

1550 447 9149
Rak Mak! Awards
More winners on page 16!
Yes, we love Phuket!

New showroom on Bypass road
FAGOR
Tel: 076-261-695
Fax: 076-261-895
www.fagorthailand.co.th

BAAN RIM
Resv: 0-7634-0789, 0-7634-1768

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 12 Issue 42 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555 October 15 - 21, 2005 Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 20 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The Nation

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Brit jailed for six years drug offense; Gov orders halt to construction of hillside homes. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Pier pressure in Rawai. **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE ISLAND: Culture comes to Phuket City streets. **Page 8**

AROUND THE REGION: Rocking on Samui style. **Page 9**

PEOPLE: Getting on famously: Keith Floyd; Weddings. **Pages 10 & 11**

LIFESTYLE: Backing out in Fein form. **Pages 12 & 13**

SPA MAGIC: Evolve@Spa. **Page 15**

GOOD LIVING: Phuket a food and wine backwater no more. **Page 16**

AFTER DARK: Calling Danny Boys and Girls in Patong. **Page 17**

FIRST PERSON: Why hotels should give up rooms for tsunami victims' kin. **Page 25**

BUSINESS: Oil pressure affecting building costs; Money Talks. **Page 27**

SPORT: Ballroom blitz; Phi Phi sailing rally. **Pages 28 & 29**

PROPERTY: Home of the Week: Nai Harn; Decor: Chairs; Construction: Laguna. **Pages 30-33**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 14; PHUKET DIARY, TSONWDINGS 18; TAKE A BREAK 19 & 20; OUTSIDE IN, BOOKS 21; YOUTH 'N ASIA, MOMMA DUCK 22; HOROSCOPES, THE TIME MACHINE 23; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 24; ISSUES & ANSWERS 25; COMPUTERS 26; CLASSIFIEDS 34-43.

Mom Tri plans to open school

College to be similar to Chiang Mai's Prem Center

By Andy Johnstone

KATA: Famed architect and developer ML Tridhossyuth Devakul has unveiled plans to establish a new International Baccalaureate (IB) school in Phuket.

Mom Tri, as he is widely known, was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony on October 6 for the Villas Grand Cru, a new residential project in the Kata Hills.

In 2001, Mom Tri founded the Prem Tinsulanonda International School (Prem Center) in Chiang Mai, an IB school with a student body of around 400.

Various sites are being looked at in Phuket for the school, planning of which Mom Tri described as being "in the early stages" and subject to a feasibility study. He did suggest, however, that a 600-rai parcel of land near the Trisara resort in Cherng Talay is a likely contender.

APPROACHED

Mom Tri said that when Dulwich International College – now the British Curriculum International School (BCIS) – was experiencing difficulties earlier this year, a number of parents of pupils approached him to suggest that he develop an IB school in Phuket along the lines of the Prem Center.

He said that negotiations are currently taking place with Pamela Kelly-Wetzell, the Director of Phuket's Horizons Learning Center.

Mrs Wetzell confirmed to the Gazette that "active discussions" are taking place, and added that the results of the negoti-



ML Tridosyudh Devakul: Dulwich parents suggested the idea.

ations could involve a merger between Horizons and the Prem Center, with current Horizons pupils studying at the proposed school.

She said that although they are very much on the drawing board, initial plans for the school – which would eventually take as many as 680 students – include an "integrated community" with the school as its heart, as well as a residential development, sports facilities and a library.

Mrs Wetzell said, "It is my plan to offer a full IB program and school, which means the [IB]

Primary, Middle and Diploma Programs for children from three to 18 years old.

"The IB is the cutting-edge international curriculum these days, and it's also the one that's in place at Mom Tri's Prem Center in Chiang Mai, so I think it would be a good 'fit' for our two schools to get together in some way.

"These things are very fluid, but both parties are discussing possible development plans and designs for, hopefully, [construction to start] late next year," she said.

Bar busted for under-age male prostitution

PATONG: Kathu Police raided the Uncle Charlie's Boys night-club on Soi Paradise on the night of October 8 and arrested two employees on charges of procuring, including arranging the provision of sexual services by boys under 15 years of age.

The bar owners, a father-and-son team, were later arrested on six charges, including violations of the Penal Code and Labor Act.

Police have also requested the Governor to close down the club permanently.

Pol Lt Pratuang Pholmana of the Kathu Police said the raid began with an operation by undercover female officers who entered the bar posing as customers seeking to buy sex.

SEXUAL SERVICES

In the bar they found some 20 alleged male prostitutes, some lined up on a dancing stage wearing only white shorts affixed with employee numbers.

Using banknotes with pre-recorded serial numbers, the officers paid for sexual services from six boys under 18 years of age, including two 14-year-olds, and then made the arrests.

Police arrested Ritt Tangsab, 40, and Direk Jongchareon, 23, on procuring charges as defined in Section 282 of the penal code. When it involves prostitutes not over the age of 15, this is punishable by up to 20 years in jail; and fine of up to 40,000 baht.

The fact that the boys willingly engaged in prostitution has little bearing on the charges, including such Labor Act violations as employing service staff under 18 years of age and failing to keep personnel files, he said.

Both men carried the gov-

Continued on page 2

For the Finest Real Estate in Phuket
Tel: 01 539 8118, 01 397 7899, Email: Phuket@engelvoelkers.com
Austria Dubai England France Germany Italy Portugal South Africa Spain USA
ENGEL & VÖLKERS

Briton, 33, jailed for dealing in Ecstasy pills

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Briton Jason Crosby pleaded guilty to charges of possession of 50 *ya E* (Ecstasy) tablets with intent to sell and was sentenced to nearly seven years in jail and fined 390,000 baht by Phuket Provincial Court on October 5.

The court initially sentenced him to 13 years and eight months in prison and a 780,000-baht fine but, in accordance with standard practice, Judge Somsak Laksanasomboon halved the sentence because Crosby had pleaded guilty.

Crosby, 33, was arrested on April 22 last year at the Scott Bar in Patong by Pol Capt Pongsak Petchnongkhum, Deputy Inspector of Investigation of Police Region 8.

Capt Pongsak, who testified in the case, told the *Gazette* after the sentencing that he had arrested Crosby in a sting operation at the bar.

After Crosby sold 30 hits of *ya E* for 800 baht apiece to a man the police had pose as a buyer, Capt Pongsak, who was working undercover, moved in and made the arrest.

"He admitted that the drugs belonged to him and that he had smuggled them into the country from Britain.

"When we searched his room on Nanai Rd we found 20 more tablets in a large bottle.

"Based on the large size of the bottle, I actually think he smuggled in about 1,000 pills. We also found a lot of other drug paraphernalia in his room," said the officer.

Crosby immediately began serving his sentence at Phuket Provincial Prison, where he has been in custody since his arrest, the court having denied his attempts to get bail.

The time already served since his arrest more than 17 months ago will not be deducted from his sentence.



New banknote issued to commemorate the abolition of slavery

BANGKOK: The Bank of Thailand will launch a new 100-baht banknote on October 21 to commemorate the abolition of slavery in Thailand 100 years ago. The side of the banknote featuring HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej will remain unchanged.

The reverse side, however, will feature a picture of HM King Chulalongkorn Rama V, who reigned from 1868 to 1910, standing above the slaves he freed. The launch will come two days before Chulalongkorn Memorial Day, on October 23.

Businesswoman murder probe draws a blank

PATONG: Police say that so far there has been a lack of concrete results in their hunt for the killer of Nilasnuch Tongnun.

K. Nilasnuch, 27, was gunned down while chatting with her uncle and neighbors outside the Ericsson Guesthouse on Patong's Nanai Road on the evening of July 8.

Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang, of Kathu Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "We have conducted a search of our files but have not come up with matching

fingerprints. We have also investigated the cellphone number [the suspected gunman] used to speak to one of the guesthouse maids. It turns out that the suspect used a non-registered SIM card. We have written to AIS [the telephone company] asking them for information on the number, but they have not replied."

He said that he could not estimate how long it might take to track down the murderer.

K. Nilasnuch, from Udon Thani, was shot four times by a

gunman wearing a full-face motorcycle helmet. She was hit in the chest, in the left shoulder and twice in the back. The killer was then driven away by an accomplice, also wearing a full-face helmet, on a blue Honda Wave motorbike.

After the murder, Pol Lt Col Boonlert Onklang, of Kathu Police Station, told the *Gazette* the victim had been planning to open a spa and silk shop in the new Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong.

— *Athiga Jundee*

Bar busted in prostitution raid

From page 1

ernment's "bail insurance" and were released on bonds of 200,000 baht.

Police later arrested bar owner Tawee Kingjampa, 59, and his son Tiwa, 35, who were not in the venue at the time of the raid. They were charged with one violation of the Penal Code, for procuring, and five violations of the Labor Act. After an initial court hearing on October 10, both were released on bail, the amount of which was not disclosed.

Lt Pratuang said that the pair denied the charges and refused to comment further, saying they would speak on the matter only in court.

One of the arresting officers, Pol Maj Serm Kwannimit, said the arrest came as part of a government crackdown on bars that provide child prostitutes to customers.

Kathu Police Superintendent Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen said an inspection of bars in Kathu revealed Uncle Charlie's Boys was the only one offering the services of underage male prostitutes.

Kathu Police have filed a request that the bar be closed permanently. The decision as to whether to close, and for how long, rests with the Governor, who has yet to inform Kathu Police of his decision.

SCAM ARTIST SPARKS KAMALA ALERT

KAMALA: Police are warning people to beware of a scam artist posing as an electrician after one foreign resident was bilked out of 1,000 baht by the man.

Pol Capt Pongnarin Sutin of Kamala Police Sub-District told the *Gazette* that a man posing as an electrician went to the home of a foreign resident and told the man's Thai wife that he was there to inspect the wiring in the house.

Capt Pongnarin said the couple, who live in a rented house, may have believed the con man had been hired by their landlord, which is why they allowed him to enter the premises.

After the cursory "inspection", the man demanded 200

baht for his services. After being given a 1,000 baht note, he departed swiftly on a motorbike without giving change.

The victims described the con artist as probably Thai, overweight, bearded, short-haired and wearing a red shirt. Police said that many Kamala residents had fallen for the same scam.

He warned residents to ask workmen for identification before allowing them to enter their homes and also to check with their landlords to confirm whether any

work had been contracted and who was required to pay for it.

"In this case they lost only 1,000 baht – but they could have lost their lives," he said, reiterating that it was unwise to allow strangers to enter one's home.

When asked by the *Gazette* if there had been any progress in the investigation, Capt Pongnarin said, "We have notified both the Kathu Police and the Kamala Sub-District, but have been unsuccessful so far in our efforts to track down the culprit."

Cheaper landing fees for charters

PHUKET: In an effort to attract more flights to the island, Airports of Thailand (AOT) has halved landing fees for all international charter flights arriving at Phuket until December 31. The reduction lowers the cost for a Boeing

747 to a maximum of 25,000 baht per landing.

About 40 charter flights are expected to land in Phuket during the three-month period.

Most will be from Russia, South Korea and Scandinavia.

Patong Harbor

A tropical luxury lifestyle investment. A residential condominium project of 73 units only 2.5 kilometers from the heart of Patong. Our full resort facilities include:

- 24-hour security, restaurant and pool bar, convenience store, massage and spa, fully-equipped gym, swimming pools, waterfalls, BBQ areas, meeting rooms, a business center, Internet and more.

For more details, please call 07-0778454 or email: patongharborview@aol.com

ANDAMAN
Lighting Systems

Are you in the dark about lighting?

andamanlighting.com
Tel: 076 254 826 Fax: 076 254 827

Skin Tightening and Contouring - without surgery -

By American Board Certified Dermatologist
"We're recognized as the No. 1 health institute that performed the most Thermage procedures worldwide."

- Botox, Collagen
- Laser Rejuvenation
- Body Contouring

APEX
Aesthetic Institute

Only a single treatment session

• 3rd Fl. Central Festival Phuket Tel: 039-349-6213 • Call Center: 0 2664-8907
• 3rd Fl. Emporium Tel: 0 2664-8903-4 • 3rd Fl. Siam Center Tel: 0 2664-786-7
• 1st Fl. Royal Garden Pattaya Tel: 038-711043-8

Mystery surrounds bizarre death

PATONG: Bizarre theories surround the fate of Rassamee Pholrat, 22, from Udon Thani, who was found dead on the morning of October 5 at the Safari Elephant Camp on Siriraj Rd, between Karon and Patong.

Police have speculated that she may have been assaulted by unknown assailants who tried to rape her, and was then crushed to death by one of the elephants.

K. Rassamee was found with the right side of her chest and rib cage crushed and a blunt-trauma injury above her right eye.

There were also injuries to her back and legs, consistent, police said, with her having been dragged along the ground.

Her body was found at 7 am by Sompong Pinthong, 28, and Sutin Pheta-wut, 37, both mahouts at the camp. Six elephants live at the camp, which closes at 5:30 pm every day.

She was clothed only in a brown singlet and one shoe. A pair of trousers, underpants and another shoe, all of which police believe belonged to her, were found near her body.

A small silk purse, also found near her body, was empty apart from four one-baht coins and two condoms.

Pol Lt Pratuang Pholmana, of Kathu Police Station, said that she may have been injured or killed before being dumped at the elephant camp. He added that the cause of death had not yet been established, nor whether K. Rassamee had been raped.

However, he added that K. Rassamee's parents refused to allow her body to be sent to Bangkok for more extensive tests, and had their daughter cremated on October 9.

— Anongnat Sartpisut

Viagra overdose may have caused death of Finn, 47

PATONG: Pekka Juhani Laakso, 47, from Finland, was found dead in his room at the Sun Sea & Sand Hotel on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd on October 6, seemingly from an overdose of Viagra.

Pol Lt Padungpong Sukkaew told the *Gazette* that he had received a call at 3:30 pm from Preecha Nuwongsri, the hotel's manager, telling him that a corpse had been found in one of the hotel's rooms.

In the room, investigators found evidence of used Viagra and stomach medicine in a bin.

Mr Laakso was estimated to have been dead for about 36 hours when he was found, his hands still tightly gripping the bedsheets.

A doctor, called from Pa-



HRH presides over opening of royal room at hospital

HRH Princess Soamsavali visited the Bangkok Phuket Hospital on October 10 to preside over the official opening of a new facility at the hospital – the King Carl Gustaf Conference Room.

She is pictured in the hospital's Tsunami Memorial Gallery examining photographs of the tsunami and the hospital's role in helping people during the immediate aftermath.

Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf agreed to allow his name to be used for the conference room during an official visit to the hospital on February 18, accompanied by Queen Silvia, when the Royal Couple thanked staff for their efforts in treating victims of the tsunami.

Gov halts work on 80-house project

By Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

RASSADA: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura and Muang District Chief Wirawat Janpen on October 5 went to Soi Siang Tai to order a halt to the construction of an 80-unit residential housing project on Toh Sae Hill, citing seven different building code violations.

Gov Udomsak said his inspection of the site followed complaints by Soi Siang Tai residents, lodged with the Damrongtham Center, which serves as the provincial ombudsman's office.

The complaints alleged that inadequate safeguards had caused flash-flooding and mudslides to the densely-settled area below the project during the heavy rains of September 18 and 19.

The mudslide passed through the homes of some residents, and floodwater blocked one of the two inbound lanes on Thepkra-sattri Rd, onto which the narrow soi empties.

"A subsequent inspection found the project in violation of seven building codes aimed at environmental protection," the



Gov Udomsak (right) instructs the project engineer to stop work.

Governor informed a project engineer, who agreed to halt work without argument.

The violations found were:

- Failure to terrace the hill to accommodate building foundations;
- Failure to carry out piling work;
- Failure to construct a barrier wall to prevent mudslides;
- Failure to include a sediment collection pool for surface runoff;
- Failure to install zinc fencing;
- Failure to place metal plates over the gap at the project entrance to divert runoff away from the soi below.

The Governor added that the project had never been approved by the Rassada Tambon Administration Organization.

Despite the damage caused, and the Governor's own strong statements about cracking down on illegal developments, he said the project would be allowed to go ahead once the developer,

Phuket Park Hill Co, assembles all the required paperwork.

It was not clear whether the company would be required to compensate the residents of the area whose homes and property were damaged by the illegal construction.

— Editorial p24

IN BRIEF

Sales of gasohol soar in Phuket

PHUKET: Vichitpong Ceanthongsub, Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) Phuket Depot Manager, told the *Gazette* that since September 16, when Phuket PTT gas stations launched gasohol on the island, some 80% of 95-octane gas users have switched to the new fuel.

He was speaking during a visit to the island on October 9 by Energy Minister Viset Jupiban, who stressed that gasohol saves users money and also reduces pollution. Gasohol is made up of pure ethyl alcohol derived from sugar cane, blended with gasoline in a 1:9 ratio.

Four Phuket hotels get five-star rating

PHUKET: The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, the Dusit Laguna Resort, the Sheraton Grand Laguna Phuket and the Mangosteen Resort & Spa have each been awarded a coveted five-star rating.

The accolade was awarded by the Foundation for Standards and Human Resources Development in the Service and Tourism Industry (Hotel Standards).

RELIABLE SERVICE

NOTEBOOK
DESKTOP
PALM & POCKET PC
COMPUTER ACCESSORIES

Big C (Basement floor)
T/F: 0-7624-6699
Phuket City:
T: 0-7621-8936-7
F: 0-7621-8802
www.buscomputer.com
email: buscom@j-net.com

BUS COMPUTER AND SERVICE CO., LTD.

TREE TOPS ARASIA

Membership is now available for

Evolve@Spa Arasia Mom Tri's Boathouse Restaurant

For more details please contact: Evolve@Spa Arasia
Email: spa@treetops-arasia.com
Tel: 076 271 271 ext. 8900.

125 Moo 3, Surin Beach, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherrngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

Much of the attention on Phuket's rehabilitation since the tsunami has focused on Patong and Kamala, but other parts of the island were damaged – though much less severely – and these, too, are well along with plans for improvements. **Sangkhae Leelanapaporn** looks at two of these areas: Chalong and Rawai-Nai Harn.

Chalong and Rawai to get a 45m-baht boost

Chalong and Rawai are about to become more attractive for tourists thanks to new plans by the two areas' Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*).

Although Chalong and Rawai are relatively quiet, many tourists go to Chalong Bay to board transport to outlying islands such as Koh Hei (Coral Island) or Koh Racha, or pass by Rawai Beach en route to Laem Phromthep, prompting plans to raise the profiles of these two areas.

In Phuket, the sea may beckon, but Chalong Bay's shallow water is not good for swimming and conceals dead coral below. It is seen, however, as a suitable place for a new yacht marina and a fishing pier.

Dechakanee Leelanont, Chief Administration Officer of the Chalong *OrBorTor*, explained that the proposed 300-berth Chalong Bay Marina, financed by the central government, will be built over an area of about 15 to 20 rai near the Kan Eang Restaurant.

He said the main target market for the new marina will be boat owners who already favor Chalong Bay as an anchorage.

"I believe yachties will be happy to use the planned marina because it will be more comfortable than mooring out in Chalong Bay and it will be easier for them to come ashore than by dinghy. We plan to build fuel and water supply facilities there, too," he added.

"This is a long-term project. Although we requested a 70 million-baht budget, the central government allocated just 45 million baht.

"We are now developing the master plan and looking for a company to design it.

"It will be less expensive than other marinas in Phuket because it will be government-owned. We will send the master plan, expected to be completed in the coming three months, to the Budget Office in Bangkok, and request a budget increase.

"The government favors a state-owned marina in the Chalong area, even if there are already many private marinas around," K. Dechakanee said.

While the marina plan seems to find favor with Bangkok, this is not the case with the fishing pier. "We got 3 million baht from the government's tsunami recovery budget for a new pier in the Soi Palai area, near a mangrove forest, to replace one that

Lake public park, improvements to the beachfront, a new 300-meter pier to replace one that was smashed by the tsunami and, biggest of all, a massive botanical garden, bigger than any in Asia.

The total cost for these projects, should they all be realized, will be well over a billion baht.

Justifying the amount of development in Rawai, Aroon

lion baht. A further 11 million baht has been allocated to develop the Rawai beachfront. This plan will include making a special area for food stalls at the south end of the beach, a promenade and a parking lot.

"We used to get a lot of complaints from tourists and residents about the number of vendors selling food on the beach,

Sea Gypsy village at the north end of Rawai Beach. This will replace the old cement-and-wood pier, which was built some 30 years earlier. Over time it had deteriorated, and it finally disappeared with the tsunami.

"The cost of the new pier, about 300m long and 3m wide, is covered by a central government budget of 37.9 million baht. We received another 11 million baht from Governor Udomsak [Uswangkura, which was given while he was visiting] Japan last month.

"The donated money was to be allocated as he saw fit and he chose to put it toward this project," K. Aroon explained.

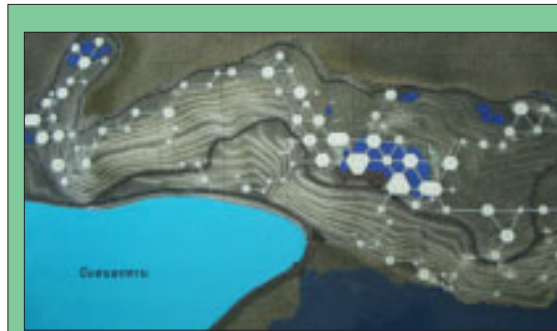
A mooring will be created next to the pier for fishing boats and tour boats.

"We plan to have all the fishing boats and speed-boats moor over there because we would like to see the beach clear.

"The ropes that tie the boats to the shore at the moment make it difficult for tourists to enjoy a stroll on the sand," K. Aroon explained.

"There will be benches on the pier, where people can relax or fish," he said, "and near the pier, there will be shops where tourists will be able to buy souvenirs. That is expected to generate income for the locals."

At the end of this year, the *OrBorTor* will sign up a private contractor and the pier should be finished before high season next year, he said.



View from above of a model of the proposed botanical gardens, with Nong Harn Lake (light blue) to the left and Nai Harn Bay to the right.

had been used mainly by fishermen before it was destroyed by the tsunami.

"We are looking for a contractor now, but it is difficult to find one because of the low budget," he said. Twice already, the *OrBorTor* has called for tenders, without any takers.

"We are considering whether to increase the budget or reduce the planned length of the pier because the cost of construction is so high now," K. Dechakanee added.

While the Chalong *OrBorTor* has proposed two projects, Rawai is pitching in with four – the nearly complete Nai Harn

Soros, President of the Rawai *OrBorTor*, told the *Gazette*, "The Rawai population, based on registration, is 12,000 people, but counting the number of expatriates and other Thai people who have recently moved to the area but have not registered, the population is probably about 40,000 people."

K. Aroon said the Nai Harn Lake park is nearly complete. It includes a playground and a jogging track around the lake. "Construction is already about 70% complete. I see that place as a hub for Rawai people to relax and exercise." Once complete, the park is expected to cost 40 mil-

blocking the view. After a few years of discussion, the vendors were moved from the beachfront to an area we set up for them at Klong Pakbang, at the south end of the beach," K. Aroon said.

"In the near future we can start to improve the beachfront," he added. "We plan to move all the vendors from their current temporary location and, later, develop a parking lot there. We will clear the beachfront for the tourists and build a well-lit promenade for people to use. We have already hired a private company to design it."

Nearly 50 million baht is to be spent on a new pier near the

Expert Property Advice

- Sales (land & property)
- Consultancy
- Rentals
- Estate management
- Rental management
- Relocation advice
- Maintenance, repairs & construction

Local knowledge.
Global presence.

LYNX management group **Chesterton** RENTALS

076 239944 / 01 893 3434

info@lynxmgmt.com

www.phuket-villas.com

www.phuket-homes.com

HOUSE & POOL
CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD. since 1995
Thai - German Management

- * Private & commercial construction
- * Renovation / alteration
- * Swimming pools & Jacuzzis
- * Architecture design
- * Building permits

85/21 Moo 7 Sai Yaun Rob Koh Road
Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-288845, 388078
Fax: 076-288846
English: 01-8087410 Thai: 01-7192819
E-Mail: info@siam-business.com
www.siam-business.com

True Value. Quality for people with EXCLUSIVE lifestyle

Automotive

Lawn & Garden Outdoor Living

Housewares

Professional Tools

No matter whether you are a car lover, a gardener, a home lover or a professional, you can find quality tools and accessories available only at True Value – the store you can trust.

Tel: 076 249-504
Email: info@truevalue.co.th
www.truevalue.co.th

True Value stores in Phuket: Patong, Kamala, Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn.

Logos: Turtle Wax, Gilmour, iQloa, Master Mechanic, Schlage, GreenThumb.



Boats will be moved away from the beach to leave it clear for strollers, says Rawai *OrBorTor* Chairman Aroon Soros.

By far the biggest and most ambitious plan for the Rawai area, however, is a proposal for a horticultural garden similar to Singapore's Botanic Gardens, but much larger – as conceived by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The *OrBorTor* is seeking a budget of a billion baht for this project, to be constructed on 271 rai atop the promontory at the south end of Nai Harn Beach, where the three white power-generating windmills now stand.

The biggest hurdle to this project is likely to be obtaining the necessary funds from central government which, in recent months, has been taking a scythe to just about every budget proposed by Phuket.



A set of steps is all that remains of the old pier at Rawai Beach, but a 300-meter-long replacement is on its way.

Legend Revival
The world's first cultural spa

Sukko

www.sukkospa.com

Opening in Winter 2005

Be the first in the world to experience the unique Thai cultural service and design with three categories of rooms and 160 treatment beds
In the new five-star dayspa in Phuket with more than 12000 sqm. spa area and full wellness facilities



Sukko Cultural Spa & Wellness
Sukko Spa Executive
Sukko Spa Academy
Sukko Gallery

Bangkok Office :
Tel. (66) 2251-3118-21 Fax (66) 2251-3169
e-mail : sales_bkk@sukkospa.com

Phuket Office :
Tel. (66) 7623-5240 Fax (66) 7623-5261
e-mail : sukko@sukkospa.com
5/10 Chaofa Rd. (west) Phuket Thailand 83000

Queer News

Not so sty-lish behavior

KHON KAEN: A man accused by villagers of having sex with a neighbor's pig has agreed to pay the owner 500 baht in compensation. Sa-ngad Hapanna, 39, a resident of Baan Tonnoi in Muang district, filed a complaint with the village headman after neighbors alerted her the night before that they saw the man having sex with one of her pigs.

When she went to see what had happened, K. Sa-ngad said she saw the man, identified only as Chid, 30, taking a bath beside her pig pen, wearing only underpants.

"One of my sows was found walking nearby outside the pen with swollen genitals. My neighbors insisted they saw the man having sex with the pig after they came out to see why it was squealing," she said.

A handful of lead-tree leaves was found nearby. The neighbors said they had been used to lure the pig out of its sty.

Chid denied having sex with the pig. He said he was only washing his feet beside the pig pen after having gone fishing that night. It was not reported why he chose the pig pen as a place to bathe.

After negotiations, moderated by village headman Pramuan Laobaankhor, Chid agreed to pay K. Sa-ngad 500 baht to settle the matter.

Source: The Nation

We Love Phuket! campaign



Vilairat Santitanasarn (left) collected her prize of dinner for two at the Phujsa Nirvana Restaurant from Angkana 'Koy' Kaewpradit, *Gazette* Sales Rep – Website Products.



Aree Cheewamaitreewong (right) collected her prize of a two-night stay for two at the Absolute Sea Pearl Beach Resort, Patong, from Puwanart 'Billy' Pogsakul, *Gazette* Accounting Officer.

Scam artist sparks alert in Kamala

KAMALA: Police have warned people to beware of a scam artist posing as an electrician after one foreign resident was bilked out of 1,000 baht by the man.

Pol Capt Pongnarin Sutin, of Kamala Police Station, told the *Gazette* that a man posing as an electrician went to the home of a foreign resident and told the man's Thai wife that he was there to inspect the wiring in the house.

Capt Pongnarin said the couple, who live in a rented house, may have believed the man had been hired by their landlord, which is why

they allowed him to enter the premises.

After the cursory "inspection", the man demanded 200 baht for his services. After being given a 1,000 baht note, he departed swiftly on a motorbike without giving change.

The victims described the con artist as probably Thai, overweight, bearded, short-haired and wearing a red shirt. Police said that many Kamala residents had fallen for the same scam.

He warned residents to ask workmen for identification before allowing them to enter their homes and also to check with their

landlords to confirm whether any work had been contracted and who was required to pay for it.

"In this case they lost only 1,000 baht – but they could have lost their lives," he said, reiterating that it was unwise to allow strangers to enter one's home.

When asked by the *Gazette* if there had been any progress in the investigation, Capt Pongnarin said, "We have notified both the Kathu Police and the Kamala Police Station, but have been unsuccessful so far in our efforts to track down the culprit."

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

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



Govt to scrap medical malpractice law

Parliament has approved in principle an amendment to the National Health Security Act that would free doctors from medical malpractice liability.

The Act in its current form states that victims of malpractice should receive compensation from a fund earmarked for that purpose, the fund having the right to demand repayment from doctors proven to have been responsible for damage to a patient's health.

Even before it became law, doctors protested the Act and threatened to begin practicing "defensive medicine" if it wasn't removed from the statutes. They said the article left them professionally insecure and under constant risk of litigation.

Consumer rights advocates worry that the removal of the article will adversely affect patients' rights. They also point out that the proposed changes would free doctors at private hospitals from any liability for malpractice or professional negligence.

The Cabinet has long favored scrapping the liability statutes. Parliament is now finalizing details of the changes to the Act.

Pilot plan sinks: A pilot project to replace diesel oil with natural gas in fishing boats has failed, the Southern Fishery Association (SFA) said.

SFA Secretary-General Suraphol Seepasert said an indicator of the project's failure was that the state oil and gas company PTT was unable to supply natural gas to two boats taking part in the project, intended to keep Thai fisherman at sea in the face of rising oil prices.

Another major obstacle the project faced was that it required considerable investment to replace oil tanks with gas tanks, and that most fishermen were not prepared to make the switch without financial support.

Brutal assault: After his arrest in Petchabun Province, a construction contractor who confessed to sexually assaulting a 14-year-old schoolgirl in Lop Buri province and leaving her unconscious by the roadside said he felt no remorse.

Wirat Rakseenil, 37, said he became overcome with lust at seeing her cycling to school and forced her into the woods, where he hit her over the head with a stick "more times than he could count" until she fell unconscious.

Dr Supoj Samritwanicha, Director of Yanhee Hospital, said the girl would survive the injuries, which included a broken jaw and smashed cheekbones.

"The attacker probably tried to rape her but could not," he said, adding that no seminal fluid was found in her vagina despite bruising to her pubic area.

A police re-enactment of the crime had to be canceled when some of the 1,000 angry



Residents of Ban Na Tapho in Tak's Sam Ngao District cut coconut trees to build a temporary bridge across Nam Yan Canal after floodwater from the Wang River swept away the old bridge.

onlookers began hurling rocks and bottles at the accused.

Domestic front: On "World Habitat Day" some 2,000 Thai slum-dwellers converged on the UN Building in Bangkok to protest forced evictions of 33 slum communities to make way for large infrastructure projects.

At a seminar held in the building the same day, Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said Thailand had set a goal of building one million houses for slum people within three years, in line with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's pledge to rid the kingdom of slums by 2008.

Anna Tubaijuka, Director of the UN's Habitat agency, praised Thailand's solution to the slum problem, saying it would transform slums into urban communities. She also praised the government for its non-violent practices.

During the protest, a scuffle broke out between the protesters and security forces outside the building; no injuries were reported.

Toystore: US retailing giant Toys 'R' Us will open its first Thai branch in the Central Bang Na shopping mall in Bangkok, a company official said.

The store will become one of the US\$11-billion New Jersey-based company's 1,500 outlets worldwide. The company is market leader in both the United States and Japan.

Store operator Toys Retailing (Thailand) was established last November with registered capital of four million baht. Thai shareholders hold a 70% stake in the local company, with foreigners owning the remainder.

Diving for justice: The Pattaya Court acquitted British diving instructor Paul Cryne on charges of murdering compatriot Robert Henry, whose bullet-ridden body was found in a ditch outside Pattaya in October 2003.

Henry's girlfriend Wilai Chiewcharn, a 26-year-old for-

mer bar hostess, had claimed Cryne killed Henry because he was jealous and wanted her for himself. Police said they found Henry's blood in Cryne's car, which he had suspiciously sent to a garage to be re-upholstered shortly after the murder.

Neither Wilai nor a foren-

sic expert appeared to testify at the trial, the last day of which the public prosecutor also failed to attend.

Cryne, who is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* for becoming the first person to ever complete a 24-hour underwater swim, was sent back to prison to

await a decision as to whether to appeal the verdict.

Ambitious plan: Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary Kasama Varawarn na Ayudhya said a new strategy to promote Mandarin and improve the teaching of the language would soon be submitted to Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang for approval.

The plan calls for each educational district in the country to have at least one high school with a Mandarin class by 2007, and for all high schools to offer classes in the language by 2008.

K. Kasama said the government would help the schools with regard to Mandarin teachers and teaching materials during the first three years. After that, she said they would have to start running the Mandarin classes on their own.

A "Mandarin Teaching Fair" will be held in December, when Chinese President Hu Jintao visits Thailand, she said.

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

Phukana

WINE & MUSIC

YOUR NEW ENTERTAINMENT CHOICE
LIVE BAND FROM THE PHILIPPINES

5-STAR PLACE WITH PARKING LOT
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY
FROM 6:30 P.M. TILL 1:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT 6 MAELUAN RD. PHUKET TOWN
RESERVATION PLEASE CALL (076) 234-495



Cultural life on the street

Revitalizing Phuket City

By Athiga Jundee
& Sam Wilkinson

Seven weeks with seven styles: you'd be forgiven for thinking that is the title of a fashion pageant, but in fact it's Phuket City's theme for its first-ever cultural tourism project entitled "Cultural Street Revitalization".

Starting at 5 pm, each weekend evening until November 6, Thalang, Krabi and Deebuk roads are the location for historically themed shows, ice-carving competitions, traditional costume and ornament exhibitions and even a mass wedding.

Minister of Culture Uraiwan Thienthong said, "Phuket Cultural Street Revitalization is the pilot for cultural tourism in Phuket Province."

Tourists can experience the breadth of Phuket's culture which is just as beautiful as the area's natural surroundings."

On the weekend of October 7-9, there were demonstrations of the island's traditional professions – fishing, tin mining and agriculture.

From October 14-16, visitors get the chance to sample a huge variety of local cuisine from street-side food stalls, as well as in the restaurants along these three sister roads.

On the fifth weekend, October 21-23, there will be a "Baba" (Straits-Chinese) mass wedding, when organizers hope that a full contingent of 48 couples will trade vows at what promises to be a unique event.

The penultimate weekend of Oct 28-30 features a *Li-Key* (traditional Thai song and dance) competition.

At the closing ceremony, during the weekend of Nov 4-6, the organizers are planning to stage an international show comprising Chinese musicians, representatives from Portugal, Holland, Iran and Indonesia – and to inject some "oompah" into the event with a brass band from England.

Each weekend during the festival there are stalls selling traditional handicrafts and local delicacies. All in all, it's a great evening out with the family and a wonderful photo opportunity.

FOR SALE



The Plantation, Kamala Bay, Phuket.
Experience The Luxury Of Nature

The Terraces

- 18 Luxury Terraced Apartments (incl. 5 with private gardens)
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen, Living & Dining Areas - ca. 150m²
- Facilities incl. Swimming Pool, Fitness Room, Undercover Parking, Laundry
- Large Terraced Balconies with Breathtaking Views over Kamala Bay
- Excellent Investment Potential and Finance Available TAP
- Prices from only 10,000,000 Baht

* Details subject to change

For Brochures & Enquiries Contact:


Tel: +66 (0)76 386 040 - 2

info@theplantationphuket.com

www.theplantationphuket.com

IN ASSOCIATION WITH PACVEST GROUP





Narai Sandstone & Decorative Arts

33/7 M. 2 Thepkrasatri Rd.
T. Kohkaew, A. Muang Phuket
Tel: 01-5693458

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander
Sammy Swan

The second Koh Samui Music Festival (KSMF) took place from September 23 to October 2, with artists arriving from all over the globe to play at the largest public event ever held on the island.

Although audience numbers were lower than expected, the main stage, by Chaweng Lake, drew large and enthusiastic crowds, and all the artists commented on the success and spirit of the event.

"This is a place where bands will definitely want to play," said Brian Travers, saxophonist with UK dub reggae veterans UB40. "Festivals like this have a positive effect on the places that host them. Local artists get to perform with other musicians from around the world and that way, the music starts to travel."

"From a band's point of view, you really want festivals like this to succeed," he added.

Big Thai names like Sek Loso and Modern Dog flew the musical flag for Thailand, entertaining audiences with their home-grown talents.

Musicians from further afield, such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Laurence Cottle, Jasco and the British Blues All Stars demonstrated their enviable skills and delighted audiences with some slick and soulful performances.

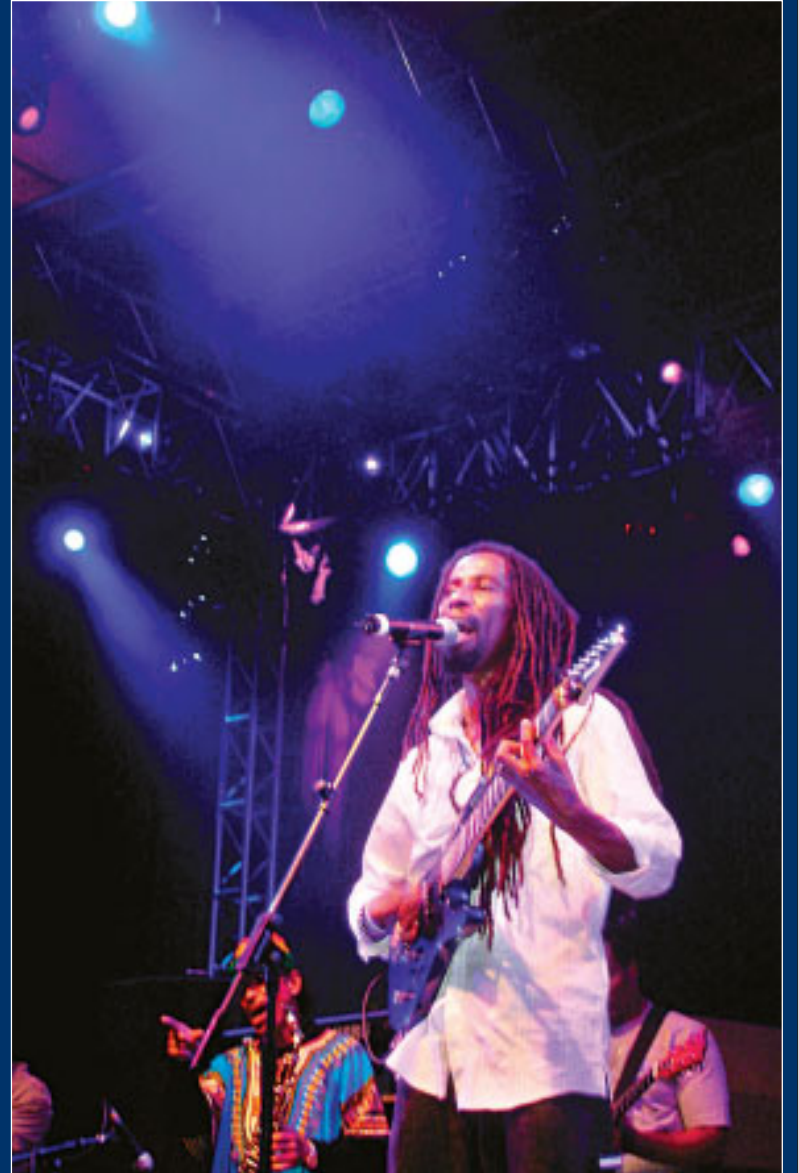
The final weekend saw famous acts such as Jools Holland, the Wailers and UB40 proving exactly why their popularity has stood the test of time.

The latter two groups played two gigs each, and many die-hard reggae fans attended both shows

Samui rocks and on a roll



Jools Holland and the Wailers showed festival-goers why their acts have stood the test of time.



Photos: Alasdair Forbes

to enjoy the sound of two of the genre's legendary bands.

Staging KSMF 2005 required a serious feat of planning and organization, combined with sizeable investment and co-sponsorship from the likes of Bangkok Airways and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

As a well-received international event, it has placed Samui firmly on the musical map, and will hopefully also establish the island as a venue for other world-class performances in the years to come.

Island casino near Samui?

During recent discussions with the Mayor of Samui, the Minister for Tourism and Sports raised the idea of an entertainment complex and casino that would be located in the Gulf of Thailand, not far from Koh Samui.

Originally, the government had proposed to build three such centers, one in Pattaya, one in Phuket and one on Samui, but because of Samui's size and stage of development, the Minister now feels a nearby island should be chosen.

Both the mayor and the head of the TAT office on Samui, Panuk Woramit, agree in principle with the proposal.

They feel that illegal gambling is already a huge problem, with many people traveling to Myanmar and Laos to play with lady luck.

Legalizing it would, it is thought, remove some of the hidden dangers, as well as generate tax revenue for the region.

A casino would not deal with the gambling problem at a local level, but once an appropriate island is chosen it seems certain to

transform the archipelago still further into a mainstream international tourist destination.

CD copyright arrests: Officers from the Criminal Investigation Department in Bangkok conducted a series of checks for copyright infringement on Koh Samui on September 15.

From a total of 11 locations, four establishments in Chaweng were found to be selling illegal or pirated CDs and DVDs. The police confiscated 7,000 discs worth around 100,000 baht and also arrested three people.

At one CD stall where police found pirated discs, local shop owners challenged the officers' right to confiscate CDs while the owner was absent.

As a small crowd gathered, neighboring stallholders tried to block the officers and a confron-

tation ensued when police refused to stop the search.

During the scuffle, a police captain apparently drew his pistol and fired warning shots into the air. This later prompted accusations of excessive force, from two women who were standing close to the officer and who claimed that he had threatened them with his handgun.

The officer denied the allegations and said he had all the correct identification papers and a search warrant, which gave him every right to prevent the situation from becoming more serious.

Samui's Chief of Police is conducting an inquiry into the incident. Meanwhile, the police say they will continue with the clampdown.

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

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

• Nanai Rd, Patong.	• Thara Patong Hotel, Thaweewong Rd, Patong.
• Sainamyen intersection (next to Subway restaurant), Patong.	• Maeluan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket Town.
• 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.

PERSIAN CARPETS CO., LTD.
108/78 Charoenprakiet Lor 9 Rd., (Bypass),
Moo 5, T. Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket, 83000.

STOCK CLEARANCE SALE
EVERYTHING MUST GO
(Every reasonable offer will be accepted)
(Extended up to 24th of October)

Persian Carpets have finest quality hand-knotted carpets and kilims, from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. (Specialize in washing and repairing).

Mobile: 01-956-3061 Tel/Fax: 076-261349
Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com www.persiancarpetbangkok.com

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Pongnatee Ampaipetch and Yuki Zawakachi were married recently at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, Mai Khao.



Kamol Parinyanusorn, a doctor at Patong Hospital, married Wanida Patan on September 24 at The Metropole hotel, Phuket City.

FLOYD ON FORM



Photos: Boonrat Apiwantanakorn

It was John Donne who, in his *Meditation XVII*, said, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent."

Some 400 years later, "Will Freeman" (free man, geddit?) in the novel *About a Boy* – by Britpack writer and chronicler of male obsessions Nick Hornby – riposted by saying, "I am an island. I am bloody Ibiza!"

Whether one considers this to be utter Balearics or not, it isn't easy to say which island Keith Floyd – known generally as "Floyd" – would be.

In fact, Floyd, who was born in Somerset, southwest England, in 1943, would not be an island, but, rather, an archipelago.

Ireland would also be part of the chain, as of course would the British Isles. A few of the islands dotted around the Norwegian fjords would be thrown in for good measure. Madagascar would be there too, as would a whole host of Greek and Mediterranean islands.

Going further east, one can add Koh Samui, Malaysian islands and Hong Kong, for all of these destinations have featured

Keith Floyd is one of those people traditionally introduced as "...a man who needs no introduction". This can be quite helpful to a writer, as Floyd – to give him his usual appellation – tends to avoid pigeonholing himself as a chef or a restaurateur, and woe betide anyone who calls him a "TV celebrity chef". Eschewing this tradition is the *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone, who met him over lunch and a pleasant bottle of wine recently at the Burasari Resort in Patong, when the cook and traveler visited Phuket to see how the development of his brasserie in the Burasari Jungceylon was progressing.

in Floyd's books and TV series on the subject close to many people's hearts – food.

Floyd explains that his first foray into the creative side of food, after a brief stint as a journalist in Bristol, was when he joined the British Army on a Short Service Commission.

He was not, however, doling out the ubiquitous "mystery fish" as a "cabbage mechanic" – as members of the the esteemed Army Catering Corps are occasionally known – but was, in fact, "canned veg", another way of saying he was in tanks.

"I was actually a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Tank Regiment, deployed in West Germany and equipped with Conquerors [the contemporary British Army main battle tank].

"Joining the Army just seemed the right thing at the time," says Floyd. "Although I

became bored of the food that was served up in the Officers' Mess, there's no truth in the rumor that I used to dive behind a stove in the Mess kitchen and rustle up gourmet dishes."

"All I did was to suggest to the cooks that instead of serving 'lamb and two veg', that they experiment a bit and produce Gigot d'agneau Romanin. And it worked."

Anything to prevent a Compo Anaconda, after all.

Floyd acknowledges that his progression from armored vehicles to AGA cookers was not a typical one, especially 40 years ago.

"Back in the middle '60s, England didn't have a lot to offer in terms of food. Many people didn't have the opportunity to travel abroad a great deal, but when I was posted in Germany, I was able to quite comfortably go

Need a telephone number on Phi Phi?
See
phiphi-businesses.com
for complete listings.

Mom Tri's Boathouse Wine & Grill

*Celebrating fifteen years.
More beautiful
and delicious than ever.
New Mom Tri's décor.
New chef Tammanoon's menu.
New award-winning wine list.*

**Same Top Service
Please come & enjoy!**
Reservations are recommended.
Mom Tri's Boathouse.
Wine & Grill,
Kata Beach.
Tel: 076-330015
www.theboathousephuket.com

Mom Tri's Boathouse Wine & Grill is honored by Wine Spectator for having one of the most outstanding restaurant wine lists in the world.

The Royal Kitchen

"Paradise over Patong"

Enjoy splendid Cantonese cuisine and panoramic views of Patong Beach from one of the island's tallest buildings.

Open daily:
Lunch: 11 am - 2 pm
Dinner: 6 pm - 11 pm

The Royal Paradise Hotel
ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

25th Floor, The Royal Paradise Hotel, Patong Beach, Phuket
Tel: 076 340666 Email: info@royalparadise.com
www.royalparadise.com

to France, Holland or wherever and discover a variety of foods that didn't exist in the UK.

"I said to myself, 'This is what I want to be involved in when I get out [of the Army].'"

The well-traveled Floyd, dapper in – among other things – a bow-tie and a pair of ostrich-skin shoes, says that after he completed his commission, he set out on an enforced apprenticeship of work in any kind of hotel, restaurant and bar.

"I forced myself to be a short-order cook, bottle-washer, barman... anything, until little by little I built up my skills and was able to open my first restaurant in Bristol, around 1969 or '70," he says. "And I've been involved in food and its allied subjects ever since."

Floyd is happy to see that in the 35-odd years since his first restaurant, Britain has diversified its appreciation and enjoyment of food from around the world.

STYLE

He attributes much of this to Britain's multi-ethnic society, the relative ease that more people have to travel abroad, and the popularity of cookery programs on television. "But I have no time for the cult of the celebrity TV chef," he warns.

At first hearing, this may sound hypocritical – even a case of biting the hand that feeds – coming from a man whose popularity and fame has been spread around the world via that medium, as well as through books, for 21 years.

Floyd's style, however, remains different to that of the celebrity chef. At one and the same time, he takes his food seriously while not taking himself too seriously.

His style of cooking in TV shows may appear to be haphazard, similar in a way to the broadcasting style of the late British DJ John Peel. A quick fade to black ensues, for example, when Floyd



Floyd entertains the Phuket International Women's Club over a lunch at the Burasari Resort in Patong.

is cooking on a beach in India – before he appears again looking calmer.

This is the result of him deciding that the ingredients were not quite so good after all, and that a minion needed to be dispatched to buy better ones.

The camera, more often than not operated by "Clive", occasionally gets in the way, usually as Floyd is throwing something into an already-steaming wok, resulting in the lens steaming up. Floyd often has a glass of something refreshing and alcoholic close to hand, too.

Once, while cooking ostrich stew in the Drakensberg, South Africa, he was besieged by – what else? – a depilation, as AA Gill calls it, of ostriches.

Through 19 TV series and 22 books, Floyd's casual style has won him fans around the world, whether he has made a TV show in a particular country or not.

From Latvia to Israel and from Hungary to, of course, Thailand, his shows garner viewers as much for his ready wit as well as his appreciation and respect for the places where he is cooking, the ingredients and the people he meets.

The opening of Floyd's Brasserie, which will be in the mammoth Jungceylon development in Patong that was due to have opened earlier this year, is now scheduled for next February.

"It will be an immensely exciting project, my first one outside the UK," Floyd says.

"It was first due to open in February this year, then, of course, was sadly delayed by the terrible event that took place here, and all the havoc that created," he says.

He foresees that the mixture Jungceylon will bring to Phuket, and Patong specifically, of a self-contained mini-metropolis amid the hustle and bustle of the island's nightlife playground, can only be a good thing.

No stranger to Phuket and Thailand – he has been visiting the country for at least 15 years – he says, "I've just returned from Beijing, where they have such centers, which can be cen-

ters of excellence if developed properly, where the major beneficiaries are not just visitors or shoppers or diners but the local people, who will gain from a huge number of job opportunities.

"I visited [Jungceylon] yesterday, and in my view – not as a retailer but as a restaurateur or cook – I can see it happening here."

Floyd says that Phuket was chosen as the site for his brasserie "...because we love it here".

"My wife Tess and I now have the valid excuse to come here even more, not just sitting on the beach but actually contributing something [to Phuket]."

The energetic Floyd's enthusiasm for cooking seems not to have diminished in the two de-

cadecades of hosting his television shows, nor in the nigh-on four decades of being involved in cooking.

In addition to the brasserie in Phuket, two new books, *Floyd's China* and *Floyd's Thailand*, are set for release in November 2005 and 2006 respectively. A new TV series, *Floyd Around Pakistan*, will be broadcast in the UK in the Spring of 2006.

Although he has tackled Scandinavia with *Floyd's Fjord Fiesta* – "The old jokes are the best ones," he says... "And it worked," adds Tess – the suggestion is made to him that another series could be filmed in, say, Antarctica.

The title is even presented to him, *Floyd on Freezing*. He raises an eyebrow and says, "Now that's an idea..."

Summing up Floyd – and his style – is perhaps best left to Marcel Boulestin, reputedly the first TV cook, who had a show entitled *Cook's Night Out* on the BBC back as far back as the 1930s.

Boulestin, who died the year Floyd was born, once said, "Cooking is not chemistry. It is an art. It requires instinct and taste rather than exact measurements."

That is Floyd's inimitable style down to a "T".

watermark
Summer Specials

Monday BYO wine* No corkage fee	Tuesday Double up. Double pour spirits for the price of a single all day	Friday Happy hour 2 for 1 cocktails 50 B Beers. 5 - 7 pm	All summer 4 course Set menus Set dinner menus 4 courses - 950 B 6 pm - 10 pm
--	---	---	--

Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina - (Entrance opposite Dulwich Rd)
Thapkasatri Rd Koh Kaew, 10 mins from Phuket City.
10am - late 7 days. resv: 076 239 730 - info@watermarkphuket.com
www.watermarkphuket.com

Hilton
Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

HILTON'S ULTIMATE SUNDAY BRUNCH

Place: Sails Restaurant
Time: 11:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Price: 850 Baht++ per person
(Price includes one bottle of wine for every two persons.) Children 4 - 12 years - 425 Baht ++ & kids 3 and under eat for free.

Why not stay the afternoon and relax by the pool or be pampered with a spa treatment! Valet parking available. Reservations are recommended for brunch and leisure activities, just call 076 396 433.



Stephen Fein demonstrates (above) hyperextensions on the equipment he designed and had installed in his home. Below: correct foot positioning.



Back pain:

Anyone who has ever experienced severe lower back pain knows the meaning of the word misery. I suffered from chronic back pain for most of my adult life, from my university days all the way into my late 30s.

The pain ranged from periods of stiffness to complete incapacitation. I remember having to lie on the floor – sometimes for up to a week – dreading the agonizing knife-in-the-back shooting pain that would accompany a sneeze or any other sudden movement.

No medication, no matter how strong, came close to alleviating the pain, which was turning me into a cranky old man before my time.

Even when the pain was less severe, I knew it could flare up at any time. It was like being stalked by the Grim Reaper. When the back pain was at its worst, I even wondered what the point of living was.

Desperate, I tried everything to try and make it go away: Thai and Western chiropractors, hydrotherapy, even yoga. But even as my flexibility improved to the best it had been in years, the back pain remained.

SAVIOR

My savior came in the form of a traditional Thai masseuse – but not in the way you might think. Noticing that it took me about a minute to work my way down into a prone position on the massage bed, she asked what the problem was.

"It's back pain," I snapped, "and I am not here expecting you to cure it. So you don't need to crack my back or do anything else that will add to the misery."

It was then that she uttered



Gazette Desk Editor Stephen Fein had long suffered from bouts of severe lower back pain. Here he explains how he got rid of the pain by getting to the bottom of things.

the magic, if comically direct, words "*Phrao waa mai mee toot, ka*" (It's because you have no ass). As she started rubbing my feet and toes, relaxation set in and I began to consider what she had said.

It was true. I had no ass, or at least I had a pathetically small one for my 189-centimeter height. I started thinking of the people I knew who also suffered from back pain. Most of them had small butts, too.

My thoughts then shifted to the people I knew with big posteriors – and here I mean naturally big, as opposed to just lard-bottomed. None of them ever seemed to complain about back pain. It was then that it hit me: it was time to get some ass.

It dawned on me that this was to be the type of ass-acquisition exercise that couldn't be as easily accomplished as making a trip down to Soi Bangla.

If you wish to sponsor or would like to make a donation for the Gala, please contact Julie Street at Tel: 0137 00230

The PPIVC's Annual Gala 2005 presents...

An Evening with the Stars

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

The Grand Ballroom, The Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa

Saturday 26th November 2005

Theme: Movie Stars
Come dressed for the Oscars
Oscar for best female and male dress!

2,500 Baht including five course meal, drinks and fabulous entertainment.

All profits go to PPIVC Scholarship Fund

Tickets are available from the 1st Oct. at the following locations:

Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa - Karon Beach - Tel: 076 396 433/41
Watermark Bar & Restaurant - Boat Lagoon Marina - Tel: 076 239 730
West One Salon - 2nd Flr Central Festival - Tel: 076 248 311
Perfection Salon - Choa Fa Rd - Tel: 076 383 232
The Green Man - Rawai - Tel: 076 281 445
Julie Street - Laguna Area - Tel: 0137 00230

Come and join Phuket's scariest Halloween party

Friday October 28th 7:00 pm till late!

SILK restaurant bar

www.silkphuket.com

The PLAZA surin surin beach cherngthalay tel: 076 271702

the bottom line



As the muscles strengthen you may reach a point where you need to put your hands behind your head.

It was going to involve a well-researched effort. But, determined to get this evil monkey off my back, I eventually discovered the one exercise that strengthens the lower back, butt and hamstrings like none other: hyperextensions.

Most gyms have some kind of hyperextension apparatus, most commonly a set of two pads

included as part of a universal gym.

If you suffer from back pain, avoid these like the plague. The hyperextensions I describe here need to be performed on a flat bench, one which you can brace your legs around so that your feet and legs can firmly support your upper body, which should be suspended off the

bench from around the navel.

Most flat benches in hotel gyms or sold in department stores are unsuitable. They are too low, not long enough, and do not have the bottom legs positioned in such a way as to allow for the correct grip. (see photos)

I designed my own bench to do hyperextensions, but it is also suitable for a wide range of

other free-weight exercises. It cost 1,200 baht and was built by a company in Songkhla that turns pickups into *songtaew* buses, as they had both the welding capability and their own cushion-making team.

I consider it the best investment I have ever made in my life.

Hyperextensions are as simple as they are effective – provided that they are performed correctly. It is good to cushion the two bench legs against which your feet will be braced, as otherwise it can be painful.

I did this by simply duct-taping some old sport socks around them.

First, lie face-down on the bench. Just put your hands on the floor as if you are doing a push-up and do a controlled fall, until your head is hanging down at about a 90° angle.

Then, using your back, butt, hamstrings – and arms as necessary – try to raise your upper torso back up to the horizontal position.

Don't try to be Superman. Think of this as a strengthening *and* stretching exercise at first. Make sure you feel some tension in your lower back and butt, but not too much.

Over time, as you get used to it and as your back strengthens, you can start to experiment with your leg grip, thus shifting emphasis onto your upper hamstrings, which also need to be kept

strong if you want to keep back pain at bay.

Later, when you can do 12 repetitions (reps) comfortably, with no arm assistance, try crossing your hands behind your butt and do as many reps as you can before going back to the push-up position.

Given practice – and as the muscles strengthen – you may even reach a point where you need to put your hands behind your head in order to get the correct tension in your back.

When you get to this point it may be time to start thinking about other back-strengthening exercises, such as deadlifts and lunges. You might want to consult a professional fitness instructor for these, however, because they can cause more problems than they solve if they are performed incorrectly.

CAUTION

One note of caution. hyperextensions are really a misnamed exercise. You do not want to over-extend past the position that your spine would be in were you standing normally. Your goal is to do away with back pain, not join a Chinese acrobat troupe, right?

I am not a doctor and this is not medical advice. I want only to share what has helped me with any readers who may be living through the misery of lower back pain. Feel free to send any feedback to: steve@phuketgazette.net



RESOURCE ASIA OUTDOOR COLLECTION CO., LTD.

Unit M6, The Plaza, 5/50 Moo 3, Srisoontorn Road, Cherrng Talay, Thalang, Phuket, 83110, Thailand.
Tel: +66(0)76 271 626 Fax: +66(0)76 271 627
E-mail: kim@resourceasia.co.th, cherry@resourceasia.co.th
Website: www.resourceasia.com.hk



DEDON®



GLOSTER
MADE FOR LIFE

activa
LEISURE

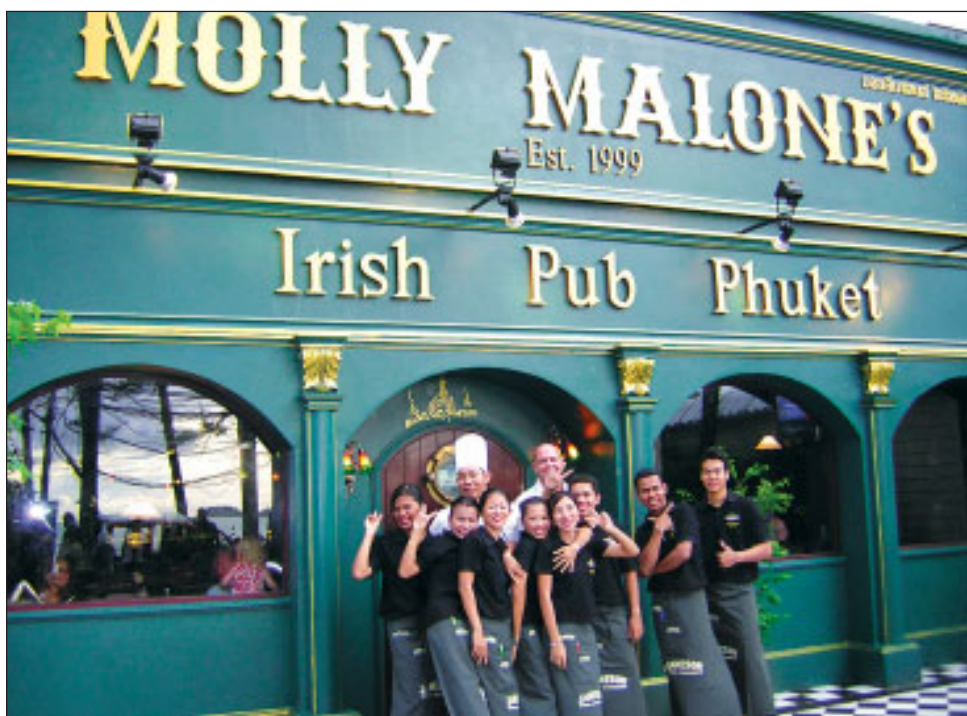
This week



AN EDUCATION IN STORE: Big C Foundation gave 3,000-baht grants to 50 secondary students from Phuket and Phang Nga on October 1. There to help hand out the grants were (2nd row, from right) Big C Phuket Store General Manager Paul Rochel; Phuket Educational Area Office (PEAO) Deputy Director Chalam Attatham, PEAO Chairman Dr Prasit Koysiripong, and Big C Human Resources Division Manager Pornsuk Ekachai.



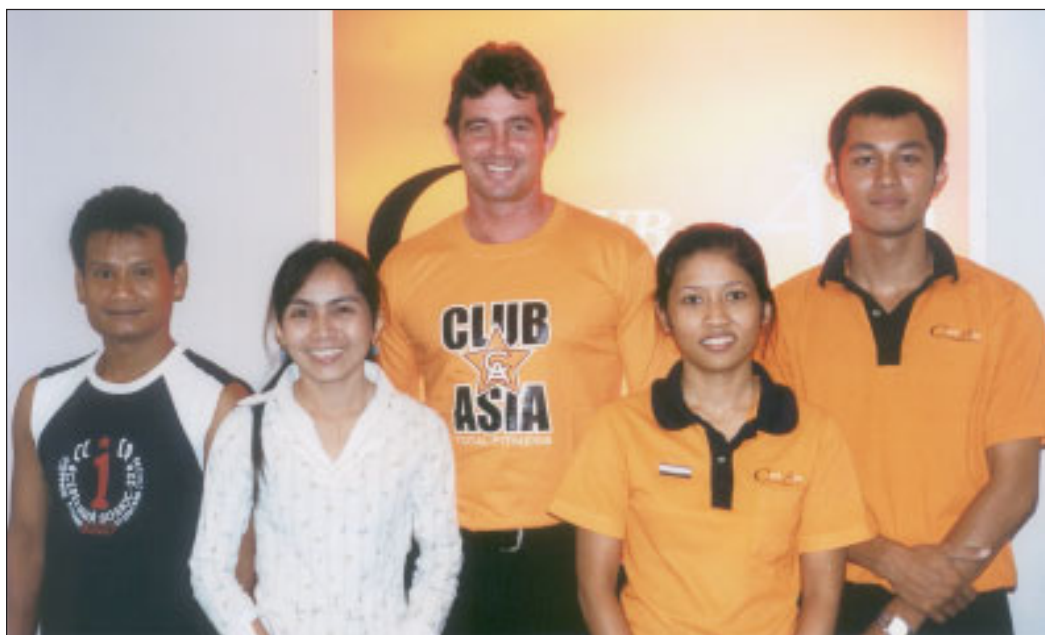
NO TROUBLE AT MILL: Kata Beach Resort Sales Manager Pensri Kammung (center, in pink top) and Marketing Manager Piyada Kohsakul (3rd from right) give a warm welcome to the Pegasus Solutions travel company from Singapore, at the resort's Coffee Mill during the visitors' recent inspection tour of the island.



MIND THE CRAIC: Molly Malone's Manager Peter Moran (back row, 3rd from right) with Chef Vitoon (in hat) and other Molly Malone's staff raise a big cheer the October 1 soft re-opening of the popular Irish Pub in Patong, which has been closed since it was damaged by the tsunami last year.



FINISHING TOUCH: Tom Keator (2nd from right), Project Manager at Development Management Group (DMG) – Thailand, enjoys his farewell party with fellow DMG members (from left) Peter Tucker, Charles Pulaski, DMG Director OB Wetzell and Alan Matthews (right), at Pepper's bar & restaurant in Cherng Talay.



A FIT FAREWELL: Wayne Lunt (center), who was Manager at Club Asia Fitness at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, poses for a farewell photo with his staff and friends before he headed off to join the Sila Evason Hideaway & Spa on Koh Samui as Guest Service Manager.



WINE, WOMEN AND SONG: Suchart Rattanadilok Na Phuket, Manager of Phukana Wine & Music, on Mae Luan Rd, in Phuket City, and staff celebrate the wine bar's soft opening on October 1.

EXPOSE YOURSELF! to 30-35,000 visitors a day!

A Phuket Gazette website banner is your window to the world. Can you afford **NOT** to have one?

Ask Anna or Koy for details. Tel: 076-236555 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net



Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae
Leelanapaporn
Evolve@Spa



Healing both body & mind

Evolve@Spa, in Treetops Arasia at Surin Beach, offers a unique combination of the physical pleasures of massage and the tranquillity of meditation.

The owners, Nikorn Banjerdert and his New Zealander wife Dorinda Rose Berry, were determined not to let anything stand in the way of their vision, despite the tsunami just one month after the spa opened.

A good friend and I recently enjoyed some treatments there, and the one-hour massage was so lovely that she slept through our entire time under her therapist's deft touch.

K. Nikorn, a former Buddhist monk, told me that the spa tries to encourage people to take better care of themselves by, for example, eating properly and exercising more. He advocates a simpler lifestyle. Considering his words, and with the patter of light rainfall outside, my mind began to wander until I was jolted awake by a raucous snore – my own!

I like to think of it as a tribute to K. Supaporn, my massage

therapist, as I had never before fallen asleep “on the job” – I’m always too busy taking notes.

Our massage room, with a view of lush foliage outside the window, had two single beds and a small fridge with drinks in case we became thirsty. Inside the ensuite rest-room was an irresistible private steam room.

We steamed for 20 minutes, followed by the massage, foregoing oil in favor of sweet-smelling “Blue Camomille” balm.

K. Supaporn warmed the balm between her hands before gently caressing my skin, allowing it to penetrate. Her sustained healing touch over various energy points on my body caused all stress to ebb away, leaving in its place a profound sense of peace.

Then we indulged in the 30-minute “Baby Face” treatment, comprising cleansing, hot compresses and a deep pressure-point massage. This costs 900 baht per person or 1,500 baht for a couple.

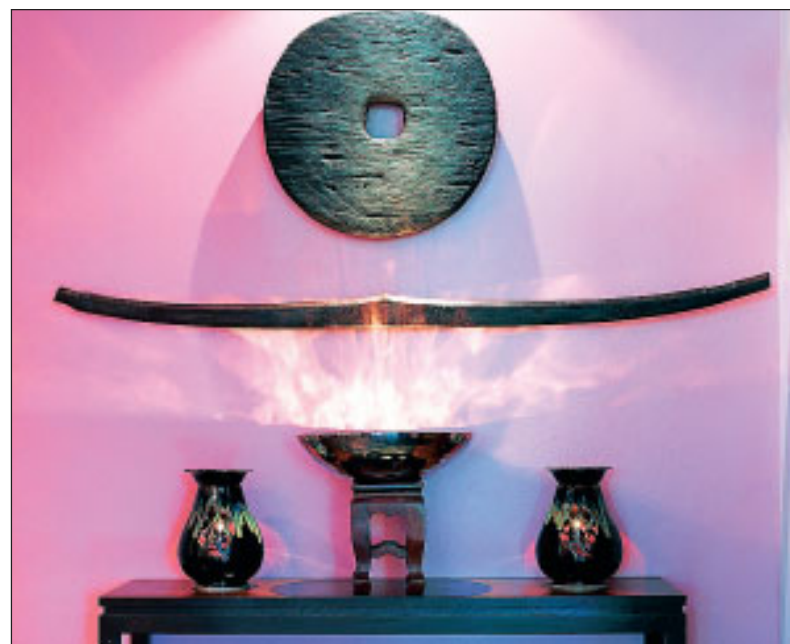
At last the echo of a gentle tap on a metal bowl roused us from an almost dreamlike state. When I looked in the mirror, it

seemed that the spa had miraculously turned back time.

“You really do look years younger,” my friend remarked, and I accepted the compliment gracefully. I felt thoroughly rejuvenated and very grateful for the expertise of the spa’s staff.

K. Nikorn, whose spa experience spans more than a decade, and Dorinda, who has studied and has taught reiki, kinesiology, numerology, Chinese medicine, Hellerwork, yoga, and aromatherapy, among other healing arts, have also created an original line of spa products called “Oils by Roseberry”, which are used to great effect at the spa and can be ordered through the company’s website.

Evolve@Spa, at Treetops Arasia in Surin Beach, is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. For more information, call Tel: 076-271271, send an email to spa@treetops-arasias.com, or visit www.treetops-arasias.com. For details about Oils by Roseberry, visit: www.oils-by-roseberry.com/



**Special
Campaign**



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pruerk-pirom
9.9 million baht



Pruerk-lawan
10.9 million baht

No matter where the house is or how big the land is, you can have them all at the same price.

5 units only

For further information, please contact our office:

Tel: 076-381150-2 Fax: 076-381111

Email: info@lhphuket.com Website: www.lhphuket.com

Free sports complex membership
(4 persons/1 unit)



Not so many years ago holiday visitors to Phuket who wanted a great meal or bottle of wine had to cook it themselves or bring it with them. A defining moment for the island came when the Amanpuri opened and early quality restaurants, such as The Boathouse and Baan Rim Pa, opened their doors.

Today, Phuket's wine and dining scene bears little resemblance to its past. Many exciting new restaurants and wine purveyors have enhanced the dining scene; the gourmand society *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs* now has a local chapter, top winemakers fly to Phuket to present their latest vintages, and enormous wine cellars stocked with the best vintages grace many villas.

Still, there is a lingering feeling among many that the island's food and wine scene should be better than it is, and that Phuket's reputation as a sophisticated destination might be unwarranted when it comes to dining.

Many insiders acknowledge – off the record – that the public lack food knowledge or interest in cuisine, and that perceptions are often based on price rather than quality.

The challenge, the insiders claim, has always been for restaurateurs to motivate themselves to improve, despite being able to get along doing less.

Those with a more optimistic view point to an accelerating

A food and wine backwater no more

Pushing culinary boundaries: Tatonka Restaurant Chef Harold Schwarz creates a novel green tea butter sauce to accompany tempura-crusted sea bass at a recent winemaker dinner.



Top Chilean winemaker Gonzalo Francisco Perez of Anakena Vineyard considers Phuket one of Asia's most important wine markets.



rate of change in the past few years.

Robert Falls, General Manager of Silk Restaurant & Bar, says, "Phuket used to be a backwater wine and food destination, where the chance of getting a decent glass of wine was remote. That's changing now with the arrival of more affluent expatriates from Asia, Europe and the United States.

"Expectations are increasing, and guests don't mind paying more for quality."

Long-time resident and wine connoisseur Neil Cumming, founder of Phuket Dot Com, says he is happy to live in Phuket where "...the food offers quality and tremendous value at every level, from five-star gourmet of-

ferings to local favorites. Sure, wine isn't cheap – unless you compare it with dining out in Europe, the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong or Japan.

"We are totally spoiled. Thailand is tops for wine and dining," he adds.

Not everyone is so flattering. David Hamilton, Executive Chef at Trisara, says forcefully that many Phuket restaurants, whether Western or Thai, disappoint by turning out "average-to-terrible food".

According to David, "Many Phuket restaurants provide great seaside settings to dine in, but would fail in an instant in Western countries due to their poor service, quality and badly thought-out menus.

"These places are usually run by people who are in it for the money."

Critics of Phuket's dining scene also point a finger at advertising's role in influencing restaurant reviews.

David is to the point: "The fact that a restaurant critique is determined by how much advertising you do is damaging Phuket because it does not help to improve the general quality of the food here, nor does it hold any weight with expatriates.

"They, like me, have read the reviews and know better."

Theera Kanjana, Director of Food & Beverage at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, is more sanguine.

"I believe we are on the way to becoming a destination for serious food and wine lovers. Some of our resorts and restaurants can compare with any in the world.

"Winning international awards such as the *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence proves we can get the attention of people who otherwise might

never think of Phuket as a food and wine destination."

Stuart Bird, General Manager of Watermark Restaurant, echoes K. Theera's sentiments.

"It was once common knowledge that much of the wine coming to Phuket was undesirable or discarded vintages. Thankfully, that has changed and we now see better-informed and more discerning wine drinkers and suppliers.

"The influx of more 'international' people – who have an international view and who are cosmopolitan, more worldly and aware – has helped to improve the wine and dine scene in Phuket, as well."

Stuart, perhaps, sums it up best: "Most people want to be in the mainstream, content to get by making a few quid selling the bare minimum.

"Those who dare to aspire to higher standards will inevitably shift the conventional way of the past, and credit should be given to those who are pushing the boundaries, daring to bring in a new cutting edge."

Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

ข 1550
ภูเก็ต

Blue Opel

กบท 447
ภูเก็ต

Red Honda Wave

ว 9149
กรุงเทพฯ

Gray Honda Jazz

กง 1536
ภูเก็ต

Gold Kia

บฉ 7196
ภูเก็ต

Blue Isuzu

ศฉ 8594
ภูเก็ต

Black & White Chevrolet

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a facial treatment by Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic; or a three-day stay at Kata Beach Resort with American breakfast included; or a laser tooth whitening at Promjai Dental Clinic, Patong Beach.



Please contact the Gazette quickly to ensure you get the prize you want.

First come, first served!

Email: LovePhuket@PhuketGazette.Net, or call K. Pam at Tel: 076-236-555.

Offers expire October 25, 2005.

Love Phuket? Put this sticker on your vehicle:



If we spot it, you could win dinner for two at Noon Japanese Restaurant at Surin Beach, or one bottle of Trivento red wine and one bottle of Trivento Chardonnay from Wine Connection, or dinner for two, Thai BBQ Buffet and Cabaret Show on Saturday nights only at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Phuket.



SHERATON GRANDE LAGUNA PHUKET & THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER OPERA presents

Georges Bizet's
Carmen
THE MOST POPULAR OPERA OF ALL TIME

DATE: Sunday, 23 October 2005

TIME: 19.45 hrs.

VENUE: Gekko, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket

PRICES start from Baht 1,000++ inclusive of welcome cocktail reception.

TICKETS on sale at the hotel and at all outlets of Farang Restaurant (Choengtalay, Central Festival and Index Living Mall)

CALL 076 324 101-7 or visit www.sheratonphuket.com/carmen for reservations or more information



Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Bang Tao Bay, Phuket 83110.

Tel: 076 324 101-7 Fax: 076 324 108

Email: carmen@sheratonphuket.com Website: www.sheratonphuket.com/carmen

The night air is humid and there's nary a breeze stirring as we park and head toward the center of town. A bare-chested, sun-red-dened tourist walks by, shirt in hand. A few steps on, an Indian tailor offers his hand, calling me "Chief" in a pseudo-cockney accent.

We pass hookers and hawkers, good lookers and gawkers, then head down a soi where there are several men in dresses on a pedestal strutting their two-year-old implanted silicone hooters. A swirl of tourists takes in the spectacle – the women amused, the men confused.

In this Aladdin's cave of trinkets, baubles and pirated goods it's hard to believe that anything along this street can be genuine.

Patong on a Friday night – or on any night, for that matter – isn't exactly the place to take the vicar out for tea and crumpets. He'd more than likely be distracted by a certain other sort of crumpet, much of which is wobbling by in skin-tight shorts and platform shoes.

FIDDLING

Still, like the vicar, there are oodles of "normal-looking" couples ambling around looking as though girly bars and peep shows are the last thing on their nocturnal itinerary. So where do they all go?

Seconds later we find out. A peal of laughter followed by a burst of applause, then the sound of manic fiddle-playing drifts out onto Soi Bangla and like ants to honey, we are drawn in through the doors of Scruffy Murphy's.

It's another world in here. Outside, the pace had been languid; inside the music is fast and furious. I feel as though I've walked through CS Lewis's wardrobe not into Narnia but Barnia and accordingly I order a lion-sized Beernai.

Looking around I'm suddenly inspired to explain to my partner that there's no need to go to the expense and time of visiting Britain any more. "It's all here, *tee-rak*." What with the



After DARK

by Sam Wilkinson



The 'craic' is good and the drink is flowing, just as it should... 'Slainte' from the heart of Patong.

Scruffy Murphy's law – Thairish style



Japanese office girls, Spanish eyes, Middle Easterners, hefty Europeans, Scruffy Murphy's is a cosmopolitan watering hole.

upturned beer barrels, exposed brick walls, HP Sauce bottles and the occasional bottle blonde, it not only looks like an upmarket British boozer, it sounds like one too, with a hundred different conversations going at full tilt, all at the same time.

Up on stage the fiddler is now playing a guitar and belting out pub standards – U2, Police, Beatles – and all at a fair rate of knots at that. He's accompanied by a nifty drummer and it's obvious what the pair do most afternoons – they must practice like Billy-o because they're as tight as can be.

Not in the alcoholic sense, mind you, although the singer – I later learn he's Neil from Wigan

– is not averse to a pint or two during the course of what must be a very thirsty evening.

The other main feature that Scruffy Murphy's shares with its counterparts back in Britain is that there's every color and race under the sun in here, and the place is as cosmopolitan as a Saturday lunchtime Finchley Road pub.

Hefty Europeans converse loudly next to a couple of shy-looking Middle Easterners. A group of young Spanish lads eyes up a giggling trio of Japanese office girls.

Next to them, a gaggle of buxom British lasses is howling along with Neil and – I'm serious here – absolutely everyone

is smiling and having a whale of a time.

Forgive me for stating the obvious, but I don't see this particular brand of down-home jocularity in many other bars around Bangla. The main difference between Scruffy Murphy's and most other Patong watering holes is that both male and female punters are magically released from the cut-the-air-with-a-knife sexual cauldron that pervades "out there" on the mean streets.

A well-known Patong luminary once commented, "The Irish pubs in Patong are there for us to escape to for a sense of normality."

And still the party goes on while Neil takes a well-earned

break. "It's a full-on job, this," he laughs, and explains that he had his own band for a while and writes his own material.

But pub standards and evergreens are the order of the day with such a broad swathe of humanity to entertain. A musical gilded cage, if you will.

Scruffy Murphy's also does great pub grub and English breakfasts. You won't be able to order strained tomato soup with golden trout roe and crab meat here, but that doesn't complement the Guinness in quite the same way as bangers, mash and beans do, so who cares?

Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub, 5 Soi Bangla. Tel: 076-292590.





PRECISION POUR™
3 BALL LIQUOR POUR



Used world wide in over 20 countries by the finest hotels and restaurants, like the Sukothai and JW Marriott, to control costs and improve drink quality.

Available in:
3/4 ounce
1 ounce
1 1/2 ounce

Custom sizes on request

Also works with oils, vinegars and sauces

PRECISION POUR™ is the finest liquor pour available and is unsurpassed in accuracy and ease of maintenance. Made in the USA featuring an innovative primer ring and fool-proof bottom assembly, PRECISION POUR™ is accurate without fail while creating the appearance of a free pour. If you want to create consistent drinks and increase profitability, look into PRECISION POUR™... the answer to rising liquor prices and sagging sales

Importer and wholesaler of premium wine and spirits



enVision
phuket co. ltd.

Tel. 076-279-790
www.envision-phuket.com



Metrosexuals v neandersexuals

mor, instead a soccer in them pansy shorts.

Bubba (seething even more seethingly): Yeh! Ah wuz readin' a article about those wusses. They go in fer fancy blow-dried haircuts an' designer clothes an' custom-made pointy-toed Eytalian shoes an' facials an' skin lotion an' manicures an' pedicures an' gosh-knows-what-else-icures. Next thing, ah bet they'll be usin' eye liner an' lipstick.

Me: Maybe they're just trying to communicate with their "inner female".

Tex (roaring): If they got a inner female, let'em keep it inner. Ah don't want to even look at it. It's high time us real men stood up to be counted. What evuh happened to the good ole days when men were men and the sheep were nervous?

Bubba: Why, some of these pansies use perfume. Real men don't even take a bath, 'cept maybe one every few months to keep the flies away.

Tex: Yeh, an' instead a drinkin' beer, those wusses drink wine. What the hell is a Merlot?

Bubba: That ain't a wine, Tex, that's a rodent. Like a groundhog.

Me: You're thinking of a marmot.

Tex: Marmot or Merlot, it vexes me mightily. Now, Ess, me 'n' Bubba here got an idea we want you to popularize in your column.

Me: Won't work. Nobody reads my column.

Tex: Well, shoot, boy, if nobody reads it, why do they print it?

Me: They don't know nobody reads it. Don't tell anyone.

Bubba: Ess, me an' Tex wanna bring back real men. Start a new trend. Make it cool to have a handlebar mustache an' wear a stetson an' drive a pickup truck an' chew terbacca an' drink rotgut whisky an' have a beer belly an' beat up the ole lady just fer the hell of it every Saturday night. But we need a name.

We're thinkin' of callin' ourselves the "new real men".

Me: That doesn't sing. How about "neandersexuals"?

Tex: Say! That do have flair.

Bubba: Yeah! Neandersexuals don't even use deodorant, 'cuz they know the natural male smell attracts women same way it attracts flies. Nothin' like a good whiff of a man's armpit to turn a woman on. 'Specially after he's been rasslin' hogs fer a week or two. Cover up the stink, an' the women will all turn into lesbians.

Me: That a scientific fact, Bub?

Bubba: Durn right, boy. Why, the reason we got so many lesbians comin' out of the woodwork is because all the real men have disappeared an' all they've got left are these swishy metro-faggots.

Tex (looking at his watch): Oops, time fer mah shot. (Pulls out a syringe and injects himself.)

Me: What's that, Tex? You dia-

betic or something?

Bubba: That's testosterone. Three shots a day to keep his levels up.

Tex (bellowing): Durn right! Man's gotta be a man, even if he do have to take a few shots from time to time. See, Ess, the way me 'n' Bubba figure it, this here metro-swishyboy crapola is all part of a plot by the bulldykes to castrate real men. They're tryin' to turn us into faggots by degrees.

Bubba: Yeah! They want us to be warm an' sensitive an' carin'. Even want us to cry. Shoot, the only time a real man cries is when the Dallas Cowboys lose the Superbowl. 'Cept that Tex has been known to cry if he can't find his needle and misses his testosterone shot.

Tex: Yew shut yore face, boy, or ah'm a-gonna slap you upside the head.

S Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he is conducting in-depth sociological studies like this one.

PHUKET DIARY

Every weekend until November 6: Seven Weeks of Cultural Roads. Thalang Rd, Krabi Rd and Dibuk Rd, the hub of Phuket City's Old Town, are the center of attention for a melange of arts, crafts, performances and food. The festival begins at 7 pm and ends at 11 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iran, Portugal,

the Netherlands and Britain are all represented.

Until October 17: F&B Show 2005. The Hospitality Supplies Exhibition, Royal Phuket City Hotel, Phuket City, 10 am to 8 pm. The exhibition is showcasing more than 100 companies in the 2,000-square-meter air-conditioned exhibition hall. Exhibits include supplies for hotels, spas, restaurants, bakeries, bars, pubs, discotheques and shops. For further information contact Thanet Traiwut at Tel: 076-258417-9, or email tammy2503@hotmail.com

October 16: The Soi Dog Foundation's Puppy Day will take place at the SDF Clinic in Phuket City, from 11 am to 6 pm. Fun for all the family – including pets. There will be a puppy show, a demonstration by the Phuket International Dog School, and refreshments. Visit www.soidog.org for more information, or Email: dalleyg@csloxinfo.com

October 22-23: Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) rally to the Phi Phi Islands. Free for all types of vessel, but entrants must pay for their own food and drinks. There will be a limited number of berths provided free aboard *Seraph*, a 57-foot Danish schooner

built in 1906. Briefing at the ACYC clubhouse in Chalong at 7:30 pm on October 21. Entrants can expect to arrive at Phi Phi about 3 pm on the Saturday, then return to Ao Chalong the following day. The event will end on the Sunday with a barbecue at the ACYC clubhouse, starting at 5 pm. Entries should be confirmed in advance by calling Tony Knight at Tel: 01-7470074.

October 23: The Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon will comprise 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 lucky draws.

The run starts at 4 am from the Karon Circle Pond (Nong Harn) 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 check www.katakaron.com

November 26: Phuket International Soccer 7s. The 3rd Phuket International Soccer 7s is an invitational tournament that provides a socially competitive environment for players who approach the game with the right attitude and in the right spirit.

It attracts about 20 teams from all over the world and is set to become a major attraction for expatriate soccer players. Teams come not only from Asian countries, but also from Australia, New Zealand and Europe. For further information call Tel: 06-9998839 or Email: alain@reperages-thailand.com for more information.

November 26: Phuket International Women's Club's Annual Gala 2005. The Phuket International Women's Club Annual Gala this year is titled "An Evening with the Stars", a movie theme. It will be at the Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa, and starts at 6:30 pm. Come dressed as if you were going to the Oscars.

Tickets are 2,500 baht each, including a four-course meal and drinks. A well-known Lai Thai orchestra will provide entertainment throughout the night. There will be many prizes to be won, while other items will be auctioned off. All profits will go to the PIWC education fund. For further information contact Nor Moorhouse at Tel: 01-9581383, or Email: normoorhouse@yahoo.com

November 26: Turtle Fun Run and Beach & Reef Clean-up. The annual five-kilometer run and clean-up – to raise funds and awareness about the plight of Phuket's critically endangered leatherback turtles – will start at 7:30 am and 9:30 am respectively.

They are organized by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa in conjunction with the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation. Registration will be from 6:30 to 7:30 am. Entry costs 100 baht for adults and 50 baht for children and students. Entrants may also buy a commemorative T-shirt for 150 baht, with all proceeds going to the Marine Turtle Foundation. Tickets will be on sale at the hotel from November 14.

For further information contact Samart Damrongkul (Recreation Manager) or Siripun Petchai (Public Relations Manager) at Tel: 076-338000, or by email to samart.d@marriotthotels.com or siripun.petchai@marriotthotels.com

PHUKET COSMETIC DENTAL CLINIC

Come and enjoy the difference of our unique esthetic dental treatment.

- Tooth whitening by plasma arc
- Dental implants
- All-ceramic crowns
- Ceramic veneers

16/1 Hongyok-U-Thit Rd, T. Taladyai A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.
Tel: 0 7623 6823 Fax: 0 7623 6824
Email: info@phuketcosmeticedentalclinic.com, www.phuketcosmeticedentalclinic.com

The Phuket Gazette

Wherever you stop for shopping, don't forget to pick up your weekly **Gazette** every Saturday at:

- Tesco Lotus**
 - Se-Ed Book Center (2nd floor)
 - Kiosk opposite Watson's
- Big C**
 - Se-Ed Book Center (Ground floor)
 - Kiosk in front of MK Suki (1st floor)
- Home Pro**
 - Se-Ed Book Center
- Robinson Department Store**
 - Bookstore (1st floor)
- Central Festival**
 - The Books (3rd floor)
 - B2S (3rd floor)
- Index Living Mall**
 - Se-Ed Book Center (1st floor)

PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



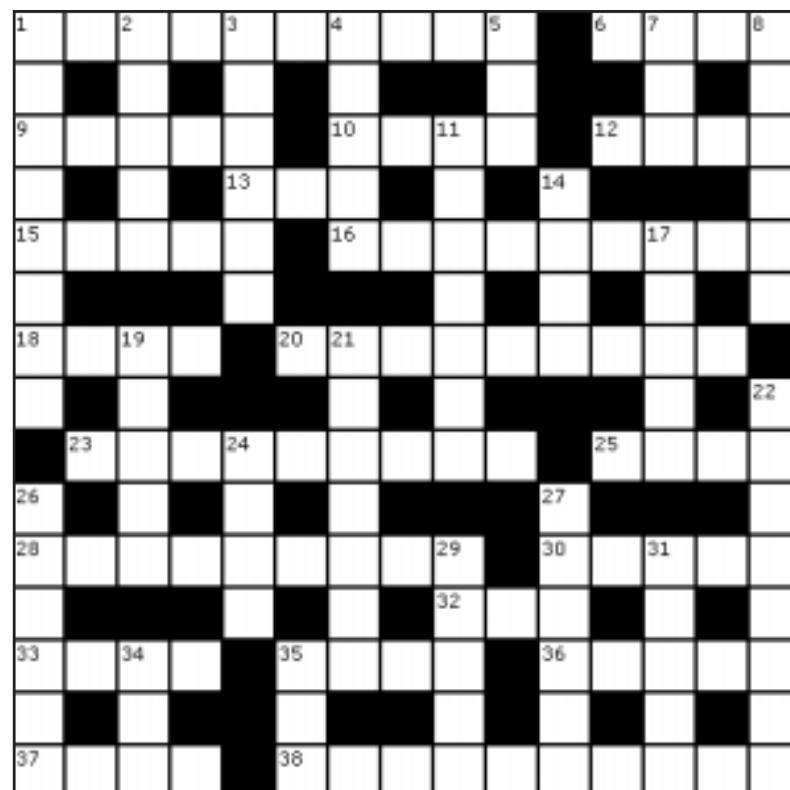
Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Stands in for, in the matter of gifts. (10)
6. Effeminate tents. (4)
9. Director's hat on sun god. (5)
10. Make disapproving noises about loud clump of hair. (4)
12. Transportation for poach-er's gear. (4)
13. Under it, not well but doing well on course! (3)
15. Notices agents.
16. Back-up soccer side and liar in a bend, yes! (9)
18. Drink fuel. (4)
20. Destroyed Ford's wish for a good catch. (9)
23. Spread support with an entrance. (9)
25. Goat product in chain, it's said. (4)
28. On beach, tumber timer. (9)
30. Are cross – I am in time zone. (5)
32. Secret digits in stop indicator. (3)
33. Alphabetical workers. (4)
35. Ada has left Alan. (4)
36. Sequence of command. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

37. Therefore hesitate and then take off. (4)
38. Parador after game gets appropriate equipment. (6,4)

DOWN

1. Scrum before bag travels behind. (8)
2. Rival 18. (5)
3. We hear that elec-

tronic circuits take time. (6)

4. Surplus former wife gets art back. (5)
6. Ready clique. (3)
7. Bit of hair for breathing. (3)
8. Somtam essential for dad? Yes! (6)
11. Dance Reynard is hot to do. (7)
14. Musical annotation is key to a Parisian. (4)
17. Wight, perhaps, in the church?
19. Akron might be mistaken for west-coast town. (5)
21. Does dog do this to find bird? (7)
22. Beyond oral – it's rural! (8)
24. Call for attendant. (4)
26. States can be employable. (6)
27. Themes for singers. (6)
29. Spa in the country. (5)
31. Ina gets 501 in republic. (5)
34. For example, note ovum. (3)
35. Do part of play. (3)

Solution on page 20

EZ TRIVIA

1. What international agency goes by the initials WHO?
2. Which US President was assassinated in a theater?
3. What metal is liquid at room temperature?
4. What is the name of the large molecule that carries DNA genetic information in living cells?
5. What is the name of the silly dog that Garfield likes to kick?
6. In what year did World War I start?
7. Why are there small gaps between bridge sections?
8. What team name occurs in both the US National Basketball Association and English Premier League soccer?
9. What is the most common paper size?
10. What is the title used before the name of Thailand's top monk?

Answers on page 20

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

			1	2			9	
6		9				2		
	5				3		4	
		5	3	1				9
8								5
9			2	4	7			
	7		6				1	
		1				9		3
	9			1	8			

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. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Brain Buster!!

Follow the clues below to get the 8-letter mystery word. But this is tricky: for each letter in the correct answer, you'll have two letters to choose from.

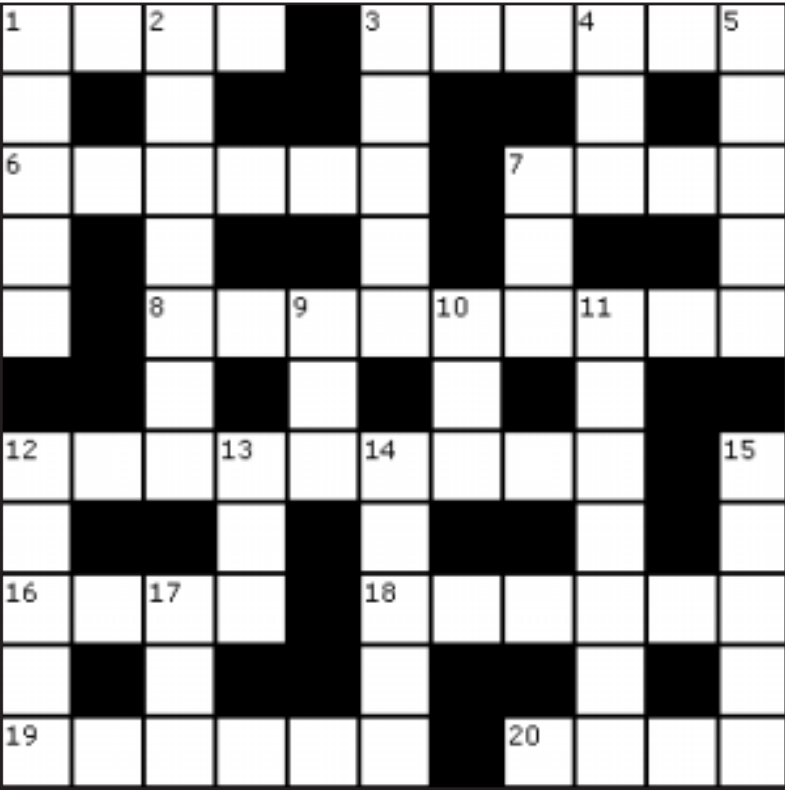
Here are the clues: The first letter is in PEACE but not in CAR. The second letter is in GIVE but not in VERY. The third letter is in MILK but not in HIKE. The fourth letter is in GOAT but not in BOTTLE. The

fifth letter is in FREE but not in BE. The sixth letter is in HIM but not in THEN. The seventh letter is in YAM but not in THAT. The eighth letter is in SEAT but not in BEAM.

Hint: The mystery word names a group of people in American history.

The mystery word is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

Answer on next page



Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
1. In addition.

3. Hindu god.

6. Atlantic island group.

7. Against.

8. Delicate insect.

12. Night sky show.

16. Kick out of power.

18. Imitations.

19. One who owes.

20. Burden.
- DOWN
1. Astonish.

2. Drool.

3. Pay a call on.

4. Female chicken.

5. Oneness.

7. Can't breathe without it.

9. Pull along.

10. Go wrong.

11. Mode.

12. Too much water.

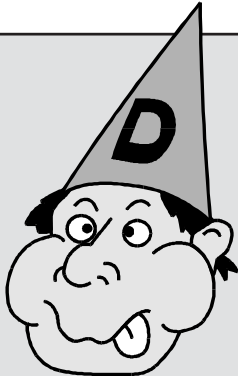
13. Consume.

14. Movie award.

15. Talkth like thith.

17. Underwater vessel.

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. What is the Greek word – meaning “yoked together” – for the phenomenon whereby three celestial bodies are positioned in a straight line?

2. Who wrote *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*?

3. Which land vehicle, on October 15, 1997, was the first to break the sound barrier?

4. What was the vehicle’s fastest timed run?

5. Who are the 2005 Nobel Laureates in physics?

6. In which US state is False Cape State Park?

7. This insect belongs to the order Odonata, the suborder Epiprocta and the infraorder Anisoptera. What is it?

8. Who developed the modern system of scientific classification?

9. Green & Black’s, Lindt & Sprüngli and Valrhona specialize in the production of what?

10. John Agyekum Kufuor is the president of which country?

11. Who wrote *Leaving on a Jet Plane*?

12. “I am a citizen of the United States of America. Our government has been overthrown. Our elected President has been exiled. Old white men wielding martinis and wearing dickies have occupied our nation’s capital.” This is the first line from what book?

13. Who wrote it?

14. Which of Shakespeare’s plays was performed first?

15. Which similarly titled play was the last to be performed?

16. What is fewest number of notes required to form a chord?

17. By what name is Mary Westmacott better known?

18. When does the singer of *Fairy Tale of New York* celebrate his birthday and what is his name?

19. *A Fairy Tale of New York* was also a book. Who wrote it?

20. How many murder weapons are there in the board game Cluedo (or Clue)?

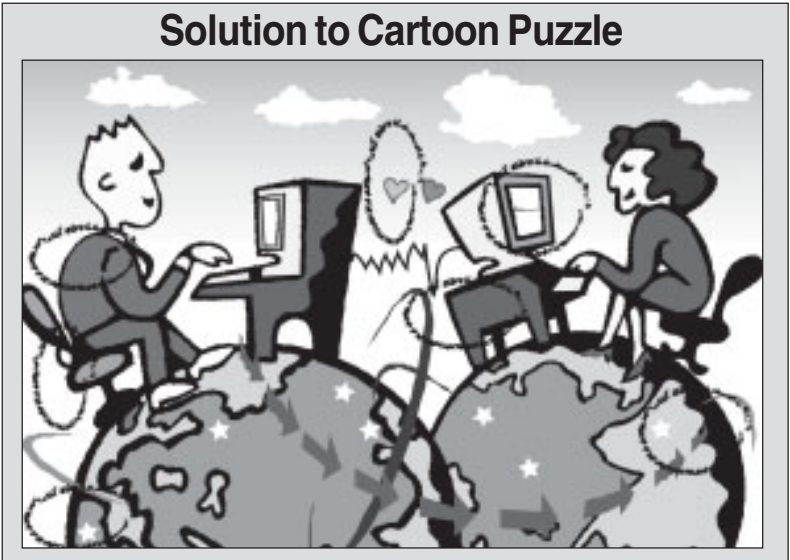
Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Syzygy; 2. Edward Gibbon; 3. The British Thrust SSC; 4. 1227.99 kmh or Mach 1.016 at sea level. The record still stands; 5. Roy J Glauber, John L Hall and Theodor W Hänsch; 6. Virginia; 7. The dragonfly; 8. Carolus Linnaeus; 9. Chocolate; 10. Ghana; 11. John Denver; 12. *Stupid White Men*; 13. Michael Moore; 14. *Henry VI*; 15. *Henry VIII*; 16. Three; 17. Agatha Christie; 18. Christmas Day, Shane McGowan; 19. JP Donleavy; 20. Six.

- EZ Triva Answers: 1. World Health Organization; 2. Abraham Lincoln; 3. Mercury; 4. Chromosome; 5. Odie; 6. 1914; 7. To allow for expansion and contraction; 8. Spurs; 9. A4 (210×297 mm or, roughly, 8.27×11.69 inches); 10. The Supreme Patriarch.
- Brain Buster Answer: Cross out the letters in each word that cannot be right. You will be left with two possible letters for each correct letter in the word: P G M G F I Y S and E I L A R M M T. By trying out different combinations, you can get the answer: PILGRIMS.



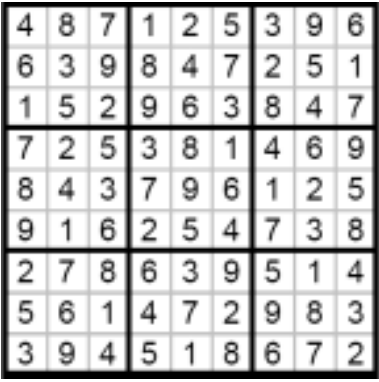
Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



Wanna sleep over at her place, the airport or at the gay guy's?

"July 2003 On 3rd day got chummy with some girl called Wanna doing surveys who also got me some rice in! Spent 3rd night spent at the gay man's house, his idea not mine, it was 3am and i thought why not? fair play he did not try it on but shared a bed. Back to the airport for his afternoon shift and met up with a mad Scot who supplied me with as much beer as i could handle so spent 4th night in drunken stupor outside Term 1 smoking fags... Mark xoxoxoxox" (1)

"May 2004 - Had to wait for 7 hours at Bangkok for my connection to LHR. Within 5 minutes of lying on a bench I was pestered by a homosexual baggage handler who made it clear he wanted to handle a little more than my baggage. He told me he had slept with a bloke called Mark a few years previously who he had met in the same place, and they had gone back to his place in Bangkok. I spent the remaining 6 hrs 55 mins locked in a toilet (alone). Thank god my flight was on time." (1)

But let's get back to good old Phuket.

Jai yen, jai yen. "You know that we have said that Thais don't like to get angry because it shows a lack of control and they lose face, hell go to Patong for a night and you will see that tradition fly out the window very quickly. In Phuket Town, it is much more Thai and I think much friend-

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

As everyone knows, this column is dedicated to how the outside world sees Phuket. This week Lis can't help but set her sights a little wider to announce that Bangkok's Don Muang Airport is the sixth most slept-in airport in the world. Yes! There's a website dedicated to tales of people who have slept over in the shadow of 747s, Airbuses and the like. It's a whole new world, though not unconnected... as Lis found out.

lier... The only thing about Phuket Town that I don't care for is that its a bitch to get around on your own. The streets are like a maze and too many accidents to talk about." (2)

All I want for Christmas is... "If there is a life that's better than the one on Phuket, I'd like to see it... I hadn't seen so many

blond-haired, blue-eyed people in one place since that Walmart in Utah... Phuket is the place to go. If you want to hit some hopping [sic], beachside night-life, Phuket is your place. If you want to relax in a quiet beach town, go to Phuket. If you want to stay in an expensive resort, try Phuket. If you want to stay at a cheap place near the beach, Phuket. Phuket just has it all. Everything except its tourist industry back." (3)

A fair cop: "Every time I throw a piece of rubbish away in Thailand I have got six cops on my backside demanding a 1,000 baht fine (including this holiday) but when I need a cop to help me there is never any to be found. Eventually I found a police officer directing traffic on the other side of Patong beach and to my surprise he dropped everything and came to rescue immediately. He spoke reasonable English and he explained on the way back to the hire operator that the police spent far too much time dealing with these unscrupulous hire operators who constantly ripped off the tourists. He went on to say that if tourists kept getting ripped off then they would not come back to Phuket. I couldn't believe what I was hearing and I thought I was on another planet or perhaps in a parallel universe where things actually happen the way they should in Thailand and people actually give a shit about one another." (4)

The Peril of the Andaman: Ever get the feeling that some people are drama queens? "Ignoring the red flag and our previous warning, we waded up to our knees in the clear, warm Andaman Sea. About sixty feet away, ten-foot waves heaved, curled, and crashed. Slightly diminished, the white caps broke around and over us, pounding us with a roiling turmoil of froth and fury, before hissing in retreat and launching another attack. After enduring a number of assaults, we made our way back to the beach on rubbery legs, feeling as if we had just completed an energetic workout. The smile of the ever-vigilant lifeguard did not belie his feelings regarding the foolishness of two intrepid tourists... After negotiating the fare, we left the Patong... and bounced and sputtered into the blackness of the sultry night, our lives in the hands of a speed demon, ever grinning tuk-tuk." (5)

The smile of the lifeguard was probably puzzlement as to why farang cannot see red flags, and the tuk-tuk driver was grinning because he'd made a killing.

1. sleepinginairports.net
2. mensasia.com/Travel/Thailand/Phuket/Phukettown
3. //basmati.blogspot.com/
4. stickmanbangkok.com/reader/reader1017
5. thingsasian.com/goto_article/article.1080

For many months leading up to the 2004 US presidential election, I was a craven campaign junkie. Even more so than in the 2000 election, I so desperately wanted George W Bush to lose. Lose? I wanted him dragged out of the White House, tarred and feathered, and flogged back to Texas to hole up in his Crawford ranch, corralled together with all his neo-con minions. I wanted Washington purified of their stench.

The above is not good political commentary, even though I mean every word. It is vitriolic, over the top, strident and blatantly partisan. The art of political commentary works best behind a cool facade leavened with irony and humor.

Henrik Hertzberg is a master of the genre. During the 2004 presidential campaign, he wrote the lead column in the "Talk of the Town" section of *The New Yorker*. Each week, he would artfully demolish Bush. Not in the clownish way of Michael Moore and Al Franken, but with high seriousness and deadly wit. Among all the news sources that fed my addiction, *The New Yorker* was pure Colombian cocaine. At 350 baht an issue, it wasn't cheap either.

Besides being a long-time contributor to *The New Yorker*, Hertzberg was a former chief speech writer for Jimmy Carter and Chief Editor of the liberal weekly journal, *The New Repub-*

The best and the worst of political prose



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

lic. Now he has put together his first book - a collection of columns, features and profiles that stretch back over nearly 40 years. *Politics* is its unabashed title (The Penguin Press, New York, 2004, 683pp).

Hertzberg approached politics down a well-trodden path. If he is not exactly a red-diaper baby, he is certainly a pink one. His father was Jewish, his mother a Quaker; both were socialists, of the anti-Stalinist persuasion. Hertzberg grew up in New York and went to Harvard, and he has made a long career out of spouting his liberal political opinions. In any discussion of religion, he finds it difficult not to sneer.

And he certainly covers the waterfront. In terms of the 1960s, he was there at the creation, covering the Haight-Ashbury scene, Woodstock and the Weathermen: "Unlike the Stalinists, the Weath-

ermen do not take orders from anyone. They do their own unthinking." He even interviewed John Lennon and Yoko Ono about their love of New York for - what else? - *The New Yorker*.

He follows this with incisive and sympathetic profiles of Jimmy Carter and Robert Kennedy, and a corrosive one of Ronald Reagan.

In a section on speech-making, he is much fairer to his conservative colleagues like William Safire and Peggy Noonan, whom he openly admires.

There is an unfortunate 100-page section on the 1988 Bush-Dukakis campaign, which he covered for *The New Republic*. He admits up-front that this was a mostly dull affair and, except for a ferocious pummeling of Vice President Dan Quayle ("Roboflop"), these columns lack the punch and sparkle of his others.

In fact, many of his *New Republic* columns are just liberal boilerplate. It's in his *New Yorker* pieces and a half dozen *Esquire* stories that he truly comes into his own.

Ten pieces on the media are worth the price of the book, the apotheosis being "Topless Tabloids of Gotham" about the war between the *New York Daily News* and the *New York Post*.

"They're fighting it out today and everyday, for the hearts and minds of readers - the kind of readers who like to read fast or have to read slow," he writes. "Their war may be fought in an eternal present, but it has been going on for along time, on a

battlefield soaked with the ink of newspapers living and dead. The casualties have been heavy. The contestants carry old scars and new wounds..."

"The front page looks like the top half of an eye chart... The back page is a front page, too, but about sports. Inside is a version of what appears in other daily newspapers, but with bigger headlines, shorter paragraphs, tough-guy columnists, and heavy emphasis on sensation, sports and entertainment. The writing, at its best, is as direct and riveting as a ransom note."

And so is the writing of Henrik Hertzberg - about half the time.



Siam International
38/54 Nanai Road,
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Siam
International

❖ Legal consultation Contact:
❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
❖ Notarial Fax: 076 346 150
 certifications Email:
❖ Contracts siamint@loxinfo.co.th
❖ Work permits
❖ Bookkeeping
❖ Visa service
❖ Translations

I loathe small talk with every fiber of my being, and even with some extra fibers that aren't technically of my being but are just lying around. Let's face it; I *gather* fibers for the express purpose of loathing small talk.

But that might just be because I'm terrible at it.

It's been raining a great deal lately, but the local reservoirs haven't been alone in benefiting from the precipitation. After several months of dry weather, people finally have something new to chat about.

I've heard dozens of people go on about how it's raining cats, dogs, men, or three-toed sloths.

Usually, I manage to change the subject by rambling on about low-pressure fronts, cloud formations and lots of other geeky weather trivia, but the inevitable awkward silence that follows indicates that it might not be the best thing to do.

What actually is small talk? When I was five years old, I imagined a midget with a small speech bubble coming out of his mouth. Perhaps "small" talk isn't even the right term for it, considering how important it is to some folks.

Sociologists conducted a study at the Stanford University School of Business, tracking down holders of an MBA some 10 years after their graduation.

It turned out that it wasn't their grades that mattered – it was their ability to converse, in other words how good they were at small talk.

Being able to communicate with others is crucial in the workplace. According to the researchers, small talk is an acquired skill.

"Well, I'm not a lost cause then," I thought, as I began researching the subject. "The first

Small talk may be polite, but it's also totally pointless

step," claims one website, is to "cultivate contacts".

I must admit that the first image that flew into my head was that of growing people in greenhouses – as the website's method of cultivating these contacts differed very little from growing particularly stubborn plants.

I decided to find another source. Writer Susan RoAne advises, "Be bright. Be brief. Be gone," which is very succinct advice, but it doesn't explain exactly how to be "bright".

Another writer, Deborah Fine, suggests throwing the "conversational ball" leading to images of playing verbal monkey-in-the-middle.

She also suggests treating small talk as a diet – perhaps people will begin counting their conversations the way they count their calories.

After the 20th website (which told me to talk to myself in the mirror every morning) I decided to ask other teenagers.

One fact that bothers many teenagers is the artificiality of small talk. When people say, "Hi, how are you?" do they truly want to know how you feel? In most cases, they don't even bother waiting for the answer and simply give you a terse smile, when you say, "I'm fine, thanks, and you?"

I use the phrase, "I'm fine, thanks, and you?" so often, that I sometimes wonder why an acronym hasn't been developed in its honor yet.

It would be so much simpler to say "IFTAY?" – particularly in today's time-efficient culture.

Teenagers who despise small talk see it as superficial and trivial, and are disappointed at the lack of sincerity shown when they meet new people.

You are often forgotten after a brief conversation because the other person makes no effort to listen to you and merely follows the steps listed on so many websites:

1. Have a (mental) list of questions ready;
2. Ask them;
3. Cut off the conversation with a firm handshake and smile;
4. Circulate and find someone else to cultivate; there are people whose shallowness is so thorough, it's actually quite deep.

The teenagers who were more forgiving of small talk pointed out that it was a great way to get rid of those darned awkward silences.

While it's amusing to see how long it takes for someone to start fidgeting, it's tiring and uncomfortable to sit with someone and look around for a "conversa-

tion ball" to chuck around with them.

As with "IFTAY?" perhaps "awkward silence" deserves a word of its own, if only for the fact that there are so many of them.

Perhaps there's a word for it in German – after all words like *zeitgeist* and *weltschmerz* perfectly sum up complex emotions and feelings.

In fact, one could even make up a specific word for "The chocolate that gets stuck in your teeth when eating glazed donuts."

There must be a specific term for the horror that is the Awkward Silence.

In defense of small talk, it is a safe way to get to know someone, if you truly find that person interesting.

Although it might be fake, saying, "Hi, I'm Ella. Beautiful weather, don't you think?" it's a much better conversation starter than, "Hi, I'm Ella. I've lost my job and my boyfriend has been doing naughty things with a goat," which will surely lead to an awkward silence of nuclear proportions.

On the other hand, "Hi, I'm Ella. What are your opinions on the imagery versus proposition debate in cognitive psychology?" will either scare off the person because they haven't a clue



Youth 'n
ASIA

By Ella Micheler

what you're saying, or because you sound like an annoying know-it-all.

Either way, you can't win. An alternative to small talk is witty banter. Of course, if you haven't the wit or the speedy comebacks, don't attempt it.

Your best shot is to appear honest, sincere, and interested.

Don't waste your time having meaningless conversations. Don't simply cultivate contacts to gloat at your colleagues, "I cultivated *four* yesterday. How many did *you* get?"

The positive-thinking guru Leo Buscaglia once said, "Too often do we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Try to gain something from every conversation you have: whether it's a new friend, or an amusing story that brightens your day.

And even if there *is* a dreadful awkward silence, be comforted by the thought that the other person is probably as inept as you are at small talk.

Dear Momma Duck,

I am interested in English words which have been adopted by the Thai language and, in some cases, changed.

One example is the word "serious", which Thais seem to use to indicate a grave psychological state. Another is *rot mae* (bus), which, from the Thai spelling, one can see actually comes from the English word "mail" (with the final "l" not pronounced), presumably because buses were often used as mail trucks in the past.

Where do these Thai words come from?

Do you know of any other interesting words that I may not be aware of? Also, how long has the word "freshy" (obviously from the word "freshman") been in use?

Also, I read in a news report about the hazing problem in Thai schools where the ringleaders are referred to as "wagger". All Thai university graduates are familiar with this word, and I assume that it must be derived from

an English word as well (perhaps one starting with a "v"), but neither I nor any of my language-maven friends seem capable of figuring out the etymology.

Can you help us out?

Word Wonderer

Dear Word Wonderer,

There are many English words which we use in Thai, technical words in particular, such as "computer" and "generator". There are often proper Thai terms (such as *khreung pan fai* for generator – literally: a machine which makes electricity) but the English versions are in much wider spoken use.

Somewhere in government or academia (I don't know where), the official Thai vocabulary is created, but the vast majority of people use the Anglicized version.

In my home town of Phuket, my generation commonly uses English words, such as *rot van* (a van), *sa-pare* (spare part), *too safe* (safety deposit box) and *lorry* ("truck" in American). I have not found anyone who could substantiate your contention that

rot mae comes from the English word "mail", and I rather doubt it because, in my experience, mail has always been delivered by hand, bicycle or motorcycle and not by four-wheeled vehicles.

You are right about "freshy" (from the American word "freshman", meaning a first-year student at university) and it has been in use here for at least 35 years.

Every time there is a welcoming hazing for freshies at the universities, there seems to be a spate of front page headlines on how badly some wagers (upperclassmen) treat their juniors. Hazing apparently was invented by the English, and has a long and not-so-glorious history in their public (i.e. private) schools.

The word "wagger" is interesting because it is an Anglicized version of a Thai word *wag*, which means to abruptly order somebody to do something, shouting at the top of your voice (such as military drill sergeants training cadets). The word has been given the English ending "-er", turning it from a verb to a noun.

Wag is written ว๊าก in Thai. The "Ç" can be written in English



Momma
DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok
momma@phuketgazette.net

as v or w because the true pronunciation is between the two English consonants. I used to spell my name "Vanida", but was advised that the sound of my name is closer to being pronounced as W in English, so I changed it to Wanida instead.

I hope this response helps. Thank you: I enjoyed trying to find out about the various words. Perhaps other readers have some interesting information about the use of English words in Thai or adaptations which have occurred.

BUPA Health Insurance
Phuket
156/15 Phangnga Rd. T. Taladyai
A. Muang, Phuket. 83000.
Tel: 076 355 815-7 Fax: 076 355 814
e-mail: phuket@bupa.co.th

• Personal Care
Protect your family from
as little as 10 baht a day

• Small Company Care
Protect your employees from
as little as 10 baht each

• Platinum Care
2 million baht medical expense cover
from as little as 50 baht per day

• Travel Health Insurance
World-class protection with worldwide coverage

In The Stars

by Isla Star

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Some mud-slinging will affect you this week. If you are celebrating a birthday, make a point of not inviting fair-weather friends to the party. It is high time that you focused on relationships that you can count on and eliminated those that are using more energy than they generate. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for business deals; do not sell yourself short.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You will finally be able to relax and watch things fall into place this week. Just rewards are finally coming your way. As career matters are highlighted until the end of this month, do not hesitate before making new moves. The only downside will be that not everyone is happy that you have the golden touch. Jealousy will be a negative factor on Tuesday. The color rose pink encourages gentle romance.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If you have been dealing with an emotionally painful situation recently, you will see positive light at the end of the tunnel this weekend. A healing astral atmosphere will enable you to regard life with a lighter outlook. Where business is concerned, Leo can be trusted with important tasks but Pisces are not as confident as they try to make everyone believe. The number 4 can bring luck on Sunday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): If you are feeling under the weather, you will benefit from a weekend at home. Spend some quality time with your partner to rediscover the intimacy that has not been in evidence lately. If health continues to be a concern next week, a visit to the doctor should be made. Family overseas are planning to come and see you; expect to receive news of an impending arrival. The color apricot will soothe your nerves.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The Aquarian trait of believing you can change the world is strongly at the forefront this week, but you need to remember just who you are dealing with. Altercations are forecast that could lead to you being put in an awkward position. The cash-flow situation that was a problem last month is finally about to be resolved, but this is not an auspicious time to make spontaneous business commitments.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The misty landscape of last week will clear completely for you by Monday. As soon as you can focus on the immediate future, action should be taken. At work, the ball is in your court; this is the right time to ask for a salary increase or other benefits. It is also a good time to embark on some kind of savings plan. Where romance is nourished, it will blossom.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If you are ready for a game of snakes and ladders, you should be the easy winner. Your competitive streak is ignited and remains strong until the end of the month. Make changes to the interior of your house to activate better energy; the colors deep navy and sunflower yellow will encourage a healthier balance of the books. Monday is the best day for a heart-to-heart discussion, but misinterpretation is likely after Tuesday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Romantic interest comes right out of the blue. You may have given up on finding the perfect person to share your life with, but there is a surprise in store. Make the most of wet and windy days by tidying up at home; be ruthless in throwing out unnecessary items. The number 7 brings luck this Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): An opportunity to move to a better job can be expected. This could be the chance of a lifetime and you would be foolish to decline. The gossip grapevine will be active next week; most of what you hear can be dismissed as hot air. Double-check invoices on Monday and Tuesday as a discrepancy will not be in your favor. Aquarius makes an interesting suggestion this Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you cannot get your head round a romantic dilemma you will receive astral help this week. At work, your ability to be flexible is about to be put to the test when someone asks a tricky question. Make this weekend a productive one by catching up with old friends; some of these contacts will prove useful in the not-too-distant future. The number 8 looks lucky this Sunday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): You will first be impressed by someone's generosity this weekend, but will soon realize that all that glitters is not always gold. Your independent spirit will help find a dignified way out of this situation. On Monday you learn of a potentially lucrative job offer; do some checking before signing on the dotted line. The color dark chocolate will encourage a looser outlook on life.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A friend in need should be a friend indeed early next week. If you are prepared to remember occasions when this person has offered a shoulder to cry on, you will not hesitate to return the favor. Tuesday is the best day for inquiring about new career prospects; the stars indicate that your work situation will be quite different by the end of this year. Wear an amethyst to help combat stress.

Protests cause park fee increase to be postponed

THE TIME machine

News from the past

From the *Phuket Gazette*, October 15, 2000.

PHUKET: The Royal Forestry Department (RFD) has announced that the planned increase in entrance fees to Thailand's national parks will be postponed to October 1, 2001.

A dramatic increase in park fees, which would apply only to foreigners, was announced by the RFD in late August, and was due to come into effect on September 13.

The plan raises the fee for foreign adults visiting Phuket's Sirinart National Marine Park, for example, from 10 baht to 200 baht, and for foreign children from 5 baht to 100 baht. Fees for Thais are to remain at 10 baht and 5 baht. At Koh Lanta the fees are currently 20 baht for adults and 10 baht for children.

Announcing the postponement, the RFD said it was delaying implementation for a year in order to "encourage tourism" and give tour operators and travel agents time to adjust their rates.

The increase in park fees sparked complaints from tour operators nationwide, mainly because it was announced only two weeks before it was due to be applied.

"We will have hundreds of



Going into parks such as this one in Krabi is expected to become a great deal more expensive for foreigners, though not just yet.

guests coming to Khao Lak and Lanta Island this season," said Stefan Lindh, Thailand co-ordinator and destination manager of the Scandinavian tour company, Apollo Resor.

"Yes, the guests can afford the fee, but it's not right to ask for it when they've already paid

for their package before coming here," he said.

Foreign residents, who work and pay taxes in Thailand, have complained about the plan to apply the new rates to all foreigners.

"The Government and Private Organizations Committee and the Phuket Provincial Forestry Office (PPFO) sent a letter to the RFD to ask that it reconsider the decision in the case of foreign residents," said PPFO deputy chief Phol Pitprakij.

The RFD has not yet announced whether foreign residents will have to pay the higher fee when it comes into effect next year.

Bragging Leads To Arrest Of Bike Gang

From the *Phuket Gazette*, October, 1995

AO CHALONG: As the result of some misguided bragging on the part of gang leader Sujih Puk-sawad, 23, of Tai Muang in Phang Nga Province, a motorcycle-borne group of young bandits, whose activities at Chalong were reported in last month's *Gazette*, have been captured by the police.

Sujih was boasting of his exploits in a working-class pub when one of his listeners decided that what he was hearing might just be a matter of interest to the police.

He duly informed the men in the brown uniforms and they seized Sujih at his home without a struggle.

He confessed his part in holding up the minimart in Rawai, Somboon's House; a mom-and-pop grocery store in Chalong where a gun was used to club the owner into unconsciousness; and others.

He also named his accomplices and co-operated with law enforcement officers in their efforts to bring the thugs to justice.

Police then located the gun, as well as one of Sujih's cohorts, at the boy's residence in Phang Nga. Another member of the group was rounded up at a rooming house near the pub in Phuket where Sujih first surfaced. A fourth suspect remains at large.

Cherngtalay Church

Sunday Service:
Thai: 10.30 am, 7.00 pm
Eng: 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm
48/92 Moo 4, Soi Pasak 8,
Cherngtalay (near Laguna Phuket).

Please call:
076-274 975-6
04-056-7027
E-mail: cherngtalaychurch@yahoo.com
www.cherngtalaychurch.com

AN Production

DIRECT EXPORT

Made to Order

New T-Shirt

European Quality:
- Polo shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Baseball caps
+
- Embroidery
- Pens, Lighters

Tel: 076-321850
Fax: 076-321851
Email: info@best-t-shirt.com
www.best-t-shirt.com
Ask for: Mr. FRANZ

The Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

Time for more serious action against uncaring developers

The one high-profile sector of Phuket's economy that seems to have suffered little or no damage from last year's tsunami is the property industry. Sales are still booming, and prices at the very top end of the market have already surpassed US\$5 million, or 200 million baht, per home.

Many developers take great care over environmental matters. Particularly at the top end of the market, they are aware that home-buyers are usually concerned about the environment, and would not want to live in homes the construction of which has caused environmental degradation.

But there are still far too many examples of developers who plainly do not understand – or simply do not care – about the damage they are doing, so great is their desire to make big money fast.

The 80-home development above Soi Siang Tai on the edge of Phuket City – to which the Governor recently called a halt – is only the latest example.

This project violated just about every rule devised to mitigate environmental damage, and with predictable results; when it rained, homes in the soi downhill from the project were inundated with muddy water.

Not only that, but the project apparently had not even received a building permit from the local Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*). How work could have started and continued on a site of that size without the *OrBorTor* noticing is indeed a mystery.

The saddest fact is that probably nothing would have been done about the violations had they been perpetrated on a site that was not directly uphill from where people lived.

There have been dozens of examples of housing projects in Phuket where everything green on the site was expunged in order to make construction easier and cheaper, resulting in serious ecological damage – the property industry's equivalent of strip mining.

Large scars have appeared on hillsides, reefs have been smothered and killed by mud, and water catchment areas – vital on an island with a chronic shortage of water – have been destroyed.

The Governor ordered a halt to construction on the Soi Siang Tai site until the developers obtain all the required paperwork, but no further penalties have, as yet, been imposed. This is unlikely to deter others from taking similarly disastrous short-cuts to riches.

If this form of rape of Phuket's countryside is to be prevented, *OrBorTors* must wake up, and serious penalties must be imposed upon offenders.

– The Editor

The Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editors: Chris Husted, Stephen Myles

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Anongnat Sartpisut, Athiga Jundee, Sam Wilkinson, Ananya Hongsa-ngiam, Shiona Mackenzie

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Marketing Manager: Oranee Pienprasertkul

Website Services Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Distribution Manager: Passara Kaewbumroong

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Copyright © 1994-2005 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd



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.

Air fares to Phuket too expensive

I have been advised by people in England and Europe that to come to Phuket for a holiday over the high season is now practically impossible.

The reason? The very high cost of air fares.

My son and his wife told me that the two of them can fly [from England] to the Canary Isles and stay in a hotel, with breakfast and dinner, for one week for the price of just one ticket to Phuket!

No airline can offer anything less than £800 sterling (nearly 60,000 baht) to Phuket, and that is for the flight only.

So do not expect too many Europeans – the money spenders – to come over until there are some much-needed reductions.

Derek Priest
Kathu

Security needs much more consideration

I am pleased to hear that Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen has received orders to increase security in Patong, but what he said this week has not given me peace of mind.

According to Col Teeraphol, all unattended bags should be reported to security. That system worked with the IRA terrorists in the UK, but suicide bombers do not leave bags unattended. That's why they are called suicide bombers.

Everyone who carries a bag in the evening should be screened.

It was mentioned that vehicles are not allowed on Soi Bangla at night. Excuse me, but someone must be walking around

blind. There are motorbikes on Soi Bangla every evening, parked outside Ocean Complex.

All it would take is a couple of motorbike bombs with a timing device or a mobile telephone detonator and Soi Bangla is in tomorrow's headlines.

I was impressed by security staff at Big C last week when they stopped my motorbike and checked under the seat. Have the Central Festival complex security staff learned yet that terrorists place bombs inside cars and not underneath them? Or do they just like playing at comedians with their mirrors on sticks?

TM
Patong

Book him, Danno

It looks like James Eckardt is back on form again, reviewing books he does not particularly care for [“A lame sequel to a genuine original”, from the *Phuket Gazette* of October 8].

I suppose he was obliged to write about *Bangkok Tattoo* after *Bangkok 8*. But did he really have to give away the ending?

Frank Visakay
Rawai

Now let's have a bus service on west coast

It is interesting to read the position of Manod Chusak, the *song-taew* co-operative's representative, who said, “Airport buses and VIP limousines have different customers so this will not affect our service.”

That's good news. Because they operate with different customer demographics I assume, then, that there is no objection to a west coast bus route service, perhaps running through Surin,

Kamala, Patong, Karon and Kata.

I know that the bus company is very willing to provide such a service but it had seemed there was resistance from the airport taxis and tuk-tuks.

Now that K. Manod seems to feel it's not a problem I look forward to seeing the new service in action.

Sefton Hanley
Patong

Time for Lis to hang up her tripewriter

Why, oh why does the *Gazette* continue to print the inane ramblings of Lis Kinswoman, the compiler of *Outside In*? Isn't it about time that the old girl was told to hang up her tripewriter and retire gracefully?

Every week, she pokes fun at people from around the world who have only one thing in common – that they have made a comment, admittedly foolish or grammatically incorrect, that has been published somewhere.

Shame on you, Ms Kinswoman. Try thinking a little more charitably!

Kevin Broadacre
Taunton, England

Time to raise the bar

Among the fine statuary in Phuket celebrating important events and people of merit, I am surprised that none yet exists to commemorate that selfless group who have done so much to raise the profile and good fortune of this island.

When, oh when, will a statue to Phuket's bar girls be erected? I feel the public should be told.

David McMurray
Karon

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.

Free rooms a big opportunity

It is, of course, quite common for people who have suffered the loss of a loved one to revisit the place where they died, particularly on the anniversary of that loss.

This December 26 will be no exception, and I agree completely with the proposal from the government to offer hotels rooms in Phuket to the relatives of those who died.

This event will necessitate some sacrifices being made by those in the region's hotel industry, but these sacrifices will reap benefits: it will ensure that the hotel rooms are full. In addition, after the tsunami, the government helped [local] hotels so it is only right and proper that [hoteliers] should agree to support this scheme.

Many dignitaries – royalty, heads of state and other VIPs, around 64 in all – visited Phuket and the region in the aftermath of the tsunami, and the government is inviting these people back for the first anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Even if only half of this number return, it will still be more than worth it, because Thailand will not have to spend billions of baht promoting the region. The international media – who will be following the VIPs – will promote Phuket for us.

The media – and in fact world attention – will focus on Phuket, rather than Sri Lanka or Indonesia, for example. Although those countries have tourist ar-



FIRST PERSON

The government has promised to provide a free return flight and two nights' accommodation in a 3- to 5-star hotel in the region for one immediate family member of every victim of the tsunami, including those who were injured (although it is unclear if Burmese, for example, will be included).

Some hoteliers have questioned the wisdom and the worth of the proposal, which could see as many as 11,000 rooms being appropriated by the government and paid for at rate yet to be disclosed, right in the middle of the high season.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice-President **Kittti Phatanachinda**, however, takes a broader view.

...eas, they are not what I would call "real" tourist destinations in the way that Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga are.

The media may have published or broadcast headline news about the tsunami [when it happened], but CNN and others have been slow to show what is happening here now.

We must make the most of this – our only opportunity on the only date that matters, the first anniversary of the tsunami – to get the attention of the media.

I estimate that Phuket has around 35,000 hotel rooms of which approximately 20,000 fall in to the 3- to 5-star category.

However, I do not believe that the full 10,000 rooms requested will be available; the PTA's projections for the Christmas period suggest that hotels in Phuket will be up to 90% full [around 31,000 rooms occupied] with regular tourists.

The government's scheme to invite guests here for the anniversary will be good for – and

welcomed by – most hoteliers because it will, one hopes, fill any vacant rooms, even if the hotels have to offer the rooms at a special rate to the government. It is better to have a room occupied at 500 baht a night than have it remain empty.

Again, any hotel that has a VIP staying in it, for example former US President Bill Clinton, will benefit by being able to say that a dignitary has stayed there.

This will be good not only for the image of the hotel, but also

– by extension – the island's hotel industry as a whole.

The Thais and foreigners who will be invited here for the anniversary commemorations will receive free return flights and two nights' full-board accommodation on December 26 and 27, which will be paid for by the government.

But, of course, it is unlikely that they will stay for just those two nights; they will probably stay for longer than that, and the additional nights' accommodation will be paid for by the guest, not the government.

It is also unlikely that these people will want to travel here alone for the anniversary. Those who accompany a guest of the Thai government must pay for their flights and accommodation in full.

This will help to circulate more revenue through the local economy, and not just for this year, because the government's scheme should have positive knock-on effects for the future.

If the guests of the government who come here [to commemorate the first anniversary of the December 26 tsunami] are treated well by the hotels, then it is certain that they will come back as "regular" tourists in the future.

I urge all hoteliers and other businesses in the hospitality sector to work together to make this project a success, because we can all benefit.

– *Compiled by Anongnat Sartpisut*

Why do I repeatedly get power cuts?

I live in a modern condominium at Karon Beach. We have had power cuts every three or four days, on average, over the past three months.

They usually last from a few minutes to an hour or two, although one recently lasted about five hours and another was about ten hours long. Is this the normal level of service in Thailand?

St. John Campbell
Karon

K. Pheera Pruksanan, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) replies:

Often, three different buildings have their own electrical fuse boxes connecting overhead wires to their underground supply, but the power is also routed through one shared, main, public fuse box.

As a result, whenever one of those buildings has a problem with its fuse box – usually due to water penetrating it – all three buildings are affected.

These fuse boxes normally need to be replaced every year.

If a building's private fuse box malfunctions, its repair or re-

placement must be paid for by the owners of the building.

The two other buildings that share the main fuse box with your condominium paid to have their own fuse boxes replaced.

The PPEA was contacted by your building's management, but we never heard back from them after we told them the cost of replacing their fuse box – 14,104.74 baht. This is probably the reason for the blackouts you have been having.

How do I get rid of fire ants?

It seems the fire ants are worse this year than in the past and have forced us to be very careful if we walk in the grass or near flower beds. How can I deal with this?

Lamsai
Rawai

Songwat Tiew-tae of the Phuket Agriculture and Cooperatives Office, replies:

Azadirachtin is a non-toxic chemical that is available in bottles. Spread this around your home in the evening, as exposure

to sunlight can make it less effective.

Cabaryl is a toxic liquid. It as ingesting it can cause vomiting, stomach ache and diarrhea, inhaling it can result in a headache, and contact with your eyes can damage your eyesight, so wear gloves, a mask and goggles.

Carbosulfan is another chemical often used by pest control companies to poison ants. This is put into small holes dug around the home. Carbosulfan is also toxic.

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

Aftermath of a traffic accident

While driving I hit two people and both died. My insurance will pay 200,000 baht per person and I am willing to add a further 100,000 baht per person. One family has agreed, but the other wants more. How can I settle this problem?

Andre Syaiful
Pattanakan

Sam Fauma of Phuket International Law Office replies:

In the case of an accident in which a person dies, the police must arrest the party accused of reckless driving causing death.

A case like this cannot be settled at the police station because the charge is not "compoundable" – that is, it cannot be withdrawn by the complainant.

Although the settlement is a civil (not criminal) matter, it is important to show the court that agreement has been reached.

If the family of the deceased is asking for too much, you should lodge a guarantee for payment with the court to show that you are willing to reach a settlement. This also can help to obtain a reduction in sentence.

ON THE MOVE



Rudolf Borgesius has been appointed the new General Manager for Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. Mr Borgesius, a Dutch national, has gained extensive experience in the hospitality industry, having worked in Europe, the Caribbean, South America, the Indian Ocean, Middle East and Asia. Previously, he was the General Manager of Le Méridien Singapore.



Marcus "Gus" Overman, from England, has been appointed Yacht Sales Executive of Lee Marine. With 12 years' experience in the industry in Australia, Europe and Asia, he has held a wide range of positions including delivery skipper and fleet manager. Recently, he managed the Sunsail base in Phuket before managing two new Riviera charters with Tawan Cruises.



Phuket-born **Suchart Ratanadilok**, 41, has been appointed Manager of Phukana Wine & Music on Mae Laun Rd, in Phuket City. K. Suchart graduated from the Open-Educational School in Phuket. He worked as Food & Beverage Manager for almost 10 years at the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort before moving to the Phukana.

Process re-engineering: how to go with the flow

Our company is currently involved in a very interesting project with a multinational here in Phuket. I will not mention the company's name in order to respect its privacy, but I would like to share some of the details of this project, since it represents one of our most interesting MIS (Management Information Systems) disciplines known as "process re-engineering".

The information that follows is a cursory introduction to this sort of work. I hope you find it interesting and helpful; please feel free to send me emails with any questions or comments.

This will be the first in a three-part series dedicated to a subject that is not only a new area of consulting, but is also one of the most productive uses of MIS. It applies to production, accounting, sales, marketing, quality control and finance.

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

mation to track and a business model to enact. Some of the terms that follow may sound somewhat lofty, but I believe that if you back them up with hard facts and applicable examples they are no longer the generic intangibles that many consultants like to use to impress their clients.

The project we are working on is especially exciting because it involves their entire operation, and the task is to re-engineer their entire business process including production, operations, sales, accounting, quality control and also to redesign their computer systems and information tracking systems. We expect this project will be completed within six months, which, in the scope of things, is very quick.

The basics: Every company, whether it is a mom-and-pop store or a multinational, has business processes to manage, infor-

Understanding the business process: This is an obvious first step that requires hours of painstakingly detailed analysis. The clients spend a lot of energy showing us how their markets work, how the business operates, what information is important to them, and how they currently track it. The first step in this part of the project is to assemble top managers and key employees into a work session that can last between two days and two months.

The exercise begins with the identification of UDEs (undesirable effects). This means

that we put up on a poster board everything that is not optimal about the business, including its market, business procedures, internal policies and daily job tasks. This may sound simple, but when you really get into it, everyone is amazed at how many small, yet cumbersome, things affect their everyday jobs, not to mention productivity and profitability.

There are several benefits to this exercise, including a general sharing of each person's experience in his or her daily job and how this affects other people and departments. I am always im-

'Ahas' happen when one person mentions something about his job, a process or a policy and another, usually an upper manager, smacks his forehead and says 'aha', usually followed by some sort of new idea or revelation of how to better the process under evaluation

pressed with the fact that upper management has very little understanding of what middle management and the rest of the workforce must deal with every day. This exercise alone is the beginning of a process that educates the company on its own procedures and inefficiencies and, most importantly, the redundancy of work in its business processes.

Mapping the work flow: This is one of the most difficult and tedious parts of the overall consulting process, because it requires a 100% clear understanding of every aspect of the company's business processes. This is the deliverable part of the first round of work sessions mentioned at the beginning of this article, and it is usually represented as a flow chart.

We carefully break down every process from every department, and then create a comprehensive flow-chart consisting of a series of boxes, if/thens, arrows, decisions and conditional responses.

The level of clarity that this brings to the overall business process is amazing. It is the map by which we begin to redesign and/or confirm existing procedures within and between each department. It is also the beginning of the re-engineering of MIS, specifically what information they generate, how it is used, how it flows from the source to the end user, and what systems and software best accomplish this.

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 an email to john@islandtechnology.com

NAT
Providing the best business solutions

Worldclass Accounting Software
QuickBooks **sage**

HRS GENERAL BUSINESS SERVICES
Accounting & Tax Auditing
Company registration
Visa/Work permit

Bangkok: 02 513 7151
Phuket: 076 212 989
Pattaya: 038 378 178
Koh Samui: 077 230 831

Study Thai Tax (in English)
Basics of Thai Tax/Real Estate taxation
Contact: sirirat@thaiaccounting.com

PHUKET ALPHA

Authorized Reseller

Email: info@phuketalpha.com
2nd FL CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET, Tel: 076-246750
201 Thalang Rd, Muang Phuket Jern, Tel: 076-215706

FUJITSU

LIFE BOOK SHOP

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE
2nd FL CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET, Tel: 076-246751

Oil costs pump up price of building materials

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Provincial Office of Public Works and Town & Country Planning has revised its list of standardized prices for building materials used in supplying government contracts, and expects Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura to approve the price increases by the end of November.

Natthawat Buaphut, of the provincial Public Works office, told the *Gazette* that the set prices of about one third of the 400 building materials listed have been increased by up to 1.5%.

The prices were last revised in 2000, he said, and added that the current revision comes after an order from the Ministry of Commerce to consider the knock-on effect of the ongoing oil price hikes on building materials.

"The prices of building materials are

very volatile right now, and the prices needed revising because the cost of construction materials has risen so much over the past few months that the existing standard prices are jeopardizing the number of contractors willing to tender for government contracts," K. Nattawat said.

However, he added, "We're being realistic. With government projects we factor in all calculations, and we set our prices in line with real market prices."

Thada Pitchayaporn, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, which is charged with setting prices for government contract supplies in Phuket, said, "Prices of construction materials in Phuket are increasing, especially 6-millimeter, 9mm and 12mm steel concrete-reinforcing rods and cement.

"The rises in the price of oil affect transportation costs, making building materials more expensive, and I have yet to

see any signs that prices of building materials will drop," he added.

As examples, he said that 6mm steel rods now cost 22,408.88 baht a ton, 7cm x 16cm x 3.5cm bricks cost 2.52 baht apiece, and Elephant-brand 33cm x 42cm roofing tiles cost 12.85 each.

However, local construction contractors are saying that the price increases are not enough. Prapasri Lapsuangsong, Chief Accountant of Leefong Co, said, "The prices of construction materials are erratic, so how could a contractor get a supplier to commit to selling at government-standard prices? It is impossible, even if the prices are set by the provincial Commercial Office.

"Sometimes we contact suppliers for a quotation, and three days later the price has changed. As a contractor, we need to accept this. If the materials were for a private project, we could change our quo-

tation to reflect the price rise, but we cannot do so with government projects.

"Every time we take on a government project, we either break even or lose. The set government prices remain fixed while prices in the market do not," she said.

Chartchai Kanlayanamit, manager of local construction material supplier Jenkit Enterprises Co, agrees.

"It works in theory, but not in practice," he said. "The price of materials goes up or down, depending on who you buy the materials from and how that company sets its profit margins. Each brand sets its own prices, so we cannot use one standard price."

What set prices encourage, K. Chartchai explained, is contractors to select materials according to what is available at the set price. "The fact is that the price comes first, the quality comes after," he said.

Time to reconsider investments in India, Japan and Spain

For some time this column has featured India as a favored investment destination and, for investors who are erecting factories and so on, it still has long-term attraction. However, for the individual investor merely interested

in the Indian stock market, now is perhaps a good time for a portfolio review.

The Mumbai market has performed well, and 2005 has seen a series of record highs achieved. However, everything in this world has a price and perhaps the Mumbai stock market has become, in market terminology, "overbought". Many fund managers have long since announced that the market has reached target levels for the year, but the market has still risen substantially. This is a period that often happens in stock markets when a market keeps rising above its fundamentals.

Where involvement in India by an investor is through a fund that covers a number of countries, such as an Asian Fund, BRIC Fund (Brazil, Russia, India and China) or similar vehicle, the investor should rely on the fund



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

manager simply to take profits on much of the Indian exposure and use the capital to invest in other markets. Where the investor has used an Indian Fund to invest in that market, then the decision can no longer be left to a third party.

It is in the nature of stock markets, and any other market for that matter, to overreact both on the upside and the opposite. Investors should be aware of this phenomenon and not let greed or fear dominate their emotions. This is not to say that the Indian stock market will not rise further even in the short term, but investors are beginning to "skate on thin ice". Perhaps the wisest strategy is to take profits and wait for a correction in the market before considering a re-entry.

However, history shows that this is precisely the time when individual investors enter a stock market. They have watched from the sidelines and seen a market continue to rise and rise – this gives them a false sense of security, combined with the feeling that they are "missing out". When the majority of individual investors are moving into a "bull" market, the professionals are

moving in the opposite direction and pocketing the profits.

The "Tankan" survey, which measures business confidence and the state of the Japanese economy, was released in early October and the various television business channels described it as "disappointing". However, Seiji Takeshita, a director of Mizuho International and its strategist, had another opinion. He said that if one read the report in detail it was actually very encouraging; the Japanese economy was starting to fire on all cylinders and the outlook for corporate profits was good. He also pointed out that most Japanese exporters were basing their currency figures on an exchange rate of 105 yen to the US dollar – it is now at 113/114 – and this would give profits an extra boost.

Anais Faraj, of Nomura, is also enthusiastic about Japan as an investment destination. Cynics may say that these gentlemen work for large Japanese financial institutions and are naturally biased. However, until recently neither of them waxed enthusiastic about Japan.

Even Hedge Fund managers are very interested in Japanese investment now; Hugh Hendry, who runs Eclectica, is a perfect example. He is often a guest host on CNBC Europe and expressed enthusiasm for Japan probably before anyone else.

Hedge Fund managers do have one great advantage – if they like an investment regardless of the asset class they can invest, that is "go long". If they dislike an investment they can sell it "short". Hendry sees the Japanese market trebling in value over the next 10 years.

I strongly favor Japan; it has seen years of deflation, falling asset prices and a host of other bad news. It is in situations such as this that substantial profits are made when the situation turns around.

Similar profits were made in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian financial crises. In Thailand, by mid-1998 the SET index fell to 208 from over 1400 the previous year. There is an old market adage that "the best time to buy is when there is blood on the streets", but that should be tempered by adding the old Japanese saying "never try to catch a falling knife".

The Spanish economy looks set to produce the best growth figures of the larger economies in the Euro zone, probably growing in the 2.5% to 3% range. Spain had a problem common to most Euro zone members – labor markets that were inflexible and highly regulated.

It also had unemployment rates higher than 20%. More than a decade ago they came to a very simple solution: don't change any of the laws, as this would have met with enormous opposition from the unions; allow companies to hire temporary workers. Problem solved, and with it a large percentage of unemployment.

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: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.

Island Living

Quality Handcrafted Furniture and Accessories

- One source
- Interior design
- Space planning
- Installation

+66(0)76 223 025-6

info@islandlivingcompany.com
www.islandlivingcompany.com

KEEHIN

Quality in products
Trust in service

- We sell and service electrical equipment, lamps, lightbulbs, air conditioners, communication systems, closed-circuit television [cctv], security alarms, fire alarms, motors, generators, water pumps, washing machines, water filter tanks, hot water systems, electrical hoists, televisions, refrigerators, high pressure power-jet cleaners, power tools, transmission guns, valve equipment, etc.
- We design and install electrical systems, switchboards, air conditioners, dumb waiters, etc.

100/2 Moo 5 Chalempirakiat Ror 9 Rd, T. Rassada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.
Sales Tel: 076 261450 Fax: 076 261456-7 Open daily 8 am - 6 pm
Service Tel: 076 261460 Fax: 076 261464 Open Monday-Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Email: keehin@loxinfo.co.th

House of sanitaryware and tiles

The most beautiful room in the house

Tel: 076 261 470-5 Fax: 076 261 477
E-mail: sanitary@loxinfo.co.th

Wakeboard Pro Tour set for Nai Harn

RAWAI: Nai Harn Lake will be the venue next month for the Thailand leg of the 2nd Asian Wakeboard Pro Tour 2005. The November 11-13 competition is the final round of the tour, following previous rounds in Japan in September and Singapore this month.

The first day will see practice sessions for wakeboarders in the morning, and then youth training sessions from 3 to 5 pm. Qualifying will take place from 2 to 6 pm on November 12, with the semi-final and final rounds being contested between 10 am and 5 pm on Sunday, November 13.

The Nai Harn event is expected to attract 150 professional wakeboarders from South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand.

The top three finishers in the Phuket round will receive trophies and 100,000 baht, 60,000 baht and 30,000 baht in prize money respectively.

The event is free of charge to spectators. For more information, contact Tel: 076-236373 or Fax: 076-236840.



Spectacular: a wakeboarder in action.

Krabi are the champions on the dance floor

PHUKET CITY: Krabi Province swept the competition off their feet at the upper southern regionals of the 27th student dance competition at Saphan Hin Sports Complex on October 9.

It was only a first-place performance by Phuket pair Chit-tapan Jeitongsri and Janyaporn Koisombat in the under-16 Latin event that prevented the Krabi team from a clean sweep.

Ninety competitors from Chumphon, Ranong, Krabi, Surat

Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phang Nga and Phuket provinces took part in the contest, with competition falling into two categories: Latin and Standard. The Latin category included Samba, Cha Cha, Cuban Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive, while Standard was made up of Waltz, Tango, Slow Foxtrot, Waltz and Quickstep.

Final results

Class A (under-18) Standard: Chayatri Prommol, Yada Thara-

Udom (Krabi); **Latin:** Chayatri Prommol, Yada Thara-Udom (Krabi).

Class B (under-16) Standard: Kritawit Settachai and Atikan Sareekit (Krabi); **Latin:** Chit-tapan Jeitongsri and Janyaporn Koisombat (Phuket).

Class C (under-15) Standard: Kritawit Settachai and Atikan Sareekit (Krabi); **Latin:** Katak Siriwan and Jirapat Pakdeevanich (Krabi).

Class D (under-13) Standard:

Athit Ho-Thong and Chanikan Kanlayawanit (Krabi); **Latin:** Athit Ho-Thong and Chanikan Kanlayawanit (Krabi).

Class E (under-11) Standard: Chadawit Settachai and Kornchanok Kerabutr (Krabi); **Latin:** Chadawit Settachai and Kornchanok Kerabutr (Krabi).

The nationwide finals are to take place in Lampang Province on February 3 next year.

— Anongnat Sartpisut



Hilton
Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa

MELBOURNE CUP EVENT

Get caught up in the excitement @ Hilton Phuket on Tuesday 1st, November, 2005.

Time: 10 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Place: Grand Ballroom.

Price: 1,700 Baht ++ per person including champagne brunch.

For details, please contact Khun Nikki at 076 396 433.

333 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100 www.hilton.com



Skiff
ASIA

www.skiffasia.com
info@skiffasia.com
phone 06 954 1915

Beautiful undeveloped beach
Scenic fun-sailing around
Cape Panwa and Chalong Bay
Instruction: Learn-to-sail,
Intermediate, Intro to Racing,
one-on-one coaching
Sunday Regatta twice per
month
New facility with showers,
stunning views, beverages

Sail Yon Bay Phuket!

Youth success attracts top Karate-Do tournament

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Kicks and karate chops will be flying at Saphan Hin Sports Complex on October 15 and 16, when Phuket hosts the On Thailand Karate-Do Championship 2005. The Karate-Do

Association of Thailand chose Phuket to host the youth tourney after 12 island youths bagged medals at the On Thailand Karate-Do Gojuikai championships in Bangkok in May, just one year after the Phuket Karate-Do Club was founded.

Competition will be separated into two categories: Kumite, in which opponents spar; and Kata, in which competitors go through a sequence of moves against an imaginary opponent.

Boys' and girls' competitions will get under way at 9:30

am on October 15 in the following age groups: 6-8; 9-11; 12-14; 15-17.

October 16 will see some of the best male and female karate experts in Thailand competing in open division action that begins at 9 am. It is divided into the fol-

lowing weight classes: Men: under 50kg; under 53kg; under 60kg; under 70kg; 70kg and up. Women: under 48kg; under 50kg; under 53kg; under 60 kg; 60kg and up.

All are welcome to attend the event, which is free of charge.



Seraph under full sail.

Weekend sailing rally to Phi Phi Islands

CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) is inviting sailors and passengers to join its free weekend rally to the Phi Phi Islands, to be held from October 22-23. The rally is open to all types of vessel.

Tony Knight of the ACYC said that the purpose of the rally is to "promote and support the businesses on the Phi Phi Islands, which are suffering from a significant drop in the usual number of tourists."

"Racing, cruising, power boats — all are welcome," he said.

"There are no fees, but people must pay for their own food and drinks.

"We will raft up at Phi Phi by about 3 pm on the Saturday [October 22], then have sun-downers on *Seraph* followed by dinner ashore."

Seraph is a 57-foot Danish-built schooner that will be 100 years old next year. She underwent a complete refit in 2003.

The event will begin on Friday October 21 with a 7:30 pm briefing at the ACYC clubhouse in Chalong, and will wrap up with

a sunset barbecue at the ACYC clubhouse, starting at 5 pm on the Sunday. Mr Knight strongly rec-

ommended that those interested in taking part confirm in advance by calling him at Tel: 01-7470074.

Patong Darts League

The Shakers dart ahead

PATONG: In October 4 play, Shakers took all three points off Piccadilly to go up two points over second-place Amigos, who went down 7-2 at Nag's Head.

Didi's is back in action, with a handful of unplayed matches to make up.

Jerome of African Café is looking for new digs, possibly at the OTOP Plaza that doesn't have any OTOP products, or maybe as a second team playing out of Shakers.

October 4 results: Coyote* 2 OffShore 7; Nag's Head* 7 Amigos 2; Shakers* 6, Piccadilly 3; Two Black Sheep 2 Queen Mary* 7; Didi's* 2 Valhalla 7; African Café v Dog's Bollocks postponed. (* = winners of beer leg)

Standings: 1. Shakers (27pts); 2. Amigos (25); 3. Valhalla (23); 4.= Queen Mary, Piccadilly (21); 5. OffShore (20); 6. Nag's Head (19); 7. African Café (16); 8. Dog's Bollocks (11); 9. Two Black Sheep (10), 10. Coyote (6); 11. Didi's (5).

October 18 fixtures (home teams first): Nag's Head v Valhalla; Two Black Sheep v Piccadilly; Shakers v Dog's Bollocks; African Café v Queen Mary; Didi's v OffShore; Coyote v Amigos.

**FOR HOME AND HOTEL
FOR ALL YOUR FITNESS NEEDS**

**Brand-new arrival....
Body Charger Cardio Machine**

Special reductions on opening stock.
Save up 40%. Limited offer.

**108/74 Chalermprakiat Rd,
T. Rassada, Phuket, 83000.**

SPORTathlon Tel: 076 261 966-7 Fax: 076 261 968
www.sport.co.th E-mail: phuket@sport.co.th

Seara
SPORTS SYSTEMS

From the START, to the FINISH LINE...

**SEARA PLANS
for your
project's success**

Seara plans, builds and services international-standard, quality sports and athletic facilities across Asia, working in partnership with you, to match your exact needs and budget.

**PLANNING, BUILDING AND SERVICING ASIA'S
RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

PHUKET
Tel: (66-76) 353 040 Fax: (66-76) 355 039
E-mail: Phuket@searasports.com and cj@searasports.com

BANGKOK
Tel: (66-2) 382 1722 Fax: (66-2) 382 1729
E-mail: info@searasports.com

www.searasports.com

Home of the Week

Nai Harn

If you like entertaining...



With the festive season not that far away, this is a home that should be looked at by those who like to party. Situated in a peaceful area near beautiful Nai Harn Beach, this appealing three-bedroom, two-bathroom home has been designed expressly for entertaining and outdoor living.

With a living room the size of a playing field, a resort-style spa and infinity-edge swimming pool, this spacious 210-square-meter property is ideal for the entertainer and party-lover. The single-story home sits on a large 1,600sqm fully fenced block with a lush garden, and is well designed for tropical living night and day.

Double-block construction and fully screened doors and windows, and plenty of light and ventilation all ensure a comfortable environment. Air conditioning has also been installed.

QUALITY

The roomy living and dining areas open to a big covered veranda overlooking the pool, and the Western kitchen is a chef's delight with ample storage, granite bench tops, a hob and built-in oven.

The master bedroom has an en suite bathroom and the other two double bedrooms share a large bathroom. Quality ceramics have been used in eye-catching patterns, and the fittings and fixtures include Häfele door handles, recessed 12-volt halogen lighting and marble flooring. The luxurious alfresco whirlpool bath has been custom-built in terrazzo.

Two salas grace each end of the 40sqm pool. When the party's over and it's time for a little peace and tranquillity, step into the lush garden and enjoy your view of the sun setting behind the jungle-clad mountains nearby. The land title is Chanote and the price is 11 million baht.

For more information contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-288908, Email: info@siamrealestate.com or visit the website at www.siamrealestate.com

Front and rear views of a house that's made for party people.

The balance of life...amidst nature

5 unique tropical contemporary home styles

Phuket Nature Home

20/43 Mae-Luan Rd, Tambon Talad Nuea, Amphur Muang, Phuket, 83000, Thailand. Tel: 076-235171-2 Fax: 076-234206 www.phuketnaturehome.com Email: info@phuketnaturehome.com

A QUALITY LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT

GROVE GARDENS

A residential resort project of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom townhomes and apartments with full resort facilities on the east coast of Phuket, including: restaurant and bar; convenience store; massage and sauna; gym; tennis court; swimming pools; putting green; BBQ areas and international management. For details call 076-236620 or visit our sales office: 382/32 Moo 1 Cherm Talay, Phuket (near the entrance to Laguna). info@grovetogardensphuket.com www.grovetogardensphuket.com

Decor

Ananya Hongsa-ngiam



The Flintstone costs 27,500 baht.

A CHAIR WITH FLAIR

Besides the obvious comfort factor involved in deciding what to buy to park your posterior on, the style and design of the chairs chosen for a home can add that extra flair to create just the right ambience in a room.

Art One in Phuket City has a range of different chair designs that break away from traditional styles. Perhaps the most intriguing to the eye is the loopy "Infinity" design, invoking thoughts of the perplexing Möbius strip. Being made of durable rattan, it can be used both indoors and out. In red, it costs 24,000 baht, and 21,000 baht in white.

Not only of unusual design, the "Ikon" and the "Flintstone" styles make use of a less common material – water hyacinth. The rounded shapes can be used to contrast with sharp angles from, say, a desk, table or sideboard, to give a room a softer feel. The Ikon is available at 29,000 baht, and Flintstone 27,500 baht.

More functional is the "Eurosia", which provides a simple seating platform suitable for the entrance hall or even in a commercial setting. Also made from woven rattan, the Eurosia set, including a bed, a desk and a bench, costs 60,500 baht.

Art One also has a seat that can be used for either sitting or



The red rattan Infinity chair retails for 24,000 baht.

lying down. It costs 37,500 baht, including seats. The base is made from woven rattan wood, and the seats and pillow are made from cotton.

For back out on the patio, Art One Managing Director and Interior Designer Kosol Sermboonyasuk recommends the newly arrived – and as yet unnamed design – set of teak chairs and a table.

Each chair will set you back about 14,500 baht, and a table costs 4,500 baht, but K. Kosol lets a set of two chairs plus matching table go for 28,000 baht.

Art One Co Ltd is at 7/1-2 Suthat Rd, in Phuket City. Tel: 076-217709. Fax: 076-218082. Email: info@artone@yahoo.com. Website: www.artonephuket.com

Allamanda Condominiums

From 4.5m THB

- 5% guaranteed rental return
- One-and two-bedroom suites
- Freehold title available to foreigners
- Complimentary regular golf club membership

Sales Office at Canal Village
Tel: 66 (0) 76 324 366 Fax: 66 (0) 76 324 065
E-mail: property@lagunaphuket.com
www.lagunaproperty.com

laguna
PROPERTY

Sun Palm Village

Where the beach is at your backyard.....

From US\$ 81,000

Proudly Marketed by: Singhara Global Estate Co., Ltd.
www.theglobalestate.com, info@theglobalestate.com
Chalong office : 076-282594
Mobile : 01-5389869, 01-6963539

Your Tropical Investment

Priority Village

+ 66 76396579
mail@priorityvillage
www.priorityvillage.com

THAI-DIEN Building Technology

Building & Construction Chemicals Since 1994

- Waterproofing
- Structural repairs
- Concrete floor repairs & treatment
- All kind of sealants
- Vapour & radiant barriers
- Resin coatings
- Pool tile repairs
- Bitumen & polymer membranes & linings
- High-pressure foam injection
- Sales, consulting and application
- Experience, know-how & reliability
- Materials & work guaranteed
- Materials made by Fosroc, Sika, Cormix, Lanko, Drizoro and Henkel.

70/31 Pattana Thongthin Rd., Soi Muangthong Uthit 1, Phuket, 83000.
Tel: 076 242 025, 01-397 1567 Fax: 076 391 680
E-mail: thaidien@td-building.com, thaidien@hotmail.com
www.td-building.com, www.phuketisland.info/thai-dien

LUXURY TROPICAL LIFESTYLE

2- & 3-Bed Apartments and Penthouses overlooking Laguna Phuket and Layan Bay

VIEW WEST FROM SITE

Layan GARDENS

Tel: 01 893 6602
www.LayanGardens.com

OVER 60% SOLD

Construction

by Anongnat Sartpisut

Laguna branches out

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Resorts & Hotels Co Ltd has announced plans to build a new development, called Laguna Village, comprising 300 units on 300 rai near Layan Beach, separated from the main resort plot.

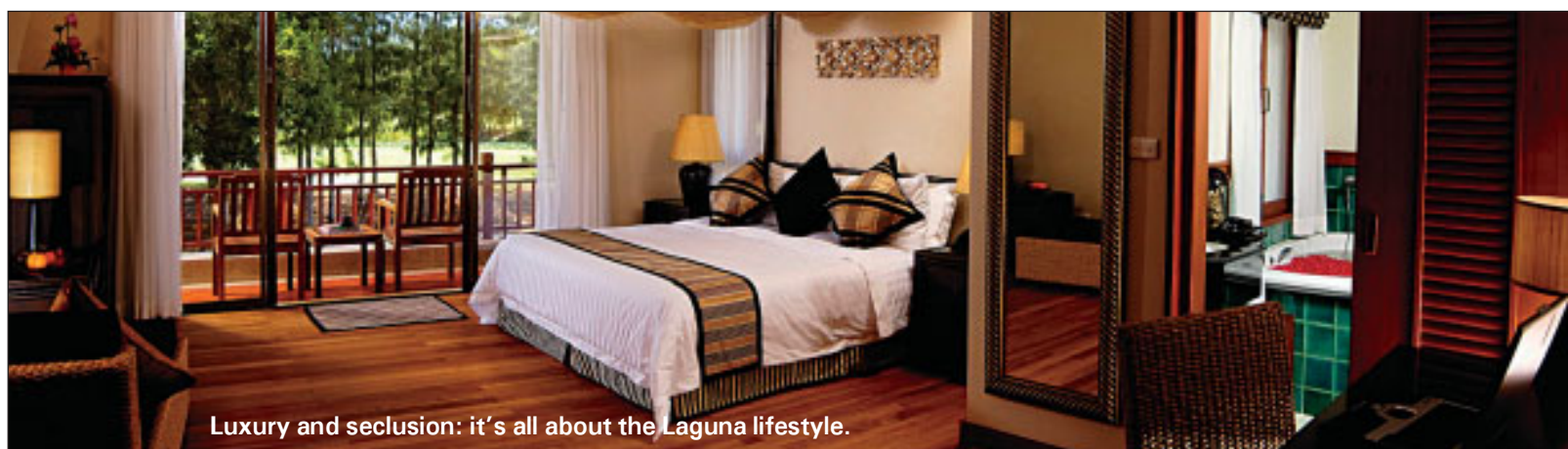
Stuart Reading, Assistant Vice President Finance & Administration, Allamanda Vacation Club Limited and Property Division, at Laguna Phuket, told the *Gazette*, "We are currently finalizing infrastructure design and applying for development approvals for the initial phase, which comprises over 100 rai."

Construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2006. "It will include our new product, semi-detached villas, as well as our popular Townhomes and Residences," he said.

The Townhome designs, the 450-square-meter Baan Anchana and the 438sqm Baan Bangtao, each comprise three bedrooms, three bathrooms, maid's quarters and a 24sqm private pool, and are available at prices starting at 16 million baht.

The two-story Residences are available in the 430sqm Chaba design or the 529sqm Banburi style. The single-level Chaba layout offers three bedrooms, two bathrooms, maid's quarters, 181sqm of patio and deck areas and a living area of 201sqm. The two-story Banburi has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, maid's quarters, 204sqm of patio and deck areas, and 277sqm of living area. Both designs include a 48sqm private swimming pool. Prices for these start at 21 million baht.

Mr Reading said that a new design of semi-detached villa with a shared pool will be available at Laguna Village, in the 10- to 15-



Luxury and seclusion: it's all about the Laguna lifestyle.

million-baht price range. The name of the style has yet to be announced.

He expects to sell and build 70 units a year, with the 300 units completed within five years.

Mr Reading said that most buyers at Laguna are Westerners based in Asia or Europe, though, he added, "In future we will be actively seeking to penetrate into other markets, such as the Middle East, Australasia and the Americas."

"Most buyers purchase property as a vacation home with a view to renting them out when they are not staying in them, or to retire in them in the future. However, there is an increasing number of permanent residents.

"People recognize and trust the Laguna brand. We have a dedicated estate services department which oversees maintenance of project common areas and can arrange property management services for individual homeowners," he said.

Benefits attracting buyers, Mr Reading said, were that each property has its individual land title that can be sold as leasehold or freehold, and extended warranties and deferred payment terms are available.

In addition, early investors have seen a 30-40% increase in property values during the past couple of years, he said.

He explained that the current project under construction,

located by a lagoon near the entrance to Laguna Phuket, is expected to be complete by mid-2006. Eighty units have already been completed and 20 are currently under construction.

"Currently, Allamanda and Banyan Tree properties are proving very popular, Allamanda as an entry level into the Laguna Phuket lifestyle, as they are freehold condos with golf membership. Banyan Tree units are for the more discerning buyer who wants a luxurious holiday property and strong rental yields," Mr Reading said.

Prices for the condos start at 4.5 million baht, and at 32 million baht for Banyan Tree properties.

Also under construction at the resort complex is the 79-room Laguna Holiday Club, which is expected to be complete by mid-2006, and caters to families. It will have its own pool with waterslide.

Mr Reading said that Laguna, a listed company on the Thai Stock Exchange, entered the property development market three years ago.

"The core business of Laguna Resorts and Hotels is hotels, but property development is now also an area of focus with excellent growth prospects. A lot of people who have been in Laguna Phuket return year after year, and many of those people buy a property because they enjoy Laguna," he said.

Looking to expand operations, Laguna also has plans for future resorts in China and Thailand, he added.

For more information about Laguna Village, contact Tel: 076-324336, Fax: 076-324065 or send an email to: property@lagunaphuket.com

SHADE SAILS
Delivery ex.stock

Triangle Shade Sails

Size	Area sq.m.	Price Baht
1. 14' x 14' x 14'	12.30	6,100.00
2. 17' x 17' x 17'	16.80	8,500.00
3. 21' x 21' x 17'	25.30	13,000.00

Square Shade Sails

Size	Area sq.m.	Price Baht
1. 12' x 12' x 6'	14.5	7,300
2. 18' x 18'	30	15,000

Rectangular Shade Sails

Size	Area sq.m.	Price Baht
1. 12' x 6' x 15'	17	8,500
2. 12' x 6' x 18'	19	9,500
3. 12' x 6' x 21'	21	10,600
4. 12' x 6' x 24'	23	11,800
5. 14' x 22'	28	14,000
6. 18' x 24'	40	20,000

Rolly Tasker Sails (Thailand) Co., Ltd
26/2 M.6, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Muang, Phuket.
Tel: 076-280347 Fax: 076-280348
E-mail: rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th

AAE Group
Projects & Construction Management
ONE-STOP service for your project.

The AAE Group was founded in 1980 by a group of Architects and Engineers fully committed to employing the highest-quality design and construction management. We have worked on more than 100 projects and have more than 100 full-time staff. Our experience means we are experts in a wide variety of project designs.

The AAE Group

- Engineering Consulting
- Engineering Design
- Project Management
- Construction Management
- Analysis & Structural Design
- Environmental Engineering
- Transportation Engineering & Design
- Value Engineer
- Turnkey Project Construction
- Shop Drawing Preparation

AAE & CONSULTING ENGINEER CO., LTD.:
9/32, Moo 9, Chaofa East Rd, Chalong, Muang, Phuket, 83130.
Tel: 076-283310, 09-1957394 Fax: 076-283311
Email: phuket@aaecompany.co.th

Head office:
444 Olympia Thai building, 4th floor, Ratchadapisek Rd, Samesennook, Huay Kwang, Bangkok, 10320. Tel: 02-9389941-3, Fax: 02-9389209
Email: contact@aaecompany.co.th www.aaecompany.co.th

MR. CURTAIN
Curtains
Furniture
Wallpaper
Carpets

Mr. CURTAIN (THAILAND) Co., Ltd.
108/70-72 Chalemphrakiat Rama 9 Rd, Ratsada, Muang, PHUKET, 83000.
Tel: 076-217462
Fax: 076-217463

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

The A to almost Z of Gardening (Part 2)

I must start this week with an apology. Last week's ramblings involving things green and growing involved having a go at our transatlantic friends, for which I apologize. I will even spell that with a "zee" for them. I was only trying to say that I can never understand a word they say. Why can't they talk normally?

A week ago, I attempted to unearth some of the vagaries of the gardening world and tried to list just a few of those terms that proper gardeners like to use on a regular basis.

I cheated a bit by calling it the "A to Z of gardening". Cheated because I could not come up with a word for some of the letters, and because I ran out of steam at G. Hopefully, I will be able to get all the way through to the end of the alphabet this week.

Heading back: Cutting an older branch or stem back to a stub or twig.

Humus: The brown or black organic part of the soil resulting from the partial decay of leaves and other matter. Not to be confused with chickpea dip.

Hybrid: The offspring of two plants of different species or varieties of plants. Hybrids are created when the pollen from one kind of plant is used to pollinate an entirely different variety, resulting in a new plant.

Layering: A method of propagation, by which a branch is rooted – while still attached to the plant – by securing it to the soil with a piece of wire.

Leaching: The removal or loss of excess salts or nutrients from soil. The soil around over-fertilized plants can be leached clean by large quantities of fresh water. This has happened naturally in some tsunami-affected areas of Phuket where greenery is returning.

Loam: A rich soil composed of clay, sand and organic matter.

Manure: Organic matter, excreted by animals, which is used as fertilizer. I believe more colorful names for this stuff may exist.



Layering in action: escaping from the pot to take root in the ground.

Mulch: Any loose material placed over the soil to control weeds and conserve soil moisture. Usually this is something coarse, such as coconut husks, clippings or bark.

Native plant: Any plant that grows naturally in a specific region or locality. A rare beast in this part of the world.

Naturalize: To plant randomly, without a pattern. The idea is to create the effect that man is not involved, as you would find wild flowers growing. A particular favorite of mine, as absolutely no effort is required. A great excuse for doing nothing.

Node: The part of a stem from which a leaf or new branch starts to grow.

Parasitic plant: A plant which lives on, and acquires its nutrients from, another plant. This often results in declined vigor or death of the host plant.

Perennial: A non-woody plant that grows and lives for more than two years.

Photosynthesis: The internal process by which a plant turns sunlight into growing energy. The formation of carbohydrates

in plants from water and carbon dioxide, by the action of sunlight on the chlorophyll within the leaves. Scientific stuff which is totally beyond me.

Pinching back: Using the thumb and forefinger to nip back the very tip of a branch or stem. Pinching promotes branching, and a bushier, fuller plant.

Pollination: The transfer of pollen from the stamen (the male part of the flower) to the pistil (the female part of the flower), which results in the formation of a seed. This happens when the mummy and daddy flower parts love each other very much.

Potting soil: A soil mixture designed for use in container gardens and potted plants.

Propagation: Various methods of starting new plants ranging from starting seeds to identical clones created by cuttings or layering.

Pruning: The cutting and trimming of plants to remove dead or injured wood, or to control and direct the new growth of a plant.

Runner: A slender stem growing out from

the base of some plants, which terminates with a new offset plant. Spider plants have these. The new plant may be severed from the parent after it has developed sufficient roots.

Secateurs: Small pruning shears, often spring-loaded, where a curved blade slides against a straight blade.

Spore: The reproductive cell of ferns, fungi and mosses. These plants do not produce seeds, by the way.

Sucker: A growth originating from the rootstock of a grafted plant, rather than the desired part of the plant. Sucker growth should be removed, so it does not draw energy from the plant.

Tap root: The main, thick root growing straight down from many plants.

Tendrils: The twisting, clinging, slender part of many vines, which allows the plant to attach themselves to a support or trellis.

Thinning: Removing excess seedlings, to allow sufficient room for the remaining plants to grow. Thinning also refers to removing entire branches from a tree or shrub, to give the plant a more open structure, and what should happen to the waistlines of certain gardeners.

Topiary: A method of pruning and training certain plants into interesting shapes such as animals. From the Latin for "too much time on your hands".

Topsoil: The healthy, top layer of native soil. It may also apply to good quality soil sold at nurseries and garden centers.

Transpiration: The release of moisture through the leaves of a plant.

Transplanting: The process of digging up a plant and moving it to another location. Duh.

Tuber: A flat underground stem which stores food and plant energy and from which a plant grows. Heliconias or potatoes, for example.

Variegated leaves: Leaves which have multiple colors.

Nearly made it to "Z"...

We take pride in our most exclusive selection of glazed and terracotta pottery from Thailand and our associated factories in Vietnam and China.

Plus a good selection of landscape planters. Located near Boat Lagoon.

House & Garden Limited Partnership
 8/1 Theprasattree Rd, Sapum, Khokaeo, Munag, Phuket 83000
 Tel/Fax: (66 76) 239 680 Mobile: 01 893 3571, 01 891 9051
 Email: 4seas@4seas.com www.4seas.com

Luxury Within Reach...

- Sea Views for Pre-Sale from THB 5.7M (Pool Views from THB 3.9M)
- Luxurious 2-3 bedroom condominiums with large open terraces
- Superb location at Exclusive Cape Panwa
- Facilities include 2 large Swimming Pools, Jacuzzi, Sauna, Steam Room, Fitness, Massage Rooms, Bar & Restaurant
- Minutes away from Phuket's finest restaurants, luxury hotels, golf courses, water sports and beaches
- Excellent investment potential and 6% guaranteed return for 2 years

For further information please contact Phuket Sales Office:
 19/49 Moo 8, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Phuket 83100 Thailand
 Tel: +66(0)76 282404 Fax: +66(0)76 282405
 Email: info@belairpanwa.com
 www.belairpanwa.com

BEL AIR PANWA
PHUKET

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

ANUPHAS GOLF VILLA BUNGALOW



83 sq wah corner plot, 140 sqm house area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with hot water, modern built-in kitchen, 1 living room, dining area. Price: 4.2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-891-2926. Fax: 076-273393. Email: vikundag@loxinfo.co.th

LAGUNA AREA

New modern Balinese-style pool villas will be completed in November. Minutes from the Laguna Golf Course, restaurants, bars and beaches. For sale at 6.9 million baht, substantial pre-completion discount. Also available to rent from November, from 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288310. Mobile: 04-839-1600. Email: terryblissuk@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website for info at: www.phuketfourvillasresidencies.com

CUSTOM BUILT 3 OR

4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in Land & Houses Park, with 5 air-conditioning units, a phone line and an Electrolux combination washer/dryer. Satellite TV dish and system included. Price: 8 million baht. Ref: # 0070005. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For details see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

HILL-VIEW PLOT

1 rai for sale: 25m frontage x 68m deep. A corner plot with Chanote title on Soi Baan Krang, in Chalong. Asking 4 million baht, negotiable. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-216260, 07-8945321. Email: rporter56@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE



A 250sqm house of European standards, on 75 square wah of land with Chanote title, for sale in Kathu, Phuket. It has a lake view, 3 bedrooms, 1 maid's room, 3 bathrooms with hot water, air conditioning, curtains and a fitted kitchen with hot water. The location is 10 minutes to Patong and Phuket City; 25 minutes to the airport. Two golf courses are close by. Asking 6 million baht. Please call Mr Geoff for more information Tel: 01-8540061, 076-323214 or Fon at Tel: 01-8937585, 076-323215.

LAND FOR SALE

on the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Tel: 07-2670488.

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

2-STORY HOUSE

in Rawai, 140sqm, selling for 1.4 million baht, including owning company and financing for 3 years. 400m from the beach. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW

3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms on 500sqm of land for sale. Asking 8.5 million baht. Tel: 01-4775006. For more info see our website at: www.findthailandproperty.com

PATONG CONDOS

Condos with a sea view, 28 and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 650,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

Phuket-Frontline

Have a dream. We find it for You!

Hotels, Villas & Houses
Rental & Sales

Villa Management

Investment in Property & Land

Contact:
Office: 076 239900-1 Mobile: 01-5692269
tan@phuket-frontline.com www.phuket-frontline.com

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT



For sale 2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. Please call for more details. No agents please. Tel: 07-8891717.

BRAND-NEW HOUSE



on 315.2sqm plot very near Heroines' Monument (1km away), with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, etc. Asking 3.8 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7370038, 01-7474082.

LAND FOR QUICK SALE

1 rai with Chanote title, 5 minutes from Rawai. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4729870.

Professional Real Estate Advice

Residential Sales & Rental

Holiday Lettings

Property Management

Research & Valuation

Development & Design Consultancy



Tel: 076 239 967

www.cbre.co.th

phuket@cbre.com

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

Garden Place (Muang Thalang) : 076-274986-7

Beautiful detailing Modern living Green surroundings

www.gardenplace-phuket.com

See our display houses (1.35 - 2.2 million baht)

Garden Place
Muang Thalang

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

for sale. New 3-bedroom villa, fully furnished, ready to move in. Nice design with Thai sala in tropical garden. Less than 5 minutes to Rawai beach. Price: 10.5 million baht. Tel: 06-6825156, 01-5711009. Email: info@twovillas.com For more information, please see our website at: www.twovillas.com

BEACH APARTMENT

124sqm and 240sqm apartments, a 2-minute walk to the beach. Priced from 7.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2806624. Please see our website for further information at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

Large, new 2-story Western-style house in Rawai. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, furnished. 400sqm plot with landscaped garden and space for a swimming pool. Offers around 4 million baht. Tel: 01-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

2-STORY RAWAI

house. 130sqm house with Chanote title, brand new, close to a school, 400m from the beach; asking 1.3 million baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

GATED, 4-BEDROOM

Fully furnished villa has 4 bedrooms, a Jacuzzi, security, phone lines and UBC. Price: 7.9 million baht. Ref: #0320012. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For details, see: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

144sqm house with 400sqm or 600sqm of land for sale. Located 350m from the beach. Priced from 2.4 million baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

ANDREW PARK

Property Agents & Consultants

House and Land
Sale and Rentals

Over 10 years' sales
experience in Thailand

We can answer all your
questions

Call us now at

076-354016
(Thai, English)

01-8923633

(German, English, Spanish)
or

Email us at: sales@andrewpark.com
or visit our website
www.andrewpark.com



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



This 3-bedroom home is well designed and built for a Western buyer's taste. With 4 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, living room and family room, there is private space for everyone. At only 4.8 million baht, you will not find a better built home. Call now!

All classifieds
in these pages are

PAID!

— your assurance that
whatever's advertised here
is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Property Gazette

PATONG APARTMENTS



in Baan Suan Kamnan. A quiet, green and safe area on a hillside, next to the Blue Point viewpoint, just outside central Patong. Now several apartments are available for long-term rental only. Prices start at 12,500 baht per month, including electricity. Tel: 06-7866350.

PANORAMIC VIEW PATONG BAY

Patong Tower, high floor, 3 mins walk to beach, very big balcony to enjoy panoramic view of Patong Bay and beautiful sunsets. One bed, 1 bath, 1 living room. Want to rent out from October to November at 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-806-3946. Email: noinoiarpom@yahoo.com

LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully-furnished house in Palai Green, with 2 air-conditioned bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalongs Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

OFFICE & SHOWROOM space. The Plaza del Mar at entrance to Laguna has 2 superb 40sqm, first-floor offices in new purpose-built complex. Rent: 14,500 baht + VAT per month. Fully fitted, including ingoing charge. Email for available units. Tel: 076-318111, 06-2715319. Email: grenville@layanggardens.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon. Located in Kathu. Tel: 01-8675084, 076-202047.

MOUNTAIN-TOP SEAVIEW



Why come to Phuket and not have a great view? Book now for the high season and beyond. All that you would need: a 4- to 5-bedroom house with a 3-meter-deep pool, UBC, car park and a separate guesthouse with a private entrance is available. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

LAND: LONG-TERM

rent. 9 rai on Soi Rattama-noon, in Kathu. Next to Pae-Mae-Nam Restaurant. Located on a hillside, surrounded by tall trees, with good view – an ideal location for a resort, spa, etc. Tel: 01-7191415, 01-8675084.

HOUSE FOR RENT

with 3 air-conditioned bedrooms, 4 shower/toilets and a swimming pool; in a quiet location. Asking 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-2678389. Email: info@christianesblue.com

KATA BEACH

apartment. Private, with hot water and cable TV, for rent at 8,000 baht per month as of November 1. A house is also for sale. Tel: 06-5958512, 01-9704638.

KATHU GOLF CLUB

Apartment. A fully furnished, 60sqm, 1-bedroom, 1-living-room, 1-bathroom apartment with a balcony for long-term rent only. Asking 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-7426265.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Completely furnished detached home with 3 bedrooms +, in the Chalongs area. Tel: 076-283211, 04-848-4344.

LARGE, EAST COAST villa with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, amazing sea views and a pool, located on the top of a hill in very quiet area on Cape Yamu. For rent at 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2796283.

NICE CHALONG HOUSE for rent, with 2 bedrooms, air conditioning, a big kitchen and cable TV. Asking 8,500 baht per month, excluding utilities. Tel: 076-344487, 06-267-7245, 04-1901068.

Property Wanted

Land Wanted

- Beachfront or seaview.
- 20 to 1,000 rai.
- Must be Nor Sor 3 or Chanote title.
- Brokers welcome.

Email us at: president@destination-properties.com

LOOKING FOR LAND

I want to buy 15-20 rai of flat land – quiet, with water and electricity – for building a private house in the area of Ao Po, Bang Rong, Pa Khlok. I will come to Phuket on October 25. Please contact me with any offers/suggestions you may have. Thank you. Email: hhrackwitz@hotmail.com

HOUSE/APARTMENT

House or apartment wanted to rent by German husband and wife from November 1 to April 30, 2006. Must have aircon, TV, cooking facilities and telephone. Patong, Karon, Kata, Nai Ham or Rawvai areas. Please contact with full details. Email: w.ludwig.bbr@online.de

Accommodation Available

PATONG LUXURY

Apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Please contact for more information and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

in Patong. Quality 1- and 2-bedroom apartments are available for long-term rent along Nanai Rd, Patong. Cable TV, telephone, air conditioner and full kitchen provided. Tel: 076-342601, 01-2705374. Fax: 076-342-601. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For more information please see our website at: www.orcella.com

LUXURY ROOMS

in a private villa. 5 rooms available in German-managed Baan Ruan Thai Villa, located in beautiful, quiet surroundings by Chalongs Bay. Tel: 076-383-468. Email: info@baanruan.com For further details, please see our website at: www.baanruan.com

REOPENING

on the beach! Bar and rooms for rent, REOPENED after renovation. In Patong, on the beach. You can also visit us after-hours. Please contact for info. Tel: 01-0881456. Email: office@viennasguesthouse.com Please see our website at: www.viennasguesthouse.com

KATA BEACH

The brand-new Southern Fried Rice Guest House and Restaurant is now open. Three minutes' walk to the beach, some rooms with a sea view. Opening promotion: rooms from 300 baht per night. All rooms have air conditioning, cable TV, fridge, safe and hot water. Hi-speed wireless Internet throughout the building. Cheap motorbike rental for guests. Thai language lessons available in an air-conditioned classroom. Home of the Phuket Chess club, open every day. Our restaurant has a top chef, Gee – one of the best on the island. Kata Night Bazaar, 100/14-15 Kata Road, Kata. Tel: 01-8948446, 01-5972213. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com For more information, please see our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

KATA-KARON BUNGALOWS

Paradise awaits you. Fully furnished 1- or 2-bedroom bungalows located in a quiet, tranquil hillside location in Kata-Karon. Within walking distance to white sandy beaches, shops and restaurants. Includes full cooking facilities, air conditioning, satellite or Cable TV, a DVD player; a hot water shower, laundry service, free maid service, free drinking water, a mini bar, a private balcony with seating area and tropical gardens. Free resort facilities within walking distance, including 5 swimming pools, tennis courts, a sauna, a health/fitness center and motorbike rental. Free car parking. Please contact. Tel: 07-1055561, 07-8055476. Email: katakaronbungalows@yahoo.com.au

Accommodation Wanted

ACCOMMODATION AROUND KAMALA

3 x 2-bedroomed or 2 x 3-bedroomed houses wanted to rent for two months in Kamala area from December 21, 2005 to February 27, 2006. Must be furnished and have aircon, kitchen facilities, and satellite. Apartments considered. Tel: +44 19645-32801. Email: debbos123@aol.com

Building Products & Services

The Stone Doctor

Specialist in European stone-care products and services:

- Restoration
- Sealing/Protection
- Maintenance

All your maintenance, protection & cleaning needs for natural and manufactured stone.

- Marble
- Granite
- Slate
- Sandstone
- Sandwash
- Terracotta
- Terrazzo
- Ceramics, etc

Prevent: rust, stains, mildew, algae, scratches

Remove: builders' residue, incorrect sealants, rust, stains, mildew, etc. Daily care & cleaning products also available.

Tel: 07-2824930, 076-271217
Fax: 076-271218

Email: info@thestonedoctor-asia.com

SITE OFFICES

insulated, with aircon. Rent for 4,950 baht per month, or buy a new office for 160,000 baht. Tel: 076-281283, 01-8924804. For more info please visit our website at: www.safewayphuket.com

SIAM HOME & CAR SERVICES

Building renovation, repairs, maintenance

- Electrical
- Air conditioning/lights
- Woodwork/furniture
- Stone, cement, sandwash
- Steel, aluminium, tiles
- Glass, screen, fiberglass

Contact Khun Chuat
01-4083800, 076-325391

BURGLAR ALARMS SECURITY

Guardian Alarms – the one-stop shop for all your security needs. Burglar alarms, fire alarms, CCTV and automated gates. Contact us today for a free quotation. We offer a two-year warranty on all alarm systems. Tel: 076-281327, 01-8954480. Fax: 076-383-277. Email: guardian@loxinfo.co.th

Household Items

FURNITURE

Bedroom suite: wardrobe, bed, mattress, chest of 4 drawers, and vanity with mirror and stool. As new condition: 12,000 baht. Also UBC for 8,000 baht. Tel: 076-261-358, 07-2760529. Fax: 076-261358. Email: jmicchia@yahoo.com

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For sale. 2 x 29-inch TV. Treadmill (new), weights and bench press, lawn mower (1 week old), grass trimmer, fridge, washing machine, 3 fans, kitchen utensils, Pioneer home theater, sleeper couch, kids toys, etc. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-065-5804. Email: leondisley@yahoo.com

HOME CINEMA

Technics SA-AX540 surround-sound receiver plus 6 Technics 90-Watt surround-sound speakers, in perfect condition. 12,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-7531903. Email: lab1bob@yahoo.com

VARIOUS ITEMS

- 3 wall fans: 1,500 baht
- DiStar 20" pure flat screen TV with wall mounting bracket: 2,500 baht
- Sanden Intercool chest freezer with 3 year warranty (30" high x 34" long x 24" wide): 7,000 baht
- Superior hand safe (strong box): 500 baht
- Coolkeeper esky/cooler: 700 baht
- Various glasses and bin cups. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2703517.

Have something to sell? Tell the WORLD!

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette
appear FREE OF CHARGE in the

Phuket Gazette Online

Always on top in Google

30-40,000 visitors a day!

Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds

Focused exclusively on **Phuket** -
and delivered to the world!

Property Gazette



20 RAI WITH EAST COAST VIEWS

The land has a new sealed-road access, electricity and the some of the best views in Phuket. The land would be ideally suited for a condo/housing development or for the ultimate home. Price: 60 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



10 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

The land has a nice square, right-angle shape with an access road, and electric and water supply are available. Very interesting as a villa project. Price: 50 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM HOUSE

with boat mooring. This is a lovely home, with a boat mooring, located very close to nice restaurants, cafes, shopping, school and 20 minutes to the airport. Price: 8,900,000 baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



20 RAI WITH PRIVATE BEACH

The land has a waterfall running down one boundary and a small beach (accessible only by this plot) with white sand and nice feature rocks. One of the last great plots and priced lower than all surrounding land. Price: 200 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



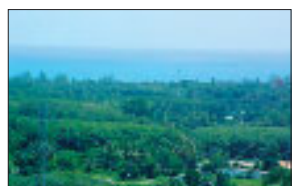
4-BEDROOM HOUSE

The house is located in a secured development in the heart of Patong and comprises 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, carpark and a garden around the house. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



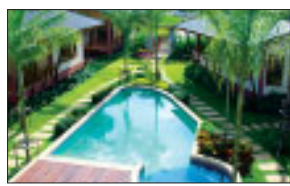
6 RAI ON THE BEACH

The land is located on the east coast in Ao Por and has beautiful views of islands in Phang Nga Bay. The land is flat with a slope at the back. It has road access, and water and electric supply are available. Price: 40 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



6 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

Only 5 minutes from Mai Khao Beach, 10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from the Blue Canyon Golf course and 20 minutes from Phuket City and Lotus. It has electricity supply and access road. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 09-871-5192.



6 BUNGALOWS & 2 HOUSES

Comprises 6 spacious bungalows with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living-dining room, terrace and 2 two-story houses with 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, living-dining room, terrace relax room with a large terrace on the first floor. Price: 18 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



APARTMENT COMPLEX

2 buildings, 2 carports, Pool. Building 1 - Ground floor: 3 apartments; First floor: 1 big apartment (174sqm). Building 2 - Ground floor: 2 bedroom apartment; First floor: 3-bedroom apartment, 4 phone lines, 7 aircons. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA

Has a sound system throughout the house, plasma TV in the living room with satellite TV. Around the house is a well-designed tropical garden with Buddha image features. Price: 14.9 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



10 RAI BEACHFRONT

The land has a great shape and is ideal for a resort or high-end villa development. Price: 80 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



39 RAI OF VIEWS! PRIVATE BEACH!

The views are beautiful! Price: 240 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS, PARKING

New development 2 minutes to Karon Beach. 2-bedroom townhouses, currently under construction. Some sea view glimpses. Well-priced and an ideal small investment. Prices from 3 million to 4 million baht. Once construction is finished, expect a 20% rise in sales price. Very good buy for location and quality. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



BOUTIQUE HOTEL - 8 ROOMS

Karon, Phuket. The hotel consists of 8 nicely furnished rooms, a bar and a laundry. The hotel is fully furnished and located 2 minutes to the beach. Hill views. Price: 14 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

1 RAI WITH UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE



14 x 1-rai plots of land (5 sold) at Ao Yon, with sea views to the east, south and west. All infrastructure is in place, including internal 6-meter-wide road with gutters, underground electricity (no power-line views), water supply and telephone. The land is ready to build on and the area boasts some of the most expensive housing on the island. A very good investment; a beautiful area with nice, quiet beaches. 10 mins to major shopping centers and schools, golf 15 mins away and great seaside restaurants only 5 mins. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2 APARTMENTS WITH SEA VIEW

The location of the apartments is in the hills near Patong, with great sea views. The ground-floor apartment is 128sqm and comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, laundry room and a 32sqm terrace. Price: 7.2 million baht. The first-floor apartment is 128sqm and comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, laundry room and a staircase to a 64sqm roof area, where you can relax and enjoy the sunset. Price: 7.5 million baht. Both apartments are fully furnished. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH SEA VIEW

Patong, Phuket. This Bali-style villa is located in the south of Patong and has a beautiful sea view. It is surrounded by a tropical garden and has 24-hour security. The villa comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western kitchen, living-dining room, and 2 terraces where you can relax and see the sunset. It is fully furnished. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

16 x 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT BLOCK

This 16-unit apartment building is located in a quiet area in Chalong: 5 minutes drive to Big C and Central, 10 minutes to Phuket City and 15 minutes to Nai Harn, Karon and Kata Beaches. All apartments have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, living and dining room, and are fully furnished. It has an office, manicured gardens and the property is very well maintained. 20 million baht. Very good rental returns. Tel: 06-2726508.

Boats & Marine

Live your dream!

NEW



NEW PEGASUS 8.2 M FIBERGLASS POWERBOAT, 85 HP YAMAHA MOTOR AND TRAILER FOR ONLY 595,000 BAHT (EX VAT).
Tel: 076 239 800; E-mail: info@pegasusmarine.com
Model shown includes optional extras

For Sale

In stock now!



Searay Sundancer 275
\$138,669

Whalers		Savage
130 Sport	\$13,801.25	SL 500
160 Dountless	\$33,749.21	Scorpion
170 Montauk	\$28,264.75	Runabout
220 Dountless	\$76,667.27	w/Trailer
		\$21,293.00

Royal Phuket Marina Yacht Co., Ltd.
68/1 Moo 2 Thepkasatri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket, 83200, Thailand.
Tel: +66 (0) 1 958 1458 Fax: +66 (0) 76 239 756
yachts@royalphuketmarina.com
www.royalphuketmarina-yachts.com

C & C MARINE

Marine Engineering Specialist
"SERVICING ALL YOUR MARINE ENGINEERING NEEDS"

Dealers For



BOAT SALES
BARRACUDA COMMERCIAL BOAT RANGE

DIVE/SNORKELING BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,750,000)
PARASAIL BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,975,000)
FERRY INTER-ISLAND TRANSFER BOAT	10.6m (Only 1,700,000)
CENTER CONSOLE FISHING BOATS	8.8m (Only 1,550,000)

PRO'S

- COMMERCIAL DIESEL ENGINES.
- 50% BETTER FUEL ECONOMY AGAINST STANDARD OUTBOARDS.
- CRUISING SPEEDS OF 27+ KNOTS.
- REBUILDS ONLY EVERY 3,000 HRS.
- COMPLETE SERVICE BACK-UP PLAN.
- FINANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH CORRESPONDING BANKS.

SPECIAL: Newly arrived 8.8m centre console 170hp Mer-Cummins Diesel Engine, complete with Navman 6600 GPS/Fishtrack Nav system, VHF Radio, Vacuum flush Head, Bimini, with Thai registration. Price includes 10 months' berthing in the Boat Lagoon. "Complete Package" 1,850,000.

C & C MARINE
Contact: Craig Holmes +66 (0) 76 273247
Thai Marine Center, 16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nana, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Phuket 83200, Thailand
Email: holmes@candc-marine.com Website: www.candc-marine.com

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Thailand's premier yacht sales company

Cap Camarat 755WA (2005)
4,000,000 THB

- 2 x Suzuki DF 140 Four stroke outboard
- 280 litres fuel
- 55 litres water
- Electric windlass
- Raymarine C-70 plotter
- Sunbed
- Lifejackets
- 3 year warranty
- Lee Marine Service

Randell 33 (1993)
\$49,000 USD

Jeanneau 36 (1998)
\$65,000 USD

Searay 33 (1991)
3,700,000 THB

Broward 61 (1976)
\$350,000 USD

www.leemarine.com

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin
Mobile: 01 894 1630
tel/fax: 076 239 729
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 01 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

THAI MARINE
insurance

www.thaimarine.com

HUNTER **Nautech** **Luhrs** **WALKER** **Flamingo**

A Marine Industry Leader in Thailand since 1990

Penisi Ketch
Asking price Euro : 45,000
Refitted 2003, Thai flagged.

Bayliner 4788
Asking price USD : 345,000
Very well maintained. Well equipped for game fishing. Large saloon & flybridge. 2 X HINO 310HP 3 Cabins + 2 Bathrooms. To be seen!

39 Ft Prout Catamaran
USD : 199,000
Fully equipped, 3 & 4 Cab ready to sail

2003 DeFever 58
USD : 799,000
Stunning interior based in Hong Kong

Selected Brokerage Listings

Power	Sail
29 Ft 2003 Proveler Motor Cat Honda 4 stroke, 2 x 50 Hp	46 Ft 1986 Warwick Cardinal 46 Perkins, 50 Hp
22 Ft NEW Steppa, Built to order Engine Options, 70-250 Hp	43 Ft 1996 Hunter 430 Volvo Penta 50 Hp
21 Ft 2003 Sea Ray Laguna Mariner EFI 200 Hp	43 Ft 1994 Beneteau Oceanis 430 Perkins 50 Hp
18 Ft 2000 Skip Jack 18 Yamaha, 2 x 85 Hp	42 Ft 1987 Westsail 42 Perkins, 50 Hp
18 Ft NEW Steppa, Built to order Engine options, 70-250 hp	42 Ft 1980 Swanson Ketch Volvo 75 Hp
	THB 4,500,000
	US\$ 25,000
	THB 1,200,000
	THB 750,000
	US\$ 15,000
	US\$ 165,000
	US\$ 125,000
	Euro 125,000
	Euro 80,000
	Aus\$ 160,000

Please contact Tel: 076-239111 Email: broker@thaimarine.com

ASIA PACIFIC
QBE

We are THE QBE AGENT FOR MARINE INSURANCE IN PHUKET
FOR A FREE-OF-CHARGE INSURANCE QUOTE FOR YOUR BOAT, COMMERCIAL OR PLEASURE
Tel: 076-239111 Fax: 076-238974 Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

TANKER VESSEL

Thai-registered tanker vessel for sale:

- Capacity: 50,000 liters
- Length: 22 meters
- Beam: 4.9 meters
- Engine: 1 Hino diesel
- Price: 2.1 million baht.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-244-820, 01-8912333. Fax: 076-244823. Email: tailor@loxinfo.co.th

HOVERCRAFT OPERATION

Thai business partner/investor wanted for a hovercraft business in Phuket/Phang Nga. The flying craft can be used as a rescue vehicle as well as a tour boat, moving over all terrain (beach, water, swamp, rivers, etc). Only serious offers will be considered. Tel: 01-078-7795. Email: a.bolle@siam-interact.com

FISHING BOAT

19ft fiberglass, with trailer. Has center console with permanent shade cover and plenty of rod holders. Has a very clever shade extension too. As new for 250,000 baht. Does not include motors as I am selling the hull and trailer only. Best value for money in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9724805. Email: nervobe@hotmail.com

CATAMARAN

Wanted ASAP: Sailing catamaran under 20ft (6 meters). Hobie, Nacra, etc. Can pick up. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-0816694. Email: fullcave@mailcity.com

USA AGENT TO SHIP

yacht? Is there anyone out there who knows an agent or reliable shipping line on the US west coast (or Mexico Pacific coast) to ship my 35ft yacht to Thailand on a 40ft flatrack open container? Any help very much appreciated! Email: rjoosten2001@yahoo.com

TAKEAN TONG DIVE

boat. LOA: 24m, beam: 4.5m. Twin 420hp Hinos. 30kw generator. 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-789397. Email: boatmahtab@yahoo.com

UNDERWATER VIDEO

For sale: Underwater video gear comprising:

- Sony Handicam PC120 recently serviced by Sony
- Ikelite underwater housing, recently serviced
- red filter
- Firewire, USB & TV cables
- carry bag
- 2 batteries
- 1 cleaning tape

Everything for 65,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 01-788-8912. Email: fabienbelleinguer@fundives.net

DIVE/CRUISE BOAT

A one-time only opportunity to buy a 53ft boat licensed for 40 passengers. It has twin Hino 265hp diesel engines. Pay 2.25 million baht in cash and 2.25 million Bartercard trade baht, with trade baht interest-free, to be repaid from charter income. Tel: 07-067-3360.

Looking for a boat?

Check out
www.phuketgazette.net/

Island Job Mart



Puravarna Resort

URGENTLY REQUIRED SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Puravarna Resorts Limited is a fast-growing luxury resort and property developer in Phuket. To keep up with our rapid expansion, we are seeking a highly-qualified person to be a part of our growing company.

Senior Accountant

Location: Rawai, Phuket

Responsibilities:

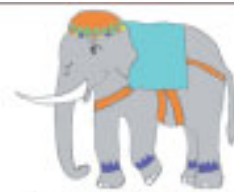
- Prepare monthly account closing and financial reporting.
- Supervise the preparation of the company's monthly and annual tax filing.
- Prepare construction progress and budgeting reports.
- Conduct other miscellaneous accounting operations.
- Provide weekly and monthly cash-flow projections.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in accounting
- At least 3 years' experience in a Big 4 auditing firm or in a leading local auditing firm, or at least 4 years' experience in accounting.
- Candidates must be comfortable with learning and using accounting software (BC Account)
- Experience in property development and/or construction is a plus.
- Be energetic, have initiative, possess a high level of self-confidence, have a strong willingness to learn new things, and be able to work independently.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Must be able to work in Phuket.

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photograph to the address below. (Please send your application in English only)

Puravarna Resorts Limited (Ms. Sukunya)
25/8 Moo.1, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel.076-380700, 09-1366832
E-mail: su@puravarna.com
Website: www.puravarna.com



Thai Hotel Portfolio

Research assistants with growth potential

For the right, outgoing, positive individuals there will be great opportunities in our expanding company.

This is what we look for:

- able to find information on the internet
- able to work in MS Word
- very good command of English
- outgoing, positive and service-minded
- result-driven and willing to take responsibility
- experience within the travel industry is a plus
- experience in dealing with foreigners is a plus
- Thai national

We are establishing an on-line hotel reservation company primarily targeting Europeans. We will offer our travelling guests the best possible service and reliable information. We are located in Boat Lagoon.

Please submit your application by email with detailed resumé, personal letter and expected salary to info@thaihotelportfolio.com

THE VILLAGE COCONUT ISLAND

This exciting new project of luxurious villas in their own unique village on Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island, 15 minutes from Laem Hin Pier), is looking for highly motivated, experienced and professional personnel to join our team.

The following positions are now available:

1. General Manager (1 – Thai or foreign)
2. Project Manager (1 – Thai only)
3. Sales and Marketing Executives (2 – Thai only)
4. Accountant (1 – Thai only)

All positions require excellent English and computer skills with a minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar field. If you are interested in these exciting positions, you are invited to apply with full resume, stating present and expected salary and enclosing a recent photo to: Coconut Island Holdings Co., Ltd. 23/10 Moo 2 Boat Lagoon Phuket, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-8912926. Fax: 076-273393. Email: coconut@thevillagecoconutisland.com

ACCOUNTANT

A Thai national only, with a diploma or higher education and two years of experience in accounting. Stock control knowledge will be an advantage. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: suporn@thaimarine.com

PEPPERS BAR

& restaurant. Female bar staff required full time or part-time. Must speak English. Good rate of pay and benefits. Please contact K. Gary. Tel: 076-325112, Fax: 01-891-6879.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

needed. Computer-literate Thai woman, under 30 years old, with good spoken and written English, good telephone communication and one year of experience. Interested applicants please send your CV by email. Email: leondisley@yahoo.com

LAW FIRM PHUKET

Looking for a secretary/paralegal/lawyer. Part- or full-time. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT/ BOOKKEEPER

Small hotel in Patong seeks female accountant with good command of English, computer literacy, and ability to handle payroll and tax computations. Please contact K. Jip. Tel: 076-340464, 076-340434, 07-8871733. Email: whharris042004@hotmail.com



Property Care Services (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

The leading property facilities service provider for all property-related services, including cleaning, security, pest control, hygiene, gardening and electronic security systems, requires:

- * **CLEANING/SECURITY/GARDENING SALES PERSON** (must have car) Salary + Allowance + Commission
- * **PEST CONTROL/HYGIENE SALES PERSON** (must have car) Salary + Allowance + Commission
- * **HR/ADMIN ASSISTANT**

All positions require women with an excellent command of both spoken and written English

Property Care Services (Thailand) Co. Ltd,
371/21 Yaowarat Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket, 83000

Please send your resumé along with a covering letter in English with photo to the address above or to stephen@pcs.co.th

For more information call Phuket office on
Tel: 076 224658-9 www.pcs.co.th

PROPERTY SCOUT

Thai person with good written and spoken English to follow up listings for houses and land. Must have transport, a pleasant personality and enjoy traveling around the island. Good basic salary plus commission. Tel: 076-288908. Email: nice@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at: www.siamrealestate.com

STAFF WANTED

An international company wants office staff, part-time staff and promotion staff (Thai only). Tel: 076-296295, 09-4499022. Fax: 076-296-295. Email: premiumbsp1@yahoo.com

LAWYER NEEDED

Knightsbridge Law is extending its Bangkok offices to include an office in Phuket. We are currently seeking staff for that office. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0845704. Email: skheffe@knightsbridgecredit.com



MARINA SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL

MSI is a specialist marina design and construction company and is looking for motivated individuals to fill the following 2 positions:

- **Administration Secretary/PA**
- **Purchasing Clerk**

All applicants should be fluent in spoken and written English, have good computer skills (Word, Excel) and be able to work as part of a small energetic team.

Applicants should submit a resumé & a recent photo to:
Marina Systems International Co., Ltd, 23/115 Moo 2,
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket, 83000. Tel/Fax: 076-273504
Email: info@marinasystemsinternational.com

THAI MARKETING MANAGER

Career opportunity. Must have car and marketing experience, and be available soon. Having influential Phuket friends, family and contacts would be a definite advantage. Attach CV with mobile phone number to e-mail for express interview. Tel: 076-294486, 01-847-7248. Fax: 076-346188. Email: tanabutr.careers@gmail.com

WEB GRAPHIC

designer wanted part-time. Please contact for more info. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Our client is looking for a man with at least 4 years' experience. English and accountancy skills needed. Salary: 25-35,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-263737, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-224113. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

TRAVEL AGENCY

needs Thai staff, who are able to speak English and have good computer skills, to work in head office and our tour information center. Please call for more information or send resumé. Tel: 076-282906. Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

MAID WANTED

Dutch-Thai couple is looking for a young, hard-working, friendly, full-time maid. We live in Patong. Basic English is a must. We offer a good salary. Please call. Tel: 07-2647544.

ENGLISH TEACHER NEEDED

Urgently needed: part-time Thai & foreign English teacher to teach children and adult classes. Please call Mr Dusit at Tel: 09-6524747 or 09-4745669.

Island Job Mart



"Leading Fitness Equipment Supplier"

Our company is now seeking dynamic candidates in the positions of:

Sales Executive (Sport Equipment)– Phuket Branch

- Bachelor's degree in any field
- At least 2 years' experience in sales
- Computer literacy
- Must have a driving license and own car
- Good command of English is an essential
- Able to work independently

Sport Equipment Technician

- Experience in installation and maintenance of electronic equipment will be an advantage

We offer an attractive career opportunity and benefits. Interested applicants may apply in person or by sending a resumé containing full details of education, work experience, current and expected salary together with contact number and recent photo to:

The Human Resource Department

SPORTathlon (Thailand) Limited

Head Office: 4th Floor, Landmark Plaza, 138 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey, Bangkok, 10110
Tel: 02-6531509-11, 02-6532403-8 Email: personnel@fitnessfirst.co.th www.sport.co.th



Located at The Plaza in Surin Beach area, Silk Restaurant & Bar one of Phuket's most beautiful restaurants serving traditional Thai cuisine from around Thailand, is currently seeking applications for the position of:

Bartender Waiter/Waitress

Qualifications:

Male or female

Thai nationality

Fluent English

Friendly, service-minded, excellent team member. Interested candidates are invited to apply in person.

Silk offers excellent pay and benefits

Silk Restaurant & Bar at The Plaza
5/50 Moo 3, Cherrng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Telephone: 076-271702 Fax: 076-271704
Email: Silk@silkphuket.com



BO PHUT RESORT & SPA is a boutique hotel on Koh Samui. We are looking for enthusiastic and good human relations candidates to join our team.

- Financial Controller
- Sales Manager
- Front Office Manager
- Guest Relations Manager
- Personnel Manager
- Sous Chef
- Executive Secretary
- Thai Chef De Partie
- Waiter/Waitress

Requirements:

- More than 3 years' experience in 4/5-Star hotels
- Ability to speak and write fluent English
- Good personality, communication skills and service minded
- Able to relocate to Samui

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send your letter with resumé indicating qualifications and experience, expected salary and recent photo to:

Bo Phut Resort & Spa
12/12 Moo 1, Bophut, Koh Samui, Suratthani, 84320
Tel: 0-7724-5777, Fax: 0-7724-5776
Email: hrr@santiburi.com



Tai Life is a new leisure spa and restaurant opening soon near Patong Beach. We urgently require the following staff and we are offering very good salaries for all positions.

Office and Reception

1. Reception Manager

With a minimum of 5 years' hotel reception management experience. Good spoken and written English.

2. Senior Accountant

Responsible for setting up and running accounts and admin systems. Degree in accountancy with at least 5 years' senior experience. Good spoken and written English.

3. Administrative Assistant

Typing (English and Thai), basic bookkeeping, general admin duties, membership records (training given). Fair spoken/written English.

Restaurant

4. Cooks
5. Kitchen Assistants
6. Cashiers
7. Bartenders
8. Waiters

Fitness Centre

9. Gym Instructors
10. Personal Trainers

General

11. Life Guard/Pool Attendant
12. Overnight Cleaners
13. Overnight Security Guards

CALL K. MANIDA TODAY 07-2775548

GUTTER FITTER

Man with experience in installing gutters needed. Good salary offered. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-264025, 01-737-2973.

WAITRESSES

wanted. Women, 20-26 years old, with English skills wanted for Patong beachfront restaurant. Good salary offered. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8173190.

ASS'T SPA MANAGER AT KATA BEACH

Assistant Spa Manager & Cleaning Attendants. All experienced, reliable and English speaking. Only Phuket residents need apply. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-330914, 06-5413629. Fax: 076-333-233. Email: terapi@post.tele.dk For details, please see our website at: www.phuket-massage.com



MODERN CUISINE
CONTEMPORARY DESIGN
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Service is not a job – it's a way of life.

It's a professional commitment to satisfy individual needs. It's a commitment to make someone smile, to create the ultimate experience, to surpass expectations. If you have this commitment, this is your opportunity.

Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:

- Assistant Manager
- Sous Chef
- Supervisor
- Yacht & Restaurant Hostess
- Guest Relations

Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

watermark bar restaurant
Phuket Boat Lagoon
22/1 Thepkasatri Rd, Muang, Phuket
For interview send resumé to info@watermarkphuket.com
tel:076.239078

The Phuket Gazette

Join the team that brings Phuket the real news.

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works, and a keen interest in sports. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car driver's license.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements:

- Female, Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree;
- excellent speaking, reading and writing of English;
- good administration skills and ability to work independently;
- a pleasant personality, inspired attitude and service-minded;
- computer literate, can use Microsoft Office;
- knowledge of insurance is an advantage.

Please send resumé by email or contact. Tel: 076-239111. Email: olivier@thaimarine.com

RESERVATIONS

supervisor. Marine tour operator seeks a reservations supervisor. The ideal candidate is:

- a Thai national;
- fluent in speaking and writing English; and
- computer literate – can use Microsoft Office.

Proven experience in reservations and a Bachelor's degree would be appreciated. Send resumé by email or contact. Tel: 01-8945402. Fax: 076-238974. Email: caroline@thaimarine.com

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Wanted: Thai national with a Bachelor's degree in accounting or higher, and a minimum of 8 years' working experience in accounting.

- Good command of spoken and written English;
- QuickBooks literate a plus;
- Can do closing of accounts, financial statements, reporting, and tax filing.

Please send resumé by email or contact. Tel: 01-2718486. Email: marine@thaimarine.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Male, over 25, with good English skills. Any experience in a related field would be an advantage. Please send resumé by email or contact for more information. Tel: 076-215710. Fax: 076-224368. Email: phuketsales@somerville-siam.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

MOVING SALE

Mattress, 6ft fridge, aircon, beauty salon equipment and motorbike for sale. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-0079874.

PLAYSTATION 2

with 2 controllers plus 22 games. Asking 6,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8404317.

RRD KITEBOARD

RRD 160' kite surfboard with 15-square-foot kite, control bar and lines, pump, safety systems. Naish harness/impact vest. Perfect for beginner to more advanced kite surfers. All equipment hardly used as I have no time. Kite has small ding on the leading edge, but apart from that it's as good as brand new. 45,000 baht ono. First come first served. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-367-5413. Email: wesleybaxter@hotmail.com

BILLIARD TABLE

8x4 feet. In good condition. Asking price: 15,000 baht. Ask for Wolfie. Tel: 076-345015. Email: wolfies@phuket.ksc.co.th

TAYLOR MADE R580

Taylor Made R580 golf clubs. 1, 3 & 5 woods, 3 through 9 irons, pitching wedge, sand wedge and Odyssey 2-ball putter. Bag. Excellent condition, never used. 20,000 baht. Contact K. Howard. Tel: 09-2879196, 09-287919. Fax: 07-620-275. Email: howardgross@mac.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm


For more info, please call 012732053 (Scandinavian), 018954763 (English) or 018912895 (Frank)

PHUKET CHESS CLUB

Open every day, at Southern Fried Rice guesthouse in Kata. Tournaments on Wednesdays at 7 pm and Saturdays at 2 pm. Please call Tel: 01-894 8446.

Business Opportunities

Office/Showroom Space for Rent
The Plaza Del Mar -
Entrance to Laguna, Phuket.
 Last two superb, 40-square-metre, first-floor office/showrooms in the recently completed Plaza Del Mar.



Fully fitted with concealed air-con, security system, kitchenette, floors, 2 telephone lines with broadband capability, etc.

Please email Khun Nong at plazadelmar@csloxinfo.com for more information

WEDDING BUSINESS

Successful Co Ltd in Phuket, established 5 years ago, running mainly for the Japanese wedding industry, seeks business investment partner to expand in the largest market. We have many years' experience and good management. If interested, you are invited to an actual wedding on October 31 to observe. Tel: 07-2688159. Email: wedding_hkt@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Good location in OTOP shopping complex. Please call Tel: 04-8417339 (Eng) or 01-8671045 (Thai).

HOTEL FOR LEASE

25-room hotel in Patong. Good condition. 12 year contract. 160,000 baht per month. No key money. Ready for the next high season. Tel: 06-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net See our website at: www.ayudhya.net

2 BLACK SHEEP

An award-winning pub/restaurant in central Patong with a new Aussie owner, new music gig, and big new promotion plans seeks an investor/partner to help take us to a new level of success. Long lease and no rent for 2 years. Call Scotty. Tel: 01-0876339.

RESTAURANT

and guesthouse. Available for 6-year lease in Karon. European-style kitchen, 36-seat air-conditioned restaurant, two TVs, UBC & sound system. Five air-conditioned guest rooms with hot water, TV and full UBC satellite system. Small staff room and office. Thai registered company included, ready to start your business now. Tel: 09-591-4044, 01-8936072. Email: kanhathamyorm@hotmail.com

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Serviced Office Center
 Receptionist Provided
 Excellent Location

Tel: 076-239967

phuket@cbre.com
www.cbre.com **CBRE**
 CB RICHARD ELLIS

NICE BEER GARDEN

70 seats, fully equipped, low investment on booming Surin Beach. Asking 1.1 million baht and 12,000 baht per month. Email: phuketopportunity@hotmail.com

KATA BAR FOR SALE

in an excellent location, with new furnishings, UBC, a pool table - a good opportunity before high season. Please call Tel: 07-9312916.

HOTEL - HOT SALE

Freehold hotel-bar-restaurant-Internet cafe in a prime Patong location for sale. Asking 18 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-894-0580.

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Close to major hotels, shopping area and tourist attractions. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live music stage, sound and light system, projector UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (including pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, new kitchen equipment, 2 phone lines and over 300 taxi-bikes with "O'Malleys" vests driving around the city. Tel: 076-220170, 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

Business Products & Services

Complete Magical Entertainer
 (with Vern the Bird)
 ★ Stage Show ★ Close Up Magic
 ★ Strolling Magic ★ Balloon Modelling
 By Dave "Paul" Jones
 Professional Member of The Magic Circle for 10 years!
 Bookings for:
 ★ Hotels ★ Restaurants ★ Adults
 ★ Childrens Parties, etc.
 Phuket Promotions
 07 - 0441577



Island Dreaming
 Discounted Hotels
 in all the resort destinations you want to be.



Book online and save time & money

DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extras to pay, all-inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 04-7457024.

VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



- Company Registration 2,229 baht;
- One-Year Visa 5,999 baht;
- Work Permit 5,999 baht;
- UK & US Visa 16,999 baht.

No more visa runs - get a one-year visa! Establish your Thai company today! Property title search and sales contract. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-345-277. Email: dennis_siamlegal@hotmail.com www.siam-legal.com

TEFL PLUS

Teacher-training course starts November 14. Cost 35,000 baht, but will sell for 25,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8404817.

PRO CARPENTERING

We specialise in woodwork, home furniture, kitchens, built-in or moveable bars, counters, work desks. Yes, anything that has to do with woodwork. We also repair and rebuild houses and boats. Call or email us. Pro Carpentering, who never leave a job half-done. Tel: 076-243089, 04-051-1944. Fax: 076-243089. Email: pro_carpentering@yahoo.com

PRINTING

and advertising. For all your printing needs - from T-shirts to brochures and caps to catalogs, any quantity. Call Dream Team Tel: 076-344366 or visit us at 204/38 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Soi Ladiva, Patong.

DO BUSINESS

in Thailand. Register your Thai limited company; apply for a work permit or Thai visa through Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Law Office License No. 6155/2548. Business licenses, contracts and property transactions by legal professionals at reasonable fees. Call 24 hours. Tel: 076-345277, 04-0219800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com For further details, see our website at: www.siam-legal.com

VISA SERVICES

Tired of visa runs? Get a one-year Thai visa, or visas for any other country - USA K1/K3 visas, UK Visitor and Spouses visas. Free initial consultation at Thailand's largest legal service network, Siam International Legal Group. Call 24 hours. Tel: 076-345277, 04-0219800. Email: admin@siam-legal.com Website at: www.siam-legal.com

Computers

COMPUTER REPAIRS

English computer technician. New or used GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Tel: 09-4735080.

Miscellaneous for Sale

INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENSE
 < 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years
 < 6,000 baht, valid up to 20 years
 < 100% legal
 < Sole agent in Thailand
 Internationally recognized & accredited.
 Located behind Big C.
 Address: Baan Suan Place,
 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket.
 For details, call
 Tel: 04-0068736 or 04-6906612.

Mobile Phones

WANTED: ORANGE SIM CARDS

Our company would like to purchase several 100 pre-paid SIM cards and airtime vouchers for Thailand. We prefer Orange Just Talk. We can pay via bank wire. Please contact and put ATTENTION KEN in the subject field. Tel: 858-2742-686, 85-8255755. Email: sales@telestial.com For further details, please see our website at: www.telestial.com

BLACKBERRY 7230

Never-used Blackberry 7230 still in the box, comes with belt clip, headset, travel charger, desktop stand, 2 USB cables, and software. Price: 20,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-330710, 01-597-4218. Email: raoulwildt@gmx.net

Personal Services

TRANSLATION SERVICE

Available for a reasonable price. Please call K. Dusit. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-6524747.

LEARN THAI,

English, French, German, Japanese, and Italian lessons with TLS certificate. Qualified, professional teacher and materials. Call Tewi at Tel: 076-319066-7, 06-3817138, 06-2661585, 04-0591155.

Personals

LADIES ONLY

Tony - a good looking guy, 32 years old - will escort you to any event. Call me at Tel: 04-0511582.

Play for free **BACKGAMMON**
www.backgammon-free.tk



Are you up to date?

If your company's listing in the Gazette Guide is out of date you are more than likely missing out on valuable business contacts.

**The Gazette Guide is the island's
No. One business directory....**

Hundreds of online users every day
Hard copies placed in over 7,000 hotel rooms island-wide
On the desks of more than 4,000 Phuket residents


Be fashionable and update your listing early....

Please use the easy access page at:
www.phuketgazette.net/guide
For advertising, contact:
guide@phuketgazette.net



**The
Gazette Guide**
It's everywhere! Are You in it?


11871 Yaowarat Rd., Muang, Phuket 83000



KIMBER HUT

Tel: (076) 21-1839

**YAMYEN SEAFOOD
LAEMPANWA**



(Near Phuket Aquarium)
SAKIDET ROAD, PHUKET
Tel: (076) 391103

**Dentistry
enhances the smile!**

Dental Implant

The Nobel Guide™ concept is applicable to any patient condition, from single tooth to partially or fully edentulous, covering the simplest of procedures to our ultimate Teeth-in-an-Hour™ offering. It's predictable flapless surgery combined with Immediate Function and knowledge of position of implants prior to surgery. Providing the prerequisites for delivery of Beautiful Teeth Now™.



Nobel Guide™
perfect planning for perfect teeth.



Root Canal Treatment
by endodontists, using the most update equipment:

- Dental Microscopes
- P5 (Ultrasonic Handpieces)
- Rotary Instrument
- Root Canal Filling with Real Seal
- Element Obturation Unit
- Laser Tooth Whitening 12,000 Baht



PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC
พญ.ดร.พรหมใจ

Phuket: Patong: 076-345341-2, 01-8934304
Bypass Road: 076-261836-7, 06-9510999



Bangkok: 02-2616229-31, 01-4501550

www.promjaidental.com Email: info@promjaidental.com


SHADE


Sails, Umbrellas, Awnings

"Extend Your Life Outdoors"

pools
resorts
patios
gardens
shops
schools
car parks
walkways
restaurants
bars





Call us for an obligation free quote.
SHADES (Thailand) Co.,Ltd.
Boat Lagoon Marina Showroom
Tel: 076-204120, 323600

www.shades.co.th

A UNIQUE SHOPPING DESTINATION



เดอะ พลาซ่า สุรินทร์

THE PLAZA

SURIN

FASHION . FURNITURE . ANTIQUES . ART

5/50 cherngthalay phuket Tel 076 271 241 www.theplazasurin.com

Aleenta
Lamont
Fine9design
Lola
Cocoon
Indigo
Namsang
Tamarine
Soul of Asia
Sivalla
Candere
Everything Underthesun

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar* it probably isn't one.

List **YOUR** event now - *It's free of charge.*
phuketgazette.net/calendar

Desjoyaux

P O O L S

เดจัวโย

สระว่ายน้ำ

Put your trust in the worldwide leader!

- .Rapidity
- .Reliability
- .Hydrotherapy
- .Simplicity
- .Quality
- .A real 10-year-guarantee!
- .No underground piping!
- .80% concrete...20% ingenuity
- .listed on the Paris stock market
- .No.1 in the world






Desjoyaux in Thailand

Bangkok: Tel:+66 2 9889333 Fax:+66 2 9488118

Phuket: Tel:+66 76 263688 Fax: +66 76 264023

Chiang Mai: Tel:+66 53 283901-2 Fax:+66 53 202859

Hatyai: Tel:+66 74 262934-5 Fax:+66 74 262936

Samui: Tel: + 66 77 247588-9 Fax:+66 77 427256

www.desjoyauxasia.com

We do what we say!

Since 1966

See *ISSUES & ANSWERS*
at
www.phuketgazette.net