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# The Phuket Gazette

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**NEWS:** Limo drivers' protest fends off airport meter taxis; National park chosen for tsunami museum. **Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** When will wounded Kamala heal? **Pages 4 & 5**

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** Mighty delights from minibikes. **Page 6**

**AROUND THE REGION:** A display of true grit in Khao Lak. **Page 8**

**PHUKET PEOPLE:** Hip-hop posse from Phuket. **Pages 10 & 11**

**LIFESTYLE:** Music: X&Y from Coldplay; Jack Johnson. **Page 12**

**FIRST PERSON:** Airport limo boss speaks out. **Page 21**

**BUSINESS:** Airline services taking off; Japan a rising sun. **Page 23**

**SPORT:** English, Japanese soccer teams score big with local kids; Pele set to miss; Golf tips. **Pages 24 & 25**

**GOOD LIVING:** Phuket's Top 12 restaurants – a purely subjective view. **Page 27**

**PROPERTY:** Home of the Week: Cherng Talay; Construction: Atika; Decor: wine glasses. **Pages 28-31**

## PLUS

**QUEER NEWS 4; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; TRAVEL, FLOWER FESTIVAL 14 & 15; OUTSIDE IN, PHUKET DIARY 16; KIDS 17; MAKING TRACKS, HOROSCOPES, DOVEN, BOOKS 18 & 19; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 20; ISSUES & ANSWERS 21; COMPUTERS 22; WINE, WORDLY WISE, THE TIME MACHINE 26; GARDENING 30; CLASSIFIEDS 32-39.**

## Tsunami alert '90pc success'



Taking no chances: Patong Beach was pretty much deserted the morning after the tsunami alert.

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) tsunami warning on the night of July 24 has been declared a "90% success".

The alert, urging evacuation of the Andaman coast, came after an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, only 664 kilometers from Phuket.

At 11 pm, Plodprasop Surawadi, Director of the NDWC in Nonthaburi, near Bangkok, advised that people living in coastal areas should move to higher ground. The earthquake, with its epicenter located about 10 kilometers below the seabed, occurred at 10:42 pm.

K. Plodprasop announced that giant waves were predicted

to hit Karon Beach at 12:12 am and Patong Beach a minute later, followed by Bang Tao Beach, Tah Chat Chai, Thai Muang, Khao Lak, and Koh Lanta.

Boonchai Somchai, Chief of Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (ODPM) said that Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura ordered local authorities to warn the public of the predicted tsunamis.

"Karon and Patong authorities received orders from the Governor to announce an evacuation of residents at 11 pm, via loudspeaker announcements and by setting off the NDWC sirens in Patong at midnight."

He said that residents of coastal areas moved to safety of their own accord, with some assistance from police.

"The evacuation went according to plan and was about 90% successful. The only problem we encountered was in sending mobile phone alerts upon the first warning. However, the Radio Communication Association was on standby and was able to provide radio and telephone links," K. Boonchai said.

"Nobody was hurt during the evacuation, nor when the tsunami warning was canceled at 1:30 am and residents returned to their homes."

At 2:12 am, K. Plodprasop announced again that the warning had been rescinded, after steps had been taken to ensure that there was no further risk. The public was later informed that although there had been potential for a tsunami, only five small waves were generated.

## Hotels see 15pc rise in occupancy

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET: Hotel occupancy rates on the island for July are expected to be up 15% when compared with June, thanks mainly to Tourism Authority of Thailand marketing, Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, predicted on July 18.

"There have been many Thai groups who bought the 'Beach basking, bargain shopping' packages, as well as tourists from Australia, the Middle East, Hong Kong, India and [South] Korea," K. Pattanapong said at a meeting at Provincial Hall.

He added, "True, there are fewer tourists arriving from Germany, Scandinavia and Japan but, [from] the middle of July, Chinese and Taiwanese travelers are expected to come."

"If the tourism situation begins to recover to normal levels, there will be an increase in flights to Phuket." To add weight to K. Pattanapong's statement, many hotels have reported an increase in bookings for August.

K. Pattanapong continued, "Although the current situation in Phuket is better than when compared with the beginning of the year, we need to continue building tourists' confidence."

However, Juthamas Siriwan, Governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, took a rather bleaker view of the situation in an interview with Bloomberg News on July 19, saying that Thailand may lose as much as 50 billion baht in tourism revenue as a result of the tsunami.

"At first I thought we would lose 33 billion baht for the whole year, but now I think it may be estimated at more than that," Bloomberg quoted her as saying. "It's around 45 to 50 billion baht in lost tourism revenue."

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# MORE 'WE LOVE PHUKET' AWARDS



Jarassri Hewanich (left) receives a round-trip ticket to Singapore on SilkAir from the airline's Thailand Manager, John Sim, as part of the ongoing 'We Love Phuket' campaign.



Angkana Sae-loo (right) receives her prize of a two-night stay for two in a deluxe double room at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort, Patong, from Gazette Accounting Officer Puwanart 'Billy' Pogsakul.

## Carabao set to play in Phuket

PATONG: Thai music superstars Carabao are expected to headline a concert planned for August 13 in Phuket.

The "First Phuket Music Festival", organized by P Audio System Co and Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa, is aimed at boosting MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions) tourism from abroad and at attracting more Thais to the island.

## Italian found dead

PHUKET: The body of an Italian tourist who disappeared while snorkeling at Laem Ka Yai on July 22 was found the following day on the beach at Khao Khad.

He was identified as Gianluigi Peria had been staying at Ya Nui Resort in Chalong

Steve Chen, President and CEO of P Audio, explained, "We want to promote Thailand to the world, to tell the world that Thailand is ready for them to visit – that is everything is back to normal. We've been working in Thailand since 1991, and have received a great deal of benefit. Now we want to help Phuket."

He added that his company, which makes loudspeakers, wants the concert to be the first of many in Phuket.

Apart from Carabao, the concert will feature the all-girl band Pop Angel as well as two local bands, Blue International band and Robert Band.

The concert, which will be free to all, will be staged on the football field on the beach road in Patong, from 6 to 11.30 pm.

# National park chosen for tsunami museum

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: While a number of proposals remain under consideration, plans for the construction of tsunami memorials in various places are moving forward.

Dr Apinan Poshyananda, Director General of the Ministry of Culture's Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, said in a recent meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall that the overall tsunami memorial project will consist of three facets: a museum, a monument and sculptures.

"The government has decided to build a tsunami museum in Phang Nga's Khao Lak-Lamru National Park. Although its design will be determined through an international competition in the months to come, we will lay the foundation stone on December 26," Dr Apinan said.

The cost for development of the as-yet-unnamed museum alone is estimated at 1.5 billion baht. The building will house items collected from tsunami sites, information displays, a list of tsunami victims' names – possibly written in their respective native languages – and souvenir sales outlets.

He explained that the government initially had contemplated a "from-sea-to-land" museum in Khao Lak, extending from the beachfront grounds of the still-closed La Flora Resort up to the police boat, *TorOr 813*, which was washed about a kilometer inland by the tsunami.

But that area is private land, so the planning committee instead selected the national park as the site for the museum. "The price of land is high at present," Dr

Apinan explained, "so it is better to construct the museum on government land."

The planning committee visited the park to inspect points with a sea view. The specific site is to be identified by August 15. The area of land required for the museum is not known.

Meanwhile, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura still hopes that the island may have its own tsunami memorial museum.

"A museum [in Phuket] would be a good focal point for people who come here to honor their loved ones or to understand more about what happened that day," he observed. "We would like to support such a museum project in Phuket, if possible, and Mai Khao has 2,000 rai of government land that could be put to good use in serving the original 'from-sea-to-land' concept."

Building a museum is just one of a slew of memorial concepts under scrutiny.

The police boat, *TorOr 813*, in Khao Lak, for example, will become an important tsunami monument, and its surroundings home to at least one sculpture.

"A large number of Scandinavians were lost in the area, so we will invite Scandinavians to design a commemorative sculpture near *TorOr 813*. We expect to allocate 8 million baht per [statue] location," said Dr Apinan.

Plans also exist for sculptures to be built on Koh Phi Phi and Phuket, he added. "Kamala, Patong and Mai Khao are possible locations for a sculpture on Phuket." Once sites have been identified, sculpture designs will be determined through international contests.

Meanwhile, the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) has hired designer Weera Amnuaiporn to build a tsunami memorial on 100 rai near the local cemetery.

The Mai Khao *OrBorTor* may use some of the 400 million baht budget earmarked for this project to develop a public park in the vicinity as well.

"Most people in the area agree with this plan because it would enhance tourism in the region," Sarawut Srisakukam, chairman of the Mai Khao *OrBorTor*, said. "We are eager to launch our tsunami memorial project with the support of the Phuket provincial government."

## Mystery over stabbing in bar

PATONG: Mystery surrounds the identity of a foreigner who was reported stabbed in the Viking bar on Soi Bangla in the early hours of July 20.

Pol Sub-Lt Weerapong Rakkito of Patong Police Station said that someone had called from the bar to report the stabbing. When the police arrived there, they found that the victim had already been taken to Patong Hospital for treatment.

However, when they reached the hospital, they discovered that the man had already discharged himself without receiving treatment or registering.

"We wrote up a report with the information we had," Lt Weerapong said, "but we can do nothing more. We need the victim to come to the police station to make a statement, then we can investigate further."

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# Limo drivers' protest fends off airport meter taxis



Limousine drivers' faces make it plain that they disapprove of plans to give meter taxis greater access to airline passengers.

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET CITY: A protest by about 100 airport limousine drivers at Provincial Hall on July 20 successfully delayed the setting up of a taxi counter in the airport terminal.

It also prevented the number of meter taxis serving the airport from being increased from 30 to 70 due to be effected July 25, with the backing of Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura.

"The Phuket Taxi Meter counter is currently 50 meters from the terminal, but the Governor wants it moved to inside the terminal without [taxi drivers] paying for a concession," explained Manod Chusak, who runs the limousine counters at Phuket International Airport (PIA).

"At the same time, he wants taxis to have counters set up at every beach on Phuket," K. Manod added.

He also explained that the Governor had given his support for the number of taxis serving the airport to be increased ultimately to 270.

Weera Kearpanich, Chairman of the Airport Limousine and Business Service Cooperative Ltd, said, "We currently operate four counters at the airport, and this year we are paying more than

1 million baht a month for the concession [for the right to operate a limousine service at the airport]."

K. Manod explained that the concession fee had been increased each year, from 905,267 baht a month in 2003 to 995,794 baht a month in 2004.

On top of the rising fees, K. Manod said, limousine drivers were already suffering from the greatly reduced number of tourists on the island following the tsunami.

"If taxis set up a counter in the terminal, limousine drivers will have even fewer passengers," he said, admitting that tourists prefer to use meter taxis because they are cheaper.

He said that limousine drivers want Gov Udomsak to have the number of taxis serving the airport restricted to the 30 taxis that are currently allowed in.

The protestors disbanded after PIA Deputy General Manager Chan Chiamcharoen said that he would inform the PIA Director immediately of their complaints, and that the moves to improve taxi service would not go ahead until all the affected parties had discussed their problems with the Governor.

See also First Person, page 21



The completed gardens at the wat (above) contrast sharply with the scene 48 hours earlier (below).

## BLISSFULLY BLITZED

KAMALA: While much of Kamala may still look a mess (see pages 4 & 5) Wat Kamala's grounds were beautifully "blitzed" in a 48-hour operation on July 19 and 20.

True to their promise, the folks from the popular Australian TV garden makeover program *Backyard Blitz* completed their 48-hour makeover of the gardens at Wat Kamala, which were washed away by the tsunami.

The program specializes in renovating people's gardens, and doing it in record time. This is the first time an episode has been recorded overseas.

Seventeen crew from the program, aided by 60 Thais, worked on the project.

"The hardest part was placing the stone Buddhist symbols in



the meditation garden. They were so heavy," said Jacq Brophy, Head of Production.

Niyom Nanudorn, who

*Backyard Blitz* host James Durie records a segment of the program in the renovated gardens.

Photo by Jeanette Skelton



spent time in Wat Kamala as a monk and is now the abbot's chauffeur, said he greatly appreciated the beautiful garden provided by foreigners, especially since they were from a different culture, and yet still thought about the wat.

Kamala-born Jiraporn Apichart said she was astonished by the "beautiful garden" when she went to the wat to make merit.

"A few days ago, I rode past there and saw many people working there with some foreigners.

"I did not know what they were doing, though I realized it was probably some kind of improvement after the tsunami. It looks very different," she said.

The program will be aired on Australia's Channel 9 on September 11.

— Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

## Number of 'ya bah' arrests 'increasing'

PHUKET CITY: The number of arrests for possession or use of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) has doubled since April, the *Gazette* has learned.

Pol Capt Aikanit Danpitakart of the Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* that he believes the number of people using the drug is increasing, despite Thailand being in the third phase of the government's "war on drugs".

He said that part of the reason for the increasing usage and trafficking of the drug may be that

dealers no longer fear prison because so many are released on bail by the courts.

"Now we work hard to stop the spread of *ya bah*, but the number of users and dealers is increasing anyway," he admitted.

Capt Aikanit noted that until recently most *ya bah* cases in his jurisdiction involved only a few pills, but that now arrests for 100 pills or more. On June 16, 220 pills were seized in two cases, and 180 more were seized in another case on June 22.

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## Queer News

### Frenchman gets the point

PATTAYA: A French tourist who threw a beer bottle at a bar girl and then slapped her was left in a critical condition when she stabbed him in retaliation.

Police received notification from Pattaya Memorial Hospital at 1 am on July 4 that a tourist had been admitted to the facility with a stab wound to his stomach. He had been rushed to the hospital by Chaipim Duangchan, 35, owner of the aptly-named Ding Dong Beer Bar on Soi Buakao.

At the hospital, officers found Jean François, a 42-year-old French national, with a knife wound to the left side of the abdomen, below the navel. The extent of the wound was such that part of his intestines were protruding from his belly.

A fellow Frenchman, 42-year-old Dominic-Marie Philip, accompanied him to the hospital.

K. Chaipim told the officers that she had been holding her birthday party at the bar and the two Frenchmen had come to join in the fun.

Just as K. Chaipim blew out the candles on her birthday cake and the guests at the party started to sing *Happy Bird-day To You!*, François suddenly – and for reasons known only to himself – hurled a beer bottle straight at the face of a certain “Miss Oh”, one of girls working in the establishment.

Miss Oh told François that Thai people dislike that kind of behavior because they considered it demeaning and rude. After being informed that he had committed a cultural *faux pas*, the Frenchman became angrier still and slapped Miss Oh in the face twice.

Miss Oh then took a knife that she had been keeping in her pants for just such an occasion and stabbed the Frenchman in the stomach.

She then managed to make her escape in all the confusion. She is still at large.

Source: Pattaya Mail

This road used to be called ‘Millionaire’s Mile’, but now they just call it ‘Death Row’,” lamented a foreign resident of Kamala, surveying piles of rubble and debris strewn along the Kamala beachfront.

The man, who has lived in Kamala for six years and owns a high-profile business on the island, contacted the *Gazette* out of desperation – hoping that publicizing the situation in Kamala might somehow prompt local authorities there to begin a cleanup.

Speaking under the condition of anonymity, he painted an outlook for the area that will be as bleak as its current landscape if something isn’t done soon.

Such clean-up and recovery work as has been done was mostly due to private sector help – including many foreign donations – and by small business owners looking after their own interests.

With the high season just four months away, it’s imperative to get Kamala cleaned up – and fast, he said.

“There are no more tourists, but at least some small shops are open. But what the local government hasn’t done is clean up public areas or force the owners of damaged buildings and hotels to clean up.

“It’s like we are living in a war zone,” he added.

He believes tourists will take one look around and say, “I’m out of here – and I am not coming back.”

The Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*Or-BorTor*) should be doing much more, he stressed.

Speaking with a tone of bewilderment and exasperation in his voice, he asked: “Why not get a team together to clean up the beachfront? There is a big developer who had his office right on the beach, which is totally illegal. The office was washed away, but all the debris from the office is still there – and now he’s building on the other side of the road.

“Why not tell the developer to clean it up? It would take only one truck and five men about two days to complete the job,” he estimated.

He also wondered where the funds – from both government and donations – had gone.

“I know a hell of a lot of money has been given to Kamala. I donated 100,000 baht myself ... The Governor should come here and have a look. Someone like [Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra], a man who says, ‘Get this done and get it done now,’ would

# Seven months after the wave, why is Kamala still like a garbage tip?

More than seven months after the tsunami hit, the clean-up effort in most parts of the island has been so well accomplished that some visitors to the island find it difficult to believe that a tsunami ever hit here. But there is one exception: little has been done to clean up badly-hit parts of Kamala – and local residents wonder why.

The *Gazette* investigates.

probably blow a fuse if he saw what was happening here. He’d explode,” he said, trying to control his emotions. “He’d ask: ‘After six months what the f\*\*\* have you been doing here?’”

Failing such intervention, he did not hold out much hope for recovery of tourism in Kamala during the next high season.

“I get very, very upset because Patong is clean and beautiful and Kamala is like a garbage tip. It should be a matter of pride. If you are a Thai citizen you have to look at all the garbage and then ask yourself, ‘What is this *Or-BorTor* doing?’ and, ‘Why do I pay taxes?’

“Is there no one who takes action here? They sit in their office and they do nothing. I don’t know if it’s the *Or-BorTor* or the [provincial] government, because I don’t really know how the government works here.

“It would take so little. With a million baht you could clean up all of Kamala. One truck with six guys could clean up all of Kamala in two months,” he said.

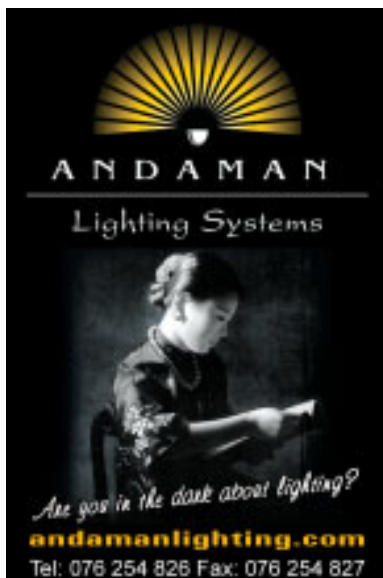
Tambon Council Chairman



Soranan Sanae believes he knows what has happened. He alleges that the lack of a clean-up effort has been caused by current *Or-BorTor* executive members siphoning off some of the funds for their own personal use. [An *Or-BorTor* executive comprises a president elected by his fellow councilors, his deputies, and, usually, a team of government officials.]

“The local people here are not happy with the work of this president. I think it would be better if we changed the leader. We have a mosquito problem, but the *Or-BorTor*’s health office has done nothing about it. I am uncomfortable working with him because he lacks vision and doesn’t listen to the voice of the local people.”

The foreign resident’s com-







Above, the sea is as beautiful as ever, but the foreshore is not.

Below, many areas look like garbage dumps.



ments about pride-of-place found resonance with K. Soranan.

"There has been no improvement here. When I drive through Kamala, I look at the state of it and I feel embarrassed to call myself a resident.

"Our *OrBorTor* president never gets out and visits people here. He's worse than all the other presidents we've had here in the past," he opined.

Kamala Village 3 assistant village headman Chaki "Jackie" Somsab, 35, is another critic of the current *OrBorTor*.

He said that he had helped in an effort by villages to clean out drains and canals, and noted that the provincial government had begun work to fix the beach road. But, he said, there had been a lack of effort on the part of the *OrBorTor*.

"The *OrBorTor* didn't even bother to put in any extra budget request after the tsunami – and that's why they don't have any money now. And what funding they do have they use in the wrong ways, not in ways that will help tourism recover," he said.

He added that the problems in Kamala pre-dated the tsunami; the area had long suffered from flooding and blackouts during the rainy season and water shortages in the dry season – despite the fact that much of the tambon sits in a valley surrounded by forested hillsides, a fact that should make it easy to collect and store water.

"We have to do everything by ourselves. The *OrBorTor* should be fixing infrastructure that was damaged by the tsunami, but instead they are doing a road project because the funds for it had already been budgeted and the project suits their own needs," he said.

"On the other hand, the road out to the Kamala Bay Terrace was impassable for four months after the tsunami until property owners in the area paid to have it fixed," he added.

"Kamala *OrBorTor* is always sure to pay a visit whenever a new project is getting underway [and needs *OrBorTor* permission to begin], but when it comes to problems in public ar-

eas, they do nothing.

"Everyone is disappointed with the lack of transparency here. I believe tourists will still come to Kamala to have a look, but they will no longer fall in love with the place like they used to," he said.

The man in the middle of this maelstrom is Kamala *OrBorTor* President Jaran Sararak. He strenuously denied any impropriety and said that the reason that the Kamala recovery was so slow was that the clean-up effort was slated as part of a large Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) project to re-landscape the beachfront.

"The TAT plans to renovate the beachfront by itself, and I heard [last week] that they just got a 60-million-baht budget for the work. If the *OrBorTor* begins renovation work, the TAT will just come in at a later date and do the whole thing all over again. Why should we duplicate our efforts? We should use our budget to do projects that are of the most benefit to the public," he said.

K. Jaran also estimated that some 80% of the businesses that had been operating along the beach before the tsunami – and which now comprise much of the debris in the area – had ille-

gally encroached on public property and that the *OrBorTor* was powerless to force them to clean up.

In some cases, on private land, people had started to rebuild but ran out of money – leaving unsightly foundation pillars and little else. "What can we do?" he asked.

He said that, in fact, the *OrBorTor* had worked to clear out the damage in some areas, but said the beachfront was the TAT's responsibility. Although details of the TAT plan have not yet been made available to the media, K. Jaran believes they will include footpaths and public gardens. The *OrBorTor*, with help from the private sector, had already done some clean-up work in other areas, he said.

The *Gazette* asked K. Jaran about claims that local people were unhappy with the *OrBorTor* because it had done nothing after the tsunami – and also about allegations that he lacked vision and was taking "commissions" on projects.

Addressing claims that the *OrBorTor* was sitting on its hands, K. Jaran said the organization had already paid out some 6 million baht in compensation claims to owners of small businesses that were affected by the tsunami.

It had also just received 200 million baht from the Ministry of Interior's Department of Local Administration to make improvements to the main beach road, klongs in the area and the local mosque, he added.

He said the claims probably resulted either from misunderstandings or from infighting among local politicians and government officials that had resulted in a smear campaign being waged against him from some quarters.

"It's simply not true that I have been cheating," he said. "I have done everything according to proper procedures and have all the documentation to prove it."

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# The Mild Ones

By Andy Johnstone

To the true motorcycle aficionado, the names of the best manufacturers – Triumph, Moto Guzzi, Suzuki, Brough Superior and Ural sound as sweet to the ear as a V-twin four-stroke under hard acceleration.

“Wait,” some eagle-eyed readers might cry, “What about Harley-Davidson?” Not really. Harleys are the machine so beloved of those who need a little “extra” in the trouser department. Far too much leather and studs, also.

Sorry, chaps, but even in the biker film, *The Wild One*, Brando rode a Triumph – a 1950 Thunderbird 6T, to be precise – not a hog. McQueen, too, favored Triumphs, both on and off screen.

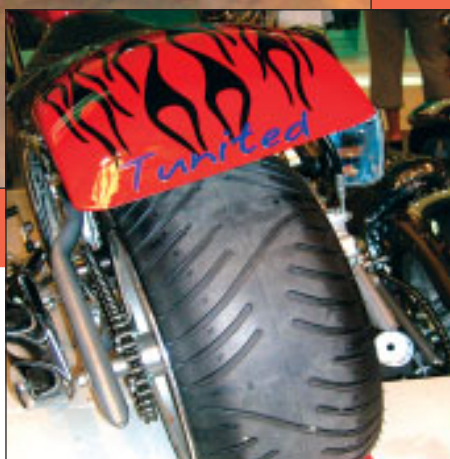
To the pantheon of two-wheeled legends must surely be added the marque of T-United, from Taiwan, who measure the power of their vehicles in pony – not horse – power. Unless, that is, one chooses an electric model running on a 36V motor.

Fact: these bikes are not big. Fact: one will not see an entire family perched on one. Fact: these bikes can be as expensive as a real, road-going motorbike. Fact: they are fun.

Well, they look like fun. The powers-that-be at Supersports at Central Festival Phuket, where these pint-sized versions of choppers, scramblers and road racers are for sale, were less than keen at the prospect of *Gazette* staff zooming harem-scarem



**LITTLE CHOPPER:** At the top of the T-United range of motorbikes is the FS-516G (left), a scaled-down chopper with extended forks and a rear tire fat enough to lay down some serious rubber.



around the store, much less the entire shopping center. Can't think why.

The microbikes are selling surprisingly well. Concession Manager Surin Eadkaew said that some 24 vehicles have been sold at the store since they were introduced three months ago.

Supersports is the first shop in Phuket, though not in Thailand, to sell these teeny-weeny machines – and they are not just for the children. K. Surin points out that they can carry loads of up to 80 kilograms.

US sailors who took part in the recent Cobra Gold exercises in the Gulf of Thailand reportedly emptied a Pattaya store of its range of the 49cc, gasoline-engined models to use in the gentle art of drag racing on the flight deck of the *USS Kitty Hawk*.

The electric bikes, includ-

ing quads, stand-up tri-cycles and scaled-down road racers, require a four-to-six-hour charge to enable them to run for 12 hours, or around 35 kilometers.

They can hit a maximum speed of around 40kmh via an automatic gearbox, which means that one might be recharging it often. Still, K. Surin reports that a full charge costs a mere 10 baht.

The single-cylinder, 4-stroke models have a three-liter tank, and, shockingly, a speedometer that goes up to a coffin-beckoning 70mph (113kmh). This potentially insane speed is reached by a four-speed manual gearbox.

The engine red-lines at 14,000rpm, and the wise – and uneasy – rider might be inclined to leave the cellophane on the seat cover in case of fear-induced accidents.

Chrome abounds on the flagship FS-516G, a scaled-down chopper. It features long forks, a rear tire as wide as a Mini's and, inexplicably, a mirror positioned on the rear suspension arm near the tire. To check for small dogs, perhaps?

There is, perhaps, no sensible reason why someone would want one of these pocket rockets. They are impractical, expensive toys, designed for people with more cash than brains.

Time to check the piggy bank and to book a lobotomy; these things have just reached the top of my wishlist.

*T-United Scooters are available Supersports, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Central Festival Phuket. Prices begin at 3,590 baht for a stand-and-ride scooter and go up to 39,900 baht for the FS-516G. Call Tel: 076-291111 for more details.*

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# Majority support decree: survey

A large majority of the Thai public, especially those from the three southern border provinces, support the executive decree that gives the Prime Minister absolute power to handle states of emergency, an opinion survey found.

The survey, by Assumption University, found that 86.3% of respondents in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat supported the decree, while 72.6% of respondents in Bangkok also agreed with it.

The university surveyed 1,035 people in Bangkok and 428 people in the three southern provinces.

Professor Dr Srisak Jarmornmarn, head of the university's survey office, said 21.3% of respondents in Bangkok and 10.4% in the three southern provinces disagreed with the decree. The remaining respondents in both groups had no comment.

When asked to choose between human rights and strict law enforcement to achieve peace in the Deep South, 71.5% of the combined groups chose strict law enforcement, 22.1% gave priority to human rights and 6.4% had no comment.

**Big business:** While plans to export nine elephants to Australia are still receiving criticism, the owner of the country's biggest elephant shelter has come up with another controversial business idea – setting up a farm for the breeding and sale of elephants.

Laithongrian Meepan, owner of the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Royal Kraal, said the project would aim to develop the genetic traits of the endangered animals, which are a national symbol. However, he disclosed that the farm would eventually cater for rich people who wanted to buy elephants, with calves selling for around 2 million baht each.

"A pedigree elephant is not an ordinary pet, but an animal to boost the status of the rich," he said.

**Spirit houses:** The Excise Department presented to the Cabinet three formulae to help balance the need to reduce alcohol consumption against the need to protect the Thai liquor industry.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra promised to reform the tax system after learning that alcohol consumption had increased over the past 10 years – in spite of the Excise Department repeatedly raising taxes.

According to one industry analyst, three categories of alcoholic beverages that did not exist 10 years ago have come to dominate the Thai market: economy-priced beer; low-priced whisky; and "other spirits" sold for less than 300 baht for a 700ml bottle.

**Hockey season:** The Buri Ram Municipality Pawnshop was in danger of closing after a flood of residents affected by high oil



**IN THE LINE OF DUTY:** Anantaya Satarat tearfully collects the police uniform that her father, Pol Senior Sgt Watchara, was wearing when he was shot on July 13, as she and her mother claim his body from the Forensic Medicine Institute.

Sgt Watchara was shot above the right eye by an unidentified assailant at a petrol station in Bang Khen, Bangkok, while attempting to apprehend three suspects on a motorcycle.

prices turned to the service for quick cash, its manager said.

Suwan Saenmai said the continuous oil-price hikes and the subsequent higher living costs had affected many residents from all walks of life. As a result, Suwan said, between 400 and 500 people a day – around double the normal number – were pawning items.

He said the shop had been spending 2 million baht a day and had depleted its 70-million-baht cash reserves, as well as the 2 million baht it had already borrowed from the municipality, a month ago.

The pawnshop will ask the municipal council to allow the business to borrow 15 million baht from banks so that it can stay afloat, he said.

**Spreading the wealth:** The Cabinet approved raising the daily minimum wage for unskilled workers by between 2 baht and 8 baht.

Government Spokesman Chalermdej Jombunud said Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra also assigned his deputies Chidchai

Vanasatidya and Surakiart Sathirathai to draw up measures to improve workers' skills and to consider a quota system for laborers from neighboring countries such as Burma, Laos and Cambodia.

In a related story, activist Srisak Thai-aree of the Thai Coordinating Committee on Migrant Children announced that the number of Thai-born children of immigrant workers under the age of 15 has grown tenfold to one million in the past 10 years.

**Candid camera:** Thai Immigration has set up "photographic-information systems" at Bangkok, Phuket and Chiang Mai airports as part of its latest effort to improve security following the deadly bombing at Haad Yai International Airport in early April.

Passengers wearing hats are asked them to remove them and look at the camera on the counter facing them in a process that adds just a few seconds to the immigration process.

The new Personal Identification Secure Comparison and

Evaluation System (PISCES) is part of the effort to achieve international standards in safety and security and was not a response to any particular threat.

The system was designed to check on those entering and leaving the Kingdom and to compare passengers' information efficiently with a blacklist database, an Immigration officer said.

**New and improved:** The contents of intelligence-boosting gift bags given to babies born at Government hospitals have been improved and 100,000 of the sets will be distributed on July 28.

Previously, 3,000 gift sets were given to parents of newborn

children at Ramathibodi Hospital and some other larger city hospitals in a pilot project by The National Institute for Brain-based Learning.

The bags' contents received mixed reviews from the recipients, some of whom said they posed a health risk to toddlers.

In response to parents' criticisms, the gift bag's rope has been shortened in order to ensure no babies get dangerously entangled in it and small bells have been removed from toys lest babies swallow them. Sharp edges of books have also been softened and rounded.

**No protest:** Monks who protested a move to allow the maker of Chang Beer to list on the stock exchange violated an order by the Supreme Patriarch, the Director of the National Buddhism Office (NBO), Dr Chaktham Thammasak, has announced.

Dr Chaktham said the Supreme Patriarch issued an order five or six years ago banning monks from engaging in political meetings or protest gatherings.

Although the protest by a coalition of 128 anti-vice groups was carried out in good faith, it was inappropriate for monks to take part in a protest rally, Dr Chaktham said.

"Protesting is not a monastic activity and 95% of Buddhists do not like to see monks do it," he said.

He said NBO officials would talk to the Abbot of Wat Phra Dhammakaya, who allegedly mobilized monks from the provinces to take part in the protest.

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

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# The tsunami fighting spirit



## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

In the unofficial post-tsunami competition between Nang Thong and Bang Niang to become Khao Lak's future prime beach, Bang Niang has achieved yet another victory. Bang Niang's five-meter-wide and 2.75-kilometer long concrete road has been completed at a total cost of nearly 7.6 million baht.

While the completion of a road system might sound small beer to outsiders, for the people of Bang Niang this represents a major breakthrough – they have been waiting for proper roads for five years.

And there is even more good news rolling in. The installation of power lines and transformers is almost complete, heralding the arrival of much needed power for the reconstruction teams who were previously struggling with gasoline-powered generators and other improvised tools.

In the race against time and the elements (Khao Lak has seen a lot of rain lately), it's likely that the following beach resorts in the Bang Niang area will be fully operational by November 2005: Ayara Villas, Toop Thong Guesthouse, Sanuk Bungalows, Bang Niang Beach Resort, Ludda Resort, Dream Beach Villas, Amsterdam Resort, Mukdara Resort, The Beach Resort, Cousin Resort, Raveewan's and La Flora.



Lung Joe never complains about his situation; he just gets on with rebuilding his restaurant.

never hear him complain about his situation or the tsunami. He is convinced that his steakhouse will be up and running before the season starts, even though it is uncertain if he has enough money left to construct the roof.

Cruising along Nang Thong Beach, there are signs of reconstruction and cleaning efforts here and there, yet the "yes, we can do it!" spirit is not quite as apparent

as at Bang Niang Beach.

Here, as at Bang Niang though, it is the smaller players kicking the ball, such as Gerd and Noi Bungalows and Khao Lak Green Beach.

Other Nang Thong resorts stating that they will be operational by November 2005 are: Baan Khao Lak, Khao Lak Seaview Resort, Nang Thong Bay Resort, and the Khao Lak Andaman Beach Resort, which has now joined forces with the Garden Beach Resort.

A rather strange development are the new room-pricing policies of some Nang Thong-based resorts. While it would be wise to wait and see how development goes, and to find out what Khao Lak visitors are willing to spend in the first post-tsunami season, one beach resort is asking for an impudent 2,000 baht for a one-night stay in a standard beach bungalow, which is a price rise of more than 40%.

Time will tell whether future Nang Thong Beach visitors will be put off by this peculiar pricing strategy and move on to other beaches or will accept paying over-the-odds as a kind of postponed tsunami aid.

All of these resorts were either severely damaged or wiped out by the tsunami, so a big congratulatory slap on the back for a job well done, especially for the smaller players, who had to cough up the funds by themselves because they were not insured.

Also a big thank you to all the past and present volunteer teams for their efforts to revive Bang Niang Beach.

The weird thing about the people involved with tsunami re-

construction efforts is that those who lost family members, or their businesses and houses and who

business and who didn't even get their feet wet on December 26, you will find them complaining and whining like babies who have lost their favorite toy.

A good example of what might be termed as the tsunami fighting spirit is "Lung Joe", the owner of Joe's Steakhouse at Bang Niang Beach.

He is, stone by stone, rebuilding his famous restaurant with his bare hands, supported by a few donors and ex-customers.

Talking to Joe, you will

One beach resort is asking for an impudent 2,000 baht for a one-night stay in a standard beach bungalow, which is a price rise of more than 40%.

were almost killed themselves are the ones who never complain and indulge in self-pity.

But when talking to people who merely lost their job or their

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## This week



**BANG ON!** US secondary school teachers try their hand at playing the *ranaat* during their recent three-day visit to meet Thai music and dance teachers and students at Satree Phuket School.



**CLUBBING IT:** Phummisak Hongsyok (left), President of the Phuket Real Estate Club, and Vice-Governor Winai Buapradit inspect golfing goodies at the opening of the recent Phuket Golf Fair Demo Day, as part of the Golf Challenge Tournament at Phuket Country Club.



**FLYING HIGH:** Delegates from DCA, Airports of Thailand and Aerothai recently joined together for an EU-Southeast Asia civil aviation project on July 11-15 at Phuket International Airport. Present are John Wilmot (3<sup>rd</sup> row, with glasses), Managing Consultant, BAE Systems; Neil Christopher Parsons (back), Managing Consultant, Aviation, BAE Systems; and Peter Ray (3<sup>rd</sup> row, white shirt), of Aviation & Training Consultancy.



**PURELY POTABLE:** At the Phuket launch of Anti Bio and Water Technologies Co Ltd water-purifying system, at Pacific Club & Spa recently are, from left, Water Technologies Director Steve Johnson, Anti Bio Managing Director David Telfer, Pacific Club CEO Eric Conger and Water Technologies Director John T Lounsbury.



**PLUS POINT:** Enjoying the opening of the new Point 4 restaurant at The Metropole hotel on July 14 were Peerapong Bupourut (blue tie), General Manager of the hotel, Executive Assistant General Manager Boripat Prachanbar (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Public Relations Manager Chotika Vichainkul (right), Sales Manager Kobkaew Kumpa (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Air China Station Manager Hong Jun (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Security Chief Teerasak Sa-ngasaeng.



**CARE CHAMPS:** Pranee Singhol (7<sup>th</sup> from left), Headmistress of the Laguna Child-care Center (LCC), gives a warm welcome to representatives from Koh Pha-ngan Public Health Center and Koh Pha-ngan Childcare Center during their visit to the LCC.

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# Gittin' Mouth from the

Thai hip-hop crews are multiplying at the speed of sound with acts such as B-King, Temple Dogz and Vamm breaking ground in Bangkok. But the next big hip-hop act could well be right here, in Phuket.

South Players (formerly South Side Crew) MC'd alongside Thaitanium, Thailand's leading hip-hop group, last December at Phuket Rajabhat University. Since then, they have been on 96.75FM and Bangkok's legendary Fat Radio.

Their debut album, *2P Mix tape Vol. 1* (made when they were still called South Side Crew), is mature and well produced. Old-school beats and Thai/English lyrics may not be revolutionary anymore, but their tone is fresh and their delivery is right on. Along with Thaitanium and Temple Dogz, South Players are making some of Thailand's best hip-hop.

In a musical genre where looks matter, meeting the crew was no disappointment. Fully geared out with graffitied baggies and giant diamond-studded watches, these Thai boys strike a gangsta pose just as good as the "real thing".

South Players, with Freddy V acting as spokesmen, gave **Greg Glachant** insights into their music and the attitudes that form it.



## Who are South Players?

There are five core members to our crew. DKY1 is 21 and studying art at Rajabhat. I'm 18 and I just graduated from Dulwich [now the British Curriculum International School]. 2P and I.G. are 14 and go to Chalermprakiet School. Mellowman is the youngest, he's 13, and he goes to Dulwich, too.

## Tell us about your debut album.

*2P Mix tape Vol. 1* was released in December 2004. It took us some 40 hours at GT Studio to record it. 2P is our godfather. He came up with the 13,000 baht to do it.

So far, we've sold 50 copies in Bangkok – at DJ Siam

and Chatuchak Market – and 150 copies at Pentagon Skateshop, here, at Ocean Mall.

We're really proud of this album and even though we'd do a few things differently now, we're still the best in Phuket.

## What does "mix tape" imply?

The beats on our tracks are all samples from old-school hip-hop [artists] like Ice-Cube and Fat Jo.

We didn't want people to recognize the beats and go, "Oh listen, it's Jay-Z."

The lyrics are all original, though.

They're ours.

**But Thai culture is pretty**

## tame, whereas hip-hop is in-your-face.

We're bridging the gap. It's not a problem for us at all. Look at Freddy's T-shirt, DKY1's armband: those are Thai flags. We're proud of being Thai.

You can be Thai and be loud. You know, there's a kind of traditional Thai song where two groups argue. That's just like hip-hop.

## How about school and your parents?

Our parents are so proud to hear us on the radio. Our teachers love it. We've even performed at Chalermprakiet school.

We want people to be proud of us. We want people in Bangkok to say, "Hey, Phuket has good hip-hop."

## At Chalermprakiet, did you perform your song about being drunk and high?

We shifted the lyrics around a bit for that one. Most people don't understand anyway.

But we don't drink or smoke. We just sing that for "gangsta" fun. We're all about fun.

**Yes, you're not political, unlike other Thai groups, such as Temple Dogz, who rip into Bush and Thaksin. Even Thaitanium claim they are heir to the 1973 demonstrations.**

Temple Dogz are more old-school, like NWA and Public Enemy. We're not into that.

**But do you feel you can say anything you want? You do**

**have one song about the unrest along the Malaysian border and it's critical of the terrorists but not of the government.**

We're underground. We can say what we want. DKY1 is Muslim and he thinks things are just going to get worse and worse down there.



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# South



All photos by Greg Glachant

But we just want to make people party and have fun.

**You're all about gangsta rap but have you ever been so much as arrested?**

Well ... Freddy got his bike confiscated by the cops for throwing eggs from a bridge. They landed on some Patong mafia guy's BMW and he went chasing after Freddy with a machete. The cops said it was the first time they'd confiscated a bicycle! (laughs)

DKY1, he got in trouble for his graffiti so now he just does it in his studio. He also designs clothes. Some of this stuff we're wearing is his.

**Do you get along with the other crews in Phuket?**

We've done "battles" with B-Bullet. They're more east coast. But we fight with our lyrics only, onstage. As for the gangsters in Saphan Hin, they don't like us too much because we steal all the girls. They have nice motorcycles but they dress like sh\*t.

**Can you really make hip-hop without the gangs, the guns, or the social and racial issues?**

You see, we can choose what we like and ditch the rest. We take only the positive elements from hip-hop. We're good boys.

**What are your plans for the future?**

We've turned down RS Promotion [Thailand's leading record label].

We want to stay underground. We want to be free and do what we want.

We'll be recording our second album this December and we should MC with Thai-tanium again in October when they come to Phuket to promote their new album.

Hip-hop is becoming huge here.

2P Mix Tape Vol.1 by South Side Crew is available at Pentagon Skateshop, Ocean Mall, Phuket City for 150 baht.

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# Coldplay reinforce No 1 claim

Only those who have lived in a cave for the past couple of months could have failed to have heard *Speed of Sound*, the first single from *X&Y*, which is the third studio album by Coldplay.

There is no doubting how good the single is – and it is magnificent – but still, critics and fans alike have been wondering if the “curse of the third album” will descend on the band.

It has not. In fact, *X&Y* is quite simply the best yet by Coldplay, and makes more credible the suggestion that they are the biggest band in the world, usurping U2.

Admittedly, the single *Vertigo* aside, U2's most recent album, *How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb*, was a damp squib, but that does not detract from Coldplay's new-crowned status as the Kings of Rock.

But *X&Y* is not an immediate hit; it grows on one, with three or four listenings required before any musical epiphany occurs.

The album begins with the anthem *Square One*. Songwriter, vocalist and pianist Chris Martin writes about love, dreams and

## EAR CANDY

with Andy Johnstone



Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay, performs at the Live 8 concert in London on July 2. The band was one of the main attractions at the event, which was attended by more than 200,000 people.

Photo: EPA/STR

loss in a way that affects the listener.

“From the top of the first page, to the end of the last day. From the start in your own way, you just want somebody listening

to what you say. It doesn't matter who you are.”

*X&Y* features large amounts of electronica in the style of Eno, Kraftwerk and late-'70s Bowie. This, when combined with the

guitar-led elements, shows the heritage of 40-years' worth of introspective experimental music the band have soaked up.

Martin's voice is more fragile than the late Ian Curtis's and less earthy than David Gilmour's yet it soars in the same way as the vocalists from, respectively, Joy Division and Pink Floyd.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, both of these bands – in terms of tunes, phrasing and self-absorption – are evident influences on *X&Y*, particularly on track 5, *Talk*, which, even on an album of big music, is massive in scale.

“So you don't know where you're going and you wanna talk. And you feel like you're going where you've been before. You tell anyone who'll listen but you feel ignored. Nothing's really making any sense at all, let's talk. Let's talk, let's talk, let's talk.”

But *X&Y* is also full of heart-rending songs such as track 11, *Swallowed In The Sea*, and track 7, *A Message*. For example, this line is from *A Message*: “My song is love, love to the loveless shown, and it goes on; you don't have to be alone.”

Alternative rock? Indie rock? Post-Britpop? All of the above, and with soul. No other band in the world comes close.

*X&Y*, Coldplay. Parlophone 3112802. 62 minutes, 32 seconds.

When one thinks of catchy melodies and pure guitar pop, the name Jack Johnson inevitably turns up sooner or later, which is surprising given that he never really set out to make music, and was perfectly content making and editing surf films in his native Hawaii.

Johnson had been a professional surfer until an accident forced him to take some time off. He learned to play guitar at age 14, but did not seriously pursue a career in the arts until college years.

His music caught the ear of Ben Harper's producer/manager JP Plunier, who pushed Johnson to record formal demos, leading to the release of *Brushfire Fairytales* in 2001.

He toured for almost two years, then released *On and On*, to critical acclaim, in 2003.

*In Between Dreams* finds Johnson still crafting laid-back, introspective yet sharp vocals that entrance the listener.

The pace is set with the opening track *Better Together*, in which Johnson's carefree approach to vocals and his crisp, clean acoustic guitar playing announces a distinctive style existing fans know well.

A mesmerizing collection of 13 tracks of poetic *mots justes* served with intriguing guitar pop, ends with *Constellations*, arguably his most melodic and touching song to date:

“And it was just another night with a sunset and a moonrise not too far behind to give us just enough light to lay down underneath the stars. We listened to Papa's translations of the stories across the sky. We drew our own constellations.”

Johnson covers a range of topics on *In Between Dreams*, including the ecstasy of new love, the demoralizing effect of watching TV, and being inside on a rainy day.

Those who are new to his music will probably find *In Between Dreams* an enticing introduction to the man's canon of work, while for existing fans it is an instant classic.

*In Between Dreams*, Jack Johnson. Brushfire Records B0004-149-02. 40 minutes, 55 seconds.



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Gazette Guide**



# Sampling life in the slowest lane

**D**espite the bridge across the Mekong that now links Laos with northern Thailand, very little seems to have changed in decades in Vientiane, Asia's most somnolent capital. Laden hawkers amble their way past the shops on Samsenta St toward the market. A couple of jeeps cross the intersection, followed by three motorcyclists leisurely pattering their way to work. Look away for a few minutes and you could well miss the morning rush hour in Vientiane.

Besides the bridge, there are two other routes into this intriguing non-metropolis, which is really more of a country village with a scattering of embassies looking embarrassedly out of place.

You can either take a ferry across the deep muddy waters of the Mekong or fly into the peacock blue airport, where the immigration official, unless closely supervised, could well stamp your passport with the wrong year. Either method of entry is a suitably characteristic introduction.

Still dazed from the effects of the Indochina War, the country is a curious relic of bygone Asia where tourists are an oddity but are nevertheless still left to their own devices.

"Sabaidee, sabaidee," carol the children as you walk past. There have not yet been enough tourists to provoke brash demands for candy or money so their greeting remains just that – a courteous welcome to a stranger.

For any foreigner with a knowledge of history, peaceful Laos seems at odds with its past. French colonialism and American bombs – which rained down on the Ho Chi Minh trail during the Vietnam War – both contributed to its current backwardness, yet everywhere is calm.

Stroll toward the center of Vientiane and you can soon find yourself back on its outskirts. The actual city center was a kilometer back, a gaggle of shops and restaurants clustered round a crossroads where four-year-olds were playing on their bikes in the middle of the street.

Elegant Buddhist temples rear up at the end of dusty avenues, rivaled by grotesque war

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters



Let's stop the rush hour for a quick souvenir photograph...

memorials, one of which was nicknamed The Vertical Runway, as it was built with concrete originally donated by the US and supposed to be for the airport.

In Vientiane, after inspecting the temples and gazing across the Mekong, you can dawdle through the morning market. Chickens, vegetables and electronic goods occupy much of the floor space, while sackfuls of tobacco – and the occasional bag of marijuana – have their own special corner.

Just off the main road a wizened lady sits behind neat stacks of Lao kip, Vietnamese dong and Thai baht. With a couple

of customers an hour, she is doing a thriving trade by local standards.

She offers a fraction over the official rate for kip (and you could scarcely have picked a better name for the national currency) in exchange for foreign currency, a profit margin that is scarcely likely to attract entrepreneurs. This is the most visible sign of the Laotian black market.

Elsewhere there are Buddhist retreats to visit, tangy curries to eat, and cycles to hire for short jaunts around the outskirts.

Like the Mekong river which flows alongside the city, Vientiane has meandered along on its own sleepy course. And the main reason to hop across the border is for the simple, unalloyed pleasure of sampling life in the dead slow lane.



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[phuketgazette.com/calendar](http://phuketgazette.com/calendar)



# SAPHAN HIN IN BLOOM

**S**aphan Hin in Phuket City was a riot of color recently when the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Phuket Flower Fair was staged there. From July 15 to 24, hundreds of varieties of flowers, pot plants and fruit trees, most of them for sale, drew large numbers of people to the fair, organized jointly by the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office and Phuket City Municipality.

Highlights included fruit, flower and vegetable contests, and this year's displays of orchids were particularly spectacular.



*All photographs by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

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Sunday! The whole experience for 4,000 Baht only!

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# Saving abused species in Patong

**M**ale menopause is alive and well in Phuket: "There are certainly more leather like grey haired older men than I have ever seen, some riding Harleys, all with very young Thai women."

Joe thinks fair play to them, if they are happy! It is quite amusing to see the guys wearing their tight shorts and bandanas playing out their fantasies of being 21 again! ... this place seems to attract eccentric types.

We are just about the only couple in a 20 mile radius, the rest of the people are either villagers, ladies of the night or very dirty old men.

Yesterday we were sitting outside the shop having an ice cream when this guy ... (with bright white hair and a big red face) went by on a fake Harley in the direction of Patong with a young lady shouting as he went "HOT PUSSY!" She looked a bit worried to say the least - poor, poor girl...

When you are there [the Gibbon Rehabilitation Center] you are encouraged to report any abuse you have seen of any animals on the island. I got the wrong end of the stick and started to fill it in but

realised I hadn't seen anything untoward, except the dirty old men with the Thai girls.

So the people at the centre suggested I report them as they certainly need to be rehabilitated ... the lux resorts of Laguna beach certainly leave a lot to me desired particularly at \$200 a night. Though we did have fun crashing the Banyan Tree resort and sipping a drink next to the most beautiful swimming pool I have ever seen, surrounded by people who looked like they had just stepped out of the pages of *Wallpaper Magazine*.

I felt bad for them though because if that was all they had

Phuket can, to put it very lightly, seem a quirky place to newcomers and passers-through. Years of living away from the constraints of Western society have somewhat loosened certain local expats' views on what is right, what is wrong and what is downright unacceptable.

To correct this imbalance here is a collection of views from outside of Phuket "looking in". By the way, **Lis Kinswoman** just compiles this stuff. She is not responsible for the 'original' spelling or grammar quirks.

seen of Thailand they were certainly missing a great deal." [photoafrica.com/wendybrierley/thailand](http://photoafrica.com/wendybrierley/thailand)

**Telling it like it is (1):** "We have been busy people, first off we have explored the whole island of Phuket on mopeds. That was such a laugh, unfortunately we went past the Thai police and they were pulling every white man in so shock we got pulled in, not one of them could speak English and they just wrote a ticket out and pointed to the police station."

When we walked up to the police station they charged us 300 baht for something, that's only about 4

pound so we just paid it. (as they had guns) When we got back home the women at our hotel read it and it was for not wearing a helmet and we all had them on, how annoying was that?

We have met some great people in Thailand, also we know the little scams and cheats they come up with so we feel quite happy here now, saying that we are all looking forward to leaving the shanty town, cold showers, non-flushing toilets (sometimes) crap roads and bad driving, smells and Thai police behind for sunny Australia." - [getjealous.com/printdiary.php?username=revoltos](http://getjealous.com/printdiary.php?username=revoltos)

**Telling it like it is (2):** "As I have said, I think the new slogan for the TOT [sic - he means TAT, the Tourism Authority of Thailand] should be safety first. It seems like it has been see Phuket & die."

When the safety issues have been addressed, the reconstruction complete, the beach mafia issues addressed then the tot [sic] should make an international effort to bring back people & not before then. Because to ask people to come back before

Phuket is ready is trying to sell a third rate product at first class prices." - [stickmanbangkok.com/Reader/reader1464.htm](http://stickmanbangkok.com/Reader/reader1464.htm)

**One foot on a banana skin:** Travel publisher Fodors asks people to complete the following sentence: "I had tears in my eyes when I first..." One contributor follows with, "saw a fragile grandfather selling grilled bananas in Phuket, Thailand, for only 5 baht." - [fodors.com/forums](http://fodors.com/forums)

**Furry yes, but cuddly?** The Travel Guardian has a lot to say about post-tsunami Phuket but, like a lonely boy at a dance gazing at a beautiful but tarty girl, the writers can't seem to make up their minds if they actually fancy the island or not...

"Fur coat and no knickers, that's Phuket, although of course there's no need to wrap up warm to enjoy its gorgeous golden beaches: it's far too hot for furs. But the description is apt because, despite the expensive hotels, the resort has a distinctly seamy undercurrent."

"The whiff of Magaluf becomes a stench five miles up the coast on Patong Beach. Three miles long and presided over by a Gotham-like tower (incomplete timeshares), way out of proportion to the entire nation's buildings, let alone a beach resort, this is the commercial hub of the most commercial island in Thailand ... The best advertised product is the Simon Cabaret ... which gives a *Carry On* spin to the ... island." - [travel.guardian.co.uk/hotels/story/0,11327,906631,00.html](http://travel.guardian.co.uk/hotels/story/0,11327,906631,00.html)

**Health tip:** "Although locals smoke and put their butts out on the ground be very careful and don't do this..." - [lonelyplanet.com/letters/sea](http://lonelyplanet.com/letters/sea)

**Miles of smiles:** "I disembarked at the coach station to the usual melee of taxi-drivers, tuk tuk drivers and con artists. It's amazing ... the first time I've ever set foot in the place in my life, yet they were all my best friend! Such warm people! - [gulliblestravels.co.uk/Thailand1.htm](http://gulliblestravels.co.uk/Thailand1.htm)

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

## PHUKET DIARY

**July 31: Seafood Extravaganza at The Mangosteen Restaurant, 11 am to 3 pm.**

Mangosteen Sunday Brunch theme this week: Seafood Extravaganza!

This is your Sunday, if you are a seafood lover!

A really nice choice of all we found in the sea at a bargain price of only 950 baht (incl. wine) per person.

Eat as much as you like from 11 am to 3 pm, and don't forget to book well in advance. We expect this Sunday to be fully booked!

Delightful seafood with a beautiful view, only at The Mangosteen Restaurant!

Call Gerd Wissemann at Tel: 076-289399.

**Until August 1: Halal Food, Hilal Town Festival in Kamala, 5:30 to 11:30 pm.**

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will stage "Halal Food, Hilal Town" at Kamala Beach.

The highlight will be a sound-and-light presentation of the story of Princess Mahsuri, a semi-legendary princess from Kamala.

Other activities and attrac-

tions include a range of Halal food; readings from the Holy Quran; demonstrations of leatherwork; and other aspects of traditional lifestyles.

There will also be stalls featuring products from the provinces of Southern Thailand.

Privy Councillor Gen Surayud Chulanont will preside over the opening ceremony on July 28 at 5:30 pm on Kamala Beach, in front of the Coco Hut Resort.

For more information visit [www.phuketcity.org](http://www.phuketcity.org) or [www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org), or call Tel: 076-211877 or 076-212213.

**August 1-31: Here & There: John Marmon Photography at Watermark, Boat Lagoon, 10 am to 10 pm.**

From the simple to the sublime ... "Here and There" is a stimulating collection of color-intensive, high-impact & graphic images by accomplished photographer John Marmon.

Images shot in China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Thailand & the US Virgin Islands form this amusing, whimsical, imaginative & original portfolio of contemporary photographic art.

John's images are his personal vision of anything he has seen while traveling & living around the world.

Preferring to eschew the typical travel photograph, he draws attention to the insignificant & ephemeral that may otherwise go unnoticed. Arguably unconventional, the subjects create images with stunning impact.

For more information contact John Marmon, Tel: 09-0571976, or Stuart Bird, Tel: 01-7376184, or send email: [info@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:info@watermarkphuket.com)

**August 12: Birthday of HM Queen Sirikit.**

August 12 is the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit, and is a public holiday. Most government offices, banks and many businesses will be shut.

**September 3: Pop-jazz night with Nantida at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, starting 8 pm.**

Nantida, the Thai singer famous for songs such as *Bork noi dai mai?* will perform a special concert in Phuket.

Tickets are priced at 2,000 baht, 1,500 baht and 800 baht. All tickets include entrance to a cocktail reception. Patrons buying the 2,000-baht tickets will also receive an after-concert cocktail.

Guests may also buy dinner, accommodation and a "Jazz Brunch" for the following day.

Ticket holders can also win prizes offered by the Hilton group.

For more information contact Nampetch Tipaxorn at Tel: 076-396433-41 or by email to [nampetch.tipaxorn@hilton.com](mailto:nampetch.tipaxorn@hilton.com)



**"Phuket Gazette"**

If you pick up your weekly Gazette at Big One in Chermg Talay, chances are you've met Khun Saowanee Khaosang (left) and Khun Vassana Tuntrakul (right). They are an important part of the Gazette Distribution Team - always eager to serve you, and always on time. In fact, they can usually hand you Saturday's Gazette on Friday afternoon.

**The Gazette Distribution Team - always eager to serve you!**



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KIDS

the Fun Page  
for all  
the Family

# Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 25 types of water bird. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends.  
Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

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| Z | K | I | O | M | F | I | E | N | F | O | B | R | S | K |
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| D | S | R | E | K | O | L | S | A | F | A | O | N | E | S |
| E | H | Y | Q | U | D | I | F | H | N | N | W | E | R | P |
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| O | V | Q | Y | M | K | Z | S | E | H | R | A | N | N | A |
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# Brain Buster!!

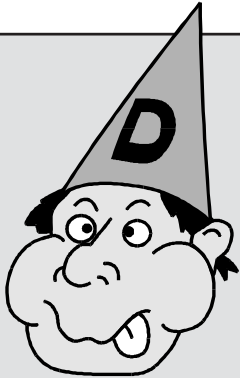
Somchai has socks in five different colors: two pairs are blue, two are black, three are brown, four are green and four are white. Somchai is not very neat and just throws his socks in the drawer after washing them. This evening he’s flying out for two days of business in Bangkok, but there is a power cut, and he can’t see to match up his socks.  
How many socks should he take to be sure of getting at least one matching pair?

A: Six. There are five colors, so if he takes six at least two will be the same color.

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK’S MONSTER QUIZ

1. 27; 2. Oak wood; 3. Whistling Jack Smith; 4. Four; 5. Mates condoms; 6. Alibi; 7. Tomato; 8. U2; 9. Oregon; 10. Honor thy father and thy mother; 11. Vera, Chuck and Dave; 12. Boxing; 13. Thomas Edison; 14. Zorro; 15. *The Blackboard Jungle*; 16. 7; 17. Volvo; 18. Blondi; 19. Oddjob; 20. Hoolahoop.

# Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They’re not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

1. The fictional village “Llareggub” is the setting for which play?

2. Who wrote the play?

3. The words “Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules...” begin which 18<sup>th</sup> Century song?

4. On July 30, 1966, England won the soccer World Cup. Who did they beat and what was the score?

5. Actor Don Juan Moreno y Jederique Jimenez, star of *Léon*, is better known by what name?

6. Who wrote the poem *Eloisa to Abelard*?
7. Who directed the 1972 film, *Solyaris*?

8. Who directed the 2002 film, *Solaris*?

9. The Lockheed C-130 aircraft is commonly known by what name?

10. In Ancient Greece, what were Thaïs, Laïs and Aspasia?

11. Globe and Jerusalem are types of what?

12. Who was the Greek Goddess of Victory, now a sportswear brand?

13. Which country in the world sends the most letters abroad?
14. In which year did Robbie Williams leave Take That?

15. Who, upon splitting with her partner said, “At least I can wear high heels now.”?

16. Who wrote *A Short History of Nearly Everything*?

17. By what name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known?

18. What, on an animal, is a scut?

19. What is hypermetropia?

20. Which US state is known as “The Equality State”?
- Answers next week

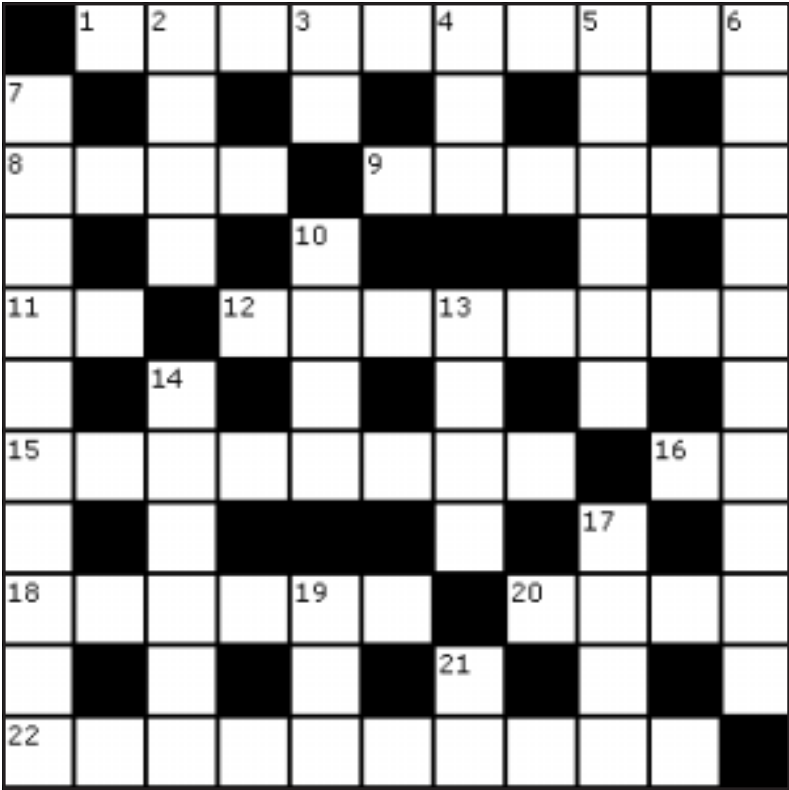
# Never a Cross Word!

## ACROSS

1. Like the dodo or the kiwi, for example.  
8. Handful of flowers.  
9. The B in FBI.  
11. In reference to.  
12. 10 down is one kind.  
15. Unlucky number, some say.  
16. The husband of Mrs.  
18. Citrus fruit.  
20. Humped cow.  
22. Where children sit and learn.

## DOWN

2. Fail to win.  
3. Leave.  
4. Between Wed and Fri.  
5. Soccer or cricket side.  
6. German cabbage dish.  
7. Surgical procedures.  
10. Tall footwear.  
13. Oak or teak, for example.  
14. Capital of Saudi Arabia.



## Solution to last week’s crossword





## In The Stars

by Isla Star

## SEE WHAT THE WEEK HAS IN STORE FOR YOU

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): This week's atmosphere is somewhat dramatic for Leos. An intense discussion this weekend leaves you feeling emotionally drained, but resolves a burning issue. You will now be free to enjoy an easier personal relationship and concentrate on work matters that have recently been last on your list of priorities. If your birthday falls during the coming days, you can look forward to more financial security.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You are advised to put your cares and worries to one side and concentrate on having some fun. August will bring more benevolent astral conditions that should enable you to build bridges leading to business success. You will receive a clear indication when the time is right to invest your energy. Allow yourself to enjoy some well-earned rest before this happens. Libra would like to help you relax.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You can look forward to an easier week than the one just past. The stars are on your side now, enabling you to mellow out. Nevertheless, much can be accomplished between now and the middle of August. After that time, travel for pleasure is highlighted; you could be visiting previously unseen places later this month. The path toward true love is now unobstructed and commitment appears imminent.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Don't expect people to be free with their favors this week. Even if you believe that your past generosity should have earned you something in return, others won't be of the same opinion. This is a time to go it alone, and to be the sole recipient of the benefits. Where romance is concerned, don't be too eager to impress. Playing it cool will spark the most interest. Wear sunflower yellow to lift your spirits.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you are not afraid of reaching for the stars, you will achieve more than you anticipate. But those who are too timid to set their sights high will be tightening their belts until the end of August. On a personal

level, a minor disagreement has the potential to turn into a feud that will be hard to end. Try to make allowances for this person's present behavior before going off at the deep end.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): It appears that your life is revolving far too much around work at the moment. Leave anything connected to business at the office this Friday and lock the door behind you. Your reluctance to allow others to take some of the pressure off could be encouraging resentment to grow, so make plans to delegate accordingly. An intimate dinner for two this weekend will convince you that a new romance has strong potential.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Any resentment you are feeling due to a recent disagreement needs to be released. Storing up negative emotions will mean depression for you in the month of August. The best day for instigating an honest talk is Sunday, but tread on eggshells when laying any kind of blame at someone's feet. People who thought you made a misguided investment earlier in the year are about to eat their words.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): This week, you will be feeling the heat at work. Colleagues are going to be "out to lunch" more than usual, leaving you to hold the fort. If all this extra responsibility leaves you feeling frazzled, make a note of favors done for others, which you can call in at a later date. Pay attention to subtle signs your partner gives out; there's room for improvement in the relationship.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The stars are smiling on Arians who are striving to get ahead of the game. You will be hot on the trail of a money-spinning scheme this week, which should set the financial trend for the remainder of this year. Even if you weren't planning to get away during August, a sudden offer on Tuesday is tempting. Beware of allowing a bored bureaucrat to irritate you later in the week.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Admirers are attracted to you like bees to a honey pot this weekend. You will be basking in the sunshine of compliments and attention. Late nights are bound to be involved, so don't make ap-

pointments for early Monday morning. Midweek, there's romantic intrigue when a mysterious stranger makes contact. The accent in August is on having fun, so start as you mean to go on. Wear amethyst to balance all this excitement.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): You could be kicking yourself this week when a missed opportunity comes to fruition for somebody else. There's no point in crying over spilt coconut milk; Geminis have an amazing ability to pick up the pieces and carry on regardless, so put this to use. Romance goes smoothly, but if you're in an established relationship you should endeavor to inject an element of surprise. The number 7 brings good luck on Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Everything seems to be going pear-shaped in August. This is only a temporary situation, but your reserves of patience will have to be drawn upon this week. You are about to experience the storm before the calm. By next Thursday you'll already get an inkling of how much better a work situation is going to be. On Monday, Scorpio's offer of help is genuine.

## Time to practice your

Timothy Goodfellow decided to come and live in Phuket, buy a scenic piece of land, build a lovely house and live happily ever after.

He had a Thai friend with handy connections who knew a good builder. He had it all sorted, or so he thought, until he came back to Thailand to move into his house. This was when he decided he should seek some advice from people who had been here for a long time.

"I came back to buy the furniture" he told my friend, a long-time hotel manager in Thailand. "There are no wood floors in the bedrooms as agreed and paid for, no interior doors and no bathroom and kitchen." he wailed, "The house is only half finished".

"Pay him only half the money, and get someone else to finish it," my friend told him. That

# Dog volunteers

Phuket's animals have been in the news this past month both locally and internationally, for reasons both good and not-so-good.

On the good side, at the three-day international conference for animals held in Singapore last month, which was attended by politicians, the media and representatives from organizations around the world, Phuket's Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) and its volunteers received no fewer than four awards.

The foundation itself received the prestigious Elizabeth Lewyt Award, and another one from the Humane Society for its post-tsunami work with animals in the region.

In addition, the late Leone Cosens, who sacrificed her own life trying to assist others during the tsunami, was honored for her years of service to the animals of the island.

A permanent memorial plaque is to be erected in the Nai Harn area where she lived and worked.

Gill Dalley was also honored for her courage and dedication to animal welfare. Gill lost both her lower legs after contracting a rare bacterial infection while retrieving a dog from a flooded field.

Returning to Phuket from hospital only five days before the tsunami struck, she was nevertheless immediately involved in both the human and animal relief efforts.

Hong Kong businessman Paul Bartels has promised to donate 300 kilos of dog food a month for the next year in recognition of Gill's award and he is also providing funds towards the memo-



**MAKING TRACKS**

By Top Dog

rial for Leone. Local businessman Paul Moorhouse, chief executive of Layan Gardens, has generously offered to cover any additional costs.

Americans Merritt and Kim Clifton, who edit *Animal People* newspaper, visited the island immediately after the conference. While here, they toured the island extensively. Using tried and trusted survey methods, they estimated that the island's total dog population is now around 10,000 animals.

A previous census carried out a few years ago put the figure at around 17,000, so it would appear that what many long-term residents have noted is correct: the stray dog population is decreasing as a result of the extensive sterilization programs that has seen several thousand animals desexed over the past few years.

The Cliftons estimate that, at the current rate of reduction, the stray dog population could be totally under control within three years.

On the negative side, however, they noted a real shortage of wildlife on the island. Many species, they feel, will never return, though they noted that in the hills, many former coconut plantations were being reclaimed by nature – and it is quite likely that some animals and birds will be able to flourish in such areas as a result.

They were impressed with

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## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

is when the rest of the sad tale unfolded: Timothy had already paid the builder all the money, and didn't know where the man could be found.

Again and again in Phuket the same story emerges of a grown man crying as his dream home becomes his worst nightmare.

This week's column is for foreigners who plan to build their own home in Thailand. This is not only my opinion (as is often the

case with this column) but serious advice from a friend, John Deards, who knows what he's talking about and has had the benefit of long experience in the construction industry in Thailand. John is currently working with a well-known international company on a major project in Phuket. His advice comes in the

form of a list, so we'll try to take it point by point. As this is an in-depth subject we'll have to split it into two sections: the first is about the land and the second, next week, will be about the actual building process.

1. Find out who owns the land. It is not necessarily the person who is selling it to you. (I have been shown a piece of land by three different people, each claiming to be the owner.)
2. Has the owner leased the land to someone?

(I have been involved with a project where one of three pieces of land bought had a two-year lease for someone else to grow pineapples on. This held the project up for a year and the buyer had to pay more money. In this case I think it was a conspiracy between the seller and a



# get awards



Gill Dalley: honored for her courage and dedication to animal welfare

what they saw at the SDF clinic, but felt there were major issues at the dog pound. The pound hit the front page of the *Gazette* again last month. Lack of funding means it will shortly run out of food.

The SDF is monitoring the situation and has been providing additional supplies. The organization is currently in negotiation with Nestlé Purina, who had previously donated large amounts of dog and cat biscuits for post-tsunami relief, in the hope that it can supply food at preferential rates. SDF is also seeking to take over the management of the facility.

SDF has asked me to pass on thanks to a number of *Gazette* readers who made generous donations of both food and money towards their projects.

It hopes that, with continued support, it will be able to find a long-term solution to the suffering of stray domestic animals living on the island.

for access or right of way to another property?

6. What are the plans for roads and who will build and pay for the roads? If there are few other properties using the same road, you may have to pay for the road yourself.

7. Is an adequate electrical supply readily available? (You will have to pay for the connection to your property and if you are a long way from the existing supply this will be expensive. Don't assume that the power supply on a public road will be paid for the government.)

8. Is there a good water supply? Not all well water is usable, especially close to the sea.

9. What will happen around your property in the future? Development around your land will determine both the value of your property and the quality of your life.



This could be going across your land, and could do terrible things to your electronics.

friend to scam more money from the buyer.)

3. Has the land been subdivided between family members? Don't assume that because you have seen a title deed that it has not been subdivided.

4. Is the land unencumbered? Maybe the bank owns it.

5. Has the land been earmarked

# From camels to catwalks

Calling Waris Dirie the author of *Desert Flower* (Virago Press, London, 1998, 369pp) is stretching things a bit. She grew up as a nomad in Somalia, was illiterate until age 18 and is still dyslexic. The task of writing obviously fell to her co-author, Catherine Miller.

"Desert Flower" is the meaning of Waris's name and the book chronicles her rise from camel keeper to catwalk model. Her book, unfortunately, is badly written, full of clichés, sentimentality, sloppy descriptions, pious liberal platitudes, as well as strident feminist sermonizing.

Scenes are so clumsily described – like when 13-year-old Waris on the run from home is confronted by a lion that decides not to eat her – that you wonder whether they are true or not. But setting cynicism aside, the story of Waris Dirie is still an extraordinary one.

The reason she ran away from her family was because she refused to marry an old man who was offering five camels for her.

Used only to life in the bush, tending goats, sheep and camels, she bumbled her way to an aunt's house in Mogadishu, barely escaping rape and starvation on the way.

Her mother's side of the family were urbanized and educated and Waris lucked into a job as a maid to an uncle, the Somali ambassador to Great Britain.

At age 18, she contrived to stay on in London after the family returned to Somalia. She lived at a YWCA, worked as a clean-

ing woman in a McDonald's while attending night school to learn English.

She was discovered by a photographer and was suddenly on the cover of the Pirelli calendar, photographed by the legendary Terence Donovan. The shooting was done in Bath. A scared novice 17-year-old model insisted on sharing Waris's bed. Her name was Naomi Campbell.

Waris went on to become a Bond girl, strut the catwalks of Paris, Milan and New York, and grace the covers of all the major glamor magazines.

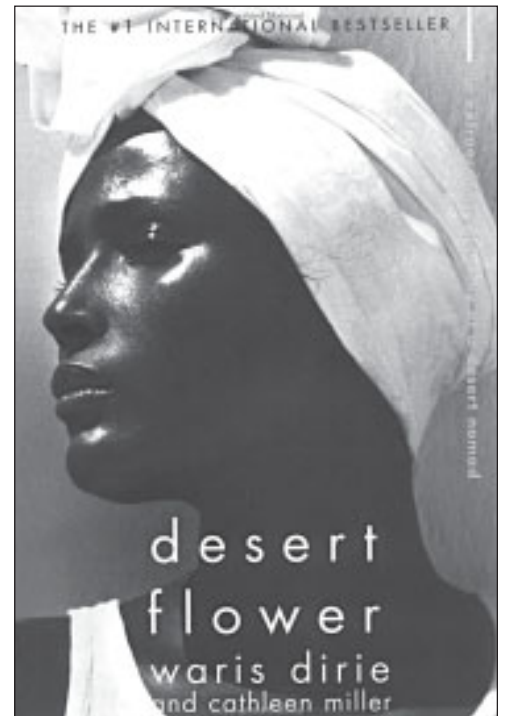
Like her fellow countrywoman Iman, wife of David Bowie, Waris has the long narrow chiseled Somali features that are perfect for a model.

Somali women, however, suffer from a painful secret. While male and female circumcision are common in African tribal rites, Somali women undergo a further ordeal called infibulation in which clitoris and labia are excised and the opening sewn shut into a tiny hole allowing only for urination and menstruation.

Waris underwent this atrocity when she was six. As soon as she made enough money, she had surgery in London to correct it.

It wasn't until a magazine interview years later that she revealed the mutilation that Somali women undergo to make them "pure". This led to a series of TV talk shows, her own Waris Dirie Foundation to combat the practice among African immigrants in the West, and appointment as a UN Goodwill Ambassador to lead the campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Her autobiography, *Desert*



*Flower*, was published in 14 languages and Elton John both provided a cover blurb and bought the movie rights. So naturally she followed it up with *Desert Dawn*, about a journey home to see her desperately impoverished family in the failed state of Somalia.

Waris has a suggestion to end Somalia's woes:

"These tribal wars, like the practice of circumcision, are brought about by the ego, selfishness, and aggression of men. I hate to say this, but it's true. Both acts stem from their obsession with their territory – their possessions – and women fall into that category both culturally and legally. Perhaps if we cut off their balls off, my country would become paradise. The men would calm down and be more sensitive to the world. Without that constant surge of testosterone, there'd be no war, no killing, no thieving, no rape. And if we chopped off their private parts, and turned them loose to run around and either bleed to death or survive, maybe they could understand for the first time what they're doing to their women."

Waris Dirie's tale is certainly worth telling, but it grates on the nerves that it's told so badly.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# pitfall-avoiding skills

10. Is the land above flood level? (Flooding does not necessarily come from a river or the sea. Often it is created by other developments nearby, or by poor or non-existent planning by local authorities.

11. Has the Land Department set out boundaries as per the title deed? This needs to be checked.

12. Don't accept copies of the title. Get the original and copy it yourself.

13. Don't pay any deposits until all issues are clear.

While all of this may seem obvious to some, these issues have caused much financial loss and grief to many.

In the meantime, if you want to practice your land-buying skills, put out the word around your local community that you are interested and see what happens. Could be educational, even fun.

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## Adding insult to Kamala's injuries

Most hosts planning to throw a gala event take extra care to ensure that their home is spic-and-span before their guests arrive, pride in appearance being a basic human trait.

But at the "Halal Food Hilal Town" tourism promotion event taking place this weekend, guests are unlikely to be impressed with what they see in Kamala.

The sorry state of the beachfront there has residents up in arms as to why so little has been done by the Tambon Kamala Administration Organization to clean up the mess (see Inside Story, pages 4-5).

To be fair, cleaning up Kamala is a more daunting task than that required in other tsunami-affected tambons in Phuket because the waves came much further inland than elsewhere on the island, damaging a much wider area than, say, Karon.

Still, the clean-up is far from an impossible task. Allegations of malfeasance aside, a big part of the problem in Kamala appears to be government red-tape and failure of different agencies to communicate.

In this regard, the Tourism Authority of Thailand deserves much of the blame, as it was the agency charged with coming up with redevelopment plans for both Patong and Kamala.

What these plans will contain – and how much funding the projects will receive – remains a mystery, however.

As this edition went to print, information about the plans had still not been released to the media, the TAT willing only to say that they are still being drawn up in Bangkok.

Having spent hundreds of millions of baht to bring the Miss Universe Project to Thailand this year and hundreds of millions more in advertising its Elite Card on CNN, can't the agency fast-track a few hundred thousand baht to clean up Kamala before the start of the high season? Won't such a clean-up inevitably be part of its redevelopment plan anyway?

One also has to question the purpose of the "Hilal Town" promotion, and the six million baht being spent on it by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

It's common knowledge that European high-season travelers are the bread and butter of the Phuket tourism industry.

As the festival is likely to be of questionable benefit in attracting tourists, wouldn't the 6 million baht for Halal Food, Hilal Town have been better spent on a cleanup of the area rather than in hosting an event that will only add to the amount of garbage there?

– The Editor

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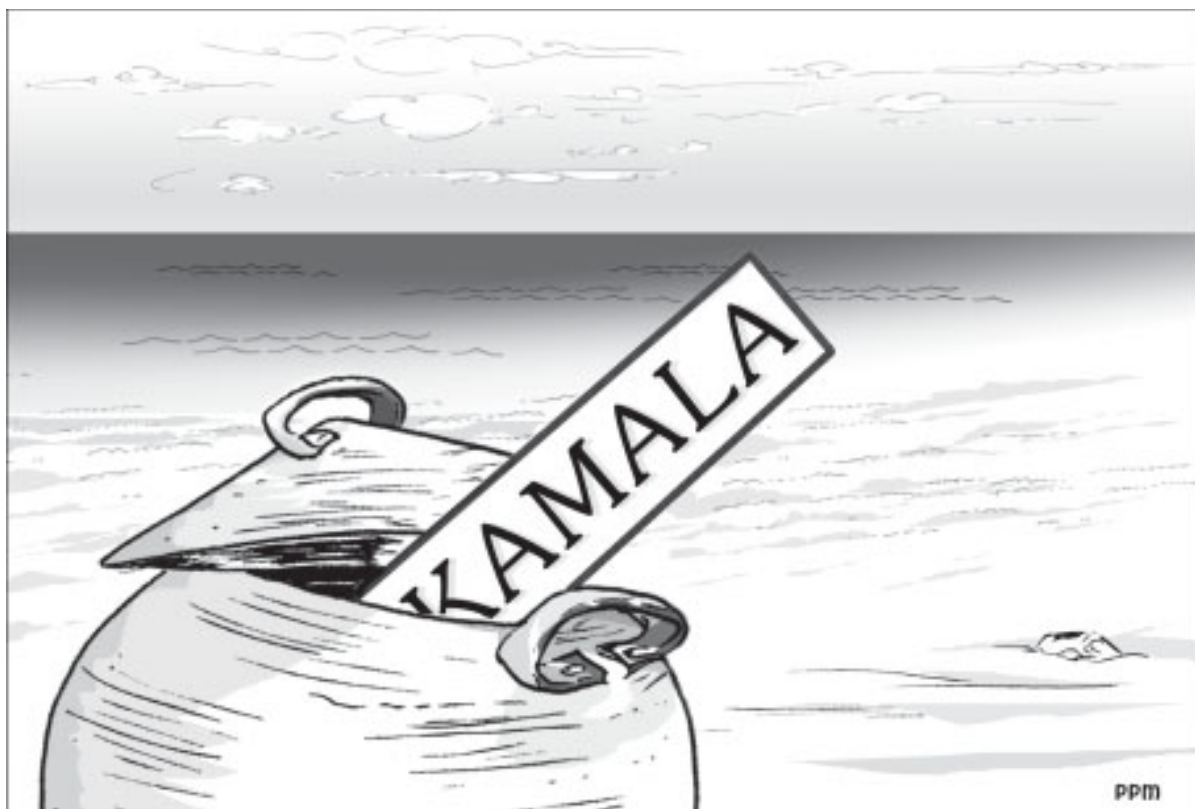
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## Letters

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

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

### No complaint about Mother Nature

I have read several letters on these pages complaining about Phuket's west coast beaches being "eyesores" and "ugly" due to deposits along the coastline.

One suspects that these people would grumble at a rain shower or even at gray clouds obstructing a clear blue sky.

Fact: the west coast monsoonal currents and winds deposit a lot of material on Phuket's west coast year after year from May through to November.

Fact: this is natural.

Fact: Nothing short of passing laws in Sri Lanka and India forbidding driftwood can be done to prevent it.

I know that Phuket's beaches can sometimes look like disaster zones yet to complain about Mother Nature's work is as futile as thinking like King Canute's advisers.

Why not take up beach combing? There are some wonderfully weird pieces of wood thrown up at this time of year. A coat of varnish and you have an unusual household artifact. For free, too.

Beach Hugger  
Nai Harn

### Priorities first

In a recent edition of the *Gazette* was an article by Athiga Jundee about TT&T's "Max Net" program.

TT&T is, apparently, offering broadband facilities to the northern township of Ubon Ratchathani and, I would assume, other Isaan towns.

A very creditable idea I must say, and I have certainly nothing against expansion.

However I live in Phuket (the so-called cyber capital of the south), in Nai Harn to be precise, and I am still waiting, after 12 months, to obtain a simple telephone connection.

The reason always given for the delay is "cable limitations".

Surely there is a more plausible reason than this mundane excuse for the (so far) one year wait.

Peter Freer  
Nai Harn

### Has Phuket become a police state?

I find the frequent police checkpoints a nuisance and cannot understand what they are trying to achieve. I am stopped almost daily and asked for my driving license.

Yesterday, an officer asked me for my license and after inspecting it said, "It is a car license, no good for motorcycles." So I had to dig out my Thai motorcycle license before he would let me go.

With all the problems facing Phuket, why are the police harassing tourists, expatriates and Thais like this?

It can't be a safety issue, as merely having a driving license is no guarantee that the driver is a safe one.

If the police want to help save lives, they should arrest daredevil drivers, people who drive on the wrong side of the road and the like.

I never see daredevils ticketed, but traffic jams at road blocks while the police "check for valid licenses" are getting to be a daily occurrence.

Phuket is looking more and more like a police state rather than a tourist resort. Let's put a stop to it now, before we chase

the few remaining tourists away from Phuket.

Uneasy Rider

### Man-made, not tsunami damage

Just before one reaches Nai Harn Beach, there is a lake that used to be surrounded by a natural grass embankment and colorful trees.

This vista has now been drastically changed. A concrete embankment with newly dumped sand has replaced the grassy slopes and all the trees have been torn out by their roots. When I first saw it I thought the tsunami had destroyed the place but no; apparently it is some government official's idea.

Now that the rains have come, a huge amount of sand from this new embankment is getting washed into the water.

The lake has turned dark brown and the whole area looks barren, and all the rubbish from the tsunami has been dumped right next to the lake.

Anders Fleicher-Baum  
Rawai

### Logging off

The recent heavy storms have brought a new problem to Phuket. I have seen huge tree trunks being tossed like matchsticks by the waves.

The trees do not appear to have been felled deliberately; I believe that the tsunami probably brought them down and the swells are bringing them to Phuket.

Surely these logs pose a threat to vessels, not unlike being torpedoed.

Leonard Jankus  
Cherng Talay

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



# A measured response to metered taxis?

Our cooperative has had a contract with Phuket International Airport (PIA) for six years, during which time we have paid about one million baht a month for the exclusive right to vend tickets inside the terminal and pick up fares outside it.

According to the contract, the price of the concession increases 10% each year, so it gets increasingly expensive for us to operate.

Before, the concession contracts lasted three years. But our last contract ended in June and the airport now wants to offer new contracts only on an annual basis. We have been operating there under a verbal agreement during the interim period while we wait for a new contract.

Three years ago, the PIA asked the cooperative to buy new cars in order to create the right image among tourists. According to the contract, we were supposed to provide 150 vehicles in total, but in fact we could only afford 135.

The reason for this is that we couldn't generate enough revenue to pay for them because we have been able to turn a profit only during the high season.

During the low season our goal is simply to keep our members employed, relying on profits made during the high season and tips from passengers to get by.

Our cooperative went over



## FIRST PERSON

A protest by some 100 members of the Airport Limousine and Business Service Cooperative successfully held up a plan to allow the Phuket Taxi Meter company to begin running a counter inside the main terminal starting on July 25.

Here **Weera Kearpanich**, Chairman of the Cooperative, tells the *Gazette* why allowing the metered taxis to sell tickets inside the terminal is unfair.

100 million baht into debt buying the new cars. We have been able to pay off some of this, but we are still 58 million baht in debt and many members have now had to seek bank loans.

When we heard that the provincial authorities had announced a policy of allowing meter taxis to set up a counter in the airport parking lot, about 50 meters from the terminal, we thought that would not be a problem.

We understood that this was the provincial government's policy and knew that the meter taxis were still restricted from picking up fares outside the doors of the terminal; that right is granted to us based on the concession fee we pay.

But when we heard that the meter taxis would be allowed to set up a counter inside the terminal – free-of-charge and in direct competition with the four counters for which we pay a large concession fee – then we knew it would directly affect us.

We understood that in doing this the PIA was following the provincial policy, but why didn't they ask the cooperative first? As a cooperative we pay for the right to operate the limousine service at the airport through our concession fee.

It's unfair if the meter taxis are allowed to operate there without having to pay anything.

I don't know who complained to the Governor that the meter taxi stand was too far from

the terminal, or why he decided to change the policy.

Under the old policy there were no problems between the limousine and meter-taxi drivers, but if they are allowed to set up right inside the terminal there will be big problems because it's unfair for us to have to pay 1 million baht a month while they are charged only 20 baht per car per day.

In addition to the concession fee, we also have to pay other expenses such as staff salaries, utilities and a fee to rent the counters. Before, we had to make 300,000 baht in ticket sales daily just to break even.

We were getting 300,000 to 400,000 baht a day before the tsunami, which allowed us to cover

the 1.7 to 1.8 million baht per month we need to pay for the concession fee and other expenses.

We weren't making much, but as a cooperative we could at least keep all of our drivers employed – sometimes making a little more on tips.

Since the tsunami, however, the most we have made in daily ticket sales is about half that – 170,000 baht – and our expenses are higher than before because of the increase in gasoline prices.

If meter taxis are allowed to operate without a concession charge they will take away 50% of our business and we will not be able to earn a living.

In addition to our request that the meter taxis not be allowed to operate in the terminal, we are also asking for help from the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Bank to assist us with re-financing by taking over the loans we have with other financial institutions and extending the repayment period from three to five years.

Phuket Taxi Meter [which is the only meter taxi service allowed to pick up fares at the airport] has asked the PIA for exclusive rights to operate meter taxis at the airport – and without paying a concession for the right.

I would like to know who it is that will derive the benefits from all the ticket sales resulting from this arrangement.

## Land registration from abroad

My Thai wife, who lives with me in the UK, is buying a house in Thailand.

Is it necessary for her to attend every stage of the legal and registration process of buying a house in person, or can it be handled in another way? It is, of course, both expensive and time-consuming to travel back and forth between the UK and Thailand.

Andy  
UK

**Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, Senior Partner, Director and Adviser to the International Law Office, replies:**

No, it is not necessary for her to attend in person. In order to transfer ownership of land and/or a building at the Land Department, she may authorize a lawyer or representative to act on her behalf with a Power of Attorney for this specific purpose. This authority may be organized and signed abroad.

The one exception is that, in the case of a land purchase, the foreign husband of a Thai woman must appear at the Land Department in person.

There, he must sign a declaration certifying that the funds used for the purchase of the property are the personal monies of the wife, from before their marriage took place.

Without this, the registrar of the Land Department cannot record the transaction.

## How can I get back money owed to me?

What recourse do I have under Thai law for recovering money owed to me by a foreign person running a business in Thailand?

I have authenticated copies of documents showing the amount owed to me but for the past three months I have had no response from the person who owes me the money. I welcome your answer.

Intrigued Non  
Phuket

**Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, Senior Partner, Director and Ad-**

**viser to the International Law Office, replies:**

A legal notice demanding payment should be sent to the debtor, stating a deadline, which should allow the debtor a reasonable amount of time to pay.

This notice must be sent with a reply card by registered mail to the official address of the debtor.

If, by the deadline, payment has still not been made, action may be brought in the civil court.

I would recommend you consult a lawyer about this.

## Where can I play soccer?

Is there any organized soccer in Phuket in which a reasonably talented *farang* (39 years old) might take part?

Neil  
Phuket

**Songsak Kitakarnkul, Chief of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) replies:**

Not as such, although we have many soccer pitches in Phuket for public use, such as at Saphan Hin

You can join in with other people who play in these places.

For more information call Tel: 076-250110.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

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## Do I need a license to fish in Phuket?

Does a non-resident need a fishing license of any kind to fish in tidal rivers or in the sea with a fishing pole?

If one does, where does one buy the license and how much will it cost?

Jim Salter  
Rawai

**Panya Usawangkul, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, replies:**

Anyone may go fishing any-

where using a barbed hook and there is no need to get a license for this pursuit.

Only those who want to use other devices or machinery such as trawls or purse seine nets need to follow any regulations and get licenses.

These can be obtained from the nearest District Fisheries Office.

For more information call the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office at 076-212460.



## ON THE MOVE



Ubol Ratchathani native **Mongkol Boonporn**, 47, has been appointed as General Manager of the Club Andaman Beach Resort in Patong. K. Mongkol, a graduate of Ramkhamhaeng University, has over 30 years' experience in the hotel and hospitality industry. K. Mongkol has been GM of a number of hotels in Phuket.



The Briza Resort Group has appointed Phang Nga native **Tawee Thongchai** as Resident Manager of the Phulin Resort in Karon. K. Tawee holds a master's degree in management from Phetchaburi Rajabhat University and has 20 years' experience in the hotel and spa business. His most recent position was as F&B Manager at the four-star Royal Princess Hotel in downtown Bangkok.



**Sam Wilkinson** of Liverpool, England, has joined the *Gazette* team as a Desk Editor. Sam was a teacher and freelance writer in Thailand for 10 years before coming to the newspaper. He lived in South America and several European countries before moving to Thailand. Sam is also a well-known local musician, he and his band having played many charity fundraisers on the island.

## SPREADSHEET WIZARDRY

I am often asked to assist individuals and businesses with managing their information. Whether it's a simple mailing list of friends or a massive collection of facts and figures about genetic research, the tools for handling such information are usually spreadsheets and databases.

Each of these tools can be used for either purpose, but there are fundamental differences between the two and, once you understand them, choosing the right one becomes an easy decision.

In this first of a two-part series, I will explore the basics of spreadsheets and their uses. Next week, I'll cover databases.

Back when I first got into spreadsheets, they were a collection of columns and rows (150 of each to be exact) and they were used for basic mathematics. In fact, the average child prodigy could do the math better.

Now, however, spreadsheets have evolved into monstrous collections of 256 columns and 65,536 rows, which can do math, calculus, linear regression and a host of other complex functions.

My first experience with the now extinct Lotus 123 spreadsheet Version 1.0 was to create a tool that could calculate the burning capabilities of various natural gases (called British Ther-

mal Units, or BTUs) and then determine the size of an engine needed to power an electric generator.

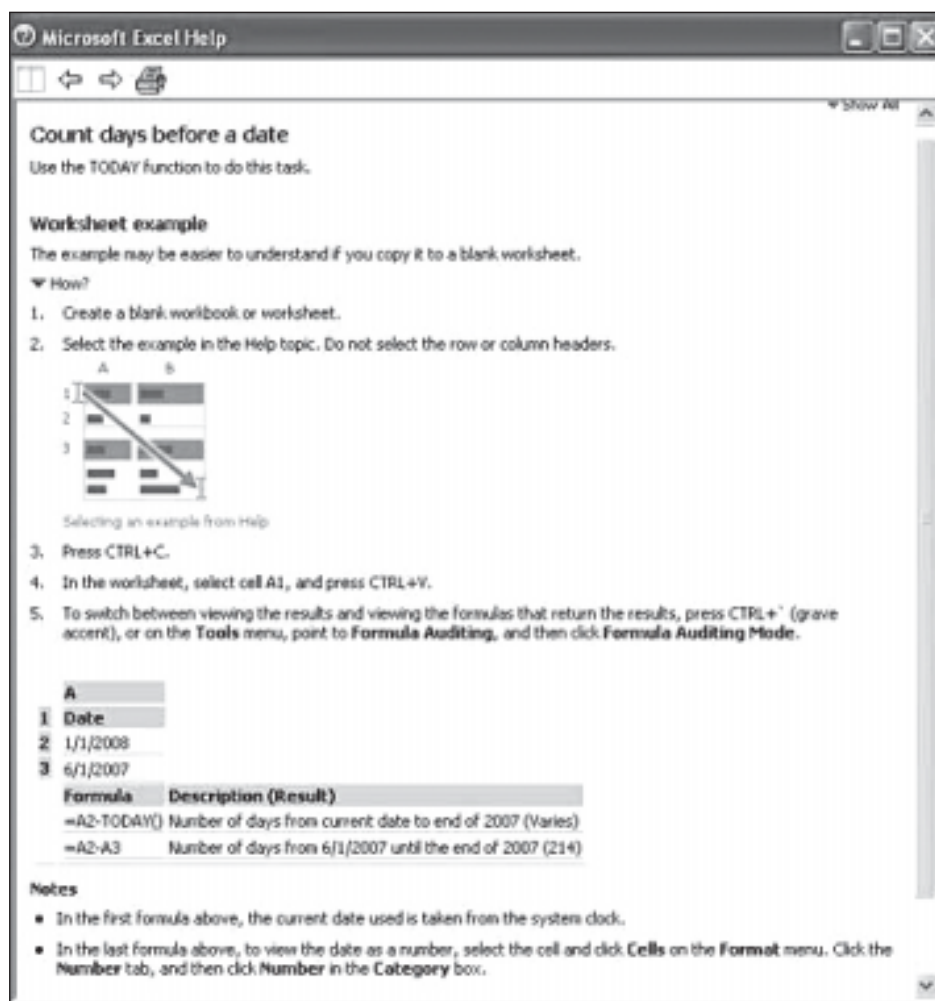
The goal was to design an electricity-generating plant that could run on rotting garbage. Needless to say, it worked, and the company sold the technology to a university in the US that later sold it to a major oil company that quickly terminated the research program.

Guess they wanted us dependent on fossil fuels for a few more years.

It took me hundreds of hours to figure out how to build this clunky old spreadsheet but the result was a powerful tool that reduced days of manual calculations to mere minutes.

The following are some basics that will display the potential usefulness of the modern-day version of this tool.

**Cells:** Spreadsheets are the computer equivalent of very large pieces of graph paper. Each confluence of a column and a row is called a cell. Each cell is given an address that represents its location on the sheet.



The Microsoft Excel help is powerful and comprehensive. Be sure to use it.

A cell three rows down and five columns across from the left-hand side of the spreadsheet will be called "E3", and herein lies the power of spreadsheets.

By referring to the address of any value in any cell, you create formulae and links that can customize sentences, generate graphs and even do animation.

Keep in mind that the main use of spreadsheets is to manipulate numbers and characters. Beyond that, you're probably better off with a database when it comes to sorting and searching information and creating complex reports.

**Functions:** The other powerful feature of spreadsheets is called "functions". These range from simple formulae to complex data-management tools. They enable you to do math, sentence concatenation, look up variables and perform multiple calculations.

For example, suppose you want a simple list of your customers so that you can keep track of the last date your sales staff contacted them. You also want to see how many days have passed since the last contact date, and display the phrase "MUST CONTACT" next to those who have not been contacted within the past 90 days.

You might begin by making a list of your customers in Column A, one on each row. Next, format Column B as "date", and select the date format you prefer; format Column C so that it is "numeric" with no decimals.

Finally, in Column B (next to each customer's name), enter the last date the customer was contacted. Now the fun begins.

**TODAY():** This function allows you to calculate days, months and years and also compare them with today's date.

In our example, we want

Column C to display the number of days since the last contact. In Column B, next to each "last contact date", enter the following formula: =TODAY()- and then click on the "last contact date", just to the left, and press Enter.

Next, copy and paste this cell to each row of your customer list and Tada! you have a useful tool that displays when each customer was last contacted and the number of days since that date.

What's more, every time you update these dates, the number is automatically recalculated.

**IF():** The IF function is very useful when you want to do different things based on the value in a cell. In our example, we want Column D to display "OK" if we have contacted the customer within the last 90 days, and "MUST CONTACT" if it has been more than 90 days.

In Column D, next to each of the above formula, enter the following:

=IF (click on the TODAY column just to the left and then type <=90, "OK", "MUST CONTACT") and press Enter.

To finish off, copy and paste this cell to each row of your customer list and you'll have a clear indicator of which customers you should contact.

It all may sound a bit complicated, so click on Help in Microsoft Excel and search for the topics you need assistance with.

Excel Help is very powerful, and you'll be impressed with the level of detail on each topic.

As always, feel free to send me your questions or comments.

*John Seebach has over 25 years of consulting experience in Management Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology offers IT solutions and Broadband services throughout S.E. Asia. Contact john@islandtechnology.com for more information.*

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# Phuket airline services picking up

PHUKET: In moves that appear to signal a revival of tourist confidence in Phuket, several airlines have begun boosting their regional services to Phuket or have announced plans to do so soon.

Orient Thai resumed its daily Phuket-Hong Kong-Phuket service on July 15, and has announced that it will operate chartered flights between Phuket and the South Korean cities of Incheon and Busan every Thursday and Sunday, from October 2 to December 5.

Dragonair, which only recently canceled its once-popular direct Phuket-Hong Kong service and closed its office in Phuket, has inked a deal with six Hong Kong travel agencies to fly charters from

Hong Kong. The first is due tomorrow (July 23), with the others being on July 26 and 30, and on August 2, 6 and 9.

Thai Airways International has announced that it will operate an extra two flights a week between Phuket and Incheon from August 10, while China's Xiamen Airlines will launch a charter service to Phuket from August 18.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Phuket, said, "It is a good sign for Phuket's tourism. Dragonair will launch its chartered service first. If that is successful, it will probably resume regular flights in the near future."

She described occupancy rates in

Phuket hotels for the remainder of July and for August as "satisfactory". (See also 'Vital Statistics' at foot of this page.)

However, she added that the TAT needed to push for more Thai tourists to come to Phuket in September and October.

K. Suwalai also noted that bookings from Europe for November and December are currently down by 40%-50% compared with the same period last year.

However, she added, "We are nearly 100% booked for December 26 to 30 by people who will take part in events commemorating the tsunami in Phuket."



'Agood sign': the TAT's Suwalai Pinpradab:

# Japan finally starting to look attractive

The Japanese economy has been sending out mixed economic data for the past two years. Spurts of economic growth, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) figures, have been followed a quarter later by weak figures. The tepid economic recovery has been due solely to exports.

However, a trend toward domestic economic expansion appears to be gathering momentum. Unemployment has fallen to 4.4%, and some employers are, for the first time in more than a decade, reporting labor shortages in various skills.

There have been legal changes, getting rid of some of the structural rigidities in the labor market, for the better.

Another important factor is that people in Japan are spending again.

Some may ask whether increases in the price of oil will have an impact on the Japanese economy. Japan is, after all, 100% dependent on imported oil.

This question was well addressed by the President of Morgan Stanley Investment Management (MSIM) in a recent television interview on Bloomberg.

The increase in the price of

oil would have only a mild inflationary impact in Japan, he said. This might be "counter-intuitive", as he put it, but that is exactly what Japan needs - a little bit of inflation. Japan has been mired in deflation for years. The cure for that is inflation.

I argued in an earlier article that the Japanese government should open up the printing presses and produce more money, which must lead to inflation.

MSIM's president recalled a suggestion by Jeffrey Sacks, in the late 1990s, when Sacks was professor of Economics at Harvard University. Sacks said the Japanese government should place 10,000 yen (about 4,000 baht) in every milk bottle delivered in Japan. Anything to get the consumer to spend!

The latest Tankan survey revealed vastly-improved business sentiment in manufacturing and non-manufacturing companies. Consumer confidence jumped to the highest levels seen since 1992.

Tankan, for those who have not come across the expression, is an abbreviation for *Tanki Keizai Kansoku Chousa*, a



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

short-term economic survey of enterprises in Japan.

There is some evidence that the housing market is also improving after 14 years of falling prices.

Any improvement in the Japanese economy, one that has domestic demand as such an important part, is very welcome news.

Japan is the world's second-largest economy and is also home to the world's second-largest stock market. A resurgent Japan will increase imports and will assist global economic growth.

For investors interested in this market, there is only one realistic route: the use of a mutual fund/offshore fund as the investment vehicle.

There are many to choose from, but I would avoid using one that has as its benchmark the Nikkei Dow 225.

There are 3,700 stocks quoted in Japan, and it is far better to use a fund benchmarked against the TOPIX index which covers 1,500 companies instead of the Nikkei's 225.

In addition, the Nikkei 225 contains only large "cap" stocks many of which are export related. A broader investment theme will increase exposure to many excel-

lent Japanese companies that have a domestic bias.

Alternatively, one could invest in a portfolio of individual shares. However, there are two distinct problems with this route.

The first is where to source high quality research on the stocks and second, many good Japanese companies trade at astronomical prices. In most stock markets companies split their shares when prices go too high by offering, for example, a two-for-one, or even a 10-for-one deal.

In Japan, companies frequently ignore this route and prices of US\$10,000 (around 410,000 baht) are not uncommon. The reason some companies have large share prices is that they are targeted at the institutional investor rather than the private investor.

For an investor to buy a single share or a small number of shares in such a company would be to buy an "odd lot", which would trade at a discount to the normal price based on a minimum amount of 100 shares.

To accumulate a balanced Japanese portfolio would require a very substantial amount of money.

When recommending investments in Asia, I often suggest the "cocktail" approach, which incorporates a number of countries.

With Japan, this approach falls flat because of the size of the Japanese equity market in relation to those of its neighbors. Fund managers will tend to place about 70% of any Asian fund in Japan just to mirror major global indices.

Do not be discouraged by any worsening Japanese trade data. The Japanese economy will have increased imports due to oil price increases and growing domestic demand. Japan also holds the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world.

In addition, when companies such as Toyota sell cars in the US, they make them in that country. Toyota will open its sixth

factory in the US in 2006 and has announced plans to build a factory in Canada at a cost of C\$ 1.5 billion (about 50 billion baht).

Japan Inc looks reasonably attractive as an investment destination for the first time since the 1980s.

Caution is necessary, however because Japan's economy rates as the most difficult of all major countries to assess.

Some technical analysts believe that investors should move into this market only when the Nikkei Dow index rises above the 12,000 level and the TOPIX index above 1200.

Both indices are close to these levels. In the last Japanese "bull market", which ended in December 1989, the Nikkei Dow peaked at 38,700. It will take a long time to reach that level again.

However, as one analyst put it, it is better to board a stationary bus than one that is already moving.

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

The reason some companies have large share prices is that they are targeted at the institutional investor... To accumulate a balanced Japanese portfolio would require a very substantial amount of money.

## VITAL STATISTICS: Hotel occupancy rates picking up

Average figures per night, 10 five-star hotels, June 1-July 15, 2005

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Total number of rooms in hotels:                | 2,893         |
| Number of rooms occupied:                       | 1,139         |
| Percentage of rooms occupied:                   | 39.36%        |
| Lowest average occupancy rate of any one hotel: | 28.12%        |
| Highest average occupancy of any one hotel:     | 58.67%        |
| Average price per room:                         | 2,595.60 baht |
| Lowest average price of any one hotel:          | 1,914.36 baht |
| Highest average price of any one hotel:         | 4,416.45 baht |

Source: Gazette Research

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## THE NOT-SO-ROUGH GUIDE TO GOLF

With Andy Combe and Bruce Whitehead

## Tip 2: The Posture.

It is often said that you can spot a really good golfer simply by watching how they stand to the ball. Understanding how the spine works, or works most effectively, is key to understanding how to play well.

Begin by practicing this posture drill before a mirror: it will help you find the better player within you.

First, stand in an upright position with shoulders back and chest out. Now simply hinge forwards from the hips keeping the back in a straight line. The correct result will reveal the arms hanging down taking away any tension from the hands. Now take your feet to shoulders' width apart and flex your knees slightly, planting your weight on the balls of your feet.

Once in the correct posture, you are enabling your body to rotate by keeping the spine angle constant and your head still. This will produce a good coil of energy, resulting in greater power and a consistent strike.

A bad posture, which is slouched, reveals a curve in the spine and tension in the hands. From this posi-



Uh-oh ... Didn't your mother tell you not to slouch?



Head up, back straight. That's better.

tion, the rotation of the spine is restricted and a lifting "chopping" action is displayed. This action can also lead to back injuries and increased stress levels.

For more information on lessons at Laguna Phuket

Golf Club, contact British PGA Professionals Bruce Whitehead or Andy Combe at Tel: 076-324350, Email: [golfteaching@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:golfteaching@lagunaphuket.com) or visit: [www.lagunaphuketgolf.com](http://www.lagunaphuketgolf.com)



The coaching went on even during breaks for refreshments.

## Japanese aces run clinic for kids

THALANG: Japanese Soccer League team Urawa Red Diamonds, from Saitama City, held a one-day soccer clinic for young tsunami-affected soccer fans at Thalang's Pranang Sang School on July 24.

The clinic, organized by the Tokyo office of Thai Airways International (THAI), featured

eight Japanese coaches and four players from the team, currently lying in third place in the league.

Sugioka Shigenori, Tokyo Sales Manager of THAI, told the *Gazette* that the team members would hold further clinics in Krabi on July 25 and Bangkok on July 26.

He said, "After the tsunami, many people – especially from Japan – didn't want to travel to Phuket. The purpose of this tour is to heal these kids' minds. Who knows? Maybe we can run this program every year."

Eight-year-old Naruphon Siangdee, one of the 131 students that turned up for the clinic, said, "This is the first clinic I have participated in and I would like to have another go if I have the chance. I want to be a good player like David Beckham."

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phuket said, "The program is directly in line with our policy to promote Phuket and encourage tourists to travel here."

"After the Urawa Red Diamonds go back to Japan they will feature the soccer clinic on their website and this, no doubt, will help to promote Phuket."

## Family legal problems force Pele to postpone visit to Thailand

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Brazilian soccer legend Pele has pulled out of an all-star team planning to play in Bangkok on July 30 against veteran Thai internationals to help raise money for tsunami victims.

Thepitak Chansuthep, Chairman of the Senior Football Association of Thailand, told the *Gazette* that the match would "likely take place in October."

Pele and the enigmatic French player Eric Cantona were also scheduled to attend a beach soccer game in Phuket on July 28. There has been no word on when – or whether – this event will take place.

Pele, 64, has had to stay on in Brazil due to family problems. His son, Edson do Nascimento, was arrested last month on suspicion of being a member of a drug trafficking gang.

K. Thepitak said that the other soccer all-stars remain committed to coming to Thailand and the likes of Eric Cantona, Claudio Canigga and Rudi Voller as well as World Cup winners Frank Lebovich and Youri Djorkaeff will play when the match is rescheduled.

For more information call the Public Relations Section at the Ministry of Tourism and Sports at Tel: 02-2167390 or 02-214-4523.

## But we all have to pull in the same direction...



KAMALA: About 150 people took part in a fun "Sunday Clean Up" day organized by the Rotary Club of Tungka on July 24. In addition to beach cleaning, other fun activities included tug o' war, beach volleyball and even beach golf. Most of the competing teams, including the one pictured here, were made up of staff from local businesses.

## Varapee golf tournament set for Aug 6 shotgun start

KATHU: The annual Varapee Golf Tournament '05 will be held on August 6 (Saturday), with an 11 am shotgun start at the Phuket Country Club.

Proceeds from the Tournament will be donated the following day to the HRH Prince Rajburi Direkrit [Varapee] Foundation, which supports the law and law enforcement.

There will be four-person team and individual matches, with prizes awarded at 6 pm at the Phuket Country Club club house.

The grand prize for a hole-in-one in the 17-hole competition is an Isuzu pick-up truck. The winner of the 14-hole competition gets a Yamaha motorcycle, and the 5-hole and 2-hole winners will each get a Honda motorcycle.

The application fee for a team of four is 8,000 baht; 2,000 baht for individuals. Applications close on August 1 or when the maximum of 160 competitors is reached.

Those interested in the Tournament may contact Phuket City Hall at Tel: 076-217392, or the Phuket Country Club at Tel: 076-321038-40, or visit the Phuket Golf Association website: [www.phuketgolf.org](http://www.phuketgolf.org)

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

**July 19 results:** Queen Mary\* 8 Two Black Sheep 1; Dog's Bollocks 3 African Café\* 6; Amigos\* 7 Nag's Head 5; Valhalla 7 Didi's\* 2; Piccadilly 5 Shakers\* 4; OffShore 8 Coyote\* 1. (\* = Winner of beer leg.)

**August 2 fixtures (home team first):** Queen Mary vs African Café; Dog's Bollocks vs Shakers; Amigos vs Coyote; Valhalla v Nag's Head; Piccadilly vs Two Black Sheep; OffShore vs Didi's.

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# Top British players show local kids a trick or two

PHUKET CITY: A soccer workshop hosted by players and managers from English Premier League teams Bolton Wanderers, Everton and Manchester City at Surukul Stadium on July 21 attracted about 50 youngsters keen to have a kickabout with their idols.

It had earlier been announced that the clinic had been canceled due to a lack of local funds. The three clubs decided, however, that they would come anyway.

Unfortunately, word had spread about the initial cancellation of the workshop, with the result that number of kids attending fell far short of the 400 expected to turn out for the chance to learn some soccer tricks from stars such as Danny Mills, Nigel Martyn, Jay Jay Okocha and Stuart Pearce.

What did the visitors make of the enthusiastic youngsters? David Moyes, Everton Team Manager, told the *Gazette*, "These kids have had to put up with a lot in the past few months so maybe soccer's a way out for them."

Stuart Pearce, ex-English international and Manager of Manchester City, said, "I think, as individuals, they are very talented, but their challenge lies in working together."

Bolton Manager, Sam Allardyce, said "After last night [when the Thai national team defeated Everton 5-3 on penalties] we saw that they're very quick and we can look forward to seeing a stronger Thai team. The whole of Asia is seeing an upsurge in football, so standards are bound to rise."

Meanwhile, at the opposite

Right, Everton's Nigel Martin (left) and David Weir hand out souvenirs to some of the kids.

Below, Nuttawut 'James' Ruamkong, seen with Bolton's Jay Jay Okocha, raised a few laughs when he said his favorite team was Chelsea.



end of the pitch, Manchester City's Danny Mills and Bolton's Jay Jay Okocha put youngsters through their paces.

There was no problem with

language. As Danny Mills put it, "Football is universal; it's fun and we all speak its language."

Kwanrudee Amphonkra,

14, from tsunami-ravaged Baan Koh Phi Phi School, the only girl to take part in the workshop, said, "I was told about this football clinic by my coach and was eager to take part as I would like one day to play for Thailand."

After the workshop, the youngsters gathered round in a semicircle and watched several stars, notably Jay Jay Okocha, show off their skills.

Pint-sized local boy, 10-year old Nuttawut "James" Ruamkong from Puttamong Kornimit School, joined in, to the delight of the crowd, and earned a huge laugh when asked which team he supported. "Chelsea" was his reply.

After lunching at Kata Beach Resort, the soccer stars visited Baan Kamala School to distribute gifts before returning to Surukul Stadium for a further workshop.

## Aerothai volleyball starts again

PHUKET: The sixth annual Aeronautical Radio of Thailand (Aerothai) Mini-Volleyball competition will take place from July through December. Children up to the age of 12 who want to take part in this year's competition can apply at their provincial Sports Authority of Thailand office.

At the national level of the competition, one winning boys' team and one winning girls' team will receive trophies from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Aerothai organizes the event to support youngsters who aim to become professional athletes and to promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

Under Aerothai Phuket, primary school students from Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong and Satun will each form 10 teams – one boys' and one girls' team per province.

Provincial rounds will be held in July and August. The Phang Nga rounds were scheduled to take place between July 26 and 30. The others are due to be played as follows:

- Phuket, August 15 to 20 at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex gymnasium no. 1.
- Ranong, August 3 to 10 at Uppanan Temple gymnasium.
- Krabi, August 23 to 28 at the Tara Park gymnasium.
- Satun, August 25 to 31 at Ratchakit Stadium.

The regional rounds will be held in Krabi in September to October, with the national finals taking place in December at the Hua Mak Indoor Stadium in Bangkok.

For more information, contact Wannasiri Santanakul, Aerothai Phuket Public Relations Officer, at Tel: 076-327505, ext 5012.

## Bureaucrats' soccer league planned

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is organizing an "OrBorJor Soccer League" starting Saturday, August 13.

The league will consist of 18 teams from local administration organizations, including a team from the *OrBorJor* itself. The top three teams will win trophies and cash prizes of 50,000 baht, 30,000 baht and 20,000 baht respectively.

For more information contact the *OrBorJor* at Tel: 01-5379899.

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# Is demise of cork screwing up wine?

## Q What is the downside of screw-top wine closures?

From the standpoint of quality, none, although time is needed to see if wines aged in screw-top bottles evolve differently. The big downside is for workers in the cork industry. Forests are now more valuable as potential real estate.

## Q I saw a bottle of Australian wine at a supermarket labeled "vintage 2005". How is this possible if the grapes in France have not even been picked yet? Is it some kind of fraud?

Not at all. In the southern hemisphere grapes ripen in April or May because the seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere. People tell me that water going down the plughole in a sink swirls in the opposite direction, too. When I was there, everywhere I went the sinks were clogged, so I cannot verify this.

## Q Why are there so many brown-colored wine bottles from Germany? Most other wine bottles I have seen are green, not brown.

German winemakers are nothing if not meticulous in their approach to wine. The color brown gives the most protection from harmful ultraviolet light. Marketers elsewhere have adopted green or clear glass as the preferred color though it offers less protection. German producers simply care more about their wine than its marketing.

## Q Do you know any wine-themed party tricks?

No, though I did manage to impress my college friends once by demonstrating

## WINE



By Steven  
Roberto

how to shotgun a beer.

Simply chill a can of beer, carefully puncture it near the base with a pointed object, and then pull the tab. If you do it correctly the beer will blast down your throat instantly. You also earn bonus points for subsequent belching.

However, here are some wine tricks other people tell me are entertaining and that might feature at your next party.

• Have fun with chemistry: Wine color depends on its pH so at your next party

why not put something basic, like antacid or soda water, into your red wine to make it turn green?

• Witness the power of suggestion: Secretly pour an inexpensive red wine into an empty bottle of something expensive,

say Lafite Rothschild, and watch your friends rave about how delicious it tastes.

• Harness psychology: Show two unfamiliar glasses of the same white wine to someone and ask them to tell you which is sweeter.

Most people will find one to be sweeter.

• Call upon history: Put a bottle of red wine in your refrigerator's freezer until it begins to shed deposits of potassium bi-tartrate (cream of tartar). Inform your friends that studying these crystals inspired Louis Pasteur to discover isomers. (This one really impresses the ladies).

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

## TAT Optimistic About Arrivals

Phuket Gazette, July 1995

Following a recent promotional tour of Northern Europe, the Tourist Authority of Thailand is optimistic about continued growth in tourist arrivals at Phuket.

Ms Euamporn Jirakanwisai, Assistant Director of the TAT's Phuket Office, declared that with the European economy improving, more and more people can afford a long-haul holiday, and Phuket is high on their "wish list". Many tour companies in Europe, she said, are developing tour programs for Phuket and Krabi. Phuket's position will also be helped by problems afflicting some of its competitors. Bali has had outbreaks of dysentery and Guam experienced an earthquake, leading to many tourist cancellations.

Quite apart from Western Europe, new markets in Eastern Europe, South Africa, Russia and Asia are expanding and showing interest in Phuket. The increase in projected arrivals has also been aided by developments in com-

munications technology and transport. Whereas previously it had been necessary to book 1-2 months in advance, it now requires only 1-2 weeks.

Khun Euamporn emphasized that problems of infrastructure had to be solved. With 5 million tourists a year expected in the not-too-distant future, roads were inadequate – and water, electricity and telephones insufficient – to satisfy the demand that will be created.

Moreover, tour companies abroad are very concerned about the rapid pace of development in Phuket, and the impact upon the environment, she said. Particular concern was expressed about the impact on the local people in terms of the ramifications for their culture.

Without proper plans to control these factors, it was envisioned that Phuket could experience an economic explosion, followed by a protracted, and possibly permanent, bust.

## Foreign investment 'crucial' to island's future prosperity

Phuket Gazette, July 15-30, 2000

PHUKET: Foreign investment in Phuket is still booming, according to the latest statistics from the Provincial Commercial Registration Office, which show that 95% of the businesses registered between June 1, 1998, and May 31, 2000, have foreign capital in them.

This compares with about 65% in the two years up to May 31, 1998.

"If we did not have the foreign investors, I think the economy would be terrible," Veerachai Tuntiwathana-vallop, Chief of the Registration Office, told the *Gazette*.

The statistics also suggest that Phuket is rapidly becoming a "Cyber City", despite its poor communications and unreliable

power supply, and even though the government's plans to create a "Cyber Port" have yet to get off the ground.

K. Veerachai said that 23 Internet and computer companies registered in the December-May period, compared with 17 in the same period in 1998-9.

On the decline have been construction and interior design companies, K. Veerachai said, with some of these businesses closing down.

However, he expects both industries to rebound, thanks to a boom in the property sector, with 42 real estate companies registering between December 1 and May 31, compared with 13 in the same period of 1998-9.

This boom, he added, was led by the continuing low value of the baht against major currencies, creating greater foreign demand for properties in Phuket.

At the end of May this year, there were 5,898 registered businesses in the province. Of these, 3,888 were limited companies, 1,996 were limited partnerships, and 14 were ordinary partnerships.

Registrations in the six months to May 31 totaled 359. Thirty-nine firms de-registered.

The most popular businesses in Phuket are still overwhelmingly tourism-related, with travel agencies, dive shops, tailors and restaurants leading the registrations table.

The most popular places for setting up business are, in order: Patong, Phuket Town, Kata, Karon and Kamala.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

## MISSION HEIGHTS

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## Wordly Wise

"The decree indicates the PM's greed for absolute power because it eliminates the power of the courts ... and the legislature, which are enshrined in the Constitution. I call this a revolution, but a silent one."

– Dr Nirun Pitukwatchara, a Senator, describing as a "silent coup" the Government's imposition of a three-month Emergency Decree that gives it sweeping extra-constitutional powers in the terror-stricken Muslim-majority provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. (Quoted in *The Nation*, July 21, 2005)

"... and remember, where you have a concentration of power in a few hands, all too frequently men with the mentality of gangsters get control. History has proven that. All power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

– Emerich Edward Dalberg, Lord Acton, historian, 1834-1902.



## On the menu

with  
Andy Johnstone

### Phuket's Top 12

I understand, judging from the mountains of correspondence that I receive, that one or two readers neither cut out and keep these Dining Out reviews nor treat them with the reverence more commonly afforded to sacred texts.

"Please," I am beseeched by the unfaithful, "provide a quick roundup of your favorite places of the past couple of years. And a map," they timidly add, hoping not to invoke the wrath of Andy. Thy will be done.

So, moving roughly clockwise from the north around the island, here are my Top 12 dining spots.

**The Haven** at the Yacht Haven Marina is my favorite bolthole when I want to get away from it all. A fine range of substantial salads and hearty European (so what if my delicious steak and bacon pie had no bacon?) and Thai food with a fine view across to Phang Nga, and some gorgeous boats, too. **Tel: 076-206651.**

Next stop is Phuket City. Here, I select three restaurants.

**China Inn Café** is halfway along charming Thalang Rd in the old part of the city. This splendid restaurant is also a museum and a guesthouse. The ambiance is serene and sexy; the menu – while not extensive, nor expensive – offers stylish salads, pasta dishes and arguably the best presented breakfasts in Phuket. K. Noi has transformed an old shophouse into a temple of elegant pleasure. **Tel: 076-356239.**

Along Dibuk Rd, again in the Chinese quarter of the city, is **Dibuk Restaurant**. This fine place offers wonderful French food, and is run by the Trojan K. Nok. The atmosphere is a step back in time to – again – more elegant days. Enjoy a Pernod at your leisure before deciding what to eat. The food is exciting, the service refined and courteous. **Tel: 076-258148.**

**La Gaetana** is ideal for a romantic dinner or some "rustic chivalry" – Mascagni's most famous opera was playing the first time I ate there. The supremely talented Gianni may, should you phone up to book, inquire as to your reason for visiting his restaurant then provide a small but sincere surprise. **Tel: 076-250523. Address: 352 Phuket Rd.**

A wee bit further south is **La Mousson**. Last December's little local difficulty caused the charming René and K. Daeng to relocate their respected French restaurant to their home. Arguably one of the three most talented chefs on the island, René

# Wish you were here



**Kashmir, near Laguna Phuket.**



**Oriental Spoon at Twin Palms Phuket, Surin Beach.**



**U Ksenii on the beach road in Patong.**



**Regatta at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Nai Harn Beach.**

No authentic little Thai places? No, for two reasons.

First, there are simply too many splendid ones to attempt listing them here and, second, you should try to find them yourself; it's worth it.

excels in traditional cuisine, although his talent for conjuring up new dishes and desserts has afforded him near-legendary status among the European community in the south of Phuket. **Tel: 076-282170. Address: 32/8 Soi Palai 2 (behind Phuket Zoo), Chalong.**

Further south, the first stop is **La Cabane**, just after Chalong Circle. The noise from the karaoke bar next door can be a little off-putting, but who cares when dishes such as the French restaurant's signature lamb stew – soft as velvet, rich as hell – are so good? **Tel: 09-2900484. Address: 47/3 Wiset Rd, Rawai.**

Yes, dammit, a hotel restaurant next with **Regatta** at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Nai Harn Beach. Executive Chef Peter Hatt – another of the top three culinary wizards in Phuket – has one simple aim: perfection – and nothing less – every time. He succeeds, and crafts menus and individual dishes that look like works of art. Stunned silences with naught but the sound of dropping jaws usually herald the arrival of a dish from Peter. **Tel: 076-380200-19.**

Heading north now and to Patong. First off, at 49 Thawee-wong Rd, is the Russian restaurant **U Ksenii**, which is pronounced, er ... far more easily

after a few settling vodkas. Ideal for those wishing to come in from the cold, the welcome here is as warm as a winter in Rostov-on-Don is chilly. Portions are Kremlin-sized, and all the dishes serve as perfect antidotes to a hangover. Expect to sing a verse or two of *Polyushka Polye*, komrad. **Tel: 076-344-144.**

Next up is the rather divine **Baan Yin Dee** along Muean Ngen Rd, which serves an upmarket mace-

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**La Mousson in Palai Green.**

doine of Thai and European food. The roast rabbit is magnificent, the lobster bisque almost beyond compare and the view south to north across Patong Bay is a delight. Unpretentious and oh-so-classy. **Tel: 076-294104.**

A blast further north to Kamala and, of course, **Rockfish** along the beach road. Rockfish gives the diner a sublime and memorable experience. Chef Richard Anthony has created an intelligent menu for brunch, lunch and dinner with a vista that, all things considered, remains hard to beat. **Tel: 076-279732.**

The trek round the island continues to Surin and **Oriental Spoon** at Twin Palms Phuket. Style and substance grace the hotel and restaurant in equal amounts: the menu offers a tantalizing array of goodies – the seafood platters are bargains and a joy to eat – and it remains one of the hippest places on the island. **Tel: 076-316500.**

Finally, it's **Kashmir** in Cherng Talay, a "true Brit" curry house for those with discerning taste-buds. Violently-hot the prawn vindaloo may be, but tasty too, and everything from the witty menu, the range and taste of the food to the "pseudo-flock" wallpaper have put Kashmir firmly on the map. **Tel: 01-5351754.**

An objective roundup? Not at all. There are, for example, no Japanese restaurants included because, quite simply none really cut the *wasabi*. A little Euro-centric? Absolutely, because generally speaking, those from the Old World seem to know how to do it best.

No authentic little Thai places? No, for two reasons. First, there are simply too many splendid ones to attempt listing them here and, second, you should try to find them yourself; it's worth it.

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## Decor

By Steven Roberto  
& Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

**Y**our trusty glass tumblers just will not do when serving up the nectar of the gods by the pool, and while there is no “proper” type of wine glass as such, there are certain factors to consider when shopping for wine glasses.

There are four “musts” to take into account when selecting a wine glass: price, functionality, aesthetics and durability.

The occasional drinker of ordinary table wine should choose an inexpensive stemmed glass that fits the hand. Buy medium-sized glasses with wide bowls for white wine and larger, possibly tulip-shaped, glasses for red.

The wine aficionado or restaurateur, however, must be prepared to pay for fine stemware that augments the characteristics of the wine. An unadorned glass is best for serious wine-lovers who like an unobstructed view of the wine’s “legs” – the way the wine trickles down the glass.

Although most people revel in drinking from crystalware, note that some crystal glasses may release lead into liquid with which they come in contact. Ingesting concentrations above 0.2 parts per million can be a health risk, so keeping a beverage in a crystal decanter for a long time is not advisable.

In terms of functionality, ask yourself whether or not the glass fulfills its role as a well-balanced vessel allowing its contents to shine. Does it have too small a base, making it easy to tip over? Is it too heavy? Is the stem strong and long enough for you to pick up, carry and set down the glass, without touching the bowl, when you drink white wine?

Modern design can be an improvement over old. For ex-

ample, the now-popular champagne flute showcases the effervescence, delicate flavor and color of the sparkling liquid better than the champagne saucer that reigned from the 1920s through the 1970s.

A wine glass should be large enough to allow the drinker to swirl the wine and let its aroma develop, but without being too grandiose.

Durability is particularly important when buying large quantities of glasses or investing in very expensive wine glasses. If you wash your glasses in a dishwasher, durability may be a greater concern than if you wash them by hand.

When buying high-end wine glasses, try to find out if stock is guaranteed in case you have to replace broken glasses in the future.

The Ocean Glass Showroom on the bypass road features moderately-priced break-resistant wine glasses. If you are pressed for time, you can find wine and stemware both under one roof, at the Wine Connection.

If, however, you can wait

for delivery or until the next time you visit Bangkok, Thai architect and jewellery designer Tam Devakul’s T positif Co Ltd, offers exclusive bejewelled crystal and precious metal stemware.

• *Wine Connection (Phuket)* at Chaofa East Rd, Fisherman Way Business Center, Chalong, Phuket, Tel: 076-282411-2.

• *Ocean Glass Showroom* at Moo 5 Chalermprakiet Rama 9 Rd, Rassada, Muang, Phuket, Tel: 076-261008.

• *T positif Co Ltd*, 489/5 Sri Ayudhya Road, Rajthevi, Bangkok, Tel: (02) 254-7398, (02) 653-6802.



Left, classic red and white glasses from Wine Connection – with plenty of swirl room.

Above, fancier finishes from Ocean Glass.

Right, Super-chic ‘Cera Gold’ (top) and ‘Bamboo’ glasses from T positif.



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Home of the Week

Cherng Talay

# Lakewood luxury



In the Lakewood Hills development, this villa is but a five-minute drive from the Laguna Phuket Golf Club and little more than a kilometer from more than 20 bars and restaurants of international standard.

The split-level property has some 320 square meters of living space and its own 35-sqm swimming pool, plus access to a 210-sqm pool – with Jacuzzi – shared between just 10 properties.

The house has five bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities, as well as staff quarters, which are again en-suite.

The kitchen is spacious and well-equipped, and there is also a guest cloakroom and WC on the ground floor.

It also boasts large, split level, open-plan living and dining areas with views, covered terraces for relaxing and entertaining, fully landscaped gardens and public areas, and full use of the on-site tennis court and clubhouse.

All air-condition units in the house are concealed, and the house is equipped with points for cable TV.

The monthly maintenance charge of 15,000 baht, payable quarterly in advance, covers refuse removal, gardening and irrigation, 24-hour security and pool cleaning.

Lakewood Hills also has an on-site management office, open and staffed from 10 am to 6 pm, Monday to Saturday.

The title for the 1,062sqm of land with this property is Chanote. It is for sale at 32 million baht.

For more information contact Richard Lusted, Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-288908, Email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com) or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

## STILL HANGING AROUND

I am easily distracted. I never used to be, but I do not seem to be able to concentrate on a single thing nowadays. By way of example, a mate and I were driving along one day discussing football and the fact that my team was beaten by his or something similarly inane.

Admittedly, Leeds is going through a bit of a rest period at present, but with a couple of seasons out to pasture, their triumphant return is inevitable. You see, there I go again. This has nothing to do with football – it's about being distracted.

Anyway, we were driving along minding our own business, when suddenly I saw this vision of female beauty in front of us.

One particular aspect of her anatomy was especially magnificent, and this distraction tendency must be highly infectious because the driver of the car – I was a passenger – drove into a ditch.

He blamed me.

This anecdote has absolutely no connection with gardening, unless you count the plants he flattened under his right wheel. The same thing happened last week – I started typing and was led astray by unconnected inanities.

Regular readers will perhaps remember my prattlings from a week ago. I rambled on about hanging baskets and the like, but in my very own distraught fashion I failed to mention much about what to actually put in the things.

This week I will put that right, and mention at least a plant or two.

One of my favorite hanging-basket dwellers is a succulent, the portulaca from South America.

The thickish sprawling stems grow up to 12.5 centimeters in length and are be-decked with small, fleshy, cylindrical leaves. Several large flowers, up to 2.5cm in diameter, grow at the ends of the stems.

I will get my teeth into portulaca and other succulents in a few weeks, but for now, rest assured that they come in an array of bright colors, and do exactly what anything suspended in mid-air does: dangle, and they do it magnificently.

Anyway, that is probably the whole point of hanging baskets; it does not matter if it is a Gucci pot suspended on a gold chain, half a coconut on plastic string, a purpose-made terracotta pot with holes for the wires, or a plastic drinks bottle with cigarette-burn holes for drainage – whatever it is, it should ideally contain a plant that will grow down rather than skyward.

Well, not always. Mandevilla, a relative of the allamanda (in Thai – *jan ka-jahn fah*), is one of the most voracious climbers around, and requires very little in the way of root systems. It is also perfect in a hanging basket.

Suspend one of these under a sunny corner, and you can sit



It's not Spanish, and it's not moss, but Spanish Moss makes a fine hanging plant – and it does not even need a pot.

back and watch it grow. No, really, you can. Mandevilla can grow by as much as 5cm a day, and reaches for the sky in the most amazing way.

The tendrils behave a little like a husband after a messy divorce – they seem to want to put as much distance as they can between themselves and their original home in as short a time as possible.

Do not put these where you admire the architecture, as they will take over in no time and engulf what is already there.

As well as being fast growers, they are good-looking plants. At this time of year, they are a sea of green, but in the drier months, yellow, bell-shaped flowers appear daily and gaily all over them.

Again, more on the Mandevilla in the coming weeks.

Back to the dangles. There is another plant that should probably be included in this category, although describing it as a resident of a hanging basket would be pushing it a bit.

Spanish Moss, or Old Man's

Beard, does not live in soil as such – it kind of wraps itself around whatever it can find – usually in an elevated position – and dangles from it.

Spanish Moss is not Spanish, or even a moss. Technically it is a flowering plant that blooms only rarely away from the wild.

The slender, wiry, long, branching stems grow as suspended, bluish-gray streamers and garlands draped from tree branches in the wild. The plant is not parasitic, as is often thought, but attaches itself to trees for support. It's a bromeliad.

It has no roots, but gets what it needs to sustain itself mainly from rainfall and airborne dust.

The stems and leaves are covered with overlapping silver-gray scales, which are important for absorbing water and trapping dust and nutrient particles.

The easiest way to encourage its growth is to create a circular, zig-zag wire frame, and wrap the "moss" around it, allowing the trailing ends to hang in mid-air.

From a distance you would never know that it is not growing out of a pot, but just sitting there quietly getting on with things.

Spray a little water in its direction (preferably in fine-mist form, from an old

Windex bottle or something similar) and it will be fine.

Well, I think I have done rather well this week. After a shaky start, I have managed to get all the way through without too many distractions. And without driving into a ditch.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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

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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

# Less is more, say Atika developers

**B**aan Yin Dee Boutique Resort has invested approximately 505 million baht in a condominium development that will overlook Patong Bay.

Kieren Madden, Alex Bressers and Hans De Beer, Managing Directors of Atika Villa Phuket, told the *Gazette* what makes Atika's 51 units on 3.5 rai unique.

"It's modern minimalist. The construction incorporates a lot of glass and bright colors to keep it open and simple," Mr Madden said.

No wires will be visible – electricity and water supplies will be underground. Each unit will have its own water tank with an extra supply of 24 gallons. "We have our own well providing the villa with fresh spring water. We have had it tested and it's 100% pure to drink," Mr Madden added.

Atika's lean and clean lines offer residents a sense of freedom. "They can relax on the sun deck with a view of the sea, swim in the infinity pool, or enjoy a rooftop barbecue," Mr De Beer said.

Mr Madden explained that the project will be built in three phases. 100 million baht has been invested in Phase I, while Phases II and III will cost 220 million and 180 million baht, respectively.

Phase I will have nine two-bedroom units, of two different types. The five Type-A units have living areas on the ground to third floors and bedrooms on the fourth floor. The Type-B units, which are set behind and above Type-A, have bedrooms on the third floor.

The properties will have living space of between 325 and 365 square meters apiece.

"Seven are already sold," Mr Bressers said, "leaving just one unit of each type still available in Phase I." The units remaining are on the market for



Left, a computer-generated perspective of a living room in the Atika development.

Above, Kieren Madden.

between 14.6 million to 18 million baht. Construction starts in August and is expected to be completed in May next year.

Costing 9.5 million to 11 million baht each, the 30 one- and two-bedroom units of Phase II offer living space of between 150 and 180sqm. Construction on this phase is to start in October this year and should be finished in September 2006.

Construction of Phase III will start in September next year and is expected to reach completion in May 2007. At 14.5 million to 18 million baht each, the 12 one- and two-bedroom units will have living space of between 230 and 260sqm.

All of Atika Villa Phuket's units include standard furnishings for the bedrooms, dining room, living room, and kitchen; they also have laundry and storage areas and a parking space. An optional furniture package is offered for an additional 750,000 to 900,000 baht.

Atika residents will also be

allowed the use of Baan Yin Dee and Amari Coral Beach Resort facilities for a fee. Moreover, "A management company will be in place," Mr Madden said, "so

that our customers can opt for a package that assists them in letting their unit or having it maintained."

Mr Bressers observed, "We

have received very positive feedback. We've sold nearly all the units in Phase I – reservations and deposits made – without even advertising."

For more information, contact Tel: 01-4761871, 04-0548122, 06-2720111, 076-294104-7 or Fax: 076-294108 or email: info@baanyindee.com



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### 4 + 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA

An excellent 4 + 2 bedroom house for sale in Kamala, near Phuket FantaSea entertainment center, 1.5 km from the beach. The house is located in a quiet and safe area, near a lake. There are 4 spacious bedrooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and 2 medium-sized bedrooms on the ground floor, all with en-suite bathroom, aircon and ceiling fan. European & Thai kitchen, fully equipped. Mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi, own water supply, hot water supplied by solar heating system. The house comes fully furnished. For more details please contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Asking price: only 18 million baht neg. Tel: 076-279075, 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

### KATA TOWNHOUSE

For sale by owner: 2-story townhouse with views over Kata Beach to the sea. Located in a safe area close to a market and shops; has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a big Western-style kitchen, all with air conditioning; nice terrace and Chanote title. Asking 5 million baht. Tel: 01-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

### NAI YANG

Small 5-house development; 2 under construction and ready to move into in August. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living & dining room, European kitchen, laundry, verandah all round, boundary wall, electric gate, carport, landscaped garden. Living area: 153sqm. Land: 532-740sqm. First house for sale at 7.3 million baht. Tel: 076-328424, 01-8953481. Email: goldigger-phuket@hotmail.com

### 35-ROOM HOTEL

Hotel for sale on Patong main road. Serene atmosphere. Tel: 09-6491963. Email: ctmrn@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Phuket Pride Property house located on a hillside. Fully furnished, with air conditioner. Tel: 09-4736886.

### LAND FOR SALE

370 talang wah (1,400sqm) on Soi Saliga, in Rawai. Asking 3.7 million baht. Tel: 076-288422.

### MISSION HILLS, 2 RAI

Asking only 1.3 million baht per rai. For sale by owner. Please contact for further details. Tel: 01-8950711. Email: japamala2002@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

New house in Baan Manee-kram (between Chalong and Phuket City). 440 sqm of land, 250 sqm + + of living area. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, phone, UBC, Chanote title. Price: 4.9 million baht (negotiable). For more details. Tel: 09-8670040, 07-8946438. Email: simoncree@hotmail.com

### RAWAI CONDOS

with sea view. 27, 54 and 81sqm. Priced from 450,000 baht. Financing for 3 years available. Foreign freehold. For details, Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### RAWAI VILLA

and company for sale. New project with land: 400sqm, 350 meters from the beach. Price: 2.6 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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### BARGAIN

New 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom bungalow located in Kathu, in a small, private development, rural setting. Convenient for golf courses and supermarkets, 9 minutes to Patong. Includes a large living room, kitchen-dining room, off-road parking and verandahs. Land approximately 340sqm. Asking 3.5 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-321954, 04-8439579 or Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

### 3-RAI, SEA VIEW

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### SEA VIEW 1 OR 2-RAI

East coast, serviced plot with Internet, water, and electricity. A beauty. 8 minutes to British Curriculum International School (formerly Dulwich). From 2.5 million baht. Please contact for info. Tel: 04-842-3992. Email: phuketstates@yahoo.com

### DIVIDED LAND

For sale: 158, 162, and 195 sq wah. Asking from 10,000 baht per sq wah. See it now! Please contact for information. Tel: 07-2674342. Email: agentsmith@ji-net.com

### SEA VIEW CHALONG

Asking 2.85 million baht per rai. Great view – you can see all of Chalong Bay. 1-rai to 10-rai lots, with Chanote, electricity, water, and driveway. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

### 1-RAI PLOT

At Mission Heights luxury development, with underground electricity and secure Nor Sor 3 Gor title, 40m x 40m. 10 minutes to airport and beach; 20 minutes to shopping centers. For sale direct from owner. Asking 2 million baht. Tel: 01-2712825.

### NAI YANG

Beachfront land: flat, square-shaped, with Chanote title. 10.5-rai with two-road access and electricity. 90-metre frontage. Ready to develop. Price: 8 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-7298365. Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

### AO MAKAM

Land for sale with a 220-degree view of the sea. Asking 2.9 million baht per rai. Also, 1 rai with Nai Yang mountain view. Asking 2.4 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

### BEST SEAVIEW

Phang Nga Bay, 25 rai directly on the waterfront, fantastic seaview. Asking 700,000 baht per rai. Bargain price from owner. Tel: 04-842-3992. Email: phuketstates@yahoo.com

### PATONG LAND SALE

Minimum purchase of 2.5-rai, selling at 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-6061106. Email: shahmarian@yahoo.com

### NAI HARN

1 rai with Chanote, selling for 2.4 million baht. Also, some Chalong land with a sea view. Asking 1.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-5376866.

### OUTSIDE KAMALA

On the old road to Patong: 2-floor house, 6 months' old, 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, terrace. For sale with 220 sqm of land for 3.5 million baht, or with 970 sqm (suitable for nice development) for 6.6 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-2688061. Email: schendl@loxinfo.co.th

### EXCLUSIVE VILLAS

In Nai Harn. Just 2.5km from Nai Harn Beach. Private; fully airconditioned; 3 bedrooms, all en-suite, main with jacuzzi; open plan lounge; quality, fully-fitted kitchen; all overlooking private pool with entertainment surround.

Quality finishing and fittings throughout. Selling off the plans, completion May 2006. Contact Nick for details and appointment to view plans and land. Please contact for further information. Email: nmfr504969@yahoo.co.uk

### LUXURY VILLA

This 5-bedroom home borders a 400m-wide lake overlooking the highlands and Wat Chalong. Land: 900sqm; built-up: 380sqm. Located at well-guarded Land & Houses Park. (fitness center, gym, 40m pool at club.) Call to view. 14.75 million baht. Tel: 076-383081, 01-8913039. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

### BANG TAO BEACH

124sqm & 240sqm furnished apartments, 1 minute from the beach. 6.5 million baht and up. Please contact for details. Tel: 06-2806624. Website: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

### 10-RAI

with full sea view for sale in Phuket City. Asking price: 3.3 million baht per rai. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-893-8747.

### CHERNG TALAY

Land for sale in Laguna area. 2,010sqm, directly on the main road. Asking 4.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2746511.

### PHUKET LAND

Cheap land with Chanote and sea views for sale across the island. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8938747.

### HOTEL BEACHFRONT

7-rai or more for sale near the airport. Asking 5.5 million baht per rai. Also, land with a sea view in Ao Por for sale. Asking 2.5 million baht per rai. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-6525664.

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# Property Gazette

## SHOP SPACE

I am looking for some empty shop space to rent in Patong. Contact for info. Tel: 04-6304243. Email: jurgen.hugli@gmail.com or

## Accommodation Available

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Low season, long-stay, spa & pool. Many facilities. Price only 17,500 baht/month. Beachfront. Call for more details. Tel: 076-345518, 01-8920038.

### ROOMS TO LET

Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished, with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water, car park. 183 baht per day. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

## KARON BUNGALOWS

Fully-furnished bungalows on Karon Beach and apartments at Kata, with air conditioner, cable TV, radio-CD player, safe, fully-equipped kitchen, hot-water shower and a terrace, available until November at low-season prices. Contact for further information. Tel: 076-333242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

## PATONG LUXURY

Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments available. For information and photos, Email: suites247@yahoo.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### HOUSE TO SHARE

2-bedroom, 3-bathroom, furnished house to share in Chalong. Includes TV, ADSL, and washer. Asking 6,000 baht per month. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-282-466. Email: thecollected@hotmail.com

### WANTED TO RENT

House or bungalow required, fully furnished, for a month during September/October, for about 15,000-20,000 baht. Quiet location preferred. Must be in good condition, with at least one bedroom. Air conditioned and fully serviced. Send photo(s) please. Email: fp004i6616@blueyonder.co.uk

### CONDO OR HOUSE

I am looking for a condo or house for sale by owner. Price range: 1 to 3 million baht. Area: Patong or nearby; however, will consider properties throughout Phuket. 20-30% downpayment available. Hopefully western standards, but will consider a house or condo that can be remodeled. Please contact by email: soinanai@yahoo.com

## LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED

I am looking for a two-bedroom airconditioned house or apartment in central Patong, for two years starting September. Preferably furnished with ensuite bathroom and in a quiet area near Jungceylon Centre. Please contact for details. Email: connollymaurice@hotmail.com

### HOUSE WITH POOL

We are looking for a nice 3-bedroom, furnished house with a private swimming pool, to rent between December 24 and January 23. We want to stay in Patong, Karon or Kata, close to the beach. Please contact for details. Tel: 07-8822597. Email: euro-art-gallery@planet.nl

### BUNGALOW/APT

I'm looking for a bungalow or apartment on Karon Beach. I will stay for 3 to 4 months from December 2005 to 1 April, 2006. Budget: not more than 5,500 baht per month. Must have cable TV and small kitchen. Please send details. Email: milanspacek@hotmail.com

## Don't miss....

Issues & Answers

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## 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

I am looking for a furnished, 2-bedroom, Thai-type terraced house in or near the Kathu area. Should be in good, clean condition with air conditioning in at least one bedroom. Rental per month: 4,000 to 6,000 baht. This is for long-term rental. Thank you. Contact for information. Tel: 09-1950616. Email: info@thaitogether.org

### NICE SMALL HOME

This neat, non-smoking male wants to rent a good, clean, small home with cooking facilities for 1 to 2 persons. Hopefully, in Patong or within a 20-minute drive. Rental period can be anything from 1 to 6 months from November 2005 to April 2006. Please contact with details. Email: johan9a@yahoo.com

### RENTAL HOUSE

We are a Swedish family looking to rent a house in Phuket for 6 months, starting from October 1. The house should have 2 or 3 bedrooms, air conditioning and furniture, and be within walking distance to the beach/pool, stores and restaurants. We want the house to be in a good and safe area for the kids. Please contact with full details. Email: anders@bostadsnabben.se

### HOUSE/CONDO

We are a young and easy-going couple looking for accommodation in Patong for long-term rent or for sale. We are interested in inexpensive houses, condos or other apartments in Patong. The price for long-term rental of a small apartment should be 15,000 baht a month at the most. Houses, apartments or condos for sale or long-term lease should cost a maximum of 1.5 million baht. We need a kitchen, a telephone line or ADSL, and air conditioning. We will need the accommodation from November onward. If you have anything that may suit our needs, please send full details, prices and photos to us at your earliest convenience. Email: lunkan1x@hotmail.com

## 1-BEDROOM HOUSE

Mother-to-be needs a one-bedroom house with aircon in a quiet area. Please contact with more information and photos. Tel: 01-7970835. Email: pern@thaimarine.com

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## Household Items

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### TOASTER & IRON

Derens Toaster in white, clean. Asking 1,500 baht. Sharp AM 333 Electric iron in pink. Asking price: 400 baht. Both items are brand new and never used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-4203873. Email: t\_pranot@hotmail.com

### MUST SELL

Ikea kitchen cabinet for sale at 6,500 baht: the upper section of the cabinet measures 30cm deep x 150cm wide x 51cm high; the lower section (with a faux butcher's block counter top) measures 60cm deep x 150cm wide x 92cm high. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-288850, 01-6930767. Email: mikaam@hotmail.com

## Household Services

### STORAGE UNITS

Individual storage units from 4 cubic meters. Well ventilated, 2-hr security, sensor floodlights. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-0825707.

## Property Services

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## ENGINE WANTED

Marine engine and gearbox wanted for 12-meter sloop. 40-80 HP okay. Tel: 077-447023, 01-080 2178. Email: eastpier@samunet.com

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## ONE LASER LEFT

Anyone who is interested can 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

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| 39 Ft 90100 Searay 390 Custom, Cat 2x385 Hp  | 44 Ft 1976 Peterson 44, Yanmar 1x45 Hp                  |
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Diving and adventures company in Karon area seeks Accountant. Thai or foreign nationals may apply. Candidates will be computer-literate. Accounting graduates with 3 years' relevant work experience and a fair command of written and spoken English. Attractive salary for the right person. Please send your resumé to 393 Patak Rd, Karon, Muang, Phuket, 83100, Thailand, or contact Tel: 01-8927847, 076-398-364. Fax: 076-398365. Email: [holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com](mailto:holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com)

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## BAR MANAGER

Small hotel in Patong is looking for dynamic English-speaking Bar Manager, to start end of this month. Please contact for more details. Email: [dolphincove@mac.com](mailto:dolphincove@mac.com) Tel: 04-8373870.

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Our client, Puvarana Resort, is looking for senior accountant/administrative assistant with at least 3 years' experience. Must be energetic and have a good attitude. Salary: 17-40,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224-113. Email: [recruitment@bowentraining.com](mailto:recruitment@bowentraining.com)

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Part/full-time shore boat captain needed for small fleet of excursion vessels (daytrip and/or live-aboard); to be responsible for scheduled maintenance, quick turnarounds. Mechanical or electrical background required. Thai and foreign applicants welcome. Email: [holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com](mailto:holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com) or Tel: 01-8927847.

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Secretary wanted. Must have a good command of English: speaking, reading and writing. Own car required. Salary and benefits based on experience. Also, one Accountant / Administrator required. Tel: 04-8477100. Fax: 076-395894. Email: [info@astongroupasia.com](mailto:info@astongroupasia.com)

## EXECUTIVE

Secretary to MD. The best and most interesting job in Phuket. Top-level English and excellent presentation skills a must. Email resumes attention K. Fong. Email: [info@phuketonerealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketonerealestate.com)

## PHP/MYSQL

We are looking for one PHP/MySQL programmer and one Linux system administrator. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-8484006. Email: [staff@mynewserver.com](mailto:staff@mynewserver.com)

## THAI ATTORNEY

experienced in civil trials wanted for new law office in Phuket. Pay by fee-sharing and/or salary. All inquiries in strict confidence. Prefer attorney in Phuket who can speak a little English. Would consider joint venture with attorney in private practice. Email: [ascharaporn@hotmail.com](mailto:ascharaporn@hotmail.com)

## SECRETARY

Male or female. English and basic computer skills needed. Salary: 7,000 to 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-296617, 06-2810515. Fax: 076-296617. Email: [kdbusser@hotmail.com](mailto:kdbusser@hotmail.com)

## KITESURF SCHOOL

partner. Looking for a fit, sporty person with teaching skills. We will teach you kitesurfing and train you to become a teacher for our school. Tel: 01-0903730.

## ACCOUNTANT

& administrator. Accountant must have experience at least 3-5 years' experience and know Thai law and rules for accounting, taxes, and VAT. Administrator must have Internet experience, and be able to use Excel, Word and email. Must be able to read and write English. Tel: 076-273427.

## PART-TIME REP

To run gift program. 150 baht per hour for female part-time representative to find tsunami-affected families in need of financial assistance. About 15 hours a week, working alone in tsunami-affected areas. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-0682026. Email: [diminpost@yahoo.com](mailto:diminpost@yahoo.com)

## SECRETARY

Required to work in a real estate office. Must have computer skills and be able to read, write and speak English. Some knowledge of sales would be an advantage. Offering a good salary for the right person. Please contact Phuket Island Real Estate Co Ltd. Tel: 076-341871. Email: [sales@phuketislandrealestate.com](mailto:sales@phuketislandrealestate.com)

## BARTENDER

A small hotel in Patong seeks experienced female bartender; must speak some English. Tel: 076-340464, 07-8871733. Email: [whharris042004@hotmail.com](mailto:whharris042004@hotmail.com)

## ACCOUNTS CLERK

wanted, with good spoken and written English, computer skills and 1 year's experience. Position available immediately. Contact for details. Tel: 076-273504. Email: [info@marinasystemsinternational.com](mailto:info@marinasystemsinternational.com)

## ACCOUNTING MANAGER WANTED

AsiaDebit Thailand is looking for an accounting manager to handle accounting issues for our Thai operation. The applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Good spoken and written English
- Ability to work independently
- Thai accounting license
- Internet experience

The right person will be working with an energetic team and have great possibilities and new experiences. Please send your CV to Khun Oil. Tel: 076-282211. Email: [oil@asiadebit.com](mailto:oil@asiadebit.com)

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Advance your career in a fun, friendly, smart, online office. We have 2 positions open for candidates with clear spoken and written English and who enjoy problem solving and helping customers. Tel: 076-236616. Fax: 076-236617. Email: [siamuk@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:siamuk@loxinfo.co.th)

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# Island Job Mart

## TaiLife

TaiLife is a new leisure company operating in Phuket. We now require staff for our new five-star fitness spa and restaurant opening in central Patong in December 2005.

### F&B Manager

#### Duties

- Deputize for General Manager
- Set-up and ongoing management of restaurant and bar
- Recruitment/training/stock and cash controlling

#### Qualifications

- 28-40 years' old
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a senior position
- Good computer skills
- Bachelor's degree plus excellent spoken and written English

### Accountant

#### Duties

- Set-up accounts and administration systems
- Accounts/tax/reports/personnel records/internal auditing/submissions to Tax Department

#### Qualifications

- 28-50 years' old
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in a senior position
- Hotel industry experience
- Good spoken and written English

### Reception Sales

#### Duties

- Manager and 5 reception sales staff required
- Reception duties plus membership sales

#### Qualifications

- 23-35 years' old
- Minimum 1 year's experience in a high-class hotel or spa
- Bachelor's degree
- Excellent spoken English
- Energetic and enthusiastic personality
- Good appearance
- Good computer skills

**Telephone K. Manida 07 049 0726**  
165 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong, Phuket, 83150.




### Administrative Officer

Ocean Estates International is looking for an active and experienced individual to expand our dynamic team. Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- ▲ Good command of English and computer literate, (MS Office, etc.)
- ▲ Excellent interpersonal and multi-tasking skills
- ▲ Friendly, service-minded and capable of handling changing environment
- ▲ Familiar with basic accounting principles

Interested persons should send their CV by email, addressed to Sandra O' Neill, Area Manager Asia, Ocean Estates International (Phuket Office): 382/76 Moo 1, Cherg Talay, Thalang, Phuket, 83110. Email: [sandra.oneill@ocean-estates.com](mailto:sandra.oneill@ocean-estates.com)



## Rockfish

restaurant & bar  
Kamala Beach, Phuket

Rockfish, recently reviewed as Phuket's Top Restaurant by Thailand Tatler's Best Restaurant Guide, is looking to expand its operations and seeks energetic and committed individuals to fill the following positions:

**EXECUTIVE CHEF**  
**SOUS CHEF**  
**ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER**  
**MARKETING & PROMOTION MANAGER**  
**BARTENDER**  
**WAITRESS**

The above positions are based in Phuket. The team is small and friendly, the restaurant busy, fun and very successful. An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate.

Please e-mail your CV to  
[eat@rockfishrestaurant.com](mailto:eat@rockfishrestaurant.com)

## INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

### IT Technician

Qualifications:

- Male or female, 25-35 years' old.
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Experience will be an advantage.

Please contact us at Tel: 076-222191-5  
Email: [ohn@phuket-realestate-law.com](mailto:ohn@phuket-realestate-law.com)

### RESORT VACANCIES

Aana Resort and Spa is a 71-room contemporary resort on Koh Chang. We are currently seeking the following personnel:

1. a) Director of Sales with at least 5 to 7 years' experience working for 4- or 5-star properties, with excellent travel-trade connections. Can work under pressure and deliver.
- b) Sales Manager in travel/trade, with at least 3 to 5 years' experience.
2. Executive Housekeeper, with at least 5 years' experience with 4- or 5-star properties.
3. Thai Chef, with at least 7 years' experience.
4. Bakery Chef
5. Purchasing Manager, must have at least 5 years' hotel/resort purchasing experience.
6. All other applications are welcome too.

Please note that we only consider applications from those who have hotel/resort backgrounds, and are non-smokers. Apply via email. Email: [gm@aanaresort.com](mailto:gm@aanaresort.com)

### LAW FIRM

Looking for secretary and paralegal. Send resum  for appointment or contact for more information. Email: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)

### SPA MANAGER

We are looking for a Spa Manager and female Receptionist. Nationality not important. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8478352.

## Employment Wanted

### PART-TIME JOB

I am a Thai female looking for a night-shift job, from 6 pm-9 pm. I can speak good English. I have 2 years' experience as a guest service agent in a hotel and as a Secretary for 1 year. Tel: 01-4770454. Email: [pantiwa\\_9@hotmail.com](mailto:pantiwa_9@hotmail.com)

### DIVEMASTER / COOK

My name is Sprite. I worked on a diving boat for 5 years as divemaster/cook. Please let me know if you might have any work for me. Tel: 06-953-3064. Email: [watchreec@yahoo.com](mailto:watchreec@yahoo.com)

### DUTCH MALE

seeking employment in Thailand. MSc in Mathematics, extensive experience in hotel management. I am computer literate and am also a dive master. Please contact for more information. Tel: 316-24128272. Email: [george@trommelen.net](mailto:george@trommelen.net)

### DIVEMASTER OR INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Based on Phi Phi. Full-time position. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-384032, 01-3703181. Fax: 076-280286. Email: [steve@powersnorkel.com](mailto:steve@powersnorkel.com)

### TEACHERS REQUIRED

Math, Science, English, and German teachers needed. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-282232, 01-9794140.

### SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

An International Sales and Marketing Director (40) is looking for a new challenge. Great experience in building and leading efficient teams with 'Must Win' attitudes and: - Working in developing countries - Building up new branches or subsidiaries - Implementing channel strategies - Introduction/establishment of new products - Working in start-up situations, and - Developing new markets. I am a team player with strong ability to motivate and develop people. I speak English and German, and have working experience in Asia and Europe. Email: [muenchen1@gmx.net](mailto:muenchen1@gmx.net)

### KEYBOARD VOCALIST

Seeking work in a hotel or resort. English, likes to sing ballad music; ideal for a hotel restaurant. 44 Karon, Patong area. Please contact K.Tony. Tel: 01-4778744.

### JOB WANTED

24-year-old service-minded Filipina with pleasant personality seeks a job. Capable of adapting to a changing environment, good command of written and spoken English and German, with experience in waitressing, housekeeping and baby care. Please Tel: 04-7441520.

### GERMAN LAWYER

(43) seeks a job in Thailand, especially Phuket. Not necessarily in law business. I also have experience in commerce/trade, diving and semi-professional German cooking. Always willing and able to try something new. Please email: [jobinlos@gmx.de](mailto:jobinlos@gmx.de)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### HOME THEATER

Onkyo 5.1 Digital Home Theater system: 20,000 baht. Tel: 076-270204, 06-7413392. Email: phellinus@hotmail.com

### CHEAP DVDS

1. In the Cut (Meg Ryan)  
2. The Others (Nicole Kidman)  
3. Driven (Sylvester Stallone)  
4. Hell Boy  
5. Heroic Ones (Shaw Brothers)  
6. Marta Tresors in Times (Marc Dorcel)  
Asking only 100 baht each. All items are one-time used and in English with optional subtitles in several different languages. Tel: 01-4203873. Email: t\_pranot@hotmail.com

### A-Z OF EVERYTHING

What women want, in black pages by Qishi Marijossa. Now on sale for 300 baht. Please email for more information. Email: qismi@yahoo.com

### ORNAMENTAL FERNS

Large choice of ferns, birds' nests and garden items, in Thalang. Tel: 04-8371063.

### ASTRA SATELLITE

Dish and decoder. As new, and for sale much cheaper than UBC. New: 22,000 baht. Asking 10,000 baht. Also five home theater DVDs. Tel: 076-385865. Fax: 076-385665. Email: kamala\_bakery@yahoo.com

### GOLF CLUBS

Taylor Made R7 1, 3 & 5 woods, Ping Eye G2 3-9 iron, pitching wedge, sand wedge and putter, tour bag, travel bag. Excellent condition, never used. Asking just 20,000 baht. Tel: 09-2879196. Email: howardgross@mac.com

### 2004 KONA

KONA Scrap, medium-size mountain bike, in perfect condition. Several upgrades, including 8" Hayes disk brakes. 33,000 baht, firm. Email: drgw@mta.ca

### USB VIDEO CAPTURE

Dazzle USB video capture card VC80. Capture from video camera or cassette player to mpeg. Composite or s-video input. All cables and installation disks. 1,500 baht only. Tel: 01-9783089.

### DVD COLLECTION

Over 100 DVDs. Must sell. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8106205.

### RESTAURANT

Brand-new restaurant furniture and equipment for sale. Great prices – everything must go. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-9795048.

## 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:  
012712053 (Nandinian),  
018954763 (English) or  
018912005 (Frank)

## Business Opportunities

### INVESTMENT

Opportunity! Due to rotation of partners, Scheel & Partners Publishing Co., Ltd is now selling 19.9% of it's shares. The company publishes a free local newspaper/trader in Nakhon Si Thammarat and is now developing Thailand's Business Directory online. Investment: 380,000 baht. The investor can obtain a visa and a work permit. Contact Tel: 075-378805, 09-4727205. Fax: 075-378873. Email: nakhon@mail.com

### SALON/CAFE

Stylish, modern and newly refurbished beauty salon and Internet cafe for sale on Nanai Road. Highest quality equipment, professional fit-out with no expense spared. Includes 11 months paid rent. Long lease. 690,000 baht or nearest offer for both businesses. Tel: 01-2666500. Email: pattypoo2520@hotmail.com

### INVESTOR/PARTNER

Partner wanted for a Scandinavian fast-food concept with direct delivery and catering. Please contact for details. Email: lasse55@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT

with lot for sale at Kata. Great location, also has 4 rooms, large kitchen. Please contact K. Ranne. Tel: 06-6833964.

### WORKING PARTNERS

Established real estate company requires two partners for expansion in Chalong and Patong. Contact for details. Email: gibbo\_960@hotmail.com

### CHARTER BOAT

operation. New Chinese Junk with Thai-owned company for sale. Respond by email. Tel: 076-345710, 01-0806165. Email: litzaco@hotmail.com

### 30-ROOM HOTEL FOR LEASE

In Patong, brand new. No key money, 9-year lease contract. Ref# DHKT070512. Please Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-383756. Email: info@ayudhya.net or, for further details, visit our website www.ayudhya.net

### SHOP FOR RENT

Suitable for any kind of retail business. Located in front of a hotel, in Kata. Asking only 180,000 baht per year. Tel: 04-8374429.

### NIGHTCLUB

Exclusive nightclub in central Patong for sale. Fully equipped with stage, professional DJ equipment and VIP lounge. Contract until December 31, 2009. Before 2.5 million baht, now 1.7 million baht. Tel: 076-292523, 06-6911516. Email: venus@patong.biz Please visit our website at: www.patong.biz/venus

### BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Very cheap! Own the best. Tel: 07-8817600. Please see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

### GUESTHOUSE

Guesthouse in Patong for sale with Chanote: six rooms, living quarters and minimart. Asking 4.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 07-8887676. Email: homeawaypatong@hotmail.com

### PARTNER WANTED

for new visa service for Samui, using a tour bus (not minibus). Selling 12.5% of shares for 1 million baht. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

### SPEEDBOAT

business for sale. A great opportunity for an astute investor. Fully licensed and registered company, two work permits, five speedboats, two minibuses, one pick-up, conveniently located home/office. Owner wants to pursue other interests and is offering this business for a heavily discounted price. The price will be disclosed on application from genuine investors only. Tel: 01-8945822. Email: mcjphuket@yahoo.com.au

### RAWAI MINI SPA

A nine-year contract for business in a 2-floor, 4-bedroom townhouse near Rawai Beach, for sale. Tastefully furnished and ready to use. Selling for only 550,000 baht. Tel: 01-8913039. Fax: 076-383081. Email: siamuk@loxinfo.co.th

### SHOP FOR RENT

On the main road at Patong Beach, front facing; 15 meters deep. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-344 715, 01-7977199.

### BAR FOR SALE

Soi Dongtan, Patong. Fully furnished, nice location. Contact K. Ot at Tel: 06-6863337 or K. Greg at Tel: 076-345010.

### DOMAIN NAME

"Thailand-scuba-diving.com" for sale by auction, starting at 100,000 baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 04-0511944. Fax: 076-243089. Email: sharkymike@yahoo.com

### CAFE FOR SALE

Trendy cafe at Surin Beach with all assets for sale. Selling due to family commitments. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8636294.

### NEW RESTAURANT

A 60-seat, air-conditioned, fully equipped restaurant for lease in a new, 3-story building, in Phuket City. Please contact Tel: 01-7872869.

### HOTEL IN KRABI

For sale. 17-room hotel and restaurant on the main road in Ao Nang; incredible mountain view. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8935105. Email: we\_are95@hotmail.com

### PROFITABLE BIZ

One of a kind; monthly net profit 120,00 baht. Price: 2.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-0808557.

### OFFICE FOR RENT

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### DATA RECOVERY

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### COMPUTER SERVICES

New & used. Repairs, GPRS, ADSL, WLAN. No phone – Internet – no problem. English computerman. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4735080.

### COMPUTER

2.8 Ghz, 512 MB RAM, 80 GB computer + accessories: 30,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-270204, 06-7413392. Email: phellinus@hotmail.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

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### COMPANY

formation and accounting services. We can set up a registered limited partnership with work permit for 20,000 baht (no hidden extras). Over 50 and need a one-year visa? 12,000 baht yearly; company accounts 12,000 baht. We also take care of your monthly tax and social contributions. Contact us if you have problems. We are pleased to help you. Tel: 04-7457024. Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

### TRANSLATIONS

Special price for translation services. English-Thai and Thai-English: 100 baht/page. Contact K. Kung by phone or email. Tel: 04-8413675. Email: translationphuket@yahoo.com

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## Personals

### SEEKING A MATCH

I am a Thai businesswoman, 35. I am warm, nice looking, sweet, smart, romantic, sincere and humorous. I am looking for an Englishman, younger than 45, who needs true love. Please email: saovalakcat@yahoo.com

### BACKGAMMON

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

## Pets

### PIT BULL PUPPIES

8-week-old puppies for sale. One is white with green eyes. One is brown and white, with brown eye patch. Big, strong, aggressive parents. To good home with fence only. 5,000 baht each. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-7970375. Email: darrenlockie@hotmail.com







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- Se-Ed Book Center

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