

# The Phuket Gazette

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# Dulwich dream ends in divorce

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: The divorce is final. Dr Arthit Ourairath, CEO and Founder of Dulwich International College, announced on May 13 that ties between Dulwich College in London (DCL) and Phuket's top international school have been severed.

Dulwich International College will, from June 24, be known as the British International College of Thailand, unless agreement can be reached with another school willing to replace DCL's role.

The end of the seven-year relationship, though not entirely unexpected after weeks of fractious talks, came suddenly.

In a message emailed to parents, Dr Arthit wrote:

"It is with profound regret that I have to inform you that Dulwich College London (DCL) and Dulwich International College, Phuket, (DIC) have decided, after much tireless effort, heartache and careful deliberation, to amicably go their separate ways...

"Unfortunately, despite all well-meaning efforts, there remain major issues on which DCL and DIC cannot agree and [cannot] reach common ground."

The agreement with DCL will expire on June 24. However, Dr Arthit wrote, "...we are now actively engaged in meaningful discussions on the strong potential for affiliation and academic cooperation with other prestigious schools in the UK."

He noted that the relationship with DCL had become increasingly difficult over the years. "As time went on, ever-increasing differences in opinion and expectations became more



From June 24, Dulwich International College will be the British International College of Thailand, but will the school remain the same?

evident and tensions mounted. At each stage, while efforts were made by each party to resolve these differences, it became clear that a number of unresolved issues would remain outstanding.

"Consequently, from the viewpoint of DIC Phuket, there was little alternative [but] to terminate the franchise agreement," he wrote.

He added, "It is our firm belief that [the] decision was made for the ultimate [benefit] of students, because this is the only factor that will ensure the future success of the school. In the long term, and in the current competitive educational market, we know that providing our students and parents with the highest quality educational experience is the only thing that will ensure our viability."

"We are fully committed to that objective."

Immediate effects that will follow the expiry of the agree-

ment, Dr Arthit explained, will be as follows:

- The name of the school will be changed from Dulwich International College to British International College of Thailand (BICT).

- The college logo will change.

- BICT will assume all legal obligations, including those from existing employment contracts with teachers, from DIC after June 24.

However, in the email, Dr Arthit stressed that:

- The college's curriculum will continue to be based on the British National Curriculum.

- All programs such as the Foundation Stage Curriculum for KG classes, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and International Baccalaureate (IB) for secondary students will continue to be offered.

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## Entertainment license fees finally arrive

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: More than 14 months after all entertainment licenses were declared statutorily void, a list of fees for entertainment licenses has been announced, paving the way for provincial authorities to start processing applications.

Wisut Romin, Deputy Secretary of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Office, on May 17 told the *Gazette* that he received the list of fees just that day, although it was ratified by the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) on March 29.

K. Wisut said that there are "about" 344 entertainment venues in Phuket that must apply for the licenses.

He added that officers from Muang, Thalung and Kathu Districts have been advised of the fees and have posted "informal" announcements to all venue owners within their areas.

K. Wisut added that Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarang-kura or one of the province's vice-governors will issue – again by post – formal announcements to the owners by May 22.

The venue owners will have 30 days from the date of posting to apply for their license or licenses.

The fees for "dancing places", restaurants providing, and four separate categories of "entertainment venues" are as follows:

- Area not more than 100 square meters: 10,000 baht.
- 101sqm-300sqm: 30,000 baht.
- 301sqm and up: 50,000 baht.

The general "Entertainment venues" category includes four subcategories:

- a place providing a show or other activities for entertaining customers, and allowing staff to socialize with patrons;

- a place that provides

Continued on page 2



## License fee hike for fun venues

From page 1

equipment for patrons to sing, and allows staff to socialize with the patrons;

- a place that has no dance floor but allows customers to dance on the premises;

- other places that have light or sound facilities, depending on Ministry rulings yet to be made.

Owners will pay just 20% of the original license fee for subsequent license renewals, and any venue owner whose license is lost or destroyed will be able to receive a replacement for 1,000 baht – if they can prove that they had been issued a new license.

“A 10,000-baht [initial] license equates to just 833 baht or so per month, and only 166 baht per month to renew,” said K. Wisut. “It is a reasonable amount to pay.”

Asked why it had taken so long for the list of fees to be announced – and whether venue owners would be charged for 2004/2005 licenses, K. Wisut said, “It is very likely, but it is up to the MoI.”

Referring to his comments made on February 1 this year, when he suggested that owners of entertainment venues damaged in the December 26 tragedy could see their fees waived, he said that the MoI had again still to make a decision.

The province's Chief Administrative Officer (Palad), Vichan Busapavanich said that a grace period will be given for owners found without a valid license so that officers could investigate.

“If it is an oversight on the part of the owner, then they will be given time – I can't say how long – to rectify the matter. If they are deliberately avoiding paying the license fee, then they will be closed down eventually,” he said.

## Cheap deals give MICE tourism a boost

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) has launched its “Think Meeting, Think Phuket” discounted air fares and hotel rates promotion in a bid to boost the number of MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions) travelers to the island.

The aim of the promotion, which will end on October 31 this year, is to attract an average 1,250 people a day to Phuket. Assuming that each spends an average

of 10,000 baht a day, that would mean revenue for the island of 2.25 billion baht over the coming months.

Under the promotion, round-trip Bangkok-Phuket air tickets cost 500 baht each for government officers, and 1,000 baht apiece for employees from private companies.

Round-trip tickets for accompanying spouses are 3,300 baht each, and tickets for each accompanying child under 13 years old cost 2,625 baht.

The promotion also offers

MICE travelers hotel accommodation at selected hotels on Phuket, including the Laguna Beach Resort in Bang Tao, the Holiday Inn in Patong and Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club in Nai Harn, at rates ranging from 1,000 baht up to 3,600 baht per room per night.

For more information contact the TCT at Tel: 02-2505500 ext 1646-1648 or Fax: 02-250-0797; or contact Bangkok Airways at Tel: 02-2655555 or Fax: 02-2738407 between 8 am and 5.30 pm on weekdays.

## Dengue fever cases rise dramatically

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) is urging the public to take steps to eradicate mosquitoes around their premises in an effort to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

Despite efforts by the PPHO to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne disease since the tsunami, there have been 68 reported cases of the disease since the beginning of the year – about double the number of cases during the same period last year.

Most cases were reported in Thalang District (33), followed by Muang District (29) and Kathu (6).

The PPHO mosquito-eradication effort is part of a nationwide campaign by the Public Health Ministry to curb the disease, which killed 14 people nationwide between January 1 and April 30.

The Ministry has said it will also launch a five-day “Anti-

Dengue Fever Week” nationwide, starting May 23.

The Ministry fears that one of the sub-types of the four dengue viral strains common in Thailand may have mutated into a more virulent form, and it is now conducting research on dengue sufferers in an attempt to identify any new strains.

An expert in communicable diseases at the PPHO, who asked to remain anonymous, explained that those who have already been exposed to the disease and are then bitten by a mosquito carrying a different strain are particularly at risk.

Such victims can go into shock because the body may mis-

direct its immune response, trying to fight the strain to which it has already been exposed.

Although the risk of contracting dengue is equally distributed among age brackets, those in the 10- to 14-year-old category tend to have the highest incidence of dengue infection because they are the least careful about protecting themselves from mosquito bites. Parents are more likely to protect infants from mosquitoes, the official said.

The PPHO will continue its campaign to eradicate mosquitoes and their larvae by spraying insecticide and pouring chemicals into sewer systems, she added.

## Employment Office launches English-language web pages

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) has created several English-language web pages on its website in order to help foreign workers understand the complexities related to obtaining and extending a work permit.

The website includes translations of the 1978 Working of

Aliens Act, the 1979 Royal Decree listing professions that aliens are prohibited from engaging in, and other information useful for those looking to work in the Kingdom.

To view the new web pages, visit [www.phuketwork.org](http://www.phuketwork.org) and click on the icon of a British/American flag.

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## Dulwich College in crisis

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- The recruitment of highly qualified and suitable academic personnel remains unaffected, and, says the email, “the process will be strengthened”. While DCL was always deeply involved in the selection of the school's headmaster, selection will now be “the exclusive right of the BICT Board.”

Dr Arthit wrote that under the “visionary” leadership of Dr George Hickman, the recently appointed Academic Director at DIC, the school “will grow and flourish”.

In a meeting with teachers that coincided with the delivery of the email, Dr Hickman reiterated that discussions are already underway in an attempt to secure affiliation with another internationally recognized school.

He also announced that a decision to demote Tim Creber from Deputy Head of Secondary to plain teacher had been reversed. Mr Creber, the email said, “has graciously consented to continue in his role of Deputy Academic Director/Deputy Headmaster, and has resumed his regular duties.”

Dr Hickman told the *Gazette* that he expected very few students to be withdrawn from the school. “Two or three parents only have indicated that they are withdrawing their children, and a few others have indicated that it is under consideration, but many have indicated that they have adopted a wait and see [perspective].”

“At that this point I am rather encouraged that we will retain the vast majority of our students,” he said.

Rapport between parents and the school seemed to be improving just days after the news broke.

Peter Hourigan, President of the Parents and Teachers Association at the school, met with Dr Hickman on May 17, and a meeting was scheduled to be held two days later between Dr Hickman and other administrators from the school, and parents, teachers and students.

“Many parents are disappointed with the news,” Mr Hourigan said. “But our meeting with [Dr] Hickman this morning was open and direct, and I see no reason why the meeting on [May 19] will be any different.”



**Do Not Drink Tap Water!**



## Phang Nga airport plan put on hold

PHANG NGA: Plans to build an airport in Phang Nga have been put on ice because of the tsunami.

Deputy Transport Minister Vichet Kasemthongsri last year backed a proposal to build an airport on Koh Kho Khao, an island just north of Baan Nam Khem, in Takuapa District, to serve the province's then-booming tourist industry.

But Takuapa District Chief Administration Assistant Kanitsorn Kaewmanee told the *Gazette* on May 12 that the national and provincial authorities have decided to set the airport plan to one side while they concentrate on helping the devastated province recover from the tsunami.

K. Kanitsorn said, "The airport project has gone very quiet. The Ministry of Transport and the Phang Nga provincial authorities are focusing on supporting tsunami survivors and projects in Takuapa and other areas affected by the tsunami."

He added, "We need to concentrate on the important things first, but maybe, once these are sorted out, the government and the Ministry of Transport will start looking at the project again."

## 968 businesses still await aid

PHUKET: Nearly five months after the tsunami, some 968 small business owners in Phuket are still awaiting 20,000 baht each in financial aid packages from the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) to re-start their businesses.

Jongjareon Yangyuen, Chief Administrative Officer of the Law Section at DOLA's Phuket office, said on May 12 that the DOLA had already paid out 20,000 baht each in compensation to 2,571 businesses.

All of the 968 applicants awaiting aid applied on March 1 or later, and more continue to apply, he said.

The office had recently received some 43 more aid applications from *OrBorTor* offices around the island, he added.

The *Gazette* was earlier told by an official at the DOLA



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (right) snaps a picture of folk in Baan Khok Tanod, Chalong, during her recent visit to Phuket.

# Tsunami cost B20b in tourism revenue

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The province has lost at least 20 billion baht in revenue from tourism between January and March because of the December tsunami, Tourism Council of Thailand President Vichit Na Ranong said on May 13.

K. Vichit said, "Phuket makes on average 70 billion baht a year from tourism. Generally,

the province makes around twice as much revenue in the high season than it does in the low season – a ratio of, say, 45 billion baht [in the high season] to 25 billion [in the low], or 50 billion to 20 billion.

"We lost at least 20 billion baht between January and March – the high season – and if you consider that in the light of the ratios above, you can see just how significant this is."

K. Vichit reiterated claims that the banks have been too slow in distributing soft loans to people who lost businesses and homes to the tsunami, and that the province faces an uphill battle in persuading tourists that Phuket is not as devastated as TV coverage may have made them believe.

Another possible cause for concern among foreign tourists, said K. Vichit, is the continuing unrest in Thailand's Deep South.

He said, "People think that there could be a bomb or something similar in Phuket, but we need to inform people about what government officers and private individuals have done to make this area safe, such as security checks at the airport.

## Princess visits local tsunami survivors

PHUKET: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited Phuket and Phang Nga on May 13 to donate fishing equipment to survivors of the December 26 tsunami.

Princess Sirindhorn's first stop was in Baan Khok Tanod, Chalong, where around 500 people were waiting to greet her.

Her Royal Highness then donated 21 fishing boats – complete with engines and fishing equipment – to local people, and presented an educational scholarship to student Nattima Sukaserm.

From Chalong, the Princess was taken to Koh Yao Noi, Phang Nga, where she again donated fishing equipment to survivors of the tsunami, and she also met people learning local techniques of making batik.

The Princess then returned to Phuket to donate fishing boats, kitchen equipment and scarves and caps to Muslim residents of Baan Bang Rong in Thalung, before leaving the island at 3 pm.

## Police blitz late-night venues

PHUKET: Police and provincial government officers are raiding entertainment venues around the island up to 20 times a month to ensure they are not trading past the 1 am deadline for closing.

Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Vichan Busapavanich said, "[Police and provincial government officers] are checking [venues] up to 20 times a month ... to ensure that they are following government policy."

*Palad* Vichan explained that the raids follow complaints about some venues staying open past the 1 am curfew. "There are complaints about why some places can stay open beyond 1 am, but most must close," he said.

"The same conditions apply to venues in Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Phuket, and that is that they must close at 1 am," he added.

*Palad* Vichan said that only two venues in Phuket were allowed to stay open until 2 am – the Blue Marina at Phuket Merlin Hotel and T-2 club near The Metropole hotel.

"This is because of the licenses they used to hold," he explained.



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## Queer News

# Navel neglect

NAKHON NAYOK: The recent spate of incidents involving insects laying their eggs in human orifices took a new and disturbing turn on May 8, when the mother of a newborn found 10 maggots living inside the belly-button of her two-day-old son.

Mother-to-be Chananthida Kusonsarn, 25, was admitted to Nakhon Nayok Hospital on May 3 when her waters broke earlier than expected.

Three days later she gave birth to a son, Sumate, by C-section. As the infant was born well before term and came into the world weighing less than 2.2 kilograms, doctors at the government medical facility decided to keep the child in the hospital's incubator until he grew stronger.

Two days later, nurses at the hospital reunited mother and child and were giving K. Chananthida basic hygiene and care tips for the baby. During the session, the mother was appalled to find 10 plump, white maggots, each four to five millimeters in length, squirming about in the baby's navel.

Staff at the hospital immediately went into "it wasn't us" mode, saying the maggots probably found their way into the baby from a towel provided by relatives – or perhaps by "uncleanliness" on the part of the mother.

A distraught K. Chananthida vehemently denied this, arguing that the baby had been in the hospital's care – not hers – from the moment he was born.

She quickly transferred the child to Mittraphap Hospital in neighboring Saraburi Province, where little Sumate was successfully treated for omphalitis and diarrhea, and is now reported as healthy, strong and maggot-free.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*

# SHIP-SHAPE OR

Thailand is a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and a signatory to the body's convention on Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS).

First drawn up in 1914 – in response to the sinking of the "unsinkable" *RMS Titanic* – and updated frequently since then to reflect advances in technology and lessons learned from various maritime accidents, the aim of SOLAS regulations is to ensure that sea travel is as safe as it can be.

SOLAS recommendations vary for each type of vessel, but a SOLAS-compliant liveaboard boat should have watertight bulkheads, to slow down sinking in an emergency, and should be fitted with an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) that emits a distress signal automatically on contact with water.

SOLAS-compliant vessels should have adequate lifeboat seating for those on board, and each of the lifeboats should be fitted with a SART

– Search And Rescue Transponder – to make the lifeboat visible on radar.

Ideally, vessels should also have equipment that will enable them to contact and be tracked by the IMO's satellite-based Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), and life jackets should be in good condition and of a design that makes it easier for the wearer to stay upright in the water, even if unconscious.

In Thailand at present though, the only boats that must be SOLAS-compliant are those that operate in Thai and international waters.

The Thai authorities, apparently aware that it would be almost impossible to make every boat in Thailand SOLAS-compliant, appear to have adopted a

pragmatic approach toward the SOLAS recommendations, applying them only to boats that sail beyond Thai territorial waters.

That said, any liveaboard that is not SOLAS-compliant but puts into a port in a foreign country that does recognize SOLAS – Malaysia or Indonesia, for example – will be barred from leaving that port by the local harbor-master until the captain can show that it does comply.

According to Phuket Marine Office inspector Pongphan Prayongkul, the only life-saving equipment a diveboat operating solely in Thai waters must carry is: lifejackets for everyone on board, plus spares of 5% (for example, for every 100 passengers, there must be 105 lifejackets); some form of radio communication; fire extinguishers on the bridge, in the engine room, galley and rooms where passengers gather; and at least two life buoys. Boats over 30 tons must also have a dinghy.

While there are boats that do carry more than this legal

minimum, there are, according to one source in the Phuket dive industry who asked not to be named, others that comply with the law, but no more.

A number of liveaboard operators own their boats, while others lease them from third parties. Thai law says that the captain alone bears responsibility for the state of the vessel. This

allows the operators to legally distance themselves from the issue of on-board safety.

Although operators may ensure their boats are safe according to Thai law the source believes they also have a moral obligation to ensure true customer safety. This is particularly relevant as customers may not be aware of the safety standards met by the boat they are on.

He said: "I believe Western

"Boat safety equipment is checked every year when the boat's registration is renewed, but we don't have enough officers to check every boat every day, although we do carry out random inspections.

– Phuket Marine Office inspector Pongphan Prayongkul

From the photographs on websites and the brochures available around the island, a liveaboard dive cruise from Phuket looks like a luxurious experience.

The cabins are comfortable; the food is good and plentiful and because the dive company operator is a *farang*, then it must surely be safe. But is it really?

After three diveboat sinkings in five years – the most recent being on April 11 this year when the *MY Rhapsody*, carrying customers from Kata's Oceanic Divecenter, sank in just six minutes off the Surin Islands, leaving crew and passengers in the water for seven hours before they were rescued, some are now beginning to wonder whether Phuket's liveaboard boats are as safe as they are stylish. The *Gazette* takes a look beneath the glossy image.



"...to get anything through any central government you need influence, authority and persistence and we are not in a position to do that."

Alistair Beveridge, president of the Dive Operators Club of Thailand (DOCT).

tourists, knowing the strict regulations in their own countries, automatically assume that [Phuket] boats with nice websites and Western management are properly equipped."

There is "enormous resistance" among dive operators to increasing safety on their boats, he added.

Prices for liveaboard cruises range from just over US\$100 (3,500 baht) per person per day to US\$300 (10,000 baht) or more.

Liveaboards on offer range from cheap-and-cheerful trips on boats offering basic accommodation and facilities at rock-bottom prices to fully-serviced cruises on boats that resemble floating five-star hotels, with plush rooms and gourmet food.

Operators, especially those of two- or three-star liveaboard


cruises, are under tremendous pressure to keep costs down.

Thailand has a reputation for being a cheap place to dive, and with what the *Gazette* source described as "enormous supply" in Phuket, competition for customers is fierce, especially in these post-tsunami times.


Even if operators do resist the temptation to keep costs down by cutting corners on safety, there is little incentive for them to invest in more than the bare minimum required by Thai law.

But Alistair Beveridge of Rawai-based Sea King Divers, and the current president of the Dive Operators Club of Thailand, (DOCT) believes that letting finance dictate safety is "a cop out".


Mr Beveridge also feels



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# ALL FOULED UP?

that, when booking a dive experience, most tourists do not associate price with safety, and that budget-conscious divers who choose an operator purely because it is the cheapest do so in the belief that the company is "doing everything by the book".

The Phuket-based DOCT – motto: "Safety, Education, Eco-friendly, Service" – has been criticized for not doing enough to drive up safety standards in the Phuket dive industry, but Mr Beveridge says the club's hands are tied.

It is up to the Thai government to decide what standards of safety are appropriate for boats in Thai waters, he maintains.

The DOCT is a club without any legal clout; it cannot really influence the legislative process, he explains.

"You can send letters to the government, but you might not get an answer.

"We are talking about national government here, and to get anything through any central government you need influence, authority and persistence and we are not in a position to do that," he told the *Gazette*.

"We can pass on information to our members about new regulations and the like, but as far as changing Thai law goes, we can't do that, [even if] people think we have the power to march through government buildings in Bangkok."

"It's fairly evident that there should be a set standard and every boat should have to meet this, but it has to come from the government, and because the government hasn't done this, some operators ... have only the minimum equipment, he continued.

"They will do what they are supposed to do, but no more."



**Chalong Pier is the point of departure for many divers keen to explore the balmy blue waters off Phuket, but are impotent organizations, lax regulations and law-breaking captains putting lives at undue risk?**

But what about the "moral obligation" that two interviewees mentioned?

Mr Beveridge agrees that operators have a moral duty to operate safely, but the DOCT cannot impose safety standards on them – or even enforce the existing safety laws.

"We are not a police institution," he pointed out.

"The only sanction we can introduce [against someone who] hasn't met the minimum safety requirements is to throw them out of the club ... that's the only sanction we can [apply].

"We can't fine them, we can't enforce something unless there is a regulation to enforce," he said

Refuting suggestions that the DOCT is complacent, Mr Beveridge said: "For somebody to say that, they don't know the dive industry or DOCT ... We can advise people that 'this is what you should have', but we can't enforce this; we don't have the legal or administrative authority to do that."

Over the past five years, three Phuket-based diveboats have sunk.

"But," continued Mr Beveridge, "When you consider ... all the dive boats, from little daytrip ones to gigantic live-aboards, the number of accidents is very, very small compared with the number of passengers [carried]."

The Marine Office's K. Pongphan believes that Thai law on boat safety is adequate as it is – so long as it is obeyed and so long as his office has enough staff to enforce it.

"I think the law is good enough, if boat operators follow it, but our big problem at the moment is with boats not carrying enough life-saving equipment," he said.

"Boat safety equipment is checked every year when the boat's registration is renewed, but we don't have enough officers to check every boat every day, although we do carry out random inspections when boats are in port.

We don't have the resources

to check on boats while they are out at sea, however."

Regardless of whether the dive operator actually owns the boat or leases it from a third party, it is the captain who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that it complies with all safety laws, said K. Pongphan.

"It is the captain who decides not to put to sea if he or she decides that the vessel is not carrying enough life-saving equipment.

"Captains know about the marine law because they are tested on it before they are licensed," he said.

It is also the captain who is held responsible in the event of an accident, said K. Pongphan.

"Most boating accidents result from the captain being negligent, such as being aware that there may be a problem, but deciding to risk doing something anyway."

Captains who are found to have broken the law can be fined and have their licenses revoked.

Even if every boat in Phuket were SOLAS-compliant, it is unrealistic to think that there would never be another sinking. It is, however, possible to reduce the chances of an accident happening, and to increase the chances of survival for those on board, if one does.

As Bianca Hein, editor of the new yacht industry magazine *Siam Marine* – which in July launches a series of articles on "Safety at Sea" – put it:

"There is always a safety risk when going to sea – whether one goes to sea in a dinghy, or a state-of-the-art cruiser.

"Humans make mistakes and equipment, particularly at sea, can fail. But it is possible to make a risk a 'safe' risk."

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# Capturing reflections through a lifelong lens

By Anongnat Sartpisut

Photographs, whether conventional or digital, are a great way of recording people, places and events. Some pictures are intensely personal and relevant only to the photographer and the subject. Others, though, are meant to be shared.

And this is the case with the 5,800 or so pictures taken of Phuket by Japanese photographer Ono Takeo, who has been working on the island for the past three years.

Mr Takeo told the *Gazette* he moved to Phuket because "Phuket is so beautiful; I love Phuket."

Mr Takeo, who was born in 1949, became a professional photographer when he was 25 years old.

He has won many awards in Japan, the most notable being 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Japan Photo Culture Association's All Japan Photo Contest.

He has also won The Kan-to Photo Contest by Professional Photographer competition six times, and the Tochigi Prefecture Governor's prize in the Tochigi Photo Contest countless times.

A graduate of the Tokyo Institute of Polytechnics, Mr Takeo started taking pictures when he was 14 years old. His first photographs were of children and his neighbors. When he



**ABOVE:** Just two of Ono Takeo's photographs on display at the Phuket Public Library, on Bang Yai Rd in Phuket City, until May 29.

**RIGHT:** Ono Takeo was so determined to become a great photographer that he worked entire weekends at a time learning the art – and causing his family to worry about his health.



was 16 years old, he set up his own darkroom at home.

He spent so many hours practising photography – sometimes from midnight until 6 am and for whole weekends at a time – that his family began to worry about his health.

But Mr Takeo was determined to become a great photographer. He said, "I love to take pictures of children and people, and of sunsets. No two sunsets are alike – they are all different. I also

like to pictures that reflect emotions.

"A good photographer must be patient, and be prepared to wait for hours for the perfect shot. I go to the beach to take sunset pictures 60 times a year – at least once a week – as it's necessary to wait for the best sunset," said Mr Takeo.

It is unrealistic to expect every shot on a 36-exposure film to be great, according to Mr Takeo.

He said, "Maybe one of those pictures is a great shot. However, sometimes none of them are any good."

In the three years he has been in Phuket, Mr Takeo has taken thousands of photographs of all manner of subjects, but in the "Shutter By Two" exhibition at Phuket Public Library until May 29, he decided to hang mainly pictures of local beaches and the Andaman Sea.

Mr Takeo is completely

unpretentious about his art. "Phuket has many things to take pictures of and I like to live here and take pictures here," he says.

"We can use photos to promote provincial tourism and encourage more people to come to Phuket."

Mr Takeo can be contacted at 74/143 Phonphol Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000 or at Tel: 09-2904486 (Japanese) or via K. Fumiko at Tel: 07-2688159 (English).

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# Convicts: out of jail, into business

About 1,600 soon-to-be-released prisoners will be able to start their own business ventures when they get out of jail, thanks to a new 250-million-baht loan scheme from the Government Savings Bank.

Justice Minister Suwat Liptapanlop said the Corrections Department reached an agreement with the bank to provide 1,600 prisoners with collateral-free loans ranging from 15,000 baht to 50,000 baht. Screening of inmates to receive the loans will begin in June.

For those who need loans of more than 50,000 baht, the ministry will guarantee these from the Bank for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses. The loans would allow newly-released inmates to start careers and turn over a new leaf, thus reducing their chances of recidivism, K. Suwat said.

**Counter-culture:** Television stations agreed to the Culture Ministry's request to cut back on prize-related SMS polls and quizzes in their programs, but insisted they could not discontinue the practice at once because programs scheduled for broadcast had already been recorded and there was no way of erasing SMS prize segments from them.

The Culture Ministry issued the request to television channels to cease the practice of encouraging viewers to send in short messages by cell phones in the hope of winning cash and gift prizes.

It said the practice is "extravagant", places an unfair burden on parents who have to pay the phone bills for children who take part, and might be a breach of the Gambling Act.

The Interior Ministry is also



Miss Universe contestant Helene Traasavik of Norway was a big hit with the Thai media. The 19-year-old half-Thai beauty calls Thailand her second home and is fond of Isarn food. In addition to Thai, Miss Norway also speaks German, French, English, Italian and Norwegian.

After a visit to Phuket, this year's pageant culminates in the finals on May 31 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok.

expected to issue a regulative ban on prize-related SMS polls and quizzes within a month.

**Creative extortion:** The Election Commission (EC) will pursue a case against Akapol Sappoonpathom for impersonating

an EC officer in a bid to extort money from political candidates.

The case dates back to last July when the EC started receiving complaints from candidates running for provincial administration organizations chairmanships in four provinces. The can-

didates said that someone claiming to be an EC official had demanded bribes from them.

K. Akapol pleaded guilty to some of the charges, but not all.

"I didn't demand money from them. But when I told them of their alleged electoral frauds, they offered it to me," said K. Akapol, adding that he received a little over 200,000 baht from the scam.

**Prowler case:** Police arrested American teacher Steven Erik Prowler, 56, for allegedly buying sex from two boys aged under 18.

Prowler, a teacher of English, was charged with buying sex from children, illegal detention of minors and molesting children aged under 18. He said the two boys, aged 15 and 16, had sex with him willingly after meeting him three years ago.

Acting on a tip-off, police found Prowler inside the room with the two boys, who said that they sometimes met Prowler at the apartment and let him perform sex acts on them for 250 baht each per session.

Police seized a photo album with nude pictures of more than 100 boys and an album containing pubic hair and signatures, which Prowler kept as a souvenir after having sex with boys, police alleged.

**Canine catastrophe:** Five dogs were killed at Wat Don Chan temple in Chiang Mai, where animal-welfare project Lanna Dog Rescue (LDR) has been operating for almost a year.

LDR was established early last year in response to the overwhelming problem of Chiang Mai's stray dogs, many of which end up in the city's temples.

"We found three of [the dogs] dead around a fire, along with paws and organs stuck onto

sticks and left over the ashes — these dogs were clearly killed to be eaten," said Karin Hawelka, one of LDR's six core volunteers.

Children attending Wat Don Chan school told LDR members that two more dogs were removed from the temple by employees connected to Wat Don Chan. They are suspected of being involved in the killings.

**Capital conversion:** A 600-rai plot of land in Rangsit District of Pathum Thani Province has emerged as the leading contender for the new Parliament building, based on apparent backing from Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Owned by Thai Asset Management Corp, the land appears to be the best site for the new Parliament building, said Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam.

**Nibbling at knowledge:** Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra launched the National Institute for Brain-based Learning (NIBL) as part of efforts to raise Thai children's IQ levels.

NIBL is one of eight agencies under the aegis of the Office of Knowledge Management and Development, set up by the Thaksin administration.

The PM has championed the launch of such an institution as a means of popularizing intelligence-stimulating teaching techniques to replace traditional rote-learning methods.

The government hopes to increase the number of students who go to university. Today, fewer than a third continue their education after secondary school.

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

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It was a typically festive Christmas evening at the Jungle Bar, which had been a popular spot on Phi Phi Don for five years.

The owner, Piyasak "Choy" Guntharungsi, 42, is a talented artist, designer and musician. He had organized a reggae band that night to celebrate the holiday.

The next morning, K. Choy was awoken by one of his staff, but no sooner was he outside than he was engulfed in the raging waters. He somehow emerged alive, finding himself washed into Tonsai Bay. The killer wave had taken him in and had spat him out.

Others were not so lucky. He lost his girlfriend and longtime partner, Aree. Three of his staff members perished, along with friends and associates. His dream restaurant and bar were gone and there was nothing was left to remind him of his hard work. Nothing, that is, except for the pain.

Born in Nakhon Si Thammarat, K. Choy studied architecture and design in Bangkok. His real love, however, was music, and he soon switched faculties to study music.

His first trip to Koh Phi Phi was as a tour guide about 20 years ago and he fell in love with

the island, vowing to find a way to live there. He landed a job at the Phi Phi Cabana and he would never return to Bangkok.

K. Choy eventually opened his own bar, The Crazy House, the first on Phi Phi Don. "It was so long ago, we didn't even have electricity," he reminisces.

The tragedy of the tsunami crushed the spirits of many survivors. K. Choy was not spared either, and in his despair he could not fathom his losses. The mix of emotions that passed through him – grief, anger, isolation and frustration – were difficult to convey to others.

Instead, he took his feelings – anger directed at nature; frustration at the authorities and his thwarted hopes for the island's future – and put them to music. As K. Choy says, "We can't just sit around feeling sorry for ourselves; we cannot wait."

Since the wave he has written a lot of music, enough to produce a CD: *One Month, Not Enough To Rebuild Our Lives*.

The six songs on the CD are an emotional rollercoaster ride.



## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

Right: The Jungle Bar before the tsunami (top), and what remains today (bottom).

Below: K. Choy 'We can't just sit around feeling sorry for ourselves; we cannot wait.'



*The Lesson of Loss* was written four days after the tsunami and is full of anger. *Ruk Talay* (*Love the Beach*) and other songs celebrate the beauty of Phi Phi.

A DVD that accompanies these songs has been produced, with stunning underwater shots of the areas around the Phi Phi Islands, showing how little marine life was damaged in the area.

But music was only the first

step in the healing process for K. Choy. Surrounded by people in pain, he decided it was time to reach out. With the help of the Aree Foundation, a French-supported charity, he has been active in numerous projects aiding victims of the tsunami.

K. Choy and the foundation have been able to help many people whose needs were not being met because of the slow

reaction of the authorities. From direct assistance to training programs in handicrafts, the foundation has made a big impact on the lives of many Phi Phi residents.

K. Choy has also taken on a guardian role for his remaining staff. With his partner at Le Grand Bleu Restaurant, they have opened the Jungle Bar Krabi, a stylish restaurant in Krabi Town.

While keeping his staff together and in jobs, K. Choy, with his talent for design, has created one of the most appealing restaurants in the area.

Asked about the future of Phi Phi, K. Choy says, "Mother Nature has returned Phi Phi to [how it was] 20 years ago. Now we have a chance to do it right."

He doesn't care if the government tells him he can't rebuild on the beach, because "Safety is most important." But he worries that Phi Phi will return to the days when people did whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted.

K. Choy will return to the island when the time is right, and once the new location for his restaurant and bar is determined. In the meantime, his story of survival, and revival is an inspiration for those around him.

K. Choy can be contacted at Email: [junglebar\\_koh-pp@yahoo.com](mailto:junglebar_koh-pp@yahoo.com)



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## This week



**MARRIOTT MARVEL:** Theera Kanjana (left), Food & Beverage Director at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, receives the company's Chairman Award from JW "Bill" Marriott Jr at the company's Global General Manager Conference 2005, held in Florida. The award recognized his outstanding lifesaving actions during and after the December 26 tsunami.



**SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr hands a Phuket pearl to Ali Bin Abdul Wahab of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing for Dubai at the Arabian Travel Market in the UAE, earlier this month.



**FUNKY FINANCE:** Thai model Odette Henriet Jacomin (front, in white boots) and Phoonsin Sinthanaphat (4<sup>th</sup> from right), Vice-President of the Phuket Branch of Thanachart Bank, announce the Phuket launch of the bank's "Thanachart Smart Money" promotion, with guests National Finance Managing Director Bandit Cheevadhanarak (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and National Finance's First Vice-President Somkuan Chaicharoen (3<sup>rd</sup> from right).




**BIG HEARTS:** Chantal Keypour (left) and Ayelet Hematian (right) share a smile with Phuket kids during their recent visit to deliver 10,000 toys to children of families affected by the tsunami. The toy charity drive, called "World of Good, Children Helping Children", was organized by the Chabad School of Science and Humanities, in New York, on behalf of 120 schools in the US.



**FAMILY THAIS:** Dr Pranee Sakulpipatana (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) celebrates the recent grand opening of her Acupuncture and Rehabilitation Clinic, in Phuket City, with her mum, Assoc Prof Pranee Sakulpipatana (right) and her father, K. Supachai.



**WARM WELCOME:** Prakrit Hansuekkaew (right), Marketing & Sales Manager of water heater makers Stiebel Eltron (Thailand), and fellow staff were in Patong recently for Stiebel's annual dealer conference. The event was held in Phuket to mark the opening of Stiebel Eltron's customer service center in Thalang.



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The invitation that arrived in the mail reminded me that I had graduated from secondary school 40 years ago and it was time to have a grand class reunion, a celebration of survival.

I looked in the mirror and saw that, indeed, 40 years had passed. Gravity had moved my weight from my chest to my stomach and hips; the hair on my head had gone and my face had lost its boyish charm.

I panicked, thinking I would be the old guy at this reunion. Not willing to risk being humiliated by having lived so long, I asked Phuket's most famous plastic surgeon, **Dr Sanguan Kunaporn** – who has transformed men into women and old bodies into young – what he could do for me.

"Sorry, Khun Bruce, it's too late. You've left it too long," he told me. Apparently, the process of "lifting" the body has to begin a bit earlier than at my advanced age. Dr Sanguan recommended instead a course of exercise and weight training.

I headed straight for the Club Asia Fitness center in the Royal Phuket City Hotel. Club Manager **Wayne Lunt** did a lengthy assessment and didn't give me a hard time when I could not do a proper sit-up or push-up, but encouraged me to work on the treadmill and machines designed to build muscle mass on the upper part of the body.

"But I have only two months to turn this body into something that I can take back to show friends from 40 years ago," I panicked.

"No problem," Wayne assured me. "Just three times a

week of the proper training and you'll look and feel like a new man."

Suddenly, I felt like I was joining one of those reality TV shows where I was supposed to be transformed into someone almost unrecognizable to my former self.

I am determined to get back into size 32 pants by July 8. I'm a few sizes larger than that now, but I fully expect to trade my sagging tits for some pectoral muscles, and I want my bum back up where it used to be.

A monthly membership at Club Asia Fitness is less than 1,600 baht, and it includes free classes in yoga, aerobics, fitball and body balance and body pump.

It also includes free use of the swimming pool and discounts on spa treatments. I plan to take advantage of all these options to get the body I want in just eight weeks.

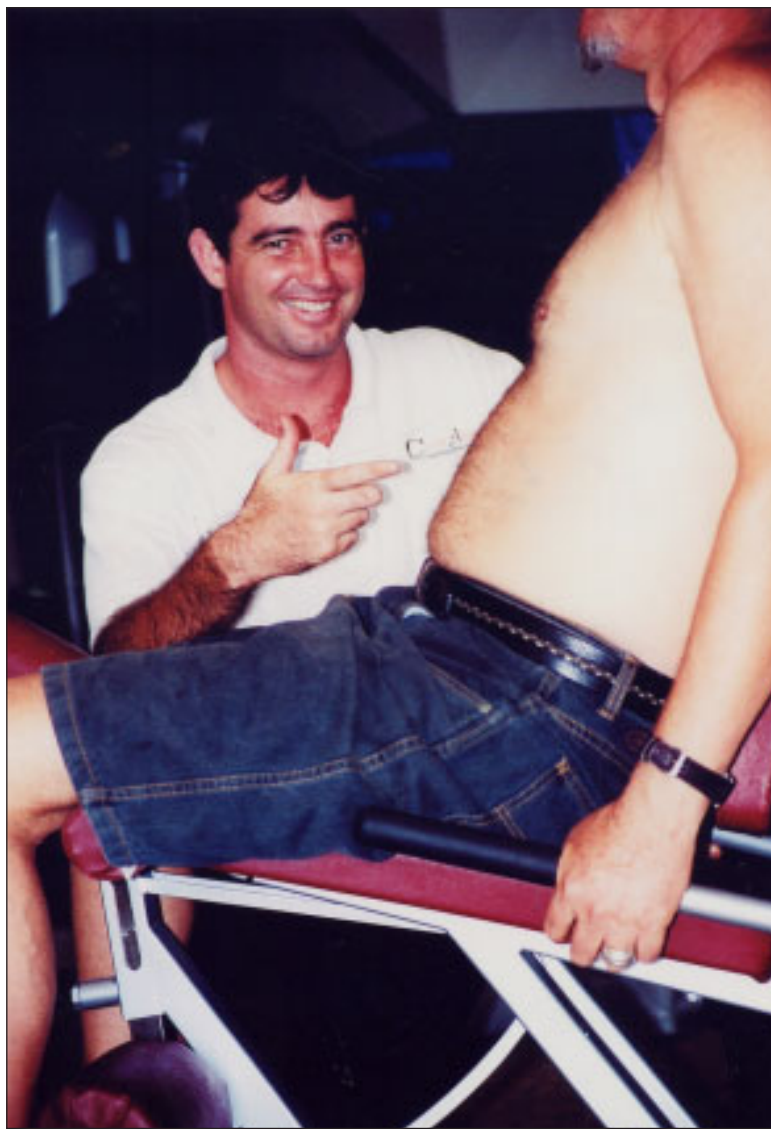


Off the  
WALL

With Bruce Stanley

**Figuring the 8:** Not content to work just on my body, I've joined the "Circle of 8", a group of healers and therapists on Phuket. Movement therapy specialist **Rhonda Clarke** coordinates free meetings for those interested in working to improve their physical and mental health.

"We have a growing awareness that healing and the road to vibrant health are about more than manipulating the muscles. They involve looking at the total



It's gotta go: Wayne Lunt (left) and the belly that's going to be turned into an impressive set of abs.

person on both a physical and intuitive level," she says.

Everyone is invited to join Phuket's healers at Evolve Spa in the Treetops Resort at Surin Beach on Saturday mornings, to find out about ways to improve their health and sense of well-being.

Recently, I sat in a group with **Isabelle Ott**, one of Phuk-

et's foremost painters and healers, and **Simone Teillet**, a talented teacher of gyro-kinesis – a combination of yoga, dance and Pilates. Simone is also a skilled reader of tarot and oracle cards.

The Circle of 8 includes teachers of *tai chi*, Tibetan energy balancing, naturopathy, *qi gong*, yoga, chakra cleansing, breathwork, and something of

particular interest to me – bi-polar therapy.

I've got only eight weeks to clean my auras and balance my chakras.

If you want more information about this group of healers, email Isabelle at [madame\\_solare@hotmail.com](mailto:madame_solare@hotmail.com) or Rhonda at [phurgis@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:phurgis@loxinfo.co.th)



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# A NEW MAN



Left: All right, PUSH! Volunteers help to shift the *Aumgaia* off the beach.

Below: Good job. OB Wetzell (right) retrieves his pants after helping in the successful rescue mission.



he jumped at the chance to buy her.

Mark spent months revamping and customizing the *Aumgaia* for charter. While he was resting the dhow off Bang Tao Bay, though, the anchor chain broke and the dhow drifted ashore.

But thanks to the help of some good friends, the *Aumgaia* is now back afloat, and Mark is happy to receive inquiries for charter, starting at 20,000 baht a day. Call him at Tel: 09-8733952.

**Larking about:** Anthony Lark knows how to throw a great party. The Trisara GM honed his skills during his years at the Amanpuri, and he hasn't lost his touch.

He recently attracted acclaimed international DJ the lovely **Lisa Loud** (see *Gazette* issue of May 7 for the definitive interview) to Trisara for a blow-out summer party, an example of how Anthony wants to open the resort's arms to the community.

"We plan to have a number of events at Trisara and we hope that those wanting a great time in a spectacular setting will join us," he enthused. "It's time we got back to having some fun. We welcome the island to Trisara."

Certainly the Lisa Loud event brought Phuket's Beautiful People out for the occasion, including legendary men-about-town Lars Ydmark and Martin Carpenter.

The dance concert was held under a sky full of stars. **Nick Anthony** of Indigo Realty arrived from a yacht moored just off shore and there was a stunning collection of almost-too-beautiful Thai young women draped around their dates; it was an unforgettable evening.

**Cain reenabled:** When I got the call from **Tom Keator**, Project Manager at DMG Thailand about an Indian sailing dhow being beached on the sands of Bang Tao Bay, I rushed to check it out.

I arrived to find such local notables as **OB Wetzell** and **Colin MacKay** in the water

pushing the big, beautiful, wooden dhow, trying to dislodge it from the shore.

The *Aumgaia* belongs to **Mark Cain**, who bought the 55-year-old dhow to use as a charter boat in local waters.

By day, Mark operates Light Sound Image at Tinlay Place and installs audio-visual and

lighting systems in all the best villas on the island.

This enterprising Brit, who has been working in Asia for 25 years, designed the light and sound system for the palace of the Sultan of Brunei, as well as for the Merlion on Singapore's Sentosa Island.

He is also an avid sailor, a

winner of prizes in Phuket's King's Cup Regatta. When he spotted a notice that the traditional sailing dhow was on offer,

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# Swimsuit SenSes

SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique in Bang Tao, in conjunction with Phuket Mermaids, recently hosted a summer swimsuit fashion show that was attended by about 50 lucky onlookers.

Some of the models, chosen for their youth and freshness, were girls who live on the island – so don't be surprised if you see some familiar faces.

Now that the rains have come, some of us might not want to wear our swimsuits until the sunny weather returns. Until then, let's get fit, and enjoy the show!



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Whether the Pershing series of motor yachts is named after the US general who commanded American forces in Europe during World War I, the missile, or the tank is unknown.

The name, however, conjures up images of power, presence and range, and the Pershing 43 has all three qualities, and more. There's also one for sale in Phuket.

Launched in October 2003 and offered for sale by Lee Marine – the owner is upgrading to a larger vessel – this svelte sport cruiser oozes a muscularly feminine charm like that of a well-toned athlete – think of Serena Williams – even when moored.

Yet character and the “wow” factor are just the initial attractions. The real test is what *Mambo* is like in action.

It doesn't take long to get *Mambo* under steam, heading out from Boat Lagoon Marina with the gentle purr of the twin 630hp MAN diesels announcing her arrival to the early-morning day trippers sitting bleary-eyed waiting for their transport.

Those bleary eyes turn toward *Mambo* and, suddenly, their holiday highlight (by comparison) doesn't seem quite so exciting.

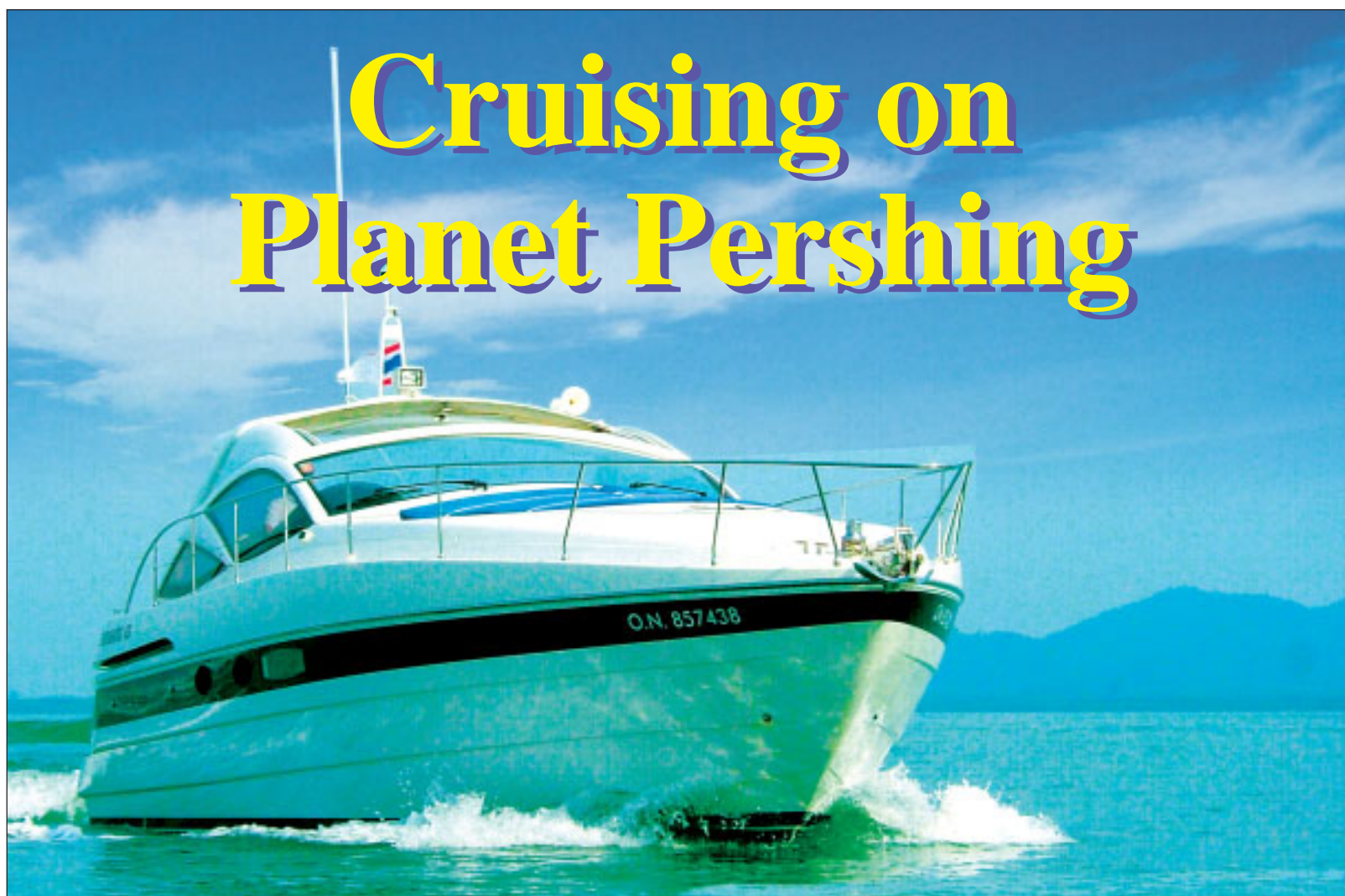
*Mambo*, as with the entire range of Pershing vessels, marries a dynamic exterior with comfortable and well-equipped rest and interior areas.

Despite its “West Atlantic” sounding name, Pershing is an Italian company and part of the Ferretti group; European flair and restrained opulence echo throughout the boat, from the polished cherry woodwork in the two cabins, galley and dinette to the hydraulic *passerelle*, finished in stainless steel and teak.

Martin Holmes, GM of Lee Marine, explains that this is a design feature more commonly found on European boats because it is traditional to moor them aft-first. “It can take 250 kilograms,” he explains. “And it is illuminated, which makes boarding at night, perhaps after a drink or two, far easier.”

Mr Holmes pushes the throttles forward and *Mambo's* bow rises satisfyingly into the air. “Her top speed is 36 knots,” he continues. “But just feel that acceleration...”

Surprisingly, despite the increase in speed, the engine noise



*Mambo* has a top speed of 36 knots and a range of 250 nautical miles. Fast and nimble, she is also, at the same time, very comfortable.

## ALL AT SEA

with Andy Johnstone

– although lusty – is still quiet enough to allow conversation.

The hull of the Pershing 43 is designed for speed, but not at the expense of comfort and practicality. She is a finely balanced boat – the trim adjusters tend to be employed frequently – and the sensation at speed is not unlike being on an ice skate; but whereas a skate cuts in, *Mambo* slices through.

Mr Holmes banks *Mambo* at 30° and a pleasant rush of blood comes to the head. “Anyone can master a Pershing 43 in a day,” he notes.

As if to prove this, he hands over the helm to the reviewer. The most noticeable aspect upon taking control of her is the supreme visibility from the bridge.

The deck, while sensuously long (something every great sporting vehicle should have) does not obscure vision. Fulvio Di Simoni, the 43's designer, worked rare magic to achieve this balance between necessary visibility and desired sex appeal.

*Mambo* is a forgiving mis-

tress to the novice master, and once the initial trepidation of having 1,260hp on tap has faded, pushing her through a series of tight turns – aided by her pin-sharp handling – presents no problem.

Described by Mr Holmes as “an ideal weekend boat”, the Pershing 43 can carry 10 people, though it feels as though she could carry more without feeling cramped.

The master berth in the bow has a double bunk and probably more space than a room in a mid-price hotel. It is light and airy, with plenty of room to maneuver, and has its own bathroom with travertine marble sink top and voguish stainless-steel fittings.

Moving aft, the galley, to port, is a fluid shape that is aesthetically pleasing and practical; straight lines below deck waste space and make simple actions, such as squeezing past someone, more difficult than necessary, – even in a spacious vessel like *Mambo*.

The galley has a two-ring

ceramic hotplate, stainless-steel sink and 115-liter fridge freezer (there is another ice box on the bridge).

Immediately aft of the galley is the 43's control panel and, below this, a widescreen Sony TV and DVD player. The music center – taken from a car – has a 10-CD changer.

The aft cabin – a twin – features a useful amount of space used creatively, taking into account the confines imposed by the adjacent companionway and, to starboard, the aft head and shower.

The dinette has a good-sized folding table, ample space on the quarter-circle sofa and a view toward the TV. *Mambo* is equipped with folding fabric blinds throughout, as well as mosquito screens for all portholes – part of the “tropical” upgrade which also includes a powerful air-conditioning system for the cabins, saloon and cockpit.

Above, the cockpit has a generous seating area in resilient white vinyl and a folding table,

and just aft of this is the stern sundeck, which affords passengers one of the best views of *Mambo's* power. Lie down here with a large gin and tonic and watch the sea boil as the four-blade nickel-aluminum-bronze props churn the water. Bliss.

The Pershing 43 has a fuel capacity of 1,400 liters in a centerline tank and twin 418-liter water tanks are configured for balanced trim. Her fuel capacity gives her a range of around 250 nautical miles (about 460 kilometers).

Mr Holmes points out that, at just 3.8 meters from hull bottom to radar arch – her draft is 1.3m – *Mambo* can slip easily under the Sarasin Bridge, even at high tide.

The boat is on the market for 495,000 euros (about 25 million baht).

For more information, contact Mr Holmes (Tel: 076-238803, 01-8917057; Email: martin@leemarine.com; Website: www.leemarine.com).

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# Stick it and win!



Over the past few weeks, it seems that almost everyone on the island is going sticker crazy, plastering the *Gazette's* 'We Love Phuket' sticker on their cars – and anywhere else they think it looks good. The *Gazette* team recently went around town and caught a few sticker-philes in the act.

If you already have a 'We Love Phuket' sticker on your car, keep your eye on the Rak Mak! Awards each week in the *Gazette*. Last week you could have won a dinner for two at Mom Tri's Boathouse in Kata, or at Rockfish in Kamala. Other prizes include round-trip Phuket-Singapore air tickets from Silkair, a two-night stay including breakfast at the Holiday Inn Phuket, a cash prize of 2,500 baht, and much, much more.

If you haven't got a sticker yet, call Khun Pam at Tel 076-236555 or email [LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.net)



Dusit Laguna Resort Hotel receptionist Saowapark Boonsadao hands a 'We Love Phuket' sticker to Briton Joe Walford, during his and his wife's first visit to Phuket. They said they will be very happy to show people at home that they love Phuket.



Montha Thongson (right) collects her prize of dinner for two at Mom Tri's Boathouse from the *Gazette's* Vallapa "Pam" Bunnak just one week after putting her sticker on her car.



ABOVE: Tukta Supap (left), of SFX Coliseum cinema at Central Festival Phuket, hands two movie lovers 'We Love Phuket' stickers just as they are leaving the cinema. Both said they'll put their stickers on their cars immediately and look forward to winning prizes soon.

The popular Khun Mai of the Surin Bay Inn (seated, on left) seen here with her staff and customers with stickers in hand.

Wayne "Red" Graham couldn't wait to get his hands on a sticker.



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## Phuket Diary

May 21

**Canadian Expat Night.** Canadians & guests are invited to join in an evening of good old Canadian rock 'n' roll. Put on your favorite jeans and T-shirt and rock the night away! Come out and catch up with old and new friends, enjoy cheap drinks and free appetizers. There will be prizes, too.

Location: Karma Lounge Music Café, on the corner of Patak & Bangla Rds, Karon Plaza, Karon. Event time: 8 pm. Contact: Marshall or Reinhard on Tel: 04-8429640 or 01-8920960. Email: mow449@yahoo.com

May 23

**Visakha Bucha Day.** May 23 is a substitution holiday for Viskha Bucha Day, which falls on May 22. It is a public holiday, therefore banks and most government offices will be closed.

May 28-29

**The 7<sup>th</sup> AirAsia Phuket International Rugby 10s.** Teams from around the world will be competing for the Clive Williamson Memorial Trophy in the 7<sup>th</sup> AirAsia Phuket International Rugby 10s. Entry for spectators will be free, but funds will be raised for an orphans' scholarship fund in Khao Lak.

Location: Karon Municipal Stadium Event time: 8 am to 6 pm both days. Contact Patrick Cotter on Tel: 09-8731190 or Email: phuketvagabondsrfc@yahoo.co.uk

July 21

**Asarnha Bucha Day.** Asarnha Bucha Day public holiday commemorates the first occasion when the Buddha, his teachings and five disciples were present together after his enlightenment.

July 21

**Vassupanayika – Buddhist Lent Day.** Following Vassupanayika, monks are obliged to remain in a certain place, preferably a monastery, for a period of three months from the day after Asarnha Bucha Day. It is a public holiday.

August 12

**Birthday of HM Queen Sirikit.** August 12 is the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit, a public holiday and, by tradition, Mother's Day in Thailand.

**U**p my way: It seems that Outside In has opened an indecorous and appellative bag of worms ever since the correct pronunciation of Phuket was discussed in it.

At [www.davezilla.com](http://www.davezilla.com) the writers enlarge on the subject of place names, and it's gratifying to learn that there are several other worldwide locations sporting far less attractive monikers than this island's.

To name but a few – Herbert's Hole, Tyttenhangar, Mincing Lane, Cock Pond, Pratt's Bottom and just plain old Nasty.

One contributor claims, "I live about an hour away from Hell." Don't we all?

**Danger!** As there have been no airline-passenger revolts, engine failures or fuel spillages of late, Phuket is settling down into relative tranquillity with only the occasional cyber cock-up to mislead the earnest would-be backpacker.

"Phuket is rife with seafood restaurants" warns the ever amusing and vegetable-inclined [www.thebackpacker.net](http://www.thebackpacker.net)

Thankfully, the site goes on to assuage escalating fears of the slaughter of nose-pierced, dreadlocked and fisherman-panted vegetarian travelers at the hands (or fins) of dead sea bass and lifeless red snapper.

"...Pong Nga participates in the yearly Vegetarian Festi-

## A Good Pelt

**F**or better or worse, Phuket has figured prominently in the world news in recent months so it's an opportune time to welcome you to the second edition of the *Phuket Gazette's* new weekly update of how the world sees us.

### OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

val," it states with all the glee of a lettuce.

Hey, it may stink, but it's veggie!

**Nasty again.** Some websites seem determined to give Phuket a negative spin.

One example is the rather schizophrenic website [www.smarttravelasia.com](http://www.smarttravelasia.com), which asks if Phuket or Penang is the real "Pearl of the Orient" (although "Pearl of the Andaman" is the epithet usually applied to Phuket), and the site's relentless lambasting of innocent old Patong needs no embellishment from this unaligned article.

"The City of Brazen Husies Who Will Do Unspeakable Things... Patong has burst into prominence – and dogged notoriety – like teenage acne. This is where beetroot-faced travelers, some bronzed black by the sun,

assemble to strut their wobbling cellulite...

"...where hammered tourists hammer nails into sawed-off tree trunks to demonstrate to the ladies [that] they are a good choice for an intellectual night out."

And you thought Pattaya was raucous? I assure you that this is supposedly "serious" travel writing, albeit churned out by a scribbler who would seem to possess a marked dermatological fixation. Where did he stay: Patong Skin Clinic?

**And another thing.** The people at [www.newsfinder.com](http://www.newsfinder.com), who normally do a pretty good job, feature a photo of longtail boats off a beach in Krabi above their article about Phuket.

At least they had the good sense to adjoin a disclaimer, distancing themselves from their "writers" – obviously after bitter and frustrating experiences with erroneous, vegetable- and skin-obsessed travel correspondents.

No offence to the *Gazette's* own Ed Peters, mind.







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FOR ALL  
THE FAMILY

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 metallic elements. 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	M	A	A	T	U	N	G	S	T	E	N	L	F	R
L	E	U	T	S	I	N	L	B	K	G	W	L	E	P
M	V	A	I	M	U	I	M	O	R	H	C	V	S	A
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C	N	I	Z	M	D	R	P	V	K	L	P	C	U	R
B	Q	T	E	I	Y	O	A	T	S	K	U	P	E	N

Brain Buster!!

A catering company sells large containers of iced coffee and large containers of orange juice. Right now the company has six containers, each holding the following amounts:

Container A: 30 liters; Container B: 32 liters; Container C: 36 liters; Container D: 38 liters; Container E: 40 liters; Container F: 62 liters.

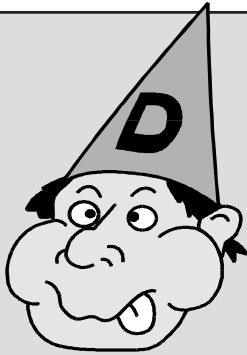
Five of the containers hold iced coffee, and one container holds orange juice.

Two customers come into the shop. The first customer buys two containers of iced coffee.

The second customer buys twice as much coffee as the first customer. Which container holds the orange juice?

Answer: Container E

Get your brain  
in gear with  
The Monster Quiz



1. Which biscuit is named after a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Italian revolutionary?

2. Which company invented these biscuits, and when?

3. By what name is the creature *Leptoptilus dubius* better known?

4. What is correct term for the branch of forestry dealing with the development and care of forests?

5. The adjective “toroidal” describes what shape?

6. What name is given to a toroidal chamber, as used in nuclear fusion research?

7. Mieskuoro Huutajat, from Oulu, Finland, are better known by what name?
8. Which aviatrix, on May 21, 1932, touched down in Northern Ireland after the first solo flight by a woman across the Atlantic Ocean?

9. Herm belongs to which group of islands?

10. Port Florence, in Kenya, is now known by what name?

11. The city is the capital of which province?

12. The Colossus of Rhodes was a statue of which Greek god?

13. The aurora borealis and aurora australis are known by what other names?
14. The Polyarny Inlet is part of which body of water?

15. Who first translated into English *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*?

16. What is the given name of golfer Tiger Woods?

17. What – and in which year – was his first PGA Major win?

18. Which singer was known as The Velvet Fog?

19. The radio call-signs Broadsword and Danny Boy appear in which 1960s novel and movie?

20. Which Madrid metro line has the most stations, and how many?
- Answers next week

Never a  
Cross Word!

Across

1. Amsterdam is the capital of this country.

7. Lacking sensation.

8. Plot or plan.

10. Ms Monroe, movie star.

11. Year between college and work.

13. Follow like a bloodhound?

14. Items brought into a country.

17. Picasso and Braque invented this style of painting.

19. After writing an email, do this.

21. Fashion designers’ exhibits.

Down

1. Ostrich cousin.

3. Tolkien character.

4. Out of practice.

5. Pain in the molar.

6. Reservoir wall.

7. Having no fixed address.

9. Left out in the open.

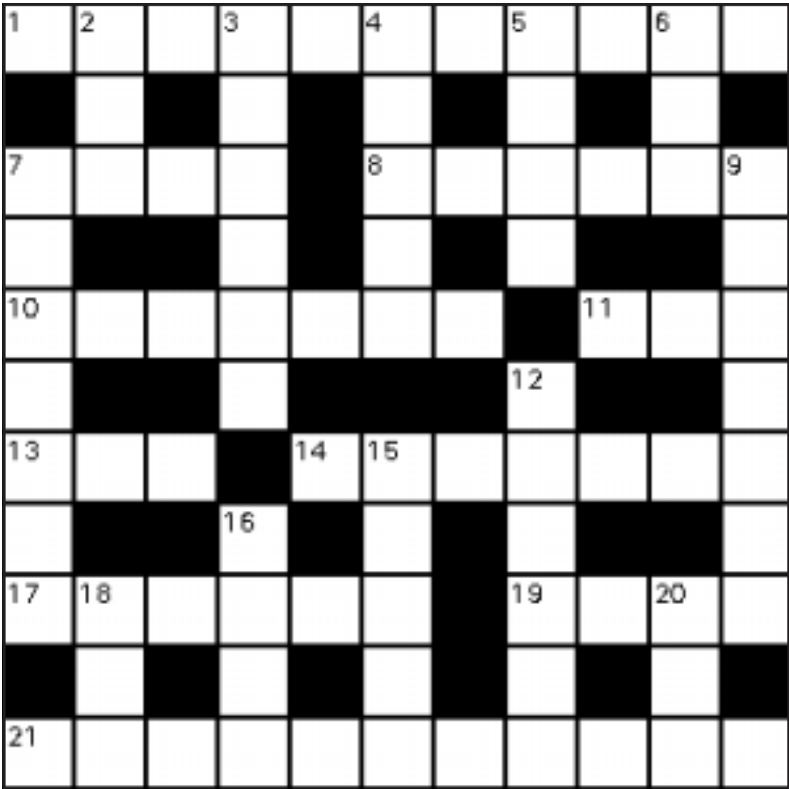
12. Miniature tree art.

15. Ape.

16. She went up the hill with Jack.

18. Flying saucer, maybe.

20. Female equivalent of monk.
- Solution next week



SOLUTION  
TO LAST WEEK'S  
CROSSWORD



ANSWERS TO LAST  
WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Paul Klee; 2. Nike; 3. Taboret; 4. She is the world’s first and only female heir apparent; 5. Tifosi; 6. The Tipo 125 F1; 7. Propaganda; 8. Smallpox vaccination; 9. Catch-22; 10. Ashes To Ashes; 11. An apogee; 12. Johnny Depp; 13. Bow Wow; 14. Snoop Dogg; 15. Huggy Bear; 16. The Soviet ice-breaker *NS Lenin*; 17. Atlanta Hawks; 18. The Lædalstunnelen in Norway; 19. Ahmet Necdet Sezer; 20. Dulwich.



# A classless and pointless war

*This column was written before the final split between Dulwich College and the Phuket school. – Editor.*

Last term, when I was absently staring out of the classroom window pleasantly putting off doing some much-needed revision, could I have imagined that life at Dulwich International College (DIC) was going to change in the way it has?

Returning to school after the spring break was an interesting but disturbing experience for any Dulwich student.

We knew that there had been meetings between teachers and their superiors, but we didn't think they would actually affect us in any profound way.

In retrospect, I guess we should have seen it coming, but we didn't. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, rumors started to circulate towards the end of the last week of the vacation. Some turned out to be true, others were not.

Through all the impromptu meetings between the teachers and parents, teachers and governors and so on, the students simply stood on the sidelines hoping for even the most miniscule

amount of information. Sidelined presumably because, heaven forbid, they might ask seemingly obvious questions, such as "Where is the headmaster?" or "What was the meaning of the new shocking orange education posters in the school foyer?"

I've been at Dulwich for only the two years of my International Baccalaureate course, but it is completely different from anywhere else I have studied.

Nowhere else can you find teachers who care so much about their students that they quite happily sacrifice their own personal time to help students with any parts of syllabus that cause concern.

Nowhere else can you find such a warm, integrated environment, where students from varying years are close friends who share in each other's triumphs and disappointments.

Obviously, there is the successful academic side to the

school, but as well as that there's the extra-curricular side – the countless musicals, theater productions, live concerts and themed discos – which makes going to school just a little bit more enjoyable.

So when we get back to school and we notice all these new things happening and new teachers joining and old favorites leaving, we students get worried.

I'm not arguing that students should know the full story of what is going on, but what is the point of keeping us totally in the dark about what's happening?

It seems the school authorities are doing their best to answer most questions posed by the young, inquisitive minds through school council meetings and discussions.

But there's a sense of fear among us now: if things keep changing, will Dulwich remain the school we know and love?



**Youth 'n ASIA**  
By Lauren Moorhouse

With uncertainty in the air, many of the teachers may choose to move elsewhere, and this could greatly affect the style of learning that we students have grown accustomed to.

At the end of any year, it is normal that many move on to new experiences. Some go off to university or college, or – as Dulwich takes boarders from all over the world – their parents may move them to a school closer to home.

But if the school changes drastically in the near future, the number of students who are leaving could increase.

Something we often forget is that Dulwich is not just a school. Some people have invested money in this institution; they see it as a business investment, and so view it in a different light from the way we do. As business develops on the island, investment in the school could increase.

But change is powerful, and if the wrong decisions are made, who's to say what will happen? Obviously, we can't predict the future, and any decision made at this crucial time concerning the school is going to have an effect on someone.

Let's just hope that the stu-

dents are not the ones most affected. As the saying goes: school days are the best days of our lives, and if that really is the case, we want the most enjoyable experience we can get.

We don't want to live in fear of the careful balance of academic and social activities being disturbed by conflicting business plans.

If we live like that then we'll stop enjoying ourselves and we will be forced to grow up prematurely, worrying about issues beyond our control.

We need to go back to the things that make our lives hectic (or so we think!): the late nights of last-minute homework, finding out the latest gossip from that party, and all the other mundane elements of our innocent teenage years.

We need to stop worrying about the goings-on around us; it will all work out in the end, but until then, let's get on with our daily routines.

Everything happens for a reason, and life is full of challenges and obstacles, it just so happens that this hiccup involves a lot more people than normal.

At the moment, everything is speculation and only time will tell what the future holds.

# The tale of the towel in Thailand

Dear Momma Duck,

I am a big fan of the *pha khao maa*, the traditional Thai towel. I find them extremely useful at home, at the beach, when camping and just about everywhere else. I find they dry off much more quickly than Western-style towels, and I have even taken to using one tied very tightly around my midriff to serve as a weightlifting belt when I work out.

I once heard that Thai people say there are 100 uses of this handy item, but I have been

unable to find any of them listed on the Internet or elsewhere. I would like to add "weightlifting belt" to the list if possible. Do you know where I can find a listing of these 100 uses?

Regards  
Arnie S  
Chalong

Dear Arnie S,

I also tried to find out about the 100 uses of *pha khao maa* (or known as *pha chub* by southern Thais) on the Internet, but in

vain. I read an article by Anek Navikmoon, a columnist in the *Nation Weekly* on September 20, 2004, in which he mentioned that, in the year 1897, Siam imported *pha khao maa*, cloth with a floral design, handkerchiefs and sarongs from England.

He also mentioned that, at that time, the majority of imported red cloth came from Switzerland and was in greater demand than even the cotton from England.

This was a surprise. Given that weaving was quite common

in Siam at the time, I had assumed that cloth, including *pha khao maa* and sarongs, were woven by hand on family looms.

Home weaving was the norm in most 19<sup>th</sup>-century cultures, but imported, factory-made versions, primarily from Britain, were much cheaper and soon came to dominate markets in many countries.

Sometimes, in their eagerness to sell more, the British went to extremes.

For example, the British tried to ban home-weaving in India.

The empire builders wanted people there to concentrate only on the growing of cotton, with the raw product being shipped to Britain, woven into finished products and then shipped back for sale (and big profits for the British factory owners).

Unfortunately, I couldn't find out what either the traditional or British-made *pha khao maa* actually looked like.

As you are aware, the most common design these days is sort of a "tartan" checked pattern in various color schemes, but we don't know if that was tradition-

ally Thai or influenced by the British.

Based on our limited knowledge of Thai village silk production and designs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, I would assume that different parts of Thailand probably wove somewhat different patterns, perhaps even with certain villages having their special designs.

Also, given the Thai penchant for at least minimal embellishment, it is unlikely that the cloth was totally plain. Perhaps the Thai national museum in Bangkok has a section dedicated to fabrics, from which you can get some ideas.

As for uses, my husband is also addicted to using the *pha khao maa* around the house and always takes one when he travels, to use as a wrap-around; a towel; something to lie on at the beach; and folded up as a pillow.

He also informs me that Thai friends taught him how to tie it up as a bathing suit when he was a teacher in Chiang Rai during the 1970s.

Perhaps we can begin to compile our own list of 100 uses.



**Momma DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

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# Hero of the new Russia

**M**artin Cruz Smith is a class act. His novels feature prodigious but lightly-worn research, lean prose and independent, tough-minded protagonists who go up against all the brute forces of authority.

His breakthrough novel was his fifth, *Gorky Park*, a 1981 murder mystery set in Moscow, which introduced the honest Russian investigator Arkady Renko.

It was a huge bestseller and it was made into a movie starring William Hurt. Since then, Smith's novels have roamed from the wartime atomic bomb lab in Los Alamos to Tokyo on the eve of Pearl Harbor, via an English coal mining village in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

But Arkady Renko has returned in three fine follow-up novels: *Polar Star*, *Havana Bay* and *Red Square*.

Smith has now produced the fifth in the series: *Wolves Eat Dogs* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2004, 337pp). The scene shifts from Moscow to Chernobyl in the Ukraine, the site of the catastrophic nuclear accident in 1986. The time is the present New Russia, where an honest policeman is more of an anomaly than ever.

Smith sets the scene: "Moscow swam in color. Hazy floodlights of Red Square mixed with the neon of casinos in Revolution Square. Light wormed its way from the underground mall in the Manezh. Spotlights crowned new towers of glass and polished stone, each tower capped by a spire. Gilded domes still floated around the Garden Ring, but all night earth-movers tore at the old city and dug widening pools of light to raise a modern, vertical Moscow more like Houston or Dubai."

At the top of the new aristocracy of billionaire oligarchs is Pasha Ivanov, founder and CEO of the Novirus conglomerate, with fingers in every corrupt pie. He is found dead after falling from his 10<sup>th</sup>-floor penthouse – an apparent suicide.

Renko is instructed to wrap up his investigation quickly. But he finds three mysterious clues involving salt: Ivanov was clutching a salt shaker in his death grip; a large quantity of salt was found in his stomach, and a small

mountain of salt sits in his bedroom closet.

Then Renko discovers that the salt is highly radioactive.

A few days later, Ivanov's close associate and long time friend Lev Timofeyev is found murdered in a village cemetery in the Zone of Exclusion, the restricted radioactive area around the old atomic reactors of Chernobyl.

A deserted region now returning to wilderness, it is inhabited only by "old folks, squatters, scavengers, poachers and thieves", along with wolves and oddball scientific researchers.

What is the connection between the two deaths?

Bobby Hoffman is determined to find out. Hoffman is an American swindler and fugitive from justice who nevertheless felt a great love and loyalty toward his colleague, Ivanov.

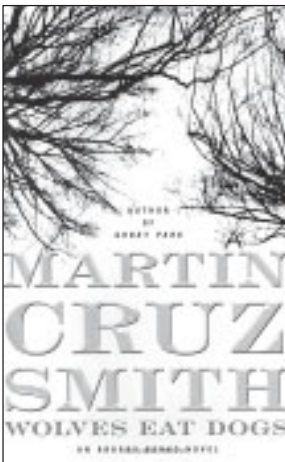
When Arkady Renko is dispatched from Moscow to Chernobyl to coordinate the murder investigation with Ukrainian police, Hoffman turns up to offer his support, along with an 80-year-old Jewish gunman.

Included in the mix is one Eva Kazka, a doctor who runs a clinic for the old farmers who have stayed behind in the Zone, and her ex-husband Alex Gerasimov, a one-time nuclear physicist turned wildlife researcher.

"The Zone has deer, bison, eagles, swans," Alex tells Renko on a trip into the woods. "The Chernobyl Zone of Exclusion is the best wild animal refuge in Europe because the towns and villages have been abandoned, fields abandoned, roads abandoned. Because normal human activity is worse for nature than the greatest nuclear incident in history. The next greenie I meet who tells me how he wants to save the animals, I'll tell him that if he's sincere, he should hope for nuclear accidents everywhere."

The title refers to the fact that no one keeps dogs in the Zone because the wolves eat them.

Beyond its obvious scaffolding as a murder mystery, the novel delves deeply into themes of personal responsibility, repentance and redemption for Arkady Renko and his fragile new family.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



## In The Stars

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): A misunderstanding is not your fault. The other person concerned in this tangled web is about to realize that they must swallow their pride and apologize. Romance continues to blossom and you can look forward to being pampered beyond your wildest dreams for the remainder of May. Make the most of this luxury, as an enforced separation is highly likely in June. Don't let your perceptions be colored by others' opinions.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): A steep learning curve is forecast this week. It seems that you made a wrong decision last month and the results of this will become apparent on Saturday or Sunday. How you handle this situation will strongly affect business possibilities, so put your thinking cap on before taking steps. The color deep burgundy will lift your spirits.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): If you retreat into your shell when the going gets tough, you could miss out on lots of fun this weekend. A close relationship that has become somewhat sour recently stands a very good chance of suddenly turning sweeter. But you will have to be there to help make it happen. Travel is forecast to help broaden your mind before the end of this month.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): It's high time for expansion in all areas of your life. A positive light is shining above Leos this week, causing you to believe that anything really is possible if you have the heart. Money flows in from an unexpected source and there's more to follow if you make a wise investment. The only downside during the coming days could be a minor health problem. Stick to rice and vegetables until you feel better.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): If you are feeling low in energy and spirit, you will benefit from retreating from your normal life. If you're not in a position to travel far from home, sitting on the nearest mountaintop and contemplating the ever-changing landscape will help. One personal burden is about to be lifted, which should go a long way toward lightening the mood. By Wednesday you'll realize that nothing is ever as bad as it seems.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your need for freedom is strong this week. Those who

value their individuality could be feeling unwelcome pressure from a new partner. If this romance isn't allowing you sufficient space in the early stages, take heed. A more fulfilling relationship lies ahead for those who haven't already found their true love. Work occupies your mind early next week, when a new colleague turns out to be less capable than promised.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Where work is concerned, you appear to have reached a crossroads with unreadable signposts. Pause for thought and your inner compass will provide directions. New people are poised to appear on your social scene, and this should open the door to some worthwhile friendships. If you're toying with the idea of relocation, Thursday is your best day for a tentative look at the property market. Wear sapphire blue to help see the truth.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Finances will occupy your attention until the end of the month, but in a good way. Many Sagittarians will receive surprise windfalls – if the first thought that pops up in your mind is to take a spontaneous trip, do it. Mid-week, there's a minor family crisis to take care of; you are advised to listen carefully to all sides of the story before passing judgment.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): If the sandals fit, wear them with pride. Those who find themselves the subject of some hot gossip should have no reason to be ashamed of their actions – others are suffering

from a bout of the green-eyed monster. Everything in your garden is looking rosy and all you have to do is bask in these benevolent conditions. Monday is your best day for tackling bureaucratic issues.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your tendency to sweat the small stuff is getting in the way of relaxation. Aquarians who can't leave their worries on one side are advised to take a realistic look at the big picture. Next month will offer all sorts of opportunities for advancement, but you need to be free of emotional baggage before then. Cancer is waiting for the right moment to ask an intimate question.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Pisceans who have been feeling under the weather lately can expect better health this week. However, you are advised to boost your vitamin intake by including more fresh fruit in your diet. A work-related challenge mid-week requires you to take the initiative; the boss is likely to be more than impressed by how you handle this situation. If you're self-employed, a lucrative contract is heading your way.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The discovery that someone is only a fair-weather friend will damp your spirits this weekend. Come rain or shine, you must make the effort to seek out the company of those who have already proved their true friendship. Next week, expect to receive an interesting package in the post; this is definitely going to be a case of better late than never. Number 3 is lucky on Tuesday.

## Wordly wise

"Now, if there is one thing that we do worse than any other nation, it is trying to manage somebody else's affairs."

Will Rogers

American journalist, ambassador and philosopher. (1879-1935)

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## What's in a name?

Despite the reassuring words from Dulwich International College founder Dr Arthit Ourairat that the breakdown of the school's franchise agreement with Dulwich College in London (DCL) will not harm the school's quality of education [see News], parents of students enrolled in the school are experiencing concern, if not anguish, over the change.

The dissolution of franchise and other business arrangements is a sad but increasingly common occurrence. Banks merge, and depositors are notified though the mail that the life savings they entrusted to one institution are now held by another. Cable television operators change names and viewer packages, raise prices, and then leave it up to the subscribers to intervene if they don't want to go along with the *fait accompli*.

But for parents who have been paying the fees at Phuket's premier international school, the unilateral re-branding from Dulwich International College to the generic (and somewhat presumptuous) "British International School of Thailand" must be moderately challenging.

DCL was founded in 1619 and has developed a reputation for quality education in the intervening 386 years. It is the envy of many in academia, where the most prestigious schools – not surprisingly – tend to be the oldest.

To have successfully maintained its "brand" over so many years is quite a feat. Generations of administrators must have considered quality control and maintenance of high academic standards as paramount, that is, of a higher order of importance than profit.

The British International College of Thailand, *née* 2005, faces a daunting task in ensuring that its current students will graduate with the same chance of gaining admission to top universities as they would have had with the Dulwich name on their diplomas.

The school claims that discussions "are already underway" to secure affiliation with another internationally-recognized institution. One can only hope that the likelihood of success of these discussions is somewhat greater than the 90% floated by the school's CEO when pressed a month ago by parents for his best estimate of the likelihood of continued use of the Dulwich name.

One would also hope that part of these negotiations would include an in-depth probe by the new British candidate school into the reasons its predecessor is no longer involved here – and whether the collapse had anything to do with maintenance of academic standards.

If so, perhaps these insights might finally be shared with the school's parents, students and teachers, who continue to ruminate largely in the dark.

– The Editor

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## Letters

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

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

### A diabolical comedy

How can so many damn fools extol the virtues of Khao Lak and say, "Show you love it by taking a holiday here"?

I drove through there over the weekend and, in the monsoon rain, it looked like the hellish images of Passchendaele from a book about World War I.

Sparse, bare trees, ruined buildings left scattered like shattered teeth and – worse than the dry soil of before – mud stretching from the sea one kilometer inland, broken only by the road.

Who cares if a score of beachfront resorts are now open? What enjoyment is there in that place now?

Yes, one might be helping the local economy by holidaying there, but it would be akin to booking oneself into one of Dante's rings of Hell.

It is simply too soon to sell Khao Lak as a place of enjoyment.

Fiorenza Alighieri  
Rome

### Taken for a ride

Are we expatriates just being taken for fools?

We stay here for years, spending a lot of money (much more than the average so-called "quality tourist") but we get nothing in return.

There is no water for days, at least in Soi Palai/Chalong, and as for ADSL, forget it.

Also, what about reliable electricity and adequate water supplies?

Must I to go to a hotel (they always have enough of everything except, unfortunately, tourists) in order to shower after three days?

After the tsunami, I begged so many people in Europe to come here in order to support the local economy, but if nothing works anymore, I'd rather [they] forget it.

Where has "Amazing Thailand" gone?

A disappointed expatriate  
By email

### Email appreciation

I just wanted to say how much I appreciate the *Gazette's* email newsletters. I probably owe my sanity and survival to your island, so *khap khun mahk*.

All the best in recovering after the tsunami.

Jay Rossouw  
By email

### Is it now time for the giving to stop?

While it may seem churlish to question the generosity of those who have given money, spirit and time to aiding tsunami relief, just how much more money is going to be requested for projects here?

Shortly after the disaster, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra claimed that Thailand did not need aid from abroad to alleviate suffering here.

He was wrong, in part. Of course Thailand needed help; government aid was typically slow and unimaginative in concept.

Foreigners – expatriates living here and those overseas – brought initiative and speedy aid to a place they knew and loved, a place they wanted to help.

However, this "partisan" attitude has probably seen – no one can even begin to calculate the funds donated to Thailand – an excess of money being donated to the region by many well-

intentioned but ultimately selfish foreigners who, quite simply, want their dream holiday destination back for themselves.

The cry of, "We're doing it to help Thailand" is poppycock. If they are so altruistic, then their altruism should be able to go anywhere. They could join the volunteers in Banda Aceh or perhaps enlist to work in an aid camp in Darfur. One cares about all humanity, or oneself; there are no gray areas.

Only last week, Médecins Sans Frontières – wisely – decided that it had sufficient funds to carry out its projects in tsunami-hit areas, and asked donors if their contributions could be used for other projects. Many people agreed, while – reportedly – 172 asked for a refund. I hope they sleep well at night.

The simple fact is that Thailand, the tsunami-hit country with the best infrastructure and the best chance of rebuilding itself – once the tourists return – has received an unreasonable amount of money compared to its needs and compared to other countries.

The tourists and the business owners here, both foreign and Thai, are doing it for themselves. They are many stories of business owners pocketing charity money to prop up their own enterprises ("But I employ Thais!" is their collective cry), and there remains a plethora of charities (every man and his dog has set up his own "fund") in Phuket asking for more money.

Enough funds are here and enough houses and boats have been built. It's time to withdraw and let the country get back on its feet – or fail – on its own.

Michelle Blandish  
Bang Tao

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.



# Tourism through fun and games

## FIRST PERSON

In 1998, the Asian X Games were launched right here in Phuket. This happened because Panu Maswongsa, Vice-President of Marketing of the Phuket Tourism Association, was close friends with the Asian X Games organizing team.

During the first two years there were no budget problems, but when K. Panu tried to arrange the event for the third year and asked the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) for a budget, he was turned down, on the grounds that the events of the Asian X games were not Olympic sports.

After that, cities like Kuala Lumpur and Seoul were glad to host the Asian X Games. Even though the games do not include Olympic events, they are nevertheless broadcast around the world on ESPN.

This type of competition provides international exposure for the host city and is the very definition of "sports tourism". When the government failed to recognize the importance of this event and refused to provide a budget, we lost our chance to host it again. Perhaps it's better not to think of it anymore, since it is a lost opportunity.

The same was true when we tried to host an international beach volleyball competition at Kata Beach Resort. We contacted the Olympic champions, the Australian team, who came to inspect the accommodation, competition venues and other facilities.

Everything was declared to be up to standard and we were all prepared to go ahead with the competition. But once again, we were denied a budget to pay the athlete's appearance fees. Another lost opportunity.

The FIFA Women's Under-

Why does Phuket often miss out on chances to host international sporting events that could help generate revenue for the province? Phuket Sports Association President Eam Thavornvongwongse talks about the failure of the government to recognize the full potential of sports tourism for the province and provide budgets accordingly.

K. Eam is also a Director of the Kata Group of hotels and resorts and President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.



19 World Soccer Championship last November was one international sporting events that did take place in Phuket. We were lucky to get it, and thanks to the upgrade to Surakul Stadium we are now qualified to host other international soccer competitions.

We were fortunate that Phuket got support from Asian Football Confederation board member Worawee Magudee, who was instrumental in getting the event staged in Thailand with Phuket as the only province to host matches outside of Bangkok.

Now that the Surakul pitch is up to Fifa standards, we can use it to host the first Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) Youth Games, from June 2 to 8. The Asem Youth Games' organizing team didn't even ask about the quality of the pitch because they knew it had already been used to host an international competition. We have to do some work to improve the quality of the training pitches before the competition starts, however.

The Formula One Powerboat Race [originally scheduled

to take place in Ao Makham last March, but now postponed until 2006] will bring another group of wealthy visitors to the island.

The 24 boats involved cost about US\$2 million each, and cannot get here on their own, so they need to be transported to Phuket in the cargo holds of two 747 airliners. That's just one of the initial expenses [that needs to be budgeted].

When it takes place, the F1 race will be broadcast around the world, and we will have a segment promoting Phuket as part of the telecast. But [after the tsunami], it had to be postponed as we were unable to get a budget to arrange the competition.

Phuket has also long had plans to build a permanent "sports complex". A feasibility study is underway about building the facility on land opposite Suan Luang Park [in Phuket City] or in the Khao Khat area, on land controlled by the Wichit Tambon Administration Organization. It is only a plan, however, and one that could end up as just another disappointment without enough sup-

port from the government.

It seems that so much of the sports tourism development effort in Phuket must rely on the time, effort and investment of the private sector. Why is it always like that?

When it comes to budgeting, government support and athletes, we lack everything. We need to recognize that high-profile sporting events give the world an opportunity to know about Phuket. They also generate revenue for the province.

To revive tourism after the tsunami, we were able to host the Group 2 tournament between Thailand and Croatia in the Women's FedCup tennis competition, in Patong. This came about because of help from both the Ministry of Sports and Tourism and the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand (LTAT).

As we lacked any international standard tennis courts, the LTAT had to build a court and install a temporary stadium at a cost of about 3 million baht. If this tournament had taken place in Bangkok [as originally sched-

uled] it would not have been necessary to invest so much money to host it.

Like many other tennis players, I wonder why we don't have an international-standard tennis stadium on the island.

Before the competition started, the athletes had to come and prepare themselves. Some turned up a week early. During this time they shopped, dined in our restaurants and filled hotel rooms, thus generating revenue across the entire tourism industry.

The tournament was broadcast in many countries and included views of the beach – this is a real benefit to Phuket as it gives the island international exposure.

To promote tourism, the government paid CNN to air the New Year's Eve countdown in Thailand. The five-minute spot cost about 100 million baht. That's really not that different from budgeting sporting events that are broadcast internationally.

We are a small province, far from the power center of the country. We also need to compete with other provinces for the right to host sporting competitions that will be held outside the capital, so we need to be well-organized to accomplish this.

Unfortunately, Phuket's sports clubs and associations lack unity, so maximizing our potential in this regard remains difficult.

Phuket is given an annual budget of just 200,000 baht to train its young athletes and send them to compete in the National Youth Games in Bangkok.

That simply isn't enough and indicates the real level of commitment to sports and sports tourism development on the part of the government.

## Are there laws against vehicle pollution?

Are there any laws in Thailand governing vehicle emissions?

If indeed there are, why do the police seem to take no action against those seemingly breaking the laws of the land?

Rather than checking whether there is light coming from the headlight of my motorbike, I think that it would be a far more useful – and certainly more beneficial to the environment – were the police officers to check the disgusting clouds of fumes – especially particulate-ridden diesel smoke – coming from the exhaust pipes of tour buses, minivans, trucks, airport limousines and cars.

Is there a local vehicular pollution policy?

Graham Dewey  
Phuket

**Teerayuth Prasertphol, Chief Technical Officer of the**

**Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO) replies:**

In response to Mr Dewey, yes, there are laws. Vehicles with engines bigger than 1,600cc that emit pollution contravene the law and are liable to a fine ranging from 1,000 baht to 50,000 baht. Vehicles with engine capacities of 1,600cc or less are liable for a fine of up to 2,000 baht.

Provincial policy currently puts priority on the wearing of helmets and seat belts, the possession of driving licenses and having functioning headlights on motorbikes.

The PPTO has only one machine for check vehicle emissions, and the police have none at all.

These machines cost between 20,000 and 30,000 baht and the one machine we do have was donated to us; and we have neither plans nor budget to buy more.

## No water in Kata Noi

We live in Kata Noi and we have constant water problems.

In fact, we have not – at the time of writing – had mains water for 32 days now.

When I call the water department (Tel: 076-321515), I get stupid answers from the staff there, or I am asked for my address and phone despite which my complaints are never pursued.

Thai people living in our neighborhood would not even give us a bucket of water for an emergency.

They have wells, so they have no problems at all.

How can any ordinary person afford to go on buying water from outside and having it delivered by tanker the whole time?

Disha Sadarangani  
Kata Noi

**Pichai Watrangsri, Product**

## 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.**

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**Supervisor of Phuket Provincial Water Supply, replies:**

I admit there are some problems with the water supply to this area.

The water supply for Kata and Karon is shared with the one for Patong; 75% of the water goes to Patong, while only 25% goes to Kata and Karon.

There is also a problem with the water pressure. We are cur-

rently waiting for money to fix it. We hope to get 95 million baht to fix all problems but our plans are still in the discussion process.

Unfortunately I have never received a complaint from you and suggest that perhaps you complained to the wrong department.

However, I shall send some people round there to explain and to see what we can do.



# TOT vs TT&T ADSL: Round 3

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, urging high-tech business people to relocate to Phuket, said recently, "You don't have to fly from here [Phuket] to Hong Kong or Singapore to work. Why not work here? If you have a good Internet network you can work here."

The Governor's absolutely right. I've been working here in Phuket, over the Internet, for four and a half years, and as long as my connection's working, I can write my books and keep AskWoody.com going.

But the Governor's comment (and the promise of a world-class IT infrastructure) begs the question: do we in Phuket have a good Internet network?

This week I'd like to take a look at tech support for TOT's CyberGold ADSL service, and TT&T's Hi-Net, the two 1,000-baht-a-month packages offered by our telephone companies.

Two weeks ago, in Round 1 of this series, I wrote about TT&T's flaky connections to a certain website. The failure of TT&T's Domain Name Server (DNS) was sporadic – one minute it'd go through just fine, the next minute it wouldn't.

Sometimes it was good for days. Other times it was down for days. I found a workaround, going through an Anonymizer, and thus discovered that my TOT line, thanks to the good efforts of the Thai Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (and Public Morals), blocked access to most Anonymizers.

I was – and am – worried about that sporadic TT&T failure because it could have been a symptom of DNS cache poison-

ing, a sophisticated technique that can be used to steal bank account numbers and passwords.

Cache poisoning works like this: every Internet Service Provider, including TT&T's Hi-Net service, has a table that translates the address you type in your browser (such as phuketgazette.net) into a weird four-number address the Internet can understand (in this case, 203.146.21.166). That translation table – the DNS cache – gets updated every few minutes or hours, as new addresses are added to the Internet, and old ones go out of use.

There have been several techniques used recently to "pollute" domain name tables, both by modifying the table itself, and by tricking the computer with the table into relying on a bogus source of addresses.

That's a Real Big Deal. Why? Say some cretin managed to change the table so www.ebay.com no longer points to 66.135.192.87, but instead points to some computer in Hackazistan. You type www.ebay.com into your browser, and you think you get connected to eBay, but you don't: the finagled table actually sends you to this website in Hackazistan.

Of course, the guys in Hackazistan are smart. They make their site look just like the eBay site. They ask you for your logon id and password, perhaps even asking you to verify your credit card or bank account details.

The fact that TT&T's DNS worked sometimes and didn't work other times might be attributable to a bad computer circuit, a mis-patched piece of software, or repeated exposure to alpha radiation from the planet Zorgon.

But it could also be a symptom of somebody trying to poison the cache.

I sent email repeatedly to the tech support folks at TT&T.

(Their address is icare@ttt.co.th). I described the problem precisely, and worked with them the best I could to narrow down the cause. In the end, I got nowhere. They were knowledgeable, friendly and willing to help – but didn't solve the problem.

Last week, I told you about my problems with TOT. Specifically, I can't get to any secure website using either of the lines TOT provided. I still can't log on to Hotmail, Gmail, any bank site anywhere in the world, eBay, PayPal, can't buy an airplane ticket, order books from Amazon, or work with any site that uses "SSL" secure web pages.

I called TOT half a dozen times (the ADSL tech support phone number is 1100). I described the problem precisely, and worked with them the best I could to narrow down the cause. In the end, I got nowhere. (Sound familiar, eh?)

Here's the kicker: TOT tech support won't communicate by email! You can call them all you like, but they don't have a tech support email address, and they won't send email.

You call. They call back. That's it.

Gov Udomsak, I believe passionately in Phuket's need for a good Internet network, so that people from all over the world can come to Phuket and live and work here. But there are three problems.

First, it can take forever to get a telephone line.

Second, technical support (which apparently emanates from Bangkok) is professional, caring and – in my experience at least – completely ineffective. I think Phuket has a big enough need for tech support that there should be some capable technicians located here. The fact that Bangkok's largest ADSL tech support team won't even deal with email speaks volumes.

Third... well, let's leave the third point for next week. By then I'll have the results of four weeks of time-testing, and you can see for yourself how TOT and TT&T's speed stacks up to local and international expectations.

– Woody Leonhard  
woody@khunwoody.com

# Hotel developers keep on coming

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The past few months have been perhaps the most difficult time that Phuket's hotels will ever have to endure. First there was the tsunami, then there was the slump in tourism it caused – hotel occupancy levels fell to 10% immediately after the tsunami, rose to 30%-40% in February and March and are currently hovering around 20%.

But this has not stopped leading hotel companies pushing ahead with new projects on the island.

Singaporean Rendezvous Hotels International (RHI) has signed a contract to manage the upmarket 81-room Rendezvous Resort, Phuket, which is currently under construction at Karon Beach.

RHI is to provide technical consultancy for the design, construction and management of the resort – due to open mid-2006 – for its owner, Taranta Co Ltd of Phuket.

RHI, a subsidiary of Singapore-listed The Straits Trading Company Limited, currently operates seven hotels in the Asia-Pacific region.

Company Chief Executive Alan Featherby said, "This resort [in Karon] is our first to open in Thailand and we are now reviewing further opportunities for expansion in the country."

"RHI secured this contract ahead of other international hotel groups. RHI is also delighted to be working with the hotel owner, Taranta Co Ltd of Phuket."

Taranta Managing Director Tanit Chutipongpattankul said, "We are delighted to have secured such a proactive and committed company as RHI. We believe the future of the resort will be very promising under their management."

Across the island, at Cape Yamu, work is continuing on the 75-room hotel, The Yamu. The Residence, the first phase of the three-phase project, is currently under construction. It is due to be followed by Phase 2, a development of villas costing between 40 million baht and 65 million

baht, and Phase 3, the hotel proper.

Hotel management will be by GHM Hotels, which is headed by Amanpuri creator Adrian Zecha. The project's developer, Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd has already stated its intention to develop another hotel in Phuket soon.

Meanwhile, Charn Issara Development Company is planning to build another 60 villas at its vacation residence development Sri Panwa, in addition to the 18 pool villas and nine other houses already there.

Charn Songkran Managing Director Songkran Issara does not see fears about another tsunami as an impediment to the success of the development, as other places which regularly suffer devastating natural phenomena remain popular.

He said, "After all, Florida has hurricanes every year, and Hawaii has tsunamis, but tourism is growing there."

"Right now, there is a lack of hotel rooms in Krabi, Phang Nga and Phuket. One in three hotel rooms were lost in this region, and while the demand is still there, the supply has been reduced."

The Director-General of the Office of Tourism Development, Dr Sasithara Pichaichannarong, also remains optimistic for future hotel developments.

He said, "The government in helping and supporting attempts in Phuket and the Andaman region as a whole to bring tourists back to the area. There is a future for the hotel business here."

Phuket Tourist Association President Pattanapong Aikwanich agrees, although he believes that there is a need for investment in marketing and development.

"Phuket currently has 35,000 hotel rooms," he said, "and we are facing more competition, especially from elsewhere [in Asia and Southeast Asia]."

"The business must invest heavily in its product and its services, to give itself an advantage over competitors within Thailand and outside Thailand."

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## ON THE MOVE



**Jeanette Skelton**, from New Zealand, is the newly-appointed Marketing Manager of the Royal Phuket Marina. Before joining the marina, Ms Skelton was General Manager at the Hong Kong restaurant Alibi. Her career has included working as Marketing and Public Relations Director for BB's Bar & Brasserie in Hong Kong.



**Amous Lee**, from Singapore, has been appointed Associate Director at Knight Frank Phuket. Mr Lee graduated in construction management and economics at Curtin University of Technology in Australia. Before joining Knight Frank Phuket, Mr Lee was Condominium Manager at the Knight Frank office in Singapore.



Fellow Singaporean **Tammy Chio** has been appointed Senior Manager – Property Management and Estates Knight Frank Phuket. Ms Chio graduated from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. Before moving to Phuket, Ms Chio was Condominium Manager of a prestigious condo block in Singapore.

# Setting the record straight on fees

**T**his column is about making money and the influences of the activities that cause people's money to grow or to dwindle.

Factors such as economics, money markets, currencies and politics have great effect, but investments and where you put your money to make the most of it is of utmost importance.

It is for this reason that I often discuss a number of different funds, so that your money can work for you and so you can receive the capital that you require to maintain your lifestyle.

In doing this, a few people have inferred that I might receive more than normal commission from the fund managers involved. I would like to set the record straight.

The fund managers involved are, apparently, Brandeaux, which manages ground rent and student-accommodation funds, and Orbis Investment Management (Orbis), which manages a small range of equity and absolute return funds.

The performances of these funds have been exceptional. Orbis has achieved the higher returns, but this is because it is involved in equity markets.

Brandeaux gives an investor consistent, reasonable returns, regardless of what is happening in financial markets, because the investments are related to ground rents and student accommodation, neither of which is linked to the greater economic cycle.

It is not as easy as it might seem to avoid the economic cycle. Bonds, equities, real estate and even bank account interest are all linked to it, and because of this relationship, they undergo periods of varying returns.

Orbis, which is based in Bermuda, deals directly with the public. All its funds are "no-load", in other words there is no front-end charge. There is an annual management fee, which varies depending on whether the fund invested in is an equity fund or an absolute return fund.

There is no exit charge and no minimum period of investment. Its funds are all dealt on a weekly basis, as are Brandeaux's.

Orbis pays no commission or brokerage fees because there is no entry or exit charge from which to pay. It requires a minimum investment of US\$50,000 (about 2 million baht) and access to a user-friendly website that requires no password. Investors must be able to fulfill anti-money laundering requirements.

Brandeaux levies a 1.5% entry cost to its funds and a 1.5% annual management fee. None of this goes to financial intermediaries of any kind.

However, it does not deal directly with the public. Any investor who wishes to deal with Brandeaux directly must be able to supply proof that the individual is a "professional investor". In addition, any applicant must be prepared for a stringent examination to prove that he or she qualifies for this title.

Second, Brandeaux will accept nothing less than a minimum, non-negotiable, investment from the professional investor of £100,000, or the US\$ or euro equivalent (about 7.5 million baht).

Third, any qualified professional investor must be able to satisfy the anti-money laundering requirements.

There are only two ways that a private, non-professional investor can place funds with Brandeaux: via a bank that has an existing relationship with Brandeaux, or through a personalized bond with an offshore insurance company.

All offshore insurance companies are part of larger "on-shore" groups. These include Royal Skandia, part of Sweden's Skandia Group; Friend's Provident International, a subsidiary of Britain's Friend's Provident; Zurich Financial Services, part of the Swiss group of the same name; and Generali International, part of Italy's Generali Group.

Brandeaux and Orbis pay no commissions to financial intermediaries. Clients of offshore insurance companies who have personalized bonds may invest with Orbis or Brandeaux, or any other approved financial institution for that matter.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The insurance company is then the client and the professional investor.

The underlying client has already passed the insurance company's anti-money-laundering requirements. These are anything but simple, but are acceptable to all financial institutions and fund managers, including those in the US and EC.

When an order is placed with an insurance company to buy a particular fund, a relationship will already exist – in all but the most unusual circumstances – between the fund manager and the insurance company.

Insurance firms are often the biggest source of business for fund management groups. They

are also a favorite with fund managers, as they place orders to buy, sell, switch or withdraw on a regular basis.

Settlements are guaranteed and registration follows a simple established path with no further anti-money laundering requirements being necessary.

In return for volume and simplicity, fund management groups almost always discount the vast majority of their front-end fees.

This discount would, in other circumstances, be paid as a commission to the person or organization bringing in the business. However, insurance companies are not entitled to commission from fund management groups; they are required to give this as an extra investment allocation to their client.

In the case of Orbis there is no front-end charge to discount but the US\$50,000 minimum is waived as all insurance compa-

nies already have far more than that invested. The situation with Brandeaux is identical, apart from the 1.5% entry charge.

There are some fund management groups who will reward financial intermediaries for placing business with them through insurance companies – or directly for that matter – although the fund manager will be unhappy if an insurance company is involved.

In any case, when an order is placed through an insurance firm to an investment house that pays commission to intermediaries, the insurance firm requires a form signed by the client to the effect that the client is aware that part of the fees are being paid to the intermediary.

I know I would never have the chutzpah to ask a client to sign this form.

As always, readers wishing to discuss these matters, or any others, may contact me. There is no charge for a consultation.



### Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

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#### Notification for German residents

Transitional financial aid for German small enterprises in the tsunami-stricken areas

In accordance with the NOAH-fund launched by the German Federal Government, local German residents may apply for interest-free loans (**Application deadline: May 30, 2005**).

#### Minimum requirements:

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#### Bekanntmachung

Überbrückungshilfe für tsunamigeschädigte deutsche Kleinunternehmer

In Anlehnung an das NOAH-Programm der Bundesregierung können betroffene deutsche Staatsangehörige zinslose Darlehen bei der Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland beantragen. (**Antragsfrist: 30.05.2005**)

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# Knockout bout costs champ Muay Thai title

By Steven Fein

RAWAI: Naronglek Muangsrivichai won the Southern Region Muay Thai lightweight title with a Round 3 knockout over defending champ Kulap Petch of Songkhla's Chana District. The fight was one of 11 matches held at the Muang Phuket School on Royal Ploughing Day, May 11.

Action got underway at about 8 pm, with three matches between "pocket warriors", youngsters all weighing less than 70 pounds.

After a short rain delay, action resumed when Rawai's Kerkfa Sor Jundaeng, fighting at 84lbs, suffered a TKO 2 minutes 15 seconds into Round 4 at

the hands of Sornsuk Sornpichai of Surat Thani.

The next bout was a mismatch. American Muay Thai student Timmy from Rawai-Muay Thai boxing camp, fighting at 135 pounds, stormed all over opponent Fontae Sakmanote of Krabi and knocked him senseless just seconds into the first round.

One could only feel sorry for the Thai. He was grossly overweight and unprepared for the bout and appeared to be a sacrificial lamb going to the slaughter on the altar of tourism promotion.

He was even mocked by the ring announcer as resembling *moo daeng* (red pork) because of his flabby and flustered appearance. If his job was to take



**YOU CAN'T TOUCH THIS!** Challenger Naronglek Muangsrivichai of Surat Thani aims a foot to the midsection of former Southern Region lightweight champ Kulap Petch of Songkhla. Kulap stopped this one, but he lost his title when he was knocked unconscious in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round by a straight left to the chin.

a dive, he certainly did make quick work of it.

In feature events, Yodradup Yodchaiyim of Chumphon won a unanimous decision over Kiatpisan Por Jundaeng of Songkhla to win the Southern Region "mini-pinweight" (95lbs) title.

This was followed by the most exciting match of the night, another title bout pitting 130-pounders Kulap Khao ("White Rose"), of Phang Nga, against Surat Thani's "Nuclear" Sumreuti. White Rose, dressed in pink shorts, won an easy decision, pummeling the lanky Nuclear with combinations of punches, while ducking counter-punches with cobra-like precision and, at times, comic effect.

Nuclear complained of a low blow in Round 4 and spent the end of Round 5 circling his opponent at a safe distance, clutching his groin and pleading for fairness from the referee.

He wasn't the only one who had attention focused on his groin, however. In Round 3, with Nuclear seemingly out on his feet, the referee stopped the fight, pulled down Kulap Khao's trunks and adjusted his box as the crowd of about 1,000 people looked on.

The delay of several minutes likely saved Nuclear from being knocked out – but his atomic stockpile was apparently spent and he was never able seriously to hurt his elusive opponent, who went on to win an easy decision.

After Naronglek's surprise win in the main event, the final match pitted Thai girl "Anna", from Surat Thani, against buxom Swedish lass Marilyn from Rawai-Muay Thai boxing camp. Unfortunately, it was another dangerous mismatch, with the Swede far bigger, stronger and better trained than Anna.

But the feisty Anna fought bravely and refused to take a quick dive. Although her corner wanted to throw in the towel after Round 1, when she was slammed into the canvas several times by the powerful, blonde Swede, she insisted on continuing.

The referee finally stopped the fight in Round 3, with Anna exhausted but still smiling against the ropes. Remarkably, she was not awarded the trophy for "strongest heart" on the night, which had already been presented to groin injury-victim

Nuclear before Anna had even stepped into the ring.

The boxing night, advertised as the second of its type held at the school, drew a good crowd, with tickets at 200 and 500 baht.

Unlike the obscene double-pricing that goes at tourist-oriented Muay Thai arenas on the island, entry was priced the same for all, regardless of race or nationality, and few spectators left early despite the 1 am finishing time.

Local dignitaries on hand included Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr and Rawai Tambon Administration Organization Chairman Aroon Solos. Organizers said proceeds from the event would go towards rebuilding a sermon hall at Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai.

## Other results:

**68lbs:** Yodbuapetch d Phichai-chai by decision.

**55lbs:** Jombeung Sor Abdul d Worawut Wor Wichian by decision.

**62lbs:** Super Ott Yoschaiyim d Thanrak Saknaran by decision

**108lbs:** Banleur Siyjaewai d Pet Rawai by decision.

## Patong Darts League

# OffShore lead; Amigos blast Piccadilly

PATONG: During the May 10 round, second-place Queen Mary picked up a much-needed point against league leaders OffShore when they won all three points in a walkover against the now-defunct Champs squad. OffShore won just two points after Dog's Bollocks regrouped after losing the single-doubles 7-2 and came back to win the beer leg.

In the Piccadilly v Amigos showdown on Soi Kebsup, Terry of Amigos – recently recovered from a case of dengue fever – had the hot hand, checking out both his singles and doubles games to lead Soi Sea Dragon's finest to a 6-3 win. Piccadilly bounced back by winning a one-point beer leg.

**Shafted!** Jan at Valhalla has just received a large supply of darts equipment for those needing boards, barrels or any other darting supplies.

**May 10 Results:** Pickles 5 Nag's Head\* 4; Dog's

Bollocks\* 2 OffShore 7; Piccadilly 3\* Amigos 6; Shakers (lost) Valhalla\* (score not available); Two Black Sheep 1 Didi's\* 8. (\*=winners of beer leg.)

**Standings:** 1. OffShore (41pts); 2. Queen Mary (34); 3.= Amigos, Pickles, Shakers (26); 6. Piccadilly (25); 7. Didi's (23); 8. Valhalla (21); 9. Nag's Head (19); 10. Dog's Bollocks (12); 11. Two Black Sheep (7).

**May 24 match-ups:** Amigos v Valhalla; Dog's Bollocks v Two Black Sheep; Queen Mary v Pickles; Offshore Bar v Nag's Head; Shakers v Piccadilly (Home teams first). Champs and Happy Days have dropped out of the league, Happy Days replaced by Dog's Bollocks. All remaining games against Champs will be counted as three-point walkover wins.



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# German wins first ITF title

By Anongnat Sartpisut  
& The Nation

PHUKET CITY: German Simon Stadler of Heidelberg won his first ITF title when he tamed Indonesian Suwandi Suwandi in the final of the US\$10,000 (nearly 400,000 baht) TAT Phuket Open, the second of the three-leg ITF Men's tournament played at the Phuket City municipal tennis courts on May 15.

The 21-year-old, ranked No 711 in the world, said the 6-3 6-2 defeat of the veteran Indonesian wasn't easy.

"The conditions here, especially the high temperature, made it tough to play. Still, this match was one of the best of the tournament and I am glad I won it in two sets because of the difficult playing conditions. The score may make it look easier that it actually was, because he made me do a lot of running around," said the German, whose previous best finishes were making the semi-final rounds in circuit events last year held in Bressuire, France, and Tallinn, Estonia.

Stadler won US\$1,300 (about 50,000 baht) and received a big confidence boost going into the third and final week of play in the men's circuit event, in which he will face the less experienced wild card entry Palanupap Puranawit of Thailand in the opening round.

In the doubles final on May 14, top pair Josh Goffi of Brazil and American Trevor Spraklin came from behind Suwandi and compatriot Boni Wirywan 4-6 6-3 7-5 for the trophy.



LEFT: 21-year-old German Simon Stadler overcame last week's winner Alun Jones of Australia in the second round en route to winning the TAT Phuket Open, his first ITF championship title.

RIGHT: Tournament referee Denis Overberg (center) of Australia poses with event champion Stadler and runner-up Suwandi Suwandi of Indonesia.



The third and final week of the men's circuit kicked off on May 16. The top seed was Briton Lee Childs, ranked No 334 in the world, followed by Indian Vinod Sridhar, Japan's Toshiaki Sakai and Germany's Frank Moser.

Bhee Withoonpanich, Peer-

akit Siriluethaiwatana and Kiti-pong Wachiramanowong joined Palanupap as the four wild card entrants granted to Thailand as tournament hosts.

The men's competitions are due to be followed by a six-day ITF Women's ranking event, starting May 23, with

US\$25,000 (nearly 100,000 baht) in prize money up for grabs. Entry for spectators to all matches is free.

Complete tournament draws and results are updated daily and can be viewed online at [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)

**Stadler's march to victory:**  
Round 1: d. Ishay Hadash (ISR) 5-7 6-4 6-4; Round 2: d. Alun Jones (AUS) 6-2 6-1; Quarter-final: d. Toshiaki Sakai (JPN) 6-4 4-6 6-2; Semifinal: d. Phillip King (USA) 6-3 5-0 (ret.); Final d. Suwandi Suwandi (IND) 6-3 6-2.

## Anchor Bar wins Patong pool league

PATONG: Anchor Bar, now on 59 points, held on to win the Patong Pool League by a comfortable 10-point margin over second-place OffShore.

Play in the knockout cup began May 19, with Anchor taking on newcomers Sporting Corner, which will replace Valhalla. Other matches will be: OffShore

v Queen Mary, Dog's Bollocks v Tatum Mansions; Nag's Head v Shakers.

**Final standings:** 1. Anchor Bar; 2. OffShore; 3. Dog's Bollocks; 4. Amigos; 5. Nag's Head; 6. Shakers; 7. Pickles; 8. Tatum Mansions; 9. Queen Mary; 10. Valhalla.

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# PICKING YOUR SLICE OF LIFE

Picking grapes is back-breaking work so it is no surprise most of it is done by temporary foreign laborers from poor countries.

In my home of California, in the US, the workers tend to be Mexican, but increasing numbers of Asians – including the Hmong – will now also be found. In Europe, grape pickers are usually from North Africa.

Winemakers spend a great deal of time in the vineyard and often work alongside the pickers in more valuable or dedicated grape zones. Having done so for many years, I have great respect for vineyard workers and their essential contribution to the wines we enjoy.

To motivate pickers to work quickly and diligently, most wineries pay pickers by the ton of grapes rather than by the hours worked.

Every picker is issued with a sharp curved knife or a pair of specially-designed shears to cut away the grapes hid-

den within the canopy of leaves. The pickers dress in heavy clothes to protect themselves against the morning cold and the afternoon sun.

A typical day begins well before sunrise; wine-makers want grapes harvested while they are still cool and early enough day to process them into juice before the end of the day.

At the start of work, pickers find themselves stumbling around in the dark, still not really awake, holding a razor-sharp knife. If this sounds like a recipe for lost fingers and serious slicing of limbs, you are right, it is.

Also, since it is not possible for one person to pick both sides of a grapevine, a co-worker must work opposite you on the

## WINE



By Steven Roberto

other side of the same vine, thus increasing the risk of catastrophe.

New hazards emerge as the sun rises. Clouds of minute insects called leafhoppers begin to float in the face and eyes, necessitating a mask.

Bees and wasps view the pickers as intruders and begin to sting. Occasionally, a rattlesnake is encountered, with near-fatal results.

In more rural vineyards, I have witnessed attacks from wild boar and brown bears that lurk among the vines. Pickers must also remain alert for tractors towing bins of grapes through the vine rows lest they accidentally get run over.

By the workday's end everyone is exhausted but happy to be alive and in one

piece, with cash in hand for their effort. But there is still one constant danger to elude, the immigration authorities seeking those without documentation entitling them to work.

Evenings are a brief respite spent in an air of camaraderie, swapping stories of the day's events, accompanied by music, singing and alfresco meals. Sleep comes easily, and is never restless.

At the end of harvest season a long journey home lies ahead, with the pickers returning to their everyday lives, seldom having tasted what they have worked so hard to produce. So, the next time you enjoy a glass of wine, raise a toast and think of them.

*Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuke, a Phuket-based wine importer and consultant. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com*

There's an old joke about Icelanders, that their favourite summer pastimes are fishing and love-making. "What about in the winter?" asked a curious visitor. "Too cold for fishing," came the laconic reply.

The temperature's pretty much the same all year round in Singapore, but things do get hotter when the city state launches into a brace of festivals concerning two of its favourite pastimes – eating and shopping.

The end of this month sees the start of the grand retail romp, while everyone will be chowing down with gusto during July – as if they don't do that normally.

As one of the world's most celebrated and cosmopolitan entrepôts, the Lion City is naturally suited to both activities.

A mixture of races melded gastronomic traditions long before celebrity chefs started warbling about fusion cuisine, and buying and selling are as natural as breathing for Singaporeans. And, of course, there are bargains galore for visitors.

Precise details of the Great Singapore Sale will be revealed only on opening day, but the array of malls packed with stores and boutiques has to be seen to be believed.

The Central Belt, embracing 15 dedicated retail hubs including Milenia [sic] Walk and Parco

## Singapore spree



## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Bugis Junction, runs from Tanglin Rd all the way down Orchard Rd as far as Marina Bay, and has been compared favorably with Fifth Avenue, Regent St, the Champs Elysées, the Via Veneto and the Ginza, for very good reason.

Outlying areas such as Marine Parade Town on East Coast Beach may not be quite so high-end, but they are still offering discounts. And of course just about everyone will be passing through Changi Airport, which is entering into the spirit of things with a huge array of free gifts for those who buy anything.

And having shopped till you dripped – it's still pretty steamy despite the prevalence of air-conditioning – there's no better way to review your spoils than over a hearty meal.

Esperanto may not have made the mark its creators hoped, but in Singapore just about everyone – Chinese, Malay, Indian or Liqueurice Allsort – understands the word *Makan* – eating.

You might want to kick off with a dim sum breakfast, piping hot and ultra fresh, in an old Chinese teahouse, or maybe spread a pile of toast with coconut custard jam.

There's international cuisine by the bucket-load, whether it's the finest Japanese sushi, some tender Mexican enchiladas, a sea-

food barbecue or a mound of Italian pasta.

It doesn't have to be expensive either – drop by a neighborhood food court and you can take your pick of a variety of Asian dishes for just a few dollars.

The Brits left Singapore a long while back, but that doesn't mean to say you can't get stuck into scones and cakes for afternoon tea.

It's said the French "*vivent pour manger*" – live to eat – rather than vice versa. In Singapore, this fact of life is so natural nobody's ever thought to put it into words.

And don't think that dinner marks the end of the day's gustatory goings-on. Suggest a bowl of noodles around midnight to a bunch of Singaporeans who only got up from the table a couple of hours before, and they'll nod in unison after only a fraction of a second's hesitation.

The Great Singapore Sale runs from May 27 to July 24, and will be only minorly eclipsed by the Singapore Food Festival, which will run throughout the whole of July.

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# Chill, my little cupcake

Despite the fact that Patong is suffering a significantly lower low season than average, it remains a place of cacophony and confusion. Some people no doubt find this – the competing music and the occasional large motorcycle being revved to infinity – quaint, and all part of the town's charm.

I don't. "Why, then," you may be asking, "have you gone to Patong?" A good question, and the answer depends on how good tonight's restaurant, Burasari, is.

Honor is at stake too; Burasari has been recommended by one of my colleagues, Khun Oy, and woe betide her if it is not the oasis of tranquility she tells me it is. She and another colleague, K. Joy, are my companions tonight.

The frustrating drive here has caused not so much red mist as red ... custard to descend, and their entreaties of *jai yen* are falling on deaf ears. Perhaps the custard – along with cream, jelly and sponge cake soaked in sherry – is in them, too. Perhaps I am a trifle deaf.

Our host, Somphop Pratanasanti, the Rooms Division Manager, appears to recognize my pent-up tension but I accept nothing more than a cocktail – called a "Relaxing" – from him. The drink is a vivid hue of blue – courtesy of the Curaçao – and laced with a healthy dose of vodka. I soak up the away-from-it-all atmosphere of Burasari as I sip my drink and I begin to "chill" slightly. K. Oy was right.

To make up for the shortfall in tourists on the island, Burasari has made the wise decision to seek out gastronomes from the expatriate and long-term visitor community, offering a pair of two-person set menus for 499 baht per couple.

I'm always a little suspicious of such bargains, although K. Oy speaks highly of it. The proof of the pudding – or starter or main course – will be in the eating. In fact, the only unimagi-



**SWEET ME:** Burasari's parfait (left) is the perfect way to round off a meal.

**TONGUE TEASER:** The slices of chili and the mango salsa in the Tuna in a Pancetta Coating (below) add subtle spice to the palate.



native aspect of the menus are their names: Dinner Menu A and Dinner Menu ... you guessed it, B.

Menu B is offered tonight, and that means fusion food. Two plump for the same starter, Fresh Cannelloni of Barbecued Pork while I go for Crispy Smoked Salmon.

The pork is less like a traditional cannelloni and more like a traditional spring roll. The meat has the subtle taste of *moo daeng* or *char sui* pork, with the refreshing crunch of bean sprouts, grilled corn and a medley of sauces – some hot, some not.

Particularly pleasing is the salmon, which comprises a sheet of *filo* pastry topped with salmon and ricotta cheese before being rolled up and flash-baked. The three textures – crispy, chewy

and soft – make this the winner in the starter stakes.

Burasari offers two soups, Lobster Bisque and Black Chicken Consommé – both with a *wonton* resting in the bottom of the bowl as a treat. Lobster bisque as served in Phuket is – thanks to the excellent seafood in the island's waters – rarely bad, although it is rarely good, either.

This bisque, however, was rather lovely, the diminutive *wonton* like a pearl in a shell.

Plaudits too for the consommé, although what the "black" part is I'm not sure. Nevertheless, it is crystal clear and has a robust flavor.

Three choices of main course – Tuna in a Pancetta Coating, Fillet of Pork and Roast Spring Chicken – plus three diners make deciding what to have easy; we'll share anyway.

The pancetta coating gives the tuna – still a melting pink inside – a delightful mustard taste,

which, married with the striking mango salsa cut with tiny slivers of red-hot chili, makes for a memorable experience.

The roast chicken, served on a bed of soft polenta – a good touch – actually tastes of chicken, which is something of a rarity. Admit it, chicken doesn't often have a distinctive taste anymore, does it? Perhaps it is because it has been roasted – with all the associated memories of a Sunday lunch and a post-prandial route march before afternoon tea – that makes it taste so good at Burasari. Or maybe it's the balance of fines herbs and mustard, the taste of which are especially evident in the *jus*. But why analyze the pleasure out of it?

No complaints, either, about the oven-roasted pork, served with caramelized apples and the British caviar: mashed potato. Yum-yum, as my dining companions now know to say.

My only complaint concerns the desserts, just one of them in fact. While the Iced Orange Parfait was perfect and the Mango and Sticky Rice was grand – the Blueberry Cheesecake let the side down.

No complaints about the taste or the texture, but why pipe that dreadful mock cream around the edge?

I would even prefer real cream from a can – or better still, no extras at all – than the ultra-white, shaving foam-like goo that spoiled this dish.

That aside, from the Café Del Mar music to the superb service from K. Suchitra and K. Thammaruk to the insulated atmosphere of Burasari – at 499 baht for two, someone has got their sums right.

*Burasari Resort, 32/1 Ruamjai Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-293093-5. Website: www.burasari.com.*

## On the menu

with  
Andy Johnstone

### Burasari

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# Breaking down the Big Mango

Over the past week I have been working in Bangkok, and the previous week I was in Hong Kong.

It is always a nice to take a break from Phuket; to get off the island and get a fix of diesel fumes and perfume. It gives a massive energy boost, perhaps because of the humid sea air that we breathe down there.

It's not just because Bangkok is a big city – every big city has energy. I suppose it's because everybody's concentrating on survival and earning a living.

Bangkok, and its energy, is like no other city in the world, especially its smells – the food from hundreds of street stalls, the spices from the markets and small shops, the perfume of the pretty girls. Bangkok beats Hong Kong hands down. Hong Kong has energy, but no color, except at night when all the neon lights are on.

Bangkok girls beat Hong Kong girls by a million miles in the looks department. I was in the Emporium shopping center on Sukhumvit Rd and even before lunch the place was full of potential Miss Worlds.

One of my friends has a theory that Bangkok must have been some sort of experimental center where genetic scientists mixed all the best elements of womankind and came up with the Bangkok Girl. I have lived here for more years than I care to mention and I'm still impressed.

One of the worst things about leaving this city is that you don't get to see Bangkok girls anymore. Pity those who worked here for a company and are then transferred to another country, or home to Australia or, heaven forbid, to England. That could easily have been the origin



**THE GREAT TURN-OFF:** Last week I wrote about driving to Phuket using the Krabi-Surat Thani expressway. A few people have told me that they either couldn't find it or when they were on it, didn't know where to get off.

This U-turn says Plai Phraya, follow that one. Coming from Surat, you go about 20 kilometers south towards Nakon Sri Thammarat and watch for the Krabi exit.

of the expression "a fate worse than death".

There are a few things wrong with Bangkok though, apart from the traffic. I don't complain about the traffic because the Thai girls and the food make up for that. It must be difficult for those who don't like Thai food or Thai girls. If you don't like

Thai food and are married, that only leaves the traffic.

But getting back to things that bug me: I spent hours in a CD shop in the Emporium.

I'm tired of the same old CDs in my car, but it's so difficult buying decent music, even though this is supposed to be one of the best

CD stores in Bangkok.

Sometimes a CD is filed under the artist's surname, sometimes under the first name. Frank Sinatra and Ray Charles are filed under Jazz, and *The Sound of Music* is filed under "Opera". You'd think that a company that had the two biggest international music stores in Bangkok would employ someone who knew about music.

Anyway, I'm driving back to Phuket tomorrow, and taking the yellow python. He's grown up in Bangkok but he's too big now for the snake house in our Bangkok office, so I've got to take him to Phuket where there's a nice big snake house waiting for him.

Could be interesting if a policeman decides to search the car. I hope he likes the new CDs.

## Construction Update

# Old time mine

CHALONG: Work on Phase I of the Nirvana Phutri luxury housing estate in Chalong began at the end of 2004 and is on target for completion by the end of 2006.

The project is sited on 100 rai of hillside land off Chao Fa West Rd, about three kilometers north of Wat Chalong, and features views of landscaped tin mine lagoons.

When all three phases are complete, the project will have a total of 70 residential units along with additional services including assistance for the elderly, international-standard dining and shopping facilities, business center, boutique hotel and spa.

Phase I consists of 28 homes, the designs of which were inspired by the classic "Srivi Chai" architecture of the Angkor period, but incorporate modern elements for modern living.

Sales Manager Shananchida Terdkietchat of project developer Nirvana Phutri Co Ltd told the *Gazette* there has been

positive interest in the unique design among foreign buyers seeking an alternative to the contemporary Thai and Balinese designs that currently dominate the luxury housing market.

Three two-story designs are available in the first phase. The two-bedroom Mekala design is a 255-square-meter home with 144sqm of outdoor space, including patios, gardens and parking for two cars. Nine units are available, each with a 25sqm private swimming pool, with prices starting at 16 million baht each.

The 364sqm Lakana design is a larger two-story unit with three bedrooms, 176sqm of patio and garden space, and a 30-sqm swimming pool. Eleven Lakana units are available at prices starting from 25 million baht.

The largest design, the Busada, is a 456sqm two-story

home with four bedrooms. It features an outdoor area of 265sqm and a 42sqm swimming pool. Eight units are available starting at 32 million baht.

Project Manager Nathan Motylinski explained that the three designs all feature large bedrooms, each with an en-suite bathroom. Every master bedroom will have a Jacuzzi in the bathroom.

Mains water supply and power lines will be installed underground, and the show home is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Plans for Phase II include offices, a business center and an international school, and plans for Phase III focus on lakeside development, including a boutique

hotel and a floating spa. Other facilities will include international-standard restaurants, shopping area, jogging track, fitness center and an on-site health clinic.

K. Shananchida explained that the offices in

Phase II will be designed to be similar to those on Orchard Rd in Singapore, but with canals and lakeside frontage to add a Venetian atmosphere.

The common area management will provide a wide range of services, including 24-hour security, limousine services, 24-hour room service, golf bookings and pool maintenance.

K. Shananchida said, "This land is an old tin mine, and it has taken nearly three years to clear the land and ensure there is no seepage. Because we are building at a time when people are concerned about earthquakes and tsunamis, we must make sure the structures are well-built to ensure the safety of the residents."

All units are available on three consecutive 30-year leases. Mr Motylinski said, "We are pro-



**An artist's impression of the Mekala design, which is based on the Srivi Chai designs used during the Angkor period.**

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by Anongnat Sartpisut

# gets new lease of life



The 100-rai Nirvana Phutri project will see an old time lagoon in Chalong developed into a leasehold residential estate, with later construction of a shopping complex, commercial offices and a floating spa.

viding leasehold properties so we can maintain the quality of the project. When too many people are involved, you are not control."

He added, "Our target market is foreigners, and feedback

has been positive. Many people are building projects near the sea, and that is great – a lot of projects are going up right now. But when foreigners hear of something different, that gets their interest."

For more information about the Nirvana Phutri development, contact the sales office at Tel: 076-383412 or Email: [info@nirvanaphutri.com](mailto:info@nirvanaphutri.com), or visit: [www.nirvanaphutri.com](http://www.nirvanaphutri.com)

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Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31 Project developer and owner: Le Raffine 31 Company Limited Registered capital 20,000,000 Baht fully paid up. Office location: 31 Sukhumvit 31 2nd Floor, Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-District, Klongtoey District, Bangkok 10110. Planning Director: Pongthorn Harnwattana, PhD. Resident/condominium 31 floor with 45 units. Site location: On-site located No. 28/5, Klongtoey Sub-District South Bangkok, Phromphong District Bangkok, Bangkok. Land area: (Plot 1-1-16) approximately 170 sqm. Project numbered and supported by Klongtoey Sub-District. Building construction permit has been approved. Construction progress: July 2004. Completion expected November 2005. The project shall be registered at the condominium after completing the construction. Common area fee will be paid by buyers in accordance with registration of condominium price period.

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## Home of the Week

Patong



Located in Nakatani Village, a community of 24 properties sitting atop a steep slope five kilometers north of Patong, this week's Home of the Week enjoys sea views and all the benefits of being part of a secure, private estate with full villa management services.

Occupying 380 square meters, the semi-detached villa shares the development's modern Thai style with elements of traditional Thai design.

The home's two levels,

which are surrounded by lush vegetation, tropical flowers and palms, include three bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms finished to a high standard in marble.

The floors and stairs throughout the dwelling are mostly polished hardwood, but the floor on the upper level is of

terracotta tiles, giving a cool, natural feel to the home.

On the upper floor is the cozy yet open-plan living and dining area, behind which is the Western-style kitchen complete with all modern appliances.

The living and dining area leads out onto the balcony, with sea views stretching out to the horizon beyond the rich vegetation that provides privacy.

The stairs lead down to two bedrooms, and there is a separate entrance to the larger master bedroom.

On the same lower level is the large laundry room and store, and a small garden.

The covered car port can accommodate two cars parked nose-to-tail, and has storage space behind sliding wood panels.

The property comes fully furnished, has air conditioning throughout, and has UBC TV, mains and well water, water heaters and a high-quality water fil-



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Going potty in the yard

Americans don't quite get it. Apart from driving on the wrong side of the road, playing sports while wearing more protection than a Sherman tank and inventing a highly irritating giant purple dinosaur called Barney, one of their greatest achievements is their desecration of the English language.

Why is a burglar a burglar? Because he burgles. Why would a nation of people want to say that he "burglarizes"? An American suggested to me recently that I should "keep it real", and I did not have the faintest idea of what she was talking about. When I asked what exactly she felt I should be keeping real, she seemed at a loss to explain.

And then there's the psychobabble. When our transatlantic cousins talk about getting to know themselves, or psychoanalyzing their pets, you know there's little you can say in response. If you hear an American say, "I'm embarking on a voyage of self-discovery and truly coming to know myself," run for the hills. Really.

The English language isn't that difficult. I mean, pants are normally worn inside one's trousers, not the other way round, unless you're Superman. You don't drive on the pavement, you walk on it, and why would one call a main course an "entrée"?

But the most important one, as far as the gardening world is concerned, is this: a yard is not a garden. I'll repeat that, slowly – a ... yard ... is ... not ... a ... garden.

I may be a Brit, but to me a yard is the plain paved area at the back of a house that has absolutely nothing in it or protruding from it, except perhaps a washing line.

For this reason, I thought I'd have a look at how you can turn a "yard" into a garden. A bare, unadorned yard is an obvious invitation to create a garden in containers.

Gardeners elsewhere in the world love to point out that there

A boring empty yard can be quickly transformed into a garden by simply adding a variety of potted plants.



are strict rules about which plants can be grown in pots and which ones grow only in a bed of soil, but in this neck of the woods it doesn't really matter. You can put whatever plant you want into a pot, and get away with it.

There are dozens of varieties of containers to choose from; you can use literally anything. My favorite pot in my garden at home isn't actually a pot at all – it's a sit-down toilet. The neighbors thought I was insane when I first brought it home and started filling it with soil outside my house.

More normal container choices include clay or terracotta, plastic, wood, glazed pottery, stoneware, metal, and wire, of which come in numerous shapes and sizes. They aren't expensive either.

The best soil to use initially is sold in small white sacks outside most garden centers in Phuket. The sacks cost about 30 baht each, and are ideal because, unlike the soil that you would dig out of the ground, this soil doesn't get waterlogged – the water just drains away.

Drainage is probably the most important requirement for growing plants in pots, so make

sure there is a hole or two in the bottom of the pot to let the water out.

Another point to bear in mind is that the pot needs to be big enough to hold the plant you intend to grow in it. It's worth thinking about how quickly the plant will grow, too – potted plants growing in this part of the world

don't hang about. If you think the pot is only a little too big, it's probably best to get the next size up anyway. Using this kind of twisted logic may actually prevent you having a bonsai on your hands.

So what to grow? Forget what the experts may say about form, composition and color – just plant what you want. Whatever

you think looks good, or even whatever the garden center has at the time. It will look good when you get it home anyway, and will in all likelihood be perfectly content in a pot.

Because container plants cannot take water from underground, they need frequent watering. Pots with established plants exposed to full sun may need watering as often as twice a day. Don't forget to splash a little onto the leaves too – they'll thank you for it.

I think most Americans understand the concept of growing plants in pots – perhaps it could even help them to keep it real. But when they talk about "getting to know their plants", it's time you were in another yard.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN PHUKET

A lovely detached bungalow is available for sale by owner in the "Irvadee" private estate in Kathu, Phuket, near the Phuket Country Club golf course. Price: 2.75 million baht ono. Please contact. Tel: 09-8729149. Email: klaus\_harbauer@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-house-for-sale.com

**RAWAI TOWNHOUSE**  
for sale. 950,000 baht. All-new interior, freehold, 160 sqm, beachfront. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### PATONG SEAVIEW

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 500sqm of land, option for extra land. Price: 8.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-477-5306. Email: patriklambert@hotmail.com

### LAND IN RAWAI

Good location, close to Nai Harn and Rawai beaches, 1 rai, Chanote title: 3.5 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-7520275.

### RAWAI-NAI HARN

land. Land plots & house for sale. Located on hillside, with sea view. 3,500 baht per square meter. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: freehold\_prop@yahoo.com

### LAND AND HOUSES

Park, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, built-in kitchen, nice private garden, 344sqm, quiet area, safe, aircon every room. For sale at 3.9 million baht. Call Lec at Tel: 01-8950711.

### MISSION HEIGHTS

225 talang wah, 900sqm. Building plots for sale at 2.25 million baht. 100% deposit, 18 months to pay. Call Brian at Tel: 01-344-4473 or for further information see our website at: www.missionheights.com

### RAWAI CONDO

Beachfront, sea view, 28sqm. For sale: 350,000 baht; foreign freehold. Tel: 09-474-0227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### NAI HARN HOUSE

for sale. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, furnished. Price: 4.5 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-7520275.

### LAND CHERNG TALAY

292 talang wah (1,170 sqm), 5 mins to beach & Laguna. Has excellent well water, plus power available: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 07-2832930 (English/Thai).

### CHERNG TALAY

Land for sale with old house, direct on the main road, 2,010 sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2746511. Email: baancoconut@hotmail.com

### HOUSE AND LAND

2-story house in Patong. 4 beds, 2 baths, nice garden, large balcony, store, carport; with road access. Price: 5.9 million baht. For more details. Tel: 01-8957908. Email: rungtiwap@asianwind.biz

### NEW HOUSE IN KATHU

Two storeys, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course in Kathu. 3.5 million baht. Click on the webpage, turn up your speakers and watch the video. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-6461378. Email: Jim@motorcowboy.com For further details see our website at www.motorcowboy.com/product/HOUS1

### BEACH LAND PLOTS



Half-rai (800sqm) with 15-meter white-sand beach frontage. Located on Naka Island, only 4 mins by boat from Phuket (Ao Por pier). Less than 30 mins to airport, major shopping centers and the international school. For sale, only 2.7 million baht/plot. Tel: 01-3430777.

### KOH LANTA LAND

5 rai, NorSor 3 Gor. Hillside land with sea views, road. Urgent sale, price 650,000 baht/rai. Tel: 01-5977045. Email: dome\_j33@hotmail.com

### BAAN MANEEKRAM

house. New house available in Baan Maneekram (between Chalong and Phuket City). 440sqm of land, 250sqm + of living area; 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, phone, UBC, Chanote title. 4.9 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 09-2922038. Email: simoncree@hotmail.com

### VILLA FOR SALE

1 year old. Kathu, 10 min to Patong, Phuket, Big C, Lotus and 10 min walk to waterfall. Modern, 2 bedrooms, dining room, living room, separate shower, laundry/toilet. 750 liter water store, built-in stereo, kitchen cabinets plus drawers. Too many extras to mention. Price: only 950,000 baht. Tel: 07-2832930 (Eng/Thai).

### NEW HOUSE, KATHU

Bargain house, just completed, convenient for golf courses, shopping, and 9 minutes to Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen/dining, enclosed verandah living area. Approx 140sqm covered space, 340sqm enclosed land area. Selling price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-321954, 04-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

Best Sea View in Phuket the Doa Tiam project above Mission Hills Golf Course, 85% of the view land sold already. The only land I know of with a complete view of Phang Nga Bay 1,2,3 rai and up lots available, Chanote title 3.2 million baht/rai for view land and 2.2 million baht/rai for flat land. You can play all year on Phang Nga Bay when the West Coast is closed for 6 months due monsoon storms  
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180° views of Patong Bay from this 18th floor fully furnished and recently refurbished apartment. Huge outdoor terrace (60 sqm).  
**PRICE:** 12 million baht.

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Modern tropical design, large terraces and breathtaking sea views. Incredible value for one of the best locations in Phuket. Office open daily.  
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Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

### 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.

### SEAVIEW LAND

at Kata Beach. 2 rai of land with seaviews over beautiful Kata and Karon beaches. 5 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-6913362. Email: wisaroot@yahoo.com

### KATA LAND PLOTS

900 meters to beach. From 1 million baht. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

### CHIANG MAI LAND

Land for sale in the very center of Chiang Mai (business area). 64 sq wah, title deed number 30214, price: 4.2 million baht. For more details, call Tel: 01-8915296 or Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com

### NEW HOUSE

for sale. House in Phuket City, with European kitchen. Price: 1 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8915932.

### PATONG CONDO

Beachfront, 56sqm, freehold, for sale: 1.4 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

or rent. A new two-story home with attic rooms. Six bedrooms with aircon, 2 living rooms, 1 family room, 1 office/study, 5 bathrooms, 1 gym room, 2 kitchens (both Thai and European). Large swimming pool with Jacuzzi. Located in a village close to department stores and hospital. Asking price: 65,000 baht/month, or 15 million baht. Tel: 01-5301276; or send email to: svanunge@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Phuket Pride House. Located on hillside, fully furnished, aircon. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-4736886.

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# Property Gazette

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## HOUSE IN THALANG FOR SALE



10 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from Dulwich International College. 8x4 swimming pool, 5 aircons, 2 bedrooms, 1 child's room, 2 bathrooms and 1 separate building useful as a store house or maid's room. 504sqm, Chanote Title. 5.5 million baht, including furniture. Pls call for more info. Tel: 01-6078000.

## STUNNING 3 RAI SEAVIEW



Land in Chalong with electricity and road. Quick sale: 2.9 million baht per rai. Other land in area being sold 4-6 million baht a rai. Tel: 07-8938747 or 01-537-6866 (Thai).

## RICH'S HARBOR

house, located at Boat Lagoon. Tel: 09-5940200, 04-0567124. Please contact for more details. Email: shechira@hotmail.com, patricia@hotmail.com. Please see our website at www.richharbor.com, www.zia-zanazra.com

## NAI HARN HOUSE

for sale. Thai style, 3 bedrooms, pool, sala, 1 rai, 6.9 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288047, 01-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th. For further details, please see: www.homesinphuket.com

## Properties For Rent

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly refurbished. Two bedrooms, two aircon, fully furnished, UBC TV. Kata sea view: 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2905594, 01-2714261.

### LUXURY KATA

beach apartment. Large, 210 square meters. 2 bedrooms, bathroom. Pool, spa, ADSL, garden. Quiet, exotic oceanfront. Available June-October 15. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017, 06-6483559. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com

### LONG-TERM LEASE

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

### KATA HILLTOP

Close to Kata Beach, fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 baths, living room, Western kitchen, car park, garden. 28,000 baht/month, including ADSL and UBC. Minimum 6 months' rental. Tel: 076-216036, 01-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### TAKE A LOOK AT THIS

lovely, detached house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, at Chuan Chuen Lagoon, near Dulwich, in very good condition. Rent: 37,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8500911.

### FURNISHED HOUSE

for rent, 3 months minimum. May-Oct '05 at Tambon Wichit, 5 mins from town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with 1 telephone line, satellite TV. Deposit 10,000 baht, price: 11,000 baht/month. Call Khun Toom. Tel: 01-5693768.

### SINGLE HOUSE

at in Baan Prangthong. Two stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished in Prangthong estate. For rent at 35,000 baht/month. For sale at 6 million baht. Tel: 01-7872201. Fax: 076-264-221. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

### STUDIO APARTMENTS

Central Patong. 28 sqm. New interior. Aircon, TV, fridge, big bedrooms, pool, parking. Tel: 01-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 2 aircondition, furnished. 8,000 baht per month, for long-term contract. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

### APARTMENT PATONG

for long-term rent. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon, plus same but with good sea view. 7,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

2 air-conditioned bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, living room, furnished, phone, car park, garden. Tel: 01-5379878, 01-7971709. Email: suwittai@hotmail.com

### DEEVANA RESIDENCE

Resort living at local prices; Patong Beach from 12,000 baht per month. Swimming pool, UBC, telephone, 24-hour security. Please contact Ms Jathuporn. Tel: 076-341-414-6, 076-341705. Email: jathuporems@hotmail.com or see our website at: www.deevanapatong.com

### NEWEST APARTMENT

in Patong. Great 2-bedroom apartment overlooking Patong: pool, sauna, bar, kitchen, washing machine, UBC, aircon. 20,000 baht. Tel: 05-0692542. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

### PATONG STUDIO

Apartment for rent, 350 meters to beach. 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### ROOMS TO LET

Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished, with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water, car park. 183 baht a day. Contact for details. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

### APARTMENT

in Phuket Palace. Lovely condo in Patong; beautiful pool, sea view, aircon, kitchen, TV, security. Long/short lets, 15,000 baht per month. Contact Colin for details. Tel: 05-0692542. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

### BEAUTIFUL VILLA

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, garden, 3 mins from Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 07-8935351. Email: sophyvanpelt@planet.nl

### NICE HOUSE

for long-term rent at Baan Benjamas, Patong. 400 meters from beach, fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, big living room, aircon, hot water, car park, small garden. Tel: 01-8946654. Email: annapalms@hotmail.com

### VILLA FOR RENT

on 400sqm. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, kitchen, 24-hour security, clubhouse, private garden and parking. 25,000 baht per month. Pls contact for more information. Tel: 076-330980, 07-284-9690. Email: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Karon seaview. 1 bedroom, garden, aircon, UBC. Minimum 3 months. Price: 19,000 per month. Email: jochenbaars@yahoo.com

### NAKALAY

Substantial, almost-new seaview mansion with large swimming pool, located between Kamala and Patong. 90,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 01-5354546.

### BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong, fully furnished, high standard. 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, pool, many facilities. Please call Tel: 01-8920038 for details.

## Property Wanted



### HOMES, BUSINESSES & LAND WANTED!

We have clients seeking rentals. We need more homes, businesses, hotels and guest houses, etc. to list. There is also a high interest in land from 1-600 rai. Can we help you market your asset? Please contact 076-296072, 09-6498703

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38/56 Nanai Road, Patong.  
Email: gardenisland@csloxinfo.com  
Do you have adequate insurance?  
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### WANTED: HOME

for rent. I am currently inquiring about a condo or a one- or two-bedroom apartment/ house for long term rent in Phuket. I would like to rent January until March 2006. I also would like to be located as follows, in descending order of preference: Kata, Karon, Patong, Kamala, Surin. Should be a nice place in a nice area; furnishing and environment are important for me. The rent should not exceed 50,000 baht per month, but if the place is very special I am quite flexible with regard to the budget. Tel: 61-7230940, 79-4145605. Email: b.rusconi@bluewin.ch

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Wanted: spacious 3- or 4-bedroom house, with working ADSL line, to rent from January '06. Minimum contract will be 3 months. Ideally, the property should be fully furnished and fitted with modern appliances accordingly. Location flexible. Email: lan@evocation.net

### PHUKET CITY

& Chalong Circle. Want to buy 2-5 rai of land on main road around Phuket City, Chalong Circle or Kathu area. Only realistic prices, please. Tel: 076-238776, 01-737-1678. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

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### Se-Ed, Central Rama 3, Satupradit Rd, Yannawa

Tel. 02-6736342

### Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

### C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

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## WINDSURFER

5.3 Gaastra Sail plus Bic Astro Rock Fun Board. Sail in excellent condition; board has seen better days, but still works perfectly. All going for 30,000 baht (the price of the sail). Tel: 07-8979987. Email: [frasergow@hotmail.com](mailto:frasergow@hotmail.com)

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## ONE LASER LEFT

One laser sailboat left for anyone who is interested. Give me a call or an email to arrange a time to come look at this excellent boat. All equipment and a few extras, going for 60,000 baht. Tel: 07-8979987. Email: [frasergow@hotmail.com](mailto:frasergow@hotmail.com)

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outboard. Nearly new 15 HP Yamaha outboard (has run about 100 hours). Price: 35,000 baht. Tel: 07-891-9620. Email: [catnoina@yahoo.de](mailto:catnoina@yahoo.de)

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2 x 115 hp. 15 feet of pure fun. Thai registered. It has not been used for several months. The carbs need a little work. It is for sale with or without trailer and spares. We are located in the Boat Lagoon marina, house no. 23/65. The asking price is 599,000 baht, all included. You save 50,000 if you don't want the trailer and spares. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-2734000. Email: [bbonello@web.de](mailto:bbonello@web.de)

## LOOKING FOR

longtail boats for tsunami relief. I am looking for a few secondhand longtail boats in good condition. They must be minimum 10 meters long and have an engine. My average budget runs around 50,000-70,000 baht – no more! Please call me for more information. Tel: 09-649-8218. Or contact me by email at: [makebetter2005@yahoo.com](mailto:makebetter2005@yahoo.com)

## 18FT CHOLAMARK



Rigid inflatable boat; 60hp Yamaha, 90 hours, 2004; Mooring at Ao Yon. Urgent sale as expat owner is leaving. 600,000 baht. Fully equipped. Please call Christian for more information. Tel: 01-1901205. Email: [balipenang2@yahoo.fr](mailto:balipenang2@yahoo.fr)



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## NORTH SAILS

spinnaker. Red, white and blue radial design. 26ft luff and leech and 16.5 foot (area about 400 sq ft). 6,000 baht. Tel: 09-5871862. Email: [mmcgrath2@hotmail.com](mailto:mmcgrath2@hotmail.com)

## BRUCE ANCHOR

3kg, with stainless chain. Very good condition. 2,500 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-281479. Email: [palmtree@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:palmtree@loxinfo.co.th)

## SPEED BOAT,

380,000 baht. 2 years old, Thai registered, 27ft, can transport 15 + 1 + 1 person, wood frame with fiber, sun-roof, Yamaha engine 200 hp 10 years old. Tel: 01-892-4282. Email: [taxiregio@freenet.de](mailto:taxiregio@freenet.de)

## 10HP YAMAHA

outboard engine in excellent condition. Tel: 06-9401860. Email: [bigasail@samart.co.th](mailto:bigasail@samart.co.th)

## DIVE BOAT WANTED

Pimalai Divers requires a 20m(+) dive boat to operate on long-term contract starting November 1, 2005. Boat to be based at our jetty, Pimalai Resort & Spa, Koh Lanta. For further details, contact David Giles. Tel: 075-607920, 06-2832426. Email: [diving@pimalai.com](mailto:diving@pimalai.com)

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185/45 Soi Kosumruamjai 7, Sikan, Don Muang, Bangkok 10210  
Tel: (02) 503 7222 Fax: (02) 503 7229  
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If you think you possess these qualifications, please send your comprehensive resumé (in English), stating current and/or expected salary, together with a recent photo to: [job@bangtaobeach.com](mailto:job@bangtaobeach.com) or send it by fax at 076-270688



### BANGTAO BEACH RESORT & SPA

124/29 Moo 3, Cheung Thalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-270680-5  
Tel/Fax: 076-270688 Fax: 076-270686, 270679

### NIGHTCLUB MANAGER

Female only, 30 years or over. 5-star venue in Patong seeks self-motivated, English-speaking, stylish woman with Phuket knowledge. Please contact Peter for more information. Tel: 07-0170135.

### PROJECT MANAGER

Looking for project manager. Male; 2 years' experience or more; good command of English; certificate in construction or related field. Please contact for details. Email: [non@islandhomephuket.com](mailto:non@islandhomephuket.com)

### JAPANESE SPEAKER FOR BALI CAREER OPPORTUNITY

International Resort Developer, established 12 years, 15 luxury hotels, resorts and real estate developments in Bali, Lombok, Koh Samui, Phuket, Chiang Mai and Goa seeks:

#### JAPANESE SPEAKING PERSON

For a career in Sales & Marketing selling our product range to Japanese clients.

The position comes with an exceptional package including full relocation expenses, the opportunity to live in Bali and the prospect of career growth.

#### \*BALI IS BOOMING WITH JAPANESE TOURISTS

Successful candidates need the following qualities:

- Fluent spoken Japanese
- Well developed personality

Interviews will be conducted locally

For full information please e-mail [royalmark01@hotmail.com](mailto:royalmark01@hotmail.com) enclosing your full resumé

### THAI CHEF WANTED

A fine Asian restaurant located in Barbados, southern Caribbean (English speaking Island) is seeking an experienced Thai cuisine HEAD CHEF. Candidates must have:

- a minimum of 3-5 years' experience
- a proven record as a Head Chef in a renowned fine dining restaurant
- excellent knowledge in traditional Royal Thai cuisine and menu creation

We offer an excellent salary and benefit package. Please email detailed CV with contact information to: [ac\\_adams@hotmail.com](mailto:ac_adams@hotmail.com)

### PIMALAI RESORT

& Spa, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the world, is currently looking for guest service officers. English required, computer literate. Fidelio front office a plus. Other positions available: Graphic Designer, Bell Boy, Admin Secretary. Tel: 075-607999. Fax: 075-607987. Email: [rdm@pimalai.com](mailto:rdm@pimalai.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.pimalai.com](http://www.pimalai.com)

### JOB VACANCIES

Krabi La Playa Resort is now recruiting for the following positions:

- Reservations Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Personnel Manager
- Sales Executives

A minimum of 3 years' experience in the hotel field is required. Please contact for more info. Tel: 075-637500, 01-8812317. Fax: 075-695497. Email: [worasuda@krabilaplaya.com](mailto:worasuda@krabilaplaya.com) For further details, pls see our website at: [www.krabilaplaya.com](http://www.krabilaplaya.com)

### SENIOR SECRETARY

Tilleke & Gibbins International, established in Thailand since 1893, is coming to Phuket. We are establishing a full service legal office at Cherng Talay and we require:

OFFICE MANAGER / SENIOR SECRETARY

- Bachelor's Degree an advantage, preferably with a major in English or Business Administration
- 3-5 years' experience in secretarial or office administration
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Accurate typing skills
- Able to operate MS Office
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Closing date: May 30, 2005. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9890919. Send resumé to: [trw@tillekeandgibbins.com](mailto:trw@tillekeandgibbins.com)

### ACCOUNTANT

wanted. Fluent English, 5 years' experience in AR/AP/VAT, filing social security. Please contact Tim for more information at Tel: 01-927-9328.

### JUNIOR SECRETARY

Tilleke & Gibbins International, established in Thailand since 1893, is coming to Phuket. We are establishing a full service legal office at Cherngtalay and we require:

JUNIOR SECRETARY

- Secretarial Diploma
- Good command of English
- Good and accurate typing skills
- Able to operate MS Office
- Experience is a plus
- Good coordination skills
- Service minded and organized

Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9890919. Send resumé to: [trw@tillekeandgibbins.com](mailto:trw@tillekeandgibbins.com)

### KINDERGARTEN

teacher. Need 2 kindergarten English teachers. Native speakers only, please. Email: [info@kajonkiet.com](mailto:info@kajonkiet.com)

### ENGLISH TEACHERS

Native speakers of English needed for teaching kindergarten to adult, part-time and full-time. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-219062. Email: [eccpkt@ecc.ac.th](mailto:eccpkt@ecc.ac.th)

### INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

#### Secretary

- Female
- Bachelor's degree
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Computer skills
- Able to start immediately
- Experience in Agreements, Visa, Work permits will be advantage

Please do not hesitate to contact us at Tel: 076 222191-5

Email: [ohn@phuket-realestate-law.com](mailto:ohn@phuket-realestate-law.com)

### THAI CHEF WANTED

We are looking for an additional chef for our team. The applicant must be a Thai national, experienced with Thai cuisine and the hospitality business. English language is an advantage. Applications in writing by email or call for more information. Tel: 076-344834. Email: [info@lim-thailand.com](mailto:info@lim-thailand.com)

### BURASARI

Restaurant Manager. Burasari Resort in Patong requires a dynamic Restaurant Manager. Ideal candidate will have an outgoing personality, proven experience in top-class hotels, knowledge of wine and strong leadership abilities. Excellent English-language skills and the ability to use a computer are also required. Please call Tel: 076-292929 ext 669 for further details and to apply, or Fax: 076-294451 or email resumé to: [hr\\_bj@burasari.com](mailto:hr_bj@burasari.com)

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\*Ads may be submitted in person or online ([phuketgazette.net/classifieds](http://phuketgazette.net/classifieds)), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

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

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at  
[www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!**



# Island Job Mart



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

Laguna Property is currently looking to recruit a Property Sales Executive to join our friendly team. We are seeking the following qualified candidate to work for one of the leading developers of luxury residential resort properties in Phuket.

## PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

2 positions

- College diploma or higher required
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English
- Previous property sales experience would be a distinct advantage
- Must be based in Phuket
- Self-motivated and enthusiastic
- Must be a team player with a friendly personality and positive attitude

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or email your detailed English resumé, stating current and expected salary, together with a recent photo to: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com)

**Group Director of Human Resources**  
**Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.**

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherrngtalay, Thalung,  
Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: 076 324444 Ext 16, 17 Fax: 076 271718

## Diving Resort in Koh Tao needs

### Resort Manager

- Male/female age 30 years up
- Bachelor's degree, min 3 years' experience

### Accounting, 2 positions

- Male/female age 30 years up
- Bachelor's degree, min 2 years' experience
- Ability to use MS Office, QuickBooks preferred

### English ability preferred for all positions

Please send resumé to [araya@bigbluediving.com](mailto:araya@bigbluediving.com) or Tel: 09-8145532

## SALES & MARKETING

Assistant. We are looking for a female w/at least 3 years' experience, good English and strong presentation skills. Salary is 20-25,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224-113. Email: [recruitment@bowentraining.com](mailto:recruitment@bowentraining.com)

## TEACHERS WANTED

Phuket Wittayalai school requires native English-speaking teachers with TOEFL certificates and a degree. Please contact K. Boonthong at Fax: 076-213922 or send Email to: [boonthong\\_a@pkv.ac.th](mailto:boonthong_a@pkv.ac.th)

## HOTEL MANAGER

Small hotel with bar and restaurant looking for experienced Thai lady fluent in English. Excellent opportunity for the right person. With experience only, please. Please call for more information at Tel: 076-340464, 07-8871-733. Email: [whharris042004@hotmail.com](mailto:whharris042004@hotmail.com)

## OFFICE ADMIN

The Asia Center Foundation requires an Office Administrator with good organizational and administrative skills. English and Thai-language ability a must. Position available immediately. Please contact Roelien for more information. Tel: 076-321235, 01-895-7016. Fax: 076-321235. Email: [roelien@asiacenter.ac](mailto:roelien@asiacenter.ac)

## SAILING SKIPPER

required. Kia Ora Catamaran Charters, located on Koh Samui, requires an experienced skipper to operate our 52-foot day-charter sailing catamaran. Please contact for more information. Tel: 077-425264 or Email: [mark@kiaorathailand.com](mailto:mark@kiaorathailand.com) Please see our website at: [www.kiaorathailand.com](http://www.kiaorathailand.com)

## TRISARA

Naithon Beach, Phuket Island

### Searching for team members

Trisara is bringing together a team of warm, caring people who regard hospitality as a joy and receive in return first-class remuneration and benefits packages, including a 5-day working week. We are now inviting capable candidates with suitable experience and excellent English communication skills to join our dynamic team in the following positions:

#### Financial Controller

- Male/Female, age not under 38 years
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- CPA and master's degree preferred
- Knowledge of Computer and PMS System
- Fluent spoken and written English

and..... Bellman/Driver, Communication Officer, Retail Supervisor, Residential Villa Cook, Maid, Accountant and IT Manager

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to: Three Dolphins Resort Co., Ltd.

#### TRISARA

60/1 Moo 6 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherrng Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110, Tel: 076 310354 Fax: 076 310300 or via Email to: [hr@trisara.com](mailto:hr@trisara.com)

## Employment Wanted

### MY NAME IS DON

Copley. I am a West Australian who has been visiting Phuket for nearly 20 years. I have a Thai partner and intend to take up permanent residence in Phuket. I have spent 40 years consulting in real estate and related fields. I hold licences for real estate, valuation, land conveyancing and auctioneering, and have vast experience in subdivision and project management. I am looking for full- or part-time consultancy or related work. Excellent references can be provided. Email: [ccopleya@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ccopleya@bigpond.net.au)

### BUSINESS

management. Do you have businesses in the following areas: Hotel, apartments, cafe, bar, restaurant, vehicle rental, retail, fitness and more? Friendly British man with English-speaking Thai wife available to manage your business while you are away on a month-by-month basis. Experience in Thailand and overseas businesses. Integrity, care and quality of service assured at all times. Why not give us a call today? Tel: 076-202473. Email: [nik@indigosiam.com](mailto:nik@indigosiam.com)

### RESERVATIONS, GSA

I am looking for a customer service or GSA position. I have an active and joyful personality. I can speak both English and Thai and can get along with people quite well. I have 5 years' experience in the reservations department of a travel agency, plus 2 years in a hotel as a tour coordinator. Tel: 07-8884647 or Email: [wanliya28@hotmail.com](mailto:wanliya28@hotmail.com)

### PART-TIME MAID

Qualified maid, Patong/Kathu area, available a few hours per week. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-8725717.

### ENGLISH TEACHER

available. English teacher available for part-time work in schools, hotels or private tuition. Own transport and very flexible. Tel: 04-846022. Email: [scott\\_mclaughlinuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scott_mclaughlinuk@yahoo.co.uk)



Service is not a job - it's a way of life.

It's a professional commitment to satisfy individual needs. It's a commitment to make someone smile, to create the ultimate experience, to surpass expectations. If you have such commitment, this is your opportunity. Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

#### Guest Relations Waitress

Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & sense of service required for all positions.

**watermark bar restaurant**  
Phuket Boat Lagoon 22/1 Thepkrasatri Rd, Muang, Phuket  
For interview, send resumé to [info@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:info@watermarkphuket.com) tel: 076.239078

## LAW FIRM

Looking for paralegal & Thai lawyer. Please email resumé to: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)

## MEDIA SALES REPS

wanted. Good basic salary + commissions. Thai nationals only. Excellent spoken English essential. Please contact for more information. Tel: 02-6556070, 01-5357944. Fax: 02-6556070. To apply please Email your resumé and recent photo to: [terry@csloxinfo.com](mailto:terry@csloxinfo.com)

## ICE CREAM SHOP

is looking to employ a good-looking young Thai woman with spoken English. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-9928026.

## EXPERIENCED STAFF

wanted for property development company in Phuket. For further information check: [www.immobilienplus.com/jobs](http://www.immobilienplus.com/jobs)

## ARCHITECTS/

draftsmen. Junior/senior architects/draftsmen needed for rapidly expanding architectural practice. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-279643 or send your CV by email to: [shadows\\_and\\_light@yahoo.com](mailto:shadows_and_light@yahoo.com)

## CRUISE DIRECTOR

Cruise Director wanted for Phinisi Charter operation. Good customer relations and English language skills. To apply, send your resumé by email to: [neil\\_dibb@litigold.com](mailto:neil_dibb@litigold.com)

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

#### NAVA Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-211230

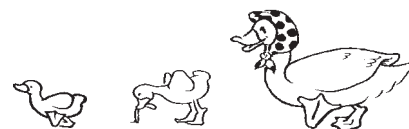
#### Taurus Travel

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

Tel: 076 344521-2

## ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

Problems with an extra-marital affair?  
Questions about Thai culture?  
Having communications problems?  
Need somebody to Love?



Read her advice in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Fax 076-213971 or email [momma@phuketgazette.net](mailto:momma@phuketgazette.net)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### BABY COCKATOOS

Electus parrots, sun conures and many more birds for sale at Phuket Bird Paradise. Tel: 01-5979255.

### ARIES VANE

With new rudder and rebuild kit: US\$1,000 only. Tel: 05-0784313. Email: balboa@procom.in.th

### HOT TUB SEATS 8

Two-year-old hot tub, cost 800,000 baht. New condition, very seldom used. Now just 840,000. Tel: 076-383670, 09-6459470. Fax: 076-383670. Email: beeguy@phuket.loxinfo.co.th

### POOL TABLE

Brand new. 8 by 4, surplus to requirements. Must be collected in Buri Ram. 30,000 baht. No offers. Tel: 07-802-4688. Email: brennanie@hotmail.com

### GOLF CLUBS LEFT

handed. Full set, mid-size graphite, 1, 3, and 5 woods, 3-9 irons, pitching and sand wedges, putter, bag and 2m retriever (water). All in excellent condition. 13,000 baht. Tel: 076-333244, 09-909-1917. Email to: porterat@phuket.ksc.co.th

### SHARP FLAT SCREEN

Television. 25-inch, perfect condition, 2½ years old. Dual language, stereo, remote control, silver finish. 8,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 01-936-6284. Email: khunmark@gmail.com

### DISPLAY CABINET

Aluminum and glass food display cabinet. 2,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 01-805594 or Email: khunmark@gmail.com

### RATTAN BED

for sale. Beautiful rattan bed, queen size, very good condition: 3,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281479. Email: palmtree@loxinfo.co.th

### WARDROBE

1.2m, 2 drawers, good condition. Half price: 1,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281479. Email: palmtree@loxinfo.co.th

### FRIDGE

Whirlpool, very good condition, 2,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-281479. Email: palmtree@loxinfo.co.th

### RATTAN FLOOR

lamp. Very beautiful, coconut tree, 3 lights. 2,500 baht. Please contact. Tel: 076-281479. Email: palmtree@loxinfo.co.th

## 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

For more info, please call  
01 788 6027, 06 745 8910  
and 01 2732053.

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**HOME-SCHOOLING**

We support homeschooling parents, with professional child-centred know-how, lesson-plans, curricula, parent-training, e-learning math, science, social language skills, group events for students and families and much more.

Support in German, French, English, Thai, most others by request possible - i.e. Korean.

We are flexible over time and place. Please contact us for further details.

**Tel: 076-383308**

## Business Opportunities

### 6 RENTAL HOUSES

Sure profit, pay only 30,000 baht per month, but you can make 90,000 baht per month if you manage smartly. Call for details. Tel: 01-6341432. Email: emrusadi@samart.co.th

### PROMOTER

for kindergarten. Need working partner with experience and broad contacts to start kindergarten school. With or without finance, any nationality. Tel: 01-6341432. Email: emrusadi@samart.co.th

### RESORT FOR LEASE

min 10 years, on about 2,500 square meters. 15 bungalow units with swimming pool, surrounded by a tropical garden. Key money 5 million baht, then 80,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-330980, 07-2849690. Fax: 076-330284. Email to: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.fullmoon-bungalows-phuket.com

### PATONG

Two businesses for sale. Long leases, very good locations suitable for bar/restaurant etc. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-5141288.

### BAR FOR SALE

Patong. Entertainment lic, Thai company, work permit. Please see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

### LEASE SMALL HOTEL

Consistent monthly returns, and easily managed. Tel: 01-8922824. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com Please see our website at: www.kohjoy.com/building

### FURNITURE

for sale. Closing down restaurant & bar. Everything for sale, including 2m x 3m cold room. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-1924706 (Richard); 07-8933715 (Garry); Tel/Fax: 076-296295; Email: premiumbsp@yahoo.com

### KATA SHOP BARGAIN

Central, next to Little Star restaurant. Shop and upper floors ready to move into without delay; all perfect state. Rent 20,000 baht a month, no key money. 2 months' deposit. Tel: 06-6902532, 01-3708074.

### TSUNAMI RESORT

Active investor / partner sought for redevelopment of eco-resort on Phra Thong Island in 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

### RESTAURANT/BAR

for sale. Kamala, main road. Aircon, 40 seats, well-established walk in. Take over: 6,000 baht/month; 900,000 baht for sale. Please call after 4 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Restaurant with kitchen and seven-room guesthouse, 100 metres from the beach, in soi Kobsup. Please call Tel: 09-9701283.

### BAR FOR SALE

in Kata Center, 6,000 baht/month. Price: 270,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8814415.

### PRIME RETAIL SPOT

Highest traffic, best exposure on the island. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-892-0528.

### BAR FOR SALE

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

### SHELL COMPANY

Phuket Villa Services. No trading history, zero liability: 220,000 baht.

Tel: 01-6060200

www.PhuketVillaServices.com

### FOR SALE 50%

Of company and business. Lucrative company consisting of self-storage on-site container rental, site office, sales and rental. All machinery and rental products fully owned. New venture involving exports pending. Unlimited potential: 5 million baht. Only genuine inquiries. Please email to: intrado@phuket.ksc.co.th Please see our website at www.safewayphuket.com

### QUICK SALE

A great business opportunity on Saiyuan Rd in Rawai is up for quick sale (with or without company).

- 1,000sqm freehold land (Chanote title)

- 44-seat restaurant

- one of the most popular Internet cafés in Rawai

- big parking area

Price: 6 million baht or best offer. Tel: 01-8919914. Email: bluecomthai@yahoo.com

### NO CAPITAL?

No problem! Company registration, work permit and visa within 1 month (also for bars). Don't have 2 million baht? No problem; just call! Tel: 075-378805, 09-472-7205. Fax: 075-378873. Email: nakhon@mail.com

### LOOKING FOR

sea lovers. Looking for partners for our three-year-old company speedboat service around the beautiful islands. Please contact us to realize your dream. Tel: 01-737-0164, 06-2699484. Email: simbaseatrips@yahoo.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

in Kata Plaza. Options No. 1 Internet café, with flat screen monitors and ADSL + USB; motorbike & chopper rental tour counter with high turnover. Price: 750,000 baht. Pls call for more information. Tel: 04-8374429.

## Business Products & Services

### SWIM IN DRINKING WATER

\* almost no chlorine

\* no burning eyes

\* no bleached hair

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Caribbean Clear Water Treatment Systems for pools, spas and ponds.

Tel: 06-6822639.

Email:

nomochlo@yahoo.com

### WORLD'S

newspapers. Same day editions available in Phuket! Delivery to your place. Pls contact for info. Tel: 076-346-218-9. Fax: 076-346232. Email: info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com

### PRIVATE BOAT

service. Would you like to have a private boat service at your total disposal during your entire stay? The Italian crew will take care of you with experience, courtesy and professionalism as they plan with you any daily trips around Phuket. Long-term agreement. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2699484, 01-7370164. Email: simcapo@hotmail.com

## Club Memberships Available

### PHUKET COUNTRY

Club. Full Family Golf Membership at Phuket Country Club for sale at 340,000 baht, including the transfer fee. Pls contact me as above. Happy Golfing! Tel: 076-240042, 01-8911635, 01-8933259. Fax: 076-240043. Email: stroker106@csloxinfo.com

## Computers

### PRO DATA

recovery with Phuket-data-wizards.com All kinds of computer magic. Please call Tel: 06-6827277.

### COMPUTER

services. New + used. Repairs, GPRS, ADSL, WLAN. No phone internet - no problem. English computerman. Tel: 09-4735080

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extra to pay, fully inclusive. Only 1,300 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 04-7457024.

## Personal Services

### HOME PAGE

Excellent webmaster offering to make you a professional homepage. Email berger@phuket.ksc.co.th

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

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

### USA MAN SEEKS

Thai lady. Businessman is traveling to Phuket in May and is seeking to meet a Thai lady for romance and companionship. Email: lmbrjack60@yahoo.com

## Have something to sell? Tell the WORLD!

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## Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds

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and delivered to the world!





Volvo S80 D5

Meet Volvo S80 D5 and our best offer for S60 (0% down) at "Phuket Motor Show @ Central" May 26-31 2005



# Rak Mak! Awards

This week's winning numbers:

กค 891

ภูเก็ต

Green Suzuki

ศค 2457

กรุงเทพฯ

Black Ford

บ 5910

ภูเก็ต

Silver Nissan

The owners of these vehicles have won a round-trip ticket to Singapore on SilkAir\*, dinner for two at the Red Room, Cherngtalay\*, or a cash prize of 2,500 baht.



Please contact the Gazette quickly to ensure you get the prize you want.

First come, first served!

**The Red Room**  
Restaurant & Lounge

Email LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.Net, or call Khun Pam at 076-236555.

\*offer expires May 31, 2005

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If we spot it, you could win a free one-month membership at Club Asia Fitness, dinner for two in any restaurant at the Dusit Laguna, or a two-night stay for two, including breakfast, in the luxurious Busakorn Wing of the Holiday Inn Phuket.



## House for sale at Ban Namjai Rawai



Spacious. Modern house with 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, large living room and deluxe kitchen.

**2 separate maids' rooms and laundry room.**

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