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IN THIS ISSUE

News: Governor furious at squandering of budget; Rain damps enthusiasm for tsunami drill. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Life Home Project expands on to Koh Sirae. Pages 4, 5 & 7

Around the Region: Cop killed on Koh Samui. Page 8

Around the Island: Do dilly-Dali. Page 11

PEOPLE: Weddings; Blues Festival. **Pages 12 & 13**

LIFESTYLE: Knife work, if you can get it; Belt up.

Pages 14 & 15

SPA MAGIC: Is Paradise twice as nice? Read on... **Page 18**

TAKE A BREAK: Crosswords, quizzes and Sudoku.

BETWEEN THE LINES: Thai

Pages 21 & 22

Page 27

Business: Blue Canyon boost

Temperance tantrum.

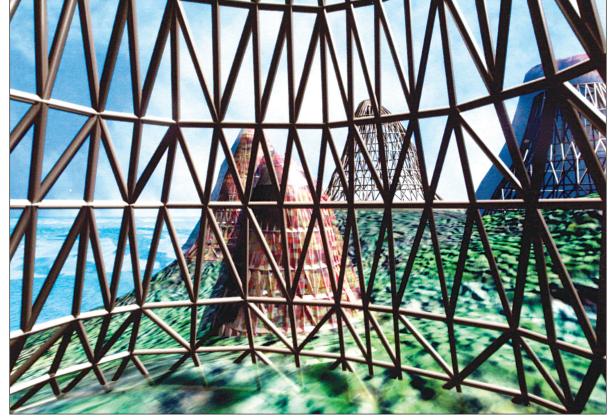
bang on target; Money Talks. Page 31

Sport & Leisure: Ladies' Masters; Darts; Int'l football. Pages 32 & 33

PROPERTY: Decor: Jingle Bells? No, knobs and knockers; Construction: Layan Sunset; Home of the Week: Boat Lagoon. **Pages 34-37**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; HAPPENINGS 16; MOTORING 17; WINE, PHUKET DIARY 19; GUEST CHEF 20; OUTSIDE IN, BOOKS 23; DOVEN, HOROSCOPES, THE TIME MACHINE 24; TSOWNDINGS, TOON TOWN 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26; ISSUES & ANSWERS 27; ON THE MOVE, COMPUTERS 28; GARDENING 34; CLASSIFIEDS 38-48.



Ideas submitted by the five winners were far from conventional, as this conceptual illustration from the Spanish team shows.

Wave memorial finalists chosen

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KHAO LAK: Design teams from Finland, the US, Spain, China and Australia made it into the finals of the competition to design a tsunami memorial, which will be erected on Lek Beach in Khao Lak Lamru National Park.

The five teams that made the cut are Anu Puustinen and Ville Hara, from Avanto Architects of Finland; Raveevarn Choksombatchai and William Oren of VeeV Design of the US; Ana Somoza Jiménez, Angel Martínez, Eva Sebastián Peñín and Raquel Lozano from Spain; Liang Hou of China; and Richard Weller and Gary Marinko of the University of Western Australia.

The names of the five teams were announced on December 15 at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort, where the five finalists' designs will be on display from December 23 to 28

Each team will receive a million baht for making it into the final of the design competition, with the eventual winner receiving the contract from the Thai government to work on the memorial itself.

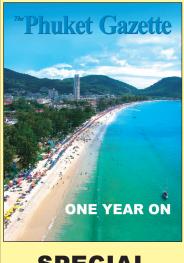
A total of 379 individuals and teams, from 43 countries, submitted designs for the competition. These were cut down to the final five by an international team of judges.

One of the judges, architect MR Chanvudhi Varavarn, said,

"This is the first time that such an international competition has been organized in Thailand. The competition was perfectly organized and the entries were worldclass."

The next step will be a conference from January 21 to 24 at which the memorial project will be discussed in detail so that the five finalists can make any necessary changes to their proposals. The amended proposals must be submitted to the panel of judges by May 2.

The panel's choice will be presented to the government on May 15, with the winner being announced publicly a week later. The winning design will also be showcased in an exhibition in Bangkok from June 1 to 15.



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT WITH THIS ISSUE

Bypass must be completed by Dec 26 – Gov

PHUKET: In a meeting December 20 to check on final preparations for the upcoming tsunami memorial services, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura ordered that work on the bypass road widening project be completed before December 26.

"Work on the bypass road must be finished before December 26 so we can provide comfortable transport for visitors," Gov Udomsak told people at the meeting at The Metropole hotel.

Many foreign dignitaries and Thai government officials are expected to attend memorial services at Patong, Kamala and Mai Khao beaches – requiring them to travel along the bypass road.

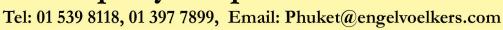
Phuket Highway Department Engineer Boonyakiat Kongketyai is charged with carrying out the near-impossible order

"The road might not be 100% complete by December 26 because there are many details that need to be finished, such as painting lines, erecting signs and doing clean-up work," he admitted.



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Gov furious over lack of solution to park problem

By Anongnat Sartpisut

NAI YANG: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has expressed anger that almost half of a 15-million-baht government budget to beautify Nai Yang Beach has already been squandered - and that bickering between the two government agencies involved now puts the rest of the money at risk.

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on December 19, Gov Udomsak ordered the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization (Sakoo *OrBorTor*) and Sirinath National Park to settle a dispute over encroachment on park land at Nai Yang Beach by year's end, otherwise the remaining 8.4 million baht in state funding would have to be returned to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

At the meeting, Sakoo *Or-*BorTor President Surapong Panyawai and Sirinath Marine National Park Chief Thanapong Aphaisorn presented their cases before the Governor, but without offering solutions.

In December last year, the park arranged for Sakoo OrBor-*Tor* to begin construction of 30 single-story shophouses for rent to encroachers, using a budget of 15 million baht granted to the park by the TAT.

The park halted construction in August, however, pointing out that permission had been only verbal and that the structures, by

then 60% complete, did not follow the specified design.

On August 16, Gov Udomsak visited the site and ordered the buildings torn down, agreeing with the park authorities that they were an eyesore and blocked views of the sea from the road.

More than six million baht of the 15-million-baht budget was spent on building the structures – and then demolishing them.

In August, the Governor ordered the two sides to find a compromise whereby the remaining 8.4 million baht of the TAT budget could be used to build 30 new units at a more appropriate site, also on park land.

NO AGREEMENT

Meanwhile, the encroachers continue to peddle their wares from illegal stalls along the beach - and the park has still not granted approval for building at the new site.

At the meeting, the Governor grew angry when it became clear that the two sides had been unable to reach an agreement. "If there's no movement, I'll just return the 8.4 million baht when the deadline for it to be spent is reached on December 31 - and then I'll never have to deal with this issue again," he said.

He also had harsh words for the Park Chief, saying he did not understand why the park hadn't granted permission to build at the new site.

"I don't think six rai is too

much to ask for, to solve this encroachment problem ... if you weren't prepared to part with a little land, then why did you request the budget from the TAT in the first place?" he asked.

The park has a total area of 56,250 rai, and its facilities include 10 public restrooms.

The Governor said that he had seen some new public toilets built deep inside the park. "Who gave approval to build these?" he asked angrily.

Park Chief Thanapong replied that they had been built under a budget provided by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization. Gov Udomsak retorted that he would not authorize the construction of any more restrooms inside the park, as they were too remote to be of use to the public.

He also insisted that his approval be requested, in writing, for any future construction work inside the park.



A father and child place candles in a pit in the sand during the Light Up Patong commemoration in February this year.

100,000 candles to light up Phuket

PHUKET: Three kilometers fected beaches in 2006 of Patong Beach will be bathed in candlelight for "Light Up Phuket", starting at 5 pm on December 26, when 100,000 candles will be placed in the sand in front of Loma Park in memory of the victims of the tsunami.

Sutin Uthaitamrong, **Vice-President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Or**ganization, said that "Light Up Patong" in February this year attracted about 10,000 people to the beach.

The idea is that it will be extended to other tsunami-afhence the change of name to "Light Up Phuket".

Other memorial activities taking place on Patong Beach the same evening include a performance by the Benjamarachutit School orchestra, and a recitation by **SEAWrite award-winning** poet Naowarat Pongpaiboon, who will read his poem entitled Fah Sai Andaman (The Clear Andaman Sky).

A list of official tsunami memorial events is included in the One Year On special supplement in this issue.

Phang Nga 'poaching tourism staff'

PHUKET: Employers in Phuket's hotel and tourism industry are losing skilled staff to Phang Nga businesses – which are reportedly offering up to double the workers' current salaries.

Phuket Provincial Labor Office (PPLO) Chief Decha Prekpattanarak said December 20, "The 'poaching' of labor is a major problem that is creating a shortage of skilled workers in Phuket this high season."

He said that many hotel and tourism businesses in Phang Nga are opening or reopening as the area recovers from last year's

"Phuket's higher cost of living is making working in Phang Nga more attractive to workers on the island, and businesses in Phang Nga are offering higherpaid positions to workers who are already skilled," he said.

K. Decha cited the Laguna complex as an example, where employers have lost 20 employees to Phang Nga businesses.

"Workers are moving to

Phang Nga because [employers] are offering double the salaries and higher positions to workers.

"They can get skilled labor, and don't need to train them... why wouldn't they do it?" he said.

To help alleviate the problem, he added, the PPLO holds courses to train workers, and students nearing graduation, to work in the hotel and tourism industry. It also posts positions available in Phuket on its website at www. phuketwork.org



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Phinij opens clinic for gay men

PATONG: Public Health Minister Phinij Jarusombat was due to preside over the official opening of Patong Hospital's "Sabaidee Clinic", which will cater to the medical needs of gay men, whether residents or tourists.

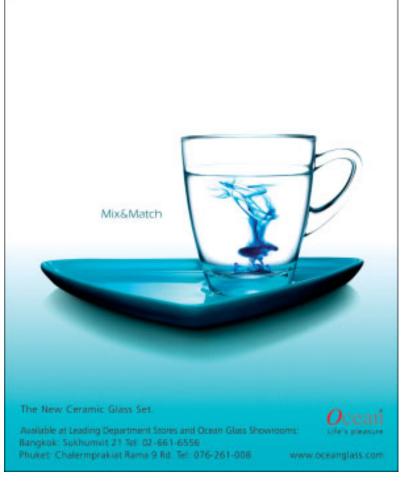
The hospital's Deputy-Ditold the *Gazette* that the clinic, part of a network known as

MSM clinics – for "Men who have Sex with Men", will be the first of its kind outside Bangkok.

Services will include diagnosis, treatment and counseling for sufferers of sexually transmitted diseases.

The clinic will be open daily, rector, Padungkiet Utokasenee, except public holidays, from 4:30 pm to 9 pm. For more information call Tel: 076-344225.





Tour boat sinks; all aboard saved

PHANG NGA BAY: Twenty-two passengers and crew were returned safely back to dry land after the *Armitis*, a tour boat, sprung a leak and sank in heavy seas on December 16.

Pol Lt Col Prasert Srikunnarat, Inspector of Phuket Marine Police Region 5, told the *Gazette* that he received a distress call saying that the boat, captained by Chamrus Tohmok, was taking on water off Laem Tong, Koh Dokmai, and that passengers and crew were about to abandon ship about 30 kilometers from Phuket.

"The captain told me that, on the way back to Phuket from Laem Tong, waves of up to four meters high were slamming into the vessel, causing it to spring a leak and founder." He said that the crew and the passengers donned life jackets and were in the water for about an hour before being picked

"They were lucky that they had an immediate response. Six speedboats were dispatched from Boat Lagoon and four more were sent from the Marine Office," Pol Col Prasert added.

About 3:50 pm the same day, the navy received a call to assist *Felidae*, a 20-meter dive boat, which was about 13 miles off Laem Promthep with four crew on board. A rope had become entangled around the boat's propeller.

A navy helicopter and RTN Tor 97 arrived to find that fishing boat Pichai Thavorn

4 already had the foundering vessel under tow to Chalong Port. No one was injured.

Two days later as the bad sea weather continued, the Third Naval Area Command received a call at about 1:30 pm to collect nine Italian tourists stranded on Koh Li Pe in Tarutao National Park, in Satun province. The tourists had been unable to leave the island for the past two days because of the strong winds and high waves.

RTN Tor 99 arrived at Koh Li Pe to find three Thai fishermen also stranded on the island as their small fishing boat had sank. All 12 were safely transferred to Marine Police Port at Tammalang in Satoon province, arriving about 8 pm.

- Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Rain damps tsunami drill

By Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

PATONG: The sirens went off but only about 200 people joined a tsunami evacuation drill in Patong on December 16, with rain blamed for the poor turnout.

Boonchai Somjai, Head of Phuket Provincial Office Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), told the *Gazette*, "I was in Patong when the evacuation drill began. It went satisfactorily, mainly because the people who took part already knew how to evacuate [the beach].

"But not too many people joined in the evacuation drill because of the rain."

He explained that two evacuation drills were held in Phuket on December 16: one at Patong Beach and another at Bang Tao Beach.



They're off! But most people opted to stay dry.

"The drill was like a real emergency evacuation because we had only a little time to announce it to people. "Patong Municipality did very well. They publicized the evacuation widely so most people in Patong knew about the drill before it was held," K. Boonchai explained.

Tsunami evacuation drills will become a regular event on Phuket beaches, he said.

"All the local authorities – the *OrBorJor* [provincial], *Tessabaan* [town] and *OrBorTor* [subdistrict] bodies – will coordinate to hold island-wide evacuation drills twice a year," he said.

K. Boonchai added that

K. Boonchai added that public announcements will be made before tsunami evacuation drills are held, unlike two days earlier when tsunami warning sirens sounded after being set off by mistake during a test of equipment.

"By announcing to people that there will be an evacuation drill and the sirens will sound, people will not be scared, as happened on December 14," he said.

Skeleton from Khao Lak is last case for TTVI Phuket

PHUKET: A skeleton discovered in Khao Lak early this month became the final case to be dealt with on the island by the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification unit (TTVI) which closed its doors December 12 in preparation for opening new premises in Bangkok January 4.

Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri, Superintendent of the TTVI's Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) unit, told the *Gazette* that the remains were found in a wooded area by locals.

Col Khemmarin said, "We assume that this 90%-complete skeleton belongs to a tsunami victim because we have found no evidence of foul play.

"The skeleton is of an asyet-unidentified female; we do not know if she was Thai or foreign."

TTVI Joint Chief of Staff Pol Col Pornprasert Kanjanarin said that the TTVI plans to move 719 sets of remains – including the newly-discovered skeleton – from Phuket's Mai Khao cemetery to Bang Maruan cemetery in Phang Nga by December 26.

A total of 3,672 corpses were sent to the TTVI. Of these, 2,867 have been successfully identified, 1,049 being Thai and 1,818 foreign. Of the identified bodies, 173 have not been claimed. A further 805 bodies remain unidentified.

– Anongnat Sartpisut

WTO urges world's press not to focus on tsunami destruction

PHUKET: The World Tourism Organization (WTO), a UN-af-filiated irganization, believes that complete post-tsunami recovery will be impossible until hotel capacity on Thailand's Andaman coast, in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and seat capacity on flights to these regions, return to pre-disaster levels.

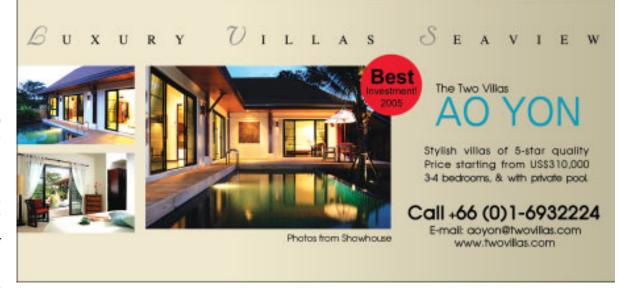
In a report issue recently, the WTO noted that Phuket's most recent official statistics show arrivals on the island down by 50% in August, although beach resorts announced high occupancy rates and bookings of 80-90% for December and January. It also said that on Koh Phi Phi Don, where 2,000 rooms were

available before the tsunami, there are now only 400 rooms available, and that fewer than 500 of Khao Lak's 6,000 rooms have been reopened.

The WTO urged journalists to report on the "refurbished hotels, new tourism products and safety improvements". It also asked that the media "use restraint when showing pictures of last year's disaster, so that tourists will not be scared off".

The WTO report forms part of the Phuket Action Plan for the revival of tourism in tsunami-affected countries, developed at a special WTO Executive Council session held in Phuket in January this year.







A place called home

this, it gives many of them per-

haps hitherto unknown skills that

they can take into the workplace,

have outgrown its facilities, and

plans are afoot for a purpose-built site on Koh Sireh, just 10 minutes

new HIV cases are among

housewives and teenagers,

people outside of the "traditional"

groups affected, such as sex

workers and intravenous drug

users. "We are particularly wor-

But the needs of the project

José explains that 70% of

to become self-sufficient.

from Phuket City.

here is a great sense of life and an equal feeling of home at the Life Home Project Foundation. Walking or driving past, one would never know that the project is there, but once inside the grounds, the hubbub of children playing, women chit-chattering away – and their cheeky calls of "lor maak" – as well as the smell of baking cakes, takes away a slight feeling of apprehension.

The apprehension comes from ignorance.

LHPF works primarily with HIV-positive mothers and their children – who may or may not be infected – so, for the first-time visitor, it is like entering a hospital, or worse, an institution – right? Wrong.

It may be a shelter – particularly for women who have been ostracized by their families or communities or lost their homes through ill health, but it is also a hive of activity. Women and children here get on with their lives and live them with so much zest and productivity as to shame the rest of us.

The women make a range of cards, T-shirts and other handicrafts, as well as cakes – Swiss roll today and extremely good at the premises. "We've had to sample so many cakes that we're all putting on weight!" laughs José.

The baking and the handicrafts are not just hobbies or something to keep LHPF occupants busy. Their efforts generate income both for themselves and for the LHPF, but, more than Around 570,000 people in Thailand, a country of some 65 million people, are HIV-positive, according to UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and Aids) and the World Health Organization. Looked at another way, nigh on one out of every 110 people - children and adults – you meet is HIV positive. Others put the figure closer to one million people with HIV, or around one person in 65.

The days of HIV being perceived as a disease affecting only those involved in activities or pursuing lifestyles deemed "risky" are long gone. It is now accepted that housewives, teenagers and children are emerging as the at-risk groups.

Phuket's Life Home Project Foundation (LHPF) has long been in the vanguard of the island's fight against HIV, and has a project and residential center in Phuket City that it has begun to outgrow. Here, Hélène Fallon-Wood, José Luis Gay and Toni Alzamora from LHPF tell the Gazette's Andy Johnstone about the project's much-needed expansion program.

Phuket is, as recently reported, among the five provinces in Thailand with the highest incidence of HIV infection.

> He relates that a 16-yearold girl who stayed at the LHPF home earlier this year has since died, and that in hospital there is currently an HIV-positive 18year-old woman. "She has a three-year-old child, so she was only 15 when she got pregnant and contracted HIV from, probably, her first boyfriend."

He says that information and education are key to helping slow and stop the spread of the epidemic, which is affecting every stratum of society in Thailand.

"Husbands infect their wives, and wives - mothers sometimes give birth to infected children. And although before there were clusters of infected people in Thailand, the mobility of the workforce means that it is

RELIABLE SERVICE

spreading geographically as well as socially.

"Mothers are the backbones of the family in Thailand and in any country. Remember that something like 250,000 children have lost their mothers, fathers or both parents to HIV in this country.'

José voices sensitively that while a disaster that claims thousands of lives in one day - one hour even – and immediately grabs the attention of the world, other disasters take a massive number of lives – 40,000 a year in Thailand – but more surrepti-

But there is good news.

"Since the Thai government introduced – very bravely – free antiretroviral (ARV) treatment

NOTEBOOK

DESKNOTE

PALM & POCKET PC

DESKTOP

it has made a very big change," José explains. In 2001 and 2002, LHPF's first two years, 25 mothers and children died, "but in the 18 months or so since the introduction of free ARV treatment, only two people at LHPF have died, and this improvement can be attributed directly to the government's policy."

He warns, however, and is backed up by both Hélène and Toni, that there is still a need for more education and less complacency. Toni adds that in Europe, for example, the rate of deaths among those with Aids-related illnesses is decreasing, while the number of people with the virus is increasing.

"There is still no cure for Aids," José says. "It's a mortal disease; you get it, you die. But perhaps people, when they hear that deaths are, in some areas, slowing down, forget that."

Hélène says that although the government has made great strides by introducing free ARV

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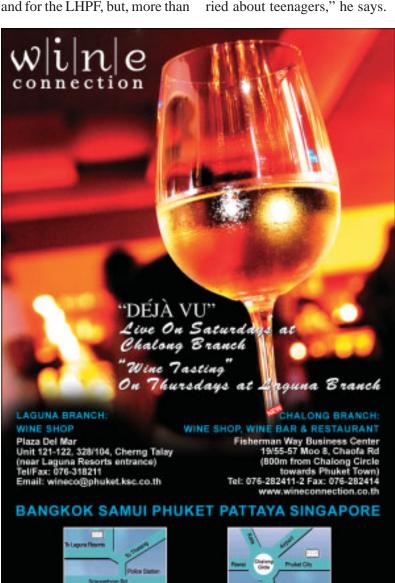
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treatment, the need remains to educate young people while in school to prevent another generation from being infected.

"Times are changing and children are becoming sexually aware at ever-younger ages – even 11 years old – and that is when you need to get the message to them," she adds.

"There is a myth that... applying lemon juice will stop you from getting infected. It doesn't," says José.

he new LHPF on four rai on Koh Sireh eventually will be home to some 100 mothers and children. "Why are we building it now?" asks José. "Because we at last have the money," chips in Hélène. She says that the money

for the new site came from oneoff sources and as this has now been committed, it is back to square one as far as funds are concerned.

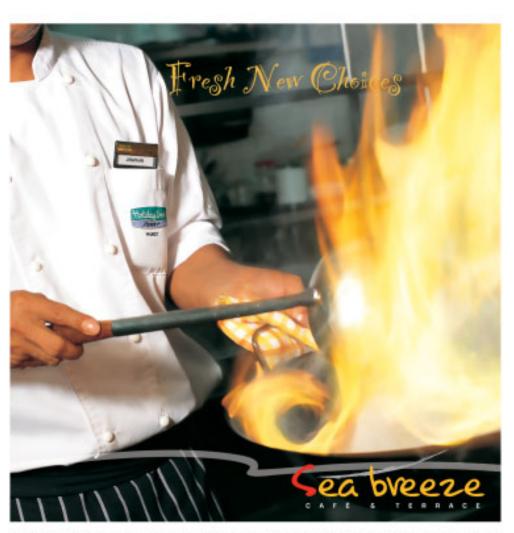
Several donors, including the Irish government, have very generously donated funds to LHPF, she adds.

"But the main reason [for continual fund-raising] is because the need is – unfortunately – growing," says José.

"Nearly every week, we receive another woman, another mother and child. A now all-too-familiar story is that a woman, for example a housewife, gets pregnant, and goes to the hospital for a series of routine tests, only to discover that she is HIV-positive and has been for a few years.

TURN TO PAGE 7





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DEEP THROAT DENTISTRY

BANGKOK: A 19-year-old student spent three agonizing days with a toothbrush lodged in her stomach – after she accidentally swallowed it.

The student, whose name and address were not reported, felt an itch in her throat on the evening of December 5. She decided to use her toothbrush to scratch away the irritation.

Unfortunately, she lost her grip and started choking as the toothbrush got caught in her throat, blocking her air supply. Desperate for oxygen, she tilted her head back and swallowed hard. It worked: the toothbrush slid down her esophagus and she was able to breathe again. But now she had a different problem.

Frightened, she told her parents and anybody else who would listen, but nobody believed her. The poor girl's credibility sank further still when an X-ray taken at a local hospital did not show the presence of any foreign bodies. She was sent home.

Not surprisingly, she started experiencing pain in her stomach. The pain was there whether she

Queer News

was sitting or standing, awake or asleep – and it only got worse when she tried to eat, she said.

Seeing her in agony, the girl's father took her to Payathai 3 Hospital on December 8. This time an X-ray revealed the toothbrush, with the tip of its handle sitting at the entrance to the large intestine.

An emergency endoscopy was performed, surgeon Worawit Kowitwarangkul skillfully snaring the toothbrush with a length of thread fitted to the endoscope's head.

He then pulled the offending implement back up through the girl's gullet and out of her mouth.

Dr Worawit said that it was the first case of a swallowed toothbrush he or anyone at the hospital had ever heard of: "Usually when we remove foreign bodies from the stomach, they are smaller objects, such as coins and nails and things of that sort."

Dentist Suta Jearramaneesopon, Director of the Ministry of Public Health's Dentistry Department, said that under normal conditions there was little chance a toothbrush would accidentally find its way deep into the digestive tract.

"Normally the bend in the throat will prevent a toothbrush from going down.

"The only way is if the head is tilted right back, and even then the gag reflex will usually kick in and prevent any foreign objects from going down," she said.

She warned people to see a doctor if they experience throat discomfort. While not recommending the practice of using a toothbrush to scratch one's throat, she had a few words of advice to those who insist on dong so.

"Try tying a small thread through the eye at the end of the toothbrush – this way you can pull it back up if it accidentally slips down your throat," she said.

Sources: Kom Chad Luek



Nipon Jangiam collects his prize of a laser tooth-whitening treatment at Promjai Dental Clinic from Jaree 'Nok' Makchan, the *Gazette*'s Assistant Manager – Classifieds, for displaying a 'We Love Phuket' on his Silver Volkswagen.

'WE LOVE PHUKET' WINNERS



Mayura Virodjanawath is presented with a voucher for her prize of dinner for two at the Watermark Bar & Restaurant from *Gazette* Desk Editor Sam Wilkinson.

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS November 2003 November 2004 November 2005 Type Limited company registrations 87 104 117 23 26 Limited partnership registrations 19 Limited companies changed 197 340 306 Limited partnerships changed 39 44 32 27 Companies deregistered 9 16 Partnerships deregistered 6 3 14

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office

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



A place called home

FROM PAGES 4 & 5

"Just imagine: she is probably really happy at finding out that she is pregnant and then she gets that news."

He pauses, "In some cases, the marriage breaks up – or the husband dies – and sometimes the family or community shun the woman, even though family is so central to Thai culture. And then, well, at worst they die alone in a government hospital or in a slum.

'Thailand, Phuket especially, has done very well out of the sex tourism industry; billions of baht have been brought here because of it. Individuals have also done very well out of this 'train of wealth', although some have fallen off the train.

"The society that lives in 'paradise' has a moral obligation to help those who can give these people – some are 16-year-old girls – a life, hope, dignity..."

The new project will be built as a series of five houses with administrative areas, workshop and classroom facilities, a library-Internet room, a kitchen and dining area, and a small supermar-

It will also have a nursery – not just for children living at the village – a TV room and a pavilion for meetings, yoga, ceremonies and for use as a covered play area for children, and a swimming pool donated by DesJoyaux.

Toni explains that, as with the existing site, there will be no outward clues as to the identity of the project. "From the street it will simply look like a small residential project, but we will have a shop there facing the street, selling produce from the bakery as well as handicrafts and other items made by the women.

"The bakery will also have a few tables outside, so people can stop and eat there. This will provide a valuable experience for

any of the girls who want to be teenagers to have more space waitresses, for example." He adds that LHPF has a microcredit system for those women wishing to start their own busi-

The shop will be open to all, because the project is part of the community, Toni says. The configuration of the village, however, will be such that the public and communal areas screen the private areas – the houses – from

"We had a dream three years ago just to build a house, just one simple little house for our women and children," explains Hélène, "and now we will have five houses, somewhere really nice for them to live. A real home, a family home."

Toni says that the role of the LHPF, and consequently the new LHPF village, has changed since it was first proposed.

CHALLENGES

"Girls used to come to us, and some of them died quite soon," he says. "Now, people are living longer and the challenges have increased. The girls can have an education, including English, Information and Computer Technology and sex education, as well as vocational training such as in the bakery.

"They can also recover psychologically and physically, which will help them to get back into society and to contribute to it again."

He continues his guided tour of the project.

'We will build three houses first, with one for the children [without parents] and the others for the women. The houses will be large enough and equipped to have up to 16 to 18 women living in them, [two per twin bedroom]. Provision will be made for older and privacy as needed."

Each group of children will have a housemother to take care of them. "There are no orphans here, each child can have 10 or 20 mothers!" adds José.

"That will be around 60 girls and children to begin with," adds Hélène, "and eventually up to 100 people living here. We will let it grow slowly.

"We hope it grows slowly," she reflects.

"One of the benefits of having homes as we have designed is that it gives the girls a sense of community - without becoming impersonal – with others on hand to offer support and friendship, not unlike, perhaps, the villages where they came from."

Each house will have a small kitchen, but there will also be a quiet space in each of the houses, in case someone wants complete privacy.

The buildings are based on Thai traditional designs, but use modern yet environmentally friendly materials in order to minimize the running cost and maintenance. The village has been designed with water conservation in mind, and will have its own well, in addition to large-scale water storage facilities and a wastewater treatment system.

The wastewater from the showers and toilets will initially go to a septic tank, and from there to wastewater gardens.

A waste-water garden is a natural system for purifying water that takes advantage of plants' requirements for water and nutrients, without the addition of chemicals.

Wastewater, once purified, will be pumped into a lagoon, which will also collect rainwater – with all gutters draining into it - and the land slopes gently down to the lagoon to collect run-off.



Yongyot Wangwiset, an architecture teacher at Phuket Technical College, and three of his students designed and

built the model of the "village" for the Life Home Project. K. Yongyot told the *Gazette*, "These three third-year architecture students distinguished themselves in September in a Surat Thani Province model house contest for technical college students in southern Thailand.

"The Life Home Project assignment was their first opportunity to work on a real project outside school, but my students didn't have any trouble with it; I was always close at hand to guide them."

Students Vilasini Chamkhunthod, Sukanya Jindapon and Supassorn Khunsanong used paper, wood and other materials to build the model, which took nearly three weeks from the beginning of October to complete.

K. Supassorn said, "We were very happy to contribute to the Life Home Project. We plan to continue our studies in Bangkok and earn Bachelor of Architecture degrees."

Water from the lagoon can be drawn, purified and used.

"We hope to start building this month and we'll have it ready by December 2006," says Hé-

She continues by saying that the LHPF has been "...fortunate, not lucky" to have received such generous donations in 2005.

"We didn't hold our annual gala in May, although we had planned to hold a small fundraiser in November to present the Koh Sireh project to the island and the world.

Hélène says that the model was produced to show people what the LHPF has done, is doing and will do with the large donations it has received over the past 12 months.

"One of our fears is that people on Phuket will see the village and think, 'Oh, Life Home Project has lots of money,' which we haven't.

"This year's donations will pay for bricks and mortar for the village. We still support a huge network of women from all over southern Thailand, and we will continue to need the [backing of the island's [residents].

"We can build the village but we also need to run it, and run it for the rest of our lives," she concludes.

For more information about the LHPF, email: lifehome@ loxinfo.co.th or visit the website: www.lifehomeproject.





FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

he recent shooting of a police officer in Chaweng may lead to questions being raised within the police force on Koh Samui

After the killing, more than 100 officers were called in from around the island, and also from the mainland, to help catch the killer

Suriya Tongnun, 33, a police officer based at the Mae Nam station, died when he was shot three times outside a nightclub in Chaweng. He was out of uniform at the time.

Witnesses said he was shot as he tried to stop three drunken men from shooting bullets into the sky.

However, officers from Surat Thani quickly took over the investigation when it was suggested that someone had tried to conceal a CCTV tape which had been recording activities that may have implicated suspects.

TOURIST

During the shooting, a tourist from the Britain, Alex Green, was hit in the leg by a stray round and was taken to a nearby hospital

A little over an hour later, police arrested Saen Si Kwan at his girlfriend's house in Lamai. Also known as "Saen Gow Chaweng", the suspect was well-known to local police, having previously served a sentence of 13 years for murder.

He was immediately taken to Nathon jail, but later reports suggested the evidence against him was weak because the recovered video was not clear, and no eyewitnesses had come forward with a positive identification.

The body of the dead policeman was later taken to his home town of Songkhla for an official police funeral.



Transport in some areas of Koh Samui was nearly brought to a complete standstill during the torrential rains this month

Outside officers brought in to probe murder of policeman at nightclub

Government focus on Koh Samui's roads: None of the one billion baht reportedly promised by the Ministry of the Interior has arrived on Koh Samui to pay for damage caused by the recent flooding. The local administration has therefore to repair roads with what limited resources it has available.

Transport in some areas was brought to a complete standstill during torrential rains earlier this month. With the water yet to drain away completely, traffic congestion is still a major problem around the island.

According to local officials, repair work will be virtually impossible until the rainy season ends in January.

As a temporary measure, diggers are being used to clear sand deposits and pumps are operating to drain surface water so

that traffic can pass.

In some cases, however, the emergency measures have actually hindered progress when sand was pushed into roadside drains, thus preventing the water from receding.

With the high season beginning in earnest, tourists may face difficulties getting around the island, and police are concerned that road accident rates could soar.

Flying visa trips: COCO International, one of Koh Samui's highest profile companies, recently invested in an 11-seat seaplane that will offer foreign residents fast, comfortable and exclusive flights to renew their visas.

Once the relevant licenses and permits have been granted, Richard Croft, Managing Director of the company's seaplane service, plans to offer flights to Ranong and possibly also to Penang.

The provisional fare for the Ranong return trip is 9,000 baht. The journey will take just 40 minutes each way, and travelers can be back on Koh Samui just 4½ hours after leaving.

"We're also at present building our own seadrome," says Mr Croft. "It'll probably be the very first civilian seadrome in Thailand."

COCO hopes to finish building the seadrome on the north coast before the New Year, and has promised local residents that the plane will not cause excessive noise pollution.

Once the official papers are processed, the company is confident that the seaplane will be an important addition to the island's transport services.

Tax seminar: To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Network Advisory Team Ltd (NAT) accounting in Thailand, the company gave a tax seminar at the Chaweng Regent Hotel on December 10, dealing with the basics of Thai tax. The session covered various issues relating to foreign businesses and house ownership, as well as residency.

NAT donated the attendance fees from the event to the Rotary Club of Koh Samui, specifically to support that organization's current road safety campaign known as "Arrive Alive".

Tax issues are becoming increasingly important on Koh Samui, with large numbers of foreign-run businesses opening every month and widespread audits planned for the coming year. The seminar focused on three main areas: corporate income tax, VAT and withholding tax.

As part of General Business Services (GBS), the largest US franchise chain in business counseling, NAT provides various services and products related to accounting, tax and business counseling

With branches in Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya and Koh Samui, NAT is known as one of the most foreigner-focused accounting firms in the country.



December 24 - 30, 2005 PHUKET GAZETTE 9



10 PHUKET GAZETTE December 24 - 30, 2005





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It's surreal thing

The man who brought the works of Andy Warhol to Phuket has done it again. This time Eric Smulders van Heer Janspolder, owner of the Soul of Asia chain of galleries, has brought for sale a selection of bizarre, comical and thought-provoking statuettes from the Dali Foundation.

The foundation was set up to look after the interests of the family of Salvador Dali, king of the surrealist artists and, says Mr Smulders, "probably the most creative artist of the 20th century".

The statuettes are limitededition replicas of larger statues by Dali, most of which are now in museums around the world. "They are numbered and signed 'Dali', and as soon as the numbers are finished the series is finished," he explains.

Mr Smulders bought almost 100 statuettes from the Dali Foundation. They "combine a wonderful artistic value with a real investment value," he says, pointing out that he is selling, for example, Eléphant de Triomphe for US\$19,250 (about 770,000 baht) whereas another statuette from the same numbered series sold at auction recently for US\$44,000



Above, Eric Smulders with Space Venus, his favorite among the Dali

Asia on December 23. The gallery's Dali Exhibition will last until January 5.

Soul of Asia is open daily from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm. 37-39 Rassada Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-211122 or 211133; Email: info@soulofasia.com; Website:

at US\$19,250, is the bizarre Elaphant de Tri-







Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Chotana
Suttayapornpipat
and Sirithon
Tuntipimolphan
were married at
The Metropole
hotel, Phuket
City, on
November 12.

Suppaluk Siroros and Prapat Limsomboon were married at Royal Phuket City Hotel on November 11.



Walailak Sae-poo and Christopher Rykers exchanged vows at the Red Onion Restaurant, Royal Phuket City Hotel, on December 14.

Don't miss.... Issues & Answers phuketgazette.net/ issuesanswers/index.asp



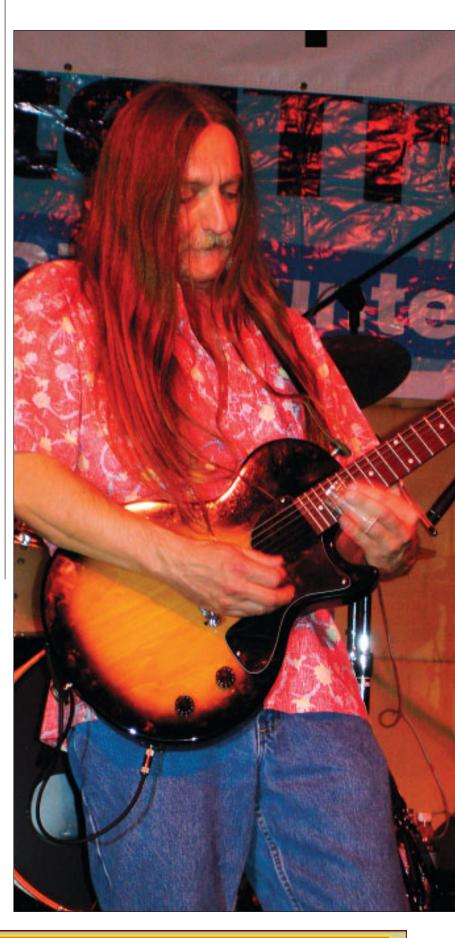
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PHUKET



GETS THE BLUES







Clockwise, from left: Rich Harper; Kyla Brox; Big Jeff from Soi Dog Blues Band: Victor Brox on keyboards; and exercising his vocal chords with backing from the Groove Doctors.

t looked as though Phuket's first blues festival would never get going. First, the wet weather meant that a temporary road had to be built to allow the stage truck to drive onto the grass area where the festival was to be held.

Then black clouds threatened, and tents had to be erected so that blues lovers could make a dash for cover if necessary.

In the end, all these preparations proved futile when a squall roared across the shore, shredding tents and turning the festival site into a swamp.

That was less than 24 hours before the festival was due to

But the organizers and the staff at the Hilton Phuket Arcdia Resort & Spa pulled out all the stops to allow the event to go ahead in the dry, in the resort's

Hundreds turned up to listen and dance to no fewer than eight bands over two nights, with British legend Victor Brox topping the bill on the first night and the highly acclaimed Rich Harper Band, from Los Angeles, taking the spotlight on the second night.

Backing them up were the Groove Doctors and the Big Fat Blues Band from Phuket, Victor's daughter Kyla Brox, and Blue on Blue, Soi Dog Blues Band and Cannonball from Bangkok.

For those who still needed more, most of the musician played a high-energy final gig at the new Rock City disco in Patong.

The event was presented by HotelTravel.Com and the Phuket Gazette.











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This traditional Swiss Army Knife (top) is on

offer at 1,745 baht, and is bursting with



In this, the third in his highly popular 'Essential Pieces of Kit' series, Andy Johnstone - once a dashing young blade himself – tackles pocket knives and the like without once finding the word 'tool' even remotely funny.



a small claw hammer with a ratchet attachment, the Leatherman in all its glory (right), and a microtool featuring full-size pliers.





Cutting edge kit

after a power cut, locked in a convent in the jungle with a bottle of Château La Mondotte Saint-Emilion 1996 and a getaway gelding with a stone in his hoof. Hordes of angry natives are also tossing spears in his general direction. What would be the one essential piece of kit in such a predicament?

A plummy "RP" (received pronunciation) accent? An old school tie? A verse of Land of Hope and Glory? A James Purdey & Sons Express .600 double rifle? A plate of Marmite on toast?

A knife would be useful, but not just any knife. The balisong will not cut the mustard, nor will the *puukko*. Even the Fairbairn Sykes knife and the venerable kukri – fine though they are – are not quite up to scratch.

Gawd bless the Swiss – and one Karl Elsener in particular – for being irked somewhat in 1891 to discover that the knives supplied to the Swiss Army were a little too German in origin.

Elsener, who owned a surgical equipment manufacturer -Victorinox – produced the first Swiss Army Knife (SAK) in 1896. Another company, Wenger, which is now owned by Victorinox, produced identical knives under license.

There is a dazzling array of devices and blades to be found on a SAK. The humblest piece, little changed since the earliest model, still features a blade, a screwdriver, a can opener and a punch. Times change, however, and one can now buy a SAK with a lighter or a torch, a USB storage drive or a spirit level, an alarm clock or an altimeter.

Super Sports on the top floor of Robinson Department Store in downtown Phuket offers a fair range of SAKs, and yes, they are the genuine article. They have small ones and big ones. Some with a few blades and some with more blades than you can shake a stick – one probably recently whittled into a toothpick – at. They even have them in black and blue, as well as the traditional red.

There is a baby SAK, perhaps designed for the *mem sahib* in one's life, with a blade, a nail file, scissors and a pair of tweezers for 635 baht. Shame on Victorinox for not producing a SAK with a mascara brush, though.

Super Sports also sells the SwissCard Lite. This tool, the

chap finds himself, same size as a credit card but thicker, features a micro torch, tweezers, pen, knife blade, nail file and a toothpick, and sells for 1,750 baht.

> However, and no doubt available for only a short time and for 5 baht less - there is the MOASAK (Mother Of All Swiss Army Knives, well, as far as Thailand goes).

> It has, er, countless features, including mini-pliers, fish scaler, ruler, saw, magnifying glass and what looks like a crochet hook but could be for getting the brains out of horses' heads. It also has flat and Phillips screwdrivers, a chisel and heaven knows how much more besides, possibly even a kitchen sink.

> Hunter, in Central Festival Phuket, has multi-tools, which are all around 13 centimeters in length when folded, including a genuine Leatherman as well as pseudo – but no less useful – pocket tools. Because the handles on these tools enclose the features, they owe more perhaps to the balisong than they do the SAK.

INGENIOUS

Pay 850 baht for a small claw hammer with a ratchet attachment for socket tools (not supplied), as well as knife and saw blades, and pair of pliers. Fork out a mere 550 baht and one can buy a robust device with full-sized pliers, an assortment of blades and a small torch.

Equally ingenious is the multi-tool with pliers, scissors, file quite useful if you happen to break a nail opening the damn thing – and a socket attachment, which comes with 11 bits, all for 695 baht.

A small, but manifestly pleasing oval-design mini-tool – pliers, nail file, punch, Phillips screwdriver and knife – is yours for 250 baht.

The daddy of them all, hower, is the Leatherman, which, in its various incarnations, has been around for 30-odd years and sets the standard for such devices.

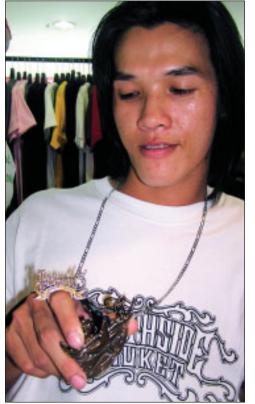
Tough as old boots and as much a favorite of law enforcement, military and paramedic personnel as the SAK, the quality comes at a price. Is the Leatherman Wave (ouch) with the same amount of kit and offered for 3.500 baht at Hunter more likely to save your life than a similar design sold for a fraction of the

Better ask Peter or, indeed, Plenty, the Bond girl, about that.

Above, pink snakeskin-look leather belt with holes, from Idea.



Above, leather and rhinestone belt with makeup case, from Idea. Below: A customer at Pentagon Skate checks out a belt buckle.



A WAIST OF GOOD STYLE

spruce up your image and vary your look according to the seasons or the latest trends – the big belt.

Whether it's in plastic, leather, chain or hemp, this accessory has become de rigueur, and can be used to update virtually any outfit – no matter how outdated.

The perfect place to find your best belt has got to be the second floor of Ocean Shopping Mall on Tilok Uthit 1 Rd in Phuket City, where there

are scads of boutiques offering so many ways to girdle the waist, it's enough to make your knees buckle.

The owner of Pentagon Skate Shop. Worawit Yodsri, told the *Gazette*, "Hip-hop fashion is now in vogue and I sell hip-hop clothes and belts. Most of the ones I carry

ome people find it hard to keep come in black leather, and the most interup with the latest fashions. esting belt I sell is the one that looks like it But there is an easy way to has handcuffs attached to it."

All the belts in K. Worawit's shop can be had for a mere 259 baht.

"Women often choose woven or braided or chain belts," says Supatra "Pad" Mongkolbutr, owner of the Idea shop, also in the Ocean mall. "Some people like big gaudy belts; I carry those, too."

K. Pad's best-selling cincture is in white leather with a butterfly fastening, pretty enough to adorn the little black dress or a pair of jeans equally

well, and priced at 199 baht. A black leather belt with rhinestones sells for just 299 baht.

For more information on these accessories and more, contact Pentagon Skate Shop at Tel: 09-9711268 or the Idea shop at Tel: 076-245454.

Below, left, buckles for those who like to butterfly, from Idea and, below right, just punishment for those who get caught, from Pentagon Skate.

By Suwakon

Rakmanee







Above, silver leather with rivets, from Idea. Below, double buckle - two belts, also from Idea.



Below, What a belter! a customer checks out belts at Idea.







This week



BABY GENIUS: Dr Wachira Penchan, Deputy Director of the Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health (black jacket) and Phuket Vice Governor Niran Kanlayanamit present prizes at the "Baby Genius" *To Be Number One* Aerobics & Dancercise Championship, junior division, at Central Festival Phuket.



BYPASS OPERATION: Bypass Square shopping center recently celebrated its grand opening with (front row, from left to right) Bangkok Bank Senior Executive Vice-President and Director Thamnoon Laukaikul, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Bhokin Bhalakula and Bypass Square CEO Valentino Tan.



A REGATTA TO REMEMBER: (Above) Jim Eckardt, former Editor and current book reviewer for the *Phuket Gazette*, celebrates the Royal Phuket Marina grand opening and the conclusion of the second day's racing of the King's Cup Regatta onstage with two lovelies from the yacht *Jemini Jo*. (Right) The show was spectacular, setting a new standard for King's Cup entertainment.





THE GOOD LIFE: At the grand opening of the TaiLife Health & Leisure Spa in Patong are (back row, from left) Chris Ford, Jason Jackson, Brett R Taylor, Darren Vose and Panrudee Thopradit, and (front, from left) Jariya Jittrong and Nongluk Khamtho.



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS: They all turned out to help Santa at the Venetian Carnival, Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. Alongside some delightful elves are Zahid Ali (2nd from right), Marketing Communications Manager of Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and Torsten Richter, Executive Assistant Manager of Food & Beverage (left).

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he new Honda Civic has been named *Motor Trend* Car of the Year 2006. The authoritative US magazine selects its top car based on value, standing in its class and what it calls "significant developments". The editor of *Motor Trend*, Angus Mackenzie, commented, "Honda deserves a standing ovation for not playing it safe again."

According to a senior executive of Honda America, John Mendel, the Civic underwent "the most radical transformation in its 33-year history".

The award extends to the entire Civic range, including the sedan, coupé and hybrid, as well as the sports version, the Civic Si. "It is the cornerstone of the Honda line-up, and we are delighted that *Motor Trend* has recognized the new levels of styling, performance, technology, safety and value that characterize the new Civic," said Mr Mendel.

The Civic first appeared in 1972 as a two-door compact. Remaining unchanged for seven years, a five-door wagon was



launched in 1979 along with a second-generation sedan which was awarded the title "US Import Car of the Year" by *Motor Trend*. Two years later, a four-door sedan was added to the range and by 1982 – 10 years after its début – cumulative production had reached three million.

Come the 1990s, the fifth generation – much the same as previous editions – saw the light of day, but with aerodynamic refinements and a softer style. It also heralded the introduction of the highly acclaimed Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control (VTEC) engine, produc-

ing excellent mid-range torque and improved fuel efficiency.

By 1995, 10 million Civics had been produced worldwide.

Five years ago, a complete

departure from earlier body styles saw the Civic become the "benchmark for compacts" – at least, according to Honda. Along the way, Honda in-

Along the way, Honda introduced a hybrid gasoline-electric Civic, the only practical alternative to Toyota's dominant Prius.

Forget the Honda Insight hybrid – available in the US and parts of Europe – which was merely an engineering exercise that offered no real usable space or performance.

The latest Civic is also available in some markets as a hybrid, but for Thailand an economical gasoline engine is the likely choice, although there is a possibility of a 1.7-liter diesel later. Whereas the gas and diesel versions are available in either threeor five-door styles, the hybrid, which is produced solely in Japan for world markets, is a four-door. Apart from the hybrid, the Civic is currently produced in 11 countries for around 160 markets.

The 2006 Civic features greatly improved interior space

over the outgoing model, while the latest styling is almost futuristic, with a deep front airdam incorporated into the nose and sleek hindquarters topped by a small spoiler.

The entry-level model offers a 1.4-liter gasoline engine, mated to a five-speed manual gearbox.

Power is 88bhp (65kW) with peak torque of 130Nm. Top speed is a modest 177kmh, while the 0-100kmh sprint is covered in a leisurely 11.6 seconds.

Further up the scale, a 1.6-liter VTEC motor is offered with the choice of manual or auto boxes, and a power output of 108bhp and torque of 150Nm. Clearly the VTEC Civic is the one to have.

All models have power steering and central locking as standard equipment, while options include electronic stability control and leather upholstery. All models also feature front airbags, and side airbags are also standard except in the 1.4-liter model.

The Civic may have been around for more than 30 years, but the 2006 model maintains its market leader status and is expected to dominate the small sedan class for a number of years to come. The Civic currently accounts for roughly one third of all Honda's auto sales worldwide.

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



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ecently my quest for relaxation led me to the Royal Paradise Hotel's Paradise Thai Spa in Patong, where each of its 16 spacious Thai massage rooms offers a view of a garden with a waterfall.

Open for almost a year, the Paradise Thai Spa features traditional Thai decor throughout its private spa suites, with individual whirlpool baths for luxurious treatments, aromatic herbal steam rooms and saunas.



PA PAMPERED **PARADISE**



This entitles a member

to use the fitness room,

swimming pool and three

free treatments - almost

enough incentive for me to move to Patong. While considering whether or not

Siriluck "Jeab" Sae-Lim, Paradise Thai Spa's Manager, told me that the hotel used to offer only Thai

Thai Spa

massage, but that guests urged them to develop a full spa system... and the customer is always right.

Now they also have a 6,500 baht-per-year membership program - great if you live in the area.





to relocate, I indulged in the spa's popular two-hour "Touch of Paradise" package which included an oil massage and deep cleansing facial for 2,500 baht. K. Jeab said that at the Paradise Spa they use oils scented appropriately for a person's element, which depends on one's month of birth: rosewood fragrance for November through January (earth); eucalyptus for February through April (fire); lemongrass for May through July (air); and orange for August through October (water).

I started with a 10minute sauna and was then escorted to my private massage room by therapist K. Kob.

MUCH KNEADED

The rhythmic kneading with perfumed oil, the temperature and the lighting were just right to send me to sleep, dreaming of a fancy villa overlooking Patong Beach... until her gentle voice roused me, "Time for your facial."

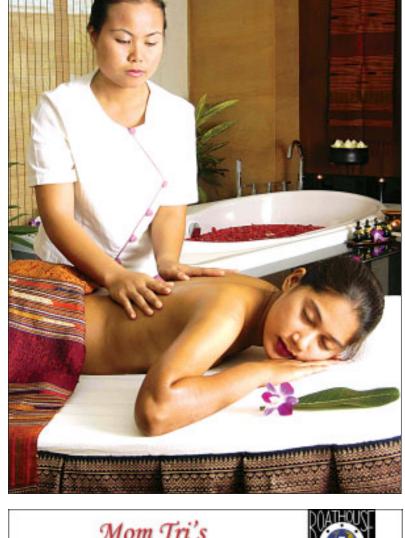
First, toner was used to help remove my makeup. Next, a fruit mask made by **Australian brand Jurlique** was applied to my face and removed after 20 minutes. K. Kob used eye gel and a gel lotion to refresh my skin even further.

The "Touch of Paradise", administered gently and with great attention to detail, was rounded off nicely with a serving of fresh fruit. I left the spa feeling great, and even the following morning my skin felt soft and my body spry.

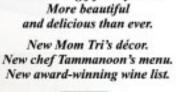
Now I can't decide whether to go for the Thai massage for 750 baht or the 30-minute oil massage for 1,500 baht after work.

It may be time to talk to the boss about relocating our office.

Paradise Thai Spa, open daily from 10 am to 10 pm, is on the 1st floor of the Royal Wing building at The Royal Paradise Hotel. Contact Tel: 076-340666, ext 3123, or visit the website: www.royalparadise.







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A barrel of laughs in a corker of a film

movie and a glass of wine? Why, watching a great movie about wine – with a glass of wine in hand, of course.

And the movie – *Sideways* – has arrived. *Sideways* takes a peek into the real lives of two Californians – Miles and Jack – friends as freshmen in college, now on a week's hiatus through the wine country north of Los Angeles before Jack is to be married.

The movie is rich in human drama and light comedy, and also depicts the real life of people who work in the wine industry and the wine-lovers who visit them.

Noir has a key role in the movie,

hat could be bet- and so the timing of the release ter than a great is good because currently there is a huge upswing of interest in Pinot Noir and a blurring of the lines between styles of the wine.

Some call Pinot Noir the sexiest of all red wines; others say it should be subtle and delicate. What are the true characteristics of Pinot Noir, and does it matter? Sideways sheds some answers on these questions, teaches about wine, and even ponders the age-old question, "What is the meaning of life?"

Dialog from the movie: Maya: Can I ask you a personal

question, Miles? Miles: Sure.

Maya: Why are you so into Pi-

not Noir?

Miles: [laughs softly] The grape variety Pinot Maya: I mean, it's like a thing

with you.



By Steven Roberto

Miles: [continues laughing softly]

Miles: Uh, I don't know, I don't know. Um, it's a hard grape to grow, as you know. Right? It's uh, it's thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It's, you know, it's not a survivor like Cabernet, which can just grow anywhere and uh, thrive even when it's neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know? And in fact it can only grow in these really specific, little, tucked away corners of the world. And, and only the most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really. Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot's potential can then coax it into its fullest expression. Then, I mean, oh its flavors, they're just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and... ancient on the planet.

Miles: What about you? **Maya:** What about me?

Miles: I don't know. Why are you into wine?

Maya: Oh, I... I think I... I originally got into wine through my ex-

Miles: Ah.

Maya: You know, he had this big, sort of show-off cellar, you

Miles: Right.

Maya: But then I discovered that I had a really sharp palate.

Miles: Uh-huh.

Maya: And the more I drank, the more I liked what it made me think about.

Miles: Like what?

Maya: Like what a fraud he

Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Managing Director of enVision Phuket, a Phuketbased wine importer and consultant. Email: stevenroberto @lycos.com

Phuket Diary

December 15-26: Exhibition Email: worldofpaintings@ of original contemporary oil paintings. World of Paintings Gallery and Watermark Bar and Restaurant present an exhibition of contemporary abstract oil paintings by three artists.

The venue is the Watermark Bar and Restaurant at the Boat Lagoon.

The painters are: Simon Cohen, whose works are a "...complex style of intoxicating spiritual abstraction"; Suthirak, who uses bold primary colors, heavily applied by trowel and brush, as well as mixed-media experimentation; and Makphat, whose works are described by one critic as "...richly textured and highly effective".

Open from 10 am until 10 pm. For further information contact Jay at Tel: 04-0567451 or hotmail. com

December 20-January 10, 2006: 1,000 Faces of Phuket **Photo Exhibition.** An exhibition of images taken by 12 photographers from the Phuket Photo Club, held at the Holiday Inn

The exhibition, described by the organizers as "...the multiple visions of reality of those who see the island through a lens", will also offer selected works for sale, with proceeds going towards Baan Nana, a home for streetchildren in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai.

For more information, contact Ten Achiravit at Tel: 01-9862547 or Email: churmung@ yahoo.com, K. Danai at Tel: 01-8953709 or K. Asnee at the Holiday Inn at Tel: 09-4504512.

December 26: Tsunami Memorial events. Many ceremonies will be held in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi Provinces, to mark one year since the disaster. The program for these official ceremonies is published on the back page of the special "One Year On" supplement, included inside this issue of the *Phuket* Gazette.

December 30-January 1: Greenspirit New Year Festival 2005. See 2006 in with a three-day psytrance festival at Na Thai in Krabi.

Enjoy an international and national line-up, a free camping area, foodstalls and bars.

For more information, contact Tel: 01-8940208, Email info@greenspiritkrabi.com, or visit www.greenspiritkrabi.com

January 27-31: QBE Phang Nga Bay Regatta. The ninth year of this fun regatta around Phang Nga Bay to Phi Phi and back to Phuket. As always, it will take place over the Chinese New Year with the registration and the opening party on Friday, January 27, followed by racing around Phang Nga Bay over the next four days, ending back in Phuket on the following Tuesday. The racing will take the fleet to Koh Yao, Krabi and back to Phi Phi before the final dash to Phuket. For further information contact Tom Howard at Tel: 01-7971120 or by email to: tom@seaphuket.com. Race and party notices will be posted on the organization's website, www. bayregatta.com



Christmas Special Christmas Special Menu 3:00pm complimentary glass of bubbly 4:00pm 'Secret Santa' – everybody opens gifts*** 4:30pm serve lunch 7:00pm drinks at the bar 1850 Baht Kids menu available @ 495 Baht **water**mark Resv: 076 239 730 31st Dec New Year Pre-Part

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pending too much time slaving over a hot stove is a common Christmas complaint among wives and mothers. In a tropical climate, this is not an ideal situation, so members of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) have devised ways of ensuring that much of the food preparation can be done beforehand.

Three of the ladies have each provided a favorite seasonal recipe that is easy to make, leaving cooks with more free time to sip chilled cocktails with their guests on the terrace.

The first recipe is a firm favorite of Cindy Ratcliffe, President of the Club. "I learned how to make the chilled mold 30 years ago in Australia," she says. "It was an instant hit and is good either as a starter, or as a dip."

Cindy has lived in Phuket for 13 years and still enjoys a traditional Christmas with a roast turkey dinner at home in the evening after spending the day on the beach.

The second recipe, for Christmas Shortbread, comes from Christine Robinson, who has been a member of the PIWC for two years. She enjoys a low-key Christmas at home with her family and serves her shortbread as a teatime snack.

Rhoda Warnes has been involved with the PIWC for about four years. A friend showed her the recipe for Ice Christmas Pudding in Scotland 20 years ago.

Guest

By Jenna Wise

"This is a great, light alternative to traditional Christmas pudding," she says. "To give it a more tropical taste, try using local fruit and experiment with different liqueurs to soak the fruit



Creamed Cucumber Mold For 6-8 people

Ingredients:

2 teaspoons gelatine, or 6 leaves; 1 cup vegetable stock;

90g cream cheese (you can use low-fat variety);

1 cup mayonnaise;

1 teaspoon horseradish sauce;

2 tablespoons lemon or lime juice; 2 shallots or ¼ onion;

1 medium cucumber;

Salt and pepper to taste;

2 tablespoons fresh chopped mint.

Rak Mak! Awards

To decorate:

Smoked salmon curls; Stuffed olives; Salad leaves; Tomatoes.

Snappy snacks

Method:

Dissolve the gelatine in stock over a gentle heat and leave on one side to cool. Mix all the other ingredients except the cucumber in a food processor until well combined. Stir in the stock and then chill in the fridge until partially set.

Shred the unpeeled cucumber in the food processor using a medium fitting. Stir this through the chilled mixture and turn into an attractively shaped mold. Put back into the fridge for at least 2-3 hours, or preferably leave overnight, to solidify. Turn out onto a platter and decorate before serving.



Christmas Shortbread

To serve 6-8 people **Ingredients:**

220g plain flour; pinch of salt; 30g cornflour; 60g castor sugar; 250g butter.



Rhoda, Christine and Cindy.

To decorate:

40 blanched almonds;

20 walnut halves;

7 green glacé cherries, cut into halves:

5 red glacé cherries, cut into halves.

Method:

Sift the flour, salt and cornflour into a bowl; then add the sugar. Rub the butter into this mixture until coarse crumbs are formed. Gently work them together until you have a soft dough.

On a floured surface, roll the dough into a circle a little smaller than a 25-centimeter loose-bottomed fluted flan tin. Place the dough in the tin and press out gently to fit exactly. Smooth the surface with the back of a spoon and prick well with a fork.

Arrange the almonds in a ring around the edge and add a ring of walnut halves, a ring of green cherries, then a ring of red ones. Place a walnut half in the center. Refrigerate the shortbread for 30 minutes.

> www.skiffasia.com info@skiffasia.com

Bake in an oven pre-heated to 180°C for 45-50 minutes until lightly browned. Allow to cool in the tin. Remove carefully and place on a serving plate. Dust with castor sugar before serving.

Ice Christmas Pudding

To serve 4-6 people

Ingredients:

300g soft-texture vanilla ice cream;

3 tablespoons mixed dried fruit; Enough liqueur of your choice to cover the fruit.

Method:

Soak the fruit in the liqueur overnight. Place a circle of greaseproof paper in the base of a dampened one-pint pudding basin. Chill the basin. Mix the fruit into the ice cream and freeze overnight. Turn out onto a cold plate and decorate appropriately.



For more information on these recipes and more, contact Cindy Ratcliffe, President of the Phuket International Women's Club, at Tel: 076-264246. Email: yindi@ksc.th.

Beautiful undeveloped beach

Scenic fun-sailing around Cape Panwa and Chalong Bay Instruction: Learn-to-sail, Intermediate, Intro to Racing,

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stunning views, beverages



The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a Fusion Thai Set Dinner for two at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Phuket; or one round of golf (18 holes) at Laguna Phuket Golf Club; or a one-hour refreshing spa for one at the Aspara Spa, at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket.







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 January 3, 2006.

Love Phuket? Put this sticker on your vehicle:



If we spot it, you could win a facial treatment with Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic; or a laser tooth-whitening treatment at Promjai Dental Clinic at either their Patong Beach or bypass road clinic; or a spa package with 2 hours of relaxing at Layan Spa (Layan Beach Resort & Spa Village).





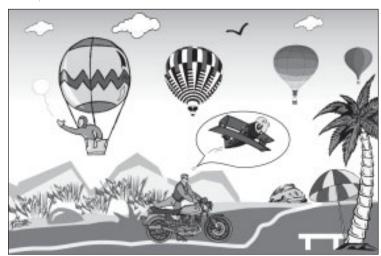


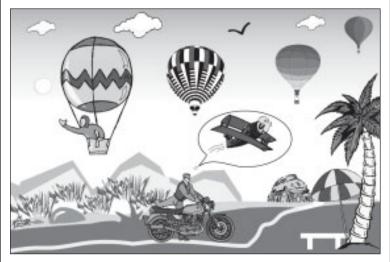


Spot the Difference



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





Scribble Space

Brain Buster

Two hours ago, it was as many hours after one o'clock in the afternoon as it was before one o'clock in the morning.

What time is it now?

Answer on page 22

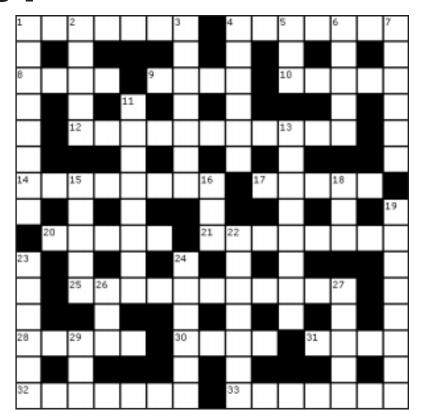
The Cryptic Crossword

Across

- Mother's vehicle a lash improver. (7)
- Speak elliptically about battercake. (6)
- Tidy way to drink whisky?
- I'll hear about Phuket, perhaps. (4)
- Brown skin? Go dance!
- 12. Not quite 50 gold-diggers.
- Gospel writer's not cold, but not hotm either. (8)
- Pea is mashed into brown color. (5)
- Boat excites no ace. (5)
- 21. Drug points to monument.
- Frightened? Inmate did it badly. (11)
- Forms fungi (5)
- Somewhat pursued into
- 31. Cancel vacuum. (4)
- Try a representative. (6)
- 33. Cruel as deranged layperson. (7)

Down

- Bone chap with garden implement, it's said. (8)
- Stick workers. (2)
- As speaker, checks 12 ac's output. (7)
- We, iniquitous, become beetle. (6)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

- Grease section of hard drive. (3)
- Small roads in big ones.
- Demonstrate to her majesty a bathroom fitting. (6)
- 11. Power reduction toast not possible. (8)
- 13. Canine peeper and gnasher. (8)
- 15. I bark back at place across the bay. (5)
- Moderately soft hydrogen

- speed measure. (3) 18. In the tavern, it's said. (3)
- 19. Maybe slid near Phuketian. (8)
- 22. Unable to finish, so finish not as much. (7)
- Crikey! Leftovers!
- Letter to inspirers brings a smile. (6)
- Agree to sleep a little. (3)
- Medico has no learners that rather amusing. (5)
- Mel returns to space craft.

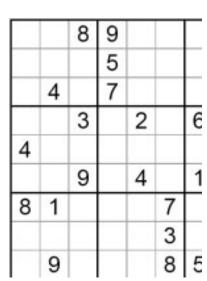
su|do|ku

C Puzzles by Pappocom

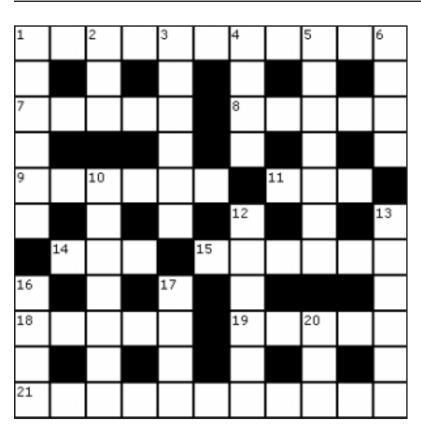
Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

EZ Quiz

- The cartoon character Hamtaro is what kind of animal?
- What was the name of the oil tanker that spilled 11 million gallons of oil in Prince William Sound, Alaska, in 1989?
- What country became independent from Pakistan on March 26, 1971?
- Who sang My Heart Will Go On, the theme song of the movie Titanic?
- Which actor plays Mr 5. Bean?
- What electrical device is often used to convert between high and low
- On what part of the moon did Neil Armstrong walk in 1969?
- What did James Watson and Francis Crick discover in 1953?
- What is the official national sport of Canada?
- What do we call the amount of data that can be transmitted in a fixed amount of time, usually expressed in bits per second (bps), for digital devices?



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.



Quick Crossword

Across

- Measure of light inten-
- 7. Material for stockings.
- 8. Of the moon.
- 9. Propel a canoe. 11. A little lie.
- 14. Little devil.
- 15. Goal.
- 18. Fury.
- 19. Country south of Nepal.
- 21. Symptom of rabies.

Down

- 1. Cocktail party nibble.
- 2. Zero.
- Missing companionship.
- Person from Gdansk, maybe.
- Coming first.
- Uncommon.
- 10. Minor deity.
- 12. Root vegetable.
- 13. Layers.
- 16. Clean with water.
- 17. Threesome.
- 20. Light, quick stroke.

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.

- What are the seven things that Sheffield (UK) and Rome have in common?
- What part did Ray Bolger play in *The Wizard of Oz?*
- What did the character lack?
- Which of the world's seas is the warmest?
- 5. What was Ernest Hemingway's first novel?
- What company owns the world's secondlargest truck fleet?
- What's the most common non-contagious disease in the world?

- What's the most common 15. Who won the 2005 German surname?
- What did Sherlock Holmes keep in the toe of a Persian slipper?
- 10. Who is captain of Manchester United?
- 11. The tetrahedron, cube, octahedron, dodecahedron and icosahedron are, collectively, what?
- 12. What did Franz X Gruber do on December 24, 1818?
- 13 What is joulupöytä?
- 14. IKEA is an acronym of what?

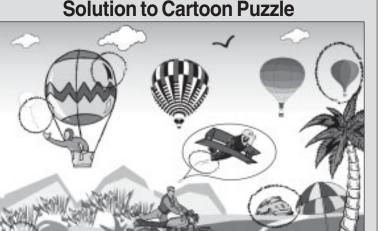
- Nobel Peace Prize?
- 16. What position does he hold?
- 17. Stanley Tookie Williams, recently executed in California, co-formed which infamous gang in 1971?
- 18. Where will you find the new town of Ang Mo Kio?
- 19. What and when was the most powerful explosive device ever detonated?
- 20. Which singer's 2005 greatest hits album is called Pieces Of A Dream?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Hills; 2. The Scarecrow 3. A brain; 4. The Red Sea; 5. The Torrents of Spring; 6. Coca-Cola; 7. Tooth decay; 8. Schultz; 9. Pipe tobacco; 10. Gary Neville; 11. The five Platonic solids; 12. He composed the carol Silent Night; 13. A traditional Finnish Christmas food board; 14. Ingvar Kamprad, Elmtaryd, Agunnaryd, the founder's name and his childhood residence; 15. Mohamed ElBaradei; 16. Director General of the International Atomic Energy Authority; 17. The Crips; 18. Singapore; 19. The USSR's Tsar Bomba in October 1961; 20. Anastacia.



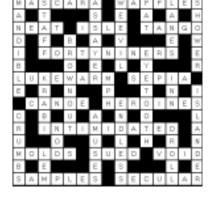
EZ Triva Answers

1. A hamster; 2. The Exxon Valdez; 3. Bangladesh; 4. Céline Dion; 5. Rowan Atkinson; 6. A transformer; 7. The Sea of Tranquillity; 8. Deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA; 9. Lacrosse; 10. Bandwidth.

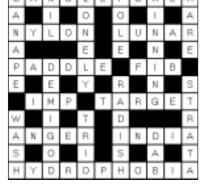
Brain Buster Answer

It is 9 pm

Cryptic Crossword Solution



Quick Crossword Solution



Sudoku solution

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

The hard facts: "It's Official – Thailand Has The Worst Drivers. Thailand has gained the dubious distinction of having the highest road toll per capita in the world, according to the British Medical Journal.

"With a rate of 2.9 people being killed every hour, or 40 for every 100,000 people, and many more being injured, it shows just how blasé Thais are towards road safety. The Thai psyche towards accidents is that it is just fate and has nothing to do with the fact that most can't drive, drive at excessive speed, drink and drive, drive at night without lights, never obey road rules, travel on the wrong side of the road, overtake on blind hills and bends, and rarely wear safety helmets or wear seat belts.

"It was estimated that traffic accidents cost the country economic losses accounting for 2.23% of GDP each year. It is not as if road rules are not in place, the country has a set of rules that are comparable with any in the Western world, it is just that the police do not enforce them.

"A recent example seen by this writer was when a motorcyclist fell from his machine at 2am after a heavy evening on the drink. A policeman in uniform quickly ran over to help the rider back onto his bike and set him back on his way. The rider was clearly unable to control the bike, which is why he fell off in the first place. He also wore no helmet and had on no lights." (1)

Big is not better: "There is something very funny in Patong, like in all the Phuket Island and even all the touristics area in Thailand: the roads are barely fit for big 4x4 cars, however there is always a smiling thai to rent big motorcycles and big cars (that's why sometimes a group come to thailand with 3 or 4 peoples and leave only at 2 or 3, true story). I just realize,

Do you 'ave a vroom?

OUTSIDE

IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello dearies! With the Silly
Season once more upon us it
behooves me to encourage you
all out there to be careful on the
roads and to drink in moderation
when out driving the Roller.
Circumspection on the roads is the
password, my loves. In other
words, get blasted at home! Don't
lose face, get off your face! Walk
into the wall instead of driving into
one! Trip over the dog instead of
driving through a safety barrier
and plummeting 100 feet into the
Andaman! Vroom, vroom indeed!

watching this shop full of big motorcycles how much us, farangs and tourists are silly (or maybe those guys who rent it are very nasty)." (2)

But no road rage: "As most of you are already aware, the standard of driving [on Phuket] is terrible. The driver has took me to the airport a few times, and every time I have thought it was going to be my last day on earth. This was no exception... What I am very surprised at is the calm-

ness of the drivers. Somebody will pull out or do some other really stupid manoeuvre and they dont bat an eyelid! In the UK road rage is almost a hobby. Somebody does something slightly wrong and the minimum they get is 'the finger'." (3)

Thus spake wikitravel: "You can rent a car or motorbike for exploring the island on your own, and this is a cost-effective way of getting off the beaten track. However, given the atrocious driving habits of most locals and the resulting carnage on Phuket's roads every year (see Stay safe), consider carefully if it's worth it." (4)

And now for something completely dif**ferent:** "Nothing in this country can be subtle, tourist buses... are painted in the some of the most garish paint jobs possible purples, reds, blues, greens, whites, oranges... and thats just the front! and of course there is a 1000gigawatt stereo or band at the back of each bus pumping out music. Go into any bar with a live band and the music tends to be an 11 on the volume scale of 10. Why I dont know because you just hear volume rather than the band. An evening of shouting to talk to someone is not my idea of a good time but it obviously is someones as that is the norm rather than an exception. And another thing they stupidly do is put the band on at the same time as the football! WHY ???"

Money talks: "I made the effort to go to Kata beach (again misspelled – it should be 'Gata'). I found a motorbike guy to take

me for 100 baht, enough to go halfway across Bangkok in a taxi. ... But, the beach was still covered with chairs, and the bastards wanted 100 baht. Extortion. The town of Kata was nice, and not in your face like Patong. There were even budget restaurants. When it came time to return, I couldn't find a motorbike guy, so I had to take a super tuk tuk. 200 baht. Ouch. If transportation weren't prohibitively expensive on Phuket, it would be ideal to stay in Kata, and commute to Patong at night.

"Everything is expensive in Patong, especially food. Most restaurants serve seafood, so a meal for less than 100 baht is a challenge... My strategy of doing no research on my destination backfired this time. I told a taxi driver to take me to a cheap hotel, and he took me to the third worst place I've ever seen. I said I didn't like it, and he took me to the second worst place I've ever seen. I paid him (too much) and wandered around randomly on foot, and found the absolute worst place I've ever stayed at. At least it's only \$5." (6)

- 1. http://www.thainews.com.au/past53. html
- 2. http://www.thai-blogs.com/index.php?author=145
- 3. http://www.phuket-info.com/forums/board-members-tour/2527-dirty-mikes-tour-day-8-last-day.html
- 4. http://wikitravel.org/en/Phuket
- 5. http://iainbangkok.tripod.com/diary2004.html
- 6. http://www.terrystrek.com/archive/000356.html

ine months ago, I reviewed a memoir by Ian Denys Peek about his experiences as a slave laborer on the Death Railway.

As a British enlisted man, he had nothing but contempt for the officer class who were content to idle away their time, living on superior rations and being waited upon by batmen. Though he mentioned no names, he did single out two British colonels for exemplary leadership and a crusading concern for their men. One of them was almost certainly Colonel Philip Toosey.

Toosey's granddaughter, Julie Summers, has written a biography of the real hero of the River Kwai: *The Colonel of Tamarkan: Philip Toosey and the Bridge on the River Kwai* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2005, 410pp). An experienced writer, Summers keeps her story galloping along. After 90 pages we are with Toosey and his men as they are herded into captivity after the Fall of Singapore.

But she does an admirable job in establishing the colonel's character beforehand. He was born in 1904, and grew up in a large middle-class family in a large house in the village of Oxton, overlooking the Mersey River and city of Liverpool.

He was not much good at books and declined to attend university, but he was an avid footballer, grouse hunter, beer drinker and genial companion. He went to work for a bank and was



By James Eckardt

often sent on extended business trips to South America. When World War II broke out, he was the leader of an artillery unit in Belgium and led his men to safety at Dunkirk. One incident is telling of his leadership style:

"Toosey had the greatest difficulty keeping [his unit] moving and a young bombardier who had fired over 150 rounds and was completely worn out kept falling asleep. 'I always had to wake him, and finally with considerable irritation I gave him a tremendous crack on his backside with the back of a spade. He turned round to me and he said: 'Bugger you, sir' to which I replied, 'Let us wait and see until we get home to see who does what to whom.' The man later apologised, but Toosey had nothing but praise for him: 'He was a splendid man and typical of the sort of Lancashire troops we had in those days."

It would take all his powers of leadership to hold his troops together with high discipline and

The real hero of the River Kwai story

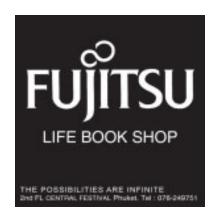
morale during the horrendous year (1942-1943) of the Death Railway. As senior officer, he stood up to sadistic Japanese guards, maintained strict sanitary standards, comforted the sick, averted epidemics, supervised the smuggling of medicine by Thai sympathizers, and always led by example. At the so-called "hospital camp" of Tamarkan, he and his medical officers saved countless numbers from death.

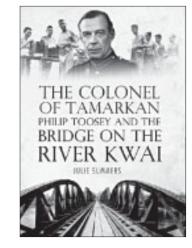
In January 1945, he and other officers were transferred from Kanchanaburi to construct a new camp in Nakhon Nayok. The farewell from the enlisted men left behind showed their undying loyalty:

"The men had been told that they were not to demonstrate in any way at all, as we felt it would only result in punitive measures being taken against them. However, they lined our exit route, every single man in the place who could stand on two feet, and shouted 'Goodbye, see you again

sir' and all sorts of pleasant messages. It was a most heart-warming experience and a most wonderful demonstration of loyalty which will remain in my mind always."

The rigors of constructing a new camp nearly killed Toosey, laying him low for weeks with pneumonia, but he survived to accept the sword from the Japanese camp commander days after the Hiroshima A-bomb and to get riotously drunk in Bangkok with Boon Pong, the Thai mer-





chant and chief medicine smuggler who had saved so many of





Thank goodness for pretty girls with happy faces smiling in the sun.

They call it stormy every day

eople across the island are gloomy and complaining; the tourists have long faces and nobody's buying anything. The "Village Goms" – grumpy old men – are squabbling again and everybody is generally "rained out".

What is it with this weather? Global warming of course, or so somebody says.

All I know is that my place is a mess and schedules are slipping. I can't think of a subject for this column, so it's just a general grumble in keeping with the spirit of things.

We still haven't got rid of the public announcement loudspeakers on my street: "Waak – waak – waak." If the racket doesn't stop or, worse, increases, the noise will be a serious threat to this area's future.

Since somebody had the bright idea to put those speakers up, one of the neighbors down the other end of the road has put up some small, even tinnier-sounding, ones.

He's promoting fish and vegetables prices at Khun Daeng's stand in the local market. The whole street is going to the dogs; it's going to be a day-

LARGER By Graham Doven

time version of Soi Bangla, without the girls and the music – just an unholy hullabaloo. "Come and buy a retirement house..."

There have been a few bright spots in the past weeks: the PIMEX boat show at Boat Lagoon was good. There was even one whole day without even a sprinkle of rain.

That's how my photo turned out so well – pretty girls with happy faces smiling in the sun do no end of good to cheer up matters, especially at a boat show.

Boats are fun, but, like holiday resorts, it can be particularly miserable when it rains... people huddle under small awnings or cockpit shades, or sit in restaurants staring out at nothing.

Much of the time the boat show was dry and sales were good. Obviously, confidence in Phuket's future as a marine and boating destination is high. The marinas on the drawing board are fascinating, too. Which ones will come to fruition, and where?

We hear a lot about one new marina on the drawing board, but then it is announced that it's not really a full-blown marina, but a place where project residents can moor their boats – in other words, private berths.

It's always interesting to hear rumors bandied about; it helps keep interest up.

"A casino is coming!" I've heard. It's going to be here then it's going to be there; it's going to be on a small, outlying – duty-free - island. Or well-known politicians are buying up lots of land somewhere else, so that's where it will be... Then, "It's going to be an IT center!"

"Going to be" is a choice

I'd like to hear a rumor that the road drains are "going to be"

Hope so. My car park is flooded, which is usual when there's a downpour, because nobody is really interested in fixing the drainage problems.

And I had to send this column to the paper via the telephone line as my ADSL was down probably because of the rain.

I hope the deluge ends soon.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

Glue Sniffers in Can

From the Gazette of December, 1995

PHUKET TOWN: Detectives in Phuket Town raided a house in Tambon Rassada where teenagers gathered to sniff glue. Four suspects were captured along with seven cans of 3-K glue, the Jack Daniels of the genus.

Police went to the house at 9:50 pm the night of November 19, placed it under surveillance, and then made the arrests.

The four were interrogated, charged with possession of mindaltering inhalants, and, following full confessions, jailed.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): One way or another, your heart is likely to rule your head this holiday weekend. A mutual attraction burns strongly at a social get-together and the singles among you won't be pulling crackers alone. If you're already in an established relationship, surprise your partner with a meaningful gift; he or she has been feeling left in the shade lately. The number 7 is lucky on Thursday. Wear snow white to encourage pure thoughts.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Santa is poised to deliver one gift that wasn't on your wish list. However, you will be delighted with the contents of this special package. In romance, this is not the time to be timid. The jolly atmosphere gives you confidence to bare your soul – a commitment is likely to be made. The color holly-berry red will help to boost your energy levels over the holiday period.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If the sound of bells jingling doesn't put you in the festive spirit, spare a thought for those dear to you who would appreciate having festive fun in the sun. Indulge in some frivolous extravagances; your frugal nature will ensure that finances are boosted again early next year. You are about to make a tempting business proposition that would put your hidden talents to good use.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Someone is going to upset the mango cart this weekend, but you will be in the right place at the right time to pick up the pieces. Try to make allowances for this untoward behavior so as to avoid any bad feelings that dampen the merry mood. You will be particularly pleased with a gift that has nothing to do with material matters. Avoid becoming as fat as Santa by eating carefully.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): This should turn out to be an enjoyable Christmas for you. You begin the weekend in a mellow mood which makes others want to share your space. Saturday looks promising for making new acquaintances who could become seasoned friends. If you didn't manage to complete work assignments in time, delaying deadlines will be acceptable. Wear ivy green in a seasonal spirit.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): The stars smile on Geminis who take a chance on love this weekend. The Christmas spirit is strong and Aries is ready to match your mood. If you've been involved in an on-off relationship recently, a crossroads is about to be reached. An important midweek appointment should not be rescheduled; the other person involved will appear not to mind, but this is really not the case.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Allow yourself some freedom this weekend. Many of you have imposed a rigid routine upon yourselves and possibly those close to you – lately, but this is achieving nothing but frustration. Even if you would prefer to let Christmas pass by unnoticed, a quality period of relaxation will set you up for the coming months. Love is in the air; wear the color tangerine orange to activate your sensual side for an important date.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your tendency to play with fire could result in burned fingers this week. Those of you who are inclined to take someone's word at face value could have a nasty shock in store. As long as you stay cool, this drama will be averted. A package from overseas arrives just in time to make your Christmas. Wear shiny silver jewelry to attract the attention of a special someone.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will be giving a sigh of relief that the countdown to Christmas is over. The shopping frenzy your family seems to have been involved in for weeks is now over. Counting the cost won't produce as much of a headache as you expect, as an end-of-year financial gain is forecast. This windfall will give you the incentive to work even harder next year. Lonely friends appreciate your hospitality this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Business is going to boom in 2006 and you will receive an indication of how much this week. Others are determined to carry on working, regardless of how much you try to convince them to get into the holiday mood. Take quality time out this weekend with family and friends who feel the same, and don't feel guilty about switching lines of communication off. Number 2 looks promising on Wednesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those in the mood to flirt with danger this weekend need serious grounding. You should look back on the last occasion this inclination landed you in uncomfortably hot water. Luckily, a romantic reason to get sidetracked is about to present itself. The calming presence of Taurus is poised under the mistletoe. The color walnut brown will help bring you down to earth.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You can look forward to a dream coming true this Christmas. You will want to share your good mood with others, and the social whirl could carry on until late next week. If your partner can't keep up, make time to spend some intimate candlelit moments together. This would be the ideal opportunity to open your heart regarding underlying tension in the relationship. Make an important phone call on Saturday.

2,000 corpses to be reburied From the Gazette of in mass grave December 15-31, 2000

PHUKET: The Kusonlatham Foundation has announced that February 7 and March 27 next

This will be the fourth time that unclaimed bodies in Phuket have been reburied. The first time was in 1976 and the most recent was in July 1989.

About half of the corpses involved in the mass reburial are Thai, the other half being those of migrant workers.

The reburial will begin with four days and nights of Taoist ceremonies at the Kwangtung Cemetery on Sakdidet Rd, Phuket Town.

Kusonlatham members and

volunteers wishing to make merit will then exhume the 2,000 bodit will exhume and rebury some ies from the Khao Rang Cem-2.000 unclaimed bodies between etery, the cemetery behind the Surakul Stadium and the Ghim

> Sun Cemetery in Kathu. Recently-buried bodies will be cleaned of flesh - which will be cremated at the Kwangtung Cemetery – and the bones of the 2,000 corpses will then be reinterred in a mass grave in the Khao Rang cemetery.

> This will probably be the last time such a reburial will take place in Phuket. Because of a lack of space in the island's mortuaries and cemeteries, unclaimed bodies are now cremated within a couple of days of death.

A crisis of faith? You couldn't really planet



see from the papers that scientists are saying that Pluto may not be a planet after all. It may merely be one of millions of nondescript objects littering the Kuiper Belt, a sort of junkyard of the Solar System out beyond Neptune.

Well, that's scientists for you. These guys are supposed to know what they're doing, but they're always changing their

I mean, there have been nine planets in the Solar System ever since I was in the fourth grade, and now they want to downsize it to eight.

Scientists do this sort of thing all the time. They used to tell us the Sun revolved around the Earth. Then Galileo came along and told us the Earth revolved around the Sun. Well, which is it, guys?

I have always been a pre-Galileoan. (Hey, try saying that out loud without dropping a vowel somewhere...) Since we human beings are the dominant species on this planet, it is much more prestigious for us to have the Sun revolve around us than to have us revolve around it. I mean, think of the loss of face.

Now, not only do scientists tell us the Earth revolves around the Sun, now they're telling us there may be only eight planets. Next thing, they'll be telling us that the Moon isn't made from green cheese.

It seems you can't believe in anything any more. When I was a little kid and in Sunday school, my Protestant teachers told me that the Catholics are stupid because they believe the Pope is infallible. That sounded OK to me, even though I didn't know who the Pope was, or what "infallible" meant. No human being is infallible, they told me.

OK, I said, that's cool. But then they told me that only the Bible is infallible. Duhhh, great, I said.

I was such an agreeable little cuss that it took me a very long time to figure out that if no human being is infallible, that puts the Bible in a very awkward position, because the Bible was written by humans. In fact, it was written by humans who believed in witches and demons.

But the thing that really shook my did not contain a single word affirming the existence of Santa Claus. If the guys who wrote the Bible were infallible, I thought, for sure they would have told us about Santa Claus.

So now I've lost my faith twice: first in the Bible, and now in science.

(You'll notice the scientists are keeping quiet about the existence of Santa Claus, just like there is no mention of him in the Bible. I suspect there may be a vast, worldwide conspiracy going on here.)

What makes it worse is that the scientists are not actually telling us that Pluto is not a planet. They're telling us they're not sure.

Here we are getting all this shillyshallying.

It's a little bit like CNN, which is always asking its "question of the day". That usually goes something like this: "Do you think the Iraqis should hold their election under the current shaky security situa-

How the hell would we know? That's exactly what CNN is supposed to tell us. But instead of doing their job, they weasel out of it and tell us to figure it out for our-

So there is not much difference befaith in the Bible was the discovery that it tween the scientists and CNN, except that CNN has better-looking anchor chicks. Next thing you know, CNN will be asking us, "Do you think Pluto is a planet, or a mere object in the Kuiper Belt?'

Since the scientists are so wishywashy on this issue, we ought to solve it the democratic way, the CNN way. We should hold an election to decide how many planets there are.

I favor 10, because that's a nice round number. If they can't find another planet out there, we should call our moon the tenth planet. We can justify this on the grounds that the Moon has been doing a very good job, moonwise and for quite a while now, and definitely deserves a pro-

It will also enhance our prestige, because lots of planets have moons, but ours will be the only planet that has a planet. One made of green cheese.

S. Tsow, who has received plaudits for his wide-ranging spurious knowledge, can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's struggling to pronounce "pre-Galileoan". A new collection of his ravings, Thai Lite 2, is now available at indiscriminating bookstores. Get your copy before it's banned.

We are changed for ever, our innocence is lost

his festive season I would like to take the opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas. Obviously, for many people there is a dark cloud hanging over the day, and December 26 will be a tough day.

In trying to think of some words of comfort and encouragement, I found myself turning back to the eulogy I wrote and read at the Phuket International Hospital service a week after the wave. The service was intended to offer thanks and comfort to those who so generously gave their time, resources and efforts. I think it bears repeating here and now.

natural disasters mankind has suffered in modern times. We are changed for ever, our innocence is lost, and now we have the unwelcome knowledge of how fragile we are.

"Some of us were compelled to help because we had the skills, specifically doctors and nurses. But hundreds – perhaps thousands – of people from every walk of life stood up to be counted and helped in whatever way they could.

"And this must be how such tragedies are treated, not by one big idea or one big intervention,



By Konrad Stalin (Konradstalin@hotmail.com)

but by millions of small actions that add up to the answer.

"As some of us return to our "other" lives, we may come across people, perhaps even loved ones, who do not understand what we have seen. They may question our motives, our decisions or simply say the wrong

"We must be kind to them "We have been the victims and we must cherish them, for and witnesses to one of the worst they still have the innocence we have lost for ever.

> "We are naturally compelled to survive and eventually thrive again. Our losses are great and the pain is at times unbearable. However, in time the pain will ease, and this is the nature of recovery.

> "We must not feel guilty as we re-engage in the trivia of daily life, for we have the chance to do so. Those we have lost do not.

> "Out of respect for them, we should all, regardless of which faith we hold, resolve to define the rest of our lives by exhibiting the generosity of spirit, love and

compassion that we have found residing in our hearts. We also owe them a promise to make the rest of our lives a beautiful and noble example to all."

The path often taken: The connections between the nether lands of Phuket and Udon Thani have always been strong. Many of their young women flock here to seek their fortune in a variety of industries. Although these women are typically from sturdy farming stock, they seek to reap a different crop here.

A couple of weeks ago, as is occasionally required, I had to head upcountry and spend a few days among the paddy fields. Two hours out of Udon on barely traversable roads, traveling is a trek indeed. I have done it before so I stocked up on farang consumables at both Pizza Hut and Tesco Lotus in town before heading to all points north-east.

The first evening went predictably enough: the entire village showed up and I bought them copious amounts of cheap whisky after which I was pronounced jai dee maak maak.

The next day I went on a tour around the village on a decrepit bicycle and, needing to stop to buy water, I dismounted at a local shop. As I was getting off my bike, a motorcycle pulled up beside me and parked.

An old geezer got off the bike, popped down its stand and said "Hello." I looked at the bike incredulously; it was black with orange writing on it that said... *Tai* Pan Disco Patong. It was one of the bikes they used to raffle off years ago and it was still in excellent service on the back roads of the boonies! Marvelous. I called in to the club to tell Bob about it and we both wished I'd had my camera with me.

The best news to hit Toon **Town in years:** For many years Saxophone, near the Victory Monument in Bangkok has been the country's leading live music venue. The best play there and some of the best people eat drink and drink in this fine establish-

Well, they have opened a branch in Patong, on the beach road near Rock City and it's stunning. There's a brilliantly designed



beautiful interior, a great stage and everything is just spot on.

There is a resident blues band plus "The Mangolites" and several other top bands will be featured there. At last! Somewhere of genuine quality for the island's resident couples to hang their hats on in town. Brilliant.

A few meters down the road, Rock City is doing absolutely roaring trade and I have a feeling this area is really about to take off.



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Memorials mark one year on, but not an end to suffering

Anyone who was here when the tsunami hit a year ago will recall the huge outpouring of sympathy for foreigners on the part of Thais. The Gazette recalls one story in particular, of a Thai man in Khao Lak who carefully guided a foreign family to a place where they could get help. When he had done this, he went back to look for his own missing daughter. It is not recorded whether he found her.

Many of those who were here on vacation and who lost loved ones or were injured wrote to the Gazette to express gratitude to the Thai people.

Those who lost loved ones will never get over the pain. But whereas bereaved foreign visitors face a lifetime of loss, most could at least go back to homes, jobs and community support in their own

In the worst-hit parts of Thailand, however, thousands lost not only loved ones but also their homes, possessions, livelihoods – and much of the community support they could have expected before the

The struggle to get over such massive loss is unimaginable for those who have never experienced it; these are the people who need the greatest amounts of support.

It was therefore saddening to learn that local people will not be featured on stage during the official high-profile commemorative ceremony to take place in Khao Lak on December 26. So many politicians are jockeying for places that there will apparently be no room on the stage for locals or the many selfless volunteers who have come to help them rebuild their lives.

No fewer than seven Cabinet members will be involved, threatening to turn what should be an occasion to help heal deep wounds into party-political rah-rah.

The greatest danger may be that once the ceremony is done and dusted, politicians will close the book on this sad chapter and begin to regard the tsunami suffering as effectively over. After all, one year will have passed, with thousands of new houses and boats built and no one starving or lacking the bare essentials. It's time to move on, they may say.

The Gazette hopes this will not happen. As any volunteer working with Thais affected by the tsunami will tell you, thousands are still struggling to hold their fragile lives together. Many will need support for years before they are truly ready to stand on their own feet again.

Then, perhaps, they will have the luxury – if that is what it could be called – of time to grieve. - The Editor

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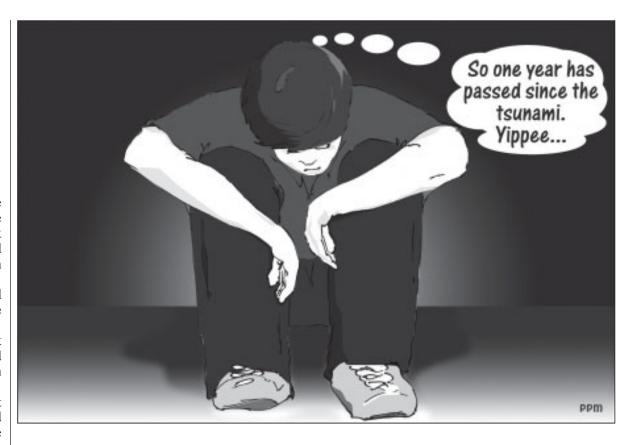
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Letters

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Too little bandwidth – or censorship?

I have tried all the major ADSL providers to compare Internet speed in an effort to discover what is slowing the speed down. My conclusion is this: misleading advertising.

Users of Hi-Net from CAT are told that the connection-touser ratio depends on the package: "Premium" offers one connection per 5 users at 2,800 baht a month, while "Standard" offers one connection per 50 users at 999 baht a month.

My research showed that 100 or more people share one connection. Depending on the time of day, you may get higher bandwidth if the connection is not occupied by other people sharing your line.

CAT advertises that the speed of the line when one person is on one line is 2 Megabits (Mbps) per second.

So 100+ people sharing one line means, well you do the math yourself. Most ISPs are in the same situation, and their advertising misleads the public.

Another problem is the backbone between Phuket and Bangkok, rated at 200Mbps. Considering the numbers in Phuket using the Internet, this is not enough bandwidth. The connection between Thailand and other countries is about 50% of what is needed. Supposedly, if you are connecting to a US-hosted site, the CAT line usually routes your packet to Verio Network or Level3 Network (Secondary). If your access is routed to Verio Network, you get a speedier connection than that of Level3.

Recently, CAT added three more routes before the signal

exits Thailand (3 hops). I suspect these hops are controlled by CAT & ICT to limit and monitor your access. ICT, as far as I know, blocks signals to more than 1,000 sites and servers.

Google.com is not in available in China, and it seems Thailand is taking the same path in order to control access to information on the Internet.

> David Phuket City

Blues festival had a real hard edge

I have been coming to Kata/ Phuket for many years for the month of December. This year I have experienced two outrageous firsts: 1. Deplorable weather and 2. Extremely good musical enter-

1. was at its worst just before 2. (Phuket's first blues festival) took place, at the Hilton in

The whole production was moved inside at the last minute and the show went on. Not knowing this, I did not go Friday, but Saturday afternoon I got the word and my buddy and I headed for the Hilton.

Comfortably seated in the ballroom with plenty of food and drink within arm's reach, we had one of the greatest nights ever.

The music started with a local band called Hacksaw Nelson (or something like that) and the Groove Doctors. Folks these guys were great! Where in Phuket do they normally play?

Then we had Bangkok's superb high-energy Cannonball band which played excellent blues/ballad-style music. I especially enjoyed the keyboards player with his great voice.

Next, we were treated to a set by Kyla Brox, daughter of the legendary Victor Brox, who, I understand, played to an enthusiastic crowd the night before.

It's been a while since I have heard such a wonderful female voice, and backed up by a guy who made an acoustic guitar sound like an ensemble, these two

When her father joined her on stage and made the walls feel like diaphragms bursting from the volume and power of his voice, I just had to stand up and cheer. It was like being back in the '70s!

During the breaks the Emcee did a great job entertaining us, giving away dinner vouchers and even lots of free beer! Now that's my kind of festival!

The evening's headliners – the Rich Harper Blues Band deserve a page of their own in the new book of blues/rock history. What a show, and what a sound from a three-piece band!

Maybe it was the ambiance. Maybe it was the by-now-significant amount of free beer – but, as contemporary bands go, in my opinion, only U2 can match the fat sound of these guys I'd never heard of before.

The show was superbly managed. No hiccups of any kind occurred; a tremendous accomplishment for a first-time big event, especially when considering what the organizers must have gone through to move it all inside at the last minute.

Well done, Phuket! This was an excellent example of what is needed here and what can be accomplished once the right individuals take the initiative. Put the show on again next year, and I will be back with all my buds!

> John Morris Seattle, USA

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.

hailand's borders encompass 514,000 square kilometers and "more than 585,200 places where liquor can be purchased," according to Excise Department Director-General Uthit Thamawathin.

That's roughly one place for every 75 people. K. Uthit has been charged with reducing this statistic, and to that end announced on November 17 new regulations which, if strictly enforced, could make buying a beer problematic.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, head of a party that has its roots in the Santi Asoke Buddhist revival movement of the past decade, has emphasized repeatedly since taking office in 2001 that he wants to reduce significantly the number of liquor establishments in Thailand.

When some objected that doing this might hurt tourism, he said bluntly that the country had more to offer than cheap booze and needn't rely on drunken tour-

He has since proved himself a clever campaigner, moving slowly but inexorably against not only alcohol consumption, but illicit drug use, blue movies, gambling, noisy discos, teenage sex, suggestive photos and smoking. PM Thaksin is nothing if not persistent and has stocked government offices with like-minded people.

The campaign against liquor and cigarettes is plainly part of what might be described as the government's blue-law package. Notices went out to local Excise Offices a week after the new liquor law was published in the Royal Gazette, instructing them to collect information for use in reducing the sale of alcoholic bev-

Temperance in Thailand: the Prohibition Syndrome

erages "in consonance with new ministerial regulations".

So what are these new ministerial regulations? According to Excise chief Uthit, the ones to come into force January 1 target retail shops "on the premises or in the vicinity of educational facilities, religious places and fuel stations."

"All alcoholic beverage sale permits expire December 31," K. Uthit said. "Those of shops in forbidden places will not be renewed. The process of screening is already underway."

The new Alcohol Con-

sumption Control Act also limits sales at the remaining shops to 10 hours a day: from 11 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to midnight. Sales

to minors are strictly forbidden wall," it was explained, "shops and shop owners say they have been told that alcoholic beverage stock must, like cigarettes, be hidden from view.

No advertising will be allowed till after 10 pm and the possibility of forbidding sales on Sunday was announced by Dr Narong Sahamethapat, Deputy Director-General of the Disease Control Department.

K. Uthit noted that penalties for violation are severe: if a shop's permit is revoked, no alcohol sales will be allowed on the

property for five years – irrespective of who owns it. "No proprietor found in violation, [or] persons with the same surname or shareholders [will] be allowed a permit for the same length of time," he said, adding, "The law will be strictly enforced."

But will it? A call earlier this month to the Phuket Provincial Excise Office suggested no sense of urgency or mission: staff there were busy processing renewal applications, which must be submitted in person.

No special screening has been undertaken and no officers

are available to check shop locations.

Officials were nevertheless aware of the law: "Vicinity' in this case means sharing a

across the street from schools or temples are probably okay."

By Tang Rob

How officials will tackle the delicate issue of denying permits to important vendors has not been broached: one of Phuket's larger retail stores, Big One, has a branch on Chao Fa East Rd, the parking lot of which is separated from a Christian church by a wall.

When Between The Lines asked if Big One would be prevented from selling alcohol, the reply was, "Officials will have to take a look." In fact, it appears

officials are not anxious to embroil themselves in what is shaping up to be a controversial law.

Initially, the campaign will hit fuel station mini-marts, of which K. Uthit said there are more than 10,000 nationwide. Inspecting each could take a long time.

Then there are the temples. Alcoholic beverages are commonly served at temple fairs and funerals: In fact, during dry holidays, such fairs are often the only place to buy a drink.

Temperance, however, is one of Buddhism's core teachings, so liquor has always been forbidden at wats, at least offi-

That raises the issue of enforcement. Thais see temples as sacred, so they are regulated by

The latter are sensitive to criticism from local people, whose co-operation and financial support are crucial. So they therefore avoid hassles, and drinking at temples is, in fact, common.

In Phuket, police say they are taking the new laws seriously: "Laws will be strictly enforced," said Phuket City Police Superintendent Pol Col Nos Svettalekha, "to strengthen families and prevent involvement in drugs and vice of every sort."

Indeed, PM Thaksin's Social Order campaign was advanced from the start as a campaign to protect the children, but what good can it do when their influences at home are just the opposite?

In 1872, Britain's lawmakers forced public houses for the first time to close at 11 pm. The legislation precipitated riots throughout the country. Yet, gradually, the British got used to the rule, which was finally repealed last month.

PURITANICAL

The PM's social legislation has spawned demonstrations, but never riots. He has a knack for spinning things out until people get used to the idea then quietly do what he wants.

Though often accused of puritanical sensibilities in the foreign press, in the Thai press he almost never is; it is as if deep down people really do want all temptation removed. So perhaps stricter regulations are inevitable — and who knows, perhaps, as in Britain, they will last 133

PM Thaksin might want to note, however, why those British laws were repealed: it was said that they had created a nation of binge drinkers; the cure was worse than the disease. That's not surprising: the 19th Century was an era of vast social engineering schemes - most notably Marxism – all of which failed because people naturally abhor restraints.

A dedicated free marketeer should understand that.

Why did my first-class motor insurance not cover everything?

I was recently in a car accident

My insurance company, Muang Thai Insurance, has agreed to pay for all vehicles involved to be repaired, but has refused to cover a loss-of-earnings claim brought by the owner of the other vehicle, despite my having first-class insurance coverage for my vehicle.

I have asked my insurers "Why?" and have yet to receive a satisfactory answer

Kathu

Sasipong Pirattanaprakom, Manager of Muang Thai Insurance replies:

For people who are injured, that the police deemed to be my the insurance company will pay for 70-80% of loss of earnings while the injured person is unable

If the victim is not injured, but owns the damaged vehicle and relies it to make a living – for example, a taxi driver or a pickup driver who makes a living from transporting goods in his pick-up - we will pay 70-80% of loss of earnings while the injured party is recuperating.

We will not, however, pay for loss of earnings where the victim is using a vehicle supplied by his employer, nor in cases where the victim owns the vehicle but is still able to make a living without it.

Issues & ANSWERS

Have a question or an idea for Phuket's authorities or institutions? Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people.

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

What rules the road?

Motorcycles always stop in front of all the cars at red lights, going well past the stop line. Why is this with it? allowed?

In addition, Thai law seems to be clear that motorcycles must stay on the left side of road.

But some motorcycles stop on the right side of the road at junctions, which is dangerous when the lights change and cars want to turn right.

At intersections where there are two lanes each way, the right lane should be for cars turning right and the left lane for cars turning left or going straight on.

But some drivers come along the right-hand lane and go straight on, which is dangerous for cars in the left lane that want to go straight as well.

Why do the police allow these rule-breakers to get away

Pol Lt Col, Weerawat Jantarawijit, Deputy Superintendent of Traffic Police, Phuket **City Police Station, replies:**

For motorcyclists and car drivers who contravene the law there are adequate penalties under the law. But the number of vehicles on Phuket's roads has been growing every year, and rush hours morning and evening bring traffic jams.

Many drivers are not interested in the traffic rules. They just want to get from A to B as fast as possible, and don't think about the problems and danger they may cause.

The traffic police don't let Frans Dreamler everyone get away with breaking the rules. But during rush hours, their priority is to minimize traffic jams. If they took time to stop and arrest everyone who broke the rules, the traffic jams would be far worse.

We don't have the technology to catch people breaking rules and to provide evidence for action against them.

In Thai society people tend to see these rules as unimportant; they don't respect the traffic laws. This attitude spreads to foreigners, who also break the rules by not wearing helmets while on motorcycles or by parking in noparking zones or on sidewalks.

ON THE MOVE



Pol Col Prayut Chommalee, 49, from Samut Prakhan, is the new Superintendent of Phuket Provincial Immigration Office. He has a master's degree from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and a degree in political science from Kasetsart University. Previously he was the Superintendent of Immigration 8 at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok, and the Superintendent of the Royal Thai Police Logistics Office.



Veerachai Tantiwathanavallop, 56, from Chachoengsao has been appointed the new Chief of the Phuket Provincial Business Development Office (PBDO). He has a bachelor's degree in law from Kasetsart University. Previously he worked in the same position at Songkhla Provincial Business Development Office for almost two years, and before that he was at the PBDO in Phuket for four years.



Joe S. Kasisopa, 45, from Bangkok, is Managing Director of the Singhara Global Estate. He graduated with a degree in economics from Paddington College in London. Previously, he worked as Manager of Secom (Thailand) Security Communication Co, as Project Manager with Phuket One Real Estate Co Ltd, and as Managing Director of GEO & Son Holding (Russia) Co Ltd.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Warchalking Phuket

ack when wireless Internet access rated as something of a novelty, residents of many urban jungles would carry their computers around, looking for unprotected wireless networks.

When they found an open Wi-Fi connection, these modern-day gumshoes used chalk to mark the locations – a technique that originated with inner-city gangs marking the limits of their turf and, before that, hobos leaving signs where a free meal or shelter might be found.

Warchalkers drew specific symbols on the sidewalk, or the wall of a building, to show *cognoscenti* passing by where they could fire up their laptops and get a decent connection – all for free.

HOTSPOTS

Over the past year I've accumulated a list of free Wi-Fi hotspots on the island. I know the list isn't complete – not even close – but at least it's a start.

In the finest warchalking tradition, I offer this first Warchalking Phuket list for your consideration, and ask you to help by letting me know of all the places I've missed.

There are three kinds of WiFi hotspots on the island:

Pay-by-the-minute hotspots: Starbucks pioneered public Wi-Fi hotspots in Phuket, at both their Patong and Central Festival lo-

Patong and Central Festival locations.

At 150 baht an hour, the

At 150 baht an hour, the Starbucks/KSC connection's pricey but reliable.

In addition, TOT claims it hosts "Flexinet" hotspots all over the island: Bangkok Phuket Hospital, the Baan Suan office in Thalang, Dusit Laguna Beach Resort, Karon Sea Sand Resort, Kata Beach Resort, Novotel Coralia, Pearl Village (Nai Yang), Star Mart (the coffee shop at the Caltex gas station in Kathu), Thara Patong, Tiny Mart, the TOT Customer Care Center in Central Festival, and at the Phuket Airport.

TOT Wi-Fi access in any of these locations costs 200 baht up to a whopping 400 baht an hour

let's warchalk..! SYMBOL KEY ssid OPEN Node bandwidth ssid CLOSED NODE access WEP ssid contact NODE bandwidth blackbeltjones.com/warchalking

In the finest tradition, I offer this first Phuket list for your consideration, and ask you to help

Modern-day gumshoes use chalk to mark the locations – a technique that originated with inner-city gangs marking the limits of their turf



in some hotels. In future updates to my Warchalking Phuket list, I'll mention only the pay-by-theminute locations if they're located in unusual parts of the island.

Hotspots for hotel guests: Some hotels, such as the Holiday Inn in Patong, offer free Wi-Fi access for hotel guests. As long as you're a paying guest, you can use your wireless laptop or PDA, free, wherever the hotel's signal reaches. The Aspasia Resort in Kata and the Burasari Resort in

Patong also have free wireless

access for hotel guests, and for

customers in their restaurants.

Completely free hotspots: Anybody and everybody is welcome to use the free hotspots in various shops, although the host frequently asks that you buy a cup of coffee, or maybe some food, to help defray costs. Some individuals on the island intentionally leave their wireless connections wide open, to help neighbors or travelers caught without a connection

Open networks can be an important resource in case of emergency: many folks – heroes

- in New York opened up their wireless networks immediately after the 9/11 disaster and many in New Orleans bared their connections during the Katrina floods.

My son, Justin, had the chance to visit and test various hotspots around the island during his Christmas break. Here's what he found:

Canal Village at Laguna created the first free-for-customers Wi-Fi access on the island. You can connect anywhere in Canal Village, but you need a logon ID and password, which are available free to any Village Bakery customer. Justin tried to connect at Canal Village but couldn't get a signal.

Watermark Bar & Restaurant has free broadband Wi-Fi for customers, available from 11 am to 11 pm, seven days a week.

It works like a champ – walk into the restaurant or sit outside, flip open your laptop, click a couple of times, and you're in. Justin measured download speeds at 300-350Kbps.

Cape Panwa Hotel has free Wi-Fi access in all public areas, where anybody can log onto the Internet at ADSL speeds. Unfortunately, Justin couldn't test the connection – the guards wouldn't let him in the gate.

My Thai Bar on Soi Eric in Patong claims to have free wireless access for customers. Unfortunately, when we were there, we couldn't get a signal.

Connect Guesthouse on the "out" road for the Paradise Hotel complex in Patong, has free wireless access in the restaurant for customers. Didn't have a chance to test that one, though.

At the risk of tooting my own horn, I've been offering free wireless ADSL Internet access, 24 x 7, at the **Sandwich Shoppe** for more than a year.

The Shoppe's in Patong, off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, near Andaman Beach Suites and the Patong Language School. Measured download speed: 800Kbps. In the morning, anyway.

One other big network that bears mentioning is the Star Cruise liner that slips into Patong Bay every Tuesday.

It sports a massive, free wireless network that extends to all common areas and many individual cabins. From what I've heard, the network is fast and quite reliable.

Help warchalk the island! Don't be bashful! Send me mail...

- Woody Leonhard woody@khunwoody.com

December 24 - 30, 2005 PHUKET GAZETTE 29





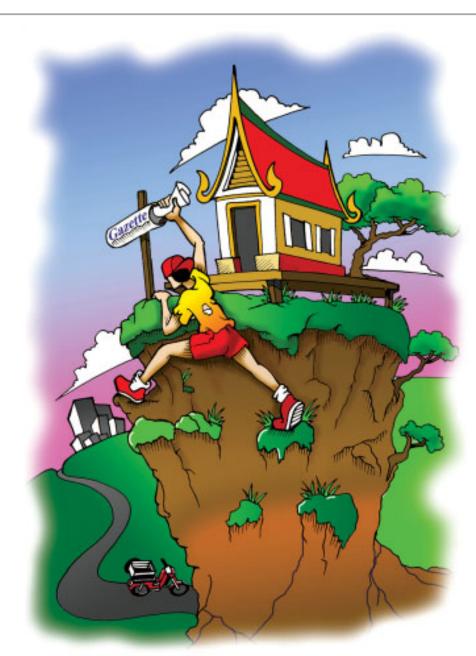
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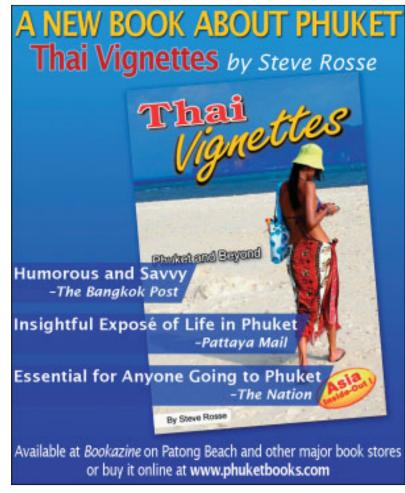
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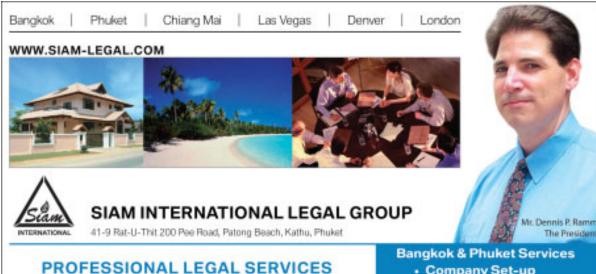
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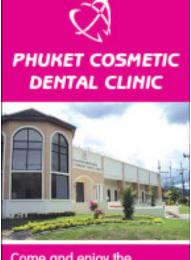
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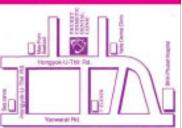




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B2bn boost for Blue Canyon Country Club

of fireworks, set to the strains of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture to mark Blue Canyon Country Club's (BCCC) 15th anniversary on December 14, could not eclipse an announcement beforehand of a 2-billion-baht investment in the golf club.

The investment comes as part of a "strategic partnership" between RREEF Global Opportunities Fund II – an investment fund managed by Deutsche Bank's DB Real Estate (DBRE) - and Murex, the club's owner, which has struggled with debt for many years.

RREEF will become the largest shareholder in the club, giving Murex breathing space to transform the golf course, allowing it to provide, as a media

service, contemporary decor and luxurious amenities".

The refurbishment of BCCC's accommodation will be aided by the expertise of hotelier Adrian Zecha, Chairman of General Hotel Management Ltd; Kerry Hill Architects (KHA); and Jaya Ibrahim & Associates (JIA) of Indonesia.

Mr Zecha, the motive force behind Aman Resorts, will "conceptualize" the villas around the Canyon Course, which will be designed by KHA. The villas will be sold by invitation only.

JIA will take responsibility for redesigning the interior of the clubhouse and the Golfer's Spa Lodge. The group will also oversee the upgrading of the residen-

MAI KHAO: Even the deafening barrage release stated, "...new levels of exemplary tial apartments, including the exterior, and landscaping of the common areas.

KHA and JIA will lead the design and oversee construction of a new "Country Clubhouse", which will boast new sporting, dining and leisure facilities.

"Blue Canyon Country Club is all about building a legend of golfing excellence and creating a lifestyle and community around golf, nature and space," said Sia Leng Yuen, Chairman and CEO of BCCC.

"We are pleased and honored that DB Real Estate, one of the world's largest real estate owners and managers, has joined us in the pursuit of quality and perfection, which will lead to a range of mutually beneficial achievements for both companies," he added.

Morgan A Laughlin, Managing Director of DBRE-Asia said, "We are extremely pleased to have completed this investment by RREEF Global Opportuni-

"Funds managed by DBRE have a long history of successful investment in the hospitality sector globally and we have been investing in the Thai resort sector since 2000.

"We recognize that Blue Canyon Country Club offers an outstanding golf experience and we are strong believers in its potential to become one of the premier integrated resort communities in Asia."

DBRE is already a co-investor in the Evason Phuket and the Evason Hua Hin.

lthough Russia may seem a strange place to contemplate as an investment destination, it has its own attractions, not least of which is that it may suit the more adventurous investor. It is certainly not for the faint hearted.

The country is changing at an incredible pace. The oil-price boom has had a significant impact on the country's finances. Russia is a massive producer of oil, and many in that sector believe that the true extent of its reserves is undiscovered.

It is, however, known that Russia has the second highest oil reserves in the world and when more exploration has been conducted, it may well prove to have the highest reserves – and by a wide margin.

And, while the media have focused on oil price rises in 2005, natural gas prices have risen, proportionally, even more steeply. Russia benefits from being wellendowed with natural gas.

Natural resources are not limited to these areas. Russia also has huge reserves of just about every known mineral. It was hardly surprising that the Russian Central Bank stated that they were contemplating increasing gold holdings in their reserves. They are a major gold producer too, so why not give a boost to an already booming market?

The country appears to be awash with cash and the government has raised pensions and civil service salaries by substantial percentages.

Salaries in cities such as Moscow and St Petersburg are climbing strongly.

Patong

Harbor !

Fortunately, the "free-enterprise system" has long catered for these situations. In fact, this is one reason that stock markets exist. The more successful of these entrepreneurs are now of sufficient standing to be able to list their shares on Russian Trading System (RTS) Stock Ex-

change.

They are no longer just looking at Moscow as a target retail market, and want to be able to expand their businesses by opening branches in other Russian cities and major towns.

The best of these retail businesses are well-managed entities and have access to international investment banking groups. Not only are they starting to list their shares on the RTS, but they are also being accepted for secondary listing, usually on the London Stock Exchange.

This is not an automatic process; to achieve a listing in London requires that the authorities are convinced of the soundness of the business and its accounting practices.

Instead of offering shares for sale in London, the successful Russian companies offer GDRs - Global Depository Receipts. Most readers will never have heard of these financial tools, but they have, in fact, been

Automotive

in existence for decades, as have ADRs – American Depository Receipts. They came into being because fund managers wanted investment to be as simple as possible.

For example, if Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch or any other substantial group wanted to buy shares in, say, Siemens, Deutsche Bank AG or any other major German company 20 or 30 years ago, they faced a serious problem. The German stock exchanges had antiquated and cumbersome systems that made the whole process an exercise in bureaucratic frustration.

OBSTACLES

German companies wanted new investors but realized the practical obstacles. To counter this, they simply issued their shares in the form of ADRs in New York which made it as easy for an American financial institution to buy their shares as those of any New York-listed company.

The German stock exchanges revamped their dealing systems in 1989 and now have one of the world's most advanced dealing platforms. The concept, however, is still popular today on a global basis; it simplifies the whole dealing process.

Lawn & Garden

Obviously, for an individual investor, Russia presents some enormous challenges. To even consider buying a parcel of individual Russian shares requires a dedication to research that is, in practical terms, impossible.

Other routes are investment trusts that specialize in Russia. However, these have another problem.

Should the RTS become overheated at some stage and crash, then the investment trusts will not only reflect the extent of the crash but will also end up trading at a discount to their real asset value. The investor ends up facing a double crash: not a pleasant situation.

Russian investment trusts tend to be designed for institutional investors who want exposure to this market without having to employ a whole team of Russian analysts.

More sensible approaches to the Russian market, especially for individual investors, do exist, however.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuketbased financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile 01-0814611. Email: imm@ loxinfo.co.th

FROM RICHES TO RETAIL: RUSSIA



By Richard Watson

All this sudden wealth, together with a maximum income tax rate of only 13%, have combined to make Russia something akin to a burgeoning consumer paradise.

The latest area of serious investment interest centers around the retail sector. Since the turn of the century, a number of entrepreneurs have borrowed as much as they could and looked almost exclusively to the retail market in Moscow.

They tended to open department stores, and the the more successful of these entrepreneurs saw their businesses grow exponentially. And then they opened more stores.

The only problem they faced was that, to keep up expansion, these new capitalists had to increase their personal levels of debt.

No highly successful entrepreneur, even with a booming business, wants to keep holding a mountain of debt.



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Patong Darts League

It's Nag's Head – by a nose

By Stephen Fein

he results are in (finally) after all the necessary make-up games were played and the Patong Darts League has a new champion: Nag's Head Bar.

Now playing out of Winchester Bar on Soi Sea Dragon, Nag's Head took all three points in an all-important first make-up match on the road at two-time defending champs OffShore, winning 5-4, then taking the beer leg. Then they swept through Didi's with an 8-1, three-point win on the road to wrap it all up.

QUEEN MARY

Coming in second was Queen Mary, who finished strongly with three-point wins in both of their two make-up matches against Off-Shore and Valhalla.

Shakers came in third, splitting their two make-up matches with a narrow three-point win over Dog's Bollocks, but losing all three points at Didi's.

Nag's Head hosted the league party at their new home, the well-appointed Winchester's, on Tuesday, December 20. The new league will likely kick off the following Tuesday, December 27.

Final results: Nag's Head (47 points); 2. Queen Mary (44); 3. Shakers (43); 4. Amigos (39); 5. Offshore (38); 6. Valhalla (34); 7. Piccadilly (31); 8. Dog's Bollocks (28); 9.= African Café, Didi's (22); 10. Didi's (22); 11. Two Black Sheep (18); 12. Coyote Bar (15).



PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) held its annual "Athletic Sports of Students" competition from December 14 to 16 at Surakul Stadium.

The competition attracted 5,500 student athletes between the ages of four and 18 and an audience of 14,500 students from more than 30 schools

across the island. In her speech at the opening ceremony, Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, President of the *OrBorJor*, said, "This competition gives young people in Phuket a chance to enjoy sports, which is good for their health."

The big winner of the day was Satree Phuket School, with five trophies in all.

Three international soccer tourneys

PHUKET: The Football Association of Thailand (FAT) will hold three international soccer tournaments on Phuket from December 26 to 30.

King's Cup 2005

Men's international teams from North Korea, Latvia, Oman and Thailand will compete for the King Bhumibol Adulyadej trophy in the 36th King's Cup 2005. The tournament will kick off at 4 pm on December 26, with the opening match between North Korea and Latvia. The final will be on December 30, starting at 6:15 pm. All matches will be played at Surakul Stadium in Phuket City.

Friendly international women's match

The FAT has also organized a friendly match between the Thai

and Vietnam women's international teams to be held before the King's Cup final at Surakul Stadium, starting at 4 pm.

5-a-side soccer shortage

The FAT has called for foreigners to sign up for its five-aside beach soccer tourney to be held near Karon Circle, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm on December 27.

Although eight Thai teams have already registered for the Thai division of the tournament, so far not a single foreigner has entered the event.

FAT Vice-President Sombat Kinpha said, "The foreign beach soccer tournament is intended to attract tourists to join the tourney. They can register as a team, or individually and be allocated to a team by our staff.

"So far, there has been no

decision as to whether this category should be canceled, but we urge people – especially foreigners – to join this tournament as we don't want to cancel it."

Prize money in the foreign division is 100,000 baht for the winning team, 50,000 baht for the runners-up, and 20,000 baht for third place. In the Thai division, the top team will win 80,000 baht, while the second- and third-placed teams will win 50,000 baht and 20,000 baht respectively.

Teams can register for the tournament before or on December 27. Entry is free.

For more information contact the Phuket Office of the Sports Authority of Thailand at Tel: 076-250110 or the Tourism Authority of Thailand at Tel: 076-212213, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

| SPORTS SHORTS

Bowling for Childcare

PATONG: The Patong Sunday Bowling League raised 20,000 baht for Patong Childcare as part of its Charity Cup held on December 18.

The organizers would like to thank Shynun and Tum from Rock 'n' Bowl for staging the event, as well as all other teams that took part: Coyote Bar, Didi's, Pink Panther, Pizzeria Hut and this year's League Cup winners, Tatum Mansions.

Anyone interested in joining in the next league can stop and see Terry at Amigos on Soi Sea Dragon.

Special Olympics

PHUKET: Phuket Panyanukul School dominated a fun sports competition for handicapped and special needs children in the regional Special Olympics Thailand, at the Saphan Hin Sports Complex on December 15.

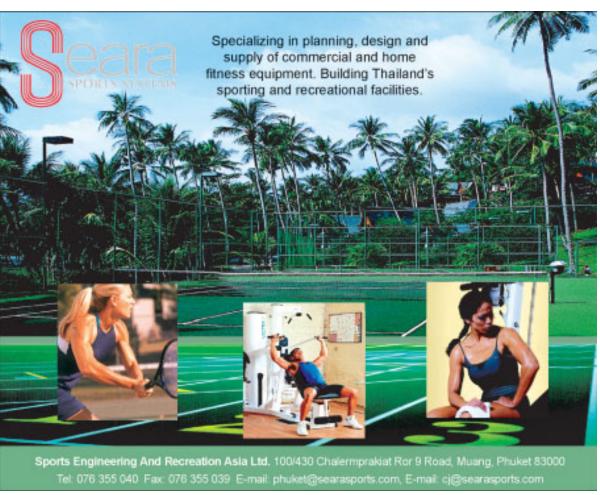
The event was for children with learning and/or movement disabilities, including autism and cerebral palsy. They competed under the Special Olympics motto: "Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt." Events included wheelchair use, as well as events to test the students' mobility, dexterity and swimming abilities.

Results (total medals): 1. Phuket Panyanukul School, Kathu (80); 2. Nakhon Sri Thammarat Panyanukul School (21); 3. Ratchaprachanukrao 6 School (13); 4. Chumphon Panyanukul School (6); 5. Songkhla Pattana Panya School; 6. Chumphon Special Education Center (2); 7. Phuket Special Education Center, Pa Khlok (9); 8. Narathiwat Special Education Center (1).

– Ananya Hongsa-ngiam







KATHU: Teenage golf sensation Nontaya "Net" Srisawang proved to be a new force in local women's golf when the amateur player won the US\$160,000 Thailand Ladies' Masters at Phuket Country Club held from December 15 to 17.

K. Nontaya was still in top form less than three weeks after her victory with the SEA Games team and in individual events, carding an even-par 72 for a three-under 213 on aggregate to emerge as the surprise victor over a field of 91 mostly professional

She became only the second Thai amateur woman golfer to win a trophy in a professional tournament.

PRESSURE

After two straight days of cool breezes and showers, the sky cleared and conditions were tailor-made for golf. The Chiang Mai star shone brightly after saving a par putt on the 18th hole to take the title.

"Frankly speaking, I was so excited coming to the final day. I wanted to win so badly, and carried a lot of pressure. It was a load off my shoulders to finally pull off this victory," said K. Nontaya, who regarded the title as a birthday present, having turned 18 a few days before.

As the surprise overnight leader at three-under, K. Nontaya intended to play it safe on the last day, believing an even-par score would be enough for victory.

"The weather was better than the past two days, so I hoped to get more birdies," she said.

Thai teen in shock Ladies' Masters win

"But every time I had birdies I US\$22,500 in prize money. So the slipped up by hitting bogeys. That made me more confident to play safely rather than aggressively.

"I told myself if I could hold on to the three-under lead, I stood a shot at winning," added K. Nontaya, who had birdies on the fifth, sixth and 14th holes and bogeys on the third, eighth and 13th.

But the highlight of her day was when she just missed a holein-one on the par-3 14th, leaving her approach shot on the edge of the hole.

When she sank her birdie putt to regain her three-shot advantage, it became clear no one could catch her.

Despite her victory and her recent SEA Games success, Nontaya will not turn professional until the end of 2006.

"I have already set out my program for next year. I will play for Thailand as an amateur and take part in some international events. So by the end of the year I should be ready to turn pro," she

As an amateur, K. Nontaya was not eligible for the top award went to runner-up Park Hee Young of South Korea, who had an eagle on the par-five 10th on her way to a four-under 68 and a three-under 214 over-

The Thailand Ladies' Golf Association and Phuket Country Club announced that donations from the Pro-Am play of the event and other sources totaled 520,000 baht, all of which was presented during the award ceremony to trustees of the Yuvabadhana Foundation, which supports the education of Thai tsunami orphans.

Phanphen Phoonwathu, President of the Thailand Ladies' Golf Association, said that everyone was happy with the organization of the event.

K. Nontaya's excellent play in the wet conditions demon-



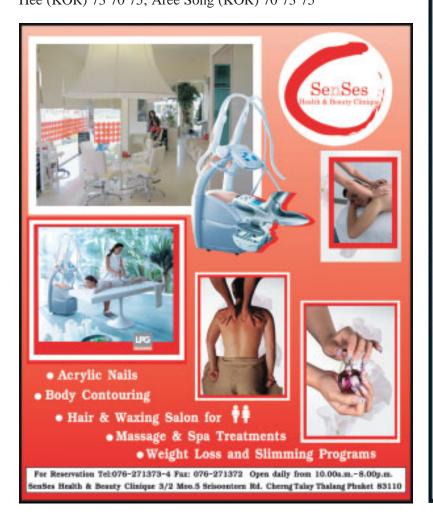
A delighted K. Nontaya. She now plans to turn pro in 2006.

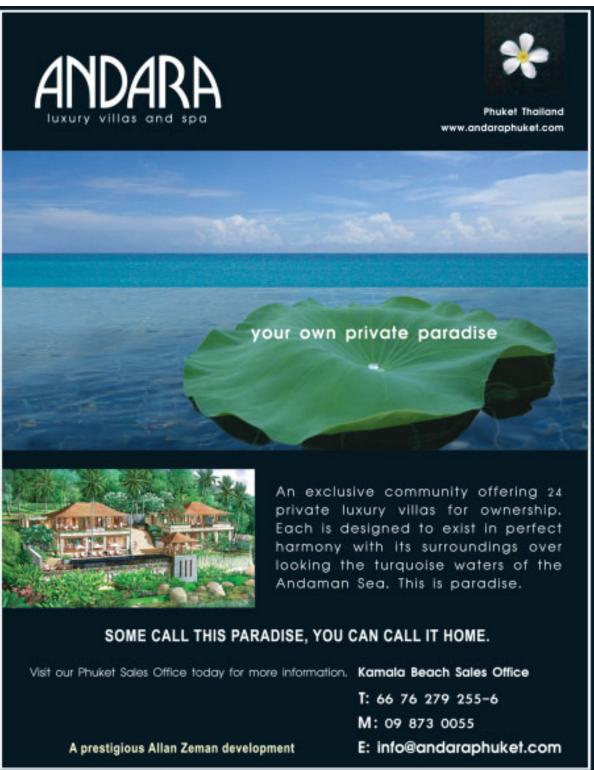
to be reckoned with in women's time, K. Phanphen added.

strated that she is already a force golf – and will only get better with

FINAL SCORES =

- 213 Nontaya Srisawang (THA) 73 68 72
- 214 Park Hee Young (KOR) 76 70 68
- 215 Ji Eun Hee (KOR) 70 72 73 215
- 216 Siew Al Lim (MAS) 76 70 70; Shin Ji Yai (KOR) 70 72 74
- 217 Lee Jeong Eun (KOR) 75 70 72; Virada Nirapatpongporn (THA) 70 73 74
- 218 Russamee Gulayanamitta (THA) 71 74 73 218; Moon Hyun Hee (KOR) 73 70 75; Aree Song (KOR) 70 73 75





Gardening with Bloomin' Bert

Christmas cheer for me means beer

t's Christmas once again, but you may be aware of that. I've had far too many of them already, so do I really need yet another one? I wasn't always a grumpy old man. Far from it. There was a time when I was quite magnanimous, even generous in my outlook. Almost benevolent. Honestly.

I actually used to think that Christmas was a time when the world became a little less cynical, and everyone came together to celebrate a season of good cheer. That was complete nonsense, of course. How can I have been naïve enough to think that everything would change just because the date was December 25?

At least I'm allowed to use the word "Christmas" here. In certain parts of the globe, the word is no longer politically correct enough, and seems to have been outlawed completely. I wonder what would happen if you walked down a Los Angeles street today and greeted somebody with a hearty "Merry Christmas", rather than the now-preferred "Happy Holidays"?

They have "holiday seasons" on the telly, and "holiday sales" in the shops there. I may not have been particularly enthusiastic about Christmas since I was about 12, but I do know that it's still Christmas (and certainly not Xmas), after all. "Happy holidays?" Bah, humbug.

Thankfully, members of the plant world are a little less cynical about this festive time – they just don't care. They carry on doing their bit no matter what the time of the year. In Phuket, we

have a couple of well-known "Christmas" plants, which would be the obvious topic of a gardening article to appear in this particular issue.

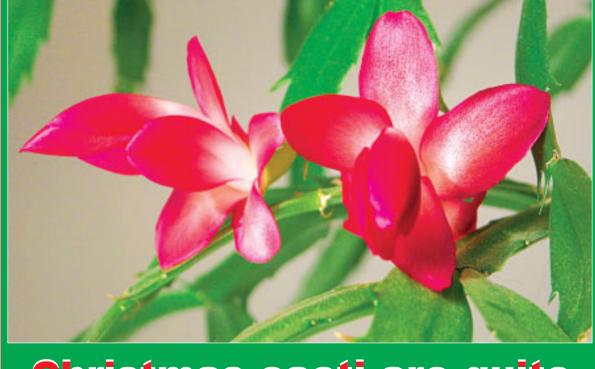
Florally, about the closest we can get to Christmas in this part of the world is the Christmas plant, also known as the poinsettia, or *kissemass* in Thai. The alternative would be the Christmas palm, with its dangling red baubles doing their best to imitate those on a Christmas tree. But I won't mention either of those, as they're much too predictable.

How about an alternative Christmas plant, then? Other parts of the world have the Christmas cactus, which has been around since Grandma's day, as a favorite houseplant.

TRICKS

It's not unusual for a single plant to be passed down from generation to generation, because they're long-lived, fairly easy plants to grow. If you want them to flower on cue for the Christmas season, there are a few tricks you can pull in more temperate areas of the world. Here, though, you just need to get lucky – and more on that later.

Hybridization (cross-breeding by very patient gardeners with too much time on their hands) over the past century has resulted in the introduction of many new varieties of Christmas cactus. These plants are members of the zygo-cactus family, most of which are native to Central and South America. Although they are referred to as cacti, they're actually quite different in all as-



Christmas cacti are quite different in all aspects from the common desert cactus seen in cheesy cowboy films

pects from the common desert cactus seen in cheesy cowboy films.

These plants are actually epiphytes, which enjoy the same environment as orchids. They are most often found naturally in the forks of tree limbs where they grow in decayed leaves and other natural debris that accumulates there. Since they are tropical cacti, their requirements are totally different from true cacti; they like a drink.

Elsewhere, the key to getting Christmas cactus to flower at the right time is the proper light exposure, correct temperatures and limited watering. So during the autumn months in the Western world, the Christmas cactus would be placed in a cool spot where it can receive indoor indirect bright light during daylight,

but total darkness at night. It may work there, but I wish you good luck in finding a cool spot here in Phuket.

Since the Christmas cactus is a tropical plant, it will require watering on much the same basis as any other tropical plant. A good procedure to follow is to water the plants thoroughly and then allow about the top inch of soil to dry before watering them again.

One of the most frustrating things that can happen to a Christmas cactus is that after the flower buds have developed, they drop off. Very irritating. This bud drop can be caused by any one of several different conditions, but usually it's from over-watering or insufficient light.

I did say earlier that plants were less cynical than me about

the Christmas season, but perhaps the Christmas cactus is doing its best to prove me wrong. It will only flower when urged to do so in the Western world, pretty much refusing to do as it's told here in Thailand. And more power to its elbow for that.

Anyway, it is Christmas. There's only one thing you can really do, so I'm off to the pub.

If you're from the wrong side of the Atlantic, Happy Holidays.

To the rest of the world – Merry Christmas.

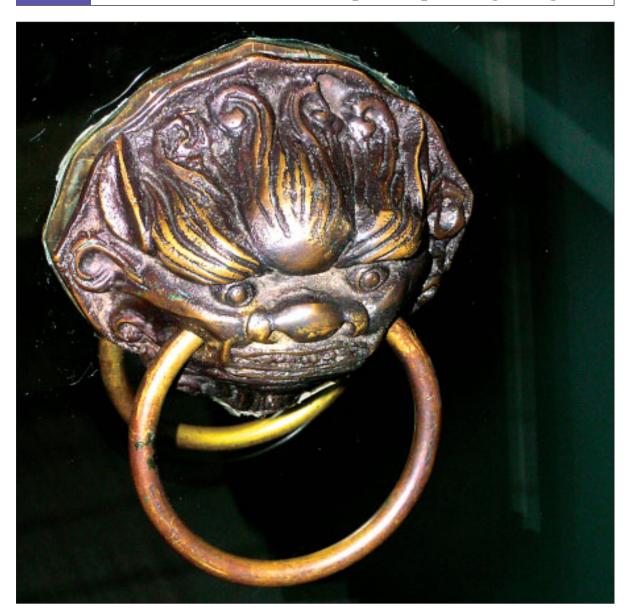
Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com



Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam



Knobs & knockers

or new homeowners and 425 baht to 500 baht each. DIY fans alike, fancy knobs and knockers are a fun and inexpensive way to jazz up the front door.

At the Phuket branch of Häfele, some 60 different styles of door handles are available, from ornate antique panache to sleek modern flash, fashioned from stainless steel, brass, copper or iron, sometimes decorated in colored enamel.

They range in price from home.

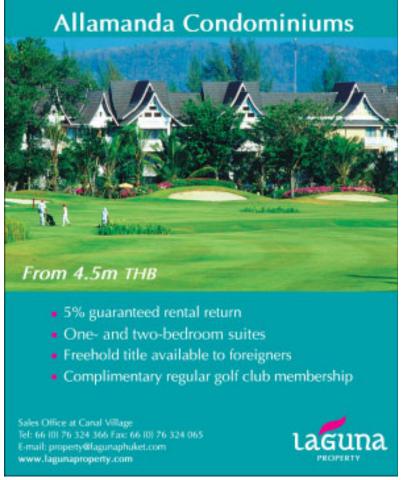
For more information, contact Häfele (Phuket Branch) located at the Courtyard 90/5 Chao Fa West Rd, Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-264481. Fax: 076-264482. Their website us at: www.hafele.co.th

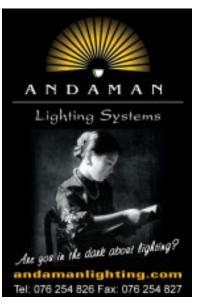
A knocker is one door accessory you cannot do without – if you don't have a doorbell to ring, that is. Still, it does add a certain Dickensian dash to one's

The quintessential door knocker in the shape of a lion's head with a ring in its jaws costs 495 baht for the small size and 1,680 baht for the larger ones at Ratchaphon Trading.

Ratchaphon Trading Company Limited, which sells architectural hardware and security locks, is located at Patipat Road, Talad Nua, A. Muang, Phuket. For more information, Tel: 076-212563, 076-225500, or Fax: 076-225600.













Home of the Week

Boat Lagoon

Peace and security on the water

hen you drive towards this fivebedroom, purpose-built family house through the secure grounds of the Boat Lagoon complex, you get a feeling of serenity as well as of security. The home, completed in 2004, nestles in a culde-sac.

A natural stone and ironwork fence with an electronic steel gate to the carport leads to a covered path to the front door with a ramp. Go inside and you enter an open-plan living and dining area with views out to the canal and boat mooring. Also on the ground floor is the guest room and en-suite bathroom with separate entrance from the terrace.

The main kitchen has Thai marble counter tops with a four-burner cooker and gas oven. Beyond is the laundry area with a Thai-style kitchen next to the maid's room with its own en-suite bathroom. Off the living-dining area is a toilet with hand basin.

Upstairs is the master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, French windows and a door to the balcony. The en-suite bathroom has two sinks, a large glassfronted shower, bath and toilet.

Off the corridor there are two more bathrooms and a play area with doors to the balcony. At the other end of the corridor are three smaller bedrooms which would be ideal for children. One of them has a door out to the balcony.

All rooms have air conditioning as well as fans

Outside is a tastefully landscaped garden and a terrace, with five ceiling fans, overlooking the boat moorings. The house comes with its own mooring. The canal in the boat lagoon is non-tidal and you have to crane your boat into the water; the crane has a 10ton weight limit.

A service charge of 4,500 baht a month entitles the buyer to free use of the two swimming pools and gyms, and discounts in the many restaurants and spas within the Boat Lagoon site.

The house is selling for 23,800,000 baht, (US\$595,000 or 476,000 Euros). The title is Chanote.

For more information contact Mark at Pacific Paradise Group at Tel: 076-313298 or 01-6776103; Email: info@ paradisepg.com or visit the website: www.paradisepg.com















by Anongnat Sartpisut



An artist's impression of three-bedroom apartments in the finished project.

Apartments with a view

he Layan Sunset apartments project is set to offer simplicity, elegance and style at an affordable price. Set on a six-rai hillside plot of land overlooking Layan Beach, the apartments will be 15 minutes' drive from Phuket International Airport.

Layan Sunset's directors, Patsy Palmer and Mark Hailey, talked to the *Gazette* about the project.

Mr Hailey said that infrastructure construction will start in January and building will commence at the end of March, with all units expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

He said, "The apartment market is quite a good one, especially in price ranges around the 10 million baht mark."

Ms Palmer said, "We think people coming from Europe to invest in Phuket will appreciate the indoor/outdoor-style living space, size of apartment, location and affordability that this project has to offer, including proximity to local amenities."

Mr Hailey said, "The market is mainly European, but the Hong Kong and Singaporean markets also figure strongly."

Ms Palmer added, "It's a dream-come-true choice in terms of a holiday home that can also be a good investment. The project is quite high up, so there are great views in a fantastic location within a private gated community."

The 28 units will be made up of two- and three-bedroom apartments; 16 units in four two-story, two-bedroom apartments with a total area of 136.4 square meters and 115.95sqm internal space. This will include two bathrooms, a foyer and hall, a living and dining area and a kitchen. Prices vary from 7.5 to 8.5 million baht.

There will be 12 units in three two-story, three-bedroom apartments featuring a total area of 187.64sqm, with 147.39sqm internal space comprising three bathrooms, a foyer, a living and dining area and kitchen. Prices range from 10 million baht to 10.5 million baht. (Prices for all 28 units are pre-construction, and are set to rise in January.)

The structure will be made from reinforced concrete, precast slabs, masonry walls with cement render, a shingle roof under plywood and flat roof slabs with waterproof membranes. There will be hard timber floors in the bedrooms and living area, ivory cream granite tile floors in the kitchen and bathrooms and ivory-colored rustic tile floors on the balconies. Outdoor terraces and passageways will feature sand-wash floor tiling.

Bathroom fixtures will feature top quality taps and fittings. There will be a whirlpool bath in the master bathroom and the main balcony can also be fitted with one if desired.

Communal services will include cable TV and pre-installation for two digital platforms, Satellite TV support, swimming pools, 24-hour security guards, landscaping and street lighting, water storage tanks, covered carports and storage lockups.

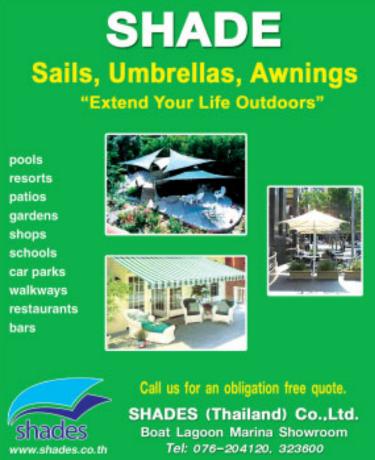
There will also be a clubhouse with a 250sqm infinity-edge pool and adjoining children's pool, a restaurant, a cocktail and pool bar, a fully equipped fitness center, a relaxation spa and a beauty parlor – as well as a convenience store and a laundry.

All apartments will be sold leasehold. The buyer will be issued a 30-year lease with two options for renewal, each for a further 30 years.

Ms Palmer said, "Four units have already been sold and some people are coming [to view] from Australia and Hong Kong, so it's very good feedback so far. People recognize a good deal when they see one." Mr Hailey added, "We think we are competitively priced, especially at this time. We expect to be sold out by early next year."

For more information contact Eurasia Development Co Ltd, 394 Moo 1 Bang Tao Beach, Cherng Talay, Phuket 83110, at Tel: 076-271315, 01-8956267, 01-8953215 or Fax: 076-271316; Email: info@ layansunset.com or see the website: www.layansunset.com







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On the bypass road, 27 rai, 180 meters wide. Tel: 07-2670488.

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Condos with nice sea views, 28sqm and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 750,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip 5 @hotmail.com

2 STORIES, RAWAI

130sqm house with Chanote title, brand new, close to a school, 400m from the beach. Asking 1.3 million baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free holdprop@yahoo.com

RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

144sqm house with 400sqm or 600sgm of land for sale. Located 350m from the beach. Priced from 2.4 million baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: free holdprop@yahoo.com

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Garden Place (Muang Thalang)

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

This 3-bedroom home is well designed and built for a Western buyer's taste. With 4 bathrooms, a full Western kitchen, living room and family room, there is private space for everyone. At only 4.8 million baht, you will not find a better built home. Call now!

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10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from the British international school, 5 minutes to Laguna, 10 minutes to Surin Beach. 8mx4m swimming pool, 5 air conditioners, 1 child's room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & 1 seperate building useful as a store house or a maid's room. 504sqm, Chanote title. 4.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 01-6078000.

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Rawai, 28sqm, newly renovated and fully furnished; with air conditioner and fridge. Asking 650,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-1899336.

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6-BEDROOM HOUSE



Owner is selling an exclusive, top-quality 6-bedroom house located near Phuket FantaSea in Kamala, 1.5km from the beach and next to a beautiful, natural lake. The house has all the facilities you need – a European-Thai kitchen, large living-dining room with pantry-bar; 2 bedrooms on the ground floor and 4 bedrooms on the 1st floor with en-suite bathroom: a large attic, hot water supplied by solar heating system, own well and drinking water, etc. Large, mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi. Chanote title. The total land area: 1,180sqm. 90,000 baht net rental income until August 2006 Price: 18 million baht. Please contact Franz Brun in Chalong at Tel: 076-282737, 01-4761415 or

Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

EXCLUSIVE PLOT

In Nai Harn. Owner is selling a 3-rai plot with Chanote, with a 450sgm home and separate guest house, enclosed pool, wellmaintained garden, garage and 2 phone lines. Ideal for a private housing project. Only 5 minutes to beach. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-8942733. Email: jasminconsulting@gmx.net



FOR SALE

New, furnished villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a lounge, dining room, air cond tioner, UBC, hot showers and a tropical garden, in a fantastic location in quiet private estate, 2 minutes to sea, 5 minutes to Phuket City. Genuine valuation 3.9 million baht. For quick sale, asking 2.6 million baht. No time wasters. Please contact owner for more details, Paul. Tel: 06-2833227.

LARGE LUXURY HOUSE Superbly-built family house for

sale in a nice location. For more details and pictures, please see our website at: www. phukethouse.info

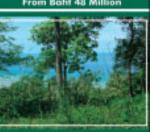
NICE POOL VILLAS



Kata, Nai Harn, Rawai. Priced from 6.8 million baht. Please contact Chokechai Property at Tel: 04-8374429 or Email: chokechaiproperty@ yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE & LAND

In Nai Thon. Please call for details.Tel: 07-2811995.



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VERY GOOD INVESTMENT

New houses in Karon. Just built, 2-story houses. Only 2 houses left. Asking 3.2 million baht and 3.5 million baht. Please contact for information. Kata Beach Property Market. Call Tel: 01-7888280, 01-555-5142 (in Thai) or email: info@msa-phuket.com

RAWAI, 2-STORY

200sgm house with Chanote title, brand new, close to a temple, 450m from the beach. Asking just 1.8 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 06-6865567 or email: free holdprop@yahoo.com

BEACH APARTMENTS

Spacious, modern, 2-bedroom apartments with gardens, pools, clubhouse, gym, sauna. Some with a sea view, just a 2-minute walk to the beach. Prices start from 8.5 million baht. On-site sales office: meet the developers. Tel: 06-2806624. www. bangtaobeachgardens.com

RAWAI CONDOS

With sea views. Area: 27, 54 and 81sqm. Prices start from 350,000 baht. Financing for 3 years available. Foreign freehold. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip 5@hotmail.com

KAMALA HOUSE

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, wooden floors, pool, 5 mins to beach. 8.25 million baht. Tel: 09-2891659. Email: 71ster @gmail.com See: www. phukethouseforsale.com

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18 + rai – a beautiful plot on Phuket with sea view, access road and electricity. Tel: 06-2670898.

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Thai style, 395sqm. Superb, quiet location with best view atop a hill. One-rai plot overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course and Kathu Valley. Within minutes of major shopping centers, boat/yacht clubs and hospitals, yet just 15 minutes to the beach and 3km to international school. Asking 20 million baht. Please call Noi. Tel: 07-2698492.

HOUSE FOR SALE

A 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom, house with pool and quality finishings, in Phuket Country Club with beautiful fairway and lake views. Includes membership. Asking 18 million. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2772691.

1 TO 100 RAI

of beachfront. The last beach on paradise is for sale, starting at 1 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8938747.

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Almost 500 square meters in Nai Harn. Asking 1.2 million baht. Has access road, electricity. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-5376866.

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- just 11 premium villas, all with sea views overlooking Kalim Bay
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- just 24 private luxury residences, all with sea views
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The Heights, Phuket – design with vision "unrivaled sea views"

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- reliable developer with a proven track record
- prices start at 15 million baht (2 bedroom)

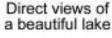
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NEAR RAWAI & NAI HARN











Hill Viewpoint



Big 15m pool

FUTURISTIC HOUSE made by SWISS 16 million baht

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1800 sqm of land



Open plan design

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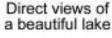
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Open plan design



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- ready before Christmas 2005!
- 8.9 Million baht (185,000 Euros), (Chanote title)

Tel: 01-7888280 Email: info@msa-phuket.com



KATA SEAVIEW HOUSE



A large 250sqm house with a pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western-style teak kitchen, teak doors and ceilings, on a quiet hillside. Asking 10 million baht or offers. Tel: 09-5926890. Email: north8west98@ yahoo.com

CHALONG 3-RAI

Asking 2.7 million per rai. Beautiful sea view. Tel: 06-2670898.

NAI HARN SEAVIEW

Asking 3.7 million baht per rai for beautiful plot with three-phase electricity and access road. Tel: 07-8938747.

MODERN TOWNHOUSE

Brand new, located between Phuket City and Chalong, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2.25 million baht. Tel: 09-7292313.

FULL SEAVIEW

45 rai in Patong. Perfect for hotel, resort or project. Open to offers. Tel: 01-5376866.

NEW HOUSE

In Phuket City. A new 1-story house in Phuket Villa Morningstar, on Chaofa East Road, south of Rama IX Park and across from Daroong Wittaya Catholic School. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big rooms, town water and electricity. Excellent location in Phuket City near all major shops, hospitals and schools. Lease/Purchase price: 5.3 million baht; Cash discount price: 3.1 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-248461. Email: wpdrake @hotmail.com

NAI HARN LAND

1 rai wih a small local-style house in a beautiful location with a forest view. Only 6.3 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-5944017.

FREEHOLD FLAT



Phuket Palace Condominium, fully furnished, 1- or 2-bedroom, 1- or 2-bathroom, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.7 million baht. Tel: 09-871-9739.

BEST SEAVIEW PRICES

Prices from 2.5 million baht. Buy only land or house. All houses have a swimming pool and a panoramic sea view of Phuket and surrounding islands. Estimated property value increase of 25-40% per year. Major growth area of Phuket. Tel: 06-9427318. Fax: 076-203426. Email: michael@bayproject.com For further details, please see our website at: www.bayproject.com

LAGUNA AND LAYAN

land. 3 minutes to beach and Laguna, 7 rai 16 square wah – price: 29 million baht. Layan corner plot with road access; 5 minutes to beach; 11 or 31 rai – asking 3.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 06-9520772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

PENANG FREEHOLD

3-story terrace house of 160sqm with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, a kitchen and 2 car parking spaces. Price: Malaysian \$499,000. Google Krystal Court Penang. Email: berndpfluger@yahoo.de

9 RAI - RAWAI AREA

1.6 million baht per rai for 9 rai, perfect for development of 4 houses per rai only. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

BEACH HOUSE

For just 2.7 million baht you can own a 3-level beach house on a nice quiet street only 2 minutes to Kata Beach – one of Phuket's most beautiful locations. For details, call Tel: 04-8405834.

SEAVIEW APARTMENT



Patong seaview apartment for sale at CE quality standard; 1 or 2 bedrooms, whirlpool in 2 bedrooms, a large swimming pool, car park and nice sea view of Patong Bay. Price: 2.7 million baht for 40sqm, or 7.5 million baht for 180sqm. 2 bedrooms. Asking 8.95 million baht for our best with a top floor terrace of 180sqm. Only one of each left. Please contact for information. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: chokechaiproperty@ yahoo.co.uk

SEAVIEW APARTMENT

Located in Rawai, with spectacular sea view, access to beach on foot. 2 bedrooms, 155sqm, 11units available, with pool & fitness. Priced from 4.8 million baht. Great value for money. Tel: 076-289105, 09-5977499.

1.2 MILLION BAHT

per rai. Nice 29 rai plot Pa Krong Cheep, 1 km from main road. Good for land and house project. Email: ek_phuket@ hotmail.com

KARON BEACH LAND

1 rai of seaview land. 900m from the beach. Urgent sale price: 5.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-6673249.

1 RAI - CHALONG

I have 3 lots in Chalong area, a super nice savannah-type area – nice trees, quiet, stream. 3 million baht per rai. Please contact for further information. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

GOOD PRICE HOUSE

A house in quiet, safe Land & Houses Park, 86 square wah, with 2 bedrooms, air conditioner, 2 bathrooms, a living room and a built-in kitchen. Asking from 3.5 to 2.7 million baht. Tel: 01-5979049.

BEST SEA VIEW IN PHUKET



Chanote title, underground electricity, main roads, lots of water all year for pools and home, beside a national park, 10 minutes to airport, 15 minutes to Lotus, 12 minutes from British int'I school and two major golf courses, US\$**1**-1.5 million homes being built here, complete view of Phang Nga Bay - considered one of the 7 wonders of the world. Only 3.2 million baht per rai (you don't have to pay too much for class). Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@ yahoo.com

KATA HOUSE

Western style, 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, Jacuzzi, swimming pool and garden, just 5 minutes from Kata Beach. Call Tel: 076-284257 or Email: phukethouse@hotmail.com

LUXURY CONDO

for sale. Brand new, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, with air conditioner. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

NEW HOUSES IN PATONG

3 new, connected, deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Thamdee, for sale. Ground floor: garage and separate 1-room apartment with toilet. 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms and bathrooms, balcony. 3rd floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. 4th floor: big roof garden with a Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht (US\$155,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes. com

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

New, deluxe, fully furnished and air-conditioned 2-bedroom apartments of 85sqm or 96sqm. Location: Nanai hill in Patong, Soi Thamdee; 60-year lease. Offers starting at 4.1 million baht (US\$102,000). For more info, please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit the website at: www. phuket-besthomes.com

BOAT LAGOON MARINA

End-unit, 1-bedroom townhouse, 200 sqm, with a lot of extras and mooring. Freehold for foreigners. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 01-2734000 or Email: charly@bonello.de

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; quest 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 at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www. phuket-besthomes.com

RAWAI SHOPHOUSES

2 new, connected shophouses on Wiset Rd, in Rawai. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. 2nd floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bathroom. 3rd floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area of 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113.000). Please contact K.Peter. Tel: 01-892-8526. For more info, please see our website: www. phuket-besthomes.com

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Earth Language School Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel: 076-280400/3 Fax: 076-280403

Tel: 076-232398/9 Fax: 076-232398

Tel: 076-258369 Fax: 076-211230

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

CLASSIFIEDS



14 RA

13 rai 3 ngan 98 talang wah (5.598 acres). Very quiet place, hill and sea views from second floor, just a few minutes' walk to the beach and 3 minutes' drive to the ferry for Phi Phi Islands and surrounding islands. Very cheap price for Phuket: 20 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



2.6 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

The size of the plot is 2 rai 2 ngan and 53 talang wah – 4,212sqm – and all the land is under the 80-meter height restriction. This plot is very interesting for a small villa project. Great spot with many opportunities. Price: 30 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



14 RAI OF BEACHFRONT

This beautiful beachfront plot is located in Mai Khao. It has a 75 meters white sandy beach and at the back connected to a lake. Ideal for a small resort or villa development. Water and electric supply are available. Size of this plot is 14 Rai. Price: 7 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-8715192.



3-BEDROOM THAI-STYLE VILLA

Besides the nice landscaped garden, you can enjoy a common pool. There is also space to park at least 3 cars. The living space is 440sqm and the land size 468sqm with Chanote title. Value for money. Price: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Villa comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, kitchen, living and dining room, maid's room, outdoor shower, terrace around the house, pool and a garden.

> Price: 14 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

This property, in the south of Patong, has amazing hill and valley views. Villa comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, guest toilet, and a pool with sala.

Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



TOTALLY PRIVATE

This private plot of 55 rai (88,000sqm) features 200 meters of beach front on the west coast. The last plot on Phuket with a perfect shape. All land is buildable; surrounded by hills. Access via a private sealed road. Water and electricity are available.

P.O.A. Tel: 09-8715192.



117 RAI (187,200SQM)

With 400 meters of beach front – one of the last four remaining large holdings on the beach. This magnificent plot, ideal for a high-end villa project or a 5-star resort, is located near Patong. There is an 8m-wide access road. Electricity and water supply are also available. Well-priced! Tel: 09-8715192.

60-RAI LAKE VIEW

& SEA VIEW PLOT

Impossible to find land with

title closer to Nai Harn

Beach than this lakefront

plot only 300 meters from

the beach. It has electricity

supply and road access;

ready to build. Villas in the

area are priced at 20 million

baht up. Tel: 09-8715192.



209 RAI ON PHUKET PENINSULA

Wide sea views to Koh Phi Phi Don, other islands in Phang Nga Bay and views of Phuket itself, Beach frontage and elevation. This plot has it all. There is road access; water and electricity supply are available. A great plot waiting for the right developer. P.O.A. Tel: 09-8715192.



23 RAI WITH BEACH FRONT

This is a beautiful plot with an 80-meter white sandy beach in Mai Khao. It has a right-angle shape and includes a small lake. Water and electricity supply is available. Ideal spot for a resort or villa development. Price: 7 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-8715192.



8-ROOM HOTEL

Recently refurbished to high standards, this boutique hotel has a bar, commercial laundry and 8 furnished rooms. Well-established, with many returning customers. An easy business to run; you can spend hours at the beach, a 2-minute walk away. Call for details. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Thai-style house for sale in a secure area, a 5-minute drive to beautiful Nai Harn and Rawai beaches. Built in 2005, comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, hallway, guest toilet, pool, carport for 2 cars and a sala. Tel: 06-2726580.



2 RAI SEA VIEW

Chanote title, public road access, water and electricity. Only 2 minutes to Rawai Beach.

Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



| | 56-BEDROOM HOTEL

This mansion is located in the heart of Patong and comprises 56 rooms and a pool. All rooms have cable TV, mini-bar, hot water. There is an office and reception with safety deposit boxes for customers. The hotel is built on 2 rai. Value for money. Price: 56 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



2-BEDROOM VILLA

with sea view. It comprises a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and Jacuzzi, guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, study, guest toilet, 2-car carport, nice garden, solar-heated hotwater system, UBC, phone with Internet. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



3-BEDROOM, 2-BATHROOM HOUSE

1-year-old, beautiful 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, large living area and kitchen. Open-plan with loft upstairs overlooking the living area. Phone line and own water supply. Located in a central, quiet, Europeanstyle estate. Price: 3.7 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.



BEAUTIFUL SEA VIEW

14 Ao Yon/Cape Panwa 1-rai plots with a 260-degree sea view. No powerline views; ready to build; all infrastructure in place: 6-meter-wide road, underground water, phone line. A good investment, 10 minutes to shops and schools. Golf 15 minutes away; restaurants 5 minutes away. Tel: 09-8715192.



3 BEDROOM VILLA WITH SEA VIEW

In Patong. 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms, 1 guest bathroom, western-style kitchen, living room, dining room, terrace from where you can enjoy the sunset, store room and a car port. The villa is in a secured and private estate. A really nice home! Tel: 06-2726508.



4 RAI 3 NGAN 79 TALANG WAH

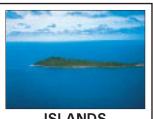
This buildable plot has sea views to the south, a road in front, at the side and back, and electricity supply. Would make an ideal development; the area has high-end homes, an upmarket hotel, restaurants and entertainment nearby. Tel: 09-8715192.



7 RAI WITH SEA VIEW

A good piece of land in a quiet area with public road access, water and electricity supply.

Only 10 minutes to Rawai Beach. Price: 38.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



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 and Koh Racha. Prices from 1 million baht, Tel: 09-8715192.



10 RAI BEACH FRONT

The land has a great shape and is ideal for a resort or high-end villa development.

Price: 80 million baht. Tel: 09-8715192.



building is in a quiet area in Chalong, 5 minutes' drive to Central; 10 minutes to Phuket City; 15 minutes to Nai Harn, Karon and Kata beaches. Units have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, living and dining room; fully furnished. Building has an office, manicured gardens.

Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 06-2726508.

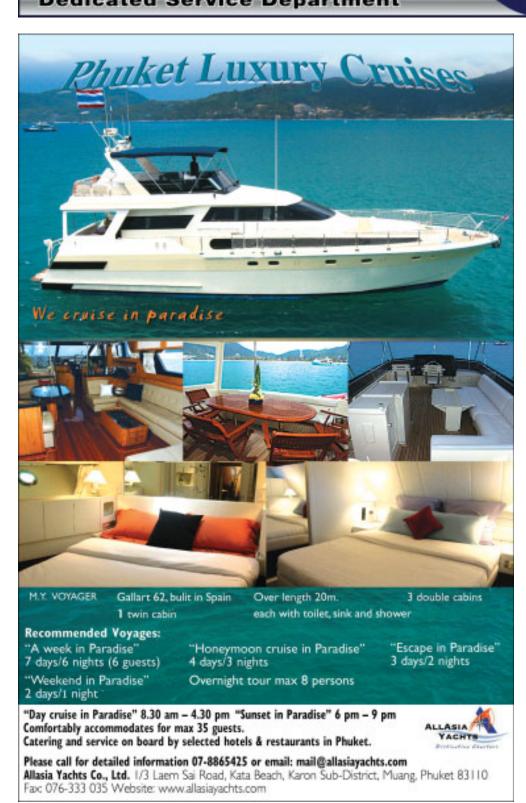


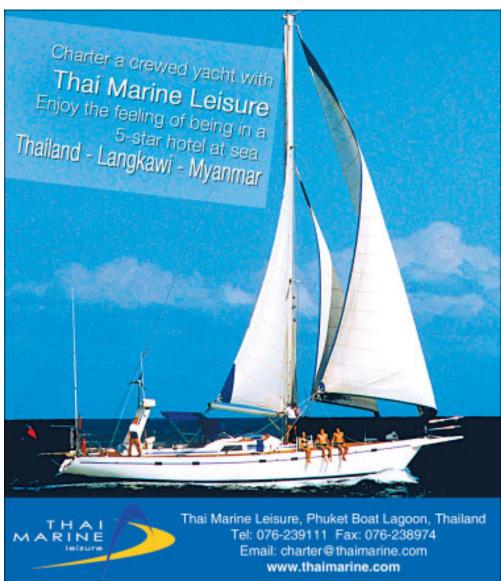
For further details contact: Phuket Real Estate

Phuket Real Estate Partners Co. Ltd.
111 Rat-U-Thid Rd 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach 83150, Phuket, Thailand.
office: 076 346 346 fax: 076 346 263 mobile: 09 871 5192
Email: info@phuketrealestate.com www.phuketrealestate.com

Boats & Marine







YACHT FOR HOUSE

I have a yacht for sale and would consider swapping for a house. Some cash available also. Fast exchange wanted. Please call for more infomation. Tel: 01-187-

WANTED: BANANA

For export to the Middle East: secondhand or new 3-person banana (yes, to tow behind a boat) and parasail wanted. Please contact me by Email: daveonthenet@mac.com

BEACH CATAMARAN

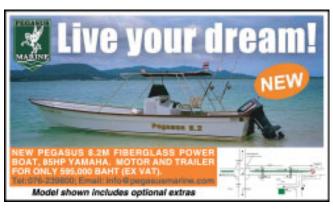
Nacra 5.5, imported from Australia with spinnaker kit and carbon righting pole imported from US. White hull and sails, spinnaker shiny red. Good condition. Marine insurance until 2006. 175,000 baht ono. Tel: 01-8349647 or 01-9135627 (K. Pop). Email: jdhardt @csloxinfo.com

WANTED: LIVEABOARD

We are an established dive company operating on Koh Phi Phi Don. We are interested in leasing a smallish liveaboard boat on monthly terms. Please contact me with details should you have a boat for lease. Tel: 07-2661850 or Email: goff_diving @hotmail.com

Looking for a boat? www.phuketgazette.net!

Boats & Marine





FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

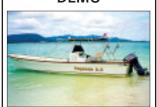


Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's Vindex design. Built under license in cedar strip/epoxy. Beam: 12ft; Length 36ft. 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel engine. ZF hydraulic gear. Hydraulic steering from main cabin or flybridge, many extras. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin and convertible dining area. WC, shower, and handbasin. Galley and bosun's locker. Fully taxed and registered in Thailand. including berth for nearly 1 year at Boat Lagoon. Call Peter at Tel: 01-8166940. Email: peterhae@e-mail. in.th

BOSTON-WHALER

21ft fiberglass Boston Whaler-style boat: central console and twin 4-stroke Honda 50hp engines. Trailer, Thai registration. As new, made in 2004. For sale in Pattaya for just 420,000 baht. Tel: 01-8626954 or Email: carlossecretgarden@ yahoo.com

PEGASUS 8.2 **DEMO**



5 months old, 200hp Yamaha - fast!!! List price: 555,000 baht ex VAT. Now 445,000 baht ex VAT.

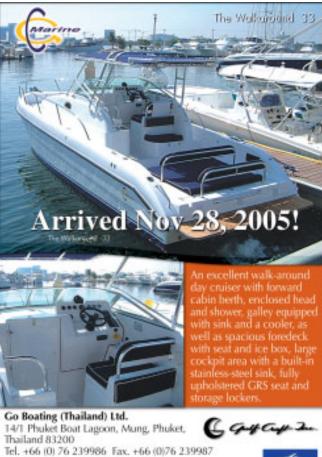
Sold with warranty. Tel: 09-4746783.

24FT SWISSCAT



Has 2 Honda 4-stroke outboards, 50hp each; 24kts; 160 hours; SemiCat; Thai flag; built in 2004; fully equipped at Boat Lagoon. Asking price just 1.24 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-289-250, 01-2734000. Email: grosse-oetringhaus@web.

For Sale Searcy Sundan Savage SL 500 Scorpion Dountless w/Trailer \$21,293.00 220 Dountless Royal Phuket Marina Yacht Co., Ltd. 68/1 Mao 2 Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket, 83200, Thailand. Tel: +66 (0) 1 958 1458 Fax: +66 (0) 76 239 756 RPM yachts@royalphuketmarina.com www.royalphuketmarina-yachts.com



YACHTIES AHOY!

E-mail: goboating_th@yahoo.com www.goboatingthailand.com

Rum guzzling, beer swiggin' shore-shaggers needed to till positions around my bar and lounge. Apply in person at Home Bar off Soi Bangla.

LONGBOARD

wanted. Secondhand, any brand, around 8ft-9ft. Price around 7,000 baht. Please provide all details and contact information. Tel: 01-0817163. Email: hiphopdec @gmail.com

Looking for a job? www.phuketgazette.net/

20FT SPEEDBOAT

Fiberglass over wood; center console; a new hull 3 years ago. Price: 150,000 baht. 60hp Evinrude with electric starter, power trim and tilt. Bracket for extra engine + old 3.5hp Mercury engine. A new battery, 1,500gpm bilge pump, a new Quicksilver gas can, a stainless-steel anchor, outriggers for trolling. Wooden trailer. Boat is Thai-registered for private use, and located in Ao Yon, Phuket. Everything functions very well. Asking 185,000 baht. Tel: 076-200950, 01-820-8307. Fax: 076-200950. Email: arottes@frisurf.no

Island Job Mart

PROJECT BAAN COCOON

Anuphas Pirom Resort Co.,Ltd., a real estate company developing luxury houses at Phuket Country Club Golf Course, currently seeks qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

1. Client/Sales Liaison Executive 3 Positions

- Female, age between 23 29 years
- Min. 1 year experience in sales/marketing in the real estate projects
- Good command of both spoken and written English

2. General Clerk

1 Position

- Female, age between 23 29 years
- Min. 1 years experience in this segment

All positions require

- Bachelor's degree or higher in the related
- Salary Negotiable

Please send your CV and recent photo to: Ms. Kantheera Rungsang-anotai 97/4 Moo 7 Vichitsongkram Rd, Kathu District, Phuket, 83120

2 076-202189, 076-321815 🗸 076-321811 info@anuphaspiromresort.com http://www.anuphaspiromresort.com

[™]Phuket Gazette

Join Phuket's only Multimedia NEWS organization.

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SENIOR REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, aged 27plus, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Fax: 076 213971 Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

MANGOSTEEN RESTAURANT

The Mangosteen Resort & Spa, the 5-star Boutique resort in the South of Phuket, is looking to fill the following positions at the restaurant:

- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Bartender
- Waiters/waitresses
- Stewards

All applicants should have several years of experience on the job and should be Thai nationals. Please send your CV by email or contact for more details. Tel: 076-289399 or Fax: 076-289389. Email: myfuture@mangosteenphuket.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Marine electronics company based in the Boat Lagoon needs a Thai lady to run the office. Must have good English and be good with computers. Good salary package offered. Tel: 076-239112, 01-8920534. Fax: 076-239058. Email: damian@electrical-marine. com For further details, please see our website at: www.electrical-marine. com

MAID/HOUSEKEEPER

wanted. Maid required for full day job. Good salary offered. Needs to speak a little English. Tel: 04-8373870. Email: domtaylor@mac.com



The Racha is Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway, where people can balance body, mind and spirit in an environmentally friendly space. We are now looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the team of our 5-star deluxe 70-villa resort.

- Front Office Manager
- Reception Supervisor
- Pastry Chef
- Chief Steward
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Bartender
- Boat Captain (with helmsman certificate)
- Guest Services Manager
- Guest Service Officer
- Spa Therapist
- Chief Gardener
- Restaurant Captain
- Night Auditor

You must be able to live and work on Racha Island, which is around 35 minutes away from Phuket by our own speedboat. You must have previous experience in an international deluxe or first-class hotel or resort and good command of English.

Our team is young, open-minded, flexible and creative and we share the same passion for true hospitality.

The Racha aims to be one of the premier resorts in Southeast Asia and we provide a competitive remuneration package and benefits.

Please submit your letter of application together with your resumé and a recent photograph to:

Personal and Training Manager hr@theracha.com

42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130 Phone 0 76 355 455 Fax 0 76 355 637 www.theracha.com





New 70-room Boutique Resort (4 star +) on Koh Yao Noi Island – 60 minutes by boat from Phuket is seeking highly motivated persons for key positions, with emphasis on commitment to personalized customer service.

URGENT OPENINGS

Senior Accountant (based in Phuket Office)

B.A. in Accounting

2-3 years of experience in similar position

Accounting clerk

Reservation Supervisor

2-3 years of experience in similar position

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the

Send your resumé with recent photo to: info@theparadise.biz

PHUKET OFFICE

12/39 MOO 2, THEPKRASATTRI RD, KOH KAEW, MUANG, PHUKET, 83000. Tel: 076-238081 Fax: 076 238913 Email: info@theparadise.biz Web site: www.TheParadise.biz



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking the following qualified candidates to work for one of the leading developers of luxury residential resort properties in Phuket.

Property Sales Manager

1 Position

- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Strong management skills and experience are essential to ensure customer satisfaction are completed on time and to high standard of quality (mimimum 5 years)
- Previous experience in luxury residential housing projects would be a distinct advantage
- Fluent command of spoken and written English
- Able to relocate to Phuket

Property Sales Representative

1 Position

- Vocational College or higher in a construction related discipline
- Self-motivated and enthusiastic
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Able to relocate to Phuket

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth with a leading.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resumé stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

> Group Director of Human resources Laguna Resorts & Hotels public Co., Ltd

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoontorn Road, Cherngtalay, Phuket 83110 Thailand Tel: 076-324444 Ext 16, 17. Fax: 076-271718. Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Needed immediately! Rapidly expanding online clothing company needs a dependable person to work full time. Must be fluent in English, type 45 words per minute, be Internet/computer literate and detail-oriented. Good salary. Please contact K. Robert for more info. Tel: 04-7230575.

REAL ESTATE SALES

Siam Real Estate requires further salespersons due to expansion plans. Must have sales experience and speak good English, with own transport. Good basic salary and commission. Tel: 076-288908. Email: nice @siamrealestate.com For details, see our website at: www.siamrealestate.

DAY CRUISE MANAGER

Luxury spa vessel requires experienced professional. Strong hospitality/guest relations skills and English required. Outgoing personality with solid management capabilities. Please contact. Email: nicolas@spaboat. com For further details, please see our website at www.spaboat.com

Office Staff Due to our continued expansion, Sai Taan is looking to fill the following two positions:

- Office Manager

Key Responsibilities

- establish & run office, so all information can be easily retrieved
- coordinate with clients on various topics relating to villa purchase
- maintain marketing information
- provide admin/secretarial support to directors

Key Qualifications

- high level of spoken and written English
- high level of skill in standard PC MS Office applications
- hardworking, willing to learn, organised
- able to take initiative and be responsible for delivering results

To support the Office Manager we are looking for a secretary to undertake admin and secretarial tasks. This would be an ideal opportunity for a newly qualified, English language graduate to obtain experience and develop a career in the real estate business.

Sai Taan has quickly established itself as a leading Phuket property developer, based on our core belief in delivering quality villas, and doing things properly. We offer a competitive salary and benefits. Please apply in writing with a resumé, stating current salary, and a photo to: info@sai-taan-phuket.com.

OFFICE POSITION

Due to expansion, we now have two permanent positions available, both with excellent opportunities for advancement. Applicants must have good written and spoken English and basic computer skills. A love of the outdoors and a driving licence are advantages. Starting salary is between 7,000 baht and 10,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-232960, or 01-4544058. Fax: 076-232961. Email: info@sailingthailand.com

DIVESHOP STAFF

Diving license and high school qualification not necessary, but must speak English. Tel: 09-8749147.

3 STAFF WANTED

2 staff for sandwich and baquette restaurant in Karon and 1 staff for driving motorbike with sidecar. Please contact.Tel: 04-8459510. Email: alexanderkbh@mail.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Female, with an excellent command of English, both spoken and written. A positive attitude, excellent interpersonal skills and strong organizational skills. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Email a short letter of application, CV and a recent photograph to Email: astec99@yahoo.com



VACANCIES

Fulltime waiter/waitress for city cafu-restaurant wanted. Must be experienced and speak some English. Tel: 01-9798258.

Island Job Mart



Banyan Tree Resorts and Spas (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is a leading spa operator. To meet our rapid growth and expansion, we invite suitable and qualified candidates to join our team.

English Teacher (1 position - based in Phuket)

Qualifications:

- Thai, male or female, 25-35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in any field
- Experience in related field will be an advantage
- Excellent command of the English language

Applicants should provide a full, detailed English resumé, expected salary and a recent photo to:

> Human Resources Department Fax: (076) 324 391 Email: spa-hr@banyantree.com



The Exclusive Luxury Villa Boutique Hotel, located at Kamala Beach, Phuket is seeking for a qualify & energetic persons to fulfill in the following positions:

CHIEF Accountant/ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting Management
- Minimum 5 years' experience in Property, Leasehold and Hotel
- Positive attitude, pleasant personality, with attention to detail
- Service-minded, energetic & hard working
- Ability to communicate effectively in English, computer skills and knowledge in Quick Book Program
- Able to work in Phuket, own personal transportation

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Thai/foreigner, male/female age over 30 years old Bachelor's Degree
- in Marketing, Business Administration or any related files
- Relevant Sales & Marketing experience & skills especially with Leasehold Property
- Excellent sales record with high professional target
 Good team leader with excellent
- communication, presentation and computer skills
- Self-motivated, creative with the ability to think out of the box
- Excellent in both written & spoken English

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, stating present, expected salary & enclosing a recent photo to: Paradise Group: The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo 3, Cherng Thalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 076-271241 Fax: 076-271242 email: onn@paradisephuket.com

CHEF + WAITER

Fast food chef and 1 waiter needed for a busy bar/bistro at Karon Beach. Previous experience essential and must speak good English. Good rates of pay. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-7049302, 01-891-9461.

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Muay Thai & MMA Training camp is looking for Thai staff. 1) Assistant Manager: able to speak English. 2) Bookkeeper: must know QuickBooks. 3) House-keeper. Tel: 09-1638166. Email: vjnong04@yahoo.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Bulletins

HILL TRIBE COFFEE

Now available: 100% Arabica coffee from Thailand. Purchased directly from the coffee growers by a Fair Trade company. Restaurant packs and souvenir packs available. Tel: 076-296527, 09-587-4368. Fax: 076-296527. Email: priced@loxinfo.co.th

PHUKET CHESS CLUB

Open every day, at Southern Fried Rice guesthouse in Kata. Tournaments on Wednesdays at 7 pm and Saturdays at 2 pm. Please call for more information Tel: 01-8948446.

Business Opportunities

PARTNER/ INVESTOR WANTED

Stunning west-coast Layan-view property. Looking for 1 more partner/investor. An excellent opportunity to pick up a free home. Tel: 01-9683221.

BUNGALOWS FOR SALE



In Rawai, 8 bunglalows with 900sqm of land in best locatiom near mountain. Rental income 50,000 per month; very good, regular existing tenants. Chanote title. Price: 6.2 million baht. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: chokechaiproperty@yahoo.co.uk

BAR FOR SALE

Price: 1.2 miliion baht. Location: near Soi Bangla. Owner going overseas. Last chance for high season. Pls Contact Steve. Tel: 07-8986736.

GREAT BUSINESSES

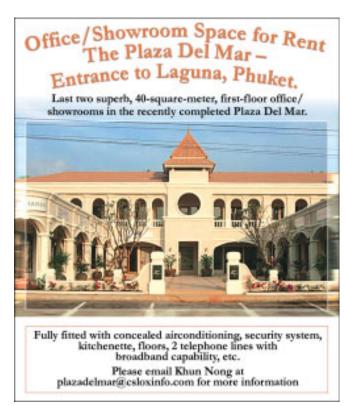
Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat resturant
- a rental business
- an Internet shop

Asking 6 million baht. Please contact for more details, Tel: 01-0820039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan 75@hotmail.com

3 BUSINESSES

Three businesses for sale, separately or together. Special quick-sale prices. Restaurant & Bar; Internet cafe; Beauty Salon & Thai Massage. Tel: 076-281078, 01-0074479. Fax: 076-383674. Email: tim.s@actrix.co.nz





Check daily rates at: WWW.M-EXCHANGER.COM

BAR FOR SALE

Reasonable offers considered. Tel: 07-8817600. For more information, please visit our website: www.homebarphuket.com

RESTAURANT

And guesthouse. Available on 6-year lease in Karon. European-style kitchen, 36-seat air-conditioned restaurant, two TVs, UBC & sound system. Five air-conditioned guest rooms with hot water, TV and full UBC satellite TV system. Small staff room and office. Thai-registered company included, ready to start as your business now. Please call Tel: 09-5914044, 01-8936072 or Email: kanhathamyorm@hotmail.com

NEW RESTAURANT

For rent: a 40-seat restaurant with a big, Germany-standard kitchen. The second floor is a bar; the third floor is a hall with restrooms and 4 living rooms. Asking 120,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-2293595.

TIME IS MONEY!

Partnership offer for Europe and Thailand. No competition, no wasting time, enough clients! Start-up money: 27,500 Euros. Work permit no problem! Please contact. Email: Sanjosee6@netscape.net

BAR FOR SALE

Long lease for New Lips Bar, Soi Gonzo, off Soi Bangla. Lock, stock, equipment, inc. 1.2 million baht, neg. Please call Khun Nigel for more details, Tel: 04-6895043.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well-run visa run business including tour office at Rawai Beach. Please contact Khun Jaochim. Tel: 04-8512378.

O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Close to major hotels, shopping area and tourist attractions. Package includes all paperwork, visas, two work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live music stage, sound and light system, projector UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (including pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, new kitchen equipment, 2 phone lines and over 300 motorcycle-taxis with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Tel: 076-220170, 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

SEA LOVERS

Looking for a partner for our three-year-old company offering speedboat service around this beautiful island. Please contact us to realize your dream. Tel: 01-7370164 or Email: simbaseatrips@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

on Soi Bangla, Patong. New bar with a long lease, all new equipment, such as hi-fi system, fridge, TVs, etc. Price: 2 million baht. Please call Khun Yan. Tel: 01-0909698.



OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Serviced Office Center Receptionist Provided Excellent Location

From 15,000 baht per month

Tel: 076-239967

phuket@cbre.com CBRE www.obre.com CB RICHARD ELLIS

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30,000 baht per month. Parttime / full-time. Free information. Positions limited. For details see: www.hop. clickbank.net/?ukthai/1free

SHOPHOUSE

Shop with 2-bedroom apartment, access road, parking. Contact Tel: 076-284257 or 01-8913972.

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Company Registration 2,229 baht; One Year Visa 4,999 baht; Retirement Visa 4 999 haht: Work Permit 4,999 baht; UK & US Visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs – get a one-year visa for only 4,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Always your low price by our licensed Thai lawyers. Tel: 076-345277 (24 hours). Email: info@siam-legal.com Please see our website at www.siam-legal.com

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Help your lady learn English

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For the TEFL course only,

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paul@langserv.com

HotelTravel

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New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extras to pay, all-inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 07-0070101.

SAFEWAY STORAGE

Secure storage for your furniture, car, bike, etc. Tel: 076-281283, 01-1251873, or see our website at: www. safewayphuket.com

General Law & Accounting

www.phuketattorney.com

09-1956040, 076-263851

FREE INITIAL CONFERENCE

BUDGET SOFTWARE

Custom transactional software such as payroll, Inventory Control, Point of sale. A low price (from 3,000 baht to 10,000 baht) and fast delivery (within 1 to 2 weeks). Please contact for details. Tel: 06-6872823 or Email: millefeuiles@hotmail.com

Computers

COMPUTER REPAIRS

English computer technician, new or used. GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Tel: 09-4735080.

Miscellaneous for Sale

INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENSE

- < 5,000 baht, valid up to

- 20 years
 < 100% legal
 < Sole agent in Thailand
 Internationally
 recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suan Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Pluket. Tel: 04-0068736 or 04-6906612. Email: iaa@intlicense.com www.intlicense.com

SAMSUNG TV

New 23" Samsung TV with remote, still under warranty. Price: 3,900 baht. Tel: 076-255232, 04-6259065. Email: ammarasoithong@yahoo.com

Mobile Phones

NOKIA 6681

Brand-new phone, still in box. Bluetooth, earphones, PC software and case. Only 11,000 baht. Tel: 09-8731652.

Personal Services

LEARN THAI

Charming Thai lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practise and homestudy material. Beginners or more advanced level. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@ hotmail.com

PHOTOCOPY REPAIR

Friendly farang fixes copiers, faxes + laser toner refills. Please call George. Tel: 06-9724805.

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386-113, 01-5778443.

EUROPEAN MANAGER Looking for a Thai or Chinese girl to share the vveekend. Email: herephuket@yahoo.com

SWEET THAI GIRL

Youthful professional male, fit, charming, seeks a svveet girl to learn more about Thai culture and language. Serious relationship is possible later. Email: ricky22bb@yahoo.com

Pets

GIVE A DOG OR CAT A NEW LIFE IN 2006



The Soi Dog Foundation has dozens of adorable cats and dogs, like this young Thai ridgeback, available for adoption. It will cost you just whatever gas it takes to collect, and the package includes full vaccinations. Alternatively, you can sponsor one of the hundreds of animals from just 150 baht a month. Please call Tel: 07-0508688 or visit www.soidog.org for details.

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

GAZETTE MIRA FOR SALE



We have one Mira for sale: 1997 model, gray, manual, well maintained by Daihatsu. The car has never been driven outside Phuket province and is in good condition. Price: 115,000 baht. To inspect/test drive, contact Khun Sudjai or Khun Fon.

Tel: 076-236555. Email: sudjai@phuketgazette.net

Pickups

FORD RANGER PICKUP

Rear access system (open cab), 57,000km, metallic color; in perfect condition, driven by 1 person only, never an accident; 2 years and 5 months old. Asking 335,000 baht. Can be paid as 335,000 in cash, or 140,000 baht in cash with 195,000 baht in installments. Please contact by Email: francorossi66@ hotmail.com

FORD RANGER

2004 model. Need to sell for 95,000 baht, plus around 320,000 baht in installments. One owner, no accidents, 2.5 liter diesel and manual gear. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-261314, 04-6335259. Fax: 076-261314. Email: mhunben@yahoo.com

4 x 4s

URGENT SALE: FORD 4WD RANGER

A September 2001 Ford Ranger 2.5 XLT Hurricane 2door is now for sale. Asking 420,000 baht or highest offer. 56,000 kms, double airbag, remote key/alarm, Sony CD-player. The car drives very well and can be seen in Patong. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-8669406. Email: danex01@ gmail.com

MITSUBISHI 4WD

2-5 turbo, Oct 2002, 2 doors, blue-silver color, 62,000km, with tinted windows, carryboy and insurance service history. Asking 450,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-0879983.

KIA SPORTAGE 4X4

Four doors, in fantastic condition, just 81,000km. Price: 315,000 baht. Tel: 09-290-

Motorbikes

NEW YAMAHA MIO

One month old Yamaha Million with 70 kilometers (the distance from the airport to Kata and back). Will rent for 4,000 baht per month (3 months minimum). Discount for extended lease. Tel: 07-2834185 or Email: mauirick1@yahoo.com

HONDA PHANTOM

5,000km, black, many extras and no accidents. Asking 69,500 baht. Tel: 01-081-2838 or Email: ob1267@ freenet.de

KAWASAKI BOSS 175

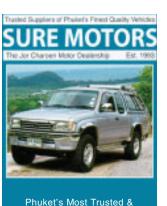
"Night fire red", in immaculate condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Please contact Paul. Tel: 06-2833227.

HONDA PHANTOM 2005

Like new, 200cc, ridden only 600km; black and silver color with saddle bags and helmets. Cost 93,000 baht, will sell for 80,000 baht. Tel: 01-4761026.

1994 MINIBUS

Nissan Urvan for sale. Gray, 11 seats, CD player, in good condition, Price: 240,000 baht. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com



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CHEAP LANCER

Mitsubishi Lancer, Year 1977; 1400cc well-maintained engine. Mechanically sound; silver color. Asking price: 52,000 baht. Pictures on request. Please contact Danny at Tel: 01-8945867, Fax: 076-248989 or Email: danpov@hotmail.com

BMW 523I SPORT

2002 BMW 523i Sport. This car is in mint condition and has M3 18 Alloys with new tires. For quick sale at 2 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-240042, 01-8911635 or Email: stroker106@csloxinfo.

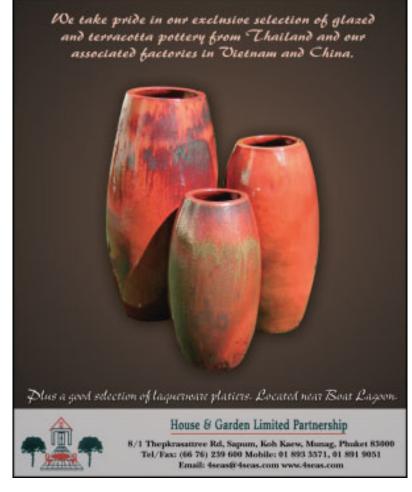


RANGE ROVER SPORT

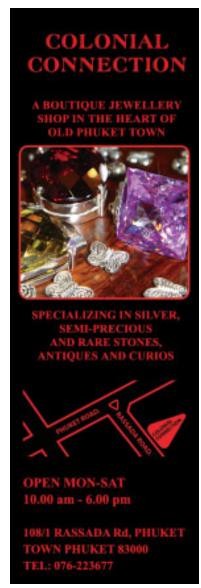
48 PHUKET GAZETTE December 24 - 30, 2005



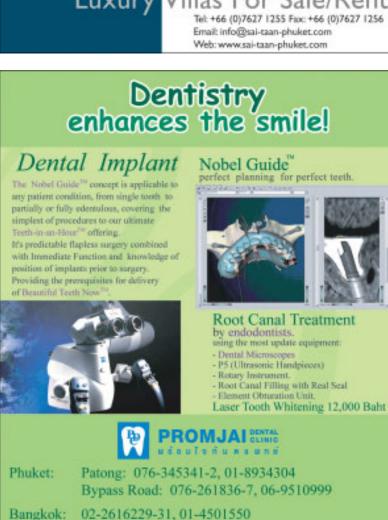




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