

# The Phuket Gazette

Volume 12 Issue 7

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

February 12 - 18, 2005

Daily news at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

20 Baht

The Gazette is published  
in association with

**The Nation**

## IN THIS ISSUE

**News:** Porntip slams 'auto-crats' over Yan Yao closure; Phummisak takes Gov to task over water supply.

Pages 2 & 3

**INSIDE STORY:** Emergency housing; public vs charity.

Pages 4 & 5

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** Build a man a boat...

Page 6

**AROUND THE REGION:** Busy, but little business in Khao Lak.

Page 8

**PHUKET PEOPLE:** Return of the Scandinavians; new Vice-Gov's hectic first weeks.

Pages 10 & 11

**LIFESTYLE:** Love is in the air.

Page 13

**FIRST PERSON:** Tsunami 'too great to cope with' - ODPM Chief.

Page 19

**BUSINESS:** Boom in insurance sales expected; Money Talks.

Page 21

**SPORT:** Martina Hingis in Phuket; Skiff Asia results; ACYC calendar; boys keep swinging.

Pages 22 & 23

**GOOD LIVING:** The toast is 'Liver let live.'

Page 24

**PROPERTY:** Home of the Week in Nai Yang; Construction: Kamala Orchid Estate.

Pages 25, 26 & 27

**GARDENING:** Bert becomes a chain male, and all for love.

Page 24

## PLUS

**AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; HOROSCOPES 12; TRAVEL 14; KIDS 15; TOWNINGS, LAW 16; MOTORING 17; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 18 & 19; COMPUTERS, BOOKS 20; WINE, 24; CLASSIFIEDS 29-35.**

## Volunteers 'must get right papers'



Even in Kamala (above), the worst-hit locale in Phuket, the emergency phase of the disaster is over, and the government thinks it is time for foreign aid workers to think about going home - or getting work permits.

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: Foreign aid volunteers assisting in tsunami-related charity work are required to hold work permits, regardless of whether they are being paid for their efforts or not.

Sayan Chuaiyjan, head of the Phuket Provincial Employment Service Office [ESO], told the *Gazette* on February 8 that there could be no exceptions and that his office would begin to enforce the regulations soon - possibly next month.

"There can be no exceptions. Work is work, even if it is for charity," he said.

He urged relief workers to apply for work permits and added that those working for recognized charitable organizations would find them easy to obtain.

"They can just present a document certified by the charity organization they work for [proving their need to be here] and we will issue them with work permits, then they will be able to work legally," he said.

He pointed out that any foreigner caught working without a work permit is liable to hefty punishment.

"If our officers, police officers or immigration police learn [of foreign volunteers] who don't have work permits, the maximum penalty is three years in jail, a 30,000 baht fine [or both]," he warned.

"We did not enforce this law too rigidly [in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami], because we knew that everyone wanted to help out.

"But now that the situation

is returning to normal, we will have to start taking it more seriously," he said, adding that enforcement could begin as early as next month.

Phuket Vice-Governor Winai Buapradit, who oversees work permit procedures in the province, agreed with the tough stance that the ESO is taking and said that the law needed to be enforced both in Phuket and throughout Thailand.

"Now that the post-tsunami relief operations are slowing down, [the aid workers] should have work permits to continue working.

"Otherwise, government officials will have no idea what they are actually doing here - and this could result in trouble in the future," he said.

Editorial: page 18

## Voters turn their backs on Thai Rak Thai

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Despite a massive campaign by Thai Rak Thai (TRT) to convince voters to back the ruling party, and despite surveys showing that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's popularity is at unprecedented levels, Phuket on February 6 reinstalled its two Democrat MPs.

Indeed, Phuket's voters made it plain that they are not ready for TRT MPs, by handing the two Democrats hefty wins.

In District 1 (Phuket City and immediate area) Democrat Suwit Sa-Ngiamkul received nearly twice as many votes as his TRT rival, Dr Sriyada Palimapan.

Initial results show that K. Suwit polled 45,111 votes, as against 23,503 amassed by Dr Sriyada.

A total of 3,002 papers were spoiled, while 2,743 electors marked their papers to show that they did not want to vote for either District 1 candidate.

The turnout was a high 80.49%, with 74,359 of the 92,388 registered voters making their mark.

Turnout in District 2, which covers the rest of Phuket, was slightly lower, at 77.49%, but again the voters handed the Democrats a convincing win, with incumbent Chalermkluk Kebsub receiving 43,295 votes compared with 27,222 for TRT candidate Wisut Santikul.

There were 4,360 spoiled ballots, and 4,175 voters indicated that they did not favor either candidate. A total of 79,052 people voted in District 2, from an electorate of 102,153.

Results were still subject to confirmation at time of going to press.



## Murder 'difficult for police to solve'

PHUKET CITY: Police City Police are finding it difficult to solve the murder of elderly businessman Prasert Boonrak, who was found with his throat slashed on the morning of February 3.

K. Prasert's murder was reported to police by his housekeeper, Nanthaporn Ruamcheo, who found him dead in the bedroom of his mansion on Kra Rd in Phuket City just before dawn.

The victim, 73, was the owner of Prasert Pornpanich Home Electronics Center on Ranong Rd, near the Jui Tui Chinese Shrine. Like most wealthy Phuket businessmen, he also had considerable real estate holdings.

K. Prasert's body was found lying naked and face-down next to his bed in a pool of his own blood. His hands and feet had been bound with lengths of red nylon rope and his throat had been slashed from left to right.

Case investigator Pol Lt Col Somkid Boonrat told the *Gazette* that the apparent murder weapon, a bloody kitchen knife with a one-foot blade, was found lying near K. Prasert's body. There were also traces of blood near the door to the bedroom, which had been ransacked.

K. Prasert's son Rattanapon Boonrak told police that the assailants had made off with a 300-gram gold necklace and many small Buddha image amulets that his father had worn around his neck for protection.

Despite the theft, police believe the real motive for the murder may have been revenge and that the robbery was staged in order to confuse investigators.

## TAT blitz 'starting to change perceptions'

PHUKET: Tour operators and journalists from eastern Europe have changed their perceptions of post-tsunami Phuket after seeing the effects of the tsunami for themselves, Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Phuket has told the *Gazette*.

"The journalists have been to Krabi, too," said K. Suwalai. "They were very surprised to see the Phi Phi Islands, and Maya Bay, and said things were very different from

what they had seen on TV at home. They thought the whole of Phuket was destroyed."

Charter flights between Russia and Phuket ended after the tsunami, but, said K. Suwalai, some tourists were now traveling to Phuket via Bangkok.

The TAT Director was speaking after meeting 23 journalists from Russia and Ukraine at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket on February 3.

She outlined plans for attracting tour-

ists to Phuket from elsewhere in Asia, including the rest of Thailand.

"Well before the next high season we're going to promote Phuket as a destination for Thais, as well as people from China, Hong Kong and Korea," she said.

"We also plan to exploit the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) market to bring Thais here during the 'green' season."

— *Dhirarat Boonkongsae*

## Dr Porntip slams 'autocrats' over Yan Yao closure

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: Dr Khunying Porntip Rojanasunan has rounded on "the autocrats" she says have forced her to close the mortuary at Wat Yan Yao, Phang Nga, where she and her team had been working to identify victims of the tsunami.

The work has now been transferred to Phuket, to the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification Center (TTVI), headed by Pol Gen Nopadol Soomboonsub.

Dr Porntip told reporters it had not been her decision to close the mortuary – on February 3 – nor did it mean the task of identifying the bodies was by any means over.

"The autocrats have forced me to close the mortuary at Wat Yan Yao. They told me that my forensic task was illegal. So I will fade away, as the law demands," she said.



'We should not think about state agencies vying for honor or power': Dr Porntip Rojanasunan.

Dr Porntip said there were still many bodies, believed to be Thai people, in refrigerated containers at Wat Yan Yao, because DNA samples from them have not yet been compared with those of living relatives.

And, she said, "I do not think the TTVI can handle this task, or is equipped to compare DNA from the bodies of Thai people with that of relatives."

Dr Porntip said she had agreed in principle, before the mortuary was closed, that the task of identifying Thai dead should be left to Thai investigators, while foreign forensic teams should identify foreigners.

She added, "At times like this, we should work together, and we should not think about state agencies vying for honor or power."

"We should not leave it up to foreign teams to carry out this task; Thai people should be given the chance to identify Thai bodies."

The renowned forensic scientist was speaking during a night out in Phuket, where she and her team relaxed before leaving for Bangkok.

## Top Unicef official checks on progress

PHUKET: The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), Carol Bellamy, has been to Phuket and Phang Nga to see what is being done to help children recover from the tsunami.

Unicef officers were sent to Phang Nga and Phuket within a week of the tsunami, said Ms Bellamy, and since then, Unicef has supported Thai government efforts to provide food and water, repair utilities and restore the environment.

"The most important principle for Unicef is to help survivors live well after this disaster, especially the children," she explained on February 4.

In Thailand, Unicef has been working with government departments such as the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to support and help orphans.

Unicef has a budget of US\$144 million to help people in Asia, but, she said, the bulk of the money would be going to Indonesia, rather than Thailand or Sri Lanka.

She added that she hoped the money, however it is spent, will do more than restore the pre-tsunami status quo; that it will help improve conditions for children.

— *Kamol Pirat*

**Skin Tightening and Contouring - without surgery -**  
with technology cleared by the US FDA  
practiced by a American Board Certified Dermatologist

- Botox, Collagen
- Laser Hair Removal
- Mesotherapy

**APEX**  
2nd Fl. Central Festival Phuket Tel: 076-240-0213 • Call Center 3 2884 8837  
3rd Fl. Emporium Tel: 0 2884-8833-4 • 3rd Fl. Siam Center Tel: 0 2885-198-7

Only a single-treatment session

**The Life Spa**  
The Life Spa offers you high-quality service and has also prepared the best of products and treatments including a variety of massages. Customers will enjoy a sense of refreshment and relaxation. We have a highly supportive team of professional therapists with experience and creativity.

**Discount 20%**

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

**D. D. Jewel Design**  
When an artist turns any precious thing into a jewel,  
it is you who is on his mind

Unique designs made to order  
SINCE 1971

242/2 Taewarat Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: 01-8926843, 076-217288

**Expert Property Advice**

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

Local knowledge.  
Global presence.

**lynx management group** **Chesterton**

076 239944 / 01 893 3434  
info@lynxmgmt.com





Chester Bennington helps do a little painting while visiting temporary homes built in Bang Tao.

## Linkin Park star visits Bang Tao

PHUKET: Chester Bennington, the lead singer of Californian band Linkin Park, visited Bang Tao beach on February 2 to see for himself the damage caused by the tsunami.

Bennington was in Phuket to record material to be broadcast by MTV in the USA, as part of a global campaign to raise money for tsunami victims.

After lunch at the Banyan Tree, Bennington and his crew headed for Bang Tao, where they spoke with local people caught up in the tsunami.

Bang Tao resident Wandee Kongtap welcomed Bennington's visit, saying she hoped it

was a sign that things would soon improve there.

Two days after the tsunami, Linkin Park – who have a large following in Thailand – established Music for Relief, a charity to raise money for tsunami victims, to which the band donated about 4 million baht.

Bennington also took part in an MTV Asia-organised concert in aid of UNICEF on February 3 at Bangkok's Impact Arena. Ronan Keating – who filmed a special acoustic version of *I hope you dance* in Kata – also appeared, along with stars from the US, Europe and Asia.

– Kamol Pirat

## F1 powerboat race postponed

PHUKET: The Formula One powerboat race scheduled to take place next month in Ao Makham has been postponed for a year.

Kata Group Chairman Pamuke Archariyachai told the *Gazette* that a combination of the tsunami and the Cabinet's slowness in approving funds to support the event had forced the decision to postpone until March 2006.

"We had only a short time to make all the arrangements [if the race was going to take place this year]. After Tourism and

Sports Minister Sontaya Kunplome and Varatthep Rattanakorn, the Deputy Minister of Finance, came to Phuket in mid-January, we decided to postpone it," K. Pamuke said.

He stressed, however, that the 50-million-baht budget has now been approved for the event to take place next year.

**ANGEL OF KATA**

DELICIOUS HOME-COOKED  
EUROPEAN CUISINE

28 TAINA ROAD  
KATA CENTER

CONTACT  
06-9443062

Blueberry, Banana, Chocolate Chip Muffins

**Khan Woody's Bakery**

Patong - Opposite Andaman Beach Suites  
Open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closed Sunday. 076 340 086

# Phummisak takes Governor to task over tin mine water

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: Former Phuket City Mayor and tin mine owner Phummisak Hongsyok has dismissed Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura's assertion that he will use the law to force owners of private water resources to share them with the province if there is a water shortage this year.

K. Phummisak, who owns two flooded former tin mines with a total capacity of three million cubic metres, from which come two-thirds of Phuket City's water, stressed on January 31 that his mines, and others like them, were private property, which the Governor did not have the authority to seize.

He said, "The Governor has said he will fill the mines, or fine owners [who don't share water] 5,000 baht.



Phummisak Hongsyok: 'What he said upset me.'

"The law states that a tin mine owner is allowed to keep only the last tin mine in the tin mine concession and the rest are to be filled in. If not, the mine owner will be fined 5,000 baht per mine.

"How can the Governor prove after 20 years which is the last one? It takes a long time to check that. He should not shoot his mouth off so quickly."

He continued, "The Governor needs to take time to study the law on this matter. He hasn't had the time to learn about how the private sector and local government organizations have helped each other.

"What he said upset me – for more than 30 years, the owners of privately-owned tin mines supplied water free of charge, but while the local authorities are aware of this, the Governor isn't."

K. Phummisak announced last August that, after decades of supplying water free, he would, with effect from May this year, charge the city around 2 baht a cubic meter.

## Court orders businessman off land

PHUKET: Businessman Charoen Thavornwongwong has been ordered to leave 16 rai of land in Karon's Nakkerd Hills, after the Phuket Appeal Court overturned the Provincial Court's earlier judgment that he could stay on the land.

The Appeal Court said that the Phuket Provincial Land Reform Office (PLRO) had been right to contest the judgment of the lower court, on the grounds that the businessman had no right to occupy the four plots of *SorPorKor* land.

*SorPorKor* land is state land set aside by the government for allocation to poor people to allow them to grow food and support themselves.

The Appeal Court decided that K. Charoen – whose family owns the Thavorn hotel chain – is neither poor nor a farmer, and therefore ordered him and his associates to vacate the land immediately.

K. Charoen's lawyer, Surachai Korthong, said that his client has filed an appeal with the Supreme Court.

The PLRO has already suc-

ceeded in having three people evicted from *SorPorKor* land. Narong Nopdara and Tossaporn Thepabutr – the husband of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization head Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr – were last year ordered off other land in the Nakkerd Hills, while tycoon Boonkeng Srisansuchart was evicted from land in the Panturat Hills, along the bypass road.

## Multi-faith memorial at Bang Niang

KHAO LAK: Buddhist, Muslim and Christian clerics will lead a multi-faith memorial service for victims of the tsunami in Khao Lak on Sunday, February 13.

The service will take place

on Bang Niang Beach, starting at 9 am. Free transport will leave Thalang District Office at 7 am.

For more information, e-mail: worapot@oriental-events.com

**Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.**

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

**Your One-Stop Shop For Overseas Travel**  
Let Us Organize Everything For Your Next Trip

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

**Pacific Leisure (Phuket) Co., Ltd.**  
156/13 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-232511-5, 076-213750 Fax: 076-219664, 076-232510  
E-mail: [info@pacific-leisure.com](mailto:info@pacific-leisure.com) Website: [www.pacific-leisure.com](http://www.pacific-leisure.com)



## Queer News

### Phone fury

PATTAYA: Four innocent bystanders were injured by ricocheting bullets when a bagman for a Pattaya loan shark opened fire on his mobile phone.

Witnesses to the attempted slaying of the mobile phone said the man, identified only as "Woot", was seen at about 3 am yelling into his mobile phone on the ground floor of Niran Condo on Soi Arunothai.

He then hurled the phone down onto the sidewalk, pulled out a .38 pistol and fired it six times at the offending device.

Bullets bounced off the stone pavement and flew in every direction. At least four people were hit, including two foreigners; all were eventually taken to the Pattaya Memorial Hospital for treatment.

After his attempt to slaughter the phone, Woot allegedly turned round and threatened witnesses before fleeing on a motorcycle.

The threats were apparently effective, for when police arrived most of the bystanders – of which there were many, despite the late hour, but then this was Pattaya – refused to talk.

Police say they know the man's identity, however, and are in the process of locating him to begin criminal proceedings.

The condition of the mobile phone was not reported.

Source: Pattaya Mail

**CHILI**  
Restaurant & Bar



Good Food-Good Price  
Happy Hour 5-7pm Daily  
Cocktails & Cold Beer  
Daily Special, Take Away  
Theraprasit Rd. Koh Kew  
nearly opposite Boat Lagoon  
Close to Dulwich College.  
Tel. 076 239 728

Six weeks after the tsunami, the first *Baan Man Kong* – government-built "permanent house" – has yet to be built on Phuket. The furthest the building work has got is the installation of the *sao eak*, or first posts, at Baan Tah Chat Chai and Koh Sireh.

To qualify for one of these so far imaginary homes, is not as easy as one might think. To succeed, an applicant must have lost his or her house in the tsunami; it must have been the householder's registered address; and the house must not have been built illegally on state land.

Anyone who has followed the twists and turns of the government's crackdown on abuse of state land will know what a murky topic this is. Proving that land belongs or does not belong to the state is far from simple, especially when the occupants – as is the case in Kamala – say they have lived in the same place for generations.

Local authority officers – such as those from the Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) – are responsible for verifying that applicants meet these criteria, before asking the Governor for permission to provide a house for them.

Most of the homes have been designed by the Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning. There are three types, ranging in size from 29 square meters to 43.5sqm. All have tile roofs and walls made of cement sheets attached to a wooden frame.

At Koh Sireh, where 22 houses belonging to sea gypsies were destroyed and 108 were damaged, the ceremony to start the building took place at the beginning of February. V/Adm Chart Navavijit, of the Royal Thai Navy, said the navy would build 24 houses on the site, which is surrounded by mangroves.

He estimated it would take less than 30 days to complete the development, after which it would be handed over to the Governor, for the houses to be allocated to the homeless.

But Rachen Panthakij, the Chief Administration Officer of Rassada *OrBorTor*, believes that

# Home is where

the navy's contribution has come late.

"Within two weeks of the disaster, *OrBorTor* officers were working with students from Phuket Technical College to rebuild wrecked houses for the sea gypsies to live in," he said.

He conceded, though, that the sea gypsies would probably opt for a *Baan Man Kong*. He said, "I think [the Sea Gypsies] would want to live there because these government houses are better than the old houses, which were small and not very stable."

Jirae Pramongkij's house was damaged by the tsunami, and he welcomes the government intervention in building new homes.

"I am afraid that my home isn't as stable as it was before the tsunami hit it, and that it will collapse without warning," he said.

He believes many of his neighbors are as apprehensive as he is, and as they are in the same position as him, the fairest way to decide who gets a *Baan Man Kong* is to draw lots.

The village headman of Rassada Moo 4, Karnda Pramongkij, agreed that drawing lots was a good idea, but, she said, it would have to be discussed with government officers first.

"If there are more people wanting to live in government houses than there are houses for them, then we will ask them to draw lots," she said.

At Baan Tah Chat Chai, a total of 36 homes are due to be built for the tsunami homeless.

Some of the developments are less straightforward, though. In Patong, a plan to build 16 homes – mainly for fishermen – is proving controversial.

The homes, consisting of two rooms and a toilet, would be designed and paid for by the ITV television station, which is no problem. What is a problem is that ITV wants to build on a site near Klong Pakbang, where the

In addition to killing many residents and tourists, the tsunami which hit Phuket on December 26 also left hundreds of families homeless.

According to government figures, 402 homes on the island were destroyed, mainly in Baan Tah Chat Chai in Thalang, Koh Sireh near Phuket City, Klong Pakbang in Patong, and Kamala.

The government has announced a policy of building homes for the homeless. But at a cost of not more than 100,000 baht per house, and often much less, how practical – and how acceptable – will these be? And given the bureaucracy's legendary slowness, how long will people have to wait?

Kamol Pirat examines the problems.



So far but no further: The *sao eak*, or first post, of a planned government home in Baan Tah Chat Chai has been erected, but that's as far as the work has gone.

fishermen lived before the tsunami.

However, the land belongs to the state. Many of the homes swept away by the tsunami were illegal. As a result, Patong Municipality is withholding permission for the development.

Poonsak Naksena, Chief

Administration Officer for Patong Municipality, explained, "The Marine Department is responsible for this land, and the department has not given permission for these homes to be rebuilt, so the people have to wait for the green light from the government."



## SO ATTRACTIVE AND UNIQUE







- 28 two- to six-bedroom luxury villas each with an infinity swimming pool set in a large private terraced garden.
- Building on 36,000 sqm of hillside with unobstructed views over beautiful Patong Bay.
- Residents' clubhouse providing full spa and hotel room services upon request.
- Holiday lettings provided for investors with guaranteed return on investment.
- 5-star villa and estate management together with 24-hour security provided by Knight Frank.

13/2 Soi Prabamee 4, Prabamee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket, 83150.  
Tel: +66 (0) 76 290 405 • email: [info@lorchidee-residences.com](mailto:info@lorchidee-residences.com)

## Tel: +66 (0) 156 9999 8





# the hurt is

Despite the on-going crack-down on the illegal occupation of state land, some homes may be allowed, said K. Poonsak, but only if the fishermen can prove they lived there since before 1992.

"According to my research, only around two or three houses have been there since before 1992; the rest are illegal," K. Poonsak said. "But the municipality will check each house on a case-by-case basis and send the results to the Marine Department for consideration."

Phuket Marine Office (PMO) Chief Surin Teerakulpisuth said people who had broken the law would not be allowed to return to the land, but his office would do all it could to help those who could prove they had lived there since before the regulations were introduced in 1992.

He could not give permission for any building to start, however, until he received confirmation from Patong Municipality of how many replacement houses could be built there.

In Kamala, people whose beachfront homes, on state land, were destroyed in the tsunami have protested angrily against plans to build replacement homes for them – near the police station. (See also Inside Story, *Gazette* issue of January 22.)

In a search for a compromise, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has ordered Kamala *OrBorTor* to ask residents whether they would prefer to receive 30,000 baht to repair their old homes, or be put on a waiting list for a government house.

As the old houses were built illegally on state land, residents

would have no guarantee that they would be allowed to stay once the tsunami damage has been repaired; they would have security of tenure if they opt for a government-built house.

Even so, says Kamala *OrBorTor* officer Saravuth Suriavoharn, 33 people so far have voted for the cash option and only three for the waiting list. He added that he had sent the results of the survey to the Governor and was awaiting his verdict.

For one Kamala resident, being able to return to her own home would be the key to rebuilding her life.

Boon Kwanyean is 63. Her house – near Kamala School – was swept away by the tsunami, as was that of her son. Her daughter and two nephews were killed.

A beach masseuse, K. Boon had lived on the land for more than 40 years, since before the school was built there, a time when the area was little more than a field.

"I want to re-build my house," she said. "That is the important thing. If I cannot rebuild my house, I don't know how I will start my life again."

At present, K. Boon is staying with her sister, who also lives in Kamala. She says she has received little help from the government so far.

She said, "Ordinary *farang* have helped me more – someone walked in and gave me 2,000 baht in cash," she said. But a *Baan Man Kong* is one bit of help from the government that K. Boon does not want.

"I'm not used to staying in a place that is not home," she said, sadly, "especially a place as small as [a *Baan Man Kong*]."

In contrast with the government's so far non-existent homes for the tsunami homeless, private sector initiatives have moved fast.

In Baan Bang Muang, Phang Nga, for example, survivors of Baan Nam Khem are already living in temporary housing set up by charities, and many more people elsewhere have roofs over their heads, thanks to the swift action of NGOs.

In Phuket, the Bang Tao Project (BTP) should have 20 homes ready for occupation by the end of this month, project organizer Robin Plant told the *Gazette*.

It will have taken around seven weeks to build the homes – two rows each of 10 houses – on a two-rai site near Surin Beach.

The homes, each of 40 square meters, will have concrete-block walls, cement floors and tiled roofs. Each will have a cooking area, mains electricity and water, and a bathroom.

Mr Plant estimates the total cost of each house at around 50,000 baht. He stressed that the properties are not intended to be permanent homes, just somewhere for displaced people –



Ready by the end of February: The Bang Tao Project homes are coming along fast.

## A faster solution

mainly fishermen whose boats were wrecked in the tsunami – to live in while they get their lives back together.

"They are a proud bunch of people, mostly Muslims but with some Buddhists too, and they don't want to be dependent on handouts or [too much] charity," said Mr Plant.

The BTP is paying experienced local builders to build the

homes. "It makes sense to do it this way," explained Mr Plant. "Fishermen fish, builders build and these guys know how to put a reasonable house up in double-quick time."

A play area is also being built.

Robin Plant can be reached at Tel: 01-9700805 or by email to: robin@avcphuket.com

– Andy Johnstone

**Our kitchen brigade welcomes the Year of the Cock with the opening of our Thai Cooking Classes program. Chop, sizzle, stir, fry and eat to your heart's content. Can you pass the lemon grass?**

**The Aspasia Phuket**  
a fine personal and professional service

113 Laem Sa Road, Kata Beach,  
Karon Sub-District, Muang, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 076 333 0333 Fax: 076 333 035  
Email: info@aspasiaphuket.com  
[www.aspasiaphuket.com](http://www.aspasiaphuket.com)

**Looking for  
a home in Phuket?**

**[www.phuketimmo.com](http://www.phuketimmo.com)**

**09-724-7211 / 076-249-315**

**H.C. ANDERSEN - PHUKET CITY**  
*Scandinavian Restaurant & Steakhouse*

Our restaurant on Koh Phi Phi got wiped out in the Boxing Day Tsunami and we are now relocating to Phuket City. We will continue serving big tender steaks and our international favourites at low prices and served in a nice atmosphere.

**GRAND OPENING ON TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY**

TRY OUR FAMOUS  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET - 170 B**

AND  
**TIGER BEER DRAUGHT - 45 B**

WE ARE LOCATED ON PHUKET ROAD RIGHT NEXT TO THE IMPERIAL HOTEL  
49 PHUKET ROAD - PHUKET CITY - TEL: 076 23 00 43 OR 06 26 76 62 8

**Bangkok Phuket Joint & Spine Center**

**Keyhole Surgery**  
Microlumbar Discectomy  
**Joint Replacement**  
Sport Medicine and Arthroscopy

**Bangkok Phuket Hospital**  
076 25 44 25 [www.phukethospital.com](http://www.phukethospital.com) info@phukethospital.com



By Anongnat Sartpisut

**K**oh Lanta, in Krabi Province, has one of the largest fishing communities in Thailand. For fishermen, their lives are their boats and their boats are their lives, and for many, both boats and lives were shattered by the December tsunami.

The Fisherman's Fund – established to help rebuild these communities after the tsunami – has invited the *Gazette* to come along as it delivers two boats to the beleaguered fishermen of Koh Lanta. It is a month to the day since the tsunami hit.

We leave Boat Lagoon at 6 am. It takes around two hours to reach Laem Kruad, on the mainland, where some 10 families make a living building boats.

Bang Lean, who has been building boats for 10 years, says it takes up to 10 days to make a boat. The fund has given this small community enough money to build 22 boats, at a cost of around 50,000 baht apiece.

K. Bang says the price of the wood used to build boats has soared since the tsunami, from 60-90 baht a board-meter to 100 baht. Even so, he and his colleagues are making boats as fast as they can.

Duane Lennie, of the Fishermen's Fund, explains that the government plans to donate boats to the fishermen, but, he notes, "It will take three to six months for the boats to come through, and, for the fishermen, that is too long a time.

"The boats are too expensive for the fishermen. Some of them earned less than 10,000 baht a month before the tsunami, and it costs 40,000 baht [or more] to build one boat, so they can't afford to buy new ones."



Villagers on Koh Lanta rebuild their fleet of longtail boats one by one. Inset: *Tor mor* Sabai Sukkawit performs a traditional ceremony to invoke the spirits to keep sailors safe.

# Fleet afoot

At 1 pm, we arrive at Koh Lanta. Everything looks normal, apart from some damage to a pier and to some fishermen's houses. Only two people died here, the locals tell us, and most of the wrecked houses have already been rebuilt.

Some people believe that the mangrove forest around the coast saved the community from suffering more damage, by blunting the rage of the wave.

Before the two boats are launched, a traditional *tor mor* ceremony is carried out to show respect to Mae Ya Nang, the protector of fishermen. There are two types of ceremony – Chao

Lay (Sea Gypsy) and Muslim. Most of the people in this community are Muslim, so the Islamic version of the ceremony is conducted.

Sabai Sukkawit, the *tor mor* who performs the incantation, is equipped with wood bark, Chongka leaf (a herb that Thai people traditionally use as a shampoo), and cloth in the three colors of the Thai national flag: red for the nation, white for religion and blue for HM the King.

He explains, "The bow of the boat represents the father, the middle of it represents the child and the stern the mother. So, a new boat being built is like a

child being born.

"This ceremony helps fishermen to sail smoothly and safely. People believe that if Mae Ya Nang possesses the boat, whoever sails in it will be safe."

Some people may be afraid to return to the sea, but Paitoon Rodrak, of Koh Lanta, isn't one of them. "I love being a fisherman," he says. "I'm not afraid of the sea, I live with it."

Like his fellow fishermen, though, K. Paitoon has been unable to work since the tsunami destroyed his boat.

He said, "It's been a nightmare. Nobody saw this coming. It's been very stressful having no

work, and not knowing from one day to the next how we would eat.

"Fortunately, we have had donations of food, and my wife has a laundry service, so I've been able to help her with that, but I haven't done my real job for a month."

Not surprisingly, he is overjoyed to receive a new boat. "I am very, very happy. I sailed two days ago – I sailed five kilometers and got 1,000 baht. Today I sailed 3km and earned 600 baht."

The sea is still rich in shrimp, fish, crab and other seafood. K. Paitoon's best ever day was when he earned 8,000 baht, but his average income before the tsunami was between 10,000 and 20,000 baht a month.

Currently, 90% of the businesses on Koh Lanta are running normally: tour operators, hoteliers, fishermen – for most, life goes on as normal. They aren't afraid of the sea, and they want tourists, a major source of income for the area, to return.

But K. Paitoon is happy to remain a fisherman. "The next generation may have a better life. They may graduate and get better-paying jobs, but I am proud to be a fisherman, and will do this job for as long as I can," he says.

"I love the sea, but if I have no boat, I have no work and it's difficult to find a reason for staying here. Many of us still need our boats."

To donate to or find out more about the Fishermen's Fund, contact Duane Lennie at Tel: 06-8812121, email [duane@mangonation.com](mailto:duane@mangonation.com) or website: [www.kolanta.net](http://www.kolanta.net)

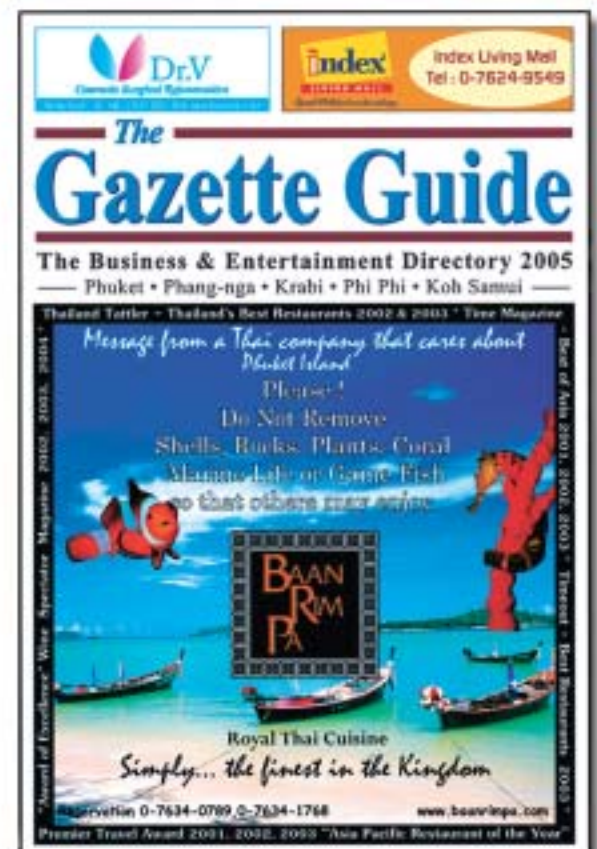
## ANNOUNCEMENT

The *Gazette Guide* 2005 has arrived and is now on sale at 140 baht.

Bulk copies of the island's most comprehensive business directory are available @ the following rates:

10-20 copies:	80 baht/copy
21-50 copies:	75 baht/copy
51-100 copies:	65 baht/copy
101-400 copies:	60 baht/copy

All 3,000 businesses listed in the *Guide* are entitled to one copy of the book @ only **70 baht**, a 50% discount off the cover price. Pick up your copy at the *Gazette* offices today!



For bulk orders, please contact [guide@phuketgazette.net](mailto:guide@phuketgazette.net) or call Mem (Thai) or Ann (English) on 076-236555.



# Monks oppose economic zoning

Senior monks gathered at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok to oppose a government plan to establish special economic zones around the country.

The monks, along with representatives of several NGOs, said the move was unconstitutional as the zones would be exempted from laws governing national parks, forest reserves, irrigation, labor, the environment and land traditionally reserved for Buddhist temples.

Phrasri Pariyatmoli, deputy rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya Buddhist University (MCU), said the proposed bill would pave the way for the private sector to intervene for purely commercial purposes, while affected communities would be denied access to legal mechanisms, as the zoning would supersede them.

The monks said a prayer at the temple to ward off bad luck and ill-will from the proponents, the Lower House and Government House.



**STARTING FROM SCRATCH:** Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra ordered the State Railway of Thailand to demolish some 550 support pillars constructed for the abandoned Hopewell elevated railroad project in Bangkok.

**Sausage saboteur:** Police in Bangkok's Min Buri district arrested and released on bail a truck-driver who allegedly put straightened paper clips into packets of sausages made by CP Interfoods Thailand.

The suspect, 33-year-old Itthipol Fakkhio, was charged with inserting the paper clips into the sausages with the apparent intention of discrediting the company.

CP filed a complaint with the police, asking officers to investigate who was behind the act after the sausages were returned from a 7-Eleven distribution center.

Two cold-storage workers at the CP Interfoods plant told police they had seen K. Itthipol standing around the storage area from which the seven packets were loaded onto his truck, noting that he had no reason to have been there.

K. Itthipol denied the charge, saying that someone must have been trying to frame him.

**Lemon smashing:** Following the highly-publicized battering of a Honda CRV by an owner dis-

satisfied with Honda's unwillingness to fix its chronic mechanical problems, Royal Thai Air Force Wing Commander Noraset Runpraphan of Uthai Thani staged a similar stunt on his Toyota Sport Cruiser pickup truck.

W/Cdr Noraset bashed the windshield and hood of the vehicle with a shovel and threatened to set fire to it in front of a Consumer Protection Board office.

He said that since buying the pickup two years ago he had experienced many problems with its brakes and suspension and alignment.

Toyota originally offered to buy back the vehicle at its sale price of 870,000 baht, but W/Cdr Noraset demanded 1.5 million baht to cover modifications he made to the vehicle.

Toyota said that the pickup's wheel-alignment problem was due to the modifications he had made and refused to buy it back.

**Lovely idea:** Buddhist monks should run a Valentine's Day campaign to "open the temples

to compete with hotels" in a bid to teach young people that love has many forms and is not all about sex, said MCU special lecturer Phra Wuttichai Wachiramehee.

The temples could show both youngsters and adults that there are different kinds of love, such as parental love and compassionate love, and not just sexual relationships, he said.

Phra Wuttichai also suggested that temples in Bangkok, especially those in Bang Rak District, where many couples choose to register their marriage on Valentine's Day because the area's name translates as "District of Love", hold Buddhist marriage ceremonies free of charge to bless couples and impart the Lord Buddha's teachings to them.

**Baby abandoned:** A one-year-old boy was found abandoned in Suthat Thepwararam Temple in Bangkok's Phra Nakhon District, police said.

The infant was seen crawling and crying around the temple grounds in the afternoon wearing only a soiled diaper. Police be-

lieve he had been there for several hours.

Lying near the spot where the boy was found was an empty bottle in a plastic bag that contained no papers about his identity. No one witnessed who left the boy there.

The tot was washed and fed and police said he will be sent to the Phya Thai Home for Infants.

**Engines needed:** Artorn Chandavimol, Vice President of the non-profit group Niyom Thai Fund Foundation, said reliance on financial donations would not help fishermen whose vessels were lost or damaged in the tsunami, as the money would just go to their creditors.

He is instead asking for contributions in the form of outboard motors. Engines were needed for more than 100 damaged boats in the worst-hit areas of Phang Nga. As these boats are not officially registered, the owners receive only limited aid from the government, K. Artorn said.

The foundation, which has set up a repair center at Ban Thung La Ong in Phang Nga's Kuraburi District, can be reach-

ed at: [www.niyomthaifund.com](http://www.niyomthaifund.com).

**Digital depravity:** German national Ulrich Hans Schmuttermayr, 60, was arrested in Chon Buri on suspicion of shooting video and photos of himself engaged in sexual acts with local boys and girls under 15 years old and selling the material on the Internet.

Maj Gen Panya Mamen, commander of the Tourist Police, said that after receiving tip-offs, officers raided Schmuttermayr's Pattaya apartment and found a digital camcorder, a digital camera, three computers with software for editing digital videos, and VCDs of the man in sex acts with children.


A bankbook showing foreign deposits worth more than 5 million baht was also seized.

Some of the VCDs were being sold in Bangkok's Patpong area, police said, adding that the German had been in Thailand since January 2002.

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

## CANAL VILLAGE

LAGUNA SHOPPING




30 Exclusive Boutiques  
in the Heart of Laguna Phuket

laguna

PHUKET

Canal Village Laguna Shopping  
Tel: 66 (0) 7632 4453-7  
Fax: 66 (0) 7632 4066  
E-mail: [shopping@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:shopping@lagunaphuket.com)  
[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)





LUNCH TIME

ALL  
YOU CAN EAT  
ONLY

99

NOW!

AT BURASARI PATONG

Burasari TEL. (66) 76-292929

BHT.





# Clearing continues as shops still suffer

Well into the second month since the tsunami, the speed with which areas such as Bang Niang and Nang Thong have been cleared of ruins, rubble and wrecked cars is scarcely believable.

Khao Lak has become a hive of activity again. Crowds of construction workers have moved in to begin rebuilding the devastated areas. Huge trucks are bringing load after load of sand to be remodeled into beaches by the army of earthmovers. Elsewhere, crews are filling in the unwanted lagoons that were gouged by the force of the tsunami.

However, with some areas of land – plots of up to two-rai in some cases – simply gone, washed away, it seems like an impossible mission.

**Small start:** Many of the bigger players in Khao Lak's tourism industry – the Mukdara Beach Resort, for example – have been



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

granted "soft" loans running into hundreds of millions of baht by the Thai banks.

But the smaller operators and family-run resorts have, generally, been left to their own devices; they seem to be of little interest to the banks, which have caught the scent of bigger game.

However, a small group, led by travel writer Richard Doring, is trying get support from banks and investors by bringing the smallest of the small and medium enterprises together to combine forces.



This plea for help shows dramatically and movingly how slim the survival chances of Khao Lak businesses are at the moment.

The goal is to rebuild as many bungalows as possible in the shortest possible time to resuscitate Bang Niang Beach, the hardest-hit area.

"Every bungalow counts," said Mr Doring of his quest to find overseas Khao Lak lovers willing to invest in a bungalow-sponsorship program and bring Bang Niang back to life. The bungalows will be built using an eco-friendly construction system.

Investors and people interested in this project may contact Mr Doring at email: webmaster@khaolak.de

**Spooked by stories:** Despite the tragedy and the enormous

loss of life, the spirit of surviving businessmen and residents remains unbroken.

With just a few exceptions, most residents are back to build a new future, which also means a new Khao Lak.

But a few – mostly local Thai – people have kept away because of ghost stories and unconfirmed "panic yak-yak" spread by other locals who have suddenly become oracles or mediums since the disaster.

Luckily, only a few people buy into the frequent prophecies made and tales told by these wannabe Nostradamis.

I have a good friend, a kind Thai woman, who has frequent

flashes of future disasters. Much as I like her, surrendering to and believing such tales does nothing but keep you awake all night.

One does not need a seer to know that we are in for hard times this year. Let's hope this hysteria comes to a swift end, as it is impeding the efforts of the survivors who are trying to get Khao Lak back on its feet again.

Many fans and friends of Khao Lak ask how best they can help the area. The answer is simple: come back!

For them and for everyone else, the much-needed good news is that 26 resorts in Khao Lak are now operational again, five of them right on the beach.

**NAVRANG MAHAL**  
Indian Restaurant

Authentic and a friendly atmosphere.  
Vegetarian, non-Vegetarian and Muslim food at their very best, prepared by our Chefs from India. South Indian food is also available.

For free transport in Patong, call us.

58/11 Soi Bangla, Patong Beach, Phuket  
Tel: 076-292280 Fax: 076-292281

*Fast installation-guarantee-removable*

New!  
Above ground pools  
from 4 to 8 meters  
fully equipped  
starting at 150 000 Baht

**FINA-TT**

*A World of Difference ...*

Central Festival 3rd floor  
Tel: 076 224 444

View Thailand's **LARGEST** portfolio of Classified Ads – nearly 3,000 of them – and place your ad **FREE!**

See the *Phuket Gazette Online* at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



## This week



RIGHT: W/Cdr Dr Orawan Kitchawengkul, the Medical Director of the BDC Skin & Rejuvenation Center (left) presents a book to Narong Joonjuasuparek, the Vice-Chairman of Matchon (Public) Co Ltd. Copies of the weighty tome, *A Constitution for Living*, will be distributed to 103 libraries.



LEFT: (from left) Piyanooch Ananpakdee, Red Room Manager Graham Bibby and guests at the restaurant's recent well-attended tsunami fundraising dinner.



LEFT: Nuttibon "Rose" Laodee from ArtAsia Press (right) is attracted by David 'Pixie' Pczenik's estimable sartorial and tonsorial elegance at The Green Man's Burns Night Supper on January 25. Whisky and haggis galore, apparently.

RIGHT: Thanin Yukhunthorn (right) from The Aspasia Phuket, hands a box of basic supplies donated by the Resorts of Phuket relief cooperative to an islander of Koh Pra Thong, Phang Nga. Fourteen local resorts have joined forces to supply more than a million baht's worth of aid around the region.



ABOVE: Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc (4<sup>th</sup> from left), and colleagues present donations for local tsunami victims to the Chairman of Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization, Samart Sake; Bang Tao Mosque committee member Seree Soison; and Phuket Islamic Organization committee member Manoch Phancalard (respectively 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from left).

LEFT: Celebrating the opening of the Raffles Design Institute (RDI) in Phuket are, from left (front row), the Principal of Phuket Wittayalai School, Sathorn Likkachai; Director of the Private Education Commission, Anusorn Thaidecha; RDI Executive Vice-Dean Cheng Kwek Loong; and the Director of the Phuket Provincial Education Office, Damrong Boonchoti.

**Can you afford to be without it?**

**It's only 500 baht! (plus VAT)**

To get your card, e-mail  
[shopper@phuketgazette.net](mailto:shopper@phuketgazette.net)  
or call Anna at 076-236555



# The Scandinavians are back

Of all the foreign tourist groups in Thailand at the time of the tsunami, the worst-hit were the Scandinavians, of whom thousands were killed or injured, mostly in Khao Lak.

But, as **Dhirarat Boonkongsan** discovered, that fact has not deterred Scandinavians from coming on vacation to Phuket. Indeed, the first and largest groups to arrive here after the disaster were from the Nordic countries.

**T**homas Hogelient, from Sweden, explains, "We feel really sorry about what happened here, but we know that tourism is the main source of income here, and that's why it was important to come here, for us to do our little bit to help."

Mr Hogelient spoke with the *Gazette* as he relaxed by the pool at the Phuket Orchid Resort with his wife, Ann, his 15-month-old son, Elton, his father and his sister.

The family arrived in Phuket at the beginning of February, having postponed their trip for two weeks on the advice of their tour company.

"Phuket is the same as it was when we came to Karon three years ago," said Mr Hogelient. "The food is good, the people are nice."

He continued, "The media at home was full of news about the tsunami, but we knew Karon would be pretty okay." He and his family intended to spend three weeks in Karon, Kata and Patong.

Jarle Hvitstein, too, had seen the overwhelming media coverage about the tsunami. But he was confident enough about the state of Phuket to bring his wife and daughter here for a two-week holiday. The family arrived on February 4.

"Yes, we have seen the pictures on television, pictures of Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and people think Phuket is the same."

"But I checked the news every day on the Internet, so I'm



Clockwise from top right: Mr & Mrs Jarle Hvitstein; Odd Halvorsen and his wife, Ulla-Britt; Liv Bente Eng; and Thomas Hogelient.

All returning visitors to Phuket, they looked beyond some of the media images of the island post-tsunami and saw no reason not to come back.

"This is my idea of Paradise," said Mr Halvorsen.



not surprised by how Phuket looks now."

Mr Hvitstein booked his family's trip in November and he had seen no reason to cancel after the tsunami. "We're going to stay two weeks," he added, "and our friends arrive next week as well."

The tsunami prompted older tourists Odd Halvorsen and his wife, Ulla-Britt, to reconsider their travel plans but, in the end, they decided not to change them.

"The tour company recommended that we wait until the extent of the damage was clear," said Mr Halvorsen. "And when

we called them a few weeks ago, they said it was okay to come here.

"I don't think it is dangerous to be here; it was a disaster, not a war."

"If this was a war zone, we wouldn't dream of coming here, but we know that there won't be a tsunami every week."

"It was very sad for the people caught up in the tsunami, but, having weighed up everything, we decided to come. We've been here before, we know this place and we like it."

He added, "This is my idea of Paradise and my wife and I

would like to stay here for a long time."

Liv Bente Eng wanted to see how Phuket today compared with the last time she visited, six years ago.

"It was hard to look at the pictures because so many things seemed to have been lost, especially at Khao Lak," she said.

"But we still wanted to come here to see for ourselves, and also because we had heard how Thais helped people after the tsunami."

One recent Saturday afternoon, a Novair flight landed at Phuket International Airport.

On board were 203 passengers, the biggest charter group to arrive in Phuket since the tsunami.

Anders Ericsson and his family were on board.

"We've been to Thailand about seven times since 1990," Mr Ericsson told the *Gazette* at the airport.

"We've checked the *Phuket Gazette* website regularly, and we did have second thoughts immediately after the tsunami, but then we decided it was important to come here."

"We're going to spend two weeks in Kata Noi," he said.





THE TASTE OF THAILAND

Book now for the most romantic  
valentine's dinner in Phuket!

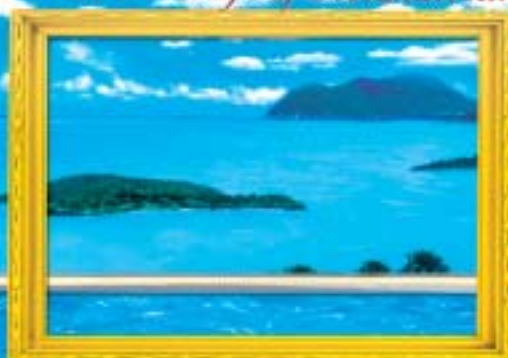




FEBRUARY 14TH


BAR . LOUNGE . DINING . TERRACE

5/50 cherngthalay phuket Tel 076 271 702 www.silkphuket.com

The heritage of Relaxation.





Rawana

49/1 Moo 6 Vised Road, Muang District, Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 7638 3945 Fax: +66 (0) 7638 3946 www.rawana.com  
BKK Tel: +66 (0) 2377 6863, +66 (0) 2377 3580 Fax: +66 (0) 2378 0100



# An intimidating initiation

Supachai Yuvaboon, the newly-appointed Vice-Governor of Phuket, arrived at Phuket International Airport at 8:30 am on the day before he was due to take up his post. As he traveled from the airport, he contemplated a leisurely lunch in Ao Chalong and a quiet afternoon and evening before starting work the following day. But this was December 26, 2004.

**V**ice-Governor Supachai Yuvaboon recalls of his arrival in Phuket, "Someone told me there had been an earthquake, but I didn't think anything of it."

On the way from the airport to his new home, he stopped off to pay his respects at the Heroines' Monument, then went from there to the Vice-Governor's official residence.

A friend called to say Patong had been hit by a big wave but even then, the magnitude of what had just happened was still not clear.

"It was still very quiet in Phuket City, and even when I saw lots of people and vehicles at the Governor's office, I just assumed there had been a car crash," said V/Gov Supachai.

"At 11 am, I saw a helicopter and I asked my officer what was going on. He said the Governor was off to inspect Patong, but I didn't realize just how bad the situation was until the Governor called an emergency meeting for 1 pm."

Although V/Gov Supachai had been to Phuket before, it had been as a tourist, and, consequently, he struggled to follow what was happening during the planning of the rescue effort.

But he had to get to grips with his new task immediately. "My main job was to organize the call center service for both Thai

and English languages and to receive donations.

"Few people realized that I was the new Vice-Governor, and when I was introduced to people, many pointed out that I arrived with the tsunami. 'If you look at it negatively, then I brought bad luck, but people have said it was lucky I arrived when I did, because I was able to help after the tsunami."

"I learned an awful lot in the days after the tsunami. I learned that, even when they were in trouble, people here didn't want used clothes, either because they didn't like the style or because they felt uncomfortable wearing them, which is different from people in the North and Isarn."

"The tsunami showed me how generous people can be, in the way they tried to help by donating things."

"But I also felt very sorry for the people who were in trouble. The tourists who come to Phuket are rich, but at that time, money meant nothing."

"I met a foreign man who was wearing boots, but he wanted some sandals, which he didn't have. I managed to find some for him, and he was able to get rid of his boots."

"The person who impressed me most, I think, was Panomphol Thummachartniyom, President of the Phuket Professional Guide Association, who arranged for



**Vice-Governor Supachai Yuvaboon: 'I'm not interested in becoming a politician, because I'm not very good at lying ... I prefer to work on the ground with local people.'**

guides who speak all kinds of languages to help the tourists. They worked day and night to help people and organize things."

V/Gov Supachai believes some good can come from the bad of the tsunami, if people look at what they can learn about disaster preparedness.

"For example," he said, "We noticed that when the sea receded, Thai people went down to the beach to collect fish or take pictures, but the sea gypsies headed for the hills."

"Hopefully, this kind of disaster will not happen very often, but we can learn from it. I don't think the situation was handled wrongly, because this was an unprecedented event – tsunami usually happen in the Pacific Ocean, not here."

The tsunami aside, the Vice-Governor has been struck by how different Phuket is from rural Thailand, where he has worked in the past.

"Phuket is a developed

province and people have more money here, but I will adjust," he said. "One thing I should do here, though, is improve my English, because of the amount of interest there is in Phuket from the foreign press."

Already, V/Gov Supachai has become frustrated with the slow pace of Thai bureaucracy, largely caused, he says, by the anti-corruption regulations.

"There are all these rules. Officers can't do anything on their own initiative; they have to go through this whole process step-by-step. I think it would be all right for a CEO governor to have the authority to make certain decisions," he explained.

A graduate of Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Political Science, and the holder of an MBA from Roosevelt University, Chicago, V/Gov Supachai spent 20 years with the Office of Accelerated Rural Development (OARD).

During his time with the

OARD, he carried out inspections, surveys and handled planning in almost every province in Thailand.

"I joined the OARD in 1973 in Bangkok, but I moved to Chanthaburi, Udon Thani, Chachoengsao, Petchaburi then back to Bangkok, all the time working for the OARD," he said.

"My position before I left was as an inspector for the OARD. I met lots of local people as I carried out surveys or explained projects to them, or asked them what help they wanted."

OARD initiatives included research into water resources, road building, developing income-generating projects for people in rural areas and taking electricity to rural communities.

In 2002, K. Supachai was appointed Vice-Governor of Uttaradit, a job he held until he was moved to Phuket.

"Being a government officer is in my blood. My father is Dr Chamnan Yuvaboon, who was the first governor to be assigned to Bangkok, and my older brother is Chanasak Yuvaboon, who was Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at the Ministry of Interior until he retired last year."

"I would like to retire soon, although I'm not sure when. I want a peaceful life, maybe have my own small business. I'd like to retire before I'm 60, before it's too late to start something new."

"I'm not interested in becoming a politician, because I'm not very good at lying – not that I'm saying that all politicians are liars, but I prefer to work on the ground with local people."

"It is easier to progress rapidly as a politician, but I don't really think my character is suitable for me to be a politician."

He continued, "I have a daughter, who is 29 years old, and a son, 22. I don't expect them to become government officers; I won't push them, I'll just leave them to find their own ways in their careers."

"That said, I don't think they're that interested in being government officers, having seen their grandfather, uncle and dad do the job already; I think they think they're learned enough from us already," he laughed.

**The Baray Spa**  
A luxurious Thai herbal spa

Voted "one of the top 50 most beautiful resorts in Thailand"

65 Katekwan Rd., Kata Beach, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 076 330 979, 076 330 870-1 Fax: 076 330 905  
E-mail: info@phuketsawasdee.com www.phuketsawasdee.com



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Spending precious time trying to convince others of your point of view will be useless this week. It will be far better to follow your instincts and let them catch up later when the penny drops. On Tuesday you hear an improbable story, but there is no smoke without fire. Aquarians are advised to do some investigating of their own before reacting. The number 7 is interesting on Tuesday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): On Monday someone will try to smooth-talk you concerning a get-rich-quick scheme. Pisceans who value their own opinions will not be taken in for a second. During the coming weeks you should aim for steady financial improvement and put proposed large purchases on hold. New love is destined to founder on the rocks if you don't nurture it. The color moss green helps to open your heart.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Make sure you get the right end of the stick before reacting this weekend. Mixed messages are likely on Sunday and hot-tem-

pered Arians need to ascertain what the truth is. Personal problems should subside by the middle of the week and a mellow mood helps your love life to flourish. Plans to relocate start to take shape; if you have any lingering doubts, cast them away.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Taureans will be seeing red when someone makes an insensitive comment on Monday. Refrain from lowering your horns and charging in immediately with a bull-in-a-china-shop response. There will be chance later to retaliate in a subtle and effective way. A golden opportunity for self improvement is about to be handed to you on a platter – the only missing ingredient in the recipe for success is your lack of confidence.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): An interesting snippet of gossip has the ring of truth and provides food for thought this week. If you're suffering from a bout of boredom, start counting your lucky stars and you will realize that there's every reason to be grateful for your good fortune. Geminis with an excess of time on their hands will be able to find

a worthwhile charitable outlet. The number 3 is beneficial on Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): You should prepare for some unwelcome confrontation this weekend. A niggling relationship matter comes to a head, causing a slightly stormy atmosphere at home. More beneficial conditions arrive midweek and you will then be glad that the problem was highlighted and sorted out. A good lesson to learn from all this is to feel with your heart and think with your head. It's time to get more creative with your appearance.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Popularity is at an all time high this month for those born under the sign of Leo. Admirers are drawn to you as bees to a flower, though not all of this attention will be welcome. One particularly annoying visitor midweek needs to be reminded to call before putting in a personal appearance. An idea for a new hobby comes out of the blue and could give satisfaction for a long time to come.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Others don't normally see

you as a shy person, but your natural tendency to withdraw is strong this week. Those who crave some solitude may need to travel outside their usual environment to find it. On Thursday you will be on the receiving end of an unexpected gift; this is truly a case of "what goes around comes around". Treat yourself to a new scent or aftershave with natural woody tones.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Too much daydreaming could land you in hot water this week. It seems that many Librans have bitten off more responsibility than they can comfortably chew, but you will have to find a way to accomplish what needs to be done. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, try to remain realistic even if your head is somewhere in the clouds. The object of your affections is not telling you everything.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): The private side of your nature will be compromised when someone is determined to know what really makes you tick. Scorpions should guard against giving away too many secrets – maintaining an air of mystery will add to your attractiveness in

the long run. There's a new social scene waiting to be embraced; accept invitations and go with an open mind. Wear deep orchid purple to encourage wealth.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Luck is simply a case of preparation meeting opportunity and those Sagittarians who have done enough groundwork in the past few weeks are about to reap rewards. On the romantic front, an admirer gets your notice, but the immediate chemistry isn't enough to sweep you off your feet. This could be a relationship worth working at slowly. Business appointments are best scheduled for later in the week.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): If you are suffering from an excess of nervous energy you are advised to get moving. Physical activity is the best remedy for your inability to sit still and smell the jasmine this week. On Sunday, break the ice with a stranger and it could lead to an interesting involvement, though not necessarily of the hearts and flowers variety. Scorpio has a lucrative tip on Wednesday.


**Farang Restaurant**

Not as expensive as you would think, prices start from 45 baht. Cheap prices, great food!  
Farang Restaurant at Index Living Mall  
Thai and foreign food.

Garden bread	45 baht
Tom yam soup	65 baht
Grilled salmon	75 baht
Grilled tenderloin	75 baht
Pizza with tomato & cheese	60 baht
Grilled chicken	50 baht
Cheese salad	70 baht
Spaghetti with seafood	85 baht
Pedacorns with kani & mushrooms	75 baht
Beef hamburger	75 baht

Branch 1: 100/4 Chalong Road, Talang, Phuket, 83110. Tel: 076 271040 Mobile: 01-4257426  
Branch 2: Index Living Mall, Patong Tel: 076 248812

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




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


**Tsunami Memorial Service**  
February 10<sup>th</sup> at 18:00  
The College Auditorium

The Service is open to all and you are warmly invited to attend

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



**"Phuri Phimaan"**  
Nai Yang Beach - Phuket



Just 10 minutes from the airport and 15 minutes from Blue Canyon Country Club, "Phuri Phimaan" provides the perfect lifestyle and investment opportunity. Magnificent "Thai - Lanna" style tri-level villas overlooking the unspoilt west coast beach of Nai Yang.

Price: From **US\$ 750,000 - 1,000,000.**

**Phuri Phimaan**  
Office: 3/11 Moo 3 T. Saku, A Talang, Phuket, 83110 Thailand.  
Tel: ( 66 ) 6 6821277, ( 66 ) 1 6481505, ( 66 ) 7 8282939  
E-mail: info@phuriphimaan.com www.phuriphimaan.com





# Gifts of love for Valentine's Day

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn  
& Dhirarat Boonkongsan

**M**oney – as the Beatles famously sang – can't buy you love (except, perhaps, on Soi Bangla), but it can buy a beautiful gift for the one you love. With Valentine's Day almost upon us, the *Gazette* today showcases gifts for lovers.

Clockwise from top right: Luxurious chocolates, 65 baht - 450 baht, from Duc de Praslin, Fisherman Way Business Center;

Cute card from Cordial, Central Festival Phuket, which has cards ranging in price from 50 to 200 baht;

"Couples" dog bowl, 260 baht, from Raksat Dog Spa, Central;

His and hers Solvil et Titus watches, 6,600 baht, from City Chain, Central or Robinson;

Real roses from Mettha, Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City, 50 baht a stem;

Heart-shaped cushions 299 baht each, from Index Living Mall,

Artificial roses are a message of love that last, 80 baht to 290 baht, also from Index;

Diamond two-heart bracelet, 71,800 baht; diamond hearts wristlet, 47,000 baht; pink heart locket, 9,000 baht, from Tawee Suwan shops at Central and Montri Rd, Phuket City.



**local thai food ■ contemporary art**

**restaurant346 & galeria346 ■ phuket town**  
346 phuket rd ■ 1 min from robinson ■ 076 216 332

## TSUNAMI BENEFIT SHOW

JOHN MOORHEAD presents direct from London's Comedy Circuit

**THE PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB**

ROGER MONKHOUSE Terry Alderton Craig Campbell

"Puck is more observations on the human condition in a funny way... and there's a sense of humor." - *John-Paul Sartre*

"Terry knows you exhausted, go see him!" - *The Times*

"Craig is simply, a very, very funny man!" - *Charlie UK*

"An off-the-wall comedian who's not afraid to go to the limit... a genius to grow a beard!" - *Manchester Evening News*

"One of the most exciting comedians I have seen in years, superb!" - *The Scotsman*

"Destined to become a huge star!" - *Daily Telegraph*

"His laconic delivery yields an engaging persona and an engaging mind!" - *The Guardian*

"A supremely confident, gifted comic!" - *The New Zealand Herald*

"Craig kicked butt in a very definitive way!" - *The Eye, Toronto*

Ticket price THB 1,700. Show Starts 9.00pm. Wednesday 2 March 2005.

For Tickets please call, Khun Sawitri on 076 396 433 Extension 2015

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, 333 Karen Beach, Patong Beach, Phuket District, Phuket 83136. Tel 076 396 433

PHUKET GAZETTE

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa



# In a class of its own

**T**he Eastern & Oriental Express is as luxurious as it is romantic. The glistening green and cream-colored coaches that make up this 66-compartment transport of delight are the result of a vision which took a long time to come to fruition.

In an age of packaged passengers traveling at bewildering speeds, sealed away from contact with the elements, the E&O, like a discreet valet, offers a gracious alternative.

This easeful passage starts at Bangkok, with uniformed stewards stowing luggage aboard, dispensing tea, smoothing ruffled feathers and settling passengers into their air-conditioned compartments.

All compartments have an attached bathroom, but while the Standard cabins are pretty much occupied by a double bunk which converts into a sofa by day, the State sleeping cars are considerably roomier, with armchairs and more than enough room to swing a cat. The Presidential suites edge towards – by railway standards – the palatial.

Crisp linen, specially-designed Italian china, monogrammed French silver cutlery and German crystal bedeck the dining cars.

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Best of all, at the end of the train, there is an open-air observation car that allows passengers to experience all the sights and sounds and smells of life beside the tracks.

While passengers knock back their aperitifs, the chefs in the galley labor to create a four-course dinner. Fresh ingredients are taken on board at main stations and supplemented by hawkers' wares along the line; the raw material for a feast on wheels.

The evening meal over, passengers converge on the bar, where the liqueurs rock gently in the glasses, the lighting is muted and the talk is rich with references to life in the upper echelons.

Dawn brings a new day and a new horizon, ever changing as the Express "thunders" towards its destination at 80 kilometers an hour.

Outside are the jungles, paddy fields and villages, lush green countryside that trundles by as a continuously-moving

panorama of Asian rural life. Buffalo amble through the scrub, sauntering schoolchildren laugh and wave, old crones look up from the kitchen step, regarding the train with an air of lost remembrance of their youth.

The E&O bowls through the countryside, leaving the royal resort of Hua Hin in its wake, stopping only briefly at the Malaysian border for a passport check, and again at Butterworth, near Penang.

The scenery changes now,

and gold-domed mosques take the place of temples and individual domestic spirit houses.

In the dead of night, Kuala Lumpur Railway Station is deserted, brightly lit but eerily quiet. Off again into the darkness, the Express whispers past the silent rubber estates until daybreak, when it sweeps through Johor Bahru and across the causeway into the Lion City, Singapore.

As an endnote, here are three little-known railway facts: The completion of Kuala

Above: The suites on board the Eastern & Oriental Express are luxurious.

Left: After enjoying a four-course dinner in the dining car, guests retire to the bar to partake of a few drinks.

Lumpur railway station was delayed until 1911 because the roof failed to meet British railway specifications and could not support three feet of snow.

The first railway built in what was then Malaya was made entirely of wood and was eaten by ants.

A pamphlet published in 1928 announced: "The scenery along the line will give travellers a good impression of British Malaya and Siam. The privilege of breaking the journey at various interesting points makes it the more advantageous to travel by rail."

Three quarters of a century later, that's still very true.



**KAMALA**  
ORCHID ESTATE

**BAAN CHANG THAI**  
**FOR SALE**



**A Luxurious villa in the tropical paradise of Kamala Beach, Phuket**

Baan Chang Thai is surrounded by verdant forest and has stunning hills as the backdrop. This marvelous, secure villa comes with solid teak garage and entrance doors, a quality finished stone wall and a spacious covered double parking area. All rooms offer an individual balcony, private bathroom with luxury, comfort and space with spectacular and breathtaking sea views.



**Plot size: 1,550 sqm**  
**Villa total living area: 1,085 sqm**

5 bedrooms & 1 maid's quarters  
1 European + 1 service kitchen  
1 dining room  
1 laundry room  
state-of-the-art fitness room/gym

7 bathrooms  
1 living room  
1 game room  
huge pool terrace & sala  
55 sqm, infinity swimming pool  
with unique waterfall

A fully equipped gym provides absolute pleasure for a perfect lifestyle in this beautiful tropical villa.



For more information please contact:

Tel: +66 (0)1 891 7499 Fax: +66 (0)76 279 530

Web: [www.kamala-orchid-estate.com](http://www.kamala-orchid-estate.com) E-mail: [info@kamala-orchid-estate.com](mailto:info@kamala-orchid-estate.com)



KIDS

THE FUN PAGE

FOR ALL

THE FAMILY

# Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of more than 20 European capital cities. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: More than 10, good; more than 15, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

# Brain Buster!!

Q: Nonglak runs the first half of a race at a steady 4 kilometers an hour. Then she picks up her pace and runs the last half of the race at 8 km/h. What is her average speed?

A. 5.333 km/h

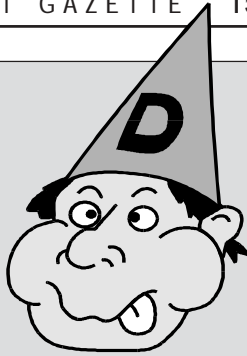
## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Viktor Yuschenko; 2. Westminster Abbey, London; 3. Edinburgh Castle; 4. Their origins are from Old Norse; 5. Alfred Dobbs (Labour); 6. One day: July 27, 1945; 7. Coordinated Universal Time; 8. Broadcast the first hourly UTC time signal; 9. Cristiano Ronaldo; 10. Ethologist; 11. McLaren; 12. Melbourne, March 6; 13. Oslo; 14. Norwegian parliament; 15. Arabic; 16. April 14, 1977, in New York; 17. Avebury, England; 18. Olympus Mons, on Mars, 25 kilometers; 19. Plutocracy; 20. Camp Dubois, Illinois.

## Solution to last week's crossword

S	A	U	D	I	T	O
K	N	I	T	A	R	O
A	O	A	F	O	I	
S	I	A	M	F	A	J
L			Y	A		S
I	S	L	A	M	S	N
O		I		S		A
U	N	W	R	A	P	A
E		M		I	N	N
B	O	R	E		T	I
N		N	E	S	T	S

# Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. What is the southernmost point of the Republic of Ireland?

2. What is the name of the debut album of girl band The 411's?

3. Which former member of Boyzone has the middle names Patrick John?

4. *7 and 7 Is* was a 1967 hit for which US psychedelic band?

5. What was the B-side of the single called?

6. Alexis Munday, Dylan Sanders and Natalie Cook are characters in which movies?

7. Which US president
- was born February 12, 1809?

8. Japanese all-girl band The 5, 6, 7, 8s appear in which two movies?

9. What foodstuff has the varieties Carmargue, mochi and carnaroli?

10. What is the correct term for an uncontrollable urge to set fire to things?

11. Which iconic painting was stolen February 12, 1994?

12. *One And One* was a hit in 1996 for which techno/trance DJ?

13. Name the region in the Middle East that is often referred to as "the
- cradle of civilization".

14. Which country now forms a large part of that region?

15. Isak Dinesen was a pen name for which Danish writer?

16. What is the capital of Moldova?

17. What is the currency of Gambia?

18. Which country has the Internet digraph ".za"?

19. "Chic nitric sari" is an anagram of which actress's name?

20. Which river meets the sea at St Nazaire?

Answers next week

# Never a Cross Word!

## Across

1. Levis, for example.  
4. On top of.  
6. Unit of resistance.  
8. Bossy Peanuts character.  
10. Movie with a cast of thousands, perhaps.  
13. Satirize.  
14. Marseilles affirmative.  
15. The Greatest.  
16. Dickensian miser.  
17. Indian exercise system.  
19. Blood vessel.  
21. Dog or cat, maybe.  
23. Indian capital.  
24. Heavenly assistant.

1	2			3		4			5	
				6	7					
8		9					10	11		12
13								14		
15				16						
17	18						19		20	
				21		22				
23						24				

## Down

2. Ostrich's cousin.  
3. Between Fa and La.  
4. Before noon.  
5. Caesar's seven.  
7. Heavenly guidance.  
8. Song for a babe.  
9. Living under canvas.  
11. Put forward an idea.  
12. Native of Santiago, maybe.

18. Raw material for metal.  
20. Rocks for a drink.  
21. 3.14159265 etc.  
22. Informal thanks.

Solution next week

Board&Bread

CASA BRAZIL

076-396317

www.phukethomestay.com/cb

email: casabrazil@hotmail.com

Buds

Nursery & Preschool

Tel: 076-282282

free trial

Give Your Child a Good Start!



# Chaos and cacophony in Calcutta

India has always been a feast for the senses, and often a source of sensory overload. This impression was reinforced by a recent visit to Calcutta.

The streets of Calcutta are an ongoing pageant of vehicular chaos. Cars, buses, trams, trucks, taxis, tuk-tuks, bicycles, pedicabs, rickshaws, wagons, carts, coolies, vendors, pedestrians, and cows joust for precedence in the tumultuous streets. Many years ago I saw a goatherder driving a flock of goats across a major intersection at high noon.

All this commerce is conducted amid maximum noise. For it is axiomatic that when many people are striving to make themselves heard, it is the loudest voice that will emerge victorious.

Hence the popular misconception that no Calcuttan is capable of speaking below the level of a shout. When everybody else is shouting, it makes sense to shout louder. In the West, the squeaky wheel gets the grease; in India, the loudest voice gets the chapatti.

So it should come as no surprise that in Calcutta, people

drive with their horns. If a driver is not honking his horn, he feels he is not doing his job, and everybody else figures he must be asleep at the wheel.

The drivers of Calcutta would change Descartes' motto "I think, therefore I am" to "I drive, therefore I honk." Sound, after all, is a sign of life; and the drivers of Calcutta are eager to assure the world that they are very much alive.

The horn conveys a message: "I am coming! Make way for me!" Trucks often have a sign on the back reading "HORN, PLEASE." This tells the drivers behind them to sound their horns if they want to pass.

Remarkably, Indian pedestrians never seem to get angry at being honked at. They actually seem to appreciate it. Maybe they think it shows that somebody is paying attention to them. If so, the drivers of Calcutta are extremely solicitous about reassuring pedestrians of their loving solicitude.

The horn is such an essential element of Indian driving that when an Indian monk visited the US and was shown an American car, the first thing he wanted to



know was where the horn was. When told that Americans rarely sound their horns, except to indicate incipient road rage, he was stunned.

And there are not only horns. Every vehicle has its distinctive noisemaker to announce its presence to the teeming masses.

Bicyclists ring their bells, rickshaw-pullers squeeze their bulb horns, and other vehicles sound an impressive variety of whistles, klaxons, sirens, buzzers, zappers, clackers and whoop-whoop devices.

To the Western ear, the result is cacophony. To the Indian ear, it may well be a symphony, a harmony of felicitously-blended sounds. Where the Westerner perceives chaos, the Indian may perceive order; for order and chaos, after all, are largely in our heads, and to the Indian mind, both are part of the inscrutable play of Maya.

Crossing a Calcutta street can be a frightening experience for a Westerner. You might be run over by a tram, a bus, a truck, or a car; knocked down by a bicycle or a pedicab; trampled by hordes

of coolies and pedestrians; or speared by one of the poles used to pull a rickshaw.

But if you're lucky, you might win a high-status death and be run over by an Ambassador.

Of all the vehicles that ply the streets of Calcutta, the Ambassador is king. This is a car, made in India, that is based on the 1948 Morris Oxford from Britain. For years it was the only car on the roads. Now it is gradually being supplanted by a variety of upstart Japanese-style interlopers.

The Ambassador is a symbol of India itself. Stately, grand, and old-fashioned, it conveys an impression of dignity, sturdiness, and stability. It may not be trendy, but it is deep – and as immutable as the Absolute. That 1948 design was good in 1948 and for all eternity.

Flighty Japanese models may come and go, but the Ambassador endures unchanged. If it is ever consigned to the junk-pile of history, we will know that the old India herself has begun to die.

To be run over by an Ambassador would be a prestigious death indeed, and certainly much better than being speared by a rickshaw.

*Ardent Indophile S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to avoid being speared by a rickshaw.*



# The case for being duly diligent

This month I would like to point out the legal problems that may occur when due diligence is not conducted properly before the purchase of a property.

Mr X, a foreign director of a Thai company, learned through his bank that a piece of land, which included a building, would be for sale through pub-

lic auction because it had become an NPL – a non-performing loan – when the previous owner failed to repay his bank after borrowing the money to buy the property.

Appointing the bank representative as his agent to buy the property at the auction, Mr X was assured that there would be no problems, because the bank would approve the sale at a certain price.

Mr X would pay through his company account with the same bank, in the form of cashier's check to the bank representative buying the property on his behalf.

The auction went well and Mr X's company successfully bid for the property at the price agreed with the bank, with a 25% down payment made immediately after the auction.

All was arranged, and within 14 days, Mr X's company had to make a final payment to the auctioneer which, again, he ar-



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

ranged through the bank's representative.

Mr X received all the documents necessary to file for change of ownership of the property.

At the Land Department office, however, his representative was informed that, as a result of a civil case, there was a court order freezing any transfer of ownership of the property.

As a result, the transfer of property ownership to Mr X's company was denied, even though all the necessary documents had been supplied.

Mr X's company now had the problem: He had paid money to the auction house, but his company could not take ownership of

the property. Mr X consulted a law firm and appointed a lawyer to file a case in court to free the assets from the previous court order and allow transfer of ownership.

The case went to court and Mr X's application was rejected, on the grounds that the civil case that had caused the transfer to Mr X to be frozen had yet to be resolved.

This decision was not what Mr X or the bank had expected and, as they could not understand how the court had reached such a decision, an appeal was launched to reverse the decision of the court to freeze the property.

This process had already taken about a year, and by going to appeal, Mr X's company was facing an unlimited wait; there is no limit on the amount of time the Appeals Court may take in deciding a case.

Mr X's company was still unable to take possession of the property and had to wait for the Appeals Court's decision, which

took a further eighteen months.

Finally, the order of the first court to freeze the property was reversed and the appeal granted, and Mr X's company was able to register the change of ownership of the land and building bought 2½ years before.

**At the Land  
Department ...  
his representative  
was informed that,  
as a result of a  
civil case, there  
was a court order  
freezing any  
transfer of  
ownership of the  
property.**

Unfortunately, during this period, the Thai government reduced the deduction allowed on corporate tax from 3.3% to only 0.1%.

As a result, Mr X's company paid a great deal more in transfer fees than it would have done had the transfer of ownership gone through 2½ years earlier.

The lesson to be learned from this tale is that it is vital to have a property thoroughly checked before buying it or even committing oneself to buying it, regardless of how reliable your initial information may seem.

*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.*

**AM Production**  
DIRECT EXPORT  
Made to Order  
NEW T-Shirt  
European Quality:  
- Polo shirts  
- Sweatshirts  
- Baseball caps  
- Embroidery  
- Pens, Lighters  
Tel: 076-321850  
Fax: 076-321851  
Email: info@best-t-shirt.com  
www.best-t-shirt.com  
Ask for: Mr. FRANZ

**Phuket Property**  
Consultants Company Limited  
New  
single house  
for sale/rent in Soi  
Sai Yuan, 500 sqm,  
3 bed, 3 bath, private  
swimming pool &  
Jacuzzi and green garden.  
5.8 million only.  
Mobile: 09-4744622

**Thai Chiropractor**  
Come feel the difference  
Tel: 07-279-7553



# A4 turns a new page

**L**aunched at the Paris Salon last September, the new Audi A4 has been hailed by industry insiders as "the best yet". With more rounded lines yet a squarer stance, it is almost as though the A4 has grown up.

Following the success of the revised A8 and A6, Audi left the A4 to last for a makeover and the result is a stunning sedan that is more than a match for its Mercedes and BMW rivals.

Although only marginally longer than its predecessor, the new car appears to be larger, possibly due to the revamped front end and restyled bumpers.

There are two body styles on offer: the normal four-door sedan and the Avant station wagon, which offers far more luggage space. While the Avant is popular in Europe, the sedan version is likely to be the big seller in Asia.

Although there are a number of engines available for the A4, including a direct-injection 3.2-liter gasoline motor developing a healthy 255bhp (188kW), the most popular choices will always be the two-liter gasoline or diesel motors.

The former, featuring a lightweight aluminum block, produces a respectable 130bhp (96kW), giving a top speed in excess of 210kmh and a benchmark 0-100kmh sprint time of a shade under 10 seconds.

The diesel gives similar performance but benefits from a huge increase in torque: 320Nm compared to a meager 195Nm from the gas engine.

The diesel motor is fitted with a catalytic particulate filter, which is claimed to be 100% maintenance-free, and all Audi's current engines meet the latest Euro IV emission requirements.

A vast number of options are available for the new Audi, including double glazing, run-flat tires and a cool box mounted in the glove box.

All models, however, feature individual air-conditioning controls for the driver and front-seat passenger; two-stage front airbags; side bags in the front seatbacks; and full-length air curtains to protect from side impacts.



**ONE FOR THE BOOKS:** With more rounded lines yet a squarer stance, and a top speed of 210kmh, the new Audi A4 has been hailed by industry insiders as "the best yet".

Also standard is the latest-generation ESP (electronic stability program), brake assist and electronic-brake distribution. A useful feature is the trapezoidal, aluminum rear suspension, which is both light and space-saving. It does not intrude on trunk space yet gives almost perfect handling under most conditions.

There are various other options available in different markets. Choices include four-wheel drive, six-speed manual or Tiptronic 'boxes. With the

two-liter power plants and front-wheel drive, a five-speed manual gearbox – or the constantly variable Multitronic auto transmission – is the more likely combination.

Safety is a prime consideration in any modern motor car and the A4 contains a great deal of high-strength steel to absorb



crash energy. Although the new model has yet to be tested under the stringent European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP), the outgoing model scored a four-star rating.

The larger A6, which was tested last year, scored the maximum five stars, and it looks likely that the new A4 will also achieve

a high rating when it is tested later this year.

Audi has turned itself from a rather staid, second-rank luxury car manufacturer into a solid performer within the giant Volkswagen group, Europe's largest auto maker. While the top-of-the-range A8 continues to impress and the executive A6 se-

dan is making huge inroads into underdeveloped markets such as mainland China, the A4 is still the mainstay of Audi's production.

The latest offering will surely cement Audi's reputation as a builder of fine cars that are a little more interesting to drive than much of the opposition.



By Jeff Heselwood



**Do Not Drink Tap Water!**



- Light fixtures
- Painting
- Carpentry
- Plumbing & sprinklers
- and much more!

All fixed with one call: 076 225 556 [www.isaylight.com](http://www.isaylight.com)

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

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MOVERS



**FOUR WINDS**  
INTERNATIONAL GROUP

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

e-mail: [Lmulqueen@fourwindsmoving.com](mailto:Lmulqueen@fourwindsmoving.com)



**The Phuket Gazette**  
- Since 1994 -

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

## Winding up the relief workers

Things are calming down after the tsunami. The dead have been retrieved, the injured have been taken care of and, where necessary, repatriated. The debris has mostly been cleared and reconstruction is well under way.

The work is, of course, far from over. Identification of thousands of corpses will take many months. Long-term help will be needed by those still suffering psychological trauma. The battles between local businesspeople and the government have only just begun. But the whole effort has moved on from frantic rescue to measured reconstruction.

During the initial phases, and still now, thousands of foreign volunteers gave their time unstintingly to the effort, arriving on tourist visas and pitching in wherever they were needed. No one asked whether they had non-immigrant visas or work permits. Their contributions were appreciated for what they were – heartfelt wishes to help people and a country in trouble.

Working alongside them were many who were already living and working in Phuket. They have achieved an astonishing amount of good work, in the early days delivering supplies where and when they were needed, getting homes built and helping fishing communities to get boats so that they could get back to life as normal – or as near normal as is possible after one's village has been smashed.

What was striking was how swiftly such people reacted to the crisis, especially in contrast with the ability of the national bureaucracy to deliver what was needed, where it was needed, and when.

This will, of course, all come to an end. No government would tolerate for long thousands of foreigners working without the correct paperwork, however good their intentions.

Indeed, when asked about the rules on this, the Phuket Provincial Employment Services Office (ESO) told the *Gazette* that foreign volunteers who come to Thailand to help in tsunami charity work must have work permits, whether they are paid or not – that's the law.

Volunteers without work permits risk a maximum penalty of three years in jail or a 30,000 baht fine – or both, the ESO added.

So far it appears that gratitude to the volunteers has outweighed official rectitude, but already the ESO has stated that it will be applying the law soon, probably from next month.

One can only hope that when this happens, it will be done with great tact. Phuket and neighboring provinces are already struggling to get the tourists back. A heavy-handed campaign to round up and boot out selfless foreign volunteers for contravening labor laws would not help.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

**Editor:** Rungtip Hongjakpet

**Managing Editor:** Alasdair Forbes

**Deputy Editor:** Chris Husted

**Chief Reporter:** Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

**Investigation Team:** Dhirarat Boonkongsaen, Gategeo Phetsawang,  
Kamol Pirat

**Desk Editors:** Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Alison Winward

**Managing Director:** Rungtip Hongjakpet

**Marketing Manager:** Oranee Pienprasertkul

**Website Services Manager:** Natthira Susangrat

**Distribution Manager:** Passara Kaewbumroong

**Financial Controller:** Benjawan Lukthan

**Publisher:** The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

### Contact us

**Advertising Sales:** adsales@phuketgazette.net

**Classified Advertising:** classads@phuketgazette.net

**Website Services:** anna@phuketgazette.net

**Shopper Card inquiries:** shopper@phuketgazette.net

**Gazette Guide inquiries:** guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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

Copyright © 1994-2005 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd



## Letters

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

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

### Remove the beach chairs for good

Well done to the government for finally cleaning up the beach. These chairs are like a cancer; once one is allowed they multiply rapidly and without control.

Before the disaster, we all saw that there was no control and no authority in the beach area. The chairs were up to four rows deep in some places and packed so tightly that you could not reach the sand and the sea.

It's a beach, not a backyard. If you want to sit in a chair, then stay by the hotel pool.

The bars will be the next thing to creep back, again with no control. Before the tsunami, the town spent lots of money to construct a footpath for tourists. The footpath was soon annexed by bars, massage people and beach chair operators.

In time, the beach chairs began to spread from the beach to the footpath. This made it impossible for the tourists to get around.

Then there are people who come to Phuket for a couple of weeks and complain about the sun! Don't they sell sunscreen in your countries and why the hell do you come here if you want to sit in the shade?

You should sit under the trees and leave the beaches free for those who enjoy them.

If the beach chairs must be replaced, then they should be lined up – no more than one row deep – along the tree line with sufficient space between them to allow people to get past. This way, the "cave dwellers" can still have their shade without affecting the beachgoers.

I see that the jet-skis are

back, recklessly driving among the swimmers with no regard for safety. The government should begin policing the beach to stop the dangerous jet-skis and impose heavy fines on those who drive them unsafely.

So many residents have told me that the beach looks how it did in the old days. Let's keep it that way: beautiful.

This is an opportunity to get it right.

Dave  
Patong

### Safety before profit?

It is just five weeks since the tsunami struck, and I still have nightmares about the churning mixture of heavy wooden deck chairs and screaming sunbathers I saw from my apartment overlooking Kata Beach.

It was clear to me that, without those heavy deck chairs, the number of people injured and killed by the tsunami would have been far less.

Thus, I have been following with interest the debate that has been going on over the future of the deck chair business. Should there be plastic mats instead of deck chairs? Should only lightweight plastic deck chairs be allowed? Should there be only one line of deck chairs and gaps between each concession? Should the deck chairs be stacked up every evening?

I was shocked and disheartened to see last night that several hundred deck chairs had been sneaked onto Kata Beach, many of them the heavy wooden type, and that in some places already three rows of these wooden weapons had been laid out.

Has nothing been learned

from the terrible disaster that snuffed out so many lives and destroyed so many families? Human life and safety seem to play second fiddle to the greed of the businesspeople who own all these chairs.

It would seem to me that, at the very least, only lightweight plastic chairs should be allowed, and that these should be stacked up until a tourist wants one, when it would be put out for him. There is no point in destroying the safety and beauty of the beach by laying out unused chairs.

Every evening, without fail, all the chairs should be stacked away. Each deck chair concession would be responsible for keeping the beach in front of it spotlessly clean, and have to have a proper trash bin, which the concessionaire would carry up to the road every evening.

Is the government so weak in the face of business influences that it can learn nothing, change nothing, improve nothing following a disaster that killed more than 5,000 Thais and foreigners?

Is this the message that will encourage tourists to visit here again?

Montanette  
Phuket

### No sense, and no tourists either

I understand that almost everything is back to normal in Phuket, except for almost no tourists.

This is hardly surprising as Thai Airways International has cut its service to Phuket and flights from Germany, for example, are too expensive.

This makes no sense.

Ian Phillips  
Erbendorf, Germany

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners will be dealt with as *Issues & Answers*.



# An unenviable job

## FIRST PERSON

Metha Mekarat, 56, had already handed over the reins of the Phuket Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) to his successor, Kawee Sukunthamath, some weeks before the tsunami hit Phuket.

A native of Narathiwat, K. Metha had returned to his home province to take up the same role there. But the in-depth knowledge of Phuket he had gained over three years here saw him return to the island just two days after the tsunami to help organize the recovery.



land, and linked to all of the countries in the region would have given [Phuket] at least an hour's warning of the tsunami caused by the Sumatra earthquake.

But disasters such as this do not "belong" to just one country. They can – and do – affect us all.

We know that the further inland one is from the shore, the less severe – or non-existent even – the effects of a tsunami will be. It is therefore essential that Phuket should implement effective plans, including physical measures to prevent or limit the

effect of any potential tsunami, for the coastal areas.

Plans have been drawn up to construct sea defenses but construction has not yet started. It will be something of a balancing act – on the one hand making the beaches safe but on the other ensuring that any structures do not detract from the beauty of the beaches, which is what attracts most of Phuket's tourists.

One plan is to build "safety zones" or platforms around 20 meters out to sea. Anyone swimming at the time a tsunami approaches can escape to them.

We should also build sea walls – as well as refuges inland but close to the shore – higher than any potential tsunami – again for people to escape to. Sirens could also be installed along the beaches.

These plans have been submitted to the government for approval and although I can't estimate exactly how long it will take for this to be given, I imagine that it will be within three to six months.

Making any type of radical changes to the shoreline, such as the building of sea walls, will

have to take into account the people who own businesses or homes near the beach. Agreement must be reached with them.

Public hearings about the redevelopment of Patong Beach have been conducted and there are four officially-appointed committees working on different areas of interest: the economy, the environment, communities and buildings.

It is obvious that the effect the tsunami has had – and continues to have – is massive. It is no secret that the economy, which is driven by tourism, is in a parlous state and many people are out of work as a direct result of the low numbers of tourists.

The government is trying to provide immediate, short-term-help to those now out of work but it must also look to the future and help tourism-related businesses.

Although it is out of my remit to comment on it, something must be done to increase tourists' confidence, thereby encouraging them to return to Phuket.

I know that the Tourism Authority of Thailand and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) are hard at work promoting to the rest of the world – and Thailand – that Phuket is safe.

And Phuket is safe.

– *Compiled by Siripansa Somboon*

## 'Insane' plan no help to recovery

As a longtime visitor to Phuket/Patong – I stay a minimum of eight months a year – I have been amazed at the plans that have been disclosed for the rehabilitation of Patong Beach.

The idea that visitors will enjoy sitting on beach mats or plastic cushions is ludicrous. These may be acceptable in countries where the climate is cooler, but they will not be accepted by visitors to Patong, Kata or Karon. Anyway, what is the motive behind the Government pushing Laem Sing and Surin?

Then there are the charming ladies, and a few men, who see to the needs of everyone by selling liquid and solid refreshments, and the massage ladies; what will happen to their livelihoods?

The "average" visitor to Patong Beach expects these facilities. Was any visitor or tour operator consulted before this insane scheme was discussed by the Mayor and Vice-Governor, who seem to be oblivious to the requirements of the visitors, who, they seem to think will flock to the "natural" beach.

Pattaya, Koh Samui here they come!

Campbell Black  
Patong

## Patong 'armpit' must be cleaned up

I urge the authorities not to give in to blackmail by the vehicle rental owners.

The beach and the beach road should be the jewels of

Patong Beach. Get the vehicle rentals off the road – put them somewhere else, or severely restrict them.

Please do something about the tuk-tuks (baht buses and meter taxis would be better) and restrict the vendors from the sidewalks so that tourists can walk along them instead of being forced into the street.

The government is under no obligation to allocate public amenities for use by private businesses.

Now is the time to make Patong Beach tourist-friendly and beautiful instead of reviving its reputation as the armpit of Phuket.

William Smith  
Patong Beach

## Bedridden and bugged by sewage

I have now been in Patong Beach for 15 days and I have seen a lot of reconstruction of property and business; it's obvious which businesses had insurance coverage.

My major worry is the apparent total lack of concern by the authorities over broken and damaged sewer pipes.

A major outlet pipe on the southside of Patong Beach is broken, and the water washing ashore is far from blue or turquoise in color.

Also, there are countless sewer covers missing, and the town is still full of debris, alarmingly, mere feet away from hastily-opened eating establishments.

It has not rained in the time I have been here, but I believe that when it does rain it will start to cause major problems.

The saving grace may actually be the lack of tourists overloading the system and the bay area. But the government needs to act fast to sort this out.

I am on my 12<sup>th</sup> visit to Thailand, and normally I have an upset stomach for maybe one day or less while I acclimatize to the food, heat and so on. But this time, I am laid up with my fourth stomach bug in two weeks, something that has never happened before.

I want to help Thailand and Phuket as much as I can, but I have decided to go to Pattaya next week rather than stay in Patong and spend most of my day fighting a raging stomach and looking at raw sewage being dumped into this beautiful bay.

At least in Pattaya I know the water is not clean.

Danny Ward  
By email

## An official display of ignorance

Please do not put my byline on articles in the *Gazette* about new businesses opening in Phuket. Let me explain why.

Last week a tax officer, Chutaporn Sittikarn, Revenue Officer for Muang Phuket Region 2, visited my parents' house and quizzed my father.

My father is old and is not well, so he stays home most of the time. He doesn't know much about my job. Chutaporn showed him an article, written by me and printed in the newspaper with my byline, about a new shop selling balloons.

"Is the lady in the picture

your daughter?" she asked my father. My dad's eyesight is not good, so he found a photograph of me to show to Chutaporn, from which it should have been clear that I was not the person shown in the newspaper – even the skin color was very different.

Chutaporn, however, believed that it was me who owned the balloon shop, and issued a summons for me to appear at the Revenue Office.

In the summons I was accused of failing to pay tax, even though I have paid tax every month of every one of the seven years I have worked at the *Phuket Gazette*.

On February 2, two days before the deadline in the summons, I went to the Revenue Office. I was told to take a seat at a table with a sign above it stating, in Thai, "Survey and expedite collection of tax from those who have not paid."

I felt embarrassed and angry to be sitting there under that sign, especially when I knew I had done nothing wrong.

Chutaporn showed me the article. "Is this is your balloon shop?" she asked.

I felt so angry at the stupidity of the officers in the Revenue Department, and I let her see my anger.

I told her that maybe the officer who had targeted me didn't understand English or couldn't read. "So why did you have to interview this shop?" she asked. "How are you involved in the balloon business? Do you get income from other sources than your job?"

"I am a reporter," I said. "I have worked for the *Phuket Ga-*

*zette* as a reporter for seven years. My duty is to interview people and my name is printed there because I wrote this article."

Chutaporn seemed surprised, but made no apology. She said that she had received orders to follow up on this case, and it wasn't her fault.

Perhaps it was not, but at least these people should understand the situation properly before taking action. She herself should have read the article first, and understood the facts.

I wasted more than 1½ hours getting them to understand the facts and filling out a report stating that I was not involved in the the business described in the article; that I worked for the *Phuket Gazette* only; that I didn't know the lady who owned the balloon business before I interviewed her, nor where she was now.

Why do I have to have this headache because the Revenue Office staff don't do their homework?

Why do I have to sit for an hour and a half with a sign over my head implying that I cheat on my taxes?

Why did they have to disturb my family, and even, perhaps, put me on some kind of tax watchlist?

So please, from now on, do not put my name on any story about anything that may be targeted by these ignorant people.

Sangkhae Leelanapaporn  
Chief Reporter  
*Phuket Gazette*

*The Chief of the Revenue Office, Supanee Sripanyawichya, was not available for comment. – Editor*



# Getting the message

Over the past month, and especially immediately after the tsunami hit Phuket, email became critical for getting in touch with people and letting them know whether you, friends or other family members were okay or not.

But in the fight against spam, many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) now use filters which, although the intention is good, can mistake a genuine email for spam and stop it from landing in your inbox.

Sure, some spam filters are better than others, but most emails en route to their destinations go through more than one spam filter, and many filters do not let the sender know that the email was deleted.

Some ISPs let users configure filters to their own needs, such as by creating a "white list" – that is, making sure you receive all emails from people listed in your address book. This is one way of making sure you receive emails from particular people.

Conversely, such configurable filters allow users to create a "black list" of addresses that the users specifically do not want to receive emails from, say, the vendors of a certain body-enhancement product.

Other options may include being able to turn the filter on or off, adjust the sensitivity, set allowed or forbidden domains or addresses, or change what the filter does with suspected spam, such as delete, tag or ignore it.

However, most ISPs filter your email without user-configurable settings, no options and sometimes even no notice to customers that it's being done.



To ensure you receive urgent emails, check the settings of your ISP's spam filter, such as these options for Yahoo accounts.

Worse still, many ISPs do not manage the filter themselves, instead outsourcing that task to another company that deletes what it deems to be spam and passing the rest on to you.

Why is this worse? Because such ISPs usually dismiss complaints about genuine emails not being delivered, or simply refer customers to the company that manages the filter, which in turn will usually refuse

to deal with end users and refer them back to their ISP. Then there's your own spam filter. It doesn't matter which one you use but it's not enough simply to install it. You have to make sure that the white list is up to date, and that the filter is set to allow emails from people in your contacts list and, perhaps, addresses you've sent to or replied to.

In addition, make sure that the white lists for both your spam filter and your ISP's are the same. If you don't receive an

email, don't assume that it wasn't sent at all. Check with the sender, and keep in mind that it's quite possible the email was sent but was blocked en route.

Regularly check your spam or "Junk Mail" folder, as well as the Deleted Items folder – it's all too easy to delete a message accidentally among all the offers for pills and mortgages.

For those who use a desktop search tool, such as those from Copernic, Google or Microsoft, a handy trick is to include your Deleted Items and Junk Mail folders in the search index.

It is best to have a totally separate email account with a different ISP as a backup. Any of the web-based email services, such as Hotmail and Yahoo, cost nothing, and provide a place to receive or send messages that are being filtered or otherwise going astray.

If you are missing an email, ask the sender to try again with a CC to your alternate account. If one copy arrives but not the other, you know there's something blocking that message.

This column was compiled using information from Khun Woody's Email Essentials. See [www.woodyswatch.com/email/](http://www.woodyswatch.com/email/)

# The man who made his own prison

Sanyika Shakur is the new moniker of "Monster" Kody Scott, bestowed upon himself in prison.

Against all odds – he could barely read a comic book when he started prison life – he wrote *Monster* (Penguin, New York, 1994, 383 pp) which is subtitled "The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member".

Even odder, the book received the imprimatur of the doyenne of literary critics, Michiko Kakutani of the *New York Times*, who called it: "A shockingly raw, frightening portrait of gang life in South Central Los Angeles today".

*Monster* is also narrow-minded, repetitive and, despite some very good bits, boring. From the age of 11, in 1975, Monster was a member of his neighborhood gang, part of a baffling mosaic of gangs divided into two rival groups, the Crips – who wore blue – and the Bloods, who wore red.

He grew up in a tree-lined neighborhood of detached family houses with lawns and gardens. He had his own stereo and a 12-speed bike. And a huge arsenal of handguns and sawed-off shotguns.

I did not bother to count the number of fellow teenagers he claims to have killed in ambushes and drive-by shootings but it's in the 20-30 range, all tit-for-tat killings.

"Who fired the first shot? Who knows?! But, too, who cares, when one of theirs is laying in a pool of blood with his brains blown out. This question becomes weightless in the aftermath of a shooting when someone has died. Thus the goal becomes the elimination of the shooter or as many of his comrades as possible. This inevitably leads to war – a full-scale mobilization of as many troops as needed to achieve the desired result: funerals."

Monster's sole ambition is to survive the perpetual gang wars to become an OG (Old Gangsta) with a mythic reputation in his neighborhood.

He graduates from juvenile hall to the major prisons of San Quentin and Soledad by the time he is 19.

As with many criminal memoirs, much of this takes place in jail, because that's where most of his young life is spent.

What is his rationale for the

constant mayhem? He can't even tell his long-suffering, hard-working Mom.

"I had no adequate answer then for Mom about what was happening to me," he writes. "Actually, I wasn't fully aware of the gang's gravitational pull. I knew, for instance, that the total lawlessness was alluring, and that the sense of importance, self-worth, and raw power was exciting, stimulating, and intoxicating beyond any other high on this planet. But still

I could not explain what had happened to pull me in so far that nothing outside of my set [gang] mattered."

He does indeed present a lot of shocking violence both on the street and in prison, where the weak are not only subjected to rape but to drinking urine and eating soap.

And you can only admire his courage while he admits his fears. On his first night in an adult prison, for example, the men in the cells along the corridor identify themselves as Bloods and demand to know his gang affiliation.

Though in mortal fear, he proudly proclaims that he is a Crip.

The Bloods swear to kill him the next morning. But when he lines up outside his cell the next morning, he is shocked to see smiling friends from his old neighborhood. They'd only been testing his loyalty.

Monster rises high in the prison hierarchy and undergoes the usual indoctrination into Islam and radical politics, along with big doses of black racist cant and jargon.

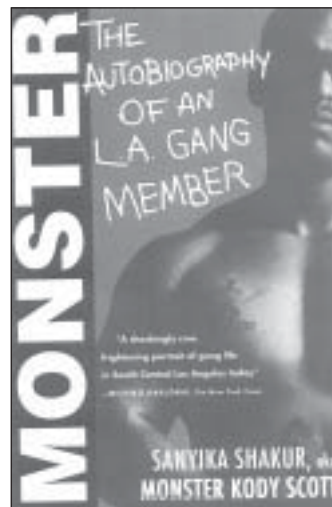
He emerges as a "revolutionary" and returns to his old neighborhood at the ripe old age of 24, shocked to find that younger gang members have grown rich on the crack trade and are now wielding automatic combat rifles.

He tries to go straight, holding down a job for the first time for the sake of his girlfriend and daughters, but winds up back in prison for another seven-year term for assaulting a neighborhood crack dealer and "confiscating" his van.

Ultimately, it's all too depressing: a life completely fettered by race and neighborhood ties and gang slang. He has no friends outside, never travels anywhere, never reads anything other than radical political tracts. He's made his own prison.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



New, improved, and open for business. Bookazine Phuket is happy to be re-opened to serve you again with a special offer.

**BOOK AZINE**  
Good Reading from Around the World

TIME ASIANWEEK FORTUNE BusinessWeek  
The Economist THE SPECTATOR

**BOOKAZINE** 10% off all items in our store!

Plus: Bookazine Members & V.I.P.'s will also receive an additional 10% discount to their standard discount rates.

**Hurry! Now until February 28**

8 Bang-La Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150  
Tel: 076-345-834 Fax: 076-345-833

**NAT**  
Providing the best business solutions

World-class  
**Accounting Software**  
QuickBooks sage

**HRS**  
Accounting & Tax Services  
Thai Tax Courses (in English)  
Tax Clinic (For your tax solutions)

**Phuket: 076 212989**  
Bangkok 02 5137151  
Pattaya: 03 8378178  
Koh Samui Beach: 0 7725 0831  
info@thaiaccounting.com  
[www.thaiaccounting.com](http://www.thaiaccounting.com)



# Insurance payouts offset by policy sales

Gatageo Phetsawang

PHUKET: Insurance companies in Thailand are paying out billions of baht in life and property insurance claims arising from the tsunami, but insurance agents on Phuket are looking forward to a surge in the number of new customers taking out insurance coverage.

Watchara Kasamanont, Chief of Phuket Provincial Insurance Office, said that, in Phuket alone, insurance companies have already paid out more than 500 million baht in compensation.

"Business operators and homeowners who have been affected by the tsunami and have bought insurance policies covering flood or earthquake will definitely receive compensation," he said.

QBE Insurance (Thailand) Co Ltd has paid out the most in compensation for damages from the tsunami, honoring some 190 claims totaling about 1.5 billion baht.

QBE Southern Regional Manager Jamroen Saeton said, "We have paid about 95% of claims. We expect to pay all claims by the end of February."

To offset the huge payouts, K. Jamroen said that he expects a surge in the number of people taking out new insurance coverage. His company last year saw a 20% increase in the number of policies, and this year he expects to improve on that number by more than 50%.

Ayudhaya Insurance Plc's Phuket Branch Manager, Sorawudh Palimapan, told the *Gazette* that his company is rushing to pay every claim. "So far we have paid 70% of total claims, which amount to 300 million baht," he said.

He added that his company had increased the insurance premium for earthquake and flood damage in "risk" areas from the minimum rate to the maximum rate, but stressed that the premiums for coverage against other kinds of disaster

have remained unchanged from those that applied before the tsunami.

Surasak Chaiyanupong, Phuket branch manager for New Hampshire Insurance Co Ltd, said that his company has received 182 motor vehicle claims as well as claims relating to 15 private homes, 82 small-to-medium enterprises and 15 hotels.

He, too, expects insurance companies to benefit from a boom in the number of new policies taken out, but added that this boom will depend on how soon the tourism industry recovers – without recovery, business operators will not be able to afford the premiums.

Sawai Petchphan, Assistant Vice-President of Finansa Life Assurance Co Ltd, said that Finansa has paid 20 million baht in life insurance claims since December 28, but that the payouts are already being offset by income from new policies.

"Since the tsunami many people have

become aware of how essential insurance is for [recovering from] such a disaster or accident, which can happen at any time.

"Many new customers took out policies in Phuket in January. So far we have received 10 million baht from new customers, compared with 3 million baht in January 2004," he said.

In contrast, Tawee Jitsajja, the Senior Agency Consultant for American International Assurance Co Ltd (Thailand) (AIA), said that the tsunami may have negatively affected AIA's sales figures.

"Our sales figures increased by 8% in January, but if there had been no tsunami, the figures might have increased by more than 10%," he said.

K. Tawee added that American International has not increased its life insurance premiums, and probably will not do so in the near future, because the chances of disaster of a similar scale in the near future are very small.

A reader has asked: "How can the French franc become part of the Euro without problems yet other currencies, such as the baht, have extreme difficulties with US dollar linkage?"

It is a good question and one to which there are no easy answers.

When a currency is linked to another ("pegged"), it no longer trades freely, although it usually benefits from the association, such as with trade and investment flows.

In addition, if the currency is linked, as it usually is, to the currency of a much larger economic power, it may also give greater acceptability to the smaller "partner".

In the case of the French franc's linkage to the Euro, this came about in a series of steps, including linkage with the forerunner of the Euro, the European currency unit, or ECU.

The initial peg was not tightly fixed and it allowed participating currencies to trade within 3% of the peg.

The central banks of the participating countries had to manage their economies in a similar fashion to their neighbors. This involved keeping inflation at

## Pros and cons of 'pegging'

modest levels, money supply under control and short-term interest rates at levels that would keep the currency within the required band.

It was relatively simple for France to achieve this because one other requirement for exchange rate stability is that the countries linked should generally follow the same economic cycle.

The core economy of the ECU was Germany, and the French and German economies follow virtually the same economic cycle. This was not the case for the UK, which was in recession when other major economies in the future Eurozone were experiencing growth.

When an economy is in recession, the central bank lowers short-term interest rates to reduce the cost of borrowing to encourage more borrowing, which sows the seeds of economic recovery. But the UK had to keep its interest rate high to maintain Eurozone currency levels, which eventually proved impossible.

France had no such problems and its eventual accession

to the Euro was virtually painless.

The baht linkage to the US dollar was completely different. Thailand's economy in the early 1990s was growing at a phenomenal pace, which required capital to be constantly added to the economy to provide for continuing economic expansion.

Thailand started to run a serious current account deficit – in layman's terms, it was living beyond its means. Thai companies noted that, in order to maintain the currency peg with the US dollar, domestic Thai interest rates had to be much higher than their US counterparts. It therefore made more sense to borrow in US dollars than in baht.

Unfortunately, much of this borrowed money did not increase productive capacity in business. There was another, seemingly easier attraction and that was to invest in property – mainly in the Bangkok property market – which was booming.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Thailand's private external debt started to soar and its current account deficit reached the equivalent of more than 6% of gross domestic product.

Thailand made matters worse by discouraging private foreign direct investment. Foreigners could buy shares on the Thai stock market and foreign corporations could invest and build factories, but true foreign private investment of a longer duration – such as land purchase – was officially discouraged. It still is.

The result was that Thai companies were steadily increasing their foreign debt, and foreign investment was mostly in the form of "hot money" invested in the country's financial markets.

Hot money is short-term

capital from overseas, with investors looking for speculative gains. Such money is usually divested at the first sign of trouble in the country where it is invested.

There is nothing wrong with hot money and it can even be a major advantage, but it should never be viewed as long-term capital.

Although hedge-fund managers saw and profited rapidly from Thailand's plight, they did not cause the economic collapse; it was going to happen anyway.

What is often conveniently forgotten is that much of the money that was taken out of Thailand in June and July in 1997 was actually *Thai* money.

It was not only foreigners who were savvy enough to see the impending crash.

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).

Sunseeker Manhattan 58 : TAWANWAN  
Luxury Charter Motoryacht worth US\$ 1 Million

One-day trip THB 100,000 per day  
Overnight trip THB 125,000 per night  
15-night trip THB 87,500 per night  
**Make your reservation now!**

ENJOY the best luxury vacation, cruising around Phuket Island, visiting the Phi Phi Islands, Similan Islands, James Bond Island, Maya Beach and many more...

EXPERIENCE a comfortable stay on a modern motor yacht. We have a professional captain, chef and crew. We offer complimentary drinks, snacks, and fresh seafood meals.

ACTIVITIES: snorkeling, deep sea fishing, sunset watching, scuba diving.

**SUNNAV** 20/4 Moo 2 Thapkrasatri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83000  
Tel & Fax: 66-7623-8976  
E-mail: [sunnav03@cscoms.com](mailto:sunnav03@cscoms.com)

Phuket & Samui

roast dinners

fish & chips

home-made pies

English breakfasts

real sausages

+ much more!

**Quality food, reasonable prices  
friendly service, pub-style atmosphere**

\* open 9 am till late  
\* happy hours 3 pm - 6 pm  
\* satellite TV (inc world news & live English football)

58/9 Soi Patong Resort, Bangla Rd, Patong Beach  
166/79 Chaweng Rd, Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui

Tel: 076-342685  
Tel: 077-230836



# Beginner's muck

In the first of a new series on learning golf from the ground up, **Andy Johnstone** – pictured in *The Stance* – takes immense pleasure from getting his first tottering steps right.



pointing to my right shoulder. The grip is with the fingers, not the palms. Bruce proclaims my grip a success. I feel an upwelling of emotion.

I have my feet shoulder-width apart and the club in my hands. It is time to adopt *The Stance*. But first, I watch Bruce demonstrate. It looks simple enough.

I catch sight of myself in the reflective door of the teaching room by the driving

One walks around in the sun and fresh air getting exercise, in good company, playing a game that, even if one never excels at it, at least offers the likelihood of improving with every swing or putt made.

And then there are the clothes. Where else can one get away with wearing such fashion crimes as loud tartans (plaid, dear Transatlantic Cousins) and one glove, apart from in Michael Jackson's house, that is?

My golf career begins with Bruce Whitehead, the British PGA Pro at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

It's early on a Sunday morning and I'm there in my new natty Nike golf shoes, tasteful shorts and polo shirt, and one glove. I feel an utter fraud and doomed to failure.

Bruce immediately puts me at ease with his relaxed manner. It is time for *The Arms*. It actually feels like a *tai chi* lesson. Stand up straight with feet apart to shoulder width, knees flexed slightly, with the arms hanging naturally.

"Keep your arms straight and bring your hands together," suggests Bruce. I do. "That's it," grins Bruce. "Your arms and hands are in the perfect position to hold a golf club."

I practice this simple maneuver a few more times, grinning at the simplicity of the

movement, before Bruce slots a 9-iron between my hands and we progress to *The Grip*.

I take hold of the club and Bruce suggests a few changes. I am holding it across my palm at nigh on 90° to my arm, like an ax. I am gripping it with my hands, not, as I should be, with my fingers.

Bruce adjusts my grip, moves the top of the handle to rest on the pad of my palm on the side away from my thumb. The club is now on a diagonal across my palm.

He curls my bottom three fingers around the handle and I notice the small "V"-shape between thumb and forefinger. It's pointing toward my right shoulder, just as it should be.

I interlock my right little finger with my left forefinger. The V-shape between my right thumb and forefinger is also

range. Bruce makes *The Stance* look graceful. I, in contrast, make it look disgraceful. Rounded shoulders, backside sticking out, club thrust away from my body like it's a sh\*tty stick.

I try again, under Bruce's guidance. Knees slightly flexed, back, neck and head straight and hinge at the waist until the club touches the ground, my eyes following the club's head all the way down. My weight is distributed evenly between my heels and the balls of my feet.

My stance meets with Bruce's approval and I practice 10 or more times. I am only 30 minutes into the lesson and I feel I've achieved an incredible amount.

It will soon be time for *The Back Swing* and *The Down Swing*. Watch this space.

For more information about Laguna Phuket Golf Club's special *Beginner's and Improver's golf lessons*, contact Bruce Whitehead at the Pro Shop at Tel: 076-270991 or email: [golfteaching@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:golfteaching@lagunaphuket.com)



Giichi Suzuki, 97: 'I'll stop playing when I die.'

## The oldest racquet swinger in town

Giichi Suzuki may be 97 years old, but that didn't stop him traveling from his home in Osaka, Japan, to Phuket to support his city in the Asian Inter-City Seniors Team Tennis Championships tournament, held between recently at the Phuket provincial tennis courts.

Mr Suzuki, President of the Japan Senior Tennis Association (JSTA), first took up a tennis racquet as a teenager and has been playing ever since.

Even though he did not compete in the Phuket tournament, he still plays regularly for exercise.

Said Mr Suzuki, "I started playing tennis when I was 15 years old. It was compulsory at

my high school to play one sport, and I chose tennis.

"After that I played continually, in national and international tournaments, in more than 40 countries. I love tennis, it is such an exciting game. It is elegant and a gentleman's sport; I'll stop playing when I die."

In Phuket, Mr Suzuki watched from the stands as the 24-strong Yao City-Osaka team competed against teams from Hong Kong, South Korea, China, Singapore, Japan and Thailand.

Finding team members was easy enough in Japan. "Tennis is a popular sport in Japan, especially in relation to the size of the population. The JSTA has 12,000 members," said Mr Suzuki.

— Anongnat Sartpisut

## Patong Darts League

**January 25 results:** Amigos 5\* Two Black Sheep 4; Didi's 5\* Queen Mary 4; Nag's Head 4 Piccadilly 5\*; Valhalla 6 Pickles 3\*; OffShore vs Shakers postponed; Champs vs Happy Days not available.

**February 1 results:** Queen Mary 9\* Valhalla 0; Shakers 7 Didi's 2\*; Piccadilly 4 OffShore 5\*; Two Black Sheep\* 2 Champs 7; Pickles 4\* Amigos 5; Happy

Days vs Nag's Head not available. (\* = winner of beer leg.)

**Standings after February 1:** 1. Amigos (5pts); 2. Didi's (4); 3=. Offshore, Queen Mary, Piccadilly (3); 6=. Valhalla, Champs, Shakers, Pickles (2); 10. Two Black Sheep (1); 11=. Nag's Head, Happy Days (0). (Standings before taking account of as-yet-unreported matches.)

**February 15 fixtures:** Pickles v Champs; Happy Days v Didi's; Queen Mary v Nag's Head; Piccadilly v Valhalla; Shakers v Amigos; Two Black Sheep v OffShore. (Home teams first.)

**Itinerary Visa Run Trip (Hadyai)**  
**NO.1 Daily Trip**  
 By Phuket Air  
 (Start at 11.05am. to 18.00pm.)  
**ONE DAY ONLY**

1105AM. Departure by 9R522 to Hadyai  
 1205AM. Arrival Hadyai International Airport  
 Transfer to Border (Thai-Malay)  
 Sadao-Changloon (SIC)\*  
 1310PM. Immigration Process by Tourist  
 1410PM. Transfer back Hadyai  
 International Airport  
 1510PM. Hadyai International Airport,  
 Check in, Leisure at Airport and  
 wait for the flight  
 1650PM. Departure by 9R525 to Phuket

**End of Program**

PRICE	PAX
ADULT	2950
CHILD(2-12YRS)	1550
INFANT	

**Program Include:**  
 \*Airticket Phuket-Hadyai-Phuket  
 \*Transfer From Hadyai Airport to Border,  
 roundtrip, (SIC) (\*Seat in Coach)  
**Exclude:**  
 \*Visa fee

**We are doing :**  
 Domestic and International  
 Airlines Ticket  
 Outbound Package  
 Hotel Reservation  
 Visa for Vietnam, Laos, China  
 India

**TAURUS TRAVEL CO., LTD.**  
 ตูรัส แทรเวล จำกัด

For Further information or reservation,  
 Please contact:  
 Taurus Travel Company Limited.  
 Tel: 076 344521-22 Fax: 076 344523  
 or Your Travel Agent

Note: This is only Visa Extension.  
 For Stamp IN and OUT at border.  
 If there is any extra expenses that  
 is your own responsibility.

**GOURMET HOME SERVICE**

FOR THE FINEST KITCHENS IN PHUKET

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

**PHUKET MEAT IMPORTERS**

For a product list please contact:  
 Tel: 076-253024-9 Fax: 076-216425  
 Email: [salespmi@cscoms.com](mailto:salespmi@cscoms.com)

**BDP**

**Transport  
Air/Sea-Freight  
Forwarding  
Packing, Storage**

Experienced Secretary,  
Sales Person Wanted

Only International Forwarding  
Agent in Phuket  
(European Management)  
17 Years' Experience in Thailand

52/22 Chaofa (west) Rd.  
Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-263169 Mobile: 01-9703136  
Fax: 076-355242  
email: [phuket@bdpthai.com](mailto:phuket@bdpthai.com)  
web: [www.bdpthai.com](http://www.bdpthai.com)





Jockeying for position are, from left, Phil Lawson, Azzum Savnac and Kitisak "Bpalm" Songnopparat.

## Savnac blitzes Ao Yon racing

AO YON: Azzum Savnac proved too quick in the stiff breezes offshore at Ao Yon on February 6, winning three races and placing second in the Skiff Asia Sunday Dinghy Regatta.

Five one-man c2Bytes joined the morning's racing, propelled by strong gusts rounding Cape Panwa.

Savnac won the start of the first race with aggressive positioning and boat handling, and held off challenges from Phil Lawson, Robert Warnes and Kitisak "Bpalm" Songnopparat to cross the finish line first.

In the second race, the breeze continued to freshen and fill-in with a steady wind of about 15 knots. Savnac capsized on the final downwind leg during a breezy jibe and came second behind Lawson.

Keen not to repeat his mistake, Savnac won the start of the

third race, and held the lead all the way to the finish line.

In the final race, Lawson won the start, with Savnac pinned on Russell Huebschle's lee side up the beat. Savnac's exceptional pointing ability, which helped him dominate all of the upwind legs, let him slip around Huebschle and round the weather mark in the lead to win the race.

Overall results for the day's racing, according to the somewhat eccentric scoring system, were: 1. Savnac (5 points); 2. Lawson (7); 3=. Huebschle, Warnes (6); 5. Bpalm (16).

The Sunday Dinghy Regatta (SDR) is held every Sunday that has no other regional regatta races.

For more information or to join, contact Skiff Asia (Tel: 06-9541915; Email: info@skiffasia.com; Website: www.skiffasia.com).

## ACYC race calendar for 2005

CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced dates for races in its 2005 Keelboat and Multihull Race Series.

The dates are as follows:

Regatta 1, April 16-17; Regatta 2, May 14-15; Regatta 3, June 11-12; Regatta 4, July 9-10; Quantum Naga Cup, July 23-24; Regatta 5, August 27-28; Regatta 6, September 24-25; Regatta 7, October 23-24; Regatta 8, November 19-20.

All races are scheduled to start at 11 am, with briefings at 9:30 am on the same day.

Entry costs 100 baht for ACYC members and 150 baht for non-members. All are welcome to join in, regardless of experience.

For more information contact Scott Duncanson at Tel: 01-8924992.

Other coming events in this year's Asian Regatta Calendar include: Langkawi Regatta, February 27-March 5; Top Of The Gulf, Pattaya, May 1-5; Pattaya-Koh Samui, Ocean Marina, May 19-21; Samui Regatta, May 22-28; Phuket Race Week, Phuket/Evason, July 28-31; King's Cup Regatta, Kata Beach, December 3-10.

**FITNESS EQUIPMENT**  
The leading fitness equipment supplier

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

# Tennis star Hingis visits Patong kids



Martina Hingis autographs a tennis ball for one of the children at Patong Municipal School.

By Kamol Pirat

PATONG: Former world number one tennis player Martina Hingis was moved to tears on February 7 as she heard about children's experiences in the tsunami.

The tennis star visited the kindergarten of Patong Municipality School while on a whistle-stop tour of Phuket, arranged by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to promote tourism after the tsunami.

After meeting the children – and hearing that some had been orphaned by the tsunami – Ms

Hingis autographed tennis balls and racquets as gifts for them.

Ms Hingis was welcomed to Patong by Chaipak Siriwat, the deputy president of the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand, and Suwalai Pinradap, Director of the TAT Region 4 Office.

After heading to Klong Pakbang, Patong, where she walked on the sand – which she described as "like powder" – Ms Hingis told K. Chaipak, "It's amazing, and almost unbelievable that this beach was hit by the tidal waves. This beach is still beautiful."

## Anchor Bar moves further into lead in pool league

PHUKET: By taking all three points in their Week 12 match against Nag's Head, Anchor Bar (10 wins, 1 draw) have extended their lead in the Phuket Men's Pool League to four points over second-placed Dog's Bollocks, who fell 8-4 against Amigos, but managed to salvage a point from the beer leg.

Two teams, Lek Murphy and Blarney Stone, will be dropping out of the league soon; there will be a meeting to decide whether two new teams will replace them, or if the league will return to a 12-team format.

**Standings after Week 12:** 1. Anchor Bar (30 points); 2. Dog's Bollocks (26); 3. OffShore (25); 4. Champs (23); 5. Amigos (22); 6. Shakers (20); 7. Nag's Head (17); 8. Pickles (12); 9. Tatum Mansions (11); 10. Happy Days (10); 11. Lek Murphy (8); 12. Valhalla (8); 13. Queen Mary (6); 14. Blarney Stone (3).

**Top players:** 1. Dum (Anchor Bar) 30pts; 2. Rich Smith (OffShore) 26pts; 3. Chris Ford (Amigos) 25pts; 4. Tommy Settasak (Shakers) 24pts; 5=. Sean Rothwell (OffShore), Pete Albrecht (Anchor) 23pts.

**Week 14 fixtures, February 17 (Home team first.):** Queen Mary vs Lek Murphy; OffShore vs Nag's Head; Pickles vs Heroes; Tatum Mansion vs Anchor Bar; Happy Days vs Amigos; Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers; Blarney Stone vs Champs.

PHUKET'S MOST UNIQUE SHOPPING DESTINATION

เดอะ พลาซ่า สุรินทร์

**THE PLAZA**

SURIN

**SHOPS**

- Aleenta
- Lamont
- Fine9design
- Lola
- Cocoon
- Indigo
- Namsang
- Tamarine
- Soul of Asia
- Sivalla
- Candere
- Everything Underthesun

**FASHION . FURNITURE . ANTIQUES . ART**

5/50 cherngthalay phuket Tel 076 271 241 www.theplazasurin.com



# Wine predictions for 2005

• Screw-top closures rather than corks will become fashionable; not just accepted – but fashionable.

• Wine prices in Thailand will rise again, and availability will continue to be restricted thanks to the government's anti-wine taxation policies.

• Heavily-oaked, high-alcohol wines will go out of fashion as consumers turn to lighter, fresher and fruitier wines that more closely reflect their varietal character and their place of origin.

• Lackluster French wines will continue to wither on the market vine as consumers shun them, even turning away from Bordeaux, in favor of wines offering more value and richness in winemaking.

• Riesling will finally become popular.

For years critics have predicted consumers will eventually recognize what they have always known, that Riesling is the greatest of all white wines. Skyrocketing sales of German, Austrian, Australian and New Zealand Rieslings, will show that consumers have finally heard the message.

• South American wine will finally be discovered. Probably the last place on earth to be recognized for its great wines, which is astonishing given that so much wonderful wine is made there, and I am not talking just about Chile or Argentina, but countries like Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and even Bolivia, where you can find

## WINE



By Steven  
Roberto

interesting and little-known grape varieties that create wines of distinctive character, and at rock bottom prices.

• Consumer confidence in Thai wine will be shaken by new scandals over the release of genetically modified food crops into the environment and the export of unhygienic Thai produce abroad.

• New channels of distribution will emerge in Thailand as consumers, fed up with high prices, begin to form buying clubs to increase their purchasing power and seek out small importers who have novel ways of selling wine that get around the bloated

bureaucracy of the current distribution system.

• Norton, a native American grape variety, will become popular with Thai wine-makers when they discover it tolerates high humidity and makes great wine.

• Consumers will demand better wine selection and higher quality stemware from restaurants and hotels. There are too many dining choices for visitors and locals, and everyone is looking for quality and experience in their wine and dining; establishments that deliver quality will see their market share increase.

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)

It's funny how history repeats itself. I have but vague memories of a four-day trip to Russia years ago and now I have but vague memories of a trip to U Ksenii on Patong Beach last night.

What I do remember about both occasions is that my heart was touched by the Russian soul and that my liver ached afterward from the vodka. Oh those Russians, and their dishes.

Speaking of which, one of my companions last night was real estate agent and translator Aleksandra Retinskaya, who comes from Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East.

Aleks agreed with Irina, the co-owner of U Ksenii, that Russian cuisine

falls into two categories: food that is a good accompaniment to alcohol and food that is a good hangover cure.

Of course, one has to get a hangover first. So it was time for another round.

In Russia, booze must be accompanied by food and the traditional snack to go with vodka – we were drinking Stolichnaya, by the way, and served ice-cold – is the ubiquitous pickled cucumber.

One shot, one piece of slightly-sweet cucumber seems to be the correct ratio.

Other pickles and appetiz-

ers were brought to the table as the conversation flowed: pickled red cabbage and the delightful Salad Olivier, which was created at The Hermitage restaurant in Moscow by the eponymous French chef in the 1860s.

Diced chicken, cucumber, onions, potatoes and hard-boiled eggs mixed with sour cream and olives had us all helping ourselves.

And what of the conversation? "When Russians drink, we talk about politics," said Aleks. Nothing changes then.

I could pick out a few words and names: Gorbachev, Putin and Yeltsin, although the latter didn't really need to be named – everyone was doing his or her own impression of the former president: eyes almost shut, body upright and then a graceful fall to the side. It spoke volumes.

The Stoli continued to be poured and drunk at an alarming rate. I sensed that this was a good-natured challenge and I rose to the occasion, ever keen to keep the British end up.

Time for soup before the main courses arrived – a heav-

ily fragrant and, thankfully, light *solyanka*. "This is good for hangovers," Aleks advised. I made a mental note to take some home for the morning.



Good for hangovers (just as well): U Ksenii's heavenly *solyanka*.

*Solyanka* is a light broth fortified by healthy amounts of diced meat and veg – more or less anything – fish or mushrooms, olives, lemon slices and with sour cream poured in just before serving. It's cracking stuff and I proposed a toast to the chef.

My companions followed suit, unsurprisingly. They are

good people, extremely warm-hearted and there was a definite party atmosphere brewing.

They had reason to celebrate. U Ksenii opened on November 27 last year and – little wonder – closed just a month later. Thankfully, all the staff were unharmed, and when I dined there it had just reopened after repairs. We were all letting our hair down and, in a way, claiming back Patong Beach as the place to do just that.

"You need solid food with

vodka," Irina told me. To the table came *moscowskie* – steamed dumplings stuffed with pork and topped with sour cream – and *bliny* – pancakes – stuffed with a rich mixture of meat, onions and spices, topped with, yep, sour cream.

There is nothing nouvelle, fusion or arty-farty about Russian food. It is honest and unpretentious, full of character and ... nobility, just like the people.

Back to Earth for a second as a plateful of barbecued pork ribs came my way. Then it was time for another round of drinks, just to give the meat something to soak up. I began eating the ribs with knife and fork.

Aleks leaned over. "It's better if you use your fingers," she said. Not quite knowing where to look for a moment, I gave a cautious "Oh really?" before deciding that she was referring to the ribs. I managed to make a sizable dent in the pork but was simply too full to eat the whole thing.

It was time for another Stoli, just one, I swear, before I had to say *dosvidaniya*. I had just enough brain cells left to reflect that the most difficult recipe for any restaurant to perfect is food, booze and company. U Ksenii has and it seems to be right at home in Patong.

U Ksenii (pronounced Oo kshay-nee) is at 49 Thaweewong Rd, Patong Beach. Tel: 076-344144. Open daily 4 pm to midnight.

## On the menu with Andy Johnstone

### U Ksenii

**Authentic Thai Cuisine**  
served in elegant Oriental beauty  
Voted "one of the top 50 most beautiful resorts in Thailand"

65 Katekwan Rd., Kata Beach, Phuket 83100 Tel: 076 330 979, 076 330 870-1 Fax: 076 330 905  
E-mail: [info@phuketsawasdee.com](mailto:info@phuketsawasdee.com) [www.phuketsawasdee.com](http://www.phuketsawasdee.com)



## Home of the Week

Nai Yang

This attractive and well-presented residence sits on a quiet road just 300 meters from Nai Yang Beach. Both of the bedrooms in the bright and airy house have ensuite bathrooms – one with a full-size bath – and there is also a guest bathroom.

The spacious living and dining rooms offer welcome natural ventilation thanks to the many timber-framed windows and sliding doors, although there are also fans and air conditioners throughout. The living room has a custom-built timber wall unit in keeping with the other furnishings, all of which are included in the sale.

The well-equipped, carefully-thought-out kitchen boasts plenty of overhead cabinets as well as granite working surfaces, a double stainless-steel sink and a gas cooker. The kitchen, which is next to the maid's room, can be reached directly from the carport at the side of the property.

The large grounds have space for a swimming pool and are fully fenced.

Stepped ceilings with recessed lights as well as wall lights are features of the house. Facilities include three-phase electricity, well water, a water-filtration system, cable/UBC TV and a hot-water system, a telephone line, septic tank and security system.

The title is Chanote. The house is for sale at 10 million baht.

Contact: Richard Lusted, Siam Real Estate, at tel: 076-280805.  
Web: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com).  
Email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)



The house (left) is just 300 meters from Nai Yang Beach. Below: the living room is bright and airy

## Just a stroll away from the beach



The kitchen is carefully thought-out and well equipped.



our vision...  
your view

**Tamarind Phuket**

7 Exclusive Luxury Waterfront Residential Villas  
Ao Makham, Cape Panwa  
Phuket's Unspoiled East Coast

Tamarind Phuket  
Watdew Development  
22/6 Soi Nai Yang  
Rawai, Phuket, Thailand  
Tel: +66 9873 4159  
E: [info@tamarindphuket.com](mailto:info@tamarindphuket.com)  
W: [www.tamarindphuket.com](http://www.tamarindphuket.com)

**TAWAN PROPERTIES**

Maan Tawan and Chom Tawan - two superb developments located in an area of stunning natural beauty on Phuket's north west coast. Comprising an inspired collection of luxury villas, apartments and penthouses for the discerning buyer and set amongst extensively landscaped gardens in a private, managed estate the homes are of the highest quality design and construction.

Our show property is now complete and ready for viewing.

+66 076 271 188  
[www.tawanproperties.com](http://www.tawanproperties.com) sales@tawanproperties.com

**House & Pool**  
Construction Co., Ltd. since 1995  
Thai - German Management

\* Private & commercial construction  
\* Renovation / alteration  
\* Swimming pools & Jacuzzis  
\* Architecture design  
\* Building permits

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

**The Mangosteen Restaurant**  
The most romantic Valentine's Day Dinner

It's magic!

The Mangosteen Resort & Spa  
99/4 Moo 7, Soi Mangosteen  
T. Rawai, Phuket 83100  
Room and Restaurant reservation:  
Tel.: 076-289 399 Fax 076-289389  
e-mail: [info@mangosteen-phuket.com](mailto:info@mangosteen-phuket.com)



## Construction Update



Baan Chang Thai: Left, the pool terrace at night; right, the impressive main entrance to the villa. Facing page: the warm tones of the villa's dining room.

A seven-rai plot surrounded by trees on the hills above Kamala is in the process of being turned into a development of just seven quality homes.

Construction of the Kamala Orchid Estate started in April 2003, and Managing Di-

rector Michel Lavallée and Project Manager Jacques Lefebvre say they expect to sell all seven homes and complete the development by the end of this year.

The homes are, according to Mr Lefebvre, uncompromisingly Thai in style. "There are

other Thai-style villas in Phuket," he explained, "But fortunately for us, most developers have incorporated Balinese elements into their designs, or made the roofs lower, for example. We, though, offer real Thai style."

The company can also decorate and furnish the homes for

buyers, also in Thai style. Prices start at 23 million baht.

So far, just one property has been completed. Called *Baan Chang Thai* – after a Thai restaurant Mr Lavallée owns in Canada – it is now being used as a show-home; the other houses will be built as buyers put down their deposits.

*Baan Chang Thai* – priced at around 45 million baht – has two stories and features four bedrooms, six bathrooms, a living room, kitchen and dining room, maid's quarters, gymnasium and study. There are also two car parking spaces.

There is a great deal of flexibility in design, though, said Mr Lavallée. Villas can be anything between 640 and 1,085 square meters, depending on what the customer wants.

In addition, although the standard pool is 5m x 11m, the size – and style – can be changed according to the customer's wishes. "We can build the pool on two levels," he said, "So the water flows from the upper pool to the lower before being circulated back up again. That's wonderful."

The development will have its own reserve well water supply, underground power cabling,

satellite TV and telephone lines, as well as 24-hour security, a landscaping and gardening service, housekeeping, engineering and maintenance, an administrative and secretarial service, and the use of a private vehicle and chauffeur for residents and their guests.

The developers stress that they expect no problems with either drainage or landslides.

Said Mr Lefebvre, "So far we've invested about 60 to 70 million baht, although, naturally, that will rise as we build the other six villas."

The developers are aiming to sell mainly to residents of Hong Kong, Singapore, Europe and the US.

Mr Lavallée said interest fell after last month's tsunami, but is now picking up again.

Kamala Orchid Estate is on Kamala Soi 10, near Phuket FantaSea. The architect is East West Architects Co Ltd.

For more information, contact Kamala Orchid Estate sales office at 65/1, Moo 5, Kamala Beach, Kathu, Phuket, 83150, Tel: 01-8917499 or Fax: 076-279530, Email: [info@kamala-orchid-estate.com](mailto:info@kamala-orchid-estate.com) or website: [www.kamala-orchid-estate.com](http://www.kamala-orchid-estate.com)



KOH SI RAE, PHUKET  
MAGNIFICENT SEA VIEW RESIDENCES  
PRISTINE, NATURAL LOCATION  
CAPACIOUS HOMES ON EXTRA LARGE PLOTS  
MINUTES TO BOAT LAGOON, ROYAL PHUKET  
MARINA, DULWICH COLLEGE EXCLUSIVE AGENT:  
PHUKET ONE



Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709  
Mobile: 09-2889317, 09-5862959, 07-8970501.  
Email: [info@phuketonerealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketonerealestate.com) [www.phuketonerealestate.com](http://www.phuketonerealestate.com)



Luxury Villas For Sale/Rent

Tel: +66 (0)7627 1255 Fax: +66 (0)7627 1256  
Email: [info@sai-taan-phuket.com](mailto:info@sai-taan-phuket.com)  
Web: [www.sai-taan-phuket.com](http://www.sai-taan-phuket.com)

FOR PROPERTY CLASSIFIEDS,  
SEE PAGES 29-31.



by Anongnat Sartpisut



# Classic Thai style with a touch of Gallic flair



## Two-Storey Penthouses

each with  
Private Swimming Pool

Construction already commenced at Sukhumvit 31

Walking Distance to

- BTS-Promphong Station
- MRT-Sukhumvit Station
- Emporium Shopping Complex
- Benjapark Park

## Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31

A freehold condominium, only 45 units, 350 sqm.

### 1st Floor (Lower Fl.)

- Owner's Entrance
- Foyer
- Living Room
- Private Pool
- Balcony
- Dining Room
- Guest Bhr
- Kitchen
- Utility area+Storage
- Maid's Br+Bhr
- Service Entrance
- Staircase

### 2nd Floor (Upper Fl.)

- Master bedroom+Master Bhr
- 2 Bedroom+2 Bhr
- Family area



0 2259 5326, 0 1562 4277  
kriengsak@leraffine.com  
leraffine.com

Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31 Project developer and owner: Le Raffine 31 Company Limited. Registered capital: 100,000,000 Baht (fully paid up). Office location: 31 Sukhumvit Soi 31 (Ramen), Sukhumvit Road, Chongnong Sathorn District, Bangkok 10110. Managing Director: Prapa Kongsakul, P.22. Residential condominium 20 floors with 40 units. Site location: On site (near 146/332, Pongtong Sub-District (South Bangkok), Prachinwit District, Bangkok). Registered Land area (Type 1-1-R) approximately 500 square meters. Project monitored and supported by Bangkok Bank B. Building construction permit has been approved - 40/2547. Construction begins: Jan 2004. Completion expected: December 2004. The project shall be registered in the condominium plan complying the construction. Common unit fee will be paid by buyers in accordance with registration of condominium unit plan.

Exclusive Residences at Phuket's Finest Address

Laguna Residences Banyan Tree Two-Bedroom Pool Villas Laguna Townhomes

Discerning design that blends tradition with contemporary living.  
Choose a home to suit your own Laguna Phuket lifestyle:

*Two-Bedroom Pool Villas: Invest in the Banyan Tree lifestyle*  
*Condominiums: One and two-bedroom Allamanda suites*  
*Townhomes: Spacious two-storey semi-detached homes*  
*Residences: Elegant one-and two-storey private villas*

**laguna**  
PROPERTY

Sales Office at Canal Village  
Tel: 66 (0) 76 324 316 Fax: 66 (0) 76 324 065  
E-mail: property@lagunaphuket.com  
www.lagunaproperty.com

Experience the best...

Brand new, fully crewed Riviera motor yachts for charter

Discover exotic destinations in air-conditioned luxury

Enjoy 5-star service and dining from our hostesses

Go game fishing, snorkelling or simply enjoy Phuket's idyllic scenery

**TAWAN CRUISES**

For information and reservations, call our sales office, located at the Boat Lagoon on 076239710 or 018943234  
www.tawancruises.com

Baan Rim Tarn Cherngtalay

- 2/3-bedroom villas, private pool  
- Close to Laguna Phuket

- Contemporary style  
- 15 mins to airport

SOLE AGENT  
**CBRE**  
C/O PRICHARD ELLIS

09 729 8804  
076 270 737

baanrimtarn@cbre.com  
www.cbre.co.th



## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# The Scrooge approach to Valentine's

I have always been a bit cynical about Valentine's Day. Actually, I'm skeptical about just about everything. I do try not to show favoritism in this regard – I treat everything with equal disdain.

Valentine's Day has changed significantly since the halcyon days of my youth. It used to be an excuse for sending an anonymous token of affection to one's secret heart's desire. You never signed the card – that would be too crass.

If you were feeling exceptionally lustful, you might even send a bunch of flowers, but, again, you would never be vulgar enough to sign the accompanying card.

These days it's just another excuse for the manufacturers of overpriced greetings cards to encourage us to buy and send more of them, and for companies such as Interflora to make millions out of expatriates.

They're especially clever about this. I once made the mistake of giving my email address to Interflora. I needed to placate my mother a few days after her birthday, so I bought a gift-wrapped pot plant online as a belated birthday present.

They've been bombarding me with emails ever since, especially around February 14.

Why not do something different for your beloved this year?

And what's even better about this idea is that it won't cost you a single *satang*.

There's a plant that thrives in Phuket that would be perfect as a Valentine's Day gift – the main difference is that it's a bit subtler than a Hallmark card bearing the legend "Roses are red, violets are blue..." or some such nonsense.

The hearts-on-a-chain vine is just plain cute. You probably wouldn't even notice it from a distance; all you can see from afar is pink patches among the leaves.

It has a number of alternative names, such as the Mexican creeper, queen's jewels, the coral vine and even *cadena de amor* (Spanish for "chain of love") in its original home of Mexico. Perhaps that's even more apt for this time of the year. Thais know this plant as *phuang chompoo*.

I'm staring at a cutting of *phuang chompoo* right now. I secretly pinched from a neighbor's garden, though I'm sure he won't mind.

The heart-shaped leaves are about eight centimeters long and are matt green. "Hearts on a chain" couldn't be more accurate a name. The racemes of flowers are made from five diminutive petals each shaped like a petite heart.

There are thousands of them on a plant – would this not



Everything your heart desires: the chain of love, or *phuang chompoo*.

be the perfect gift for the love of your life?

But don't uproot it and wrap it in plastic. Plant it instead. All you need to do is exactly what I did – find a decent-sized example and prune off a woody cutting.

Initially, put it in some moist potting compost and wait. In the early days, it will start to wilt a bit and generally whinge. It has every right to, really, as it has to produce completely new

roots where none existed before.

After a few weeks, put it in the ground in well-drained, sandy soil. Keep watering it and wait for the growth spurt that will inevitably follow.

The Mexican creeper is an amazing climber. Allow it to spread out on the ground and it will be content enough, but give it something to cling onto, such as a wire frame or a chain-link fence, and it will launch itself sky-

ward like Chris Bonington on amphetamines.

It does this with a curly tendril at the end of each chain of flowers. The tendril will coil itself around anything it can in an effort to reach new heights.

Some say that it can manage 10 meters of growth in a single year, with proper support (and counseling, too, perhaps?). In the sort of climate we have in Phuket, it will flower year-round.

The only thing you need to watch is the lower regions of the plant, once it's got into the swing of things climbing-wise.

If you don't cut back the top outer parts on a regular basis, you'll find that the lower sections become a bit forgotten, and start to look a little bare. Prune it regularly, and the whole thing will stay a healthy-looking green.

Don't bother with a Valentine's card this year, and, unless you want to be reminded several times a week in your email inbox, don't go for an online flower-delivery order either.

Say it with flowers by all means, but – initially – you'll need to "borrow" them from your neighbor.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?  
Email Bloomin' Bert at:  
[bloominbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bloominbert@hotmail.com)

**A QUALITY LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT**

**GROVE GARDENS**

A residential resort project of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom townhomes and apartments with full resort facilities on the east coast of Phuket including: Restaurant and Bar; Convenience Store; Massage and Sauna; Gym; Tennis Court; Swimming Pools; Putting Green; BBQ Areas; International management.

For details call 076 239 820 or visit our sales office: 382/32 Moo 1 Cherm Talay Phuket (near the entrance to Laguna.)  
info@grovegardensphuket.com www.grovegardensphuket.com

**ANDAMAN**  
Lighting Systems

Are you in the dark about lighting?  
[andamanlighting.com](http://andamanlighting.com)  
Tel: 076 254 826 Fax: 076 254 827

**Interior Design+Architect**

**KMOLTWYZAN**  
ASSOCIATES LIMITED  
The Design Solutions

Kmol Wyzan Associates Limited  
The professional Architect & Interior Design firm from Bangkok and already has available in Phuket.

Strategic Planning  
Interior Design  
Architecture  
Landscape

For more information  
[kwai@kmoltwyzan.com](mailto:kwai@kmoltwyzan.com)  
Bangkok: T+66 0 2613 5513  
Phuket: M+66 0 1336 6656

**LUXURY TROPICAL LIFESTYLE**  
2 & 3-Bed Apartments and Penthouses overlooking Laguna Phuket and Layan Bay

**Layan GARDENS**

Tel: 01 893 6602  
[www.LayanGardens.com](http://www.LayanGardens.com)

**phuket home services**

behind every beautiful garden  
..... is a great imagination

**076 324 400**

specialists in landscaping



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSE IN THALANG FOR SALE



10 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from Dulwich International College. 8mx4m swimming pool, 5 aircons, 2 bedrooms, 1 child's room, 2 bathrooms & 1 separate building useful as a store house or maid's room. 504sqm, Chanote title. 5.5 million baht, including furniture. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-6078000.

### NAI HARN NEW APTS

1 km from Nai Harn Beach. Fully furnished, European standards, Jacuzzi in bathrooms, pool. 1-bedroom apt: 60sqm, 2.4 million baht. 2-bedroom apt: 85sqm, 3.4 million baht. Lease contract: 30 years, renewable x 2. Exceptional value. Tel: 07-2815795. Email: chaussecyril@yahoo.fr

### SPECIALTY LAND

We specialize in Phuket residential property, personal & project development land. All inquiries to Tel: 09-6491963, 01-8918082.

### BANG TAO BEACH

Large, 2-bedroom apartments and penthouses from 6.5 million baht. 160m to the beach. Tel: 06-2806624. Visit: [www.bangtaobeachgardens.com](http://www.bangtaobeachgardens.com)

### NAI HARN SOI SAMAKKEA 2

Beautiful land for sale, typical tropical coconut tree garden, 3 rai 75sq wah, Chanote title: 10 million baht. Tel: 09-5940646. Email: [flodaubas@libero.it](mailto:flodaubas@libero.it)

### 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 19 million baht, for quick sale. Tel: 09-9222800. Email: [meen443\\_40@hotmail.com](mailto:meen443_40@hotmail.com)

### NEW SINGLE HOUSE

at Kathu for sale. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Mountain view. 560 sqm. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 07-2799500.

### 65 RAI BEACHFRONT

land in Chalong. Perfect location for a villa or marina project. Price: 180 million baht. Please call Tel: 01-8916143.

### NEW HOUSE

for sale in Kathu. The house has 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 toilets, 2 kitchens, living room and small garden. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2723391.

### 2-STORY HOUSE

Nai Harn. New house for sale by owners. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 400sqm. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 01-752-0275.

### PATONG BEACH

3-story townhouse, 260sqm, views to town and beach/bay. Stylish renov throughout. Full air conditioning. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-290225, 07-8869410. Email: [john\\_w\\_cole@hotmail.com](mailto:john_w_cole@hotmail.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.patongbeachrealestate.com/townhouse](http://www.patongbeachrealestate.com/townhouse)

### LAND FOR SALE

in Phuket Country Club. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-8718333, 01-6913351.



## EXCLUSIVE TO PHUKET ONE!! ON-SITE SALES OFFICES NOW OPEN



### CAPE PANWA

Step from your apartment directly onto the beach with these superbly-sited units. Actual photo. PRICE: From 4 to 10 million baht.



### CHALONG

Walk to the beach from these value-priced homes in a great new estate. Show home open daily. PRICE: From 3.3 million baht.



### KALIM

Real value, freehold apartments in modern design, with large terraces and breathtaking sea views. Incredible value for new apartments based on recent auction results. PRICE: From 57,000 baht per square metre.



### LAGUNA AREA

Excellent value, top quality and superb design. Show home open daily. PRICE: From 6 to 21 million baht.

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709 Mobile: 01-5354546, 09-5862959.  
Email: [info@phuketonerealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketonerealestate.com) [www.phuketonerealestate.com](http://www.phuketonerealestate.com)

## ANDREW PARK

Property Agents & Consultants

### Sales and Rentals

Over 9 years' sales experience in Thailand

We can answer all your questions

Call us now at  
**01-8923633**

E-mail us at  
[phuketsales@andrewpark.com](mailto:phuketsales@andrewpark.com)  
[www.andrewpark.com](http://www.andrewpark.com)



Imagine a view like this...  
we have many seaview properties for sale. Call now to see the sunset.



We have homes in every price range. This large 2-bedroom home is priced to sell fast at only 3.8 million baht. Don't miss it, call now.



RESORT APARTMENTS & SUITES AT LAYAN  
FROM 3.5 MILLION BAHT

Telephone (076) 271 535 [www.oceanbreezephuket.com](http://www.oceanbreezephuket.com)

The world is not enough...  
We'll go to the ends of the earth to help you live and let buy

Whatever your property needs, local or international, reveal them to the team who can spy quality and potential anywhere. Knight Frank, the world's not-so-secret agent.

The local office with a global network

076 396 776  
[www.knightfrankphuket.com](http://www.knightfrankphuket.com)

Knight Frank

**CBRE**  
CB RICHARD ELLIS

Professional real estate advice for those looking for property in Phuket

Residential Sales & Leasing  
Property Management  
Villa Rentals  
Research & Valuation  
Development & Design Consultancy

TEL: 076 239 967-9  
E-mail: [phuket@cbre.com](mailto:phuket@cbre.com)  
[www.cbre.co.th](http://www.cbre.co.th)



# Property Gazette

## 4 + 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA



Top-quality 4 + 2 bedroom house for sale in Kamala, near Phuket FantaSea, 1.2 km from the beach in a very safe area. 4 master bedrooms on 1st floor with en-suite bathroom. 2 bedrooms on ground floor – one can be used as an office (2 phone lines), the other as a maid's room – with attached bathroom. Large living/dining room with open European kitchen, as well as a Thai kitchen. Fully furnished; all rooms with aircon and ceiling fan. The premises are also very suitable for business use (but not for public restaurant or bar). Asking price: 18 million baht neg. For more details pls contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Tel: 01-4761415, or 076-279075. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

## BEAUTIFUL THAI-STYLE HOUSE

Recently built, set lake-side with lawns and palm trees. 2 large b/rooms + aircon en-suite. Fully-equipped Western kitchen, maid's room, extra shower, WC, large patio, entertainment area, balconies all round, 440sqm of living area; must be seen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 01-0825634.

## GUESTHOUSE 4 SALE

Near Sheraton Krabi Resort, every room has sea view; no problems from tsunami. Tel: 01-3703109.

## 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. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## NAI HARN 2,344SQM

for sale with Thai registered company in order. Has Chanote title and is ready to build. Tel: 01-1901205. Email: balipenang2@yahoo.fr

## CONDO – PHUKET

Palace, with quality swimming pool, from 1.5 million baht. Excellent value. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: asiassiamproperties@yahoo.co.uk

## MISSION HILLS

Build your dream home on 1-rai serviced lots next to Phuket's newest golf course. Exclusive gated community. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

## BAY VIEW PALMS – PATONG

Six high-quality, luxury apartments, 180sqm each, with superb sea & mountain views. Each apartment has a spacious lounge, American kitchen, two master bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, and a guest bathroom. Large 27-sqm balcony, perfect comfort and outstanding views. A large common garden area with swimming pool. Private car parking. All construction work is of the highest standard. Prices start from 6.75 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 06-2707228. Email: bayviewpalms@yahoo.com

## QUALITY STUDIO APARTMENTS

Four studio apartments on Patong hillside. Includes kitchen area, separate bathroom and parking area. Beautiful gardens and swimming pool. 2.65 million baht. Tel: 07-8893838, 06-2707228.

## BOAT LAGOON EXCLUSIVE HOME

Townhouse, end unit, small garden, best location in Boat Lagoon, 2 years old, immaculate condition, cherry wood kitchen, marble/teak floors, 3 BR, 1 study, SS carport, CCTV, Guardian Alarm, iPSTAR, UBC. Many facilities in the area. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 072-768272, 01-0780014. Email: bjhersey@yahoo.com

## SUPERIOR 3-BDRM

home. Set within 2,016sqm of luxury gardens near Chalong Circle, finished to perfection, with a 72-sqm swimming pool. Valued at 24 million baht. Tel: 076-398513, 07-2837161. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com For further details, see our website at: www.karonproperty.com/48\_20\_prattana.html

## HOUSES + BUSINESSES

for sale, ranging from 3-bed, 2-bath homes starting at 1.7 million baht, to 5-bedroom pool villas plus guesthouse at 45 million baht. Hotels, guesthouses, land and restaurants also available. New listings welcome. Please email: info@phuket-properties.net Tel: 07-8947406. Email: jonny\_hop@hotmail.com

## BARGAIN HOUSE

for sale in Kathu. 2 stories, 3 bedrms, 3 baths, 3 aircons, on 400sqm of land, with garden. 2.95 million baht, or best offer. Tel: 01-3074710. Email: cawleym@loxinfo.co.th

## PATONG CONDO

Apt for sale: 92sqm, 350m from beach, panoramic view. 1.85 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## CONDO & VILLA

sales. We have over 140 freehold condos, apartments and villas for sale in all locations of Phuket. Email: pktre@phukets.info For more info please visit our website at: www.phukets.info/re/c&v.html

## SHOCK SALE LAND

at Soi Saliga, Rawai. 20 rai, 4.5 million baht per rai. Private sale. Call Tel: 076-288-422 for full details.

## PROJECT FOR SALE

1 rai with 3 house-style units, on Chao Fa West Rd, Chalong. Email: vchai2000@hotmail.com

## FARANG ZONE

land for sale, 1.5 million baht/rai (1,600sqm). Please call for more information. Tel: 06-6269899.

## TOWNHOUSE IN

Anuphas Golf Ville. On the main road in the heart of the city and near Central, Tesco-Lotus and Big C, a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, aircon, furniture and water heater. Tel: 09-4691813. Email: annanoi@hotmail.com

## CHIANG RAI

property. Nice houses for less than 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-0360721. Email: ken@adventure1.com For further details, please see our website at: www.adventure1.com/land.htm

## NEW TOWNHOUSE

on the bypass road. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 22.75 sq wah. Price: 869,000 baht. Tel: 01-7476571.

## 65 RAI BEACHFRONT

land in Chalong. Perfect location for a villa or marina project. 180 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8916143.

## Properties For Rent

## HOUSE 4 RENT

Kathu. 2 bed / 2 bath rooms kitchen living room, 2 air conditioning units, furnished, 8,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 09-2909567. www.brommathaihouse.com

## HOME FOR RENT

Chalong Bay view, fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, very nice location & secure 18,000 baht / month. Tel: 01-6064279.

## TAITAN COURT



We offer 22 full-furnished rooms in Phuket City. We are located in a nice and quiet residential neighborhood in Wichit. Rooms from 6,500 baht a month. Contact K. Passakorn Hongsyok. Tel: 09-1885300. Email: Passakorn\_Hongsyok@yahoo.com Website: www.taitancourt.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. Call Tel: 01-8924311.

## KATA PENTHOUSE

Furnished apartments with UBC or cable TV, aircon or fan, 2 or 3 rooms, balconies, views and cleaning. Tel: 05-2766597.

## FOR RENT

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

## YOU ARE INVITED



Uncle Chai Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. Long lease preferable; average 17,000 baht per month. Only 2 units available. Please call Tel: 01-4926883 or visit www.unclechaihome.com

## APARTMENTS

in Patong for long-term rent. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon; some apartments have good sea view. 10,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2909567. Website: www.brommathaihouse.com

## PATONG RESIDENCE

1- or 2-bedroom apartments with kitchen and pool, and only 350m from the beach, for rent at 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Houses from 6,900 baht a month. Apartment, bungalows from 1,000 baht a day. Contact K. Wellta. Tel: 076-282879, 01-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

## STUDIO APARTMENTS

in central Patong. Luxury accommodation, new decor, big fridge, aircon, TV, big beds, pool and parking. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-0825707. Email: ask@phuket-accomodation.info

## ROOMS TO LET

in Kathu. Fully-furnished lake-view apartments with air conditioning, fridge, free satellite TV, hot water and car parking in a new development in Kathu, for rent from only 166 baht a day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449.

## Property Wanted

## HOUSE WANTED

I am looking for a small house to rent from mid-February. Furnished, 1 bedroom, in a quiet secure area, in Patong, Kamala or Karon. Looking to pay around 7,000 baht per month. Please contact me if you have a suitable place available. Email: th246810@hotmail.com

## NEED APT OR HOUSE

Chalong or near Phuket City. Nicer is better, and if nicer then long-term renting is possible. 1 or 2 bedrooms, and kitchen. Max 12,000 baht per month. Please contact with full details. Tel: 04-1829663. Email: thomas@taon.no

**phuketvillarentals.com**

## Bangkok

## Get your Phuket Gazette from these outlets in the capital:

### Don Muang Airport

Tel. 02-5731120

### Se-Ed, Mahboonkrong Building, zone B, Phayathai Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6117165

### Se-Ed, Silom Complex, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Silom Rd, Bangrak

Tel. 02-2313244

### Se-Ed, Silom Center, Rama 1 Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6581153

### Se-Ed, Panthip Plaza, M-floor, Petchaburi Rd, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6566070

### Se-Ed, Fortune Town Building, Ratchadapisek Rd, Huaykwang

Tel. 02-2485668

### Se-Ed, Central Rama 3, Satupradit Rd, Yannawa

Tel. 02-6736342

### Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

### C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6536690-8 ext. 4030

### Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-2526261

**Do Not Drink Tap Water!**



Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 80 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.



# Island Job Mart

## Thaisarco

Thailand Smelting and Refining Co., Ltd. (Thaisarco) located at Cape Panwa in Phuket, is a combined tin smelter and value-added manufacturer of tin products for both the domestic and export markets. Thaisarco has been producing 99.9% pure tin and tin associated products for almost 40 years with a turnover in excess of 6 billion baht per year. The company is now looking to recruit two qualified, experienced and highly-motivated individuals to join our team in the following positions:

### Senior IT Coordinator 1 Position

We are looking to fill the position of Senior IT Coordinator. The work will involve running the day-to-day operations of the IT department. In addition, the successful candidate will be responsible for project managing the new company-wide computer-systems implementation.

#### General Qualifications:

- Thai nationality, male or female, aged between 27 and 40 with a bachelor's degree.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Strong technical ability in both stand-alone computers and computer networks.
- Good command of spoken and written English.

#### Specific Qualifications:

- A graduate in computer sciences or related field with minimum GPA 2.75.
- A minimum 5 years' experience in a technical field.
- Experienced in project managing a company-wide computer implementation.
- Strong management and leadership skills.

### Human Resources Officer 1 Position

We are looking to fill the position of Human Resources Officer. The work will involve the day-to-day organization of human resources functions and assistance in the management of the department.

#### General Qualifications:

- Thai nationality, male or female, aged between 25 and 30 with a bachelor's degree.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- A good command of spoken and written English.
- Good computer skills.

#### Specific Qualifications:

- Graduate in human resources/political science or related field with minimum GPA 2.50.
- Minimum 3 years' work experience in a human resource department.
- Some knowledge of the Thai labor laws and social security requirements would be an advantage.

Interested persons should send an application letter and current CV providing details qualifications and work experience. Applicants should also include details of their current salary and welfare benefits and expected salary. The application should be accompanied by a recent photograph and sent by post or e-mail to:

#### Finance and Administration Department (Recruitment)

Thailand Smelting and Refining Co., Ltd.  
PO Box 2, Muang, Phuket, 83000. e-mail: hrdepartment@thaisarco.com  
Closing date for applications is 20th February 2005.

## PHUKET LOCH PALM GOLF CLUB

### URGENTLY REQUIRED !!!

LOCH PALM GOLF COURSE IS A SUCCESSFUL RESORT GOLF COURSE IN PHUKET, THAILAND. WE ARE NOW ADDING A SECOND GOLF COURSE, IN ADDITION TO OTHER RESORT FACILITIES, TO ENABLE US TO POSITION OUR RESORT AS PHUKET'S PREMIER GOLF DESTINATION.

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL TO SET HIGHER STANDARDS, MAINTAIN DIRECTION AND DEVELOP THE RESORT EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE.

1. MARKETING MANAGER
2. MARKETING EXECUTIVE
3. SECRETARY TO GENERAL MANAGER
4. ACCOUNTANT

APPLICANTS FOR THE ABOVE POSITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 1 YEAR PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN A SIMILAR CAPACITY IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY, BE ABLE TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND THAI, HAVE EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS AND BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A TEAM ATMOSPHERE.

PLEASE SUBMIT A DETAILED RESUMÉ WITH A RECENT PHOTO, AND STATE CURRENT AND EXPECTED SALARY.



HUMAN RESOURCES  
PHUKET LOCH PALM GOLF CLUB  
38 MOO 5, VICHITSONGKRAM RD,  
KATHU, PHUKET 83120  
TEL: (66 76) 321929-34  
FAX: (66 76) 321927-8  
www.lochpalm.com

### REAL JOB IN EUROPE

British manager of Black Sea Coast property & publishing company wants to employ a Thai person for many different jobs. Visa will be arranged for 3 months – if happy, extended. Pay is 200 euros plus expenses all paid. Accommodation arranged. Meeting in Thailand. Ed Vaan. Please contact by email to: champagne@worldemail.com

### ONLINE CLIENT

contact/sales. Sailing company requires a person with very good English comprehension, basic computer skills and an out-going personality to work as our initial client contact in our Phuket City office. Advantages: car licence and enjoyment of the outdoors. Starting salary: 10-20,000 baht/month. Send CV to apply. Tel: 076-232-960, 01-8919653. Fax: 076-232961. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

### TIMESHARE SALES

Need experienced sales representatives for the high season at a Gold Crown resort in Samui. We have financing available and pay all commissions within two weeks on full down financed deals. Limited amount of slots open. Tel: 66-77413844. Email: fred@samuiopeninsularesort.com

### MEDIA SALES REPS

wanted. Positions available in Phuket and Samui. Thai nationals only. Must be fluent in English. Good basic + commissions. Tel: 02-6150525, 01-5357944. Fax: 02-6150225. Email: terry@csloxinfo.com

### DESIGNER WANTED

Computer-design art work. Salary + commission. Also, Thai teacher wanted to teach Thai & English. Fluent English. Call ILC. Tel: 076-280968, 01-4763242.

### RESTAURANT STAFF

required. New restaurant in Bophut, Koh Samui, requires manager, waiters, barman and cooks. Must have experience and speak good English. Please contact Tony. Tel: 09-6530610. Email: tvickers@btopenworld.com

### NANNY NEEDED

to take care of two 2½-year-old children five days a week. Must speak very good English and must have car. Good salary. Please ring Jack at Tel: 09-7480782 or Steve at Tel: 01-6546100.

### COOK NEEDED

for new bar and restaurant in Nai Harn. Must be able to cook Thai and international food. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 076-288676, 01-8939471. Email: sihlton@hotmail.com

### STAFF WANTED

We need: Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, German, English salespersons, and English speaking Thai staff: Receptionist, Accounts staff, Waitress. Tel: 076-285278, 06-270-5064. Fax: 076-285277. Email: mzm@email.com For details, please see our website at: www.team4you2.com

### NEEDED URGENTLY

Maid & cook. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-273427, 01-8295388.

**Svenson** **URGENTLY REQUIRED**  
**EARN 30,000.00 - 50,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH**  
An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products / services has vacancies for  
**FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH>**  
**Qualifications:**  
- 25-35 years of age, Thai nationality  
- Must speak English  
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell  
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but not necessary  
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full comprehensive training  
Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:  
**SVENSON HAIR CENTER THASEA LIMITED**  
2nd floor room no. 259A Central Festival Phuket no.74 Moo 5 Chalemprakiat Rama 9 Road, Tambol Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000

Gazette Online Classifieds 4,000 readers every day!

## The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

### I. IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

**Responsibilities:** The Technical Support officer will focus, at least initially, on hardware and system maintenance, and networking issues (TCP/IP, LAN).

- Male or female, Thai nationality
- Diploma or degree in computers or a related field
- At least 2 years' experience in networking and hardware maintenance
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good command of spoken English would be an advantage

### II. REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works, and a keen interest in sports.

Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car drivers license.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

#### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

### 25% Discount on Classifieds for Shopper Card Holders

### IF YOU...

Place your ad in these pages;  
Present your Shopper Card; and  
Pay for the ad at our offices,

you'll enjoy a 25% discount\* AND have your ad appear free of charge in the Phuket Gazette Online.

*With more than 10,000 visitors a day, the Island Trader Online is Thailand's most active classified marketplace.*

\*Ads may be submitted in person or online (phuketgazette.net/classifieds), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

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



# Island Job Mart

## SIMPSON MARINE

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR / SECRETARY (Based in Phuket)

We are looking for a capable individual who enjoys new challenges, is totally self-motivated and sales-oriented, who likes to work in a small office environment as a team player.

#### She must possess the following attributes:

- Above 30 years of age with a mature outlook.
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English Language.
- Excellent communication and computer skills (MS Office).
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Positive, confident, out-going personality, good inter-personal and communication skills – able to mix with all nationalities.
- Willingness to work on weekends (if necessary)

Please e-mail westmalaysia@simpsonmarine, fax your detailed resume to +608-6476617.

Closing Date: 28 February 2005

#### OFFICE MANAGER

20-person Project Management firm requires brilliant English-speaking team leader. Must be good with people. Send CV to email: tum@dmg-thailand.com

#### RECEPTIONIST/SALES

Urgently looking for 2 female Thai nationals to work as cyber cafe receptionists/tour sales on Koh Samui. Positions include accommodation. Applicants must speak basic English. Please contact to apply or for more information. Tel: 077-413884, 01-5357768. Email: yaaryon@hotmail.com

#### STAFF WANTED

Thai female staff wanted for established bakery/restaurant on Samui. Should be under age 30, clean and presentable. English and experience an asset but not necessary. Good salary plus tips. Accommodation provided. A good opportunity for the right people to learn the baking trade. Tel: 077-427396, 01-9794577. Fax: 077-427575. Email: angela@angelasbakery.com

**Do Not Drink Tap Water!**

## Employment Wanted

#### KEYBOARD MUSICIAN

Do you want a keyboard player who can play background music at your parties, birthdays, weddings, etc? If so, please contact me. I have been a professional musician, but now I just play at parties where a musician is wanted. Please contact the above phone or mobile numbers and ask for John. Tel: 076-396693, 01-8957957. Fax 076-396694. Email: gymworld@loxinfo.co.th

#### HOTEL/RESORT

Seasoned hotelier with Asia/Thailand management experience (Koh Samui, Phi Phi and Phuket) as well as other international locations. Pre-opening, opening and start-up experience, as well as food & beverage and sales & marketing experience. Single, very flexible. Tel: 808-2229545. Email: palanifcr@hawaii.com

#### LOOKING FOR A JOB

as interpreter. Belgian fluent in English, French, German and Dutch is looking for job as interpreter, living in Phuket. Great knowledge of Thailand. Tel: 01-0856703.

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

#### SONY 53"

TV KPFX 53. Sealy bed, HomePro custom; Refrigerator, Mitsubishi Tiara 15 cu. All warranties 3 to 6 months. New: 2 sofas, chests. Tel: 06-5960966.

#### CLINKER DINGHY:

10 year old M/C. 7,000 baht. Refrigerator, chest deep-freeze, twin-tub washer, 4 beds, 2 cabinets, teak sideboard, kitchen eating utensils and equipment, half price. Quality polished teak grating settee, 2 arm-chairs, coffee-table, cushions. 60,000 baht. Unpolished teak table, 4 chairs, 10,000 baht. Mid-February at GM Storage, near Wat Chalong. Tel: 44-1403 27058, 06-2818876. Email: brgonc9@supanet.com

#### TSUNAMI SALE

We have available goods from our now-destroyed spa at Nai Yang Beach and seek interested parties only (not traders). The remaining items are in fairly good condition. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-205358, 09-6522585. Email: asden@cscoms.com

#### CHRONO WATCH

Stainless/gold, Breitling; window-fitted aircon; racing bicycle, 58cm; garden chairs. Tel: 01-9092265.

#### BARGAIN NIKON

camera. Nikon SLR F 55 camera. Purchased new less than 1 year ago. 28-80mm Nikon Zoom lens. Still under guarantee. Price new: 15,000 baht. Now: 9,500 baht. Tel: 076-225215, Fax: 076-234832. Email: eric@insurance-in-thailand.com

#### SANYO

refrigerator. 8 months old. Bought new for 4,950 baht; will sell for 3,000 baht. Tel: 01-0856703.

#### NEW SONY 400 CD

player. One-year-old Sony CDP-CX450 CD player for sale. Brought to Thailand from Norway as new, but never used here. As we are moving north, we want to sell this fantastic machine. You can put 400 CDs in it, and the artist's name and song is shown on the display if you want. I paid about 25,000 baht for it new last year, but I will sell it for half price, 12,500 baht or best offer. It is the perfect machine for discos, restaurants or home. 43cm wide, 45cm deep and 15cm high. Black color. Tel: 01-8913676. Email: helge@haraldso.no

#### PS2 FOR SALE

Includes +/- 20 games, 2 game controllers and gun. Only 2 months old. Very good price. Tel: 04-844-8545. Email: doubledutches@yahoo.com

#### MOVING SALE

Everything must GO! Great deals! Linens, king size duvet and more. Kitchen stuff, computer bags, and some diving stuff like Nudibranch book and torches. Also automatic pet food feeder. Digital photography books, other books, DVDs, etc. Women's clothes! Email me for a list with prices, or come by and have a look! Tel: 01-8946353. Email phuketna@hotmail.com

#### SPLIT AIRCON

Split aircon unit, 12,000 or 16,000 BTU. York brand, one year old. Email: troysai@yahoo.com

## Boats & Marine

**LEE MARINE**  
*International Marine Brokerage*

Thailand's premier yacht sales company

 <b>Peterson 44</b> \$150,000 USD	 <b>Ericsson 32</b> \$29,500 USD
 <b>Gulf Craft 53</b> \$450,000 USD	 <b>Island Gypsy 36</b> \$169,000 USD


**WWW.LEEMARINE.COM**

Boat Lagoon Marina - Andrew de Bruin - ph: 01 894 1530  
Yacht Haven Marina - Jim Poulsen - ph: 01 891 3237  
Tel: 076 239 729 email: brokerage@leemarine.com  
Leading Edge Marine Ltd 02008

**ASIA PACIFIC**  
QBE THAILAND

**FOR A FREE-OF-CHARGE INSURANCE QUOTE FOR YOUR BOAT, COMMERCIAL OR PLEASURE**

Please contact:  
Tel: 076-239111, 076-273320  
Fax: 076-238974  
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com



**Newly built Prowler 9000**  
Composite & light  
Come for sea trials  
contact  
broker@thaimarine.com  
076-273464

**THAI MARINE**  
SALES & SERVICE



**42ft Westsail Lying Langkawi well-built Ketch**  
Euro 80,000  
contact  
broker@thaimarine.com  
076-273464

**THAI MARINE**  
SALES & SERVICE

#### SALE GLASTRON 195 SX



Imported from USA with 5.0-liter Mercruiser V8 with Alpha one drive (240 hours). Perfect for water-skiing. Currently at Ocean Marina, Jomtien, under a roof. Price is 850,000 baht. If interested please contact K. Nong or Mr Herve Mouly. Tel: 02-7511262, 01-8685799. Fax: 02-751-1224. Email: herve.mouly@asiamagnetic.com

#### SPEEDBOAT WANTED

I want to buy a two-engine speedboat. Please send details of the boat and engines by email to: yungmoskito@yahoo.com

#### 11M CROWTHER TRI

Cruiser racer. Turn key. Refurbished, lying Darwin, Australia. Can deliver; air ticket refund for buyer. Owner in Chalong till Feb 23. Call or SMS for more info. Price US\$32,000. Tel: 614-1214 4512.

#### SPEEDBOAT

for sale. 28ft B.D. Flash glass. Yamaha 200hp engine. Fits 20 people. 500L fuel tank. 495,000 baht. Tel: 01-539 9411, 06-7085424. Email: premiumbsp@yahoo.com

## Agents for Classified Advertising

#### PHUKET

##### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

**Tel: 076-280400/3**

##### 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**

**Find more Classified ads at  
www.phuketgazette.net!**



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Bulletins

### A letter to my friend and buddy Heinz Oswald, from Moskito Diving Phi Phi Island - Thailand

Heinz,

I still cannot really believe what happened. More than 6 weeks after December 26, I finally realize that I will never receive a call from you again. I still have your number in my phone and every time I scroll up and down the name list and I see your name, I stop for a while and have those flashbacks. You called me and you asked in your Austrian slang: "Heh burschl wie goahst?" I can't forget it and it is burned into my mind. I still can hear it almost daily. Buddy, we had quite some plans for 2005, you remember that? Who the hell is now supervising the building of my house?? You were supposed to do that because you knew all the tricks and hints!!!!

Whenever I think that it is not only you who is gone but also your two lovely daughters, Anna and Tina, tears appear in my eyes. I always thought that I was a tough guy, but believe me that changed on that day. Nothing will be again as it was.

But there is one thing that I can do, I promise you herewith that I give all the support I can to your wife Oly and your son Dino for their future. That is the least I can do for you.

Rest in peace my friend.

From your buddy who will never forget you,

Holger from Dive Supply Phuket Thailand



Heinz Oswald was the founder and owner of Moskito Diving on Koh Phi Phi. Heinz was very well known within the community and a leader in the diving industry. He died together with his two daughters, Anna and Tina, in the tsunami on December 26. He left behind his wife Oly and their son Dino, aged 4 years.

Moskito Diving is back in business. In fact, they never really stopped. Moskito Diving operates two live-aboard vessels. If someone is interested in booking trips please check out their webpage [www.moskitodiving.com](http://www.moskitodiving.com) and consider how your bookings can help.

## Business Opportunities

### RESTAURANT

for sale. Fully operational restaurant off Nanai Rd, Patong Beach, with swimming pool, 2 Jacuzzis, European & Thai food, 34 covers, new lease available. 1.2 million baht, split-payment terms possible. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-5369079.

### OFFICES/SHOWROOMS

showrooms to let. The newly opened Plaza Del Mar has only two 40sqm outstanding office/showrooms available. Both in prime positions, one ground floor, one upper floor. Monthly rent: 14,000-19,000 baht, depending upon unit. Superb location and environment at the entrance to Laguna Phuket. Ready for occupancy. Contact 09-8737075 for viewing/more information. Tel: 66-62715319. Email: [grenville@layangardens.com](mailto:grenville@layangardens.com)

### WINCHESTER CLUB PATONG

Prime Bangla location. This very popular, large bar with full 3.4 entertainment licences is now available turn-key. Owner's accommodation and 5 staff rooms. This bar makes money! Contact Terry, the owner, for viewing. No dreamers, no phone calls. Email: [for\\_tj@yahoo.com](mailto:for_tj@yahoo.com)

### EXCLUSIVE SALE

Hotels with more than 50-100 rooms for sale. Pls call Diana at Tel: 01-8918082 or K. Siti at Tel: 09-6491963.

### PHUKET CITY

Beautiful art gallery, 250sqm, tourist area, 6-year contract, 15,000 baht per month. Asking 1.7 million baht including all stock, or 900,000 baht without stock. Email: [art1info@yahoo.com](mailto:art1info@yahoo.com)

### 20-ROOM GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Located 120m from Karon Beach, a 20-room guesthouse/restaurant, is for sale. Freehold Chanote title, easy foreign ownership, owners suite. Email: [hotelinparadise@yahoo.com](mailto:hotelinparadise@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.geocities.com/hotelinparadise](http://www.geocities.com/hotelinparadise)

### PLAYSCHOOL

A-GO-GO. Probably Phuket's most prestigious go-go bar with a total of 4 bars and 32 staff. Long lease available for only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 076-398513, 07-2837161. Email: [jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com](mailto:jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.karonproperty.com/bars.html](http://www.karonproperty.com/bars.html)

### MIKE'S BIKES

for sale. Established 8 years, the business supports 21 cars, 29 Honda 125s and 3 Phantom choppers together with a visa run, which operates 4 to 7 days a week. All stock and long land lease for 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-398513, 07-2837161. Email: [jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com](mailto:jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com) For details, please see our website at: [www.karonproperty.com/mikes\\_bikes.html](http://www.karonproperty.com/mikes_bikes.html)

### BUNGALOWS

for sale. 9 bungalows and restaurant for sale at Koh Lanta. 1.5 million baht. 10 years left on lease. Tel: 01-4897822.

### MIMMI'S BUSINESS

with great potential due to extensive property development in Rawai and the surrounding area. More than 150 seats, spacious terrace area, large car park. Private, with Chanote title. 1 rai (1,600 sqm) of land freehold. Saiyuan Rd, Nai Ham. Tel: 01-8913095. Email: [mimmis@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:mimmis@loxinfo.co.th)

### BAR/RESTAURANT

for sale. In good location opp Jungceylon & Burasari hotel. Fully equipped, seating for about 60, 3-year lease, 35,000 baht/month rent, price 700,000 baht. Three-month deposit required. Tel: 076-342194, 09-8716176.

## Business Products & Services

### Rothermann 1998 (Thailand) Co Ltd Hamburg-Bangkok-Phuket

Offers German-standard service in:

- Wastewater recycling systems
- New or secondhand generators imported from Germany
- MDB, DB power distribution
- Wiring design and installation
- Environmental applications

Please disturb us with your problems.

<http://www.rothermannthai.com>

Email: [wattana@rothermannthai.com](mailto:wattana@rothermannthai.com)

Tel: 02-6185925, 02-6187481, 01-6176313. Fax: 02-2701660

### ACCOUNTANCY COMPANY

Established over 5 yrs, annual income in excess of 4 million baht, for sale at 6.5 million baht. Property may also be purchased for 3 million baht. This business is now well-established and the purchaser has a chance to build on this very lucrative business. Work permit if required. No agents please. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: [kingrw80@hotmail.com](mailto:kingrw80@hotmail.com)

### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks on board, buffet lunch. No extra to pay; insurance liability 400,000 baht pp. Fully inclusive, only 1,300 baht. Tel: 04-7457024 Email: [kingrw80@hotmail.com](mailto:kingrw80@hotmail.com)

### LET US SHARE

your problems and be a part of your successful business. Accounting and auditing, business system design, tax planning, financial planning, professional solutions by a professional consultant.

Contact: Kriangsak Prateepvisut

Tel: 01-6424280

Email:

[prateepvisut@hotmail.com](mailto:prateepvisut@hotmail.com)

### SWIM IN DRINKING WATER!

- \* almost no chlorine
- \* no burning eyes
- \* no bleached hair
- \* no salt or corrosion

Caribbean Clear

Water Treatment Systems

Tel: 06-6822639

Email:

[nomochlo@yahoo.com](mailto:nomochlo@yahoo.com)

### INT'L DRIVERS LICENSE

5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years, 6,000 baht valid up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Free pick up & delivery, open 365 days a year. Tel: 04-0068736.

### QUICK CASH LOANS

Up to 5 million baht at 14% + fees. Funding purchases OK. Requires free and clear Chanote, Nor Sor 3 Gor or Nor Sor 3 titles. 1-2 day process. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2786574. Email: [jaiyai2547@hotmail.com](mailto:jaiyai2547@hotmail.com)

### CASA DI MODA

Mr Subin and his staff wish you and your family a warm welcome to Phuket and a very pleasant holiday here! Let us take care of your clothing needs. Tel: 076-286384, 01-8945055. Email: [mail@casadimoda.net](mailto:mail@casadimoda.net) See our website at: [www.casadimoda.net](http://www.casadimoda.net)

### Club Memberships Available

### LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (Family) membership at Laguna (Banyan Tree) Golf Club for sale. 295,000 baht, plus 57,500 baht transfer fee. Email: [lagunagolf@hotmail.com](mailto:lagunagolf@hotmail.com)

### GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club. 27 holes. 320,000 baht. Tel: 01-1901205. Email: [balipenang2@yahoo.fr](mailto:balipenang2@yahoo.fr)

### FULL MEMBERSHIP

Loch Palm Golf membership for sale. Pls contact for details. Tel: 01-3673106.

## Computers

### COMPUTER SERVICES

We supply new & used PCs & accessories. Repairs & service. ADSL, LAN & WLAN, GPRS. Need Internet? No problem. Call English Computerman at Tel: 09-4735080.

## Personal Services

*Atsumi Healing*  
Yoga & Meditation  
Counseling  
Psychotherapy  
Fasting & Detoxing  
Call 01-2720571  
[www.atsumihealing.com](http://www.atsumihealing.com)

### LEARN THAI

at home. Conversation and coursework with charming Thai lady. Course books provided free. Also basic English lessons for a Thai girlfriend. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-398157, 01-797-1497. Email: [churee77@hotmail.com](mailto:churee77@hotmail.com)

## Personals

### WANT SOME ENCOURAGEMENT?

Would you like a free weekly or daily email that will give you encouragement or inspiration? Send a blank email to us to subscribe, or visit our website for more information. Email: [subscribe@thoughtforweek.net](mailto:subscribe@thoughtforweek.net) For more info, see my website at: [ThoughtForWeek.net](http://ThoughtForWeek.net)

### BACKGAMMON

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

### EDUCATED GUY

Wishes to meet smart, warm Thai beauty who looks for charming friend or life partner. I am also considerate, sincere, caring and like a good home. Please contact for more information. Email: [henry\\_harjus@yahoo.com](mailto:henry_harjus@yahoo.com)

### AMERICAN SEEKING

Thai lady. Divorced 62-year-old teacher from Las Vegas is looking for a Thai lady (25-45) for friendship or marriage. I'm flying to Phuket in March. Please contact me for more information. Email: [dj89052@aol.com](mailto:dj89052@aol.com)







# Patong Tower Condominium

FACING PATONG BEACH, PHUKET

Last chance to become an owner of Patong Tower, a condominium that's more than just an investment. Ready to accommodate the new face of Patong Beach.

**STARTING FROM 2.3 MILLION BAHT**



ALL PHOTOS TAKEN ON LOCATION

- PATONG TOWER, THE ONLY CONDOMINIUM TOWER ON PATONG BEACH
- PANORAMIC VIEWS OF BOTH THE HILLS & THE OCEAN
- A VARIETY OF SIZES, FROM 3-BEDROOM APARTMENTS TO 4-BEDROOM PENTHOUSE DUPLEX SUITES
- CLOSE TO SHOPPING CENTERS, RESTAURANTS, ENTERTAINMENT VENUES, BANKS, HOSPITALS, GOLF COURSES, AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS
- READY TO BE DECORATED & MOVED INTO • AVAILABLE FOR OWNERSHIP TRANSFER

for more information, please call at  
**076-341-369-72**  
**01-552-6004, 01-550-1486**



ASSET AUCTION CENTER  
Tel: (+66 2) 651-9283-8  
<http://www.assetauction.co.th>  
e-mail: [cs@assetauction.co.th](mailto:cs@assetauction.co.th),  
[assetauction@hotmail.com](mailto:assetauction@hotmail.com)

Project Owner with 110 units: Divine Property and development Co., Ltd. Registered capital: 1,000,000 baht (fully paid). Address: 2 The Royal Place 1, G floor, room No. 2, Soi Mahadolklang 1 Rajdamri Rd., Lumpinee, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330. Managing Director Miss Srikul Sawatwong. Project size: One 32-story tower containing 165 units. Land title deeds 2098, 2379, 2380, 2381 Project area: 1-1-32 sq. Part of the land is under obligation with Kasrak Finance Plc. Site location: Taweewong Rd., Patong subdistrict, Kato district, Phuket. Condominium registration No. 3/2540. Ready to transfer ownership within 30 days from the day of sale, providing full payment has been made.



*For those who  
want to own  
condominiums  
with the most  
magnificent view  
in Phuket.*



Auction Office: VISIT THE SITE AND VIEW THE MODEL UNITS EVERYDAY (INCLUDING HOLIDAYS)  
AT THE AUCTION OFFICE: PATONG TOWER, EDEBY AREA, TAWEEWONG RD.,  
TAMBOL PATONG, AMPHUR KATU, PHUKET TEL: (076) 341-369-72  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE BANGKOK BRANCH OFFICE AT:  
THE ROYAL PLACE 1, GROUND FLOOR, SOI MAHADOLKLANG 1, RAJADAMRI RD.,  
LUMPINE, PATHUMWAN, BKK TEL: 02-651-9283-8, 02-650-5252

## Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

**Significant - and genuine! - discounts at more than 300 places, including:**

### A La Carte

on our delicious ready-to-eat meals (food only). Tel: 076-278019

### Andaman Dental Clinic

10% on all services, except 5% on crowns & bridges. Tel: 076-344643

### Aquarius Diving

15% Bookings for Open Water Diver Course or Liveboard Cruises. Tel: 076-282160



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

## The Phuket Gazette

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

### Tesco Lotus

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

### Big C

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

### Home Pro

- Se-Ed Book Center

### Robinson Department Store

- Bookstore (1st floor)

### Central Festival

- The Books (3rd floor)
- B2S (3rd floor)

### Index Living Mall

- Se-Ed Book Center (1st floor)

*Put trust in the worldwide leader!*

*No pipings...  
...No problems!!!*



*A real 10 years  
guarantee!*



*Swim Authentic ... Swim Desjoyaux !*



*Any size ..... Any shape*

*Desjoyaux in Thailand*

*Bangkok: Tel: 66 2 2611261-3 Fax: 66 2 2611264*

*Phuket: Tel: 66 76 263688 Fax: 66 76 264023*

*Chiang Mai: Tel: 66 53 283901-2 Fax: 66 53 202859*

*Hatyai: Tel: 66 74 262934-5 Fax: 66 74 262936*

*Samui: Tel/Fax: 66 77 427256*

*[www.desjoyaux.com](http://www.desjoyaux.com)*

*No.1 in the world*