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Rocky time for DIC 'marriage'

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: In a stormy meeting in the Dulwich International College auditorium on April 19, the school's CEO and founder, Dr Arthit Urairat, clearly failed to allay parents' worries about the future of the school.

Central to the parents' concerns is the relationship between Dr Arthit's team and the franchiser, Dulwich College, London (DCL), with several parents making it quite clear that if the Dulwich name goes, so will their children.

In his initial presentation, Dr Arthit said that he was distressed about "a lot of rumors – all out of the blue".

Addressing these rumors, he said, "We will, now and in the foreseeable future, not break with Dulwich [London]." He added, however, "We have had problems adjusting to inter-cultural management. The system they use in London ... may not work so well at a school half a world away ... so we have to modify."

He also denied "rumors" that Dulwich would become a bilingual school. "It never occurred to me. It's not true," he stressed.

He attempted to lay the blame for the current problems on the recently-fired headmaster, David Cook, who had made an "inflammatory, unnecessary report" to DCL, criticizing the decision, finalized last week, to close down the "feeder school" on Koh Samui, and claiming low morale among teachers after they had been required to pay tax on housing and tuition fees for their children.

"These are petty things of detail," Dr Arthit said. "We don't



Dr Arthit Urairat (center) and new headmaster, Dr George Hickman (right), with members of the new Dulwich International College team, after their meeting with parents on April 19.

understand why [they] should be reported to Dulwich in London.

He stressed once again, "Now it has been cleared [up] – it's a matter of technical detail how we can work out the problems together."

In the ensuing question-and-answer session, however, when pushed for an answer as to how certain he was that the marriage between Phuket and London would continue, Dr Arthit said, "Ninety percent."

For some parents this was not good enough, and they pressed for the CEO's reasons for not bringing a DCL representative to the meeting, or for not postponing the meeting until Ralph Mainard, Dulwich College's Deputy Master with responsibility for external affairs, could be present.

Mr Mainard was expected to arrive in Phuket on the evening of April 19.

Dr Arthit said that he had

been unaware until the previous night that Mr Mainard was coming, and added that he would not be able to meet with him because he himself had to fly back to Bangkok.

However, parents were welcome to meet with Mr Mainard themselves, he said, adding that his representatives would be talking with the Deputy Master at a meeting arranged by James Batt, Joint Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels.

Clearly reluctant to wade into the situation, Mr Batt nevertheless cleared the fog by taking the microphone and telling the assembly that the relationship with Dulwich London was "a marriage in distress", but that great efforts were being made on both sides to mend the relationship, with himself as "marriage guidance counselor".

"A Phuket without Dulwich
Continued on page 2

Similans tsunami detection station now operational

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: The first of nine tide-monitoring stations is now operational on the Similan Islands' Koh Mieng and the remaining eight should be ready within six months, the head of the Royal Thai Navy announced on April 20.

The project was announced by Navy Commander Admiral Surin Roengarom, who chaired a meeting with officials from all of the six tsunami-affected provinces, held at the South Sea Resort Hotel in Karon.

The island-based facilities will monitor seawater levels around the clock for sudden changes following seismic events and will issue emergency evacuation orders to coastal areas should the possibility of another tsunami arise.

Adm Surin noted that the December 26 tsunami was preceded by a 40-centimeter drop in the sea level in some locations, whereas the March 28 earthquake produced a drop of 6cm at Koh Mieng, where the monitoring station has been operational on a trial basis since mid-January.

Given Koh Mieng's remote location, 35 nautical miles off the main coast, detection of a sudden large drop in sea level should provide vulnerable coastal areas with about 20 minutes' warning of an approaching tsunami, he said.

He said other proposed locations for such stations included Tapao Noi and Racha Noi islands in Phuket Province; Sikow Island in Trang; Tarutao Island in Satun; and the Surin Islands in Phang Nga.



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IN BRIEF

Trees to act as 'tsunami breaks'

PHUKET: Trees may be planted along the Andaman Coast to give some protection to the land from tsunamis, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyuth Tiypairat has announced.

The Minister, on a visit to Phuket, said that buildings that had been sheltered from the sea by trees, particularly casuarinas, appeared to have suffered much less damage during the tsunami than those that had not.

Officials from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources are now surveying the Andaman coastline and procuring trees that could be planted as natural "tsunami breaks".

K. Yongyuth added, however, that the decision as to which trees should be planted should take into account their appropriateness for the surroundings.

Artists discuss tsunami recovery

PHUKET CITY: Artists and writers gathered at the Town Inn, on Thepkasattri Rd, on April 9 to mark 100 days since the tsunami and to discuss helping the region recover from the disaster.

Art gallery owner Harin Sukhawat said it was important that those affected by the tsunami were involved in the recovery process. Those who had lost their homes, for example, should have a say in what their replacements would be like.

Phaiboon Wattanasiritham, of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council, who presided over the seminar, said, "We need to restore the provinces hit by the tsunami, including Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, to the way they were before, but we need to bring people together as we do this."

Marine Police on lookout for oil smuggling

PHUKET CITY: Despite the recent rise in diesel price of more than 20%, local authorities say there is still no sign of a resurgence of large-scale smuggling of oil into Phuket.

Pol Lt Col Prasopchai Bunleusin, Deputy Superintendent of Marine Police Region 5, explained that most of the oil smuggling along the Andaman Coast takes place in waters off the coasts of Satun and Trang, near the border with Malaysia.

Last year, there were only six seizures of smuggled oil, all

around Satun and Trang. Three of these were onshore, he said. The largest single seizure was 3,000 liters.

As of January 1 this year, there have been just three cases of diesel fuel smuggling, all in Satun, with the largest single seizure being 800 liters.

Col Prasopchai said that the Marine Police worry that fisherman may smuggle "Green Oil" into Phuket, which is sold in international waters to Thai fishing boats at a subsidized price of about 16 baht per liter.

Fishermen who smuggled the Green Oil into Phuket could resell it at a profit, he pointed out.

The Phuket Marine Police would keep a sharp eye on privately-owned vessels contracted to sell the Green Oil to ensure that no smuggling is taking place, he said.

Fishermen in Phuket went on strike on April 5 to protest the government's refusal to fund greater diesel fuel subsidies, but the strike was called off in Phuket at midnight on April 6, Col Prasopchai said.

Motorbike taxi 'cowboys' to come under the law

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Motorcycle taxi drivers in Phuket will have to be registered and their vehicles fitted with yellow license plates from May 11, it was explained at a seminar at The Metropole hotel on April 18.

Regulation 13 of the Car Act of 2004 will come into force on May 11, Phuket Provincial Transportation Office Chief Technical Officer Teerayuth Prasertphol said, adding that registration of motorbike taxi drivers would start on that day and would continue until September 7.

He explained that motor-cycle taxi drivers operating unlicensed after that date could face a fine, which has yet to be set.

"Licensing is a good way of controlling the ever-increasing number of motorcycle taxis," he said.

"It can only help to increase passenger safety if we have personal information on each driver – and it makes it easier for us to prosecute them if they should injure a passenger."



WIN OR LOSE? Motorcycle taxi drivers, who operate collectively in groups called *win*, gather information about the new laws that will regulate them from May 11.

To register, each motorcycle taxi driver will be required to pay 150 baht for a three-year license allowing them to ferry passengers commercially; an annual tax on their commercial license of 100 baht; 100 baht for a yellow plate, plus 10 baht for a motorcycle test specifically for motorcycle taxi drivers and five baht for the registration form.

PPTO Chief Suraphon Tanrungruangthawee said that in February statistics indicated that there were 3,483 motorcycle taxis operating from 303 *win* –

or groups – around Phuket, although he added that the numbers are increasing all the time.

Pol Lt Col Jirasak Siamsak, Inspector of Traffic Police at Phuket City Police Station, said that the new regulations could deter criminals from disguising themselves as motorcycle taxi drivers.

Col Jirasak added that the provincial authorities had tried, and failed, to control motorcycle taxi drivers, but as the authorities now had the backing of the law, this should be easier to do.

Rocky time for Dulwich 'marriage'

From page 1

International College [would be] a poorer Phuket," he added.

The newly appointed Academic Director, Dr George Hickman, in his presentation, stressed his aim to maintain the school's high standards. "There is no need to worry about discontinuance in any way," he said, adding that his door would be open at any time to parents.

"Do we need to improve our public relations?" he asked. "I think so. I need your help in healing the situation."

An indication of how much healing will be needed was given by an emotional Debbie Cook, wife of the fired headmaster, who emphatically denied that her husband had compiled the damning report allegedly sent to London, and who detailed the less than subtle way in which her husband had been removed from his post.

She said that after Mr Cook had refused to sign a letter of resignation, the family had been given three days to pack and leave. Their car had been taken away, phone service and Internet access had been cut, and the locks on the headmaster's office had been changed. The family's children had been barred from further education at the school, she added.

In response, Dr Arthit vowed to pay Mr Cook four months' severance pay and to allow his children to finish the school year.

The meeting finally dissolved after Dr Arthit appealed for parents to be patient while the dispute is being resolved.

The previous day, a meeting between Dr Arthit's team and teachers at the school was considerably more subdued, not least because video cameras were deployed around the room and trained on the staff.

One teacher, who described the meeting as "tense", commented, "No one was going to put a hand up and ask provocative questions."

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19 injured as bus overturns

TAH CHAT CHAI: A bus overturned on April 15 injuring 19 passengers. It is thought the driver, named so far only as "Kittisak", lost control of the Bangkok-bound bus as he tried to take a bend in the road near Baan Koh En, during heavy rain.

The Phuket Central Tour bus ended up upside down in a ditch. All 19 passengers on board were injured, though none seriously.

Pol Capt Seksun Kom-sakorn, of Tah Chat Chai Police Station, told the *Gazette* the accident happened at 5:45 pm, 45 minutes after the 36-seater vehicle left Phuket City.

Capt Seksun said the passengers had sustained mainly minor injuries, such as cuts and bruises.

Capt Seksun said, "The passengers told us there was no collision, just that the driver lost control in the rain. The driver was to blame, because he drove carelessly."

Staff at Phuket Central Tour declined to give the *Gazette* more information about the driver, or about liability or compensation for passengers.

Songkran checkpoints 'successful'

PHUKET: Two people died on Phuket roads over the Songkran period, one less than last year.

Another 359 were injured between April 8 and 15, compared with 424 last year.

The deaths occurred on April 10 and 12. Both victims were male.

The figures were well below the official target of no more than five dead and 611 injured.

This year's "target" was raised from last year's figures to reflect the rise in the island's population, officials had said earlier.

Speaking from the Songkran Safety Center set up at Provincial Hall to track the annual carnage during the Thai New Year festivities, Vice-Governor Supachai Yuwaboon said the network of eight major police checkpoints, manned by 304 officers,



Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai appreciates one of the paintings after opening the show at Central Festival.

Phuket to get public gallery

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has announced that it intends to build an art gallery for the province, after the successful opening of the "Painting Phuket, the Pearl of the Andaman" art exhibition on April 8.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said the art gallery would contain art and literature, and artefacts relating to the history of Phuket.

There could even be two galleries, one in Thalang and one in Phuket City, said K. Anchalee, adding that the *OrBorJor* would ask the government for 300 million baht to pay for them.

However, even if the government did not approve the budget, the *OrBorJor* would press on with the project on its own, she said.

"We are drawing up the plans, in consultation with artists, and we want to build the gallery [in Phuket City] as soon as possible, hopefully within 2006," she added.

"Painting Phuket, Pearl of the Andaman", which was held at Central Festival Phuket until April 20, featured 210 works by 70 artists, Thai and foreign.

Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, himself a renowned amateur artist, chaired the opening of the exhibition.

"This is a great exhibition of pictures about Phuket, particularly as it reflects Phuket before the tsunami," he said.

He also said, "It is important for society to support artists, but there are few exhibition facilities in this province."

— Anongnat Sartpisut

Seven-hour ordeal after dive boat sinks

By Gazette Staff

ANDAMAN SEA: Six passengers and seven crew spent more than seven hours in the water on April 11 waiting to be rescued after a liveaboard dive boat sank, apparently without warning and in just six minutes, close to the Surin Islands.

The *MY Rhapsody*, operated by Kata-based Oceanic Dive-

center, was anchored 300 meters from the popular Richelieu Rock after midnight when some of those on board heard a bang.

Within six minutes, the boat had sunk. The captain managed to send a mayday message and release an EPIRB (emergency position-indicating radio beacon), as crew and passengers grabbed life jackets and signaling equipment and jumped overboard.

The group, none of whom was injured, used torches and other signaling equipment to try to attract the attention of two other dive boats that arrived about 45 minutes later, but without success. They also were unable to alert passing fishing boats until, at 8:15 am, they were finally spotted and rescued.

The 25-meter *Rhapsody* was three days into a four-day liveaboard trip. Oceanic Divecenter Managing Director Mona Fristedt told the *Gazette* on April 12 that the cause of the sinking

was a mystery. She said, "The boat wasn't hit, there were no problems whatsoever before this happened ... the sea was calm, there was no wind, there were no other boats around."

Ms Fristedt, who has run Oceanic Divecenter since 2001, said it may become clearer what happened once insurance investigators have examined the boat. "It's lying pretty deep, about 40 meters [down], but we're going to have a look and the insurance company will look too, to see if it's salvageable," she said.

Ms Fristedt said she was reluctant to comment further because of the impending insurance investigation. However, in an email released to the diving community, she wrote, "This is a boat operator's worst nightmare. I have to admire our guests for being so calm under such circumstances and, of course, our wonderful Thai crew, as well as the diving staff."

PHUKET CITY: Plans for evacuating Patong and other parts of Phuket during an emergency were due to be discussed at a workshop on April 20.

The workshop was arranged by Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit and former Vice-Governor Pongpow Ketthong, who is now Deputy Director-General of the national Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department.

Evacuation plans for each district of Phuket were due to be devised at the workshop, which was expected to last two days.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawangkura said that signs indicating evacuation routes should be in place before the end of the month; these will be temporary posters, and will later be replaced by permanent signs.

Former V/Gov Pongpow said the evacuation plan for Patong should be drawn up first, as it is a tourist area.

Evacuation plans under discussion

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Queer News

In very poor taste

KATHU: Police arrested a 66-year-old English language teacher from Canada on charges of sexually molesting a minor, after the man allegedly enticed his five-year-old student to perform oral sex on him by covering his penis with honey.

At 9:40 pm on April 18, a team of Kathu District Police officers led by Pol Capt Serm Kwanimit entered the home of the suspect at 78/3 Moo 4, on Soi Pattana in Chalong. They had a warrant for the man's arrest on charges of sexually molesting a child under 15 years of age.

Thus far the man, who has been living in Thailand for six months every year in recent years, has denied the charges.

The suspect, the correct English language spelling of whose name was not available as this went to print, was allegedly hired by a 40-year-old Thai woman to provide daily English language lessons to her five-year-old adopted son at a rate of 3,000 baht a month. The lessons were held near the end of February in a government-provided apartment for employees of Patong Hospital, where the man's Thai wife was employed as a nurse.

The boy's mother told police she had been sending her son to study with the Canadian every day in the late afternoon. All appeared to be going well, until one day she was walking along Patong Beach with the boy when they saw a woman selling bottles of honey from two baskets suspended from a shoulder pole.

When the boy noticed the brand of honey she was hawking, he recognized it and told his mom, "that kind of honey is sweet". When she asked how he knew this, the ugly truth was revealed.

The boy said his English teacher rubbed honey of the same brand on his penis at the end of every lesson and then put his sex organ into the boy's mouth. The teacher then masturbated himself to orgasm, the woman quoted her son as innocently revealing.

Upon learning this, the mother immediately filed a complaint with the Kathu Police and ended the boy's English lessons. At about the same time, the man's wife quit her job and the pair moved to Chalong, where he was eventually arrested.

Police said the investigation into the man had to be conducted though police in Bangkok, which explained the delay in making the arrest. Police were last reported to be investigating further to see if any similar charges were filed against the suspect in the past.

Source: Siang Tai

IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARE

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Visa runners in Phuket might like to gripe about having to pay 200 baht/day overstay fines, but considering the punishment meted out to a Thai man who overstayed his visa in Brunei perhaps they don't have it quite so bad.

Wanchai Thinsombun, 38, was sentenced to six months in jail and three strokes of the cane after pleading guilty to overstaying in the country for 2,102 days.

Source: Borneo Bulletin

A WHOLE NEW

Phuket's west coast hotels represent the very essence of the region's most vibrant modern-day industry: tourism.

They are the heartbeat, the source of employment for thousands of locals and, in large part, the international face of Thailand and a major reason why people come to this island.

As a result, the damage they suffered from last year's tsunami was a painful blow to the region's financial epicenter.

Phuket's larger hotels have always made major contributions to the welfare of the communities surrounding them, if only by dint of the fact that they create jobs, and through them, stability and security for local families.

Lately, however, some hotels – even though they have been hit hard by the tsunami's fiscal after-effects – have played an extra role: that of unofficial distributor of relief funds to their staff and to needy communities, both in Phuket and further afield.

Immediately after the disaster, each establishment's first obligation was to its members of staff.

Wolfgang Meusburger, General Manager of the Holiday Inn in Patong, who was recently also appointed GM for the company's resorts throughout Southern Asia, outlined what happened at his hotel.

"The Inter-Continental Hotels Group, of which the Holiday Inn is a member, donated two million baht toward our staff's needs. One million baht

Phuket's hotels have been clobbered with a double whammy: many were damaged, some quite badly, by the December 26 tsunami, and all were hit by the slump in tourism that followed the disaster.

Yet, rather than turn inward and concentrate on their own woes, many Phuket hotels, within days of the wave, were working tirelessly and effectively to alleviate the suffering of the community around them and even of communities 100 kilometers or more away in neighboring Phang Nga Province. Here, *Gazette* staff look at the work they have done, and continue to do.

went toward replacing destroyed vehicles and 800,000 baht towards the rebuilding of staff houses."

Within days, former hotel guests had sent 4 million baht for the Holiday Inn to distribute to tsunami victims.

Former hotel guests ... sent 4 million baht for the Holiday Inn to distribute to tsunami victims ... The donations were not solicited; they came as a spontaneous gesture of appreciation from visitors.

On the insistence of former guests, some 24 small businesses outside the hotel were allocated 200,000 baht, with the promise of more to come.

The donations were not solicited; they came as spontaneous gestures of appreciation from visitors to the island who had struck up friendships with the

Holiday Inn staff and local businesspeople.

The Holiday Inn, on Patong's seafront, had almost its entire ground floor gutted by the waves, initially rendering the hotel inoperable.

But the hotel has kept all its staff – despite the considerable financial setback – and the

Busakorn Wing of the hotel reopened in April.

The hotel, in conjunction with the local Rotary Club, has set also up a 750,000-baht scholarship program to support promising students from three local schools.

Further north along the west coast, at Bang Tao, several of the hotels in the Laguna complex were damaged by the tsunami, but within 24 hours of the disaster, guests had already donated substantial amounts toward the rebuilding of nearby Kamala.

Within five days, a webpage and bank account had been set up by the resort chain to facilitate donations and to keep donors up-to-date with progress made.

More than 19 million baht has been donated to date, through the initiative of both guests and management.

The hotels have also added an optional US\$2 onto room rates, with the proceeds going to tsunami relief.

If guests decide not to pay the supplement, the management will pay it on their behalf.

The Laguna Phuket Resorts and Hotels group has decided that the funds it is raising will be used locally, and will support long-term recovery, such as the building of schools and fishing boats, rather than short-term relief.

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MEANING TO 'HOSPITALITY'



Fixing his hotel – and people's lives: Wolfgang Meusburger, Holiday Inn GM and General Manager for Resorts, Southern Asia, of the Inter-Continental Hotels Group.

In the 20-20 vision of hindsight, many observers have criticized the rashness with which donors threw money at what seemed like the nearest worthy cause, with the result that many needy souls went without, while and some smooth operators cashed in.

Debbie Dionysius, Director of Destination Marketing at Laguna, concurs.

She said, "Initially, we were

anxious to spend in order to prove that we weren't holding on to the money.

"But now our attitude is different. We're holding our breath for the moment while looking for worthy projects."

One of these projects may well be a permanent boatyard in the vicinity of the hotels or in the Laguna grounds, to create employment for locals.

The hotel group is also cur-

rently investigating ways of setting up an alternative source of income for staff members' families on Surin and Bang Ta Beaches until the island's tourism industry recovers.

Whatever Laguna decides to do with the donations, it is likely it will use local labor rather than volunteers, as this will stimulate the local economy.

Many hotels in Khao Lak were devastated, including Andrew Kemp's Sarojin Resort, which was destroyed just days before it was due to open.

Mr Kemp, the owner and executive director, has been buoyed – financially and emotionally – by support from

friends and business associates around the world.

He too favors a slow-but-sure release of donations directly into the local community.

He said, "We have [donated] money in the bank and we're releasing it gently, because if we give money to one particular source, others are bound to get upset.

"In matters like this, you have to start with your neighbors. We're not big so we have to focus on immediate problems. Like everyone else, we want to see where the money goes."

Mr Kemp is determined to rebuild his resort, although the tsunami has changed his approach to business.

He explained, "This tsunami leveled everybody here; it has had a homogenizing effect, and one of the results of these recent events is that we will run this place with a more personal touch.

"We made the decision to rebuild at 3 am on December 27, even though it will cost us 2.5 to 3 million baht a month to keep it going, but we believe it will pay off, in a personal sense.

"All of our staff received an "EQB" – an earthquake bonus – and were relocated to safe havens.

"We have told them that they can all stay on – something that they didn't expect from an expat couple – and many were bused back to their respective hometowns for the duration."

Mr Kemp's wife, Kate, is aware of what the re-opening of the resort could mean for the revival of the area.

She said, "While the team here is still very sad, we also recognize that, with our international reach, we are in a strong position to help contribute to the rebuilding of the Khao Lak community."

Back in Patong, at the Bursari Hotel, which is next door to the Holiday Inn, Mike Inman has made a determined effort to distance the hotel from the relief effort.

"We don't touch a penny of the donations," he said. "We merely advise donors to give directly to the Queen's charity or to the Red Cross. That way, people far and wide can and will benefit.

"After the tsunami, we drew up three priorities: to help our immediate neighbors and staff, to get the hotel up and running again, and to get people back to Phuket.

"We've kept all of our staff on and were even able to distribute a service charge to them for February."

But, as has been the case with Andrew and Kate Kemp, the tsunami has been a learning experience for Mike Inman, too.

He says it gave him a chance to see them "other side" of the island's expat population.

He explained, "I've been on Phuket for four years, and I have to say that people are a little too prone to judge a book by its cover here.

"But what I saw after the tsunami was really impressive. People were wonderful – there were so many unsung heroes," he concluded.

'While the team here is still very sad, we also recognize that, with our international reach, we are in a strong position to help contribute to the rebuilding of the Khao Lak community.'

Kate Kemp, The Sarojin

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Pool resources for cool Jaidi nights and days

By Anongnat Sartpisut

There are few better ways of cooling off during the heat of the day than by taking a dip. For those who don't live right on the beach, this usually involves the inconvenience and expense of a trip to a swimming pool, either public or in a health club.

Some are lucky enough to have a pool in their own garden, but the 400,000-baht cost puts this out of the reach of many people.

Or at least it did, until the "Jaidi pool" arrived in Phuket. Imported from France by Fant-Asia Co Ltd in Central Festival Phuket, a Jaidi pool costs between 14,000 and 20,000 baht.

The "Jaidi" – when pronounced *jai dee* it means "kind-hearted" in Thai – is a folding

pool, available in diameters of 3.6 meters or 4.6m and a water depth of between 60 centimeters and 80cm.

Fant-Asia Managing Director Wongkarn Karnjananopinit said the relatively low price of the Jaidi – a top seller in France and launched in Phuket this month – puts a pool within the reach of many families.

"Private pools are no longer only for rich people," she said. "Now the less well-off can own them too. The Jaidi is especially good for families because parents can now relax by their pool with their children."

The main body of the pool is made from reinforced PVC but an inflatable ring around the rim of the pool gives it flexibility.

K. Wongkarn acknowledges that the Jaidi cannot really compare with a conventional,

concrete pool, but, she said, "The Jaidi is aimed at a totally different market – one where cost is more of an issue and affordability is key."

"Plus, the Jaidi is more versatile. It's easy to install – all it needs is a flat area of land – and because it is collapsible, it's easy to move around from A to B."

She continued, "In future, people's lifestyles will change and they will have more time at home."

But they will still work hard, get stressed, be exposed to irritations such as traffic congestion. But when they get home, they can relax in the water.

"Through the pool, they can relax, and have fun with their families and friends," she said.

Fant-Asia can be contacted at Tel: 076-264021 or 076-224444.

The relatively low price of a Jaidi pool puts it within range of many people. 'Private pools are no longer only for rich people,' said Wongkarn Karnjananopinit, MD of Fant-Asia.



At a recent demonstration, the pools proved popular with many, especially the young 'uns. Constructed from reinforced PVC, Jaidi pools should see out many a hot summer's day.



Obviously ideal for a good ducking, Jaidi pools come in two diameters: 3.6 meters and 4.6m, and are on sale for between 14,000 and 20,000 baht a pop.



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

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Nightspots may get an extra hour

Deputy Interior Minister Sermsak Pongpanit as expressed support for extending closing times by one hour for venues in declared entertainment zones and in provinces designated as tourism destinations.

K. Sermsak, who is responsible for enforcing the closing times for entertainment venues in Bangkok, as well as the North and South of Thailand, conceded that tourism is an important issue, but said the pros and cons of such a move would first have to be studied.

"I agree with the call to be lenient on closing times for entertainment places in entertainment zones at tourist destinations. Their closing times may be extended by an hour," K. Sermsak said.

He added that Interior Minister Chitchai Wannasathit would convene a meeting of his deputies to define a framework for enforcement after the Songkran holidays.

K. Sermsak said he would soon hold a meeting with night-spot operators in areas under his supervision to discuss how best to enforce closing times.

Currently nightclubs and bars inside entertainment zones are allowed to stay open until 2 am and pubs, discos, cafés and restaurants with live bands or cabarets, in the same zones may remain open until 1 am.

Extortion control: Motorcycle taxis nationwide will be required to be registered from next month as part of a government policy to eradicate organized extortion rackets.

All motorcycle taxi drivers will have to register their bikes to obtain a license, after which a yellow sticker will be fixed to the motorcycles to distinguish them



DRY RUN: Severe drought has reduced the once spectacular Haew Narok waterfall in Khao Yai National Park to a dry, rocky cliff. The waterfall is just one of the park's attractions to have been badly affected by the ongoing drought.

from other motorcycles.

Registration is scheduled to start May 11 and must be completed by September 7. Afterward, it will be illegal for any motorcycle rider to operate a taxi service without holding a license or registering his or her vehicle.

According to the statistics last updated on February 28, 2005, Thailand has 12,895 motorcycle taxi stands and 287,779 motorcycle taxis.

Crap shoot: People who eat *somtam* face a health risk because

many ingredients of the popular papaya salad have been found to be substandard or contaminated with cancer-causing toxins, according to a food survey report released by the Medical Services Department.

"One in four consumers may contract diarrhea or other illnesses from contaminated *somtam* ingredients," food researcher Prakai Boriboon said.

K. Prakai said his survey was based on 202 samples of ingredients and 76 samples of *somtam* dishes collected from

around Bangkok. Some 88% of the samples from food courts were found to be unhygienic. In restaurants the proportion was 66%, while street and market stalls were the least dangerous at 33%.

Some 95% of the dried shrimp tested had been laced with food color and 15% of peanuts were contaminated with aflatoxin, a mold that can cause liver cancer.

About 20% of chilies, tomatoes and cabbages had insecticide residue.

Touch of gray: Chiang Mai housewife Parichat Wanichrungruengchai has opened a hair salon dedicated to plucking unwanted gray hairs from the heads of its customers.

K. Parichat, who started the business as something to do in her spare time, now runs a full-time salon that nets her 20,000 baht a month. She said the business, which is the first and so far, it seems, the only one of its kind in Thailand, is so popular that she has been hard pressed to recruit enough staff to cope with the growing demand.

The service attracts an average of 20 customers a day, who are charged an hourly rate of 80 baht. Most customers with a moderate amount of gray hair spend two hours a month at the shop, she said, and almost all of them come back for more. The process is hygienic and as painless as possible, she added.

Dark influences: The Council of State is opposed to the Election Commission's proposal to extend voting hours by three hours, a source said.

The source at the Office of the Council of State said the council, which acts as the government advisory board on legal

affairs, feared the extension would inconvenience election officials and create fraud opportunities.

Currently, the voting period in any election is from 8 am to 3 pm, but the Election Commission wants polls to close at 6 pm.

The source said the Council of State believed the closing time should be extended by only one hour, which would still allow officials time to handle and transport ballots before it became dark.

Glue sellers burned: A man in Bangkok poured gasoline over himself and a teenage girl before setting them both alight. The assault took place in Bangkok's Laksi District. The victim, 17-year-old Nanthawan Watcharakaweesilp, was in her family's grocery shop when Pranee Polnasen, 28, from Sakhon Nakhon, appeared, brandishing a knife and putting her in a headlock.

When K. Nanthawan screamed for help, Pranee dropped the knife, pulled out a bottle of gasoline and poured it over her. The fuel also splashed on Pranee during the struggle. When he struck his lighter to threaten the family, they rushed him. The lighter fell, ignited the petrol, and burned them all.

Both K. Nanthawan and Pranee suffered burns to more than 90% of their bodies, and four other members of Nanthawan's family received less serious injuries.

The family noticed that Pranee had seemed under the influence of drugs. They said that in the past he had often come into the shop to buy cans of glue.

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

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With the Songkran festivities behind us and the beginnings of the low season staring us in the face, business owners are confronted with the daunting question: "What's next?"

Perhaps you have seen the T-shirts listing the annual disasters that have befallen the tourist industry in Thailand every year, starting with Y2K in the year 2000, 9-11 in 2001, followed by SARS, bird 'flu and now the tsunami at the end of 2004. Oh sorry, I forgot about the Muslim unrest in the south but I wasn't sure which year to file that one in.

So, what is next? What can we look forward to next year? Meteors? Locusts? The Black Plague? Or maybe the government will decide to close all bars at 11pm?

Since every year the disaster is something we never could have imagined, maybe we should put our collective heads together and try and guess what it will be next year.

Send your favorite suggestion for next year's disaster to ltr@loxinfo.co.th and the winner will receive a free copy of the best selling book in southern Thailand, *How to Survive Bankruptcy and Still Look Good*.

Seriously, survival is a concern for many businesses. Even at this early stage in the low season, tourist-related companies are planning for early closure, reducing hours and staff.

Several enterprises have closed their doors for good or hung up a FOR SALE sign. Hotels face single-digit occupancy rates and even lower yields. Tour booking offices are fighting against deep discounting, while restaurants are cutting operating hours and menus. And only God knows how all the tailor shops stay in business.

So, what is next? Is this a

What next for the T-shirt makers?



Visitors to Ao Nang have the beach pretty much to themselves, along with a choice of dozens of long-tail boats to take them wherever their hearts desire.



nami, and he has a special vantage point from which to assess the future of the area.

He feels that the natural disasters of the tsunami and the [March 28] earthquake are situations that future generations will be able to take in their stride, if the preparations are made now.

"Such events shouldn't affect the overall level of investment in Ao Nang and the surrounding area" says K. Somkiet.

He believes that with crisis comes opportunity. The opportunity, for example, to clean up areas that were overdeveloped or encroached upon, and the opportunity to implement some much-needed changes in land use.

For instance, future investors in beach-area resorts and businesses will have to face stricter zoning ordinances, said K. Somkiet, adding that the current situation could also be an opportunity for savvy investors to make a time-

ly investment.

The after-effects of the tsunami may have slowed the rise in land prices, and K. Somkiet thinks some people with heavy bank obligations may be willing to sell property at 20%-30% discounts.

However, he feels too that the perception of growing unrest in the southern provinces and the increasing danger of its spread to more tourist-oriented areas will have a much greater effect on land prices and long-term investment psychology.

He added that he believes the government has realized it needs to change its policies towards the south and states there are many groups working to address the issues and reduce tensions.

Overall, K. Somkiet believes that Ao Nang is a prime location, clean, safe and attractive to many different classes of investors. While there may be a temporary slowdown in some projects, he is confident that the area will rebound in the near future.

time of financial contraction and a period to reserve one's cash for better days. Is it time to bail out? Or is this the prime opportunity to expand one's operations?

Our crystal ball has been a bit cloudy of late, so we thought we would enlist some local businesspeople to gauge their opinions of the future business prospects in the Krabi area.

We asked Vichavin Wichaidit for his view on the current economic outlook. K. Vichavin is a director of Hospitality Management Co, a Bangkok-based hotel management company with several properties in its portfolio. He is also Director and

Head of Real Estate Property Management for Krabi Consultants, the largest property company in Krabi.

In both spheres of business,

K. Vichavin is guardedly optimistic about future business prospects.

"Hotels in many areas of southern Thailand may benefit from the after-effects of the tsunami, as foreign tour operators seek destinations to replace Phi Phi and Khao Lak," he says. He continues to receive inquiries for properties in the Krabi area as well.

However, he cautions that the financing of future projects could be problematic if the banks increase their risk rating on the southern provinces, thereby making loans more difficult to obtain.

More cautious about business prospects over the next six-to-12 months is Chuan Phukao-luan, the ex-Mayor of Krabi Town, owner of Krabi Resort – the oldest resort in Ao Nang – and one of the largest property owners in the area.

K. Chuan has ridden the waves of many economic cycles over the years. Now, though, he is concerned about possible future tsunami activity, recurring

earthquakes and the effect these may have on tourist arrivals.

K. Chuan is right to be wary, as he owns large tracts of beachfront property in the Krabi area and on surrounding islands. As usual, K. Chuan has several large projects under development at the same time, but now he is reassessing how quickly to proceed with these.

While all projects will continue, he says some may be postponed or progressed more slowly until the investment picture becomes clearer. And there is no doubt that K. Chuan has the patience and resources to ride out any stormy investment climate.

The last "wise man" we spoke with was Somkiet Kayaram, currently Chief of Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), as well as owner of the Somkiet Buri Resort in Ao Nang and Railey Village Resort on Railey Beach.

K. Somkiet has had a busy few months ministering to the needs of the residents of Phi Phi Island and Ao Nang after the tsu-



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Head of Real Estate Property Management for Krabi Consultants, the largest property company in Krabi.

In both spheres of business,



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This week



NEW ZEALAND BOUND: Hotel and hospitality students Janjira Boonsob (left) and Kesara Soyson (right) of Phuket Technology School are congratulated by the college's Chief Executive, Narong Thavakupta (center), after being accepted into the Waiariki Institute of Technology, New Zealand.



PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION: Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai (ivory shirt, foreground), enjoys the 'Painting Phuket: the Pearl of the Andaman' art exhibition at Central Festival Phuket recently.



AUSTRIAN AMITY: (right) Dr Heidi Burkhart, MD of Hilfswerk Austria Foundation (HAF), and Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (left) at a signing ceremony to cement an agreement for HAF to fund – at a cost of 500,000 euros (approximately 28 million baht) – the Austrian-Phuket Community Center on Koh Sireh.




READY, CHEDI, GO! Thai and foreign children alike enjoy the delights of an art exhibition as well as a traditional Songkran at The Chedi Phuket. Exhibiting artist, Mike Kuhlmann (rear, left), and the GM of The Chedi Phuket, Daniel Meury, make sure that everyone has fun.



THE NAVY LARK: Rear-Admiral Amornchot Sujirat (rear, center) Chief of Staff of the Third Naval Area Command, leads the Charoen Pokphand Group in donating much-needed supplies to young Muslims on Koh Yao Noi, Phang Nga Province, recently.



FOR A GOOD CAUSE: (from left) Child Watch Phuket committee member Tanarat Kittiyakarn, Manager Nalitya Attapoktanakorn and Director Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma receive a donation of US\$6,000 (approx 238,000 baht) from Child Watch Germany Director, Johanna Stengel.



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One thing that Phuket has but which was lacking in Penang when the Penang Heritage Trust was launched nearly 20 years ago, says Salma Nasution, is a “sense of ownership”.

“There is a much higher level of awareness and civic pride here in Phuket. The sense of belonging is much stronger than it was in Penang, as the people [in Penang] were mostly tenants, while [in Phuket] the people own their houses and are proud of them,” she says.

The Penang Heritage Trust was formed in 1986, with the aim of preventing the destruction of Georgetown’s historic buildings after rent control was repealed.

Rent control was introduced after World War II to ensure a supply of affordable housing for local people.

It meant that the owners of the buildings could not sell them to any of the legion of property developers who were descending on Penang.

But it also meant that many owners saw no reason to do any more maintenance than was absolutely necessary.

At the same time, their tenants had no real connection with their homes, and viewed them merely as places in which to live, rather than part of their heritage, and something to take pride in.

The result, says Salma, “We had tenants who didn’t own the

Breathing new life

Salma Nasution is from Penang, Malaysia, where, for 14 years, she was Secretary of the Penang Heritage Trust, a non-governmental organization that has been instrumental in protecting and enhancing the Sino-Portuguese properties in Penang’s main town, Georgetown.

She has recently been granted a fellowship from the Japanese Nippon Foundation, as part of its Asian Public Intellectual (API) program, to enable her to research the relationship between heritage and cultural identity.

Salma was in Phuket recently to learn more about how the people of Phuket feel about their heritage.

Alison Winward caught up with her and asked her whether her experiences with the heritage movement in Penang could provide food for thought for those looking to preserve the historic heart of Phuket City.

houses, and landlords who didn’t care about them.”

The trust set about raising the awareness of landlords and tenants of just how closely the houses were linked to them, their families, their culture and their heritage.

It brought about the restoration of some of Penang’s most significant and beautiful buildings,

and, through guided tours, talks and heritage trails, showed residents and visitors how the original residents of the Sino-Portuguese houses in the center of Georgetown had helped shape modern Penang.

At the same time, trust members campaigned for the introduction of planning laws and conservation guidelines, which



could be used to protect Georgetown and other historic assets of Penang.

One tactic was to try to show the authorities that preservation made good financial sense, too. “We explained that the build-

ings could help persuade tourists to stay longer,” said Salma. “Singapore, for example, developed heritage attractions to make tourists stay there one day longer.”

However, it looked at one

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into Straits heritage



stage as though the trust had done too good a job, and that what Salma describes as “a living vernacular” would be preserved and turned into nothing more than a theme park for tourists.

The trust then had to persuade the authorities to moderate their “touristy” plans.

Now, though, a balance seems to have been struck: the historic buildings are viewed as assets which should be protected, but they are inhabited by normal people, who have “real” lives that do not depend solely on tourism.

Tourism in Penang does still generate a considerable amount

of money, although tourists are encouraged to take away more from their visit than just an example of local crafts.

Says Salma, “Historical tours explain the background of the buildings, and about local traditions and crafts, such as shoe beading, but then it’s important to take visitors to, say, a sarong shop, so they will contribute to the local economy.”

Phuket was very closely linked to Penang in the early years of the 20th century; Phuket chil-

dren were sent to Penang to be educated, and the architecture of the growing Phuket Town was heavily influenced by that of Penang.

Phuket Town’s first hotel, the On On, for example, was designed by an architect from Penang, who also supervised the construction.

Central and local government have been looking for ways of exploiting Phuket’s own Straits Chinese heritage since the 1970s. Just as Penang pro-

vided the model for the creation of the historic parts of Phuket City, could Penang and its heritage trust provide the model for Phuket’s reconstruction and rebirth?

“There is a thin line between restoration for the right reasons and gentrification and beautification. If [an area] changes, it should change for the better,” Salma says.

“If [the authorities] want to start doing something now, they should be looking at derelict prop-

Left, Salma Nasution firmly believes that old buildings should not simply become museums, but should be inhabited by ‘normal’ people living ‘real’ lives.

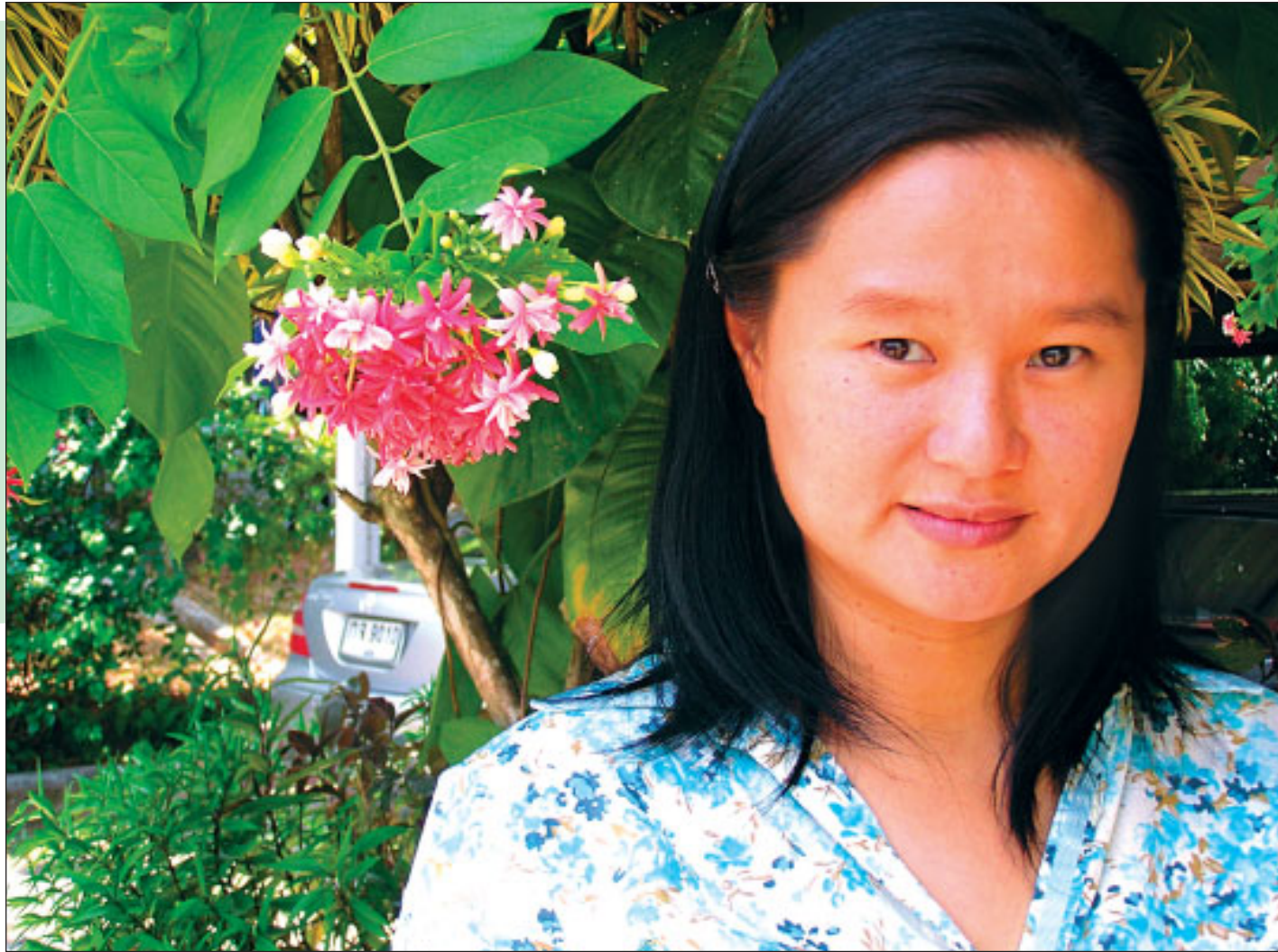
Far left, Phuket shares a great deal with Penang in terms of its Sino-Portuguese architectural heritage.

erties and giving the owners incentives to renovate them. [The restaurant] Bang Klung Jinda is a good example of what can be done.”

Building facades should be preserved, and property owners should have access to “heritage advisors” who could give technical information, such as which materials to choose and also, where appropriate, how to restore interiors as well as exteriors.

The trick, though, is to reflect the reality of the present rather than strive for some artificial recreation of history.

Says Salma: “To make the most of heritage is to make the most of what is here now, rather than hide in the past.”




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The Jacques Fauroux-designed Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 37 looks and certainly feels bigger than 37 feet (11.2 meters) when moored, helped in no small part by very clever interior ergonomics and clean lines.

Even a boat kitted out for a few days' sailing seems clutter-free, thanks to the abundance of lazarettes and lockers.

The saloon ceiling is more than high enough to allow a six-footer to stand upright, something which, although almost unnoticed in the calm confines of the Boat Lagoon, can prevent a bumped head on choppy seas.

The saloon, which is decked out in teak veneer, is spacious enough to seat six people comfortably on the starboard-side U-shaped bench. There is also a three-seater bench fore of the nav station on the port side, which can be converted to a single berth.

The cushions, importantly, are comfortable and have removable, washable covers in case of any maritime mishaps.

The navigation station has its own adjustable spotlight, in addition to the halogen lights throughout, although plenty of ports allow adequate natural light in. The chart table hinges down to create yet more space.

The owner of this vessel has, in addition to the standard voltmeter, fitted a Xantrex Link 20 dual-battery monitor, which shows the discharge and charging efficiency of the electrical system.

The owner has also rigged up an Icom IC-45 VHF marine transceiver, as well as a Sony car audio system, so he can listen to Bach on his barque.

Nothing is perfect and the owner does have one complaint about his Jeanneau 37. "It's the veneer on the edges of the cupboard doors – I just know that it will chip away in time. Otherwise, that's it," he says.

Galley slaves have little to fear from the 1.6-square-meter kitchen to starboard. A dual-ring burner/oven – the gas bottle is in a double-insulated lazarette aft – is, according to the owner, more than sufficient for meals at sea.

The L-shaped galley also has a 40-liter ice box, a 321-liter water tank and a double stainless-steel sink. Hot water for both the galley and the washroom is supplied by a heater under the forward seat in the saloon.



At sea, the nimble Jeanneau 37 handles like a much smaller boat.



The console includes a Raymarine C70 multi-function display

ALL AT SEA

with Andy Johnstone

ODYSSEUS WOULD HAVE LOVED THIS

Access to the engine – the owner upgraded to a 40hp Yanmar unit – is behind the hinged companionway. The boat has a 137-liter fuel tank.

The Jeanneau 37 is available in two- or three cabin configurations. This model has two, one forward and one aft. Both berths boast space – 2.06 x 1.60 meters forward and 2.03 x 2.08 meters aft and a surprising amount of storage space.

The aft cabin has removable panels that allow access to the engine, steering and batteries.

While she may feel larger than she actually is when moored, out on the open water, however, her nimble characteristics suggest a smaller vessel with, the owner reports, the well-engineered keel/ballast ratio improving her handling characteristics.

He also says that she is ideal for solo yachting. "Everything in the cockpit, and the deck hardware, is perfectly positioned," he says.

The instrument console features a Raymarine C70 multi-function navigation display. One of the benefits of this combined chartplotter, radar, course deviation



The navigation station, below decks, is well thought out and comprehensively equipped.

indicator and fish finder is that its seven-inch color LCD display is viewable in sunlight.

The skipper can plug in a Navionics chart for all the information found on traditional paper charts plus spot soundings, as well as port plans and service guides. The unit also has a "man-overboard" panic button.

One addition the owner has made to the console – and which

he recommends for all owners – is a high-output, low-drain blue LED forward of the pedestal. "It gives just the right amount of light at night," he says. "Why didn't Jeanneau think of that?"

The 29-square-meter mainsail is supplemented by a 38.5sqm furling genoa and an 85sqm spinnaker, giving this cruising sailboat a fair turn of speed.

The base price, ex-factory,

for a new Jeanneau 37 is 102,241 euros (about 5.25 million baht).

For more information, contact Andrew de Bruin, Lee Marine International Marine Brokerage, Phuket Boat Lagoon. Email andrewdb@leemarine.com or Tel: 66 (0) 76-238803.

New! Boats and Marine Classifieds, page 31.

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ANOTHER PEARL

TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

How does Mauritius – the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean” – measure up to you-know-where? Well, at 2,030 square kilometers, the very Frenchified republic is the Indian Ocean’s premier playground.

You can catch a wave or catch a marlin, get married, indulge a passion for water sports or horse racing, laze on the beaches, have a flutter at the gambling tables or a flirtation in the clubs.

Vacation, honeymoon or holiday of a lifetime, Mauritius always provides the ideal location. In short, it’s well up there with Phuket in many respects.

A 10-million-year-old volcano 1,800 kilometers off the southeast coast of Africa, Mauritius has long been a stopping-off point on the trade route to Asia.

Portuguese, Dutch, French and British colonial rule added to the ethnic hotchpotch that made – and makes – up the island’s population, as did waves of Chinese and Indian immigrants.

The result is an enormous range of cultures and cuisines that blend harmoniously in near-heavenly surroundings.

Port Louis is the capital and main port of Mauritius, and is a picturesque place to wander about. The best views to be had are from Edward VII Avenue and Fort Adelaide, a 300-year-old citadel, while a lively covered market in the center of town gives some idea of daily life here.

Curepipe is the island’s main urban center, a pleasant town which lacks the atmosphere of Port Louis but has good shops and restaurants nonetheless.



Above all, Mauritius’s biggest attraction is the sea



Beyond, on the road to Floreal, is the spectacular Troux aux Cerfs, a dormant crater 80 meters deep and some 350 meters wide that, from the rim, grants a view of the whole island.

Near Rivière des Anguilles,

in the more remote southern part of the island, is La Vanille Crocodile Park and Nature Reserve, where Nile crocodiles imported from Madagascar – some 900km west – are reared.

The site offers a vast park

with a nature walk through luxuriant forest studded with freshwater springs, while a small zoo adds to the attraction.

Of course, it’s really the coast that proves overwhelmingly attractive for most visitors to Mauritius, with big-game fishing, the beach, diving – there are marvelous coral gardens just meters offshore – and para-gliding.

A combination of African, Asian and European dishes makes up Mauritian cuisine. The emphasis is on seafood, with garlic, ginger, onions and tomatoes playing a large supporting role.

On the shopping front, the best buys are silk, embroidered tablecloths, pottery, jewelry and locally-made pullovers.

A wide range of hand-crafted 18-carat gold jewelry,

unset diamonds, other gemstones and pearls is also available.

After hours, roulette, blackjack and slot machines are all on offer at L’Amicale, one of a number of casinos. Try your luck in a different way at the discos and clubs in Port Louis. The enigmatic Secrets is reckoned to be hot.

Finally, if you plan to get married, the ceremony can be carried out in any hotel by the Civil Status Officer.

Fixing the necessary papers beforehand is simple – just bring your birth certificates – and the Registrar of Civil Status can provide details.

You can then proceed to the enjoyable business of a honeymoon, followed by the marginally more tricky phase of living happily ever after.

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NATURE VERSUS NURTURE

Winemakers in New World regions recognize the importance of place of origin in winemaking, but tend to attach greater weight to the grape variety.

All wines are made from one or more grape selections. Chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and syrah are a few of the grape varieties that make wines with unique flavor profiles, intensity and style – depending upon the soil and climate where the grapes are grown.

Several thousand varieties have been identified, but only about 20 are familiar to most people. Each variety has its own distinctive flavor and texture.

Grape varieties possess unique personalities, and winemakers tend to become specialists in one or more because much of a wine's personality can be predicted

by the biochemistry and heredity of the grape variety.

For example, most of the flavor compounds in chardonnay wine are chemically "locked" by the genetics of the grape, but can be released through chemical interactions with tannin in the wood of wine barrels.

Riesling grapes are different; their entire flavor potential in wine is present at the wine's birth and must be conserved rather than coaxed forth by the winemaker. Over the past few decades, the main reason winemakers have searched for the variet-

WINE



By Steven
Roberto

ies that make the best wines in their specific regions.

Wine producers have been able to respond to changes in consumer preference by replanting vineyards with different grape varieties.

For example, when red wine became popular in Asia in the 1980s because of its reputed ability to reduce the risks of heart disease, winemakers in some countries simply pulled out their white grapevines and replanted with red varieties.

Ultimately, however, the main reason winemakers in New World countries attach so much impor-

tance to grape variety is the ease with which consumers can understand wines named for them.

With European wines, consumers are forced to learn that white wine from Sancerre is made from sauvignon blanc or red wine from Rioja is made from tempranillo.

This has given wines labeled according to grape variety an edge in supermarkets and has put pressure on European producers, who continue to endorse the supremacy of place of origin over grape variety.

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

The disposable pun headline came to me the moment I heard that a "British-style" curry house had opened in Cherng Talay, ready to serve the needs of us refuGBs.

And mightily successful Kashmir seems to be already, breathing some much-needed life into an area of Phuket where the physical graffiti of quarter-full bars and restaurants reminds me of a wet weekend in Bromley, Sarfeast London. Or is it in Kent? No one really cares.

Kashmir prides itself – boasts, in fact – that it serves British-style grub. This, in an age when "authenticity" appears to be all, may seem like a self-inflicted shot in the foot.

But what is authentic these days? It's a question to which Trevor Fisher – the owner of Kashmir and well-known man-about-the-island – and I address ourselves.

Take the Ploughman's Lunch, that humble meal of Cheddar cheese, bread and a pickled onion, which conjures up images of bucolic cider drinkers from the days of Thomas Hardy. This pub favorite was dreamed up by admen in the 1960s.

Did our Neopolitan friends back in 18th century really put pieces of canned pineapple on their pizzas? Unlikely.

Kashmir if you can

The length of time it takes for food becomes "authentic" seems to diminish with each new fad; perhaps everything is now authentic simply because it is there.

The curry so beloved by Brits, and, increasingly, by others around the world (though perhaps not the 1.1 billion inhabitants of India) is both a modern invention and a classic cuisine in its own right.

When, in 1998, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw famously proclaimed chicken tikka masala (CTM) as "... Britain's true national dish..." he was – in some ways – correct.

Great Britain, so often described as a difficult country for foreigners to fit into, has effortlessly embraced all cuisines into its culinary canon, and – generally – the accompanying cultures.

The grand old gal may have lost an empire but she has gained considerably more in other ways.

This CTM – prepared by Kashmir's chef Raju Niure, formerly of Lumbini in Nepal, and, sadly, formerly of Le Meridien Khao Lak – brings together all of the components craved for in this intoxicating dish.



Seriously hot, seriously colorful: Kashmir's prawn vindaloo.

Visually, it is a stunning red color, with a dash of cream across the top and plenty more in the sauce. The aroma caresses one's olfactory nerves long before the dish arrives.

Kashmir is quite a warm place, even on the rare occasions when it isn't chockful of diners. The temperature is added to because the kitchen door is open.

I like this, actually, because it is reassuring to see how clean the kitchen is, and one also gets to smell the food while it is being prepared.

But I'm ahead of myself. My companion and I first enjoy

a plate of poppa ... er pappa ... you know, those thin, flat, deep-fried crispy things with relish. Four of them, in fact.

Mango chutney, tamarind, mint raita and tiny silver onions in a vividly red sauce make up this Raj quartet. She can't get enough of them and is clearing the plate despite my entreaties to "... save some room for your prawn vindaloo".

A mixed plate of scented starters arrives: delicate little onion bhajis, samosas and chicken pakora – we clear the plate.

The vindaloo arrives, and what a vindaloo it is, easily

matching my CTM in terms of being "just right." It is spicier though, by Jingo, but the shades of flavor shine through.

We have, of course, pilau rice with our curries, delivered in a heart shape because, as Trevor tells us, "I love the *Gazette* and its staff." Does he really think such unctious flattery will make a difference to this reviewer?

My dining companion – a lock of hair falling over one eye à la Veronica Lake rips the rice apart. "You broke my heart," I say. "I know," she replies.

It's not the location for a romantic meal. The décor may be faux-flock wallpaper ("Pseudo-Flock," says Trevor), and Indian music is put on only by request, but the host's winning banter, his wife's patience and the superb food make dining here an experience.

Others may have attempted to present the "authentic" Brit curry – or "Ruby Murray" as our Cockney friends would say – to Phuket. Kashmir succeeds.

I'll even forgive Trevor for his explanation of the pepper-bottom syndrome. "It's not the chilies, it's the cumin seeds," he says. That's it; we're off, but I'm having a lamb Madras next time.

Kashmir, Tinlay Place, Cherng Talay. Currently closed Wednesdays, open from around 5 pm to 10:30 pm or later other days. Booking advised. Tel: 01-5351754 email: trevorfisher@funkyguide.com

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menu
with
Andy Johnstone
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KIDS

THE FUN PAGE

FOR ALL

THE FAMILY

Hidden Words

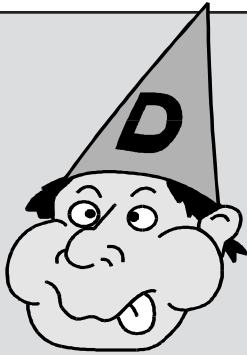
Hidden in the grid below are the surnames of at least 20 famous golfers. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

Get your brain

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The Monster Quiz



1. Who, in 1014, were defeated by the Irish in the Battle of Clontarf?

2. Who was the High King of Ireland at that time?

3. What Italian phrase derives from *schiaivo vostro* ("I am your slave")?

4. A demisesquicentennial anniversary celebrates how many years?

5. Which Jewish festival will be celebrated on April 23, 2005?

6. Where are the Lost Gardens of Heligan?

7. What is the "real" nickname of the Michelin Man?
8. What religious organization was founded by Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer?

9. Walking north along the Rue d'Albe, I turn right into Boulevard Dauzac. In which city am I?

10. When was the first recorded case of an actor performing?

11. Who was the actor and where did the performance take place?

12. Voodoo Child, DJ Cake and Brainstorm are pseudonyms for which techno artist?

13. Marshall Bruce Mathers III is better known by what name?
14. Which author and illustrator created the character Peter Rabbit?

15. Excluding the Sun, which is the nearest star to Earth?

16. Approximately how far away is it?

17. Who is the President of Spain?

18. What is detected by using the Schick Test?

19. Of the 116 known chemical elements, how many occur naturally?

20. Which was the first man-made element, and when was it created?
- Answers next week

Never a Cross Word!

Across

1. Smell.

3. Member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

8. Resistance to movement.

9. Not tight.

10. Canadian trees?

14. Central American canal.

16. Cartoon duck.

18. Di Caprio movie about Howard Hughes.

20. Fur trimming for nobility.

21. Make the tea.

Down

1. Hill-tribe drug.

2. Metal-bearing rock.

4. Semi-precious stone.

5. Material Girl.

6. Belly button.

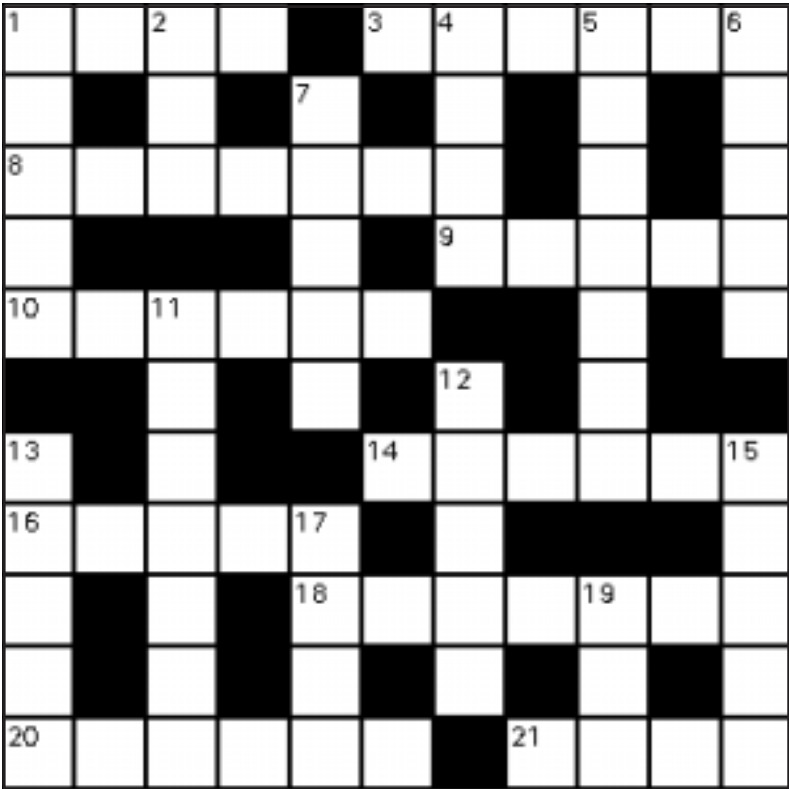
7. River animal.

11. Go onstage.

12. Caesar's words.

13. Maker of Photoshop.

15. Robin Hood's missile.



Brain Buster!!

Ning found four baht. Putting that four baht together with the money she had before her good luck, she now had five times the amount of money she would have had if she had lost four baht. How much money did Ning have before she found the four baht?

Answer: Before finding the 4 baht, Ning had 6 baht.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Anubis; 2. None; 3. Aircraft design; 4. The Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer; 5. Ashanti (Shaquoya Douglas); 6. Shanghai; 7. Jacksonville, Florida; 8. Namek; 9. Petronius Platform oil rig, the Gulf of Mexico; 10. 610 meters; 11. Teverone; 12. Gold; 13. Romania; 14. The Yagi-Uda radio antenna; 15. An edible fungus; 16. De Havilland Mosquito; 17. Caen; 18. Stade Michel d'Ornand; 19. Valentina Tereshkova; 20. Cagliari.

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TO LAST WEEK'S

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Give me land, lots and lots of land

Like so many others who have fallen under Phuket's spell, Mr A decided to buy a plot of land and build a house for his stays on the island and for his retirement.

He sought assistance from a real estate agency and succeeded in finding a parcel of land in the hills overlooking Patong Beach. Mr A then proceeded to register a company – with his Thai investors – to enable to him to buy the land through the company and then lease it from the company for his own personal use.

Contracts were signed and Mr A was promised that access rights would be registered on transfer of ownership to the company of which Mr A was a shareholder.

However, the deal fell through and Mr A therefore decided to move his deposit on the land to another property offered by a vendor, which in this case was

the same agency that suggested the original plot to him.

Agreements were executed after Mr A checked survey maps provided by the vendor, which showed that the property was situated below the building limit of 80 meters above sea level.

Current Thai environmental law prohibits building on land above this elevation. Indeed, it prohibits even the uppermost part of a building to be above the 80m mark.

A number of other parties also decided to buy plots from the vendor, who divided his land accordingly.

Mr A proceeded to buy the plot and made full payment despite the fact that access rights to the land had yet to be granted. He trusted the vendor, and believed that such registration would be effected as soon as possible.

However, the access road was on land that had been sold to different parties and convening all of these owners to reg-



LAYING DOWN THE LAW

With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

ister Mr A's access rights proved difficult. In fact, it took a year to do so, during which time Mr A's company missed an opportunity to sell the land.

This, sadly, was not Mr A's only problem. He had learned from a neighbor who had applied for a building permit that the land was in fact above the 80m limit. The neighbor was denied a building permit.

Mr A then asked the Phuket Provincial Land Department (PPLD) to have the elevation of his property recalculated. A contour map produced by the PPLD showed that most of his land was above

the 80m limit; he would not be able to build his dream home there after all.

Mr A is currently negotiating the sale – at a loss – of his land and has made the potential new owner fully aware of the facts. He is considering taking the matter to court, seeking damages from the vendor to cover all expenses made in buying the land.

The lesson to be learned from this tale is that the buyer must appoint his own lawyer to conduct due diligence and have a registered surveyor measure the property. The surveyor must also determine the exact height above sea level of the land and produce a contour map.

The surveyor must also establish whether the property is on land more than 33.33° – more accurately referred to in the trade as 18.5° (sexagesimal) or, for people more used to using the grad, 20.5 grads – from the horizontal. Thai law also prohibits building on land of such an angle.

WATERY BEGINNINGS

No, this isn't another of my lectures on what we should do to improve ourselves in the wake of the tsunami, although the title may give you a clue as to the topic.

If you are a native of Thailand, or simply familiar with the kingdom's many festivals, then you may have already guessed that using the word "watery" in the title can refer to just one thing: Songkran.

The word Songkran comes from the Pali language of the Theravada Buddhist scriptures (Sankhara) and the Sanskrit word (Sankranti) for movement or change.

This is a reference to the fact that April 13, when the festival takes place, is the day that the sun changes its position in the zodiac – thus beginning a new year.

However, the celebrations are also known as the "water festival" because many people be-



Youth 'n ASIA

By Lauren Moorhouse

lieve the water will wash away your bad luck. One can begin the new year with a clean slate.

So every year in April, many Thais return to their home towns to celebrate this tradition. Songkran also provides the opportunity for the family to come together and show their respect to the older generation by pour-

ing lustral water onto their hands.

In return for the respect offered, the older generation wishes the younger good luck and prosperity in the coming months.

The festival starts on April 13, which is known as Maha Songkran Day, and this day traditionally marks the end of the old year. The following day is Wan Nao, and April 15 is known as Wan Thaloeng Sok, and it is on this day that the New Year begins.

However, the length of the festival can differ, depending upon which part of Thailand you live in.

Here in Phuket, the most spectacular day is Maha Songkran Day, with the celebrations on the following days being far

more subdued. On April 13, all work grinds to a halt, people climb into their pick-up trucks loaded with barrels full water, ready to join in the celebrations.

Obviously, with Phuket being the tourist destination that it is, the festival has become a little more superficial and hordes of people carry – and use – large water pistols.

However, the main elements that originally made Songkran what it is still remain.

The ability to unite families, friends and communities for a few days has not been lost, and the Thais do not seem to be too disheartened by the tourists joining in with the festival.

In fact, if anything they seem to agree with the old cliché – the more the merrier.

To me, Songkran seems to be the perfect example of the unity that we need today. The festival is an excellent way for everyone in Thailand to relax for a couple of days, take a break from the stresses of work or school and spend time with those closest to them.

It's a holiday unlike any other in the world, and is one of the reasons that so many people come back to Thailand around this time every year. So, no matter what age you are or where you come from, I hope that you joined in with the celebrations.

And for those of us who sinned a little too often these past 12 months, I hope that you allowed yourself to get that little bit more wet.

In The Stars

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Good work done last month will be unexpectedly rewarded. You can expect a confidence booster before this week is out. If you've been looking at ways to climb to the next rung of the career ladder, answers are crystal clear on Monday. Sagittarius has been wondering what makes you tick – romance is forecast to take off.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): This week is the perfect time for you to reinvent yourself. Even modest changes in your routine and outlook on life will easily take seed and provide a firm foundation to develop further. On Wednesday, Pisces asks a favor that could involve more than you expect. Birthday celebrations are best unplanned – spontaneity is a keyword until the end of the month. Wear rose pink to heighten your appeal.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): If

you've recently given in to the urge to spy on someone, you are about to find out that two or possibly three can play that game; if you feel that mistrust is ruining a relationship then instigate a heart-to-heart conversation. It could easily turn out that the heat has been firing your imagination.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You should remain vigilant this week as a gold-digger has you in his or her sights. It should be easy enough to spot the warning signs, so you will only have yourself to blame if you land in a hole too deep to climb out of. This week, energy would be better spent on making plans to get away – your perspective will benefit from doing so. Number 5 is lucky on Sunday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You will be like the cat that got the cream early next week when everything seems to go your way. Take ad-

vantage of these auspicious circumstances and dare to ask for the moon. On Thursday and Friday, there's a slight downward trend as an unexpected bill lands in your mailbox. Family relationships are particularly well-starred; someone you've never connected with before suddenly shines in a new light.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The last week of April starts off on a less than positive note for Virgoans. Disagreements are highlighted and you should play your cards carefully, especially where business matters are concerned. Domestic bliss is resumed after Tuesday when your partner's lively mood helps cheer you up. Check your schedule before making appointments for Thursday, as double booking is likely. The color marigold orange will encourage a warmer mood.

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An indepth look at cats and queens

Dear Momma Duck,

Someone told me once that a *katoey* he met in a bar told him that there are so many *katoeys* in Thailand because, traditionally, if a couple had several sons and no daughters, it was perfectly acceptable for them to bring up the youngest son as a girl. Is this right, or does someone have an over-active imagination?

On the Turn
Phuket City

Dear On the Turn,

I think that "imagination" may be the primary ingredient here. I have never heard that this is a traditional practice, although it might be a factor in an individual family where, perhaps, a parent longs for a daughter.

There are many factors which influence a young boy during his childhood. For example, if a mother is the strongest role model in the family and there is only one son, then he may lean toward a feminine role, but it is only one factor, not a determinant.

I understand, from articles I have read, that the relative levels of female and male hormones and, perhaps, other chemical or genetic balances may also be factors. There may also be some cases where someone has been influenced by their peers.

Setting aside the genetic, biological and environmental factors – which we may never fully understand – it seems to me that the key issue is how parents and society understand and accepts a son's choice.

If parents force a son to change his behavior, the boy may



**Momma
DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

run away physically or emotionally, and the world may have lost a creative or scientific genius.

Generally speaking, Thai society has a lot of tolerance for homosexuals, and I suspect this tolerance leads to an appearance of a society with a large number of, among others, *katoeys*, because they are not afraid to be themselves.

Also, I must say that many of them are very beautiful and I sometimes feel a little bit envious!

Dear Momma Duck,
Over the years, I have seen in many shops on Phuket small statues of "beckoning cats", which have one paw out-stretched and the other wav-

ing as if beckoning some thing or someone to come to them.

I have seen gold-colored, silver-colored and red ones; some with the left paw waving and others with the right paw waving. It has been explained to me that

some of these cats are summoning prosperity while others are beckoning love, but I have never been told how to identify which is which.

Can you please explain to me what the different colors signify and what the different "beckoning paws" signify?

Paws for Thought,
Phuket City

Dear Paws for Thought,

There is a fable about a famous cat, which goes like this: A very poor old lady had a beloved cat. She shared her food with it, until one day she no longer had any food for either of them.

Realizing that she might be forced to abandon the cat (perhaps at a temple), she could not sleep and cried nearly all night with grief.

When she finally fell asleep, the woman dreamed that a cat told her to sculpt a cat from clay.

The next day, she dug some clay from the river bank and fashioned it into a cat, which she put at the front of her house.

That very day, a passerby bought the clay cat from her, and, at last, the woman had found a way to make enough money to look after her beloved cat forever. The cat, it seemed had brought good luck to her.

I'm told that the *Manehki Naehkoh* cat – a cat with one paw in the air – originally comes from Japan. *Manehki* means "inviting" and *Naehkoh* means "cat". It is supposed to invite money and luck to the owner. This is similar to the *Nang Kwak* in Thailand (a female figure with a similarly raised, beckoning hand).

If the cat beckons with its left paw, it invites guests to come into the shop; the higher the hand, the more customers will enter the

shop. When the cat beckons with its right paw, we believe money and luck will come into the house or shop.

In Japan, a cat with three colors is apparently very hard to find, and it is believed to be the luckiest one, because money will pour into the house. Japanese ladies are said to favor a black cat figure as a charm that protects them in many ways.

I couldn't find any references to the three single colors you mentioned but,

since this is Thailand and these three colors are traditionally considered as "lucky colours" by the

That very day, a passerby bought the clay cat from her, and, at last, the woman had found a way to make enough money to look after her beloved cat forever. It brought good luck to her.

Chinese (silver and gold being "money" colors and red being for general good luck), I suspect that is why manufacturers like to use them.

I believe that having a *Manehki Naehkoh* in your front window or inside your shop may indeed bring good luck. Of course, we Thais are also very pragmatic and we realize that smiling service is also a very important ingredient.

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11. Sky Train Stations.

23): If you are beset with minor worries, then regard problems as opportunities for gaining experience and creating something new. Rest assured that you will be presented only with lessons that you can learn from. As April draws to a close, life once more becomes a bowl of cherries; May looks like being your month of the year. The scent of jasmine can encourage a romantic atmosphere.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): During the coming days you will be faced with the age-old question: How long is a piece of string? The astute side of your nature should help you to find the right answer, though not without some concentrated thinking. Luck is on your side this coming Sunday when someone you've been hoping to run into turns up unexpectedly. Affairs of the heart are well-starred this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Benevolent astral conditions will ensure that you can enjoy a calm week, with no storm at the end of it. Your mellow mood infects others and social outings this weekend will be particularly pleasant. Be prepared to try new locations – Aquarius is just waiting to meet you. For those who are unsure in which direction love is heading, a burning romantic question will be answered.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): This week should be mostly a bed of roses, though with one or two thorns to avoid, particularly on Monday and Tuesday, when everyone around you is inclined to get the wrong end of the stick. By Wednesday, the atmosphere should have calmed and during the last few days of April much can be accomplished if you put your mind to it. The color seaweed green is lucky.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Much as you wish it might, money doesn't grow on trees. You will need to curtail your retail therapy for the next few weeks; putting something aside for the rainy days to come is highly recommended. Regarding romance, a dream you have this weekend has a definite chance of coming true. Wear the color amber to promote inner peace.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The time is ripe for you to instigate career changes. Dare to dream of doing something you've always thought was beyond you – a radical new path is forecast. If you're content to stay in the same old rut, others have different ideas about your future. Whichever way things pan out, it's safe to say that you won't be treading the same trail for much longer. The number 5 comes alive on Tuesday.

by Isla Star

The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

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No winners at Dulwich

Parents of children at Dulwich International College have been horrified at the possibility of a total breakdown in relations between the school's founder and CEO, Dr Arthit Ourairat, and Dulwich College in London.

So, presumably, are the teachers and indeed all staff at the school, who now find themselves caught in the middle of what looks increasingly like a nasty divorce.

But the damage could spread far wider than the school alone. Dulwich has long been a potent symbol of Phuket's aspirations to be an "international province".

It has attracted families from far and wide who wanted to live the lifestyle offered by a tropical island, while at the same time ensuring that their children received a top-notch education.

The school has had its ups and downs, to be sure. But it has always managed to deliver that first-rate international education, with many pupils going on to some of the finest universities around the world.

A measure of the school's importance to Phuket is written in red neon in the hundreds of property advertisements that boast credentials like, "Only 10 minutes from Dulwich."

The school has long served as a focal point for the island's international community, its staff, parents and volunteers making a crucial contribution by looking after victims in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami.

It seems unlikely that the current situation can be resolved amicably, so severe does the rift appear to be.

The board of Dulwich College in London have agreed to do everything possible to support teachers, pupils and parents – but they will not allow Dulwich standards to drop.

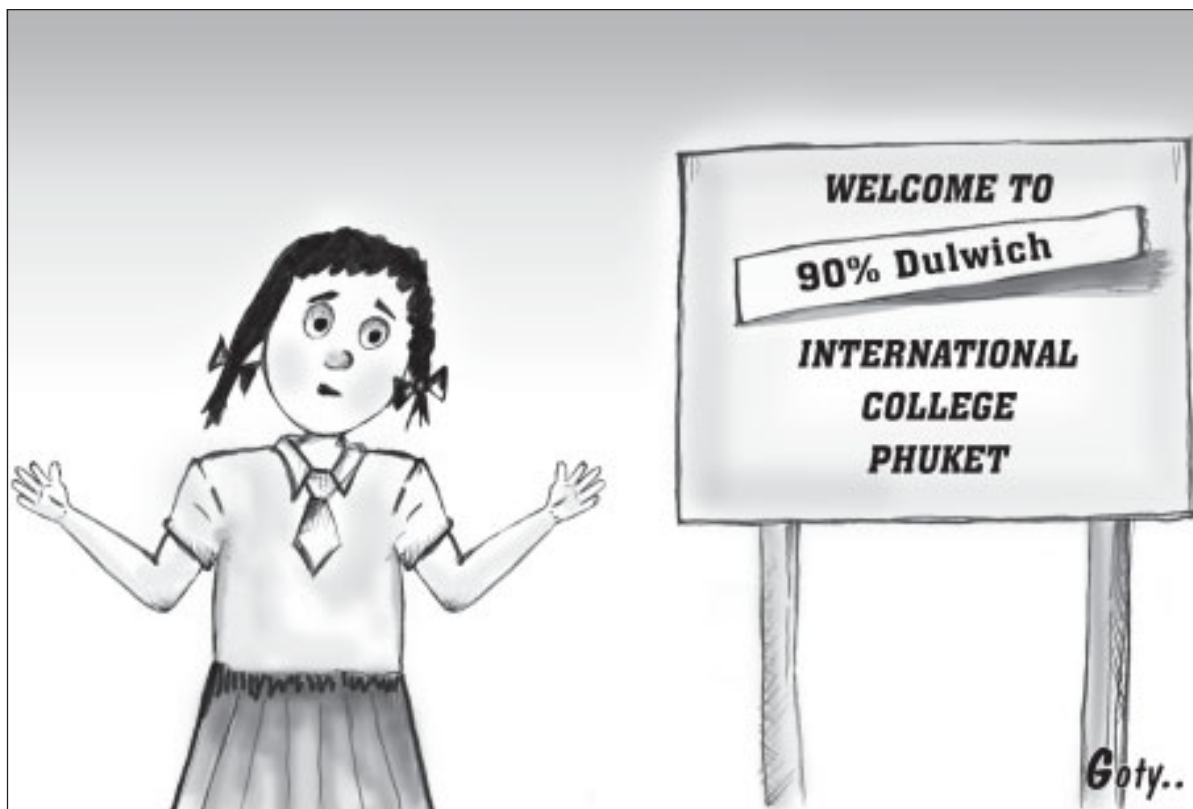
Both the Dulwich board and Dr Arthit must now do everything in their power to hold the team together long enough to allow the baton to be passed smoothly. They owe that to the children.

At the very least, the marriage must be propped up until the end of the current school term, when many students are scheduled to take crucial exams.

Looking forward, people must be very careful about buying into the notion that a local private school, albeit one with outstanding facilities, can somehow deliver the horsepower equivalent of a genuinely international one.

Whether or not the school can continue to maintain its high educational standards will go a long way in determining whether Phuket's international appeal can continue to grow.

– The Editor



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.

Now is the time for neighborliness

In these times of commercialism and business being put above everything else, I think Phuket should stop and think of its neighbor, Khao Lak.

We all know Phuket suffered damage and tragedy, and it is good that Phuket is well on the way to recovery.

With Phuket now promoting itself to tourists and saying that it is fine to return, the focus on Khao Lak must not be lost and the provision of international assistance must be secured.

Raising and maintaining awareness for the Khao Lak region must continue for the next few years. The Tourism Authority of Thailand must not sacrifice the needs of Khao Lak.

My partner and I returned to Khao Lak because we have had so many wonderful experiences and made many, many friends; we felt compelled to return to help them.

The Baan Bang Niang camp in which we are helping has electricity for only a few hours each day, and the generator is next to the tin shed where a mother and her four children live.

The noise and fumes are unbearable. The relocation of the generator should be a priority.

There is no running water at Baan Bang Niang, but when it rains, the rain leaks into the tin shed, leaving the bedding saturated.

How can these people be expected to live in these conditions for two years?

At the very least, they should receive constant electricity and not be flooded whenever it rains.

None of the concerns I have raised are in any way directed at Thailand; my concern is only that the world should focus on Khao Lak.

Khao Lak is full of volunteers from all over the world. Their efforts are amazing.

Stuart
Australia

Bang Niang ignored by government

Can somebody – anybody – please give me answers to the following questions:

Why has the building of any housing not yet been commenced for the people in the Baan Bang Niang tsunami tefugee camp?

Housing is nearly completed for the folk in the other camps; why has Bang Niang been so neglected, and why does it continue to be neglected?

Families who had homes destroyed in the tsunami have been told they are not eligible for a new house. Why?

Bangkok has given 20,000 baht to families whose homes were damaged. The cost of a new metal shutter door alone is 40,000 baht. How do they repair their broken walls? How do they repair their broken windows?

For the families who have been able to salvage their homes, water and electricity are unavailable. How can they move from the horrible conditions of the camp to their homes without these two necessities?

Basic needs such as mattresses, blankets, food and cooking equipment, including gas stoves and bottles, and electric water heaters, have been given to some of the families on behalf of students in Australia.

Many families have been able to return to earning a living, thanks to the students' donations of grass-cutting machines and construction equipment.

Many other individuals are also helping here, as well as the aid organizations and NGOs, but more is needed.

Families need to feel safe and secure if they return to their homes on the main or other roads.

Street lighting is vital to their sense of safety. Fresh water is a basic need, and to be expected to pay 4,000 baht for it when they have no incomes is ludicrous.

These necessities should be provided by the government.

Rainey
Melbourne

No airs and graces with Phuket Air

I have just read the article about Phuket Air [*Gazette Online*, April 7].

We flew with Phuket Air on Christmas Day. The plane was delayed by six hours although we received no explanation as to why.

When we were returning to England, we decided to check in early but were told that we could not until two hours before the flight. We had already been waiting three hours and we were the first in line.

When we did eventually check in, we were told that the plane would not be taking us as it would be taking the previous day's passengers.

The staff – the most incompetent ground crew my wife and I have ever had to deal with – simply told us to go away and come back the next day.

Stuart Scothern
By email

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

Slaughterhouse drive

FIRST PERSON

There are 10 slaughterhouses on Phuket, and none of them is registered with us, because none meets the standards set by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD).

These standards state, for example, that animals must be killed humanely, and that when a pig, for example, is killed, the carcass should not be stored on the floor. Equipment should be free of rust and there should be effective water treatment systems.

All aspects of the operation should meet DLD standards. Yes, I appreciate that meeting these standards requires considerable investment, but at the end of the day, we should have decent slaughterhouses.

Only Phuket City Municipality has asked for its slaughterhouse to be registered – and that was for its Koh Sireh abattoir. But it didn't meet the standards, so it was not registered.

But, even though these slaughterhouses don't meet the DLD standards, if they were to close, people in Phuket would have no meat to eat.

We have discussed the issue with Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*). It set aside 50 million baht from its 2006 budget to build a new slaughterhouse to serve the whole province.

The problem is that now no one can decide where it should be built.

The most likely location was a plot of about 20 rai at Bang Jo, Ratchaphatsadu [on the road from the Heroines' Monument to Cherng Talay].

One of the biggest events in Phuket is the annual Vegetarian Festival, when a substantial proportion of the island's population stops eating animal flesh for about 10 days. But there is a chance that, by the end of the year, residents will have had a vegetarian or semi-vegetarian diet thrust upon them, as the island will have no facilities for slaughtering animals for food.

None of the existing slaughterhouses meets standards set by the Department of Livestock Development. The island should be getting a new slaughterhouse, that does meet the standards, but construction is being delayed because no one can agree where it should be sited.

Sunart Wongchawalit is the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) and he is becoming increasingly frustrated by the wrangling, so much so that he is threatening some drastic action...



Part of it is occupied by private individuals, but I am sure it is state land – although I'm not saying that the people who are using it now are deliberately occupying state land. But I do know that, having seen the site for myself, a lot of the land is derelict.

But now the authorities – including Governor Udomsak Usawarakura, have said that the slaughterhouse should not be built there, as the site is close to a Muslim village and a housing development.

They said they were worried that there would be opposition from local people – even though the slaughterhouse would

be a closed building, so there would be no sounds or smells.

In addition, the local people used that land for slaughtering animals for 10 years – they only stopped when work started on the housing development. The fact that it is a Muslim community is irrelevant – otherwise why would residents have been involved in killing animals there in the past?

The Sri Soontorn Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) is keen to have the slaughterhouse in its area. The *OrBorTor* doesn't get much revenue at the moment, but if the slaughterhouse was built there, it

would earn about a million baht a year from issuing documentation related to it.

Now the Governor has suggested building the slaughterhouse at Suan Pa Bang Kanun, on land owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, but I don't see how that could work. The dog pound covers less than four rai, but the slaughterhouse would need around 10 rai, plus the Ministry is supposed to be protecting the trees in that area. So what are the chances of them giving up land there for a slaughterhouse?

Now, we have been talking to Phuket City Municipality about

putting the slaughterhouse on a 12-rai site on Koh Sireh. The Municipality seems to back this idea, and has budgeted 30 million baht for construction, and it says it could borrow more from the bank, if necessary, so cash isn't a problem.

In fact, it would cost around 40 million baht to build a proper slaughterhouse capable of processing 50 animals an hour, which would be enough, as statistics show that on average 400 animals are eaten every day in Phuket.

If things go according to plan, we could ask for the budget next month, and the whole thing could be built within six months.

That said, my choice still remains the site in Ratchaphatsadu, as it is in the middle of the island, so it is more accessible than Koh Sireh.

Wherever it ends up, Phuket needs an abattoir where animals can be slaughtered to international standards and which provides hygienic meat for consumers. This is an international province, after all, so we shouldn't have a slaughterhouse that meets only minimal standards.

We only need one slaughterhouse; Phuket covers a small area, so it is easy enough to distribute fresh meat.

Ideally, all the non-registered slaughterhouses would be closed once the new slaughterhouse is built, but if we haven't made substantial progress on building a new slaughterhouse soon, I am going to have no option but to order the closure of all the non-registered slaughterhouses before the end of the year.

Disappearing boss

I was employed as a manager, with a contract that referred to a probation period of 120 days, after which each side would have to give two months' notice to part ways.

Three days before my probation period was up, my employer sent me notice – via email – informing me that I was being made “non active” (though not “dismissed”) because my employer was “under pressure”.

I tried to contact my employer, a foreigner, via email, asking to be paid the remainder of my salary for that month, plus a further two months.

Since then, however, I have heard nothing from my employer. I have repeatedly sent emails, for which I have “sent” receipts, but have still not received any response so far.

What can I do to solve this, and obtain what is due to me?

Henri
Phuket

Patom Pechmanee, Chief of Phuket Office of Labour Protection and Welfare, replies,

You are definitely entitled to be paid your two months' notice.

You should come to our office on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd, Phuket City, to report your situation and discuss it with us in person. (Tel: 076-220760).

After talking with you, we will invite your employer for a talk. Once we get your employer's response, we can decide how we can proceed. Please note that if you do not speak fluent Thai, you should bring a translator with you, as well as all paperwork relevant to your case.

Garbage thrown in the stream

My Thai wife and I live in a pleasant area of Chalong. My backyard has a stream bordered by a nice rock wall. But the neighbors, who are mostly from Myanmar, with a few from Thailand, keep throwing all their trash in the stream, which from there goes out to the ocean.

I have asked them more than once to stop doing this, but no one seems to care. It smells

bad and must be destroying marine life. Can something be done about this?

Disgruntled
Chalong

Dechakanee Leelanon, Chief Admin Officer of Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) replies,

A new law covering this will come into effect in May. Accord-

ing to this law, offenders face fines of up to 10,000 baht, and/or one to three months in jail.

Until then, all the police and the *OrBorTor* can do is put up warning signs, though if someone shows us the people who are dumping trash in the stream, we will contact them immediately.

To report a case of dumping, contact Chalong *OrBorTor* at Tel: 076-282255.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

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

Is it possible to get ADSL service in Nai Harn?

Is it possible to get ADSL at Soi Naya in Nai Harn? Our house has a TT&T phone line.

If it is possible to have ADSL, how do I apply for it? Can I register by email? How long would I have to wait for it? Does anybody have ADSL at Soi Naya in Nai Harn yet?

Roger F

Uraivan Suksawang, of TT&T Customer Support, replies,

We will have to send our staff to check whether or not it is possible.

We have a station in Rawai, and if your house lies within four kilometers of that, then we can connect up ADSL service for you.

It is not possible to apply by email; you must go in person to our branch office at Central Festival Phuket (2nd floor, opposite Kasikorn Bank).

A Microsoft beta you should download? Yes!

Those of you who read this column regularly recognize that I have this serious love-hate relationship with Microsoft. I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Windows XP fan who hates many of its shortcomings, and a Microsoft Office fan who's been wondering why in the world anybody would pay to upgrade from Office XP to 2003.

At the same time, I write books about Windows and Office (Google me, please), and I get to wallow around in the muck, trying to sort out fact from Microsoft's PR-machine-induced fantasy about what the programs actually do, and how they really work.

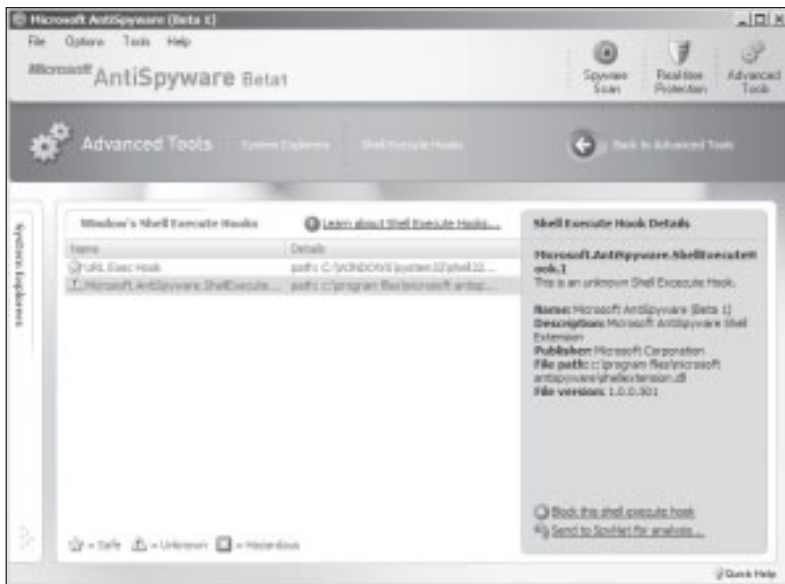
So it's with no small amount of fear and trepidation that I'm going to recommend you download and install a beta test version of an upcoming free Microsoft product.

No, I haven't lost my marbles. It's really good, and you need it now – whether Microsoft says it's ready or not.

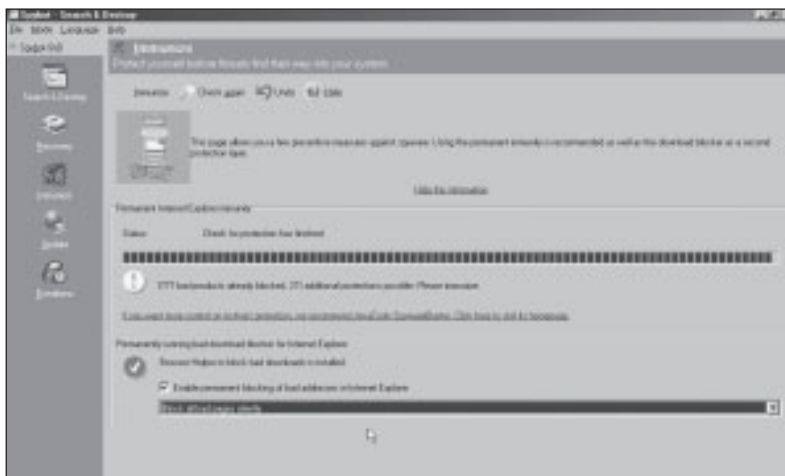
The product: Microsoft AntiSpyware (which is about as lame a name as I can imagine). Microsoft acquired the AntiSpyware package the old-fashioned way but not the old-fashioned Microsoft way.

This time they didn't steal it. They bought it – bought the whole company in fact, a group called GIANT. They made just a few tiny modifications to the original GIANT AntiSpyware product, and released a free beta test version (for Windows 2000, XP, or Server 2003) at www.microsoft.com/spyware.

Microsoft has announced its intention to give away the final version of AntiSpyware. I think that's a smart move for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that Windows XP's manifest security problems got us into this mess in the first place.



Like all beta software, AntiSpyware has its glitches, as this screen shot shows: the misspelling of 'Window's' and, more comically, the fact that AntiSpyware currently regards itself as a suspect software. However, used in conjunction with Spybot (below) and Firefox, it is pretty effective.



AntiSpyware not only looks for and blocks spyware and some kinds of adware, it also monitors for suspicious activity, and roots out and repairs infections.

Most importantly, it relies on the experiences of its users to update its signature files: millions of people send reports to Microsoft about new bad programs, and AntiSpyware gets updated frequently.

When you download AntiSpyware, Microsoft will try to get you to "validate" your copy of Windows.

You may find it instructive to jump through the hoops to see if your copy of Windows passes muster: at some point, probably sooner than later, Microsoft will start requiring validation for most (if not all) Windows XP downloads.

If you know that your machine is running a version of Windows that'd make Captain Hook proud, don't be intimidated. When you get to the radio buttons that give you the option of validating your copy, click: "No, do not validate Windows at this time, but take me to the download." You'll be able to download and install AntiSpyware without a hitch.

When you install AntiSpyware, go ahead and let it run the "Real Time Protection Agents". Those programs watch your Win-

dows Registry, the Windows programs, Internet Explorer settings, and other sensitive spots on your PC. If a program tries to change something, AntiSpyware asks for your permission before giving approval.

I also allow AntiSpyware to update itself automatically – something I would never allow Windows to do – because to date there haven't been any major problems with the updates.

I remain skeptical. After all, we are talking about Microsoft here.

Brian Livingston's *Windows Secrets* newsletter (www.windowsssecrets.com/050127) reported that running both AntiSpyware and a product called Webroot Spysweeper removes most known spyware.

Unfortunately, the tests were run quite some time ago – back when GIANT owned the product – and Webroot is not free. Personally, I use AntiSpyware all the time, and run the free version of SpyBot Search & Destroy (www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html) sporadically, just to make sure I get everything that can be found.

Finally, if you're serious about spyware, you'll want to install Firefox (www.mozilla.org), and stop using Internet Explorer. It makes a big difference.

Woody Leonhard
woody@khunwoody.com

The hipster turns square

The recent death of Hunter S Thompson prompted Tom Wolfe to call him the 20th century's funniest writer in the English language. Well, I don't know. What about PG Wodehouse or Evelyn Waugh? Or, closer to our own time, TC Boyle?

Boyle is the perennial bad boy of American literature. His jacket photos show him in an elaborate punk quiff, Buffalo Bill goatee, ear studs and snake-skin jacket. He's also the hardest-working man in lit biz. As he reveals in an autobiographical essay, *This Monkey, My Back*, he puts in seven days a week at his craft. He has churned out 10 novels and six collections of short stories.

Boyle's first novel, *Water Music*, was a hilarious account of explorer Mungo Park's 1795 and 1805 expeditions into West Africa. Even funnier was *Budding Prospects*, about marijuana growers in northern California.

East is East and *The Tortilla Curtain* are brilliant satires that dig into cultural fissures, stranding first a Japanese and then a Mexican in contemporary America.

His penultimate novel, *Drop City*, does a merry dance atop the grave of what used to be known as the "counterculture". All his novels are characterized by sympathetic characters, taut plots, wildly exuberant language and a wryly hip take on things.

So why does his latest novel, *The Inner Circle* (Viking, New York, 2004, 418pp) drudge damply on in prose that is drab, flat, humorless and square? Well, because Boyle is talking in the narrative voice of John Milk, an earnest virginal Midwestern student at the University of Indiana in the year 1940.

Milk's life takes a sudden turn when he becomes the first disciple of Professor Alfred Kinsey – "Prok" as he is known – the pioneering sexologist whose celebrated reports on male and female sexuality would so shake up the puritan ethos of 1950s America.

On its own terms, it's hard to criticize this novel. Milk provides an intimate portrait of

Kinsey, a man of great drive, charisma, erudition and sexual appetite. Prok first enlists the college senior to help him conduct the in-depth interviews about individual sexual histories that will constitute the core of his new survey. He also hires Milk to help him in his garden, then seduces him and happily agrees to let him sleep with Mac, his wife.

The next member of the inner circle, the handsome Purvis Corcoran, is also seduced by

Prok. Corcoran in turn seduces Milk's wife Iris. Infatuated, Iris is determined to leave Milk till Prok takes her aside for a stern talking to. Iris returns to Milk who, in return, gets to sleep with Corcoran's wife Violet.

As the inner circle expands, orgies are held under

movie cameras, all in the midst of an oblivious college campus. Prok's mantra is that no one is to be "sex shy". Despite the titillating material, there is no real narrative excitement. I would have thought Boyle incapable of writing a dull novel, but he has.

Resolute in the face of Prok's ego-mania, Iris Milk is a strongly drawn character of equal force. *The Inner Circle* is also the tale of an up-and-down 15-year marriage with the abiding mystery of the couple's love for each other in stark contrast to Prok's stern quackery. The contrast comes to a

head when Prok gets all excited about a sexual prodigy whom he and Milk will drive all the way out to Arizona to interview:

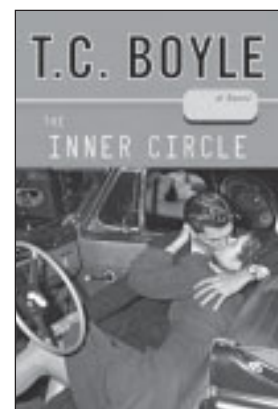
"He'd started his career when he was a child himself, having been initiated into heterosexual activity by his grandmother, and homosexual sex by his father, and, ultimately, he had sexual contact with seventeen members of his extended family. Over the course of his life – he was then sixty-three – he had had sexual relations with six hundred preadolescent males and two hundred preadolescent females, in addition to consummating sex acts with adults of both sexes and several species of animals."


Iris simply thinks he should be arrested.

The moral compass of this tale, Iris stands up to Prok in a final confrontation. And Milk takes her side, concluding with the words: "I never let go of her, never once, never again."

Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt








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Bangkok's big guns target Phuket

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: December's tsunami and the earthquake scares which have followed have failed to slow the Phuket property boom, according to developers and agents.

Indeed, so buoyant is the property industry that major players from Bangkok are now setting up operations here.

One such company is Charn Issara Development Plc, with its 80-rai Sri Panwa development. Managing Director Songkran Issara explained, "We didn't want to put all our eggs in the Bangkok basket – or even in just one sector of the market – so we have diversified into developments in Cha-am and Phuket."

K. Songkran said that the fallout from the 1997 Asian financial crash had led to the Bangkok property market being "severely competitive and dangerous". Phuket and Cha-am, on the other hand, are still stable. "Competitive yes, but not fiercely so."

Properties at Sri Panwa start at 20 million baht, but even so, all the properties in the first phase of the development have been reserved.

The development's popularity proves that Charn Issara

was right to move some of its development portfolio to Phuket, said K. Songkran.

He made bold predictions of future growth. "I guarantee that you will be amazed at what happens in this province in the years ahead. Property prices will double in the coming five years. Prices for the best properties will exceed even this," he said.

The Chairman of property agency CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) (CBRE), David Simister, said, "Compared with the tourist industry in Phuket, the residential property market is arguably one of the least affected post-tsunami. Evidence of the last three months shows that there are still active purchasers of residential properties in Phuket."

He said that the Easter break was particularly active in terms of property acquisition, with an estimated US\$50 million worth of villas and condominiums sold on the island in that period.

"We believe the reason customers are [buying] is that they feel, as does CBRE, that Phuket's residential property market is in the early stages of a long growth curve," added Mr Simister.

His prediction is that there will be more so-called "bou-

tique" developments – with direct ocean frontage – launched on the market.

However, he cautioned that land is a finite commodity. "Many of the best locations have already been developed. It is now impossible for developers to secure beachfront land for residential housing."

"Even hillside sites with prime views are becoming difficult to acquire and people are now selling property in all areas of the island."

He said that several marina projects are under discussion, which represent large inbound investment. On the commercial side, he noted, CBRE has seen an intensification of the retail market and an emerging demand for high-quality office space.

"We are seeing developments from a number of large, listed property companies, a few institutional overseas investors, and a large number of small and medium niche players – both Thai and foreign," he concluded.

Suvait Theeravachirakul, President of MBK Properties Development, also Bangkok-based, explained that MBK sees the future of its development plans in Phuket as golf-oriented.

MBK, which owns Loch

Palm Golf Course, has completed the first phase of 100 homes around the Kathu course, with prices starting at 10 million baht.

Said K. Suvait, "We aim to invest in Phase 2 of the golf course and will develop further projects [in Phuket] after that."

Many investors in the Thailand property scene – and Phuket, with its land-titles scandals of recent years is no exception – occasionally voice concern that the law is stacked against them when it comes to buying property.

John Howard, the MD of leading Bangkok law firm Tilleke & Gibbins International's new Phuket office, explained that buying a house in Phuket is no more difficult than in many overseas jurisdictions.

He accepted, however, that there can be uncertainties as to the long-term validity of some land titles in Phuket.

"Enhanced statutory title guarantees would, in some instances, assist in promoting confidence," he said.

Mr Howard said that potential investors are apt to find the shortage of suitable land and the unwillingness of local banks to lend to foreign buyers a more significant restraint on their development plans.

ON THE MOVE

Wolfgang Meusburger has been promoted to General Manager for Resorts, Southern Asia, of Inter-Continental Hotels Group, which owns the Holiday Inn chain. Mr Meusburger, 46, is currently



General Manager of Holiday Inn Resort Phuket. He will remain in Phuket when he takes on his additional duties, which will be to oversee the Holiday Inn Batam, Holiday Inn Resort Penang and Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket when it opens later this year. A native of Bregenz, Austria, Mr Meusburger has worked at the Phuket Holiday Inn for 14 years.

Phuket-born **Prapa Hemmin**, 39, has been promoted to be the Assistant Direc-

tor of Destination Marketing at Laguna Phuket. She was previously the resort's Destination Marketing Manager. K.



Prapa, who holds a degree in science and general management from Phuket Rajabhat University, has worked for Laguna Resorts & Hotels plc for the past 11 years.

Rung-aroon Wichitwatee, from Bangkok, has been promoted from Assistant

Manager – Destination Marketing to Public Relations and Advertising Manager of Laguna Phuket. K. Rung-aroon, 29, is a graduate of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Communication Arts. She has worked at Laguna Phuket for more than three years.



Been promoted or got a new job? Know someone else who has? Let us know by email to onthemove@phuketgazette.net

Overvalued currency, high oil price clobber Euro Zone

Economic growth prospects for the Euro Zone, which were never very high, are fading with many of the expectations for 2005 having disappeared.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) has reduced its predictions for growth this year in both Germany and France. Most economists are of the same opinion and cite the overvalued euro, lack of domestic demand and high oil prices as the reasons.

The first two items are related. Much of the euro's strength is caused by the lack of domestic demand, which is leading to lower imports while exports are generally unaffected.

The problem of low domestic demand is caused by a bleak economic landscape in Europe and a natural caution among consumers who are aware of rising unemployment.

Germany's unemployment rate has now reached around 12% with 5.2 million people affected, while France's joblessness rate has moved up to 10.1%.

A bill to partially deregulate the Euro Zone service sector is meeting opposition from politicians who fear a backlash from

the trade unions despite the fact that these changes would create an estimated 600,000 jobs. The bill will probably pass, but in a very watered-down version that will create few jobs.

At a meeting of Euro Zone finance ministers in March, Hans Eichel, Germany's Minister of Finance, introduced a proposal that Germany's reunification costs not be included in the calculation of the 3% budget deficit rule.

This was initially opposed by more fiscally-conservative nations such as Austria and the Netherlands, but by the end of a marathon meeting consensus was reached. All member states of the Euro Zone would be able to exclude "unification costs" from their budget figures.

In addition, the 3% budget deficit ruling, which is one of the cornerstones of the euro, can now be exceeded slightly. But does that mean to 4% or even 5%?

In reality, France and Germany have exceeded the 3% rule for several years. This figure has other implications; it is laid down by the IMF as the maximum deficit that governments can run on



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

a long-term basis without economic consequences of an unpleasant nature.

This official breaching of the budget deficit limit brought howls of protest from the European Central Bank, which sees it for what it is: the thin end of a very dangerous wedge.

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, also criticized the decision in no uncertain terms. The central bankers see one certainty: that the politicians are going to leave all attempts at fiscal restraint in the garbage can of history.

The Euro Zone has legislated itself into a corner, although some attempts have been made to deregulate areas such as the labor market.

However, these reforms are totally inadequate. Politicians simply lack the courage to enact the rules their countries need in order to prosper.

Economists believe that,

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

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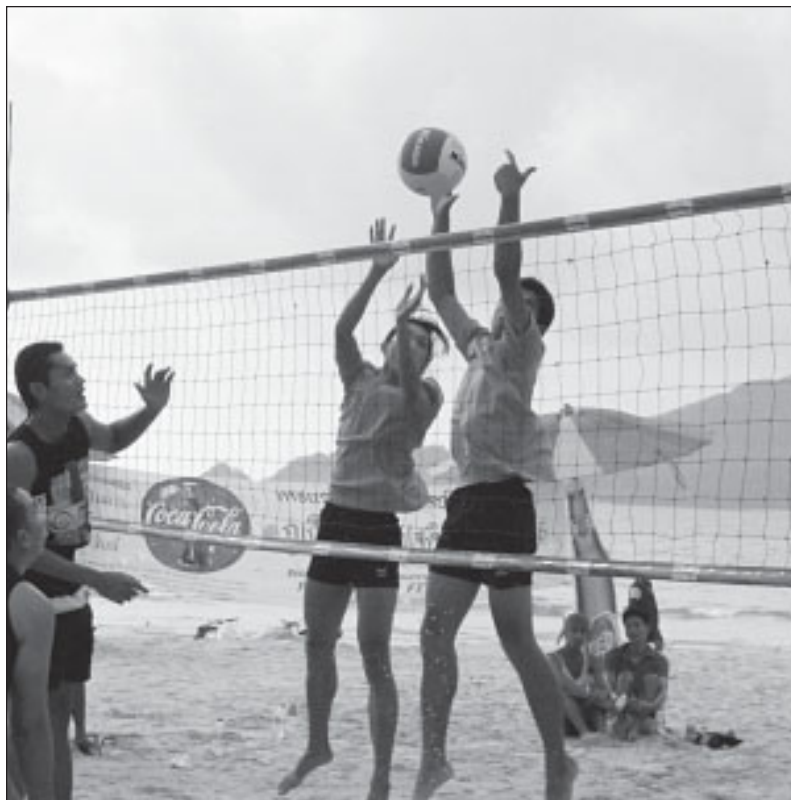
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Tangmo Pub (right) block a spike from the Connect Restaurant team in the beach volleyball competition that was held as part of the 2005 Gay Festival.

Boat Bar boys cruise to volleyball victory

PATONG: Boat Bar won the beach volleyball competition held at Patong Beach held as part of the 2005 Gay Festival, which ran from April 7 to 10.

Tournament organizer Samran Suwan told the *Gazette* that only four teams entered this year's competition but that Boom Chingdej of Tangmo Pub was named Most Valuable Player, winning a 1,000 baht prize.

FINAL RESULTS: 1. Boat Bar (6,000 baht); 2. Tangmo Pub (4,000 baht); 3. Connect Restaurant (3,000 baht); 4. Time Bar (2,000 baht).

Call for last team to join Phuket Rugby 10s

PHUKET: The organizers of this year's AirAsia Phuket International Rugby 10s are looking for one more team to join the tournament.

A total of 27 teams from South Africa, Asia and Australasia have confirmed their participation, but one more team is needed so that the competition can be divided into seven groups of four teams.

The opening round takes place on May 28; there will be a separate Veteran's Competition the following day, featuring just four teams.

Each team is to have a tsu-

nami orphan as a mascot, and some have expressed interest in sponsoring a child through primary and secondary education.

Tournament organizer Patrick Cotter said, "These children have been through a horrible experience that most of us could never imagine, so we want them to come for the weekend and have a little bit of enjoyment that we in the rugby community can provide."

Teams confirmed so far are: Phuket Vagabonds; Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) and CNCF 2, from Dubai; Pot Bellied Pigs, Old Bill, DeA Tigers RFC, HKCC Aberdeen RFC, Hong Kong Football Club and Tequila Mockingbirds, from Hong Kong; Manila Nomads and Alabang Eagles from The Philippines; Melbourne Cruiser Rams and Australian Services Rugby Union Warriors, from Australia; Wanderers, Bedok Kings, Bucks A and Bucks B, from Singapore; Penang All Blues and Selangor Dogs, from Malaysia; British Club, Southerners and Bangkok Japanese, from Bangkok; Pattaya Panthers, from Pattaya; Samui Simians from Samui; Rainbow Warriors from South Africa; Taipei Baboons and Osan RFC from South Korea.

Goosen, Bjorn

By Andy Johnstone

PHUKET: South African Retief Goosen and Dane Thomas Bjorn clawed their way to the top of the 2005 Tiger Skins competition at Blue Canyon Country Club on April 16, emerging as joint winners of the four-player contest.

Goosen, who won the 2002 and 2003 Tiger Skins in Singapore, dominated for most of the day and held the lead through 14 holes, although an electrifying burst of shots from both players on the final four holes marked the start of an exciting title chase.

A skins game pits players in a type of match play in which each hole has a set value. The player who wins the hole is said to win the "skin," and its worth in points or money.

Skins games tend to be more exciting than standard match play because holes are not halved. If players tie on a hole, then the value of that hole is carried over and added to the value of the following hole. The more ties, the greater the value of the skin and the bigger the eventual payout.

The origin of the term "skins" is steeped in golf lore, with many aficionados – once they have reached the 19th hole – favoring the legend that it originated in the Mecca of golf, Scotland.

Furriers arriving from parts distant, the story goes, would gamble their pelts by playing a round of golf, each hole being worth a skin. Other furriers, perhaps with different interests, tended to go straight for a bath, food or a brothel.

Bjorn's birdies at holes 15 and 16 secured three US\$15,000 skins, propelling him to the top of the leaderboard. Fresh off a third-place finish at the US Masters the preceding weekend, Goosen proved himself one of the world's best players and pounced at the 17th and 18th holes.

The South African was trailing by US\$30,000 with two holes to play, but the brace of late skins was enough to allow him to finish alongside the Dane at US\$85,000, although Goosen won nine skins to Bjorn's seven.

Colin Montgomerie – once known as "Semtex" for his ex-

plosive nature – bagged two skins while South Korean Grace Park claimed none.

Said Goosen, "I knew I needed to win the last two holes to catch up to Thomas, so I was going to be aggressive. At 17 there was only one place I was aiming ... straight at the flag. At 18, I pulled my drive into the rough, but I hit a great wedge in there."

"It was great to be able to at least tie and not lose. It was a wonderful day with Thomas, Colin and Grace and I really enjoyed myself," he added.

For Bjorn, his late stalk up the leaderboard was overdue. He said, "I had three birdies on the front nine, but all of those were to save halves."

"I was a bit more fortunate on the back nine, but that is the nature of skins play. Sometimes you play well and win nothing ... that is what it is like."

Temperatures and spirits were high for all players, particularly Montgomerie, who opened proceedings by collecting the first two skins on offer, and US\$10,000 for his trouble, after rolling in a

Changing conditions challenge dinghy racers

AO YON: Calms and breeze, rain and shine, chop and flat water challenged sailors racing in the Songkran Performance Dinghy Regatta on April 10. Four of the two-person 59er skiffs and two ultra-light c2Bytes hit the course for the event.

The start line for Race 1 was tight and, not surprisingly, there was a foul as sailors vied for the favored pin end.

Savnac/Hallager went into a series of penalty circles but were soon back in the race, threading through a few boats and managing to hoist second around the weather mark.

Duncanson/Huebschle hoisted first, crossed the finish line first and took the bullet with Savnac/Hallager close behind.

A few small squalls made their presence known before Race 2, the wind shifted 180°, and the sou'wester proceeded to fill-in for the first time this season.

For races 3-5, the ever-dynamic race committee moved the entire regatta to Chalong Bay where better – and more consistent – winds were enjoyed.

This proved to be a wise decision. With breeze-on, boats capsized and both the pace and adrenalin was upped significantly. Just as importantly, however, the fun factor also increased.

Duncanson/Huebschle continued to dominate the event. Their consistently good starts,



Sailors in the Songkran Dinghy Regatta, held in Ao Yon on April 10, were confounded by constant changes in weather conditions.

solid upwind pace and exceptional boat handling eventually winning the day.

Theirs was the only boat not to capsize and, had they not crossed the finish line backward in Race 4, then they would have had a grand slam at the regatta.

Overall results Fleet 29er/59er: 1st Duncanson/Huebschle (9 points); 2nd Savnac/Hallager (9); 3rd Purves/de Bruin (15); 4th Johnson/Johnson (19).

NB According to ISAF (International Sailing Federation)

rules, in the event of a points tie, a "lookback" over the results is carried out and the crew with the most first places wins. Duncanson/Huebschle had four wins while Savnac/Hallager had one.

Overall results Fleet c2Byte: 1st Buckminster (5 points); 2nd Warnes (11).

The next Ao Yon dinghy regatta is due on May 1. For details call Philip Lawson, MD of Skiff Asia at Tel: 01-3970905 or email: info@skiffasia.com.



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split Skins honors

Patong Darts League



Thai Red Cross Society representative Gen Pang Malakul (center) accepts the Tiger Skins 2005 prize money donated by (from left) Grace Park, Retief Goosen, Thomas Bjorn and Colin Montgomerie.

Goosen and Bjorn were joint winners of the competition, held at Blue Canyon Country Club.

— Photo courtesy of Bangkok PR.

PATONG: Most matches scheduled for April 12 were postponed due to the Songkran festival, but league leaders OffShore played a double-header against Shakers, winning five points.

Second place Queen Mary managed to keep up the pace, however, by playing and winning their match against Didi's and then thrashing Dog's Bollocks in another makeup match.

Sadly, Champs dropped out of the league when their bar closed at the beginning of April. It was the second darts league casualty this season, and as the Gazette goes to print, there is still no word as to whether another pub wants to enter a team to replace them.

Makeup matches: Offshore 5 Shakers 4*; Queen Mary 8* Dog's Bollocks 1.

April 12 matches: Queen Mary 6 Didi's 3*; Shakers 2 Offshore 7* (*=winners of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Offshore (played 12 matches/won 32pts); 2. Queen Mary (12/25pts); 3. Pickles (11/20pts); 4. Shakers (12/18pts); 5. Didi's (12/16pts); 6. Valhalla (11/15pts); 7. Piccadilly (10/14pts); 8.=Amigos (10/13pts); 9. Nag's Head (10/13pts); 10. Champs (10/13pts); 11. Dog's Bollocks (8/6pts); 12. Two Black Sheep (9/4pts).

April 26 matchups: Pickles v Didi's; Dog's Bollocks v Amigos; Queen Mary v OffShore; Shakers v Nag's Head; Two Black Sheep v Valhalla (home teams first).

20-footer for a birdie at the 2nd hole.

Although not equaling his opening success for the rest of the day, Montgomerie played for the crowd at Blue Canyon, chatting and laughing with fans throughout the day, with no hint of the reasons for his former nickname.

After the third and fourth holes were squared, Goosen, the world's fifth-ranked player, snagged three skins for himself at the fifth. The next two holes were halved, before the South African bagged another US\$25,000 with a 12-foot birdie putt at the 8th hole.

From there, despite all four players peppering the flag with their approach shots, the pot again snowballed for the next four holes.

That run came to an end when Bjorn cannoned his approach to within just two feet of the hole at the 12th, with that birdie enough to secure four skins and a tie for the lead at US\$40,000.

Perhaps the shot of the day

came from Goosen at Blue Canyon's appropriately-numbered 13th hole, known as the "Canyon Hole".

Goosen took on the challenge and belted his drive to just six feet in a shot that thrilled all.

Although he was unable to make the eagle putt, not one of his three rivals could take their birdie opportunities, so the dual US Open winner's tap-in was enough for another skin and the US\$15,000 that went along with it.

Goosen missed a chance to go further ahead when he could not hole from six feet for another skin at the 14th, a miss that he regretted when Bjorn collected two skins and US\$30,000 on the 15th.

When the Dane claimed another US\$15,000 on the next hole, it seemed possible that he could wrest the title, denying Goosen his third Tiger Skins victory. However, with a dynamic finish a share of the title was assured.

Park performed with distinction in her first time compet-

ing against the men, even if she did not bag any skins.

Had it not been for a narrow miss on the 7th hole, when she struck her 205-yard tee-shot to just six feet, she could well have taken the early lead. Alas, it was not to be.

The 2005 Tiger Skins, which was relocated from Bangkok to Phuket following the tsunami, was indeed greater than the sum of its four players.

As Bjorn said at a pre-contest press conference, "As professional golfers, we have a duty to travel the world and promote the game of golf."

"However, sometimes we

need to put the focus on things more important than golf."

Montgomerie, no stranger to Blue Canyon, said, "It's important for us to help put Phuket back on the tourist map. We can all see how beautiful the island still is and, as far as promoting tourism goes, a picture is worth 1,000 words."

All four players had agreed to donate all winnings to the Thai Red Cross Society for its continuing relief efforts.

True to their word, they presented their hard-earned winnings of US\$180,000 to Gen Pang Malakul, the society's representative, at the end of a thrilling and well-organized tournament.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

A pretty lily with some masochistic tendencies

There's not much I yearn for from back home. I'm quite content living here, although I will admit to a few cravings, most of which will be understood only by other displaced Brits.

For example, I seem to be unable to eat cheese without a healthy dollop of Branston Pickle smeared on top. I've mentioned this to a few Americans, who really don't understand that cheese was invented for Branston Pickle, not the other way around, as is the popular belief.

Then there's the beer. Why can't the rest of the world wake up to the fact that lager isn't really beer?

Admittedly, I do drink several gallons of the stuff every week, but it's just not the same as a beautiful, creamy, unfizzy pint of bitter from my home county of Yorkshire, in the north of England.

Similarly, one of the few plants I miss from my homeland is the humble daffodil. Most of the others are either too boring or slow-growing, or just plain insignificant. The daffodil at least has some individuality about it.

Phuket isn't exactly the daffodil capital of the world. That honor would probably go to somewhere in deepest, darkest Wales. However, we Thailand dwellers do have something that looks vaguely similar – the *clivia miniata*, or kaffir lily.

Actually, the similarity is extremely vague, come to think of it. At least they both have that 90° flower-on-top-of-the-stalk thing.

Originally, *clivia* made its way over here from Natal, South



Most plants like their roots in wide open spaces, but not *clivia*, which does better with its roots tightly bound in a pot.

Africa, where it grows naturally in shady, moist areas. The name of the plant isn't the most obvious. Most people probably even pronounce it incorrectly. It was given to the plant by a botanist named John Lindley during the mid-1800s.

Lady Clive (*honestly!*) was then Duchess of Northumberland, and Lindley named the plant in her honor.

There are a few different species, but the *clivia miniata* is probably the species that grows most commonly here. Its dark

green leaves are broad and strap-like and grow in an arched shape, up to around 40 centimeters long and 10cm wide.

Brilliant clusters of apricot-colored, funnel-shaped blossoms appear in clusters on strong stems rising from the center of the dense clumps of leaves.

A general rule is that plants tend to be happier in open soil, rather than being confined to a pot. The *clivia* bucks that trend completely; it is much happier when its roots are constricted in a small pot.

Try to resist the temptation to move the plant to a larger pot as you would do for most potted plants. This one's a serious masochist. Were *clivia* human it would probably be into things that should definitely be conducted behind closed doors.

Clivia roots are thick, fleshy and well-equipped for storing water. On a mature plant, the swollen mass of roots often becomes so large that it will completely fill the pot, forcing the soil in the pot up and over the rim. Only when this begins to happen

should a *clivia* be moved to a larger pot.

Unlike many other plants, *clivia* can survive in bright or dim light, and in soil that is moist or dry. That said, it prefers well-drained, nutrient-rich soil in bright light, with early-morning or late-afternoon sun but shaded in between. The leaves will scorch if they receive direct sunlight. It may have masochistic tendencies, but heat isn't among its pleasures.

The ability of *clivia* to survive under conditions unsuitable for most other plants makes them extremely tough house plants, particularly for people who can't be bothered to give them a great deal of attention.

Clivia is most often propagated by separation of offsets – the extra stalks that grow independently from the main plant – after the plants have flowered.

When an individual offset has developed three or four leaves of its own, it can be safely cut from the parent plant and placed in a small pot of its own.

Oh, you should also include some roots, too.

Daffodils may not be abundant here but at least we can make do with this distant relative. The real shame is that there isn't a similar "distant relative" of Yorkshire bitter. Heineken will have to do for now. One can't have everything, I suppose.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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Home of the Week

Ao Yon



Soak up panoramic views of Chalong Bay...



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This new two-story townhouse is one of four homes at Oyster Cove, a luxury development at Ao Yon, on the south-eastern end of the island.

The secluded location is only a stone's throw from the beach, and offers magnificent panoramic views of Chalong Bay and the nearby islands. The area is very quiet, unspoilt and only 10 minutes' drive from Phuket City.

The property has been built to a high standard, with terracotta roof tiles, metal guttering, galvanized-steel railings, solid timber doors and low-maintenance aluminum-frame glass doors and windows.

The internal area is 230 square meters, including three bedrooms and three bathrooms on the upper level. Two of the bedrooms feature en-suite bathrooms and built-in wardrobes.

The lower level is open-plan and at the rear of the property is the Western-style kitchen, with breakfast bar, Smeg appliances, a large Whirlpool refrigerator and marble worktops and splash-backs.

Next to the kitchen is the dining area and the adjacent living area, which leads out onto the balcony from which there are

the stunning sea views. There is also a separate study and laundry room. The floors are tiled with an attractive wood inlay surround.

The property comes fully furnished and is ready to move into. It also has a covered car parking space, which leads to the steps up to the apartment and a garden area around the communal pool.

The utilities include UBC TV, telephone, water heater, air-conditioning units, three-phase electricity and security for the estate as a whole.

The estate management charges 6,000 baht a month to maintain the common areas. The property is available for lease for 90 years, under three consecutive 30-year leases. The price is 14 million baht.

For more information contact Richard Lusted of Siam Real Estate. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com. Website: www.siamrealestate.com.

Bayside beauty



The communal amenities at Oyster Cove include a pool surrounded by landscaped gardens.



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The Heritage is more than just a name of a new development near Kathu. The name also reflects the inspiration for the design of the properties – Phuket's own architectural heritage.

The homes are based on the Sino-Portuguese style for which Phuket City is famous. Tanan Tanphaibul, project director for developer Phuket Heritage Home Co, explained that the style not only looks good but is practical, too.

He said, "This style is perfect for the climate of Phuket. The ceilings are high and there are many windows, creating really good ventilation, which is important in a tropical climate such as Phuket's."

The 600-million-baht project – Phuket Heritage Home's first development – will comprise 58 villa-style homes on 55 rai of land.

Three designs of house will be available. All have two stories, maid's quarters, a laundry and two car parking spaces.

The Lakeside Villa is the largest, with 450 square meters of living area, four bedrooms, five bathrooms, living room, dining room/kitchen, and a terrace with

New homes with a historical heritage



The developers of The Heritage are aiming to create a community of good neighbors.

a swimming pool and a gazebo, as an option.

The Clubhouse Villa is simi-

lar to the Lakeside, only smaller, with three bedrooms and four bathrooms and a utility area of 325 sqm. A swimming pool is an optional extra.

There are two types of Hillside Villa. One is designed for steeper land higher up the hill, while the other is for the hillside with a gentler slope. Both types have a utility area of 343 sqm, and both have three ensuite bedrooms, a living room and dining room and kitchen.

The project's sales director is Suttida Tanphaibul. She said the floor plan and interior design of individual homes can be adapted to suit customers' needs, but the exteriors will remain standard, apart from minor modifications, such as the addition of a carport.

Even these additions must be compatible with the overall design of the property and the estate.

Planners have tried to give the development a real feeling of community.

K. Tanan said that the intention is that all the homes will be bought by people who will live in them, and there are no plans to set aside properties for rent, as the company wants to create a settled community where neighbors can get to know each other.

K. Suttida added, "We hope to achieve our dream of building family homes in a comfortably-sized community."

"We hope people will get to know their neighbors well, and that it will be safe for children to ride bicycles around the estate. The pavements will be wide enough for residents to walk along easily."

The estate will have asphalt roads and underground power cables.

Each home will have four telephone connections, a 2,000-liter reserve water tank and 1,800-liter septic tank.

When completed, The Heritage will have 24-hour security and a clubhouse with a swimming pool, steam and sauna rooms and fitness centre.

Builders went on site in March 2004 and the development should be completed during 2007. House prices will start at 8.5 million baht, and K Suttida said that 50% of the properties have already been sold.

The sales office for The Heritage is at 73/2 Moo 1, Samkong-Kathu Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120, Tel: 076-321746-7, Fax: 076-321-042, email: info@phuketheritage.com; website: www.phuketheritagehome.com

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

Each umbrellas can become killers. There's nothing worse than being attacked by a flying umbrella. A lady in Australia was killed in a resort where I once stay, her neck impaled by an umbrella.

I've heard other reports of this happening. A peaceful swimming pool area suddenly becomes a battleground with people running for cover in all directions, ducking and weaving to avoid the vicious attacks of the killer brollies.

But people need shade, cars need shade, even the swimming pools in this part of the world sometimes need shade.

Shade sails are well known in Australia, where skin cancer is a major concern because of the depleted ozone layer.

Graeme Chuck and his partner David Lourey decided that Phuket could do with some shade.

"Shade sails make roofs where there is no roof, portable temporary roofs that you can put away when you don't want them," said Graeme.

He and his partner David have diverse business backgrounds, but they shared a house in Jakarta for a few years, so they got to know each other.

Graeme is a geologist by trade, and spent many years mining gold in Indonesia. He said, "We still have a project there in West Kalamantan in Borneo. David ran a helicopter charter company in Papua New Guinea servicing oil and mining companies."

"We were actually intending to retire. We arrived here by boat and needed to get some things done, including the usual repairs to cockpit covers and so on."

"After sitting on our boats waiting for someone to arrive (and they didn't), we realized that there was a definite need, so we went in to the business of making marine covers – canvas work, boom covers, cockpit covers."

"We started off with a slogan 'We cover everything under the sun', but somebody else is using that now."

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Layan GARDENS



A modern, multi-story building with a large glass facade and a swimming pool in the foreground. The building has a flat roof and a prominent glass wall that reveals the interior spaces, including a lounge area with sofas and a dining area. The swimming pool is in the foreground, and the building is set against a dark sky.

14. **ANAL** Subcontract to Project designer and owner: **the holder** 34 Company Limited registered capital 30,000,000 Baht fully paid up (Office address: 34 Sukhumvit 30 34th Floor, Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok 10110). Managing Director: **Prasit Anandakul**, MD. Registered address: 34 Sukhumvit 30 34th Floor, Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok. Unit value: 1 Baht. 14.1 **ANAL** approximately 100 square meters. Project insured and approved by Kingdom Bank B.S. Building construction permit has been approved 4-63330. **ANAL** 3894. Completion expected December 2016. The project will be supported at the construction after completing the construction. Comments are held by bid by buyers in accordance with regulation of construction permit and



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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

FOR SALE – URGENT

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LAND IN NAI HARN

Good location, 150m from Nai Harn Lake. Good for guesthouse or private home. 1,800sqm. Price: 7.5 million baht. Contact Charoon. Tel: 01-6939571.

BAYVIEW PALMS

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LAND FOR SALE

4 rai, 1 ngan 44 talang wah, Chanote title. Seaviews, entrance off new, concrete, government road, 100m from 3-phase power supply, level site, easy drainage. Location: Yamu, east coast. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Inquiries and to view, Tel: 01-8927948. Email: jypenman@phuket.ksc.co.th

1 RAI FOR SALE

Located in Mission Heights. Luxury development with underground electricity and 24-hr security. 10 mins to airport, 20 mins to Tesco-Lotus. For quick sale: 2.1 million baht. Tel: 01-2712825.

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KATA BEACH LAND

Plots start 1.14 million baht. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

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65 RAI BEACHFRONT

land for sale, Chalong area. Perfect for a villa or marina project. 180 million baht. Please call Tel: 01-8916143.

SEAVIEW LAND

1-6 rai elevated land on island off the coast of Phuket. Stunning sea view, 15 mins to Phuket City: 2.5 million/rai. No agents. Tel: 076-292-874, 06-9520772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

New single house in Kathu for sale. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, hill view, 560sqm. Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for more information or to view. Tel: 07-2799500.

GOLF COURSE LIVING

1-rai, fully-serviced lots, exclusive gated community. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE

in Nai Harn for sale. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 01-7520275.

PATONG CONDO

Studio, 28sqm, freehold, 490,000 baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

LAND IN RAWAI

or Nai Harn. If you are looking for land or property in this area I can help you. Reasonable price. I am the village chief for Nai Harn. Contact Mr Honpai. Tel: 076-388-344, 01-6939571. Email: pruck@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE

in Baan Maneekram. Large, newly-built 3-bedroom house in Baan Maneekram (between Chalong and Phuket Town). 440 sqm land with 240+ sqm living area. Priced for quick sale at 5.5 million baht. Tel: 07-8946438. Email: simoncree@hotmail.com

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New 1-story house in the new Phuket Villa Morningstar, on Chao Fa East Rd, south of Rama IX Park and across from Morningstar (Daroong) Catholic School. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, unfinished kitchen, big rooms, town water and electricity. Excellent location in Phuket City near all major shopping centers, hospitals and schools. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 076-248461. Email: wpdrake@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

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PLEASE HELP

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RENTAL

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Tel: 076-280400/3

NAVA Language School
 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town

Tel: 076-232398/9

Sin & Lee
 Thalang Rd, Phuket Town

Tel: 076-211230

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

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The Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort, located on Klongmuang Beach, Krabi, offers excellent and challenging career opportunities in our fast-growing Asia Pacific Division.

Landscape Manager

Requirements:

- Male
- Minimum 5 years' experience in landscape management (5-star hotel will be an advantage)
- Computer skills
- Strong leadership skills
- Good interpersonal skills

Assistant Restaurant Manager

Requirements:

- Male
- Minimum 6 years' experience in Food & Beverage (5-star hotel will be an advantage)
- Fluent in English
- Strong leadership skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Proactive
- Up-selling skills/computer skills

Reservation Supervisor

Requirements:

- Female
- Minimum 3 years' experience in reservations (5-star hotel will be an advantage)
- Fluent in English
- Strong leadership skills
- Proactive
- Up-selling skills/computer skills

Interested persons are invited to send detailed resumé, qualifications and salary expectations to:

Human Resources Department

Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort

155 Moo 2 T. Nongthale, Muang, Krabi 81000

Telephone: 075-628000 ext. 1500 Fax: 075-628038

Email: witoon.pinpimai@sheraton.com

Guest Service Agent (GSA II)

Requirements:

- Male or Female, age not over 30 years
- Bachelor's Degree in hospitality (preferable)
- Height 160 cm.
- Minimum 1 year experience in Front Office
- Fluent in English
- Pleasant personality with good human relations skills
- Service oriented
- Good interpersonal skills

Chief Florist

Requirements:

- Male or Female
- Not over 45 years old
- Minimum 6 years' experience in florist (5-star hotel will be an advantage)
- Computer skills



Dive Supply Co., Ltd.

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

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- Good command of written and spoken English
- Excellent telephone skills

- 1 x Warehouse Assistant (male)
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If you think this is you,
please contact:

**Khun Pen at Tel: 076-383414 or
Email: info@divesupply.com**

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wanted for property development company in Phuket. For more information check: www.immobilienplus.com/jobs

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NANNY NEEDED

to take care of a two-month-old baby in Surin. Must speak English and have adequate experience. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-787-5723.

PROPERTY RENTALS

manager. Siam Home Care requires self-starting, motivated Thai manager to run successful rentals division. Must speak and write good English and have car. Only ambitious people should apply. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siamhomecare.com

CLEANING MAID

wanted. Dutch/Thai couple looking for a maid. Some basic English would be a great plus. Good salary offered for a clever and hardworking lady. Also good working hours. Full-time job, so six days a week. Tel: 06-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

PROGRAMMERS

AsiaDebit is a leading e-commerce solution provider in Asia. Due to rapid expansion we are urgently seeking experienced programmers to join our IT team in our Phuket office.

1. **Experienced Programmer.** Core skills required: Must have more than 2 years' experience in the development of web applications, ASP, PHP, XML, and relational databases. Good communication skills & command of spoken and written English. Knowledge of financial systems, Apache and Linux would be an advantage.
2. **Linux Systems Administrator.** Responsibilities include maintaining the smooth running and security of the servers, networks and email systems migrating from existing Microsoft servers to Linux; in-house IT support for staff. Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English.

Core skills required: Must have at least two years' experience in systems administration. Configuration and maintenance of services, including HTTP, email and databases on Linux. Knowledge of Apache and PHP programming is desirable.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-264445. Fax: 076-264447 or send your CV with expected salary and availability to: oil@asiadebit.com

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Development Manager. Your core tasks are to improve conversion rates of sales and repeat customers. Salary + strong commission incentives. Come work for a smart, reputable company. Tel: 076-236616, 01-8952206. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

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SECRETARY

wanted. Position now open for Thai secretary in established canvas company at the Phuket Boat Lagoon. English speaking, computer friendly, with Word/Excel. Own transport. Please contact K. Muzza for more information. Tel: 076-238946, 01-3701600. Fax: 076-238946. Email: canvas@loxinfo.co.th

THAI SOUS CHEF

required for restaurant in UK. Must have 3 years' continuous references. Interviews in Phuket or Bangkok starting Monday, April 18. Reasonable spoken English is necessary. Please contact by email at: johnleach@greenclose.co.uk for more information or for further details, please see our website at: www.senspa.co.uk

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therapists wanted. Phuket Home Massage in Cherrng Talay is the first and only company providing top-class massages at guests' homes anywhere on Phuket Island. We are looking for more therapists with talent and nice personalities. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9561901, 01-082-7703. Email: dellapietra@mysunrise.ch

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seeks accountant. Full-time or part-time. Tel: 076-261377. Fax: 076-261378. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

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If you have skills in basic office management, accounting, HR, MS Office and good written and spoken English, but most importantly a positive attitude, join our growing company and grow with us. Please send your CV to: info@shades.co.th

NURSE/BABYSITTER

Licensed nurse/babysitter to look after newborn; basic English required. Tel: 076-281-391, 01-9872821, 09-474-4083.

Employment Wanted

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I am looking for suitable work in Phuket. I have my own Web server with unlimited space, etc. I also have an easy-to-use e-commerce shopping cart package. I would be interested in working for a company that would benefit from my expertise and resources. Please email at: mkewer@coastlineweb.net

JOB WANTED

I presently live in London and have been a ship operator for more than 4 years, working for a small broker company. I also have 2 Master's degrees (Economics & Politics). I would like to live in Thailand, so I am looking for a challenging mid-management position, preferably in Phuket, not necessarily in the shipping industry. Would welcome your job opportunities. Please contact for more info. Email: kovacsrita@hotmail.com

TENNIS COACH/

teacher. 35-year-old French male keen to learn Thai and to live in the Phuket area. French-English speaking, graduate in tennis and safety, 10 years' experience. Available from June 1. Tel: 32-485593575. Email: olisol@yahoo.fr

HOUSEKEEPING

supervisor. 29-year-old Belgian female, French-English speaking, keen to learn Thai and to live in the Phuket area. Nine years' experience in supervising staff. Please contact for more information. Tel: 32-485327151. Email: giniwilki@yahoo.fr

NAVIGATION

teacher. Experienced navigator searching for a job teaching navigation in sailing schools. He is a merchant navy graduate and can teach all navigation courses. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-0594330. Email: marklover2@hotmail.com

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10 years' experience in boat operation and tourism business management. Looking for a job based in Phuket. I speak Scandinavian languages, English and Thai. Full CV available on request. Email: erikphuket@yahoo.com.sg

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Infosat, 160cm diameter, inclusive of remote + receiver. Only 5 months old. 6,500 baht. Tel: 06-2812899. Email: rawai05@hotmail.com

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Six-inch pump or larger, preferably diesel driven, required for use in the Baan Nam Khem (Phang Nga) area. The pump will be used to empty tin ponds in the continuing search for the bodies of tsunami victims. The use of the pump will be needed for approximately 3 months. Tel: 076-236555, 07-8849964. Email: alasdair@phuketgazette.net

COLOR LASER

printer. Color laser printer wanted. Must be good quality. Can travel to view/collect. Also, a very high-quality graphics/photo-editing program wanted if you have one for sale. Please contact. Tel: 076-205058, 06-2796364. Email: mysammy11@yahoo.com

DRUM SET

Wanted: Good-quality full drum set with or without cymbals. To be used for Sunday jam sessions at Friendship Beach Resort. Tel: 09-727-2296. Fax: 076-289139. Email: sfarish@hotmail.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City
Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

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

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Active investor/partner sought for redevelopment of eco-resort on Phra Thong Island, Phang Nga. Site is a world-class setting, with two beautiful beaches, abundant wildlife, years of successful operation based on a love of nature. Email: simi@losthorizonsasia.com

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

(TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL DIVISION)

PRETORIA 31 MARCH 2005
BEFORE THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MALULEKE

CASE NUMBER: 2352/2005

In the Ex Parte application of:-

DE GOUVEIA, RICHARD ANTHONY
(ID: 820810 5019 088)

Applicant

In re:

DE GOUVEIA, ANTONIO CORREIA
(ID 491225 5094 080)

DE GOUVEIA, ANNA SUSANNA
(ID 551229 0019 081)



DRAFT ORDER

After hearing counsel for the Applicant and reading the papers filed herein the following order is made:

1. That a *rule nisi* be issued calling upon all interested parties to show cause on or before Tuesday, 17 May 2005 at 10:00 as to why the following order is not to be made a final order of Court:

1.1 That it be declared that **ANTONIO CORREIA DE GOUVEIA** ("Mr De Gouveia") is presumed dead;

1.2 That it be declared that **ANNA SUSANNA DE GOUVEIA** ("Mrs De Gouveia"), is presumed dead; (collectively referred to as "the

2. That the aforementioned *rule nisi* is to be published once in the Government Gazette and once in a Newspaper circulating the area where the De Gouveias are presumed to have been on or about 26 December 2004; and in a newspaper circulating in Randburg/Gauteng

3. That the aforementioned *rule nisi* is to be served on the Master of the High Court, and on the Registrar of Deaths Department of Home Affairs

4. That upon the *rule nisi* being confirmed the appointment of the *curatrix bonis*, granted on 27 January 2005, be extended until such time as the Master of the Supreme Court issue letters of executorship to the executor of the deceased estates;

5. That upon his appointment the executor will take over the duties and obligations as member of the corporations, as contemplated in Section 29(2)(c) of the Act;

6. That the costs of this application be paid out of the estates of the De Gouveias.

BY ORDER

[Signature]
THE REGISTRAR

Deadline for Wheels & Motors page: Saturday 12 noon.

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Project Owner with 110 units: Divine Property and development Co., Ltd. Registered capital: 1,000,000 baht (fully paid). Address: 2 The Royal Place I.G floor, room No. 2, Soi Mahadhekluang 1 Rajdamri Rd., Lumpinee, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330. Managing Director: Miss Sinkul Sawatsrip. Project size: One 32-story tower containing 165 units. Land title deeds 2096, 2379, 2380, 2381 Project area: 1-1-32 rai. 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.



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