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# The Phuket Gazette

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Wildflowers grow where there should be water in the Bang Wad Reservoir. Unless there is heavy rain soon, and plenty of it, even the puddle in the middle will disappear.

## Reservoir down to last few drops

By Ananya Hongsa-ngiam,  
Anongnat Sartpisut  
& Alasdair Forbes

KATHU: The water level in Phuket's sole public reservoir, the Bang Wad Reservoir, is down to just 400,000 cubic meters and falling – lower than at this time of year in any of the past 21 years. Water officials blame the shortage of rain.

Phuket Irrigation Office (PIO) Project Director Watchara Arepornsir has warned that if there is not enough rain by the end of September or early October, the reservoir will effectively be empty and Phuket will have to rely entirely on supplies from privately-owned tin lagoons.

But even the tin lagoons are running low. Sawong Sri-In, director of Phuket City Municipal Water Department, told the Ga-

zette that two of the four lagoons the city normally relies upon are also low on water. One, on Soi Paniang, just to the northeast of Phuket City, is at 25% of capacity. Another, in Suan Luang Park, on Chao Fa Rd, is down to just 10% of capacity.

Attempts by the Royal Rainmaking Project to seed clouds and produce rain have had little success.

Since August 20, pilots from the project have been flying missions over Phuket in an effort to get the clouds to shed their bounty, said Thanatsanee Sawatdirak, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Office.

Part of the time they have been unable to fly because of strong winds. In other cases, the planes were grounded because tourism-boosting activities, such

as the Tourism Authority of Thailand's "mega-fam trips" for thousands of foreign tour agents, were taking place at the time – and rain was definitely not required.

Sometimes the pilots did succeed in producing rain, but it fell on Phang Nga instead of Phuket. In the end, the amount of water they were able to add to the reservoir totaled just 81,000 cubic meters, an amount K. Thanatsanee described as insignificant.

The rainmakers will, however, keep trying until November if necessary.

In a normal year the PIO is contracted to supply – from its Bang Wad Reservoir – 2 million cubic meters of water to Phuket City Municipality and 4 million to the Phuket Provincial Water Sup-

Continued on page 2

## Bangkok resurrects casino plan

BANGKOK (*The Nation*): The government has revived its plan to introduce casinos to Thailand as a way to boost the sagging tourism industry amid increased competition from rival Asian destinations, the Minister of Tourism and Sports, Pracha Maleenont, said on September 8.

K. Pracha said the "one region one casino" initiative was proposed in response to the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland this month and the expected opening of two casinos in Singapore in the next few years.

"Thailand needs a new tourism magnet to lure more international tourists and local travelers," he said.

The Disneyland theme park is expected to divert potential travelers to Hong Kong, especially travelers from China, one of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's main targets.

K. Pracha said Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had assigned the Government Lottery Office to conduct a feasibility study that should be completed by the end of this year.

The government wants to build at least four casinos in the Kingdom, he said, one each in four of Thailand's six regions. Two of the casinos would be located in existing tourism hotspots such as Phuket or Pattaya, and two would be built in less popular locations.

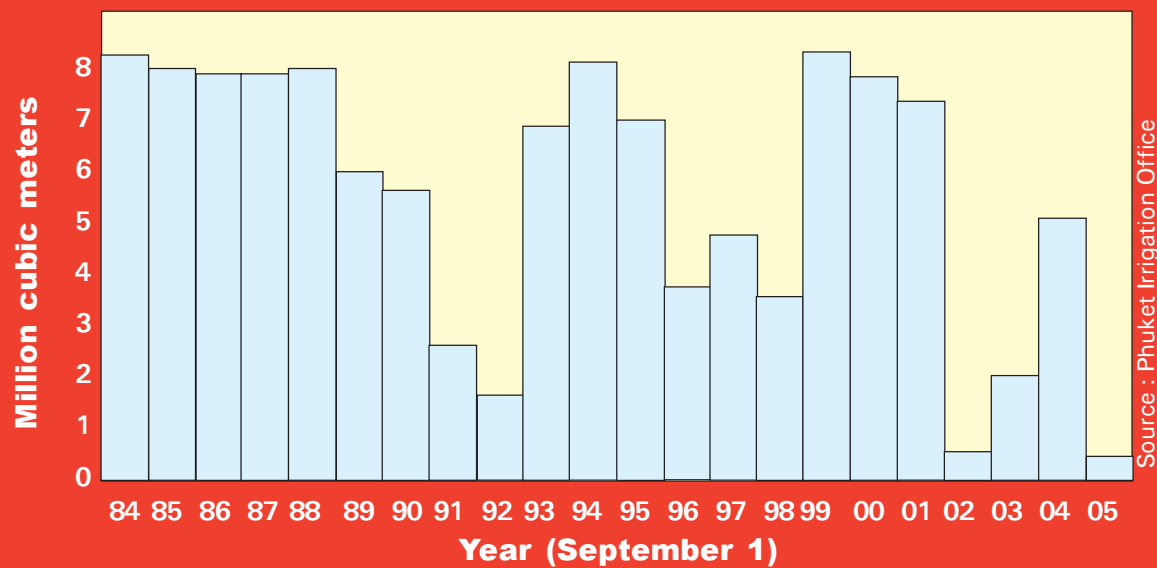
"If we want more tourism income we must start putting this thing on our tourism map. The casinos will also help the economy to recover," K. Pracha said.

PM Thaksin first unveiled his casino plan a year ago, but he was strongly criticized by devout Buddhists who said the casinos would promote gambling and spark social problems. In Phuket, the plan appeared to be opposed by most local people.

Editorial: page 22



**The water level in Bang Wad Reservoir on September 1 was the lowest it had been at that date in 22 years**



## Bang Wad reservoir down to last drops

From page 1

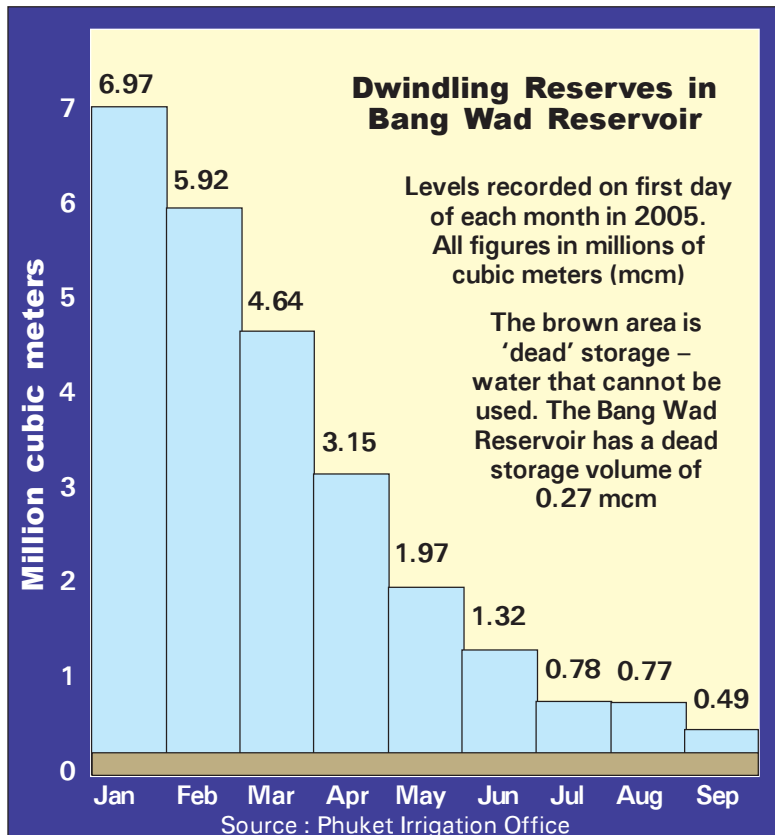
ply Department (PPWS), which is responsible for the southern half of the island apart from Phuket City.

K. Wachara said that the PPWS had used an average of 10,000 cubic meters a day from the reservoir, which was within its quota. The city, however, had used 3.3 million cubic meters up to the beginning of September and had therefore been cut off.

K. Wachara complained that neither organization was making full use of resources. "They just keep using water from the dam. We warned them four months ago of the possibility of a water shortage, but they have done nothing."

Meanwhile, the Municipality, which warned at the end of March that it might have to begin rationing supplies, has yet to do so, although water pressure has been reduced since May 1, K. Sawong said.

He said that the city is now being supplied with water mostly



pumped from the Anuphas tinmine lagoon in Kathu, which still holds some 40% of its capacity, or about 5 million cubic meters.

Apart from Bang Wad, the PPWS draws water from Loch Palm and from the Phuket Ex-

cise Office Lagoon. Sayan Wararoonrot, Manager of the PPWS, said that supplies from these are sufficient for now, but that the PPWS is now being helped by the central government to find additional sources.

# Rise in spirits tax begins to hit shop shelves

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Excise Department's tax increase on distilled spirits, which went into effect September 6, is gradually being reflected on store shelves across the island as retailers replace old stock with new.

The increase, which ostensibly has the twofold goal of cutting down on alcohol consumption and boosting government revenue, applies to all distilled alcohol products, including brandy, whisky, "special blends", rum, gin and vodka.

Distilled spirits are now subject to a tax of 40-50% of the market price, or 400 baht per liter of pure alcohol content – whichever is higher. Formerly the tax was 35-50% based on market price or 240 baht per liter of pure alcohol content.

The tax rise does not apply to beer and wine.

The announcement came after the recent Cabinet meeting in Phang Nga and was prompted

by data listed on a United Nations website which showed Thailand ranking fifth in the world in terms of per capita alcohol consumption, behind South Korea, the Bahamas, Taiwan and Bermuda.

At Tesco-Lotus, the new tax formula has already resulted in price increases to several products, for example:

Starnovitch Vodka: 225 baht to 232 baht; Malibu white rum: 739 baht to 759 baht; Clan MacGregor blended Scotch whisky: 279 baht to 283 baht; Camus cognac: 1,109 to 1,199 baht; Martell VSOP brandy: 1,199 baht to 1,269.

Wichan Meesen, Manager of the Market Place supermarket in Central Festival Phuket, said he did not believe the increase would have much effect on buying patterns.

"Even if they raised it to 500 baht per liter of pure alcohol, I think most of our customers would still have the spending power to continue buying what they want."

## Ticket scam suspect gets bail

PATONG: British national Jonathan Duncan, charged with selling fraudulently obtained air tickets to tourists, has been released on bail of 50,000 baht after spending five days locked up following his arrest.

Duncan, 24, was arrested August 30 on charges of fraud, following complaints by people who had bought cheap air tickets from him.

It is alleged that he bought them by fraudulently using other people's credit cards.

When the card owners discovered the fraudulent charges, they ordered that the payments be stopped, and the airlines therefore invalidated the tickets.

The offense of fraud carries a maximum punishment of three years in jail.

Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of Kathu Police Station said that the police investigation is continuing as more victims of Duncan's alleged scamming come forward.

He added, however, that police will put their evidence before the court by the end of September. – *Anongnat Sartpisut*

## Passport 'clinic' for Surat Thani

SURAT THANI: The passport division of the Department of Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoF), will send officials to Surat Thani between September 19 and 26 to allow Thai nationals to apply for passports or to extend or renew existing ones.

Applications will be accepted between 8:30 am to 3:30 pm in the Provincial Meeting Hall in Surat Thani Town.

Those interested in the passport services may book an ap-

pointment by calling the Surat Thani Provincial Office at Tel: 077-272926.

Officers of the Passport Division in Bangkok could not confirm to the *Gazette* whether a mobile passport services clinic will be coming to Phuket in the near future – as has been the case in recent years.

Instead, they advised Thais wanting passport services to look for announcements posted on the ministry website at [www.mfa.go.th](http://www.mfa.go.th).

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Nose-down in a ditch: the Phuket Air YS-11 commuter plane after the accident at Tak Airport.

Photo: The Nation

## Phuket Air cuts routes after crash

BANGKOK (*Gazette, Nation*): A Phuket Air plane from Bangkok skidded off the runway at Tak Airport shortly after 9 am on September 11, during landing. None of the 30 passengers on board was injured.

The decades-old Japanese YS-11 twin-turboprop aircraft, which can carry 64 passengers, barreled into the airport's perimeter fence, damaging the starboard wing and propeller. The airline has now withdrawn its four YS-11s from service and canceled two domestic routes.

Capt Chawanit Chiamcharoenvut, Executive Vice-President of Phuket Air, said, "The rain might have affected the plane's braking system."

"The aircraft stopped 10 meters farther from where it should have stopped."

But one passenger told a different version of events: "The plane should have touched down at the beginning of the runway rather than around the middle," Senator Udon Tantisunthorn, who was aboard the flight, said.

Capt Chawanit denied reports that the licenses of the two pilots involved have been suspended as a result of a Department of Aviation inquiry.

"The pilots are expected to remain flying until after the investigation process is complete," he told the *Gazette*.

But he also confirmed that none of the carrier's YS-11 aircraft is now in use, and also said Phuket Air has "finally decided to cancel Bangkok-Mae Sot and Bangkok-Buri Ram operations from September 12," citing financial losses.

Phuket Air also has three Boeing 737s and six 747s.

# Don't forget us: Phi Phi

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHI PHI ISLANDS: Phankam Kitithorakul, the Chairman of the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which is responsible for the Phi Phi Islands, has called for greater government support, saying the islands are being overlooked.

K. Phankam said that eight months after the tsunami the central government had still to help boost tourism to the islands. "It seems that everyone has forgotten Phi Phi; they are focusing only on Khao Lak and Phuket," he said.

"We have many rooms available on Phi Phi for tourists who want to travel here, especially [on the hillside to the east of Ton Sai Bay], which suffered little damage from the tsunami."

"Many people think that all of Phi Phi was damaged, but it was not," K. Phankam said, adding that the islands were currently attracting about half the usual



A recent picture of the current state of part of Phi Phi Don Island.

number of day trippers for this time of year.

"The government is taking too long to choose which organization will rebuild Phi Phi, and now it is as if we are still at the very first step," he added.

However, K. Phankam did concede that since the tsunami some progress had been made: "At the Cabinet meeting in Khao Lak [September 5-6] they decided that the Organization for Specific Areas Administration for Sustainable Tourism Promotion

(OSAASTP), under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, will rebuild Phi Phi."

He said the OSAASTP will be responsible for maintaining and improving main infrastructure on the islands, including supplying electricity and freshwater, and installing footpaths.

However, he complained that this move was long overdue, and that the decision came only after residents had pressed the central government for years to provide such services instead of

private companies, which were considerably more expensive.

In the government's defense, Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, told the *Gazette*, "They [the Cabinet] are still waiting for the new redevelopment plans, just as Patong and Kamala Beaches are."

She agreed, however, that the islands are open for business. "Many hotels and guesthouses have been repaired and are ready to receive tourists. I think there are more than 1,000 rooms available there now. I have just been there and it is more beautiful than before, especially at Maya Bay," K. Suwalai said.

She added that the TAT was promoting the islands abroad. "Many tourists from Australia and the Middle East are visiting there now."

"I think that in the coming high season the number of tourists there will be about 90% of last year's figure."

## Singers sought after tourist 'rape'

PATONG: Two Thai singers are being sought on charges of sexually assaulting a young Dutch tourist on September 10.

Pol Lt Weerapong Rakhito of Kathu Police Station said that, at 3:30 am on Saturday, Patong Hospital reported that two female tourists, one apparently the victim of a sexual assault, had arrived by tuk-tuk.

Eighteen-year-old "Anna" [not her real name] told police she had been attacked twice earlier

that morning at the residence of the accused on Sirirat Rd.

Lt Weerapong said that Anna and her sister Linda, 25, told the police that they had come to Phuket on vacation.

Linda said that they went to Sera Hut pub at Patong Hill, where Anna and a male singer identified only by the name of "Pla" were on friendly terms.

Linda told police that after the pub closed, Pla persuaded Anna to go with him to his room

up the hill behind the pub "to get something". An hour later, Anna returned to the bar without her shoes, with a black eye and blood on her legs.

Linda told the police that Pla had forced Anna into his room and allegedly raped her.

Afterwards, Linda said, as Anna escaped from Pla's room clutching her clothes, another singer from Pla's band allegedly grabbed her.

When Anna resisted, the second man allegedly punched her in the stomach and the face, and then raped her.

Anna was discharged from the hospital after treatment.

Lt Weerapong added that Anna had digital photos of both the alleged attackers.

The two suspects face charges of rape, punishable by imprisonment between four and 20 years, and a fine of 8,000 baht to 40,000 baht.

— Anongnat Sartpisut



A large turnout has welcomed the 2005 Phuket Vegetarian Festival's main invited guest, the *Mazhohu* statue — otherwise known as the Ruby Goddess — at Navamindra Memorial Square. Devotees believe that *Mazhohu* protects followers from the dangers of the sea. The *Mazhohu* replica was brought to Phuket in association with the Taiwan Taoism Association, and will stay on the island after the Vegetarian Festival, which runs from October 3 to 11.

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For years they lay neglected outside Phuket City Police Station: two old bronze artillery pieces. Now they sit proudly atop new replica gun carriages, after being restored in a project that also unearthed fascinating details about the island's past. The *Gazette's* Anongnat Sartpisut and Stephen Fein investigate.

# A blast from

One of the first things visitors to the Phuket City Police Station notice is the two old cannons flanking the flagpole on the front lawn – and pointing towards the nearby Merlin Hotel.

Guests at that hotel needn't worry – the two recently restored artillery pieces are purely for show, as part of a 350,000-baht project initiated by Superintendent Pol Col Paween Pongsirint to spruce up the grounds outside the station, which consistently ranks as among the best-equipped and well-run in southern Thailand.

The cannons are hardly new to the station – but interest in them is. For years they sat atop ugly concrete slabs in front of the building, neglected and covered in verdigris – the green patina that forms on bronze that has been exposed to air or water for too long.

## HISTORY

Nobody at the station seemed to know how long the cannons had been there, or where they had come from. Nobody seemed to care much, either, until Col Paween turned his sights on them.

"Phuket actually has a lot of cannons," Col Paween told the *Gazette*. "There are two at the Provincial Court, two more in front of the police barracks, and more in other locations."

"Since not every police station is lucky enough to have cannons, I thought we should do something with them, rather than just let them sit there. Besides, I am interested in history because it can be a valuable guide for the present."

"Developing the workplace as something the police can be proud of is also a good way of building morale," he added. "It can serve as a reminder of the officers' duties and their obligations to society."

It was not until the station received the 350,000-baht budget, mostly from private donations, that it began to look for someone who could build replicas of the carriages originally used to transport the two cannons.

Much of the money came from major contributor Chin Anusathitporn, and another large amount came from funds left over from last year's "Somdej 76" project, which saw soil from all 76 provinces mixed together at the base of a Buddha image during a ceremony to show national solidarity for police efforts in the restive Deep South.

The Superintendent was quick to point out that all of the donated funds were used properly.

"None of the money found its way into people's pockets. It was donated in good faith by people who placed their trust in us – and we didn't get any help from any other government agencies," he said.

Once the idea to restore the cannons was set in motion, some obvious questions were raised: How old were they? Where did they come from? How long have they been in Phuket? More needed to be learned about the guns, especially if they were to have accurate carriage replicas made for them.

When Col Paween asked former Superintendent Pol Maj Gen Kongpon Suwannarat, who ran the station back in the mid-



1970s, all the retired policeman could say about the cannons was that they were a Royal Gift to the province.

Intrigued, Col Paween then asked Pol Maj Cherdpong Chupreecha to contact the Thalang National Museum, which sent staff to inspect the guns on April 1 last year. Col Paween was surprised when they informed him later that the cannons were not only authentic, but that they had been cast at the famous Gjethuset foundry in Frederiksværk City in Denmark in 1768 and 1769 respectively, a short time after the fall of Ayudhya in 1767.

It is quite likely that the artillery pieces, now positively dated as being 236 and 237 years old, are the oldest man-made objects on the island. That their origins were unknown to anybody in Phuket for so long is quite

remarkable, because this is clearly not what their makers intended: the two barrels are clearly marked with the date and place of origin: "17 FRIDRICKS-WÆRCK 68" and "17 FRIDRICKSWÆRCK 69" in order that the year and place of their casting should never be forgotten.

That the guns could be so accurately identified is largely thanks to several Danes who helped in the research effort. First there was the Danish-language website [www.roennebech.dk](http://www.roennebech.dk), which is a mine of information about Danish artillery pieces of that period.

Col Paween also gives big thanks to Phuket-based Dane Henrik Darie, who provided and translated sections of the book *Dansk Artilleri i Napoleonstiden*. This scholarly text, written by Egon Eriksen og Ole L. Frantzen and published in 1989, was another important source of information, especially the all-important scale drawings of the original gun carriages from different perspectives.

Thanks to these useful sources, it was also learned that the cannon were just two of 208 bronze cannons produced by Henrik Hornhaver at the Gjethuset foundry in Frederiksværk

City between 1769 and 1799. Made of a bronze alloy consisting of 87% copper and 13% tin, the guns were designed by EG Meehlenburg, and belong to the "1766 weapon system", also known as the "Prince Carl of Hessen System" after the head of Danish artillery during that period.

They also bear the distinctive "C7" monogram of their original owner, King Christian VII.

Almost two meters long and weighing in at 275 kilograms each, the cannons must have been the weapons of mass destruction of their day.

According to the Danish researchers, when loaded with about 1.5 kilos of gunpowder they were capable of propelling a 92-kilo grapeshot canister shell, or "kardesk", up to 1,000 meters – perfect for thinning out enemy lines or firing on an opposing ship.

When in service, the cannons were well-attended, requiring a team of four strong horses to pull each one and a crew of eight men to set up and fire. As we can now see from the carriage replica, the wheels were large enough to allow them to be transported over difficult terrain.

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# the past



## Standing proud and on wheels once again

One of the two cannons on its new wooden carriage – a far cry from before when it was encased in white-painted concrete. The 'C7' monogram of the original owner, King Christian VII of Denmark, has stood the test of time.



in the fact that the guns still exist at all. Many cannons of that era exploded in the faces of their crews, causing horrific casualties.

Less certain than their origins is the question of when and why the cannon ended up in Phuket, or if they were ever actually used in battle here.

One theory is that they were brought here from Ayudhya during the days of Thao Thep-krasatree and Thao Srisoonthorn.

Under this scenario, Phuket's two beloved heroines might even have used them in defending the island against Burmese slavers in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Researchers at Thalang National Museum, who registered the cannons as national antiquities under the care of the Phuket City Police Station last year, have recently come up with a differ-

ent theory that sees the weapons making their way here around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – some 130 years after they were cast.

Based on records kept by Herbert Warrington Smyth, who served as Chief of the Bureau of Siam Mining from 1891 to 1896, the cannons were likely shipped here by Andre du Plessis Richelleu, a Dane who was in the employ of the Siamese Crown as Director-General of the Royal Thai Navy at the time.

A report by the researchers reads, in part: "Although records available from that period are not decisively clear, it is thought that the cannons probably arrived here around 1900 to help put down a rebellion by 'Ang Yee' Chinese."

The Ang Yee were poor Chinese immigrants who worked the island's tin mines.



Col Paween oversaw the project to build replica carriages for the two Danish bronze cannons.

"First we contacted a specialist carriage craftsman in Ayudhya, but he wanted 300,000 baht," Col Paween said. "We thought that was very expensive. Also, the work would have been done up there and we wouldn't have been able to oversee it – so we passed on that offer."

Serendipity then prevailed in the form of Lop Buri native Chart Chalamthong, a woodworker and mechanic, who came to the station to pay a fine one day and saw the cannons. "I can build proper carriages for those," he said.

Other local craftsmen pitched in, including K. Dang from Mook Pradit shop, K. Chuan who built the platform, and an electrician who rigged

up spotlights so the cannons could be seen at night.

Sourcing the right wood was an effort in itself. They eventually decided to use "Takien Thong" wood, which they reckoned could withstand the elements for 30 to 40 years.

"It wasn't easy to find. Finally we learned that the Ruamchoke Kah Mai woodshop had some and would sell it to us at cost because they remembered that we once caught a thief who had robbed the shop and that we were able to return all of their money," Col Paween said.

Work on the carriage replicas began in April, and the cannon finally went on display in front of the station on August 6.

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## Queer News

### I'm not going out there

**SURIN:** An 81-year-old woman has discovered that she has been carrying the body of her unborn son for 58 years.

A doctor monitoring Soon Maithong's case said the woman had experienced an extra-uterine pregnancy, in which the fetus grows outside the womb. The baby was found fully developed, suggesting that it had survived the full nine-month gestation period.

Dr Siwamate Khaengphenkhae said he recommended that at this stage it would be risky for an octogenarian like K. Soon to undergo an operation to remove the fetus, which has effectively become part of her body.

K. Soon was admitted to the hospital on September 3 suffering from severe pains in her stomach. Doctors first thought she had developed a large tumor, but X-rays subsequently revealed the fully developed foetus.

K. Soon explained that she had expected to give birth to the baby in 1947 when she was 23, and that she had experienced four miscarriages before giving birth to her only daughter, Jua, four years after becoming pregnant with the unborn child.

Her daughter said that K. Soon believed that her failure to deliver the baby boy was because of some kind of "evil spell", and that she had undergone two exorcisms. **Source: The Nation**

## We Love Phuket!



Nuchnapha Thepsakul collects her prize of a day trip to Phang Nga with Sea Canoe Thailand from Jittraporn 'Paulie' Saejew of the *Phuket Gazette* Classified Ads Team.



In front of Chicago's famed Water Tower, little Lilinette Hong shows that she and her mom and dad, who live in the city, are Phuket enthusiasts.

## Old town set for seven-week festival

**PHUKET CITY:** Thalang Rd, Krabi Rd and Dibuk Rd will be transformed into a cultural medley showcasing local food stalls and performances between 7 pm and 11 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from September 23 to November 6.

The "7 weeks of Phuket City's Cultural Roads" festival will have shows from a variety of countries, Minister of Culture Uraiwan Thienthong announced.

"Not only Southern Thai culture will be represented; there will also be performances from China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iran, Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain," she said.

Also among the festival's events will be 48 traditional *Baba* (Straits Chinese-style) weddings, and a photo studio with a backdrop of Sino-Portuguese architecture will be set up for anyone who wants a souvenir picture taken.

K. Uraiwan noted, "All local residents will be encouraged to give their evaluation of the event so that it becomes a model for future cultural festivals."



Local performers sang songs to brighten the announcement of the festival.

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





# Early closing of gas stations mooted

The Ministry of Energy has proposed that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra order petrol stations to close at 8 pm or 9 pm as part of nationwide measures to save energy, (instead of the current 10 pm). The plan also proposes that the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration designate parking zones for taxis, and for new government cars to be able to use natural gas.

In addition, vehicles with large engines would be subject to higher taxes, while natural-gas vehicles would enjoy lower taxes – an extension of the tiered sales tax on cars introduced earlier this year. Also, monitoring cameras would be installed along roads to detect and punish drivers who speed above 100kmh.

Meanwhile, Shell Co of Thailand, the local unit of Royal Dutch Shell, has asked Energy Minister Viset Choopiban for assistance in coping with its losses from retail gas sales following recent surges in global prices. Company chairman Tiraphot Vajrabhaya told reporters he wanted the government to ask oil refineries to cut their profit margins by as much as US\$5 (205 baht) a barrel by reducing wholesale prices, claiming that oil retailers were losing 3.47 baht a liter on petrol sales and 40 satang a liter on diesel sales.

"If the government doesn't help us, we may need to raise [retail] prices sharply to cover our losses," he said.

Following Hurricane Katrina's devastation in the southern US Gulf states, oil retailers have raised their prices each week by 40 satang a liter, not enough to catch up with the sharp rise in global oil prices.

PTT raised its retail oil prices 40 satang per liter for both petrol and diesel on September 4, after the other nine retailers raised their prices the day before.

**Toy boys:** Young male prostitutes in Pattaya find nothing wrong with the flesh trade, which allows them to earn enough for a comfortable lifestyle without having to work hard, according to research by a graduate student from Srinakharinharawit University.



Officers inspect the wreckage of a Royal Thai Air Force Au-23 Peacemaker that crashed into the Gulf of Thailand near Prachuap Khiri Khan on September 6. The accident, in which Flying Officer Praisit Ampornrat was killed, is being investigated.

Uamfa Banchuen conducted in-depth interviews with 12 young male prostitutes aged between 13 and 18 in her home town of Pattaya, as part of research for her master's degree at the university's Faculty of Education last year.

"The children approved of working as prostitutes. They found nothing wrong with it and viewed prostitution as commonplace," her report said.

The teenagers said they were happy with their work because it enabled them to earn a comfortable wage. They also believed that the government should be more open to the ideas of prostitution and same-sex affairs.

"The children said they sometimes responded to their own sexual needs when sleeping with clients. They showed a preference for foreign clients over locals," the research said.

According to the report, the teenagers between 16 and 18 years old earned about 20,000 baht a month working in gay bars. Younger prostitutes earned be-

tween 5,000 baht and 10,000 baht a month because pimps demanded commissions.

**Unintentionally innocent:** Panpat "Ton Lako" Na Songkhla, 23, has been acquitted by the Criminal Court after a year-long trial because the prosecution failed to prove its case of narcotics possession.

Pantap, son of Constitution Court Judge Chumpol Na Songkhla, tried to get himself arrested on purpose for possession of a single *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pill. The court heard that he walked up to a policeman on patrol in August last year and presented him with a tablet in the hope that he would be arrested, thus escaping personal problems at home.

Prosecutors decided to press charges, even though Panpat had been acquitted of exactly the same thing in March, 2003, when the Thon Buri Criminal Court threw the case out because he had surrendered to police.

The court said Pantap had the tablet in his possession be-

cause he specifically wanted to be arrested, not because he had illicit intentions as prescribed by anti-drugs laws.

The defense presented records that confirmed the suspect's troubled relationship with his parents.

After the verdict, Judge Chumpol said his son had suffered from convulsions when he was a young child. "My son is not a drug addict and he should not have been prosecuted in the first place," he said.

He added that ill-intentioned people might have wanted to publicize his son's plight in order to discredit his position in the judiciary.

**Playing the odds:** The authority to issue border passes has been transferred from Aranyaprathet District Officer Paktorn Tianchai to Sa Kaew provincial officials, possibly "cutting the blood line" of the casinos across the border in Cambodia's Poipet.

K. Paktorn said the decision was an attempt to prevent Thais from crossing the border to

gamble in Poipet. The authority to issue border passes now rests with the Deputy Governor or another official acting on behalf of the Governor.

Bamrung Lawjaroenwatana-chai, chairman of the Sa Kaew Chamber of Commerce, said the move could cost the jobs of some 1,000 Thais employed by Poipet casinos.

**Ridden roughshod:** The father of five-year-old Chuthaporn Paengthai, who is almost completely paralyzed and only able to move her eyes and hands after a road accident, is now being sued for 550,000 baht to cover her medical costs.

Muang Loei Ram Co, Ltd, which operates a private hospital in Loei Town, has filed a lawsuit against the girl's father, K. Rungnirand, demanding that he foot the bill for a brain operation and other medical treatment.

The total cost of treatment was originally 650,000 baht, but the pickup driver blamed for the crash agreed to pay 100,000 baht in compensation.

Following the accident, in which the pickup ploughed into the motorbike on which Chuthaporn was riding pillion, her mother, K. Nam, stopped working so she could care for her daughter full-time. The family of nine has since been solely dependent on K. Rungnirand, who works a seasonal job at a rubber plantation, making around 1,500 baht a month.

K. Nam said that in addition to the 100,000 baht in compensation to the family, the pickup driver also paid to fix the damaged motorcycle.

Yet he refused to cover the entire cost of medical treatment for the girl, even though he had promised to do so in a statement he made to police after the accident.

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



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# GLOCK, SWAT AND BARREL

By Anongnat Sartpisut  
& Andy Johnstone

Phuket is undoubtedly a place where a person can live out his or her fantasies. That person may be a paunchy, middle-aged brick-layer – and not necessarily male – from Birmingham who buys a large motorcycle, dons a pair of leather chaps and becomes The Biker.

Another may put a surfboard on the back of his or her pickup truck, and, although the board may never taste seawater, the owner becomes The Surfer Dude.

To this list can now be added those with a penchant for police uniforms, specifically The SWAT Team Guys.

SWAT, for anyone who is unsure, stands for Special Weapons and Tactics.

Originally, however, it stood for Special Weapons Attack Team. The first SWAT unit was formed in the era of the Summer of Love in – where else? – the hippy habitat of California.

Obviously such a belligerent title became out of place in the '70s, hence the name change, with an emphasis on tactics.

SWAT seemed to catch the public imagination, and spawned *S.W.A.T.*, a TV series, in the mid-'70s, that begat a rather unimaginative film a couple of years ago. Between these, in the 1980s, there was a Hanna-Barbera cartoon series called *SWAT Kats*. Memorable? Obviously for some, as it has its own website.

But now any Tom, Dick or Harry can toddle along to SWAT Home, one of the island's more specialized boutiques, and deck themselves out in the full regalia, in colors ranging from DPM (Disruptive Pattern Material) to several shades of black, including Henry Ford, Hole of Calcutta and Property Developers' Soul.

Ballistic and tactical vests for 8,000 baht, torches for 4,300 baht, holsters as well as a range of Smith & Wesson knives, Hi-Tech Magnum boots and even a SWAT PASGT can be bought there.

Wait a minute, PASGT? Yes, another acronym. This one



Above, Lt Wanchana and his closest comrade in arms (who preferred not to be named) feature in this special poster in the shop.

Right: Just the thing for your average paranoid Patong night out. In an emergency it will also hold lots of beer.



stands for Personal Armor System for Ground Troops, the helmet being just part of the System.

The PASGT helmet is commonly referred to as the "Fritz", for its resemblance to the one worn by the runners-up in World War II, and is credited with being able to stop the 7.62 x 39mm round fired by the terrorist's weapon of choice, the AK-47.

(Problem is, the AK-74, which was introduced in 1974, fires a smaller, although lighter, caliber slug at a higher velocity. Yikes.)

The SWAT Home shop opened last month and is run by

Pol Lt Wanchana Fonpalangkul, Chief of Operations of the Phuket Provincial Special Police Unit, and his father-in-law, Kantaphon Suchasanti.

Pride of place in the shop is given to a replica of Heckler and Koch's superlative PSG-1. A real PSG-1 (*Präzisions-Scharfschützen-Gewehr* or Precision Sniper Rifle) costs a cool US\$10,000 (400,000 baht), though the replica is considerably cheaper.

The PSG-1 replica is not for sale, but the shop does sell other guns, admittedly air weapons. There is, for example, a replica Glock 17 with the natty addition of a tactical laser sight slung under the barrel. Cats simply love chasing the little red dot.



Above: A local enthusiast admires the replica PSG-1 sniper rifle displayed in the shop.

Below: Don't worry Mom, the kids are also catered for. Cute, huh?



All of this is rather bizarre, of course, given the recent nationwide crackdown on firearms that, in Phuket, resulted in a few grenades, some old bullets and a pair of 1819 flintlock dueling pistols being handed in.

Of course, Phuket is still waiting for the much-needed firearms repository to be built somewhere near the Tah Chat Chai vehicle checkpoint, the idea being that out-of-towners can drive all the way to Phuket with their firearms, leave them safe and snug in an arsenal before having a happy and firearm-free holiday.

But Lt Wanchana – who had the honor of being part of the close protection detail assigned to guard Vladimir Putin when the President of the Russian Federa-

tion visited Thailand for the 2003 APEC meeting – is not one to agonize over bogged-down government projects.

He said, "I have really loved SWAT teams since I was young. This shop has a lot of products that I like and that I hope will be popular with other enthusiasts."

He and K. Kantaphon said that one reason they opened the shop was to provide a meeting place for others who like looking at and for weapons, and discussing them.

Lt Wanchana said, however, that most of the customers are simply looking for durable and practical boots and trousers for "sporting purposes".

"We don't have many items of apparel in foreigners' sizes at the moment," explained K. Kantaphon, "but we're happy to order clothing and boots in sizes larger than for the average Thai person."

But that's all we are going to tell you. If we told you any more, we'd probably have to kill you.

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## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander Sammy Swan

**B**ritish citizen Irene Ferdy, 55, fell ill while visiting Samui last year. The landlord at her bungalow resort took her to the Samui Public Hospital, where she was given emergency treatment for liver problems, breathing difficulties and symptoms associated with Alzheimer's Disease. Fourteen months later, Irene is still there – and she wants to go home.

Hospital staff say her son visited Irene shortly after her treatment began, and asked the doctors and nurses to take care of her while he went home to raise the funds to take her back to the UK.

Several months then passed before he contacted his mother again, telephoning on her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday eight months ago to promise he would be back soon. Since then there has been no contact from him, so the hospital staff got in touch with the British Embassy which provided the family address but was unable to offer any other assistance.

### PRESSURE

The cost of Irene's treatment to date has now reached around 1.5 million baht. Although the hospital director says that her care remains a priority, he is under pressure to find the resources to provide Irene with the care she needs.

Irene is unable to feed herself or get out of bed, and she is prone to bouts of delirium, spending much of the time in a confused state. Nurses say she could live a long and happy life with the right support from her family, but they are so overstretched dealing with daily admissions that they simply do not have the time to attend to her needs fully.

**Full Moon Party to shine:** Local officials say that recent reports in the national press that the government plans to end the monthly Full Moon Party on Koh Pha-ngan are "exaggerated".

Janjok Piriya Sathit, head of the Tourism Authority of Thailand on Koh Pha-ngan, said that comments made by the Minister of the Interior after a visit to the party were simply among a number of suggestions that also in-



Drug-fueled event or a boost to the Thai tourism industry? It's the latter: the monthly Full Moon Party on Koh Pha-ngan is saved.

## Woman abandoned in Samui hospital

cluded creating entertainment zones and introducing protected environment areas on the island.

"Local business people have worked hard for many years to promote this island internationally," he said. "That work cannot be destroyed by a single opinion. The world has changed, and we have to understand this and come up with ideas that suit the situation. The Full Moon Party is a truly international gathering that greatly benefits not only these islands, but Thailand as a whole."

Piphit Ratanarak, of the Surat Thani Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), echoed K. Janjok's sentiments. He told the *community magazine* that it would be difficult to cancel something that has been both popular and successful for so long. He also suggested that the opinions and ideas of local people should be considered before any changes are made as to how the party is run.

K. Piphit's comments were based largely on the Full Moon Party's reputation as a drug-fueled event and on reported damage to the local environment. He says local people are more sensible than to allow such issues to dominate.

"The people of Koh Pha-ngan know what's best for their island," he said.

"If the problems were as serious as some people claim, they wouldn't let the party go ahead. The financial benefits for Thai tourism are considerable here. We have to consider the issue carefully, and consult people who rely on the party for their income."

"Closing the party down would be like throwing a rock into a pool. It would send ripples throughout the Thai tourism industry."

**Out with drought:** The Surat Thani Provincial Waterworks Authority recently received a budget of 905 million baht in government money to spend on projects to ensure that Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao do not experience water shortages.

Five projects are planned for the three islands, with 300 million baht of the budget earmarked for Samui. The largest slice, 420 million baht, has been allocated to Koh Pha-ngan, which is currently experiencing a drought – the islanders currently have access to the public supply for only short periods each day.

The rest of the money will be allocated to Koh Tao.

**Teenage convicts:** Surat Thani Prison has more teenage inmates than any other provincial jail. Most of them have been incarcerated for underage drinking, illegal drug use or fighting.

Preeda Ilasuwan, Director of Surat Thani Prison, says that the government's War on Drugs campaign is committed to solving the teenage problem in Surat Thani.

Wayward teenagers are now being sent to Vivathpolmuang Army School, where they undergo intensive behavioral and discipline training.

Their attendance will help to reduce the prison population, and according to official statistics

90% of teenagers who attend the school show an improvement in both attitude and life skills.

They also leave the facility with a greater sense of community spirit.

K. Preeda added that although the school is proving effective, better family care would significantly reduce the number of inmates in the Surat Thani jail.

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

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# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket

Chinda Koomdet, a nursing assistant at Phuket Mission Hospital, and Australian businessman John Harrison were married on August 22 in the Fortuna Pavilion Room of The Metropole hotel, Phuket City.



Irene Hong and Tony Squillace from Australia were married at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club on August 20.



Monica Maneekam from Ayudhaya and Steve Watts from Australia were married in a simple ceremony at sunset on Surin Beach on August 20.



South African-born **Rory Byrne** has what many people would consider to be A Very Nice Job; he is the Chief Designer for Scuderia Ferrari Marlboro, the Italian legend's Formula One racing team. The *Gazette's* **Andy Johnstone** (left) managed to catch up with the great designer before he left his Phuket home and returned to the Ferrari stable in Maranello to prepare for the Grand Prix of Belgium at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps – one of Mr Byrne's favorite circuits.

**A**ndy Johnstone: You've been involved in motorsport for more than 30 years. Had you planned it that way?

**Rory Byrne:** Well, it was not what I had in mind when I was at university – reading chemistry and mathematics. After graduating, I was chief chemist at Kolchem until 1968 although I had always had an interest in motorsport.

We used to enter a Ford Anglia in races and were quite successful. I was more interested in the mechanical side of things, though. A few of us set up a specialist motorsport equipment supply company, importing performance parts.

**AJ:** The Ford Anglia again. Ian Mitchell, who lives here and competes in endurance car racing, began with an Anglia. What was it about them?

**RB:** They were tough little cars and although slow by today's standards, with their 997cc engine and four-speed gearbox, were quite quick back then, even in unmodified form.

Another advantage to racing Anglias – in fact, all Fords – was that Ford was very keen to offer support in the way of parts, for example. I suppose that racing road cars has always been one of the best advertisements for a manufacturer.

And of course I would visit Kyalami, the venue for so many great Grand Prix.

**AJ:** But you moved to the UK to become professionally involved in motor racing around 1972, a couple of years after your fellow countryman Jody Scheckter. Why?

**RB:** Britain was – still is, in fact – just the place for anyone involved in motorsport to go. Six of the top 10 F1 teams are based there.

The UK has such a diversity of motorsport, which is not to say that Europe doesn't, but in the UK, there is everything from karting to hillclimb, world-class rallying to touring car races and of course Formula Ford, Formula 3000 [which replaced Formula 2 in 1984] and F1.

The country is still a magnet for motor racing, and these disciplines are still the proving ground for successful F1 drivers, although I don't think that a Formula Two or a 3000 champion ever won the Formula One Championship.

**AJ:** You were designing racing cars by this time.

**RB:** Drawing on my knowledge as a mathematician I became chief designer for Royale Formula Ford around 1973 or '74.

And then in 1977, I met Ted Toleman, the owner of Toleman F2 team, and joined his team as designer. We did quite well for the next few seasons – coming second in the 1980 F2 championships – and made the switch to F1 in the 1981 season, running the

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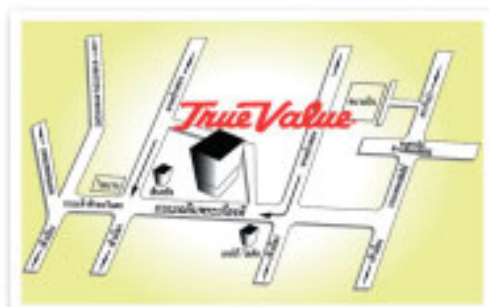
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# GOING FOR A BIT OF A BYRNE-UP



Dream job: Rory Byrne, pictured outside the 'office' at Maranello, below, is head of the team that designed the fabulous red cars that dominated Formula 1 from 2000 to 2004 and are still a major force today.

— Photo by EPA/Gero Breloer.

TG181 I had designed. It took Toleman a couple of seasons to begin winning points, actually toward the end of the 1983 season.

**AJ:** That was just before Toleman signed Ayrton Senna from Formula 3?

**RB:** That's right. Ayrton had to retire in his first F1 race, which was in his home country [Brazil] but he came in sixth at Kyalami, winning his first F1 point. He picked up another point at the Belgian Grand Prix at the Circuit Zolder and came in second at Monaco a few races later.

**AJ:** He was — and still is — a hero to many. What was he like?

**RB:** Like so many of the great drivers, he was a different man on and off the track. While racing he was fiercely competitive and utterly focused — he would not give an inch — but off the track, both with his teammates and other drivers, he was very



Photo courtesy of Ferrari.

friendly. He was private, very likable and compassionate.

**AJ:** Toleman was bought by Benetton in 1985, and you continued to design Benetton Formula. What do you remember about this period of F1?

**RB:** For a start, we had more money, more resources at our disposal, but what really stands out in my mind most is

Gerhard Berger's win at the 1986 Mexican Grand Prix.

It was the first GP win for one of my designs, the first for the team and the first for Gerhard. Unforgettable.

From this, the team springboarded to four more victories over the next few seasons. But I left Benetton for a season, and returned to the team for the 1992 season, with Michael Schumacher as No 1 driver.

Michael won his first Driver's Championship in both 1994 and 1995 driving my design, and with teammate Johnny Herbert, they took the Constructors Championship for Benetton.

Ross Brawn, the technical

director of Benetton Formula, and Michael moved to Scuderia Ferrari in 1996, and although I had retired, I joined them in 1997.

**AJ:** The following years were, to put it mildly, quite successful for Scuderia Ferrari.

**RB:** [laughs] You could say that. Michael won the Drivers' Championships in the years 2000 to 2004 and we also won the Constructors Championships in 1999 to 2004.

**AJ:** And the circle completed, in some ways...

**RB:** I agree. Jody [Scheckter], also from South Africa was, in 1979, the last Ferrari driver to win the Drivers' Championship before Michael, although Ferrari took the 1982 and '83 Constructors Championships.

**AJ:** So what has happened to Scuderia Ferrari in the 2005 season?

**RB:** We have been off the pace, that's true, although we are currently third in the constructors' ranking and Michael is third in the drivers'.

For a number of reasons, the FIA [Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile] changed the regulations for the F1 2005 season. Changes include a requirement that cars must now run an engine for two Grand Prix races, which of course means that the engine must last for twice as far before being rebuilt. That works out at an average of 700 kilometers before a rebuild.

And introduced for 2005 was the ruling that there can no longer be tire changes during races, and Ferrari is running on Bridgestones, whereas many other teams are on Michelin.

We began the season still running, albeit with modifications, the Ferrari F2004, as we were still developing the F2005. The other teams have been doing very well.

The regulations mean that all the teams must be more competitive and the cars must be more durable while reducing overall speed, making F1 safer.

**AJ:** You split your time between Phuket and Maranello, and plan to retire at the end of the 2006 season. What then?

**RB:** We plan to build a house here, and I might still do consulting work for Scuderia Ferrari, and I enjoy scuba diving.

I don't think I'll bring my [Ferrari] 430 over here, though; the roads and the driving are just too bad.

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# Timeless timekeepers – the classic Swiss watch



By Anongnat Sartpisut

There is one accessory that does more than make you look good – the wristwatch, without which many of us would find it hard to get to the airport (or, indeed anywhere) on time.

And although there are many funky and chunky designs to be had, the watch that just keeps on ticking has got to be a Swiss classic – the likes of which have graced the wrists of Humphrey Bogart (Longines), Gwyneth Paltrow (Oris) and Michael Owen (Tissot).

Geneva and the Jura Mountains region brought Switzerland

fame as the original home of horology, and now Longines, Oris and Tissot are brand names that, combined with an impressive history and tradition, bring the Swiss watch well into modern times.

With so many models on the market, it can be time-consuming (sorry!) to browse through them all, so here is a special selection from the three famous names.

The history of Longines goes back to 1832, but the sleek Evidenza is an up-to-the-minute expression of elegance.

Known as the “flat body” watch, the Evidenza ranges in price from 100,000 baht to 244,000 baht.

The Williams Formula 1 limited edition titanium watch by Oris is named after the BMW F1 team. This handsome timepiece costs 33,900 baht.

The standard Tissot T-Touch multi-function watch, which is priced from 26,200 baht to 27,300 baht, even appeared in the recent movie *Mr & Mrs Smith*.

So impress your next hot date by arriving on time – with a classic Swiss beauty on your arm already.

*These watches and more are available at Central Festival Phuket. For information, contact Tel: 076-291000.*

(Left to right): The Longines Evidenza, Tissot T-Touch and the Oris Williams Formula 1. (Below): Classic and graceful styling.



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St. Stephen's International School, Bangkok, is conveniently situated adjacent to Viphavadi Rangsit Road, the main route connecting the airport to the city centre. The school's Bangkok campus currently supports Nursery to year 10 and is expanding year by year, to year 13.

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# Da Crims reach for da sky

Smooth as a freshly tailored Shantung silk suit and as slick as a sea of oil – or a South American cocaine baron – the Fun Lovin' Criminals are the epitome of New York cool.

*Bag of Hits: 15 Inter-global Chartstoppers* is what could be the coolest cut of the year, Da Criminals' greatest hits performed by Huey and the boys from their first faltering, penny-loafed steps with *The Fun Lovin' Criminal* to their super-model swooshes of *Bump* and *Big Night Out*.

*Big Night Out* – and those readers of a sensitive disposition should look away now – deals with the vacuity and hypocrisy of fashionistas who go straight from sipping green tea to a line of Bolivian marching powder: "Face like a saint, sucking like a sinner. Cocaine makes you thinner. Cocaine makes you thinner."

The boys are not what one could term politically correct; every other word rhymes with "duck" and the "Parental Advisory: Explicit Content" sticker is firmly stuck to the cover. Mind



you, it is emblazoned across a photo of an ample bosom.

They sound misogynistic, violent and drug-crazed, but it's pure theater; their blend of Latino rhythms, hip-hop, rock and blues is laden with satire and wit, and has its tongue very firmly stuck in its cheek.

Huey, Fast and Steve tackle drugs, homophobia, ambition and sex dreams in their music, and even organized crime with *The King Of New York*, a rap about the late John Gotti of the Gambino er... syndicate.

"He losing his grip, man, like Pesci, he'd flip, And you talk to his brother he says he always planned this trip... La-di da-di,

free John Gotti." Yes, that's a reference to Joe Pesci, the actor famed for his portrayals of psychotic mafiosi.

Glamorizing crime?

Any such criticism should be directed toward a certain US (where else?) TV company that is currently screening a "reality" show called *Growing Up Gotti* (you can also catch it on Star World), about the late Dapper Don's bling bling family.

Da Crims are nothing more than a Vegas house band come good, a repeat joke that's begun to drag a bit, though in fairness, they have stayed funnier and cooler than most one-trick ponies.

*Bag Of Hits* shows the waning of the laughter and smoothness.

Yet *Scooby Snacks*, about robbing a bank, still sounds as fresh, fantastic and festooned with four-letter words as it did on its release nine years ago.

Witness: "I walked up to the teller, I gave her the letter. She gave me the loot with puckered up lips and a wink that I found cute, and I said, 'Baby, baby, baby. Is this some karmic-chi love

thing happening here baby or what?"

But newer material, such as *Run Daddy Run* and *Swash-bucklin' In Brooklyn*, are instantly forgettable and actually sound dated.

There is, however, no disputing Huey's brand of class and style. Keen-memored readers may recall his appearance in the BBC Children In Need charity single, a cover of Lou Reed's *Perfect Day*.

Some 29 major performers, including Reed, each sang a phrase or two from the song.

Robert Cray sings, "I thought I was someone else, someone good."

Huey, looking for all the world as if he has just double-tapped somebody, follows this with a skeptical "Yeah."

Some of the tracks may feel a little tired, but *Korean Bodega* is as raucous as ever, *Love Unlimited* is still a sexy piece of weirdness, and the opener *The Fun Lovin' Criminal* still places you firmly in a Brooklyn bar after hours, no matter where in the world you happen to be.

## EAR CANDY



with  
Andy Johnstone

*Bag Of Hits* is the perfect title, as these aren't all the greatest, but when the lights are low and the, ahem, smoke is high – or when you are driving round in a stolen Caddy en route to a speedboat getaway – the Criminals will always be party favorites.

*Bag Of Hits: 15 Interglobal Chartstoppers* The Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis 539954-2) 56 minutes 30 seconds.

# True jazz classics that snap, crackle and pop

The second selection for this review is *About Jazz IV Various Artists*, from Nova Records. *About Jazz I, II* and *III* were good, but Nova has pulled the stops out on this album, filling it with as good a collection of jazz standards and related genres.

From Glenn Miller & His Orchestra's *Moonlight Serenade* to Perry Como singing *As Time Goes By*, this is an uplifting album that demonstrates true classics can be as alive today as when first recorded 60 or more years ago.

Those who want the crystal-clear sound of DDD recording can look elsewhere. Although the tracks have been remastered, some of them have more snap, crackle and pop than a bowl of Rice Krispies. They are all in glorious mono, too.

But so what? This is all part of the attraction. Yes, Mr Waters, we do remember Vera Lynn, and "The Forces' Sweetheart" delivers *Over The Rainbow* on this 18-track compilation.

Dame Vera's rendition remains a delight despite – or perhaps because of – the background noise, because that is how it would have been heard. It is an authentic, not a clinical, sound.

One of the highlights is Nina Simone's definitive and heart-wrenching 1959 version of *I Loves You Porgy*, from George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, the first and perhaps only truly great American folk opera.

This was to be Dr Nina's only US Top 40 hit. A combination of her strident outspokenness on civil rights issues and her op-



position to the war in Vietnam led to her falling from favor in her home country until the 1980s. As Ms Simone said, "Jazz is a white term to define black people. My music is black classical music."

Another iconic figure, Marilyn Monroe, also features on *About Jazz IV*. Although the song in question, *My Heart My Belongs To Daddy* – younger readers may have heard ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell murder the song recently or the frankly sinister rendition by Marilyn Manson – from *Let's Make Love* is not one of the best she recorded, she sounds as coquettish as ever.

"My name is Lolita, and er... I'm not supposed to play... with boys! Moi?" she teases.

Another female icon on this

album is Marlene Dietrich, who enjoyed adulation from both Allied and Axis forces in World War II, with Cole Porter's *Easy To Love*. The charismatic German chanteuse huskily breathes her rendition, conjuring up images of decadence and femmes fatales.

*About Jazz IV* is a timeless snapshot of a classic era, and as

such deserves a place in every collection.

*About Jazz IV Various Artists* (Nova Records CW 682280) 59 minutes 23 seconds. For more information, contact Siriporn Nurukkhe, Marketing Mgr, CD Warehouse Thailand, at Email: mm@cdwarehouse-asia.com

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## This week



**VESTED INTERESTS:** Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Suwit Othong (left) received a bullet-proof vest and other protection equipment, from David Turner, Chief of the Force Protection Detachment (FPD) of the US Department of Defense, at a seminar on joint FPD and Royal Thai Police coordination, held at the Patong Resort from August 22 to 26.



**CENTRAL ONE:** Phuket Vice-Governor Winai Buapradit cuts a cake as part of celebrations to mark the first anniversary of Central Festival Phuket on September 2. Special guests look on.



**FUN CONSULTANTS:** Herve Duprat (center in blue shirt) with Jean Pierre Verjus (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Andre Roucine (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right), owners of Le Consul nightclub, prepare to celebrate the Koh Samui venue's recent grand opening with guests.



**MEDI-CARE:** Sauli Tulkki and Lars Tenerz of Radi Medical Systems (back row, to the right) pose for a photo with the 78 students from seven schools in Pa Khlok to each of whom Radi donated 2,500 baht for the children's continuing education.



**POOLING TALENT:** (back row, from left) Director of Sales Paul Desjoyaux and Managing Directors Pierre Louis Desjoyaux and Wongkarn Karnjananopinit present awards to the winners in the company's Draw Me A Pool competition.



**TAKING A PUNT:** Members of the Phuket International Women's Club, including the club's President, Joan Watson (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), presented 100 euros each to five students as pocket money to spend in Ireland, where the five will study for almost a year. The presentation took place at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 29.

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People motoring from Kata to Nai Harn or vice versa are bound to notice two adjoined roadside bars straddling the hill directly above Kata Noi Beach.

They're wooden affairs, rather ad hoc, and bear all the markings of that most ubiquitous of nocturnal sights in Thailand – the dreaded (in more ways than one) Reggae Bar.

Incredibly, Small View Point and After Beach have been up there in the clouds for seven and 10 years respectively, and are something of an institution for west coast folks as *the* places to stop off for an early brew or five before carrying on to Sin City.

We arrive at 5:30 pm and settle in for a beer at the left-hand side bar, Small View Point.

Punters sit in a long line on the sea view side along wooden benches. Silhouetted against the evening sun, they gaze out at the ocean, occasionally peeking down at the steep drop beneath their feet.

With a ready-made hang-over like that, it's best to go easy on the Chang beer and to drink lots of water.

There's a distinct "couples" feel to the place, with lots of cuddling, giggling and whispering going on. Although when I try the romantic angle with my *ti-rak* I get the "not-in-public" hiss and a quick but merciless series of rabbit punches to the kidneys.

After I've wiped the dust



The drinks are inexpensive and the romantic sunset is free.

we order another round and some simple bites. Is this Love, Is this Love I am Feelin' as I Stir it Up? (my drink, that is.)

Khun Jinda of the After Beach bar says that her clientèle comprises 35% Thai and 65% *farang*: after a stroll around the large bar I'd say that a fair slice of that 65% is made up of bewildered-looking visiting males taken up Kata Hill by ladies of a very friendly persuasion indeed.

The other *farang* contingent consists of young, trendy and tanned people who all have one thing in common: they just *lurve* a cocktail at sunset.

As for us, we're having a fab time enjoying the breeze, the chatter and the welcome change from Bob Marley to Wyclef Jean, even though he's growling *No Woman No Cry* – is there really no rest for the wicked? – when all of a sudden I take a look around and ... everyone's gone.

## HIGH AS A KITE

off my chinos I struggle to my feet and have a look around. Reggae bar it most certainly is, with the obligatory Jamaican-hued hand-painted surfboard sign, two clunky guitars and a set of bongos in the corner.

Oh, and there's Bob Marley galore both here and next door, so much so that after we finish our beers we Get Up, Stand up for our Rights, asking ourselves Could we be Loved.

At the After Beach bar I Shot the Sheriff on the way in but there was No Woman Crying as I Did not Kill the Deputy.

It's a far cry from the world of Dickens up here on Kata Hill, yet it would appear that Marley's ghost is alive and well.

As the sun sinks into the ocean, hundreds of feet below a gentle swell laps up on the beach, neon-lit fishing boats head out to work, and parallel to us a lone brahmny kite rides the thermals on its way back to the nest.

To the north, Koh Pu stands in the hazy distance like an overgrown tropical castle guarding Kata Beach, while in the bar all eyes and roughly 500,000 baht worth of Samsung, Canon and Nikon



**After  
DARK**  
by Sam Wilkinson

hardware face westward to where the orange disk is slipping into the metal gray briny.

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*After Beach bar and Small View Point are one kilometer from Kata on the hill to Nai Harn and are open from 10 am until late, seven days a week. Prices at the two bars are 50-70 baht for beers, 140-160 baht for cocktails and 60 baht a pop for fruit shakes. Small View Point Tel: 01-3972329; After Beach Tel: 01-8943750.*

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# Terroir-ists are missing the point

When used directly pertaining to wine, *terroir* is a French word that roughly means, "The contribution of soil, climate and environment to the unique taste of locally produced wine, as distinct from that produced elsewhere."

This is my definition. There is no direct translation of *terroir* into Thai or English, although any French usage will always refer to soil or land: think *terre* (earth) or *terrain* (soil).

Terroir and its relevance to wine quality is the subject of much debate among wine professionals and critics. Some argue that where a wine is made is the most essential factor in its quality; others claim it is the skill of the winemaker or the individuality of the grape variety that is paramount.

The etymology of *terroir* is interesting. Even today one rarely encounters the word in French dictionaries, and many French people are unfamiliar with the term. The earliest usage I can find dates from the late 1940s. From then until the 1970s, *terroir* referred exclusively to the quality of soil. Given that the French traditionally used soil classifications as a way to rank wine quality, this is understandable.

However, in the 1970s scientists began to demonstrate conclusively that climate in a vineyard and its soil's ability to retain rainfall had a greater effect on wine quality than soil alone. Once science had dispelled the notion of soil alone determining wine quality, the definition of *terroir* was gradually expanded to include just about everything – from the compass direction of

## WINE



By Steven Roberto

wind in a vineyard to the types of insect that float through the air there.

Yet, after decades of further research there still is no conclusive evidence that the chemical composition of soil directly contributes to a wine's quality.

Nevertheless, it is still true that wines made from grapes grown in certain places can be distinctive, so critics continue to argue over *terroir*'s role in accounting for inherent quality.

I believe that the argument should not be about the role of *terroir*, but whether such a thing as *terroir* actually exists. Having worked in winemaking and studied wine most of my adult life, I know that the direction of wind in a vineyard and the types of insect that waft through the air are important to a wine's quality.

Seemingly inconsequential matters, such as how many leaves are on each shoot on a grapevine, have profound effects on wine style and quality. Moreover, all these matters interact, and their many possible outcomes are so numerous as to be incomprehensible.

The "unknowability" of wine is its great mystery, and is also the reason why the more people learn about wine the more they realize how little they understand. Wine is unknowable because everything matters.

In some far distant time, wine may ultimately prove to be knowable, but not by the habitual and unenlightened mind.

The concept of *terroir* misses this point entirely, and therefore ultimately fails to honor the mystique of wine by trivializing it in a way that is quite unintended.

*Steven Roberto is a wine-maker 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

**September 17: Annual Beach Cleanup.** IB CAS students from The British Curriculum International School are organizing their annual beach cleanup to run in line with the worldwide "Clean up the World" day. If you would like to join in, come down to Kamala Beach on Saturday, September 17 at 10 am, join in the fun, and help make Kamala clean again. For information contact Claire Lester at Tel: 076-238711 (ext 1601) or at Email: clester@bcis.ac.th

**October 3-11: Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2005.** This year's Vegetarian Festival, which begins with lantern-pole raising ceremonies at 13 shrines around the island, will feature more than 1,000 mediums – 30 from Taiwan – possessed by the spirits of nine Chinese deities. A copy of a Mazhufu (Ruby Goddess) statue is already on the island and can be seen at Navamindra Memorial Square. The Vegetarian Festival also features acts of self-

mutilation, bladed-ladder climbing and fire walking. For information contact TAT Region 4 Office at Tel: 076-212213 or 076-211036.

**October 23: Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon.** The Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon comprises a full 42-kilometer marathon, as well as 21-km and 10.5-km mini-marathons and a 5-km fun run/walk. All participants will receive a T-shirt, a souvenir medal, free food and drinks, and the chance to enter free lucky draws with air tickets, hotel-stay vouchers, restaurants and bar vouchers, running gear and more as prizes. The run starts in the early morning (4 am) from the Nong Harn at Karon and goes along the beach road right up to Kata Noi Beach and Kata Viewpoint. For further information contact K. Jeerasak or K. Jaspal at Tel: 076-333362, Email info@katakaron.com or visit the website at www.katakaron.com



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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

**T**he Earl of March – Charles to his friends – owns the sprawling Goodwood Estate in southern England. Goodwood has a popular horse-racing track which holds around 22 highly profitable meetings a year; the historic Goodwood House, which is open to visitors and features many works of art and interesting antiques; and the new Rolls-Royce greenfield assembly plant, all within his vast 12,500-acre grounds.

But it also has a fully restored race track, Goodwood Circuit.

Last used in anger back in the 60s (Stirling Moss had his career-ending accident at Goodwood in 1962), the circuit now hosts the Goodwood Revival meeting every September, where motor racing celebrities are encouraged to adopt period dress and bring along a fine selection of historic race cars.

### DREAM

The Revival meeting is the only event that places motor racing into a carefully choreographed historical backdrop, and came about after the tremendous initial success of the Goodwood Festival of Speed, generally held each June, immediately after the Le Mans 24-Hours.

The first Revival was in 1998 and was described at the time as “a dream come true” for Charles March, whose grandfather, the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond, first opened the circuit at Goodwood in 1948.

The circuit was active until 1966, hosting such classic events as the Goodwood Nine Hours race and the celebrated Tourist Trophy sports car challenge, although it remained a testing venue for some years afterwards. New

Zealand’s Bruce McLaren died there in a 1970 accident.

These days, as well as attracting a superb array of motor racing machines, the Revival meeting sees many famous faces from motorsport’s past, including John Surtees, Phil Hill and Derek Bell, as well as more contemporary racers such as David Coulthard and Jacques Villeneuve.

Former motorcycle champion Wayne Gardner is also a frequent visitor.

The Goodwood Revival is more than just a series of races for historic racing cars, though: it is a step back in time and an opportunity for visitors to experience the romance of motor racing as it used to be.

The circuit is unchanged from its heyday, and Lord March

and his team go to great lengths to ensure everything is exactly as it was, even to the extent of banning modern vehicles within the circuit perimeter throughout the weekend.

Period vehicles – fire engines, ambulances, even taxis – provide essential services, and 1950s tractors tow passenger-carrying trailers around the circuit.

All the staff dress in 1940s or ‘50s clothes, the band plays ‘50s music, and the food outlets sell fish ‘n chips wrapped in reprints of 1950s newspapers.

“The Revival is theatre,” says Charles March. “The circuit is dressed up like a huge film set, and that includes the competitors and spectators. At the inaugural event people were not quite sure

about dressing up in period costume, but now almost everybody is dressed in some 1950s creation.”

Stars expected at this year’s Revival include former Le Mans winner Jackie Oliver, Sir Stirling Moss, 1996 world champion Damon Hill, recent Indy Racing League winner Dario Franchitti, Sir Jack Brabham, Finland’s ‘60s rally star Rauno Aaltonen, and former Grand Prix driver Gerhard Berger.

Alan Jones, the 1980 Australian F1 world champion, is down to drive a Ford Galaxie 500, while diminutive French former Formula 1 driver René Arnoux will drive an Alfa Romeo GTA. Should be good viewing.

Those spectators who are star-spotting will no doubt be on

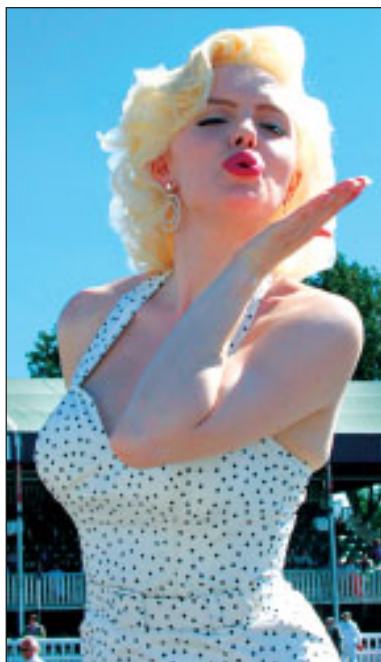
the look-out for rubber-faced comedian Rowan Atkinson, who will be behind the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz 300SE in the St Mary’s trophy race.

As well as cars and classic bikes, aircraft make a welcome appearance at Goodwood during the weekend.

Nearby Tangmere was an RAF airfield during World War II, and visitors can also expect Spitfires, Hurricanes and P51 Mustangs to be buzzing the circuit.

An event like the Goodwood Revival is one-of-a-kind, and hopefully Charles March will continue to run it every year.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at: [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com)



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# Mind over massage

It's not easy to run a successful spa business without a captive audience of hotel guests to bolster business but Body & Mind Day Spa has managed to do very well by building up its clientele through good old-fashioned word of mouth and by making sure its service is of the highest quality.

Body & Mind opened about a year ago in Phuket Heritage Plaza at Karon Beach, not far from the Karon Circle. It has proved to be every bit as popular as the spas at five-star hotels, yet Body & Mind delivers the spa and treatment goods at a fraction of its larger rivals' cost.

Stepping inside, the decor is deceptively simple but a closer look reveals that a great deal of thought has gone into making sure the spa is color-coordinated and the textiles match perfectly. The furniture and decor lend a warm feel to the place and the natural "woody" touch is cleverly exploited.

There are four treatment rooms with eight beds, 10 Thai massage beds and 12 foot massage seats with 13 therapists available everyday. Body & Mind

has fully trained therapists whose skills are updated regularly.

The products here are all natural-based formulae made from local fruits, herbs and plants, all designed to help attain and maintain a balanced, healthy skin.

In order to accommodate clients' needs, the spa has recently added more treatment rooms as well as a sauna, a steam room and a salon.

Araya Limpanudom, the

spa's owner, explained that although she has done no advertising, her business has grown because of positive reports on the grapevine.

## Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Body & Mind



Almost all of the spa's customers are tourists or expatriates, with figures dividing equally between Western and Asian tourists and, I must say, the place seemed busy during my visit.

Body & Mind offers free transport for customers in Patong, Kata and Karon.

The cost of spa treatment here starts from 400 baht for a foot massage to 3,450 baht for a top-end package.

K. Araya suggested I indulge in the "Secret Jasmine Rice" package which takes three hours and costs 3,000 baht. The package included a body scrub with organic jasmine rice, an aromatherapy massage and a jasmine rice extract facial.

The treatment room featured two beds and a bathroom and was possibly the cleanest place on earth. Everything was spic and span and what wasn't being used was wrapped up safely in plastic.

After I had taken a shower, K. Thom, my therapist for the next three hours, applied a warm towel to my feet and went for the pressure points before she started the scrub treatment.

And what a treatment! She used crushed rice for an hour to scrub the whole of my body. The delicate aroma of jasmine filled the air and made me feel at one with nature.

After the scrub I took another shower and yes, my skin was much softer and smelled of jasmine. I usually prefer a medium-strength massage – otherwise I feel tired afterward – but I was surprised at this one as the smell of jasmine along with a good massage made me feel totally relaxed for the entire hour.

The last hour consisted of facial therapy. I especially enjoyed the 20-minute face massage. K. Thom is a naturally gifted therapist; her two hands worked together like a machine and I could tell that she was very experienced at this. After the massage she applied a toner followed by a milk powder mask for another 15 minutes.

After five minutes, when the mask started to harden, my cell phone rang and believe me, it's extremely hard to hold a conversation in a face mask that's as hard as rock.

However, after K. Thom cleaned off the mask I could feel that my skin was much softer than before.

And it didn't end there – she applied eye gel and a little make up, which I appreciated as I didn't feel "naked" going out into the sunshine, totally unprotected from UV rays.

After finishing the whole package I was served fresh orange juice and fruit.

Body & Mind Day Spa opens every day from 11 am to 10 pm. Call Tel: 076-398274 to book a session or transport. Website: [www.body-mindspa.com](http://www.body-mindspa.com). The spa also has a selection of packaged spa products that are ideal as souvenirs or gifts. 10-20% discount on spa treatments until October 31.

## Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

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ภูเก็ต

Silver Toyota

จ 8781  
ภูเก็ต

Brown Suzuki

ข 0849  
ภูเก็ต

Silver Mitsubishi

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a dinner for two valued at 2,000 baht including drink & food at Baan Rim Pa Restaurant; or one year's free home delivery of the *Phuket Gazette*; or a two-night stay for two in a deluxe double room (accommodation only) at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Patong.



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Email: [LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.Net), or call K. Paulie at Tel: 076-236555.

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# Detecting a lame gumshoe

The American detective novel is a thing of beauty with an honorable tradition going back to the 1930s West Coast, with Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade and Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe, and moving into the 1960s with John D MacDonald's Travis McGee in Florida and Robert B Parker's Spenser in Boston.

MacDonald is my own particular favorite, his battered hero living aboard a houseboat in Fort Lauderdale with various lovers but always one constant friend – the eccentric economist Meyers aboard the houseboat next door. Over two decades, 1964-1984, the series ran for 21 novels and I happily read them all.

Walter Mosley has his own hero, Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, a black WWII vet turned detective on the mean streets of Los Angeles. *Little Scarlet* (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2004, 306pp) is the

ninth of the series. I picked it up on the strength of its first paragraph:

"The morning air still smelled of smoke. Wood ash mainly but there was also the acrid stench of burnt plastic and paint. And even though I knew it couldn't be true, I thought I caught a whiff of putrid flesh from under the rubble across the street. The hardware store and Bernard's Stationery Store were both completely gutted. The Gonzalez Market had been looted but only a part of its roof had been scorched. The corner building, however, Lucky Dime Liquors, had been burned to the ground."

It is August, 1965, a day after the Watts riots – four nights of utter carnage that left 35 dead and millions of dollars gone up in smoke. The National Guard has been called in with tanks and machine guns, and in the aftermath of the riots, Watts residents are stumbling about in shock amid the ruins.

The plot swiftly gets moving: the LA police approach Rawlins to investigate a particularly ticklish case: the murder of one Nola Payne, a young educated black woman by a white man whom she had saved from a beating after his car was mobbed during the second night of the riots. Rawlins attends the

autopsy and interviews the victim's addled aunt who's been stashed away in a mental clinic. The police are afraid publicity about the case will re-ignite the riots.

Rawlins is no friend of the police and does a good job of making the reader feel what it was like to be a black male in the oppressive atmosphere after the Watts riot:

"If everyone despises and hates you, sees your features as ugly and simian, makes jokes about your ways of talking, calls you stupid and beneath contempt; if you have no history, no heroes, and no future where a hero might lead, then you might begin to hate yourself, your face and features, your parents, and even your child. It could all happen and you would never even know it. And then one hot summer's night you just erupt and go burning and shooting and nobody seems to know why."

But his complaints about white racism and police brutality just go on and on and on. They become banal and repetitive and slow down the action of the novel.

With all the tireless editorializing, Rawlins doesn't really come to life, and neither does his diminutive criminal sidekick, Raymond "Mouse" Alexander.

Unlike MacDonald's McGee and Myers or Parker's Spenser and Hawke, there is no spark to their dialog, no comical banter between the two long-time friends.

And finally, the plot is paper thin. Midway through the novel we learn that the white man is innocent and was, in fact, in love with Nola Payne – and that the real murderer is a serial killer, a black street bum with a grudge against black women with white lovers. The novel plods along in random tangents until Rawlins finds the bad guy. No surprises here, no suspense – and a pat ending.

Rawlins has a live-in girlfriend, a Guyanese air hostess, and two adopted children. There are references to their past personal histories, presumably depicted in the previous eight novels.

They may be better than this one, but I just don't have the heart to find out.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



Walter Mosley

**Bully for you/I'm all right, Jack:** "[Name deleted] glistened with sweat and sea water as he went for a barefoot jog up the immaculate white sand beach, where the tsunami has wiped away almost all signs of humanity."

"This whole area was littered with commercialism," said the 43-year-old from Maui, Hawaii. "There were hundreds of beach chairs out here. I prefer the sand."

"The beauty of Thai beaches is the stuff of folklore: pristine, clean and untouched. That was 10 or 20 years ago. More recently, they have been swamped by development."

"Everyone is talking about it. It looks much better now," he said. "This looks a lot more like Hawaii now, where vendors aren't allowed on the beach." – sayanythingblog.com/2005/01/08/

**True grit:** "Tsunami Report: Tourists Return To Stench And Sand" trumpets an archive header at scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0501/S00041.htm before going on to quote two brave, adventurous souls defying deadly odds in the name of ... whatever.

"You have to enjoy yourself and life goes on," [name deleted], 26, an engineer from Phoenix, Arizona, said in an interview on the sand. "About 10 minutes ago, Matt threw a Frisbee out that way," he said, pointing a few feet away at the flat Andaman Sea meekly rolling onto the shore near his Frisbee partner.

"I went running out there, into it. I didn't really think anything of it." – scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0501/S00041.htm

**Warning: Yoga can be extremely dangerous:** "It began as a beautiful sunny Sunday Boxing Day. We were at the café and my yoga students and I had just convened upstairs for our Sunday session."

"Just as we were laying down our mats (about 10 am), my friend Q got a call from her boyfriend who had been on nearby Nai Hahn beach."

"She was obviously shocked and in disbelief about what she was hearing him say. She said 'Get out of there!' ... So she left immediately and the rest of us continued with yoga, unaware of the severity of this 'freak wave'."

"Soon the air was filled with sirens, screams, and fumes of burning boat engines. I tried to stay focused on yoga but it was difficult amidst so much commotion." – activefreemedia.org/people/jyll/archives/2004/12/index.php

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# And a man ran into the sea

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Oh dear. Lis Kinswoman has to face up to it: there are some, how to say it? *focused* people in the world.

Trouble is, they're totally focused on themselves. Please sit down before reading these quotes from the Internet as they're mostly tsunami-related and liable to get you in a tizzy. As usual, Lis is quoting and not embellishing.

### Who's the real butt-head?:

"Later I headed into Patong to return some pirated CDs of clip art I bought. The CDs were crap, and there was nothing really on them. I spent about 500 baht for them, which is not a small amount of money for me."

"The guy wouldn't give me my money back. I decided to be decidedly non-Asian and make a scene; I am tired of the 'No-Return Policy' here in Thailand."

"I told him I wouldn't leave until he gave me my money back, so I ended up standing and staying there for four hours, being as f\*\*king annoying as I could be."

"I made noises, dropped postcards on him, raised my voice, and grabbed his newspaper when he wasn't listening to me."

"My mom was always good at this sort of s\*\*t, making such a stink that people would cave in when they were being major butt-heads like this guy. I do it very rarely, maybe every couple of years, and am usually a nice guy, but I can do this kind of thing sometimes."

"The guy never caved in, stubborn bastard (me included). I ended up leaving." – [http://codinginparadise.org/weblog/2001\\_10\\_29\\_archive.html](http://codinginparadise.org/weblog/2001_10_29_archive.html)

**Yes, I don't want them:** Being extremely intelligent, even by his own modest admission, the writer at [travelersdigest.com/phuketreview.htm](http://travelersdigest.com/phuketreview.htm) knows what he does not want. Know what I mean? No? Then read on...

"The shopping [in Patong] is phenomenal. Even better deals are made after a little bargaining. The Thai people expect to be bargained down and are quite willing to except much less than their first three or four asking prices."

"For an example, I asked about a pair of short pants. The vendors price was exorbitant, 1200 baht, around \$30.00 US. I put the shorts down and starting walking away and he shouted, 'OK, OK, I take 200 baht.' The price fell off a cliff without me saying a word. From thirty dollars to under five dollars."

"I kept walking. I had no intention of buying anything from a man so ready to not only take advantage of me as a tourist, but his obvious disregard for my intelligence."

Anyone know what "except much less" means? Me? Apologies; I'm far too dumb to grasp the wit of such a man of the world. He *is* being funny, isn't he?

**No brainer:** On a last, rather sick note, a blogger at [right-thinking.com/index.php/weblog/comments/9148/](http://right-thinking.com/index.php/weblog/comments/9148/) (subtitled "Hey, at least it's not Canada") seems to sum up the flippant American attitude to foreign disasters, in this case the Asian tsunami.

"This just goes to show that even a catastrophe is really only a minor setback when you have the ability to shoot ping pong balls out of your vagina."

Right thinking? No thinking, more like.

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If you've ever wondered what really happens to those clothes you used to dump in the local church recycling bin back home under cover of darkness, I can tell you that most of them seem to wind up on the backs of foreigners who either live in or visit Thailand.

I once saw a tall man, shoulders the size of cement trucks, sauntering down Sukhumvit Rd in Bangkok while dressed in a bright yellow suit. Bright? Even the sun itself was embarrassed.

I swear this is true, and from the quizzical looks this bloke was getting, I was not the only one who thought he resembled a giant canary.

Mind you, he was also large enough to make King Kong think twice about laughing out loud, so I wasn't about to question his quirky fashion taste.

One of the fun things about looking at other people's dress sense (an oxymoron here in the Land of Smiles) is that you can make a game of trying to determine from what part of this wonderful and diverse planet they may hail from.

### LEDER OF THE PACK

Although it is rare to see Germans – especially Bavarians – and Austrians strolling around in lederhosen, it may only be because this kind of leather gear is a little too hot (in the sweaty armpit sense of the word) to be dragged out for use in the Thai climate. More than likely it remains inside suitcases, to emerge only in the comfort of air conditioning.

The 1970s may have been known as the decade style forgot, but I'm here to tell you that flared pants, alligator-skin shoes, and safari suits are alive and well, given the number of foreign tourists sporting them here in Bangkok and Pattaya. The only reason body shirts with the wide-lapel collars aren't back in vogue is that most failed to make it past the 500<sup>th</sup> wash.

In a city like Bangkok, where the heat is enervating and constant, I am always

# GETTING DRESSED WITH THE LIGHTS OFF

surprised to see so many foreigners dressed as if they are merchant bankers off to the office in New York's Wall Street. In places with a similar climate, like Brisbane – the capital of the Australian state of Queensland – working people have adapted to their environment.

Instead of wearing three-piece suits and ties, the average Brisbane office wallah gets around in an open-necked shirt and a sensible pair of shorts with long socks pulled up to the knees. You're right, it's not great looking, but then again it's practical, even for those with knobbly knees.

When my youngest nephew came to Pattaya for a brief visit he thought the whole place was peopled by serious fashion disasters. Apart from the abundance of giant beer bellies – on both men and, he was careful to point out, foreign women – he was amazed at the level of sartorial



assassination committed in Fun Town.

His favorite was a man he dubbed "Rambo". This guy was not only dressed in khaki camouflage fatigues, he was also wearing combat boots and his motorbike helmet was camouflaged. Still, I suppose it was better than trying to dress up as a latter-day Napoleon.

One Valentine's evening, I sat and watched the usual collection of males wandering about, wearing sunglasses, others with baseball caps on backwards, and some with both sunglasses and baseball caps.

Another sported a yachting cap perched atop his melon, dressed in the fashion of a Tunisian admiral. Then there were the two guys attired only in housecoats and rubber flip-flops (thongs to Aussies) who decided a bout of push-ups mid-street was in order.

While traveling in a *songthaew* along

Second Road I had this sudden craving for an icecream after I spotted a tall, pale-skinned man wearing a yellow tank top and loud pink shorts. He looked like an advertisement for a Paddle-Pop.

Another man I know of gets around on a motorbike, leaning forward over the handlebars to better see where he is going. He looks like, and rides like, the famed cartoon character Mr Magoo as he peers at the asphalt through his Coke-bottle glasses. His crash helmet looks as if it's been stolen from the bottom of a mine-shaft, and even comes with a little light affixed to the top.

### TECHNICOLOR YAWN

High season always brings with it an influx of people from the countries that comprised the former Soviet Union: Russia, Ukraine and most places ending in 'stan'. They are generally easily spotted. The males buy – and actually wear – the kind of garish gear (usually in shades of orange) normally associated with seven-day tourists from North Asia.

Mind you, coming from a climate where the median summer temperature is a shade above that of an ice block, I suppose there's not a lot of call for board shorts and light cotton shirts.

Therefore when they see items that resemble a Technicolor yawn they consider this the height of hot weather fashion. One I spotted was wearing an all-shades-of-the-rainbow umbrella hat. These items make Hawaiian shirts look like the kind of apparel worn by Methodist preachers on Sundays.

Of course, impecunious journalists like me shouldn't talk. The only clothes I can afford are the ones the Salvation Army rejects (editors and media moguls please note), although I did once manage to pick up a very nice – if slightly soiled – Tunisian admiral's cap which I now wear at a jaunty angle on my trips down Walking Street.

### In The Stars

by Isla Star

## What the heavens hold in store for you

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your seemingly relentless struggle to be the best begins to take its toll this week. If you can't find the motivation you had at the beginning of September, you should take the hint to sit back for a while and let things wash over you. If you're celebrating a birthday, watch out for an uninvited guest at the party. This could lead to a new romance. Wear strawberry red to encourage positive changes.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): A long-standing question is about to be answered. Most Librans should be satisfied with the outcome; those who don't like what they hear will have to learn to live with it. On Monday you find that a friend has hidden depths. This is an auspicious time to focus on what you would really like to change as the stars light up the path toward success. The color caramel will sweeten your mood.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): You will be in a fired-up mood this week, but don't expect colleagues to keep pace with you. On Wednesday, take care to control that sting in your tail; Aries will irritate you, but doesn't deserve to be on the receiving end of venom. Tuesday is your best

day to have a legal appointment – crossed wires later in the week will lead to misunderstandings. The number 4 is lucky Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Teamwork is the key to success for the rest of September. Those who prefer to have sole control of the helm must set their doubts to one side and allow others to show what they're made of. Midweek, Taurus shows a surprisingly sensual side to their character. If you're footloose and fancy-free, this could open the door to a relationship that may become permanent.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): If you can't make up your mind over a business dilemma, don't wait around for a better offer – this is as good as it's going to get. Use your common sense to negotiate a watertight contract. Where romance is concerned, it's important to recognize the difference between fantasy and reality. On Thursday you will discover that there can

be smoke without fire. The number 9 is lucky Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your cup of happiness runs over this week when an amazing offer arrives out of the blue. As if this weren't enough to put a spring in your step, Cupid is about to fire a rocket; this could be the relationship you thought would never happen. On Tuesday do not waste time listening to any hype – you will recognize immediately what's important in a business discussion.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): A cloud of doubt still hovers over a romantic issue this week; you will have to wait a while to find out what's really going on. In the meantime, continue to stay cool by streamlining work commitments and paying attention to your personal needs. The down-to-earth character of a Taurean friend will help you focus on what is really important. Spending time with a Scorpio is not advisable.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Those who are guilty of taking too much for granted will be brought back to earth with a bump this week. Someone close to you has been dropping heavy hints about your lack of consideration lately, and is about to make a radical move. It is still not too late to make amends, but you will need to move fast. The color peach will soften your emotions.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): You have the advantage of being able to put common sense to good use this week. Many Taureans will be called upon to assist friends or colleagues who suddenly realize that they've landed in a sticky situation. Make sure that you reserve enough time for your own needs. On Wednesday, a surprise item in the mail gives food for thought and could lead to a change of plan for your next trip abroad.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Geminis are advised to make the most of social opportunities this

weekend. After that, you will be forced to keep your nose to the grindstone until the end of the month. A business situation that you believed to be clear-cut will demand extra attention when a discrepancy comes to light early next week. Personal relationships will flow more smoothly, as long as you cleared the air last week.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): The stars will not smile on any relationship begun in haste. You are advised not to throw caution to the wind when someone catches your attention this weekend. In this case, beauty really is only skin deep. Concentrate on the positive aspects of your status for the time being. A dream you have early next week could hold a clue for a money-spinning venture. Listen to Leo next Thursday for tips.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): An interesting week lies ahead. You will be spending more time away from your lair than usual. Expect to receive a flood of last-minute invitations. This is not an auspicious time to make major decisions about work: keep your options open and you'll soon have plenty of choice. Your partner is poised to spring a surprise that may involve travel. Wear peppermint green to sharpen your wits.



# On the road to nowhere

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

**T**hey're everywhere these days – roads that don't go anywhere: new concrete roads, heading off into rubber plantations, only to come to a dead end with no apparent destination in sight.

I can't imagine that the rubber farmers need new concrete roads, capable of carrying 10-ton trucks, to haul sheets of latex or lengths of rubberwood. So why are they there?

There are even new concrete roads heading up steep mountain sides. There are expressways and superhighways criss-crossing the South, with virtually no vehicles using them.

Then there is a road near my home in Thalang that has a whole network of mini roads leading off it in a sort of grid.

As this is in a former rice paddy, the roads are built up about two meters above ground level.

I have asked a few locals if they know the reason for this particular complex, but nobody seems to have a clue.

It looks like a small driver



In the middle of former rice fields, concrete proof that the world is not necessarily a logical place.

training track, except that if you run off the road you will drop two meters and wreck your car. Well, it would teach you a lesson, I suppose...

There is yet another new road system that includes a bridge to cross the swamp behind my house.

It's a very ornate new

bridge, nicely painted white. The road has an attractive median strip replete with well-tended plants – yet nobody can work out the reason for this rather posh construction.

All the land that had been cleared on either side of this road has now been ploughed up and new rubber trees planted, rather

than the large housing development we'd resigned ourselves to.

The fact that it makes the local hospital road a through road, rather than a dead end, doesn't seem to explain the expense.

The only person I can imagine who might benefit from its existence would be the odd tourist who might happen to fall ill or

hit his head on a rock while visiting Tonsai Waterfall.

By now the reader may be wondering whether this column is just another pointless gripe, as useless and meandering as the roads it describes.

It isn't. My point is that with all this unnecessary road building going on, the roads that really *do* need attention are being neglected.

The government is trying to project an image of everything being "back to normal".

Perhaps it is achieving that objective, if normalcy involves having roads that are heavily travelled by tourists in pitiful states of disrepair.

As an example, take a drive down the road through the back of Bang Tao, near Rydges Resort, or along the Patong-Kamala Rd near Kalim Bay.

How are the priorities decided? By the overall public need, or by well-connected people trying to drive up land values in certain areas?

I wonder if this trend could start a new approach to finding new pieces of land for sale. Take a lazy drive one afternoon and look for signs of old motorbike tracks through rubber plantations being widened.

It could be fun and profitable, spending a day driving on the road to nowhere.

## Statistics show business booming

*From the Phuket Gazette, issue of September 15-30, 2000*

PHUKET: Business in Phuket is booming this year, if the latest figures from the Provincial Revenue Office and the Commercial Registration Office are any guide.

Statistics covering the tax collected in the first 10 months of the 1999/2000 tax year show that the number of businesses paying tax has risen by 10.91% and that they are making money – the total tax paid by these businesses has soared by a spectacular 55.14%, from 317 million baht to 492 million baht.

At the end of July this year, there were 5,991 registered businesses in the province, a 13% increase on the same time last year. In the first seven months alone, 474 new businesses were registered at the Phuket Commercial Registration Office, a 20% increase on the 395 registered in the same period last year.

Offsetting the taxman's gains in company profit taxes was a drop of 22.34% in personal income tax collected, from 559 million baht to 434 million baht. This is despite the fact that the number of people paying income tax was almost the same as last year. Possibly, this indicates that higher-paid

employees have been leaving to set up their own businesses, and are being replaced by lower-paid staff.

Veerachai Tantiwathanavallop, director of the Phuket Commercial Registration Office, says there is a continuing boom in the property sector, with some 60 real estate companies being registered in the first six months of this year.

"Property always tops the list of business registrations, and most of these new companies are created by foreign investors, to allow foreigners to buy property."

He added, "This boom in real estate businesses is to fulfill foreigners' demand for homes in Phuket."

Major growth was also seen, predictably, in the tourism sector, with a continuing spate of registrations of hotels, travel agencies, dive shops, bars and restaurants.

Internet and computer companies also registered a hefty increase, with 35 new companies registered in the first half, up by 50% on the 22 registered in the same period in 1999.

## Armed Robberies Plague Chalong

*From the Phuket Gazette, issue of September, 1995*

CHALONG: Police efforts to crack down on rising crime in Phuket Town have been nullified by an agile gang of teenage thugs who, faced with higher police numbers in the city, have simply moved their operations to the sparsely patrolled areas out of town.

While police have called in forces from outlying areas in a show of manpower, three violent attacks on small markets in the Chalong-Rawai precincts early last month have left them scrambling for a plan of action.

Manus Prasopmit, 50, was alone in his shop at about 8 pm on August 5. Three young men on a motorcycle pulled

into the small grocery on Chao Fah Rd near Phuket Country Home, a quiet rural neighborhood three kilometers from Chalong Circle. Mr Prasopmit, who assumed they were there to take shelter from a heavy rain, described them as "lanky and aged not more than 20." He says that they all wore blue jackets of the type that mechanics wear.

"They just looked like regular kids to me," says Prasopmit. "I invited them to sit down at a table and wait out the rain, but they said they would just as soon stand. Since they didn't want anything, and since it was about closing time for me, I started to put away the small cakes and sweets that were on the table."

Suddenly, according to Prasopmit, one of the hoodlums seized him from behind and put a gun to his temple. A struggle ensued and Mr Prasopmit was struck violently on the head. The gun shattered, apparently a toy, but the shop owner was dazed and ceased to put up a fight. He was later hospitalized for two days and his wounds required stitches.

"I wanted to keep fighting with those punks, but after they hit me with the pistol, my eyesight was fuzzy and I saw stars," he says. While one of the attackers continued to hold the shop owner, another raided the cash drawer, removing a little over 1,000 baht. They took nothing else from the store.

"They were very cool, these kids," he says. "They

waited for about five minutes before they got around to robbing me." Mr Prasopmit estimates the whole incident did not last longer than about 10 minutes.

About three hours after the events at Mr Prasopmit's shop, Somboon's House Minimart at Rawai, across from the Sea Gypsy Village, was hit. Four teenagers on two motorcycles arrived there and two of them went inside.

"Have you closed yet?" one of them asked. When the shopowner replied "No", one of the thugs put a knife to his throat while the other levelled a pistol at him. There was no one else in the store and the victim didn't try to resist. The robbers made off with cash, a gold necklace and a bracelet – altogether worth an estimated 30,000 baht.

At press time, police said they had no leads. In an attempt to put the area's shopkeepers on guard, however, they called a meeting and advised participants to take precautions against the bandits. They were told to close up shop earlier than usual, and to avoid being alone in the shop around closing time.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past



**The Phuket Gazette**  
- Since 1994 -

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## Legal casino could bring social disaster

Yet again Bangkok has resurrected the idea of allowing a legal casino in Phuket (as opposed to the five illegal ones allegedly already thriving on the island).

The idea is not new; this particular kite has been flown – and shot down – a couple of times since Thai Rak Thai came to power. Now, however, it is being fitted with new wings.

In today's CEO Paradise, where decisions are weighed according to their perceived economic merit, the decision initially seems a no-brainer, especially when the country's business rivals, Hong Kong and Singapore, are adding new attractions for tourists – the newly-opened Disneyland in the former and, sometime in the near future, two legal casinos in the latter.

Thais, instead of throwing away their money in Cambodia or Myanmar could do so at home. Their money would stay in Thailand.

Casinos would also be an extra attraction for vacationers with a yen to turn fat wallets into slim ones. Indeed, people who have never before considered taking a vacation in Phuket might do so if they knew gaming was on offer.

The local economy would receive a boost, both in terms of the amount of money circulating and jobs created. National and local governments would benefit from another source of tax revenue.

The trouble with this view is that it takes no cognizance of the social costs of gambling. There can be few people in Phuket who do not know someone who has ruined his or her family through gambling, which is one of Thailand's most common addictions.

The government already legitimizes and benefits from two other addictions – tobacco and alcohol. Tobacco use causes huge health problems, while alcohol – in the wrong hands – can ruin lives and destroy families.

The Thai government, like those of countries worldwide, is “addicted” to revenue from the sale of these two dangerous products.

Perhaps, then, it should also legalize and tax the use of another great bane of Thai society, methamphetamine (*ya bah*, or the “mad drug”). As with casinos, this would make economic sense.

There are many other possibilities: brothels, pornography, gun-running and human trafficking, to name just a few. All of these highly lucrative underground businesses, if legalized, would accrue major economic benefits to the government.

Potential economic benefits aside, the government would be presiding over a social disaster by legalizing gambling. Thailand should not be swayed by what its neighbors are doing, and simply copy them.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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## Letters

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

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

### Eco-tourism is better bet than casinos

Why doesn't Phuket focus more on something productive to bolster its tourism, such as an eco-tourism plan like the one they have in Costa Rica?

It's safer, cleaner and environmentally better for everyone – and it also works.

Let everyone else have casinos and theme parks. Phuket should be kept safe, clean, and environmentally sound. Set a standard!

Scott  
By email

### The Gulf between two worlds

During the [December 26] tsunami, one American tourist complained that it took rescuers three hours to reach him amid the Patong rubble.

Was he perhaps a resident of New Orleans or the Gulf [of Mexico] region?

If so, he can probably now make a more realistic assessment of comparisons between the tsunami and [Hurricane] Katrina; between the Thai way and the American way.

The myth that American culture is something the rest of the world needs, a myth perpetuated by successive Washington administrations and spread everywhere by Hollywood's propaganda machine, has now finally been exposed as a tragic lie.

The United States is, as Michael Moore has repeatedly pointed out, deeply divided between the haves and the have-nots, and largely along racial lines.

It is not a culture the rest of the world needs.

Thai culture, with its genuine commitment to helping others, is a truly precious thing. America could use some of it.

Let's also hope that the bands of missionaries who came bearing post-tsunami gifts of clothing to comfort (and convert) refugees in Thailand now find that Christianity – and charity – really needs to begin at home.

Marcia Mallows  
Rawai

### Tuk-tuk tut-tut

I have been living on Phuket for several years and am fully aware that there are plenty of tailor shops on this beautiful island. Often their salespersons try to establish contact by trying to shake your hand and ask where you come from.

But these people never act as aggressively as the so-called “locals” trying to sell you an over-priced trip in their tuk-tuks, especially in Karon and Kata.

Rudolf R  
Phuket

### Blues over booze

The government's all-out war on alcohol is really starting to chap my backside. First, there's this ridiculous ban on selling alcohol between 2 pm and 5 pm, ostensibly so that children won't be able to pick up a few bottles of brew on their way home from school.

How ridiculous is that? It has always been against the law to sell alcohol to minors in this country, it's just that the law has never been seriously enforced.

Then there is the big protest, led by former Bangkok Governor Chamlong Srimuang, to stop the [public] listing of the company that makes Beer Chang.

If there are to be protests about Beer Chang, it should be about its quality, not the financial structure behind the company that produces it.

Somchai Huasaikul  
Phuket

### Not wizard at Merlin

I picked up a copy of the *Gazette* July 30 edition on the way home and saved it to read on the plane.

I read with interest your story about the tsunami alert [following the warning put out by the National Disaster Warning Center on July 24, after an earthquake in the Andaman Islands].

A 90% success? My wife and I can't help thinking that we would be in the [remaining] 10%. You see, we were staying at the Patong Merlin Hotel.

I see by your story that the tsunami alert was put out at 10.42 pm, when we were asleep.

At 1:20 am we were awoken by a hotel guest yelling “Get out, get out; there's a tsunami coming!”

We ran to the lobby, which was full of confused people, as nothing was being broadcast or translated into English. I asked other guests who woke them or contacted them; the answer was “They rang our room”, while others said staff knocked on their doors.

Had there been a tsunami, then we might not have made it out of that room.

G Mills  
By email

When asked by the *Gazette* for comment, an Administrative Officer of Patong Merlin Hotel replied: “We emailed Mr Mills on August 9, and do not wish to discuss the matter with the media.”

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



# Mortgages for foreigners may be the top of a slippery slope

Let's start with my understanding of the situation. I think that banks are in the position of looking for new customers who have spending power, and this is why they have targeted foreigners who want to buy condominiums in Thailand.

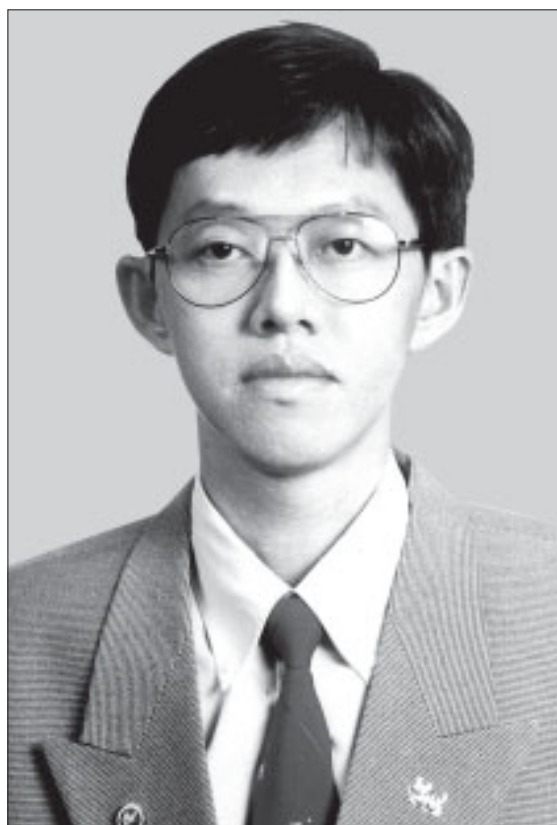
They say that foreigners can borrow only 50% of the purchase price, and have to repay the loan within 10 years. This means there is a low risk to the bank yet the mortgages boost the number of potential customers.

Bangkok Bank stands to profit from this new initiative, and the bank says that it will bring in hard foreign currency, which is better than lending Thai baht.

I believe it will be difficult for Thai people who want to buy condominiums, because banks will naturally trust foreigners more than Thais. This is because banks grant mortgages to foreigners on easier conditions than they do to Thais. In order for Thais to obtain a loan they must present collateral.

I also believe it will affect the price of condominiums in that they will get more expensive, just as land on Phuket became dearer when foreigners grabbed it. Wherever foreigners buy land costs rise, and if we compare the US dollar to the Thai baht, you can see that our money is weak against theirs.

Even right now foreigners are buying land in Thailand, but in the name of anonymous Thai partners – and this creates problems. I think in the future they'll



## FIRST PERSON

Bangkok-born Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa has lived in Phuket for almost 20 years. He is Secretary of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and a doctor of urology at Wachira Phuket Hospital. He is well-known for being outspoken and for airing his opinions publicly. In 2002, along with the former chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Labor, Khon Kaen MP Premsak Pearyura, he attended a meeting held to voice support for the notion of limiting the number of foreigners in Thailand by raising the initial work permit fee from 300 baht to as much as 300,000 baht. The *Gazette* interviewed him on the topic of the Bangkok Bank offering mortgages to foreigners who want to buy property in Thailand. We asked Dr Sirichai what he thinks might happen as a result of this development.

be able to buy anything they want to, such as privately owned condominiums, in their own names while owning the land in the name of their Thai partner or company.

There is one thing I'm scared of. Even though the banks say they use overseas money for loans, they sometimes use Thai baht to lend to foreigners. This could be damaging as no one is the wiser as to which currency they're lending.

If foreigners can own large properties or land in the name of

their Thai company, they will have the same rights as Thais, and there will be no limit on the length of time a foreigner can lease a property. There will be a lot of legal difficulties, and it may even jeopardize the security of the country.

We have seen that some Caribbean islands have become dominated by foreigners because of tax breaks and lax laws. I also feel that when foreigners doing business in Thailand own property or land they will not take the same care of it as they would in

their home country. It's possible that they might invest in a business or factory that could pollute the environment or dabble in genetic food modification.

However, I believe we still have many good foreigners in Thailand, and there are those who truly love this country. I'm not saying that all foreigners are bad.

Thailand is a very free country, but it will lose out a lot if we allow foreigners to own land. If we want to let foreigners have similar rights as Thai people they

should pay premium rates for the privilege. That means that, as a foreigner, if you want to own something you should have to pay more than Thai people, and that would be fair. If foreigners bought everything at "Thai prices" then we simply could not compete with them, and Thailand would be bought out from under our feet.

For example, if foreign companies were allowed to invest in local businesses and go into direct competition with Thai companies, the Thai firms simply could not compete and would lose out. There isn't anywhere in the world that allows this to happen. We ourselves have to go through difficulties if we invest abroad, but Thailand seems to favor foreign businesses and foreigners are granted special rights by the government. I think we should help Thais first, because if Thai people can't do business in Thailand it means the country will be taken over by foreigners.

Many times we complain about roads being so narrow, and there's sometimes not enough water and electricity, but I think the local administration should rethink the tax system to collect a "staying fee" from foreigners living here.

We could use that money to develop our infrastructure, and foreigners would benefit from this, too. I believe they should accept this because the money will be used to improve everything. Some foreigners argue back, saying that they're working in Thailand and are taxpayers, but they don't have Thai ID cards.

## Why do they leave roads unfinished?

Earlier this year workers installed storm drains on both sides of my street, which is off Chao Fa West Rd, in Moo 10, in Chalong.

Now the work is finished but the middle of the street is still very muddy, and when it rains it's like a swamp.

I expected the workers to seal the street surface with asphalt, but they didn't.

I called the construction company and they told me that the work is complete. They also said that the local authority, the Chalong *OrBorTor* (Chalong Tambon Administration Organization) does not have any plans, or the budget, to seal the street with asphalt.

I think this situation is not acceptable – every time it rains I have muddy shoes, dirty clothes and mud all over my car. I would like to know how and when the

situation can be resolved, and I no longer have to battle with mud.

Andrea Kotas  
Chalong

**Opas Chobdee, Assistant to the Deputy President of Chalong OrBorTor, replies:**

The budget for this project came from local taxes levied on Chalong residents. This money is spent on projects throughout the district, some of which are more important and must be completed first.

This year, the budget that was approved for fixing and installing drains was not enough. Next year, we will ask for 900,000 baht to fix that section of road.

In the meantime, we have laid down stones so there is no dust if it is not raining and it's not muddy when it is raining.

The road will certainly be fixed. Please be patient.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

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

## Can a foreign company be the owner of a car in Thailand?

I would like to know if it is possible for a foreign-registered company to buy a car in Thailand and have it registered in the company name.

Bob Ake  
Sweden

**Teerayuth Prasertphol, Chief Technical Officer, Phuket Provincial Transportation Office, replies:**

No, a foreign company may not own a car or have it registered in the company name.

## Bringing a computer into Thailand

I shall be visiting Thailand in October and I want to bring my Macintosh G5 desktop computer and printer with me.

I publish a magazine and need to have my computer at hand just in case there are any last-minute changes that need to be made while I am there on vacation.

What are the regulations regarding foreigners bringing in computer equipment for personal use?

Heather  
By Email

**Aikachai Wongjinda, Head of the Phuket Customs Office, replies:**

You may bring your computer and printer into Thailand without paying import duty or tax as long as you declare them as being "for personal use".



## ON THE MOVE



Le Meridien Hotels and Resorts has announced that **Philippe Seigle**, from France, has been appointed Regional General Manager South America, based in Rio de Janeiro, from September 1.

He was previously Regional General Manager for Le Meridien resorts in Thailand and GM of Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

During his career with Meridien, Mr Seigle has held senior posts in Africa, Europe, South America, the West Indies and the Middle East.



**Rattaket Photchanakanokkul**, 37, from Phatthalung, has been appointed Human Resources Manager of Central Retail Corp in Phuket.

Before moving to Phuket, he worked at Sea Horse Co in Songkhla for three years as Human Resources Manager, and five years with Royal Canning Ltd, also in Songkhla, as Human Resources and Administrative Manager.

He holds a degree in social sciences from Thaksin University in Songkhla.



**Pattaravadee Numchaisiwatana**, 28, from Chiang Mai has been appointed Public Relations Manager of Baan Cocoon, the new property development by Anuphas Pirom Resort Co Ltd.

She holds a degree in psychology from Pa Yap University in Chiang Mai.

Previously she worked as General Manager of Envy Spa in Central Festival Phuket, and before that she worked at Phuket Golden Shop (antique furniture) as Sales Manager.

# Does that sound good to you?

I am often asked to design and quote for a home music system that can play in almost every room in a villa. This somewhat generic request often precedes an inquiry into what the potential client actually understands about such systems.

I enjoy this part of our work, because the resulting dialog often offers both us and the client an opportunity to learn. So this week I shall focus on some interesting solutions we have come up with, and share a few valuable tips and tricks.

The fact that someone requests central sound does not necessarily mean that this is what they really want.

Take, for example, a homeowner who would like to play music in many areas (or zones) throughout the home and be able to control the volume independently in each zone.

On the other hand, someone else may want not only this but also the ability to play different music selections in various zones throughout the house.

These two examples may seem similar, but when it gets down to price and wiring, they are as different as *tom yam* and oatmeal.

On top of that, many times the client ends up with a system that is not even close to his or her expectations, which is never a good thing. Let's take a closer look at these two examples and

explore the similarities and differences.

**Zone volume:** Let's say that you have a pretty large villa with a formal living room, dining room and pool area. When you have guests or when you are alone with your loved ones, you may need to control the volume of music in each of these areas.

Maybe people are enjoying a nice quiet dessert in the dining room

while the more lively guests are laughing away in the living room while yet again the kids are running around the pool screaming at each other.

This is when you need music volume zones, and the solutions available are about as different in design and cost as you can imagine.

**High end:** If you feel the need to be able to control the volume of any zone from any other zone, you have jumped into the higher-end systems.

This is because each volume control device must be wired back to a central point, as must all speakers.

In addition, the amplifier

that drives each speaker must be capable of supporting multiple zones – so get ready for a bit of design, cabling and expense.

You can even take it one step further by upgrading from pretty simple button/LCD wall-mount controls to wireless touch screen remotes.

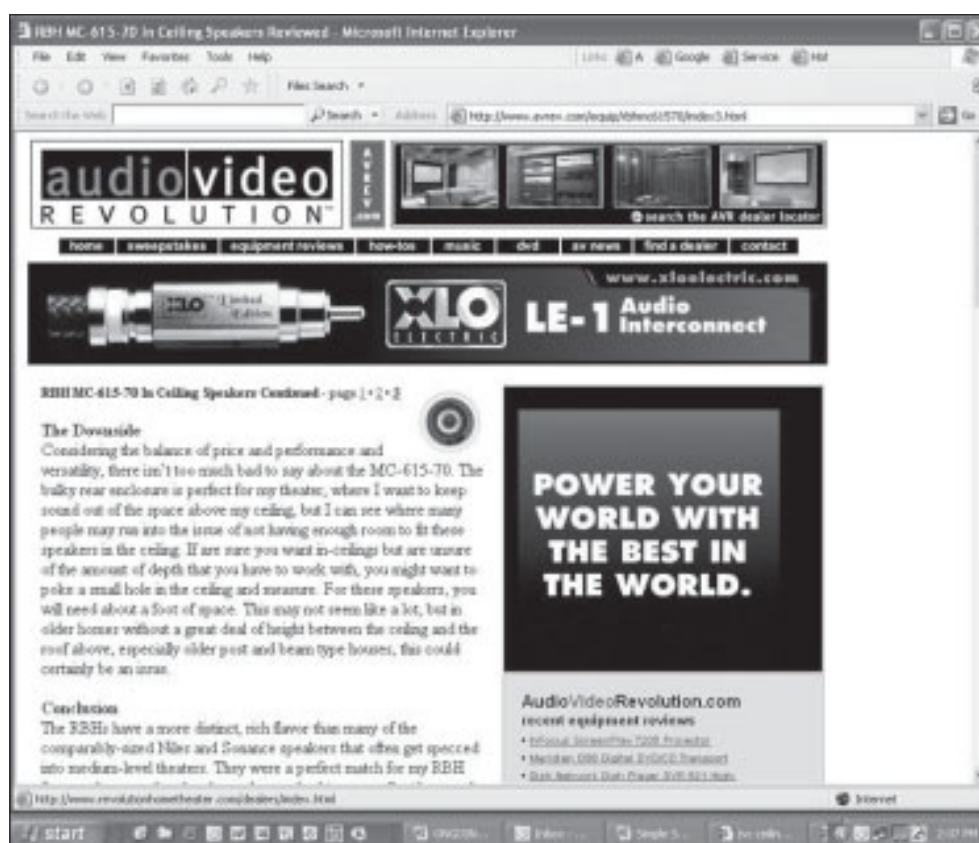
These are very cool and can do many other things as well, such as control the air conditioning, TV and DVD, lighting, alarm, video surveillance and even the window blinds – though there is, of course, a price to be paid for all of this functionality.

**Mid-level:** We have installed several high-end systems, and they are fun to design and implement. And, of course, the owners love them.

However, there are many more people who do not want that level of functionality and expense.

For these folks, we have discovered a very affordable and functional set of gadgets that really gets them where they want to be.

Simplicity has its benefits, but there also sacrifices to go



If you believe in doing research before buying, AVRev.com is a good source of comparative information on equipment for your sound system.

plug in your iPod or other music device.

This offers the added benefit of being able to play different music at different volumes in different zones.

The drawback is that you can control only one zone from its dedicated volume control. One very neat feature, though, is that you can simply unplug the iPod from the wall, connect it to your PC, download and *voilà!* You have just updated the player with the latest tunes in your music library.

**Speakers:** A quick word about speakers because they are very important, and there are more choices for these than there are for fast food restaurants.

Bosch, JVC and Infinity offer large selections at reasonable prices.

These brands are somewhat run-of-the-mill, and there are hundreds of other "better" options, but for the average home user, they are a good place to start.

Some fun things to look into include weather-resistant wall-mount and garden speakers. Then there are high-end ceiling speakers complete with woofers and tweeters, while the truly wealthy may like to take a look at underwater speakers for the pool.

Whichever way you go, it is important to work with a reputable and knowledgeable systems integrator.

Just about anyone can attempt to supply and install a home music system, but not all will deliver what you really expect for the budget you agreed upon.

*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. For more information send email to john@islandtechnology.com*

Some fun things to look into include weather-resistant wall-mount and garden speakers. Then there are high-end ceiling speakers... while the truly wealthy may like to take a look at underwater speakers for the pool.



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# Hotels brace for the great comeback

By Athiga Jundee & Sam Wilkinson

PHUKET: The island's hotels are recruiting more staff as the high season approaches in a move that shows faith in a strong comeback for the local tourism industry.

Boonchock Maneechot, head of the Phuket Provincial Employment Service Office (PESO), told a recent employment fair that hotels around the island are looking for more than 6,500 staff.

"After the tsunami, many hotel employees found new jobs [in other sectors]," K. Boonchock said. "However, there is room once again for more hotel and tourism staff during the coming high season."

Morakot Sudtar, Director of Human Resources at Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa, told the *Gazette* that the resort advertised 17 jobs at the PESO-organized employment fair and that 10 people applied during the two-day event.

"We choose [to employ] those with natural qualifications best suited for the relevant position. Some positions need spe-

cific skills, some need extensive experience, while others need the ability to supervise. Some need English-language skills and a suitable attitude for a more personal touch with a service mindset, such as waiting staff and guest relations officers," K. Morakot said.

"We don't mind too much about academic degrees: we try to put the right applicant in the right position. Educational background shows that that person can learn the job or is a fast learner, but attitude is the most important requirement for us. We don't mind whether they're graduates or not because when they come to us, we train them in our methods."

Phurida Intrachai, soon-to-be Human Resources Director at Evason, pointed out that even though the resort had not been affected by the tsunami in terms of structural damage, it suffered in much the same way as other resorts islandwide when the number of visitors to Phuket plummeted.

"We didn't lay off any staff after the tsunami; in fact we have still been hiring, and since the beginning of this year we've

taken on more than 30. At the moment our hotel occupancy is 50% and this coming high season we already have bookings of up to 70%. I believe that Phuket is getting back on track," K. Phurida said.

Many hotel and resorts in Patong were so badly damaged by the tsunami that they had to close, with the result that staff found themselves without work.

Vipas Nimmanee, Human Resources Director at Holiday Inn Patong, said, "Some of our positions needed new staff because people had found new jobs during the renovation period, but most of our staff returned when we reopened. For a while the hotel was operating with only 140 rooms, but now we are announcing more [staff] vacancies to anticipate full reopening in November with 405 rooms."

He said there are 20 vacant positions: in food & beverage, housekeeping, front office and in the technical sector. Most jobs need one to two years' experience with good English skills.

Yet, as at the Evason, the Holiday Inn does not specifically seek out gradu-

ates, but rather recruits those able to respond successfully to in-house training.

"The hotel's occupancy this month is 85% and we have advance bookings of 60% for November," K. Vipras said. "Of course we're hoping for more. I think many Phuket hotels will be back to normal."

Somsak Phetpradapsakun, Personnel Manager of Patong Resort, said that the resort reopened on April 1 and that current occupancy is 60%, with up to 80% advance bookings for the high season.

"I think that many hotels and resorts in the Patong area also need more staff because of the tsunami's long-term effects. It's really not surprising that the PESO fair showed more than 6,500 staff are needed," K. Somsak said.

Frances Dileva, Director of Personnel Development at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, was at the PESO fair.

"We advertised 27 jobs, and many people were interested," she said. "As for qualifications, it depends on each position. For example we do need people with good English for guest contact positions."

## An ill wind blows through the Federal Reserve

Hurricane Katrina, the storm that caused such damage to New Orleans and surrounding areas, was obviously a major disaster and has led to many financial observers and economists predicting that its aftermath will play a major role in causing the US Federal Reserve (Central Bank) to pause in its cycle of interest rate increases when it next meets on September 20.

Other factors being added to the argument for a "Fed" pause include lower than expected job creation figures for August, and a downward revision of US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures for the second quarter of 2005 – from an annualized growth rate of 3.5% to 3.4%.

But while the Fed may pause for thought, it is extremely unlikely that it will not announce a 0.25% increase in base lending rates. There are several reasons. Economic growth is still strong, and the Fed is concerned that inflationary pressures are still in evidence. It also does not want to give the impression that it has some knowledge about the future prospects for the economy that are highly negative.

The Fed is also worried about the ever-dwindling amount of savings achieved by the American public, and has concerns about asset prices, particularly in the residential housing market. The Chairman of the



### MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Fed, Alan Greenspan, was almost flippant about there being a bubble in the housing market three months ago, but his recent comments show that he is now taking this issue more seriously.

It is estimated that Hurricane Katrina has caused around US\$100 billion (about 4.1 trillion baht) in damage. This figure, being a broad estimate, will obviously be subject to future revisions. Washington has already set aside US\$10.5 billion to help in rebuilding, and other substantial sums will follow.

Insurance and re-insurance companies from many countries will probably have to face claims in excess of US\$25 billion.

There will also be an increase in unemployment claims from the affected areas, at least temporarily.

However, there is no doubt that this will shortly lead to a rapid rise in construction and related industries, and that this will cause

an increase in regional economic activity from the fourth quarter of 2005 onwards.

The reality is that the area hit hardest by the storm is not the economic heartland of the US, and the greatest impact on the overall national economy will be from interruption of some oil and natural gas supplies and of river transportation along the Mississippi.

Regional tourism will suffer for a considerable period, but from a national perspective this is of marginal importance.

**Old Mutual targets Skandia:** A number of readers have investments and policies with the Skandia group, including Skandia UK and its direct subsidiary, Royal Skandia. Many will be aware of rumors that have received wide coverage in the media over the past few months of Skandia targeted for takeover by South Africa's largest insurer, Old Mutual (OM).

The formal offer by OM for the whole Skandia group came at the beginning of September. The amount involved is US\$6.1 billion (about 250 billion baht). The managing director of Skandia UK has said this offer has yet to be considered by Skandia's board of directors.

The business television channel CNBC has reported that OM – although it now has a stockmarket listing on the London Stock Exchange, where it is

a member of the FTSE 100 Index – is "desperate" to increase its international income since 78% of current revenue originates from South African operations.

Large South African companies, although they will never admit to this fact, are all keen to expand their operations outside the country.

It makes business sense for them to do so, but there is another factor involved: hard-headed business managers realize that in the coming decades there is a good chance that South Africa could follow in the footsteps of the rest of Africa – to economic oblivion.

Reports suggest that, although OM has made a bid for the Skandia group, it is not interested in Skandia's Scandinavian operations. Nordea, the Norwegian banking group, has been cited as a party that might be interested in acquiring these assets.

What OM really wants is Skandia UK; OM itself already operates in Britain, and is the fastest-growing company in its sector. Skandia UK, however, probably has little interest in being bought out by OM, and this has led to speculation that Skandia UK may attempt a management buy-out.

OM's intentions towards Royal Skandia, the Isle of Man-based international group, are also uncertain. OM has had extensive experience in the offshore arena. In 1986 it acquired a small, Guernsey insurer called Providence Capital International, which it later re-badged as Old Mutual International.

For the next 18 years it tried to make a success of this company, and failed. It finally stopped all new business activities.

Royal Skandia is at the other end of this spectrum. It is not only profitable but is also the largest of the tax-haven-based assurance companies. The current

situation has led to speculation that if the OM bid is successful it may then wish to sell Royal Skandia.

The second largest company in this market is Friends Provident International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Friends Provident, a UK-based insurer, which is being tipped as the most likely buyer.

However, the offshore market contains some very well-known assurance groups with deep pockets.

Policy holders and investors with the Skandia group need have no fear for the future, no matter how this scenario plays out. The reason the Skandia group is a target is its success.

*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.*

### VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

	August 03	August 04	August 05
Limited companies registered	59	95	129
Limited partnerships registered	10	26	32
Limited companies amended	145	220	290
Limited partnerships amended	29	39	28
Companies deregistered	15	4	15
Partnerships deregistered	8	2	6

Source: Phuket Business Development Office

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## Surf's up at Kamala and Kata

KAMALA: Some 70 surfers took advantage of two- to three-foot waves in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Go Kamala Surfing contest at the north end of Kamala Beach recently.

On the Saturday morning the tide was quite high and the waves were breaking very close to the beach, resulting in some entertaining wipeouts and a few broken boards, though thankfully no broken bones.

As the day went on and the tide went out, conditions improved and there was some good surfing to be seen in the preliminary round.

The semi-finals and finals were held on the Sunday.

All in all, it was a fun weekend with a carnival-like atmosphere. Other non-surf competitions included pole climbing and tug o' war. A presentation night at Baan Rim followed the contest.

The next surfing event is the Phuket Surfing Contest 2005 at Kata Beach September 16-18. Phuket Boardriders' Club members, with President Chanin "Joob" Aiyarak, are expected to be out in force to enjoy what is left of the monsoon season surf.

— Andrew "Oggi" Fallon

### RESULTS

**Beginner Short Board:** 1. Inyad (Kalim); 2. Matoom (Kamala); 3. Kit (BCIS); 4. Rogib (Kalim); 5. Wah (Kalim).

**Boogie Board:** 1. Rolaunt (Chalong/France); 2. Max (Kamala); 3. Mark (Kata/Australia); 4. Sun (Kalim); 5. Chana (Kalim).

**Long Board:** 1. Kit (Patong); 2. Kho (Kata); 3. Jamlong (Kamala); 4. Aod (Kamala); 5. Ta (Kamala).

**Short Board, Open Division:** 1. Ple (Kamala); 2. Chalong (Patong); 3. Lim (Kamala); 4. Kho (Kata); 5. Dam Samart (Patong).

## Saphan Hin to host martial art world championship

By Anongnat Sarpisut

PHUKET CITY: The International Pencak Silat Federation (Persilat) will stage the 13<sup>th</sup> World Championship of the Malay martial art at the Saphan Hin sports complex from December 10-18 next year. Up to 500 athletes from 25 countries are expected to take part.

The competition will be split into four categories: *Tunggal* [singles], *Regu* [doubles], *Ganda* [teams of three to five competitors] – all of which are self-defense bouts – and *Ular Daga*, in which two fighters attack one other.

The top three in each category will receive trophies and medals.

Persilat President Eddie M Nalapraya met with Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit on September 6 to ask for permission to stage the competition here, following a decision by the Persilat congress on August 2.

"We are pleased that this event is being held in Phuket," V/Gov Niran said. "The province has experience in staging many

international events, and this tournament will be one of many sports events [that help] to promote Phuket."

Thailand hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Pencak Silat World Championship in Songkhla in 1994, with more than 20 countries represented. Indonesia came first with five gold medals. Thailand was second with four.

# Aussies to defend their Laguna triathlon titles

By Chris Husted

CHERNG TALAY: Australians Craig Alexander and Nicole Hackett will return to defend their men's and women's champion titles in the 12<sup>th</sup> THAI Airways Laguna Phuket Triathlon on December 4.

The two Aussie pros are among the 250 athletes who have already registered for the event, compared with about 150 at this time last year, said Debbie Dionysius of organizer Laguna Phuket.

"Last year was the biggest [Laguna] triathlon to date with 600 entrants.

"This year we are looking at limiting the number of entrants to 700 by keeping the number of three-person relay teams to about 35, in order to preserve the quality of the event," she said.

"When there are too many entrants, the starting line gets very crowded."

Ms Dionysius said that the past year has seen an explosion in the popularity of triathlons in Southeast Asia – especially in Singapore, where the number of athletes competing in major triathlons has jumped from hundreds to thousands.

This year the triathlon,



Champs Craig Alexander and Nicole Hackett have already signed up.

which will start at 8 am, will be held on a Sunday instead of the traditional Saturday because the following day, December 5, is a national holiday to celebrate HM The King's birthday.

Entry to the event costs US\$120 (about 4,900 baht) and includes entry to the pre-race Pasta Party and the awards banquet, as well as a competitor's T-shirt and race kit.

Race registration will be held from 10 am to 4 pm on De-



cember 3, in the Andaman Ballroom at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. Athlete attendance is compulsory, and entrants must bring identification to claim a race kit with timing chip, race category and number, swim cap, T-shirt, and other items.

A mandatory course briefing in English, Thai and Japanese will follow at 5 pm, also in the Andaman Ballroom.

The closing date for entries is November 13.

Top finishers will be offered one of the 25 guaranteed entries to the 2006 Ironman Australia, the highly coveted spots going to the highest-placed finishers in each age group who declare their intention to accept them.

Entries will be allocated based on the number of entries per age group, and there are no Ironman Australia qualifying spots for pro athletes. The allocation procedure for the 2006 Ironman Australia will be finalized during race week and posted at the race office.

In addition to the main event, a fun run will be held while the triathletes are completing the cycling course.

Some 200 people have already registered to take part in the fun run. As runners must complete one lap of the six-kilometer course before the tri-athletes return, competitors must be aged 12 or older and the number of entrants is limited to 400.

The fun run will start at about 9 am, and all competitors must register in advance.

For further details and entry forms, visit the website [www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com](http://www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com) or call Tel: 076-324061 or email: [triathlon@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:triathlon@lagunaphuket.com)

## Golf holes that are unintentionally heroic

Jon Morrow's article on Heroic Golf Holes (*Gazette*, September 10) was very good. I think he captured the essence about what is right and what is wrong with golf holes on Phuket.

I, for one, believe a "heroic" hole should have the risk and reward he mentions, but that it should also have a safe path whereby anyone can make par. It is not a heroic hole if the safe player has to fight the challenge on every shot while the hero only has to face it once.

This, as he stated, gives much too great an advantage to the longer-hitting player. In addition, as he also said, the landing area should be free of all hazards (the golfer already has to take an extra shot).

Having said this, I still do not see any heroic holes on Phuket.

Now for the real reason for this letter. In defense of these bad holes, I believe that they were designed as three-shot holes but became heroic holes because of advances in equipment design and manufacture.

Jon mentioned the 13<sup>th</sup> at Augusta, a very simple par five. Anything off the tee, lay-up to 80-100 yards, and sand wedge to the green. No problems until you reach the short flip shot and the creek is not wide.

When Ray Floyd won the Masters in 1976 with a score of 271 he told everyone how his 5 wood saved him and made all the par-fives playable. With that 5 wood he was hitting a second shot

of 220-230 yards. Now the players are driving so much further that they need only a 5 iron, or in the case of Tiger Woods, only an 8 and 9 iron – which supports my theory that equipment is making the holes poor holes when at the time of design they were OK.

In a recent edition of *Golf Magazine* they talked about Jack Nicklaus's 238-yard 1 iron on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole to win the US Open at Baltusrol in 1967.

They went back to Baltusrol and gave a young member, with a one handicap, a club similar to the one Nicklaus used. He averaged only 180 yards. This suggests that the heroic holes were not designed to be heroic: it is equipment that is changing the game.

This change is being driven by financial considerations – the need to sell more equipment – and not by the game itself.

If anyone believes that equipment has not changed the game, I have a Persimmon driver (with a "silver" shaft which I think is steel), an original Taylor Made driver and what was called a deep-faced graphite head (almost 210cc, with a graphite shaft in it that weighs almost as much as the steel thing).

Jon is welcome to try and see if he thinks these holes are heroic or just difficult three-shot holes. We can probably dig up some 25-year-old irons, too.

Michael Glass  
Director of Golf  
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Photographs by Anongnat Sartpisut



## Kajonkietpattana win the Jankapor-Leelavadee Games



The annual Jankapor vs Leelavadee Games between affiliated high schools Kajonkietsuksa and Kajonkietpattana were held at Surakul Stadium in Phuket City on September 9. Kajonkietpattana emerged overall winner of the track-and-field event. The afternoon games, including 400-meter races and the long jump, lasted for three hours, and were preceded by a children's parade to the stadium. There was also a cheerleading competition and a teachers' soccer match.

## Women's basketball teams to meet in international event

PHUKET: Women's basketball teams from Indonesia, Singapore, India and Thailand will play against each other from September 22 to 25 in Gymnasium 1 in Saphan Hin. The opening ceremony will take place at 4 pm on September 22.

### September 22

5 pm Singapore v Thailand  
7 pm India v Indonesia

### September 23

4 pm Indonesia v Singapore  
6 pm Thailand v India

### September 24

4 pm Singapore v India  
6 pm Indonesia v Thailand

### September 25

3 pm Semi-Final  
5 pm Final

The first Phuket Women's International Basketball Invitation, organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), aims to develop a sports culture on Phuket and foster Thailand's international ties.

— *Ananya Hongsa-ngiam*

For more information, contact  
Tel: 01-5379899.

## Patong Darts League

**September 6 results:** Nag's Head\* 7 Coyote 4; Piccadilly\* 4 Amigos 5; African Sports 6 Shakers\* 3, OffShore\* 6 Dog's Bollocks 3; Two Black Sheep v Didi's, and Queen Mary v Valhalla postponed. (\* = Winners of beer leg)

**September 20 fixtures:** Nags Head v Offshore Bar; Two Black Sheep v Dog's Bollocks; Shakers v Amigos; African Sports v Valhalla; Didi's v Piccadilly; Coyote v Queen Mary. (Home teams first) Note: If your team is playing against Didi's, check whether the match is on – Didi's has been having trouble raising a team.



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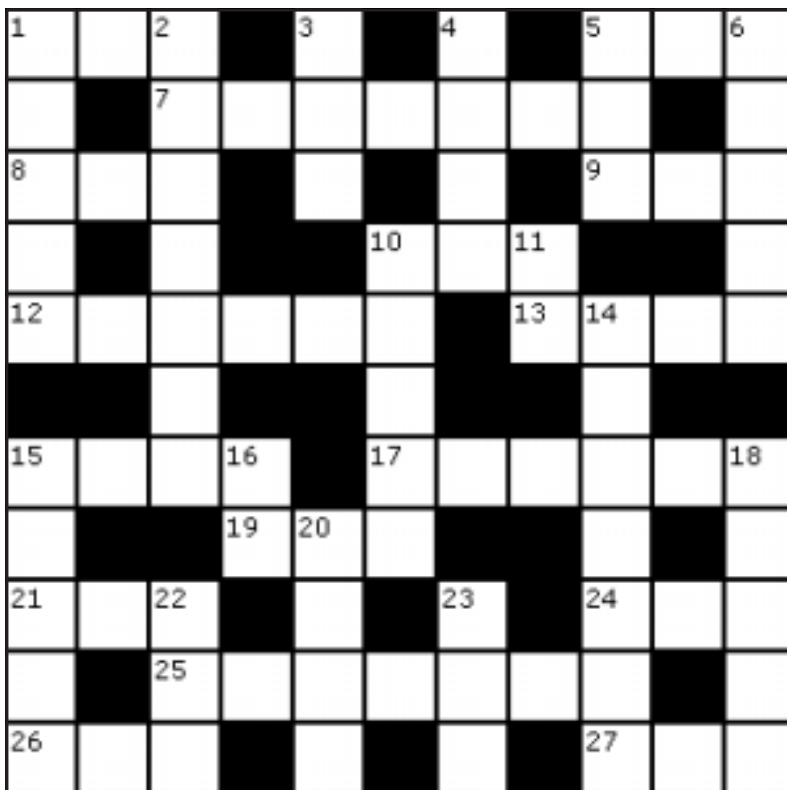
# The Quick Crossword

Across

1. Encountered.
5. Skill.
7. Really stupid.
8. Old horse.
9. Ram's dam.
10. Food in a shell.
12. Sausage in a bun.
13. Stare lasciviously.
15. Frizzy hairdo.
17. Peter in Paris.
19. Pimple.
21. Also.
24. \*\*\* Angeles.
25. Not fictional.
26. What the cat did on the mat.
27. \*\*\* or all.

Down

1. Chomp.
2. Not looser.
3. Wrongdoing.
4. Doe's daddy.
5. One-shot tennis winner.
6. Not here.
10. Cairo's its capital.

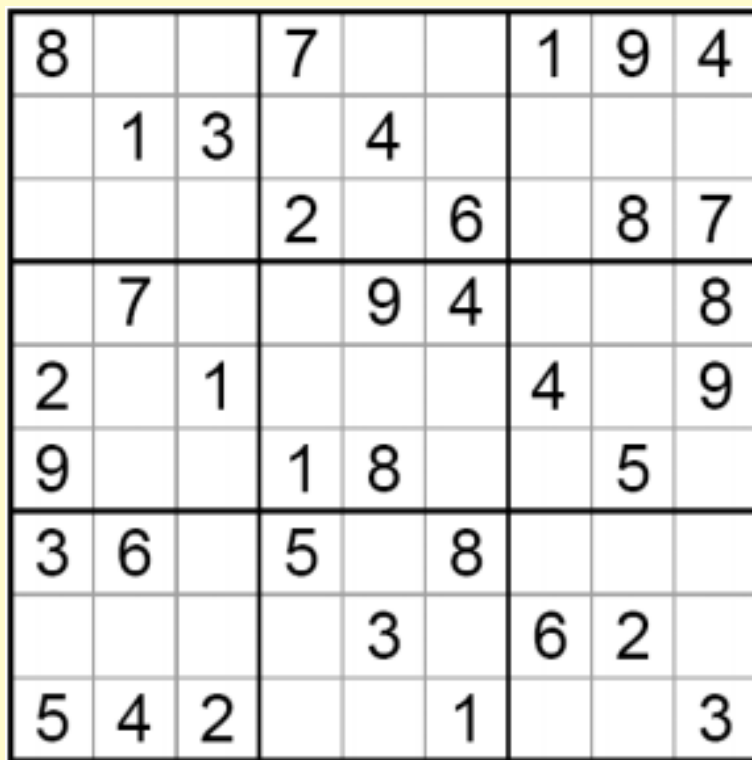


11. Ready, steady....
14. Most powerful ape.
15. Cars.
16. Where the wizard was from.
18. Writing exercise.
20. Unpleasant sensation.
22. Often, poetically.
23. Drinking implement.

*Solution next week*

**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)



The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each

"box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which will be published next week.



Solution to puzzle of September 10.

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Eddie; 2. Vidkun Quisling; 3. France; 4. 2002; 5. Polyandrist; 6. Martinique; 7. Graham Greene; 8. Freetown; 9. Antarctica; 10. Vinson Massif; 11. Russell Crowe. 12. Ghostly lights that trailed behind fighter aircraft; 13. Arsenic; 14. A trip into space; 15. Singapore; 16. The Kor-eas; 17. Male health and disease; 18. Nudity; 19. *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad; 20. An ass.

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Buttercup; 2. The cheetah; 3. Automatic Teller Machine; 4. Olympus Mons, on Mars; 5. Phattalung; 6. Bob the Builder; 7. Jim Henson; 8. Dalmations; 9. Krypton; 10. Manhattan.

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S QUICK CROSSWORD



## Answer to last week's Brainbuster

5 Xs. If you know algebra, you can figure this out by setting up an equation, expressing Y and Z in terms of X's. But you don't need to use algebra if your thinking goes like this:

1. From Scale #1, you can figure out that  $Z=2X$ , because the Z on the left side has been replaced by 2 Xs on the right side.
2. Next, say that  $X=2$  and  $Z=4$ . That would put a 12 on the right side of Scale #2, which means that Y must equal 3 to make the left side of Scale #2 the same as the right side ( $4 \times 3 = 12$ ).
3. Now you know that the left side of Scale #3 = 10 ( $3 + 3 + 4 = 10$ ). Since  $X=2$ , the right side of Scale #3 must have 5 Xs in order to equal 10 ( $5 \times 2 = 10$ ).

By the way, it doesn't matter which numbers you use. Just so you make sure that  $Z=2X$ , you'll always come out with 5 Xs on the right side of Scale #3. Go ahead-try it with  $X=4$  and  $Z=8$ , and you'll see.

## Scribble Space



## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle of September 3




**Starting this month, Phuket Gazette will be available at all **FamilyMart** outlets in Phuket:**

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● Sawatdirak Rd (near Patong Hospital), Patong.	● Yaowarat Soi 2 Rd, Phuket Town.
● Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd (opp. 7-Eleven), Patong.	● Chaofa (East) Rd (opp. Big-One Supermarket), Phuket Town.

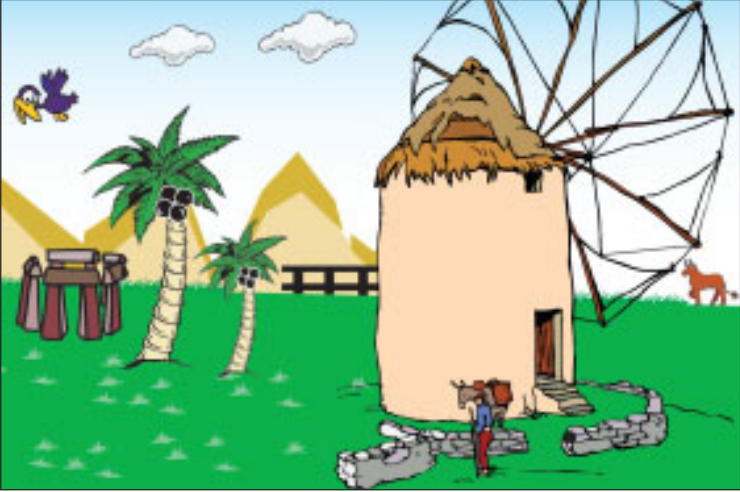
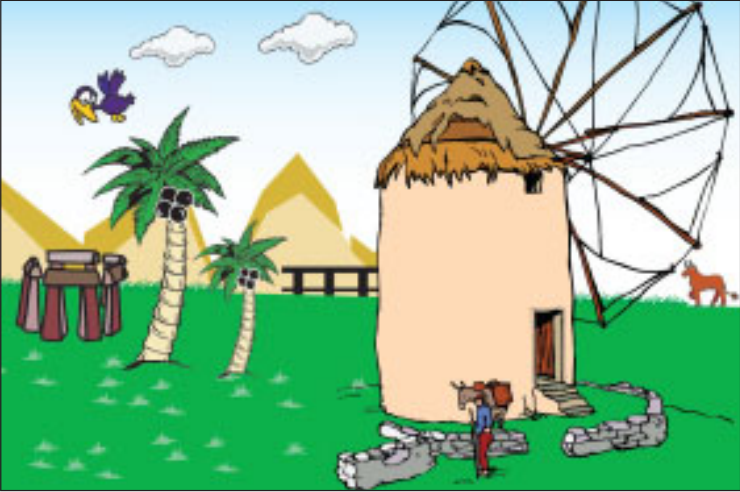


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Spot the Difference



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



Brain Buster!!

Look at the first row of numerals. Figure out how the numerals in Column 1 yield the numerals in Column 2, and you'll be able to fill in not only Row 1, Column 3, but all the other blanks as well.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
122646	576	XXX
91234	216	XX
61818	XXX	XX

Answer next week

# The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Fran ill – a mistake to go out in this.

5. Pope from the city.

8. Mend a sock – drat!

9. Bird call is inexpensive, it's said.

10. In a barge, point to a bovine.

11. Toilet little Edward plundered.

12. Countryside biter – Pegasus, perhaps?

14. Loony seed.

16. Shoot at a shorebird.

18. Scare the spy.

21. We hear it's not a stain.

22. Bear back, ok, to a US city.

23. Nothing comes back from silliness.

26. Particle digger with twisted clue.

29. Song in a New Mexico article.

30. Direction to average goalie's success.

32. Body shirt with four letters or so.

33. Surplus bend in entrail.

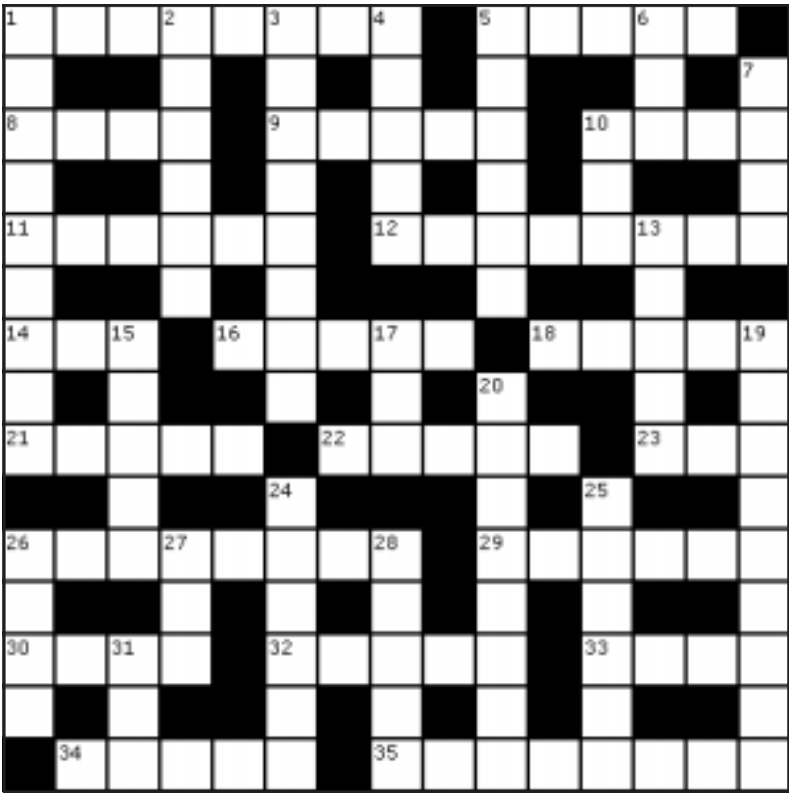
34. Oil giant has 20 in a long while.

35. Fiddle with a lever to lift.

DOWN

1. Mars looks embarrassed over scheme for alien.

2. Ten under a ton.



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

3. Accent in which I'd make a mistake.

4. After the French cardinal, a church parasite.

5. Stimulants for show parts.

6. Joan was from this curve?

7. Wary, went askew.

10. Does she do this in court?

13. Gone! (Note low point.)

15. A test run in court.

17. Professional's in favor.

19. Kermit and Leo mistook the distance.

20. Tuna swallowed a liter, to
- a degree, at the centre.

24. Get brown with Stan outside the United Nations.

25. Gas Tim awfully – it's a bad sign.

26. Where disorderly guys dine?

27. How to spot the center of the storm.

28. Direction to lake is weird.

31. Victory over former spouse may irritate.

Solution next week

## The Monster Quiz

1. What could be a Cornish Rex, a York Chocolate, a Bombay or a Korat?

2. Nan Goldin, Man Ray and Norman Parkinson are associated with which of the arts?

3. Which two British racing drivers were born on September 17, in 1929 and 1960 respectively?

4. What, in terms of population, is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world?

5. What's the world's most popular non-alcoholic drink?

6. In which of Shakespeare's plays does the line "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse" appear?

7. In which year was dynamite invented?

8. Paraguay has borders with Argentina, Brazil and which other country?

9. What percentage of the world's population is contained in the United States?

10. What is the surname of American singing sensa-
- tion Anastasia?

11. Which classic Victorian travelogue by Jerome K Jerome is subtitled *To Say Nothing Of The Dog*?

12. And what is the dog's name?

13. Who said of Mick Jagger: "I'm sure he'll find someone else to be unfaithful to soon"?

14. What is the most popular recreational boat name in America?

15. What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

16. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

17. Mdina is the old capital city of which Mediterranean island republic?

18. What is the national motto of Belize?

19. In which year was Eton College founded, and by whom?

20. How many Noble gases are there?

Answers next week

EZ TRIVIA

1. Complete the phrase: As stubborn as a ...

2. How many countries are there in the world?

3. In what country can you see Big Ben and the home of Princes William and Harry?

4. What is a young swan called?

5. Which animal is vegetarian, has a very long neck and sleeps standing up?

6. What's the capital city of Chile?

7. In which boy band did Robbie Williams sing?

8. Who invented the telephone?

9. What is the name of the newspaper in the Harry Potter books?

10. Which dinosaur had a kingly name?

Answers next week.



Home of the Week

Rawai

# Contemporary chic in Rawai

This three-level, 248-square-meter home in Rawai, which is just on the market, has three spacious bedrooms, a maid's room and en suite bathroom, and a bright open-plan living and dining room.

Adjoining the dining area is a modern Western-style kitchen with a range of appliances, ample storage and a large breakfast bar.

A timber spiral staircase leads to the two upper floors, which contain three large bedrooms – the master bedroom has an en suite bathroom – and two bathrooms. The two bedrooms on the second floor open onto a covered terrace, which has views across the bay. The bedroom on the top floor would make an ideal family room.

Facilities include four air conditioners, cable/UBC TV, a water-heating system, a 6,000-liter water tank and water filtration, and a security system.

This modern home sits on a compact 320sqm block with a neat, easy-care garden and an attractive swimming pool.

The property is walled and private, and also has a covered car port with remote-controlled gate.

Located just a few minutes away from Nai Harn Beach and the conveniences of Chalong – including banks, markets, medical services and boating facilities, this modern home, with its crisp white color scheme and bold feature walls and glazed ceramics, would be sure to please a buyer with a penchant for the contemporary minimalist style.

The land title is Chanote, and the price is 11 million baht.

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



Different views of the kitchen area, the open-plan living room, and outside by the pool.



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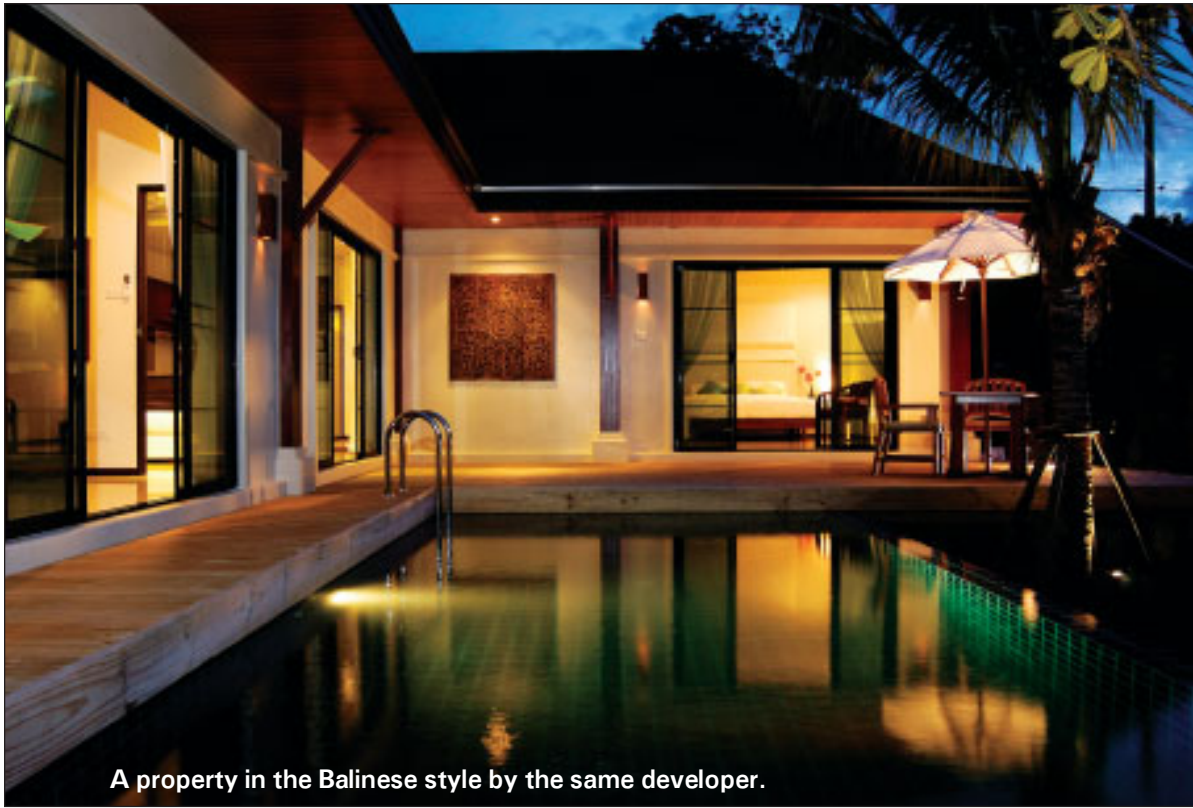
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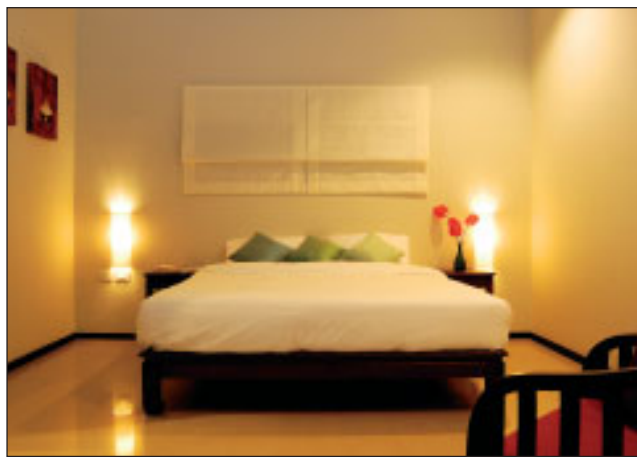
## Construction

by Anongnat Sartpisut



A property in the Balinese style by the same developer.

## Two Villas Tara brings you a taste of Bali



**BANG TAO:** Fourteen modern Balinese design villas on 5.5 rai of land are under construction and scheduled for completion by the middle of 2007.

Wirachai Pranveerapaiboon, Managing Director of the 80-million-baht Two Villas Tara project in Bang Tao, told the *Gazette*, "The Two Villas Tara can serve the growing trend in the villa market, and our prices are similar to the cost of a condominium at Laguna."

The exteriors follow a "courtyard villa" design, while interiors are modern oriental, featuring premium materials, K. Wirachai said.

The villas start from 180 square meters up to 250sqm, and have two or three bedrooms, with

an optional four-bedroom design; two, three or four bathrooms; kitchen, living and a dining room. All units have a 25sqm private pool with options for larger pool design.

Prices range from 8.9 million baht to 13 million baht. A furniture package is optional.

K. Wirachai explained that all the materials used are top quality. For example, doors are of teak, the roof is shingled, the walls are of V.C Mosaic with a Jotun-painted finish, window frames are aluminum, and the windows are tinted green.

Bathrooms are fitted out with American Standard sanitary-ware, and floor surfaces are laid with premium quality Cotto ceramic tiles. K. Wirachai said that

the developer will hire a management company to service public utility areas and look after garbage disposal.

As for infrastructure, the developers will supply well water, while electricity will come from the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority.

The architects are Roof Co. K. Wirachai said, "Our target customers are Europeans who are mostly looking for a holiday home or a long-term investment."

"Feedback so far is positive – two of the 14 villas have already been sold."

For more information contact Tel: 06-6825156 or 01-571-1009; email: [info@twovillas.com](mailto:info@twovillas.com), [twovillas@yahoo.com](mailto:twovillas@yahoo.com) or visit the project website at [www.twovillas.com](http://www.twovillas.com)

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Nowadays you can really go round the bend, and emerge from the shops flushed with excitement as you head home to "road-test" your latest purchase. There's one shop in Phuket where you can

quickly get to the bottom of things and choose from a selection of loo seating with a difference.

These seats are made of durable, non-toxic resin that is resistant to acid and rust, and are easy to clean. They have transparent covers inside which sunflowers, dolphins and fish appear to float. The hinges are fully adjustable to fit most toilets.

Eight different toilet seat patterns are available, for about 1,700 baht each, from Saeng Chai Panich Co Ltd, 184-186 Thepkasattri Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-237325-30.



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Jacob's Coat of many colors

I have never been much of a fan of lurkers. I'll concede that the LA Lurkers is a damn fine basketball team, expert that I am, but I'm not aware of any of them lying in wait outside nightclubs and famous restaurants waiting for personalities to emerge.

All most celebrities really want to do is to be able to go home anonymously without being hassled, and then quietly get on with their lives. Or maybe they don't. Many must secretly crave someone to take their picture, thereby making them more famous and helping them to make even more dosh in the long run.

But the last thing they really want, I mean *really* want, is for someone to pounce from the bushes and snap them when they're least expecting it. Celebs lead hard lives. Some days they even have to invent ways of spending all that money, but I seriously sympathize with them on the lurkers front.

## FURTIVE

My dictionary defines a lurker as being someone or something that moves or waits furtively, or waits in a concealed position or a shadowy corner, especially with the intention of doing something wrong. I can't argue with that.

I'm not sure if there are that many plants in the world that have similar sinister intent, but there are a few that nestle themselves in the corner of your garden, keeping to themselves, just waiting for the right time to pounce.

The Jacob's Coat plant, or *huu-krataai* in Thai, is one of them. It will lie in wait enthusiastically, then spring up without warning.

Outside my house some time ago, a gang of workers descended unannounced, and built a concrete road on a dirt track, laying waste to all plant life in their path – or so it appeared. Just about the only survivors beyond my garden wall several weeks later were a few Jacob's Coat plants which sprouted from nowhere, stubbornly refusing to be swallowed up by the all-consuming concrete. Some time later, and they were back in full stride.

One of the downsides to this particular plant is the speed at



Jacob's Coat is usually grown for its attractive leaves.

which it grows. It's mental. Leave it a few days and it will inevitably become straggly. Leave it a few weeks, and it can take over whole sections of your garden. Once it's bored with lurking, it needs to be kept in check, and regular amputations and uprootings of whole plants are the only answer.

Jacob's Coat, also known as fire dragon, copper leaf or beefsteak plant, comes in a great variety of colors, but frankly, the flowers are rather uninspiring.

They are tiny and somewhat insignificant in comparison to the rich, colorful array of leaves, and seem to have been included in the package as a bit of an afterthought.

This is a particularly colorful tropical shrub which is usually grown for its attractive leaves, but also because it has so many variations, and is by no means predictable.

Its amazing foliage comprises shades of purple, red, crimson, pink and colors that could almost pass as bronze or copper. Perhaps this could be "the plant with the copper-colored top"?

These colors can even change according to how much direct sunlight they get.

Some plants will complain bitterly if they don't get exactly the right amount of sunlight, but not the Jacob's Coat – it is far more sophisticated than that. It changes color. Some leaves are orange or red in the full sun, yet often more subdued tones of green in the shade. Generally, the more sun they get, the more striking the color of the leaves.

The evenness of the leaves can also vary from plant to plant. Some are completely flat, albeit

with weird colors. Others look a bit like Pringles, the potato chips you get in those tubes. Then there's another type that are folded like Chinese fortune cookies. These things really don't like to conform.

Originally a native of the East Indies and the Pacific, Jacob's Coat is one of the most striking shrubs around and is widely used by tropical gardeners – not just here in Phuket, but all over the region.

Some grow as tall as a couple of meters, but most are quite happy just to sit there on the ground, covering what would

otherwise be a tedious little patch of soil.

With well-drained earth and plenty of sun, the Jacob's Coat will cover any corner of the garden you're not sure what to do with, but give it an inch and it will take a mile. It needs discipline.

Never have I seen the Jacob's Coat pounce on an unsuspecting celebrity, camera dangling from its stalk. On reflection, it probably isn't a lurker in the truest sense of the word – this one has principles.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSES FOR SALE



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### CONDO FOR SALE

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### KATA COTTAGE

for sale. Patong houses, hotels and land for sale. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-630-1770.

### 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

### KOH LANTA VIEWPOINT LAND

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### 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, an American-style kitchen, a large living room, air conditioning, pool and spa and 2 covered car parking spaces. I am asking for 12 million baht. Please call for further information. Tel: 01-8913740.

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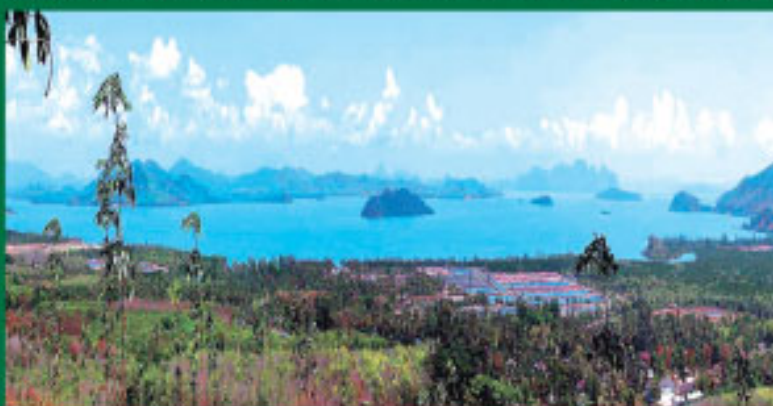
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- "Allamanda Condominiums"**  
freehold title from Phuket's leading developer
- latest release of Allamanda studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments
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impeccable property, minutes from the tee
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  - 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



- "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



- "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 on-site management and rental services
  - great on-site facilities including international restaurant, deli, wine bar and spa



- "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



- "L'Orchidee Residence"**  
unrivalled quality with outstanding views
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  - exclusive development with breathtaking views



- "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
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- "Surin Heights Triplex Apartments"**  
life's a beach
- exceptional elevated views of Surin beach
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- "East Coast Ocean Villas"**  
tranquility overlooking the East Coast
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# Properties from Phuket Real Estate

## 2.5 RAI SEA VIEW PATONG



The land, although located in the heart of Patong, is very quiet, green and has great sea views to Patong. The plot has electricity, water, road access and building permission to 23 meters. Tel: 09-8715192.

## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.

## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.

## "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! Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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! Tel: 09-8715192.



## 6 RAI BEACHFRONT

This is one of the best plots on the beach in the Cape Panwa area. It is flat land on the beach with slope in the back. It has road access and water and electricity are available. Ideal for a small resort or villa development. Tel: 09-8715192.



## 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. Land is ready for building. A must-see for all developers! Tel: 09-8715192.



## HOME WITH STUNNING SEA VIEW IN PATONG

This house with stunning sea view is located in the hills of Patong. It comprises Ground floor: kitchen, living - dining room, pool, terrace, sala, guest toilet, carport, small garden. First floor: 2 bedrooms with bathrooms en-suite. 1st apartment: 1 bedroom, bathroom, outside living and dining areas, kitchen and terrace. 2nd apartment: small, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, terrace. Tel: 06-2726508.



## 1 RAI, SOI NAYA, NAI HARN

A rare plot (I think there are 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



## KOH MAPHRAO

21 rai with a nice beach and old beach house, 10 minutes to Phuket City. This land has great views of the bay view 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. Tel: 09-8715192.



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- 4. Receptionist/Operator**
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  - 0-2 years' working experience
  - Excellent command of written and spoken English
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- ▶ Able to work in Phuket

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Rungrapa Sakdiwong, Administration Manager by e-mail, fax or post to Paradise Group: The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo 3, Cherngthalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110 Fax: 66 (76) 271242 E-Mail: onn@paradisephuket.com



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- Junior Accountant 2 positions

### Shop

- Shop Assistant 2 positions
- Maid 1 position

Email: michael@wineconnection.co.th  
Tel: 076-282411/2. Fax: 076-282414



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For interview send resume to info@watermarkphuket.com  
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Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Southern Thailand  
Honorkonsul der Bundesrepublik Deutschland für Südthailand

The German Consul in Phuket is seeking a Consular Officer to take care of administrative office duties weekdays between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm

## Applicants

- must speak, write and read German and Thai
- must be PC literate
- must have an outgoing, friendly personality

Please send your application to dirk@junkseilon.com or phone 0 9668 3635 for an interview.



## Cape Panwa Hotel is looking for candidates for the following positions:

### Accounting

- A/R Supervisor
- Night Auditor
- Secretary to Controller

### Front Office

- Shift Leader
- Receptionist

### Kitchen

- Chief Steward



Please send CV to: Fax: 076-391177 or  
Email: gm@capepanwa.com



## PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL PHUKET - RESORT & SPA

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| - ROOM BOY            | - ACCOUNT OFFICE (INCOME) |
| - RECEPTION           | - RESERVATION             |
| - FRONT CASHIER       | - SENIOR SALE & MARKETING |
| - CHEF DE PARTIE      | MANAGER                   |

310/51 Moo 1, Phuket Thailand 83110  
Tel: 076-275002 - 15 Fax: 076-275016

## 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@twiltd.net

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## 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: 076-333-460. Email: paulivarlarsson@hotmail.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

## FAST-GROWING PROPERTY

company in Samui seeks a qualified accountant. Candidates must be computer literate, with a good command of English; have a university accounting degree and a minimum of 3 years' experience performing all accounting work, including monthly VAT, withholding tax, social security reports and general ledger entries. Please contact for more information. Tel: 077-458-195. Email: nikilai@solymar.co.th

## 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 For further details, please see our website at: www.gaypatong.com/connect/

## KATA INTERNET

Thai female wanted for Internet café and reception duties. Must speak English. Tel: 076-284042, 04-0635773. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

## WANTED

We are looking for skipper and a hostess who have worked on boats. Tel: 09-8663738, 06-9404316.

## 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

## PASTRY CHEF

wanted. Must be able to work hard in bakery on Koh Lanta. Will have excellent salary. Tel: 075-684525, 01-0669459. Email: sergeyves@hotmail.com

## LES ANGES BAKERY

Royal Phuket Marina requires the following staff: a pastry chef, baker, pantry chef, kitchen staff; and service and shop staff. For more information, please contact our HR Department. Tel: 076-239-755. Email: acecourtchet@yahoo.co.uk

## 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.

## PERMANENT positions.

### 1. Yacht Staff

Female Thai national. Must speak good English and like the water and the outdoors. Restaurant or hotel background and driving license are advantages. Training supplied.

### 2. Office Staff – Junior

Must speak good English and have computer skills: email, Word and spreadsheets. A driving license is an advantage. Training supplied.

### 3. Trainee Yacht Captain

Must speak good English and like the water and the outdoors. Advantages: Experience on the water or sailing and driving license.

Tel: 076-232960. Fax: 076-232961. Email: yachtpro@sailing-thailand.com

## PROGRAMMER

wanted.

- Thai national
- Good knowledge of Visual C
- Good English
- Driving license

To join a small team in Phuket working on international standard software. Excellent salary (including accommodation) based on experience.

Pls send resume and expected salary. Tel: 076-313-137, 01-8912934. Fax: 076-313269. Email: admin@aplusplussoftware.com

## 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.

## Employment Wanted

### GERMAN COOK

coming to Thailand in November and looking for job in the gastronomic field in Phuket. I speak English, Thai and Spanish. Email: peter.oahburner@freenet.de

### SECRETARY

in Phuket. Female, 31. Seven years of marketing management with 7-Eleven, now secretary to the project manager at the new airport in Bangkok. Would like to change for private reasons to Phuket. Good written and spoken English and good computer skills. Would be interested only in offers where the salary would be more than 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-9203031. Email: info@shelldivers.com

### 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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-471-6524. Email: seansapstead@hotmail.com



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## Articles for Sale

### KITESURF KITES

in excellent condition, for sale. The 12-square-meter size costs US\$425; the 15sqm size costs US\$500. Tel: 04-8387214, 01-0903730.

### GOLF CLUBS

Must sell secondhand golf clubs at a very low price. Tel: 09-6450931.

## Births



### New Arrival!

Sanda Fein, daughter of Phuket Gazette desk editor Stephen Fein and his wife Kanchana "Piya" Fein, was born weighing 3 kilograms at Mission Phuket Hospital on the morning of September 3.

## Business Opportunities

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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### INVESTOR/PARTNER

wanted for a good, new restaurant & beer garden. Email: phuketopportunity@hotmail.com

### SHOP FOR SALE/

lease. Internet/tour shop, with everything included, in a prime Karon location. No key money. Ready to go! Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-7428743. Email: scareface112@hotmail.com

### 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 for more information. Tel: 01-8267129.

### BAKERY FOR SALE

in Surin, near the main road and 7-Eleven, with 3-year lease, at 700,000 baht; rent is 7,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-6760125.

### 50-SEAT

restaurant in a good location in Kata, available with a 5-year lease. It has 4 rooms upstairs, a bar and a pool table. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6833694. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

### MARINE BUSINESS

partner. Brit, recently settled in Phuket and with many years' experience in the luxury marine industry, seeks active business partnership/investment in growing marine-related business. Experienced in running, equipping & maintaining power and sailing yachts from auxiliary craft to 60m+ yachts, project management, engineering & electronics systems, large yacht refit work. Contacts worldwide. Open to suggestions. Tel: 01-0873301. Email: peterw@procom.in.th

### SHOP OR OFFICE

near 7-Eleven and Laguna, brand new 5m x 15m. 2,000 baht per month plus building costs. Call Khun Anong. Tel: 01-7378612.

### BUNGALOWS

& restaurant for rent/sale. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8946686. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketnatureplace.com

### 15-ROOM SEAVIEW

hotel for lease. 2-year-old, fully furnished and equipped hotel. 15 lovely, well-designed, air-conditioned rooms with fantastic sea view on 2 rai of land with enough empty space for a swimming pool, spa, restaurant or bungalows. Asking 1.175 million baht per year; no key money or monthly rent. Please contact for details or pictures. Tel: 076-296621, 01-691-6147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

### CAR AND BIKE

rental company. Phuket's largest independant car company is now available for sale. The extensive stock is available freehold and main road premises are available for lease or freehold. Tel: 076-398513, 07-2837161. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com For further details, please see our website at: www.karonproperty.com/mikes\_bikes.html

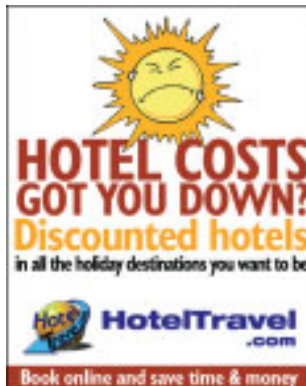
### PIANO BAR IN KARON

Restaurant for rent on a 3-year lease for 10,000 baht per month. It has 3 bedrooms, plus shower rooms and toilets. Asking for 950,000 baht in key money. Please call K. Tony for more information. Tel: 01-4778744.

### GOGO BAR FOR SALE

A fully equipped and managed gogo bar on Soi Bangla, (just 20m away) with a 5-year-and-3-month lease. It consists of 2 buildings with 2 floors in use, and a 360sqm entertainment area. Selling for a good price: 2.9 million baht. For more info, contact Khun Chakrit. Tel: 07-885-0055, 076-345155. Email: newphuket@yahoo.com

## Business Products & Services



### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

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English computer technician can provide new or used GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4735080.

### PROFESSIONAL

data recovery. We do all kinds of computer magic. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-383575, 06-6827277. For further details, please see our website: www.phuket-data-wizards.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### INTERNATIONAL

driver's license. 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years; 6,000 baht valid up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Free pick-up & delivery, open 365 days a year. Call Christine. Tel: 04-0068736, 04-6906612.

## Personal Services

### ENGLISH TUITION

Private lessons available with TEFL-qualified native speaker. Tel: 07-8887676. Email: homeawaypatong@hotmail.com

### DOG DRYER

for grooming, includes table and arm saddle. New. Contact K. Anong. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7378612.

### WANT TO TALK ?

I want to listen! Canadian university counseling student requires volunteer native English-speaking Western clients. Let's take positive psychology into action! I will help you to explore problem areas in your life - big or small - AND your hidden strengths and opportunities. Excellent problem-solving skills building for ANY farang! Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2838313. Email: scottthgoodman@gmail.com

### DIVING INSTRUCTOR

couple. PADI-OWSI-Nitrox-Instructor couple - she Japanese, he German - are looking for work, long term if possible. Available from Jan/Feb 2006. Can teach in Japanese, English and German. DC work is also welcome. Photo and more details can be emailed. Please contact for more info. Tel: 17-04089414. Email: b-c-l@netcologne.de

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

### MISS SWEETIE PIE

If you are a real Miss Sweetie Pie looking for a nice, charming, stable and genuine guy, please let me know you with pics. I prefer good life at home and am now seeking a sweet lady to share true love and happiness with. Email: toby20g@yahoo.com

### BUSINESSMAN

seeks Thai lady. Professional, semi-retired American businessman - 41 years old, nice looking, loves sports, travel, and fine dining - seeks smart, intelligent, romantic, affectionate, passionate Thai lady for friendship or companionship. She must be 20 to 30 years old, slim and pretty. Please send email and pictures. Email: diver10@02.ie







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