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# The Phuket Gazette

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**NEWS:** Thailand to step up fight against 'ice'; Phuket planning to host jet ski races.  
**Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** Phuket Air in a spin.  
**Pages 4 & 5**

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** Like 1977 all over again.  
**Page 8**

**AROUND THE REGION:** Longtail BOAT crackdown.  
**Page 9**

**PEOPLE:** Off the Wall; Weddings.  
**Pages 10 & 11**

**LIFESTYLE:** Thai-style tile attire. Yes, really.  
**Page 12**

**ALL AT SEA:** The quick Cap Camarat 925 WA.  
**Page 15**

**GOOD LIVING:** Very appetizing, very Aspasia.  
**Page 17**

**YOUTH 'N ASIA:** The numbers game.  
**Page 20**

**FIRST PERSON:** Defending the dog pound.  
**Page 23**

**BUSINESS:** Mortgages for foreigners; Money Talks.  
**Pages 25**

**SPORT:** Tee to Green: seeing red over green blues; Table tennis for tsunami recovery.  
**Pages 26 & 27**

**TAKE A BREAK:** You've earned it.  
**Pages 28 & 29**

**PROPERTY:** Home of the Week: Laguna; Decor: Vases; Construction: Rawai Seaview Apartments; Gardening  
**Pages 30-33**

## PLUS

**QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 14; WINE, PHUKET DIARY 16; TRAVEL 18; BOOKS, OUTSIDE IN 19; MOMMA DUCK, LAW, HOROSCOPES 20 & 21; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 22; ISSUES & ANSWERS 23; COMPUTERS 24; CLASSIFIEDS 34-43.**

## D-Day looming for dog pound



The pound, which the provincial government had hoped would solve Phuket's stray dog problems, has been besieged by critics.

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has said that he plans to reach a decision on whether or not to shut the controversial Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalang by the end of September.

At a meeting held on August 31, which was attended by representatives of every government agency in the province to discuss a number of topics, Gov Udomsak reported that he had received letters and emails complaining that the dogs were suffering in the dog pound.

He asked for everyone's thoughts on whether or not to close it down.

Phuket Irrigation Office Project Director Watchara

Arepornsiri said, "The idea of a dog pound is good one. However, if the enclosures are too small and the shelter is struggling to do its job, then I think it is better to close [the pound]."

Pobphon Sirilaksanapong, the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Forestry Office, added, "The place smells bad and gives a negative impression of the area."

Yaowalak Yangyuen, Chief of the Phuket Social Security Office, said that she has a house opposite the pound.

"The dogs [in the pound] howl every night," she complained, "and the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) did not ask how people felt about [opening the shelter]."

She described how she once saw a dog run out of the

shelter and onto the road where it was hit by car and died.

Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the PPLO, responded by saying that he was trying to solve the problems of the dog pound by establishing an official foundation to help dogs.

"Many organizations, both national and international, support the dog shelter project. I think we should be allowed to continue to try to make it work," he argued.

Gov Udomsak concluded the meeting, saying, "I would like everyone to consider the condition of the dog shelter during September, and then we will discuss it again – and make a decision – at the end of September."

– See Editorial and First Person on pages 22 & 23

## TTVI chief offers experts to ID victims of Katrina

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: The head of the Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification center (TTVI) has offered the services of Thai fingerprinting experts if the United States needs outside help in identifying the bodies of Hurricane Katrina victims.

Pol Gen Nopadol Somboonsub told the Gazette that he was unsure of the exact situation in the US at that time, but he assumed that bodies might be in a similar state as those in Thailand after the tsunami.

"I used to have contacts with the team that identified victims in the aftermath of 9/11, and they already have expert knowledge and know what to do."

"[But] I think the situation there now is on such a large scale that they might need foreign help, and could use Interpol. We did so after the tsunami hit Phuket, and it worked very well," Gen Nopadol said.

"The weak point in Thailand after the tsunami was that we had no experience [of such a disaster] and had to use volunteers from overseas."

"We were very pleased to get their help, but [some] still lacked in-depth knowledge and understanding, and volunteers were rotated after arriving at the center and had started working. That is why so much was missed," Gen Nopadol added.

He said that Thailand now has a professional team of experts who are able to lift prints from bodies in an advanced state of decomposition.

"We have the experience and can share it with them. We would be happy to have our team of about 40 people help in the US, especially in fingerprinting which

Continued on page 3

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# Top tycoons from Britain assess tsunami needs

PHUKET: A delegation of top business-people under the banner of Britain's Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF), recently visited Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi Provinces as part of a tour of tsunami-stricken areas in Asia.

The IBLF and the business leaders made up what they dubbed "The Tsunami Business Task Force", formed to assess local needs in Thailand, India and Sri Lanka.

The task force comprised 15 representatives of the world's leading businesses, including Abbot Laboratories, Accenture, Alcan Inc, Cadbury Schweppes, Deloitte, ERM Group, Manpower, Nestlé and Standard Chartered.

It aimed to review what lessons can be learned from relief efforts and to help plan strategies for effective long-term involvement by businesses in sustainable recovery projects.

Linda Cruse, Project Director of the IBLF, told the *Gazette* that there was still a lot to do in the region. She said that the IBLF realizes that there is a problem with unemployment after the tsunami, and that the organization aims to work toward solving this problem so that parents will be able to take care of their families.

"It is really important to take care of small and medium-sized enterprises. We want to help people restart their busi-

nesses. We think about what we should do, what the market needs and we come up with business ideas to help them," she said.

After the Thailand leg of their trip, which ended on September 2, the team visited India and then Sri Lanka.

Results and conclusions will be reported as recommendations for follow-up action in relief, recovery and reconstruction.

## Warning systems complete 'by the end of the year'

PHUKET: Suranand Vejjajiva, Minister of the Prime Minister's office, has inspected the tsunami warning system in Patong and promised that the systems in the six provinces affected by the tsunami will be linked with the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) at Nonthaburi by the end of the year.

K. Suranand visited Phuket before joining a mobile cabinet session in Khao Lak on September 5.

### MORE SECURE

"The information I have now is that the tsunami-affected Andaman provinces still have a problem linking with the NDWC, and that there are some obstacles with evacuation plans and signage. But I will work together with Dr Smith Thammasaroj [who was appointed to establish the NDWC], and the relevant authorities," K. Suranand said.

"We plan to install links between all the warning systems in the Andaman provinces, and aim to finish by the end of this year in order to welcome tourists and make them feel more secure. We should also have finished installing sea-level monitoring buoys by the middle of next year."

K. Suranand said that he

would also like to see Royal Thai Navy and local administration warning installations linked in a common system, as they are not yet coordinated.

Meanwhile, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura has been invited by the Japanese government to verify that Phuket's tsunami warning system is operational and ready to protect tourists in the coming high season. He is visiting Japan September 8 to 14 to promote Phuket as a safe holiday destination.

"I am going to Japan in order to confirm that our warning system, which is very similar to the one used there, is operational. I will explain that we now have a system familiar to them that works in the same way as theirs," Gov Udomsak told the *Gazette*.

"For Phuket, completion of links to the NDWC is [scheduled for] October 1. If a warning is issued, we will evacuate people from unsafe areas to safety. The entire procedure would take no more than 40 minutes, day or night," he said.

About 20 officials are with him in Japan. Their itinerary includes stops in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Kobe.

- *Sangkhae Leelanaporn*

# Thailand to step up fight against 'ice'

By Athiga Jundee & Chris Husted

NAI YANG: Thailand will improve its coordination with Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) partners as part of its fight against drug trafficking in the region, with particular focus on the growing popularity of "ice", a crystalline form of methamphetamine (*ya bah*).

Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Pol Gen Chidchai Vanasatidya made the announcement at the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime Plus Three (SOMTC+3) Working Group on Narcotics held at the Pearl Village Phuket Resort on September 5 and 6.

Gen Chidchai explained that ice is already popular in Japan, Malaysia and China, and stressed,



Gen Chidchai: 'Must be wary.'

"Asean countries need greater coordination in fighting drugs trafficking in those countries, including more involvement from Asean dialog partner South Korea,

where the drug is becoming increasingly popular.

"Thailand must be aware of this kind of narcotic, too. *Ya bah* is the most popular [illegal drug] in Thailand, but we must be more wary of ice."

He also said that Thailand and Malaysia are working together on cocaine control, especially the problem of drug dealers importing cocaine to Malaysia and trafficking it from there to Thailand.

"Thailand is continuing its efforts against drugs, despite the fact that the numbers of users and dealers are decreasing," Gen Chidchai said.

"However, Thailand must focus more on strengthening the local community, making them strong and keeping them away from narcotics."

## Gov to stay on for one more year

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Usarangkura will be in Phuket for one more year before retiring, the Interior Ministry in Bangkok announced today.

Vice-Governor Winai Bua-pradit has been appointed Governor of Phang Nga, while Vice-Governors Niran Kalayanamit and Supachai Yuvaboon will continue serving in their posts.

Before being appointed to Phuket, Gov Udomsak was Deputy Director-General for General Affairs at the Department of Local Administration. He has also served as Governor of Pattani.

# Many tsunami victims 'suffering from PTSD'

NAI YANG: The Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Science (TCELS) reported at a meeting of Phuket Provincial Public Health officials that many survivors of the tsunami are still suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

At the meeting, held at the Pearl Village Hotel on September 4, public health officials listened to a presentation by Dr Thongchai Thawichachart, Chief Executive of TCELS, who revealed the findings of detailed research that TCELS has conducted on genetic factors that influence the brain under stress.

Blood samples from 2,900 tsunami survivors across the six



Dr Thongchai Thawichachart: Database may even prove useful to the US after hurricane.

affected provinces were studied.

Dr Thongchai said, "The results of our research form a database that can advance Thailand as a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD sufferers and people at risk of PTSD, as well as other psychological issues, including drug addiction.

"Our database may even prove useful to other countries affected by the tsunami or other natural disasters, such as the recent hurricane in the US," he added.

- *Ananya Hongsa-ngiam*

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# Woman jumps from Sarasin Bridge

**TAKUATUNG:** In an eerie echo of a famous double suicide of the 1960s, a 36-year-old Phuket woman died on the evening of September 5 after jumping into the sea from Sarasin Bridge.

Pol Maj Apidej Chaengkua of the Khok Kloy Police Station, Phang Nga, told the *Gazette* that

the woman, Boonsri Anekthamapinit, of Tambon Wichit, drove her Honda motorbike onto the bridge, stopped, climbed over the barrier, and jumped into the sea.

Witnesses pulled her from the water, but she was declared dead on arrival at Takua Tung Hospital.

Maj Apidej said that relatives told investigators that K. Boonsri had attempted suicide on a number of occasions. They added that she had looked depressed when she left home, saying only that she was going to visit friends.

The case echoes a famous double suicide nearly 50 years ago when a student of Rajabhat Phuket Institute and her lover, a *song taew* driver, jumped from Sarasin Bridge and drowned.

That suicide pact became the basis for a hit song and later for a successful movie. As a result, Sarasin Bridge has become a macabre tourist attraction for Thais.

## Help offered to US

**From page 1**

is the most important way of identifying victims.

"We also have dentists who helped after the tsunami, comparing X-rays of teeth from bodies against existing records," Gen Nopadol added.

"I don't think that in the US they will leave the bodies in situ for too long, as I believe most were found in their homes. Their situation is different from ours: here most of the corpses were found dumped together and without any way of identifying them," he said.



Coming soon to a beach near you... But the Governor's pledge to rid the island of jet skis still applies.

# Patong to host top level jet-ski race

By Anongnat Sartpisut & Chris Husted

**PHUKET:** The island's first jet-ski racing competition will be held in Patong Bay on December 10 and 11, Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit announced on September 6.

After a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptanlop, V/Gov Niran said that with a prize purse of US\$10,000, the tourney for the HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej Trophy is expected to attract some 500 competitors from 40 countries.

The event is expected to cost about 22.6 million baht to stage, and the Thai Jet Sports Boating Association, one of the organizers, has confirmed that Thai star racers Chaowalit Kujaroon, Pro Sport 800 Superstock 2004 world champion and Thailand Pro AM Runabout 0-1200 Open champion 2005, and Choke-Uthit Molee, Pro Runabout 800 Superstock 2004 world champion, will take part.

Despite the go-ahead being given for the event, V/Gov Niran said that the provincial government's policy to rid the island

of all jet-skis by March 1, 2011 would remain in force.

"However, the organizers have explained that this sporting event will be run using international-standard [jet-ski racing] safety rules. Riders must wear helmets and protective gear, and jet-skis do not have propellers," he pointed out.

"There will be no problems staging the event in Patong. The course will be [inside an area] only 250 meters [long] by 200m [wide]. This will help to promote Phuket province around the world," V/Gov Niran said.



Popular singer Nantida Kaewbuasai (2nd from right) sang to a sell-out crowd at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on September 3, in a concert co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

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# Bumpy ride for Phuket

Two stories about Phuket Air appeared in the country's national English-language daily papers on August 31. The *Bangkok Post* reported Phuket Air owner Senator Vikrom Kromadit as saying he planned to end most scheduled flights, stop charter operations, and lease nearly all of its fleet, including nine Boeing 747s. But *The Nation* quoted Executive Vice-President Capt Chawanit Chiamcharoenvut as saying the carrier merely planned to scale down its long-haul operations and focus on local routes instead.

So which one was true?

Capt Chawanit confirmed the *Nation* story to the *Gazette*, saying that Sen Vikrom had felt very hurt by the bad press suffered by the company in recent months, which was why he had said such things to the *Bangkok Post*.

After a lengthy management meeting at the airline's Bangkok headquarters, he said, "I can confirm 100% that we are continuing in the aviation business and will expand our domestic routes. I guarantee it."

Capt Chawanit remains upbeat despite the latest problem to hit Phuket Air – the French civil aviation authority (Délégation Générale de l'Aviation Civile) including it on a list of six international carriers prevented from flying into France since June 4 for safety reasons.

Somewhat mystified by this development, he told the *Gazette* that Phuket Air had never flown through French airspace and has no plans to do so. He says he still does not know the real reason behind the ban.

"I think it's possible that France is looking back to the incident last April, when we had the fuel problem [at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, when excess fuel poured from a wing prior to take-off, scaring passengers].

This has not been a good year for Phuket Air. The Bangkok-based carrier has been in the news, both nationally and worldwide, for all the wrong reasons. In the latest blow on August 29, France included it on a list of six airlines excluded from French airspace on safety grounds. But the company's management says it is determined to keep flying. In this exclusive interview, the *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn spoke to Capt Chawanit Chiamcharoenvut, Executive Vice-President of Phuket Air, to hear the airline's side of the story.



"This is old news."

He said Phuket Air had tried to explain its position to the public through the media, and added that no one had ever canceled a flight booking because there is a high level of passenger trust in the airline.

Capt Chawanit confirmed, however, that since the beginning of this year revenue had fallen by more than 500 million baht because of rising fuel costs.

"Even though profits are down we will not stop operating, because Sen Vikrom has the vision to have an aviation business that can make Thailand proud," he said.

What about the Phuket Air plane impounded at Incheon International Airport in South Korea, after the company allegedly failed to pay debts owed to its local sale agent?

It was the second time this aircraft had been prevented from taking off for Bangkok, and came after Phuket Airlines Co. Ltd. had settled a debt of 237.6 million won (about 9.25 million baht) in maintenance and other service fees.

Capt Chawanit denies the carrier owes money in South Korea, and says he can prove it. The plane is still impounded because the airline has launched a counter-suit, he said.

The agent is claiming 1.22 billion won (47 million baht) in

damages for losses it says were sustained because of the decision to suspend flights between Incheon and Phuket in July.

"It's not true at all," Capt Chawanit told the *Gazette*. "We don't owe [money to] anyone there."

"We can't surrender on this, and are suing back because we didn't do anything wrong. All we want is fair play. We don't owe anything there. I have the evidence."

other companies. But [at least] Chitta-gong didn't seize our airplane," he said.

"I think it's normal in the aviation business that debts are incurred: in some cases these are real debts, and in other cases they are not. We try to pay what we owe."

Capt Chawanit blames negative media exposure for many of the airline's woes.

"Our problem was in April only," he said, adding that it arose because of a misunderstanding about the medical certificate on the license of a Filipino pilot flying the Bangkok-Amsterdam route.

The airline explained to the Dutch authorities its view that the pilot had a valid license in law, and that the airline should not be penalized by being banned because of a problem between the civil aviation authorities of the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Phuket Air employs about 60 pilots, half of them Thais and the rest Filipinos or Indonesians. It has 16 planes in its fleet, but is currently using only eight. The remaining aircraft are undergoing maintenance.

"If a plane is no good, then our pilots will not fly it. They are human and the same as those in other airlines: they will not fly a plane that is unsafe. They would not risk their lives in planes that

are not airworthy," Capt Chawanit said.

The other problem on the Bangkok-Amsterdam route, that led to the airline being banned from Dutch airspace, related to emergency floor lighting found to be defective in a post-landing inspection at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

"That airplane had already been inspected [and cleared] before leaving Bangkok," Capt Chawanit said.

"After it arrived in Amsterdam it was inspected by their aviation people who said the lighting was out of order and therefore unsafe. I think this is unfair, because the fault could have occurred during the flight or after arrival. They seized our plane and did not allow it to fly back, saying we were an unsafe airline. I don't understand this."

He revealed that he had been to Amsterdam a month ago for talks on the ban, and that his visit took place before the French decision to exclude Phuket Air.

"I believe they [the Dutch and French] exchanged information. The only thing we could do – and have done – was to send the relevant documentation to the Safety Standards Office at the Thai Department of Aviation," he added.

Capt Chawanit said Phuket Air has a new policy of not flying to Europe in the foreseeable future, mainly because of high fuel costs: "Over the next two or three years we plan to buy larger, 400-seat Boeing aircraft that can fly direct from Bangkok to London or Amsterdam. I'm certain that once we are ready to fly such routes again, there will be no problem at all."

He said that after the tsunami, the number of passengers declined and the airline had planned to halt European flights anyway in April, but that this coincided with the Bangkok-Amsterdam problems. Domestically,

## 'All we want is fair play'

"Our plane was seized because the agent told the court they wanted compensation after we canceled charter flights last July, but the truth is that we decided to cancel because they did not pay money [owed to Phuket Air] on time," Capt Chawanit added.

The airline also has a financial "situation" in Bangladesh, at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport.

"We have the same problem as South Korea at Chittagong."

"We paid what we owed, but the agent there didn't pay

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# Air

it also had to cancel the Haad Yai-Phuket route when passenger demand fell greatly because of violence in the three southern Thai provinces.

Now, he said, the airline is considering adding a three-flights-a-week service between Chiang Mai and Udon Thani in October, and also boosting flights between Bangkok and Yangon from two to four a week.

The *Gazette* told Capt Chawanit that this newspaper had received complaints from readers, who said the airline should remove the word "Phuket" from its name because it does not fly here, and also because its name has been associated with bad news that could have a knock-on effect on the province's image.

He rejected this charge: "The name is not important. The name is just the name. What about the good things that the airline has done?"

"Our airline was the number 1 for bringing Korean tourists to Phuket last year, and we generated much income for the province," Capt Chawanit said. "Phuket itself has suffered bad news, so why don't people ask for a new name there too?"



Phuket Air is run by Phuket Airlines Co Ltd, and was established in January, 2001. It is owned by Ranong Senator Vikrom Kromadit, who also owns the Andaman Club Resort and casino in Myanmar. It began operating with one Boeing 737-200, flying from Bangkok to Ranong and Phuket. It now flies domestic routes to Buri Ram, Mae Sot and Ranong, and operates one international service to Yangon in Myanmar. Phuket Air also used to fly to London Gatwick Airport and Amsterdam's Schiphol, but earlier this year was banned from UK and Dutch airspace after safety-related incidents.

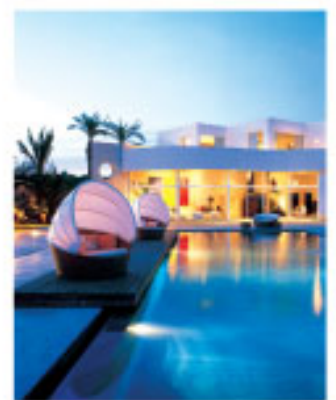
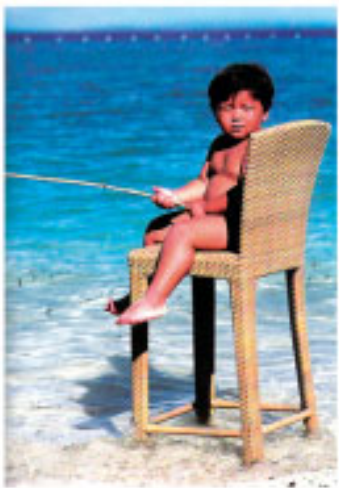


Capt Chawanit.



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## Queer News

# Tongue twister

PRACHIN BURI: A 24-year-old textile factory worker in Prajantakham District bit the tongue off a 16-year-old boy who tried to rape her.

The victim, given the pseudonym "Bee" in a Thai press report, was riding her motorbike home from work at about 10 pm on August 24 when the boy, also on a motorbike, pulled up beside her and asked for directions to a nearby village.

Like Little Red Riding Hood, Bee must have forgotten what her grandmother told her about talking to strange men on deserted roads late at night, so she pulled over and told him the way. But after she did so the youth wouldn't leave.

"I'm not sure if I have enough gas to get there. Would you mind shining your light on my gas tank so I can check?" she recalled him as asking.

"When I noticed the way he was looking at me, I got scared and tried to ride off – but he stopped me and wrestled me to the ground," she said.

"He began taking off his pants and told me not to scream or resist, otherwise he would shoot me dead."

Then, for some reason, the would-be rapist tried to inject a bit of romance into his assault by French-kissing his victim. This weak attempt at foreplay backfired when Bee bit down hard on his tongue – and, like a Pit Bull, refused to let go.

"He hit me and tried to

strangle me, but I wouldn't release the tongue," she said.

Finally, he yanked his head back with all his might – so hard, in fact, that he ripped a chunk of his tongue right off, leaving the end of the offending organ still firmly clenched in the jaws of the feisty Miss Bee.

He fled on his motorbike and, after he was gone, the girl spat out the tongue at the scene of the crime – a quiet road through a copse of bamboo behind Nonghuakhoo Temple in Tambon Nong Saen. She then rode home and told her parents, who took her to the police.

Investigators recovered the severed tongue and placed it in a refrigerator to serve as evidence. Then they called nearby hospitals to see if any patient was being treated for a severed tongue.

One was – a boy lying in the men's ward at Chaophrya Apaiphubes Hospital, surrounded by worried relatives.

Explaining his injury away, the boy told police, in a somewhat garbled voice, that he had been set upon by a gang of about 10 hooded thugs, two of whom grabbed him by the throat while another cut his tongue out.

The police didn't buy his version of events, however, and said they would book him.

"We still have the tongue and it's a strong piece of evidence," said case investigator Pol Lt Col Nipon Pochoo of the Prajantakham Police.

Source: Khao Sod

Suchana Chaloehtoom, won a round-trip ticket to Singapore on SilkAir. Pictured presenting it to her is John Sim, Manager Thailand of SilkAir.



## We Love Phuket Sticker Campaign



Sittichok Meesit (right) collects his prize of a two-night stay for two in a deluxe double room at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort, Patong. Handing over the voucher is *Phuket Gazette* reporter Anongnat Sartpisut.

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

*When the taste is perfect,  
it can be the start of a friendship.*





# Drunk driver sentenced to death

The Maha Sarakham Provincial Court sentenced 23-year-old Nattapong Raksapong to death for a drunk driving rampage last March in which four people were killed and four others injured.

Nattapong, who faced sentencing alone because none of his relatives chose to attend, turned pale and fell to his knees when the verdict was read, and he had to be carried from the courtroom by four policemen.

The court, which found him guilty of murder, causing injuries, property damage and numerous traffic law infractions, said it found no reason to commute the sentence.

"He has our sympathy, but we believe he deserves capital punishment for what he did," said a relative of Nattapong, who asked not to be named.

Last March 12, Nattapong drank five bottles of liquor and stole a six-wheel truck from his adoptive father. He later hit eight people in four separate accidents. His victims included seven students who were about to take the university entrance examination.

The four who died were killed instantly. Nattapong was finally arrested when he crashed into a pickup, leaving its driver dead at the scene. Nattapong has 30 days to lodge an appeal.

Dr Taejing Siripanich, secretary-general of the Campaign Against Drunk Driving Foundation, said it made a welcome change to see a drunk driving offender sentenced to such harsh punishment.

**'Flu season:** The Kamphaeng Phet Livestock Development Office announced that three districts in the province have been designated bird-flu outbreak zones after lab results showed many local chickens died from the disease last month.

Provincial Livestock Development official Kamol Chareonsilpa said officials were sent to dispose of the carcasses properly after lab tests confirmed that mass poultry deaths in Khlong Khlong, Sai Thong Wattana and Bueng Samakkhee Districts were the result of the viral infection.

As a precaution, poultry-quarantine checkpoints will be set



As violence in the Deep South of Thailand continues unabated, police academy officers from the southern border provinces take part in a security drill at the Royal Thai Police operations center in Yala Province.

up on strategic roads in the province.

**Ministerial merger:** In an effort to focus on national research and development (R&D) priorities, the government is planning to merge the Ministry of Science and Technology Ministry with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology.

Science Minister Pravich Ratanapian said that under the merger R&D institutions would be put under one umbrella, with the new ministry responsible for both policymaking and services.

"With this model, we can consolidate development policy and R&D budgets to make science and technology development and research go in the same direction. This is important in solving national problems," said Ministry of Science and Technology Permanent Secretary Pairash Thajchayapong.

The planned merger, outlined in a first draft written by the Civil Service Reform Office, should be ready for Cabinet approval soon.

**Nursery crime:** Kanokwan Chansiri, who abandoned her

new-born baby in a taxi, was sentenced to a two-year suspended jail term, a 1,000-baht fine and 12 hours of community service. The Min Buri Criminal Court, which initially handed down a sentence of two years behind bars, later commuted the sentence so that the woman could continue to care for the child, which will remain in her custody.

After the sentencing, Kanokwan left with her mother, refusing to speak to the press.

On July 31, Bangkok taxi driver Chote Buppha, 55, told police that a woman in her 20s had left a baby in his taxi. Kanokwan, who had a nine-year-old girl at home, was arrested later that day. She confessed to abandoning the baby out of pressure from her husband, who did not want to have another child.

**Sin tax update:** The makers of Johnnie Walker whisky lauded the government's plan to tax alcoholic beverages solely on alcohol content, but some Thai alcoholic beverage makers say the change is likely to erode the competitiveness of local products.

John Pollaers, Managing Director of Asian key markets for

the Diageo Group, which owns Johnnie Walker brand whisky, said the alcohol tax move showed real leadership and a proactive approach towards a good social policy.

"Alcohol has the same impact on consumers, whether it has been brewed, fragmented or distilled," he said.

The brewers of the potent Chang Beer, however, said they preferred the current arrangement whereby the government charges alcohol tax based on a combination of both alcoholic content and retail price.

**CFCs to be phased out:** The Association of Allergy and Immunology of Thailand, the Food and Drug Administration and the

Department of Industrial Works (DIW) are jointly developing alternatives to the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as propellants in nasal spray medications.

By 2009, CFCs will be completely banned under the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The global campaign against CFCs – used in the production of foam sheets, refrigerators and freezers, car air-conditioners and aerosol cans – has led to a dramatic 92% decrease in Thai imports of CFCs over recent years. But nasal sprays for treatment of such diseases as asthma still largely rely on CFCs because they are cheap and highly functional, said DIW Director-General Issara Shoatburakarn.

**Back to school:** The ruling Thai Rak Thai Party will offer its members six training courses in the art of politicking, said party MP Pimuk Simaraj.

The courses, the brainchild of party leader and prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, will focus on developing personality and speaking abilities in Parliament, public relations techniques, English-speaking skills, using the Internet, understanding money markets and learning about statistics and research techniques.

K. Pimuk said the party would start the training on September 19 and classes would finish on December 13. MPs and ministers who finish the courses will receive a certificate.

"Thai Rak Thai MPs will have to pay 2,000 baht for each course and attend classes every Monday and Tuesday evening," he revealed.

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

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# In Phuket, punk's not dead

Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

**D**o Sid Vicious, The Ramones, Patti Smith, Green Day, AFI and The Clash ring alarm bells? If so, look out, because a fresh generation of punks has emerged in Phuket.

"I have enjoyed punk music for the past six years and I like it because it really stands out from most of the music you hear," Surin Fufong, owner of the Sur Sur Punk fashion boutique, told the *Gazette*.

"I used to be the only punk on Phuket, but I never got into fights with anyone. I listened to punk music and dressed like this for many years before it became popular.

"I did not follow fashion, but rather my own sense of style," K. Surin explained, "and I designed punk-style belts decorated with knots. Later, I made bracelets and jackets based on the outfits punk bands in foreign countries were wearing.

"Some of the clothes in my shop are ready-made and shipped down from Bangkok, but others are handmade by me. Not everything I sell is punk; I mix in some other modern styles, too," K. Surin said.

"My shop pioneered punk fashion here and, I admit, at first I did not have many customers. But now The Sur Sur Punk is regularly packed – most of my customers are students."

T-shirts at The Sur Sur Punk cost just under 200 baht, while shirts and pants range from about 500 baht to 1,000 baht.

*The Sur Sur Punk boutique is located on the second floor of Ocean Shopping Mall, 38/1-15 Tilok-U-Thit 1 Rd., Phuket City.*



All the right gear – and don't forget that all-important victory sign. Surin Fufong or Sur Sur Punk (left) with pals.

## Foreign Resident Burgled at Rawai

*From The Phuket Gazette, September, 1995*

RAWAI- Long-time Phuket resident and businessman Luca Schueli, proprietor of MarinAsia and former partner in Sea Nomad, came home at midnight August 13 to find his temporary residence in Rawai ransacked and his valuables taken.

It was the second residential burglary in the area in recent weeks. Tristan Jones' house, just up the street on Thanon Viset, was robbed shortly after the well-known author and sea-going adventurer's death on June 21.

Stolen from the gated and walled premises loaned to him by a friend were Mr Schueli's MacIntosh Laptop computer and printer, a 21" color television, a hand held global positioning unit used on yachts, 80,000 baht in cash, and his passport.

The thieves also attempted to abscond with a camera, bin-

oculars, a small compass, and a pen, but these were abandoned outside the wall when the towel in which they were wrapped apparently unfolded. The towel (also stolen) was also recovered the next morning.

### CROWBAR

"They came in over the wall," Mr Schueli said when contacted by the *Gazette*. "The wall has spikes along the top of it; these they bent down first in order to climb over. The door was forced open – it's a heavy door with a good lock, so I guess they used a crowbar – and when they left they had to climb back over the wall. That's when they lost the camera."

Also taken were two pairs of Mr Schueli's prescription spectacles. He estimates the total loss at 150,000 baht.

"They were pretty thorough; all the mattresses and cushions were torn up, everything had been searched and was scattered."

The middle-aged Swiss-Italian businessman was at a loss to explain why he should be targeted by the thieves.

"I guess they knew I was out and no one else was staying there.

"The police seemed to feel it was probably local kids on drugs who did it – trying to get money for ganja."

Mr Schueli said the police officers were very helpful. They came the night of the break-in and again the next morning, but so far there are no suspects in the robbery.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

## Hotels battle provincial tax

*From The Phuket Gazette, September 1-15, 2000*

PHUKET: The Phuket Tourism Association (PTA) and the island's Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) appear to be on collision course over a new tax on hotel rooms.

According to the Provincial Administration Organization Act of 1997, any *OrBorJor* may collect a tax of as much as 5% of room revenue from all forms of accommodation in its province.

The PTA, however, argues that the Act contradicts the Thai Constitution, and that the Phuket *OrBorJor* therefore has no right to collect the hotel tax, an argument it put to the Provincial Governor, Charnchai Soontharamut, at his office on August 17.

A similar fight between the

Koh Pa-ngan Municipality and the Surat Thani *OrBorJor* is already before the Constitutional Court, which is being asked to rule whether the *OrBorJor* Act clashes with the Constitution.

"We've come to meet the Governor today because we want to delay the tax collecting process during [the hearing in the Constitutional Court]," explained Sombat Atiset, Managing Director of Kata Thani Hotel & Beach Resort and the newly elected president of the PTA.

"I have to discuss the issue with the Governor, members of the *OrBorJor*, the PTA, and the Thai Hotel Association, Southern Chapter," Dr Prasit Koysiripong, President of the *OrBorJor*, told the *Gazette*.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we will try to start collecting the hotel tax by October 1."

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# Krabi cracks down on longtails

This year's boating deaths off Koh Samui and elsewhere in Thailand have highlighted the need for better supervision of commercial and recreational marine craft.

Recently, in Ao Nang Bay, an overloaded longtail boat capsized in rough weather, spilling all 12 passengers into the choppy waters. Only quick action by local authorities averted a tragedy.

While most operators have the common sense to steer clear of dangerous waters, the truth is that, with business so slow, some boat owners are willing to take risks in an effort to boost their meager revenue.

In response, the Marine Department of Krabi Province has instituted a new policy to supervise boating activities at various places including Ao Nang, Koh Lanta, Krabi Town and Ao Thalen.

The Marine Department guidelines include making sure that all boats stay within their designated areas. The growth in the number of vessels over recent years has resulted in some beach areas being completely taken over by boats, to the detriment of swimmers.

Other regulations are also being enforced: "The maximum number of people in a boat is now eight, and the boat must have a life jacket for each person," said Titipong Goglang of the Marine Department.

The four staff at the Marine Department in Ao Nang also monitor the weather, and will move all the longtail boats to the harbor in Haad Napparath Thara in the case of bad weather or big waves.

The presence of the Marine Department on the beach and these new policies are welcome, as safety has now become a major issue for tourist arrivals.

**Camp clean-up:** On August 28, the Krabi Scouts Association began cleaning up and renovating the Krabi Scout Camp in the

Talad Kao area of Krabi Town. The camp, which has not been used in recent years, had fallen into disrepair.

Under the guidance of Chuan Phukaoluan, President of the Krabi Province Boy and Girl Scouts, the park is now being revitalized.

Since December, K. Chuan has also been busy as President of the Sriphong Phukaoluan Foundation, helping orphans and families affected by the tsunami.

He plans to rebuild the Scout Camp and incorporate a community center for all residents of Krabi, with activities for the elderly as well as for young people, including sponsored sports events, classes in arts and languages, and a branch of the Youth Red Cross.

The aim is to create a community center not only for those displaced by the tsunami, but for the Krabi community as a whole.

Such a project costs money, and K. Chuan and friends have been busy raising funds from both the public sector and private donations.

The first step, cleaning the 22-rai property, is being achieved with the help of many Boy and Girl Scouts. The next stage will be the construction of new facilities for the camp, including sleeping quarters, the community center and sporting facilities.

K. Chuan hopes to create a community focus in Krabi that will bond people of all ages, religions, backgrounds, those with common interests, and he hopes that these bonds will support those in need of help.

**Rumors flying:** There has been much speculation about the construction underway at Krabi Airport. One story said Thai Airways International (THAI) was going to cancel its service to Krabi, while other tales concerned delays which would postpone the opening of the new runway until next year.



Krabi Airport Director Paisan Jinachan explains the new plans for the extended runway, which is due to be complete by November.

Krabi Airport Director Paisan Jinachan cleared up the rumors. THAI, he said, far from canceling services, will actually be adding flights soon, taking the service to four flights daily from Bangkok.

He thought the confusion might have arisen because the national carrier had stopped its Trang service.

Other airlines slated to serve Krabi include Tiger Air from Singapore and Novair from Sweden.

Construction of the new runway and facilities is nearly complete, and there will be a huge improvement in services, he said.

The new runway will be 900 meters longer than the existing 2,100m runway, enabling it to

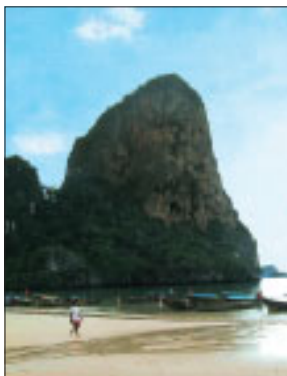
handle larger aircraft such as the Boeing 747. With additional apron parking and servicing, the airport will be able to accommodate two 747s, one 737 and one smaller aircraft.

The new passenger terminal, at almost 16,000 square meters, will be able to handle 1,400 passengers at a time, compared with 600 at the current terminal. The number of parking spaces for cars will be increased from 164 spaces to 464.

The extended runway will be operational by November, K. Paisan said, and all the improved facilities will be in place by the end of the year.

He seemed optimistic about meeting the deadlines and about the future of Krabi Airport. I hope he is right; the expanded airport should give a much-needed boost to tourism this year.

**What a relief:** The webpage [www.krabi-relief.com](http://www.krabi-relief.com) has been updated to show the Krabi Relief Fund's latest activities. Almost \$150,000 has been raised to support 60 orphans, and 48 more orphans are waiting for assistance. Thanks to everyone for your generous support.



## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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## Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

**B**ack in Phuket after a summer away, it has been nice to discover a lot of optimism about the growing numbers of tourists and the prospect of a moderately successful high season.

Owners of local villa developments are heading off to property shows in Europe, confident that they will enchant buyers into investing in Phuket's million-dollar homes. The resorts are getting refurbished and ready for a season of festivity.

Over at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort (LMPBR), former GM **Rudolf Borgesius** is back in the top position after a five-year absence managing Meridien properties in Egypt and Singapore.

When Rudy was GM in Phuket some years ago, the resort was full with a broad range of guests from around the world. He has probably been brought back to once again prove his own formula for a successful resort.

LMPBR was Phuket's top resort when it opened in 1987, combining the architectural skills of Mom Tri Devakul, owner of Mom Tri's Boathouse and Villa Royale, with the taste and style of one of France's top hospitality companies.

Since last December's tragedy, the resort has been given a dramatic facelift with a hip new feeling, more in keeping with the surrounding sea and jungle. Furnishings have been changed, restaurants improved and the 4,000-square-meter water park has been retiled.

With new food outlets, including designer pizzas and an extensive Mongolian barbecue served directly on the beach, LMPBR can again claim to be

one of the top resorts in the region.

For 1,500 baht, you can get a day pass which will allow you to enjoy all the recreations found at the resort along with a gourmet lunch. It's the perfect way to entertain visiting friends or your own family.

**G**ood news from our old friend **Steve Rosse**, who spent many years as the *Phuket Gazette's* star columnist. Steve and I taught English at the former AUA center in Saphan Hin 13 years ago.

We worked for 75 baht an hour and considered ourselves lucky to receive that princely sum.

No one knew Phuket as well as Steve. He spent all his waking hours exploring both the

top and the underside of local life.

I remember his vivid storytelling and keen sense of humor as he related, for example, what it was like to witness the auctioning of young virgins in Patong, discreet, invitation-only affairs.

He captured all he saw and experienced in clever short stories which have now been published under the rather unimaginative name, *Thai Vignettes, Phuket and Beyond*.

The book is described as "poignant, ironic, heartbreakingly sad and savagely funny". I think it's better than all that.

Look for *Thai Vignettes*; it's the perfect gift for anyone who needs a crash course on the joys and disappointments of living the fun life in Thailand.



Above, the homes in Bang Tao were trashed by the tsunami.

Above, right, the new homes built by Robin Plant, his wife Gift and their friends.

Right, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura was guest of honor at the official handing-over ceremony for the completed homes.



**A** few days ago, I traveled around Bang Tao with **Robin Plant**, Director of AVC Phuket and companion of the charming Supaireen "Gift" Jitsonah, who owns Carmen restaurant at Surin Beach.

Robin and Gift are local heroes who came to the aid of many in their neighborhood who lost their homes last December 26. Most were fisherfolk at the southern end of Bang Tao Bay.

When 10 of these families were evacuated to the community center across from Carmen restaurant, Robin and Gift provided food and clothing.

"Their houses were in pretty bad shape with most of their possessions washed away. Walls had been knocked down and even cars were swept into the buildings," reported Robin.

"Unfortunately, compensation from the government was only available to those who were registered as landowners or official residents, and most of these victims did not have the required documents for help."

With the assistance of generous donations from local individuals, money given from abroad and with the help of Laguna Phuket, Robin and his team built 42 homes for 199 people, includ-

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Robin Plant hands over the key to one of the homes to a mother and her child.

ing 61 children, on a variety of small plots of land in Bang Tao and Kamala.

"I wanted to help my community as I have been so lucky in my five years living on Phuket. I was lucky that my family survived the tsunami and I am lucky to have been given a beautiful new son. I wanted to actively contribute towards those who were less fortunate," he continued.

Robin negotiated the leases of the small plots of land around Bang Tao, coordinated the construction, and guaranteed that these refugees would not have to pay rent for two years.

Though none of the 7.5 million baht raised to build the new housing was given by the government, local officials were conscientious to ensure that all permits were granted and all work approved in a speedy manner.

**P**huket Governor **Udomsak Uswarangkura** has a vision. Speaking recently at an International Business Association of Phuket dinner, he shared his ideas for the island.

First, he explained the concept of a 70-billion-baht development on reclaimed land in Phuket

Bay, off Saphan Hin, which could involve investors from Singapore, Japan or even Bangkok.

There was no mention of Phuket's proposed International Convention and Exhibition Center, the fate of which now seems to have been lost in limbo, but he did mention the creation of two more major reservoirs, both the size of Bang Wad reservoir, to handle the growing need to supply the island with ample fresh water.

When asked about the long delay in repairing the short stretch of road at Kalim Beach, he said it had been difficult to find a contractor willing to take on that project.

Gov Udomsak's understanding of the issues that face the island is complete. He is knowledgeable and has obviously studied the various aspects of the challenges of development.

"But I am only a civil servant who answers to Bangkok," he said with a smile.

# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket

Orathai Chindapol, from Phuket, and Chakapad Neranont, from Bangkok, were married on August 8 at The Metropole hotel, Phuket City.



Oracha Chuanklin, from Phatthalung, and Tim Laven, from England, were married on August 4 at the Cape Panwa Hotel, Cape Panwa.



Raweewan Sorn-In and Pornchai Eamnirund from Thailand were married on August 18 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, Phuket City.

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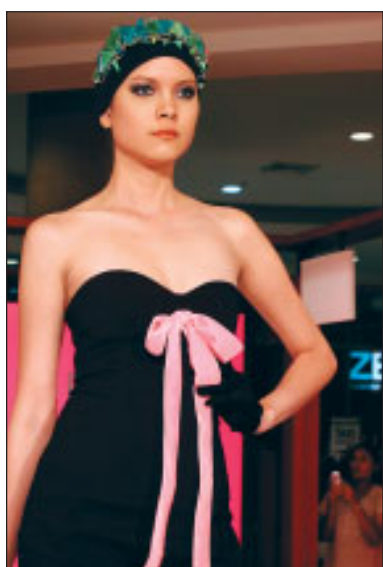
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# Haute Cottoture at Central



Photography by Anongnat Sartpisut



By Athiga Jundee

**PHUKET:** Some of the top models in Thailand featured at the Cotto Tiles "Library" on the first floor of Central Festival Phuket in a "So Inspiring Fashion Show" on August 26.

However, it was a fashion show with a difference, as all the models'

accessories were made from Cotto products, bringing a whole new meaning to "a night out on the tiles".

But it wasn't just miles of tiles; the show also featured necklaces, pins, earrings and tiaras – all ingeniously fashioned out of Cotto products.

The accessories on

display were both for formal wear – unless you're in the habit of wearing a sparkling tiara to go shopping – and informal.

The models were Yo Yodsawadee, Organ, Marisa Annita, Marisa Samridsuk, Tong Phakaramai, Mint Pornwadee, Tong Passari, Ar Arsaya and Es Worarid.

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## This week



**LEGAL OPENING** (above): John Howard (right), Managing Director Phuket of Tilleke & Gibbins International, hands a present to Prathom Petchmanee, Chief of Phuket Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Office and chairman of the grand opening ceremony of the firm's Phuket office at Plaza Del Mar, Surin, on August 26. Tilleke & Gibbins' (Phuket) Chief Values Officer David Lyman (left) looks on.



**MORE THAN SKIN DEEP** (right): Former Miss Thailand Universe and psychiatrist Dr Apisamai Srirangsan and Dr Jim M Huck, Consultant for Leadership Development, Asia Region, Pfizer Global Pharmaceuticals, take time out at the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Workshop recently conducted at The Royal Phuket City Hotel.



**FUNKY HIT**: Some 30 Hit Radio FFH listeners from Germany who won a trip to Phuket enjoy a dinner at Phuket View Restaurant during their visit to the island on August 24 and 25. Their trip included a visit to Koh Yao Yai with Sea Canoe Thailand and a beach party at Rydges Amora Beach Resort in Bang Tao.



**WHEELY GOOD**: Superintendent Derek Forest, Commander of the International Media Center at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification center, and fellow IMC officer Jennifer Pearson present to Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Jessada Chungpaibulpatana (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) six of 15 wheelchairs, valued at about 1 million baht, donated to Phuket hospitals by H.R. Smith Ltd in Hereford, UK, for use in children's wards.



**TRITON TITANS**: Boonsin Ekphaiboon (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Managing Director of Mitsubishi dealer Tiansin Co Ltd, celebrates the launch of the new Mitsubishi Triton at Thainaan restaurant on August 26 with Tiansin consultants (from left) Yotin Kulkaew, Wirat Chakawattanakul and Chaiwat Ketsil.



**PERFECTA TRIFECTA**: Brad Kenny (back, right), Mrs Chantal Nordstrand and Ian "Diver" Dick (center, in white T-shirt) celebrate their mutual birthday with friends and family at Diver's Bar at Surin Beach on August 12.

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By Andy Johnstone

The Cap Camarat 925 WA, from French builders Jeanneau, is new for 2005 and new to Phuket, and has recently been put through its sea trials with Lee Marine at Boat Lagoon. Nine two five? There's nothing workaday about this beauty.

An eye-catching design, the 9.25-meter-long vessel is the top model in the Cap Camarat family of four craft, which includes her smaller sister – also on offer by Lee Marine – the 755 WA.

The 925 is a handsome vessel – as one would expect from designer Michael Peters – with keenly sculpted lines tapering toward the stern, suggesting a neat turn of speed when the twin 250hp Suzuki outboards are pressed into action.

Peters should know a thing or two about naval architecture. His design company, MYPD, established about 20 years ago, has been responsible for boats that have won a raft of awards and plaudits. These include five UIM (Union Internationale Motonautique) World Championships, 12 world records, 21 national championships, and more than 100 international Class 1 wins.

MYPD also received the Showboats Award for the Most Innovative Yacht of 1995 for his 117-foot MY *Lady Tiffany*, and currently designs everything from small vessels to raceboats capable of 152 knots (282 kilometers an hour).

## WALNUT

The 925 sports the usual wealth of features and creature comforts typical of Jeanneau; lazarettes galore; four rod holders, a huge hatch and stowage compartment under the cockpit floor, and an insulated compartment for live bait, lager or a couple of bottles of your favorite champers.

Just forward of the stern there is folding seating suitable for four or five amply proportioned boaters' backsides.

There are also two water-ski rings, as well as an integral platform and swim ladder for the active. The foredeck has a generous sunbathing area, too.

The dashboard is crafted from attractive burled walnut, which emphasizes the 925's luxurious sporting pedigree, and the appropriate range of instruments on the panel. Nav and comms equipment includes a Raymarine plotter and an Icom IC-M502 marine VHF transceiver.

Also on the dash are controls for the bow-stern trim tabs, although Andrew de Bruin, Yacht Sales Executive of Lee Marine, said that, in 90% of situations, use of these is not required because the hull design – more praise for Michael Peters – is good enough for them not to be needed.

Once safely out of Boat Lagoon and onto seas with approximately half a meter of swell, Andrew pushes the throttles forward – all the way.

The 925 WA hits 45 knots (83kmh) in the time it takes to

# Cap's off to a very sharp act



A dash with dash and a wheel with feel. Just look at that walnut.



## The only thing missing here is the theme tune to *Miami Vice*

catch one's breath, the craft's elegant prow rising and then lowering majestically as the four-stroke, six-cylinder Suzukis growl.

Andrew says quite audibly, despite the noise, that even a complete novice can handle the 925 at her top speed of 50 knots.

The reviewer, a complete novice then (but not now...), cannot fail but to agree and be impressed with her forgiving character.

A series of hard S-turns at full throttle – she loses only five knots on a turn – puts the 925 and the reviewer through their paces. Both come out in top form, the latter with a defiant grin on his face. All that's missing from the

moment is the theme tune to *Miami Vice*, although that can be arranged.

The steering wheel, again burled walnut, is hydraulically assisted but still requires a little oomph.

Therein lies the challenge and the fun: despite the assistance, there remains the tangible pleasure derived from putting a bit of effort into controlling her, a palpable sensitivity.

Yet the 925 is also a family boat. Licensed to carry 10 people with salon seating for all and berths for four (two cabins; one fore, one aft), she is a superlative day or weekend boat, with a range of more than 250 kilometers.

Power? You'll hit 45 knots rather quickly with these two babies.

The salon, reached through a striking curved plexiglass door, also has a two-ring gas burner (the canister is tucked away in an exterior lazarette), an AC microwave, a 42-liter refrigerator, sink, stereo system and a washroom with head and shower.

Cruising toward the channel into Boat Lagoon at a "sedate" 35 knots after one hell of a jaunt, one thought about the Cap Camarat 925 WA – borrowed freely from Captain "Lucky" Jack Aubrey of the *Master and Com-*

*mander* series – comes to mind: "Quick's the word and sharp's the action."

Base boat with engines ex-factory, the Jeanneau Cap Camarat 925 WA is offered by Lee Marine Brokerage at 87,000 euros (about 4.4 million baht). The smaller 755 WA is offered at 47,000 euros (about 2.4 million baht). Contact Andrew de Bruin, Lee Marine, at Tel: 076-238803, Fax: 076-273319 or Email: info@leemarine.com

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## On the menu

with  
Andy Johnstone

### Aspasia

It makes perfect sense, once one has visited The Aspasia Phuket for Sunday lunch, to lie back and think of England – by the pool.

It isn't the name, but then how could it be when Aspasia was the name – as we all know – of Pericles' favorite consort, a *hetaera* in other words?

Nor is it because of the architecture at the resort, which is a rather splendid mix of Mayan and industrial. Stainless steel, glass and brushed aluminum rub shoulders with cascading plants, intricately decorated stonework and bamboo.

Of course, these musings come to me after we arrive at Aspasia; I'm having the Devil's own job finding the place, although not because it is difficult to locate – well, not that difficult – but because the hapless tuk-tuk drivers, whom I mistakenly thought to have the Phuketian equivalent of "The Knowledge", appear to know less than my hat.

We are first directed to Rawai Beach. Yet, not unlike Dick Whittington, as we reach Kata Viewpoint, I seem to hear a bell saying, "Turn again, Johnstone; three times to Aspasia." I take this to be a good omen, although I don't expect the streets to be lined with gold – goldiggers perhaps, but not gold.

### DYNAMITE

We then happen upon another tuk-tuk driver, and, lesson still to be learned, ask him for directions. I even give him the address – written in Thai. Still no joy; the exercise is akin to giving a stick of dynamite to a squirrel, that is, amusing in concept but ultimately to end in tears.



Blown away by the beef. And roast potatoes with thyme too! Just what the doctor ordered.

## Dreams of Albion

The third and final tuk-tuk driver has his head screwed on straight, the result of either no indulgence in M150 "energy drink" this day, or gallons of the stuff.

We appear to have been skirting the locale of Aspasia for ages, and find that it is just a quick drive up a steep hill not a stone's throw from Kata Center.

We are, however, terribly late for our 1 pm luncheon appointment with Alistair Why, Aspasia's jocular GM.

I am an Englishman, and therefore cannot be late. We are

so late, in fact, that I feel I should stiffen the upper lip, put my affairs in order – not that kind of affair – and remove the oiled cloth from the Enfield No 2 before putting the muzzle to my temple and doing the decent thing.

I am told not to overreact, though, as it is "only" 1:10 pm.

Calm and collected, Mr Why meets and greets us before taking us on a tour of Aspasia. Although lunching today at the resort's Malina's restaurant, he teases us with a glimpse of Columns, an astonishingly handsome restaurant that will just have to wait for another day.

Down the graceful curved staircase to the slightly more casual Malina's, we first pop into the bakery to be greeted not only by the charming female chefs but

also the warm scent of freshly baked bread, an aroma that ranks alongside fresh coffee as the most tantalizing of all. Almost.

Aspasia is currently offering a three-course Sunday lunch for a rather good 299 baht+ per person. "Why not?" we wonder, before choosing – a little cheekily – all three appetizers. They are in no order of preference because it is hard to place one above another: five Mediterranean dips and pita bread; smoked seafood; and Thai appetizers. And a bottle of South African Eagle's Cliff Chardonnay (950 baht a bottle), served in chilled glasses.

Freshly baked pita – with various seeds adeptly thrown in for good measure and flavor – is the perfect accompaniment to this quintet that includes hummus,

black olive tapenade and tzatziki, which could be a spelling mistake.

But it's no mistake that the combination of wine, song – it sounds like Pavarotti pleasantly audible in the background – food and companion are spot-on for a Sunday afternoon.

Of the smoked seafood, while all delightful, the king prawns and squid seem to retain the smoky flavor just slightly more than the tuna and eel. We are also impressed with the Thai appetizers, which include *tod man goong*, spring rolls, *goong pan sarong* and a sausage-type affair of chicken skin stuffed with minced, spiced chicken before being cooked. Glorious.

If we are impressed with the appetizers, then the main courses blow us away. Simple dishes, look you, but executed and presented perfectly by Executive Chef Michel Cottabaren, who tells us that the salmon is from Tasmania while the beef is prime Aussie.

My companion chooses salmon pan-fried with lemon-grass, while I, the inveterate Englishman, choose roast, peppered beef sirloin with the *jus* just right.

Somewhat bizarrely, this is the first time I have had roast beef, the archetypal British Sunday roast, in my four years in Thailand. Something about it – aided no doubt by a drop of vino and the fact that England is doing so well in The Ashes – nearly brings a tear to my eye.

I am given a lethal-looking steak knife with which to cut my beef but, rare and sublimely tender, it could be cut with a cricket bat with equal effect.

The colorful panoply of seasonal vegetables – roast potatoes with thyme, b'God! – are just what the good doctor ordered, too. Never a fast eater, I take even longer today, grateful for the gifts I have received.

We are also grateful for a light dessert of fresh fruit, as anything more substantial than this would probably make us burst.

Some exercise is called for and, in the company of Aspasia's Nongnuch Sena, we take a tour around the hidden treasures of the resort, the stepped-Mayan pyramid design putting us in mind of one Dr Henry Jones Jr – that's Indiana to you.

In conclusion, the design of the hotel takes its cues from ancient Mexico and ultra-modern industrial chic while the name is from Ionia via ancient Greece; the wine is from South Africa, the beef is from Australia and the salmon from Tasmania; a scorchingly good mix of Mediterranean-meets-English-meets-Thai.

The sum total makes me realize that God, Allah, Jehovah, Jah or whatever you want to call Him is undoubtedly in His Heaven, and all's somehow right with the world. As long as England wins The Ashes.

*Malina's at The Aspasia Phuket, 1/3 Lem Sai Rd, Kata Beach. Tel: 076-333033. Email: info@aspasiaphuket.com. Sunday lunch served from midday to 3pm.*

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# MAN THE FORTIFICATIONS!

## Q What is a fortified wine? Do they add vitamins to wine?

No, not vitamins – unless alcohol is your kind of vitamin. A fortified wine is made with the addition of grape alcohol part way through fermentation.

The resulting wine will have both sweetness and high alcohol content (18% to 20%).

The most famous of these are Port wines, which come from the Douro Valley in northern Portugal, and can be either white or red.

Some wines are fortified after fermentation. As a result, they are not sweet.

## Q Can Thai food really work with Western styles of wine?

There are only five flavors people can perceive: sweet, salty, sour, bitter and savory. It does not matter whether the cuisine is Thai, Italian, Swedish or Russian; there are only five flavors.

So, the rules of food and wine pairing apply as much to Thai food as to any other. Some Thai dishes are explicitly

spicy or sour, and this poses a challenge for some wines. Also, many Thai dishes are low in fat and high in acidity – another challenge for some wines. Western cuisine that features egg, asparagus or artichoke, for example, is equally challenging. The key with Thai food, as with any other, is select a wine that balances the flavors of the food.

## Q Is price a reliable measure of wine quality?

Once again, let me emphatically answer this question with a resounding NO. Price is a measure of market demand, not quality.

## Q Is Brunello a place or the name of a grape?

Brunello is the name of a grape. It is

## WINE



By Steven Roberto

actually a selection (clone) of the famous Tuscan grape variety, Sangiovese, and is the only grape permitted for use in making Brunello di Montalcino wine from Montalcino in Siena, Italy. Wines made there using this clonal selection typically express more intense fruit flavor and have more powerful tannins than the wines of Chianti.

## Q Why does no one bring the bill after a meal unless you ask? And even then you often have

to wave to get someone's attention at a restaurant here. Why is there always such poor service after a restaurant meal in Thailand?

To be honest, some things here do seem beyond understanding. I have always wondered why, for example, some people extend their auto's windshield wipers when they park. What is that about? Does

it indicate membership of a secret society, or is it just a tropical wiper maintenance procedure that I am unfamiliar with?

I suspect that, this being Thailand, where everyone is so concerned with politeness and service, there must be a reluctance to risk offense by asking for money, even though this is clearly what needs to happen so the guest can depart.

Don't expect the day to come soon when someone simply puts the check on your table and says, "I can take that whenever you're ready".

Do what I do and simply stand up and start to walk slowly towards the door. Those who were unmindful of your presence a moment before will suddenly rush to your side, check in hand. It never fails.

*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.*

## PHUKET DIARY

### October 2-11: Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2005.

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival will get underway on the evening of October 2 with the traditional Lantern Pole-Raising ceremonies at 13 shrines around the island.

The ceremony begins at 5:09 pm at the Jui Tui Shrine on Patipat Rd in Phuket City, 4:59 pm at Cherng Talay Shrine, and at 7 pm at the Bang Niew Shrine, which is at the intersection of Kra Rd and Phuket Rd in the city center.

This year's festival will feature the exposition of Mazhohu, the Ruby God statue to be brought from China, at a temporary shrine at the Navamindra Memorial Square in Phuket City. There will be a welcoming procession for the statue on September 6.

Mazhohu, devotees believe, protects people from the dangers

of the sea. A replica of the statue will be brought from its home on Meizhou Island in Fujian Province, China, specially for the Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

The first of the traditional street processions through Phuket City that characterize the festival will begin at 7 am on October 8 from the Bang Niew Shrine on Phuket Rd.

The second, which has the Jui Tui Shrine as its base, will be on October 9, also beginning at 7 am. October 10 will see a procession from the Kathu Shrine to the Saphan Hin Shrine. This, too, begins at 7 am.

More than 1,000 *mah sohng*

– who believe themselves to be possessed by the spirits of the nine Chinese deities "invited" to attend the festival – are expected to take part in this year's festival.



Lantern Pole-Raising ceremonies signal the start of the festival

Many of these will perform gruesome acts of self-mutilation, and in addition there will also be the traditional fire-walking and bladed-ladder climbing rituals.

The first firewalking will be at Saphan Hin at 8:09 pm on October 8, while the first bladed-ladder climbing begins at the Bang Neow Shrine at 8 pm on October 9. Cherng Talay Shrine holds its firewalking ceremony at 8:09 pm on October 10.

The festival draws to a close on October 12 with Lantern Pole-Lowering ceremonies at all participating shrines.

Participants and spectators are required to observe the following rules during the festival:

- Maintaining bodily cleanliness;
- Using clean kitchen utensils to prepare food, with separate utensils being used for non-celebrants;
- Wearing white clothing;
- Appropriate physical and mental behavior;
- Strict vegetarianism;
- Celibacy;
- Abstinence from alcohol;

In addition, pregnant women should not watch any ritual, and menstruating women and anyone in mourning should not attend the festival at all.

For more information call the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket office at Tel: 076-212213; 076-211036.

### October 23: The Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon.

A full 42km marathon, as well as 21km and 10.5km mini-marathons, and a fun run/walk of 5km will be staged, and are open to all competitors.

Participants will each receive a T-shirt, a souvenir medal, free food and drinks, and chances to win free lucky draw prizes of air tickets, hotel-stay vouchers, restaurant and bar vouchers, running gear and more.

The runs will start in the early morning from the Karon Circle Pond and go along the beach road right up to Kata Noi Beach and Kata View Point.

For more information check [www.katakaron.com](http://www.katakaron.com) or call K. Jeerasak or K. Jaspal at Tel: 076-333362, or send email to [info@katakaron.com](mailto:info@katakaron.com)

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# TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

# Macau's rustic retreat where time stands still

Time was, the main reason for going to Coloane, the southernmost outpost of the one-time Portuguese colony of Macau, was to dine – no, gorge – at Fernando's beachfront restaurant. The portions were always gargantuan, and the clock on the wall had stopped at 10 past three, thus ensuring that lunches stretched way past tea time.

Times change, though. The mass market has moved in, not only to Fernando's, but to just about everywhere else in China's newest Special Administrative Region. Casinos and theme parks are sprouting in other parts of the burgeoning metropolis, land is seemingly being reclaimed with every tide, and the legendary Macanese calm and quiet is almost a thing of the past.

The grainy black sand of Hac Sa Beach is reputed to be as good for the skin as a spa treatment.

The glorious 8<sup>th</sup> hole at the Macau Golf & Country Club.



Yet time also stands still – or it would appear to do so – in much of the rest of Coloane.

While the tycoons plot and plan, scanning their bottom lines with mounting glee, the govern-

ment of Macau has decreed that Coloane should remain off-limits to the pile-driver and the bulldozer, and that forests and flowers will be the motif here, rather than concrete and glass.

Only a few minutes' drive in one of Macau's clunky taxis, the island remains a bucolic retreat, all the more so for the contrasting urban landscapes a couple of kilometers to the north.

## HIDDEN

Ride the lift at the Westin resort – the only hotel of any note here apart from the long-time favorite, Pousada, which is currently under renovation – and you walk out onto the first tee of the Macau Golf & Country Club.

Some of the world's top players have driven off from here, yet it is almost hidden from passers-by on the road.

Coloane village itself is set around a sleepy square, and its winding lanes and alleyways are dotted with traditional mom 'n' pop stores and hole-in-the-wall eateries, interspersed with antique shops whose proprietors are happy to pass the time of day and who appear almost surprised at any gesture in the direction of business.

Step into one of the churches – the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, or St Francis Xavier's – and you might be in a Portuguese hamlet.



Coloane is a delightful breath of fresh air.

Stroll into the nearby woodlands and you may not see another person for hours on end.

The sands of Hac Sa beach are a grainy black – reputed to be as good for the skin as any spa treatment – and the rest of the island is criss-crossed with hiking and biking trails that are the antithesis of what has been labelled the “new Las Vegas of Asia”.

At the southwestern end of Hac Sa beach, a line of peppercorn mini-mansions – which currently change hands for a cool US\$2 million each – leads to a coastal path which meanders toward the pleasant village of Cheoc Van.

This is one of the most deserted and picturesque hikes in the whole of what was once regularly dubbed “the sleepy enclave”.

Hike its length and you pass ancient rock carvings, pretty lovers' pavilions suspended over the crashing waves, and vistas that extend out over the South China Sea – panoramas that have changed little since the first Portuguese merchants sailed their flimsy ships here back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, hoping to trade and open the sleeping dragon of China up to the world.

## Rak Mak! Awards

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## An amiable rant from Mr Grumpy

**J**erry Hopkins has lived in Thailand for more than a decade. In terms of expat longevity, this doesn't make him particularly long in the tooth: but he is a veteran journalist, with long service at *Rolling Stone* magazine and 30 books under his belt.

His latest is *Thailand Confidential* (Periplus, Singapore, 2005, 256pp). In his introduction he characterizes many of the 42 stories in this book as a rant from a "grumpy old man". But the overall impression is of an amiable ramble through some familiar byways of Thailand – the bar scene, getting married, trying to learn the language – and some that are very unfamiliar indeed: body-snatchers, good luck dildoes, insect aperitifs, aphrodisiacs and sex change operations. The narrative tone is sly and quirky and shot through with humor.

Why Thailand?

Bored with a long idyll in Hawaii, Hopkins came here for "its hospitable population, alluring women, light-yet-healthy cuisine, affordable cost of living, historic culture and varied geography, tropical climate, the most interesting expat community I'd encountered anywhere, the contemplative nature of Buddhism (and its lack of a god or dogmatic creed), a reasonably free press, an entertaining government and an abiding sense of fun".

He goes on to characterize himself as "a cynic with a twisted sense of humor and an expat living in a foreign country totally unlike the one I came from, where I now have a big Thai family and spend a lot of time with poor people, in the slums of Bangkok as well as in the rural countryside".

And while it's easy to criticize Thailand, don't even ask him about his native USA "unless you're prepared to get sprayed with saliva and vitriol".

So Hopkins launches himself on a genial investigation of his adopted land. He explains, as best anyone can in English, the concept of *kreng jai*. He delves into magical tattoos, spirit houses, fortune-telling, lottery dreams, ghosts and all-powerful Bangkok shrines. He learns how to live in Thai time and cultivate *jai yen*. With his friend Father Joe Maier, he makes a study of the street games played by the kids in the Klong Toei slum.

At first, he went through the usual bar scene phase: "Patpong and Soi Cowboy and Nana Plaza were places where nearly anything imaginable was available at an affordable price, where horny males could push 'rewind' on life's remote control and return to an unrequited adolescence... and, this time, the girls would all say yes and make you think they loved it."

And then he graduated to marriage with the irrepressible Lamyai, daughter of a Surin rice farmer, and adoption into her large rambunctious family.

He is great at springing offbeat surprises on the reader. Here is his opening paragraph to a story called *Venus Envy*:

"I was led into a brightly lit operating room at the spanking-new Bumrungrad Hospital, where a friend of mine, Kelly Lynn Deloito, lay on her back, anaesthetized, covered almost entirely by a leaf-green, cotton sheet. Her arms were supported at her sides as if on a cross (and strapped down to prevent movement), only her manicured nails on show... Except for her hands and her head, with a plastic pipe fitted into her mouth, to help her with her breathing, all that would be seen was her groin, where a penis lay limp on her abdomen."

Everything you ever wanted to know about a sex change operation: it's right here. Journalist to the core, he even gets a story out of his own heart surgery.

After delighting in the quirks of Thailand, Hopkins trains his sights on the various farangs: tourists, businessmen, embassy people, NGO workers, bar hounds and runaways. He is brutal on backpackers, contrasting the hardy pioneers of the 1960s Freak Trail with the clueless "world travelers" of today:

"Where the beats and their long-haired spawn staged a siege on society's constraints, rebelling against conformity, protesting against Vietnam and for marijuana, against Lyndon Johnson and for dancing... expanding on the vocabulary of exploration, actually trying to put their heads (as they said) into a different space, the only questions backpackers seemed to ask concerned cheap train tickets and where they could find the best banana pancakes."

*Thailand Confidential* is the perfect beach read.



Jerry Hopkins



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

# Uh oh. Trouble in paradise

**P**huket can sometimes be such a disappointment: "...this lawlessness ... is surprising and disappointing to me. There are no taxis to be found without an appointment. The reason according to a friend who lives there is that a taxi that drives into Phuket [Patong] will be physically battered by the tuk-tuk drivers," writes a contributor to the *Thaivisa.com* forum.

"They literally strong arm the competition out of town."

"The govt even offered low/no cost loans to taxi owners to encourage the competition and no takers due to fear; everyone knows where you live."

"Is this irrational level of lawlessness really tolerated in Thailand/Phuket? Why is everyone afraid of the tuk-tuk constituency?"

**Wrong president:** Another blogger at the same site contributes, "I have a theory (which has been strongly backed up) on the tuk-tuk issue. Although unfair to call these drivers 'mafia', it wouldn't be far off. These Tuk-tuks are, however, supplied by the mafia! They set the prices, not the driver!"

This is not an unusual thing and happens not only in Thailand, for example when someone has a taxi in say England or the USA they are required to 'hire' the radio? Your paying someone for the privilege of being able to operate, its no different to that in Phuket!

Now ask yourself, when a driver says '100 baht' and you say 'No, 50 baht' why does he drive off? Surely it is better to take the 50 baht rather than spend another 20 baht in gasoline looking for the next sucker?

The answer to that is simple, he's been TOLD he must charge that, he hasn't chosen that option himself! What kind of trouble would he be in if they found out that he was setting the wrong president [sic]? A great deal I'd say !!"

**All in a day's work:** "Managing a Go Go bar must p\*ss you off at times, but one could hardly expect to get covered in the stuff."

"Hans Dummkopf [a pseudonym to protect him from... well, himself], a resident tourist from \*\*\*\*\*, Germany and local expat from Phuket Town, has been jailed on charges stemming from an altercation at Girls a Go Go."

"According to an eyewitness Dummkopf felt he had been ripped off from 'services rendered' at the club and wanted a discount from the floor manager."

"After refusing to give any ground to Dummkopf, the manager called the local police to have him removed from the premises. However, before the police arrived, Dummkopf disengaged his colostomy bag and threw it at the manager, hitting him squarely in the head."

"The incident was captured on the club's state-of-the-art video tape security system."

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

It's not all plain sailing here in Phuket. This week we're going to take a peek at the soft underbelly of the island. Rip-offs, rude people and international ignorance at the highest level. It's all here, folks. As usual, **Lis Kinswoman's** editing hand is light, only deleting to protect the guilty, er... the innocent.

Dummkopf has been charged with reckless endangerment, assault and battery, and dissemination of a toxic fecal material.

"He is expected to be arraigned later this week." – [mangosauce.com/archives/000297.html](http://mangosauce.com/archives/000297.html)

**The wrong minister:** Okay, enough of that. Just after the tsunami, Sweden was dumbfounded to learn that its Foreign Minister knew very little about Southeast Asia and even less about defending herself from criticism.

"The Swedish foreign minister has been heavily criticised for not reacting more quickly to the South Asian disaster, which has left hundreds of Swedes missing, most of them in Phuket and other resorts on Thailand's west coast."

"Media and opposition politicians have directed particular criticism at Freivalds' decision to go to the theatre on the day."

"Asked in an interview with *Dagens Nyheter* why her department had not understood the scale of the disaster earlier, Freivalds

replied that, for her part, she 'had no idea what Phuket was.'

*Dagens Nyheter* pointed out that Jan Nordlander, the head of the Foreign Ministry's consular service had previously served as Ambassador in Bangkok, and should therefore have known that Swedes could have been hit.

"Freivalds replied that Nordlander did not appreciate the scale of the catastrophe until he arrived on the scene. 'It is not sufficient to know that there were many Swedes there; you also need to know what a tsunami is.'

"Fredrik Reinfeldt, leader of the opposition Moderate Party said that the fact that the Foreign Minister was unfamiliar with Phuket 'added to the impression that the Social Democrats are very distanced from the people.'

"...Asked if he could point to Phuket on a map, ten-year old Carl Nilsson replied: 'Everyone knows that it's in Thailand.'"

– [thelocal.se/article.php?ID=963&date=20050213](http://thelocal.se/article.php?ID=963&date=20050213)

• *Elections are looming, but at present Laila Freivald is still Sweden's Foreign Minister.*

## Wordly wise

"That is unacceptable. It is not part of Thai culture. It has already gone too far. Things here are getting worse than in developed countries..."

– Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in his weekly radio address of August 20 (quoted in the *Bangkok Post*), commenting on a report that teenage motorcyclists were racing illegally in order to win the "prize" of a girl.

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# If death doesn't kill you, the numbers will...

When debating, it is best to adopt the habits of a lion, stalking your victim, creeping up slowly, then leaping while anticipating your prey's every move.

Enjoy an exhilarating chase before pouncing and digging your teeth into its haunches. Give it a shake, don't let go, and then let it slowly bleed to death...

Perhaps this analogy is going a bit too far. On the other hand, there is no rhyme or reason when debating with a sarcastic little 11-year-old boy, as I discovered last week.

## PENGUIN DEBATE

There isn't much to do on the bus home from school except listen in on conversations or stare vacantly out the window. Lately, there haven't been many exchanges worth eavesdropping on (and most of them are your bog standard "Oh my God, Kimmy isn't speaking to Shelley any more!" variety), so when an 11-year-old boy with knobby knees and a disproportionately large mouth started arguing with me about *penguins*, of all things, I rose to the challenge.

After a while his constant questioning began to grate, and wanting nothing more than to stare vacantly out of the window again, I moved in for the kill. I didn't even bother with the above chase scenario. I just spouted an elaborate sentence full of difficult words and statistics (because which average 11-year-old knows what 'commissurotomy' is?). It seemed to shut him up for a while, but then he started asking me what all those complicated words meant.

What surprised me the most was that he never doubted the sta-

tistics that I had simply pulled out of thin air.

We encounter statistics every single day on television, in newspapers and from other people, often embellished with, "New surveys prove that...". But how many of us actually question where all these numbers come from? How many of us look more closely at the graphs and multi-colored pie charts? To change a slight bump on a line graph into a steep incline, all you have to do is fiddle around with the scales a bit, and *voilà!* Suddenly your company has had a massive profit increase.

However, this article is not going to be about how to lie with statistics – that subject could fill an entire book. (In fact, there is a book called *How to Lie With Statistics* by Darrel Huff, and I highly recommend it to anyone working in business or accounting. Nor am I going to go into detail about sample sizes, fancy graphs and diagrams, or standard deviation – there's simply too much math involved, and like any other 17-year-old, I can't stand math.

Instead, I want you to consider this horrifying statistic: globally, at least one in three females has been abused in her lifetime. The source of this statistic is the American Bureau of Statistics.

But what exactly do they mean by "abuse"?

While the mind automatically assumes it to mean rape, severe beatings, emotional abuse and the like, the American Bu-



## Youth 'n ASIA

By Ella Micheler

reau of Statistics has a much broader definition of the word abuse. It includes, under "abuse", receiving the occasional obscene phone call. And a question in one of its surveys was, "Has your husband ever shouted at you?" Tick that box! Another abuse victim! The question, "Did you shout back?" is conveniently omitted.

Such statistics only result in furthering stereotypes. Nowadays, "female" and "victim" have become increasingly synonymous, as have the notions of "male" and "evil abuser".

Another demographic area targeted by statistics is people in their teens. Seeing the statistics published on the Internet seriously makes me think twice about ever having a child myself – and it also makes me wonder if I'll even survive being a teenager.

The US seems the most fervent collector of teenage statistics. While Thailand, China and other Asian countries mostly publish statistics on teenagers and HIV or pregnancy, the US has statistics on violence, murder, crime, underage sex, drinking, drunk driving, drugs, school drop-outs and rape. The second highest cause of death in America is homicide. If that doesn't kill you, it's a drug overdose, smoking, suicide or a badly performed abortion.

## HARMLESS

In compliance with these statistics, and according to the opinions of many conservative adults who mutter angrily about "those darned teenagers", I should be: a) attempting to hang myself in my closet; b) experimenting with dubious chemical substances; c) peer pressuring innocent 10-year-olds; or d) having clumsy underage sex. Who'd have thought I

might do anything so harmless as go to the cinema with my friends?

Nonetheless, adults don't get off so easily either. When it isn't your behavior that's being criticized, you'll likely go mad anyway from all those risk statistics. To pick a few at random: the risk of being hurt in an elevator is one in six million; the likelihood of dying in an earthquake or volcanic eruption is one in 11 million, while from leaking gas it's one in 12 million, a dog bite one in 20 million, drinking detergent one in 23 million and a snakebite, one in 36 million. But the risk of being infected with flesh-eating bacteria is one in 170,000. The risk of dying from that is one in four.

Scared yet? There's more: the likelihood of the planet being wiped out next year by a catastrophic comet, meteor or asteroid impact is surprisingly low at one in 20,000.

Fifty-six percent of all statistics are untrue – and so is this one. Remember that the next time you hear you have a one in 150 trillion chance of being hit by a former celestial body. I'd suggest wearing a helmet everywhere from now on, but it would not be much protection against a great rock hurtling in from space.

# WHEN MUM GOT

Dear Momma Duck,

I have heard that Thai women, after having a baby, sit over a fire for a week in order to restore their body to its pre-pregnancy state. Somebody told me it's called a "hot pot" or something like that. What's this all about?

Steve  
Phuket City

Dear Steve,

The *yu fai* – literally "in the fire" – is an old practice still used in some rural areas of Thailand. Originally, it was practiced for a full month following the birth of a child, but nowadays it lasts only a week or a few days, if it takes place at all.

Before I answer your question, you might first like to know about the history of the practice, which was common in most of Asia.

The Chinese tradition is probably the most rigid. In addition to various dietary restrictions, their traditional *yu fai* does not allow the new mother to wash her hair, read a book or even climb stairs during the first month after childbirth.

During the time of my great grandmother, nearly all Thai mothers went through *yu fai*. The *Khun Chang Khun Paen*, a famous work of classical Thai literature, states that "[the experience of] a woman going through labor is equal to the hardship of a Thai man going to war". I think a one-month *yu fai* could be included as part of that hardship.

Equipment used in the traditional *yu fai* consisted of a rectangular wooden platform, about one meter long, laid on top of the existing wooden floor in a Thai house. An additional plank was placed at each corner of the platform. Banana trees were cut into two sections and put under these planks. On the platform, a pile of soil was placed upon which a fire was set and kept constantly alight.

Around the platform, a special thread was strung to protect the new mother and baby from *Pee Kraseu* – a type of Thai ghost that has a floating human head from which its exposed intestines hang.

It is believed that *Kraseu* love to eat things that smell of fresh blood and therefore are at-

tracted by the fresh wounds of the new mother – and her helpless baby.

Traditional Thai houses are built on stilts. A bunch of thorns was put under the house because *Kraseu* are said to be afraid that the thorns will pierce its intestines.

The new mother, wearing only a robe, was supposed to lie



## Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

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16:50PM. Departure by 9R525 to Phuket

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Mr A, a homeowner in Phuket, wanted to build a small extension to the back of his house. He employed a local construction company to do the job, thinking it should be an easy task.

But after building began he quickly discovered that things sometimes aren't that easy at all. The construction firm did not make the necessary soil checks to see if the ground would support the extension – and it sank several centimeters.

The new structure had to be demolished.

He then employed professional architects and engineers from Bangkok to produce plans, and hired a professional company to build the extension again, from scratch.

Alas, soon after it was completed the extension once again sank a few centimeters.

After long consideration, Mr A decided to employ a third company and engineer, and demolition again took place. What started as a three-month job soon turned into a year.

During demolition, the new engineer uncovered the mistakes that had been made by his predecessors. And because Mr A had suffered financial loss arising from this, he contacted his law firm with the aim of securing compensation.

With the extension finally completed to his satisfaction, Mr A had his costs for rebuilding and other expenses documented to enable him to go to court and file civil charges for compensation.



## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

With Friedrich  
'Sam' Fauma

### A simple job gets complicated

An appointment was made to bring the case before court-appointed negotiators, in an effort to settle the dispute out of court.

After lengthy discussions during which Mr A tried to get the other party to admit some responsibility, he eventually agreed to a settlement offer proposed by the other party.

With the help of the negotiators this was increased slightly, but the settlement was still nowhere near the total financial damage suffered by Mr A. However, it was enough to settle the case so everyone could get on with their lives.

Although a settlement was agreed, Mr A still has to wait for his money – the agreement called for payment in monthly installments.

What can be learned from this case is that Mr A made a mistake by not entering into proper agreements with the parties in the first place, outlining exactly who is responsible for which part of the job. It was a costly mistake.

# COOKED

down close to the fire at all times. A "medicinal" concoction was placed on her naval. The poor new mother had to live like this for as long as 30 days. She was allowed to drink only a small quantity of water and only simple food was served to her, such as rice with dried, salted fish.

The only soup she was allowed was *gaeng leang*, made of leaves, shrimp paste, dried shrimp, pumpkin and egg. This was believed to increase her milk production.

This practice was widely espoused by past generations, which believed that all the heat healed the wounds faster and helped the uterus regain its former condition more easily.

Women in poor health after birth got comments from elders – "See? that's what you get for not using *yu fai* long enough!"

Although there is medical evidence that constant heat may be of some benefit, some new mothers undoubtedly died from this practice, in particular from the lack of adequate water, nutrition and physical activity. Nevertheless, many Thais still believe in the treatment.

Luckily for my generation, Western medicine arrived in Southeast Asia in time. Following the lead of the Royal Family around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many high-ranking ladies started to use Western birthing procedures.

This caused *yu fai* treatment to decline in popularity, especially in urban areas and among the educated.

Today, only the *Kra Jome* (steam tent) is used in urban areas. It's similar in concept to the Western sauna or steam bath, so that's probably why you've heard it referred to as the "hot pot"; it helps Thai women of modern times "cook" themselves after giving birth.

Most Thai mothers now give birth Western-style, in a hospital, where the room is air conditioned and has a TV and other amenities. Modern doctors will not let new mothers just stay in bed, but urge them to walk around soon after giving birth – even those who have had caesarean sections.

After a few days, the new mother and baby, if in good health, are sent home.

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

# Discover your tomorrow today!

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): A magic wand will be waved over you this week. Troubles that were starting to brew last week will dissolve, leaving the coast clear for progress, both on personal and business levels. Money matters finally take on a healthier glow, and you will be able to lay foundations for a delayed project. Talk to another Virgo if advice is needed. Wear gold to attract prosperity.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you want a fairy-tale ending you should start being more realistic. Affairs of the heart occupy much of your time and energy this week, and there's a danger of becoming single-minded. To make matters more complicated, someone else is about to come into the picture. On the work front, a surprise intervention is due on Tuesday. This will lead to new opportunities.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): If you can maintain the pace set during the first week of September, the rest of the month will see progress being made. You may be tempted to take things more easily this week but you will find it hard to catch up afterward. If cooler weather doesn't give you more energy, take a realistic look at your diet. Where romance is concerned, Capricorn is about to reveal a game plan.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Even if you don't think you were entirely in the wrong, seize the opportunity to apologize for a misunderstanding this weekend. Future relations could be affected in ways you can't understand now, unless the air is cleared. Those who would like to climb a rung on the bamboo career ladder must be more assured of their capabilities. This is an auspicious time to polish up your résumé.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): An answer to your current dilemma will be found in a surprising place this weekend. Your confidence in business last month is about to be rewarded, but be on the lookout for a snake in the grass. Make financial dealings your personal responsibility to avoid being taken for a bumpy ride. Romance is particularly well-starred this Sunday. Dare to ask that burning question before you chicken out.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): The sun shines on any plans hatched this week. Those

who would like to set sail in a different direction will have the wind behind them. Midweek, teamwork doesn't bring the results you expect; showing impatience will only make matters worse. Monday is the most auspicious day for appointments and Tuesday should be spent renewing business contacts. The number 3 can bring luck on Thursday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your worries over a relationship are unfounded. You are advised to adopt a more relaxed attitude to life this week. Your tendency to get hot under the collar over nothing lately has not been good news for your stress levels. Take time out to meditate on a peaceful lotus pond and incorporate the color light rose-pink to encourage a more tranquil outlook.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Many Arians appear to have been wasting time chasing rainbows recently. You need to get to grips with reality and focus on the here and now. Domestic issues need tackling head on this week. If you let discontent brew, storm clouds will quickly gather. Those who haven't met their dreamboat yet have an excellent chance of doing so by the middle of September. The number 4 is lucky on Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If you feel you have too much on your plate you will have an opportunity to offload some responsibilities this week. An offer that first appears too good to be true is genuine, so snap it up. On Tuesday, there is much to be said

for agreeing with everything a superior has to say. This is not the right moment to point out the truth. This Saturday is your best night for a steamy date.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Ideas you have this week are certain to bear fruit in the future, but don't share your brainwaves with those you don't know very well. On the home front, make an extra effort to understand your partner this weekend. There is something they are not telling you because they fear a negative reaction from you. Monday is the best day for dealing with a difficult business colleague; don't do so on other days.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Progress should be smoother this week. A more benevolent astral atmosphere encourages harmony at home, and there will be a decisive gain regarding a business matter. Expect to receive a small financial boost; if you play your cards right, more will come from the same source later in the year. It is time to undergo an appearance overhaul – ask a smartly dressed friend for advice.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You must be ready for last-minute changes this week. If you can be as flexible as a bamboo shoot, there is much that can be achieved, but expecting things to go as planned will lead only to disappointment and frustration. Relax as much as possible this weekend so that you have optimal energy to keep up with the increased pace after Monday. Wear fire-engine red to make a positive statement.



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## Time to put the dog pound out of its misery

Animal lovers across the island will be watching closely at the end of this month when a decision is due as to whether the much-reviled Mid Road Dog Pound in Thalang will be closed down.

Plainly, the pound – or *Baan Pak Sunak Phuket* (Phuket Dog Home), to give it its more cheerful official name – has been an unhappy experience for all, especially for the dogs incarcerated there.

Right from the start the pound was plainly ill-considered. It is on two rai of land and was intended to hold 2,000 dogs. That is one dog for every 1.6 square meters – a stark contrast with Thailand's most successful pound, the Kanchanaburi Animal Shelter, where 2,500 dogs have some 41 rai to roam around on.

Strangely, the Phuket authorities decided not to see what they could learn from the Kanchanaburi pound, but instead decided to reinvent the wheel.

Food was to come from hotels, said the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO). The hotels were surprised – they had not been consulted and most already had arrangements for disposing of their leftover food. Those that could supply scraps pointed out that the PPLO would have to collect them – a cost that had not been factored into the equation.

In any case, warned an expert from Mahidol University, leftovers could be dangerous for the dogs – there would be no guarantee that the food was fresh and free of harmful bacteria. The manager of the Kanchanaburi pound agreed: "We don't give dogs leftovers because they become ill from eating rotten food."

The pound has never been popular with people living in the area, who complained about the noise and felt sad about the dogs that were dumped at night outside the gates by uncaring owners and usually ended up being run over.

There were complaints, too, about the smell. A donation of deodorizing chemicals helped, but when it ran out, there was no budget to buy more.

Since it opened in May last year, the Phuket pound has been reviled by just about everyone. Defending it is difficult, although the PPLO chief does his best (see facing page). What is telling, however, is that months ago he set up an account for donations to support the pound: so far only two people have given money, and he is one of them. That's how popular the pound is.

Badly thought-out and chronically underfunded, the Mid Road Dog Pound is a sad experiment that has failed. It should be closed.

– The Editor



## Letters

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

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

### Who needs limos?

We all now know that there is an extra 100 baht airport surcharge (on top of the meter fee) when you take a meter taxi from the airport to say, Patong. (Incidentally, it is only 50 baht in Bangkok.)

However, it also costs the extra 100 baht to travel from Phuket City or Patong to the airport. The total fare comes to 400 baht.

But wait, there's more! It also costs an extra 100 baht if you take a meter taxi from Patong to the main bus station in Phuket City – the total fare comes to 250 baht.

And wait, there's even more – a tuk-tuk (without any negotiating) charges only 200 baht from Patong Beach to Phuket's main bus station and 400 baht from Patong to the airport. And what a great scenic drive it was up the coastal route.

I bet that with some persuasion I could get the tuk-tuk to give me a small discount on the above fares.

Who needs limo drivers?

David  
Patong

### Bad driving a social custom?

I've been living in Phuket with my family for almost 15 years and honestly have to say that the driving here gets worse every year. I am surprised that John Lunn [*Gazette* letters of August 27] thinks that bad driving habits in Thailand are a social custom that foreigners must accept without comment.

I don't think so! Although driving naturally reflects social mores, it is also regulated by

laws that are enforceable by police. I've got my Thai driving license. Every year I pay my road tax and car insurance premiums. I think my rights as a driver should be respected by my fellow man and protected by the Thai police.

How can Mr Lunn think that riding on the wrong side of the road should be considered an acceptable "national habit"? Children and students regularly ride three-to-a-bike, and without helmets, past impassive policemen, those very same officers who so zealously stop any car driver who fails to wear a seatbelt.

Three-wheeled vehicles are illegal, yet they are still allowed to operate. Is the reason that they are "traditional" enough to justify an illegal situation?

By the way, Mr Lunn: have you ever been involved in a road accident? I was, and despite that fact that I was completely in the right it has been very hard to get that fact confirmed by the local police, who take the side of Thais – even when they are in the wrong. Am I to consider that a "national habit" as well?

No one wants to change Thai customs, but please stop short of defining unsafe driving as a sort of positive national trait. It is merely the product of poor education, planning and law enforcement.

James Hair  
Phuket City

### Like it or log off

I refer to Bruce Stanley's whining article in your August 27 issue about Phuket International Airport [PIA].

I am in the aviation industry and often travel in and out of PIA. There is nothing wrong with it.

In terms of location, you cannot compare this airport to the one

on Samui – Phuket is an international airport with a large volume of traffic.

Immigration cameras... Mr Stanley portrays himself as an unseasoned traveler. These cameras also had glitches when they first came out in the US, but they work fine now.

As for the taxi touts, they are polite and are only trying to make a buck. If you just say "No thanks" or *mai ao khrap*, they respond with a smile.

I get sick of all the whingeing in the *Gazette* from farang trying to make this place run like their Western countries. It is different here. That's why we came, so relax and enjoy it.

If you don't, then you have a choice: log off, pack your bags and go back home

Richard Hayes  
By email

### Welcome to Phuket?

The dramatic drop in international arrivals at Phuket International Airport is hurting the island, which is praying for a tourist revival. But it seems that not everyone is pulling their weight.

I thought I would do my bit by encouraging friends from Singapore to visit. By the time they had spent about an hour in a line at the airport's immigration counter they were ready to turn round and go home again. This long delay was hardly a warm welcome, and created an impression of Phuket having an uncaring attitude towards visitors.

Immigration counters empty [of staff] and long lines of irritated visitors might be another reason why tourists are staying away. Certainly my friends thought so.

J Harvey  
Phuket

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

**The Phuket Gazette**

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## Letters

### Discuss with divers before sinking sculptures

Regarding the planned "seabed sculptures to draw divers", [*Gazette* issue of September 3], it appears that, once again, decisions have been made by officials without asking what people affected by those decisions – in this case, divers and the diving industry – want.

From my old days as a dive shop owner and liveaboard operator in the diving industry, I still remember how many hurdles and obstacles were placed in the Thai dive community's way on their quest to get a suitable and well-sized seabed wreck to attract more divers. Finally, the *King Cruiser* disaster accidentally gave Phuket and Krabi's dive industry what they had been fighting for, ever since the first tourist diver blew bubbles at the Similan Islands.

Nowadays, the tsunami seems to be reason enough to throw rational thinking overboard and create expensive underwater kitsch without even asking divers and dive shop owners what they think. Divers want excitement and adventure! While the words "wreck" and "big fish" make divers' hearts jump in sheer excitement and anticipation, I believe that very few divers will be over-excited by shallow 12-meter dives to look at some concrete statues.

Please don't get me wrong here; I very much appreciate art and trying out new things, but this project is obviously a "try" that will waste 24 million baht and most likely draw negative results.

If each of these provinces had a large underwater wreck, then it would serve as an artificial reef and safe haven for aquatic offspring, and the millions [of baht] saved could be better used for reef and shark protection – something that is still in its early stages here in Thailand.

My advice to the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources – before proceeding with this – is to call a meeting with dive shop owners to hear their point view is on these sculpture gardens and whether the hoped-for boost in the dive tourism industry justifies sinking 24 million baht into the project.

Franky Gun  
Khao Lak

### Perhaps time to say "Thank you"?

I have just read that Indonesia has, through her embassy in Singapore, held a thanksgiving event to honor the Singaporeans who helped Indonesia in the aftermath of the tsunami.

Isn't it about time that Thailand thanked publicly the hundreds of foreigners – expatriates and visitors – who helped her?

David Scobie  
Surin

# In defense of the Dog Pound

There are people who would like to close the pound down and I do believe that the opposition to it is made up of what I would term "selfish" people who have opposed this project from the very beginning.

People who complain and criticize should have a good look at the [dog pound] before speaking out to make sure that they aren't simply following other people's opinions and that they know the difference between the truth and lies.

Phuket is a tourist province and there should not be stray dogs wandering around. Just imagine what would happen if a stray bit a tourist on the beach and it resulted in serious infection. That would be big news.

At present there are 300 strays in the pound which covers two rai of land. Two rai should be enough space for 2,000 dogs but we cannot handle that many at present due to limited food supplies; the maximum we could manage at the moment would be about 500 dogs.

There have been complaints about dogs regularly escaping from the pound and causing road accidents, but these are lies.

The pound will accept only dogs sent by tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) or municipalities (*tessaban*). However, there have been cases of people leaving dogs in front of the pound.

### ABANDONED

One person recently left a bitch and her puppies by the gate and we had to act quickly to make sure the little ones were safe otherwise they would have just wandered into the road.

The people who do this are bad; they are the ones causing these traffic accidents, not us.

People have also complained about the noise. I've asked my staff about this as they live in the area, and they say that [the dogs] howl maybe once or twice in a month. When new dogs arrive there is quite a noise but once they get used to each other they

At a meeting on August 31, chaired by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, it was decided that a decision whether or not to shut the controversial Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalang will be made by the end of September.

Gov Udomsak explained at the meeting that he had received many emails and letters of complaint about the pound, as well as having people come up to him in person to voice their disapproval of the project.

Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), which is in charge of the pound, disagrees with the critics. Here, he defends the way the pound is run and puts the case for keeping it open.

calm down. When the weather changes they howl and when people pass by, one dog will start barking and then they all do it, but not for long.

As we're in the rainy season there's a lot of humidity and the place smells pretty bad but we're environmentally aware. At the beginning we had deodorizing agents donated to us to reduce the smell but these have run out, so naturally there's a bad smell. But it's not that bad. My staff, who live nearby, do not complain about it.

We will solve this problem soon because the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) has donated 600,000 baht for a water treatment system and two rain shelters, and we are going to buy some more chemicals to deodorize the place.

There's no problem fitting 400 dogs on two rai of land. The dogs don't die from lack of space; some die of old age and some from illness.

Our only problem now is a shortage of food but we have started dipping into the *OrBorJor* funds to buy some 5,000 kg of dog

## FIRST PERSON



food. This should last about 50 days.

As for the long term, we have asked every *OrBorTor* and municipality to put aside part of their 2006 budget to help with food for the dogs.

In July we launched a Phuket No Stray Dog Foundation, which was officially opened by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura. The foundation was set up by the PPLO to receive donations to support the shelter in terms of food, facilities and to help make the pound run smoothly in case there is no governmental help.

So far the foundation has received 26,000 baht. I donated 10,000 baht myself and 16,000 baht was donated by Sharon Oakely, a lady from Canada.

If we want to withdraw money from the fund we must ask for the Governor's approval. He is the only person who has power to withdraw any cash from the fund. All the details of the account's deposits and withdrawals are public; we want to ensure transparency.

As for written criticism of

the project, the Governor and I checked the emails together today [September 1]. We found that all seven emails [under different people's names] were sent to him from a single source: the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF).

The emails order the Governor to close the pound, yet I don't know anyone who has the right to order the Governor around.

The SDF is raising money by taking photos of sick dogs in our pound then posting these pictures on their website and soliciting donations. The website claims that the pound is a prison for dogs. People who want to help the dogs then donate money to the SDF but all the money is handled by one person [in that organization].

We know how to operate the pound – we separate the sick dogs from the healthy ones. The Thailand branch of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has assessed the pound as being one of the best in Thailand.

Phuket people need to work together: this is Phuket's problem and everybody, especially people who work in the tourism industry, needs to help with this problem, especially the food shortage. If it all went wrong and the pound had to close, the PPLO would be happy as we don't need any extra responsibilities and burdens. If this were to happen, my solution would be to send the dogs back to where they came from.

### REMAIN OPEN

However, I do not think that the pound will close.

The operation of the pound now depends on the cooperation of local people and foundations, both national and international organizations.

I suggest that those who are worried about stray dogs go along and see whether or not the dogs are alive, happy and healthy.

Donations may be made to account number 805-0-01027-9 at Krung Thai Bank Plc, account name "Phuket No Stray Dog Foundation".

## Can I buy alcohol on holidays?

I am a tourist and I have heard that, on public holidays such as HM the Queen's Birthday or Buddhist religious holidays, you cannot buy beer from bars but you can from restaurants. But I also hear conflicting stories and I cannot find anything official.

I would be grateful if someone could tell me the real rules and regulations.

K Demeyer  
By Email

### Phuket City Police Superintendent Pol Col Paween Pongsirin replies:

The police ask shops, bars, restaurants and hotels not to sell

alcohol on Thai public holidays. We send each one a letter or visit them to ask for their cooperation.

Although there is no legal requirement for outlets to stop selling alcohol on public holidays, culturally, it is considered a gesture of respect for the person or occasion.

### An officer at the Phuket Excise Office notes:

In addition, you may have found that you may buy alcohol only between 11 am and 2 pm and 5 pm and 2 am daily. These restrictions are enforced under the Alcohol Act of 1950, which applies to the entire nation.

## 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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## ON THE MOVE



**Blair Pratt** from New Zealand has been appointed golf course Superintendent at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. He worked at The Royal Chiangmai Golf Resort for five years as Course Superintendent, and before that was a Course Superintendent at the Mission Hills Golf Club, China.



A new reporter at the *Phuket Gazette* is **Ananya Hongsa-ngiam**, 23. A Phuket native, she graduated with a bachelor degree in mass communication and information science from Walailak University in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Previously, she was a trainee reporter at Channel 11 TV station in Phuket for three months.



**Sarunrat Smuthkochorn**, 22, from Bangkok has been appointed Legal Executive at Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd, Phuket. She has a bachelor degree in law from Thammasart University. Previously, she was an intern at the Arbitration Institute of Thailand in Bangkok for three months.

# File management in the workplace

Three weeks ago I explored LANs (local area networks) and how they are useful when connecting computers to each other, for sharing files, printers and even your Internet connection. One of the most underused features of a small LAN is its file-sharing capability.

This week the focus is on the art and science of file sharing – without the need for an expensive file server. Most SMEs (small to medium enterprises) either cannot afford, or simply do not need, a complicated file management system. So here are some basic concepts and tips that will get you going, and even bring you up to a level of file sharing that is comparable to a full-blown file server.

**File sharing:** This generic term actually refers to a specific set of standards and protocols that are applied to all computer LANs. The details are what make the use of this technology either simple or complicated, and either cost-effective or very expensive.

Take, for example, a small office with three to five computers.

Once you have set up a LAN, each of these computers can access each other, and this can be either good or bad because it raises some important issues about the accessibility of these files.

You must be very careful about what files and folders you share and how you share them. You probably do not want your salesperson accessing accounting records, for example. Nor would

## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

You must be very careful about what files and folders you share and how you share them.

you want the office secretary accessing your personal files.

In the more expensive and complicated world of file servers, this can be controlled based on the user's login name and applied security clearance.

In a small network, however, you need to take a more hands-on approach to ensure that the right people see only the files you want.

**Centralizing files:** The first step is to decide which computer will be the main file storage computer. I recommend this approach rather than sharing files on every computer, because it limits multiple copies and versions from being stored on all computers on the LAN.

Your best bet is to select the fastest PC or the one that remains on most of the time. Everyone can continue to use their computers as they have before, but if the central computer is turned off, their files will not be accessible.

When setting up a file-sharing system, I like to meet first with the users to determine their specific data management needs. Say, for example, that the boss wants everyone to have access to her sales and marketing materials, but not letters to her family.

A good rule of thumb is to move all the files you want to share to the central computer and to keep personal files in your own computer. Keep this in mind when it comes to backing up your files on both locations.



**If you are the adventurous type, just be sure to keep notes on how you configure things as you go, so you can always go back and undo your creativity if it does not turn out as expected.**

**Folder settings:** This is where most users get themselves into trouble. Simply connecting computers together in a LAN does not automatically mean that you can share each other's files and folders.

On the other hand, if you activate file sharing on your C drive, you may wind up giving full access to all your files without realizing it. So be specific, and manually configure sharing for each folder.

If, for example, you want to share a folder called Marketing Materials which is located in your computer's My Documents, click on My Computer and share C drive and everything on your computer will be accessible. If you click on My Computer and share My Documents, everything in your My Documents will be accessible.

The best approach is to click on My Computer, click on My Documents, and then Right Click on Marketing Materials and choose Sharing and Security. In the dialog box, click on Share This Folder and you will see the default share name is the same as the folder name you have selected.

Click on Permissions and you can decide what level of access to give.

Usually you want to allow Everyone to have Full Control, Change and Read access rights. Keep in mind that any sub-folders under Marketing Materials will inherit these settings – whatever sharing you assign to this

folder will be applied to any sub-folders within it.

**Directory structure:** Setting up the central file computer is pretty straightforward.

Simply go to that computer and open C drive. Now create a directory called All Files and set the sharing and permissions as outlined above. Next create as many sub-folders as you need, but try to keep their names as descriptive as possible.

This way, everyone who accesses this shared area can easily understand what they are looking at.

Unless you want to give different access rights to different people, you do not need to set any sharing or permissions on these sub-folders, because they all inherit the settings of the main All Files folder.

I recommend that you create another folder under All Files called Personal Folders – and then create a folder here for each user on your LAN.

If you instruct your office staff to keep all their personal files here, you can access them easily and you'll have a central location for all files when the time comes to backup (more on backups in a future article).

**Changing 'My Documents':** As a default, all Office applications automatically save your files in My Documents. This can be troublesome if you want everyone to keep their documents on the central file computer, because

they need to place their files manually there when saving.

The best way around this is to change the default file settings for your Office applications. For example, to change the default file location for Word, simply open Word and click on Tools, Options, File Locations. Here you can change where Word opens and stores its files. Just click on Documents and choose Modify, and you will see a standard Windows directory where you can Browse to the central computer and select All Files, Personal Folders and then select your desired folder.

Now whenever you go to open or save a Word document, it will automatically go here instead of to My Documents on your computer.

There are many other tips, tricks and traps here, so if you want to get fancy, we recommend you get in touch with an expert. If you are the adventurous type, just be sure to keep notes on how you configure things as you go, so you can always go back and undo your creativity if it does not turn out as expected.

*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 Southeast Asia. Contact john@islandtechnology.com for more information.*



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# Property mortgages get cautious welcome

By Alasdair Forbes

PHUKET: The property industry has welcomed the revelation that Bangkok Bank is now offering mortgages for Thai property to people living and working in Singapore and Hong Kong, and is hoping more banks will follow suit.

Paul Moorhouse, developer of the high-end Lakeshore and Lakewood projects, told the *Gazette* this week, "Anything that is done [in this direction] is worthwhile. But it doesn't appear to be definitive yet."

"I feel now that things are starting to happen. I have met with bank after bank over the past two or three years and largely hit brick walls [hearing] 'Oh, we want to do it, but, but, but...' and nothing ever happens."

"If Bangkok Bank... runs with it, then I think you'll find that the other banks will come in. I think then we'll probably see some of the offshore banks wanting to get in on the market. They cannot [lend], obviously, as mortgages, but they can do it as personal loans to individuals in the country they are based in. In fact I met with

one offshore bank in Hong Kong that is planning to do exactly that."

"But I think we are a month or two away yet from a definitive product."

Property consultant and developer Bill Barnett described his reaction to the news as one of "cautious optimism".

He did have one concern, however – that giving buyers greater access to credit might fuel speculation. "In the past Phuket has been a great market compared with, say, Pattaya or Bangkok, where everyone and his uncle would buy five condos for the rental returns."

"But Phuket's market has been so favorable because it's been [based on] cash transactions. We have buyers who are not dependent upon the return in order to purchase the property. That's been the great fundamental."

"Once people start financing properties it does open the door to a certain amount of speculation. Too much speculation is never a wise thing."

"People say, 'I can squeeze by as long as I make this yield,' but as we know, some of the yields out there are not always realistic."

He conceded that there was already a speculative element to Phuket's cash-based property market, but added, "Once the speculation is funded by mortgages there's a bit of danger of people buying multiple units to try to get those yields, and that's a lot more scary because it's still a developing market and developing markets are more volatile."

On balance, however, he saw the mortgages as a positive step, and looked forward to them being made available in markets other than Hong Kong and Singapore. "Certainly, we would like to see [similar mortgages available] in the UK. After Singapore and Hong Kong, the UK is our fastest-emerging market."

"I don't think the floodgates are open yet. It's a good thing and it's part of the natural progression of a developing market. We'd like to see more. We'd like to see overseas buyers being able to borrow in Thailand, instead of having to go to Hong Kong or Singapore."

Stephen O'Brien, Managing Director of the Phuket office of real estate agent Knight Frank, also saw the mortgages as a positive factor, especially at the lower

end of the foreign market. The increase in the number of developments with homes or apartments priced at 5 million to 10 million baht had opened up the market to a much wider audience, he said, and the advent of mortgages widened it further.

But, he added, "They [Bangkok Bank] don't want to take construction risk [at present], and I think there is some fine-tuning needed."

"There have been all sorts of opportunities thrown up for financing in this market."

"I think the best model is Laguna Properties – its payment plan... was very well received and it was available on freehold and leasehold."

He called for Bangkok Bank to make the mortgages available in Thailand. "It's intriguing. Why do you have to apply to Bangkok Bank in Singapore to get this loan? Why can foreigners not apply to Bangkok Bank in Patong?"

So far, banking regulations preclude this, so it seems that the ability of foreigners to get mortgages to buy homes in Thailand will, for the time being at least, remain limited.

## The fast-expanding Chinese economy is starting to resemble a runaway horse

China's economy is expanding at a very rapid rate. Measured by increases in gross domestic product (GDP), it has expanded on average by more than 9% a year for several years.

This pace of growth is probably unsustainable over a protracted period for any economy. The Chinese government started to take measures in 2004 to slow the rate of growth, including tightening access to bank loans.

It also introduced what can best be described as short-term capital gains taxes on the resale of domestic real estate within the first two years of ownership, in an effort to cool down the residential property boom in coastal cities, especially Shanghai.

In spite of these attempts, the Chinese economy registered 9.5% GDP growth on an annualized basis for the second half of 2004. This figure, to the surprise of many observers, was unchanged when GDP figures were released for the first half of 2005.

Readers may wonder why Beijing would want to curb such amazing growth.

There are very sound reasons for this approach. Any economy which grows at the Chinese rate over a number of years starts to encounter bottlenecks and problems. It's like a runaway horse: it may be going in the right direction and at great speed, but it is out of control.

Economic history teaches many lessons, one of which is that long-standing economic booms eventually lead to economic busts. Developing economies, such as China, can sustain higher

economic growth for longer than highly developed economies, but everything has its limits.

Already, China's power-generating infrastructure is showing signs of strain. Many factories are experiencing regular brownouts and blackouts, and the problem is becoming worse. The infrastructure is often unable to keep pace with economic growth.

China is also facing another very serious problem – the boom has created many millions of jobs, but economic growth is confined almost entirely to coastal areas.

### DIVIDE

Considering that output is often targeted at export markets, it is only sensible that goods be manufactured near shipping ports.

But that does not address the problem of what is happening in China's vast hinterland, which has seen very little of the vast rise in the standard of living enjoyed by coastal cities.

The divide between the two is increasing all the time, and resentment is growing. Some analysts believe that, unless ways are found to close the gap, there will be serious social unrest during the coming decade.

However, not every analyst is convinced that the Chinese economy is growing as fast as the quoted GDP figures state.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Dong Tao, regional economist for investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston, gave a different assessment in an interview on Bloomberg television.

He points out that Chinese oil imports for 2005 to date have shown an annualized increase of 2% compared with an increase of 24% in 2004.

Steel imports are stagnant and aluminum is down 5%.

He believes the headline 9.5% GDP growth for the first half of 2005 is the result of declining imports. In other words, the quality of the growth is starting to be questioned.

China is not heading for a recession, but perhaps it is beginning to enter a phase of slower and eventually more sustainable economic growth.

China is not the only emerging market to face the problem of poor rural living standards contrasted with rapidly rising standards in the cities. This is a worldwide problem for emerging economies.

Probably the best example of a similar situation on a large scale is India. Again, the economy is growing rapidly – though perhaps not quite at the rate enjoyed by China – and with economic growth figures achieved over the past decade, there is a burgeoning number of people considered to be urban middle class.

Again, rural incomes have changed little over this period, with unemployment or underemployment being a major factor.

The current Indian government is composed of a Congress Party-led coalition, which also contains some smaller, extreme left wing parties. These include different Marxist and communist groups that are trying to capitalize on the current situation.

The Congress Party itself has various factions jostling for power. The prime minister, Manmohan Singh, is apparently unhappy with what is happening beneath the surface of his own party and has reportedly offered to resign.

His offer has not been accepted; he is running, by Congress Party standards, an efficient administration with strongly pro-business policies.

### NATIONALISM

Reports from India suggest that Sonia Gandhi is leading internal opposition to PM Manmohan Singh, and is consolidating her position as Congress Party president.

The general elections of 2004 gave the Congress Party, when combined with the other political parties, a parliamentary majority. Many expected Mrs Gandhi to become prime minister. However, she declined the top job because she is Italian by birth,

and she feared this might spark nationalistic objections, despite her Indian citizenship.

The latest achievement she has been credited with is acceptance of a proposal that all adult males in rural areas be guaranteed at least 100 days' work a year. The proposed wages are excellent by local standards, but the effect on already high budget deficits will be substantial. Considering that 70% of India's population is still rurally-based, it sounds a dangerous policy.

*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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The “heroic” appellation, only relatively recently applied to golf holes, is a direct offshoot of the “Strategic School” mentioned in my recent columns.

Robert Trent Jones, the Dean of modern course design, was believed to have coined the phrase to describe holes that were more than simply strategic. As he discovered more and more exciting sites around the world, he reveled in asking players to play across or around the most impressive natural hazards, be they lakes, oceans, canyons or awesome bunkers.

The very nature of such hazards inspires fear in lesser players. From the tee, a player’s vision may be filled with catastrophic possibilities, yet often the landing area is more accommodating than it first appears. Holes that play “easier than they look” offer real thrills for occasional golfers whose solid drive may be more the exception than the rule.

Heroic holes allow long hitters the thrill of the carry, while also offering shorter hitters a safer line. Ideal holes of this type let all players select the amount of hazard they want to take on.

As with penal holes, long hitters often have a clear advantage on such holes, since good players will know their limits and err on the side of safety. The most effective type of heroic hazard may have a deceptive twist or irregular edge, creating just enough doubt in players’ minds that they play safer than they would like, leaving a tougher second shot.

Yet players who realize their limitations can sometimes triumph over those who suspect they’re better than they are, and this makes for exciting match play.

There is a downside. Many modern designers have never taken the trouble to understand the mental torture experienced by a “chopper” faced with a carry of 200 yards or more. This invariably leads a realistically minded player to select an old ball and thrash away without a hope of making the fairway.

The good, but more “mature”, player may also find it difficult to reach the fairway, while the out-and-out pro only has to

# Heroic golf holes: the saga goes on

“find the clubface” to leave himself with an easy birdie chance.

Heroic hazards are often reserved for drives on par 4s or second shots on par 5s. Who can deny the excitement of nailing a glorious 3 wood second shot on the green for a potential eagle putt? Even more intoxicating is the prospect of driving the green (or even holing in one) on a short par 4. Should these shots have negotiated perilous hurdles along the way, there is surely no place closer to heaven.

The most famous of all heroic holes does not ask the player to drive over a deafening waterfall or a cascading rapid. The 13<sup>th</sup> at Augusta has a mere stream down the left of the fairway after cutting in front of the green.

The arrangement of the hole, however, could not be more



Greg Norman watched 40 yards down the fairway, was the beginning of the end for Norman’s Masters aspirations.

For the amateur, this kind of hazard offers some hope and a statistical chance to pull off the shot of the century over the “bonnie wee burn”. More likely is a horror shot, which may not reach the “stinking sewer”. Hence our Mr Duff still has a chance for par.

The history of Phuket has

seen on golf courses actually produce holes that live up to expectations?

In my opinion (and that’s all it is), there are good and downright bad heroic offerings on the island, but no really great holes.

Such blasphemy! Is Blue Canyon’s world-famous 13<sup>th</sup> not a magnificent heroic hole? Are Phase 2’s do-or-die par 5s not heroic works of art? Is Loch Palm’s 2<sup>nd</sup> not a heroic challenge so early in the round? Are these and more of Phuket’s great holes not beyond cheap criticism?

The answer is no, they are not. We are all entitled to our opinions. Mine are not necessarily correct, though they are probably more impartial than most. What warms my heart is the fact that I have had more feedback slamming views expressed in my

## Holes that play ‘easier than they look’ offer thrills for occasional golfers whose solid drive may be more the exception than the rule.

ingenious. In this age of long hitters, courage and guile is more important than brawn. A drive played from right to left, and landing close enough to the creek, will gain extra roll and end up on the flattest part of the fairway with the easiest angle to the green.

For most players driving sensibly away from the creek, the second shot, demanding to be played from left to right, will be sitting on a vicious right-to-left sloping lie.

Only the bravest and most skilled of players can play this shot under the pressure cooker atmosphere of Sunday afternoon on the US Masters leader board. Nick Faldo’s slow, agonized decision to go for it with a 2 iron and his imperious execution, as

created some great heroic holes. Who would have thought the ugly scars created by opencast tin mining would eventually give way to some of the most beautiful and memorable artificial golf hazards created by man? Course budgets scarcely go as far as the cash required to dig a lake the size of Loch Palm’s “loch”. Few architects would be so daring as to include the canyons created by “Tin Mine Designers” at the “Blue Nasty”.

Thus was left the dream landscape for Dr Sukitti and Catosan, designers of the lion’s share of Phuket Country, Phuket Century (now Loch Palm) and Blue Canyon Country Clubs. So, did sites with some of the most dramatic man-made hazards ever

past three columns on golf design than in all the others I’ve written over the years.

My humble and sincere thanks to all those with the conviction to slag off my views or point out the error of my ways constructively.

Having said that, I’m about to start again.

Why is it that none of the aforementioned holes can be considered great? Because they are all prejudiced against golfing weaklings.

Blue Canyon’s 13<sup>th</sup> plays 390 yards over one of the most awesome hazards in golf (or 290 yards if you’re Tiger Woods). That seems fair enough.

Even if you do hit the shot of the century, you couldn’t en-

joy the thrill of seeing the result. If you’re a short hitter, your best-ever drive will leave you trying to hit a gap between bunkers you can’t see that are about as wide as your long-hitting friend’s grin.

What’s worse, if you can hit the ball more than 230 yards, it is one of the widest holes on the planet. Bottom line: beautiful setting, major lost opportunity.

Country Club’s phase 2 par 5s... I know, one of these was mentioned in my previous column. The reason is that they are great heroic holes, but only for good players. They are nightmares for choppers. Why? Because they take the Micky if you can’t bust a grape with your driver. How much fun is that? You stand there forever being reminded that you’ll never enjoy the holes real golfers love to play.

Loch Palm’s 2<sup>nd</sup> is equally discriminatory. By all means enjoy yourself hitting it on with a 5 iron and putting for eagle. Don’t worry that the only “carry” the ball will enjoy from the red tee is if it stays in your pocket! Three lost balls in one hole is a bit too much this early in the round.

**Worst heroic hole:** Phuket Country Club’s 10<sup>th</sup>. Never has a hole so demeaned and humiliated average golfers than this driveable par 5. With water on the slice side of all 12 shots there is nowhere to hide. Dr Sukitti further snubs his nose at short hitters by refusing to allow a decent forward tee.

**Best heroic hole:** Phuket Country Club’s 10<sup>th</sup>. Why? It is impossible to resist going for the green at virtual right angles to the “other” option, even if you are not Long John Daly. Where else do you get the chance to play across “Lake Michigan” to a green, framed from left to right by said Great Lake, bunkers and out of bounds? The tension is unbelievable. The potential reward, an ace on a par 5, doesn’t even have a name in golf. You can also see the ball all the way.

It’s ridiculous, I know. But, if you share my opinion that thrilling shots are what makes golf such fun, then you simply have to love this hole.

## Nash chalks up yet another ITF win

By Shiona Mackenzie

PHUKET: For the fifth time in the past four years, Nash Ladha has played on the winning men’s over-50s doubles team at the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Asian Open 2005 Senior Tennis Championship in Pattaya.

In addition to his doubles’ victory, Ladha was also the losing finalist in the men’s over-50s singles.

The Tennis Academy Director and Head Tennis Professional at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa joined some 200 players from 19 countries com-

peting in the Asian Championship. The ITF Senior’s Circuit comprises more than 150 events in 47 countries.

A tennis professional certified in both the US and Canada, Ladha became the youngest member of the Tanzanian National Davis Cup Team at just 15. After moving with his family to Canada, he operated a number of successful tennis clubs.

Ladha has continued his tennis career while based in Phuket for the past 11 of his 13 years in Thailand, developing tennis programs and playing in tennis tournaments around the world.



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# Phuket's Wonderfeet

By Anongnat Sartpisut

When Yaowapa "View" Burapolchai won a bronze medal in taekwondo at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, she inspired many young Thais to find out more about the sport. However, many people still confuse the discipline with other contact sports, such as karate or kick boxing.

Phuket's very own taekwondo champ, Branson Ekwanch Robinson, recently talked with the *Gazette* about how, at the relatively tender age of 11, he has won gold in several regional and international taekwondo meets.

His father plays American football and his mother loves every kind of sport, so it's no wonder that this young man, active in ice hockey, field hockey, baseball, soccer, roller skating and skateboarding, is following in his parents' energetic footsteps.

The QSI grade six student took up taekwondo in December, 2004. After studying for just one-and-a-half months at Phuket's Dragon Gym, Branson won silver at a Nakhon Sri Thammarat meet, then again at Surat Thani. He won his first gold in another event in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and his second at the 8<sup>th</sup> Southern Thailand Taekwondo Championships here in Phuket. Recently, he took home a gold medal from the 5<sup>th</sup> Korean Open Chun Cheon International Taekwondo Championships.

Of his newfound sport he says, "It looks nice and elegant, and as not so many people take part in this sport it is relatively easy to find a place on the national team.



Branson has his sights set on the Olympics.

When I saw "Pii" View, I wanted to be as good as her."

In the final in Korea, Branson had to face Suchakri "Boat" Boonyang, the Dragon Gym's number one fighter. He said, "In the last minutes I was trailing him by two points, so I tried to use back kicks and that made the difference as I won in the end."

He explained that his strength lies in his back kicking. However, he's not ambidextrous and his left kick has a tendency to let him down.

"If the judges can't hear a strong, solid back kick, they won't award a point, so it's a waste of energy sometimes."

"Ajarn Park, Dragon Gym's coach, taught us that when little time remains in

the bout and you're under pressure, kick, kick and always kick."

Dragon Gym Coach, Korean Park Hee Kang, 28, is one of only five taekwondo black belts in Thailand. A former Korean champion and now a teacher for the World Taekwondo Federation, Coach Lee inspired Branson to go to the world championships.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Korean Open Chun Cheon International Taekwondo Championships in South Korea were his first taste of international competition, giving him a wealth of experience. "The Korean opponents are very fast and smart. They know when to attack and don't wait for their coaches to tell them what to do – they're always concentrating on their bout," he said.

"I try to look for the moment an opponent attacks, then I grab the chance to get a point. I want to compete with Lao opponents because they have a hard kick and are slow. I have the same style as them, so I want to meet them – but I think I'll need to rely a lot on my back kick to beat them. Taekwondo teaches me to react quickly."

"Since I've been competing, I've never won less than a silver medal, and I'll continue until I get a chance to go to the Olympics," said the young combatant.

Branson knows the only way to reach his goal is through hard work, so he trains for two hours four evenings a week. He also knows there is no real substitute for real competition: "I need to meet better and better competitors. I'm hoping that, at the next competition in Bangkok, I can at least win a bronze medal as they are bigger competitors there," he said.

## Saphan Hin set for race weekend

PHUKET CITY: The Toyota Motor Corporation (Thailand) will hold its annual Toyota Soluna Vios One Race 2005 and Toyota Hilux Vigo Triathlon on September 17 and 18 at Saphan Hin.

The two events are designed to put both the Soluna Vios sedan car and the Hilux Vigo through their paces and promote them to a new generation of drivers who love motorsports.

On September 17, there will be a convoy of cars driving around Phuket to show the vehicles off to the public, and Toyota staff will be on hand to advise on safe driving.

The Vigo Triathlon will take place in the morning of September 18, and in the afternoon, the Soluna Vios One Race will be held.

There will also be special performances of the Vios Turbo Show and a mini concert by Thai pop star Girly Berry.

Racers Ray McDonald, Pete Thongjua, Louis Scott, Ummarin "Um" Nitipol, Araya A "Chompoo" Hargett and Supaksorn "Kra Tae" Chaimongkol will be coming from Bangkok to drive in the two days of races.

For more information contact Khun Chansiri at Tel: 01-8917107.

## TOP TT TEACHER ON THAI TOUR

PHUKET CITY: The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and the Thailand Table Tennis Association (TTTA) jointly held a one-week clinic of "Tsunami Rebuilding" table tennis training for coaches and players at Satree Phuket School, September 4-10.

The ITTF arranged for professional coach Richard McAfee to tour tsunami-affected areas in both Thailand and Myanmar. Other ITTF coaches have been traveling throughout Indonesia and India.

Mr McAfee ran a week-long clinic in Ranong before visiting Phuket, and will report back to the ITTF his evaluation of the project's success.

The purpose of the tours is to help recovery in conjunction with sport, and also to donate table tennis tables, balls and bats to ping pong enthusiasts.

Mr McAfee told the *Gazette* that he came to encourage coaches to learn more about the organization and the teaching of table tennis.

He said, "In the evening players' sessions we try to pick out [an] individual player's skills and to capitalize on these."

"Table tennis is unique in that players need a lot of skill in their hands and strength in their legs, so we try to teach the balance between both."

"We always try to work on the fundamentals such as the



McAfee: 'The game is unique.'

serve and the fast return, just like in tennis, then to work up to world-class level from there."

The coaches' training sessions were to run from 9 am to 12 pm, with players' sessions from 4:30 pm to 7 pm.

Don Mudtangam, on the Professional Coach Committee of the TTTA, said that during the training session in Ranong, a few would-be stars emerged, such as Suthasinee Settabut, who he feels has great talent and a good chance to represent the country eventually.

"If you want athletes able to reach international standards, then you need to have an international standard coach," he said. "We plan to train Thai coaches to raise players to world-class standards within the next five years, and will also continue our mobile clinics."

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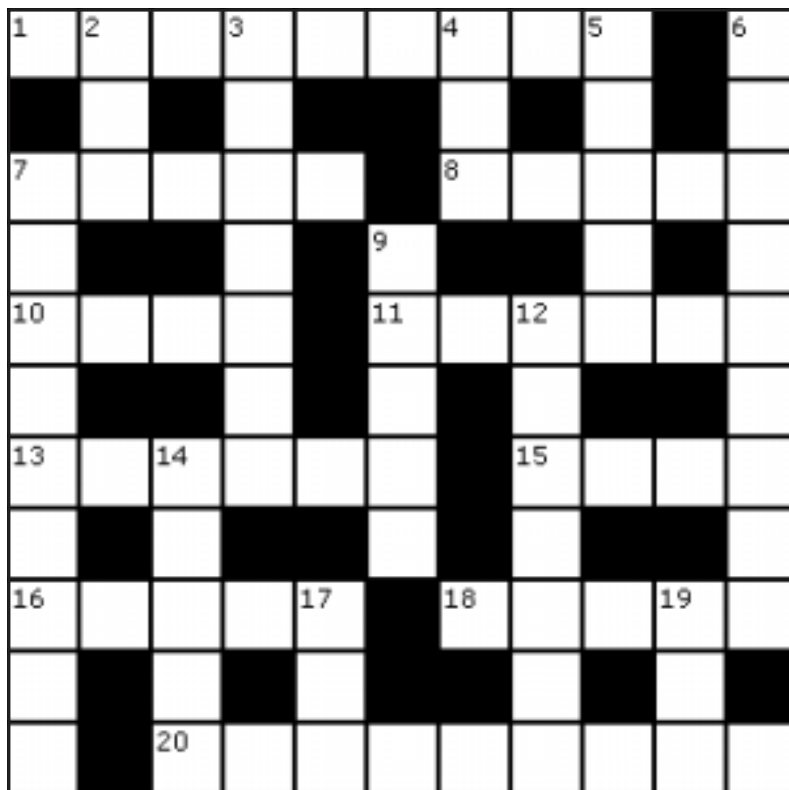
# The Quick Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Fired.
7. Beat of the heart.
8. \*\*\*\*\* Dame, Paris.
10. Fingertip protector.
11. Martin \*\*\*\*\* King.
13. Island in the Bahamas.
15. Uncomfortable skin condition.
16. Marriage.
18. Polish currency.
20. Diana and Hera, for example.

## DOWN

2. Debtor's pledge.
3. Abdominals and pectorals, for example.
4. One hundredth of a yen.
5. From the Netherlands.
6. Eerie; not of this world.



7. Almost an island.
9. Bearer of rain or snow.
12. They still lay eggs on Mai Khao Beach.
14. Wasp's weapon.
17. Silently show approval.
19. Rest for golfer's balls.

*Solution next week*

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Wigan Athletic; 2. John Smith; 3. Buenos Aires; 4. Morten Harket; 5. The Living Daylights; 6. To jumble or to carelessly assemble items; 7. Emma Thompson. Her father was Eric Thompson; 8. A libretto; 9. Eight; 10. Malcom Lowry; 11. A cat; 12. Bratislava; 13. Taxes on tea; 14. Death; 15. The Time Machine; 16. Shepherds; 17. The brain; 18. Tungsten; 19. Hand-painted Thai porcelain, often in five colors; 20. Ezra Pound.

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S QUICK CROSSWORD



## Answer to last week's Brainbuster

English words containing the letter combinations ii, uu, aa, ww or vv are: skiing, taxiing and radii; vacuum and continuum; aardvark and bazaar; powwow; savvy and flivver.

**su | do | ku**  
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Hidden Words

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

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

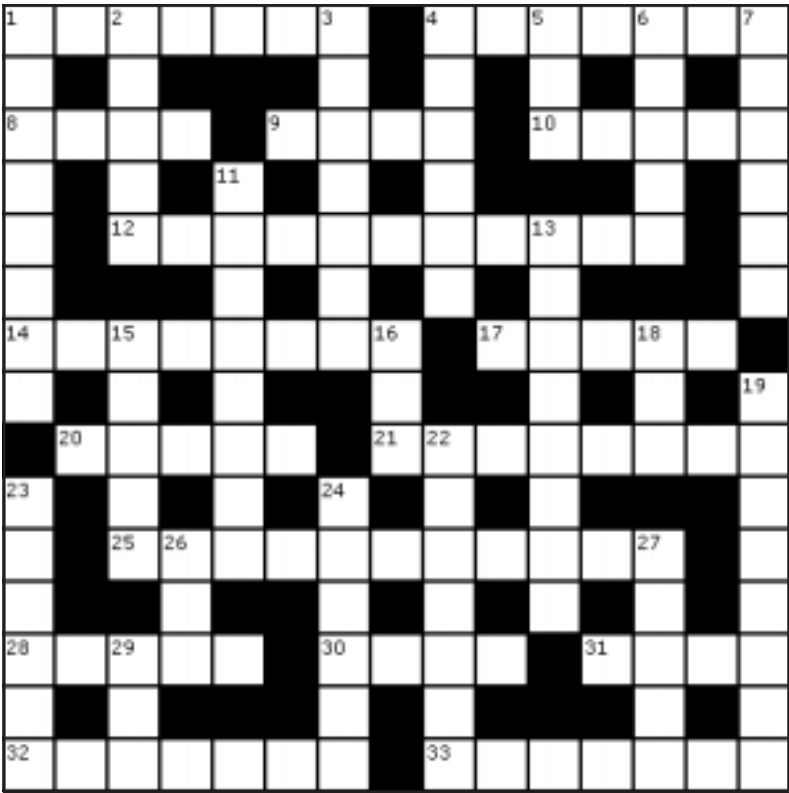
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Outgoing pet many confuse. (7)
4. Thomas’s boys are not boys. (7)
8. Not a ceremony for dozy people. (4)
9. Noah underwater held a place in Hawaii. (4)
10. A tree by the shore, it’s said. (5)
12. Lighting up at night, cut neon lit a hundred wierdly, (11)
14. Mad ploy I used in international event. (8)
17. Fearsome look from South Carolina nightbird. (5)
20. Bacterium could give a you a bit of dire colic. (1-4)
21. TGIF? Not yet... (8)
25. Dancing muse? Oddly, crit her pose. (11)
28. Deduce inferno? No no! (6)
30. I managed country. (4)
31. Concrete base in Los Alamos laboratory. (4)
32. Windy city is trendy with a turn. (7)
33. Tourism body in four points of private lands. (7)

DOWN

1. Chess pieces hop into it for a loan. (8)
2. Heard you cheat a Canadian territory. (5)
3. Bizarrely, Ian rats on Russian leader’s wife. (7)
4. Bullish sign. (6)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

5. The cap to wear for a riot? (3)
6. Open circle on Parisian green. (5)
7. Where fish learn things. (6)
11. Paula’s car twists Monsignor’s little cloak. (8)
13. Mythically slow creature eaten in France. (8)
15. Sail? Yes, with eight in Germany. (5)
16. Little Dorothy’s into Morse code. (3)
18. Is day before 21 ac right to marry? (23)
19. Strange ally’s transport sets 7dn agenda. (8)
22. The race is scattered over a wide area. (7)
23. Full set of twelve includes 4dn. (6)
24. Cold liver? (6)
26. Twilight lass. (3)
27. Point to bend in cat to indicate great success. (5)
29. Cops fib? Maybe. (3)

Solution next week

The Monster Quiz

1. Who is the mascot for heavy-metal band, Iron Maiden?
2. Which Norwegian traitor was executed September 10, 1945?
3. Which country won, in 1927, the first Davis Cup?
4. In which year did Switzerland join the United Nations?
5. A woman who has more than one husband at the same time is a what?
6. .mq is the Internet country code top-level domain for where?
7. Who wrote the novella *The Third Man*?
8. What is the capital of Sierra Leone?
9. Where are the Queen Maud Mountains?
10. What, at 4,897 meters, is the highest peak in Antarctica?
11. Which actor was reported as having been the target of an Al-Qaeda kidnap plot in 2001?
12. In World War II, what did the term “Foo Fighters” refer to?
13. What toxin is present in certain candlenut varieties?
14. What did Dennis Tito pay £14 million for?
15. Which capital city lies nearest to the equator?
16. If you shopped using “won” where would you be?
17. What is andrology the study of?
18. Gymnophobia is the fear of what?
19. “The Nellie, a cruising yawl, swung to her anchor without a flutter of the sails, and was at rest.” is the first line from which book?
20. “Asinine” is an adjective used to describe the behavior of which animal?

Answers next week

EZ TRIVIA

1. Which Powerpuff Girl has green eyes?
2. What’s the fastest land animal?
3. What does ATM stand for?
4. What is the biggest known mountain in our solar system?
5. What province of Southern Thailand has no coastline?
6. Which popular animated series has characters called Dizzy, Scoop and Muck?
7. Who created “The Mup-pets”?
8. What breed of dog is white with black spots?
9. What planet is Superman from?
10. On what island is much of New York City located?

Answers next week.



Brain Buster!!

Scales #1 and #2 are in perfect balance.  
How many Xs must you put on the right side of Scale #3 to make it balance?

Scale #1

Left side: XXYZ

Right side: XXXXY

Scale #2

Left side: YYYY

Right side: XXZZ

Scale #3

Left side: YYZ

Right side: ?

Answer next week



## Home of the Week

## Laguna



The main bedroom, pool area and kitchen of this wonderful home.



# Luxury living at Laguna

This immaculate three-bedroom, single-story Laguna residence with private pool, *sala* and spacious manicured gardens is currently on the market.

The villa has been professionally maintained by Knight Frank, with round-the-clock estate security provided by Securicor, the international security firm. Completed in January 2004, the villa offers the best of both worlds, both as an investment opportunity or as vacation/retirement lifestyle choice.

Long-term rental demand for executive-style accommoda-

tion in the Laguna area remains high, with limited stock available.

Buyers can also have the option of putting the villa into the Sheraton rental program (subject to Sheraton requirements), and thus earn an impressive return while still being able to use the villa for themselves during the rest of the year.

Equally, if buying for lifestyle, the new owners can enjoy Laguna privileges including membership of the Laguna Golf Club and up to 50% discounts of Food and Beverage at the hotels.

The 1,357-square-meter land area includes many mature

trees and plants, offering both shade and color to the property.

Inside, the 204sqm air-conditioned home is spacious with an open-style Western kitchen, living and dining area.

The first thing you notice on entering this property is the amount of natural light that floods into each of the open rooms, giving a sense of relaxation, peace and tranquility.

The large master bedroom features an en-suite bathroom and built-in wardrobes, with the master suite opening onto the pool.

Each of the other two bedrooms is well-appointed in size

and privacy. A live-in maid's quarters is also provided, along with secure bulk storage that can be converted into a wine cellar.

Outdoors, the *sala* is the perfect setting for evening dinners or early morning breakfasts, twilight drinks or for just relaxing and enjoying watching golfers pass by.

The 4x12m pool of chlorinated saltwater is perfect for recreational bathing or for the more enthusiastic swimmer who enjoys a rigorous workout.

Terracing around the pool ensures there is room for both relaxation and entertainment.

In addition to the golf, beach access is just a three-minute drive, and Tinlay Place, known

for its cosmopolitan bars, restaurants and nightlife, is on Laguna's doorstep.

Phuket International Airport is 20 minutes away, and a Bangkok Phuket Hospital clinic, banking and other essential services are all provided within the Laguna complex.

Combined with the impressive landscaping and gardens, this villa is one of a kind and an opportunity not to be missed. Available on freehold title, it is priced at 27.8 million baht.

For inspection or further details, please contact Stephen O'Brien, Knight Frank Phuket, at Tel: 01-8255126 or Email: [stephen@knightfrankthailand.com](mailto:stephen@knightfrankthailand.com)

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Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam



Stylish examples of vases on offer at the Body &amp; Mind Gallery.

## Adding the right touch of class

Nothing can beautify a room instantly like a vase of flowers, although a bright bouquet may appear slightly too fussy in a place such as Phuket where tropical nature abounds. A simple, striking vase can bring just the right amount of class to such a setting.

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Normally the creator of interior décor products for resorts and spas, Galleria Aleenta now has a shop that sells items for the individual home. It offers vase designs in ceramic for as little as 500 baht.

For mango wood vases, look no further than the Body & Mind Gallery. The long-neck style costs between 300 baht and 500 baht.

*Intercraft Furniture is located on Chao Fa West Rd, Tel: 076-263348; Galleria Aleenta is the first shop on the left of the Plaza Surin building, Tel: 076-271624-5; Body & Mind Gallery is at Karon Beach near Karon Circle, Tel: 076-398274 or visit their website at: [www.body-mindspace.com](http://www.body-mindspace.com)*



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An artist's impression of the completed project, site plan and penthouse floor plan (top right).



## 35 units and one large penthouse New apartment block to be built in Rawai

**R**awai Seaview Apartment is a seven-story, 26-unit apartment complex covering 2.5 rai off Wiset Rd, Rawai, and looking over the sea. Projected investment is 70 million baht, with construction set to begin in November.

Funprod Yookongpan, Managing Director of Rawai Seaview Apartment Co (RSA), said that the development is expected to be completed by October 2006.

The complex faces the sea and is only 70 meters from the beach. "Each of the seven floors will have five units, and there will be a large penthouse on top," K. Funprod said. "The ground floor has 20 parking spaces for residents and another 10 for guests."

"Each unit on the second to sixth floors will have living space of 120 to 126 square meters, which includes two bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen,

balcony and pantry. Prices will range from 3.3 million to 6.5 million baht," she said.

The penthouse, priced at 35 million baht, will have 618sqm of living space including three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and pantry, dining room, swimming pool, balcony and *sala*, as well as a workroom, a storeroom and a maid's room.

K. Funprod explained, "The prices are set according to the

quality of the view. Upper floors are, therefore, priced higher than lower floors."

Marble will be used in the living room and bedrooms of the penthouse; ceramic tiles will be used in the living room, dining room, kitchen and bedrooms of the regular apartments on the second to sixth floor. Each apartment will have mains water and electricity, and one phone line.

The apartments are offered

to foreigners on 30-year leases with two roll-overs for a total of 90 years.

K. Funprod said that RSA, which developed the Baan Ploy shophouses on Koh Samui and another Thai-style housing development in Chalong, will provide common services and facilities for the apartments such as a swimming pool, a restaurant, gardens, a laundry room and 24-hour security. A fee of 4,000 baht a month per apartment to cover these services.

"Our main target market is foreigners," K. Funprod said, "and five units on the sixth floor have already been sold."

For more information, contact Rawai Seaview Apartment at Wiset Rd, Rawai, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-263303 or 09-7297035. Website: [www.phuketrawaiseaviewapartment.com](http://www.phuketrawaiseaviewapartment.com)

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# The rich lady who wakes up late knows exactly what time it is

It's fair comment to say that moths aren't the most intelligent members of the insect kingdom. They sit around all day doing whatever moths do during daylight, which would appear to be absolutely nothing. I'm not saying that they're lazy or anything (I would not want to be accused of being mothist), but they don't appear to be particularly active during the day.

Everything changes after the sun goes down. Then they get together like Saphan Hin boy bike racers, and fly around insanely as if they've spent the previous few hours ingesting illicit chemical stimulants.

What they really crave is any form of light they can find. It can be fluorescent, a candle, or just a plain ordinary light bulb. They love them, and that's the bit I don't understand. Why don't they just come out during the day? They can have all the light they want. Has this idea never been raised at a convention while a couple of moths enjoyed the nectar equivalent of a Heineken? I can only assume they simply haven't thought of the idea, and that they're just a bit thick.

You might think that flowers are in a similar intellectual league. It's fair to say that most of them are indeed pretty stupid, and that MENSA members have little to fear. One plant that breaks the mould is the portulaca, or sun plant. In Thai, it's known as the *Khun Nai Tuen Sai* or "The rich lady who wakes up late".

Most flowers bloom and wilt as they feel like it, but not so the portulaca. It knows exactly what time of the day it is, opening its flowers first thing in the morning and closing them late in the afternoon. It doesn't bother keeping its petals exposed to the world when there's no point. This surely has to be the sign of some form of intelligence.

These unassuming little guys are all over Phuket, although according to books written by



The portulaca can be found all over Phuket, even though it is originally from South America.

"proper" gardeners, they probably shouldn't be. They're originally from South America, and appear to prefer the sometimes drier conditions there. But nobody has told the portulaca plants that have emigrated here, and they seem to be right at home.

Portulaca plants multiply like rabbits on bunny aphrodisiac. All you need to do is throw a few in a pot; a couple of weeks later, take half of them out and put them in a new pot.

They can be grown either from seeds or from cuttings, but if propagation isn't your thing, just visit the local garden center and pick up a few at five baht each. This way, someone else has already done the work.

These plants are quite cute, really. The thickish, sprawling, twindly stems grow four or five inches long and are clothed with small, fleshy, cylindrical leaves. Several large flowers, up to an inch in diameter, grow at the ends of the stems.

They come in an array of bright colors – purple, scarlet, yellow and pink being just a few. There are both single- and double-flowered varieties, and even one that boasts several colors on a single plant.

The portulaca is a member of the group of plants known as succulents. Its name comes from the doorlike opening of the seed capsule, (*portula* being the Latin diminutive of *porta*, or gate).

They are a lot easier to grow than I first imagined. A few years ago, I bought my first hanging basket of portulaca, took it home, and suspended it at the edge of the eaves of the car port, where it would get plenty of rain.

I couldn't understand why it seemed unhappy – it withered

away until there was nothing left. It had died, despite my best efforts to keep it alive.

All became clear a few months later, during a long dry spell.

Being pretty idle, I hadn't bothered to remove the now empty hanging pot, and as there appeared to be nothing alive in it I hadn't bothered to water it.

It was then that mysterious regrowth started to appear. Doing nothing was exactly what it wanted – I had been desperately over-watering it. It went on to fill the pot as before, and bloomed as it had the day I took it home.

The portulaca prefers a well-drained sandy soil, but it also needs a very sunny home. It is content in a rockery too, where the soil won't hold too much water.

Stupid plants? On my first attempt at cultivating the portulaca, I'm not sure which was dumber – the plant or the gardener.

At least it's occurred to me that there's probably more light around during the day.

Last week we printed a photograph of a screw pine instead of a casuarina. We have been pining about the screw-up ever since.

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# Property Gazette

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### 2-STORY HOUSE

in Rawai, 140sqm, selling for 1.4 million baht, including owning company and financing for 3 years. 400m from the beach. Contact for details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDOS

Condos with a sea view, 28 and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 650,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### KATA COTTAGE

for sale. Patong, houses, hotels, land for sale. Please contact for further information. Tel: 04-6301770.

### PHANG NGA LAND

A 3.2-rai seaview plot on Haad Tub Tawan Rd, north end of Bang Sak Beach; 120m to the beach road & power. 68m driveway, 75m frontage; 18km south of Takuapa. 75km from Phuket International Airport. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8947644.

### SEAVIEW LAYAN

land for sale, asking 2.9 million baht per rai. You can see all of Bang Tao Bay and Laguna area. 5- to 10-rai lots with Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Please call for info. Tel: 09-6493645.

### RAWAI LUXURY VILLA



A 144sqm house 350m from the beach with 400sqm of land for sale. The house has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 2.8 million baht. Tel: 01-476-3623. Email: free\_holdprop@yahoo.com

### FOR SALE

Spacious 3-bedroom house, includes master bedroom en suite, separate self-contained granny flat or office in a secluded garden, a compact European kitchen, and air conditioning throughout. Situated in a quiet location approximately 2km from Chalong circle. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-330897. Email: waterat@phuket.ksc.co.th

### CHALONG HOUSE

for sale in a small, quiet, exclusive estate. The house is 212sqm, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, an American-style kitchen, a living room, pool and spa, a storeroom, 5 air conditioners and 1 covered parking space. I am asking 6.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8913740.

### NEW RAWAI VILLA

2-bedroom, 144sqm house with 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living room, on 400sqm of land. 400m from the beach. Asking 2.8 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### VILLA IN NAI HARN

Villa, 275 sqm living space, 1,000 sqm garden, 10mx5m pool, 60,000 baht rental income per month until March 2006: 10.75 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-8896074, 01-8916143. Email: norbertfun@hotmail.com

### RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE



House 400m from the beach, with Chanote title, is available for direct sale from owner. Asking 850,000 baht. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: bargainproperty@hotmail.com

### RAWAI CONDOS

with sea view. 27, 54 and 81sqm. Priced from 350,000 baht. Financing for 3 years available. Foreign freehold. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### 3-BEDROOM

Chalong house for sale in a small, quiet, exclusive estate. The house is 360sqm, with 3 large bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 1 storage room, American-style kitchen, a large living room, air conditioning, pool and spa and 2 covered car parking spaces. I am asking 12 million baht. Please call for further information. Tel: 01-8913740.

### BANG TAO BEACH

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### AO NANG'S PREMIER PROPERTY

A new luxury house in Ao Nang is now for sale. Set in 1 rai of Chanote-titled land, with sea and mountain views from all floors, the house has internal space of over 450 sqm. Built to European standards, it has 3 floors, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms plus a library, gym, and an open-plan lounge with a vaulted ceiling. There are separate maid's quarters. An infinity swimming pool will be completed in 2 months. Tel: 075-637607, 01-8939232. Fax: 075-637607. Email: dutchkev@loxinfo.co.th

### KATA LAND PLOTS

900m to the beach, for sale from 1 million baht, or 75,000 baht per sqm, including utilities. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

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### BUILDING FOR SALE

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### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

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# Property Gazette

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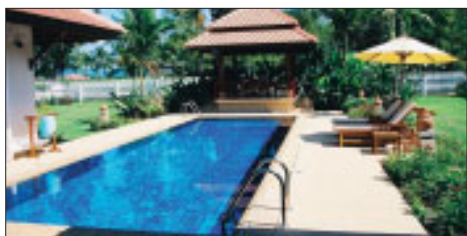
Tel: 076 344521-2



# Property Gazette

www.knightfrankphuket.com

**Knight  
Frank**



**"New Laguna Pool Villa"**  
available freehold

- 3 bedroom, single story golf villa
- enormous land plot, 4 m x 12 m pool
- purchase includes all of the Laguna benefits and privileges
- tropical landscaping, villa has been professionally maintained by Knight Frank
- immediate purchase for only 27.8 million baht

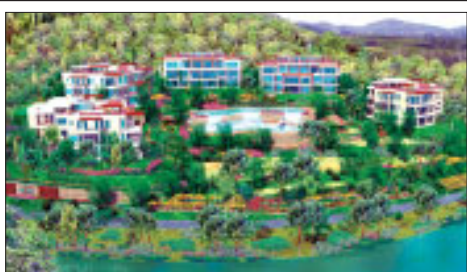


**"Villa Santi"**  
uninterrupted 270° sea views

- studio, 1, 2 and 4 bedroom apartments with panoramic sea views of Patong Bay
- fully integrated resort with professional onsite management and rental services
- great on site facilities including international restaurant, deli, wine bar and spa



- "L'Orchidee Residence"**  
unrivalled quality with outstanding views
- every villa has never to be built out sea views and a private pool
  - walking distance to the beach
  - ideal holiday villa with short-term rentals and management by Knight Frank
  - exclusive development with breathtaking views



- "Layan Gardens"**  
elegant apartments in desired location
- just 40 luxurious apartments, most with sea views
  - spacious 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 600sqm penthouses
  - 60% sold out
  - great lifestyle investment



- "Bel Air Panwa"**  
tropical ambiance
- luxurious 2 and 3 bedroom condominiums at affordable prices
  - sea views for Pre-Sale from 6.3 million baht (Pool views from 3.9 million baht), superb location at exclusive Cape Panwa; proximity to beaches, luxury hotels (new 5-star Conrad Hotel) and fine restaurants
  - excellent investment potential and 6% guaranteed return for 2 years



- "Kata Gardens"**  
spectacular sea view apartments
- 33 apartments of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms
  - only one apartment per floor
  - penthouse apartments include private terrace and plunge pool
  - public listed developer with excellent track record



- "3 Bedroom Laguna Pool Villa"**  
impeccable property, minutes from the tee
- unfurnished, private residences in the heart of Laguna
  - pool, outdoor dining area, perfect for client or private entertainment
  - 20 minutes from the airport, 4 minutes to the beach, restaurants, wine bars and clubs nearby



- "Sri Panwa"**  
perched above Cape Panwa
- secluded peninsula with superior sea views
  - 2 bedroom villas from 320-365sqm starting from 18 million baht
  - exceptional quality building by experienced and respected luxury resort developer



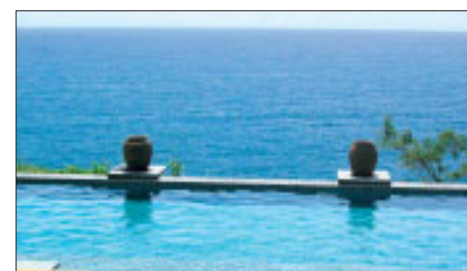
- "Thai Bali"**  
cool elegance
- secluded spa villas just minutes' walk from Bang Tao Beach
  - each room opens onto a 10m x 4.5m swimming pool
  - one of Phuket's "best buys". Owners should be rewarded with a healthy return on investment; stress free



- "Sai Taan" pool villas for rent**  
(short or long term)
- 3 or 4 bedroom villas each with private pool
  - less than 5 minutes to the beach
  - spacious & private grounds, quiet location



- "East Coast Ocean Villas"**  
tranquility overlooking the East Coast
- affordable 2 bedroom seaview apartments for rent
  - fully furnished with modern finishings
  - large balconies and spacious living areas



- "Laem Son"**  
beachfront villa for holiday rentals
- a magnificent tropical mansion in one of Phuket's most exclusive beachfront locations
  - 275° sea views of the Andaman coast
  - can easily accommodate 12 persons
  - private and discrete villa, perfect for corporate entertaining

The local office with global network

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+66 (0)76 318 151

Stephen O'Brien  
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stephen@knightfrankthailand.com

Masae Ono  
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masae@knightfrankthailand.com



# Properties from Phuket Real Estate

## A STYLISH VILLA



Located in the south of Phuket – a stylishly decorated, fully-furnished house is for sale. It has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a guest toilet, a living room, a dining room, kitchen, beautiful, manicured gardens and a swimming pool. Price: 14.9 million baht.

## 81 RAI IN MAI KHAO



An 81-rai plot is for sale with 300 meters of beachfront land in Mai Khao. It is ideal for a 5- or 6-star resort or villa project.

## 1 RAI IN CAPE PANWA

1 rai located in Cape Panwa, with all underground services and wide sea views to the east, south and west. The infrastructure includes a 6-meter-wide sealed access road, underground electricity, telephone and water. Views to Phi Phi and more. Price: 8 million baht.

## GREAT VIEWS OVER CHALONG BAY

61 rai with magnificent views over Chalong Bay. The land is one of the last big plots left with an exceptional sea view. It has a slope and a roadway has been dug. At the bottom, a large sales office has been built. The Chanote title land has been cleared by the owner and is ready to use. Great for a villa development. Price: 5 million baht per rai.

## THALANG 5+ RAI



5 + rai located in Thalang, very close to the waterfall, airport and secluded beaches – the quiet area of Phuket. The land has all services, a sealed road and a nice setting. Price: 8 million baht.

## "MILLIONAIRES' ROAD"



A 1-rai plot is for sale on "Millionaires' Road" in Kamala, with sensational sunset views, building permission to 8 meters, electricity and a sealed road. It is virtually impossible to find a plot on this road. Be quick!

## 33 RAI, PANORAMIC VIEWS

A lovely 33-rai plot on Phuket with panoramic east-west sea views. Surrounded by high-end developments in the 60-million-baht price range. The land has sealed road access, electricity and a bore can be sunk for water supply. This is a developer's dream plot. Price: 99 million baht.

## 10 RAI ON EAST COAST

10 rai for sale on the east coast of Phuket. The views are breathtaking towards several islands off the east coast. The land is located north of Phuket City and overlooking the islands of Phang Nga Bay. Price: 50 million baht.

## EXCEPTIONAL VILLA & BREATHTAKING VIEWS

Located in Phuket. It doesn't get much better than this view! Huge house in a secure complex and with an exceptional view. The house is 670sqm and fully furnished. It comprises 4-bedroom suites (the Mexican, the Greek, the Wizard of the Oz and the master suites), Western kitchen, living room, dining room, maid's room, meditation room, laundry room, dressing room and BBQ deck. Land size: 404sqm. Price: 50 million baht.



## SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT LAND

39 rai of development land with a 360-degree sea view, a private beach, electricity and a government road. An access road is already in place, ready for building. A must-see for all developers!



## 20 RAI WITH PRIVATE BEACH

20 rai with a private beach, located close to Patong. All infrastructures are in place and it is well-located for a luxury resort or high-end development. The land has a waterfall running down one boundary and a small beach (only accessible from this plot) with white sand and nice feature rocks. One of the last great plots and priced lower than all surrounding land. A truly wonderful piece of land!



## SMALL RESORT AS INVESTMENT



Located on Phuket, a small, 8-unit resort is for sale. This newly-built resort comprises 6 spacious bungalows, each with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, a living-dining room and a terrace; and 2 two-story houses with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living-dining room and a lounge area with a large terrace on the first floor. All is set in a tropical garden with a pool and space for 8 cars in the car park. There is a security guardhouse with an electric gate. All units are fully furnished and ready to move into. The resort is also suitable as an investment with houses and bungalows for lease. Price: 18 million baht.



## 1 RAI, SOI NAYA, NAI HARN

A rare plot (I think there is only two left on Soi Naya), with sealed road, electricity, plenty of water and direct access to Nai Harn Beach (same road). Build your dream home 2 minutes from beautiful Nai Harn Beach.



## KOH MAPHRAO

21 rai with a nice beach and old beach house, 10 minutes to Phuket City. This land has great views of the ocean and islands. It is very quiet and secluded, but just 5 minutes to everything. Beautiful, elevated flat land – all buildable, all with views. Price: 30 million baht.



# Boats & Marine

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**Hunter 430 (1996)**

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- safety equipment
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Keen Vendor Bring Offers

**Kelsall 45 (1995)**

€248,000 Euro

**Randall 53 (1979)**

Keen Vendor Bring Offers

**Princess 66 (1995)**

\$850,000 USD

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tel: 076 238 803  
fax: 076 273 319  
Email: info@leemarine.com

**Brokerage Office**  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin  
Mobile: 01 894 1530  
tel/fax: 076 239 729  
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

**Yacht Haven Marina Office**  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
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Mobile: 01 891 3237  
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**NEW PEGASUS 8.2 M FIBERGLASS POWERBOAT, 85 HP YAMAHA MOTOR AND TRAILER FOR ONLY 595,000 BAH (EX VAT).**  
Tel: 076 239 800; E-mail: info@pegasusmarine.com  
Model shown includes optional extras

## 41FT FIBERGLASS CABIN CRUISER



2x330hp Mercruisers (fully overhauled by manufacturer - 20 hours). All seats renewed. Sun deck, toilet, freshwater shower. Capacity: 22 + 3, ample for business or private use. Equipment for 10-12 divers (20-tank holder). Can be seen and tested in Koh Samui. Asking price: 2.8 million baht (69,000 euros, US\$84,000), negotiable. Tel: 07-283-6262. Email: jareden75@yahoo.fr

## HOVERCRAFT OPERATION

Thai business partner/investor wanted for a hovercraft business in Phuket/Phang Nga. The flying craft can be used as a rescue vehicle as well as a tour boat, moving over all terrain (beach, water, swamp, rivers, etc). Only serious offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-078-7795. Email: a.bolle@siam-interact.com

## BUYING CATAMARAN

Looking to buy a catamaran secondhand or to build a new one. Make an offer. Email: daniel\_lienhardt@hotmail.fr

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**THB 8,600,000**

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Prowler 9000 Composite & light

**Perfect 4 Cabins family boat or charter yacht**

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Available with management deal and charter package

**Unique Opportunity**

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The world famous Turkish Gullet style yacht

**Selected Brokerage Listings**

Power	Sail
58ft 2003 DeFever 58 Perkins 2 x 225Hp US\$799,000	42ft 1980 Swanson Ketch Volvo 75Hp AUD\$160,000
45ft 1990 Carver 45 Cat 2 x 205Hp THB5,500,000	40ft 1991 Steel Sloop Yanmar 50Hp US\$90,000
31ft 1997 Fountain 31 Mercury 2 x 225Hp THB2,950,000	39ft 1996 Prout 39 Catamaran Volvo MD2030 US\$199,000
21ft 2003 Sea Ray Laguna MarinerEFI200Hp THB1,200,000	33ft 1984 Reinke, Alu Cutter Volvo 21Hp THB1,350,000
18ft 2000 Skip Jack 18 Yamaha 2 x 85Hp THB750,000	26ft 1975 Marisholm 26 Johnson 6Hp THB1,850,000

Please contact Tel: 076-239111 Email: broker@thaimarine.com

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## DIVE/CRUISE BOAT

A one-time only opportunity to buy a 53ft boat licenced for 40 passengers. It has twin Hino 265hp diesel engines. Pay 2.25 million baht in cash and 2.25 million Bartercard trade baht, with trade baht interest-free, to be repaid from charter income. Contact Brian Taylor at Tel: 07-0673360.

## 6M FIBERGLASS

speedboat. Yamaha 85hp outboard, 12 hours of use since major rebuild. Comes with 2 x 24-liter portable plastic fuel tanks. Also has stainless roll bar with ski attachment. 172,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 077-418161, 07-8866711. Email: johnhamilton4@hotmail.com

## PERETERS 14M

Australian-built Pereters 14-meter boat. Length: 14m; beam: 4.7m. Engine: 513hp Cummins diesel. Please contact K. Sirius Limpuntaplist for more information. Tel: 01-797-9017. Email: laurance@yahoo.no

## OUTBOARD MOTOR

Wanted: new or secondhand outboard. 150hp, 2- or 4-stroke. Please contact with full details. Email: s.gurnham@net2000.ch

## FAIRLINE TARGA 52 (2003)



Twin 715hp Volvo sports cruiser in as-new condition. Very well equipped. Must sell. Offers encouraged. US\$720,000. Please contact for more information. Malaysian Tel: + 6012-2971364, 06-2674998. Email: simon.theseira@simpsonmarine.com For further details, please see our website at: [www.simpsonmarine.com](http://www.simpsonmarine.com)

## INFLATABLE DINGHY

5.8m inflatable dinghy with fiberglass hull and 115hp Yamaha outboard, fuel tank, etc. In good condition; any reasonable offer considered. Tel: 01-8955538. Email: bob@fareastoriental.com

## STEPPA 38, GREAT CONDITION



ASKING PRICE: 1.6 million baht ono for quick sale. 38ft - exceptional performance. Very stable and versatile, ideal for fishing, beach hopping and local charter. Near-new twin 200hp Yamaha outboards. Takes you right up to the beach. Registered and built in Phuket, customized and decked in teak. Very low maintenance costs and excellent lifetime expectancy on 100% solid fiberglass hull and superstructure. Optional professional management at extremely reasonable terms. Please contact. Tel: 076-353925, 01-8932672. Fax: 076-353925. Email: stefb@ksc.th.com

## MONACO YACHTING

1984 Bertram. Length: 48ft. Beam: 15ft. Draught: 4ft. Engines: 2x405hp fully restored, inboard Detroit. Double cabins, 2 bathrooms, saloon, TV DVD, big fridge. Safety equipment on board, 3.5m Hypalon dinghy, sunbeds, new exterior paint. Price: 6 million baht. Photos available. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-1870409. Fax: 077-414359. Email: info@siamladyacht.com

## FISHING BOAT

19ft, fiberglass, with trailer. Has center console with permanent shade cover and plenty of rod holders. Has a very clever shade extension, too. As new for 250,000 baht. Doesn't include motors as I am selling the hull and trailer only. Best value for money in Phuket. Tel: 06-9724805. Email: nervobe@hotmail.com

## TANKER VESSEL

Thai-registered tanker vessel for sale:

- Capacity: 50,000 liters
- Length: 22 meters
- Beam: 4.9 meters
- Engine: 1 Hino diesel
- Price: 2.1 million baht.

Please contact for details. Tel: 076-244820, 01-891-2333. Fax: 076-244823. Email: tailor@loxinfo.co.th

Find more classified ads

**"Boats & Marine"**

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



# Island Job Mart

## Opportunities...



Qualified and experienced Thai national candidates with good English-language skills are invited to apply for the positions below by sending their CV to the Director of Personnel Development. Email: [recruitment.phuket@hilton.com](mailto:recruitment.phuket@hilton.com) or Fax: 076 370 695/076 396 136. Applications close: 19 Sept 2005.

### ACCOUNTS

- Assistant Financial Controller
- Assistant Purchasing Manager
- Paymaster
- Income Auditor

### EVENTS

- Events Services Manager

### RESERVATIONS

- Reservations Sales Agent (6 months)

### SECRETARY

- Operations Secretary
- PR Secretary
- Junior Health & Leisure Secretary

### FRONT OFFICE

- Front Office Manager
- Assistant Front Desk Manager
- Duty Manager
- Shift Leader

### HOUSEKEEPING/LAUNDRY

- Laundry Manager

### HR & TRAINING

- Senior HR Coordinator (Recruitment)
- Training Coordinator

### HEALTH, LEISURE & SPA

- Spa Therapists
- Spa Receptionist
- Special Activities Supervisor

For the positions below, Thai nationals may apply in person with their CV at

## HILTON PHUKET ARCADIA RESORT & SPA

9 AM - 4 PM, SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2005

### ACCOUNTS

- Accounts Officer, Storekeeper, Receiving Officer

### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Restaurant Manager, \*Waiters, \*Waitresses, \*Bartenders

### KITCHEN

- Chef Garde Manager, Chef de Partie, Steward

Positions shown with a \* are 6-month positions

### FRONT OFFICE

- Shift Leader, Bell Captain Supervisor, \*Guest Service Agent (Receptionist), Executive Lounge GSA, \*Bellman

### HOUSEKEEPING & GARDENING

- \*Room Attendants, \*Cleaners, \*Laundry Attendants, Gardeners

### ENGINEERING

- Duty Engineer, Shift Electrician, Shift Air-conditioning, Painter

### SECURITY

- Security Officers



The world's most famous hotel brand

## ASS'T SPA MANAGER AT KATA BEACH

Assistant Spa Manager & Cleaning Attendants. All experienced, reliable and English speaking. Only Phuket residents need apply. Please send resum , photo and expected salary or contact for more info. Tel: 076-330914, 06-5413629. Fax: 076-333233. Email: [terapi@post.tele.dk](mailto:terapi@post.tele.dk) For further details, please see our website at: [www.phuket-massage.com](http://www.phuket-massage.com)

## STAFF WANTED

Thai secretary between 20 and 40 years of age is urgently needed. The candidate must have poise, be able to speak and write in English, deal well with people and have good computer and secretarial skills. If you are interested, please contact us at Tel: 076-344180-1 in office hours (9 am - 6 pm). Fax: 076-340-767. Email: [bernd@phuket-realestate-law.com](mailto:bernd@phuket-realestate-law.com)

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

A five-star spa is currently seeking the following:

1. Spa Supervisor, based in Karon and Phuket City.
2. Sales Staff.
3. Spa Receptionist, based in Patong, Karon and Phuket City.

All need to be Thai nationals with a good command of English and computer skills. Spa experience not required – just potential and the right attitude. Tel: 076-354027. Email: [info@asianwind.biz](mailto:info@asianwind.biz)

## 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)

## MARINE TECHNICIAN

wanted to re-assemble a fiberglass powerboat with triple Mercruiser engines. Experience in general marine mechanical/electrical systems required. Tel: 01-8937027. Email: [ianpotter@hotmail.com](mailto:ianpotter@hotmail.com)

## PASTRY CHEF

wanted. Must be able to work hard in bakery on Koh Lanta. Will have excellent salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 075-684525, 01-0669459. Email: [sergeyves@hotmail.com](mailto:sergeyves@hotmail.com)



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### SPA MANAGER

### SPORT MANAGER

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

All positions above are available for Thai candidates only with minimum 3 years experience in similar positions. Strong leadership and supervisory skills are required. Fluent spoken and written English are a must; another language is an advantage.

If interested, please send your resum  and a recent photo to Human Resources Manager, Sofitel Central Hua-Hin Resort, 1 Damnernkasem Road, Hua-Hin, Prachuabkirikhan 77110  
Tel: (0) 32 512021 ext. 729 Fax: (0) 32 511014  
E-mail: [psnoffice@sofitel.co.th](mailto:psnoffice@sofitel.co.th)



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## ASIAN TRAVEL CLUB

recruits. Located in Kata, is looking for Administration/Accounting woman with experience and good organizational skills. We are also looking for Thai- & English-speaking (Chinese would be an advantage) sales representatives. You should be easy-going and with a positive attitude and a professional appearance. Good salary, commission and benefits offered. Full training provided. Only female Thai nationals required. Tel: 076-333461, 05-1601670. Fax: 076-333460. Email: [paulivarlarsson@hotmail.com](mailto:paulivarlarsson@hotmail.com)

## INTERNET CAFE

A Phuket City Internet cafe is looking for a manager. Applicants should be proficient in written and spoken english. Knowledge of computers an advantage. Good salary and benefits. Please contact. Tel: 09-7968081.

## LAWYER NEEDED

Knightsbridge Law is extending its Bangkok Offices to include an office in Phuket. We are currently seeking staff for that office. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0845704. Email: [skheffe@knightsbridgecredit.com](mailto:skheffe@knightsbridgecredit.com)

## AU PAIR

An English family living in southern Spain requires assistance with their 6-month and 2-year-old sons. Experience with children an advantage. Must be reliable and able to speak some English. Duties include: domestic cleaning, ironing and some light cooking. Assisting with the care of both children when not at school. Hours are variable and must be flexible, but no more than 45 hours per week. Benefits: all travel between Spain and Thailand paid for. The package includes accommodation, full board and a monthly salary, which will be paid in euros but open to discussion. Please email or fax me your details, recent photograph and any references you may have, and a brief personal description. Tel: 617-352835. Fax: 952-836357. Email: [melanie@twilt.net](mailto:melanie@twilt.net)

## DIVE ASIA

Two Guest Relations Officers and Salespersons

- Thai female, 20-27 years old

- Good English a must; other languages would be an advantage

- Computer skills

Please contact by phone between 11 am and 9 pm or apply by email. Tel: 076-330598. Fax: 076-284033. Email: [juergens@diveasia.com](mailto:juergens@diveasia.com)

## CONNECT

Guesthouse – Patong. We are looking for a person to work at our reception/back office. You will be performing office functions such as marketing, contact with travel agents, reservations, email, check-in/out, cashier and standard PC applications (MS Office), and must be skilled in both Thai and English. If you are interested, please send us your CV by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-294195, 09-7310180. Fax: 076-340957. Email: [ulf@beachpatong.com](mailto:ulf@beachpatong.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.gaypatong.com/connect/](http://www.gaypatong.com/connect/)

## WEB GRAPHIC

designer wanted part-time. Each job will be paid in advance. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@hotmail.com)

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# Island Job Mart



RICHMOND GROUP ASIA PACIFIC Co., Ltd.

The Residence is a 23-luxury-villa resort and residential complex due for completion in November 2005. Phase II of the project will also commence shortly in addition to other projects of the group. We are seeking persons who like challenges to maintain our high standard of service to our clients, in the following positions.

## Administration & General

- Executive Secretary to Resort Manager

## Front Office

- Front Office Manager
- Butler Service Supervisor
- Airport Representative Officer
- Chief Concierge
- Night Manager
- Reservation Supervisor
- Butler Service Officer
- Bell & Driver Service

## Finance & Accounting

- EDP
- Accounts Payable
- Cost Control Supervisor
- Store & Receiving
- Accounts Receivable
- Purchasing Supervisor
- Income Auditor

## Sales & Marketing

- Sales Manager
- Sales Executive

## Housekeeping

- Executive Housekeeper
- Room Attendant
- Linen Attendant
- Asst. Executive Housekeeper
- Florist Officer
- Public Area Attendant

## Human Resources

- Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Coordinator
- Training Manager
- Cook (Canteen)

## Engineering

- Asst. Chief Engineer
- General Technician
- Engineering Supervisor

## Spa and Sauna

- Spa Manager
- Spa and Sauna Staff

Please send your resumé to Group Human Resources Manager, 293/24 Moo 1, Bang Tao Beach, Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110, Thailand.

E-mail: samriangt@yahoo.com or hr@richmondth.com

### KARON PROPERTY

staff. The following positions are now open for Thai nationals at our new office in Karon: office staff and a property scout. Please send resumé, current salary and photograph by email to: phil.collier@karonproperty.com

### KATA INTERNET

Thai female wanted for Internet café and reception duties. Must speak English. Tel: 076-284042, 04-0635773. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

### RESERVATIONS

Female with experience, good spoken and written English and computer skills wanted to take reservations. Please contact Sea Canoe Thailand. Tel: 076-212172, 076-236-606.

### SHOP ASSISTANT

We are looking for a female Thai shop assistant willing to work in Kata. The salary is 6,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Jona for an interview. Tel: 09-8746170.

### MARKETING STAFF

A new company seeks one Thai team leader and eight OPCs. Training provided and a good salary on offer. For an interview, call Steve at Tel: 06-1206934.

### INTERNET CAFE

A Phuket City Internet café is looking for a manager. Applicants should be proficient in written and spoken English. Knowledge of computers an advantage. Good salary and benefits. Tel: 09-7968081.

**W**  
watermark  
bar restaurant

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Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

Assistant Manager  
Supervisor  
Yacht & Restaurant Hostess  
Guest Relations  
Waitress

Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & sense of service required for all positions.

watermark bar restaurant  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
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#### GERMAN COOK

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Interested candidates, please send resumé & recent photo to the Project Secretary.

#### Cape Yamu office:

23/102 Thepkasattri Road, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket, 83200. Tel: 076-273490 Fax: 076-273491  
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### DIVEMASTER

and underwater photographer. My name is Sean. I'm a certified Divemaster, in Phuket since June 2005 and looking for work in the Phuket area. I am based near the Karon, Kata and Chalong areas. Freelance or fixed employment would be of interest, although fixed employment for the coming high season would be great. If interested, just call me and we can take it from there. I look forward to hearing from you. Tel: 09-471-6524. Email: seansapstead@hotmail.com

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### BARS FOR LEASE

15 beer bars for lease near Simon Entertainment on Soi Bangla, next to Tiger discotheque. 3+3-year contract. All new, opening November 15. Please call Mr Kees. Tel: 01-8267129.

### PIANO BAR IN KARON

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### GYM FOR SALE

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## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386-113, 01-5778443.

## Pets

### PET OWNERS

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### TOYOTA SOLUNA GLi

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### SPECIAL PRICE

Asking for a downpayment of only 135,000 baht for an automatic 2004 Toyota Soluna Vios, with full options, 1,500cc and insurance. Please contact K. Pat for more info. Tel: 01-9784177. Email: koentanap@yahoo.com

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## Pickups

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### ISUZU PICKUP 4WD

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## 4 x 4s

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### HONDA SHADOW

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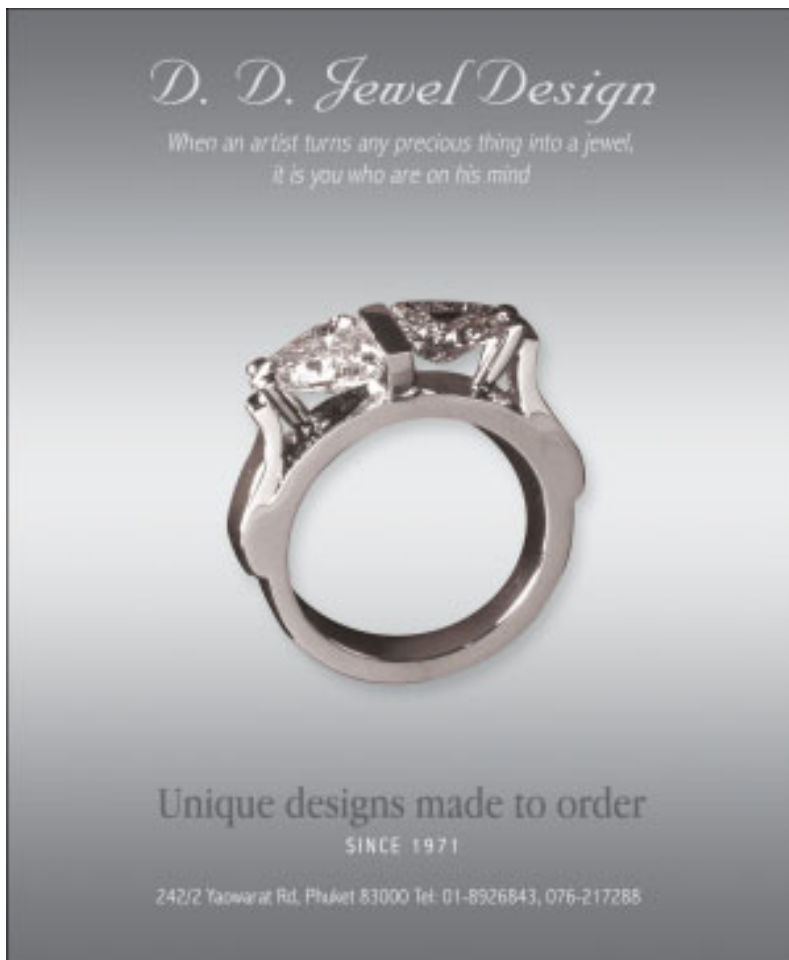
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