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# The Phuket Gazette

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What's making Karon Municipality hot under the collar: shirtless revelers at the Nation Party last year on Sentosa Island, Singapore. - Photo courtesy of Fridae.com

# Karon nixes gay festival

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Despite Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura having already given his blessing for Asia's largest gay and lesbian festival, the Nation Party, to be held in Phuket, the event may be staged elsewhere because Karon Municipality is worried about the possible consequences of hosting the party.

The news broke on August 11, following a closed-door meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall the day before, between the Governor, the party organizers, Kata-Karon Municipal officers and Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office Director Suwalai Pinpradab.

The Nation Party, organized by the Fridae.com website, is already being promoted as starting on November 4, with nine parties being held over three days and nights.

The event, traditionally held in Singapore, was moved to Phuket after the Singaporean Police denied a license to stage the party on the basis that it was "contrary to the public interest".

The organizers then requested permission to hold events at Karon Stadium from November 4 to 6. Permission was denied, but that decision is now being reconsidered at Gov Udomsak's request.

Thawee Thongcham, Mayor of Kata-Karon, said, "Some [local residents] are worried

about noise, and some say that drunk revelers might have sex on the beach. It could destroy the image of Karon.

"We are worried that we might not be able to control the situation. Karon is a place families visit. We don't have problems involving sex. We don't want teenagers seeing and copying bad behavior."

K. Suwalai told the Gazette that Gov Udomsak was firm in his support for the event. However, she said, "The organizers and Karon Municipality need to look at what rules both sides can accept. If both parties fail to agree, the organizers can still arrange to stage this event in another country."

Continued on page 2

## Tailor touts facing crackdown

KARON (Kom Chad Luek): Community leaders in Kata-Karon have issued a warning to the 144 tailor shops in the area that they will crack down on any that continue to use aggressive touting techniques or take advantage of tourists.

Tambon Karon Chairman Winai Chidchiaw said that, at a meeting among village headmen and other community leaders, it was unanimously agreed to monitor the behavior of the shops' staff, who have been warned to end practices that pose a threat to the area's reputation among tourists.

Many of the shops hire foreign nationals, mostly from India and Nepal, he said.

Shops which continue to be sources of complaint will be penalized to the full extent of the law and subject to police investigations that would see any illegal aliens deported immediately, he warned.

K. Winai called for cooperation from the Immigration Police in this regard, as deportation procedures fall under their area of responsibility.

"We're still looking for a solution to the labor problems in the tailor shops, especially as many of them serve merely as fronts which take customer orders, with the actual tailoring done by a third party," he said.

"We have set up neighborhood committees to investigate and find out which shops fall into this category. Once we have an idea of the scale of the problem, we will meet again to decide what should be done," he said.

In addition to the problem of illegal aliens working in the industry, complaints have also been received from Thai workers in the shops that they were being paid less than the minimum wage, he said.

- Editorial: page 20

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# STILL LOVING PHUKET



Left: After his car was spotted sporting a 'We Love Phuket' bumper sticker, Simon Speight collects his prize of a two-night stay for two in a deluxe double room at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Patong. Presenting the voucher to him is *Gazette*



Accounting Manager Wipa 'Fon' Putkeaw. Right: Another winner was Vorawit Choovaree (right) seen collecting his prize of dinner for two at the Watermark Bar & Restaurant from Suchart 'Chart' Changtaragaet, *Gazette* graphic artist.



A smiling Col Paween accepts the keys from Arnaud Verstraete.

## Finally, some new wheels

PHUKET CITY: After reading the recent *Gazette* article "Police appeal for new wheels", Phuket resident Arnaud Verstraete, originally from Belgium, donated a patrol motorcycle to the Phuket City Police Department.

Accepting the vehicle at the station recently was the station's Superintendent, Pol Col Paween Pongsirin.

Mr Verstraete is President of the Rotary Club of Patong, but the donation has nothing to do with the Rotary, he explained.

"Actually, I don't want to drive a motorcycle in Phuket any more – it is too dangerous, and I have my own car. So after seeing in the *Gazette* that the police were appealing for new wheels I decided to give them my one-year-old motorcycle," he said.

## Call for entries in animation contest by UN

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The United Nations (UN) and Thailand's Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa) are inviting citizens of the Asia-Pacific region to take part in a short animation contest to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. All entries must be submitted by October 1.

Open to citizens of Asia-Pacific countries only, the contest is split into two categories: Youth (25 years old or less) and Public (over 25 years old). Contestants may enter as individuals or as groups – limited to no more than five people. The animation should have a running time of three to five minutes.

Contestants have six themes to choose from: Reducing poverty and hunger; educating young people everywhere; achieving the equality of men and women; improving the health of the world's population; ensuring a sustainable environment; and promoting world peace.

Prize money totaling US\$15,000 (600,000 baht) is up for grabs. Prizes in the Youth category are: US\$3,000 for first place; US\$2,000 for second place; and US\$1,000 for third

place. Prizes in the Public category are: US\$4,000 for first place; US\$3,000 for second place; and US\$2,000 for third place.

Contestants should send their submissions to the United Nations Information Services (UNIS). For more information contact UNIS at the United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nork Ave, Bangkok 10200, Tel: 02-2881234, Fax: 02-2881052, or Email: [unisbkk.unescap@un.org](mailto:unisbkk.unescap@un.org); or contact Sipa at 89/2 Moo 3, Building 9, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, TOT Corp Plc, Chaeng Wattana Rd, Thung Song Hong, Lak Si, Bangkok 10210, Tel: 02-5540400, Fax: 02-5540402 or Email: [training@sipa.or.th](mailto:training@sipa.or.th)

See also the websites at: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.sipa.or.th](http://www.sipa.or.th) and [www.un-shortanime.com](http://www.un-shortanime.com)

## Nantida tops bill in pop-jazz concert at Hilton



Nantida Kaewbuasai

KARON: Nantida Kaewbuasai, the Thai singer famous for songs such as *Bok noi dai mai*, will perform a special concert at the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa on September 3.

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

Those attending may also buy dinner, accommodation and a Jazz Brunch for the following day, and all ticket holders have the chance to win prizes offered by the Hilton group.

Tickets are available from the Hilton, Central Festival (B2S and 1st floor information counter), the I-tree shop (opposite Home Pro in the Tesco-Lotus complex), Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong, The Green Man Pub near Chalong and the offices of the Phuket Gazette.

For more information contact Nampetch Tipaxsorn at Email: [nampetch.tipaxsorn@hilton.com](mailto:nampetch.tipaxsorn@hilton.com) or Tel: 076-396433-41.

## Karon opposes gay fest

From page 1

"We need to discuss details. For example, they would party all day and night. This conflicts with Thai law, so we need to look at whether they will accept closing the event each day at 1 am."

But, she added, "This is a good opportunity for Phuket."

She said that if it does go ahead she expects at least 2,000 people to attend the festival, each spending at least 4,000 baht a day, generating revenue of 24 million baht over three days.

"Most people who attend events like this are not like those who go to full moon parties – most of them are upper-class people. But we need to see whether they will accept our rules," she said.

K. Suwalai added that the organizers will come to Phuket at the end of this month to decide finally whether the party will be held in Phuket or not.

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### Patong Darts League fixtures

August 23 fixtures: Queen Mary vs Amigos; Dog's Bollocks vs Piccadilly; Valhalla vs OffShore Bar; Two Black Sheep vs African Cafe; Shakers vs Coyote; Didi's vs Nag's Head. (Home teams listed first)

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# Indonesian haze blankets Phuket

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET CITY: As the haze from Sumatra spread across Phuket this week the Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) announced that those with allergies or respiratory ailments could collect free facemasks from Wachira Phuket Hospital as a minimal form of protection from the smoke particles.

Dr Wanchai Sattayawutthipong, Chief of the PPHO, told the *Gazette* on August 16 that the average particulate matter reading (PM-10 reading, for particles less than 10 microns in size) in air samples taken over the previous 24 hours was 82.5 micrograms per cubic meters, still well below the 120µg/m³ threshold deemed to pose a risk to healthy people.

However, he said the smoke – from out-of-control forest fires on the Indonesian island – could pose a threat to people with allergies and respiratory illnesses.

His office would continue to monitor the situation closely and issue warnings as needed should the situation worsen. He advised people who experience difficulty breathing to:

- Cover their noses and mouths with a damp cloth when going outside;
- Stay away from areas with high smoke concentrations, especially by staying indoors.
- Keep doors and windows shut to keep smoke-laden air out;
- Consult a doctor immediately if experiencing breathing difficulty;
- Avoid smoking cigarettes and drink plenty of water;
- Avoid strenuous exercise;

## Gamblers top arrest statistics – again

PHUKET: Gambling once again topped Phuket's arrest statistics, according to figures released recently by Phuket Provincial Police, who made 144 arrests for gambling in July.

Sixty-seven people were arrested for the illegal possession or use of narcotics

Of the five murder cases reported during the period, police made an arrest in connection with one case.



Phuket City can hardly be seen through the murk in this photograph taken August 16 from the top of Rang Hill

• Avoid collecting rainwater for drinking until at least one hour has passed since the beginning of rainfall.

He added that the Pollution Control Department displays regularly updated air-quality data at: [www.pcd.go.th/AirQuality/Regional/defaultThai.cfm](http://www.pcd.go.th/AirQuality/Regional/defaultThai.cfm)

The air over Phuket began to darken noticeably on August 15 as smoke drifted north. It had already blanketed Malaysia, bringing smog to cities in that country and protests to Indonesia from the Malaysian government.

On that day Chumnong Chitpukdee, chief of the Meteorological Department's Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast), confirmed that Sumatra is the source of the haze, which is being carried here across the Strait of Malacca by prevailing southwest monsoon winds.

"The haze made it as far north as Trang yesterday [August 14] and today it reached Phuket," he said.

K. Chumnong said that the sky should clear up considerably with the next rainfall, which he said he expects "soon".

The haze poses no great risk to aviation, he added. "Visibility is still good at the airport because of steady winds coming off the sea."

In an ironic twist, *The Nation* reported that hotels in Haad Yai, in Songkhla Province, had experienced a sudden surge of business as Malaysians crossed into Thailand in hopes of escaping the smoke at home.

For more information or health advice, contact the PPHO at 076-222913-4.

## European travel giants to launch new Phuket air charter service

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET: Two of the biggest names in European tourism are joining forces with a German airline to launch a new Phuket charter service at the start of the high season.

Thomas Cook AG, German tour operator Neckermann and low-cost carrier Condor Flugdienst plan to operate flights to Phuket between November and April next year.

"Europe will return to Phuket again this winter, thanks to Thomas Cook AG and tour operator Neckermann Reisen's joint promotion of Phuket to the European market, to the media and to Thomas Cook's trade partners," Dr Peter Fankhauser, a member of the Thomas Cook AG Executive and CEO Germany, said.

"The company is offering good rates and fares in order to increase capacity, in addition to marketing via the international press in Germany and the rest of Europe," he said. Thomas Cook AG is one of the biggest names among European tour operators.

"After the tsunami's impact on the Andaman provinces, Thomas Cook AG's business dropped 15% nationwide, but Phuket business suffered most," Dr Fankhauser said.

"In an average year we

used to have 45,000 passengers from Europe to Phuket. Now, after our marketing activities throughout Europe, we are hoping that the number of passengers flying to Phuket will reach about 25,000 during this six-month promotional period."

Thomas Cook AG recognizes that Phuket is a beautiful place to visit, Dr Fankhauser said, and the company believes that tourists who have been to Phuket before will want to return.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourism Association, thanked Thomas Cook AG for promoting Phuket in Europe. "I believe that Thomas Cook's support will increase the confidence of investors in the tourism industry," he said.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura added that he and staff of the Tourism Authority of Thailand will visit Japan next month to promote Phuket further.

"We will make presentations to the Japanese about our evacuation drills and we will do practice drills again at Phuket International Airport on September 9.

"We can demonstrate that we are up to date in terms of equipment and staff training, which will go a long way to restoring Japanese tourists' confidence," the Governor said.



Dr Peter Fankhauser of Thomas Cook hopes to bring 25,000 tourists to Phuket in the coming high season.

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## Queer News



Security was tight at the Carabao concert in Patong on August 13, which was attended by thousands.

# Scent to jail

UDON THANI: Busting drug mules can be a dirty business, as police in Udon Thani found out on the afternoon of August 15.

After receiving a tip-off that a drug deal was about to go down at the Jaroensri Complex shopping center, police led by Provincial Police Deputy Chief Inspector Yanyong Wechsot set up a surveillance unit. It was not long before two men matching the description of the suspects appeared, loitering near the entrance to the MK Suki Restaurant on the first floor. When police moved in to search them, they found 107 purple *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills stashed away in the underwear of one of the men, who smelled terribly.

Police identified the hygiene-impaired suspect as Lao national Thawkaew-udon, 27, a resident of Vientiane. He confessed to having smuggled drugs into Thailand from the Lao capital for more than a year, each time disguising the characteristic chemical scent of the contraband with his own body odor, which was formidable given that he had not bathed for more than a month.

He added that he wore the same unlaundered underwear for the entire month, in the hope that the stench would create a force field powerful enough to ward off police who might otherwise search him – and perhaps keep sniffer dogs at bay.

There are no laws against body odor in Thailand – though perhaps there should be – and the Lao was arrested on charges of trafficking a Class 1 narcotic into the country with intent to sell.

It was not reported if he will be forced to take a bath as part of his punishment.

Source: Khao Sod ("Fresh News")

# The waiting

Eight months after the tsunami, residents of Kamala and Patong are still waiting for funds to redevelop the areas' damaged landscape and infrastructure.

In January, the government decreed that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Office of Tourism Development (OTD) take over responsibility for reparations, awarding budgets of 750 million for Patong and 600 million baht for Kamala.

Little by little, however, these budgets have been reduced, to 197.4 million and 96.7 million respectively, and still the project has not started. The *Gazette's* Anongnat Sartpisut and Ananya Hongsa-ngiam ask why this should be and just when the recovery work will begin in earnest.

In January, Suwat Liptapanlop, at that time a Deputy Prime Minister, was ordered to look into what the tsunami-stricken municipalities of Kamala and Patong needed for recovery.

K. Suwat's brief was to concentrate first on safety measures, including the laying of underground power cables, water supplies and warning systems, then on landscape development along with new walkways, tourist information centers and evacuation signs.

He ordered the TAT and the OTD to find conceptual design companies that could do the job. The sense of urgency was palpable. However, national elections on February 6 created an air of uncertainty that caused the project to stall and budgets to be frozen, then eventually slashed. Nowadays people are asking just where the project has disappeared to.

A TAT officer, who spoke with the *Gazette* on condition of anonymity, explained, "At that time it was not the TAT's job to rebuild Patong and Kamala. Our purpose is to promote, not to construct. But we had orders from the government and we tried to obey them as well as we could."

He continued, "To understand this affair you must understand the official process. We sent our provisional plan to Plodprasop Suraswadi, coordinator of the six-province recovery project, and at the beginning of March the plan was submitted to the cabinet, which, in turn, approved it.

"While the cabinet considered our proposals, the TAT hatched a 'Terms of Reference' plan and had committees look into improvements [for Patong and Kamala]. This was all approved by the TAT Governor, Juthamas Siriwan, on March 25.

"Our plan was to set everything up for when the government approved the conception and design budget. We know it is urgent to help people in both areas but is it really *our* fault that it has taken such a long time to obtain government approval?

"People don't realize just how much effort we put into promoting Phuket, especially Patong. Even if we put a billion baht into attracting people here, do you really think that tourists would return immediately? Frankly, we



don't know if they will come back or not," he said.

He explained that foreigners come to Phuket for the sun, sand and sea. "They come here for the nature and the beauty of the area, not to see big buildings or for modern technology such as already exists in their country. Look at Patong 30 years ago, it was nice and clean. Right now, however, Patong is no different from Pattaya."

The TAT source explained that since the budget was cut in May, the TAT has had to revise the plan several times.

"It has been very difficult to find companies willing to take on a project because [at reduced prices] they would lose money. Eventually, two companies accepted because they wanted to

'I would like [the TAT] to show their plans to local people. We need to know what they're doing. The architects outlined their plans in an air-conditioned room – they should go and see the real thing, on site, on the beach.'

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# just goes on and on



**In both Patong and Kamala there are still piles of tsunami trash. Local authorities say they are doing nothing because they do not want to step on the TAT's toes.**

cal people and local organizations. They need to give relevant information to the architects and contractors.

"The TAT is only a small organization that supports tourism in Phuket the way it should be. We play a supporting role as promoters. This is how we can best be of help."

Karoon Sreedeen, Deputy Mayor of Kamala, told the *Gazette*, "I know about the projects and that the TAT wants to develop Kamala, but some projects have already been covered by the Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) and the Phuket Provincial Highways Office.

"The TAT has a budget of 65 million baht for the *OrBorTor*. This money is to improve the road in front of Kamala Beach as well as for the landscaping of the Chalermsak 100 Pi Park, which is opposite the Kamala Public

Health Center. It is also to cover the cost of the proposed Tsunami Monument where the relatives of the dead can pay their respects."

Surin Islam, Village Chief of Moo 5, Kamala, the area around Phuket FantaSea, said, "Nothing much has happened in this area since December 26, especially to the land next to the beach. In fact, Kamala needs a fast recovery, but everyone concentrated on [rebuilding] Patong, while Kamala was forgotten."

He said that he had attended a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall in April between the TAT, the Governor, community leaders and the two municipalities. "That was the only time we met to discuss the TAT's plan and it seemed good. But at the moment, everything is completely silent and we simply don't know what's going on."

As for the upcoming high season, K. Surin put it lightly when he said that tourism in the area would be affected "a little bit". He added, "Kamala needs urgent recovery, it doesn't matter if construction continues into the high season as long as we recover. But it is our right to know what the plans are."

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal agreed that things need to be speeded up. He said, "The TAT budget, even though reduced, will improve Patong. We have to hurry to get these improvements done. If we don't start today it won't get done by the high season. I will be meeting the Governor soon about this."

Sompong Jiamtua, Patong's Sai Yuan Village Chief, agrees, "I would like [the TAT] to show their plans to local people. We need to know what they're doing. I protested against the last one, as they proposed a dam on the beach. And the architects outlined their plans in an air-conditioned room – they should go and see the real thing, on site, on the beach."

"I agree with the TAT about the development of the landscape. After the tsunami, some areas of Patong have already been rebuilt. But I strongly recommend that we keep things as natural as possible; tourists prefer natural to man-made scenery."

"If at all possible, I would prefer the redevelopment to be done during the low season but this is urgent, so I think the TAT should go ahead whether it's high or low season."

help people affected by the tsunami.

"The architects had only 90 days to draw up their plans, do surveys and assess costs. Plus

they needed to fly to Phuket. Ninety days was not enough time."

He said, "Whether the plan succeeds or not depends on lo-

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# Celebrating Phuket in song

By Anongnat Sartpisut

**P**huket native Chaisit Khorsantiwichai is the son of a roadside coffee vendor. Learning to play music at an early age, he quickly developed a passion for it.

After working his way through university as a musician, he returned to Phuket and amassed a fortune in the island's property market, and developed a successful commodities brokerage.

Financially secure, K. Chaisit decided to kick back and enjoy life by indulging in his passion for music once again.

The result, some six years in the making, is a 15-track charity CD entitled *Phuket Memory Songs*, which features the vocal talents of some of the island's top politicians and opinion leaders: Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising, Phuket Tourist Association Pattanapong Aikwanich and former Phuket Chamber of Commerce Chairman Pamuke Archariyachai, to name just a few.

Adding some government-certified heavyweight talent to the list of singers are three Thai National Artists: Suthep Wongkamheang, Saowalee Pakapan and

Daojai Paijit. The singers are backed up by a team of eight traditional Thai musicians, most of whom are local businessmen who share K. Chaisit's passion for Thai marches and ballads.

K. Chaisit told the *Gazette* that most of the musicians and singers on the album came together to play at the 1999 Walking Street Fair on Thalang Rd.

"We got real good feedback from the crowd then, and that's when the idea for *Phuket Memory Songs* was born," he said.

"I began to choose the songs after that, and then spent two years recording them in the studio. I tried to use all the best Phuket oldies, that's why they are called 'memory songs'."

K. Chaisit, who spent almost 500,000 baht producing the album, told the *Gazette* that all proceeds will go to charity.

The primary recipient, getting 80%, will be the Mingmongkol 48 Foundation, which is building a huge Buddha image atop Nakkerd Hill in Karon.

The remaining 20% of proceeds will be donated to the Thepkasattri-Srisoonthorn Foundation to help its work with tsunami victims, he said. He expects the first batch of 10,000 CDs, released last



Saowalee Pakapan, one of three Thai National Artists featured on the album, records *Haad Rawai*, watched by CD project leader Chaisit Khorsantiwichai.

month, to sell out in about five months' time.

K. Chaisit said he has known all of the singers on the album for a long time.

"Each was carefully chosen because his or her vocal style matched what we needed for the song, not because he or she might happen to have high social standing. You can listen to their voices and hear for yourself just how talented they are," he said.

One of his favorite tracks, simply named *Phuket*, is one of two English-language tracks on the album. Sung by his daughter Janjira, it is described by the artist as being a "pure" but funky blend of Latin and soul styles – with a Thai twist, of course.

The lyrics are simple: "*Phuket is my hometown, my love, my life I'm proud ... Just come and see how beautiful Phuket can be ... beaches and sand, a won-*

*derful land ... it's like a dream, a beautiful dream.*"

Do we have the next Tourism Authority of Thailand jingle here, perhaps?

On the song *Haad Rawai* (Rawai Beach), sung by National Artist Saowalee Pakapan, the producer explained how he used a tenor sax with a back-up orchestra to try to recreate the feel of refreshing breezes and gentle rhythms of the sea.

Another personal favorite of the producer/arranger is the album's first track, *Yod Naree Sri Thalang*, a musical tribute to Phuket's legendary heroines, Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn.

With its flute and horn flourishes, the song is a classic Thai-style military march sung by a chorus – think of a Mao-era Chinese propaganda song with a bit of *Yankee Doodle Dandy* thrown in and you start to get the picture.

K. Chaisit is pleased with the end product and thinks the CD will help introduce the classic songs to a new generation of listeners.

"When you listen to new albums these days, you get bored with them in a few months' time, but these songs are classics that have already shown they can stand the test of time."

"I hope all Phuket people will listen to them," he said.

*Phuket Memory Songs is available at bookshops and other stores. For more information contact Tel: 076-219768 or Fax: 076-356115.*

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*When the taste is perfect,  
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# Revamp of English curriculum ordered

New Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang ordered a revamp of the country's English-teaching practices, after average scores on standard tests suggested Thai students' English is among the poorest in Southeast Asia.

"When we teach English, our children should be able to communicate in English. What we teach should also be in line with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)," K. Chaturon said.

On August 8, the English Language Development Center disclosed how local students fared in the TOEFL between July last year and June this year, compared with their peers in Southeast Asia.

Thais lagged behind seven Southeast Asian nations, including Burma, Vietnam and Laos.

In the wake of the findings, K. Chaturon said the country needed to place more emphasis on real communication and that the current curriculum still focuses too heavily on grammar and rote learning.

Aside from English, K. Chaturon said schools must also prioritize the teaching of Mandarin – another increasingly important international language.

**Tactical retreat:** After weeks of uproar over the emergency decree imposed on the restive South, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra made a tactical retreat, saying that Parliament could tone down measures it deemed too heavy-handed.

"We will submit the decree to Parliament. If they are still concerned ... then we will take steps to make adjustments," said the PM.

The decree, aimed at restoring law and order in the three southernmost provinces, permits authorities to detain suspects for up to 30 days without charge, conduct searches and make arrests without warrants, and tap phone lines. It also provides impunity for officials in the line of duty.

**University affairs:** A drug-trafficking gang in the North has been using dozens of university



**KHON DANCING:** A Thai participant dressed for the traditional Thai stage dance the *khon*, joins fellow participants during the closing ceremony of the World Health Organization's 6th Global Conference on Health Promotion at the United Nations regional headquarters in Bangkok.

students as couriers, police said following the arrest in Lampang of four students with 48 kilograms of heroin.

Police said the arrests cracked a drug-trafficking gang that had more than 100 members, mostly students, whose movements had been monitored over six months. The students said they were offered 1 million baht for each delivery.

Hilltribe people were hired to smuggle drugs from Burma into Thailand via Mae Hong Son. From there, university students were used to transport the drugs to Bangkok, where they were shipped abroad, police said.

**Tsunami museum:** The Culture Ministry will soon announce an international competition to design a tsunami memorial museum to be located in the Khao Lak-Lamru National Park in Phang Nga's Takuapa district.

Apinan Poshyananda, Director of the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, said architects from more than 30 countries would be invited next month to bid for the project. The competition budget alone will be around 50 million baht; the construction budget has yet to be confirmed.

Authorities plan to lay a foundation stone for the museum

on December 26, the first anniversary of the disaster. Construction will take another year, K. Apinan said.

Critics have slammed the project as insensitive and wasteful, pointing out that many tsunami victims have yet to receive

any government compensation following the disaster.

**E-driving test:** The Land Transport Department launched a 32-million-baht computerized test for people seeking driver's licenses in Bangkok.

Deputy Transport Minister Chaivanan Charoensiri said the computerized theory test would ensure that a credible marking system was in place and would pave the way for an efficient database system.

The test is available at five Land Transport offices in Bangkok. Applicants must score at least 23 out of 30 points to qualify for the practical driving test.

"If it works well, we will request a further budget to provide computerized tests across the country," said K. Chaivanan.

**Thai copyright:** A Cambodian tourist was arrested in Bangkok's Phya Thai District cinema for recording a two-and-a-half minute segment of the hit martial arts movie *Tom Yum Goong* with his digital camera.

Dos Sop Heak told officers that he and some friends had been visiting Thailand for six weeks and had come to see the film. He said the movie was so good that he couldn't help himself and recorded parts of it to watch again later.

He said it he did not know he had broken the law by capturing footage.

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# Police probe illegal passport trade

Police officers on Koh Samui have been ordered to keep a careful eye on certain foreign-run businesses after a man was caught at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport in possession of more than 400 foreign passports.

The passports came from Belgium, France and Portugal, and the man is believed to have bought them from suppliers on Koh Samui.

The Immigration Police have launched an investigation into gangs that run such illegal activities, which could potentially harm Thailand's reputation, especially with concern about terrorism at an all-time high.

Undercover operations will follow, and the Royal Thai Police are confident that they will swiftly apprehend those responsible.

**Private patrol-performing poses prevent potential perpetrators pinching prized pos-**

**sessions, perhaps:** A sharp increase in crime on Samui is prompting local villagers to take security into their own hands. Crime has become more of a concern to the island's dwellers since a recent spate of break-ins, which are believed to be the work of gangs of professional thieves.

The burglars targeted houses in search of expensive items that are easy to sell on the black market, such as laptop computers, MP3 players and digital cameras.

The local council in Baan Bang Rak, for example, has reacted by forming security details to patrol the streets at night. These groups will apprehend and hold criminals until the police arrive. They can also be called on their mobile phones to assist in emergencies.

Likit Ruangsri, the Bang Rak village headman, organized 14 volunteers into small teams, who drive around the area stopping



Overhead power cables across the island are being upgraded.

suspicious characters and jotting down number plates.

"We have no budget for this," he said. "We are supported [in our actions] by local people and as long as there are thieves in the neighborhood, we will continue to patrol every night."

"If necessary, we are even prepared to bring criminals before the village so that people can deal with them the 'local way', but up until now we have scared away the thieves before we can catch them."

Sakchai Chaithawat, the vil-

lage chief of Baan Harn near Lamai Beach has recruited 15 local men to check the identity cards of anyone who is not known in the area.

His team also reports on the activities of migrant laborers in the area, and the patrol members are keen for people to see them as a public service.

Most local people, he said, have welcomed this new community security service, which is expected to spread rapidly to almost every village on Koh Samui.

The ethics of vigilante-style

policing may appear suspect to some, but those involved claim they are simply protecting their rights as islanders.

**Power to the people:** The Koh Samui Electricity Office recently put in a request to the Surat Thani Provincial Electricity Authority (STPEA) for the installation of higher-voltage power cables to serve the island.

Several months ago, the head of the STPEA, Phemphol Thaweesuwan, charged his team with the task of upgrading overhead power lines in preparation for the completion of a new submarine cable from the island's closest mainland port, Kanom, situated 24.5 kilometers away.

The cable that runs to Samui carries just 33,000 volts which, following the boom in tourist arrivals that followed the tsunami, proved to be insufficient, he said. The new cable will have a capacity of 115,000 volts.

K. Phemphol also explained that improvements to overhead power lines are also being made. Previously, electricity cables criss-crossed roads, and this is considered both hazardous and inefficient.

*Cdr Swan is a writer with Koh Samui's community magazine.*

## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander Sammy Swan

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## This week



**BANKING ON EDUCATION:** Superintendent Derek Forest (left), Commander of the Information Management Center (IMC) at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification center, hands bankbooks for education grant accounts to 20 students at Baan Ket-Ho School in Kathu. The students will each receive 7,000 baht a year for schooling until graduation. The funds will all be personal donations from the IMC team.



**HOT AND SPICY:** Panom Yeerum (center), better known as Tony Jaa, star of the new Thai martial arts movie *Tom Yum Goong*, and co-star Bongkot "Tuk" Kongmalai (left) present a check for 10,000 baht to Atchara Raethong, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Relations Office, to help tsunami sufferers, after a recent charity auction of their personal belongings at SFX Coliseum Cinema, in Central Festival Phuket.



**STRATEGIC SUPPORT:** On the first day of their recent 'International Lodging Business Alignment Meeting 2005' strategic planning convention at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, more than 150 Marriott executive leaders headed north to Khao Lak to lend a hand rebuilding tsunami-affected areas under the banner "Habitat for Humanity".



**GRAND DESIGNS:** (from left) John Kompa, Program Director Multimedia Design; Sasikan Intana, Education Consultant; and Cheng Kwek Loong, Executive Vice Dean, all of the Raffles Lasalle International Design School take a break during their recent meeting with the Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket Raffles Education Admission Offices at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



**BRUSHING UP:** Renowned Thai artist Prof Decha Warashoon (left) celebrates the opening of his *A Travelogue in Watercolors* art exhibition with exhibition curator Charoon Boonsuan (center), and Burasari Resort General Manager Mike Inman, at the resort's in-house art gallery. The exhibition is part of the resort's series of 'Art of Life' exhibitions, aimed at giving exposure to Thai artists.



**SERVED:** Khaled Mannann (center, in white cap), owner of the Blue Orchid and Thai Village restaurants in the UK, receives a warm 'thank you' from villagers and children in Phang Nga. Mr Mannann, his staff and customers donated a total of 400,000 baht to help provide care for children who lost their parents to the tsunami.

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The latest occupant of the recently- and frequently-vacated hotseat as Chief of the Phuket Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) is **Boonchai Somjai, 42.**

He is the fourth to hold the job, which has naturally taken on far greater significance since the tsunami.

After two months in the public eye, he speaks here with the *Gazette's* **Athiga Jundee** about the challenges he faces.



**W**ith such a high turnover among Phuket ODPM chiefs, it is not surprising that some consider the length of time Boonchai Somjai will stay in his post as more interesting than the man or the role itself.

However, such speculation, at a time when the events of December 26, 2004, are still so fresh in many minds, detracts from the importance of the office.

"I know all too well that this position is very much in the public eye and [because of the turnover of ODPM chiefs] is regarded quite poorly by the public," said K. Boonchai.

"Despite – or perhaps because of – this, I am proud to have been given this challenge because I want to solve problems that concern Phuket, which is where I was born."

K. Boonchai, who holds a master's degree in administration as well as a law degree, has worked in local government since 1988.

One of his earlier positions was as Chief District Officer (CDO) of Kraburi District, Ranong Province, and it was in that role that he had his first experience of working to minimize the effects of disasters.

"Back then, before the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation came into being, provincial governors, CDOs and municipal officers shared the responsibility for preventing and minimizing disasters on a more ad-hoc basis," he explained.

"In 1995, I took my experience to Krabi, where I was Assistant Head of the Krabi Provincial Disaster Prevention Office, as well as CDO. This was some seven years before the Ministry

of Interior formally developed the structure of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in 2002."

K. Boonchai was also a CDO in Phang Nga Province before taking up a similar position in Phuket in 2004.

"I was given my current appointment on June 16 this year, having been recommended to Sunton Riewluang, the Director of the DDPM, by Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura and Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit," he said.

"I had made a presentation to Gov Udomsak stating my interest in the post and detailing why I thought I was qualified to do it," he said. "My hands-on experience of the role and my organizational skills impressed him," he added.

While K. Boonchai did not wish to dwell on the potential disasters that Phuket faces, he explained that bitter experience

has shown that natural phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, landslides and freak meteorological conditions must be prepared for.

"We must also be aware that we could have fires, either in large buildings or in the countryside, [and we should understand that] buildings collapse, that chemicals can be spilled and that aircraft do crash."

"There is also the risk of terrorist activity, and the ODPM must plan to counter all risks to the island, whether natural, accidental or deliberate," he said.

He added that creating and maintaining public confidence in the ODPM, its abilities and the safety of the island as a whole is one of his main priorities. Raising the profile of the ODPM and explaining to the public and other government bodies how the nine-

man ODPM team functions are therefore crucial.

He acknowledged that the public has, perhaps, lost some confidence in the ODPM because of the frequent changes at the top.

"I'm a coordinator and organizer, and the demonstrable organizational skills I have are vital to getting the different departments – such as health, police, the tambon administration organizations and the municipalities – working together," he said. "From my experience, it is essential for the three provinces of Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga to have more-or-less the same disaster preparedness plans and to work in a tri-provincial way."

He reasoned that, as the provinces share many of the same geographical features and follow a similar tourism-market-

ing plan, it is the only sensible course of action.

"The duties and responsibilities of ODPMs throughout the country, were set down in a 10-point plan by the Ministry of Interior. From these all local prevention and mitigation plans are formulated."

"The 10 points range from the practical – such as arranging training exercises and dry-runs for disaster preparedness – to the more academic pursuits of research and analysis into warning and mitigation systems."

"I also have my '5M system' that I apply to my work: Materials, Management, Manpower, Money and Marketing."

"At this time, so soon after the tsunami and at the beginning of my tenure as ODPM chief, my first concerns are marketing, that is, public relations, and management," said K. Boonchai.

"I have eight staff under my control, and our team of nine seems quite small when compared with the wide remit of our work and responsibilities, but I'm not complaining."

"I have been given the task of making sure that Phuket remains safe, and I shall do that, although I admit that sometimes I become very weary and do have to face problems at work," he said.

But, he notes philosophically, "People face challenges and problems in every job."

"By facing and solving these problems – and even facing disasters – we garner more experience which in turn prepares us better for future challenges."

## A disastrous career path

**'I have been given the task of making sure that Phuket remains safe, and I shall do that, although I admit that sometimes I become very weary and do have to face problems at work.'**

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## In the Stars

by Isla Star

# Your future, right now, right here

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Guard against getting your whiskers in a twist this weekend. Someone is likely to say something that they don't mean and this could lead to an uncomfortable situation if you allow it to. Career matters are well-highlighted; your skills are more in demand than you had bargained for. Remember not to sell yourself short as others would love to get something for practically nothing. Number 7 is lucky on Monday.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You'll have more than one choice of direction – if you are ready for radical change in your life. If you're celebrating coming of age, unexpected festivities are forecast; let your hair down to release some tension. Only you know whether it's wiser to listen to your head or your heart. A romantic dilemma requires resolution before August ends.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Stand up for yourself if you are tired of playing second fiddle. Someone has become so used to using you as a sidekick that they probably don't even realize that they're doing it. This week, fresh astrological energy provides a necessary boost for you to start making some demands. On Wednesday, pay careful attention to detail before finalizing any agree-

ments. Thursday will see you basking in the sunshine of an admirer's attention.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): If you have been thinking that life is a breeze, you are about to receive a wake-up call. A series of dramatic events takes place this week, but these will be welcome – mostly. However, one sudden situation could arise requiring that you make immediate travel plans. Should this occur, make sure that you leave business affairs in trustworthy hands. Finances, in particular, need careful handling this month.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You aren't known for rocking the boat, but this week you'll be sorely tempted to do so. You will not deal well with the consequences, so stay on a familiar course. If life seems a little tedious at the moment, seek out new activities that won't land you in deep water. This is the perfect

time to indulge in a spot of contemplation to appreciate how lucky you are.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): You should refrain from accepting extra responsibility this week. There's no reason why you should do all the hard work while others sit back in the sun. The best course of action is to take a break and not worry about who will keep the home fires burning while you're gone. Tuesday is the best day to find bargain travel deals. Number 5 offers good luck on Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): A series of minor setbacks this weekend can color the week gray for you, if you let them. Call on your ability to see the bright side of life to help you to overcome this potential negativity. Avoiding friends who only want to talk about their problems will also help. Libra, in particular, would like to bend your ear on

Wednesday. Number 5 comes alive on Thursday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you crave commitment, then you will receive it before September, but you must be sure that this is what your heart truly desires. If you've been envious about a friend's good fortune, then think again and you will see that you've been dealt an enviable set of cards. Your peace of mind is priceless.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you don't want to believe that a new romance could go wrong, then expect a warning sign this week. It really is time to remove those rose-tinted shades. You will make smoother progress by setting an independent course for now. Business affairs need your focused attention for the remainder of August. Pisces springs a pleasant surprise on Monday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21):

Concentrate on planning long-term goals; immediate affairs will take care of themselves, but careful strategy is called for in order to achieve your desires. There appears to be a smokescreen surrounding a personal relationship, but signals should become clearer in September. Gemini can be trusted with a secret, but don't spill the beans anywhere around Scorpio.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): If you tire of not being able to trust others to do a good job, then you must realize that constant supervision is the only answer. Your standards are high and few people will be able to meet them. Much as you would love to take a break, this is inadvisable for the time being. Revising discarded plans could lead to a breakthrough regarding an apparently impossible project.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): You are prone to absentmindedness this week. Appointments are likely to be forgotten, so keep your diary close by at all times. Where money is concerned, take care not to get caught short on Tuesday. On a positive note, your creativity is running high and all ideas are worth noting down. Love is in the air for those who are open to Cupid's intervention. Wear earth tones to feel grounded.



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# Wearing the Penang connection

By Athiga Jundee

The parallels between Phuket and Penang run surprisingly deep. Captain Sir Francis Light of the British East India Company founded one – Penang – in 1786 and in the other he set up home with his Thai-Portuguese wife.

Penang is often referred to as “The Pearl of the Orient” while Phuket has the equally charming sobriquet of “The Pearl of the Andaman”.

There is also a sartorial connection between the two islands in the traditional dress worn by refined ladies of – generally – Chinese ancestry.

Called the *nya yah* in Thai and the *nyonya kebaya* in Baba Malay, the Straits Settlements costume is at once simple but elegant.

*Nya yah*, incidentally, is the term used for the daughter of ethnically Chinese Thais, while *nyonya* is used in Penang and other Straits Settlements.

The *nya yah* costume comprises a brightly-patterned cotton sarong, traditionally called a *pa tae* when worn as part of the



Phuketian dress with a blouse, the *seua look mai*, made from an intricately-embroidered fabric.

Essential for the costume – and to preserve the modesty of the wearer – is a bandeau made usually from a fabric that either mirrors or complements the *seua look mai*. Even the buttons of the blouse, called *kosang*, are unique to this costume.

Slippers decorated with sequins are the required footwear, while diamonds or gold jewelry – an anklet is essential – almost complete the ensemble.

The crowning glory to this understated and still-popular outfit is the lady's hair, traditionally worn in a classic bun secured with a hairpin.

The pictures on the left of this page were taken recently during a *yaya* competition staged by Phuket Rajabhat University while those above and on the right were taken when local people welcomed Miss Universe entrants when they visited Thalang Rd, Phuket City.



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# Patong? It's downright boring

Okay, so not everyone likes Patong. But most people don't make a song and dance of it. Yet some souls make an art form of disliking Sin on Sea. Take Kelly at [tblogs.bootsnall.com/kelly/archives/001705](http://tblogs.bootsnall.com/kelly/archives/001705) who manages to be caustic, funny, ridiculous and pitiful in a few paragraphs. Bill Bryson, eat your heart out.

"Ugh, ugh, ugh. This place is so boring that I actually figured out that I would rather stay in the hotel room than walk around again.

Usually when I don't have a real plan, I just walk around and look at stuff. If you did that here, all you would see is restaurant, ATM, vando, shop, bar, dive shop, store, restaurant, resort, shop, vendor, BLAH BLAH BLAH. There is ABSOLUTELY nothing interesting or cultural to see.

And, it is very, very hot. So you basically walk around, sweating through your clothes, saying NO NO NO to all the touts 'Hello, taxi?' 'Hello, you want a suit?' 'Hello, tuk-tuk?' 'Hello, come eat.' Hello! Hello! So you never even have a real interaction with people since you are always saying NO since you KNOW they are trying to sell you something.

Want to know what the world thinks of Phuket? The following are extracts from websites from all over the globe with one thing in common; the writers have all been to Phuket and recorded what they think of it.

As usual, Lis Kinswoman is not to be blamed for the quirks of the language displayed. She just rips the stuff off the Web verbatim.

But that's a whole different story. There is nothing to see! I went to the beach and held all my belongings on my shoulder in a big piece of cloth (you think I am leaving anything on the beach? Backpackers know how to NOT get things stolen. I don't feel like chancing it.)

"So I am standing in chest high water, trying to keep my bundle above water and basically just standing there. I probably did look pretty dumb.

"I start walking and GOD, is it hot. I walk and see the name of the street I want, which should lead to the beach, and I start walking. Walking, walking, walking. It is starting to not look as tourist-y. Then I see a sizeable hill coming up, and the buildings next to me are turning into shoddy huts between a few bars and occasional resort.

"There isn't a sidewalk, but only the side of the street and

when I got to the hill, piles of sand and hard dirt that I trekked on. Snow-white me, with my fake Burberry fisherman's hat and clashing plaid purse, sunglassed, sweating like a pig and walking on sandy and crusty dirt past putridly smelly garbage cans and holes in the ground and people sitting around wondering what the hell I am doing.

But I won't give up and turn around because (1) I've come so far, (2) I 'know' the beach is in this direction. I walk and walk and walk, and finally see a sign that says something in Thai and then, 'Please Come See Us Again' or something. I say out loud, What? I look at the back of the sign and it says, Welcome to Patong.

"Ok, so I guess I was on the edge of Patong or something? I

walk to a business and ask a lady where I am, she shows me, and says, do you want a taxi? It was 100 Baht. I totally did NOT want to pay that much, but I couldn't imagine walking back. I was so thirsty and sweaty. So I accepted and the taxi ride took a whole 3 minutes back. Whoopdeedo."

**Something completely different:** Of all the adjectives used to describe Patong on the Internet I have never come across "beautiful" before, so feast your eyes on the words of a *bona fide* Patong enthusiast.

"I visited Patong Beach during the day to take in the sights and at night to sample the raucous, legendary night life.

"This is one of the great party spots of the world. It has been featured on "Wild on E" travel show along with profiles of Nice, Ibiza, Rio... I found that Patong Beach exceeded the TV reports of its festive atmosphere: It was insane. A showplace of beautiful people doing outrageous things. It was warm, the music was throbbing in the street with an odd medley of Euro-trance, ambient, dance, hip-hop and Asian

rhythms. The streets were packed. The food was hot, spicy, fresh and delicious." [bikesportmichigan.com/editorials/0000074](http://bikesportmichigan.com/editorials/0000074)


**Clean me up, clean me down:** "Alexander Downer [Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who visited the island in January] might have flown into Phuket this week to see the disaster zone first-hand, but that didn't stop the locals trying to put on their best face for the visiting dignitary.


"About half an hour before Downer was due to visit Patong beach in Phuket, hordes of military hit the area with brooms and bulldozers commencing a clean-up operation that had otherwise been ignored.

"The Foreign Minister observed the clean-up, which was captured on film by the news crews travelling with him. Reporters who stayed on afterwards were surprised to see the cleaning stopped within 15 minutes of Downer's departure.

"It was the same story at City Hall ... where tables of food, fruit and water that had been set up for those in need were cleared away so that the area looked a bit more spick-and-span for Downer. — [mh.com.au/news/Sauce/Those-lazy-hazy-crazy-days-ofsummer/2005/01/07/11](http://mh.com.au/news/Sauce/Those-lazy-hazy-crazy-days-ofsummer/2005/01/07/11)


## OUTSIDE IN By Lis Kinswoman





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# Poo's peace of paradise

**Spa  
MAGIC**

By Sam Wilkinson

**Poo's Palm  
Sauna and  
Massage**

If you were around Chalong way seven years ago you'd no doubt have frequented or at the very least noticed a shophouse bar called "Poo's Beach".

The unique selling point of this popular watering hole was that the floor was under several inches of sand, giving customers the authentic feel of drinking a seaside brew but without the sand flies, sunburn, temporary tattoo hawkers and bright red men in tight Speedos calling their dogs in Tirol Deutsch.

Poo has since moved a kilometer further south to Soi Suksan (also known as the Chalong bypass) off Vichit Road and opened a sauna and massage called – you've guessed it – Poo's Palm Sauna and Massage.

As in Poo's Beach, the triumverate of Poo, Kik and Lee, sisters all, still run the show. Cousins and children abound, giving the place a comfortable family feel.

More than a sauna, more than a massage parlor, Poo's is a gathering place for those seeking a bit of peace and quiet on their own terms.

Some people arrive at 10 in the morning and leave at 6 in the evening and on weekends families come to hang out, occasionally nipping in for a quick herbal

The hands-on manner of Poo (below) and her sisters ensures that Palm Sauna and Massage retains a friendly, family feel.



A one-hour body scrub for 380 baht? Just add beer – or a plate of curry – for even more enjoyment.



Individual massage bungalows, as with everything else at Poo's, allow the visitor to get away from it all. It is little wonder that people keep on going back.



sauna (50 baht) or a 20-minute facial scrub (100 baht).

The relaxed atmosphere is evident once you stroll past the communal massage beds into the wide open spaces of the back garden.

There, you'll find changing rooms, a sauna, individual mas-

sage "bungalows", a bar and a very friendly dog called Bongo.

After the sometimes clunky corporate angle of hotel spas, this is sheer heaven.

I mean, can you imagine ordering an ice cold beer or a plate of curry in a top-notch hotel health establishment?

The therapists would go into shock, the poor darlings.

Poo's is probably the only sauna and massage location on the island that features parties. There was even a wedding celebrated there – it must have been a hot and sloppy one, with essential oils and a lot of wet sarongs – and it is the preferred hangout for many a Kata professional eager to get away from the pressures of wheeling and dealing in the tourism industry.

With that much going for it, you'd think that the place would cost a whole lot more than average, but no – prices are incredibly reasonable with a one-hour Thai massage for 250 baht, a body scrub for 380 baht and an oil massage for only 300 baht.

Poo herself points out that she purposely keeps her prices low to keep her regulars, a mutually beneficial strategy that works beautifully.

And it gets better. There are absolutely no tour buses allowed;

an arrangement that attracts and adheres regular customers like ants to honey.

If you want to have your hair braided (not much of an option for guys over 40, admittedly) Lee will handle that, and if you're not a long-distance sauna freak you can nip in and out of the herbal steam – as we did – while all the time maintaining a conversation with your friends or, if you don't have any, with Bongo the dog.

If you want isolation, choose one of the bungalows for your massage or scrub. Or simply have a beer, a fruit shake and a chat.

That's the beauty of Poo's Palm Sauna & Massage: it's whatever you want it to be. On your own terms entirely.

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## After DARK

by Sam Wilkinson

# Crocodile Rocking

It's been a while since I was last in Patong. Soi Bangla has not changed that much. There are still the same old pushy ladyboys and touchy-feely girls.

Also still there are gentlemen of dubious character inviting perplexed punters to women-only table tennis tournaments, or something or other to do with girls and ping pong balls. Now that the street is traffic-free at night, it's marginally quieter, too.

People say it's a zoo on Bangla, so it's fitting that in the many bars along the strip tourists slurp Tiger, Chang and Singha beers and that the three biggest crowd pleasers in the neighborhood are the Tiger, Tai Pan and Crocodile discos.

We wander into Crocodile to chat with the manager, Robin Lee. Robin's Singaporean and an ex-military man; an unlikely combination in this libertine neck of the woods, but it's obvious that he loves his work and that he's a bit of a liberal himself.

Crocodile is at the end of a beer bar stretch that leaves one congratulating oneself on actually making it, there are that many sultry temptresses on the way in.

"No fire-arms allowed" seems to be the most stringent rule at the door where security is friendly, but firm. In fact they were all smiles as we emptied our bags and pockets of a variety of semi-automatics, a Winchester rifle and a couple of AK-47s (I left the RPG at home) so that we



Take a break – you've earned it: some of the local lovelies rest their thangs between dances.

could join in the fun, guilt- and weapon-free. And they didn't even ask me if I was over 20, either.

The first thing to say about Crocodile is that its cavernous size works for it. There are stalactites hanging from the ceiling and croc motifs abound. Upstairs is a good vantage point to catch the twice-monthly live music and there is plenty of room to duck and dive on the sidelines if you don't want in-your-face action on the dance floor.

The next thing to say is that it's cheap. At the moment there's a three-beers-for-100-baht promotion if you bring a printout of the offer found on the Crocodile

website. There's not a nightspot within miles that can come near that deal, so the place is pumping while others languish in the early evening.

Local deejays Lek and Wing keep the party moving along with a happy blend of hip-hop, Thai pop and remixed oldies. At one point we were shuffling along to Vanilla Ice's *Ice Ice Baby* (surely you remember...). I won-

der how Queen and Bowie felt about that obvious – what they call nowadays – "sample"? At the very least, it must have put them under pressure.

Apparently, the boys play the type of music that floats the girls' boats and yes, there were lots of lovelies on the dance floor, all shaking their thang.

Crocodile doesn't have an anti-katoey policy so among all

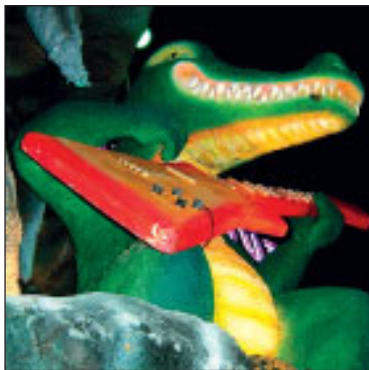
those pretty faces there are a few late-night surprises and, guess what? It's up to you to tell the difference, but be warned, in the semi-darkness things can get risky for those who like to party with their beer goggles firmly on.

It has to be said though, that the volume is cardiac-adjusting so breaking any conversational ground other than "Wannanuther beer?" or maybe "Excuse me but did you know that your hair is on fire?" can be a little difficult. Still, if you fancy a "quiet" game of pool you can always head upstairs.

Things begin to get going between 10 pm and 11 pm and are roaring by one o'clock. Mostly, Crocodile is frequented by the 20-30 age group but in Patong, as everyone knows, there are no hard and fast rules and the Peter Pan syndrome is alive and well.

Basing his strategy on the "people don't want to go into an empty place so let's drop the prices and pack 'em in" school, Robin is succeeding in his quest for dominance over his feline and reptilian Patong rivals.

The offer for the beers can be found at [www.phuketdir.com/crocodiledisco](http://www.phuketdir.com/crocodiledisco)



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| <b>บฉ 7196</b><br>ภูเก็ต<br>Blue Isuzu D-max     | <b>ก 0957</b><br>ภูเก็ต<br>Black Mazda               | <b>ชฉ 3404</b><br>กรุงเทพฯ<br>Blond Chevrolet |

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a two-night stay for two in a deluxe double room (accommodation only) at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Patong; or a round-trip ticket to Singapore on SilkAir; or a buffet lunch for two at The Metropole Hotel Phuket.

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# Mapmaker's wife gets lost in book

After reading *The Mapmaker's Wife* (Basic Books, New York, 2004, 352pp), I felt like the victim of a literary bait-and-switch scam. I thought I would be reading an account of an 18th century Peruvian woman's epic 3,000-mile trek through the Amazon to be reunited with her French husband in French Guiana whom she hadn't seen in 20 years. The portrait of Isabel Godin adorns the front cover and the subtitle reads: "A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the Amazon".

Chapter One is called "A Sunday in 1769" and describes Isabel's departure from her hometown of Riobamba along with a party of 42: two brothers and a nephew, various family retainers, and 21 Indian porters.

"She had stepped from her house that morning looking as though she were planning an evening at a lively dance," writes author Robert Whitaker. "She wore a light-colored dress that billowed out from her waist, dainty cotton shoes, several silver bracelets, and two gold neck-

laces. Her appearance reflected who she was: a Riobamban woman who had lived all of her adult life in this village, rarely travelling far from home and enjoying the luxuries that came with being part of the elite class in colonial Peru. She was forty-two years old, a little plump, and the first streaks of white could be seen in her coal-black hair. She, like the other women of Riobamba, had simply dressed up for the occasion.

"... She was carried aloft in a sedan chair, the Indian porters having been given orders to jostle her as little as possible."

The next time we return to Isabel and her journey into the Amazon is 225 pages later. The tale of the trip itself takes up only the concluding 64 pages.

What's in between? Well, an awful lot of filler.

Suddenly we're back 35 years before Isabel's journey amid a raging scientific debate about the nature of gravity between followers of René Descartes and Isaac Newton. The proof would be that Newton's estimation of the earth's shape,

flattened at the poles and fattened at the equator, is correct. To find out, an expedition of French scientists is dispatched to the Peruvian Andes in 1735 to take measurements at the equator.

Most of the book follows the journal written by one of the leaders, Charles-Marie de La Condamine. The French team suffers incredible hardships in the mountains over the course of its arduous six-year expedition, but emerges triumphant with the right Newtonian data.

"La Condamine and the others may have been deeply flawed human beings – often vain, fractious, and petty – but they have proven themselves to be men of resolve and courage, Enlightenment scientists through and through," Whitaker writes.

When the eminent scientists return home to France to great acclaim, their assistants are left in Peru to fend for themselves. La Condamine's assistant, Jean Godin, married Isabel Grameson in 1741 and pursued a rather unsuccessful business career in partnership with Isabel's eminent family.

Following colonial custom, Isabel was cloistered in a convent school at the age of six. She emerged at 13 to marry Jean Godin.

It wasn't the wisest of choices. Godin comes across as hopelessly feckless. When he finally decides to return to France, he picks the Amazon route followed by his master La Condamine.

But he decides to do it alone to test the waters and then come all the way back and fetch Isabel. He winds up stranded in French Guiana for two decades, dabbling in business and imperial intrigue. He never seems to have

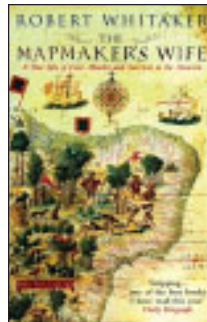
thought of fetching his wife via the overland route through Colombia.

Finally we're back at the point of Isabel's departure. Deserted by its Indian guides, the party is marooned on a sandbar. A few set out for help and when they return everyone is dead. Isabel is the sole survivor.

After wandering the jungle for nearly two months, she is rescued, barely alive, by two Indian couples who happen to stop by on the riverbank.

These final 60 pages are truly a thrilling read, ending with Isabel reunited with her husband and boarding a ship for France.

It would make for a great magazine story. But not a whole book.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

## Wordly wise

"The police are likely to be the center of criticism on human rights violations, partly because the nature of their work brings them close to the public. Yes, there are some bad policemen, but not that many.

"Some of them are good but use bad means to deal with criminals, for instance making them disappear instead of applying the judicial process."

– Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, speaking on August 6 at his administration's first workshop on human rights, as quoted the following day in *The Nation* newspaper.

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the Fun Page  
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## Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



## Brain Buster!!

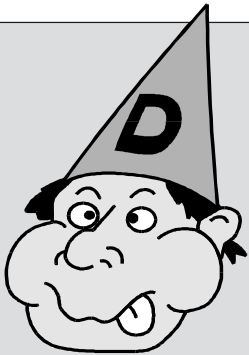
One of the triplets left muddy footprints all over the kitchen floor. Since all three wear the same size shoes, Mom and Dad can't tell which triplet should be told to clean up the floor. "I didn't do it," says Annie. "Danny did it," says Fanny. "Fanny is lying," says Danny. Only one of the triplets is telling the truth – the other two are lying. Who muddied the floor?

A: Annie.

### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Samuel L. Jackson; 2. The Czech Republic; 3. *The Call of the Wild*; 4. They have all played TV weather forecasters (To Die For; Groundhog Day; LA Story; Snow Day); 5. Winning the Nobel Prize for Literature; 6. Whitehorse; 7. "I am."; 8. Diana Ross; 9. 1939; 10. The Berlin Wall; 11. Nynorsk and Bokmål; 12. The Cowboy Junkies; 13. Types of cheese; 14. General Charles de Gaulle; 15. The Russian Federation Air Force; 16. Benin; 17. Australian science fiction; 18. Beyond Good & Evil; 19. Ingmar Bergman; 20. Pete Best.

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Get 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. Is a campanile a type of tent, a tower or a flower?

2. The *Priz* class AS-28 has been in the news recently. Why?

3. Who was the 23<sup>rd</sup> President of the US, born August 20, 1833?

4. Which two NASA programs were launched August 20, 1975 and 1977?

5. France's Third Republic began and ended when?

6. In which year was the board game Monopoly patented?

7. Moving anticlockwise from "Go" in the British version of Monopoly,
- which is the first street one lands on?

8. How much does it cost to buy the title deed for this street?

9. What, according to Edmund Burke, is The Fourth Estate?

10. Which South American city is found at 23° 32' 36" S, 46° 37' 59" W?

11. Who directed the movie *The Fifth Element*?

12. Where would one find Igloolik Airport?

13. *Symphony No. 9 in E minor* by Antonín Dvořák is better known by what subtitle?

14. The arshin, an Iranian unit
- of length, equates to how many centimeters?

15. H5N1 is more commonly known as what?

16. *Community Service II* is a recent release by which electro duo?

17. Fictional US NSA agent Sam Fisher is the main character of which video game series?

18. Who wrote the pioneering online novel 253 (*Tube Theatre*)?

19. "Emo", as used to describe a music genre, is short for what?

20. What is the Havok Devilock?

Answers next week

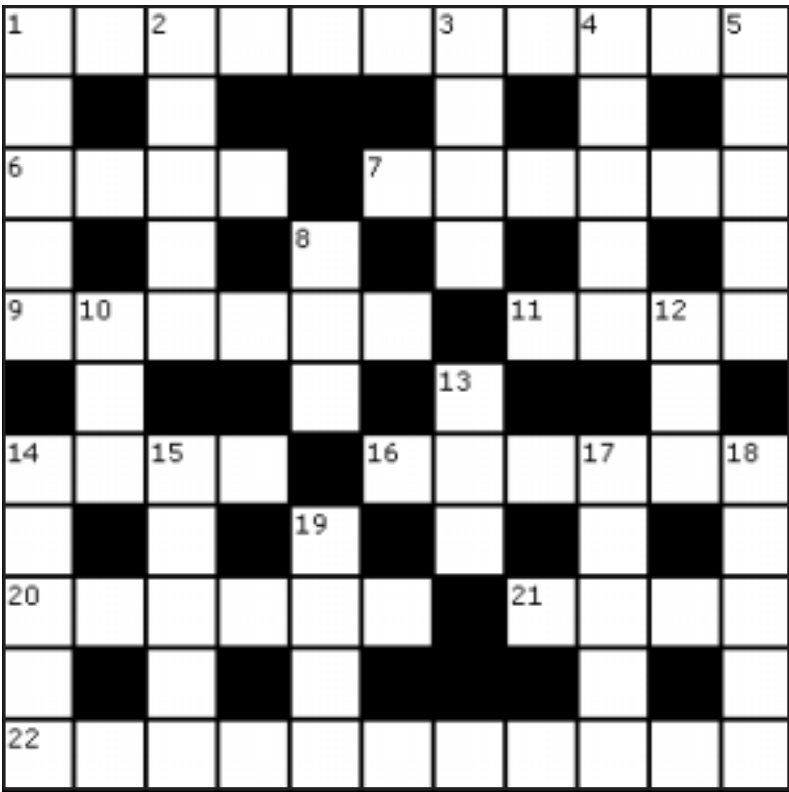
## Never a Cross Word!

### ACROSS

1. Deadly mosquito-borne disease (6,5).  
6. Equipment for a sailor or a mountaineer.  
7. Plagued with bad luck.  
9. In the spectrum, between orange and green.  
11. A really handy computer command.  
14. Not pretty.  
16. Olive Oyl's boyfriend.  
20. Fastest-growing plant.  
21. It usually has a wheel on each end.  
22. The Low Countries.

### DOWN

1. Unclean.  
2. Kathmandu is its capital.  
3. Fencing sword.  
4. Female fox.  
5. Cowboy competition.  
8. A small part of the machine.  
10. Omelet essential.  
12. 86,400 seconds.  
13. Neither's partner.  
14. Of the city.  
15. Boundary.  
17. Major oil company.  
18. Not odds.  
19. Symbol of peace.



### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD



Solution next week



# KEEP ON RUNNING

I wonder why the Immigration Bureau of the Royal Thai Police bears that particular name? It's a bureau to be sure, and a fine one at that – after all, it has enough forms, rubber stamps, ink blotters and the other paraphernalia of bureaucracy to make its paper-pushing peers from the Interior Ministry green with envy.

What makes me wonder is the term "Immigration", defined by my dictionary as "migration into a place, especially migration to a country of which you are not a native in order to settle there."

One would think that, with the name Immigration Bureau, the agency would be in the business of facilitating immigration, or at least dealing with it in a sensible fashion.

Instead, the agency's regulations make it virtually impossible for any working-age, law-abiding foreigner (ie, one unwilling to pay bribes) to settle here and be given residency status or, God forbid, Thai nationality. This is why I think the agency would more accurately be called the "Anti-Immigration Bureau".

I was considering all the regulatory roadblocks on my last visa run, during which I was nearly decapitated when our small Suzuki jeep, traveling at high speed through the darkness, hit a tree that had fallen across the road in the middle of the night.

Why do I have to go through all this, I wondered, and just who benefits from the fact that I do?

North American and European countries have four seasons in a year, or one every three months. Isn't it strange that, thanks to Immigration, foreigners from those countries who "settle" here can just

as easily measure the passage of time in three-month increments?

Time in Thailand for a foreigner is measured not by the falling of leaves, a blanket of snow, or by the arrival of spring flowers – but rather by an endless series of expensive, dangerous and time-consuming trips to the border.

According to a report in *The Nation*, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has said he is planning to overhaul Immigration in order to stem the human trafficking that goes on at border points, which he admits is facilitated by unscrupulous officials.

There is also talk that Immigration's duties at border checkpoints will soon be given to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, taking the police out of the equation altogether.

That is an appealing thought, because with a new agency in control, maybe the current regulations will get a review – and perhaps even change.

But don't hold your breath; the country's entry and exit points are among the sweetest of honey pots and police reportedly pay big bribes for the right to be posted to them. They won't be given up without a fight.

## Stool Pigeon



Pfizer's witty billboard in Kathu has been replaced with one that features a flushing toilet.

**Good news:** Assault victim Chatchai "Ghee" Ritchohor, who was head-butted by a Scotsman after a Patong Darts League match on July 5 (see Stool Pigeon article of July 23), is making a slow but steady recovery.

About three weeks ago he was discharged from Wachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors pulled him out of a coma by performing emergency surgery to his

head to reduce swelling inside his cranium.

To help his breathing they also gave him a tracheostomy tube, which was removed before he returned home. He is now being cared for by his long-time girlfriend Supin "Sar" Reuang-alam in their Patong home.

K. Ghee is also regaining his ability to speak, though he is undergoing speech therapy and is still forgetful. He is still too weak to walk, but has some control over all of his limbs – another good sign.

K. Sar thinks he will be able to start walking well enough to start going outside in about a month. After a long delay that likely allowed his attacker to flee the country, the police have issued a warrant for the Scotsman's arrest, meaning that if they do their job and notify Immigration, the Scotsman will be arrested if he tries to re-enter the country.

**Performance enhancing drugs:** The billboard for Pfizer Corp, makers of Viagra, featuring the clever legend "Taking a fake drug is a dead end", has disappeared from its strategic location near the Thung Thong police checkpoint on Phra Barami Rd, just before the road begins to rise up Mount Mayhem, aka Patong Hill.

I always liked the way the huge ad had been erected right next to two enormous mobile-phone relay towers. Whether intentional or not, it was a nice phallic touch.

Does the sign's removal mean that reports claiming Viagra makes you go blind have taken their financial toll? Have the illegal drugs taken over? Has Cialis horned its way into the market, causing Viagra to get stiffed?

More enigmatic is the new ad now plastered onto the same billboard – from American Standard, featuring a flushing toilet. Is that some sort of comment on the current state of tourism?

# Booze rules a pretty rum do

Pattaya Mayor Nibblemey Watchamacallit recently issued a press release informing local media of a memo sent to his office by Interior Minister Be-bop-alula Shesmybaby.

The memo noted that the government of Fearless Leader has decided to introduce further sweeping reforms designed to curb underage drinking, drug taking and motorbike racing.

The aim is to funnel the energies of Thai youth toward more wholesome and morally uplifting activities such as macramé and animal husbandry.

Because of its reputation as a den of iniquity, and because of the desire of Fearless Leader and his cronies to annoy low-quality tourists – also known as the local expat population – Pattaya has been chosen as the first center for social engineering.

As a first step the strict regulation of the hours businesses are able to sell alcohol to the public will be introduced. The rules for the selling of alcoholic substances over the counter in supermarkets, corner stores, 7-Elevens and Family Marts are:

- No alcohol may be bought by anyone, other than extremely influential persons, between the hours of midday and 2 pm and from 5 pm until 7 pm.

Outside of those hours, alcohol may be bought only by persons who fit the following profiles.

- Males more than 175 centimeters in height and weighing between 65 and 84 kilograms and females less than 160cm in height and weighing from 42 to 58.5kg are permitted to buy a maximum of three bottles of beer and two bottles of whisky (but not Black Label) between 8 am and 11:55 am. Weight machines must be installed in all places selling alcoholic substances. Approved machines are currently produced by the Getoffmeyou-fatbastard Co, a subsidiary of Fearless Leader Corp.

- Males over 160cm in height but less than 175cm and weighing between 50 and 64kg and females over 160cm in height but less than 175cm and weighing between 59 and 88kg may buy two bottles of imported beer and a bottle of gin between 8 am and 11:55 am.

- At any time between 2:01 pm and 4:59 pm, a maximum of six bottles of beer, two bottles of

vodka and a can of paint stripper may be bought by people suffering male-pattern baldness or able to show they have recently had either a hair transplant or own more than six pairs of Bermuda shorts. This includes females.

- From 7:01 pm until 9 pm no alcohol may be bought by persons dressed in mini-skirts shorter than 6cm above the knee (or 8cm if the person is male or of indeterminate gender) or by people with beards, mustaches or ponytails. This includes females.

- Between 9:01 pm and midnight purchases of

alcohol are restricted to amputees (although they must not have lost more than one limb) who can prove ownership of a late-model pickup truck registered either in Nong Khai or Lopburi and who have not been resident in Pattaya for more than six months and can show they have been married at least three times. Anybody suspected of deliberately losing a limb in order to obtain these benefits is liable to prosecution.

- No Catholics, Hispanics, gypsies or shoe-shine boys are

permitted to buy more than one small bottle of Singha at any one time and then only if they are wearing the appropriate badge issued by the Department of Alien Registration.

Any of the above found outside of their registered place of residence and not wearing their badge will have their alcohol confiscated and a mark will be made in their passport.

The government feels these measures will be sufficient to achieve a number of aims. First and foremost, by wrapping this bureaucratic red tape in an even more Kafkaesque package than normal it will annoy almost every foreigner living in Pattaya and may well encourage many of these lesser forms of life to leave for greener pastures. Cambodia is welcome to them (although the pastures aren't greener because of rapacious logging – but that's another story).

Second, the amount of paperwork involved in maintaining this new system will be enormous and therefore government invest-

ments in new plantations will reap wonderful profits for those canny investors who saw the financial benefits of investing with Fearless Leader Corp and its subsidiary, the Chopitdown Management Collective Co (Pty) all those years ago.

Third, the bureaucracy needed to administer these new regulations will be cumbersome and open to full-blown corruption. This will mean the government will need to employ thousands of personnel to oversee the management of the system and these people will be so grateful for their jobs they will vote for the Thais Love Toxins party for the rest of their lives.

Of course, the rules are applicable only to the ordinary public and foreigners. People with special Thais Love Toxins Party ID cards (distributed to influential persons as well as big party donors and relatives of Fearless Leader) are exempt from the rules. Besides, few of them ever wear mini-skirts shorter than 6cm above the knee.

The aim is to funnel the energies of Thai youth towards more wholesome and morally uplifting activities such as macramé and animal husbandry.

FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA  
By Duncan Stearn





## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

In recent years safety has become more of a consideration for car manufacturers, a selling point even. This is partly to do with the determined efforts of the European New Car Assessment Program (EuroNCAP) which is run independently under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the body that governs motor racing.

EuroNCAP was the creation of FIA president Max Mosley, and its current chairman is Professor Claes Tingvall, one of the world's leading experts on accident investigations. The Swedish professor said late last year, in an impassioned speech at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, "The killing has got to stop!"

He was referring to the fact that, in Europe, five people a day die and 115 are seriously injured in motor accidents. He went on, "Car manufacturers have had the ability to save this pain and suffering for years – but have chosen not to do so."

Despite these assertions, it is comforting to know that cars are becoming safer for their occupants. It has long been an industry adage that a small car is never as safe as a larger one, but with improvements in materials and the addition of greater built-in safety features, small cars such as the Ford Focus and the Mazda3 are now achieving respectable scores in many of the EuroNCAP tests.

The Audi A6, a mid-sized executive car, recently achieved top scores in its tests, with a five-star rating – the maximum awarded – in occupant protection crash tests. In the US, the Audi was awarded the highest rating of "double best pick" by the authoritative Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

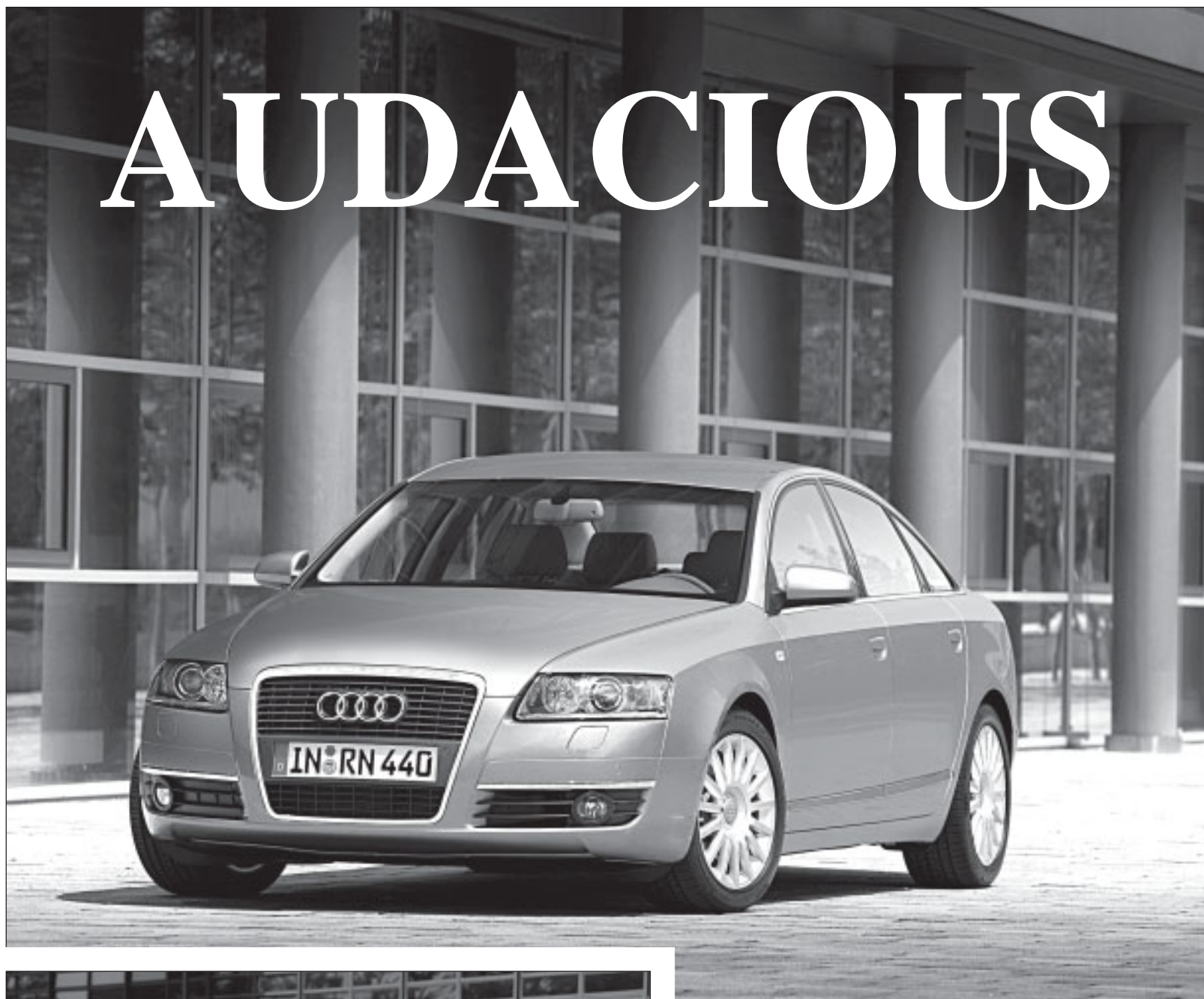
The side impact test is a particularly challenging part of the IIHS tests, with vehicles striking a moving barrier at a speed of 50kmh. The barrier is shaped to resemble the front end of a pickup or SUV.

Following the tests, frontal and side-impact damage, structural deformation, as well as the kinematics and biomechanical stresses to which occupants would have been subjected, are carefully evaluated.

The similar side-impact test in Europe is of particular significance in Germany, where more than half of the major injuries in road accidents occur where a car hits a pole or a tree.

The A6 is a particularly stylish auto that, for some reason, has never achieved the sales success it deserves.

There is a wide choice of engines, both gasoline and diesel, but the most popular is the two-



The Audi A6 is stylish, and safe too – yet it has, for some reason, not sold as well as it should have.

liter TDI, an economical and ecologically-efficient four-cylinder diesel. All diesel motors are now fitted with highly competent particulate filters, making them among the cleanest engines in the world.

Although the Audi scored the maximum five stars in the EuroNCAP frontal- and side-impact tests, it was rated less highly in terms of pedestrian safety, as is often the case with larger vehicles.

It is unfortunate that cars that achieve high ratings in frontal- and side-impact tests rarely score well in the pedestrian safety scores.

This is particularly true of luxury SUVs, such as the Volvo XC90 and BMW's X5. Both scored high (five stars each) in impact tests, yet because of their

height and bulk achieved relatively poor ratings in pedestrian safety – the BMW getting only one star, the Volvo two.

In terms of assessing the ratings, research demonstrates that cars with a three- or four-star impact score are up to 30% safer for their occupants than a car with only two stars. Regrettably, no vehicle to date has achieved the maximum four stars in pedestrian safety.

At the same 2004 conference at the Bernabeu Stadium, a British authority on road safety, former Transport Minister David Jamieson, said, "It is encouraging that we are seeing more cars achieving three stars for pedestrian protection, although the majority are still only receiving one star.

"I would urge manufactur-

ers to implement improvements in pedestrian protection ahead of the European Standards which will soon take effect."

You can check the ratings of your own vehicle at [www.euroncap.com/index.php](http://www.euroncap.com/index.php)

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## Tailor-made solution

Karon Municipality is correct to take action against tailor shops that continue to employ aggressive touts, many of whom are known to be illegal aliens from India and Nepal (see news section).

The *Gazette* regularly receives letters of complaint from exasperated tourists about the high-pressure tactics and unfair practices used by such touts in Kata-Karon; the problem is even worse in Patong, where there are far more touts than in the 144 shops registered in Karon.

While there is no law that specifically makes it illegal to solicit business in public places, officials wanting to put an end to this very real threat to tourism have a number of options at their disposal. The most obvious method, and the one that Karon Municipality has correctly chosen to employ, is to enforce existing labor and immigration laws.

While there are hundreds – if not thousands – of people involved in tailoring businesses on the island, one hardly ever meets them on the organized to-the-border “visa runs” that most law-abiding foreign residents have to undertake in order to remain in the country legally.

This would seem to indicate that many of these touts are not only flouting immigration laws, but doing so in the most blatant way possible. Simple passport inspections would probably be enough to clear the streets of illegal touts overnight, but reports of such checks are few – perhaps indicating that powerful influences are involved in their protection.

Even if these touts are in the country legally, they must be working illegally if they are involved in either garment making or “hawking”, both listed among the occupations restricted to Thais under the Alien Occupation Act of 1973.

The fact that Tambon Karon alone has 144 tailor shops is worrying, even if many of the shops are only sales outlets and the actual tailoring work is done by a third party. One has to wonder how, with so much competition, any of them can make a profit.

Most touts are not bad people – considering how many of them there are, few seem to be implicated in serious crimes. It is also unfair to portray the entire tailoring industry in a negative way based on the sales tactics employed by some shops.

However, the threat posed to tourism by aggressive touts is real and needs to be dealt with.

Karon Municipality is giving its tailor shops plenty of advance warning and a more-than-generous chance to reform.

Let us hope that other local administrations on the island, particularly Patong, choose to follow their lead.

– The Editor

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## Letters

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

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

### Effective regulation on the roads is vital

My wife and I recently decided to stay a month in Phuket City – we have been to Phuket many times before – to look for some business opportunities.

But we were surprised to notice that conditions on the roads have worsened. Frankly, the disorder left us incredulous and disgusted.

Firstly, there are undisciplined motorcyclists who ride on the wrong side of the road, transporting up to four passengers (most of them students or children) with only the driver wearing a helmet.

Then there are motorcyclists who stop their vehicles three meters past the stop line at lights and under the impassive sight of the policeman on duty at the intersection, creating delays.

Motorcyclists who, at intersections, ride on the right side of cars, create problems, making right turns extremely dangerous, not to mention those that run red lights.

But more than the disorder, it's the arrogance of the riders that shows a simple ignorance.

And what about the three-wheelers? Apart the fact that this kind of vehicle is illegal, have you ever noticed the problems they create and how they threaten the safety of other vehicles?

Why do the police let them circulate or better yet, why not regulate when and where they are allowed on the roads?

Car drivers are no saints either; they don't respect traffic signs and often pull out into traffic, ignoring approaching cars. Then there are those who drive parallel to the queue for the red

light, having no intention of turning, therefore blocking the turning vehicles' way.

Can the traffic authorities explain why people in Phuket have to drive their kids right up to the school gates, causing delays for everyone else? Why don't their children use buses to travel to school?

Judging from the traffic in Phuket, perhaps Thailand is not yet ready to be a modern country.

Olaf  
By email

### Small businesses need help now

Our group of eight has just returned from three wonderful weeks in Bangkok and Phuket. We were impressed with the development going on in both areas, but more so in Phuket where private enterprise ventures are going ahead in leaps and bounds.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for what I assume are “government” responsibilities, such as the restoration of the beach landscape.

Also, I was saddened to learn that many small business operators, such as food vendors on the beaches, were not able to claim money through the various tsunami funds set up to assist people to re-establish their lives, as these operations were not considered to be small businesses.

If the beach vendors are not small business operators, then I am at a loss to know who is.

This interpretation has been applied by a set of bureaucrats who have no understanding of the fantastic service that these small business operators provided for beachgoers.

A drink or a snack on the

beach is one of Phuket's unique features. Do not kill it off.

To the bureaucrats who control the release of tsunami relief funds, I simply ask that you get out of your offices and look at what is happening in the real world, on the beaches.

John Dedman  
Perth

### Man, not dogs, has ruined wildlife

Clearly the writer of the letter “Top Dog given pounding” [*Gazette*, issue of August 6] knows nothing about animals.

Dogs have been bred by man and are not hunters. They rely totally on us and on scavenging through rubbish which in turn does reduce the number of rodents.

Cats, on the other hand, are natural hunters and may have had an effect on wildlife here as elsewhere.

However by far the greatest impact [on wildlife] has been the greed of man, whether that of tin miners, rubber-plantation owners, shrimp farmers, poachers or property developers, none of whom gave or gives a thought to anything other than profit.

The conference held recently in Singapore was about training and sharing information. The fact that some local people (who, incidentally, are working to rid the island of strays in a humane way) were also honored is something islanders should be proud of, not snipe at.

It will be interesting to see what wildlife does take the place of the stray dogs and cats when they are eventually removed.

If, as I suspect it will be, it

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



## Letters

is a large increase in the number of snakes and rodents in Phuket, I wonder if the writer will then be screaming to bring back the cats and dogs?

Margaret Simmons  
Phuket

### Dogged by biting satire

Charles McBride [*Gazette*, issue of August 6] is right to make a link between the lack of wildlife on Phuket and the number of stray dogs here.

Indeed, as I drive around Phuket, it is dogs that I see cutting down yet another swathe of jungle. It is hounds that roam the island laying piece after piece of concrete.

I noticed how they stripped Nai Harn Lake of its shrubbery and reconstructed the lake so it now gives home to wildlife that can nestle safely in the dying grass.

I have also heard that stray dogs are responsible for gibbon poaching and hence the depletion of the gibbon population.

I thought it had something to do with the 250,000-plus people living in Phuket, but I see now that I was wrong.

Damn those dogs for the island's wildlife eradication.

S Heaney  
Phuket

### Plea from Penang for information

As a researcher from Penang, I am intrigued by the many connections between Penang and Phuket.

Phuket folks have told me a wealth of stories about old Phuket Town and the Baba community.

Ian Morson's book, published by the Siam Society, details the connection between Phuket, Penang and Adelaide through Francis Light and Martinha Rozells.

However, I have not made any headway in finding out what happened to the Phuket Eurasians after the bulk of them moved to Penang.

The Catholics of Phuket relocated to Penang in two phases. The first group moved with [Captain] Francis Light and Martinha Rozells in the 1780s, and established the Church of the Assumption.

After the Burmese invaded Phuket in 1809, the Catholic church of Phuket moved *en masse* to Penang and established what is now the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

I notice an old Assumption Church in Phuket near the Old Town and I would like to hear from anyone who might know the history of this church and the cemetery.

Can any of your readers help?

Khoo Salma Nasution  
Penang

# Redevelopment confusion reigns

**A**fter the tsunami, we heard that we would get some 600 million baht to redevelop Patong, building up our hopes that the area would enjoy a new, luxurious image – that the polluted Patong would be cleaned up. We thought our bad luck would be followed by good.

With the TAT's original budget of 600 million baht for the landscape redevelopment project, a lot could have been done to make Patong beautiful.

In the end, the budget was cut to 194.7 million baht. We still see this as a good opportunity – it is better than nothing. That amount of money is still enough to beautify the beach, the public areas and the surrounding roads.

We do not want any more buildings. We need to develop what Patong already has, and organize it better.

First, we need more systematic ways of using the beach area: for example, the same color of umbrellas and the registration of entrepreneurs in the beach area, such as the masseuses, manicurists and so on. And we need bus stops and a public park for people to bring children to play or relax in.

I have heard from a member of Parliament that the TAT has plans for public toilets, towers, and a security office. We don't need all that.

We need to develop a panoramic landscape, pleasing to the eye. Under the present budget, the TAT could do it well and make Patong beautiful. However, if they focus on constructing new buildings, not even 200 million or 300 million baht will be enough.

Second, on the roadside and sidewalks now, we have unlicensed kiosks and touts. We need those areas cleared and revamped so people can walk along them free of obstructions and harassment.

More car parking spaces would be good – they would be convenient for tourists.



Thirdly, we need to improve garbage collection and water systems and we still need to have the power cables moved underground. Whatever agency might handle that, it would be good for Patong.

Neither the municipal government nor the TAT has held formal information sessions with local residents. We have tried and tried to voice our opinions and tell them what the Patong community needs, but it has made no difference. They do not inform us. If they do not keep us updated, we will have to chase them to find out how their development plans are progressing.

We may have to continue to turn to the media for help.

Sometimes other villages complain that Patong seems to be doing comparatively well after the tsunami, but I would like to point out that the source of our so-called success is not the govern-

ment. Even the tsunami warning system is thanks to donations from abroad.

If the TAT starts construction in March, it will be too late to help us this high season. The TAT should start with our fundamental needs: cleanliness and reorganization of the beach area, which might take a couple of months in itself.

If they focus on building, starting in September, this will be bad for Patong's image. In any case, how can they build in areas where there will be activities for visitors [such as tsunami commemoration events]?

With their present limited budget the TAT may not be able to accomplish all they originally set out to do, and now they need to decide their priorities; it will not benefit Patong if they start work during the high season.

I am still not clear about what the Municipality plans to do. When we request that they work

## FIRST PERSON

**W**hile Patong Municipality has its own, albeit small, budget for the redevelopment of Patong after the tsunami, officials say that, in order to avoid duplication of effort, there is no point in beginning any work before the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) gets started on its own major refurbishment of the shoreline.

Now, nearly eight months after the tsunami, no construction has been started. **Krisada Tansakul**, President of the Patong Hotel Society and Head of the Patong Beach Community, explains how the Patong community feels about this situation – and what they want done about it.

**We have tried and tried to voice our opinions and tell them what the Patong community needs, but it has made no difference.**

on it, they always say they need to wait for the TAT to finalize their budget. Meanwhile, they do nothing for the Patong landscape.

The wreckage of trees and broken playground equipment needs to be cleaned up – and not with the TAT budget. We are asking for the local administration to help organize this first. If they did, it could be cleared in a week, regardless of the TAT's budget.

It would be quite simple to brighten up the town. For example, when a tree on the sidewalk dies, the Municipality should replace it. Even this would help in redeveloping the town's landscape.

Patong will still be a tourist attraction, but if we had been able to get something done in terms of landscape development, then tourists would have been more impressed. Even if we don't know how the final plan will turn out, I believe the TAT will do a more professional job by listening to the locals and considering how to benefit us most, while at the same time making Patong beautiful and convenient for tourists.

## 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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## Is Patong Tower safe?

I have been hearing rumors that Patong Tower is structurally unsafe and that the authorities are conducting an independent study.

One real estate agent even told me that the top floors may have to be demolished.

Another mentioned that the tower was constructed without a building permit.

I am interested in buying an apartment in this building, but I worry that I may lose my investment.

What is the true situation, regarding both structural integrity and the legality of the building?

Jean  
Phuket

**Phunsak Naksena, Patong Municipality Chief of Administration, replies:**

I too have heard these rumors, which are very old.

The Patong Municipality Public Works Department has checked and has ascertained that there is nothing wrong with the building.

The upper floors are not crooked, as has been suggested by some people, but were built to high technical standards, capable of resisting just about any disaster.

I can also confirm that all the correct permits were issued for the construction of the tower.



## ON THE MOVE

Phuket native **Wanida Hongyok**, aka "Momma Duck", has been appointed Phuket and Phang Nga Project Administrative Assistance and Financial Reporting Officer for the Post-Tsunami Livelihood Recovery in the Tourism Sector project of the International Labour Organization (ILO). She will report to the ILO's sub-regional office in Bangkok. K. Wanida worked for Sea Canoe (Thailand) Co as Government Liason Officer for 11 years.



**Simon Chadbourne**, from Australia, has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket. He has 20 years' experience in hospitality management, including implementation of Crowne Plaza's "Meeting Success" program in Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Malaysia. In his new post he will deputize for the General Manager, oversee all operational activities and ensure the hotel's quality standards.



Canadian **Eric Andrew Smutny** is the Marketing Communications Manager of the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach. The multilingual Canadian has experience in advertising agencies, publishing firms and the hospitality industry, both in Thailand and Europe. Before his appointment in Phuket, he was the Marketing Communications Manager of the Royal Cliff Beach Resort in Pattaya.



# Wonderful world of wireless

Over the past several years, Internet and LANs (local area networks) have been moving toward wireless connectivity. This trend has been hit by many setbacks and pitfalls but, for the most part, wireless technology has been accepted by computer users.

Wi-Fi, which stands for wireless fidelity, is the grandchild of high fidelity which many of us older folks remember as good stereo sound. This article will explore the ins and outs as well as the ups and downs of wireless technology.

**Local area hotspots:** There are many types of hotspots and no, were not talking about Thailand under an April sun. "Hotspot" is a common term used to describe the signal coverage area of the wireless signal.

There are many types of hotspots which many of us take for granted. Take UBC, for example; it has a satellite that receives a signal from the ground then bounces it back over an area that includes Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and parts of India – a very large hotspot indeed.

Another example is radio stations that broadcast their signals over mountains and (with luck) valleys. Don't forget your mobile phone – it accesses cellular hotspots all over the island (or most of it, anyway).

Last but not least are the new Apple iPod Mini music jukeboxes that attach to a small transmitter, which, in turn, gets picked up by your car radio, acting like a private radio station. More on iPods and personal jukeboxes in an upcoming article.

The technology that powers these systems, although producing similar results, can be very different.

**Satellite wireless:** Back to the UBC example. UBC takes a very strong laser beam containing the TV signal and sends it off into space where it is deflected back to the ground in a much weaker yet broader hotspot signal that is then re-condensed by your home dish and sent over a short cable to your TV.

The signal that comes from the sky is relatively weak and quite prone to interference from mountains, buildings and moisture, which is your UBC signal usually cuts out just before a big rain storm.

Its reach is very wide but its strength is rather limited. That is also why you have a UBC dish – it collects as much signal as it can and, through its concave shape, focuses the signal onto a single receiver mounted in front of the dish which then sends the signal to your TV.

**Cellular wireless:** This technology combines both satellite and microwave signals to create hotspots blanketing several smaller areas.

International calls come in from the CAT (Communication Authority of Thailand) satellite, as do calls from Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

These signals are picked up by a ground station near the airport and are then sent up the many tall red antenna towers you see everywhere. These antennae are connected through a direct microwave signal which requires a visual route (called line-of-sight) between each tower.

From there, each tower also has a cellular phone signal transmitter that blankets the area around each one thus creating mobile phone hotspots all over the island.

Unfortunately, this approach



Wi-Fi Net News is a good source of advice on wireless systems.

creates several not-so-hot spots commonly called "dead spots" around Phuket.

Many clients ask us if there is a repeater device that can boost a signal in their area. So far, the answer from the big boys who run these systems seems to be "No," but we have not yet been able to get a straight answer.

If anyone has received one, please write to me so we can all benefit. There is one very cool solution often used by our clients in the developing and building construction industries.

It includes a small PABX (private automated branch exchange) that allows you to plug in one or more standard AIS (or other mobile phone) chips. You simply buy the box, plug in the chips, mount a simple antenna onto your building and *voila!* You

have an instant private mobile telephone system in your home or office enabling you to call, fax and even connect to the Internet.

**Internet & LAN hotspots:** The newest wireless solutions are for LANs and Internet access. These produce both good and not-so-good results, the reason being that they broadcast on 2.4 GHz, which is a pretty low-powered signal.

There are many helpful resources on the Web for Wi-Fi information; a good one is [www.wifinews.com](http://www.wifinews.com).

Our company installs many of the popular systems. However, in certain environments they can be rather unreliable.

One place to be careful is in a crowded office center where

more than five wireless systems are operating independently. The signals tend to interfere with each other, causing slow speed and intermittent disconnections.

One solution is to change the "channel" on your network to avoid interference from your neighbors.

Outdoor wireless is quite handy but again, trees, buildings and rain can cause performance problems. There is a good solution to the coverage limitations of Wi-Fi, which includes using a stronger transmitter (or access point) operating at 3.2 GHz – a much stronger signal.

The only problem is that this signal is currently reserved for the Thai government so it is not totally legal to use it.

The best solution is to use CAT5 or CAT6 cabling wherever possible and then place your access points carefully in order to create maximum coverage. A good rule of thumb is "the more the merrier" and at 5,500 baht each you can create yourself a boiling hot spot if you like.

Keep in mind that setting up these systems can require a bit of experience so ask your systems provider for input before deciding on your design ... and, of course, you can contact me if you have any questions.

*John Seebach has 25 years consulting experience in Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology offers IT solutions and Broadband services throughout S.E. Asia. For more information contact [john@islandtechnology.com](mailto:john@islandtechnology.com).*

## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Many clients ask us if there is a repeater device that can boost a signal in their area. So far, the answer from the big boys who run these systems seems to be "No," but we have not yet been able to get a straight answer.

## VITAL STATISTICS AIR PASSENGER THROUGHPUT PLUMMETS

|                                   | July, 2004 | July, 2005 | % change |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| <b>Domestic passengers</b>        | 224,735    | 180,914    | -19.5    |
| <b>International passengers</b>   | 169,468    | 70,710     | -58.3    |
| <b>Total passengers</b>           | 394,203    | 251,624    | -36.2    |
| <b>Domestic cargo (tons)</b>      | 1,017      | 597        | -41.3    |
| <b>International cargo (tons)</b> | 977        | 380        | -61.1    |
| <b>Total cargo (tons)</b>         | 1,994      | 977        | -51.0    |

Source: Phuket International Airport



# Property boom attracts legal eagles

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Big-name law firms such as Johnson Stokes & Master (JSM) and Tilleke & Gibbins are opening offices in Phuket to capitalize on the island's booming property market.

Gary Biesty, Managing Partner of JSM (Thailand) Ltd, said the Phuket office will focus principally on property-related matters but will be staffed by lawyers able to respond to all of the firm's clients' needs, as and when they arise.

"Our clients are primarily foreigners who would like to invest in property. However, we advise both locals and foreigners, not only on property issues but also on general corporate commercial matters," Mr Biesty added.

He explained, "As Phuket is experiencing a huge property boom, we would like to be there in order to provide a seamless service ... With the property boom, other businesses will follow in order to satisfy the needs of the new inhabitants. We would like to assist locals and foreigners in setting up new companies for every kind of commercial business needed in Phuket."

When it comes to property, he noted that a confusing variety of legal structures are employed by developers.

"This is historical rather than inten-

tional. It need not be confusing, but the reality is that developers have chosen different structures to launch their developments. One of the things we plan to do when we officially launch in Phuket is to produce a summary of these variations on the theme so that people have a clear understanding of what they're investing in.

"A clear message to potential investors is that property law in Thailand is not simple and commoditized, as in other jurisdictions, and they should adjust their expectations accordingly.

Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd (T&G), Thailand's oldest international law firm, will open an office in the Laguna area at the end of this month.

T&G's target market includes real estate developers who want to buy or sell property, David Lyman, Chairman and Chief Values Officer, told the *Gazette*.

The firm will also have an eye on a number of other tourism-related business opportunities on Phuket.

One of the earlier international law firms to move into Phuket, some three years ago, was McEvily & Collins (M&C).

Senior Partner Matthew McEvily, explained that the firm has been providing legal and business advisory services in Thailand since 1992. With other branches in Bangkok and, since August 1, Koh

Samui, M&C, he says, caters to Thai and international clients across the entire business spectrum, with a focus on real estate, corporate/commercial law and dispute resolution.

The arrival of major law firms does not worry him, he said. The recent growth of the Phuket property sector is fueling the growth of the legal services market. "There is simply more work to go around. Also, the added expense of sending lawyers from Bangkok to handle Phuket matters makes using a Bangkok-based firm unappealing to clients.

"Our Phuket and Samui clients are primarily high-net-worth individuals, high-end home buyers and experienced property developers, but we handle many other legal issues facing both foreigners and Thais. We are not too concerned about the firms that are moving to Phuket now ... our position in the market is strong and we have a very loyal client base.

Another legal eagle who believes the expansion of property development on Phuket is the main attraction for the big names, is Friedrich "Sam" Fauma, Senior Partner, Director and Adviser of the International Law Office (ILO), the island's longest-standing international law company.

"Business investments in Phuket, especially real estate investments, are in-

creasing and therefore the business opportunity for law firms, international law firms in particular, is, likewise, increasing."

In Mr Fauma's view, it is not too difficult for a foreigner to open a business here. It is what happens afterwards that is dangerous. "I believe it is easy, sometimes even too easy, to open a business without being aware of the possible pitfalls," he said.

He welcomes the arrival of big law firms on Phuket. "Naturally, they will bring their clients with them as the firms have an international presence. They will also acquire clients from the local market and the increase in competition will benefit clients and will improve the overall quality of the services offered," he said.

A Thai law firm that opened its doors on January 1 this year, Phuket Land Law Co, was also established, as its name suggests, to meet demand from property buyers for legal services.

"There weren't enough legal services available here for property buyers," Director and Senior Counsel Suphawan Tukwun said. "So I decided to fill the gap.

"Since the Phuket property market is booming, we get high returns and a lot of clients every day.

"It is good to see the well-known international law firms expanding to Phuket - it means our economy is growing."

## Why good news is sometimes bad news

Financial markets are often difficult to satisfy. An excellent example was the reaction of the US stockmarket to the July non-form payroll numbers (new jobs created).

The market had been expecting an increase of 180,000 jobs. Instead 207,000 jobs was the official estimate and, in addition, new jobs for June were also revised upwards. Good news surely for the US economy.

To add to this upbeat development, average incomes rose 0.4% in July, the highest rise for some time.

Stockmarkets, instead of reacting positively, moved downwards. The glass was three-quarters full but investors were more concentrated on the fact that it was still a quarter empty.

Reasons given for this reaction included the fact that this will make the US Federal Reserve keep on increasing short-term interest rates for a longer period to higher levels, and increases in wages will hurt corporate profits.

Amid all this comment it seemed to be completely forgotten that the market was disappointed that only days before there was gloom as second-quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) came out at 3.4% instead of an anticipated 3.6%.

The reality is that corporate profits are unlikely to be severely tested by current rises in incomes. Employees in America have experienced low income growth for the past few years, and some reasonable increase will give a boost



### MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

to both consumer expenditure and savings.

Probably the main reason for poor stockmarket performance has more to do with the fact that this is the summer vacation season. It seems probable that, after the holidays, if the good economic news continues, that will be reflected by a rising stockmarket.

Corporate profits are strong and rising. Increasing interest rates are unlikely to have much effect on companies as balance sheets are, in general, in excellent shape. Many companies have substantial cash in hand and have no need to borrow, while for those that must increase their debt, interest rates are very low.

The reality is that the fundamentals are in place for a "bull" market. It is comforting that there are so many "bears" out there, for history tells us that when too many people become optimists, trouble is on the way.

**Mailman bites Koizumi:** The issue surrounding the attempted

privatization of Japan Post may seem irrelevant to most investors; how can a postal service be of any great importance?

Certainly, where mail delivery is concerned, it is not so vital: it is the other operations of Japan Post that are critical.

The "post office" savings bank and its affiliated insurance company have assets of around US\$3 trillion (about 125 trillion baht). The savings bank is the world's largest financial institution by a substantial margin, and the insurance arm is Japan's largest insurance company.

The current Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, came to power in 2001 promising economic reform, and at the top of the list was the privatization of Japan Post.

The privatization measure successfully passed through the lower house of parliament, but was defeated on August 8 in the upper house by a vote of 125 to 108.

Koizumi had staked his political future on a positive outcome, and immediately after the defeat he called a general election for September 11. His political defeat was not caused solely by opposition parties, but also by members of his own Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voting against him.

There were no noble motives for the rebels' action. They had two reasons.

First, the substantial funds of the Post Office Savings Bank had been used by politicians to finance favored projects while enabling the fact to be hidden

from the public. This usually involved construction projects, often of dubious virtue. It is no coincidence that the construction industry is the largest donor to LDP coffers.

The second reason was that, in many rural areas, postmasters have significant political influence, and privatization was not welcomed among this group.

Japan Post may have the biggest assets of any entity under state control, but there are nine others with combined loans exceeding US\$500 trillion (about 20,000 trillion baht) which would have been next in line.

This is a major setback for Japan; and it will leave a bitter taste, especially among foreign investors. Sadly, Japan was just starting to look attractive and, for the first time in 14 years, land prices in Tokyo had slowly started to rise.

It will probably not derail economic recovery, but it is a very negative development.

There is considerable speculation that this could lead to a major split in the ruling LDP, which has held power for more than 50 years with only a 10-month period in opposition in the early 1990s.

Japanese politics are a labyrinth: it is impossible to be sure what the political future holds. What is certain is that Koizumi was the best Prime Minister Japan has had in decades; it is just a pity that so many of his political associates are of much smaller caliber.

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



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# Why golfers should do more lines

It is of paramount importance in golf to aim correctly and consistently. One tried-and-tested method is to visualize a railway track – two parallel lines – from you to the target.

A visual aid, as in the picture, is to use two golf clubs. The club on the right represents the intended direction of the club face and ball, and is pointing directly at the target. The club on the left represents the golfer's "body lines", that is the feet, knees, hips and shoulders, and points slightly to the left of the target – assuming you are right-hander.

Most club golfers tend to aim their body at the target or, even worse, don't take aim at all. Try aiming the club face first at



an intermediate target and then lining your body up in a parallel line.

Next time you practice, check your alignment by laying down a club on the ground first, pointing from the ball to your target. You can then test your body alignment by dropping another club down after you have "set up", pointing from the line of your toes. It should be parallel to the first.

Following a routine to find good alignment is a must if you want to play a top game.

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)

# NSW crown

By Chris Husted

PHUKET CITY: New South Wales Rugby Union (NSW) beat Auckland Rugby Union 14-12 in extra time in a classic nailbiter of a final in the 1st International 80-80 Rugby Tournament at Surakul Stadium on August 14.

NSW opened the scoring five minutes into the first half through full back David Kehoe, who received the ball after several busting runs up the center by the Aussie forwards. Kehoe beat three tackles to score, and then converted his own try to give his side a 7-0 lead.

Perturbed by the lack of time they had been spending attacking the Aussie try line, the Kiwis worked their way to NSW's 22, only to see Kehoe send his side back into attack with a 50-meter kick.

The Kiwis responded by going on the charge and, just before half-time, spun the ball wide to the right wing, where three Kiwis were marked man-for-man by the Aussie defense.

A jolting run followed by blistering pace saw Auckland No 8 Reuben Hardie score a try to the right of the goal. Fly half Matt Ryan converted the try to level the score 7-7.

Auckland went on the attack from the start of the second half with huge kicks testing the Aussie backs, and upped the physical element of the match with tough charges and slamming tackles.

More than a few wayward fists were thrown in the rucks. NSW's loose head prop found himself on the receiving end of one, and spent five minutes off the field recovering.

More and more players on both sides were being felled in back-play, until ref Ben Skeen finally stamped his authority on the match and sent Auckland's Terry Kimiangan to the sin bin for 10 minutes for a heavy tackle on an Aussie without the ball.

Throughout the rest of the half both sides tested each other with quick kick-and-chase and wing-to-wing tactics, providing some excellent rugby for the small crowd.

A late dash nearly put NSW right winger Caleb Hardie in the corner for a try, but a great tackle by Auckland right flanker Craig Thomas rammed Hardie into touch.

The Aussies had the last scoring opportunity in normal time, with a penalty kick only seven meters from goal – but again missed.

Auckland scored again in the opening minutes of extra time after a well-placed kick forced a line-out 10 meters from NSW's goal. The Kiwi's won the line-out



OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr demonstrates her ball skills in kicking off the tournament.

## OrBorJor League gets under way

PHUKET CITY: Opening play in the Provincial Administration Organization League, or OrBorJor League, saw a tense battle between the OrBorJor All-star team and their rivals from the Local Administration All-Stars end in a 2-2 tie.

The opening match was held at Surakul Stadium on August 13, with OrBorJor president

Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr on hand to open the tournament by taking a ceremonial first kick.

Fifteen teams are entered in the competition, which has trophies and prize money of 50,000, 30,000 and 20,000 baht awaiting the top three finishers, respectively.

In other matches played on the opening day, OrBorTor Pa Khlok thumped OrBorTor Sri Soonthorn 3-1 in an all-Thalang showdown, while OrBorTor Thepkrasattri and Tessabaan Patong played to a scoreless draw.

— Anongnat Sartpisut

## Safari edge out Roma to win Patong Cup

PATONG: Safari from Patong beat Roma of Surat Thani 7-6 in a penalty shoot-out to win the Open Division in the high-stakes Tessabaan Patong Cup soccer tournament. Both teams featured top players from the South Thailand League.

Thirty teams competed in five divisions of the tournament for prize money totaling nearly 800,000 baht. The first matches

in the tournament were played on December 5 last year, but after the tsunami, all matches were suspended until July 25.

The finals were held August 9. Teams from Baan Mon, in Patong, placed first in two divisions, the under-14s and over-35s, and players from the same community took individual honors for most valuable player and top scorer in several divisions.

## Up the klong with paddles

PHUKET: Twenty-nine amateur and professional canoeing teams from 16 communities around Phuket celebrated HM Queen Sirikit's birthday with a splash and a paddle on Klong Bang Yai, on August 12.

The winner of the one-kilometer amateur dash from Saphan Hin to Kor Chan Bridge and back was the Saen Suk community

team, whose members took home 4,000 baht for their efforts. Sapan Ruam came second, with third place going to the "40 rooms" community team.

In the professional category the Panwa Canoe Team took top honors, with the aptly named Boat Team runners up and the Nong Ae Team sculling in third place.

## 600 run in mini-marathon

CHERNG TALAY: More than 600 people took part in the Cherg Talay Mini Marathon and Fun Run, comprising 10.5 kilometers and 3.5 kilometers respectively, on August 14.

Samran Somkhan, recreation officer of Cherg Talay Municipality, told the Gazette that while the main objective was to celebrate HM Queen Sirikit's

birthday, the event also aimed to encourage people to improve their health through taking more exercise.

There were 10 categories for competitors in the 10.5-km event, and seven categories in the 3.5-km fun run.

## Surfing and marathon coming up soon

KATA-KARON: Athletes, families and other interested people are invited to get into sports this year, with the upcoming Phuket Surfing Contest 2005 and the Phuket International Mountain-Beach Marathon.

The Phuket Surfing Contest 2005 will take place September 16 through 18 at Kata Beach.

The Phuket International Mountain-Beach Marathon will be held on October 23 at Nong Harn Lake in Karon.

For more information on either event, contact Jirasak Tanakittitham at Tel: 01-8912663 or 076-333362/3. Fax: 076-333364 or Email: [info@katakaron.com](mailto:info@katakaron.com)

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# win 80-80 rugby in nailbiter final



It's rough on the bottom. Auckland players pick themselves up after the referee stops a maul.

against the throw, putting the ball through for Steve Farrell to score wide of the posts, to the right. He failed to convert the try for the extra two points.

NSW finally replied with a try in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute of the 20-minute extra time, when Andrew Short charged down a clearance kick. He quickly scooped up the ball and dived over the line to score.

Kehoe, who had an outstanding match, converted the try to take the score to NSW 14, Auckland 12.

Excitement ran rife for the closing minutes of the match as NSW tried to add to their two-point margin and the Kiwis tried

to top it, and cheers mixed with cries of anguish resounded from the crowd as Auckland missed a penalty from 35 meters out right on the final whistle.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> place playoff, Thailand simply outclassed Japan in all aspects of the game, but it was their lightening pace that made light work of their 74-13 victory.

Outstanding players in the Thai squad were left center Parot Smarkchan, who converted six tries for a personal tally of 12 points, and fly half Nantawat Wongwanichsilp, whose pace and deceptive stepping earned him a hat trick in the second half. He also converted a try by right

center Phisak Chuekumhot, giving him a tally of 17 points.

Left flanker Kenichi Shintani scored Japan's only try, converted by left center Yusuke Omata, who also scored the remaining six points with two penalty kicks.

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## Foreign Robber Gets Off Lightly

From the *Phuket Gazette*,  
August 1995

At 8:30 pm on July 20, police officers Sawai Chusawat and Prasert Patee, while on patrol in Patong, received a complaint from a vendor on the Beach Rd. He informed them that a "long-haired foreigner" had snatched 10 belts and 10 pieces of batik from his stall.

The police officers and the vendor proceeded to the hotel and were shown into a guest room by staff member Gopchai Wanparuhat. Here they found Mr Knight Uhler, 33, and Ms Sophie Le

Roux, 27, both from Switzerland and both intoxicated. Mr Uhler's face was swollen and his eye was bruised. Ms Le Roux lay naked on the bed. The room was in disarray, the floor covered in sand. Its one window and the bathroom sink were shattered.

The police officers searched the room in vain for the stolen articles, but after an extensive search of the premises, the goods were found hidden behind the building. The vendor, content to have his property back, chose not to press charges against the foreigner and the matter was dropped.

### THE TIME machine

News from the past

## Phuket parents do not want condoms in schools

From the *Phuket Gazette*,  
August 15-31, 2000

PHUKET: Phuket is trying to bolster its defense against AIDS by increasing education and stepping up the distribution of condoms. But the province faces stiff resistance from local people.

According to Dr Boonrieng Chuchaisangrat, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office, the reason Phuket has the second-highest rate of AIDS infection in southern Thailand is that both the disease and the use of condoms are misunderstood.

He said that when people listen to the news about those afflicted with AIDS, or hear that the AIDS population in Phuket is increasing, they all point their fin-

gers at the doctors and the prostitutes. But they don't seem to realize that, without proper protection, they or their loved ones can become victims.

Every other province in Thailand seems to accept the condom policy as a means of protection, but Phuket residents view condoms as a sex incentive, Dr Boonrieng told the *Gazette*. He emphasized that Phuket needs to change this point of view.

Several schools outside of Phuket now teach modern sex education to help students understand the use of condoms.

But, Dr Boonrieng told the *Gazette*, if such modern practices were to be introduced in the schools here, the parents would begin rioting in the streets.

## Antidotes to rainy day blues

### WINE

The monsoon season is well entrenched and showers are the order of the day most days. As the Carpenters sang, "Rainy days and Mondays always get me down." So it's time, then, for my wine and food tips to ward off gloomy rainy-day blues.

Lack of sunshine, some scientists assert, can cause insomnia. So, begin your morning by staring at the light inside your refrigerator while rummaging around for something to eat. The luminosity will stimulate the production of melatonin, the hormone that regulates good sleep.

If you are lucky you will find something delicious, like smoked salmon. Try it with fresh brown bread and a Riesling with mineral notes from Alsace or Germany. Riesling is the perfect daytime wine for lounging around the house: it's relatively low in alcohol, its crisp acidity is invigorating and the bright citrus flavors contrast nicely with the richness of smoked salmon.

Relax with a glass of wine and good novel. Wine inexplicably arouses the mind's capacity to explore hidden connotations contained in the written word. The ideal wine should be as unfathomable as the twists and turns of the novel it accompanies.

The uncommon nuance con-



By Steven

Roberto

tained in varietal wines like Roero Arneis, Grecco di Tuffo, Roussanne, Petite Verdot, or Durif are spot on, as are many of the top blended wines such as California's Conundrum and Cain Five, with their fine distinction and subtle intricacy.

Probably the most pleasing way to enjoy wine when trapped indoors by monsoon rains is while cooking. Put on your favorite music, open a bottle of wine, pour a glass and pretend you are a great chef. Unless, of course, you already are a great chef, in which case this might seem like working on your day off, so call your spouse to the kitchen.

Most of us prefer drinking the same wine we would use to make a sauce and instinctively

associate a wine choice with the meal. Try Zinfandel when cooking Italian, or Rhône reds when making a casserole and you will see what I mean.

At this time of year it is a good idea to avoid saturated fats, choosing instead fresh fruits and vegetables, skinless chicken or other lean meat. Olive oil is generally thought to be a healthier choice than butter and my lower the risk of heart disease.

When spending long periods in an air-conditioned environment, remember to drink adequate amounts of water – at least six glasses each day – and get enough exercise.

Pulling the corks out of wine bottles does not count as exercise, so take a walk after dinner. Never mind if you get wet, good food and wine may help you stay healthy and happy during the monsoon season.

Adding physical and mental exercise to indulging in fine wine and delicious food is an uplifting way to bring balance to our enjoyable life here in paradise.

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).

## Phuket Diary

### September 3: Pop-jazz night with Nantida, Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa.

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

Tickets are priced at 2,000 baht, 1,500 baht and 1,000 baht. All tickets include entrance to a cocktail reception.

Concertgoers 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 have the chance to win prizes offered by the Hilton group.

Tickets are available from: Hilton Phuket, Central Festival (B2S and 1<sup>st</sup> floor info counter), Tesco-Lotus at the I-tree shop (opposite Home Pro), Baan Rim Pa, The Green Man Pub and the *Phuket Gazette* offices.

Contact Nampetch Tipaxsorn at Email: [nampetch.tipaxsorn@hilton.com](mailto:nampetch.tipaxsorn@hilton.com) or Tel: 076-396433-41 for more information.

### September 16 – 18: Phuket Surfing Contest 2005, Kata Beach.

The Phuket Surfing Contest 2005 – organized jointly by the Kata-Karon Hotel Business Association (KHBA), the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Karon Municipality – will take place in the waters off Kata Beach from September 16 to 18, from 8 am until 4 pm each day.

Contact the KHBA at Tel: 076-333362/3 or Email: [info@katakaron.com](mailto:info@katakaron.com) for more information.

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## Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

A welcome addition to the choice of restaurants serving Western cuisine in the Rawai and Nai Harn areas is Los Amigos Cantina, overlooking the still somewhat ravaged looking Nai Harn Lake.

Owners Jimmy Pearson – of Jimmy's Lighthouse Chalong fame – and Terry Reynolds met 20 years ago. They both have been involved in the marine leisure industry for a long time and are lovers of good Mexican food.

"When we decided to embark on this joint venture we were lucky to employ Somran 'Sao' Kamphakdee," says Terry. "She had worked in the Blue Fin restaurant in Kata, which served Mexican food, and she'd also cooked at Jimmy's Lighthouse. The dishes served at Los Amigos are authentic."

Originally from New England in the US, Terry thought that it would be fun to open his first restaurant.

"I came to the conclusion that I didn't want to be a sailor all my life," he explained.

"My roots are in Phuket and I saw the need for a different type of cuisine in the [Rawai-Nai Harn] area, so that's how it happened."

### Mexican-Style Fried Rice For one person

#### Ingredients:

1 cup uncooked jasmine rice;  
1½ cups water;  
1 egg, beaten;  
Olive oil;  
500g chicken breast;  
½ cup finely chopped onion;  
¼ cup finely chopped green onion;  
2 garlic cloves, minced;  
1 (15oz) can black beans, drained;  
2 tablespoons sweetcorn;  
2 tablespoons mixed, finely-chopped red and green bell pepper;  
1 tablespoon McCormick enchilada sauce mix;  
¼ cup chopped fresh coriander.



Chef Somran 'Sao' Kamphakdee with Terry Reynolds (above). Right, creamy chicken burritos.



# iARRIBA!

#### Method:

Steam the rice. Meanwhile, spread a little olive oil over a non-stick skillet. Heat this over a medium heat and add the beaten egg. Stir the rice in well and cook gently for a minute or so, making sure it remains moist.

Remove the mixture from the pan and keep it warm. Heat a tablespoon of olive oil in the same pan and add the chicken, regular onion and garlic. Cook for four to six minutes, or until the chicken is no longer pink inside. Add the black beans, corn and pepper pieces and mix well again. Cook for a further minute or two, stirring constantly and breaking up the chicken breasts.

Add the pre-cooked rice and mix over the heat for another minute. Then stir in the enchilada sauce mix and continue stirring for two minutes.

Just before you remove

from the heat, mix in the green onions. Garnish with fresh coriander.

### Los Amigos Special Salsa For about 2 servings

#### Ingredients:

2 tomatoes, diced;  
1 green bell pepper, seeded and diced;  
3 small hot chili peppers;  
¼ onion, diced;  
2 tablespoons fresh coriander, chopped finely;  
1 tablespoon lime juice;  
1 pinch of sugar;  
Salt and black pepper to taste.

#### Method:

Mix all the ingredients well, except for the sugar, salt and pepper, which you should add just before serving.

This tasty salsa dip can be eaten with a variety of dishes.

### Creamy Chicken Burritos For 2 large burritos

#### Ingredients:

1 large chicken breast, steamed and shredded;  
2 10-inch flour tortillas;  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil;  
1 small onion, chopped finely;  
½ red bell pepper, chopped finely;  
1 teaspoon minced garlic;  
1 (15oz) can black beans, drained;  
1 teaspoon minced jalapeno peppers;  
75g grated Cheddar cheese;  
25g Mozzarella cheese;  
½ teaspoon salt;  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander;  
4 tablespoons cooked rice;  
4 tablespoons sour cream.

#### Method:

Wrap the tortillas in foil and place in an oven pre-heated to 350°F

(175°C). Heat them for 15 minutes. Put the vegetable oil in a skillet over a medium heat. When it is hot, add the onion, bell pepper pieces, jalapeno peppers and garlic.

Cook for about two minutes, stirring occasionally. Then add the beans, chicken, rice and salt.

Heat for a further two minutes and stir in the coriander, grated Cheddar and mozzarella cheese just before you turn off the heat.

Spoon this mixture down the center of the tortillas with sour cream on top. Roll up and serve with salsa.

*Los Amigos Cantina, 15/34 Wiset Rd, Moo 1, Nai Harn, Rawai (at the top end of Nai Harn Lake). Open seven days a week from 10:30 am until 10 pm. Tel: 09-4729128.*

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## Construction

by Anongnat Sartpisut

Home of the Week

# MISSION POSSIBLE: Custom homes for golfers

**M**ission Heights' large houses and pools, located on 50 rai not far from Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa, cater to golfers and retirees.

Sopis Manokum, Managing Director of Mission Heights, explains, "This is a nice, clean, quiet area. You don't have much traffic, the roads are really good and it is convenient – near shopping centers and Phuket International Airport."

The developer, Mission Heights Co, Ltd, has more than 17 years of experience in housing development in Pattaya, mainly luxury homes.

Similarly, while the houses in this project are expected to be fairly European in style, customer input is vital in the design process for both interior and exterior.

"We recommend that people buy their plot first. Our customers can tell us what they want and then we design something suitable for their particular lifestyle."

"Perhaps they need an outdoor-living design with a barbecue area and swimming pool. Some people prefer the style of a condominium," K. Sopis says.

Comprising 50 units in all, Mission Heights was launched in March 2004. Initial construction started on communal areas, such as garbage collection points and gardens. Water is supplied by a private well and underground tanks. Electricity cables are also subterranean.

The houses range from 300 to 600 square meters of living space.

Prices range from 8.95 million baht up to 20 million baht, and the lowest-priced package of 300sqm with a 90sqm swimming pool, features a four-bedroom



house. Two-story homes are anticipated for the smaller pieces of land.

"This is probably the best value available on Phuket," K. Sopis adds. "Most developers would ask more than double our prices [for equivalent properties and facilities]."

"We are proud to offer big bedrooms and big swimming pools on a prime site. Five units have already been sold, despite the recent dip in the market since the tsunami."

For more information, contact Mission Heights at Tel: 01-344-4473, 04-8460231 or 01-829-8101, or Email: [brian@missionheights.com](mailto:brian@missionheights.com) or visit the Website: [www.missionheights.com](http://www.missionheights.com)

The show home (pictured) of the Mission Heights project in Pa Khlok, is set to inspire golfers and retirees with ideas of designs they might want to use for their houses.



**T**his elegant two-story, three-bedroom, four-bathroom residence is located in the exclusive Laguna Homes Estate, with expansive golf course views. Its cool white walls, traditional terracotta "temple" tiles, Balinese-style roof and verdant tropical gardens give it a striking street frontage.

No expense has been spared in the design, construction and materials used in this 750-square-meter home. Floors are a variety of timber, granite, travertine marble and ceramic finishes, and timber is used extensively throughout with built-in furniture, doors and windows, staircase and bathroom fittings, including a Jacuzzi with timber paneling.

The living and dining areas, with stepped ceilings, are spacious and light and look out over the swimming pool and gardens.

A state-of-the-art Western kitchen features a large central counter and ample overhead and lower cabinets, while built-in appliances include an imported black glass cook top, stainless steel microwave and electric ovens, range hood and a side-by-side fridge-freezer. The kitchen décor of smart black and white ceramics is complemented by glossy black granite counter tops and custom-made white cabinets.

A maid's room and guest bathroom are also located on the ground level.

The upper floor features exquisite bedrooms with timber floors, northern Thai furniture and built-in wardrobes. The master suite is enormous, and has a sumptuous bathroom and walk-in wardrobe. A timber-railed balcony, the perfect setting to enjoy that early morning tea or coffee, opens off the upper floor bedrooms.

Stairs lead to a very large rooftop terrace complete with a delightful Sala, with sweeping views over the gardens and golf course – ideal for al fresco entertaining.

The home sits on a roomy 1,100-sq-m (2.75-ngan) block with lush gardens, a big swimming pool and sala overlooking the gardens, and a charming lotus pool with the green fairways beyond.

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Cherng Talay

# LAGUNA LUXURY



Above: the impressive frontage of the home, with its Balinese-style roof. Below left: high-quality timber is used throughout the house. Below right: the luxurious swimming pool.



This fine home is air-conditioned, and has a carport, UBC TV, two telephone lines, mains water with filtration system, water-heating system, septic tank, and three-phase electricity. The

Laguna Homes Estate also has 24-hour security service.

Fully furnished and decorated with hand-crafted high quality timber, rattan and upholstered furniture and fittings, this elegant

residence would delight the most discerning homeowner. The land title is Chanote and the price is 45 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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Decor

by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

# ART WITH A HEART



For that final personal touch in your home, few things beat eye-catching art. Paintings can offset the color and décor of a room, and act as a centerpiece or a conversation piece.

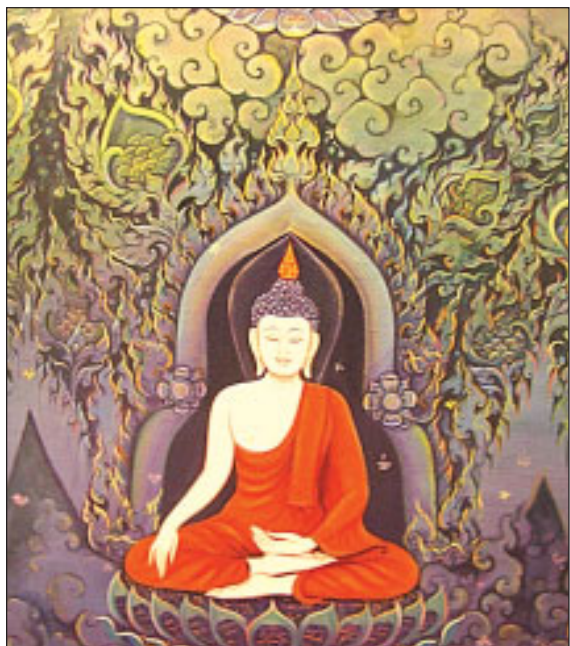
Unless you are the kind of person who insists that nothing less than Picasso will do, art does not have to be brought at great expense from halfway around the world. It can be seen and bought right here in Phuket.

A good source is the current exhibition by the Andaman Group to benefit artists affected by the tsunami, at the Laimai Art Center, in Baan Laimai Resort in Patong.

The exhibition, featuring some 300 pictures by 100 artists, will run until August 31.

Somkiat Kaewnok, Chairman of the Andaman Group, says that the exhibition features works of modern art, mixed media, watercolors, acrylics, and line art.

Pictures cost from 2,000 to 100,000 baht. For that not only will buyers get striking art for their homes, they will also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping tsunami victims.



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Leo

# The lager connection

**W**hat's in a name? How much does it really tell you about somebody? I have a theory about this – wait until a little later on in life, and decide on a name for yourself. At about 40.

"Gilbey" or "Gordon" certainly works for me, for example. Perhaps "Vladivar" might be pushing it a bit. It's a shame I couldn't become "Heineken", but that would just be silly.

Judging by the first two syllables of its botanical name, there is one often-seen plant in Thailand that would probably be fond of a drop of the amber nectar every now and then – the *lagerstroemia indica*. Fanciful, perhaps, but I like the idea anyway.

Bizarrely, though, the common name of this plant is crape myrtle. Specifically, "crape" myrtle not "crepe" myrtle.

It's apparently called this because the flowers have crinkly petals which look a bit like the material crepe. According to my dictionary, crepe is "a light fine fabric with a crinkled surface", but for some unknown reason you're supposed to spell it "crape" when it's in front of myrtle. Confused? Me too. Sounds like a lot of crape.

At any rate, it's a common enough name, and since there's no central authority that manages common names for plants you can spell (or call it) whatever you want. Refer to the plant as "Derek" if you wish – it really doesn't matter. The Thais call it *yii-kheng*.

The deciduous crape myrtle is among the longest-blooming trees in the world, (and I don't mean bloomin' long), with flowering periods lasting from 60 to 120 days. Crape myrtles come in heights as short as around 50 centimeters or as tall as 12 meters. Leaves are alternate and smooth, and are around 6 to 8cm long. Flowers are borne in big showy clusters and come in white and a number of different shades of pink, purple, lavender and red.

The fruits that follow are brown or black, and look a little like peas next to the flowers.



**Crape myrtle: the beery Latin name is sadly misleading.**

When they mature, they dry up and split, releasing disk-shaped seeds. Depending on the variety, crape myrtles can grow as large shrubs, or as trees that may be either upright or spreading. Larger varieties are particularly enthusiastic in their speed of growth.

Many types have interesting bark that peels off in thin flakes, exposing a cinnamon-colored or gray inner bark. Crape myrtles tend to produce a number of suckers (growths originating from the rootstock of a grafted plant, rather than the desired part of the plant) that should be removed as they appear, if you want them to stay as trees with distinct trunks.

The crape myrtle likes moist soil, where it will grow quickly, but it tolerates dry conditions once it's established. You would only want to prune it to remove overly dense branches and crossing limbs. Otherwise, just let it grow.

One hint is that you should "deadhead" after the first flush of growth to encourage it to rebloom more quickly. Deadheading is the process of pinching off used or spent blooms to keep the

plants well-groomed and to prevent them from setting seed.

Crape myrtles are a magnet for aphids, upon whose excrement (it's not often I use that word) a sooty mold grows. This can give the leaves a gray, sooty coating that isn't harmful to the plant, but doesn't look particularly *suai*.

Crape myrtles are actually used around some commercial nurseries to attract aphids away from other plants – that's how much the aphids love them. If you don't want your crape myrtles, er, crape on, then you can control the aphids with a soapy water solution.

Originally from this part of the world, the crape myrtle was introduced into England and the US in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and is now cultivated worldwide. In fact, Texans took to the plant so much that they chose it as their state shrub. A true Asian export.

To plant it, choose a sunny site with well-drained soil, making sure there is enough room for the shrub to reach its mature spread.

Dig a hole twice as wide as the container or root ball. Set the plant at the same depth or slightly higher than it was in the pot. Fill in the hole around the plant with soil, and mound the soil to form a 5-cm-high ridge around the perimeter of the hole to act as a catch-basin for the water. Water it generously, filling the basin and allowing water to settle several times. Easy!

Deep down, I'm probably a bit jealous of the *lagerstroemia indica*. It's the only thing I know that isn't beer that has a type of beer in its name. Apart from a dodgy clothes designer.

Bloomin' Leo perhaps? I'll have a word with the editor.

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| 3. 12' x 6' x 21' 0" | 21.00      | 10,600.00  |
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Plots for sale in luxury development with underground electricity and 24-hour security. Asking only 2.8 million baht per rai and 1.6 million baht for a half-rai plot. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-2712825.

### KATA LAND PLOTS

900 meters to beach. 1 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

### COMMERCIAL UNITS

Commercial units in Patong. 3 floors, 4 x 13.5 meters, located on the beach road, facing Patong Beach. Parking space for each unit. 25 million baht (freehold). Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-282595, 01-5389869. Email: bee@theglobalestate.com

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### SEAVIEW LAND

Excellent Seaview land for sale. Small and big plots from 3 to 20 rai, located in Rawai, Chalong, Ao Por, Cape Panwa and Kata. Please Call K. Joe. Tel: 01-6936437. Email: joe\_mooky@yahoo.com

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1,030sqm plot, with fabulous hill and jungle view, for sale. Asking 1.7 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Email: admin@phuketdeafagle.com

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### TOWNHOUSE

in Anuphas. On the main road in the heart of the city and near Central, a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, furniture and water heater, in good condition. Tel: 09-469-1813. Email: annanoi@hotmail.com

### OCEAN VIEW

Chalong. 5 rai with Chanote title for sale for 3 million baht per rai. Contact the owner. Tel: 06-6831964.

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This 175sqm, 2-bedroom home has 3 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, and a huge living room and dining room. Located on a quiet street, it backs onto a beautiful pond and has a shared swimming pool. At only 8 million baht, this is a great home to buy!



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# Property Gazette

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### PATONG LUXURY

Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments available. For information and photos, Email: suites247@yahoo.com

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## Accommodation Wanted

### LOOKING FOR

a 2-room apartment, with air conditioning and a pool, in Patong from Nov 1 to March 15. Please send me details by Email at: chrillerning@hotmail.com

### LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking for a furnished house to rent for at least the month of September, with optional long-term lease if the house is ok. Must have at least 1 air conditioner and be in Chalong, Nai Harn, Rawai or Kathu areas. I am prepared to pay up to 8,000 baht per month. Please contact with full details. Email: dlemal@gmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM PLACE

I need a 2-bedroom house/bungalow/apartment with a phone line and preferably UBC. Air conditioning is not a necessity. Prefer close proximity to Boat Lagoon and international school. Minimum 3 months. Please contact with more information. Tel: 04-1841141. Email: sian\_g2@hotmail.com

### HOUSE TO RENT

Looking for a spacious 2-bedroom house for long-term rent. Must be fenced, with garden and phone line. Please contact for information by email. Email: info@flamingo-resort.com

### KATA BEACH

We are a family from Sweden. We want to rent a house/apartment for one month near Kata Beach, Kamala Beach, or Nai Yang beach. Dates: September 26 to October 25. Please contact us by email: toobster@home.se

### PATONG APT

Wanted: a nice, quiet 1 bedroom apartment in the Patong area. Internet connection is a must, as are basics like air conditioning, hot water, TV, furniture, etc. Minimum rental period of 1 month, possibly longer, depending on the terms. I am a non-smoking dive student, not coming to Patong to party. Scandinavian national, speaking fluent English and German. I have a car and prefer a quiet location far away from any bars, but nevertheless in Patong. Please email me with full details and photos. Email: jacek\_fi@hotmail.com

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needed. Small restaurant in Karon needs cook/waitress urgently. Tel: 01-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

## PAPAYA POK POK

Dynamic experienced manager required for new concept restaurant/bar in Patong. Applicants must be Thai and capable of leading a young team and managing an efficient kitchen. Applicants must be 25 to 40 years old, with English skills (speaking). Please call for more information or send CV by email. Tel: 07-0804258. Email: brian@kokawaii.com

## ACCOUNTS

assistant. Required for a busy Thai-speaking office. Proficient with Easy Accounting system plus Excel and Word. Good standard of written and spoken English a big plus. Office located near Phuket City. Please send CV to email address provided. Email: [arc.x@thecourtyard-phuket.com](mailto:arc.x@thecourtyard-phuket.com)

## ACCOUNTANT

Diving/adventures company in Karon, Phuket, looking for experienced Accountant. Only Thai nationals need apply. Must be a graduate in accountancy with 2 years' relevant working experience. Must have Office PC experience and a fair command of English, written and spoken. Attractive salary for the right person. Send CV by email or contact. Tel: 01-8927847, 076-398364. Email: [holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com](mailto:holiday@liveaboard-thailand.com)

## SECRETARY

& lawyer. Looking for a legal secretary & lawyer, full-time or part-time in Phuket. Please contact. Email: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)



# Island Job Mart



## Molly Malones Irish Pub Patong Beach Phuket.

One of Phuket's busiest Pubs is now recruiting experienced & energetic people for the following positions.

- ☐ Pub Manager
- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Sous-Chef
- ☐ Chef De Partie
- ☐ Commis Chef
- ☐ Restaurant & Bar Supervisors
- ☐ Bartenders
- ☐ Waitress/Servers
- ☐ Accounting Staff
- ☐ Administration Staff
- ☐ Musicians/Bands

For all applications please contact  
For Thai 076 292 590 For English 01 956 2640  
or email [mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th)

or apply in person at Scruffy Murphy's  
Irish Pub 5 Bangla Rd, Patong Beach  
or mail to PO BOX 138 BOX No; 020 A.Muang Phuket 83000  
All international & local applicants will be considered.



Chandara Resort and Spa is a unique five-star resort of 51 villas located at Ao Por on Phuket's northeast coast.

We are looking for suitable, qualified persons for the following positions:

- Reservation Manager
- Spa Manager, Assistant Spa Manager, Therapist
- Assistant Front Office Manager, Assistant Manager
- Night Manager, Operator, Bell/Driver
- Restaurant & Bar Manager
- Waiter/Waitress, Bar staff,
- Sous-chef, Baker, Chef De Partie (Western/Thai)
- Housekeeping Supervisor, Housekeeping Attendant
- Purchasing clerk

All positions are for Thai nationals only.

Please send resumé with recent photo and expected salary to:

### Chandara Resort and Spa

99/1 Moo 6, Ban Ao Por, Pa Khlok,  
Thalang, Phuket, Thailand 83110  
Tel: 0 7631 7800 Fax: 0 7631 7850  
Email: [admin@chandara-resort.com](mailto:admin@chandara-resort.com)  
[www.chandara-resort.com](http://www.chandara-resort.com)

**ENGEL & VÖLKERS** is a professional service provider in the real estate business, specializing in the international marketing of prestigious residential and commercial properties. Building upon the success of an expanding network that today covers more than 28 countries, we are now establishing our operation in Thailand. In line with our planned office opening in Phuket we have an interesting vacancy for a

## Website/Graphic Design and Database Specialist

Applicants must have at least three working years' experience in a website and graphic design position combined with database management or be an outstanding recent graduate in this area. He or she should possess excellent written and spoken English language skills. Experience in the following fields is required:

Website & graphic designs flash animation dynamic content, search engine database management.

## Professional Secretary

Applicants must have a strong track record as an outstanding secretary to a senior western director with at least 5 years experience. You must be resourceful, resilient, extremely well organized and able to meet deadlines in the dynamic environment of a new and growing company. You should possess excellent written and spoken English language skills.

If you are interested in the real estate business and are a highly-motivated team player and want to join a professional team with good career prospects, please send us your resume with a recent photograph and expected salary.

**Engel & Völkers (Thailand) Ltd**  
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Phuket 83000, Thailand

Or e-mail [mycareer@clearwater-group.com](mailto:mycareer@clearwater-group.com)



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### URGENTLY REQUIRED

A live-in house manager, with previous experience working with foreigners in a villa or hotel, is wanted to take care of a house and to cook. Should be pleasant, hard-working, reliable and be able to speak English. Please call Khun Sim for more information. Tel: 076-316700.

### WANTED

Machinist wanted to manufacture curtains and blinds. Only experienced persons should apply. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-261-358, 07-2760529. Fax: 076-261358. Email: [jmicchia@yahoo.com](mailto:jmicchia@yahoo.com)

### WANTED: SECRETARY/ MANAGER

A small health center in Rawai is looking for a Thai lady to fill this position ASAP. The right person should be fluent in English, have basic computer skills and a pleasant personality. Tel: 076-383046, 09-768-9567. Email: [sindhu\\_lim@excite.com](mailto:sindhu_lim@excite.com)

### ASSISTANT NEEDED

Patong company requires a bookkeeper w/knowledge of the construction industry and good English. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-0778454. Fax: 076-292073. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### MASSAGE

therapists wanted. Phuket Home Massage, the only 5-star massage service direct to customers' homes in Phuket, is looking for a few massage therapists and a trainer. We want to provide the best massage in Phuket. If you think you might be able to do so, call Khun Noy. We offer two months of initial training on full salary. Tel: 076-270027, 01-0827703. Email: [info@phukethomemassage.com](mailto:info@phukethomemassage.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.phukethomemassage.com](http://www.phukethomemassage.com)

### TEACHERS

required. Math, Science, English- and German-language teachers needed. Tel: 076-282232, 01-9794140.

Find more Classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)



# Island Job Mart



**Molly Malones Irish Pub**  
Patong Beach Phuket.  
One of Phuket's busiest  
Pubs is now recruiting  
experienced & energetic  
people for

**Chief Accountant:**  
with experience & qualification's in the  
following areas.

- Excellent command of English & Computer literacy with accounting software
- Accounts, tax, reports, auditing and administration relating to Thai tax laws & regulations
- Bachelor's degree in accounting
- Excellent Remuneration Package & Benefits

For all applications, please send your CV by email:  
mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th  
To arrange an interview  
please call 01 956 2640  
94/1 Thawee Wong Rd, Patong Beach  
Phuket Thailand

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
**Attractive salary**

An Office Manager is required for small, growing business in Patong. We require a minimum of 4 years' experience in administration and marketing. Candidates will play a leading role in managing clients and organizing schedules. Other criteria:

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- Databases experience
- Excellent English skills
- Must be Thai National
- Keen, self motivated & very reliable

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**HELICAM**  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Please email with attached CV to: phil@helicam-asia.com



**DIVING ONLINE**, a leading Internet provider of discount dive packages, is seeking qualified staff to join its team. Applications are being taken for **1 Japanese officer**. The position is based in Phuket and preferred candidates are expected to fill the following requirements:

- Male/Female
- Certified diver
- Working experience in Japanese diving industry
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Ability to translate from English into Japanese
- Good computer skills
- Service-minded and result-driven attitude
- Experience in e-commerce industry is a plus

Applications stating qualifications and experience, as well as expected remuneration and recent photo should be sent to:  
info@save-money-diving.com



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- Steward
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**Qualification:**

- Good looking and trendy.
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Please send your resumé with photo  
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| Spa Supervisor/Trainer | Spa Reception/Consultant   |
| Spa Therapists         | Spa Housekeeping Attendant |

Trisara's Spa has set new standards in treatments and has quickly become renowned worldwide as one of the leading spas in Thailand. Previous experience is essential for all positions.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Front Office</b>                         | <b>Finance &amp; Accounting</b> |
| Receptionist/<br>Guest Relations<br>Officer | Restaurant Cashier Supervisor   |
| Bell/Driver                                 | Front Cashier                   |
|   | Retail Shop Attendants          |

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Housekeeping</b>                    | <b>Food &amp; Beverage</b>          |
| Housekeeping Supervisor                | Chef De Partie/Western/Cold Kitchen |
| Housekeeping Attendant                 | Assistant Pastry Chef               |
| Houseman (driving license is required) | Demi Chef De Partie                 |
| Laundry Attendant                      | F&B Attendant                       |
|  | Commis                              |

**Property Management**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mechanic       | Pool Attendant |
| A/C Technician | Painter/Mason  |

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to:  
**TRISARA**  
60/1 Moo 6 Srisoontorn Road, Chering Talay, Talang,  
Phuket 83110, Tel: 076 310354 Fax: 076 310239 or via Email to: hr@trisara.com



**Sales & Marketing Manager**

- Must have established customer base
- Strong references
- Attractive incentive package

**Office Manager**

- Reservations & reception
- Processing payment and receipt vouchers
- Bookings

**Hostess**

- Hospitality/hotel recreation experience preferred
- Young & athletic. Good swimmer.
- High energy levels. Outgoing personality.

Send CV to: phuket@limestoneadventures.com or fax to 076 239 559. Call 01 801 5068.

**FRENCH TUTOR**  
Cherche REPETITEUR CNED (soutien scolaire) 4eme, 2nd et Terminale S, du 15/9 au 15/5 Bon niveau scientifique requis. Email: parscou@wanadoo.fr

**SPA MANAGER**  
We are looking for a Spa Manager and female Receptionist. Nationality not important. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8478352.

**CREW WANTED**  
1 or 2 crew members needed on a 15-meter sloop. Depart in September to reach Cape Town for Xmas and visit points en route. Apply at: "Cocoonuts" 1/9 Ao Chalong Pier Rd. 8-10 pm daily. Please call. Tel: 09-2667514.

**THAI ADMINISTRATOR**  
for a school. Must have good English. Please contact for more information. Fax: 076-248976. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

**MANGOSTEEN CHIEF ENGINEER**  
The Mangosteen Resort & Spa, the 5-star boutique resort in Rawai, is looking for a Chief Engineer. English skills and technical experience required, as well as several years' experience in hotel engineering. Position available immediately. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-289399, 07-289-399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteen-phuket.com

**EXPERIENCED**  
programmers. AsiaDebit/Payzip is the market leader for Internet payment solutions in Asia. We are seeking 2 experienced programmers to work as part of the development team in our Phuket office. The job will involve developing both new and existing applications for the online payment market. The ideal candidates will work well in a team environment, be comfortable programming in different languages on Windows and Linux, and have good structured design and programming techniques.

**Basic Requirements:**

- Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English.
- 3 years' experience in software design and development.
- Experience with XML, SQL, ASP/VB and PHP.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Knowledge and use of object-oriented programming and design.
- Knowledge of financial systems.
- Understanding of layered architects.
- Experience working on Linux.
- Cryptography.

All nationalities residing in Phuket are welcome to submit a full CV to me at the email address below. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Tel: 076-282211. Fax: 076-283251. Email: jamie@payzip.com For further details, please see our website at: www.payzip.com

**CONCEPT ARTIST**  
wanted. Working with an interior designer to produce perspective/concept drawings and other sketches for an interior design company based on the bypass road. Salary: 20,000 baht + per month for the right person. Tel: 01-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: andamanartifacts@hotmail.com



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## HOUSEKEEPER – UK

Opportunity for a housekeeper to a bachelor (58 yrs) in the UK, on an initial 6-month contract. Duties include: domestic cleaning, cooking, washing and ironing, and driving. Hours are variable and must be flexible, but, in general, not over 35 hours per week. The ideal person will keep the home running smoothly and act as a host. Benefits: all travel between the UK and Thailand paid for. As the position is in a rural location, a car will be provided. An International Drivers' Licence is a must. This is an ideal opportunity for a person aged 30 to 40 to explore the UK and live in a country setting. Email me with your details and photograph. Interviews will be held in Bangkok in September. Salary, paid in UK Sterling, is open to discussion. Email: sandy2501@aol.com

## Employment Wanted

### 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

### SALES AND SPA

French woman, 30 – a Training, Sales & Spa Manager – is looking for a new challenge in Phuket. Huge experience, 14 years, in worldwide, famous luxury trademark spas. Good appearance; leader personality; speaks, writes and reads English. Tel: 07-8838-501. Email: stephanie.arrive@wanadoo.fr

### KEYBOARD VOCALIST

Seeking work in a hotel or resort. English, likes to sing ballad music; ideal for a hotel restaurant. 44 Karon, Patong. Please call Tony. Tel: 01-4778744.

## Articles for Sale

### ORNAMENTAL FERNS

Large choice of ferns, bird's nests and garden items, in Thalang. Tel: 04-8371063.

## Business Opportunities

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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### BAR/GUESTHOUSE

for sale at Karon Beach. 6 rooms, 1 commercial kitchen, pool table, UBC TV. Rent: 25,000 baht per month, no key money. Prime position, 7-Eleven shop with ATM next door. Genuine sale: 800,000 baht. Please call Tel: 09-9085343.

### BARS FOR LEASE

15 beer bars for lease near Simon Entertainment on Soi Bangla, next to Tiger Entertainment. 3 + 3-year contract. All new, opening November 15. Please call Mr Kees. Tel: 01-8267129.

### TAILOR SHOP

Thai-owned tailor shop for sale in Rawai. Good revenue. Includes bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Asking 500,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-248626. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

### KEBAB SHOP

with apparatus for sale at 350,000 baht, or for rent at 13,000 baht per month. Can open for business right away. The location has a bar in front of the shop and there's an apartment upstairs. Call Khun Jan or Lucky. Tel: 076-292788, 09-0219504.

### THAI MASSAGE

shop. Selling Thai massage shop with apparatus and sauna closet for 250,000 baht. Rent the shop for 13,000 baht per month. You can open for business right away. Call Khun Jan or Lucky. Tel: 076-292788, 06-279-1602.

### BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Serious buyers only! No agents please! Tel: 09-6491963. Email: shahmarian@yahoo.com.sg

### GUESTHOUSE SALE

in Chalong, 5 rooms and a restaurant, fully equipped. Asking 700,000 baht and 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-788-4655.

### PROFITABLE

business for sale. A well-established handicraft and collectibles business in a prime location is for sale, complete with 2 million + baht in retail stock, office equipment, one salesperson, contacts and 3 months of training and hand-over assistance to ensure continued profits. Average income of 2-4 million baht per year, but forecasting 1-2 million baht this year due to tsunami low. Sales price: only 1.5 million baht payable over 2 installments. Includes premises with floor area of 500sqm including accommodation. Contact for full details. Tel: 09-7299747, 01-6764849. Fax: 076-244652. Email: info@etwood.com

### TOUR FIRM FOR SALE

Established company with clean tax/debt record and 2 vehicles ready for immediate takeover. 888,000 baht. Email: paradisetour@csloxinfo.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

### RESTAURANT

and guesthouse in Patong. 40-seat restaurant; 11-room guesthouse. Asking 170,000 baht/month. Tel/Fax: 076-248626, 01-0808557. Email: admin@phuketdeafeagle.com

### DOUBLE-UNIT SHOP

for rent. Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong, opposite Paradise complex. An excellent location for any business. Tel: 076-341871, 06-9405187.

## Business Products & Services

### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

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style glass art. Painting on windows and doors carried out in your own home. Pick the design, size and colors of your choice. Add individual style to your home or hotel. Glass art resembles engraved glass, but is a fraction of the cost. Phone now for a free visit from our artist who will show you our samples. Designs start as low as 950 baht for this custom service. Contact Phuket J T Glass. Tel: 076-252325, 01-5357892. Email: somkamol@hotmail.com

## Computers

### POCKET PC HP iPAQ

h5400 series for sale. WLAN 802.11b, Bluetooth 48MB, 64MB ROM, 128MB RAM, memory stick as new. Asking 14,000 baht. Tel: 06-270-2599.

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### INTERNATIONAL

driver's license. 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years; 6,000 baht valid up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Free pick-up & delivery, open 365 days a year. Call Christine. Tel: 04-0068736, 04-6906612.

## Personal Services

### VISA FOR THAILAND

Tired of visa runs? Get a one-year Thai visa. Free initial consultation at Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Call 24 hours. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-345-277, 04-0219800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com Please see our website at: www.siam-legal.com

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

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### 2 EUROPEAN MEN

2 nice-looking, discrete, polite European men seek farang ladies. Email: bodybuilding\_11@hotmail.com

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## Motorbikes

### HONDA WAVE R 125

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## Rentals

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## A1 CAR RENTAL



Cars, trucks, jeep, 7-seat people carrier for rent; fully-insured. From 10,000 baht a month; special long-term rates. Please call for info. Tel: 09-8314703, 076-200900.

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