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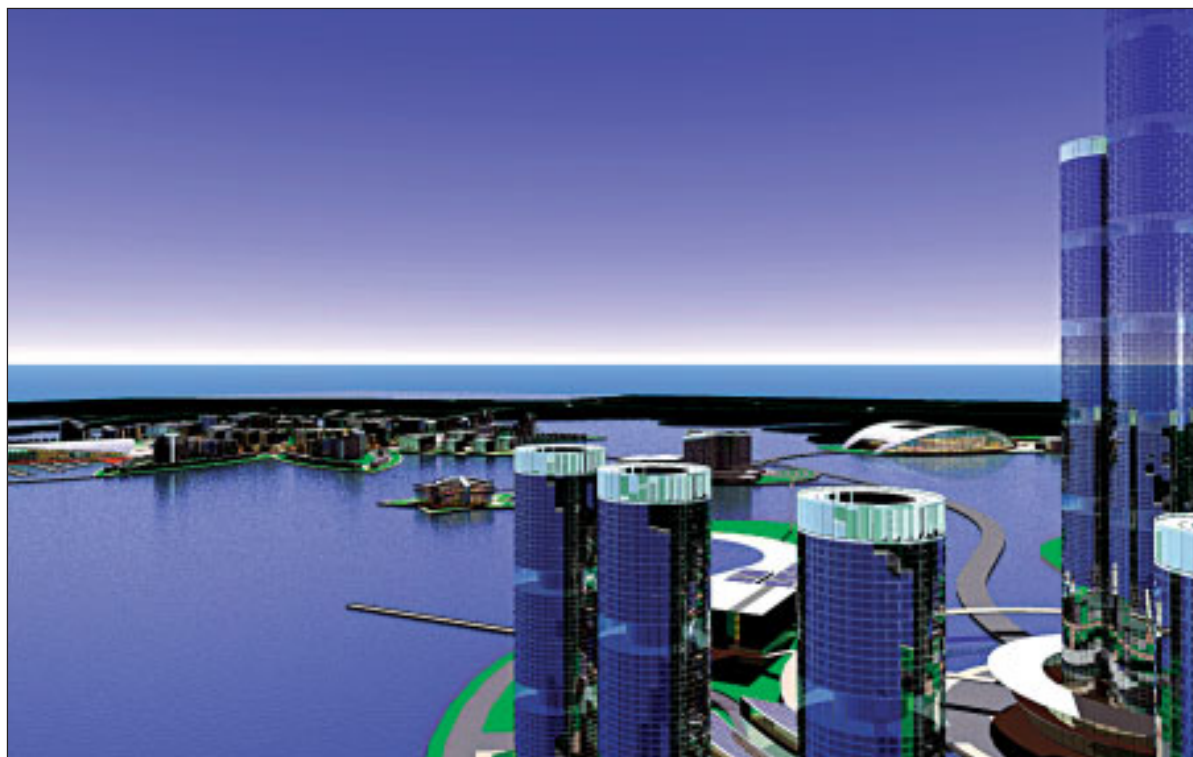
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The B130-billion Umezawa proposal includes The Tower, with offices and hotel (foreground in this computer-generated image) and four other islands, each with a specific use.

Ambitious Phuket Bay plans revealed

By Alasdair Forbes
& Anongnat Sartpsit

PHUKET CITY (*Gazette, Nation*): After a lull of 10 months, the Ao Phuket development project – a plan to build a mini-city on reclaimed land in the bay off Saphan Hin – is once again gathering momentum. Plans include a convention and exhibition center, and a casino.

At an October 20 meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall, chaired by the Interior Ministry Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Rajatin Syamananda, Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura said that three main investors are working on plans for large projects in Ao Phuket.

At some 130 billion baht, the most spectacular proposal has come from Japanese urban developer and shoreline construc-

tion specialist Umezawa Tadao, with Thai partner Architect Co, who have announced plans to build what they are calling Phuket Bay International City.

The project's backers envisage five phases: a spaceship-shaped structure called Anabasis, which will contain a 2,000-room hotel and a convention center; a lotus-shaped resort called Marina City; The Tower, which will include hotel rooms and office space; Sport World, featuring international-level sports facilities; and Good Luck Island – the casino. All of these would be built with protection against tsunamis in mind.

The second-largest plan, weighing in at 70 billion baht, has come from Bangkok-based conglomerate Ital-Thai, which proposes a 2,000-rai island development designed as a village with

a marina, condominiums and a golf course.

Tongkah Harbour Pcl also has plans for a project, mostly revolving around yachts and cruising. Details and budget have yet to be revealed.

Gov Udomsak added that interest in joining in the Ao Phuket frenzy has been expressed by companies in China.

The positive point of all this, he said, is that Phuket as a whole will reap the benefits but 95% to 100% of the investment will come from the private sector.

Asked whether he felt a casino would be of benefit, Gov Udomsak told the *Gazette*, "We would need to wait for the government policy to go through the public hearing process, and for laws to be revised before [this could be built]."

Continued on page 2

Jungceylon could now open in April 2006

By Anongnat Sartpsit

PHUKET CITY: The Jungceylon complex in Patong could open by April next year, if negotiations between the two battling Managing Directors of Phuket Square Co Ltd – the project operating company – continue at their current rate of progress.

Phuket Provincial Court Chief Justice Samrarn Yothayai told the *Gazette* last week that Thanit Rattana-Kamchai and Mani Udomkunnatum have been involved in mediation through the court since early last year.

"The mediation process is about 90% complete," he said, though he added that the pair have yet to resolve all their differences.

K. Thanit, the landowner of the Jungceylon site, and K. Mani, who owns 53% of Phuket Square Co Ltd, have refused to countersign each other's checks to pay Jungceylon contractor Powerline Co Ltd, which has consequently halted construction on the site.

"The original projected cost of the Jungceylon project blew out from 1.7 billion baht to 3 billion baht, so K. Mani was looking for new investors to join the project, but K. Thanit disagreed, saying that the new cost was unacceptable and he did not agree to changing Phuket Square's management committee," said Judge Samrarn.

"After Powerline stopped construction, Krung Thai Bank declared its loan to K. Mani to be in default and filed a complaint with the Bankruptcy Court in Bangkok, asking for him to be declared bankrupt.

"Negotiations so far have resulted in K. Mani wanting to sell his 53% share in Phuket

Continued on page 2

Island gets two new Vice-Governors

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: As Vice-Governor Supachai Yuvaboon prepared to move on to a new post in Bangkok, two new vice-governors were preparing to replace him and Winai Buapradit, who was promoted to Governor of Phang Nga on October 1.

The two new Vice-Governors are Vorapoj Rattasima, who will arrive on November 15, and Pongsak Plaiwech, who is already here. They were previously Vice-Governors of Samut Songkram and Samut Sakorn respectively.

K. Supachai, who arrived in Phuket to start work on the day of the tsunami, on October 25 moved on to Prince Damrong

Rajanuphab Institute of Research and Development as a specialist in policy and planning formation.

He told the *Gazette*, "I've worked here [in Phuket] about 10 months and I have to say that I've had some memorable experiences, what with the tsunami, water shortages and maintaining stability.

"What worries me most about Phuket is the environmental problems the island faces. It resembles Singapore in that it may be healthy enough economically speaking but all the money in the world cannot buy back a natural, healthy environment.

"We are facing water shortages and the threat of landslides and I feel people are getting away from their roots and thinking too

much about money.

"Look at it this way: if you sell your land then spend all your money, what will you do when there's no land left to cultivate anymore? Phuket is growing fast and the property market is exploding. Areas that used to be rubber plantations are now property developments.

"I think that in the next three to five years we will see the death of agriculture in Phuket and I believe that, therefore, the island needs some serious town planning."

Commenting on the newcomers, K. Supachai added, "Both of them have good experience and they should be a positive influence on the development of the province."



TEEN DREAMING

Forty-two competitors in the annual Miss Teen Thailand pageant were in Phuket from October 20 to 25 to make a video to be shown at the finals, due to take place October 28 in Bangkok. This group is pictured in Wat Chalong, one of the places the contenders visited during their stay.

Jungceylon could open next April

From page 1

Square Co Ltd to K. Thanit, so K. Thanit can take on new investors and complete the project."

Judge Samrarn added that the parties are due to continue mediation at Phuket Provincial Court on November 14, and that this could result in construction resuming as early as December.

"About four months of construction work are required to complete Jungceylon, so it may open as early as next April," he said.

Phuket Square Co Ltd declined to comment at this time.

The Phuket Provincial Court's involvement in mediating the Jungceylon dispute is just one of many cases that has led to the

court receiving the Mediation Award 2005, awarded by the Supreme Court of Thailand.

Another factor was the court boosting its number of volunteer mediators from five in April to its current number of 47.

Judge Samrarn explained that the court resolved about 50 cases a week during the two weeks from December 6 to 16 through mediation alone, and resolved about 7,000 disputes through mediation last year.

"Most mediation cases are civil cases, such as loans, land titles and inheritances," he said.

In September, he added, 211 civil mediation cases involving assets totaling 308 million baht, as well as nine criminal mediation cases, were cleared through the court.

Thugs assault, rob old lady

WICHIT: Police say they expect a quick arrest in the case of two teenage thugs who assaulted a 73-year-old woman and stole her 3-bahtweight gold necklace.

Pol Maj Yongyuth Krongmalai, an Inspector at the Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that he was notified of the theft by the victim, Aree Piewnam, on October 22.

K. Aree, who lives in Soi Paisarn, off Chao Fa West Rd, told police that about two hours earlier she was standing in front of her home when two teenaged males pulled up on a motorcycle.

She said the boy riding pillion, approached her brandishing a knife. The feisty K. Aree resisted his attempts to take her gold chain and amulet, punching the youth in the face.

The thief struck back, knocking her to the pavement. He then ripped the necklace from her neck and sped away with his accomplice.

Police told the *Gazette* they already know the identity of the two youths, both of whom had lived in the area and who were recently released from an unspecified correctional facility.

Ambitious plans for Ao Phuket

From page 1

He added, "A casino is the last priority of the Ao Phuket project. My suggestion is that we build other entertainment venues before looking at the possibility of a casino."

In the past, proposals by the central government for an international convention and exhibition center (ICEC) in the Saphan Hin or Ao Phuket areas have raised the ire of Phuket City politicians.

The politicians have pointed out that all traffic between the airport and the ICEC would have to find its way through the city's narrow streets, causing serious traffic problems.

However, Deputy Mayor Kawee Tansukatanon was restrained, saying only, "The Municipality will need to look at the basics of these projects, such as water treatment systems, water supply, a bridge across the mangrove forest to the island and the capacity of our garbage incinerator.

"All of those issues must be examined to ensure that infrastructure and services will be able to handle these projects."

Rape charges dropped

PATONG: Rape charges against two Thai singers have been dropped at the request of the alleged victim, 18-year-old "Anna" (not her real name), a tourist from Holland.

Pol Lt Weerapong Rakhito of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette*, "The case was closed because the victim came to us with her lawyers to ask to have the charges dismissed. I did not ask why."

"Anna" was taken to hospital on September 9 after a reported incident at the home of one of the singers. She has since left Phuket.

B50m security camera plan gets a boost

PHUKET: The provincial government has moved forward with its plans to introduce surveillance cameras in tourist areas to increase security and boost the island's image as a safe holiday destination.

Governor Udomsak Uswarangura said that the estimated budget of 50.7 million baht will cover constructing, equipping, maintaining and staffing a single control room.

Although the number of cameras has not yet been decided, the budget for each will be 147,000 baht, covering purchase, installation and operation. This

sum includes an annual maintenance budget of 13,000 baht.

Gov Udomsak said the budget should be approved by Bangkok by the end of this year, "but most of the budget will come from the provincial government".

He suggested that financial support for the project should also be sought from the private sector, "because this project will benefit their businesses, too".

"In addition to Phuket's tsunami warning system, surveillance cameras will bolster the island's image as a safe place," Gov Udomsak said.

— Athiga Jundee

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Meridien Khao Lak owner raps TAT

KHAO LAK: The owner of another leading Khao Lak resort has backed the opinions of La Flora owner Sompong Daowpiset over the lack of support the resort area has received from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) since the tsunami.

Speaking just after the re-opening of his Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort on October 21, ML Vitya Chakrabandhu told the *Gazette* that he felt the government and banks had generally been supportive.

But he was critical of the TAT. "I hate to say this," he said, "but I don't think they have the proper people."

"I think they have tried to do a good job, but they need to find a good advertising agency. They need to find an international firm that understands the international market and can [promote Thailand] tastefully," he said.

Le Meridien Khao Lak was seriously damaged by the tsunami, losing 100 of its 250 rooms, along with all back-of-house operations, restaurants, accounting and kitchens.

The reopenings of La Flora and Le Meridien bring the number of operational guest rooms in the Khao Lak area to about 1,700, compared with some 7,000 before the tsunami.

Chalawsak Vanicharoen, Chief Administrative Officer of Takua Pa District, told the *Gazette* that morale is picking up with the approaching high season.

"We have finished building about 98% of tsunami victims' accommodation and the other 2% is minor renovation work. Yet part of the problem is that local people have boats but they don't have fishing equipment such as engines and nets. I believe that at the end of the rainy season people will be able to start working for themselves," he added.

"Tourists, especially from Europe, are coming back to Khao Lak. A group of Germans has booked 100 rooms for 10 days. Yet most hotel owners here realize – and are resigned to the fact – that they won't make a profit this year. They expect next year to improve slightly, and hope to start turning a profit in three years' time."

"I also believe that if businessmen hurry up to renovate their hotels and open them faster it will help them greatly, because we are expecting a number of visitors this year, especially now that the government is trying to attract tourists back for the memorial service."

A full tsunami warning system will be in place in eight locations along Khao Lak's beaches by December 26, he added.

—*Alasdair Forbes & Sangkhae Leelanaporn*

Avian 'flu precautions stepped up

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET: Following the death of a farmer in Kanchanaburi province from bird 'flu and the infection of his son with the disease, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has ordered officials to step up measures to ensure there is no outbreak of the disease in Phuket.

No cases of avian 'flu have ever been recorded on the island.

"I'm very serious about this, because Phuket is just coming back after the tsunami. Tourists now feel more confident about visiting Phuket, and I don't want any crisis to affect our tourism again," Gov Udomsak said.

He said that he had ordered the Provincial Health Office and the Provincial Livestock Office

to step up measures to block any outbreak of bird 'flu in Phuket, with particular attention being paid to cockfighting, which has now been banned.

"The Tah Chat Chai checkpoint will have more staff with the proper equipment and chemicals to test for bird 'flu," Gov Udomsak added.

He noted that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had announced that Finland will send some 300 charter flights full of tourists to Phuket in the coming year.

"That is good news for Phuket. I don't want bird 'flu to affect tourists' decisions about whether to come to Phuket – and not just in the case of the Finns but in the case of all tourists from around the world," he said.

Mystery over murder of photographer

PHUKET CITY: A freelance photographer was gunned down on October 21 while watching TV in his house behind Suan Luang park.

Pol Sub Lt Aumporn Musikapan of the Phuket City Police Station named the victim as Thavil Laksanavimol, 36, from Nakorn Sri Thammarat Province.

He was watching TV at about 10:15 pm with the 14-year-old daughter of a neighbor when his assailant, who must have been hiding outside the doorway, appeared and fired one shotgun blast from a range of about two meters, hitting K. Thavil in the neck and right shoulder.

He was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital but was pronounced dead just after midnight.

The girl was unable to identify the murderer because her

back was turned to the doorway.

Police are working on the assumption that the murderer was not a professional hitman because he left behind a pair of sandals that he had apparently removed in order to hasten his retreat from the victim's home, which was muddy and slippery outside, he added.

"We don't yet know how long K. Thavil lived in Phuket or whether he owned the home or rented it. We do know that he was a freelance photographer, but that he didn't take photos for the press."

"His wife told us she didn't believe the killing was work-related because K. Thavil had never mentioned any problems with his work," Lt Aumporn said.



Do it to me one more time

David and Cindy Ratcliffe (center) took advantage of the mass wedding held recently in Phuket City to renew their vows of 38 years. They are pictured with Asst Professor Pranee Sakulpipatana and her daughter Dr Piyanat Sakulpipatana. The mass ceremony, at which 47 other couples were married or remarried, was held as part of the Phuket Old City Rejuvenation activities organized over the past few weeks.

Phuket City police chief promoted

PHUKET: The Superintendent of Phuket City Police, Pol Col Paween Pongsirin, is one of a number of senior police who are being promoted or transferred as part of the annual national police reshuffle.

Col Paween has been promoted to Deputy Commander of Surat Thani Provincial Police. His replacement is Lt Col Natta Sawetalaek, formerly Deputy Superintendent of Thalang Police.

Also leaving Phuket are: Lt Col Narongyos Unhabandit, Deputy Superintendent, Thalang, to become Superintendent, Ban-naderm District, Surat Thani;

Lt Col Jirasak Liamsak, Inspector (Traffic) Phuket City, to become Deputy Superintendent (Suppression), Takuapa, Phang Nga;

Lt Col Narong Laksanawimol, Inspector (Suppression)

Kathu, to become Deputy Superintendent, Khok Kloy, Phang Nga;

Lt Col Worapong Wongjom, Inspector (Suppression), Chalong, to become Inspector (Investigation), Takuapa;

Lt Col Wirawat Raktham, Inquiry Officer (Level 2), Thalang, to the equivalent post in Ranong Muang District and;

Maj Cherdpong Chiewprecha, Inspector (Suppression), Phuket City, to the equivalent post in Sawee District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Moving to Phuket are: Lt Col Jakkrit Tewanna, Inspector (Investigation), Takuapa, to become Inspector (Suppression), Kathu;

Lt Col Chaowlida Pacharsipia, Inquiry Officer (Level 2), Ranong Muang District, to the equivalent post in Phuket City.

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THE BURMESE EQUATION

Thai labor law protects Thais and foreigners alike, so Burmese migrant workers are entitled to the minimum wage of 178 baht a day – a great deal more than most can earn in their home country.

Most work as unskilled laborers in the fishing industry, on construction sites, as domestic servants or as rubber tappers.

Phuket Provincial Labor Office (PPLO) Chief Decha Prek-pattanak said that the influx of Burmese has little or no effect on employment for Thais, who are generally better educated and don't want to do these kinds of jobs – of-

ten referred to as the "3D" jobs, for "dirty, difficult or dangerous".

"The number of Burmese immigrants has grown because there is demand for them as laborers. And when they come to Phuket, they don't usually come alone; they bring their relatives and families to work here as well, so their population in the province is growing," K. Decha said.

The phenomenon of illegal migrant labor is by no means unique to Thailand, he pointed out. "When a neighboring country offers better prospects than their own, they want to move. The US has a similar problem and has been unable to solve or limit it," he noted.

The Burmese, he said, bring problems with them – threats to the security and stability of the country, and violence as in the *Issaraporn 1* massacre.

Illegal workers may also bring health problems; they duck past the health checks for foreign workers, so any disease they may be carrying is not detected until it enters the local population.

Controlling them is difficult, he added. Labor Ministry policy is that employers must register all alien workers. "It is not possible for Burmese to work and live here illegally without the support of employers," he stressed.

The laws on this "are perfectly adequate", he said, but application of the law is not. Even when illegal Burmese are arrested, this can place more strain on the system.

In any case, the Myanmar government may not want them, may be glad to see the back of them, and may refuse to take them back if they are deported.

"The Myanmar government will often not accept the return of minorities [from the border areas] so do we imprison them all? Where? It's a problem."

Such is the demand for 3D laborers that the problems are unlikely to go away anytime soon.

This year 23,068 Burmese were registered with the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO). In August, 3,522 employers sent their requirements for alien labor to the PPEO.

The number of laborers needed by these employers totaled 62,918. Simple arithmetic suggests, therefore, that there are probably almost 40,000 Burmese currently working illegally in Phuket.

Simple arithmetic suggests ... that there are probably almost 40,000 Burmese currently working illegally in Phuket.



WEAPON OF CHOICE: An essential tool for fishing boat crew members is a length of reinforcing bar, sharpened at one end. It can also be used – and frequently is – as a deadly weapon.

Murder in the 'Burmese Cemetery' – the area around the Rassada fishing port – is by no means unknown, but the massacre of four Burmese aboard fishing boat *Issaraporn 1* on October 17 was unprecedented in its ferocity.

The *Gazette's* Leelanapaporn and Anongnat Sartpisut look at the story behind the headlines.

It was about 3am and Lan Thonghao and his seven shipmates were fast asleep aboard the *Issaraporn 1* when they came.

Someone rapped on the door and Lan pulled himself from his bunk to open it.

"I got a glimpse of many people outside the door, then someone slashed my face and I fell to the floor unconscious."

What happened after that, Lan does not know. He woke up hours later and was taken by the crew boss to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

"I didn't know that other members of the crew had been killed until someone told me later," the 20-year-old Burmese told the *Gazette* from his hospital bed.

The horror of that night was revealed over the next 24 hours as bodies were found floating in the water near the Rassada fishing port – first two, then two more.

The whereabouts of the other three men on the boat were, at the time of going to press, unknown. Perhaps they were killed or perhaps they escaped and fled, possibly with injuries.

Lan said that he did not know why the boat had been attacked, and that he could not identify those who carried out the massacre.

"It was very dark that night,

The



and I had never seen their faces before. Everything happened very fast."

Each of the victims in the slaughter had been stabbed at least five times about the head and face before being thrown into the water. Police said the injuries were horrific.

The killings are by no means the first in the area, which has come to be known as the "Burmese Cemetery" because of the number of murders that have been committed there in recent years, almost all of the dead being Burmese.

But what happened in the

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Issaraporn massacre



A section of the muddy Klong Tah Chin, where the four bodies were found.

tions suggested that the massacre was possibly part of an ongoing war between the crew of the *Issaraporn 1* and another vessel, one of whose crew had been stabbed earlier that night by a crewman from the *Issaraporn*.

"That night, at about 9 pm, a Burmese was stabbed and injured. I am concerned that there will be more fighting because, now, [the *Issaraporn*] side have lost four friends.

"I have ordered police patrols, both in uniform and undercover, to be stepped up. We also need more organized help from local people who should let us know what is going on," Col Chatchai added.

"The Burmese are scared of the police, but when they get together as a group it boosts their

courage and they are more difficult to control. The favored weapon is the sharpened rebar, which can simply be thrown in the sea after it has been used to stab someone," he added.

Another difficulty lies in identifying corpses, Col Chatchai said. "They may have friends or relatives in Phuket, but these people never come forward. We get no co-operation or information [from Burmese]."

NO ID PAPERS

Usually there are no identifying documents because the crewmen's bosses hang onto their IDs as a way of preventing employees from running away. In any case, many of the Burmese have no papers at all. They are in Phuket illegally.

"On October 19 I called the fishing boat owners to a meeting to discuss ways to solve the problem of Burmese being murdered in Rassada Port. I urged them to employ only Burmese who have the correct papers allowing them

to work in Thailand," Col Chatchai said.

But whether the employers will comply is open to question. "They have to pay almost 5,000 baht for each alien registration card. That's not a small amount, because some businesses need to employ hundreds of alien workers."

After a Burmese has been hired legally, he may walk off the job after a few days – which is 5,000 baht down the drain. "This is why there are so many illegal workers here," Col Chatchai said.

Meanwhile, *Issaraporn 1* crewman Lan counts himself lucky to be alive, but his dreams of making a decent living in Thailand have evaporated.

A fisherman before in Myanmar, he had been working on boats based in Phuket for eight months before the attack. Now all he wants to do is go home.

"When my face is better I will go back to Burma," he said. "I don't know what I will do there, but it's better that I go home."

early hours of October 17 was unparalleled in its ferocity.

Pol Maj Yongyuth Krongmalai, Inspector of Phuket City Police Station, related what one witness told police.

The witness, a Thai employed to guard the *Issaraporn 1*, was not harmed by the assailants, who told him to get lost.

"He said that the attackers numbered about 20, all carrying knives, pieces of wood or lengths of sharpened reinforcing bar [rebar – used as tools aboard fishing boats]. Some of them swam out to the boat.

"The massacre lasted about

10 or 15 minutes. The victims, after being stabbed, were thrown overboard. Some of the attackers jumped into the water and attacked the victims again.

"Then finally they swam away into the darkness," Maj Youngyuth said.

"Our understanding is that two groups of Burmese got into an argument the previous night. Then one side used their mobile phones to call their friends to help them kill the others."

The Deputy Superintendent of Crime Suppression of Phuket City Police, Pol Lt Col Chatchai Nicrodhanon, said that investiga-



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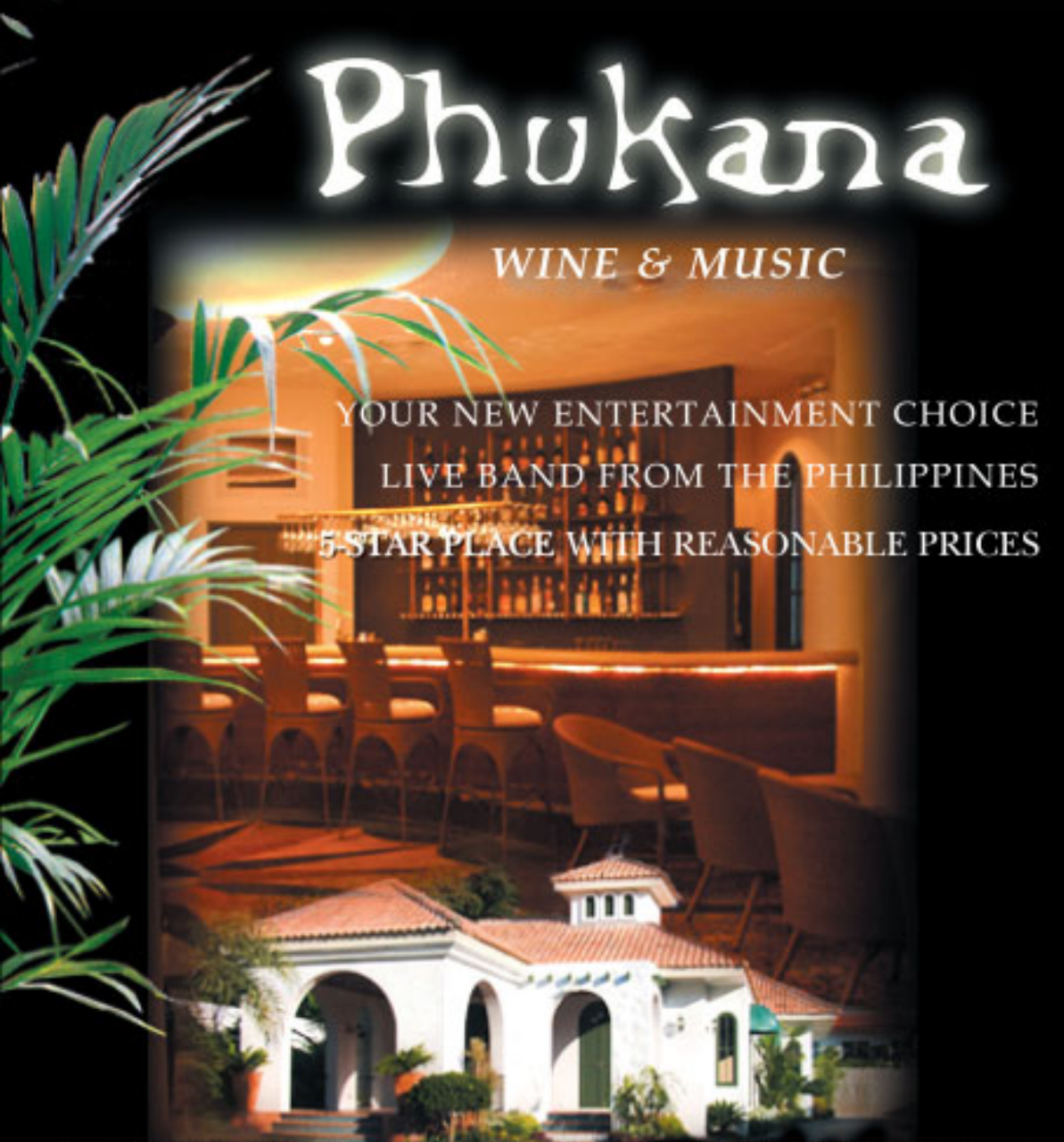


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Croc makes good pillow and a snappy companion

PHICHIT: Some people like to argue about which breed of dog makes the best four-legged home security system, but a coffee vendor in this province has found that his 70-kilogram pet crocodile is just as effective at keeping burglars at bay as any Rottweiler, Pit Bull or Doberman.

Prayoon "Khat" Thongjorn, 43, bought the crocodile for 3,000 baht as a hatchling from a crocodile farm in Phichit some six years ago.

Rather than raise the reptile for use as a future handbag, he lavished on it the same love and affection usually reserved for more conventional pets.

The baby croc, named "Ai Khaeng", went with him everywhere.

He even slipped the creature in his shirt pocket when he went out on his coffee-selling rounds.

Queer News

Although Ai Khaeng is now an impressive weight, Prayoon hasn't let size come between him and his pet; the pair still sleep together under the same mosquito net, along with Prayoon's son.

Prayoon, who sleeps in the middle, even uses Ai Khaeng as a pillow, hugging the reptile during slumber.

Ai Khang is fed two kilos of meat every two days, which is apparently enough to keep him healthy and satisfied.

When a neighbor once told Prayoon that he had better be careful when Ai Khaeng is hun-

gry, K. Prayoon decided to do a little experiment.

"I let him go for a full 20 days without food to see what would happen, but he didn't show any signs of annoyance or aggression."

"He just followed me around all the time with his mouth wide open, hoping I would take the hint and feed him," he said.

Despite his apparent tameness, Ai Khaeng is an effective "watch-croc". Prayoon's neighbors do not dare venture into his house or bother K. Prayoon when his reptilian friend is with him - which is all the time.

News of Ai Khaeng and Prayoon has generated a good deal of interest; the pair have already done roadshows and also performed at the One Tambon One Product Fair in Phichit on October 20.

Source: Thai Rath

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS STABILIZE

Type	September 2003	September 2004	September 2005
Limited company registrations	91	132	135
Limited partnership registrations	122	30	42
Limited companies changed	180	230	290
Limited partnerships changed	36	28	56
Companies deregistered	12	15	15

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office



Prasith Boonsob being presented with his prize of a one-hour treatment at the Aspara Spa at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket from Jitraporn "Paulie" Saejew, of the Gazette Classified Advertising Department, for having a "We Love Phuket" sticker on his car.

'WE LOVE PHUKET' WINNERS



Darunee Kolsaman (left) collects her prize of a grill dinner for two, with wine, at Mom Tri's Boat House from Athipa "Pam" Bunnak, Gazette Events & Public Relations Manager.

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Emergency decree extended in Deep South

The Cabinet extended the controversial state of emergency for the Deep South by three months, despite mounting insistence from lawmakers and civic leaders that the sweeping powers granted to security authorities have done little to pacify the troubled region.

"The government has no choice but to extend the state of emergency. The situation requires us to do so," Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra insisted.

The emergency law permits the government to declare a state of emergency, renewable every three months, that allows officials to impose curfews, ban public gatherings, limit travel, censor newspapers, ban publications, hold suspects without charge for 30 days, confiscate property and wiretap telephones.

The legislation also grants immunity to officials from civil, criminal, and disciplinary action for acts carried out under the decree's provisions, including the killing of suspects.

In defense of the measures, PM Thaksin pointed out that even such liberal democracies as the US and Britain, in their war on terrorism, permit suspects to be detained for up to three and six months, respectively.

"So let's not be more Catholic than the Pope," he quipped.

Rape case: Police arrested millionaire land developer Suthep Pinjaroen at his home in Pathum Thani on charges of raping and/or molesting three girls under 13 years of age and recording the acts on VCD.

Suthep denied the charges, saying that the VCD was distributed by business rivals to tarnish his image. The 66-year-old said the charges were unfeasible given his age and relationship with the three unidentified girls, aged 11 and 12, who he says are all daughters of his staff members.

Pol Maj General Khamron-wit Thoopkrajang, commander of the Division for Suppression of Crimes Against Children, Juveniles and Women, said police



A monk inspects a statue damaged by militants who attacked Wat Promprasith in Pattani Province, killing an elderly monk and two temple boys. A ranking military officer posted in the region recently put the number of dead related to the ongoing insurgency in the Deep South as high as 2,000 since the beginning of 2004.

were confident that it was Suthep in the VCD, copies of which are now being sold on the black market in and around Bangkok.

Forensics experts collected evidence from the room featured in the VCD and will carry out tests to determine whether they can identify DNA samples that match those collected from Suthep or any of the girls.

Double digs: In Suphan Buri, farmers in Nong Yasai District accidentally unearthed ancient bones and artifacts including axes, stone bracelets, pottery pieces and a three-legged pot. Fine Arts Department archeologist Vasant Thepsuriyanont said that the items could be 4,000 years

old, dating back to the New Stone Age.

In Khon Kaen's Tambon Phon, a worker repairing an outdoor toilet uncovered a pile of bones that were reassembled by police investigators into a full skeleton. Chanathip Chaianukij, a researcher from the Fine Arts Department, said the skeleton resembled previous Ban Chiang civilization finds and could be 1,800 and 5,600 years old.

The skeleton will soon be sent for scientific tests, she said.

Cell mates: Officials at the Phitsunalohe Provincial Prison charged 26-year-old inmate Apichart Rodjaroen with committing an indecent act for the

repeated raping of a 20-year-old cell mate between September 26 and October 16, 2004.

The officials noted that under the Thai Penal Code there is no provision dealing with the rape of one man by another, and that the charges would make little difference to Apichart's record. The former gang member is already facing multiple charges that include 10 counts of murder, attempted murder, 10 rapes and larceny. His former cell mate was imprisoned on drug charges.

Field trip: The headmaster at the cash-strapped Bo Kaew School in Chiang Mai's Samoeng District suspended classes from November to March and sent its hill-tribe

students out into the fields to work as laborers for the duration of the strawberry-harvesting season.

Thavin Sutthiwanchampa said his school had run out of money because it had only received 400,000 baht this year – just 1,000 baht for each of the school's 400 pupils.

Working on the harvest, a student has the potential to earn as much as 2,000 baht a day, and that money will be directed into the school's budget, he said.

"We think it will be a good experience for them, and also a good way for our students to earn money," said K. Thavin, adding that the students would not have problems working hard because they were used to farm work.

Pandering charge: Bangkok police arrested a mother who allegedly forced her 14-year-old daughter into prostitution.

"My daughter just wanted to help pay the family's debts. I did not sell my own daughter," said Somporn (last name withheld) who was arrested along with her daughter Noi (not her real name) in a sting operation in Bangkok's Bang Phlat District.

Noi told police that she had turned to prostitution to pay off her deceased father's medical bill and that her mother was not her procurer. Her customers, who allegedly included senior government officials, paid between 1,000 baht and 5,000 baht, she said.

Somporn said that Noi's behavior degenerated after she was raped by a gang of motorcycle road racers. When her father fell ill she blamed herself for his illness and offered to help the family to clear its debts, she said.

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

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An exciting new project to spur the growth of coral is under way at Lamai and Chaweng Beaches. The project uses a simple yet innovative technology called "Biorock" to build an underwater life support system for Samui's ailing reefs.

The concept is the brainchild of marine scientist Dr Tom Goreau, who on his last visit to the island joined forces with Tom Sarkisian of the Global Coral Reef Alliance.

Biorock can be introduced wherever coral reefs have deteriorated and are no longer able to recover naturally. A structure is built from ordinary construction steel welded together on the beach. If there is no welding equipment available, ready-made building mesh can be used.

Once the structure has been placed on the seabed, battery chargers send a low-voltage current to the metal, and electrolysis then causes the minerals naturally present in seawater to deposit and build up. Young coral can grow only on clean limestone, and this is exactly what develops on Biorock's substrate, stimulating young coral to develop more quickly than they would naturally, and with greater resistance to environmental changes.

In 1998, for example, high water temperatures in the Indian Ocean caused a coral-bleaching catastrophe that destroyed 60%-90% of the Maldives' coral reefs.

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



In just two weeks the centuries of coral growth had been wiped out. This was not the case around Male Atoll, however, where Biorock structures installed two years previously resulted in a 50 to 60 times better survival rate than on other reefs.

When Dr Goreau saw the reefs around Koh Samui, he was convinced that something needed to be done quickly.

"The situation was not good at all – reefs are disappearing everywhere. High water temperatures are the main factor, but here on Samui this is coupled with excessive soil erosion and a lack of sewage treatment," he said.

"There used to be reefs all around this island; now you find

A life support system for ailing coral reefs

dead corals all along the north and the west coast. There may be some living reefs still out there, but you can't see them for all the mud. Samui sits on a natural mud bank, but deforestation and subsequent soil run-off has made things a lot worse. There should be a lot more coral around here."

The professor decided first to install a Biorock frame off Koh Tao first, close to the shore in Chalok Baan Khao, to show how effective this method is in restoring coral reefs – and the local diving community was impressed.

On Samui, coral falls foul to a myriad of destructive forces, but even off Chaweng, the most populated beach, Dr Goreau believes the reef can still be renovated.

"There's still coral to be found off Chaweng, but it is clearly a dying reef. Much of the coral is covered with algae. Only the larger species have survived. Most of the damage probably occurred in 1998, but like on Koh Tao, high nutrient levels in the water are preventing natural regeneration.

"We'd like to focus on replenishing the fish habitat off



Preparing a Biorock mesh.

Chaweng and on making the reef more attractive. This reef could be a great resource for shore divers, and it's certainly the best Samui has to offer in terms of visibility and access. We could build a structure out in front of the existing reef on the sand, at a depth of about 30 feet," he said.

Without such intervention the reefs around Samui could well die out completely, leaving no dive

sites, the need to import fish, and no protection for beaches.

Dr Goreau thinks the key to turning around the situation is public awareness.

"It's difficult to convince people that natural resources are worth restoring because we are still locked into the mentality that nature is an infant that will bounce back.

"Global warming has changed all that. If Samui doesn't start to address these issues as a whole, the island will soon face some serious environmental problems," he warned.

Help is needed from all sides to make the project work, particularly the dive community and the local fishing industry, both of which will benefit from reef restoration.

The Samui authorities have asked Tom Sarkisian to carry out surveys of five potential sites for Biorock coral regeneration – a positive sign, perhaps, that they are finally getting serious about dealing with the problem.

This article was provided courtesy of Koh Samui's community magazine.

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By Alasdair Forbes

Looking like larger, more colorful versions of the rubber bands used to tie up the bag containing your *kuaytieo*, silicone wristbands first took on social significance in the US last year, when they were used to raise money for cancer research.

The craze for wearing them spread swiftly to Europe, and now to Thailand.

Unlike many crazes, the wristbands have become a powerful force for raising money or awareness for a multitude of causes, from cancer research to the fights against racism, poverty and domestic violence, to support for US troops in Iraq – camouflage-colored, of course.

Wristbands were first sold successfully as a fundraising device by the Lance Armstrong Foundation, founded in 1997 by the champion cyclist who had survived cancer and went on to win the Tour de France seven times in a row.

To date the foundation has raised nearly US\$10 million (400 million baht) for cancer research.

FASHION

In Thailand, the bands first appeared as imports, in a variety of colors, and quickly caught on as a fashion accessory among Thai teens. They were cheap, durable and, thanks to the different colors available, could be mixed and matched to go with the wearer's clothes.

Wristbands achieved the pinnacle of popularity in Thailand in recent weeks when the King Power Foundation issued a million of them, imprinted with "We love HM the King" in Thai and English. These went on sale at 100 baht apiece to raise money for His Majesty's charities. Sales have been astounding.

In Phuket, a different slant has been taken on wristbands by Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH), which has launched a campaign to raise worldwide awareness that Phuket is back in business after last year's tsunami.

James Batt, the company's Joint Managing Director, explained, "I saw the Lance Armstrong armbands when I was in Texas. They were everywhere. We [at Laguna] saw a need to supplement the work of the [Tourism Authority of Thailand] and decided to have a go on our own."

Thus was born the "Phuket Is Back" campaign. Those words were chosen carefully, Mr Batt, said, "to get away from tsunami language".

Arming Phuket with pride



Monika and Johannes Lappe, from Germany, show off their 'Phuket Is Back' wristbands after checking into the Dusit Laguna Resort.

The words now appear on all of LRH's marketing materials, on its billboards, its emails, its website and even blazoned across the back of its buses and on its shuttle boats. The message will soon be seen, too, on billboards in Bangkok and Singapore.

Mr Batt says, however, that he expects the biggest impact to come from "Phuket Is Back" wristbands, which will be officially launched at a gala party at the Dusit Laguna Resort on November 25, expected to be attended by HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya.

The Phuket Is Back wristbands are in fact already circulating and have proved a real eye-catcher, said Mr Batt. "It's been a huge hit," he said.

The wristbands are being used as give-aways for guests, staff, travel industry partners, media, VIPs and celebrities, and will also be distributed at trade shows in Pattaya, Hong Kong and London.

They are available in four sizes and two colors – pink and green – and can be bought for 40 baht apiece from the Laguna Travel & Tours office in Canal Village Shopping Center, at the Laguna resort.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Pitchatorn and Apisit Lertkamolrak celebrate at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel after their wedding in Chaiyaphum on October 15.



Tidarat Srisaeng and Lee Sang Jae from Korea were married at at The Metropole Hotel Phuket on October 14.

Putting the fun in fundraising

Formed in 1989, the PIWC is a social network known for offering scholarships for education-related expenses to students facing financial difficulties. Already, the PIWC has helped more than 200 children, with around 150 more on their list for assistance across Thailand.

Originally from England, Cindy and her husband David had lived and worked in Australia, Brazil and Holland before he arrived in Phuket as Managing Director of tin smelting firm Thai-sarco.

Thailand's friendly people and myriad opportunities to enjoy scuba diving and sailing soon convinced the couple to retire early and, 13 years on, of their three daughters, two – Claire, 32, and Sarah, 30 – also call Phuket home.

Cindy's experience in Brazil heightened her sensitivity to the plight of struggling students.

"When I first arrived in Thailand, I found that there was less opportunity for girls than for boys to receive a complete education," she says.

If there's one thing that keeps Cindy Ratcliffe awake at night, it's unfulfilled potential. One of only two women among 250 students to specialize in physics in her graduating year, Cindy worked for British Aerospace before teaching the traditionally masculine subjects of math and science at a high school in one of the world's most macho societies, Brazil. There, she observed her male colleagues discriminating against female students and she was determined to make a difference. That is what she has been doing with the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), of which she is currently President. Cindy spoke with the *Gazette's* Shiona Mackenzie about the PIWC, its aims and achievements.

"Generally speaking, most girls ended up doing domestic work, getting married relatively early and raising families rather than pursuing higher education and careers.

"The culture and the legal system here differ from that in England, so people here have different expectations. I accept that, but I am pleased to have seen the situation for Thai girls and women changing in positive ways over the past decade," she says.

"The Thai education system is equalizing [opportunities] as the government has realized the importance of educating women."

The PIWC helps to open up educational opportunities for talented young Thais by, for example, raising money to relieve the burden on single mothers to pay for their children's school uniforms.

Money is provided for disadvantaged students, often from broken homes or low-income families, in the form of annual grants, usually administered through the schools.

"Local officials understand our mission and are very co-operative. The tax office provides us with the information we need to manage the donations we receive from individual sponsors around the world and from our regular fundraising drives here, properly and legally.

"At the same time, the Public Health Department, government school principals and student welfare teachers approach us with information about bright students in need of financial aid."

At a ceremony in July, the PIWC, with major sponsorship from Dive Supply Co of Chalong, presented 25 scholarships total-

Phuket International Women's Club presents their Annual Fundraising Event

which will be held on the 26th November at Hilton Arcadia

If you wish to sponsor or make a donation, please contact Julie Street at 0137 00230

The PIWC's Annual Gala 2005 presents...

An Evening with the Stars



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This year, especially, we need new members to join and help out at the PIWC, says Cindy.

This year's PIWC Gala Ball has the theme 'An Evening With the Stars', featuring the Lai Thai Orchestra and with many prizes to be won and items auctioned off.

Date and time:
Saturday, November 26,
from 6:30 pm to 1 am.

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

Tickets: 2,500 baht each, including a four-course meal and drinks.

Anyone interested in buying gala or raffle tickets, sponsoring a prize or making a donation should contact Julie Street at Tel: 01-3700230 or Nor Moorhouse at Tel: 01-9581383.

For more information about the PIWC, call Anita Hourigan at Tel: 01-0867025 or visit the PIWC website at: www.phuket.com/piwc/home.htm



'An Evening on the Nile' was last year's Gala Ball theme.

ing 500,000 baht to students at Phuket Rajabhat University.

The majority of the recipients, students who aimed to become teachers, came from impoverished families, the University's President, Dr Chirawat Nitchanet, said in his speech.

"The PIWC has received more applications for help since the tsunami, because so many families lost their livelihoods. Right now, we are helping two young students in Haad Yai, and three medical students in the region – our focus is no longer just on Phuket – have each received a lump sum to cover their education expenses for the year," Cindy says.

"Our commitment to a student can continue for six years

or more." Indeed, at the July ceremony, Yangruk Chaweepan, a Rajabhat student, was then poised to graduate after being supported by the PIWC for nine years.

All the money the PIWC raises, including membership dues, goes toward the sponsorship of students, and a monthly committee meeting is held to ensure that funds are allocated appropriately. One member recently organized the club's huge database with all the students' pertinent information.

"The students are referred to us and we then assess and authenticate each one separately. We always try to select those who have proved themselves to be diligent. We stay in close contact with the students and their

schools, keeping an eye on their attendance and grades. It requires quite a lot of effort.

"PIWC members are volunteers who use their personal resources to run the club, dedicating much of their time and talents to fundraising activities, such as lunches or craft sessions.

"It isn't easy to maintain the group's sense of coherence because some members are only in Phuket for six months at a time, while others live here for a few years and then move on. This year, especially, we need new members to join and help out," she says.

The annual PIWC gala, the international community on Phuket's biggest social event each year, is also its largest fundraiser.

Last year, some 750,000 baht was raised from the gala alone.

This year, The PIWC plans an even bigger and better ball with the theme, "An Evening With the Stars". Everyone is invited to attend dressed like a movie star at the Oscars. Tickets are 2,500 baht each.

The PIWC is also raffling off a brand new Mazda Tribute 4WD vehicle worth 1.3 million baht, with the winner to be drawn on the night of the gala ball.

With only 1,000 tickets available at 2,000 baht apiece, they are going fast.

"I'm sure the gala will be as huge a success as ever, if not better. PIWC members have been working hard and enthusiastically to gather sponsored

prizes for the silent auction and it is looking good," Cindy says.

During the rest of the year some 20 women – Thais and foreigners – gather for weekly coffee klatsches, where it is easy to see how much fun these friends have as they invite newcomers to their regular "aquacize", Mahjong, golf and tennis games.

Cindy also finds time for aerobics three times a week. One might expect that continually organizing or participating in such a variety of activities would be exhausting, but she is the picture of health and happiness.

Knowing the positive impact she and fellow PIWC members are making on the lives of young Thais, Cindy can rest easy tonight.

The Melbourne Cup runneth over

By Bruce Stanley

Get ready for a fun November. It all starts with the **Melbourne Cup** celebrations at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon on November 1.

For those not familiar with this festive Australian event, the Melbourne Cup is a horse race run every year, despite war and other disasters, since 1861. In Oz, it is the one race that literally stops a nation. Women dress up in costumes topped with big funny hats and men attempt to prove they can drink more beer in a couple hours than all of the brew consumed at an Oktoberfest.

It is a really silly day. The last big Melbourne Cup celebration on Phuket was at the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong some years ago.

By the time the race was over, it was barely afternoon and the hundreds of Australians and their friends who attended could barely walk a straight line, much less drive safely. I heard the whole party emptied out on Laem Singh Beach compliments of resort staff buses.

If you are an Aussie, or appreciate Australians and their culture, you really

It's going to be a fun November

need to be at the Hilton next Tuesday at 10 am for what promises to be a major party. For the 1,700 baht admission price, you will be among the first to discover a new line of glamorwear designed by Phuket interior designer Sonia Seery. You also get a champagne brunch plus lots of fun. And for those unable to drive when the doors close after the race at 2 pm, there's a big beach waiting to be enjoyed just across the road.

The Hilton also recently invited Australian **Karen Alexander-MacIver** to open a Dance and Drama Academy at the resort. Karen is a major talent who left the stages of Sydney for Phuket to train both young people and adults in the art of tap dance, classical ballet, "jazzercise" and other disciplines. I would like to take her class called "Wiggle & Giggle" but it's for three- to five-year-olds only. Contact Karen at the Hilton for class times and costs.

Also on the calendar for next week is the annual Patong Carnival, though this year it is called the Phuket Carnival – and it is an open opportunity for those curious

to observe how Patong people have a good time.

It's a festival of cheap T-shirts, secondhand clothes and shoes, polyester Hawaiian shirts, poor-quality pirate CDs and DVDs, plastic dishes and some of the worst entertainment that you can imagine.

Recent attempts to make the carnival more international in flavor in an effort to attract more tourists should just be forgotten as the Patong residents deserve to have a party that suits their own interests.

It's always lots of fun to wander around this carnival kicking discarded plastic bags, avoiding mangy dogs and the noise billed as music that blasts from the enormous towers of loudspeakers.

One big party that you probably won't be able to go to will be **Nation V**, billed as East Asia's biggest celebration for subscribers to Fridae.com, the region's most popular website for the gay community.

After weeks of controversy while the Kata-Karon Tambon Administration Organization debated whether it wanted

homosexuals in the neighborhood, consent was finally given, most probably because Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura was keen to support the event.

Nation V promises to be big, with nine major parties featuring international DJs scheduled between November 4 and 6. I can't go into the details of each party, but a small sample includes "Insomnia" hosted by Liquid, Malaysia's renowned gay dance club, and "AgeHa", Tokyo's largest dance club, which will feature Japanese go-go boys and a dress code that insists on team uniforms and sports gear.

All this frivolity will be centered around the stunning, recently opened Crowne Plaza Resort at Karon Beach. I hear there are busloads of transsexuals from Pattaya and Bangkok streaming to Phuket for this major event.

That said, Fridae.com says, "No matter who you are, or where you come from, gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual, straight, or just plain curious – everyone is welcomed! Nation is a party that does not discriminate, so leave your prejudice at home and enjoy a weekend where you can be yourself."

But remember, you can only attend Nation V if you join Fridae.com.

Is that a hip flask in your pocket, or are you just pleased to see me?

By Andy Johnstone

There are a number of essential accoutrements that the well-seasoned gentleman traveler would do well to carry with him at all times.

The items should be carried in the hand, on the person – within the pockets of, depending on the climate, a tropical or a three-piece Harris tweed suit, made on The Row, of course – or in his portmanteau or campaign chest.

Such pieces of kit include a passport; the best ones state that Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State and cetera will deploy RAF No 617 Squadron if Johnny Foreigner does not allow the bearer to pass without let or hindrance.

Next, a solid English apple-wood walking stick – preferably containing a sword or dagger in case one enters the sort of place one shouldn't, which is generally north of Cheltenham and the first continent west of Ireland – made by James Smith & Sons, London.

INTERLUDES

One should also carry a selection of works by Greene, Kipling, Wodehouse and Waugh, as well as Wisden's.

These are vital for the quiet interludes between flights, when in the company of people from the 38th state of the US, or when one has forgotten the short-wave frequency of the hour for the BBC World Service and therefore cannot hear the Test Match scores.

A penknife with an implement for getting stones – or indeed small boys' fingers – out of



The hippest, bar none

horses' hooves is also useful. And last, but not least, one must also have some recourse to sauce when on the move.

Sauce? A stiffener. A bracer. Devil's urine. Electric soup. Booze.

It isn't enough to rely on the good offices of the charming British Airways stewardesses; the poor frippets would be run off their feet keeping some chaps entertained on an all-nighter from Heathrow.

Walking into a bar in downtown Mogadishu singing *Land of Hope and Glory* when desperate for a snifter will, perhaps, not endear one to the locals in their "technicals" too much.

The wise traveler will be prepared. The wise traveler will take his own supply in a hip flask.

This writer has had his for 15 years now and it – the hip flask, that is, not the writer – is battered, dented and minus its leather cover.

It has traveled the world with him, including to a couple of "dry" Arab states where it was



A wide range of flasks is available locally, including the above designs.

topped up with *uisge beatha* in the form of Talisker sent in shampoo bottles by his father.

Of course, one can fill a hip flask with any desired spirit, but somehow whisky best fits the bill.

A number of shops on the island sell them, including Hunter Phuket on the second floor of Central Festival and a touristy giftware shop in Ocean Mall, Phuket City.

The staff of the latter shop were not keen to reveal their

names, its name or its telephone number, possibly fearing the the wrath of the Illuminati or the "Black Helicopters".

Prices at Hunter Phuket for their range of Thai-made stainless-steel flasks start from 450 baht for a 4-ounce flask, either plain brushed metal or a no doubt licensed Remy Martin flask. Hunter also sells flasks in 6oz and 7oz sizes, both at 550 baht. Economy of scale in action.

These flasks benefit from having attached lids, which makes losing it – and being forced to drink the entire contents in one go – far less likely.

The no-name shop stocks pewter flasks in a number of sizes and styles, including attractive round versions and one with a dimpled, orange-peel effect finish. They are heavier and cost more than the steel ones, but are perhaps less prone to denting.

Elephants also feature in their range. A 4oz flask with a relief scene of elephantine life and with pleasing rounded corners costs 690 baht. An orbit flask with an elephant on the obverse and an impression of Wat Phra

Kaew on the reverse costs 720 baht.

Whether on a visa run to Burma, in the desert like El Auren, fly-fishing for trout on a chalk stream or bagging a brace or two of grouse on the moors – and it's been a long time since my last sniff of heather and fern – a gentleman's hip flask remains an essential piece of kit.

Call K. Joy at Hunter Phuket at 01-5351287 for more information. The no-name shop at Ocean Mall, Phuket City, is on the ground floor near the lingerie section.



My own has seen some action.

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EAR CANDY

By Andy Johnstone

Oh, go on, you may as well give the 2006 Mercury Prize to Franz Ferdinand now. They're probably going to win it anyway for the release this month of *You Could Have It So Much Better*, following on from their win for their eponymous 2004 debut.

The Scottish quartet, whose original take on the angular esthetics of New Wave led to them being hailed last year as the saviors of British rock, has rushed out its second album with almost indecent haste.

Having taken years to establish himself, leader Alex Kapranos (an indie veteran at 33) is hungry for more.

This is a band on fire, burning up with ideas, buzzing on the adrenaline of success, charged with the confidence of public and critical affirmation.

You Could... does not so much refine their sound as condense and re-energize it. The production is dirty and raw, and their blending of black and white influences (disco riffs and rhythms with garage rock) and their penchant for soaring choruses are capable of lifting the listener from sweaty dance floor to heights of perhaps chemically-induced melodious rapture.

It puts me in mind of a 21st-century version of the savage young Squeeze, albeit playing Cossack fighting songs at a school founder's day concert while singing about the death of civilization.

There is a joyousness about Franz Ferdinand that is rare in an art-school genre much too much inclined to take itself too seriously. Kapranos and crew understand the architecture – note: *not* me-

No one-shot wonders; Archdukes Ferdinand

chanics – of songwriting, by keeping the structure solid but having fun with form, underpinning melodies with geometric riffs projected at rakish trajectories, instinctively knowing just when to shift gear and lift the listener into another aural area.

The bold tempo-switching that caught everyone's ears last time around is kept to a minimum, but on *Well That Was Easy* they pull it off so effortlessly, you wonder why everyone isn't doing it, although the Kaiser Chiefs are coming close to approximating it.

Two short piano and acoustic guitar ballads – *Eleanor Put Your Boots Back On* and *Fade Together* – suggest that the band has other dimensions to explore, but not yet. *You Could...* is mostly more of the same, only far better.

The band appears to be composed of the nervous energy and awkward blus-

ter of sixth-form schoolboys – a nod to XTC – and the motif is taken further with the cover lyrics "scrawled" on what looks like an exercise book.

Franz Ferdinand take their amalgam of disco-punk sound from the wealth of British post-punk bands such as Magazine, Josef K, Killing Joke and Duran Duran although they also manage to cram in some Sweetesque glam-rock with the stomping *Do You Want To*.

The bitchy lines to this track include "Well he's a friend and he's so proud of you/ He's a friend and I knew him before you/ Well he's a friend and we're so proud of you/ Your famous friend, well I blew him before you". Like so many difficult second albums, *You Could...* seems to reflect the effect of the band's sudden success, yet not in the comparatively dull manner of The Stereophonics, with their

travelogue songs about touring.

Franz Ferdinand are trying to keep their feet on the ground while retaining a tight grip on the rocket of fame to which their ambitions are attached.

For the listener, the odds have been stacked against *You Could...*, but they are slashed within seconds of the album starting. If there's a more exciting opening track this year than *The Fallen*, you wouldn't let it near anyone with a heart condition.

The trend for disappointing follow-ups has been bucked with enviable panache in recent years with the likes of Coldplay's trio of albums and now Franz Ferdinand – who have wiped the floor with most of their peers.

You Could... leaves one excited, rather than apprehensive, about their next album.



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This week



GOLD POWER: Energy Minister Viset Jupiban helps cast the Golden Sea Dragon statue that will take pride of place in HM Queen Sirikit Park, in Phuket City. The sea dragon has long been considered by previous generations to be the symbol of Phuket because of the island's shape.

WELCOME BACKSTROM: (From left) Kata Group Chairman Pamuke Archariyachai and his wife K. Tanyarat welcome Finnish Ambassador to Thailand Lars Backstrom during his recent visit to Phuket. Amb Backstrom was on the island to thank staff at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification center for their work.



MAKING WAVES: Australian lifeguard instructor David Field leads children carrying a "patient" during a rescue relay race held recently as part of a children's training session in surf lifesaving skills and water safety.

PUN FUN: Howard Digby-Johns (white shirt) surprised his wife K. Nui (3rd from right) by inviting her favorite singer Paiboon "Pun" Kiatkeawkaew (back, center) to her birthday party at The Green Man Pub & Restaurant, near Chalong Circle.



CONSERVATIONAL KIDS: Sompoch Chayakesatrin (in brown shirt), Director of the Ministry of Culture's Cultural Promotion Fund, and Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Witcharn Butsapawanich (in white trousers) after awarding prizes to students who took part in the recent "Art on the Wall" contest, which aimed to promote the conservation of both culture and the environment.



HEALS ON WHEELS: Rotary Club of Patong Beach President Arnaud Verstraete (3rd from right), former President Friedrich "Sam" Fauma (3rd from left) and Dr Peter Tschudi (5th from left) of the Swiss Doctors Association present a new ambulance to Patong Hospital Managing Director Dr Taweek Netwong (4th from left). Deputy Patong Mayor Chairat Sukbal (4th from right) looks on.

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A visit to Baray Spa at Kata's Sawasdee Village resort is almost like being transported through a portal; out of the toil of everyday life to a lush oasis, where relaxation and rejuvenation are the only concerns.

More accustomed to media circuses, I was initially disoriented to find myself amid such tranquility. At the spa entrance, I was greeted with graceful *wais*. Soon Spa Manager Sutida Horkaew welcomed me with a refreshing glass of chilled, fresh chrysanthemum juice, which was sipped slowly between breaths of the lemongrass-scented air.

Soft meditation music played softly in the background; the gentle forces of relaxation seemed to be at work on all five senses as I began to unwind in the naturally cool ambiance.

K. Sutida showed me the spa's four treatment rooms, each of which is fitted with two beds. One room is designed for couples.

Baray Spa has a wide variety of spa treatments to choose from, but its specialty is of Indian Ayurvedic origin and is known as kesa treatment, which uses sesame seed oil to heal your hair, head and scalp.

K. Sutida suggested that I experience this as part of one the spa's five packages, a three-hour session known as "Sleepless in Baray" offered for 4,500 baht. This course starts with one hour of steam and Jacuzzi with



Sleepless in Baray

aromatherapy, followed by an hour of Swedish oil massage and kesa, ending with an hour of Aroma Hydro Massage. A kesa session on its own is also offered at 1,950 baht.

The steam Jacuzzi with aromatherapy is the perfect warm-up for kesa, as it increases circulation and oxygenates the blood. As I surveyed the spacious Balinese-style room where I would be given the Swedish massage and kesa, K. Sutida told me that the treatment further enhances circulation, has a detoxifying effect and leaves the hair radiant and healthy.

As I lay face-up on the bed, my therapist, K. Aew, first scrubbed my feet with special

salts and herbs. After this she worked the oil into my hair and scalp, eventually using a half bottle of the oil to give me a back only massage using Swedish massage techniques.

During the massage my skin felt slightly hot, but this left a lovely tingling sensation as she moved into the next phase of the treatment, which involved placing cooling compresses to my face, neck shoulders and fingers.

After about 40 minutes of this, it was time for the kesa treatment, which uses special equipment to drop sesame oil slowly onto the center of one's forehead. After about three initial drops, it then flows in a slow stream, bathing the head in warm rivulets. The



The kesa treatment uses special equipment to drop sesame oil slowly onto the center of the forehead. After about three initial drops, it then flows in a slow stream, bathing the head in rivulets of warmth...

a shower and a parting glass of ginger tea. Emerging from the spa still smelling somewhat of sesame, I felt totally relaxed.

Baray Spa at Sawasdee Village, on 38 Katekwan Rd in Kata, is open from 10 am to 7 pm daily. For more information visit www.phuketsawasdee.com or call Tel: 076-330979 or Fax: 076-330905 or Email: info@phuketsawasdee.com

Note: in this column on October 15, the *Gazette* incorrectly identified Nikorn Banjerdlert and his wife Darinda Rose Berry as owners of the Evolve@Spa at Treetops Arasia. In fact they work there as consultants.

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Location

It's not that I dislike French wines, but...

From time to time I am accused of being biased against French wines. It is true I have a problem with many modern French wines, but this does not mean I am against French wine. Many of the world's greatest wines are French, and I adore them as much as anyone.

The problem is that these great wines account for less than 2% of all French wine, and they are excruciatingly expensive. I don't know about you, but I cannot afford to drink Louis Latour every night.

What aggravates me most, though, is the intractable contempt of French producers of the other 98% of mundane French wine. These wines bear old-fashioned labels that are all but indecipherable, and the wines are boring at best and completely lacking in appeal at worst.

This is not just my opinion; consumers around the globe, including within France, are shunning French wine. As I write this column there is a crisis in Bordeaux, where 1.5 million hectoliters of wine are being distilled into industrial alcohol.

Afterwards, there will still be an estimated 38.4 million hectoliters of oversupply. And this is just in Bordeaux.

French prices are plunging. In southern France, winemakers last month handed out 50,000 free bottles to tourists at highway toll booths to publicize their plight as prices continue to crumble.

There have even been riots as winemakers demand that the government intervene to support prices.

I have no sympathy for these fellow winemakers because, rather than making an effort to improve, they instead de-

WINE



By Steven Roberto

mand that the consumer accept what they produce.

This is where I draw a distinction between French and other wines. In Australia or California, for example, if consumers want a taste that is more of this or less of that, winemakers strive to give them what they want.

In France, however, wine-makers condescendingly "educate" the consumers about their unsophisticated palates. Clearly that is not the way to remain at the top of the heap.

It is not that French wine-makers cannot make better wines. They go to the same universities that New World wine-makers attend; and I have worked alongside French wine-makers from California to New Zealand.

But back home in France, winemakers are often constrained by archaic laws, culture and traditions that oppose change – except in the obscure and inconsequential appellations which, not surprisingly, are becoming the new quality hot spots in France.

My favorite picks for excitement in modern French wine include the wonderfully aromatic and charming Cabernet Francs

from Saumur, rustic and gutsy Malbec from St Joseph, and the new-wave boutique Syrah and Viognier wines of the Côteaux du Languedoc.

Ultimately these wines being pioneered by iconoclastic French producers may breathe new life into French wine.

Until then, though, consumers have no choice but to wade carefully through the sea of monotony exported to far-away places such as Thailand, biding our time and hoping for innovation to take hold elsewhere in French winedom.

Steven Roberto is a wine-maker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuket, a wine importer and consultant. Email: steven@envision-phuket.co.th; www.envision-phuket.com



K. Malee: secret recipes.

By Athiga Jundee

Most curry lovers will have already heard of Roti Namgeng on Chao Fa East Rd, as the 120-seat restaurant has been open for 18 years and is somewhat of an institution in Phuket.

Of course, a good roti is also at the heart of many a good curry – and this curry house specializes in them. Rotis are the ideal accompaniment to *gaeng massaman* (spicy chicken coconut curry) and *gaeng massaman gai* (chicken curry), *gaeng massaman nua* (beef curry) and *gaeng pae* (goat curry).



LOW PRICE SPICE

Malee Mormudsutan, the owner of Roti Namgeng, buys all of the spices locally: "We choose fresh spices and follow our secret recipes. We focus on freshness, cleanliness and maintaining

our unique tastes," she said.

Signature dishes include *khao mok gai* (yellow rice with chicken), sweet roti with banana, egg or just plain sweet roti, *roti mataba gai* (a Muslim dish served with *Ah-jaht* – cucumber slices and pickled onions) as well as *salad kag* (Muslim salad served with bean curry soup).

The restaurant adheres strictly to a standard recipe and

methodology to make sure that each roti has the same texture and taste, day in and day out.

"We don't make a lot of money at prices like these," says K. Malee. "Spices are getting more and more expensive too, but we won't raise our prices as we want to keep our regulars happy and coming back."

Prices of some of the more popular dishes are 20 baht for Roti Namgeng Gai, Nua with fried egg; Roti Namgeng Pae 50 baht (large portion), or 30 baht (small portion); sweet roti with banana 15 baht; sweet roti with egg 12 baht; plain sweet roti 7 baht; *khao mok gai* 25 baht; salad kag with *Ah-jaht* 25 baht.

Roti Namgeng is open daily from 6 am to midday (it is closed during Ramadan): 44 Chao Fa East Rd, Tambon Taladnuew, Phuket City. Tel: 076-221771.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) goes down to the wire next month, at the final round on the daunting street circuit of Macau, the tiny former Portuguese enclave on the southern tip of China, about 60 kilometers from Hong Kong.

The penultimate race, in Spain in October, saw the leading contenders come away separated by just five points. With a total of 20 available over the two legs in Macau, it could go either way.

The Championship leader is Germany's Dirk Müller, with reigning WTCC title-holder Andy Priaulx one point adrift – both behind the wheels of BMWs – while five points behind Müller is Alfa Romeo driver Fabrizio Giovanardi, in an Alfa 156.

NEW ALFA

A wide range of European sedans competes in the series, including examples from Seat, Chevrolet (née Daewoo), Ford and Honda, as well as the dominating Alfas and BMWs. All except the BMWs are front-wheel drive.

The Alfa 156 is getting a little long in the tooth these days, and next year will be replaced by its successor, the 159, the road-going version of which was launched at the Geneva show earlier this year.

The Seat León is a new model that has impressed its drivers, Rickard Rydell and Jordi Gené. Spain's Gené is the older brother of Ferrari test driver Marc Gené. The Chevrolet Lacetti is essentially a rebadged Daewoo after General Motors took over the ailing Korean auto maker.

This is the marque's first season in the WTCC, and although proving a little slow on the straights, the team is gradually



The indomitable Alex Zanardi and the two Müller BMWs, with Jordi Gené's Seat on their tails. Photos: FIA World Touring Car Championship

Three battle for WTCC title in Macau

improving the car's competitiveness. Recently Chevrolet was granted an engine upgrade to improve its straightline performance.

But it has been the BMWs of Dirk Müller and Jörg Müller (no relation) that have produced some epic battles, along with Briton Andy Priaulx. All have been driving the BMW 320i, as has former Champion Car driver Alex Zanardi.

Followers of motorsport will recall that Zanardi lost both legs in a horrific accident at Lausitzring in the summer of 2001. Amazingly, the Italian has returned to competition and, with the help of prosthetic legs, has

been producing some impressive performances, culminating in an emotional win at Oschersleben in Germany at the end of August, barely an hour's drive from the scene of his life-threatening shunt four years earlier.

The BMWs and the Alfas produce around 275bhp from their respective two-liter engines; the Seats a little less at 260bhp, but this will no doubt improve next year.

The 2006 season heralds the entrance of perhaps the most unlikely touring car team: the Russian Ladas.

Officially known as Lada Autovaz, it is Russia's biggest auto maker. The official press

release reads: "2006 is the 40th anniversary of Lada Autovaz... and Lada has elected to enter the 2006 WTCC. Lada wishes to demonstrate their technical expertise and open a new marketing strategy."

Other new entrants next year will include Kia and possibly Skoda.

With Dirk Müller, Priaulx and Giovanardi all chasing the title in Macau, the others will probably not get much of a look-in, but such is the nature of the 6.2km Macau street circuit that it could still be anyone's race.

The BMWs will probably have an advantage on the long, long straight, but the nimble Alfas

will hold their own up on the hill overlooking the city, where the tight twists and turns and the narrowness of the track make accurate placement of the car at racing speeds absolutely essential.

Both Müller and Priaulx have raced extensively in Macau, but for Giovanardi, it will be his first visit since 1988 when he unsuccessfully raced a Formula 3 Reynard.

The Macau Grand Prix takes place over the weekend of November 17 to 20.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com

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PATTAYA: Where BJ is just the name of a good hotel

Pattaya attracts more than a million tourists a year. This post-tsunami year it has been especially busy as many vacationers switched from Phuket and resorts along the Andaman coast to this busy city and Bangkok bolt-hole.

Forty years ago, Pattaya's beaches were backwaters, home to 100 or so fishing families.

It was during the '60s and '70s that Pattaya changed rapidly – the US built its huge airbase at U-Tapao and many of the servicemen went to Pattaya to spend their leisure time and hard-earned cash.

Major hotel chains, hundreds of guesthouses and smaller resorts, and an ever-increasing number of houses and condos are now serving the tourists and city weekenders. Someone told me there are more than 110 real estate agents here in the city.

I had not been to Pattaya for five years and once I hit town I was immediately lost; the place has grown out of all proportion. "Take me to the Beach Rd," I sighed. "I need to get my bearings."

We checked into the BJ Lodge. My friend Eddie commented that he couldn't tell his



Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

wife where we were staying in case she misunderstood the name I assured him this new small hotel on Soi 3 came highly recom-

mended as a clean and very up-right hotel, with good service.

Sure enough, it was great, and only a few strides from the beach. At 900 baht a night, a superb deal – and with a cooked breakfast at just 55 baht.

That afternoon we decided to head down to the Beach Rd in search of some good old English fare. Walking past Soi 6 we noticed a sign with a Union Jack, and there it was, the Queen Vic Pub and restaurant, 500 meters down the soi.

What we did not notice until we actually entered the soi were the hundreds of scantily-dressed girls seated outside the many bars, massage joints, restaurants and short-time hotels. And it was only 4 pm.

"Much easier to handle this in the dark after a few beers," said Eddie as we stumbled into the Queen Vic.

The food was excellent, cheap, and there was lots of it. T-bone steaks, all-day breakfasts, and for me the largest steak and kidney pie I have ever seen. At 190 baht it was a steal.

From there it was on to the Hard Rock Hotel where we had been invited to attend a reception. The party was in full swing, with hundreds of professionals from the travel industry all around the

Sunset stunner: The view from the new Sheraton Pattaya Resort, overlooking the southern end of the city, is hard to beat.

huge pool. It's a typical party-style hotel. Not my kind of place, I have to say, but certainly to some people's taste.

Later that evening we took a short trip around the inner circle, along the Back Rd and Beach Rd by local *songtaew* – for just 20 baht. Patong tuk-tuks, please take note.

The next day we headed south toward Jomtien Beach to inspect the newly-opened Sheraton Pattaya Resort, built on the headland overlooking the South of Pattaya. This is a stunning resort, nestled into the hills but with views across the sea. It has a very mystical feel and it is a superb location to hide away in.

You can love Pattaya for its incredible value for money, its food, its excellent and inexpensive accommodation – or hate it for its hundreds of bars, and seedy night life, which always seems to be in your face. Yet most holidaymakers there don't seem to care.

Pattaya is good for one thing though: it makes me realize that what I have here in Phuket is wonderful.

Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

บจ 9811
ภูเก็ต

Silver Ford pick-up

9ข 2245
กรุงเทพฯ

Gold Mitsubishi

กง 4222
ภูเก็ต

Red Honda Civic

กจ 8028
ภูเก็ต

Black Ford

ม 1925
ภูเก็ต

Gold Toyota

วม 9282
กรุงเทพฯ

Black BMW

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 dinner for two at the Trisara resort, Cherg Talay; or a one-hour refreshing spa for one at the Aspara Spa, at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket.



TRISARA



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 November 11, 2005.

Love Phuket? Put this sticker on your vehicle:



If we spot it, you could win a dinner for two, Thai BBQ Buffet and Cabaret Show on a Saturday night only at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Phuket; or a laser tooth whitening at Promjai Dental Clinic at either Patong Beach or the bypass road clinic; or some souvenirs from Desjoyaux Co., Ltd.



GETTING THERE, STAYING THERE

By air: Bangkok Airways from Phuket via Koh Samui to U-Tapao. There are flights every day.

By air/road: By air to Bangkok and then by bus or taxi to Pattaya. My taxi cost 1,600 baht.

Where to stay:

BJ Lodge, Soi 3, Beach Rd, Pattaya. Good basic hotel. Fifty rooms, all air-conditioned, from 900 baht per night. Breakfast from 55 baht. Note: this is a very popular hotel so reservation is strongly recommended. Tel: 038-488572

Sheraton Pattaya Resort, 437 Phra Tamnak Rd. 192 rooms from US\$125++ (5,000 baht ++). Tel: 038-259888.

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?



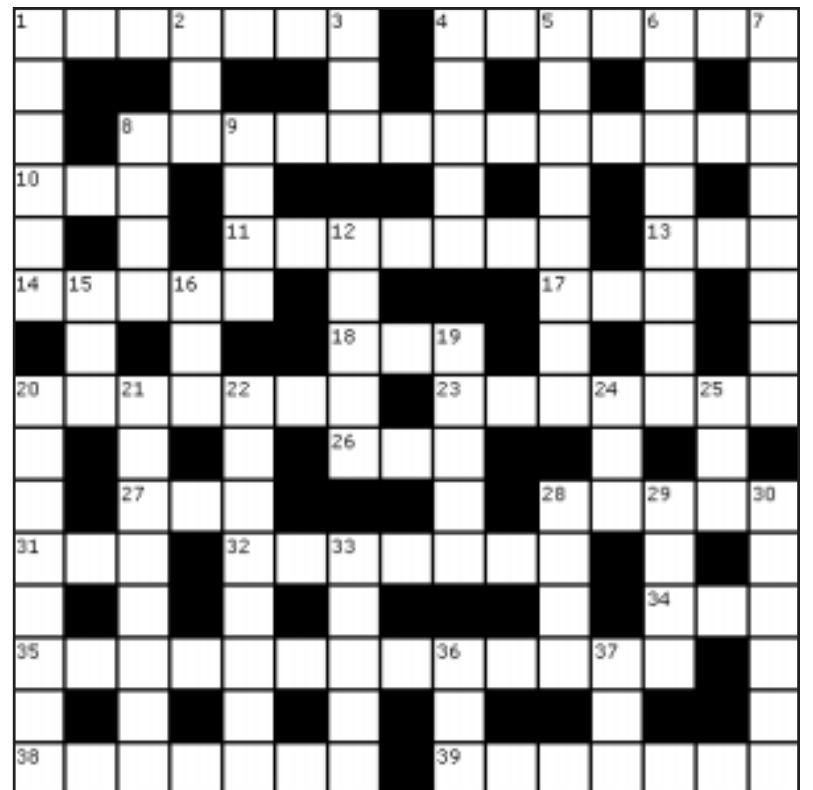
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Mr Elk in revolution in Red Square. (7)
4. Card wraps us and shirt in sweet sauce. (7)
8. Hear convict stir state? Confusion! (13)
10. All like borer, perhaps. (3)
11. Let it stand, lad – hat, that is. (7)
13. No, I mean small wife. (3)
14. Ass goes around by the pit. (5)
17. 8 dn, later. (3)
18. Bend car into part of circle. (3)
20. Fine linen made from university town river brick, mostly. (7)
23. Trope lit no intersection with directions. (7)
26. Mom who wants to build a new school. (3)
27. Knock before sheet. (3)
28. A bloom moved from its bed. (5)
31. Little Philip's seed. (3)
32. Anchorage occupant? (7)
34. Did mix telephone initials. (3)
35. Being zapped is, in a manner of speaking, a cert – maybe. (13)
38. Have an inkling he's wanted by the police. (7)
39. It's said Edie the cat is complex. (7)

DOWN

1. Town has 1,000 plus a master and Los Angeles. (6)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

2. Cow sounds off in Thai village. (3)
3. Upend parasite in tin. (3)
4. Goddess, we hear, is in a number of episodes. (5)
5. Deer Point worker is stale. (3)
6. 36 dn occupant I follow on street to find expert witness. (8)
7. Horrible din tests oral experts. (8)
8. Could Cassius be molded? (4)
9. A monstrous lake. (4)
10. Precise levy. (5)
15. Feathered snake? (3)
16. Warship that stands by, in short. (3)
19. Metallic sound in jail. (5)
20. Useful for trimming nails – or ships! (8)
21. Rush poem perplexed dream god. (8)
22. Witty reply as to quiet art on points. (8)
24. Or, they say, a paddle. (3)
25. Dawn gives directions about nothing. (3)
28. Worker I opposed. (4)
29. King of gods makes no noise. (4)
30. Little Edward's swirls, (6)
33. Abandon the bad smell in art. (5)
36. Spacecraft for Foreign Office? After you! (3)
37. Yes, French use no consonants. (3)

EZ TRIVIA

1. What do we call the different forms of an element which have the same the number of protons but a different numbers of neutrons? German occupation of that city in World War II?
2. Which member of The Eagles wrote the music for *Hotel California* and played the first part of its guitar solo? What was the name given to the atom bomb the US dropped on Hiroshima, Japan?
3. Who is the current Pope? What is a caterpillar cocoon made of?
4. What does UNICEF stand for? What unit of computer storage capacity is equal to 8 bits?
5. Who was the German Jewish girl who wrote a famous diary while in hiding with her family in Amsterdam during the Which comedian does the voice of Shrek?
10. Which snooker player, in 1982, got the first-ever maximum high break of 147 shown live on TV?

Answers on page 20

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

Brain Buster!!

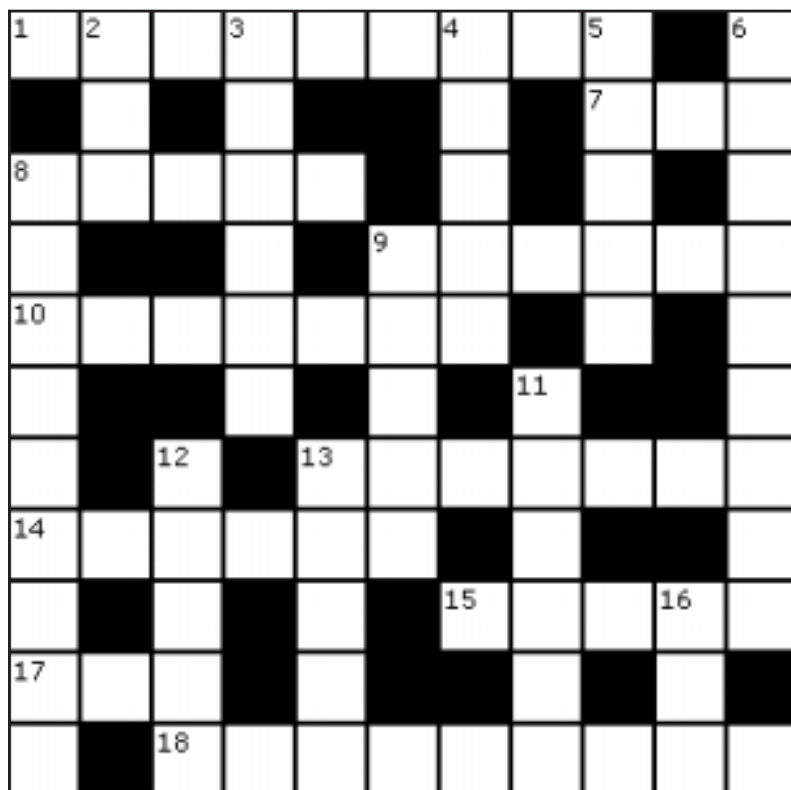
Miss Black, Miss Brown and Miss White were having a conversation in the supermarket.

"Isn't it odd," said Miss Black to the other two women. "We are all wearing different colors, but none of us is wearing the color that is the same as her name."

"That's true," agreed the woman who was wearing white.

Use the information in this conversation to give the correct last name of the woman wearing each color (black, brown, and white).

Answer on page 20



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

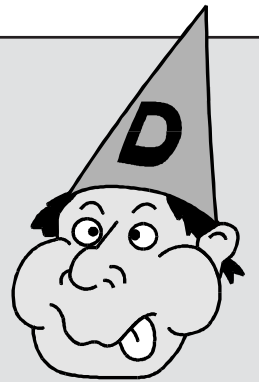
1. Collection of art.
7. Buddy.
8. Collection of singers.
9. Die Fledermaus composer.
10. Flightless Antarctic bird.
13. Mosquito-borne disease.
14. Province of Switzerland.
15. ~.
17. Boxing middleman, in short.
18. A lie.

DOWN

2. In Scotland, you might hear this before "Aye".
3. 1960s English supermodel.
4. Citrus fruit or bad car.
5. TV's Ms Winfrey.
6. The G in MSG.
8. After Sagittarius.
9. Italian fashion city.
11. Root vegetable.
12. Tobacco for snorting.
13. Inn for drivers.
16. Pair.

Solution below, right

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. Which European capital is on the island of Zealand? | 8. What does the horned toad squirt from its eyes when angry? | 15. Whangee is an Asian bamboo, but what is a whangee? |
| 2. Who is the bluesy daughter of Ravi Shankar? | 9. Who wrote <i>The Good Companions</i> and <i>Angel Pavement</i> ? | 16. Which five disciplines comprise the modern pentathlon? |
| 3. Who designed the flag under which the <i>General Belgrano</i> was sailing when it was torpedoed? | 10. What, in France, is an <i>hôtel-Dieu</i> ? | 17. Who invented the modern pentathlon? |
| 4. Rickets is caused by a deficiency of which vitamin? | 11. Bingu wa Mutharika is president of which country? | 18. Gram flour, also known as besan, is made from what? |
| 5. How many guns of Navarone were there? | 12. What is the name of the home ground of Italian Serie A football team UC Sampdoria? | 19. Name the martial art devised in England around the year 1900 by Edward William Barton-Wright. |
| 6. What Bogart film featured the characters Charlie Allnut and Rosey Sayer? | 13. Who composed the tune <i>Barwick Green</i> from the <i>My Native Heath</i> suite? | 20. In the movie <i>Gladiator</i> , what were the names of Maximus Decimus Meridius's horses? |
| 7. What unfinished Dickens novel became a Broadway success in 1987? | 14. Which city is nicknamed "The Venice of the Middle East"? | |

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Copenhagen; 2. Norah Jones; 3. General Manuel José Joaquín del Corazón de Jesús Belgrano; 4. Vitamin D; 5. Two; 6. *The African Queen*; 7. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; 8. Blood; 9. JB Priestley; 10. A hospital; 11. Malawi; 12. Stadio Luigi Ferraris; 13. Arthur Wood; 14. Basra, Iraq; 15. A walking stick; 16. Pistol shooting, show jumping, épée fencing, 200m freestyle swimming and cross-country running; 17. Baron Pierre de Courbertin; 18. Ground chickpeas; 19. Bartitsu; 20. Argento and Scatto.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



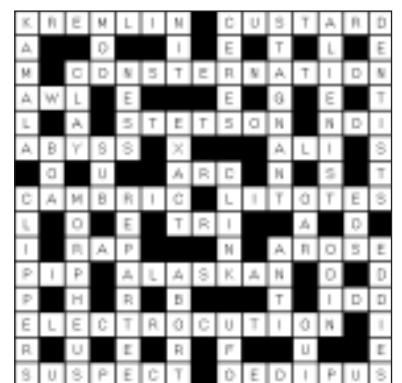
EZ Trivia Answers

1. Isotopes; 2. Don Felder; 3. Benedict XVI (born Joseph Ratzinger); 4. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; 5. Anne Frank; 6. Little Boy; 7. Silk; 8. A byte; 9. Mike Myers; 10. Steve Davis.

Brain Buster

Since no one can be wearing the same color as his name, Miss Black can be wearing only brown or white. Since she is talking to a woman wearing white, that means Miss Black must be wearing brown. Miss White can be wearing only black or brown, but Miss Black is wearing brown, so Miss White must be wearing black. That means that Miss Brown is wearing white.

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution



Night swimming, anyone? “Put on some sunscreen and hit the beach and relax, maybe with a cold beer bought from your friendly beach vendor that will be more than happy to bring a new one without the need to get up, just wave. There is more than enough time after sunset to shop and eat, shops don’t close before midnight and you should be happy to know that water temperature hold between 27-29 degrees, if you should feel the urge to swim.” (1)

At last a highly original travel article concept: This young cove takes a can of frijoles negros (that’s black beans to you, Tex) around the world, photographs the can in different locations, and writes about them a little like this, “Here on Patong Beach there are a thousand and one fun activities to keep any can of vegetables busy all day – and night... the frijoles had a superb time on Patong Beach, and they sincerely thank the Thai people for their generous hospitality and use of their fabulous beaches. Now, if you don’t mind, the beans are off to work on their tan – they need to find out if the solar rays here are just as good as bronzing their metal as those in the Western hemisphere.” (2)

Flaming rodents! The following anecdote from Kamala had Lis scratching her size 15s in puzzlement. “Some happy news is that Zero the squirrel is alive and well after falling out of the tree when only a day or two old onto the concrete alongside Gan’s restaurant and he’s re-ignited with his mother.” (3)

Literal deconstruction: Remember holidays in Spain in the 70s? The following experience could have been cut and pasted from that constructionally challenged era.

BEANS ON COAST

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Look at what Lis has lined up for you in her weekly roundup of how Phuket is faring on the Internet... a well-traveled can of beans, incendiary squirrels, and how to throw a femme fatale out of a second-floor Patong hotel window. It’s all here and more, luvvies. Hold on to your homburgs – here we go!

“Since the elevators were so far away from both the room and from the front desk, I decided to go down the stairs that were just a few rooms away at the end of the hall. The stairway was unfinished, but all there, so I went on down. The stairway ended on a balcony (like a mezzanine) overlooking the ground floor. I asked the workmen there how I could get down to the ground floor. They smiled, then one of the workers took me to the other side of the balcony and pointed to a rough-built construction ladder that reached from the railing on the balcony down to the ground floor. I looked at the

ladder, looked at the worker (who smiled and walked away) then back at the ladder. ‘Oh, what the hell,’ I thought. I climbed over the railing and down the ladder. I landed in the middle of the unfinished area on the East end of the ground floor I made my way back to the front desk and got the room changed ... I took our two large bags to our new room. and waited for the bellman to arrive. While waiting, I decided to watch CNN – but the TV wouldn’t turn on.” (4)

Thunderous twigs: Some people find adventure wherever they go. This chatty chappie is moving into a Patong hotel room during the Water Festival and encounters the following. “Upon the window sill sat a ferocious beast! one of the greatest Queens of the insect world! A preying Mantis (but it was a big one) Unfortunately my knowledge of this creature ended with the fact that upon copulation the female tears off and eats the head of the male. Knowing this I automatically feared the beast and had a strong internal drive to remove these genetics from the global food chain... Knowing that my only weapon was my trusty water gun I leveled my barrel and gave her a blast. It wasn’t enough to send her out of my second story window, and now I was out of water. Her head turned and eyed me with two large alien-like eyes. Her antennae twitched as she could undoubtedly smell my fear. I lept to the bed and across it to reach for a 6ft wooden curtain rod. She sat staring, watching my every move. I

stretched out my arm and the rod I held, I nudged her, and I believe she scoffed... She then began moving about like she might take flight or even more likely, use her huge legs to leap for my face, so I nudged her again... She crawled (slowly) out onto the opening apparatus of my window. Since she was fleeing I knew I had the upper hand and so I went for another nudge. She fell from my window and made a sound like the thunder of a twig falling from a tree. I looked out to see her smote remains, but, as every evil nemesis, once vanquished she just disappeared...” (5)

It’s all in the wrist action: “Visited Phuket Zoo and saw the show’s. Crocodile show was a bit boring, but was amazed when the handlers put their head in the croc’s mouth. not amazed when i realised how it was done. easy trick really. just like the pussy shows in the go-go’s. once you know how they are done, it’s not the same.” (6)

1. <http://www.phuket.as/>
2. beans-around-the-world.com/patong.html
3. bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2005/09/27/
4. valkenaar.net/davidlisa2000/journal/I-Thailand.html
5. blogs.evergreen.edu/blogs/programs/islands/archives/2004/04/the_biggest_wat.html
6. phuketinfo.com/forums/showthread.php?s=92ac352f80ce62ac1d0b966c8a2ba1d8&threadid=137&goto=nextnewest?threadid=137



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

There’s no way to plunge more deeply into an alien culture than by joining its religion. This is what Roger Welty did nearly 40 ago. His first year as a monk is chronicled in prose and photographs in *Bhikkhu: Disciple of the Buddha* (Orchid Press, Bangkok, 2005, 206pp).

The author and photographer is Kristiaan Inwood, who produced the original and quirky *Siamese Bestiary*, reviewed here a few months ago. This too is a revised edition of a work produced much earlier, in 1981.

It is not uncommon today for Westerners to become ordained as Buddhist monks, but it was certainly a novelty back in 1967 when Roger Welty, a 38-year-old Californian, donned the saffron robes and devoted himself to “a way of life that encompasses philosophy, psychology, physiology, mysticism, magic, cosmology, metaphysics, ritual and religion; a religion that has

A farang monk’s story

The climax of Welty’s stay in this wat is a month-long, silent, solitary, intense period of Vipassana meditation... it is a harrowing personal ordeal tinged here and there by ecstasy

inspired much of the world’s finest architecture, painting and sculpture.”

Welty left behind a souring marriage and a prosperous business career in Manhattan to do the usual “searching for enlightenment” trip in the East. On the advice of a Thai monk, he lived in Thailand for two years, taught at a Thammasat University and learned the language. He was prepared for his ordination.

Inwood begins his account with Welty explaining in his own words his attraction to Theravada Buddhism and why he chose to be ordained in Thailand:

“In our world as it is today, it must be an unusual country that welcomes foreigners, takes them into its monasteries, feeds and cares for them, thus providing them with this rare opportunity for self-advancement.”

The author then backtracks to explain the historical background and teachings of Buddhism.

The second chapter is a meticulous description of Welty’s ordination at Wat Pleng, a 200-year-old monastery on the outskirts of Thonburi, and his first weeks of adjusting to his new daily routines of chanting, begging, studying, self-confession and meditation.

Central to his life are his daily tutorials by the Abbot, Acarya Praderm. Inwood presents a fine portrait of this ideal monk:

“Acarya Praderm is an impressive abbot who exemplifies the selflessness that all *bhikkhus* should emulate. He radiates a serenity and wholesomeness that give monks and meditators under his care a great deal of confidence. His personality is evidently born of knowledge and awareness. Self-possessed, unaffected, his every action is calm, untainted with passions.

“This does not mean he is emotionally cold. He enjoys humour, laughter and personal

contacts as much as anyone, but his actions appear completely without motives of personal profit or pride.”

The climax of Welty’s stay in this wat is a month-long, silent, solitary, intense period of Vipassana meditation. As described by Inwood in 15 dense pages, this is a harrowing personal ordeal tinged here and there by ecstasy. To readers like me this is an unknowable experience, but Inwood and, obviously, Welty do their utmost to put words to it.

“A month’s meditation demands almost superhuman determination to maintain sincere, objective awareness of each passing second of waking consciousness, an awareness that ideally lasts from the first waking moment until the last instant before sleep.

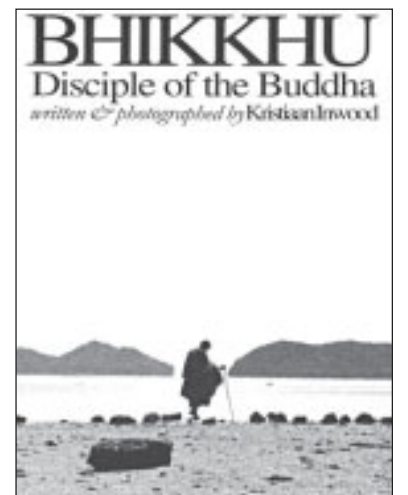
During the month’s five-hundred-odd hours of awareness, meditation can be an unnerving mixture of exhilaration, enervation, boredom, excitement, terror,

pain and depression. The meditator is subject to fierce bubbleings of his mind. Forbidden the ‘escapist’ activities of reading, writing and talking, he finds himself confronted by subconscious mechanisms, thoughts, prejudices, ‘skeletons in the closet’, memories, fears and fantasies ... A month of this can be absolute hell.”

Welty eventually winds up on an idyllic mountaintop retreat with two other monks on the then undiscovered island of Koh Phangan. The book ends here with him deciding what to do with the rest of his life.

He stayed on in Thailand for a distinguished career as a writer and teacher until his death a few years ago. One wonders what he would have made of the Full Moon Party – an invasion of modern-day Visigoths.

The book is illuminated with 178 striking black and white photos that lend great immediacy to the tale.



I'm very Tannoyed...

I live in a quiet soi in the middle of the island. It's a nice little house set in a lovely garden that my gardener, K. Mea keeps in botanical gardens-type condition.

There's also another house in our garden, and it belongs to my friend, Raymond. He lives in Bangkok and comes down only every month or so. It's really a very peaceful and quiet community. Well, it was until last week.

Away from Phuket at the property shows for a couple of weeks, I came back, had a late night, as one does on a Saturday, and was looking forward to a lie-in on Sunday morning.

At 7 am, a loudspeaker started blaring.

After 10 minutes of this racket – even my Thai girlfriend couldn't understand the tinny sound produced by the old "bull-horn" style loudspeaker – which made further sleep impossible, I decided that someone had parked his pickup truck while selling his wares.

I got up and put on my best "glare" – being a foreigner, it's wise to communicate displeasure with a glare rather than vocals – and headed out into the soi.

But there was no pickup truck in sight. Instead, the speakers were mounted some 30 feet in the air on a newly built tower.

As far as I can find out, one of the first companies to make this type of public address speaker – they claim to be the first – was an English company called Tannoy. The company is now is well known for its high-quality stereo and sound reinforcement loudspeakers.

The company name is a syllabic abbreviation derived from the words *tantalum* and *alloy*, a component of the original loudspeakers. Interestingly, tantalum

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

was mined in Phuket's tin mines. Now it seems to have come back to haunt us.

Such loudspeaker towers are not new to anybody who has spent time in Thailand, especially in country villages, yet the messages broadcast from them are nothing to do with religion – such as the *adhan*, the call to prayer for followers of Islam.

The announcements now are simply another version of the earlier broadcasts of local government edicts, anti-communist propaganda – back in the 1960s and '70s – as well as news and other information. Each broadcast is ended with the national anthem.

Perhaps in a small rural community in the '60s, with a low level of literacy, there may have been some justification for such broadcasts. But in Phuket – and especially now with television and

a perfectly good letterbox at night on every house – it seems to be inappropriate.

Rumor has it that the government had approved the sale of advertising on these announcement systems, but even Thai residents in my area cannot see the purpose.

It is certainly noise pollution and an invasion of privacy. People have enough advertising forced upon them without being forced to listen to these raucous horns, which give the community no choice.

This system seems to fit in better with the old military dictatorships and, apart from the odd country village, I have not been aware of these in Thailand for 16 years.

Now it has come to my soi, not 100 meters from my bedroom window. It should be interesting if they pop up in any of the new five-star projects on the island.

My friend from the local authorities is going to have a word with someone he knows. I shall, hopefully, report the results in the near future.



WAKEY WAKEY: the offending source of the noise pollution.

Patong Stunned By Two Murders In One Week

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of October, 1995

PATONG: Two murders in Patong during the period of 14-22 September have set the enclave abuzz with an array of rumors.

It began on September 14 when two Thai males, about 25-30 years of age, pulled up on a red Honda to the door of Extasy A-Go-Go, a popular night spot on Soi Sunset. The pillion rider went to the door of the bar where he inquired after a Khun Boonmee Wahndee.

When K. Wahndee appeared, the man shot him through the right shoulder. K. Wahndee ran back into the bar and collapsed on the floor. He was taken to hospital where he died about midnight.

Early on the morning of September 17, the body of Prapit Sang-omfai, 22, was discovered on Sai Trang Beach near the Coral Beach Hotel, Patong. He had been shot in the head. Though his occupation was listed as "tour guide" in Patong, he was, according to reports in the local Thai press, a member of a street gang from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Mayor Pian informed local reporters that the homicide cases rested with the police, who theorized that Prapit's death was the result of private conflicts. The police had no further comment on the cases and at press time both killings remained a mystery.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

Tourist raped after vegetarian festival

From the Phuket Gazette, October 15-31, 2000

PHUKET TOWN: Instead of enjoying the island's Vegetarian Festival, a 22-year-old tourist from Scotland ended up being raped on October 3.

The victim told police that she was raped by a man wearing the traditional white clothing popular with celebrants. White is associated with the festival's moral tone of purity, good behavior, and sexual abstinence.

Police said the victim decided to go to see the fire-walking ceremony at Jui Tui Shrine. Later, she accepted a lift from a Thai she thought was a motorbike taxi driver, but instead of taking her home he drove her to a secluded spot and raped her.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If it is your birthday this week, the year ahead promises to bring more than you could hope for. Someone you would like to be romantically involved with will respond to thoughtful overtures. Other relationships will also benefit from more consideration on your part. You get the green light for a new business venture; Wednesday is the best day for signing contracts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You can look forward to a week of progress. Frustrations will disappear as if by magic; you will be impressed by unexpected co-operation from Aries on Tuesday. Try not to take love too seriously. A magnetic attraction is about to fade, but finding the right person is highly likely to happen before the end of this year. The number 3 is lucky on Monday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Misunderstandings this week will get your goat. Talk is especially cheap on Sunday and you will ignore promises made in the heat of the moment. On Thursday, Pisces comes up with an interesting suggestion worth listening to. A financial bonus may enable you to consider planning a get-away for Christmas. Wear the color turquoise to promote the feel-good factor.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Trick or treat, it's entirely up to you this weekend. You have the ability to control situations until the middle of November, so use it wisely. Even if you're as busy as a bee during the coming days, take time out to have some fun. Your partner would appreciate more socializing and less working. There's magic in the air for single Aquarians who get out and about.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those of you who have got the idea that you've put someone's nose out of joint are quite right. The person concerned will not raise the subject, so if you want to clear the air it's up to you. Next week, actions speak louder than words; making the right gesture will put you on the fast track towards business success. The number 8 looks promising on Sunday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Work matters will occupy your mind for most of the week. An unfinished project can cause sleepless nights if you allow that to happen. You are advised to simply do what you can to rectify the situation and not take the blame for others' mistakes. On Saturday, Taurus makes your day with some flattering flirtation. This is an attraction that can go places. Wear citrus shades to make a more positive impression.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You are advised to focus more on what is positive in your life. You have the tendency to dramatize slightly negative situations. One of these is about to be rectified, leaving the coast clear for creative progress. Romance starts to look more realistic, but caution is advisable until certain questions are answered. On Thursday, you can trust Leo to help find a bargain, but Scorpio is only looking out for Number One.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This is not the right week to trust your instincts. Although they are usually sharp, confusion will be part of the astral landscape during the coming days, and you should refrain from making any serious commitments. After the middle of November finances will improve, but you shouldn't take any gambles in the meantime. If you're thinking of a change of location, ask Aries for property tips – you'll be spoiled for choice.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A misunderstanding can get blown out of all proportion. Check your facts before making statements that will be hard to retract. On Monday, you have the golden touch at work; charming the birds out of the trees won't present any problems. Take your partner out to indulge in something naughty but nice this weekend. The colors burgundy and cream will help you relax.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Recent feelings of claustrophobia will pass this week as your horizons expand. Those of you who are ready to accept a challenge will not have much opportunity to laze around during the month of November. Your partner is about to get busier as well; you should make the effort to spend some quality time together. The number 5 comes alive on Monday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Keeping secrets from your partner can only lead to trouble. Those who are tempted to economize with the truth are strongly advised to come completely clean. This weekend, your charisma is especially strong – expect to be surrounded by admirers, although at least one of these has ulterior motives. You can, however, trust Taurus to stick to a promise. Don't leave unfinished business discussions on the backburner for much longer.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): If you got to the end of the rainbow just in time to see a rival snatch the pot of gold earlier in October, all is not quite lost. Events during November will more than make up for that disappointment. A calmer atmosphere prevails at home this week; this is an auspicious time to ask a question that has been burning recently. Wear the color navy blue to encourage more financial stability.





Vegetables and animals are only human too

The recent Vegetarian Festival provided a rich opportunity to reflect on the rationale for vegetarianism. Philosophically, vegetarianism has a pretty solid case. Killing living creatures just so that we humans can stuff our bellies on their quivering flesh is disgusting. It makes us no better than savages. It also violates the Golden Rule. We wouldn't want animals to eat us, so what gives us the right to eat them? After all, animals are human too.

But the vegetarian philosophy has a hidden flaw, because vegetables are also living creatures.

Many years ago, a great Indian scientist, Sir JC Bose, conducted experiments in which he concluded that plants react to stimuli. If I remember correctly, he even concluded that plants scream when they are cut. But it's a sub-sonic scream that humans can't hear.

Curious to explore this issue, I arranged to interview three selected members of the plant community: a peanut, a cabbage and a tree. Our conversation went like this:

Peanut: Yes, it's true. We plants have feelings. If a human bites into a peanut, the peanut screams. It's horrible.

Me: What about peanut butter? Does peanut butter scream when we eat it?

Peanut: No. Peanut butter is made from dead peanuts. Dead peanuts don't scream. But they scream like hell before they die, when they're writhing in agonized death-throes while being ground into peanut butter.

Cabbage: Cabbages scream even louder, because we're bigger. We don't mind if you eat peanuts, but you should leave us cabbages alone.

Peanut: Hey, watch your MOUTH, man. Just because peanuts are small doesn't mean we're not human too.

Cabbage: What we smaller plants would like to do is turn humans on to the idea of eating trees. Trees are real big. If humans could learn to eat trees, they'd leave us little guys alone. One tree – especially a big one, like a Sequoia – could feed a whole family of humans for a week.

Tree: Hey, hey, hey! Let's not stab our fellow plants in the back by inducing voracious humans to devour the noble tree. The tree is a saintly creature who bestows nothing but blessings on the world. We provide shade from the sun, we prevent landslides and desertification, we even produce fruit for humans to eat.

Some of us provide rubber; others provide maple syrup. If silkworms could

not nest in mulberry trees, there would be no silk; if bees could not build their hives in us, there would be no honey. At Christmas time, we don our festive attire and bring great joy to little children. Besides that, we are beautiful. Without us, the landscape would be barren. He who cuts down the noble tree bites the branch that feeds him, cuts the ground from beneath his feet and brings the world one step closer to utter desolation.

Peanut: If humans ate trees, the rest of the plant community would be safe. If you were as noble as you claim to be, tree, you'd sacrifice yourself for the rest of us.

Tree: Yes, the tree as Christ-figure. It is truly symbolic that the Son of God was crucified upon a tree.

Cabbage: Actually, instead of eating living entities like animals and plants, I think it would be a good idea if humans could eat a non-living substance like dirt.

Me: Dirt? Are you nuts? We can't eat dirt. It's too dirty.

Peanut: You could wash it. Then it would be clean.

Me: It's also ugly. It has no aesthetic appeal.

Peanut: You could pretty it up. Give it some cosmetic surgery. I envision dirt balls cleverly sculpted into attractive forms resembling Peking ducks and suckling pigs. You could pretend you were eating meat.

Tree: I should think that a few condiments could make dirt very palatable. Add some ketchup, say. Or soy sauce, chili peppers, Worcestershire sauce. There's a lot you can do with dirt if you use a little imagination.

Peanut: You could learn to eat stones.

Me: Get serious! Stones are too hard. We'd break our teeth on them.

Peanut: You could use some stone softener.

Tree: There is a famous story about stone soup in which the stone turned out to be very delicious.

Stone: Hey, I heard that. Back off, dudes! Stones are too old to eat. Haven't you ever heard of the Rolling Stones?

All: Uh-oh...

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to eat stones (but not the rolling kind).

Until November 6: Seven Weeks of Cultural Roads.

Thalang, Krabi and Dibuk Roads, the hub of Phuket City's Old Town, are the center of attention for a melange of arts, crafts, performances and food. Set amid the old town's Sino-Portuguese architecture, 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 by performers, as is the culture of Phuket itself.

November 16: Loy Krathong festival. Loy Krathong, the full-moon night of the 12th lunar month, is when Thais push decorated floats, traditionally made from banana leaves, onto rivers and let them float away, partly as an offering to the river goddess and partly to carry away bad luck. Ceremonies held around the island.

November 16-20: Phuket Game Fishing Competition. Although the Official Phuket Classic Tournament has been canceled due to lack of sponsorship, there will still be an unofficial competition taking place in Chalong Bay, with fishing days on November 17, 18 and 19. All interested anglers are invited to attend the registration party at the Tamarind Bar, Chalong Bay, from 7 pm on Wednesday November 16, or email: dorado@loxinfo.co.th for details.

PHUKET DIARY

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.

This competition attracts about 20 teams from all over the world and is set to become a major attraction in Asia 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.

November 26: Phuket International Women's Club's Annual Gala 2005. The Phuket International Women's Club's Annual Gala this year is titled "An Evening with the Stars", a movie theme. It will be at the Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa, starting 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. The 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

more information contact Nor Moorhouse at Tel: 01-9581383 or Email: normoorhouse@yahoo.com

November 26: Turtle Fun Run and Beach & Reef Cleanup. The annual five-kilometer run and clean-up – to raise funds and awareness about the plight of Phuket's 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: samart.d@marriotthotels.com or siripun.petchai@marriotthotels.com

December 4-10: 19th Phuket King's Cup Regatta. The 2005 Phuket King's Cup Regatta gets under way at Kata Beach Resort on December 4 with registration

and the skippers' briefing followed by a practice race off Kata Beach.

Race day 1 ends with a candle ceremony at Mom Tri's Boat-house to celebrate HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday, followed by prize giving. More information, and the event's full program, can be found at: www.kingscup.com.

December 4: 12th THAI Airways Laguna Phuket Triathlon. Some 250 athletes, including champions Craig Alexander and Nicole Hackett, have already registered for this international sporting event, which is expected to be the biggest triathlon on Phuket to date.

In addition to the main event starting at 8 am at Laguna Phuket, while the triathletes are completing the cycling course, there will be a fun run starting at 9 am.

Some 200 people have already registered to take part in the fun run, but as runners must complete one lap of the six-kilo-

meter course before the triathletes return, competitors must be aged 12 or older and the number of entrants is limited to 400. All competitors must register in advance.

For further information, contact Paula Himel at Tel: 076-324060, or email: triathlon@lagunaphuket.com

December 5: Birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. December 5 is the birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and is a public holiday.

Most government offices will be shut.

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Phuket needs to get out of the Twilight Zone

In March, the *Gazette* and *The Nation* hosted an open seminar in Phuket to discuss zoning of the island. Although the seminar turned into something of a town hall meeting, it was clear that those who attended were all passionately in favor of a serious attempt to establish zones in Phuket.

Officials from Bangkok said they were working on a plan for Phuket, but that, after six years or so, it was still not ready. Apparently, it still is not. That is a great shame.

The lack of zoning is clearly something that is obvious to – and concerns – senior government officials who spend any length of time on the island. Take, for example, the comments of departing Vice-Governor Supachai Yuwaboon (see news pages) who, after just 10 months in Phuket, remarked that “the island needs some serious town planning”.

He is right. The *Gazette* received a visit not so long ago from a distraught Danish couple who had recently moved into their new 10-million-baht home, only to discover that the foundations were being laid for a pig farm right next door.

“Surely this is illegal,” they cried. In Denmark it undoubtedly would be. In Phuket, sorry, no. It’s not. Nor is building a karaoke bar or a “massage” parlor wherever one wishes..

It is plain that few village leaders see the big picture. The odious loudspeaker towers being erected in various parts of the island (see “I’m very Tannoyed...”, page 22) belong to an era 30 years ago when most people still worked in agriculture and only one family in 20 had a TV or radio.

Life on Phuket is now much more sophisticated than in those rural days, but the loudspeaker lovers don’t seem to get it. More to the point, they don’t seem to care.

There is a development theory that societies become prosperous more quickly when there are no rules. They may be nasty places to live, but wealth accumulates more rapidly.

Phuket has gone through this phase, but seems to be having extreme difficulty coming out of it, in great part because those who make money during freewheeling phases – or lawless phases, depending upon your point of view – do not want things to be better organized.

It will take great will on the part of the authorities to push past this phase into a more orderly, equitable, livable one. But push they must, and soon.

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Letters

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

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

Phuket, Khao Lak are not competitors

Upon returning to Phuket to continue to help the people of Khao Lak, it disappointed me to read the article (*Phuket Gazette*, issue of October 22) highlighting the lack of support for Khao Lak from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

This is a sad indictment of how Khao Lak business people and its community are being treated.

My wife and I have a real love of Thailand, Phuket, Khao Lak and the people.

Phuket and Khao Lak need not compete for the tourist dollar. They should complement each other in offering a wonderful choice of destinations and different experiences for tourists.

Phuket and Patong offer excitement and the party side of tourism, whereas Khao Lak provides a more peaceful, tranquil and culturally Thai experience.

Khao Lak should be promoted and supported so that this choice for tourists continues to be available.

We will be in Khao Lak for an extended time to pick up from where we left off in May by helping the people there in whatever way we can.

The *Phuket Gazette* and the media, along with the TAT, could, at the very least, promote day-trips to the Khao Lak area.

Such visits would offer encouragement and hope for the future of this stunningly beautiful region.

Stuart Davie
Darwin, NT
Australia

Govt achieves what tsunami failed to do

I was never a fan of Khao Lak, but following recent events my sympathies go out to this resort area.

Khao Lak previously portrayed itself as some kind of squeaky-clean destination, laying claim to the fact that, in this age of political correctness, beach bars and go-go dancers would be banned there. Hawkers, jet-ski operators and beach chairs were also declared undesirable.

So when the tsunami came it was ironic that Khao Lak took the brunt of the disaster and that Patong was let off so lightly.

If ever there were a resort area that met the government’s ideal of what side of Thailand to promote, then surely this was it.

So to move on 10 months and to hear that what the tsunami failed to do the TAT office has in fact achieved, that is wiping this resort from its official website, is just beyond belief!

They have literally ridden a coach and horses through this resort, by expanding the quaint rural atmosphere of a two-lane road into a six-lane highway.

Why have resort proprietors been left out in the allocation of government funds?

Don’t be surprised if CNN and the BBC hone in on this fact during their anniversary coverage.

I have recently been up in Khao Lak. I went to both La Flora and to Le Meridien, and it is amazing what they have achieved under the circumstances. If ever there was a story that deserved success, this is it.

Name and address supplied

100 years on, is slavery really a thing of the past in Thailand?

In your October 15 edition you published an illustration of the new 100-baht banknote commemorating the abolition of slavery in Thailand 100 years ago.

This struck me as rather ironic, when one considers the plight of the ladies employed in massage parlors throughout Thailand.

My Thai girlfriend works in a beauty salon in the Patong Beach area, giving purely Thai massage to tourists. I hope you

will understand when I keep her name and place of work secret to protect her employment.

She works 7 days a week from 10 am until midnight for the miserable wage of about 4,000 baht per month.

Worse than that, if she does not get a customer during the course of the day she gets nothing!

This situation, in my view, is tantamount to slavery. Her expenses are roughly twice what

she earns, and she lives on the edge of poverty. She has frequently asked me for money as she never has enough to pay her bills, and she is so worried that she sometimes falls ill, with doctors’ bills adding to her troubles.

This is 2005. How can the government allow this situation to continue? What are the unions doing about it?

R. Guilmoto
Channel Islands,
United Kingdom

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

Bypass work is a blasted nuisance for those nearby

The bypass road has more vehicles than any other on Phuket and channels more cars into Phuket City than anywhere else. Everyone understands that Phuket is a tourism province, so it's important to expand the road to make it more user-friendly.

I realize that the roadwork is making Phuket a better and more modern place and this is why I accept the present situation. We must think of the future, and people who stand in the way of progress are wrong.

However, I think that work is going much too slowly and that the project doesn't appear to be at all well-planned.

When I first bought my three-story house, I did not know that the provincial government planned to expand the nearby road. If I had known I might have bought and set up shop elsewhere.

Let's face it: I am an unlucky guy because the main blasting site is right outside my shop as well as my home – I am right opposite the hill that needs the most work done to it and I'm sure that the blasting will go on for quite a while yet.

My customers say that it is very difficult to get to my shop because of the many detours. The road is also in very bad shape, and the dust the traffic creates means I have to clean the premises every day.

Sometimes, just when my customers need to take their time

FIRST PERSON

As most people on Phuket are well aware, the bypass widening project on Route 402 between the Darasamut School and Baan Bang Khu intersections is aimed at reducing chronic traffic congestion.

Most residents regard the work as a necessary evil and grudgingly put up with the traffic jams, lumpy surface and other dangers.

For some, however, the project – and specifically the blasting necessary to level the land – has meant headaches in more ways than one.

Madunan Chehteek, owner of a T-shirt wholesale shop just 20 meters from the main blasting site, talks here about the effects of the project on his business.



shopping, the Highways Department announces there will be a blast and they [the customers] have to hurry out.

As a result, I lose a lot of money. Not only that, but when they count down to a blast I get scared about my belongings, my stock and my house.

Who is responsible for the negative effects of the blasting? We entrepreneurs are not just suffering now, but in the long term as well.

Normally, when there are immediate negative effects from dynamiting, such as roof damage, the contractor is responsible. But

my house has been damaged in five places and no one is taking care of it.

Where is my security? Who is there to reassure me that the situation is under control?

As I am the owner of my house I notice the damage to it, however small. The place was

flawless before this blasting, but tiny hairline cracks have appeared and are growing wider and longer.

People have advised me to take a picture of the house in its current state, and at first I didn't know where to start, but now it's easy to see the damage. However, I still don't know if I will be compensated or when.

A newspaper has written about this. It claimed that the contractor had had a look at the house, assessed the damage to be in the area of 100,000 baht, and this amount was to be paid to me.

That's completely wrong. Up to now I have received nothing by way of compensation.

I understand that sometimes the government works very slowly and that sometimes no one wants to take responsibility. However, I want to see someone responsible take this case up and I don't want it to drag on and on as it distracts me from my business.

Ideally, I would like less blasting. I'd prefer them to simply let the road scale the hillside. That way, motorists could take in a view of the mountains, the sea and the mining lagoons.

The blasting is making things so difficult. I would like the provincial authorities to take a good look at what is happening and show their concern for those who have suffered damage to their properties and businesses because of the dynamiting.

ATVs on Nai Harn Beach

I like going to Nai Harn Beach but today I was surprised to see an ATV [all-terrain vehicle] tour company taking customers all over the beach.

One nearby area that used to be nice grass is now ATV trails. The grass is now all chewed up, so it looks like they are making a habit of this.

Are there any laws here regarding the use of ATVs on the beaches?

It's also a serious hazard for them to drive the 4 or 5 kilometers along the road to get to the beach.

David Rawai

them first not to drive on the beach and, if they persist in doing it, we will find a more suitable place for them to go.

Theerayuth Prasertphol, Chief Technical Officer of the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), replies:

There are no laws that we can enforce with regard to ATVs as these vehicles are not registered with the PPTO. However, ATVs many not be driven on public roads, so it is up to the *OrBorTor* and police whether to organize a place for them to go, and to decide whether they should be punished.

Arun Soros, Chairman of the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

I was not aware that people were driving ATVs on the roads or on the beach.

The *OrBorTor* will order them not to do so. We will warn

The Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat, adds:

ATVs are unregistered vehicles. According to the Traffic Act, Section 6, anyone using an unregistered vehicle on public roads is subject to a fine of up to 10,000 baht.

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

Long, winding and dark road

When will proper lighting be installed on the coast road between Rawai and Kata?

Peter Coquillard Rawai

Thanit Sakiya, Chief of Phuket Provincial Highway Office (PPHO), replies:

The PPHO has no plans to install lights along that stretch of road.

Not all the roads in Phuket are equipped with street lights, and that road does not have a lot of traffic.

But we will keep it in mind for the future.

Can we bring our family dog to Phuket?

We will move to Phuket from Australia in four months and would like to bring our family dog with us. He is an American Staffordshire.

Can this breed be brought into Thailand? He has been neutered and fully vaccinated, and we consider him just like one of our children.

Jenny Malos Australia

Suthut Ngankanlanatikarn of the Phuket Animal Quarantine Office at Phuket International Airport replies:

Three kinds of dog are barred from import into Thailand because of their reputation as dangerous animals.

These are Pit Bulls, American Staffordshire Terriers and American Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

ON THE MOVE



Bangkok-born **Isara "Liz" Pangchan**, 28, is the new Sales & Marketing Manager of Crowne Plaza Residences at Karon Beach. She has a master's degree in marketing communication from Canberra and a BA in mass communication and journalism from Thammasat University. Previously, she was Marketing Services Manager of Sheraton Grande, Laguna Phuket.



Mareeyana "**Anna**" **Pohnea**, 29, from Narathiwat, has been appointed Sales and Marketing Executive of the Phuri Phimaan Project, 3K Property Management Co. She has a bachelor's degree in business English from Rajabhat University, Songkhla. K. Anna also worked as Guest Relations Officer at the Holiday Inn Hotel and as Marketing Officer of Leisure 4.



Kanokwan Trakultawee-koon, 25, from Saraburi, has been appointed Sales Executive of The Metro-pole hotel Phuket. She has a bachelor's degree in marketing management from Ramkhamhang University in Bangkok. She has worked in marketing at B2S in Central Chidlom and as a Beauty Consultant for Hi Care Weyergans at Central Festival Phuket.

IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Tactics for preventing GIGO syndrome

I am always impressed by how much of the big picture the working staff really do not understand. Even more alarming is how much of the intricate details upper management do not understand.

In my last article, I covered the basics of a very interesting subset of MIS (Management Information Systems) and workflow re-engineering known as Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP.

I tell all of my clients that if they have a dysfunctional business process and then automate it with computers, they will end up with an automated dysfunctional business process. This is a little bit like the old "GIGO" syndrome of computers – Garbage In = Garbage Out.

To recap briefly, true MIS work consists of taking the time to really understand a business so that you can analyze each and every part of the workflow.

This process starts with the identification of UDEs (undesirable effects) of the business as it relates to the flow of the business information. This exercise usually takes place with top management and key personnel working together for several half-day sessions. It is simple in concept yet profound in its impact.

The basic approach is to get everyone in the room to complain openly about everything they can think of. Well, perhaps not everything; if the boss has bad breath, this may not be the correct time to share that.

Just going through the process of putting on a board, in

simple language, each and every difficulty, frustration, inefficiency and need is an eye-opener – not only for management and workers, but also for us.

This is where we get our first introduction to the details of the day-to-day operations of the client. The UDE exercise is in no way intended to solve anything or even identify the sources of problems. It is an open gripe session where invaluable information, feedback and experience have a chance to surface.

Chart the flow. The next step is to develop an extremely detailed flow-chart of each and every business process. This takes a lot of effort and, again, is not intended to solve anything. We are only documenting and agreeing on the actual flow of work throughout the organization.

This exercise is also a real eye-opener; I am always impressed by how much of the big picture the working staff really do not understand. Even more alarming is how much of the intricate details upper management do not understand.

The end result of this part of the process is of course a comprehensive understanding of all the business processes and flow of information, but equally important is the communication that takes place when doing the UDE and flow-chart work. Now it is time to look at the MIS side of things.

Targeting inefficiencies. This is where the real work begins. The goal of this part of ERP is to define which UDEs result from similar causes. As a result of the first two exercises, this work is

not as difficult as it seems. Having a very clear picture of all the workflows and a comprehensive list of everything that is not working enables everyone in the room to see where things need re-engineering.

At this point, the flow of ideas, suggestions and potential changes is staggering.

If the goal of the ERP work is to identify where the application of information technology can benefit the business MIS, then we focus mainly on documents and data.

There is often also a need, especially in manufacturing and production environments, to re-engineer the actual processes and procedures involved in the "shop".

However, we will stay on the MIS part of ERP for now.

Spreading the paper. This is the most difficult and time-consuming part of an ERP-MIS project, and it is from here that most of the positive results are realized. The concept is really quite simple: just bring every report, form and file to the room and spread them all out so we can evaluate them in light of the UDEs and the workflow chart.

You can imagine that this is where inefficiencies, double data entry and multiple sources of the same information come to the surface. I enjoy this step because the team cannot avoid asking each other two very important questions: "How many different reports contain this same piece of

information?" and "Do we really need all this information?"

Studies by several top business schools have determined that management and staff alike can effectively use a maximum of four reports per week.

In addition, they comment that 1.5 pages at 12-point font should be the maximum size for a report.

My favorite question at this point is this: "What intelligent business decisions have you made from this information in the past 30 days?" Although people may be reluctant to give up their "ownership" of information and reports, most people now begin to see the point.

Finally, when trying to decide what kinds of information should be candidates for no further tracking, the best approach is to take it off the system and see if anyone is still looking for it after a few months.

One needs to keep an eye out, though, because managers and staff will often simply not use the report – but will continue to track the information on a new personal report, and this only makes things worse.

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

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Souvenir shops hoping for a bumper high season

By Athiga Jundee

Think tourist destination, think souvenir shops. Phuket is no exception, and many of the products are food-related – no surprise in a country with as famed a cuisine as Thailand boasts.

Shops catering for the foodie tourist market abound, each selling a bewildering array of delicacies such as dried cuttlefish, cashew nuts, birds' nests, durian chips and *naam phrik*, the ubiquitous spicy shrimp paste.

All sectors of the tourist industry in Phuket continue to weather the fallout from the tsunami to greater or lesser degrees.

Naparat Ponsin, Marketing Manager of Siam Southern Food Line, which produces the Korn Thong brand of food sold at the store along Thepkraassatri Rd, said competition among the tourist shops is, naturally, high. "But it is positive competition," she argued.

In common with the other stores the *Gazette* contacted, Korn Thong sees around 300 to 400 customers a day in the high season. "We saw our customers drop by around 60% after the tsunami, although the situation has now improved and we have 200 to 300 customers each day. We expect to see around 80% of our usual number of customers this high season."

Korn Thong has, as have many other souvenir shops, signed contracts with a number of tour companies to bring their clients to the shop. "We at Korn Thong sell our products at the same price to Thais and foreigners," said K. Naparat.

This is not the case, however, with Pornthip Sea Store on the bypass road. Managing Director Wittawat Wiwattikul told the *Gazette* that they operate a two-tier pricing system. "We do this because the tour companies and tour guides who bring customers to our store must be paid their commission."

K. Wittawat said that sales dropped to just 30% of their nor-

mal low-season average between July and October, but he added that the signs were positive and that "100% of the store's average number of customers will return this high season".

"We had to make an opportunity out of a crisis, so we expanded the range and amount of our exports to Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia. We support the government's 'Thai kitchen to the world' policy," he said, concluding that "the tsunami crisis made our business grow".

Joolah Kittithornkul, Managing Director of Sri Bhurapa Orchid, the cashew nut producer on Kwang Rd, said that the pe-

riod after the tsunami was the worst in the firm's 22-year history.

"It wasn't simply that there were fewer tourists coming to our store," she said. "We have a loyal customer base among Phuket locals, but with so many of them working in tourism, their incomes were reduced and they were being prudent as to how they spent their disposable income."

K. Joolah said that the number of customers at the store began to rise in October, and she is bullish about prospects: "I do not expect this year to be as promising as, say, last high season was going to be, but it will be better than we forecast in the worst days after the tsunami."

The Fed combats the spread of 'contamination'

America saw its monthly inflation figures jump in September by 1.2%, the largest increase in 25 years. The cause of this was increased oil and gasoline prices, driven sharply higher by the recent hurricanes.

Economists always refer to two different types of inflation, and the one listed above is known as "headline" inflation. It is an accurate figure, but it does include food and energy prices which can be highly volatile, as is the case currently.

The other type of inflation is known as "core" inflation, and this excludes food and energy prices. The September rise in "core" inflation was a mere 0.1% from the previous month.

What the US government and the US Federal Reserve are concerned about is higher "headline" inflation figures moving into "core" inflation. There is so far little evidence of this happening. The Fed is very concerned that "contamination will in fact spread". It is perhaps inaccurate to describe it as being "very concerned", but this is all part of managing national sentiment.

The Fed has to be seen to be ahead of the inflation curve,

and statements from various Fed governors have retained a hawkish stance. There is no doubt that interest rates will rise steadily; they are already at 3.75%, and it is unlikely that there will be any pause until rates reach 4.5% or even 5.0%. Inflation will continue to be under attack.

There is another factor in evidence regarding the Fed: its chairman, Alan Greenspan, is due to retire at the end of January, 2006. He will then have served for 18 years in this capacity and has built a considerable reputation both inside and outside the Fed for maintaining a steady hand at the wheel. His successor, and at this stage there have yet to be any nominations for the position, will have much less influence.

Greenspan's imminent departure is encouraging various Federal Reserve governors to make their own public statements as they jockey for position and influence.

Where criticism exists for Alan Greenspan, it is mainly that he ran a monetary policy that was too "accommodative". In other words, interest rates were lower than they should have been and liquidity levels were too high. The Fed, in 2006, will be very wary

of being accused of continuing this policy, but if it reacts too firmly in the opposite direction it runs the risk of tipping the US economy into recession.

Financial markets are acutely aware of the situation. The US stock market has failed to make any progress in 2005. This is understandable. Interest rates have been rising all year, so, effectively, they have been battling against a headwind. This, when combined with rising oil prices, has brought more than an element of caution into the outlook.

On the plus side, average corporate profits have seen double-digit growth for almost a record number of quarters. However, the market is not cheap at a price/earning multiple of around 16, and the market – as always – is looking to the future, not the past.

The bond market has its own concerns: rates on benchmark 10-year treasuries have risen about

0.25% over the past two months and are now brushing the 4.5% level. The bond market is signaling that it is not unduly concerned about inflation.

What is definitely happening is that foreign purchases of US bonds are slowing down, and this is understandable. Rising short-term interest rates have provided alternative targets for inward US investment, and with slight erosion of capital values in the bond market due to a "back up" in long-term rates, holding cash on deposit makes sense. Steady increases in short-term interest rates make it even more appealing.

America is not alone in having a central bank making pronouncements about the need to combat inflation. In the Euro Zone, the European Central Bank (ECB) is playing the same game, with even more strongly worded statements. To any outsider listening to ECB statements it might appear that a policy change is

imminent. However, although inflation on an annual basis is over the 2% ceiling, this is caused simply by higher oil prices. Economic growth is weak and core inflation is moderate.

The ECB not only has to manage public expectations, it also has to try to keep member countries' governments in line. The task of the ECB is not an enviable one, and it is often the target of criticism when the real cause of Europe's problems lies firmly with its member states and their electorates.

In the UK, Bank of England Governor Mervyn King is experiencing a difficult year. In contrast with Alan Greenspan in America, Mr King voted against an interest rate cut a few months ago. His committee saw matters differently and he was outvoted. This leaves him with a severe credibility problem: pressure remains on the pound sterling as the market expects at least one more rate cut in the first half of 2006.



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By Richard Watson

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BEL AIR PANWA

ACYC rally desc ends on Phi Phi

By Chris Husted

PHI PHI ISLANDS: Some 13 yachts carrying more than 100 people dropped anchor in Ton Sai Bay off Koh Phi Phi Don on October 22 as part of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Phi Phi rally, which aimed to support businesses on the island by attracting visitors and encouraging them to spend money.



K. Kenny on board *Gator*.

The smaller yachts headed off from Chalong Bay on the Saturday from 9:30 am with the larger yachts following. Although dark clouds were on every horizon during the journey to Phi Phi, the rain held off until the last yachts entered Ton Sai Bay.

Both the journey to Phi Phi and the return voyage the following day saw yachts struggling directly into the wind, with nearly all choosing to motor-sail in order to make it back to Chalong in time for the Sunday evening barbecue at the ACYC clubhouse.

During the barbecue, special thanks went to Tony Knight for driving the Phi Phi rally idea, and also to Tom Howard for taking some 30 passengers on board the *Seraph*, an impressive 99-year-old schooner in prime condition.

In the true spirit of the event, special prizes went to Mark Horwood for managing to sail all the way back to Phuket, to Matt McGrath's *Gator* for having the best-looking girls on board, and to Tom Howard.



Seraph at anchor in Ton Sai Bay off Phi Phi Don.



Why *Gator* was awarded a special prize...

Garbage diving competition to be held off Patong Beach

PATONG: The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources is to stage a diving competition with a twist at Loma Park, Patong Beach, on November 1. The major difference between this and other dive competitions is that participants will be judged on how much garbage they can raise from the depths.

Weerasak Pakkapongyothin, Communications Officer of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Bangkok, said that this will be the 15th year of the annual clean-up operation. It will run from 9 am to 5 pm.

Apart from the diving, other activities on the day will include a "songs for life" mini concert, a

nature quiz, an exhibition promoting environmental conservation and a musical performance by local students.

Participants are advised to apply in teams of two-to-four members and to bring diving equipment. Boat transportation, food and drinks will be provided free for competitors.

Divers will not be allowed to go deeper than 12 meters; and participants wishing to snorkel in shallower waters may do so.

The winning team will receive a cash prize, a souvenir and a certificate. Competitors can enroll on the day of the event (before 9 am) or call 076-393566-7 to register in advance.

Patong Darts League

IT'S THE BEER, STUPID!

There seems to be some sort of divine justice at work in the league ensuring that teams who demolish their opponents in the doubles and singles then go on to lose the beer leg and its associated point.

For the second time this year, OffShore was involved in the unlikeliest of results, white-washing Didi's 9-0 before losing the beer leg.

League leaders Shakers also came up short with beer on the line, after smashing Dog's Bollocks 8-1. Ditto for Piccadilly, who pounded Two Black Sheep 7-2 and then lost beer.

Only Amigos were able to take all three points, tying them for first place with Shakers, who still have two games in hand.

October 18 results: Nag's Head 5, Valhalla* 4; Two Black Sheep* 2, Piccadilly 7; Shakers 8, Dog's Bollocks* 1; Didi's* 0, OffShore 9; Coyote 3, Amigos* 6; African Café v Queen Mary postponed. (* = winners of beer leg)

Standings: 1.= Shakers, Amigos (31pts); 3. Piccadilly (26); 4. Valhalla (25); 5. Queen Mary (24); 6. Nag's Head (24); 7. OffShore (22); 8. African Café (19); 9. Dog's Bollocks (12); 10. Two Black Sheep (11); 11.= Coyote, Didi's (6).

November 1 matchups: Queen Mary v OffShore; Dog's Bollocks v Amigos; Two Black Sheep v Coyote; Shakers v Nag's Head; Valhalla v Piccadilly; Didi's v African Café (home teams listed first).

Standard and Latin dance at The Metropole

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: The Parent and Sport Dancer Network Club (PSDNC) and The Metropole Hotel Phuket are jointly organizing their first Standard and Latin

Night, to be held at the hotel on October 29 from 6 pm to 11 pm.

The event is being held in order to raise money to buy sports equipment for Tessaban Plookpanya School, and also as a way of supporting members of the Par-

ent and Sport Dancer Network Club.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana will make a speech at 7 pm and will then take the first steps on the dance floor at 8 pm.

This will be followed by children's dance demonstrations of Basic Dancing, Hula Dancing and more at 8:30 pm.

The event continues with the PSDNC winners of the Oishi Green Combat Southern Championship performing an Oishi Green Combat dance show at 9 pm.

Adult dancing will start at 9:30 pm and there will be a lucky draw at 10 pm.

Tickets for the event cost 300 baht each.

For further information, contact PSDNC Secretary Onuma Wasin at Tel: 04-0517455.

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A happy Karsten Schiemann speaks to the media after his victory.

He came, he ran, he conquered

German, 36, wins the first Phuket International Mountain-Beach Marathon

By Athiga Jundee

KARON: The first Phuket International Mountain-Beach Marathon, held on October 23, attracted more than 1,000 entrants, including Phuket residents and runners from overseas.

The race started at 3:30 am at Karon Circle and Karsten Schiemann, 36, from Germany, became the first man across the finish line of the 42.195-kilometer full marathon almost three hours later.

Mr Schiemann told the *Gazette* that it was his first trip to Phuket.

"I came here for only three days, not expecting to win the marathon, but simply to enjoy running through the hills and along the beaches of this beautiful island. Now I think it would be nice to stay longer," he said.

The first woman to finish the full marathon was Rabai Nok-long.

Winners of the half marathon, in the male and female sections respectively, were Nattawut Prabkate and Oranee Kueanun, while the mini-marathon was won, in the male and female categories respectively, by Surached Chalad and Jerawan Chamnankit.

Phuket to hold flame for Asian Indoor Games

PHUKET: The Sports Authority of Thailand has confirmed that Phuket will be one of the venues for the first Asian Indoor Games, being staged from November 12 to 19.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will also be on the island for two days during the Games.

The two sports to be contested on Phuket are Thai kick boxing (Muay Thai) and sport aerobics.

Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura said that there will be four nationwide venues for the indoor games: Bangkok, Chon Buri, Suphan Buri and Phuket.

TORCH

As in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, with the lighting of the flame, each province will have a "Royal Torch" (*Fai Pra Ruek*) mass run on November 12 to be broadcast live on television.

Channel 11 will cover Phuket's Royal Torch Ceremony which will involve some 150 runners accompanying the torch from the Heroines' Monument lighting ceremony to Saphan Hin Sports Center.

Gov Udomsak said that a detailed route for the torch ceremony has been planned through Phuket City, but that this may change because of the arrival of Princess Sirindhorn on Phuket on the same day.

— Athiga Jundee

Evason resort and Rawai hold mini-marathon to raise funds for school

By Anongnat Sartpisut

RAWAI: The Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa, together with the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), will hold The 2nd Evason Phuket Mini-Marathon and fun run on November 13.

The event is being held to raise funds for the redevelopment of the Community Hall at Wat Sawang Arom School, and to promote sports and fitness in the community.

The 10.5-kilometer Mini-Marathon will be divided into the following categories:

Men: Open, under 19 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years, 45-49 years, 50-54 years, 55-59 years, 60+ years.

Women: Open, under 19 years, 30-39 years, 40+ years.

There will also be a 3.5km fun run, with both men's and women's competitions in the following age groups: Open, under 16 years, 35+ years.

The mini-marathon will start and finish at the three-way intersection at the southern end of Wiset Rd, at the turn-off for Laem Phromthep.

The route will head up Wiset Rd and then left along Soi Saiyuan before making its way back south.

Entry fees for the two events are 200 baht for the mini-marathon and 150 baht for the fun run.

Runners should be prepared for an early rise, as they will be

required to check in at 4 am on race day.

The mini-marathon will begin at 5:45 am and the fun run at 6 am.

The awards ceremony is expected to be complete by about 8 am, with the top five finishers in each category receiving a trophy or medal.

For those who need it, free overnight accommodation will be available at the Wat Sawang Arom School.

Registrations will be accepted at the hotel from November 1. For more information, contact Tel: 076-381010-7 (ext.1420 or 1460).

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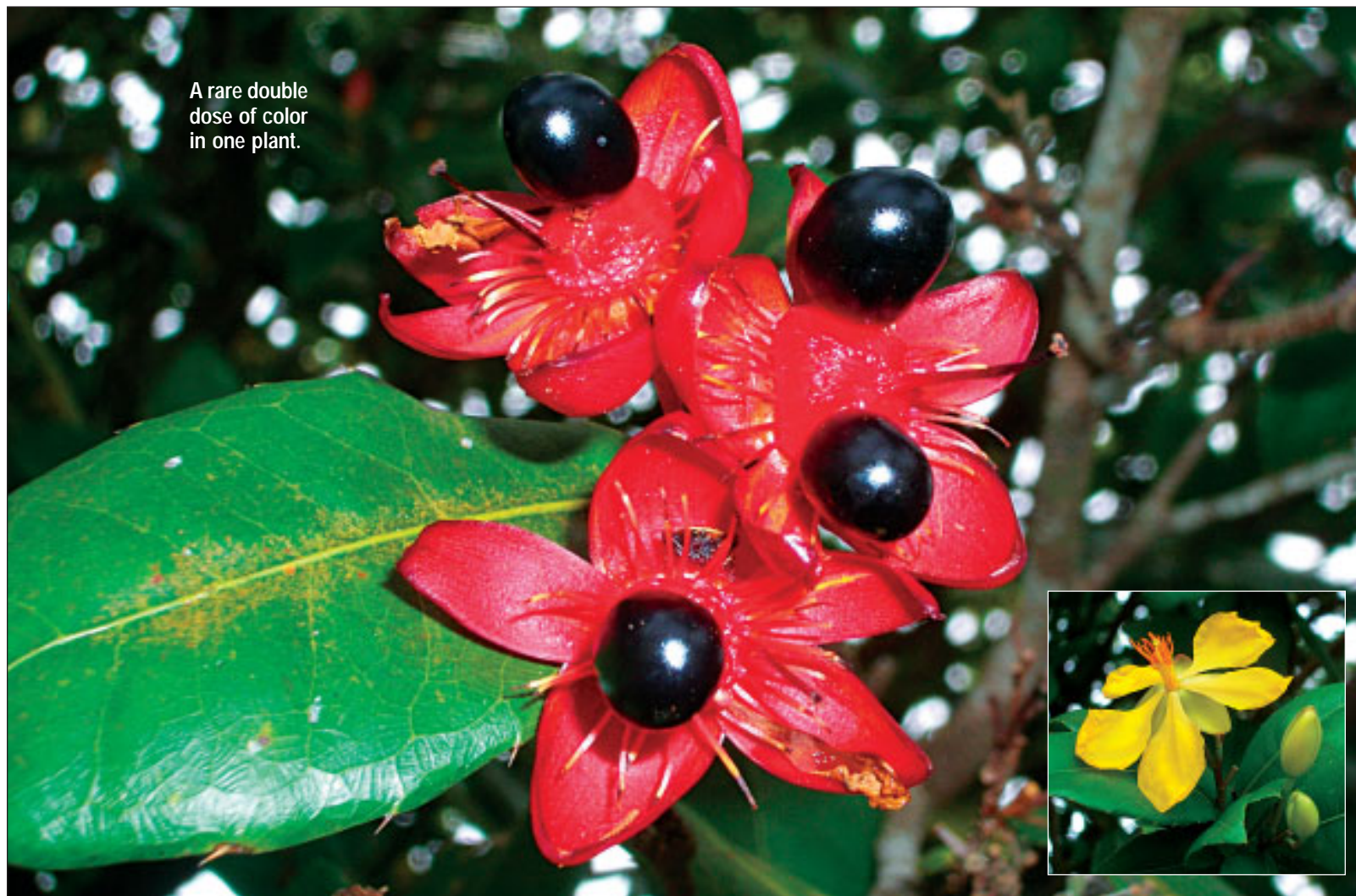
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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert



A rare double dose of color in one plant.

that is black – a rare double dose of color.

You have to admit that canary yellow and scarlet blooms of different shapes appearing on a single plant isn't exactly common.

Mickeee has sharp-tipped, finely serrated leaves up to 10cm long, and grows to a height of around a couple of meters. Left to its own devices, it has a tendency to become a little undisciplined. Regular attacks with the pruning shears are, therefore, necessary to stop it looking like the Tina Turner of the plant world.

It thrives in the sunniest part of the garden, but will put up with just about any kind of treatment. Overwater it, deny it water, subject it to typhoon conditions, and it won't bat either one of Mick-eee's eyelids.

IMMUNITY

It even seems to have some kind of immunity to pests. Either it just doesn't taste good to your average bug, or insects have a sentimentality for Disney characters. Whatever the reason, the Mick-eee is somewhat unlikely to be attacked by anything with six legs.

The Mickey Mouse plant was at one stage used extensively in Australia as a hedging plant. It became so successful there that it was declared an environmental weed in certain areas, after it escaped into the surrounding natural bush and grew into thickets that crowded out the native Australian flora.

People there are even told not to dig it up except as part of an official effort, and there are now government bodies set up to prevent its spread.

Here in Phuket, its only crime is to have a rather daft name, and I am unaware of any Thai government agencies that are currently hot on its trail.

The Mickeee is definitely not at all Mickey Mouse.

Not even moderately Mickey Mouse

Cartoons aren't just for kids. I feel that I speak as one who knows a bit about these things – I'm a bit of a closet cartoon fan. Not those ridiculous el cheapo modern things with kitchen appliances turning into evil robots that want to take over the world, but the more traditional style of animation.

The Simpsons and *Shrek* are certainly up there, but I have a feeling that if there were a poll tomorrow for favorite cartoon characters, most people would probably list a few Disney characters among them – and that Mickey Mouse would probably be somewhere near the top of the list.

I'm sure many people don't realize that often when this illus-

trious figure is mentioned it is in the context of something that is amateurish, slightly inexpert or slapdash. Phrases such as "That builder's a bit Mickey Mouse" are not unknown.

And why is it often called a "Mickey Mouse copy" if someone buys a less-than-legal DVD of a movie that was recorded from the back of a cinema? What have people got against Mickey Mouse anyway?

Much as I admire Mr Mouse and all he has done for the world of animation, even he, in his squeakiest possible voice, would be somewhat surprised to find that a plant had been named after him. The Mickey Mouse plant does indeed exist.

It takes a pretty broad imagination to make the some-

what tenuous connection between this Phuket garden resident and the Walt Disney cartoon character.

At one stage in the plant's development, it happens to have deep, glossy black seeds that are surrounded by particularly bright red sepals. (For the uninitiated, sepals are modified leaves that surround the reproductive organs.)

I know that sounds nothing like Mickey Mouse's image, but it was probably named by a gardener with a fertile imagination, and after a few too many Heinekens.

Not me this time; anyway, I was probably in the pub.

Most weeks I do my best to produce a sensible translation of the names of the plants I write

about, but sometimes I tend to struggle. The name of the plant in Thai is equally off the wall – no problem with this one, the *mickeee*. Really.

Those with less imagination refer to it as the bird's eye bush, but they probably just need to get out more.

The Mickeee (I'll stick with that spelling now, I think) originally came from tropical Africa, and is actually a fairly recent immigrant to Southeast Asia. It's popular in Thai gardens mainly because it flowers almost continually, and even the seeds, framed by their sepals, look like flowers.

These flowers, which begin life as a bright yellow color, have five petals, each about one centimeter long.

After flowering, the sepals turn red as the fruit develops. It's the fruit, containing a single seed,

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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut



Construction of the villas will be complete by mid-2007.

Phuri Phimaan villas and resort

NAI YANG: An exclusive development of just five luxury villas occupying a six-rai plot will be one of the highlights of the Phuri Phimaan estate and boutique resort at Nai Yang Beach. The resort itself, to be built on 12 rai, will comprise 75 chalets.

Kawee Nganthawee, Sales Manager of developer 3K Property Management, told the *Gazette* that construction of the villas will finish by mid-2007. Work to build the resort will start around June 2006 with an expected completion date some 18 months hence.

3K Property Management also developed Horizon Ville on Koh Sireh, and has another project, Andaman Butra, planned for the island.

Of the entire development, being built at a cost of some 300 million baht, K. Kawee explained that the popular mix of Lanna and Balinese architectural styles will be employed throughout.

Adding detail to the project, K. Kawee said that the villas will be a mixture of two- or three-story dwellings on private plots of

at least 850 square meters. Some will sit on as much as 1,500sqm, almost one rai. Prices start at 30 million baht.

The houses will have either four or five bedrooms, a liberal eight to 10 bathrooms, a sauna, fitness area, a sala and a rooftop 50sqm pool.

The individual one-bedroom resort chalets, 40 of which will be offered on 20-year leases, will come in two classes, comprising 55 poolside villas with the remainder as deluxe villas. Each unit will have a 4sqm plunge pool and 20sqm of terrace.

K. Kawee said that the target market for the project comprises retiree Europeans, Britons and expatriate foreigners living in Hong Kong as well as Thais.

Wood will be used abundantly in the construction of the resort chalets, said K. Kawee.

As much as 80% of the materials used will be wood, to ensure that the boutique resort will blend in with its hillside surroundings.

He said that cedar will be used for the roofs of the villas.

Resilient and unlikely to decay, it will afford the houses the benefit of its good heat insulation and waterproof properties. Teak and *maka* will also be used in the construction of the resort accommodations.

Each of the villas will boast its own 3,000-liter reserve water tank to supplement the main 16,000-liter tank shared between the five units, in addition to the development's own well-water supply.

K. Kawee said that the first villa is now 60% complete, and the first show units will be ready for inspection in January 2006.

"Many customers promised to come and see our properties," said K. Kawee. "They are attracted by the uninterrupted sea views, the ready access to Phuket International Airport and the reasonable prices."

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Home of the Week

Patong

Modern Thai-style family home with sea views

This substantial and modern family home set on 2,896 square meters of land offers expansive living with a convenient location close to the center of Patong.

The property comprises the main residence, two beautiful guest houses, staff quarters and ample parking and storage facilities. Full luxury interior furnishing is included.

This luxurious property, set high in quiet hills with excellent views over Patong and toward the sea, was completed less than a year ago.

The main residence has a huge living/dining room that opens onto the patio and free-form swimming pool. The kitchen is sizeable and fully fitted with modern appliances. The ground floor also has a separate home office area with Internet access, phone and fax facilities.

GUEST HOUSES

The second floor comprises a large master bedroom with patio and excellent views to the sea, walk-in wardrobes and a large en suite bathroom.

Four further double bedrooms, two with mountain views and two with sea views – and all with en suite bathrooms – complete the family accommodation.

Two well-appointed and tastefully decorated guest houses sit adjacent to the swimming pool. Each comprises a large double bedroom with seating area and private en-suite bathroom. These are ideal for guests as they provide both privacy and convenience to the main residence and outside entertainment areas.

The staff quarters are self-contained and comprise a sepa-



rate kitchen, living area and two good-sized bedrooms.

The plant and equipment rooms are cleverly concealed under the main house and provide ample storage for water. There

is an independent generator in case of power failure, and further large storage rooms.

The grounds are terraced lawn, with trees positioned so as not to obstruct the view.

The home faces west and has good sunset views. The owner has given considerable thought to lighting and the house takes on a magical appearance after sunset, ideal for both enter-

taining and relaxing. The land title is Chanote and the asking price is approximately 1.97 million euros (96.5 million baht).

For more information, contact Engel & Völkers (Thailand) Ltd at Tel: 01-5398118, 01-3977899 or Fax: 076-385294. Email: Martin.Phillips@engelvoelkers.com or visit www.engelvoelkers.com

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3. 21' x 21' x 21'	25.30	13,000.00

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Size	Area sq.m.	Price Baht
1. 12'6" x 12'6"	14.5	7,300
2. 18' x 18'	30	15,000

Rectangular Shade Sails

Size	Area sq.m.	Price Baht
1. 12'6" x 15'	17	8,500
2. 12'6" x 18'6"	19	9,500
3. 12'6" x 18'	21	10,600
4. 12'6" x 20'	23	11,600
5. 14' x 22'	28	14,000
6. 18' x 24'	40	20,000

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Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

Venetian blinds are by no means a new idea – first references to slatted blinds can be found dating back to around 1770 – in Italy, naturally.

The big step forward in their use came in 1841, when John Hampson of New Orleans was awarded a patent for a device that made all the slats move at the same time, making Venetian blinds more user-friendly.

Unlike curtains and most other forms of blinds, Venetian blinds can be adjusted finely to allow just the right amount of light into a room, and are thus a good way to protect delicate colors in fabrics and paintings from damage by ultraviolet light.

BAMBOO

Two shops in Phuket that stock good selections of Venetian blinds are Purdah Curtain and Mr Curtain.

Purdah has a range of blinds, including wooden ones made from bamboo or oak.

Once a customer has selected his preferred material for the blind, staff from the shop will go to his home to measure the window and then make the blind to fit.

Prices are negotiable, depending on size and material used.



There are several materials available on the market today, but even the traditional variety (right) can be livened up by using wood.

A BLINDING LIGHT

Mr Curtain, a branch of a Bangkok company, offers a choice of wood, aluminium or fiberglass for Venetian blinds. The blind louvers come in three different widths – 1 inch, 1½ inches or 2 inches wide.

Price varies depending on the width of louver and material used, and the size of window, but as a guide, a Venetian blind for a window 36 inches by 36 inches (one square yard) would cost between 3,000 and 5,000 baht.

Purdah Curtain, Phuket Villa Samkong, 4 Yaowarat Road, Soi 3, Tambon Taladyai, Muang, Phuket. Tel: Toll Free 1-800-900-300 (toll-free calls from a land line only) or 076-220305; Email: info@

purdah.biz; Website www.purdah.biz

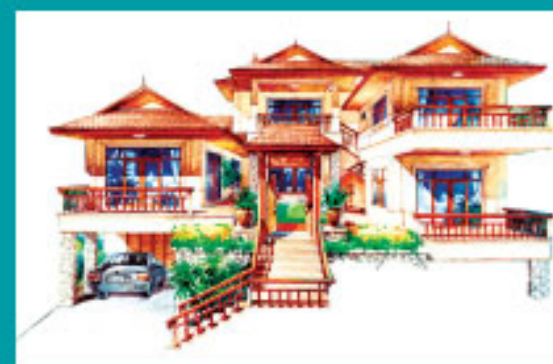
Mr. Curtain, 108/70-72 Chalermprakiet Ror IX Rd (bypass road), Rassada, Muang, Phuket; Tel: 076-217462.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

2-BEDROOM BUNGALOW



with 1 en-suite bathroom, a large kitchen, dining room and lounge, is for sale with Chanote title in a nice location in Chalong. Price: 3 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-280-389, 07-8811775.

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG

Brand-new, deluxe house with a swimming pool on a Patong hillside, Soi Maneesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room; guest toilet. 2nd floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-892-8526. Please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.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

KATA COTTAGES.COM

From 2.4 million to 3 million baht. Fully furnished, luxurious Patong Beach condominium: 4.8 million baht. Patong 2-bedroom home: 6 million baht. Patong boutique hotel: 80 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-630-1770. Email: phuketproperty@usa.net

BEACH LAND PLOT



Beautiful half-rai plot with 15m, white sandy beach frontage. Located on Nakha Island, only 2 minutes from Phuket east coast (Ao Por Pier), 25 minutes to airport and major shopping centers. For sale direct from owner: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 01-3430777.

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

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 more details. Tel: 076-216260, 07-8945321. Email: prporter56@yahoo.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. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSES IN PATONG

3 new, connected, deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Maneesi, for sale. Ground floor: Garage and separate 1-room apartment with toilet. 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms and bath, balcony. 3rd floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. 4th floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$155,000). For more details, please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit the website www.phuket-besthomes.com

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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.

LAND FOR SALE

on the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Tel: 07-2670488.

SEA VIEW APARTMENTS

in Patong. New, deluxe 2-bedroom apartments of 85sqm or 96sqm, fully furnished and air-conditioned. Location: Na Nai hill in Patong, Soi Thamdee; 30 + 30-year lease. Offers starting at 4.1 million baht (US\$102,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-892-8526. Please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

CHEAP SEA VIEW

in Rawai. Selling for 2.7 million baht per rai. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-5376866.

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2 new, connected shop-houses on Wiset Rd, in Rawai, are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. 2nd floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. 3rd floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-892-8526. Please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

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2-STORY HOUSE

in Rawai, 140sqm, selling for 1.4 million baht, including owning company and financing for 3 years. 400m from the beach. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

VILLA IN NAI HARN

Villa, 275sqm of living space, 1,000sqm garden, 10m x 5m pool, 60,000 baht rental income per month until March 2006. Asking 10.75 million baht. Tel: 07-8896074, 01-8916143. Email: norbertfun@hotmail.com

RAWAI, 2-STORY

house. 200sqm house with Chanote title, brand new, close to a temple, 450m from the beach; asking 1.8 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.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. Please contact for information. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free_holdprop@yahoo.com

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



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Property Gazette

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CHALONG SEA VIEW

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18-ROOM HOTEL

Completely renovated in 1999. Includes lease income and key money from 5 bars. Price: 45 million baht. Ref: #0120008. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For more information see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

CUSTOM-BUILT

2-bedroom villas with private pools. Living area: 185sqm. Land area: 400sqm. Furniture package available for 400,000 baht. Price: 6.5 million baht. Ref: #0220018. Tel: 01-087-5828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For more information, please see: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

SECLUDED 12-ROOM

guesthouse with pool, private lake, patio seating area, views of lake and hills. 1,000sqm. Price: 15 million baht. Ref: #0150010. Tel: 01-087-5828. Email: homes@phuketpp.com For more info, see our website at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com

CHALONG

1-year-old, beautiful 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, large living area and kitchen. Open-plan with loft upstairs overlooking the living area. Telephone line and own water supply. Located in a central, quiet, European-style estate. Only 10 minutes to Phuket City and Tesco Lotus, and only 15 minutes to Rawai. Asking price 4.5 million. Tel: 09-9085343. Email: marc@sailphuket.com

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Properties For Rent

PATONG RESIDENCE

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RAWAI RESIDENCE

A fully furnished studio for rent, 400m from the beach. Asking 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4740227.

PATONG CONDOTE

A cheap room, fully furnished, with a sea view, is available for long-term rent at 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.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 Chalong Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

KATHU HOUSE

with pool. For sale or rent: a good-quality, furnished, 2-bedroom house, like new, with a European-style kitchen, a verandah, storage space and a garden. Tel: 01-3673106. Email: martinkreutzinger@hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO

27sqm room for rent at 4,000 baht a month. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-686-5567. Email: bargainproperty@hotmail.com

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.

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, in Land & Houses Park Phuket, in Chalong. Quiet area with clubhouse and 24-hour security. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-569-7068. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

or sale. A 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with a large lounge, dining area, walled garden, Jacuzzi and a swimming pool, in Kamala. Tel: 06-9525071. Email: paul@ukthai.fsnet.co.uk

NEW HOUSE CHALONG

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HOUSE FOR RENT

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon. Located in Kathu. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8675084, 076-202047.

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CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Furnished, detached, with 3 bedrooms, carport, walled yard, close to town. Telephone, UBC, 2 air conditioners, TV, hot water; all amenities included. Tel: 076-283211, 04-8484344.

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Property Gazette

ACCOMMODATION

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RENTAL HOUSE

I want to rent a nice house in Karon. 2-3 bedrooms, long term. Not more than 12,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2818449. Email: stig_zottele@hotmail.com

Accommodation Available

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Accommodation Wanted

DSL, 2 BEDROOMS

long term. I am a Western female who doesn't drink or smoke. I am quiet and reliable with rent. I am looking for a 2-bedroom house. It MUST have a telephone line, and preferably DSL. I would like to be in the Kata, Karon or Nai Harn area. I will be living there for a long time and need the DSL line for work. I have lived in Phuket for 4 years and will be arriving Nov 4. Please email me with rate and location. I am looking for a reasonable rate. Email: sylvie_yaffe@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

Looking for an apartment or bungalow from 1 Nov to 15 March. Must have swimming pool and aircon. Tel: 04-670-7432. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR FAMILY

We are looking for a house near Chalong/Rawai area to rent for long term (at least 6 months to start). It should have 3-4 bedrooms and a garden. Our budget maximum is 30,000 baht. Please reply with full details if you can help. Tel: 852-2570-1318, 85-91273371. Fax: 852-25701201. Email: alexmenz@pacific.net.hk

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Furniture and miscellaneous items – sofas, dining table chairs, art work, vases and much, much more. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-223025, 05-2170738. Fax: 076-223018. Email: robert@islandlivingcompany.com

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Brand-new 400mm pedestal fan. Paid 690 baht; will sell for 400 baht. Still in box, unopened. Please contact for info. Tel: 04-8426293. Email: dflavel@csloxinfo.com

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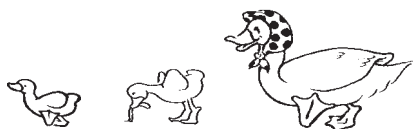
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Property Gazette



20 RAI WITH EAST COAST VIEWS

Has a new sealed-road access, electricity and some of the best views in Phuket. 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. Electricity and water supply 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, cafés, shopping, school and 20 minutes to the airport. Price: 8.9 million 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 secure 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 plot is located on the east coast at 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 electricity 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: 09-8715192.



6 BUNGALOWS & 2 HOUSES

6 spacious bungalows each with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living-dining room, terrace, and 2 two-story houses with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living-dining room, terrace, relaxation 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.



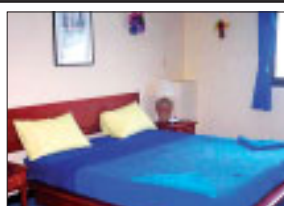
3.5 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

Only 10 minutes to Nai Harn, Kata and Rawai Beaches and Phuket City with its big shopping malls. It has excess road and water and electricity supply are available. Chanote title deed. Price: 24.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



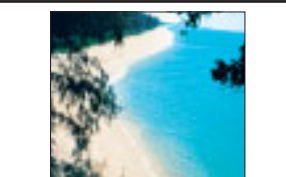
1 RAI

with underground infrastructure. 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. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



BOUTIQUE HOTEL

of 8 rooms, in Karon. 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.



300-METER BEACHFRONT

Island. 14-year old development of beach houses company retains Nor Sor 3 Gor ownership of 27 rai of prime beachfront land, with basic water and electricity system. 50% of houses survived the tsunami in usable condition. Price: 40 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH 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.



9 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

in Chalong. This 9-rai plot is located in Chalong and has a slight slope with a sea view. It is a nice square plot and has water and electricity supply. Ideal for a villa project. Price: 36 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



13-BEDROOM GUESTHOUSE

and a house with 4 bedrooms. It is well maintained and only 5 minutes' drive to the beach, shopping area and Patong nightlife. The guesthouse comprises 13 bedrooms, pool, bar and parking. Price: 26 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



ISLANDS FOR SALE

We have many island properties on our books. Current: 2 complete islands and many land plots of different sizes on islands close to Phuket, such as: Koh Yao Yai, Koh Yao Noi, Koh Ratcha and so on. Prices from 1 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



70 RAI

"STREAM FRONTAGE" 300 meters of "stream front", facing a 600ft limestone cliff. Presently has a small 10-room guesthouse on the property but the large property is essentially undeveloped and pristine, with old trees and wildlife. Price: 35 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



20-BEDROOM CONDO

This condo is in the heart of Patong. Only 5 minutes to the beach, shopping area and nightlife. It comprises 18 bedrooms with fan and bathroom, two shop units on the ground floor that can be turned into 2 bedrooms. Price: 26 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Thai-style house for sale in a secure area in Nai Harn, with a 5 minutes' drive to the beautiful beach of Nai Harn and to Rawai. Built in 2005, it comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, hallway, guest toilet, pool, 2-car carport, sala. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

16 x 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

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. Tel: 06-2726508.

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31ft 1997 Fountain 31 Mercury 2 x 225hp	30ft 1975 Jontani 30' cutter sloop Yanmar 3GM30F
18ft 2000 Skip Jack 18 Yamaha, 2 x 85hp	28ft 1975 Marieholm 26 Johnson, 6hp
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 Applications are strictly confidential. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

To learn more about opportunities at NagaConcepts, please contact Mr. Andor Hampala, Director, at Tel: 076-219892 or 02-6338282.

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Reservations Manager

- Minimum 1 year of experience in field and front line
- Excellent spoken, reading and written English; prefer a third language
- Good administration skills and self-organized
- Computer literate: Word, Excel, reservations system e.g. Fidelio Program
- Mature and likes to work independently
- Good at team building; has a pleasant personality, inspired attitude and is service-minded

Night Auditor

- Minimum 1 year of experience in field and front line
- To audit, balance and consolidate department ledger accounts, hotel operating reports
- Good spoken, reading and written English
- Computer literate: Word, Excel, especially Fidelio Program
- Mature and likes to work independently
- Good at team building; has a pleasant personality, inspired attitude and is service-minded

We offer a competitive salary and opportunities for career development.

For further information please send a CV including references and a recent photo to: 247/1-8, Nanai Rd., Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
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& household items. Prices and photos of items for sale available on request. Wanted: a TT&T or TOT phone line in the Khet Ho area of Kathu. Tel: 01-5696910. Email: jazzybyname@yahoo.co.uk

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