shortcut – most of them finding in a few days what it took Stool Pigeon three years to locate.

## Stool Pigeon



**The Pie Man cometh:** One of the many colorful characters that inhabit Soi Bangla is the ever-present Pie Man, who walks about with a foam container of piping hot, homemade pies. He approached Stool Pigeon the other evening with his standard line, “Excuse me, Sir. Can I interest you in a home-made English pie?”

It's filling and tasty fare. He has Cornish pasties, and beef and onion pies, at 80 baht each, and servings of shepherd's pie at 60 baht. Notwithstanding what has already been written about unlicensed vending in Patong, the Pie Man is a sight for sore eyes when you've been pounding beers all day – and neglecting food.

The Pie Man is quite a character, too. A former actor in Sydney and fashion photographer in London, he took up itinerant pie vending in Patong after he went blind in one eye.

He told Stool Pigeon he walks about six kilometers a day, though this might not be too apparent from his rather ample waistline – perhaps he samples too much of the merchandise. But what he doesn't eat he sells, 60 to 80 pies a day in the high season. Not a bad take, if you do the math. He said the best part of the job, however, is all the interesting people he gets to meet while making his rounds. How many of us get to say that about our jobs?

Stool Pigeon can be contacted by email at [stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net).

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## Rebuild it and they will come

As this edition goes to print, it is too early to speculate on what the long-term effects of the Boxing Day tidal wave will be on Phuket. Certainly there are reasons for despair: the loss of human life; the suffering of those injured by the deluge; the economic losses of those who lost their homes, businesses or means of transport – and the list goes on.

But there are also reasons for optimism – and some very good reasons to keep the disaster in some kind of perspective. Just one day after the catastrophe, there were signs that things were beginning to return to normal. Even as ambulance sirens still whined and foreign tourists continued to walk the streets in a daze, the cleanup effort had begun – and it will continue.

Some have even described the perfect weather on the day after, juxtaposed with the ravaged coastlines and rising body count, as stunningly surreal – a clash of realities. Even at its worst hour, the island still somehow managed to retain its intrinsic beauty and calm.

Although the worst disaster that has befallen the island in living memory, the tsunami is by no means the only obstacle we have had to surmount in recent years. Phuket has managed to survive a series of threats starting with the increased threat of terrorism in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

These were in turn followed by the Bali bombing, Sars scare, bird 'flu epidemic, the ongoing violence in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces. There has hardly been a time since the start of the new millennium when Phuket's tourism industry – and by extension the island's economy and the local people's perspective of world events – has not been imperiled by some threat, real or imagined. And yet we have persevered.

Misery is relative. Even while we mourn the dead and do our best to assist those who are suffering, we should also use this disaster to remind ourselves of just how precarious and precious life is. Although the course of future events can never be known, we should take some solace in the fact that a natural catastrophe of this order is unlikely to be repeated within our lifetimes.

Rather than live in fear of tidal waves, asteroid impacts and other events over which we have no control, we should instead focus on the very real challenge at hand. This means working together, not only in cleaning up and repairing the damage, but in making Phuket an even better place than it was before the disaster struck.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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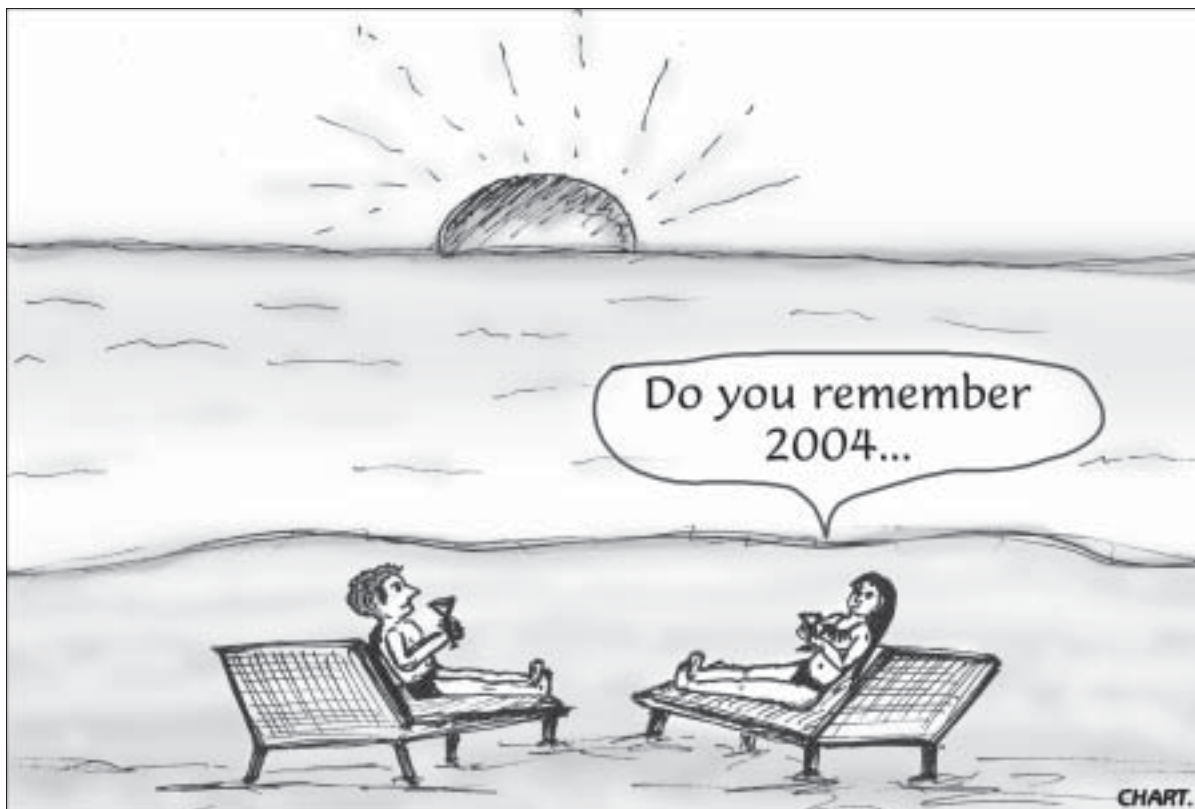
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## Letters

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

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

### Building a future worthy of Phuket

To all of the people of Phuket and present day visitors, my heart and prayers go out to you in this time of tragedy.

I am from America and, along with my Thai fiancée, have visited Phuket twice this year. Our last trip there was in October.

Being that Phuket is my favorite place in the world, I feel a tremendous sorrow for those who have lost homes, businesses, transport and especially their family members. But I also know for a fact that the people of Thailand are a very strong people and will persevere.

Being half a world away at this time, I feel totally helpless in assisting to rebuild the lives of these wonderful people on this fantastic island.

I'm sure that there are many, many other foreigners as well as Thais who at this moment feel the same as I. Alone we are helpless, but if people from all over the world unite as one, with a common mission to help rebuild our home away from home, then it can and will be done.

I welcome correspondence with all who feel the same as I and let's get this job started NOW!

Aaron Remley  
beachbassman@hotmail.com

### Devastation beyond comprehension

I feel like Obi One Kenobi in *Star Wars* when he felt shaken because his home planet was blown up. It's hard to imagine that, on the beautiful beach I was lying on just two weeks ago, some-

thing so tragic and devastating could happen. I simply can't imagine it.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in Phuket and don't worry, we are not canceling our reservations to come and stay again in February.

Harold Greenlaw  
Canton, Ohio

### Is Rawai going the way of Saphan Hin?

I was stunned to read the report about the attack on a beach in Rawai during which a man was beaten to death [*Gazette*, issue of December 18-24]. I know that there are some areas around Phuket City where I wouldn't recommend people go after dark, but in Rawai? In broad daylight? Surely my favorite part of Phuket has not succumbed to such violence.

I also noted that all three attackers turned themselves over to police – some fine police work, I must say.

Terry Hatchett  
UK

### Nai Harn facelift is a waste of money

Let me know if I understand this correctly; the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is spending 40 million baht on a "facelift" of the Nai Harn lake area. Indeed. Has any intrepid reporter bothered to go and have a look at the state of the place? What a mess!

The lake looks as fouled as any polluted water could, and as for *OrBorTor* Chairman Aroon Solos's explanation that, "We must cut down the old trees to be able to plant new ones." Ha!

Please tell me, K. Aroon, what was wrong with the old ones? "The new trees will have yellow flowers," he said. Well, howdy doody. If I remember correctly the trees that were there had pretty flowers all their own, and not just yellow ones, to boot.

And to cap it all off, three toilet-and-shower blocks are to be built just off Nai Harn Beach. Should I expect to see a few more blue pipes at the southern end of the beach, joining the collection that is already there?

Dutchess Thir  
Nai Harn

### Tuk-tuk collusion adds to road carnage

Apart from the traffic jams they create and their poor driving skills, the island's tuk-tuk mafia, especially in Patong, is also to be blamed in large part for the island's unacceptably high carnage on Phuket roads.

In Western countries, governments encourage those who find themselves too drunk to drive to take a taxi home. The Thai government does this too, but because of collusion in Patong, where tuk-tuk drivers are keenly adept at matching the level of their extortion with the the prospective passenger's desperation for a ride, many motorists find themselves getting on a motorbike and taking their chances on the road.

There have been 165 deaths and 1,078 injuries so far this year, according to your website. I wonder how many of these could have been prevented if drunk drivers were given the option of getting home by taxi without being ripped off.

Soomchi H

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



# Decentralization will help schools

Our researchers asked the people living in the vicinity of 16 government schools in Phuket whether they favored turning over administration of the schools to the *OrBorJor*. More than 70% of respondents favored the idea, and 60% said they felt confident that the province was prepared to take over running the schools. In this way, my own research accords with the conclusions of the Nida study.

The government should consider allowing Phuket to look after itself. In some policy areas, such as the administration of primary-level education, the government should hand over control to local bodies on a step-by-step basis.

Phuket's short-term prospects for the future are good because of its high standards, both in terms of quality-of-life and education.

These factors have contributed to the strengthening of local government agencies, enabling the individuals on these bodies to understand their duties. In this sense, I think Phuket is ready to take on the challenge of being established as a special administrative zone.

Our Constitution mandates that the government decentralize by handing administrative power over to local government bodies, especially in the area of edu-

Dr Jeeraphan Traitipjarat is an Associate Professor at Phuket Rajabhat University's Faculty of Education. She agrees with researchers from the National Institute of Development Administration (Nida), who concluded after a recent study that Phuket would benefit by being designated as a special economic zone.

Here Dr Jeeraphan discusses her own research into the constitutionally-mandated decentralization of the nation's educational system. She thinks Phuket's government schools would rapidly improve if their administration were handed over from the Ministry of Education in Bangkok to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).



cation. This means the government has to implement this policy in order to comply with the law as set down in the Constitution.

I have traveled to many countries, including Australia, America and others in Europe. There I observed that primary-level education is administered by local bodies. If our government would pass

more administrative power over to local bodies, the quality of education could develop quickly.

Some school buildings in Phuket are already more than 30 years old and are in a state of disrepair. They got this way because of a continued lack of government funding, through the Education Ministry, to make the necessary repairs. This is be-

cause the Education Ministry is responsible for taking care of so many schools throughout the Kingdom.

Phuket has 60 public primary schools, and our local organizations are up to the task of looking after them. With more power, our local organizations would be better able to restore school facilities and hire more teachers. Our schools could improve quickly and easily.

Unfortunately, some groups of people [those entrenched in the bureaucracy] do not agree with devolving power to local bodies. They still believe that the Kingdom has just one government, the powers of which cannot be passed on to local bodies.

If they continue to think this way, it is useless to talk about special administrative models for Phuket. However, I believe my country will be able to develop in the future, in the same way that Western countries have done. This can only happen if the central government hands over power to local bodies and allows them to manage things by themselves.

In the modern world, there is a global trend for central governments to give power back to the people, so I think it's inevitable that Phuket will eventually be granted greater local control over its affairs.

## Why does the Thai FDA think it is my father?

For 25 years, people were consistently shocked to learn that I was 15 years older than I looked. I attributed this to the fact that I had taken a lot of time and effort to study the vitamins and other supplements that I took. These supplements allowed me to exercise vigorously, thus maintaining the health of my youth.

Since moving to Thailand five years ago, I have not been allowed to bring in many of these items, even though they are available over the counter in every EU country, the US and Japan.

I recently had a big shipment of such supplements sent here from abroad, these included brand name products like Urban Night Charger, Isatori Metacel Orange, and ISS Advantage Matrix. The entire shipment was confiscated and destroyed by Customs at a total loss of over US\$600. I can buy these supplements in at least 60 other countries in thousands of shops.

In the past, I requested permission to buy Glucosamine, L-carnitine, chromium picolinate, DHEA, Gingko Biloba, Yohimbine and several others. The entire shipment was refused entry and ended up going bad in the shipper's storage for a total loss of over US\$1,200.

The point is that these products are approved in every modern, industrialized nation in the world for over-the-counter sales. They have been extensively tested for safety and used by millions of consumers – but not in Thailand, where untrained, un-

knowledgeable and petty bureaucrats seems to arbitrarily deny residents the right to stay healthy, active and happy.

Why does the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) believe it knows better than the FDAs in all those countries, which have classified them as safe? Why does the Thai government feel that it is my father, and can tell me what I can and cannot ingest?

**Wilai Bundittanugula, Director of Drug Control Division of the Thai FDA in Bangkok, replies:**

In regard to the brand-name supplements that were destroyed, our agency has never received any request to register them in Thailand. For this reason, we don't have the details of their chemical composition and are unable to classify them as either food or medicine.

As for the others, Glucosamine is currently registered as a prescription drug for inflammation, both for intravenous and oral use. Although also used as a food supplement by some, it is classified as a drug by the FDA and therefore cannot be imported as a food supplement.

L-carnitine is an amino acid used to remedy systemic carnitine deficiency. It is also used by some as a food supplement for controlling diabetes and weight control. The FDA has accepted it as a food supplement for many years.

Chromium Picolinate is

trace element thought by some to be helpful in controlling blood sugar and body weight, and for building muscle mass. Thailand restricts its use to 130 mg per day.

The details regarding DHEA are less clear. It stands for dehydroepiandrosterone, a male steroid hormone. It is used by some as a food supplement, but because it is a steroid its use as a food supplement is not allowed in Thailand.

As for Gingko Biloba as leaf extract, people are allowed to take up to 120mg per day as a food supplement. In higher dosages it is classified as a drug.

Yohimbine is a plant believed to improve male sexual performance. In the US, it can be taken as a food supplement. However, the Thai FDA has found it can cause low blood pressure and has therefore classified it as unsafe for use as a supplement on this basis.

Many vitamins, minerals and herbs that are approved for use as food supplements in the US and Japan are not allowed here because they fail to meet Thai labeling requirements to ensure that they clearly state, in Thai, that they are food supplements and not curative medicines.

The safety of Thais is the main issue at the FDA. We are currently preparing an announcement regarding the correct procedures for registration of food supplements in Thailand to ensure that all such products are safe, beneficial to health and properly labeled.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

## Visas for TEFL students

I am travelling to Thailand in December and intend to do a TEFL course and hopefully find work. I have two basic questions.

First, what is the visa situation? I had planned to do "border hops" extending my visa by 30 days until I could apply for a work visa. Is this advisable? What are my options?

Second, I only have a one-way ticket as I intend to travel to Australia if things don't work out. Will this be a problem? I look forward to your reply.

Marcus Gosling  
UK

**Pol Col Chalermpong Vahanasukha, Deputy Superintendent of Immigration Division 3 in Bangkok, replies:**

You should ask for a reference letter from the TEFL school where you intend to study. The letter should clearly specify for how long you intend to be studying in Thailand. Bring the letter to the Thai Embassy or any Thai

Consulate in your country, along with other necessary documents, and apply for a non-immigrant "B" visa for education.

Your plan to stay in Thailand on a succession of 30-day tourist visas is not at all advisable, and if you are caught studying while only holding a tourist visa you could find yourself in trouble, possibly by finding yourself refused re-entry after you have stamped out of Thailand.

As for your air ticket, you will not have to buy a round-trip ticket – provided that you enter the country on the correct, non-immigrant B visa for education.

**The Gazette notes:** If you do find employment as a teacher, make sure that the school provides you with a work permit. If you have a non-immigrant visa you can apply for one without having to leave the country. You cannot apply for a work permit while holding a tourist visa.



# A narrative joyride though time

David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* (Sceptre, London 2004, 544 pages) is actually six novels in one, told by six wildly different narrators at wildly disparate times and places, and in a narrative form unique to each.

*The Pacific Journal of Adam Ewing* is written in formal mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century style by an American notary who has returned to San Francisco by schooner from a business trip to Australia.

The journal opens on the Chatham Islands, where the peaceful native Moriori are simultaneously being enslaved by the warrior Maori from New Zealand and a rapacious community of whites. After Ewing rescues a stowaway Moriori from death, the journal ends abruptly in mid-sentence.

Then suddenly we are in England in 1931. Robert Frobisher, aspiring composer, flees his creditors to fetch up in a Belgian village, where he wangles the job of amanuensis to famed but infirm composer Vyvyan Ayr.

His story is told in florid Oxonian English via a series of letters to his best friend and lover, Rufus Sixsmith, a budding scientist. He stumbles upon part of

Adam Ewing's journal while stealing antique books for sale from Ayr's library.

Rufus Sixsmith next turns up in an American thriller called *Half Lives* written in 1975. He is an elderly nuclear scientist who proves an invaluable source for journalist Luisa Ray, who is investigating a dangerous nuclear power plant on the Californian coast.

The manuscript of this novel finds its way into the hands of a seedy British publisher in London in 2002. He is penning his own memoir *The Ghastly Ordeal of Timothy Cavendish*, which reads like an hilarious Ealing Brothers comedy.

Fleeing a trio of gangster brothers, Cavendish suffers all the horrors of the modern British rail system in the dead of winter before being becoming involuntarily interned in a decrepit retirement home.

Next, we are in totalitarian Korea sometime in the next century, and from slapstick comedy we move to grim science fiction. Genetic science run amok has created a sub-race for menial tasks.

The narrative is in the form of an official interrogation of Sanmi-451, a waitress clone programmed to serve in a subterranean fast-food restaurant. She is awakened into human consciousness via

drugs supplied by the underground opposition called the Union.

She recounts into an egg-shaped device called an "orison" her adventures in fleeing her underground servitude and her picaresque journey through "The Outside". The happiest hour in Sanmi's short life – she is slated to be executed – is watching an old movie comedy called *The Ghastly Ordeal of Timothy Cavendish*.

Finally we move into the far distant post-apocalyptic future, centuries after *The Fall*, and the idiosyncratic Huck Finn-style narration of Zachry Bailey, a 16-year-old farm boy on Hawaii.

He is a member of a white "civilized" tribe that subsists off the land and worships a goddess named Sanmi. The community is visited on yearly trading expeditions by an atomic submarine from the last surviving advanced civilization. Zachry's family plays host to Meronym, a female anthropologist from the submarine.

Zachry and Meronym flee for their lives when members of the Kona, a mounted warlike tribe of savages, sweep in to wipe out the little pocket of civilization. Sanmi's egg-shaped "orison" turns up at the end.

After this rousing adventure tale, there are 200 pages left in the book. Where does the author choose to take us next?

Backwards. The five previous stories are completed – journals, letters, manuscripts rediscovered – their main characters motivated by an unfashionable moral earnestness against the forces of greed, violence and environmental destruction. This progress is recapitulated in *The Cloud Atlas Sextet* composed by Robert Frobisher:

"Spent the fortnight gone in the music room, re-working my year's fragments into a 'sextet' for overlapping soloists': piano, clarinet, 'cello, flute, oboe and violin, each in its own language of key, scale and colour. In the 1<sup>st</sup> set, each solo is interrupted by its successor: in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, each interruption is recontinued, in order. Revolutionary or gimmicky? Shan't know till it's finished..."

The six "solos" in the novel *The Cloud Atlas* are so convincing, so true to each narrator – so funny, vivid, thrilling and sad – that "gimmicky" is the last word for them. This is a large-hearted, utterly engrossing novel.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# Googling your PC: desktop search tools

When I search for something on the Internet, it takes Google about a tenth of a second to search through 8 billion web pages, but when I use Outlook 2003's Find feature, it takes Outlook about 15 minutes just to search through my old email messages.

Similarly, Word XP and Word 2003 File Find features take from 10 to 15 minutes to search through all my documents. Windows XP's File Find can take five minutes just looking for file names – never mind the contents of the file. Why does it take so long?

I could give a technical answer, but that's only part of the story. The real answer is quite straightforward: until about six months ago, none of the major software companies thought they could make money with a system that scans computer files. Google

made tons of money with their search engine because advertisers paid for positioning. Now, however, there's a rush to bring search engines to every desktop.

In the not-so-good old days, a company called Magellan had a program that scanned and indexed the contents of all the files on your computer. Magellan's index, like the index of a book, allowed the program to quickly

find specific bits and pieces of text inside files. Unfortunately, Magellan never survived the transition to

Windows, and none of the major software companies rushed in to fill the void.

Windows has an indexing service but it's buggy, nearly impossible to use, and generally worse than useless. Google took the concept of indexing to new heights by indexing 8 billion web pages, but nobody came up with an effective way to index all the data on a PC – simply because there was no money in it.

Times change. Microsoft bought an Outlook search engine company called Lookout. Yahoo bought a desktop indexing company called Bloomba. A small company called Copernic (www.copernic.com) released a desktop search tool three months ago. Shortly after, Google made a beta version of its PC search program available (desktop.google.com). I've used the Google prod-



Although the MSN Toolbar Suite takes a long time to index all the files on your PC, once up and running, it can find files in a flash.

uct extensively, and I haven't had any problems with it. If you use Google, you'll appreciate the familiar interface – and the fact that it ain't Microsoft.

A few weeks ago, Yahoo released a beta version of its desktop search engine. Ask Jeeves has a beta version as well. IBM supposedly has one waiting in the wings.

Microsoft has also weighed in with a product called MSN Toolbar Suite, which I've used the Toolbar Suite for a couple of weeks, and it rocks. Really. I am always skeptical about Microsoft products, but this one – even though it has "version 1.0" limitations and works only with Windows XP or Windows 2000 (Service Pack 4) – has really changed

the way I use a computer.

Toolbar Suite takes forever to index your files – it spent all night pulling my index together. But once the index is built, it runs like the wind. I could even find that email message I got from my Uncle Reggie three years ago that includes his shirt size.

In Outlook, I simply type Reggie shirt size and bang, the old message shows up in a fraction of a second. I can find my old documents with rants about Word file converters, or old web pages about sending out Christmas cards, and even PDF files and PowerPoint presentations.

MSN Toolbar Suite is excellent, and I urge you to try it for yourself.

To run it: First, install the

Adobe PDF iFilter, so you can index PDF files. Download iFilter free from www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=2611. Then download the Toolbar Suite from beta.toolbar.msn.com. Install it and you'll see new search toolbars in Internet Explorer, Windows Explorer and Outlook. You even get a new "Deskbar" next to the Windows system tray.

**CORRECTION:** Two weeks ago, I praised iPSTAR for finally offering unlimited, fixed-price Internet access. Katie Day was kind enough to point out that I was all wet. CS Loxinfo still charges by the byte for its iPSTAR satellite connection.

The 5,000-baht-a-month "Magabit 1" service, for example, caps out at 1.5GB per month, after which you get socked with an extra fee of 2.5 baht per megabyte (See www.cscoms.com/en/product/ipstar\_service.html).

The company's advertisements don't bother to mention the limitation.

As I've said before, paying for Internet access by the byte is like paying for water by the drop. The fact that iPSTAR – though they are not the only ones – can charge as much as a typical worker's monthly wage for Internet access, then charge more for exceeding 50MB a day, really chews my cud.

– Woody Leonhard  
woody@khunwoody.com





# Boat brokers arrive in numbers

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

KOH KAEW: Following the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) 2004 at Boat Lagoon early last month, which attracted about 4,000 visitors, several boat brokers have decided to set up offices at the Boat Lagoon, all to open this month.

Simpson Marine, which has offices throughout Southeast Asia, is opening its ninth office at Boat Lagoon. Hong Kong-based Managing Director Mike Simpson said that the improving Thai economy, coupled with the Thai government's decision to cut the import duty on boats to zero, had given a huge boost to the Thai yacht market.

Simon Theseira, of Simpson Marine in Malaysia, and in Phuket to help set up the new office, said that Simpson Marine had high expectations of the new Phuket office. "We intend to spend the first year seeing what the Phuket market will be, but we expect to have 35% of market share in the second year.

"In the following year, we expect to make 1-1.5 million baht profit. We expect to sell about five new yachts in that time, and we expect to exceed our current sales of 10 pre-owned yachts a year," he said.

"We have invested about 5 million baht in Phuket so far, because we know that it is an important market. We hope that the Phuket office will account for

about 10%-20% of our total revenue from all of our offices," he said.

Meanwhile, boat brokerage and repair services firm Samui Marine Services are setting up an office at Boat Lagoon under the company Catathai Co Ltd..

Franck Capisano, a partner of Catathai, told the *Gazette*, that although the office will comprise only four staff members, it is expected to perform well. "We have already sold several boats, which are expected to arrive within as few months," he said.

The Catathai office will sell Alliaura Marine Poncin Group French-built boats. "We have invested money and a lot of time. There are other companies that im-

port French boats, but not from the same shipyards that we source from," said Mr Capisano.

Also moving into Boat Lagoon is Derani Yachts. Managing Director Hakan Lange said the elimination of import yachts was the decisive factor in opening an office in Phuket.

"We first opened in Malaysia in 1997, offering charter, maintenance, delivery and sales of pre-owned boats. We decided to have an office in Phuket after the import duty on boats was reduced to zero," he said.

However, as the office has yet to open, he said he could not predict the branch's expected performance.

## On the Move

Andre Brulhart of Switzerland had been appointed Resident Manager of Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club. A graduate of the Hotel Management School in Lausanne, Mr Brulhart has extensive experience working in Thailand, especially in the hotel food and beverage industry. Before moving to Phuket, he worked at Le Royal Meridien's Plaza Athenee in Bangkok, where he also worked for a number of years with the Amari Group.



Kullabuth "Buth" Phonsawatwanit is the new Marketing Manager at Big Island Media, a Phuket-based company specializing in magazine publishing. K. Buth, 34, worked at Thammasat University's *Law Magazine* in Bangkok before gaining her law degree and moving into commercial publications. She is also experienced in retail sales and the import-export industry.



The Asian Wind Company has appointed Australian Wayne William Lunt as Club Manager at Club Asia Fitness. Wayne, 30, has a degree in Sport Science from Edith Cowan University in Australia. His experience during his eight-year career in the fitness industry includes working as Activity Manager for White Sand Resort and Spa in the Maldives.



Been promoted? Made a career change? Know someone who has? Let us know by email to: [onthemove@phuketgazette.net](mailto:onthemove@phuketgazette.net)

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Issues & Answers

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# Is the South African property bubble ready to burst?

When people discuss the price of residential property and its recent performance history, talk on the island usually includes the UK, US, Australia and, of course, Phuket. Certainly Phuket has seen a strong rise in prices over the years, but there seems to be little or no research on just how much prices have risen.

I have noted at least one player in the Phuket property market has been virtually dismissive of the value of "second-hand" properties. Obviously, he is intent on selling new homes and is trying to attract buyers to that segment of the market. Yet it hardly seems logical to mock buyers of pre-owned properties, because without them how long can the gloss remain on prices of new homes? People buy property for a variety of reasons, shelter being the most basic. But property purchases often go far beyond that to include such things as security and perceived investment value.

Among the places where it is possible to track average rises in real estate prices, the contestants for the title of best return on investment over the past year and past seven years would include Spain, the UK and Australia.

Certainly, they have all performed well. Spain is ahead on a one-year basis by over 17% and on a seven-year basis by 149%. The UK is ahead by almost 14% on a one-year basis, but this disguises falling prices in the past few months. On a seven-year view, the market is up nearly 140%. Australia has also seen property prices fall recently, but is still up 8.2% on a one-year basis and over 110% on a seven-year basis.

In Asia, however, Hong Kong prices have leaped 31% in the past year, but are still down a staggering 50% when tracked over seven years.

Who leads the pack? The



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

answer certainly surprised me: South Africa. Property prices there have gained over 35% in the past year and over the past seven years have increased by 227%, according to Amalgamated Banks of South Africa.

The performance of the South African property market initially might seem to be without foundation. The economy is showing a better than average performance, with a 3.8% rise in gross domestic produce (GDP), but much of this can be attributed to higher prices for gold and other precious metals. Base lending rates from the central bank are still high at 7.6% and mortgage finance is more expensive still.

I believe that a number of factors are responsible. Seven years ago the prices of new homes were vastly higher than those of existing homes. The latter were selling at well below replacement value and little new construction was being undertaken.

However, more South Africans now qualify for mortgage finance. Ruthlessly applied affirmative-action policies have greatly increased the number of native African employees in senior positions, including government jobs. Traditionally, many employers offered cheap home loans to white-collar staff as part of the total remuneration package, including the government, banks, insurance companies and the mining industry.

This is not to say that the lot of the average South African has improved in the "new" South Africa; it hasn't. In fact, since majority rule began in 1994, unemployment in the South African workforce has risen from 32% to 42%.

Surprisingly, foreign buying has had little impact on prices nationally as foreign buyers are mainly interested in Cape Town and its immediate surroundings.

Interest rates being paid by non-subsidized home buyers are high by global terms. But they are still cheap for South Africa, which has averaged about 14% in the past, but at times have gone as high as 20%.

The South African property market is highly sophisticated, on par with the most developed countries in the world. This not only applies to the property stock, but to other factors as well.

For example, land title status is easy to ascertain; there are no dangerous pitfalls. Mortgage finance for those who qualify is speedily obtained and includes a survey from the lender and an entomologist's report in case the property is infested with termites. Loans are for up to 30 years, and it is a highly competitive market.

For a foreign buyer, there are no restrictions. Any foreigner

can buy on the same basis as a South African.

However, there is one problem - crime. South African crime statistics are probably among the highest in the world. A home buyer really needs a private security service, in addition to normal safeguards, unless the purchase is in a complex or is an apartment that has security. To buy a house in South Africa for use during only part of the year is an open invitation to burglary.

As is the case with many investments, all that glitters is not gold. The South African property market is probably close to its peak at the moment, but my instincts tell me that, sadly, South Africa has no long-term future for economic success. Africa is an economic disaster zone. It is not likely that South Africa will remain an exception to that trend forever.

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

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# Bright start to Similans high season

**F**lat, calm seas, bright sunny days, and lots of tourists can mean only one thing: high season is here. So what's new and happening to kick off the busy time?

I recently took a trip to the Similan Islands and was impressed; it seems that the National Park staff have been busy. I was pleased to see new mooring lines in many of the bays and can also happily report that I didn't see any trash, on or below the water's surface.

There did not appear to be too many boats and the dive sites were not overcrowded. Hopefully we will continue to see more improvements and the Similans remaining clean.

Further north at Koh Bon a miracle happened – we were the only boat there. Continuing north, at Koh Tachai we shared the dive spot with only one day-trip boat from Khao Lak. At Richelieu Rock we were lucky again and had the place to ourselves for a dive. Visibility was fantastic and there were many schools of fish present.

However, it was reported that a speedboat had caught fire on the south side of Island 9 and sunk – thankfully without injury. Let's hope that the coming year will be accident-free, and that the crews have all been properly trained for any such eventualities, should they occur. Sadly, such training is not enforced.

## Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvie Yaffe

Another problem is that divers there are coming up in the shallows and creating a dangerous situation by surfacing among the boats collecting or returning other divers. Perhaps some of the divemasters also need further training.

Those points aside, it was a great trip, and the Similans and the Surin Islands are still my favorite dive sites.

**Well supported.** On November 24, the dive community held a fund-raiser for injured dive instructor Raoul Alexander Dieter Wildt, injured in a visa run. It was an impressive display of the solidarity, generosity and compassion of the dive community, operators and instructors, as well as non-divers.

No doubt Raoul has many friends and is well loved and respected by many. Many dive companies, restaurants and bars made donations and the whole night was quite successful. Raoul is now recovering with the support of his many friends, co-workers and family.



One of the prizes donated for the fund-raiser for injured dive instructor Raoul Alexander Dieter Wildt was a day-trip on the MV *Catalina* (above), which is ideal for technical dive trips.

One of the donations for the fund-raiser was a day out on the new dive/fishing boat MV *Catalina*. The owner, Capt Aung, intended the boat to be used for fishing expeditions around Phuket and his native Koh Yao Yai.

However, Deep Blue Divers recently started using the boat for its technical-diving expeditions.

Her fish/depth finder and other equipment – originally intended to be used for sport fishing – makes *Catalina* a perfect boat for technical-dive trips. She is spacious and can accommodate up to eight divers.

Jörg Zebisch of Deep Blue Divers said that because the cap-

tain speaks good English and is a certified diver, *Catalina* is the ideal boat for their expeditions. I was told that they have even found a pinnacle off Racha Noi.

**Here or there?** Phuket is full of copies and it should come as no surprise that in addition to Sunrise Divers, which has been operating in Karon for five years, there is now a new dive shop, Sunrise Diving, in Patong, which has been open for around a month.

Sunrise Divers, at Karon Plaza, has been owned and operated for the past five years by Gilbert Redmann. He was once

an instructor like many of us, but had the opportunity to start Sunrise Divers. After years of hard work, his dive center is now well established and successful with a good reputation within the dive community.

They offers courses, live-aboards and technical diving. When he first heard about Sunrise Diving in Patong he thought it was a joke.

He was not angry about the similarity of the new company's name to that of his own, although he did not think it was a smart decision to open with such a similar name.

Sunrise Diving is directly on Patong Beach, at the northern end. It also has its own restaurant and bar. As owner Charlie Bird points out, his customers do not lose the feeling of paradise by being tucked away in a dive center [and classroom] in the back of Patong.

When asked why he picked the name, Mr Bird said it came from the location because customers see the sunrise when they go diving in the morning, despite Patong Beach facing west, where the sun sets.

He said, "The [two] companies are in different locations. A company is not made by its name; it is successful by the management, staff and level of customer satisfaction. So any nominal similarities between the two dive centers doesn't concern me."

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## Patong Darts League

**PATONG:** Heading into the final week of play, Happy Days moved into first place with a 5-4, three-point win playing at Shakers, but second-place OffShore enjoy a game in hand because their match with Didi's was postponed.

In the final week, which was played too late to be included in this edition, OffShore (42 points) were up against the resurgent Vikings of Valhalla, who won their second consecutive match, this time against Champs.

Meanwhile, last season's champions, Happy Days (44pts), were to take on Fat Boy Saloon. Also still in contention were Nag's Head (42pts), who are back in their high-season form and were scheduled to play on the road against Didi's in the final week.

If OffShore takes all six points from its final two games, it will be assured the league title –

and the right to host the league party on January 4 at their venue at the mouth of Soi Nanai 2.

But now that the high season is here and sharpshooters are flying in from inhospitable northern climes, anything could happen. The results of how it all plays out will be included in next week's *Gazette*.

December 21 results: Champs\* 4, Valhalla 5; Nag's Head\* 5, Amigos 4; Queen Mary 6, Piccadilly\* 3; Shakers 4, Happy Days\* 5; Two Black Sheep\* 5, Fat Boy Saloon 4. (\*=Winners of beer leg).

Standings after December 21: 1. Happy Days (44 pts); 2. Off Shore (43); 3. Nag's Head (42); 4. Piccadilly (39); 5. Queen Mary (37); 6. Champs (33); 7. Didi's (30); 8. Amigos (26); 9. Two Black Sheep (22); 10. Shakers (21); 11. Fat Boy Saloon (11); 12. Valhalla (6).

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# Prime Minister's Cup: Amporn slip past Net Net

By Anongnat Sartpisut

KATHU: Amporn A, winners of Group C, defeated Group D runners-up Net Net by a score of 1-0 in their Prime Minister's Cup football tournament match that was played at Baan Kathu School on December 25.

Amporn A dominated the first half in terms of possession, but failed to find the back of the net after missing a number of excellent scoring opportunities. The match went into half-time tied 0-0.

Six minutes into the second half, Amporn A managed to break the impasse when Orasanop Sangsuwan kicked a perfect crossing pass from deep in Net Net's corner. The ball was headed into the top-right corner of the net by his teammate Anulak Phetluan for the only goal of the match.

In another matchup, Nong Mark and Tessaban Kathu ended regular time at 0-0, forcing a penalty shootout, with Tessaban Kathu winning by a single shot, 4-3.



Anulak Phetluan of Amporn A (in red) loses possession of the ball after a hard tackle by a Net Net player. Amporn A went on to win the Christmas day match 1-0.

The runners-up and championship matches were scheduled to be played on December 30 and 31 respectively, starting at 1:30 pm.

The *Gazette* will bring the results in the next edition if the games are not canceled or postponed due to the December 26 tsunami.

## Plookpanya A win first round of Phuket Football Cup

PHUKET CITY: Plookpanya A, the runners-up in the Tessaban Thailand Football Championship 2004, overcame Ko Pan 3-1 in the first round of the "Phuket Football Cup", an under-13s, five-a-side soccer tournament held at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex on December 26.

Twenty teams took part in the first round of the tournament, which consists of 20-minute matches in a group round-robin format, followed by a knock-out phase.


Plookpanya A and Ko Pan are both playing in Group B, along with the Star PSA and Laem Panwa teams.

The first score came in minute 11, with Plookpanya's Nattapong Sairiya scoring from five yards out to put Plookpanya A up 1-0. Four minutes later, a

missed tackle by a Plookpanya defender allowed Ko Pan's Teerapon Sunato to even the score at 1-1 with a shot from just five yards out. The Plookpanya keeper managed to get a hand to the ball and block the shot, but failed to control it and its momentum was enough to carry it across the goal line.

One minute before the end of play in the tightly contested first half, Plookpanya's Nattapong Madmen fired from seven yards out, the ball ricocheting into the net off the right post and giving Plookpanya a 2-1 lead.

The last goal of the game came just one minute into the second half, when Nattapong Madmen found the back of the net again, this time from 10 yards out, to give Plookpanya a 3-1 lead at full time.



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# Vintage memories

A fabulous late night meal at a legendary Caribbean restaurant, lingering over a bottle of rare Burgundy from an excellent vintage, taking what they hadn't finished with them to the beach afterwards, alone in the soft moonlight.

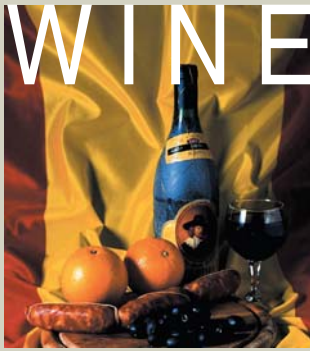
A red-checked picnic blanket among the vines somewhere in California's wine country, prosciutto and melon, crusty bread and a rose wine of merit to enjoy, a solitary hawk circling overhead to witness the moment.

The graduate students had sequestered themselves at a table surrounded by boxes of whiskey and beer inside a New Orleans liquor warehouse, a place owned by a big-hearted man who loved wine. This little club was where they tasted the world's greatest wines in pri-

vacy, until somehow discovered by influential producers who anxiously sought their opinion and approval, which made them laugh.

Her mouth recoiling in alarm from the coarse tannins of the first powerful Cabernet she attempted, a gauche moment for her to recall, having grown up on Chardonnay and sweet wine, as she is a well-known collector of Bordeaux today.

Nancy worked swing shift this month and the winery expected 24,000 bottles filled with wine before 8 pm, but the task wasn't mind-numbing today; Charlie from shipping said he had something important



By Steven Roberto

to ask her after lunch, a question she had waited for since high school, but there were still 6,000 empty bottles between her and Charlie's question.

The baby was their first grandchild, a boy. No matter they had hoped for a girl, his little life was as precious as the moment and, in the tradition of their village, they anointed his body with wine as a symbol of health, good fortune and the connectedness of all life.

He said goodbye to his family in Mexico 24 years ago and left for a new life in the vineyards of California. Along the way there were many moments of mislaid pride, incalculable amounts of per-

spiration to earn his next meal and proof his dreams were not an illusion, but now, as his eyes opened from restless sleep to the sight of his smiling wife and children, and his home, there is so much he wants to tell them – but cannot.

Whatever your memories about wine, whatever your dreams and fears, life, like wine, is something we share briefly but which can be renewed in our hearts and in others. I hope the holiday season brings much comfort, happiness and peace now and in the years to come.

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

The Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club is, effectively, a ship without water. It does not have meeting or conference rooms, but "chart" rooms; pennants are abundant; it has the Quarterdeck and Promenade restaurant and bar.

Tonight Dining Out visits the Regatta at the Yacht Club, its – forgive me – flagship restaurant, and we are not disappointed. The restaurant is packed to the gunnels and the quiet causerie of diners blends with the breeze thrumming through the halliards. In all, a charming spot.

From the restaurant is a vista across Nai Harn Beach and the yachts there-off. Six times a minute, the beam from the Royal Jubilee Lighthouse atop Laem Phromthep across the bay reminds even those on land of the powerful elemental forces out there.

Safe and snug in the Regatta, we meet its stellar chef,

## Ship-shape repast

Italian Giacomo Turzo, a man more focused than the Hubble Space Telescope.

Giacomo prepares for us what can only be described as edible works of art that are almost too good to eat. However, eat them we do.

The first course is a *Consomme Freddo Di Pomodoro Con Caviale Di Trota, Spuma Di Carciofi E Polpa Di Grancio*, which I am sure you have already translated as chilled tomato consomme with golden trout caviar, artichoke mousse and crab meat.

The consomme is as crystal-clear as it should be and has an exquisite, delicate taste. The mousse is velvet for the palette, with the merest hint of bite courtesy of the crab meat.



The carpaccio is one of the delights to enjoy at the Regatta.

A carpaccio of yellowfin tuna and citrus vegetables next graces the table and, once devoured, leaves us baying for more food.

I plump for Australian beef tenderloin with black olive tapenade crust, an Italian-style ratatouille and rocket leaves.

God bless Australians for producing such tender beef, which knocks everything else into a 10-gallon hat. Mine is served

rare – the waitress coolly avoided my request for it to be "...extra rare, preferably still chewing the cud" – but the entire ensemble is superb, a delight to savor. It is tender and full-flavored, but each mouthful reveals a different level of taste.

Our table now no longer appears to be in a restaurant, but in a church, so devoutly are we enjoying Giacomo's creations that our chitchat has ceased.

Giacomo is a taciturn man, but one with visual, visionary and voluptuary flair, and he has honed his talent at Michelin-starred restaurants throughout Italy.

The ladies in the group

choose pasta, which, as you might expect, is made fresh every day.

"Fork it," I think as I spy my neighbor's *Spaghetini Alla Chitarra Con Ragout Di Fegatini Di Pollo E Olio Al Tartufo Bianco* (spaghetini with chicken liver ragout, scented with white truffle oil) and steal some of the delectable liver and pasta, redolent of that most prized of fungi, the truffle.

We each enjoy a medley of desserts, mostly because we are becoming territorial over our own food; too often have we been pinching from each other's plate.

The desserts are an ocular joy, perhaps the masterpieces of Giacomo's portfolio. They comprise: chocolate fondant with melting caramel heart, almond ice cream and pistachio sauce; fresh strawberry sable with crème brûlée and green lemon ice cream; and rhubarb and strawberry tart with vanilla ice cream. It is impossible to praise one above the others.

As if this is not enough, we are then presented with a dinky plate of Chef's Surprises – biscottini, chocolates and mini-crème brûlée.

The food sirens called us to a feast and we realize that a life on board a ship – even one firmly on the rocks – is what every cabin boy aspires to. I must go down to the sea again...

Regatta at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 076-380200-19. Booking is advised.

### On the menu with Andy Johnstone Regatta

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## Home of the Week

Kathu

# Views to the fore in Kathu

This week's Home of the Week enjoys a marvelous outlook towards the fairways and water courses of the Loch Palm Golf Club. Located on a hillside and hidden behind an attractive wall with an electric entry gate, the property is approached through tropical gardens and waterfalls.

Entry to this three-level, 450-square-meter home is via the middle floor, and the modern interior is decorated throughout with marble floors, timber ceilings, cornices, paneled walls, and stone.

The middle floor also features the living and dining areas – which have soaring ceilings and sweeping views – a well-



equipped kitchen, a maid's room, two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Stairs lead to the lower level, which contains a further two bedrooms, both with en-suite bathrooms of marble floors and walls. The top level is set into the high roof and has a large bedroom and an en-suite bathroom.

A wide timber deck runs along the rear of the property, an ideal spot for a barbecue and a drink. There is also a sala and a lily pond, and a covered lanai overlooking the garden.

The home has five air conditioners, ceiling fans, a carport, UBC cable TV and a telephone line. The






swimming pool that is currently under construction will add the finishing touch to this very impressive, up-market property.

The land title is *Nor Sor 3 Gor* and the price is 19 million baht.


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





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## Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

## Orchid promises to bear fruit

PATONG: Every effort is being made to give the 28 villas in the half-billion-baht L'Orchidée Residences development a character of its own, according to marketing director Jean Claude Guillet.

Mr Guillet explained, "We spend a lot of time seeking out different ornaments and features, so that each villa has its own individual character. We don't want to repeat the decoration in every villa or elsewhere; each villa must be individual."

"For example, we go to Chiang Mai to buy woodcarvings, and directly to people who import woodcarvings from Burma and China, as well as those who sell handcrafted items made in Thailand. We aim to perfectly incorporate antique furniture and decoration into the property."

When the development, perched on 23 rai near the Novotel Coralia hotel and overlooking the sea, is completed, it will feature four types of Thai, Mediterranean and European-inspired villas.

Each of the two Vanda-style homes, each with 239 square meters of living area, will feature two bedrooms – one with a thick Burmese carved door – and a Jacuzzi.

There will be 13 Cattleya villas, with two or three bedrooms and 294sqm of living space, a vaulted skylight in the living room, a terrace and a 36sqm private pool.

Villas of the Disa style, of which there will be 11, will have three or four bedrooms and 398sqm of living area, with a large terrace, a 48sqm swimming pool and a Jacuzzi.

L'Orchidée will feature just one Ansellia villa. It will have 824sqm of living space, with four or five bedrooms, three bathrooms, two Jacuzzis, a living room and a kitchen.

As main features in the center of the development will be two swimming pools, sunbathing deck, bar, spa, sauna, Jacuzzi and gymnasium.

The infrastructure includes underground electricity supply,



About half of the L'Orchidée Residences development is complete, with the rest of the project's 28 villas expected to be built by the end of the year.

24-hour security and an alarm protection system. Knight Frank Chartered (Thailand) will maintain the common areas as well as provide a laundry service.

Landslides are a concern in Patong, but, according to Mr Guillet, they will not affect L'Orchidée residents, as the foundations of each home go eight meters into the rock, while sturdy

secondary walls protect the villa walls that face uphill.

In addition, a drainage system is being installed to drain excess water away from the site.

Said Marketing Direct Mr Guillet, "Our target customers are Thais and foreigners looking for something different."

"We're looking really at families who would like to holiday here for one to three weeks a year, while retaining a second home that they can rent out, serviced by full, hotel-style management."

Houses can be bought for between 23 million baht and 43 million baht, or rented for US\$500-US\$900 a day.

The builders went on site in late 2003; around 50% of the development has been completed, with the rest to be finished by the end of the year. Ten of the 28 units have already been sold.

The developer is AC Highland Co Ltd.

More information is available from AC Highland Co Ltd, 13/2 Soi 4, Phra Barami Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150, or at Tel: 076-290404-5, Fax: 076-341-612, Email: info@lorchidee-residences.com or at: www.lorchidee-residences.com.

## History

Of the companies at the top of Thailand's property-industry tree, the name Richard Ellis is probably one of the best known. Originally a British company, in 1998 it merged with the US group CB Commercial, hence the name CB Richard Ellis (CBRE).

David Simister, Managing Director of CBRE (Thailand) has been in the driving seat since 1990, but had been involved in the Thai property market since 1985, when CBRE was appointed sole agent for marketing condominiums and villas at Laguna Phuket.

On the Laguna residential project, Mr Simister said that CBRE was the first property company to undertake a big project in Phuket.

"We started to market in Hong Kong and Singapore and, although the first show in HK attracted about 300 guests, nobody was buying," said Mr Simister.

"I fished out my checkbook and put a deposit down. This first sale, albeit to myself, started the others off," he continued. "We ended up with around 30 sales."

"Laguna has created a lot of business," he noted. "Apart from the restaurants and shops, several of the original buyers have evolved into developers themselves."

"It was an interesting experience. The project was the first of its type, and a first for us, integrating the concept of a resort, as well as seeing the land being reclaimed from wasteland and the revival of nature and wildlife," he said.

"Over these 15 years, the company has seen every department in the honors for revenue generation."

Mr Simister said, "Even in 1997, the year of the Asian financial crash, the valuation and research department [of CBRE] was doing well, despite the fact that property buying almost stopped."

"Now the sales section – especially in Bangkok – is booming. Bangkok is becoming a very popular city for foreign buyers, as it is seen as excellent value for money, with all the facilities of any country in the world."

CB Richard Ellis recently

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# helps to reap benefits

David Simister, Managing Director of CBRE (Thailand): 'We are enjoying growth in every area of the company, and Phuket certainly contributes greatly [to this].'



opened an office in Phuket, the company's second branch in Thailand.

"We started about a year ago with one expat and a truck, and now we have more than 20 staff," said Mr Simister.

"The management side is growing with several new projects coming on stream, including Maan Tawan, Layan Estate, The Plantation and Baan Chai Nam, which has already been completed. We are also working as management consultants with the Royal Phuket Marina."

Of the future in Phuket, Mr Simister believes that it will de-

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

velop the way of Spain and the Mediterranean.

"With the devaluation of the baht, a lifestyle with gated communities, maids, cooks and drivers is still possible, although Phuket is not without its challenges," he said.

"The traffic problem is becoming serious and is going to get worse but I believe that it can be

solved. The construction of five flyovers [in Phuket] and a bypass through Patong would solve most of the problems. In fact, the improvement would be enormous. I'm sure that it will happen, eventually."

Mr Simister is also focusing on developing the property market in parts of Indochina. "We have an office in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and are involved with several hotel projects in Cambodia."

"We are enjoying growth in every area of the company, and Phuket certainly contributes greatly [to this]," he said.

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Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31 Project designer and owner: Le Raffine 31 Company Limited. Registered capital: 10,000,000 Baht (fully paid up). Office location: 31 Sukhumvit 31 (Kwattana), Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok 10110. Managing Director: Pinyo Narasittha, P.D. Registered condominium 50 floors with 45 units. Site location: On-site ready No. 1115, Klongtoey Sub-District (Jewelry Building), Klongtoey District, Bangkok. Land area (Type 1-1-10) approximately 100 square meters. Project encumbered and supported by Kriengsak Bank P.D. Building construction permit has been approved in 401241. Construction begins: Jan. 2004. Completion expected: December 2004. The project shall be registered in the condominium after completing the construction. Commence work fee will be paid by buyer in accordance with completion of construction permit process.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# A pledge beyond procrastination

As some of you may know, I have been known on occasion to indulge in the odd beer and enjoy more than a little of the wonderful food in Phuket. This week has been no exception. In fact, I may have over-indulged just a tad. Perhaps that's why I'm physically unable to move at present.

At this time of the year, it's traditional for Westerners to make plans for the coming year. Some call them New Year resolutions, but I see them as things I should do.

So, here are Bert's "things I should just do in the garden anyway" for 2005:

**Drink less beer while gardening.** This is the most difficult task on the list to achieve, as it's quite hot here. Surely the temperature alone is reason enough to have a bottle of beer in hand while tending the garden, but I'll give it a go, anyway.

**Start more plants from seed.** I'm pretty idle at heart, and would much rather go down to the local garden center and spend a few baht on something that somebody else has done all the initial work on. The daft thing is that I know there's nothing to it.

Phuket has an ideal climate in which to grow things from scratch, which is why everything you buy is so cheap. Elsewhere in the world there's a huge failure rate for seedlings. Most seeds that are planted will either not grow at all or turn into a pathetic runt of a plant. But in Phuket, if you plant it, it will grow, and it's not likely to take long either.

**Keep watering.** This needs to be done every day for the garden to stay healthy. When there is enough rain you need not bother, but as rain is currently in pretty short supply, I should get off my large behind and wield my hosepipe daily.

By the way, if you're wa-



Having an attractive garden in Phuket – unlike this one – is easy; all it takes is a little initiative, and the plants will do the rest.

tering pots and the water doesn't run out of the holes in the bottom of the pot within a few seconds, there's a problem – either the holes are blocked or the soil is just waterlogged. Either way, that's the kiss of death for that particular plant, so it desperately needs re-potting.

**Re-pot on a regular basis.** There are a few reasons why this needs doing. The main one is that most plants in Phuket grow so quickly. My mum, who lives in the UK, has pot plants – many of them "tropical" plants that we take for granted here – which don't seem to do much more than survive; they never get

any bigger, so they have stayed in their tiny pots for years.

Here, though, it doesn't take long for a plant to develop a root system that is bursting out of the holes in the bottom of the pot, as all that's left in the pot itself is roots, the soil having long since been displaced.

Although plants will survive like this, they'll be happier with bigger homes, and the earlier they have them, the more content they'll be.

**Plant something where nothing has been planted before.** There are parts of my garden that have space for a shrub or some flowers. There's no rea-

son why I shouldn't do more to cover the garden wall and improve corners that I haven't bothered to in the past. I just need to get started, and get a bit more creative.

**Install an irrigation system.** This isn't as daft or as expensive as it sounds. All you need is a few lengths of cheap blue plastic pipe, some joints to join the pipes together, a few spray nozzles and some glue.

It's much easier and much cheaper than it sounds. All you need to do is run the pipes either underground or along a wall, and attach the nozzles a few feet above the ground two or three meters apart using T-junctions and the like. For less than 300 baht, I installed a full system in the garden of one house I lived in. The great thing was that all I needed to do to water every plant in the garden was turn on a tap.

Well, I started thinking how I should work harder in the garden, but this seems to have come round full-circle, with ways for me to make life easier for myself. Never mind. It's hot – must be time for another beer.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: [bloominbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bloominbert@hotmail.com)



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### FULL VIEW OF OCEAN, KALIM



Panoramic view of Patong Bay and the sunset. One rai in Kalim, power and water available. 3-min walk to the beach. Price: 10 million baht. Pls contact Phuket LandSearch for more info. Tel: 076-290509, 076-340348. Email: sales@phuketland.com

### BANG TAO BEACH

Large 2-bedroom apartments in an exclusive development. Phase 1 sold out in 9 days, Phase 2 now selling. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: info@bangtaobeachgardens.com Visit our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

### SEAVIEW

& beachfront. Stunning hillside (overlooking the entire Chalong Bay) & beachfront land for sale by owner. Agents welcome. Pls email for details and photo. Email: amorn9999@yahoo.com

### NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for sale by owner. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished with a mountain view. 560sqm, 69m. Call Tel: 07-2799500.

### LAND FOR SALE

in Phuket Country Club. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-8718333, 01-691-3351.

### SEAVIEW LUXURY VILLA



for sale by owner/builder. New, luxury 3-bedroom, 5-bathroom, Thai-style detached homes in Khao Khat with spectacular views over Chalong Bay and the southern islands. 1.5 rai (2,400sqm) of land. Property includes a swimming pool, landscaped garden and maid's quarters. Modern, maintenance-free construction, Thai Style, 3 separate buildings. Pls contact for more details. Tel: 07-2659977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

### SEAVIEW CHANOTE

land, with well water and road, located in Ao Makham, 1,220sqm, 60m to the sea and a small harbor. Property is surrounded by a solid wall and is ready to build on. Must see to appreciate. Price: 5.7 million baht. Pls call Tel: 07-2728216.

### KAMALA HOUSE

90 sq wah with full title, two bedrooms, aircon, sat TV, large kitchen and living room, and big garden. Located in a sought after area of Kamala. 3.7 million baht. Pls contact for details. Tel: 01-6064649.

### MISSION HILLS

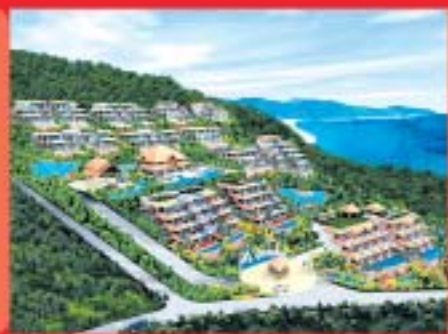
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**CAPE PANWA**  
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**LAYAN**  
Magnificent sea-view mansions on large plots with unique architectural designs and lake-side salas. Superbly located.  
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Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

### LARGE DETACHED BUNGALOW

Located in Chalong. Thai-style roof, 300sqm floor space, 42sqm covered terrace, 1 rai of land, wall-fenced and large, secluded garden in peaceful area. Please contact for information. Tel: 01-8912166. Email: gerhard-berger@gmx.at

### BEST PRICE

House for sale at Kata Beach, near the sea. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-284065, 06-5958512, 01-9704638. Email: nalumana@phuket.ksc.co.th

### 30 RAI IN CHUMPHON

550,000 baht. Very cheap! Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-8920286. Email: shekels@gmx.net

### LAND FOR SALE

Directly on the Banyan Tree Golf Course at Laguna Phuket. 1,050sqm/262.45 sq wah. Price: 7.872 million baht. Pls call or email for further information. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

### ONE-STORY HOUSE

in Anupas Golf Ville. 4 bedrooms, 5 aircons, kitchen with dining room & built-in furniture in every room. Price: 5.7 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2836716.

## FOR SALE

**18,500,000 baht**

5-bedroom, 5-bathroom west-facing villa overlooking Kata Beach. One of 5 individual houses in a secure, walled compound but with no shared land and no monthly charges. Finished to a high standard with Italian granite floors, it includes a deluxe kitchen, large balcony overlooking Kata Beach, swimming pool and parking for 3 cars.



Tel: 01-2735047. Email: houseinphuket@hotmail.com  
Web page: http://www.phuket.net/kata\_sunset\_villa.htm

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# Property Gazette

## LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE



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

## HIGH-END, OPEN SEAVIEW HOME



Every room with a view. Teak, Thai/Balinese style home with a deep swimming pool. Large decks and master bedrooms. Exclusive neighborhood just 3 minutes from Patong Beach. 45 million baht. Must see! Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-344-044. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

## SURIN BEACH



New Thai-style villa for sale at Suriyana Villas, 5-min walk from Surin Beach and Bang Tao Beach. 240sqm with a dining sala, car park sala, beautiful view over tropical swimming pool, 32 meters of exotic gardens. Architectural design with all interior and exterior finished to the highest Western standards. Form and function in perfect harmony. Price: 16.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8753289. (daytime). Email: regents@phuket.ksc.co.th

## PATONG

townhouse. 16m x 6m, 2 story, 2 lge br, 3 bath, carpark. 3.35 million baht. Tel: 076-296206. 07-2733740. Email: bax\_winsor@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Nanai Rd, Patong. 2 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, very good location. 3.1M baht. Tel: 076-296086, 01-0890961.

## PRIVATE POOL

villas. Resort-style villas with private swimming pool. 2-4 bed, fully furnished. Starting from US\$145,000. Email: twovillas@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.twovillas.com

## PATONG RESIDENCE

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

## PATONG SHOPHOUSE

6 bed with en-suites. Great location, brand new. For rent or sale. Inexpensive opportunity to start new business. Tel: 07-0170135.

## SHOP FOR RENT

2-story shop, fully furnished, Thai-style, with aircon. 5x20m. Good for selling antiques, house decorations, tour agency, massage etc. Tel: 01-5360536. Fax: 076-220912. Email: praewap@hotmail.com

## LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully furnished house in Palai Green with 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalong Bay. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8924311.

## FOR RENT

Bungalows & restaurant. Tel: 01-8946686. www.phuketnatureplace.com

## APARTMENT

for rent. 50sqm. Good position & location on Nanai Rd. Only available for a year-long rental. Please call Tel: 07-8904518.

## RAWAI

townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, telephone & home cinema. Yearly rental, 15,000 baht/month. Pls call or email for more details. Tel: 01-3709661. Email: one5thave@yahoo.com

## YOU ARE INVITED



Uncle Chai Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. Long lease preferable, 17,000 - 25,000 baht per month. Choa Fa West Rd. Tel: 01-4926883. Website: www.unclechaihome.com

## BUNGALOW FOR RENT



New 3-bedroom bungalow with 2 bathrooms, set on 125 sq wah of land in Kathu. Rooms have aircon are fully furnished, and have Western-style kitchens. Asking price 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-922-2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

## NEW 4-BEDROOM

house for rent with swimming pool and walled garden. Located in Rawai-Nai Harn area. 35,000 baht month, minimum one-year lease, no agents. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-3971835.

## RAWAI: LUXURIOUS

house with pool and 3 bedrooms, available Feb, 2005. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-6067410.

## PENINSULA MANSION

for sale. Situated on 2 rai, 3 ngan, 53.5 sq wah of landscaped gardens, with swimming pool and sala. Chanote Title. 5 bedrooms, with bathrooms en-suite. Living area approx 750 sq m. Staff quarters with en-suite bathroom. Laundry, office, separate shower/toilet. Fully furnished (optional). A beautiful one-of-a-kind home. Excellent location: The Mansion sits 50 m from the sea, with great views, on the East Coast Ya Moo Peninsula, Tambon Pa Khlok, Amphur Thalang. A 15-to-20 minute drive to all major places on Phuket, eg: Airport, golf courses, Phuket City, Dulwich College, main hospitals, Royal Phuket Marina, Boat Lagoon, Tesco Lotus, Big C, Central, Index and Makro. Viewing by appointment only. All enquiries to John Young. Tel: 01-8927948. Email: jy@peninsulamansion.com

## 7 ONLY

Townhouses, due for completion in July 2005. Deluxe living with lovely views. Only 7.5 million baht each. Tel: 076-345081, 01-9241447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

## PATONG

condominium. Condo is fully refurbished to a high standard and has seaviews. 2.4 million baht. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: asiainproperties@yahoo.co.uk

## 1-BEDROOM

apartment. 75sqm - living room, kitchen, bathroom, fully-furnished, can sleep 4. Shared swimming pool + maid service. Rawai/Nai Ham. Investment property/rental income. Price: 2.6 million baht. Tel: 07-2658845. Email: johndevenport@hotmail.com

## BEACHFRONT LAND

5 rai. Samui, 7 million baht per rai; Koh Lanta 3 rai, 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-8913972.

## 4 + 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA

Top-quality 4 + 2 bedroom house for sale in Kamala, near Phuket Fantasea and only 10 mins walk to the beach. 4 master bedrooms on 1st floor with en-suite bathroom. 2 bedrooms on ground floor - one can also be used as an office (2 phone lines), the other as a maid's room with attached bathroom. Large living/dining room with open European kitchen, as well as a Thai kitchen. Fully furnished - all rooms have aircon and ceiling fan. Priced at 18 million baht. For more details please contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Tel: 076-279075, 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

## NEW HOUSE IN KATA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, top-quality. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 06-277-5298.

## LAND FOR SALE

Last chance: 20 rai of Ban Don land for sale. 2 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com

## KAMALA HOUSE

4 bedroom house for sale. Tel: 076-385336, 09-289-1659. Email: seadog@jinet.com For further details, see our website at http://phukethouseforsale.com

## KAMALA LAND

Ready to Build, good area, 285 sq wah. Urgent Sale, 2.8 million baht. Tel: 076-344-521, 06-6822969. Email: smith@taurus-travel.com

## NEW HOUSE 4 SALE

2 bedrooms, Western kitchen, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, 4 mins from Kata Beach, 5.5 million baht. Tel: 01-891-3972.

## 8 VILLAS 4 SALE



Newly completed, small development on approx 2 rai of land. Close to Chalong, the development is comprised of 8 stylish villas with fully furnished rooms set in beautifully landscaped gardens. Includes a swimming pool and private parking. Price for the whole development is 25 million baht. Tel: 09-9222800. Email: meen443\_40@hotmail.com

## RAWAI CONDO

for sale. 250,000 baht total price, payable in instalments. 150,000 baht initial payment, the remaining 100,000 baht transferred at the Land Office after 1 year. Freehold title. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

4 rai, 1 ngan, 44.3 sq wah. Ripe for development. Chanote title. Superb piece of land which rises gently from front to rear. Some sea views, plus formed entrance driveway off the road. 100 meters from the sea. Adjacent to Peninsula Mansion. Excellent location: East coast, Cape Yamoo, Tambon Pa Khlok, Amphur Thalang. Take Highway 4027 east from Heroines' (4km), turn right onto 4003 to Yamoo. Viewing by appointment only. All inquiries to John Young. Tel: 01-8927948. Email: jy@peninsulamansion.com

## Properties For Rent

## SUPERB PRIME-VIEW HOUSE



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

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Mart page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other pages: Saturday 12 noon.



# Property Gazette

## PATONG

commercial. 3-story, new shop and residence around US\$25 a day. Suit rest, office, bar etc. Excellent location & cheap. Call Peter at Tel: 07-0170135.

## ONE FAMILY HOUSE

for rent. 150 sqm living area, phone line, kitchen, living room (50sqm), nursery, master bedroom, bathroom with hot water shower and WC, extra toilet, terrace, parking area. Very quiet, 5 mins to Mission Golf, 10 mins to airport. Year-by-year contract only; monthly rent 15,000 baht and 2 months deposit. Fax: 076-274575.

## RAWAI RESIDENCE

Apartment/Studio with aircon and fan, fully furnished and 300m from the beach for rent at 7,000 baht/month or 350 baht/day. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4743418, 07-2738944. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## HOUSES FOR RENT

in Phuket. Short or long term rental. Tel: 01-968-0309. Email: waeowta@myrealbox.com Website: www.houseinphuket.com

## Accommodation Available

## 2-BEDR HOUSE - KATA

Nice house, fully equipped, long/short term B15/25k/month, avail approx Jan 5. Tel: 07-2751423. Email: svein@byggguiden.no

## KAMALA HOLIDAY

Villa rental. The Coolwater Villas. 3 or 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, modern design, ocean/mountain views, private pools, serviced, 24-hour security and emergency assistance. Expat managed. Tel: 076-270750, Fax: 076-270751. Email: bookings@pipsphuket.com For more information, please see our website at: [http://phuketvillarentals.com/tcw/tcw\\_02/index.html](http://phuketvillarentals.com/tcw/tcw_02/index.html)

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apartments & villas. Phuket's largest villa and apartment rental agency, with villas and apartments to suit your needs. Furnished, beachfront, pools, fully serviced, secure, 24-hour emergency assistance. Many options available. Week/month discounts also available. Tel: 076-270750, 01-7370722. Fax: 076-270751. Email: bookings@pipsphuket.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://phuketvillarentals.com>

## ROOMS FROM

300 bht. your own hot shower, fan only or aircon, all rooms ground level, pool table, UBC TV. Call 4 pics & info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Fax: 076-290383. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 2 SHOPHOUSES

in Kathu. 2 connecting, 3-story shophouses in Kathu at Anuphas Golf Ville, on the road to Patong. Very good location. Tel: 01-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Wanted

## HOUSE WANTED

Looking for a 2 bedroom house to rent in Phuket (Patong area), not far from town or beach, with private swimming pool. Must be in an area with possibility of ADSL-connection. One year rental contract. Email: 8547eriksson@telia.com

## 3-BEDRM HOUSE

wanted. Looking for a 3-bedroom house in a quiet and Karaoke-free area. Must be in an area with possibility of ADSL-connection and must have a covered parking-space. Long term, no furniture needed. 15,000 baht/month max. Email: seismic\_dude@hotmail.com

## LOOKING TO RENT

I am looking to rent a small house, bungalow or similar. Need 1 bedroom, kitchen, furnished, quiet and safe area of Patong, Kamala, or Karon. Approx 7,000 baht per month. Expect to move in February. Email: th246810@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

for long term. Swiss businessman is searching in Phuket-Patong area for free-standing single family house in good condition. Must be completely furnished and have 2 or 3 bedrooms and spacious living room. Prefer nice garden with swimming pool. Minimum rental period: 2-3 years. Expected monthly rent: 15-25,000 baht. I will be in Phuket early February and would like to close a contract while there. Please send documentation including photos and map by email. Email: info@erfacgmbh.ch

## WANT TO RENT

a house. Looking for a house to rent in Phuket, not far from town or beach, with private swimming pool. One year rental contract. Email: nattchaporn@yahoo.fr

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Handyman and home improvement contractor available for repairs and more – floor/wall tiling, painting, ceiling, lighting system, kitchen, bathroom, wood and furniture. Please call or email for more information. Tel: 09-5913996, 01-8953185. Email: hservice@phuket.ksc.co.th

## Household Services Needed

## MAID W/ HIGH

responsibility. Foreign couple is looking for a long term maid with high responsibilities. Basic spoken and written English plus nice, sincere personality required. The person should also be able to help with miscellaneous local issues. Working location for the first 9 months will be at Patong Beach; after that, in Kathu in nice environment. Good salary based on abilities and working experience. Please call or email for interview. Tel: 06-7428968. Email: fima168@yahoo.com

## NANNY NEEDED

During the winter holidays (Dec 25 to Jan 9, 2005). Urgently needed to look after 3-year old girl. English and/or Japanese speaking pls! Energetic lady w/own transportation who can play with my daughter from 8am-3pm. Pls call NOW! We offer good pay! Tel: 072-677924, 07-677924. Email: macoseru@hotmail.com

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# Island Job Mart

for the perfect trip...just click!  
**HotelTravel.com**

The Hotel Travel Network, the world's leader in discount hotel reservations is expanding its business and offering an exciting work environment with opportunities for career growth. Applications from candidates with the following qualifications are now being taken for our Phuket office.

**Multilingual Customer Service Agents**

- Applicants must be computer literate, and should be able to communicate (orally and in written form) fluently in 2 of the languages below: German French Italian Spanish

**Human Resources / Training Director**

- Proven experience in the hotel or travel industry.

**Chinese Customer Service Agents (Thai nationality)**

- Bachelor's degree in tourism or related field
- Good command of English and Chinese written and spoken
- Have experience in tourism industry and Internet e-commerce

**Reservation and Customer Service Agents (Thai nationality)**

- Bachelor's degree in tourism or related field
- Good command of English written and spoken
- Basic computing skills
- Experience in tourism industry, Internet and e-commerce business an advantage

**Credit Coordinator**

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

**Web Developer**

- Degree in computer science or related field.
- Good command of English written and spoken
- Have experience in web development using Microsoft technologies including ASP.NET and SQL Server.

**Webmaster (Thai nationality)**

- Degree in computer science or related field
- Very good command of written and spoken English
- Excellent command of HTML, IS and related web technologies.
- Knowledge of dynamic page creation (asp.net) advantageous.
- Proven leadership and organizational skills.
- Problem solving and initiative is essential for this position.

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

**NAGA CONCEPTS**

NagaConcepts, tropical-modern architect, with offices in Phuket, Bangkok & Hong Kong, strives for excellence and creative leadership. We are instrumental in creating some of Phuket's most successful real estate developments, and many of the island's most admired homes. The firm offers opportunities for energetic & motivated teamplayers:

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Successfully lead the planning, design & construction stages of luxury residential projects for a high-end international clientele.

- 7-10 yrs post-graduate experience in project administration & construction mgmt
- Coordinate the consultant & marketing teams
- Experience in high-end residences or hip boutique hotels is an advantage
- Good communication and leadership skills, proficiency in spoken and written English

**ACCOUNTANT & OFFICE MANAGER**

A trusted & senior role for a competent individual who seeks challenge, and opportunities to grow professionally & personally in an expanding firm. A position of responsibility & empowerment.

- Thai national, bachelor's degree, registered accountant or CPA
- At least 8 years experience; full set of accounts
- Internal financial reports to Directors, budget & budget controls
- Good command of spoken & written English
- Leadership & interpersonal skills
- Able to work independently with a "can do" attitude, result - oriented

**JUNIOR SECRETARY**

- Support an excellent team, and gain experience in an international company
- Thai national, bachelor's degree, at least 25 yrs old, 3 yrs experience
- Accurate typing, good telephone manners
- Good written & spoken English
- Keen to learn, diligent, organised, able to cope in a busy office

These positions are based in Phuket City, and offer excellent salary & benefits appropriate for the applicant's abilities, experience, and commitment. Please send resume, stating current & expected salary, to applications@nagaconcepts.com or by post to

**NagaConcepts (Thailand) Co. Ltd**  
59/2 Ong Sim Phai Road, Taladyai, Phuket City, Phuket 83000  
Applications are strictly confidential. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. To know more about opportunities at NagaConcepts, please contact Mr. Andor Hampala, Director, at 076 219 892 or 02 633 8282.

## 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

**OFFICE MANAGER/**  
sales. Permanent Position for Thai National. Must have very good: English skills- writing, speaking and comprehension. Organizational abilities. Ability to work unsupervised. Inter-personal skills. Also, driving Licence. Please email/fax CV. Tel: 076-232960, 01-8919653. Fax: 076-232961. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

**RECEPTION**  
internet. We're looking for Thai nationals, women, to work as cyber café receptionists. 1 full-time, 1 night-shift (18 to 24). Possibility of lodging. The applicant has to speak English. Patong area. Please contact Khun Yupha by email or by phone. Tel: 076-341255. Email: leco@liontchai.com.

**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 driver's 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:

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax: 076 213971 Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

**RESTAURANT STAFF**  
Rockfish Restaurant and Bar, located in Kamala, requires chefs, barmen, waitresses and an assistant manager. Must speak good English and have experience in the F&B industry. Good working conditions and excellent pay. Please contact Richard. Tel: 09-2873161. Email: eat@rockfishrestaurant.com

### INTERIOR DESIGNER WANTED

Qualified Thai Interior Architect with minimum 4 years' experience. 3-D Autocad and construction management ability required. Email: kathyadam@eggspace.com

**NEEDED URGENTLY**  
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- Restaurant Supervisor (female/male)	
- Bar Captain (female/male)	<b>Housekeeping Department</b>
- Bartender	- Floor Supervisor (female)
- Waitresses/Waiters	- Chief Gardener (male)

For more information please contact:  
Tel: (076) 333 033 Fax: (076) 333 035  
e-mail: [HR@aspasiaphuket.com](mailto:HR@aspasiaphuket.com) or [info@aspasiaphuket.com](mailto:info@aspasiaphuket.com)

**The Aspasia Phuket**  
113 Laem Sai Road, Kata Beach, Karon Sub-District, Muang, Phuket 83100

## DIVER'S EMPORIUM

The Diver's Emporium is Thailand's largest dive retail store chain, with a friendly scuba diving equipment shop in Patong Beach, Phuket. We are looking for a sales assistant to join our team.

### URGENTLY REQUIRED:

- Thai national.
- Good command of spoken English.
- Service-minded, self-motivated & responsible.

Tel: 076-294240, 01-912-3074. Fax: 076-294243. Email: [emporiumphuket@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:emporiumphuket@loxinfo.co.th)

Please send your resume to [emporiumphuket@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:emporiumphuket@loxinfo.co.th)

## 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](mailto:lagunaphuket@exotiquealestate.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.exotiquealestate.com](http://www.exotiquealestate.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](mailto:ayaspa55@hotmail.com)

## 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. For more information or to apply, call 076-296787 between 8 am and midnight.

## 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 me with details. Tel: 01-3081026. Email: [jayphuket@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gagicon@freechal.com)

## JOB WANTED

Friendly 49-year-old Luxemburger, fluent in English, French and German, with experience in sales, management, customer service, and import-export, seeks job in Thailand. Email: [gpescieux@hotmail.com](mailto:gpescieux@hotmail.com)

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### PIANO FOR SALE

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

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

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for sale. at greatly reduced prices. Palm tungsten handheld wireless/mobile, carrying case, charger, software PC. Original cost 17,000 baht; asking price 11,000 baht. Sharp complete home entertainment theater HT 400 DVW. Plays all discs. Originally 12,000 baht; asking 8,000 baht. Roland EM20 Creative Professional 61 keyboard with sustain. Originally 21,000 baht; asking 12,000 baht. For more information, phone Mervyn (Patong) at Tel: 07-8814767.

### MOUNTAIN BIKE

Gary Fisher Big Sur with 21" XL frame, ideal for 6ft+ male. Alloy frame, Shimano XT/LX group. Many Bontrager/Easton extras. Manitou Black front shock adjustable 80mm/100mm. Ideal for Phuket on/off-road conditions. Price: 28,000 baht (45,000 when new without extras). Tel: 01-7370722. Email: [allan@pipsphuket.com](mailto:allan@pipsphuket.com)

### HOUSE CLEARANCE

furniture. 3 double beds, 1 very modern dark wood, 1 large bamboo, brand new bamboo furniture, Sony TV and DVD etc. Please call Tel: 07-0659016 for more information.

## ARTICLES FOR SALE

PlayStation 2 with two controls and approx 30 games. Tel: 04-0397600.

## Articles Wanted

### FISHING EQUIPMENT

wanted. Penn 30 or 50 with matching rods. May consider other trolling equipment. Please call Khun Dao at Tel: 01-8945012.

### GAS-FIRED FRIDGE

I am looking for a gas-fired refrigerator. If you have one for sale or know where I can buy one, please call me at Tel: 07-8849964.

## Boats & Marine

### 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](mailto:jimmys@loxinfo.co.th)

### BOAT FOR SALE

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](mailto:hktmkt@ksc.th.com)



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25ft (7.7m) sailboat. Thai registered, fully insured, can be used as charter boat. Lots of sails and extras. Must sell! Owner leaving the island by the end of the year. Any offers over baht 650,000 baht considered. Pls call for more info. Tel: 076-383080, 06-940-1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: [bigasail@samart.co.th](mailto:bigasail@samart.co.th)



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## BOAT WANTED

Looking for a boat like Adriatic 790 S - about 8m long, 3m wide, 4 beds, 1 toilet, and diesel engine. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: [horstkaron@yahoo.com](mailto:horstkaron@yahoo.com)

### DIVING BOAT

Daily, 20x5m. Up to 35 pax. Thai registration. Lying at DeeLock shipyard in Phuket Town. Have details and pictures. Tel: 01-8927847. Email: [colonapt@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:colonapt@loxinfo.co.th)

## Bulletin

## Archery

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

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

[archery@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:archery@lagunaphuket.com)  
or telephone Little John at 076 271 006

## Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

**Phuket City Mission Hospital**  
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

**Bangkok Phuket Hospital**  
on Fri at 7 pm

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

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

## SEASONS

greetings. Christmas Message 2004: Give Life to the Animals! Do not consume your little brothers and sisters, the animals. Let them live, for they bear the same breath as human beings. It is from God. Do not do evil by destroying a part of your inner life in killing and consuming animals.... To read the full message, visit our website or contact: The Word, POB 5643, D-97006 Wuerzburg, Germany. Email: [hansgerodetti@yahoo.de](mailto:hansgerodetti@yahoo.de) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.universal-life.cc>

## Business Opportunities

### 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.

### TAILOR SHOP

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

### BAR/RESTAURANT

Near Nai Harn 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.

### 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

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

## DEVELOPMENT

projects. 10-25% shares available with excellent return. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: [asiasiamproperties@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:asiasiamproperties@yahoo.co.uk)

### CAFE & COCKTAIL

bar. The most beautiful cafe & cocktail bar is for sale. Good location in Patong, NO key money, 180sqm. Rent at 80,000 baht/month, price: 2.9 million baht ono. Very special. You have to see it. For more info send email. Email: [lennick2002@yahoo.se](mailto:lennick2002@yahoo.se)

### GUESTHOUSE

Patong 4 sale. incl Ltd Co. 20 rooms, big restaurant-tour office-rental incomes; large parking, 80m from the beach. Please call or mail for more info. Tel: 076-344305. Email: [info@phuket1.de](mailto:info@phuket1.de)

### RESTAURANT

and guesthouse in good location in Patong (Soi Paradise). Restaurant & guesthouse business for 650,000 baht. The rent is 30,000 baht per month. Key money: 100,000 baht. The 9 rooms need some fixing. Tel: 076-345917, 01-078-7153. Email: [write2roberto@hotmail.com](mailto:write2roberto@hotmail.com)

### PRIME LOCATION

2-story building Soi Bangla, Patong, for rent for only 2 million baht. Tel: 01-787-5121, 09-5929908. Email: [roggers2002@yahoo.com](mailto:roggers2002@yahoo.com)

### BAR 4 SALE: PATONG

Excellent location & fit-out. Full entertainment licence 3-4 + Registered Thai company. 2 work permits possible. Low overheads. 8 million baht. Inspection Tel. 07-0170135. Email: [cocodior@hotmail.com](mailto:cocodior@hotmail.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## GUESTHOUSE

lease 4 sale. 6.5-year lease, 10 rooms, kitchen, office. Offers above 2.8 million baht, option to buy land. Call for pics and info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Fax: 076-290383. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

## RESTAURANT 4 SALE

Open-air, on Chao Fa West Rd, near town, good for European food. Rent is 9,000 baht a month, price 350,000 baht. Tel: 09-5355248. Email: sonsiria@yahoo.com

## RESTAURANT 4 SALE

Beach restaurant with bar in good location, tables and chairs, seating for 60 people, fully-equipped kitchen, satellite TV, etc. At the moment we serve Thai & Western food and also have pizza delivery. The restaurant is ready to be taken over immediately. No key money. Monthly rent 62,000 baht, price 1.11 million baht. Email: peterrantala@hotmail.com

## PROPERTY SHOP

for sale. Shop/office, 200 listings, on busy main road. Tel: 01-8913972.

## 3 BARS FOR SALE

A unique opportunity to purchase 3 well-established bars, which include a well-respected go-go, with a pool bar on the 2nd floor, and a separate beer bar. Owner accommodation on the 3rd floor. Owner is looking to pursue other interests. All 3 bars can be yours for only 7 million baht. Genuine inquiries only, please. Email: stevem@phuket-playschool.com

## DISTRIBUTOR

- plastic bags. S'pore company seeks aggressive & experienced distributors of LONG LIFE plastic storage bags!! Tel: 0065-9683 4939, 65-98-526507. Fax: 65-62886302. Email: paul@neuindustries.com For further details, pls see our website at: www.longlifebag.com

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### SAFEWAY CONTAINER RENTAL

Shipping containers, ideal storage, your site or ours. Pls call or visit Tel: 01-8924804, 01-1251873, www.safewayphuket.com for more details.

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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: andamanseakayak@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.andamanseakayak.com

## PROPERTY

management. Siam Home Care for rentals, finding tenants, property management and home services. Tel: 076-281483, 06-9402386. Fax: 06-281483. Email: ria@siamrealestate.com For more details visit our website at: www.siamhomecare.com

### RANONG DAY TRIP 1,300 BAHT

Tour bus (not minibus). Big seats, price includes lunch, dinner and snacks. No extra charges. Please contact us for details. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

## THAI LESSONS

Learn to speak Thai with our experienced instructors. Learning with your friends is even cheaper! Tel: 076-2190 62-3. Fax: 076-214498. Email: eccpkt@ecc.ac.th

## VISA RUN

by air to Haad Yai. Leave Phuket 11 am, back to Phuket 6 pm. Daily trips: 2,950 baht. Or you can go to Penang through Haad Yai - 3 hours longer - for only 200 baht more. Tel: 076-344521, 06-682296. Email: smith@taurus-travel.com

## ADSL WITH NO PHONE

line? Share wirelessly with a neighbor who has a phone line or satellite connection and split the costs. Easy to set up. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-280249, 06-9535697. Email: info@net-seven.com

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## Missing Persons

### BRIAN BROWN

I'm looking for my friend Brian Brown. I have not heard from him since the tidal wave and I am worried sick. If anyone has heard of him, please let me know. He's an American man, 26 years old, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'0". Tel: 916-7181185. Email: carriejohnson79@sbcglobal.net

### BOB GREIG

Friends in the US searching for friend Bob Greig of Phuket. If anyone knows of his welfare, please have him contact someone at home in Wichita, Kansas. Email: tmshanks@aol.com

## Personal Services

### LEARNING ITALIAN

Qualified and experienced teacher is available to teach Italian to students and staff in the hotel management and tourism industry. For more details, please call. Tel: 01-2716990. Fax: 076-211099.

### LEARN THAI

at home. Conversation and coursework with charming Thai lady. Course books provided free. Also basic English lessons for a Thai girlfriend. Call for more info. Tel: 076-398157, 01-7971492. Email: churee22@hotmail.com

## WANT TO IMPROVE

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

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### ENGLISH TUTOR

Qualified and experienced "teacher-tutor" is available to teach English to students in the Primary (Prathom) and Secondary (Matayom) classes. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7198313.

### PRETTY LADY

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

### TRANSLATION

Professional translation by journalist with 15 years' experience in Thailand. Approximately 500/baht per page of standard font. Legal, personal and academic documents and free quotations. Thai/English or English/Thai. Tel: 09-8740061 or Email: sfein@chaiyo.com

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

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

### FARANG LADIES

You feel lonely on holidays? You need company or an escort? Erotic dancing and massage. Tel: 04-1855974.

### YOU, WHO DENTED

my car. in the parking garage of Royal Phuket City hotel on Tuesday, December 21, were observed. Contact me on the above number or a notification will be delivered to the police. Tel: 06-9487852. Email: dlarah42@yahoo.no

### MARRIAGE-MINDED

ladies! I am a kind and nice looking man who will be traveling to Thailand to meet a pretty lady who is serious about marriage and moving to the US. Please email me with a photo and something about yourself if you are interested. Email: criscross@hotmail.com

### SEEKING NICE THAI

lady. I am from England and looking for a special love and share and care with. All answers with a photo will be replied to. It would help if you could speak English more than just a very little bit. Email: cjscott10@yahoo.co.uk

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Tel. 02-6736342

### Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

### C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6536690-8 ext. 4030

### Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-2526261

## Agents for Classified Advertising

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#### NAVA Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

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

Tel: 076 344521-2

#### Ala Carte

Kamala main road, Cherng Talay

Tel: 076-278019

### PHANG NGA

#### Maew Internet Shop, Khao Lak

Avalon Creative Group Co Ltd, Khao Lak

Tel: 076-420627

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