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# The Phuket Gazette

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## Dam 'holds enough for the high season'



THEN AND NOW: The Bang Wad reservoir water level last September (above) and this week (below).



By Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

PHUKET: Rain over the past few weeks has boosted the volume of water in the Bang Wad reservoir to 5.5 million cubic meters, which is enough to meet expected demand until the end of May, water officials believe.

Isara Anukul, Chief of the Water Allocation Division of the Phuket Irrigation Office (PIO), noted, "Normally the rainy season arrives at the beginning of May. I think the rain will arrive in time to meet demand after that date."

In the meantime, the Phuket Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) has drawn up a plan to locate areas that can be used to collect smaller pockets of water in line with HM the King's *Gaem Ling* (Monkey's Cheek) Project, which calls for the building of small reservoirs and ponds to store water and allow for controlled drainage.

Meanwhile Sayan Wareearoonroj, Manager of the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS), told the *Gazette* that there is still a problem supplying enough water to Patong.

"Our job is to distribute water. But demand is currently

Continued on page 2

## Property sales taxes topped B1bn in 2005

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) collected 1.1 billion baht in property taxes and fees in 2005.

The tax gathered has soared recently, thanks to booming land prices and sales of homes

in property developments. By comparison, PPLO statistics show that the province collected 370 million baht from land and property sales in 2003, and 932 million baht in 2004.

PPLO Chief Suphot Suwannachote told the *Gazette* that Phuket land prices continue to

increase, especially in places that command a sea view in newer development areas such as Pa Khlok and Layan.

He added that 70% of the tax collected came from sales of land and houses in property developments, and 30% from sales of land alone.



Land Office Chief K. Suphot.

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## Limo and BMW crash kills one, injures two

KATHU: An airport limousine driver was killed and two Australian tourists were injured when their limousine was in collision with a BMW car on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd on January 5.

Pol Lt Col Passakorn Sontikul of Tung Thong Police Station told the *Gazette* that driver Surachai Temchuen, 42, died, and the two Australians, Edward Shrink and Rosemary Perkins, both 19, were taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket after the limousine was in collision with a BMW driven by Ruepob Upatising, 30.

"Ruepob has been charged with careless driving causing injury or death, carrying a penalty of up to 10 years in jail or a fine of up to 20,000 baht, or both," Col Passakorn said.

— *Ananya Hongsa-ngiam*

## Thalang man stabbed to death

THALANG: A young Thai man was stabbed to death in the early morning of January 2 in Thalang District.

The police received a phone call at around 1 am from a local citizen saying that a man had been stabbed in front of a shop-house on Baan Li Porn, Tambon Srisoonthorn. Loy Buathong, 26, a resident of the area, was found stabbed once in the chest and with multiple contusions on other parts of his body.

Pol Capt Prakorp Boonkwan, of Thalang District, told the *Gazette* that eyewitnesses reported the victim had been sitting alone on the sidewalk when a gang of between six and eight teenage men on motorbikes approached him. The victim tried to run away, but one of the men pulled out a knife and stabbed him.

— *Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*



Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr tries out a 10-seater vehicle much like a stretched electric golf cart, one of two bought by the OrBorJor to carry people along Chalong Pier.

K. Anchalee said the OrBorJor bought the 600,000-baht vehicles to replace the diesel-powered *songtaew* buses used up to now, in order to save energy and reduce pollution.

— *Anongnat Sartpisut*

# MEA CULPA, SAYS HIGHWAYS CHIEF

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) Chief Thanit Sakiya has accepted responsibility for not delivering on a promise he made to Governor Udomsak Usarangura to have the surface of the bypass road completed by last December 26.

On December 20, 2005, Governor Udomsak ordered the road surfacing work finished by the December 26 deadline so as to avoid inconveniencing visitors who were due to arrive for the tsunami memorial ceremonies on Phuket.

It didn't happen.

K. Thanit said, "If I had known on Dec 20 that the mobile stone grinder had had a problem on December 15, I would not have promised the Governor we'd finish the road on time."

He added that he accepted responsibility for not having all the information needed to carry out his promise.

Work to expand the road started on May 7, 2004 and was originally slated to finish by September 28 last year.

However, progress slowed when contractors were forced to wait 250 days for permission to use explosives for blasting work and the original contract had to be extended.

A new target date for completion was then set: January 26, 2006.

K. Thanyakit said, "In fact, based on what remains to be done at this stage, the entire project is not likely to be completed until the end of March this year."

Highways Department Engineer Boonyakiat Kongketyai blamed the slow progress on the contractor and on the condition of the machinery used.

He explained that the contractor, Chiang Rai Harn Charoen Enterprise Ltd, experienced delays because approval to buy spare parts and for repairs had to be obtained from the company's headquarters in Chiang Rai Province. Some of the equipment had deteriorated, and no longer functioned at optimum levels.

According to the contract, if the job is not completed on time, Chiang Rai Harn Charoen faces penalties of 33,390 baht for each day the project extends past the January 26 deadline.

## Enough water for high season

From page 1

much higher than the maximum amount we can pump – we distribute up to 40,800m<sup>3</sup> a day to support 22,000 homes in the Muang District outside of Phuket City [including Kata and Karon] and in Kathu District [including Patong]."

However, he said, supply in Patong will improve when the planned desalination plant in Karon – converting seawater into drinking water – comes online.

Construction of the plant will take six months, he said, so it should be complete by mid-year. "Then we will produce an additional 6,000m<sup>3</sup> a day," he said.

Meanwhile, at a meeting on January 10, Governor Udomsak Usarangura suggested that the PPWS lay new water pipes on top of the ground, rather than buried, so that leaks – which currently account for 25% of the island's water being lost – can be more easily detected and repaired.

The pipes could be camouflaged with plants, he added.

The meeting, at Phuket Provincial Hall, also heard from the PPWS's K. Sayan that the volume of water pumped from Bang Wad reservoir was raised on January 8 from 1,000m<sup>3</sup> to 1,300m<sup>3</sup> an hour. However, he said, in order to do this the quality of water had had to be reduced.

Patong, Kata and Karon are not receiving any more water than before, but all will have water on tap 24 hours a day, with no interruptions. K. Sayan said that demand from these three places was around 1,500m<sup>3</sup> an hour, but the PPWS can deliver only about 700m<sup>3</sup>.

However, Pattanapong Aikwanich, speaking for hotel owners, said that demand was in fact much higher than 1,500m<sup>3</sup> an hour, and was being met only by trucking in large volumes of water.

He appealed for an easing of restrictions on the operating hours of water trucks.

Gov Udomsak agreed to this, ordering that the operating times be extended by one hour a day.

## 80pc turnout expected in Senate poll in April

PHUKET: The Phuket Election Committee (PEC) expects a higher number of people to vote in Phuket's senate poll on April 19.

PEC Chairman Dr Prapa Kayee said, "In the last senatorial election six years ago, 78% of Phuket's eligible population voted; voided ballots accounted for only 5% and there were no complaints of cheating."

She said that, due to the PEC's rigorous public relations work, 80% of those eligible to vote this time are expected to do so and voided ballots are expected to amount to just 3%. Phuket has 204,000 eligible voters in total.

### Hidden Cuisine

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

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Wichai 'Loh' Somkhaoyai (left) and Bualoi Kosit confessed after being confronted with DNA evidence. — Photos by EPA/Narong Sangnak

## Police crack Samui murder case

KOH SAMUI (*The Nation*, *Phuket Gazette*): DNA evidence and the suspicions of fellow fishermen helped in the swift arrest of two Thai fishermen who raped and murdered Welsh student Katherine Horton.

The body of the 21-year-old woman was found floating off Lamai Beach, Koh Samui, in the morning of January 2.

Forensic work established that she had been raped and then beaten to death.

The Central Investigation Bureau Deputy Commissioner, Pol Maj Gen Asavin Kwanmuang, said that investigators zeroed in on the two Thai fish-

men, Wichai "Loh" Somkhaoyai, 24 and Bualoi Kosit, 23, after learning from their colleagues that they had suspiciously asked to go out to sea again without taking a break ashore like the other fishermen.

"Police later went aboard that boat and took 29 crewmen for questioning. Two of them confessed to the crime during interrogation," he said.

The two fishermen confessed that they had got drunk and had been watching a pornographic movie before swimming ashore to find a victim, Deputy Police Commissioner, Region 8, Pol Maj Gen Santhan Chayanon, said January 9, after the two were arrested.

"They said they intended to find a woman to have sex with after watching the adult movie," Gen Santhan said.

A police officer who asked not to be named told the *Gazette* that the two were on board a fishing boat. "The captain was not on board, so they got drunk and watched a porno DVD, which got them sexually excited.

"They decided to find somebody to satisfy their lust and swam ashore where they saw Ms Horton strolling along the beach talking on her phone.

"Wichai tried to grab her, but she scratched his face, so he beat her unconscious with a beach umbrella, then raped her. After both finished raping her, they used the same umbrella to beat her to death. Then they dragged her back to the beach and threw her in the water."

The two returned to their fishing boat and then went out on a fishing trip on another boat the next day, Gen Santhan explained.

DNA in blood samples from the duo matched that found in semen recovered from Ms Horton's body, said Deputy Police Commissioner Pol Gen Preowan Damapong.

## Swiss man arrested for pedophilia

PHANG NGA (*The Nation*): A 53-year-old Swiss national, Bernhard Rudolf Hager, has been arrested and charged with pedophilia and the illegal detention of three underage Thai boys, police said on January 6.

The arrest came after the US Federal Bureau of Investigation provided Thai police with a photo taken from the Internet, showing a foreigner molesting young Thai boys, police said.

In the photo, the foreigner wore a T-shirt with the name of a dive shop in the Khao Lak area.

Hager initially confessed to the charges, police said.

Pol Maj Gen Kumronwit Toopkrajang, head of the Children's and Women's Protection Division, said Hager has been charged with molesting three boys aged under 15.

"The FBI sent the picture to my office last month, and we spent about a month tracking him down," Gen Kumronwit said.

Police also took pornographic materials from Hager, including CDs and videos, as well as his computer and camera.

At time of going to press, Hager was being held in custody at the Children and Woman Protection Center of the Crime Suppression Department in Bangkok.

## Suwat eases Phi Phi ban on construction

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHI PHI ISLANDS: The government has finally allowed construction of tsunami relief homes on Koh Phi Phi Don, along with temporary structures so that locals may conduct business.

Phankam Kitithorakul, Chairman of the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), the local authority responsible for the Phi Phi Islands, told the *Gazette*, "[It is] lucky for us that I had the chance to meet with Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop before the [tsunami] memorial service at Phi Phi.

### PUBLIC HEARING

"I told him about the government ban on any construction and the problems it has caused for people here. He understood, and immediately gave permission for charities to build homes for tsunami victims, and for local people — with the correct paperwork — to erect temporary buildings [for business]," K. Phankam said.

He added that, on January 27, officers from the Organization for Specific Areas Administration for Sustainable Tourism Promotion (OSAASTP) will finally meet with local people on

Koh Phi Phi Don to sound out public opinion on development plans that will shape the island's future in tourism.

The meeting is crucial to the island's recovery from the tsunami — all construction, including renovation work, was banned in the middle of 2005, pending approval by Cabinet of the OSAASTP's development plans.

K. Phankam said that the OSAASTP should be prepared for criticism of its proposal that Phi Phi be developed to target high-end tourists only.

"We don't want to see Phi Phi being designated a special area [for high-end tourists only], but if they want to change us to a Special Administration, just like Bangkok or Pattaya, then we'd be happy to be that," K. Phankam said.

He argued, however, that

Ao Nang *OrBorTor* is perfectly capable of regulating the islands competently. "In fact, the *OrBorTor* has managed the islands for a long time. [The government should] just give the *OrBorTor* the authority to manage [Phi Phi], and not persecute us by not approving budgets.

"Phi Phi could generate a lot of income for Thailand from tourism, and there's no need to cater to high-end tourists only, because I worry that high-end tourism will benefit just one group of people."

It has been rumored that the OSAASTP will propose that islanders move to homes in the hills for their own safety should another tsunami strike the island.

K. Phankam stoutly opposes this idea. "All we need is a good warning system, then everyone would survive [in the case of another tsunami]," he said.

## Swede held for bashing katoey

KARON: A Swedish man assaulted a transsexual who refused to submit to having unprotected anal sex with him.

Pol Lt Col Anek Mongkol of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette* that the case was reported by the victim, 30-year-old ladyboy Raila, from Nonthaburi.

K. Raila told police that he went to the hotel room of the

Swede, named as Erik, with the intention of having sex.

But when K. Raila insisted Erik use a condom the Swede became enraged and slammed K. Raila's head into a wall.

Police are now awaiting a doctor's report to determine whether the severity of K. Raila's injuries warrants a charge of causing grievous bodily harm.

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# Are nudists itching to invade Thailand?

To discuss the request to establish a nudist retreat in Phuket, Governor Udomsak called a meeting of about 20 senior provincial officials and one member of the press, Radio Thailand's Chaiwut Pongsuwan.

Most of those present had received a notice from the TAT, accompanied by copies of a letter, dated May 20, from Karsten Bech-Andersen, Marketing Director of Goldman & Partners, operator of the Costa Natura "naturist" resort on the Spanish Mediterranean coast.

According to Radio Thailand's K. Chaiwut, Mr Bech-Andersen's letter asked that the TAT help find an "appropriate" Thai investor willing to become Goldman's joint-venture partner locally, so that the latter could "expand its network of Family Naturist Resorts into Thailand".

## POTENTIAL

Mr Bech-Andersen noted that his letter had been prompted by a meeting between James Bailey, owner of the Texas travel agent Castaways Travel, which specializes in "clothing optional" tourism, and the TAT Governor during an international travel industry get-together.

Mr Bailey told Mr Bech-Andersen that the TAT had been studying the possibility of designating some beaches as nudist, and that those on the Andaman Sea held the greatest potential.

Castaways Travel's website states: "The reason Thailand is included in our website is that we believe social nudity and nudist beaches, if not resorts, will happen in the future. Nudity is not yet accepted in Thailand, although topless sunbathing is quite common... Finding a deserted stretch of beach to bask in the sun nude is possible, but you will have to hunt for the spots, since nudity is

Last September, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura called a meeting of concerned parties to discuss an unusual request from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). What was the opinion locally, the TAT Governor's Office wanted to know, regarding the establishment of a nudist resort somewhere on the island? **Tang Rob** reports.

not accepted in any public area whatsoever. Nudity is considered rude and thoughtless. Curiously, however, topless sunbathing is seen everywhere in most of the Thai beach destinations and vacation resorts, so it would seem the country is catching up... We believe Thailand is at about the same developmental stage regarding nudity as Mexico..."

One paragraph repeats the information Bailey gave to Bech-Andersen: "It has been reported that the Thai Department of Tourism [sic] has even studied possible beach areas for nudist development, supposedly up near the Thai/Burma border facing the Andaman sea to the west near Ranong."

Apparently thinking the time ripe, Bech-Andersen contacted TAT Governor Juthamas Siriwan, and she, evidently laboring under some misapprehension, asked Gov Udomsak and others to look into the matter.

Bech-Andersen made the following points: his company wants to build a 25-bungalow "Naturist Country Club" with pool, bar and restaurant "serving

food catering to this type of tourist". Legal assurances would have to be forthcoming, both from a creditable lawyer and from officials in the area selected, that authorities would not harass people for going naked in their homes or swimming naked in the

appropriate services were not offered. Goldman & Partners would handle sales and marketing.

Noting that more than 200 nudist resorts operate in Europe, with many more in other countries, Bech-Andersen, a Dane,

said he expected that construction of the first resort in Thailand would signal a green light to others.

"He wrote that he was sure Thailand would become an important destination for this group of tourists," said K. Chaiwut. "He said an upcoming meeting of the 850-member International Naturist Federation to be hosted by Costa Natura would not be a bad time to let regional naturist federations know that Thailand had opened up."

The reaction to Bech-Andersen's proposal by the senior civil servants and big businessmen gathered

in the Governor's office that day was of barely concealed disdain, however.

"Perhaps at Pattaya in Chon Buri, or Koh Samui in Surat Thani, there are tourists who take off their tops. It's normal," said the Governor. "But never has

anyone built accommodations or provided facilities for these tourists called "naturists" or "nudists". I'd like the people proposing this project to get me some information on what it's like in other countries where they've done this."

But more information might not affect his judgment, for in the very next breath the Governor added, "The policy of Thailand and of Phuket is to support the kind of tourism that promotes nature and morality, not the kind that damages our surroundings. This kind of thinking comes from one of those 'free' countries, with neither morality nor religion..."

Echoing the Governor's sentiment was a representative from Phuket's Culture Ministry office, who pointed out that Thailand is predominantly Buddhist and that Phuket also has a sizable Muslim population.

## PRINCIPLES

"[Nudism] could lead to fighting," he said.

"I don't think there should be any such resorts or colonies in Phuket or Thailand."

"Thai culture promotes ethics and moral principles: if such businesses are allowed, young people might misunderstand and think that in Thailand they are free to do such things," he added.

He cited weekend newspaper editions, several of which feature scantily clad women on their front pages, as "contributing to the sex problem".

Local TAT office Deputy Director Siripakorn Chiaosamutr said his office was not bound to promote nude tourism, and Phuket Tourist Business Association representative Sarayuth Mullum averred that this kind of tourist "is absolutely inappropriate for Thailand".

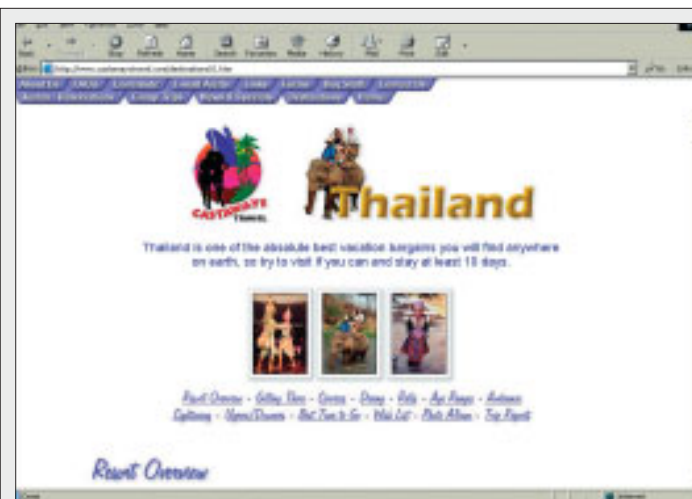
Tourism, Sports and Recreation Center Director Phromchot Traiwet argued that nudity would have an ill effect on the nation's youth, and said he was worried that businesses near any proposed resort would also implement a "clothing optional" policy.

K. Phromchot summed up the general feeling when he said nudism is opposed to religion and morality.

If allowed a foothold, it might spread to the general population, he said.

"What that company is demanding amounts to a violation of human rights," he asserted later to K. Chaiwut.

"We should be promoting sea, sun and sand – with no fourth 's'!"



'Curiously, however, topless sunbathing is seen everywhere in most of the Thai beach destinations and vacation resorts, so it would seem the country is catching up'

The website of Castaways Travel, which specializes in 'clothing optional' tourism

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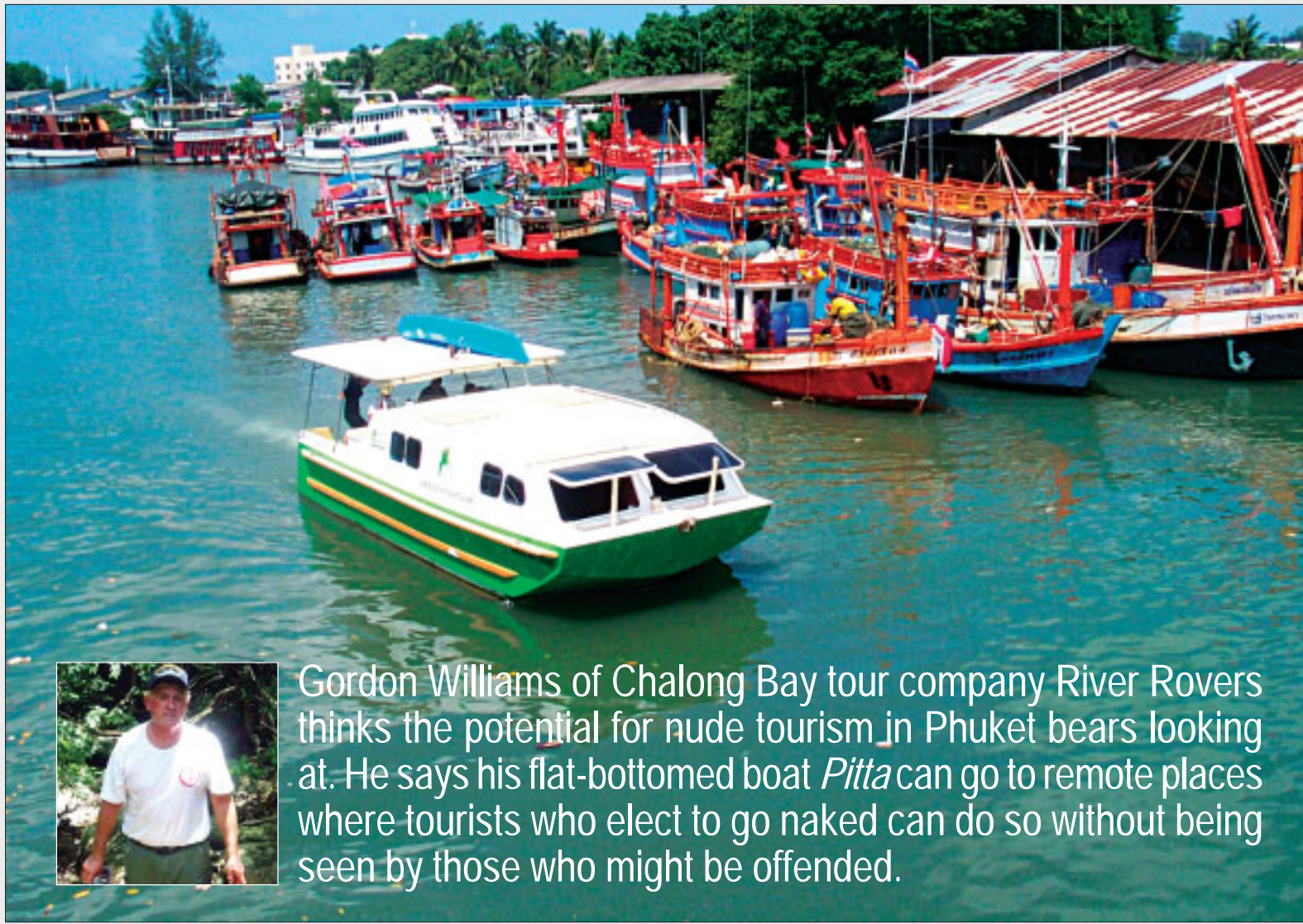
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Mr. Fenek  
Managing Director





Gordon Williams of Chalong Bay tour company River Rovers thinks the potential for nude tourism in Phuket bears looking at. He says his flat-bottomed boat *Pitta* can go to remote places where tourists who elect to go naked can do so without being seen by those who might be offended.

Had those meeting with Gov Udomsak that day bothered to investigate, they would have discovered that the naturist movement is more puritanical than hedonistic. It originated in Germany during the last Kaiser's reign, and its center was Berlin, where "nackt-kultur" ("naked culture") groups flourished.

"They consisted largely of middle-class persons of rather strong nationalistic tendencies," observed Maurice Parmelee, author of *The New Gymnosophy* (1927) and *Nudism in Modern Life* (1952).

The movement's aims, which have scarcely changed over the last century, were a return to Greek standards of beauty, "air-bathing" for health, and acceptance of the human body in its natural condition "to weaken sex segregation and strengthen human solidarity", in Parmelee's words.

"Woe betide the man who has not exercised his will power enough to keep his mind above his waist-line and who has not grown in judgment and sanity so

that he can concentrate on the beauty, form, healthiness and cleanliness, rather than upon his glandular sex enthusiasms," wrote Kenneth Connor on the subject during the 1930s.

Lewd behavior has always been regarded by nudists as undignified. The Costa Natura website carries no suggestive photos, nor indeed nudity of any sort, only mentioning that it is "a naturist holiday village" and that guests are "free from the constraints of clothing".

A photo caption for the facilities notes: "All principal paths are designed for wheelchairs" – hardly the stuff of base desire – and certainly not comparable to ads for most Patong entertainment spots, which are decidedly suggestive.

In discussing the nudist resort issue, it is notable that the provincial office consulted mainly its own people.

But how do tour operators feel? Would opening the Andaman coast to nudist resorts be good for business?

Holger Schwab, Managing Director of Sea Bees Diving, one

of Phuket's oldest dive companies, said he thought having a nudist resort might be good for tourism in general, but he did foresee problems in details of operation.

"This type of tourism needs support from the local community and Buddhism is not the right surrounding for it," he said.

As for nudist diving, Mr Schwab sees no potential: "If you stay [down] longer than 20 to 30 minutes without wetsuit protection you get cold," he said. So the possibility of organizing, say, underwater nudist weddings is probably nil.

River Rovers' Gordon Williams, while likewise wary of the cultural difficulties, is distinctly more upbeat: "As long as it doesn't offend anyone, it's okay," he observed. "There are many, many secluded beaches no one can get to unless by boat; and behind the beaches are mountains

– so no one is going to come walking over the mountains to spy!"

Mr Williams' confidence doubtless derives from the fact that his Chalong Bay tour company specializes in visits to otherwise inaccessible places in upstream mangroves and offshore via a shallow-draft, flat-bottomed boat called the *Pitta*.

"You can go to places in Krabi, Phang Nga – even Phuket, on the outer islands. No one

would even know they were there. I can find beautiful beaches, little beaches with no one around; as long as people can get covered up in public, it's okay. No one will see them."

Mr Williams, who is in contact with Castaways Travel's James Bailey, doesn't feel the step to a full naturist environment would be large. "We've had tourists on the boat, many people actually, who get on – and off go their clothes, with only a G-string left!"

Staff reaction to naked tourists, he observed, has been professional.

When a Russian couple not only decided to go nude but also to make the beast with two backs on deck, he said the staff "just laughed". Williams said he didn't think extra security measures would be necessary.

He might be right. Provincial authorities apparently think the issue turns on Buddhism. But Buddhist teachings do not have the force of law, even in Thailand, as an old monk at Wat Lati Wanaram in Chalong was quick to point out.

"The private parts must be covered except when bathing," said the 74-year-old former teacher. "That is central to Buddhist teachings. Even among married couples, some people don't disrobe before each other; in the old days, no one did."

"But Buddhism doesn't force anyone to do anything. It's up to you. Buddhism forbids eating of flesh and killing animals, but people still do it."

The success of European resorts such as Costa Natura suggests that the world's nudist market is not inconsiderable; and as Phuket's business is tourism, the province may want to reconsider its position.

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**BANGKOK SAMUI PHUKET PATTAYA SINGAPORE**



## Queer News

# Getting to the bottom of the problem

**PRACHUAB KHIRI KHAN:** From this peninsular province comes a cautionary tale about the perils of leaving bottles standing on the floor.

Nuy (not his real name) had just finished his ablutions when he slipped on the wet floor of his bathroom and plonked down firmly on his backside.

This is the kind of embarrassment many of us suffer from time to time, but in K. Nuy's case there was an added indignity.

At precisely the spot where he landed was a bottle of (ironically) stomach medicine. It did not break, but slid in its entirety

into the poor fellow's back passage.

Unable to extract the bottle, and in considerable pain (the bottle measured 23 centimeters long by 7.5cm in diameter) he was taken by relatives to the main Prachuap Khiri Khan Hospital.

An X-ray confirmed that he did indeed have a large bottle-shaped object lodged in his large intestine, close to the main exit.

It required a surgical procedure under full anesthetic to extract the foreign object, but K. Nuy is now well on the way to recovery.

*Source: Thai Rath*

### STATISTICS AT PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS DROP 37.49%

Type	November 2004	Nov '05	% change
Domestic passengers	271,544	226,945	-16.24
International passengers	191,721	119,840	-37.49
Domestic cargo (tons)	1,329	1,376	3.54
International cargo (tons)	1,966	765	-61.09

*Source: Phuket International Airport*



Martin Holmes, General Manager of Lee Marine, and Oraphan Tungsomboon made it clear to London what their feelings are about Phuket, and sent us this picture to prove it, taken in front of Buckingham Palace. And yes, they said, Queen Elizabeth II was in residence at the time.



## Pride in Phuket campaign

Tharana Panitchayanukrch (right) collects her prize of a voucher for a facial treatment with Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic from *Gazette* Assistant Manager Chalantorn 'Jan' Janssen, for displaying a 'We Love Phuket' sticker on her car.

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# Plunge in Aids deaths in 2005

**G**reater access to anti-retroviral drugs slashed Thailand's Aids death toll in 2005 by two thirds, Disease Control Department (DCD) Director-General Dr Thawat Suntharacharn has reported.

Dr Thawat said the drop in both Aids sickness and deaths was attributed to government provision of anti-retroviral treatments, which was elevated to blanket coverage of the population and now covers 80,000 HIV-positive patients nationwide.

At the end of 2005, the number of deaths associated with HIV/Aids in the year was 1,640 compared with 5,020 reported in 2004, according to the official figures published on the DCD's website.

The number of HIV-positive people developing full-blown Aids was also down – 8,681 compared with 13,364 reported in 2004.

About 18,000 new HIV cases were reported over the past year. The Public Health Ministry aims to cut the number of new infections by 10% this year by providing 24 million condoms to high-risk groups and by expanding its program to prevent mother-to-child transmission, Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat said.

**Skid lids lifted:** Grappling with a wave of crash helmet thefts, police in Khon Kaen's Muang District will start loaning helmets to motorcyclists instead of fining people for riding without one.

A motorcyclist arrested for the first time for not wearing a helmet will be loaned one but will have to return it to the police within a few days, said Pol Lt Col Kani Duangdee.

He called on helmet thieves to stop, even though it was a petty crime.

Helmet snatchers are not career criminals, but mostly wayward teenagers who are easily tempted by attractive designs on helmets, or motorcyclists without helmets who fear being fined by traffic police, he explained.

**Not finding Nemo:** A recent effort by the Fisheries Department to re-stock Thailand's waters with 1,800 clown fish ended in failure, with just eight of the fish still alive after 24 hours.

Most of the clown fish, which were popularized by the animated film *Finding Nemo*, were eaten by other fish or fouled in sea anemone's tentacles, officers at the department's marine-life breeding center in Krabi said.

Thorn Thamrongnawasawadi, an adviser to the project, said, "Once being released into the sea, they don't know what to do, where to go, which of the other marine critters are their friends and which are the enemy."

Last month was the second time the department released clown fish into the sea in a bid to



**Driven mad in Bangkok:** Chalongchai Paichu drives a tractor dragging a Ford pickup truck – with a fifth gear that doesn't work – in a protest against the Consumer Protection Board and the Ford Motor Co, which denies any responsibility for the vehicle.

increase the species' numbers. Of 4,000 released in 2004, just two survived. While the fish did once occur naturally in Thai waters, there are now none left because they've all been snagged for the aquarium trade, being sold for as little as five baht each.

**Finn beaten:** A Finnish man filed a complaint with police saying he was badly beaten by a group of at least five Thai club-goers in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

Dressed in blood-soaked clothes, Jyrki Boris Heiro Nonen told Tourist Police that he and his Thai girlfriend were attacked by the group in a karaoke bar at about 6 am.

Amornrat Bunthidsaksakul, owner of the karaoke venue, told police she had closed by the time the man said he was beaten. Pol

Lt Col Rangsiman Vjiththamrongsak, chief of Hua Hin Tourist Police Station, ordered the karaoke bar temporarily shut down, believing it had stayed open late illegally.

**Wicked world:** Three babies were found abandoned in Thailand within three days. The first was a five-day-old boy found in a garbage container next to a hotel in Lampang Province. The boy had almost suffocated in the garbage bag in which he was found and required breathing apparatus after suffering from a lung infection.

The second was a 15-day-old girl found under a tree next to the wall of a house in Bangkok's Bang Na District. Wearing only a pink diaper and shorts, the newborn was covered in mosquito bites.

The third was a four-month-old boy found by a roadside in Rayong Province. He was fine, except for some bruises and insect bites.

The boy had a good temper and smiled constantly, prompting Kamnan Jun of Tambon Nikom Pattana to adopt him.

**Haves and have-nots:** Poverty-eradication policies will not suc-

ceed if the government fails to collaborate with the people, said Gotham Arya, Chairman of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council.

Land reforms and tax measures are key to reducing the income gap between the wealthiest and the poorest, and giving charity-like aid is missing the point, he added.

"Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra shouldn't use his promise to eradicate poverty in Thailand within three years as propaganda any more.

"The statistics I have studied during the past 20 years reveal that the income gap between the wealthiest 20% of the population and that of the poorest 20% is a ratio of 13:1. The record has been constant and is the highest in Asean," K. Gotham said.

He said the government was not serious about the all-important issue of land reform, saying it had allocated public land to help a few of the poor, but had failed to curb major landlords who have encroached on public land.

**Wild life:** The Chiang Mai Night Safari welcomed nearly one million visitors in the first 47 days of its promotional free-entry period, Zoo Director Pisal Wasuwanich said.

Taking up the offer, which ends at the end of January, some 988,000 people visited the attraction between November 16 and January 1.

The one-millionth visitor and his family were given life-long free entry passes, said zoo public relations official Onjira Sasanasuk.

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

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## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

**T**he much-fanfaired widening of the southern part of Highway 4, also known as Petchkasem Rd, in Khao Lak center has claimed its first victims. The tragic and sadly predictable accident took place in the early morning hours of December 18.

The driver of a pickup truck, speeding at an estimated 120 to 150kmh, lost control of his vehicle and smashed into the front shovel of a huge earth-moving machine parked on the hard shoulder of the highway. The machine had no visible warning signs or parking lights switched on.

The pickup truck, driven by a Thai Bang Niang Beach resident, disintegrated on impact. Some 50 meters further on, the passenger cabin finally hit the road and shattered into pieces. The driver and a passenger died instantly. Another passenger was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit of Thai Muang Hospital in critical condition.

Just a few days before, a small girl was run over by a truck and badly injured while trying to cross the new four-lane highway.

While some locals and visitors praise the road widening as an improvement for Khao Lak, as now everything appears to be clean and organized, many residents find it hard to come to terms with what they see as a Formula 1 race track in the very heart of a tourist destination. And this is a destination that formerly marketed itself as a good example of what an environmentally sensitive community should look like.



The aftermath of the horrendous accident, in which two people lost their lives.

# The widened highway claims its first victims

**No mercy:** Talking about eco-tourism – or the lack of it – there is another shock in store for Khao Lak lovers. The road-widening scheme will now continue along the previously picturesque part of Highway 4 that runs through the Khao Lak Lamru National Park. “National park or not – here we come!” seems to be the slogan of the enthusiastic road extension

team that happily continues to hack down trees all along the highway to make room for daredevils pushing the speed envelope with their unroadworthy trucks, motorbikes and buses.

Instead of enjoying a dense green tropical forest, drivers on this stretch of road can now enjoy the pleasures of dirt all over the place and the dubious thrill of having to master mud-greased curves in heavy rain.

**Is there any good news?** Yes, there is! Khao Lak now has four 7/11 shops. During the past

months, they’ve been popping up like mushrooms all over the place. One is located opposite Stempfer Café, one at its old pre-tsunami location on the Bang Niang Beach-Petchkasem intersection, one near the northern bus station and fresh market, and one at the PTT gas station at Khao Lak’s northern end. Before the tsunami, there was only one 7/11 in this area. Many see the influx of the red-and-green-striped shops as a good sign, showing that big franchise companies are willing to invest in this area, yet some mourn the good old times, when Khao Lak had just one small minimart. But in the end tourism dollars only come at a price that we all have to pay.

**Media Barbie meets Party Ken:** December 26 was a rather

controversial day for many who were directly or indirectly affected by the tsunami. The preparations for the proudly announced Khao Lak Tsunami Memorial event began in early November, starting with the laying of pavements all along the Bang Niang main and beach road.

It was evident that something major was about to happen, but nobody was prepared for what was to come next.

Extensive areas of Bang Niang Beach were cleared and later covered by gray gravel to become the parking, showcase, and event areas for the memorial.

Huge trucks carrying soil operated around the clock, covering the whole beach in a cloud of dust for weeks.

Electricians installed temporary street lighting – a rare sight in this part of the world.

In the past year, some Bang Niang residents have had to virtually beg at the electricity office in Takuapa for their much-needed power meters to be installed, so they could begin their reconstruction efforts.

## LIMELIGHT

But it was crystal clear that on Boxing Day truckloads of VIPs would hit the area, so that every one of them could have his Kodak moment in the limelight to be seen on TV worldwide.

I – along with many other tsunami survivors and victims – was sickened by the thought that December 26 should become a major media event instead of a quiet and peaceful ceremony without the hustle and bustle of VIP ‘Media Barbie’ and ‘Party Ken’ appearances.

Fortunately, there also were many Thai citizens who made statements to the media, saying they did not approve of the VIP frenzy and that the money spent on staging this spectacle should have better been used for ongoing tsunami relief efforts.

I totally agree with this, and will keep short what I want to say: the only meaningful part of that day was the release of some 5,000 hot-air lanterns into the night sky at around 8:30 pm on Bang Niang Beach – one for each beloved soul lost in Thailand on that terrible day.

It was a beautiful sight that helped many surviving family members to let go, at least for that one night.

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# A room with no view

By Stephen Fein

There once was a time when a swimmer in Patong could make his way out into the crystal-clear waters of the bay, lean back and just float – relaxing in calm and gentle tranquillity.

Trying to do such a thing nowadays would be tantamount to a suicide bid. Even if you are not ripped in two by the propeller of a parasail boat, the constant whine of jet skis – and the very real possibility of being hit by one – makes a swim in Patong Bay a source of stress, not relaxation.

But there is one place in Patong where you can float to your heart's content, enjoying benefits that include stress reduction, relief from fatigue and chronic pain.

## BUOYANCY

That place is Floathaven, located on the southern end of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

Floathaven has the only “float chamber” of its kind in Thailand. Bought in England and imported for a cost of 1.5 million baht, the float chamber went into operation in Patong at the beginning of December 2004, just a few weeks before the tsunami.

Director Dr Jimmy Stewart, from Scotland, told the *Gazette* that his chamber differs from traditional “float tanks” because it is larger, therefore eliminating the feeling of claustrophobia that puts many people off the idea of floating.

Buoyancy isn't a problem. The 12"-15" deep water in the chamber contains so much epsom salt – about two-thirds of a

ton – that it is as buoyant as the Dead Sea. With such a high salt content, the water is naturally about 98% sterile. Even so, the solution is circulated by a pump through a filter system every 15 minutes, making it 100% hygienic, Dr Stewart said.

One big believer in the benefits of floating is Worida “Da” Nakha, a masseuse and hairdresser at Floathaven – and also a tsunami survivor. The 44-year-old was working in an underground area near the pool of the Cabana Hotel on Phi Phi Island when the waves hit.

She was trapped in the darkness for about three hours, having to twist her head upwards to gasp for breath from an air pocket between the water's surface and the ceiling – until some people managed to rescue her by prying open an extractor fan vent and pulling her to safety.

K. Da spent the rest of the night up in the hills with other survivors. Only one other girl of the six working in the room at the time is known to have survived.

“I thought I was going to die for sure. I think God helped me,” she said.

The float room has helped her, too, Da says. It cured her post-traumatic stress disorder, and also put an end to other chronic pain she had been suffering, increasing her flexibility.

Dr Stewart said that the float room is really a sensory deprivation chamber that allows one to divorce oneself from the rest of the world: going internal and ignoring the external. This is a key to helping people to learn to meditate, he said.

“Meditation is putting yourself in a state of nothingness. The



Da and Jimmy in front of the 1.5-million-baht float chamber.

tank does that for you because it's totally silent, there are no lights, and the water is maintained at body temperature. During a float, for the first time, the central nervous system finds it doesn't need to work [so hard],” he said. “It takes some people 10 to 20 years to learn how to meditate. With the float room, I can have you meditating after three one-hour sessions.”

“Once you get over your fears, it's the ultimate relaxation. For pain relief, it's almost like being on opiates, because your body releases copious amounts of endorphins, which are the body's natural painkillers,” he said.

After hearing all this, and browsing through a book of testimonials that included a column entitled: *I Found God in a Water Closet*, I was more than ready

to experience my first float.

After a quick shower, I entered the chamber and slowly laid back on my warm, briny support. For the first 10 minutes there is soft Asian-ambient music piped in, which you can still hear through the earplugs they give you to wear. The only other sensory stimulus is dull light that seeps in from around the doorway.

There is a light switch in the chamber you can turn on or off at will. Because of that, and the fact that I could open the door any time I wanted, I didn't feel any claustrophobia whatsoever.

For the first part of the float I was just trying to enjoy the experience. With the water still and at body temperature it is difficult to sense where the water line is on your body. Were my hands above the surface or below?

I slowly clenched and unclenched them to feel the movement of the water. After I realized that it didn't really matter where my hands were, I just relaxed and let my mind wander. What really constitutes sensation: is pleasure just the absence of pain, or is it something more? A float chamber is the perfect distraction-free environment in which to ponder such questions.

After a while, the imagination begins to take over. First I thought of myself as my own lobotomized clone, hanging in suspended animation like a scene from the movie *Coma*. Then I imagined I was one of the massive stone blocks used to build the Egyptian pyramids, being slowly floated down the Nile on a barge.

As part of my musing I considered all the touts, insane driving and other Patong chaos from which I was now gratefully removed.

After an hour that seemed like about 20 minutes, the music came back on. That was the signal to get out, take a nice long shower to remove all the salt, and prepare for re-entry into the world of sensory stimulation.

At 1,000 baht an hour, I don't know if I could afford to become a regular floater. I may have to continue taking my chances at Karon Beach. But if money were no object, I would get a float chamber installed in my home tomorrow.

*Floathaven is at 265 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong, near the intersection with Tri Trang Rd. To make an appointment call Tel: 076-293-079. For more information visit the website: [www.floathaven.com](http://www.floathaven.com)*



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The school playground in Phuket City is awash with colors; children are spinning plates, juggling beanbags, performing with long ribbons of vivid hues. And not one of them has ever done any of this before.

A beaming Phanthip Dejarn, 10, says, "I will put on a show for my family when I go back home today; I'm very excited that these people came all the way to Thailand to teach us things and to show us how to relax."

The kids also play parachute football. For those unfamiliar with the concept, this is more straightforward than one might think.

Take one real parachute – the brighter the better – and gather 100 or so children to hold the edge of the 'chute. Roughly divide the children along the diameter of the 'chute into two teams, and throw a football into the center.

Teamwork – and a little practice – will have the teams scoring goals by forcing the ball to roll past the opposing sides' players.

## SLAPSTICK

It is very noisy. It is very lively. It looks like a lot of fun. The hundred-or so pupils taking part are being watched by hundreds more craning their necks out of the school's windows.

The show that follows is pure slapstick with juggling and routines that look simple, but are not. The schoolchildren – with an hour's or so practice – are an integral part of the performance.

Plate spinning, although relatively easy to explain as merely a demonstration of gyroscopic inertia, is a test of the nerve and skills of the 10 children who must pass a revolving platter from one stick to another down the line. Hats off to them; they do it.

Hats on, however, for one of juggling routines from Haggis. Aided and abetted – or perhaps

# Make 'em laugh

hindered – by Jake, his sidekick, and performing to the strains of Frank Sinatra's *I Get a Kick Out Of You*, Haggis has the children alternately silently transfixed and roaring with delight.

It's visual, physical humor. Jo, in thick glasses, does a turn with a strangely mobile suitcase that sprouts legs and wan-

ders off when her back is turned. The audience is spellbound.

This is just one of dozens of shows put on recently by Children's World International (CWI), an offshoot of Children's World (CW), which is headed by Arabella Churchill.

CW focuses on the area around Arabella's home in Glastonbury, concentrating on integration and inclusion work, to enable normal children to interact fully and happily with those who have special needs, while, of course, having fun at the same time.

This, it is believed, will help the normal children to grow up with less fear of – and less prejudice against – what is generally termed "disability".

CWI is different. It exists to make children – and in turn, their parents – smile again.

Arabella explains, "CWI all started when we saw the awful images from Kosovo [in 1999], of people fleeing over the mountains to Albania. We decided that once the conflict was over, then Children's World would go over there. But because our geographical remit restricts us to

It's a sweeping generalization perhaps, but it's fair to say that few expatriates currently in Phuket suffered from exposure to war or natural disasters during their childhoods.

But that did not stop some from caring about children in other, less fortunate countries. One of these is Arabella Churchill, who founded Children's World, based in Glastonbury, England, in 1981. Its remit – to provide fun, educational, creative and social benefits for local children, particularly those with special needs or who are socially disadvantaged – is as straightforward now as it was then. Some 18 years later, Arabella, who is the granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, Britain's Prime Minister during World War II, created Children's World International (CWI), and set about taking creative and educational performances to children in Kosovo, who had suffered during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Arabella is now in Thailand with CWI and her mission – to bring smiles to children's faces – is as simple as ever. She spoke to the *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone.

southwest England, we formed a sister organization, CWI."

The Kosovo-Albania tour in October 1999 saw some 5,000 children taking part in activities as diverse as circus skills, face-painting and badge-making workshops.

She points out that CWI is not what is termed a "first response" organization. "We don't go in to bring immediate, life-saving aid to people. We'd simply get in the way of the relief teams.

"Although fun and creative play may sound frivolous," she says, "we believe that they are powerful tools in recreating confidence and inspiring hope for the future, and we hope that our work provides benefits to the children."

The next sortie for CWI was to Northern Ireland in 2004, working with children with special and social needs from both the Catholic and Protestant communities that had been split by years of sectarian violence.

"We don't have a lot of money, so CWI can only do things when Children's World has had a successful year," Arabella explains.

When the tsunami came, she says, "We thought, 'Well, we've got to go.' Simple as that."

"It's very difficult to set up a tour overseas when you don't know where precisely to go, who you need to talk with to arrange things, or even the cost of living. It makes it hard to budget," she says.

She was eventually put in contact with Mohan Samarasinha, a Sri Lankan who lives in London, who suggested that CWI's queries could best be answered by visiting his country.

"So Devilstick Peat – CWI's main performer/workshop leader – and I went out to Sri Lanka for a mini-tour and reconnaissance and contact-making tour in March 2005.

## MORALE

"It was a completely disorganized tour," she laughs. "We'd roll up to a camp in a tuk-tuk and say, 'Hello, can we do a show now?' Sometimes it was Qur'an reading time or children's homework time, but we did shows at around half the places we went to."

Arabella describes the conditions in many of the camps they visited, barely three months after the tsunami, as "pretty crappy, with people in limbo".

"They weren't too bothered about it then," continues Arabella, "because they were expecting to be helped fairly soon. But when we were there in late December, very few of them had been permanently housed. Morale is, in some ways, worse now than it was [in March], because people now know what it will take to be housed.

"Why do we do it?," asks Arabella. "Workshops, fun and games is not 'the big stuff' like building houses or boats, or rebuilding livelihoods, but it really can help in raising morale in the camps and elsewhere, which is most desperately needed."

CWI returned to Sri Lanka in May and then again in the last two months of the year.

Linda Cruse, Field Director for the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders' Forum, an agency that has set up and run a number of projects and initia-



Schoolboy Aom takes to juggling like an expert.



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tives in Phuket and Phang Nga, also saw the therapeutic benefit of entertaining children, and invited a magician to perform for them. This led to Linda contacting CWI, which added Phuket, Phang Nga and Phi Phi Island to its itinerary.

Arriving in mid-December, Arabella and CWI set about planning with Somchai – Linda's right-hand man in Phuket – just where they should go. Sea Gypsy villages, Childwatch Phuket, the Asia Child Foundation and Wat

Kamala School are just a few of the places that have already enjoyed the antics of CWI.

On the mainland, children from Baan Nam Khem, Bang Niang, Laem Ken and Bang Sak, Tap Tawan and the Burmese refugee camps near the Burmese border will also be visited.

According to Haggis McLeod, juggler extraordinaire and Arabella's husband, the workshops and games before the show are "well-organized chaos".

CWI relies on sponsors, both individual and corporate, to allow it to bring joy into children's lives.

"Parents have thanked us for making their children smile," says Arabella. "Some have even said that they didn't believe their children would smile again, and of course, cheering up the children cheers up the parents."

"Perhaps, in the long term, CWI's work doesn't mean anything, but I suppose it's therapeutic with a small 't'."

Therapeutic, and priceless.

For more information about CWI, visit the website [www.childrensworldcharity.org](http://www.childrensworldcharity.org)



L-R: Haggis McLeod, Jake, Arabella Churchill, Jo, Jessica Churchill McLeod. Front row: Rooben.



Plate spinning was also popular.

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# Dig out the ears

STEPHEN FEIN waxes lyrical about what he discovers is a 'fairly invasive procedure'

**F**ew people in Phuket know the origins of the red-and-white striped barber's pole that is so ubiquitous, not only on our island but also around the world.

In ancient times, barbers did far more than give crew-cuts and trim beards. They also performed a wide range of surgical procedures: dental extractions, enemas, dressing wounds, blood-letting with leeches – you name it.

Early physicians hated to perform surgery, so back in those days, a customer might greet his barber with: "Just a little off the top and sides – and please remove my appendix while you're at it."

The barber pole was originally associated with the leech-assisted blood-letting service. The pole had a brass basin at the top representing the vessel in which leeches were kept – and which also received the blood.

According to Wikipedia, the Internet encyclopedia, the pole represented the staff which the patient gripped during the operation – anesthesiology back then not being what it is today. The red and white stripes portrayed the bandages – red for blood-stained ones and white for the clean ones. Being hung out to dry on the pole after washing, they would often blow and twist together, forming a spiral pattern. This gave rise to the barber's pole painted in red and white stripes we know today.

In the West, surgery is now unknown at barber shops. So it's nice to know that here in Phuket

there is at least one fairly invasive procedure you can still get done there – ear cleaning.

I used to sit in fascination every time I waited for my turn at my local barber shop, watching the steady-handed barbers carefully insert a variety of long, metal objects into the customers' ears.

Looking like damaged Borg drones from *Star Trek* undergoing repair, the customers would just lie back and relax as if they were enjoying themselves. Was I missing out on something fun?

For years I was torn between curiosity and fear, but recently I decided to forget my mom's old warning of "never put anything smaller than your elbows in your ears", and get my hearing equipment professionally cleaned, Thai style.

After my customary beard trim and shave at the Phuen Chai Barber Shop in Samkong, I asked my regular barber Atjima "Att" Wongwanich for the shop's 30-baht *khae hoo* "dig out the ears" service.

As I lay back with a damp towel covering my eyes, she began, explaining what she was doing as she worked.

After soaking all the instruments with alcohol, she carefully began the first step of inserting a metal curette into my ear and using its tiny metal scoop to assess just how dirty it was in there. This produces a pleasant, though somewhat unnerving, sensation – after all, what if she slips and this thing punctures my brain?



The vibrating tweezers send a clicking sound into the ear.

Next, a small, flat-bladed instrument is used to scrape inside the ears, and any loosened material is then removed with a very long, thin pair of metal tweezers.

After that it's time for swabbing. A do-it-yourself cotton swab is made by wrapping some cotton along a long, thin, threaded curette. This is soaked in a very weak hydrogen peroxide solution and is then inserted into the ear.

## SENSATION

It's a weird, cool sensation. You can actually hear the hydrogen peroxide bubbling away, as if you have Rice Krispies soaking in milk inside your head.

After about a minute, the hydrogen peroxide is removed using another homemade cotton swab, this time a dry one. When I looked at these afterwards, I was astonished just how "dirty" my ears had been.

After this, K. Att took what is known as an ear pick, which

she inserted into my ear and began twisting it about. The soft fluffy end of the ear pick, which has a long bamboo handle, feels nice spinning about inside the ear – although I would hate to experience the pain it would cause if pressed in too deeply.

She then took the end of the ear pick and heated it by pressing it against the hot bulb of a high-intensity lamp to make it more brittle, and reinserted it. By quickly twisting the long metal tweezers with her other hand, she caused them to vibrate before placing them against the bamboo handle. The resulting sound resonated up the bamboo and into my ears as a series of loud "click-click-click-clicks" that are hard to describe, but really do make you feel like a Borg drone.

As K. Att was doing this, my eyes were still covered and I had absolutely no idea what was producing this bizarre metallic clicking – or what its purpose was. It was only afterwards that she described the procedure step-by-step, explaining that this was to "clear out" the ears, not of debris, but of constrictions within.

The ear cleaning ends with a pleasant ear massage, similar to the one that forms part of a standard traditional Thai mas-

sage. And then whole procedure is repeated on the other side.

I am not sure what the real benefits of this kind of ear cleaning really are, or if I will ever do it again. I didn't notice any improvement in my hearing, and my ears were a little sore the next day.

Doctors frown on this type of thing too, saying it's dangerous to put anything inside your ear – even a Q-tip. Also, much of the material removed is ear wax, which is there for a purpose: it protects your ears from invasion by bacteria, fungi and other nasty things you don't want taking up residence inside your head.

But for people with hearing loss caused by an excess of ear wax (technically known as cerumen), the ear-cleaning procedure as performed by the sure-handed K. Att for just 30 baht might be the solution they are looking for.

Of course the other option would be to leave medical problems in the hands of modern medicine and look for a barber's pole only when you need a haircut or a shave.

*Phuen Chai Barbers is at 268/4 Yaowarat Rd in Samkong, Phuket City, opposite the Shell gas station. Tel: 076-254094.*

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# It's a wrap

By Anongnat Sartpisut

All it takes is a ball of wool and a dash of creativity to make you look elegant and feel as snug as a bug in a rug throughout these "chilly" months.

Blend that creativity with the wool and you'll get a shawl in pretty much any color you desire, such as those featured by Natnicha "May" Boonyanit, owner of Nicha Design & Handmade at the Tesco-Lotus Supercenter. K. May stocks both knitted and crocheted shawls in her colorful shop.

Her crocheted shawls, featuring swirling flower patterns, are light on the eye and are moderately priced between 400 and 800 baht.

She explained that her knitted shawls are a big hit with the 25-year-old set, and are

generally worn at weddings or social functions. "Crocheted shawls are not as soft as knitted ones," she said. Her knitted shawls retail for around 1,390 baht, while knitted scarves cost between 89 and 250 baht apiece.

If you're an extra dashing young lady, why not sport a chiffon scarf with a flower motif?

These are ideal "throw overs" that can instantly brighten up a pair of jeans, a shirt or a handbag, and are good for adding that personal splash of color. Plus, they're a real snap at from 99 to 129 baht.

K. May added, "Our shop caters to customers who insist on their own – and unique – style."

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K. May shows off some of her own creations.

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The rally version, the new Focus WRC, was given a shakedown on the final event last year in Australia – and nothing broke



# Ford Focus a runaway success worldwide

**T**he Ford Focus has been around for a few years, but has had a face lift for 2006. As one of the most successful, truly global cars to emanate from the Blue Oval, there is clearly no need yet to replace the Focus with an all-new model.

Introduced at the annual Geneva motor show in 1998, the Focus was named European Car of the Year in 1999, the same year it made its debut in North America. It was named North



By Jeff Heselwood

American Car of the Year in 2000.

While the road car needs little in the way of change, Ford's

2006 World Rally Championship (WRC) contender is a significant step forward. Developed in the north of England by team boss Malcolm Wilson and chief designer, Christian Loriaux, the new Focus WRC was given a shakedown on the final event last year in Australia. Both Wilson and Loriaux came away baffled: nothing broke!

Not only did the '06 Focus finish, one of the cars came home in sixth place overall, in the hands of Czech driver Roman Kresta. The second Focus, that of Tony Gardemeister, became the first 2006 WRC car to crash, when the Finn wound up in the trees on one of the early stages of the rally. Despite some damage the Focus continued, only to retire on the penultimate stage with a water pump belt failure.

What was all the more remarkable was that neither Kresta nor Gardemeister had been responsible for any of the initial

mileage on the cars – that had been left to Wilson himself and British rally driver Mark Higgins.

After the Australian event, Wilson said: "It's been a fantastic weekend. We came here to test, and the most important target was to last the full distance with the car so we could learn as much as possible. Toni's car stopped before the end, but the fact that we scored two fastest times [in our class] is remarkable for a car which has been designed and built in such a short period of time. A great effort from the whole team – and we've shown the potential of the car for the future."

Ford is one of only two manufacturers in the running for the 2006 title, which begins in Monte Carlo. Mitsubishi, Skoda, Citroën and Peugeot have all pulled out, leaving just Ford and Subaru to fight it out.

With Ford's early introduction of its WRC car, the company

must start as championship favorites.

Meanwhile, at the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Motor Expo in Bangkok in November, Ford introduced its latest five-door Focus, to complement the already highly successful four-door model.

"Innovation will lead Ford into the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said John Fink, Ford Thailand's Executive Vice-President. "This is just another Ford innovation reinforcing our commitment to Thailand, the region and our customers."

Priced at 959,000 baht, the five-door Focus Sport with a two-liter motor produces a healthy 143bhp (105kW), while a 1.8-liter Trend model, delivering a more modest 123bhp (90kW), sells for a realistic 769,000 baht.

Both cars come with what Ford describes as "class-leading comfort and safety features", while the Sport version runs on 16-inch alloy wheels and is equipped with side skirts.

The Focus will doubtless continue to be a runaway success worldwide and, indeed, Ford Executive Vice President Mark Fields said recently, at the Los Angeles Auto Show, that "... small is big in America. Small cars are ripe for bold design and innovation."

Expect to see much more of the Focus, whether on the streets of Thailand or on international forest tracks as it mops up the World Rally Championship this year.

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

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## This week



**DAILY FEAST:** Artist Prasopsuk Ittisak (left) prepares to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of *The Remains of the Day* art exhibition, which is on show at the Phuket Art Gallery, on Thalang Rd, Phuket City, until January 17. (From left) Gallery Director Suansri Teawsakul and artists Anuwat Wachira-a-nan and Marilyn Band look on.



**GREEN IS GOLDEN:** Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyut Tiypairat (left) hands an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) Monitoring Award to Poomiphat Navanukroh, General Manager of the Cape Panwa Hotel. The resort was one of 20 resorts in the country to receive an award for environmental management.



**TRAINING DAY:** Dr Kongkiat Kespechara of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa), Phuket office, hands to Kusolsongkroh Foundation President and Phuket Thai Hua School alumnus Sombat Atiset, a certificate on completing a pre-professional animation training workshop for Phuket Thai Hua School students held recently at The Metropole Hotel.



**MIRTH FOR PERTH:** Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa General Manager Peter Hourigan (center) joins his wife Anita (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and his two sons, along with guests Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club GM Dominique Lapointe (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Hilton Executive Sous Chef Sylvain Levallant (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), and Hilton F&B Director Stefano Ruzza at his private farewell party. Mr Hourigan will take up the position of GM at the Parmelia Hilton Perth in Australia at the end of this month.



**SIBER-CULTURE:** Sukko Spa General Manager Sunai Wachirawarakarn (left) awards certificates to competitors in the reality show *5 On The Equator*, which is broadcast on TBK-6 channel from Siberia, after they took part in a "guess that scent" contest during Thai cooking classes at the spa.



**DOUBLE BUBBLE:** Guests Jonathan Loney (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Marketing Director for Moët & Hennessy brands, and Vincent Pagès (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), wines and spirits consultant from Hong Kong, join JW Marriott Resort & Spa's Food & Beverage Director Theera Kanjana (center), Executive Chef Nick Reade (right) and Executive Sous Chef Thamasak Chootong for a Moët & Chandon champagne dinner at the resort.

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# COOL KINABALU

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

**K**ota Kinabalu goes under a number of names. It was officially called Jesselton until 1963, but the inhabitants knew it as "Api Api" (fire, fire) as the town was razed to the ground in World War II.

Its current name comes from the 4,100-meter-high Mount Kinabalu, which was itself called after a Chinese (Kina) prince who left his local wife here promising to return, but failed to do so and she was consequently left a *balu*, or widow.

History apart, nowadays most people speak of "KK", except for some superior peninsular Malaysians who refer to it as the capital of "The Wild East".

### WILD

Sabah is pretty wild, and – forest fires notwithstanding – that's the beauty of it. And for anyone not up to clambering to the top of the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia (unless one counts Burma's Hkakabo Razi at 5,881m) or braving the rigors of a longhouse jungle trek, Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park sits 15 minutes offshore covering nearly 50 square kilometers of islands and sea.

Each of the islands has something a little different to offer, although they are all good for a bit of beaching it, snorkeling and sloughing off the exigencies and encrustations of city dwelling.

First up is Pulau Manukan, the most developed of the quintet of islands nudging into the South China Sea, with chalets, squash and tennis courts and even a desalination plant and solar-powered telephones. Eco-friendly is not so much a buzzword here



**Each island has something  
a little different to offer...**

as a sheer necessity. Manukan is shaped like a boomerang, and a number of pleasant forest trails – usually free of traffic as most visitors cluster by the shore – crisscross its almost 206,000 square meters.

Gaya is by far the largest island in the park, and is distinguished by a stilt village inhabited by Malaysians and Filipinos whose homes are officially outside the national park's boundaries. There are few walkways,

so the convenient way to sightsee here is to hire a boat which – if nothing else – is viewed as fine entertainment by the locals. Police Beach is the best on the island, and despite the proximity of the village, the reefs around the island are in good condition.

Pulau Sapi, or Cow Island, is better known for its troop of monkeys which use the beach for a spot of crab fishing as long as they are left undisturbed. However, as this is the most visited of

all the islands in the park, they tend to appear only at dusk and dawn, when nobody else is around.

Furthest away from KK and relatively undeveloped, Pulau Sulug sees the fewest arrivals, and as such is labeled as a haven for castaways. The shoreline is mostly rocky but the reef is really spectacular off its southern tip, with brilliant blue sea urchins contrasting with coral of many hues that grows in fantastic shapes.

Mamutik, despite its rich marine life, is probably the island to visit last, as it is the smallest and tends to fill up with hordes of KK-ites at weekends and on public holidays; or indeed during the week if the lure of the office palls. Still, it's ringed by good beaches and if there are not too many other people around it is truly idyllic.

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# LUCKY JIM

It seemed like a miracle when I heard I would be able to study abroad. The thought that I would be able to do so had never crossed my mind. I chose this program because it will help me in my work back home in Thailand.

But I was also apprehensive, because my English is not excellent and the cost of living in Ireland is very high. For the first couple of weeks after I arrived I was a bit worried and confused, mainly because everything was completely new to me and so different from Thailand.

When I first attended class I found I was in a very large group of about 150 students. I was told then that I would have to write a 10,000-word thesis in English, using proper grammar, spelling and a formal writing style. I thought, "Oh God! Am I going to be able to do this?"

My teachers and classmates all speak very quickly, and with very strong Irish accents. It was not easy for me at first. But things are getting easier, now that I have made some friends, and all my teachers are so nice.

I have also done several months' work experience at St Joseph's Childcare Centre in the town. It was a great place to practice because they are very organized and the staff are professional.

The children there are so lovely, but it was tiring working with them – I had to have so much energy.

However, it was a good chance to get to know European children. They were more active, and they have learned to express their feelings more than Thai kids, who are more quiet.

But I think the needs of the children are the same all over, whatever their culture, language or color of skin. They all need love and understanding from older people.

The college is quite big, with three campuses. I'm studying in College Street, about 30 minutes'



Pennapa "Jim" Wuttimanop, 26, used to work at the Life Home Project in Phuket. Now, with the help of a tsunami scholarship, she is a student in the Social Care Program at Waterford Institute of Technology in Ireland. Here she gives her impressions of living and working on another island, albeit somewhat larger than her own.

walk from the main campus, but the Institute runs a bus service for the students. College Street is old – it used to be a church – while the main campus and the other buildings are modern.

The house where I am staying is called Roncalley. I am on the ground floor with Jom, another Thai girl. We are the first Thais to study here. The first

floor is for architecture students. They are all boys. Close to my room is a nice lady from Slovakia.

I usually cook Thai food at home, mostly omelettes, fried vegetables and noodles. Sometimes I make Thai curry, but the taste is not the same here as in Thailand.

I did have the chance to work in a Thai restaurant for a

month, though, and I took it. I was able to eat delicious Thai food free of charge. But I had to wear traditional Thai dress! It was so funny, because when I was in Thailand I never wore such clothes.

I earned about 35 euros (1,700 baht) per night, working for five or six hours. I am allowed to work 20 hours a week during term-time, and 40 hours a week in the holidays.

Waterford is a bit quiet, but I love it here because it doesn't have lots of cars or so many people [as in Thailand]. But I don't enjoy eating here; the food isn't tasty, is not at all spicy and is very expensive.

To give a couple of examples, for what I pay for a bottle of water here I can buy six bottles

in Thailand. And a sandwich costs between two and four euros – between 100 and 200 baht! Irish food that I can eat includes sausage, potato and chicken wings. It is cheap, and it does not taste that bad.

I like it here, and there are several reasons why, the main one being that they are very serious about the environment and controlling the amount of garbage. I am not surprised this country is so clean. If I go shopping, I need to take my own shopping bag – they don't give out plastic bags.

Another reason I like it is that the traffic laws here are very strict. I have never seen a car go through a red light, and they always stop for people who need to cross the road.

All of the Irish people I have met have been so nice and kind to me, and they genuinely care about people from other countries.

## DARK SIDE

However, all countries have a brilliant side and a dark side. People here like to smoke and drink – including the students. Lots of my friends at college smoke, and it is normal to see teenagers with cigarettes in their hands. I have also found many young mothers here, some of them students...

Everything here was completely new to me at the beginning. If I got lost, for example, I couldn't take a motorbike taxi because they don't exist. And the weather is very cold and wet. Umbrellas don't work here because it's very windy.

Now it is winter it is not a good idea to walk from home to college, what with the rain, cold and dark, so I prefer to pay 1.25 euros (60 baht) for the bus.

I will probably return to Thailand in June after I finish my studies, but I might stay here for three months longer so I can travel, be a volunteer or earn more money.

I'm happy to be here, although I am sometimes sad because everything is so different from Thailand. I miss the food, my motorbike, my old friends and the children from Life Home Project. But opportunities like this do not happen often. I am proud and happy to have been given the chance to study here. It is brilliant.

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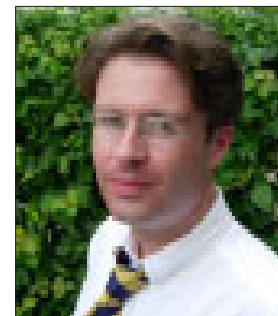
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## On the menu



WITH  
Andy Johnstone

Wildfire



# The Promise of a Crowne Affair

I enjoyed a quiet New Year, which was entirely my own fault for going on a date with a deaf and dumb Carmelite nun to watch a mime perform in a library in a vacuum chamber. She was a tough, albeit silent German, and she carried a rifle. She will forever be known as the ArmaLite Hun.

Predictably enough, and in desperate need of some excitement, I run my finger down a list of the newer places to eat on this fair isle. This in itself does not provide the desired adrenalin rush, so I decide to go and eat at one of them instead.

I happen upon the Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket. It opened fairly recently and immediately managed to score something of a coup by being the base for last year's Nation V party.

Singapore, you may remember, decided to pull the plug on the region's biggest gay bash, leaving the organizers with a gap in their plans. Crowne Plaza fitted the bill – and no doubt the Tom, Dick and Harry – like a glove.

Before the review proper begins – which is due any paragraph now, honest – comes the criticism, which would fill a sheet of A4 paper, were I to write it in very large letters.

In fact, very large letters are just what are needed for the rear main entrance to Crowne Plaza. From the beach road, it's a doddle to find the hotel, especially at night when the tiki lights of the restaurants that overlook the beach attract one like moths to, well... a flame.

But round the back it's a different story. It took me three goes – once from the left, once from the right and once straight ahead – before I could find the way in.

However, once safely in the hotel, it's another story. It's a big place – big enough to need a tuk-tuk to get around. However, the Crowne Plaza has wisely opted for the traditional three-wheeled tuk-tuk, similar to the Piaggio Ape model, once so popular with Neapolitans. It is, to say the least, quite nippy. In no time at all, in fact a mite too quickly to have

seen much of the resort apart from half-imagined blurs, I was at the beachside restaurant complex. The collection of structures here is rather breathtaking, indicating that InterContinental Hotels Group has taken a great deal of care in making the place attractive to the eye.

I feel pleasantly at peace. In short, I have no edifice complex.

My dining companions are Isara "Liz" Pangchan, Sales & Marketing Manager of the adjacent Crowne Plaza Residences and Sari Yong, MarComm whiz of the resort.

The ladies, already seated at our table in the hotel's Wildfire restaurant, are enjoying a glass of white wine. One each, that is. Formal and rather complicated introductions between Sari and m'self out of the way, Liz thinks she knows what I want to drink.

"Vodka Martini," she states, her cup of confidence brimming over. "No," says I.

"Long Island Ice Tea," she states with slightly less as-

suredness. I demur again. This goes on for some time, until the ladies – they're doing it together now – are verging on exasperation.

"I could tell you," I begin, "but I'd have Tequila..."

Wildfire, a split-level restaurant, specializes in pizzas – wood-fired, natch – downstairs, and a churrascaria-cum-mélange of Asian and Western, Northern and Southern styles upstairs.

After a dégustation of smoked mussel, squid and prawns, followed by a pleasantly sweet French onion soup, and goodly portions of umm-ing and ah-ing, Liz chooses Phuket lobster, Sari decides to have sea bass, and I opt for the churrascaria – although sharing is definitely on the menu tonight.

But what's that? The chef approaching with a sword in his hand?

My first thought is that he wants a fight (Duel in the Crowne). I realize that I need my dress sword (Tool in the Crowne), but then notice that the

chef's – hell, I daren't say "weapon" – thingy has skewered meat on it (Drool in the Crowne). Idiot moi (Fool in the Crowne).

A veritable orgy of meat scoffing follows. Everything, from wee chickens' livers to slabs of rare Antipodean lamb, divine steak to splendid little pork sausages – and all expertly cooked. We become a little atavistic, slightly primal from here on.

The chefs – in true Brazilian churrascarian style – continue to deliver more and more meat. And it is simply too succulent, too aromatic and tender to resist.

The simplest dishes tend, according to Gupta's Law of In-

verse Anomalies, to be those that are both the most difficult to get right and those that we tend to enjoy the most. And the ones that are actually extremely healthy, too: no need for that under-read travel guide *The Roughage Guide to Thailand* for us!

Joyous, passionate, guilt-free eating at this restaurant should spread like – well, what else? – Wildfire.

Wildfire at Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket, 509 Patak Rd, Karon Beach. Tel: 076-396139. Expect to pay around 650 baht for the churrascaria. [www.phuket.crowneplaza.com](http://www.phuket.crowneplaza.com)

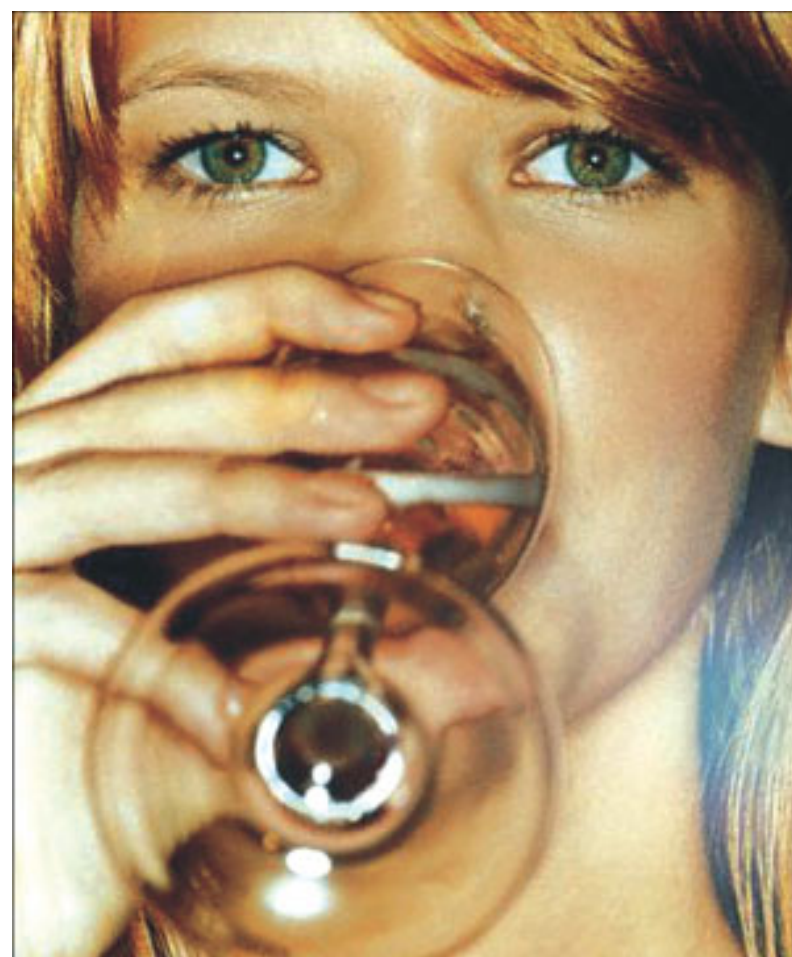
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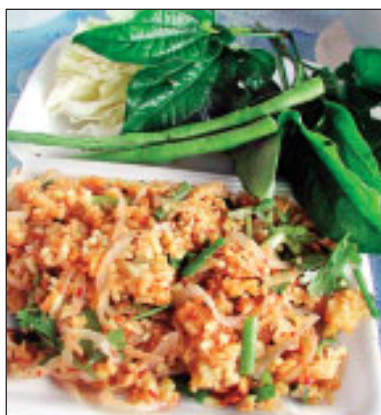


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# When 'Eat cheap' and 'Patong' is not a contradiction in terms

By Anongnat Sartpisut

When you think of Patong, you probably think beach, nightlife and good food. But when you want good food at a good price, you may need to think a little harder and walk a little farther.

After work, a friend and I went for a stroll along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and discovered a number of open-air seafood stalls in front of Andaman Beach Suite. Fresh fish, shrimp, squid and even lobster were all available, priced from 80 baht per dish and up.

We settled on a local dish called *kanom jeam* (Thai vermicelli) with *gaeng* (curry). We stopped at K. Ja's stall offering three curries: *gaeng kathi* (coconut milk curry), *gaeng pa* (minced fish curry) and *gaeng sabnok*.

The *gaeng sabnok* – a thin, tasty and not too spicy curry with fish balls and chicken – set me back just 25 baht.

My friend tried the *kanom jeam* and *ho mok* (steamed fish and curry) for 45 baht and found it nice and spicy. Both dishes were served with fresh vegetables – bean sprouts and cucumber – at no additional charge.

Although we were already nearly full, catching sight of K. Pranom's stall reawakened the

taste buds. A variety of Thai salads (*yum*) was available: *yum wunsen ruammit* – seafood mixed with vermicelli for 40 baht; and *yum hua moo* – sliced pork with vermicelli – for 30 baht, among others.

We ordered *yum neam klouk* – a mix of fried rice with slightly fermented pork – for only 30 baht.

The price range at K. Pranom's stall is 30 baht to 50 baht, which we thought very reasonable. We did have to line up behind about three people before getting to our dishes, but it was worth it.

We ended our movable feast with dessert for just 10 baht per bowl. The dessert stall, run by K. Boy, serves up several popular Thai desserts, hot or cold, including Thai fruits and vegetables in a "soup" of soybean milk, Longan juice, or ginger ale.

I chose cold *Tao Tueng* (tofu in ginger ale) which is, believe it or not, absolutely delicious.

Other stalls offer other options, such as steamed rice with roasted pork or chicken on top, and a mango with sticky rice dessert, for just 25 baht to 30 baht a dish.

The open-air eating area at the south end of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd operates from 5 pm to 1 am daily.

## Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

วต 608  
กรุงเทพฯ

Gold Honda City

กง 5958  
ภูเก็ต

Blue Toyota Colola

กง 2449  
นครศรีธรรมราช

Black Toyota Altis

ก 8018  
ภูเก็ต

Blue Honda Civic

กง 908  
ภูเก็ต

White Suzuki Jeep

กค 1709  
ภูเก็ต

Black BMW 318i

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a dinner for two (Thai BBQ Buffet and Cabaret Show) on a Saturday night only, at Baan Yin Dee Boutique Resort Phuket; or one year's free home delivery of the *Phuket Gazette*; or souvenirs from Desjoyaux Co Ltd.



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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 islands. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on page 22

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on page 20.

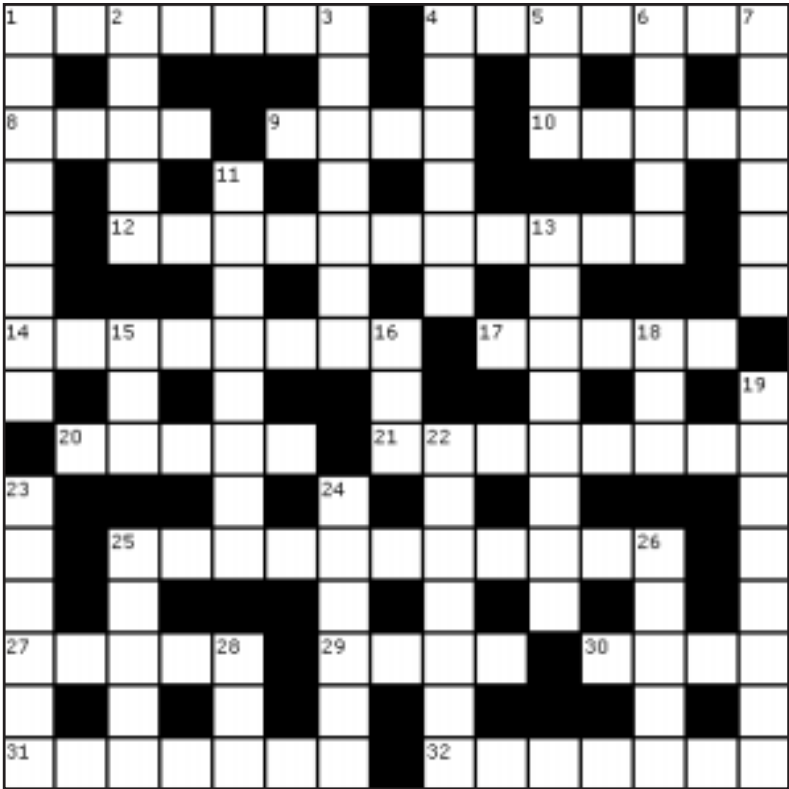
### ACROSS

- Stole and cooked salmon, perhaps. (7)
- Chap with account – the French restraint. (7)
- Rose, oddly, to become a god. (4)
- Sour, I'd go after a hundred. (4)
- Scarred, put enclosure back in commercial. (5)
- Shedding light on mess arising from idle caution. (11)
- Enron's got six in the neighborhood. (8)
- Scarf rustled. (5)
- Hash cry: "I am in a vegetable!" (5)
- Lambs see, weirdly, how to put things together. (8)
- Tryst for donkey and I, with note to nation. (11)
- Given medicine, doctor of divinity had no direction. (5)
- Fish give note to top golfer. (4)
- Against contribution to the pot? (4)
- Ran out and died. (7)
- Plunder tablet – and get old. (7)

## EZ TRIVIA

- Who is the author of the Harry Potter series of books?
- What was the name of the authoritarian political movement that ruled Italy from 1922 to 1943 under the leadership of Benito Mussolini?
- In what city was Australian Rules Football first played?
- What is the capital of Canada?
- What game of chance was, according to some accounts, first devised by 17th century French mathematician Blaise Pascal?
- The metal alloy pewter consists primarily of what metal?
- What was the name of the main character in the movie Psycho?
- What city hosts the Kentucky Derby?
- Who wrote Frankenstein?
- The volume of what geometric shape is expressed as  $\frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$ ? (h = height, r = radius)

Answers on page 22



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2005

### Down

- Took for granted that MD's purée is scrambled. (8)
- Plant was a climber. (5)
- I'd con it, in a manner of speaking. (7)
- The battle's half over. (6)
- By the way, a sporting organization. (1,1,1)
- One of the church's big guns? (5)
- Little Edward's currents. (6)
- Like copper trophy, rouse turmoil. (8)
- Not yet decided where plane should be. (2,3,3)
- Vehicle at the front of the army. (3)
- Practice punches in health resort? (3)
- Small dog's experimental facility. (3)
- Sweat for each steeple. (8)
- Little reward, outside call for seafood. (7)
- Bit of necklace the French make official. (6)
- Was compatible with a version of avarice. (6)
- A fabulous teller of tales! (5)
- Nina keeps letter for assassin. (5)
- Doctor holds one part of drive. (3)

Solution on page 22

## Scribble Space



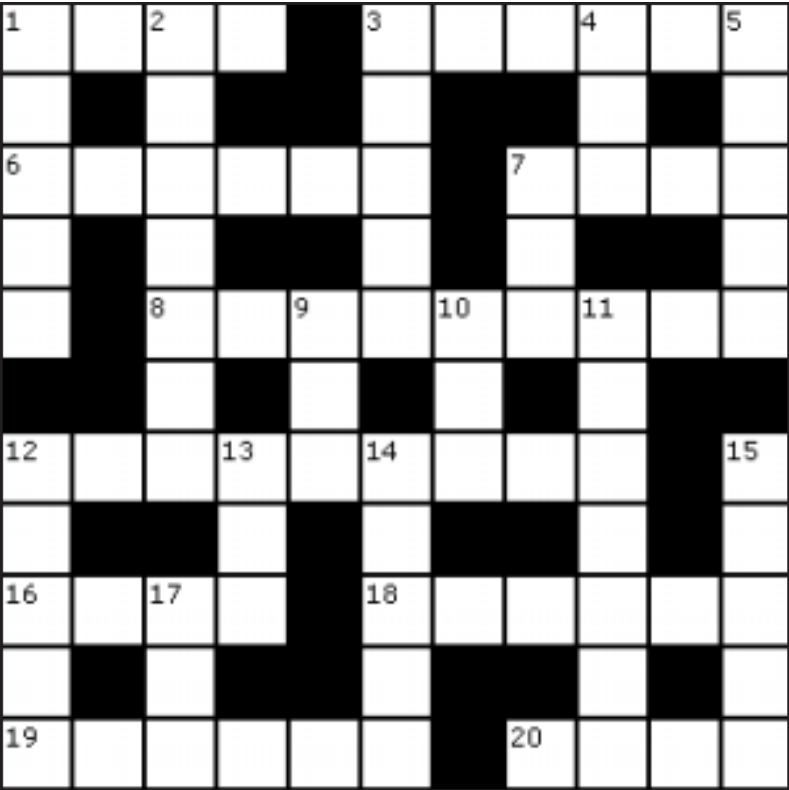
## Brain Buster!!

Take three paper cups and put them in a row. Turn the first and third cups upside down, but leave the middle cup right side up. Your task is to get all the cups right side up, but you must follow these rules:

You have only three moves. For each move, you must turn over two cups at a time – never one at a time.

Solution on page 22





Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
1. Component.

3. Coiffure.

6. Up-to-date.

7. Irritating sensation.

8. Hospital transport.

12. Soaks.

16. Festive occasion.

18. Every 60 minutes.

19. Red gems.

20. Pronounce indistinctly.
2. Shining.

3. Follower of Indian faith.

4. Deteriorate.

5. Orange-yellow color.

7. Gershwin brother.

9. Ban.

10. Allow.

11. Facial aperture.

12. Sweet stuff.

13. The States.

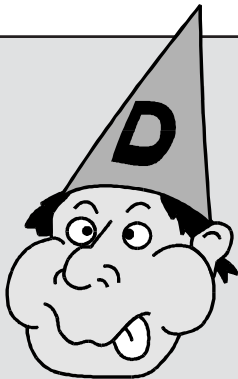
14. Feels pain.

15. Stratum.

17. Throw slowly.

Solution below, right

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. What is Brian Eno's full name?

2. In *The Simpsons*, what is the surname of Barney the alcoholic?

3. Which British band released the single *The Moon is Blue* in 1985?

4. Who wrote the novels *A White Merc with Fins*, *Rancid Aluminium* and *Speak for England*?

5. What did Johnny Rotten do on January 14, 1978?

6. What did Marilyn Monroe do on January 14, 1954?

7. Where is Surtsey Volcano?

8. Which town was the first to be destroyed in the
- novel *The War of the Worlds*?

*Alex*, a cartoon strip, appears in which newspaper?

In *Father Ted*, Fathers Crilley, Hackett and McGuire lived on Craggy Island. Where did Fathers Dick Byrne, Johnson and MacDuff live?

On what avenue in Liverpool did John Lennon grow up?

What name did Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin give to their daughter?

Which part of his body did Brad Pitt harm while playing Achilles in *Troy*?

Which singer was once
- known as Tommy Scott, the twisting vocalist?

Who was the third king of Scotland?

What is the name of the archipelago at the southern tip of South America?

Who was found dead at the Landmark Hotel with just US\$4.50 and a broken nose?

What is said to have measured 300 by 50 by 30 cubits?

What mountain dropped by 1,313 feet in 1980?

Which Thai Deputy Prime Minister has aspirations to be UN Secretary General?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Brain Buster Solution

- \* First move: Turn over the first and second cups.

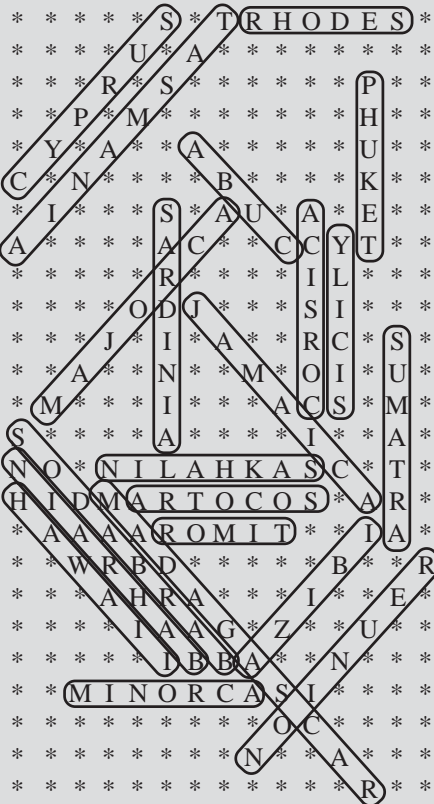
\* Second move: Turn over the first and third cups.

\* Third move: Turn over the first and second cups.
- Now they should all be right side up.

**Monster Quiz Answers:** 1. Brian Peter George St Jean le Baptiste de la Salle Eno; 2. Gumble; 3. Colourbox; 4. James Hawes; 5. He quit the Sex Pistols; 6. She married Joe DiMaggio; 7. Off the southern coast of Iceland; 8. Chertsey; 9. The Daily Telegraph; 10. Rugged Island; 11. Menlove Avenue; 12. Apple; 13. His Achilles tendon; 14. Sir Tom Jones; 15. Macbeth; 16. Tierra del Fuego; 17. Janis Joplin; 18. Noah's ark; 19. Mount St Helens; 20. Surakiat Sathirathai.

**EZ Trivia Answers:** 1. JK Rowling; 2. Fascism; 3. Melbourne; 4. Ottawa; 5. Roulette; 6. Tin; 7. Norman Bates; 8. Louisville, Kentucky; 9. Mary Shelley; 10. A cylinder.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





**You think Pattaya's bad?** "Arguments about 5-10 baht fares [in Pattaya] make me laugh. So, some of your readers like to make noises about being ripped off for 5 baht on songtheows, ha! They should live in Patong Beach Phuket, where the only public transport readily available are rip-off tuk-tuks who charge between 400-600 baht per trip." (1)

**Hassles and scams:** "And the long list of little things like that when sum up made people thinking twice before they decide to coming back again. A example of that, the first year that I went to Phuket the road police scam, 200 baht for no helmet but only at a road block for 1 hour every night at the corner of Ra-U-hit and Bangla clearly a scam to make baht from tourists. Second trip at the road block (now I have my helmet) 200 baht for not having my international driving permit, next trip 200 baht for riding the motorbike with the light on in the day (make note that in my country you will be find for not having it on), next trip 200 baht because my head light is off in the day, last trip 200 baht for not having a Thai driving license for motorbike even if I had my international driving license." (2)

**Time gentlemen, please:** "I won't even go on to mention the 'Time Share' pests on motorcycles offering you 'free' scratch cards... or the people wanting your hotel details so that they can call you at 7.00 am in the morning to tell you you have won a holiday, but you have to go to this special presentation to receive your prize ... Give me a break!!!" (3)

# Roll up for the typically tropical rip-off tour

## OUTSIDE

### IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Clammy armpits, time-share con men, rip-offs and hassles: Welcome to Patong! Some people genuinely believe that Patong is the center of the universe and that it is able to bring shafts of light that fill the (single man's) soul with unbounded joy. Others think the opposite, so this week Lis explores both sides in an attempt to strike a balance.

**Time to stop:** "Timeshare, tailors, Von Dutch T-shirt makers, trainers more expensive than originals, last-a-minute Nike flip flops, "Chang" vests that every third person wears, ping pong shows, eel shows, joiner fees, urine fees, 'Sexy man, where you go?' Queer folk abound, pay your money, take your choice." (4)

**Time after time:** "I turn around and she is talking to the two French guys (I can

hear them) and I am waiting, and waiting. They are hugging her (no joke) and doing whatever... then they all come over to me. They have scratch off tickets and so I won a hat and a T-shirt, but Cook got three stars, hence the hugging. All we have to do is sit threw a 90 min thing and we can collect. Our English speaking guy comes and we proceed upstairs. His name is John and we cannot get him to stop talking about whores and drugs. I mean we tried but that is all he would talk about." (5)

**Finding a balance:** "Phuket is NOT Patong. There is so much more to Phuket than the few trashy tourist strips where opportunists have gathered to part 'good-timers' with their holiday budgets. You will find much better value, more realism and honesty in other parts of this beautiful island... 'Tuk Tuk Sir?' 'No thank you'. 'Where you go?' 'Me ow khrap' 'Sorry Sir don't you speak English?' ... and so it goes on the whole length of Beach Road... No-one goes for a 'hassle free quiet time holidaying in Patong' I mean why would you, what does Patong possibly offer the tourist looking for a quiet time?... Patong has always been the clammy armpit of Phuket, not sure what the fuss is about.

Armpits can arouse or repulse, depending on your disposition." (6)

"We've gone from Paradise to Purgatory in the span of 10 hours. What a pit this place is. I knew from the Lonely Planet that it was gonna be bad, but I had no idea exactly how bad. It's really, really disgusting... flashing neon, hookers, traffic, pollution and tourist trap souvenir shops. We went to the restaurant in front of our hotel and other than the prominence of Thai servers, you would not have known you were in Thailand. Patong is not the place to go if you want to see Thailand. Unless it's the nightmare version you're after." (7)

1. <http://www.pattayamail.com/612/letters.shtml>
2. [thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?s=febaf7274f3d634049c73d2b64c98f65&showtopic=33598](http://thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?s=febaf7274f3d634049c73d2b64c98f65&showtopic=33598)
3. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=46402&st=0&p=498803&#entry498803>
4. [thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?s=7aa3a1672eb100757a2709a5e1a182c2&showtopic=46402&pid=596515&st=120&#entry596515](http://thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?s=7aa3a1672eb100757a2709a5e1a182c2&showtopic=46402&pid=596515&st=120&#entry596515)
5. <http://realtravel.com/patong-journals-j701035.html>
6. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=46402&pid=596515&st=120&#entry596515>
7. <http://www.blazingatrail.com/journals/thai-journal1.html>



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

**P**en and Sail (Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 2005, 396pp) is a stupendous work of scholarship. Subtitled *Literature and History in Early Bangkok*, this collection of six seminal essays by Nidhi Eosewong – considered by many to be Thailand's premier historian – focuses on the social, cultural and economic history of the early Bangkok years.

They were written between 1979 and 1982 and finally have been translated into English by 10 scholars into nearly 400 pages of dense text.

K. Nidhi jokes in his preface that if his book were written today it would be no longer than 50 pages. This is because, 30 years ago, he was going against the grain of historiography: the Prince Damrong school (influenced by Thomas Carlyle's "Great Man" theory) in which Thai history read like the biblical *Book of Kings*. K. Nidhi's approach was different, as he writes in his preface:

"Nowadays, the idea that there were major changes in many aspects of Thai society in early Bangkok; that understanding the changes which arise in Thai society (or any society) re-

## A revolutionary history

quires attention to the internal factors in that society more than seeing those changes as only responses to external forces; that literature can be used as one kind of historical source material; and that, conversely, historical change has more effect on literary creativity than was once understood in Thai society – all these ideas have become commonplace things which students of Thai history can accept. But whether they agree with them or not is another matter."

*Bourgeois Culture and Early Bangkok Literature* is the lead-off essay of the six in the book, the longest (152 pages), the last written and a masterful culmination of themes introduced in earlier essays.

His main theme is that early Bangkok, far from being a continuation of the static and hierarchical culture of Ayudhaya was in fact a dynamic era, characterized by openness, individualism, materialism, irreverence, humor, eagerness for international trade, curiosity about the outside world and a vibrant literature.

The standard version of history views the Bowring Treaty of 1855 as the moment when old Siam opened its doors to the world.

K. Nidhi convincingly argues that the Kingdom had been undergoing dramatic internal change all along, as evidenced by the casual attitude of acceptance shown by the political and economic elite to the treaty itself.

A study of the literature of early Bangkok, K. Nidhi main-

tains, is a fruitful way to understand the mindset of the era.

"Any work of literature has both a writer and a body of readers who, down through the years, have 'consumed' the work in their lives," K. Nidhi writes. "The work does not reflect the worldview, values, feelings, and thoughts of the writer alone; those of the readership are of no less significance. The work presents a particular view, and that view gains currency if the readership appreciates it. In brief, a literary work and the society that produces it are interrelated."

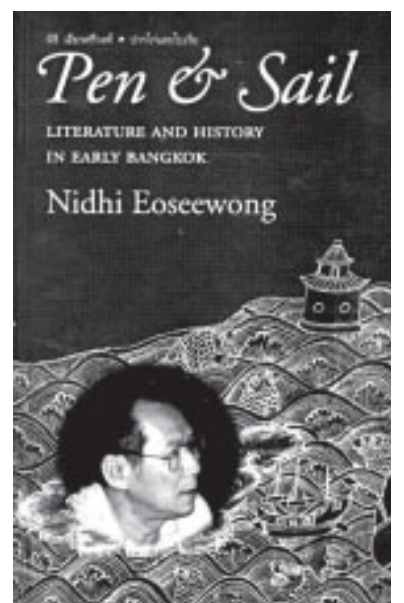
K. Nidhi then goes into an exhaustive discussion of the literature of Ayudhaya. I had always thought that most of it went up in smoke during the 1767 Fall. However, a huge amount was preserved – poetry, plays, historical chronicles, folktales, religious treatises – and K. Nidhi displays an encyclopedic knowledge of the field, classified strictly into folk and court literature.

Moving into the Bangkok era, K. Nidhi observes a new set of literary trends: "These trends

may be described in broad-brush terms as two complementary and interrelated changes: first, adoption of folk literature into upper class literature; second, reduction in the ritual element in court literature to the point the sacredness embedded in Ayudhaya court literature had greatly diminished."

The greatest hero of this new style of literature is the subject of the book's second essay: *Sunthorn Phu: Bourgeois Poet Laureate*. A great traveler, humorist, drinker and womanizer, (*nak laeng*, in the argot of the time), Sunthorn Phu embodied the zeitgeist of the time. He despised superstition and the common folk, elevated reason and the pursuit of wealth, and kept a sharp eye out for the ladies. K. Nidhi's close analysis of his poetry is the closest that anyone illiterate in Thai is going to get to the Kingdom's great literary hero.

Chris Baker, a principal editor, closes the book with a bio-



graphical afterword about K. Nidhi and his impact on Thai historiography.



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# Things are lookin' up

**M**y friend Daeng who has a shop in Phuket says he has had his best week in five years. Another friend who drives a taxi has also had a great month. He told me, "I have never had this many customers who give me such good business and good tips. They are really nice people and don't complain all the time about the prices."

It seems that my friend Daeng used to rely to a large extent on the type of visitors who tend to hang around in a herd and wear floppy hats and baggy pants and who avoid the ocean and the sun like the plague and want to bargain for a 10-baht packet of crisps.

I have never been able to understand why people who don't like the sun and the sea would choose to come to a tropical island for a vacation.

Yes, they come to a tropical island and then stay in a hotel in the middle of town and go to the market for a day's outing. I suppose after last year we should be grateful for any visitors, but fortunately the tour companies and countries that supported Phuket the most after the tsunami tend to bring better-spending visitors and it seems – according to Daeng and the taxi driver – that their businesses are being frequented by customers who spend more freely.

The property industry is also

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

showing signs of strong growth and, interestingly enough, the market is changing. An increasing number of inquiries and even sales are coming from North America.

Last week I sold an apartment in a Phuket project. This in itself is not a notable event, as that is what I do for a living.

The interesting thing about it is that I wasn't in Phuket and neither was the buyer. In fact, I was in Australia, spending my Christmas Day working, mainly due to the fact that I hadn't done any work for a number of days and certain deadlines had arrived and even passed – something like the deadline for this column, which is why I am sitting at home having breakfast and writing at the same time.

Anyway, what was notable was that I was sitting in Brisbane selling an apartment in Thailand to an American in the US whom I had never met and who had never seen the project, except in email photographs and its website.

He called me after having confirmed the purchase by email as he thought that some form of personal contact would be a good

idea. It was interesting to compare this buyer with other would-be clients who have spent a year coming and going and expect the price to be the same as their first visit, regardless of the fact that costs have increased by as much as 30% and the fact that 75% of the project has been sold.

Some people don't understand that those who buy off the plan are taking a risk for higher rewards, so there is no chance that prices will remain the same throughout the development of the project.

Still, that's what it's all about; handling all types. Since then I have had several inquiries from the US and Canada. Other developments are also reporting sales to the American market.

One of our buyers from the US has suggested that it was the tsunami that brought Phuket to the attention of the American market. Indeed, while it was a tragic event, it has made Phuket famous throughout the world.

Both the travel industry and the property industry may be on the verge of seeing a major upturn, not only in numbers, but in the quality of visitors.

While I don't have anything against the floppy-hat-and-baggy-pants brigade, they don't spend any money in the community and, in the long run, we'll be better off without them. A few ghost rumors should take care of them.

## Police Raid Marketplace Casino

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of January 1996

**TUNG TONG:** Police raided an illegal gambling operation set up at the weekly *Talad Nat*, or traveling market, located just across the road from their Kathu District headquarters in Tung Tong.

The casino had apparently been a long-standing feature of the Thursday market, with losses by punters mounting into the hundreds of thousands of baht. *Siang Tai* newspaper reports that meanwhile, in Patong, where the

same vendors meet, a shadowy godfather is thought to be sending his minions out to lure bar girls into the casino as customers.

The Kathu swoop netted nine suspects, all women vendors in the market, together with 280 baht in cash and a pack of cards. The other participants fled in the pandemonium of the raid.

## Tourist police raids bag 92

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of January 15-31, 1996

**PATONG:** The Phuket Tourist Police, under their new inspector, Pol Lt Col Supawat Sookjaroen, launched a series of raids from mid-December to mid-

January. The raids were focused on people annoying tourists.

Lt Col Supawat expressed disappointment with the early results of their efforts.

"We expected to catch more entertainment venues – the ones that usually stay open after the 3 am closing time. But, surprisingly, they all closed on time."

But by the end of the campaign, the 35 officers involved in it had arrested 92 people.

Ninety vendors, 88 Thai and two Burmese, were charged with irritating tourists. One person was arrested for theft and an illegal immigrant from Nepal was taken into custody.

The annoying vendors were fined between 100 and 200 baht.

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Board & Bread

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): After having weighed up the pros and cons of a situation, you will come to a new conclusion this week. Those who have already made a verbal commitment will be able to revise it accordingly; those who have signed any dotted lines will have to find a scapegoat. Leo may be able to offer a few pearls of wisdom. Romance is a breeze if it's your birthday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians who are ready to take on more work will receive more than one proposal this week. Scorpio will make the best offer; don't be fooled by Cancer's invitation, as it really is too good to be true. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for making your presence known to someone you find attractive. Wear sapphire blue to help see things in perspective.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your ability to pay attention to detail comes in very useful this week when a friend asks for business advice. This is one favor that won't be forgotten in a hurry. Pisceans who had given up on a relationship working out will have reason to think twice. A dream you have early next week holds the answer to a burning question. Expect to receive a small cash bonus on Wednesday or Thursday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The source of a rumor is revealed this weekend. Arians are advised to control their tempers when they know who the culprit is; this is one acquaintance you shouldn't upset. Paperwork is building up to the point when you will be tempted simply to use a shredder. Asking for help from a trusted friend with better administrative qualities than yours will solve the problem. The number 6 looks promising on Monday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Ideas are slow to get off the ground until the end of the month. You are advised to concentrate on projects already begun. Double check financial transactions midweek as a mistake will be hard to rectify later on. Aquarius makes a surprise appearance in your life – this is almost the last person you expected to see again. The color emerald green helps you to see the light.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your new-found inclination to get back to basics doesn't go down well with those close to you. Living for the moment has lost the appeal it had, but Geminis are advised to guard against getting too serious. Love at first sight can't be ruled out on Saturday; so make contact with this person before he or she disappears. Aries cannot be trusted with confidential information.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Cancerians whose partners are upset by a bout of forgetfulness may have to do more than they thought to make amends. You are advised to make a concrete promise that you can keep. Single Cancerians didn't make as much of an impression over the holiday period as they had believed; a subtle reminder of this introduction is called for. The number 4 is lucky on Monday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Expect to receive an indication of the faster pace that this year will bring. On Monday or Tuesday, a business contact comes up with an intriguing plan. Leos who need more time to mull over this proposal should agree on a definite date for giving an answer, as someone else is waiting in the wings to snap up this opportunity. A family matter occupies your attention this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): The going is tough for Virgoans trying to establish a new direction. You can be forgiven for thinking that this was a wrong move, but stay patient and you will reap rewards later this month. Someone with influence is temporarily otherwise occupied; they haven't forgotten about you. Pisces comes up with a surprising idea on Sunday. If you can drop plans already made, a magical mystery tour will brighten up your weekend.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Take a friend's advice regarding unfinished business early in the week. Librans who are tempted to put the lid on this matter might regret doing so, as it's possible to rekindle the fire without getting your fingers burned. "Where there's a will, there's a way" is true in other areas of your life; a romantic tug-of-war can also be positively influenced by being more decisive.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Those rose-tinted glasses should be removed for long enough to prevent you from coming down from the clouds with a bump later on. Some Scorpios have been deceiving themselves since the start of this year where a romantic situation is concerned. A work colleague is about to put pressure on – allowing this to happen now could set a negative scene for the future. The color ivory helps you maintain your cool.

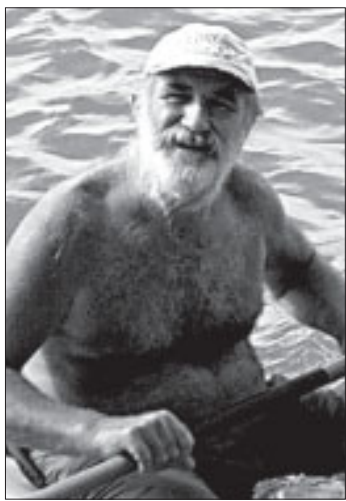
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Enjoying simple pleasures is the theme for those born under the sign of Sagittarius this week. You will come to realize that certain areas of your life have become too complicated, and downsizing is on the agenda for the rest of January. Financial decisions are best put off until your head clears; money matters are well-starred next month. Romance blossoms on Tuesday when Aries starts to show unusual interest.

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## THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

# Why feeding wildlife is a VERY BAD idea

National parks are not zoos. In theory, park animals should lead their natural lives undisturbed by human intervention, roaming free with their families, foraging where they can.

We must understand that wildlife sightings are serendipitous. If you want a guaranteed sighting, go visit a jail for animals – otherwise known as a zoo.

Ecotourists understand the game – they don't always see wildlife, but that's the trade-off for allowing the animals their freedom and a natural lifestyle.

Unfortunately for Thailand's wildlife, business operators with no concept of nature and no interest in training their staff properly often organize "nature tours".

With no natural resources background, these business owners don't even understand the issues – but with money to be made, who cares?

### INVITING PROBLEMS

Freelance sea canoeing guides get 150-250 baht per day. Combining low pay and a lack of training is just inviting problems. Unknowing tourists may give a tip worth two days' wages if they can just get to feed a monkey.

This short-term thinking hurts the wildlife and the people of Thailand.

The day I first witnessed monkeys being fed in Phang Nga Bay, a client said he was bitten in Thailand 16 years earlier and hadn't returned since. He came to us because of our reputation for safety – and now other companies were feeding monkeys around us!

We once declined to take a Sierra Club group for a tour in Talin, north of Ao Nang. They were shocked, until I saw them at the next stop. They were white-faced and still shaking days later.

They hadn't been bitten, but the environmentalists were physically molested and intimidated by monkeys in tight mangrove channels where kayaks offer no escape. That was five years ago – and they haven't been back since.

Well-traveled tourists learn from national park experiences worldwide. Feeding bears in Yellowstone Park or primates in Africa is just asking for trouble.

So just what's wrong with feeding wildlife?

Wildlife says it all. Wild animals can be dangerous at any moment, but when exactly is the greatest danger? When they are protecting their young, and guarding "their" food. If you feed wildlife you are automatically *increasing* the risk of attack.

There are three basic problems with feeding wild animals.

First, when we habituate them with human contact this increases risk for both parties. Animals risk being eaten by the ultimate predator – humans. And increased human contact also means increased attacks on humans – especially when food is involved.

Second, the food we offer is usually unnatural. There are no banana trees on Koh Panak, and frozen peas don't grow for reef fish. Wild diets are often highly specialized, and altered diets are usually harmful.

Third, constant feeding makes animals dependent upon the easy human supply chain. Families forget how to forage. Clever and resourceful species turn into beggars, with negative effects on family culture.

Two more downsides surfaced from observations made in Koh Panak: first, members of formerly close-knit families turn on each other while fighting for handouts.

Second, there are now injuries that we've never seen before. One female had an open and infected bite wound on her elbow – a death sentence in the wild. An adolescent had a broken arm incurred in a banana fight.



Here monkey monkey monkey, I got a banana for you... Macaques have canine teeth that can take rip your fingers off, or bits of your face.

Catching or tranquilizing a macaque to get it to a vet is virtually impossible in Panak's sharp limestone environment, so it will die an even slower death.

We've known this family of macaques for 16 years, and these first-ever injuries came as the result of banana feeding. Last year's playful siblings now fight over scraps.

Silence is the price we pay to see our wild relatives. They aren't always there, but when we

work for a sighting, rewards are always greater. My most memorable Panak experience was talking a macaque down a 300-meter cliff to converse with eye contact – the macaque in a tree just above my guests – and no bananas were involved.

Solutions are easy:

- First, national parks can enforce the law. Rangers tell us that feeding park wildlife carries a 2,000-baht fine, but they are so busy collecting entry fees that there is no manpower to enforce the fines. Handing out a few fines could well stop macaque feeding.

- Licensing guides in national parks is vital, including wildlife and environmental training. Whatever happens now isn't working.

- Signage in all major languages leads to self-enforcement. Generally speaking, when people understand, they care.

- Finally, educate tourists coming to Thailand. In-flight movies and airport signage promote and protect Thailand's wildlife would help. None of these solutions is expensive and can help prevent your child being bitten by those long macaque canines.

Ultimately, simply follow the nature ethic all ecotourists embrace: leave things as they are and move on.

John Gray started commercial sea kayaking tours in Hawaii in 1983, and moved to Phuket six years later, setting up the first sea kayaking operation in Phang Nga Bay, the multi-award-winning SeaCanoe. Today he runs John Gray's SeaCanoe, also based in Phuket. For more information call Tel: 076-254506.



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## Naturism market may have to remain untapped

The proposal by foreign businessmen to open a “naturist” or “clothing-optional” retreat somewhere in Phuket (see *Inside Story*) brings into focus a number of misconceptions about Thai culture held by foreigners – and vice versa.

The near-unanimous rejection of the proposal during a September meeting of top-level provincial officials cited “cultural concerns” as the reason why such a resort would be inappropriate for Phuket.

To be sure, Phuket’s Thai Buddhist majority is generally quite conservative when it comes to nudity in the context of preserving “Thai values”.

For our Muslim friends, nudity is proscribed as a matter of religious belief. Christians, likewise, though to a lesser extent these days, frown upon the exposure of skin to public view.

The resort, as described by its would-be developers, would be completely private and totally in keeping with the aims of the naturist “movement”, which has more to do with overcoming one’s sexual urges than giving in to them.

Have our leaders missed an opportunity here? The International Naturist Federation has some 200 resorts in Europe alone, and 850 around the world. That seems like a lot of tourism potential.

After all, gays, too, are generally frowned upon by most religions and have also been branded as being in conflict with Thai values, yet this did not stop Phuket from seizing on the commercial opportunities offered by the recent Nation V gay party.

Phuket’s tourism business already features a great deal of non-Thai-value, un-Buddhist, un-Islamic and un-Christian activity. Topless sunbathing, prostitution, drinking and meat barbecues are all part of the equation. There have never been serious attempts to ban these.

Still, if a nudist retreat were allowed to be developed here, it is difficult to see where it would be sited. The location would have to provide not only adequate privacy for the “naturists”, but it would also have to be isolated enough to keep them from prying eyes and exposure to those who might be offended. In Phuket there are no longer that many places fitting that description.

Even more problematic is that fact that naturist resorts are commonly found along beaches, and it is in just such a location that the developers would like to establish one in Phuket.

In Thailand, however, all beaches are – at least in law – public land. As it is still illegal to go naked in public, it is hard to see how a beachside nudist resort could ever operate here legally under existing legislation.

– The Editor



## Letters

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

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

### Stand and deliver

I was in Phuket in December and noticed that many tuk-tuks do not have their fare list displayed. This is one way of gouging tourists, with some fares as expensive as 600 baht past midnight.

The drivers explain away these prices by saying that they lost too much money because of the tsunami and that it is now high season and the tourists will come back anyway so now’s as good a time as any to rip them off. I once saw a tourist and his girl pay 1,000 baht from Banana Disco to Phuket City.

This is atrocious highway robbery!

The tuk-tuk drivers know that tourists badly need transport and have no choice but to take a tuk-tuk, which is the only decent form of transport in Phuket.

Tourists like me will think twice about coming back again!

Kenji Kunni  
Hong Kong

### Most unfair

The police had better get busy and start arresting most tuk-tuk drivers.

I look in all the tuk-tuks when I go to Lotus or Big C – as well as on the streets of Patong – to see if they are displaying their fare signs. Not one does. I have yet to see a single tuk-tuk with a fare sign on board.

Andy Greenlay  
Rawai

### Barking mad

Many local residents and tourists are upset regarding the latest proposal to remove dogs from Phuket’s beaches and streets. The maths of the situation don’t make sense. How is it humanely

possible to put any more dogs in an already inadequate facility that only has room for 500 animals, and there are at least 430 there already?

There is not enough food or medical attention for the existing inhabitants, so they are certain to tear new arrivals apart. Going into temples to sterilize animals is a waste of money and time, as most of them have already been sterilized, either by the dog charities or by individual animal lovers who regularly visit them to provide food, medical assistance and take new “dumpees” for sterilization.

Resources would be much better spent on arranging sterilization clinics with an education program, for example at Thai schools during weekends.

Until people are prepared to take responsibility for their dogs and cats, the animals will be considered as a disposable commodity. I should imagine that the average Thai dog-owner would never take the trouble to “register” his or her pet.

This seems a particularly sad way to start 2006 – the Chinese Year of the Dog.

Elsa Fox  
Rawai

*Livestock Office Chief Sunart Wongchawalit has clarified that only sick or elderly dogs will be taken to the pound. Others will be “snipped” and released.*

– The Editor.

### Country ramble

I just wanted to give the local police a big hand for their efforts in trying to keep our roads safe. We are dealing with an international community and the rules are different in different countries.

We don’t have cameras in

America in most places, and thank God – all we need are more Big Brother tactics.

What are people complaining about? Do you want to turn this into some kind of prison camp? This is Thailand, not England or God else knows where all these complainers come from.

Did you come here from somewhere else because you did not like it there, expecting to come here and make the rest of us miserable? Don’t you like it? Then go back to the gray skies.

Motorcycles need some right of way; do you want all of us to get cars and really create a traffic jam?

“Bubba”

Name and address withheld

### Control the sprawl

Now that the first anniversary of the tsunami has passed, it is good to read through your pages on the Internet that Phuket is back on its feet and attracting tourists once more.

I do hope, however, that the rebuilding effort in those parts of the island worst-affected by the tsunami has been slightly more controlled in terms of forward planning, and that development has been thought through before being allowed to proceed.

I visited Phuket with my family two years ago. I saw the television coverage after the tsunami struck, and saw the extent of the devastation in Patong.

Many “temporary” structures were destroyed by the giant waves, and the only “benefit”, if I can call it that, must have been the opportunity to begin again in terms of controlling urban sprawl.

Richard Stevens  
Dublin

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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.



# Shock! Horror! Could UK press be exaggerating?

It's odd: provide the British media with a story, like the worst natural disaster in living memory, and the journalists will arrive on your doorstep to sympathize just as soon as they can get a flight.

Yet if you have the temerity to get back on your feet and make yourself attractive once more, they will turn on you like a pack of rabid dogs.

Recently, an article appeared in the UK press that some local people felt was irresponsible; but they should not have been surprised.

When the tsunami struck in December 2004, the British media brought the story into homes in Britain in a generally sensitive and informative way.

But once that news story was out, many of the reporters seemed to revert to type and we began to see sensational, voyeuristic articles complete with "facts" twisted to fit, and "quotes" from people who later flatly denied saying any such thing or from others who wondered why their words had been twisted so gratuitously.

Patong Beach is, it must be said, a tabloid journalist's dream. Men drinking too much beer, watching football, and generally enjoying themselves.

Women dancing in and on bars, sometimes trying to entice customers in, and the nightly show at the end of Soi Crocodile providing more column-inch opportunities than you can shake a stick at.

## FIRST PERSON

A recent article in a major British newspaper about pedophilia was seen by some as a gross exaggeration of the sleazier side of Patong's night life. Several people quoted in the article claim to have had their words distorted and others say that the facts were twisted.

Briton Steve Finn, who spends much of the year in Phuket, rises to the island's defense with words about the responsibility of the media to report accurately and sensibly.



But the reality is that our newspapers and their fearless reporters want more than "girls dance on bars; shock horror!" So what we get is "scantly clad teenage girls dancing on bars in sex clubs; shock horror!" Which, of course, sells more newspapers.

Not that they check their facts, such as the age of the girls they are writing about, for instance. Nor do they seek the permission of those they write about, or explain what a "sex club" is.

British people are fascinated by Thailand. The country's profile has grown remarkably in recent years and is now high on

the list of desirable long-haul holiday destinations. British newspapers know this, and so of course Thailand is now firmly in their sights as well.

When a reporter takes up station in a Soi Bangla bar looking for a story, he will be paid for doing so. Should he write an article about exploitation, be it of the girls working in the bar or the children hawking flowers and gum?

Does he pay the subject for the story? No, he will take some notes, maybe a quote or two, stitch them together and make a saleable piece of work from them.

The subject, bargirls or flower girls, will never see a penny from the sale of the article written about them. So just who is exploiting whom?

People still trust newspapers and have a ridiculous notion that they will play fair, which should really compel journalists to report raw facts and allow us to make our own minds up.

Yet even our so-called "intelligent" journals routinely trash places and people without any consideration for local businesses or people who already have as many problems as they can handle.

Why can they not under-

stand that with power comes an obligation to be responsible?

People want to know about Thailand; it is exotic and yet accessible. They devour everything written about the place and when some journalist reports that Patong is a haven for pedophiles – as reported in this article – they tend to believe it.

The night life of Patong may not be to everyone's taste, but that does not make it a bad place. Pious reporters may well be offended at the sight of a young Thai girl with an older Western man, but that does not give them the right to paint every man in town as a pedophile waiting to pounce.

It seems to me that the typical British journalist is no longer on a mission to bring truth and justice into British living rooms from faraway places. He is on the gravy train and, unfortunately, it stops in Patong these days.

I got very agitated about the first few of these cheap-shot articles and took to emailing editors: "Dear Sir, I challenge you to..." but after receiving a few stock responses and being ignored a lot, I changed tactics.

I still email them, but these days I steal a line from someone far more original than me: "Dear Sir, I am currently sat in the smallest room in the house with your publication. I have your offensive article in front of me."

"It will very shortly be behind me and thence back down the sewer to join your good selves once more."

## Do I need permission to build a home extension, and do I need a permit to dig a well?

I want to extend my home by adding a couple of bedrooms and a bathroom. Local builders say that I do not need planning permission from the *OrBorTor* [Tambon Administration Organization] for this. Is this true?

Also, I want to have a new well dug on the land – a conventional well, not a deep well. I seem to recall that there was a committee that was supposed to examine applications for the digging of wells. Does this committee still exist? How do I go about applying for permission?

James Fergus  
Pa Khlok

**Aphichart Deekongseang, Chief of Public Works of Pa Khlok OrBorTor, replies:**

If you want to extend your home you must get a permit to do so from the Public Works Department of Pa Khlok OrBorTor.

If you are Thai you should bring copies of the following documents: house registration, ID card and certificate of ownership. These copies should be the same size as the originals.

If you are foreign, you should bring the company registration of the company that owns the land, your passport and work

permit (if you have one) and the land papers. The person who has the authority to sign and stamp paperwork for the company must also come.

Once the officials have these documents and have checked that they are complete, you will receive permission for the extension.

As to digging a well, Section 23 of the Digging and Filling of Soil Act of 2543 (2001) specifies that the opening of the well may be no more than 4 square meters in area.

There is no need to get permission before digging the well.

## Issues & ANSWERS

Do you have a question about how things are done in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to the powers that be?

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

## Can I bring my Filipina maid to Thailand?

My family and I are planning to move to Phuket. We would like to bring with us our Filipina maid, who is like a member of the family.

Is this possible for us to do this? If so, what is the procedure?  
John Higgs

**Sawang Bunyarad, an officer in the work permit office of the Phuket Provincial Labour Office, replies:**

Foreigners may not work as maids in Thailand because working as a domestic is one of the occupations reserved for Thais.



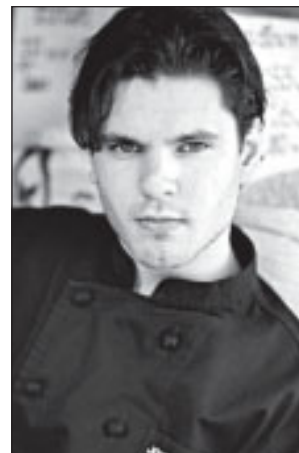
## ON THE MOVE



**Phonasi "Tae" Charoensri**, 40, from Chon Buri, has been appointed General Manager of the Access Pool Resort & Spa at Karon beach. He graduated from Witsayakorn University's faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, and previously worked as the Director of Sales at Tri Asia Hotel & Resort Co Ltd.



**Kanya "Nor" Norkan**, 30, originally from Phayao, has been appointed Spa Manager of Elements Spa at the Access Pool Resort & Spa in Karon. She graduated from Phuket Technology Vocational School with a diploma in Hotel Business. She has eight years' experience in the spa industry, and previously was Spa Manager at The Chedi for three years.



**Joeri Schreurs**, from Belgium, is the new Executive Chef at the Renaissance Koh Samui Resort & Spa. Fascinated with food from the age of six, he was enrolled in Belgium's leading hotel school in Koksijde by the age of 13 and began exploring the cuisine of Asia upon graduation. Before coming to Thailand, he worked in Vietnam, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

Every once in a while, I like to share some of the more pertinent questions from readers. This gives me a chance to show which questions are on many users' minds and the best answers that I can come up with. Here are a few recent examples.

**Q:** My computer just gave me a message that "Windows has Performed an Illegal Operation". Did I do something wrong? Is this the beginning of a full system crash?

**A:** There are several possible causes of this error: most times it is a simple glitch in how Windows uses your hardware.

For example, there could have been an error when the system was writing to the hard disk or possibly there is a section of your RAM (random access memory) that is beginning to malfunction. This problem usually sorts itself out because Windows is able to avoid doing the same thing that caused the error.

However, if this problem persists, you may need to run the Repair Windows utility which can be found on your original Windows disks.

# Illegal Windows? Is this the beginning of a real pain?

Simply put the CD into your computer and select Repair Windows.

**Q:** When I am in my office, I can connect to the Internet and our LAN (local area network) without any difficulties. However, whenever I travel and try to use the Internet provided in a hotel, it just doesn't work. What can I do?

**A:** There is usually one simple cause of this; your technicians have set up a static IP address for your computer.

Every computer needs an IP (Internet protocol) address so

that it can be identified on your LAN and also to gain access to the Internet.

An analogy is a house, which has an address so that the occupants can receive mail and so that friends or relatives can find it to visit.

If your technicians have set up a fixed IP address for your computer, they can control many things about the LAN including security and access control. However, this IP address will only work on your LAN, so when you try to connect to a public Internet or even another LAN, your IP address is not recognized.

The best way to solve this is to have your technicians set up a dynamic IP address so that wherever you try to connect, you will get an address from that system.

**Q:** My children use my computer to surf the Net and to play games; they have even been known to do their homework on it. The problem is that they keep trying to install new programs that either do not work or even worse, crash my computer so that I have to take it to your shop for a rebuild. How can I stop this?

**A:** Buy them their own computer and make them pay for any repairs? Just kidding. I suggest that you set up a limited log-on account specifically for their use and put a password on your existing user account.

Here's how to do it: click on the Start button, go into the Control Panel and click on Users Accounts. Here you can set up a new account just for them in which they won't be able to install anything when logged on.

Click on Create a New Account, enter the name you want to give it, and click Next. Then select Limited and click on Create Account. It is important to click on Limited because this will restrict their ability to really mess things up.

If you want this new account to have a password, click on Change an Account and then click on the new account you just created. There you will see an option to Create a Password. Click on this and then enter the password you want to give to them. Finally, you must set up a password for your existing account so they cannot log on as someone who has right to install new software.

Click on Change Another Account (top left of the screen), click on your account and enter a new password. Now you are the only one who can create new accounts, install software or change your computer's configuration.

**Q:** Lately, my computer has been running very slowly. I can see the hard disk light blinking like crazy, even when I am not running any programs or touching the keyboard. Is this a virus or is there something wrong with my computer?

**A:** It could be a virus but more likely, it is caused by an untidy hard disk that is no longer efficiently storing data. I suggest that you first upgrade your anti-virus program with the latest virus definitions. You can do this by starting your anti-virus program and click on Update.

If you do not have any anti-virus program installed, shame on

you. Contact a good service company and get this done immediately – it is not a safe world out there.

If, after running a full virus scan, you are still experiencing problems, then the problem is most likely the hard disk where your files are inefficiently stored all over.

Try running Defrag, which is a Windows utility that cleans things up and finds better ways to store the files on your hard disk.

First close all open programs including anti-virus, MSN or Yahoo Chat. Now click Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Defragmenter.

Here you can run two utilities – Analyze and Defragment; I suggest running Analyze first because it will let you know if there is a serious problem before actually defragmenting your files. Once the Analyze session is complete, choose Defragment and go and have dinner or go to bed as this can take a long time.

I enjoy receiving emails and now that I have a good VP of Operations working in our company, I have time to answer them. Please feel free to contact me with more questions, comments and even suggestions of what I should write about next.

*John Seebach has 25 years' consulting experience in information systems and business process re-engineering. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. For more information, send an email to john@islandtechnology.com*

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# Gold goes up, buyers give up

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn  
& Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Gold shops in Phuket took a heavy blow in 2005 as the price of gold soared to 10,350 baht per baht-weight (15.16 grams) by the end of the year.

According to the Gold Trade Association, the price of gold breached 10,000 baht per baht on November 1 for the first time ever. The highest peak, recorded a decade earlier, had been 6,500 baht.

Over the year, the price of gold rose 24%, from 8,350 baht on January 3 to 10,350 baht on December 30.

Sasiwimon Sakkasemkrit, owner of Benjaporn Jewelry on Montri Road, which has been in business 20 years, told the *Gazette*, "The impact of the tsunami on our business was a decrease in sales of about 40%. And because the price of gold has been rising steadily, people want to sell rather than buy. Many people are also pawning their gold."

"There are so many gold shops on Phuket and competition is stiff, [though] customers are loyal to a shop that provides good

service and is flexible," she added.

Tippayawan Limthongnopakoon, Manager of BR Gold Smith, which has four branches in Phuket, agreed that 2005 was not a good year for business.

"At the beginning of the year, business was affected by the tsunami and then by the end of the year the price of gold had increased and people didn't have the money to buy, or found it difficult to decide to buy gold this high season."

"Usually for Chinese New Year [on January 29 this year], business owners will buy gold items for their employees, but this year no one has started buying here yet. I think they may have decided to buy something other than gold."

"Most of my customers are bringing in gold to pawn because they believe the price of gold will increase [to more than cover the redemption price]. I think the rising price of gold is a trend that will continue in the future."

Benjamas Tanertthanasombat, owner of the Thongthip Gold Shop on Montri Road said, "We opened this shop nearly 10 years



Sasiwimon Sakkasemkrit, owner of Benjaporn Jewelry: 'People want to sell rather than buy.'

ago. The economy has suffered due to the tsunami and when people have less income, they cannot buy gold. After the tsunami, our sales fell about 35%. Although we used to have regular customers and sold gold to hotel executives for staff parties

or for New Year gifts, now many people have changed their buying habits.

"Actually, I hope that the gold price will not continue to increase, but, who knows? After all, the price in 2006 will depend on the world economy which in

turn depends on many influences, such as fuel prices," she added.

"I really want the government to assist the economy of Southern Thailand, and I believe local people should be honest and service-minded so we can attract more customers."



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# The advantages and disadvantages of 'command' economies

I refer in this article to a letter published in the *Phuket Gazette* last week by reader Jeffrey Galko, who made some comments about my article of December 31, 2005 headlined "A good outlook for 2006".

Mr Galko assumes that I have a preference for "command" economies and dictatorship over democracy and free markets. Nothing could be further from the truth. He draws his assumptions from my statement: "India's disadvantage – if compared to China – is that it is a democracy".

Perhaps it would have been more accurate to have described China's current economic policy as being a "hybrid command economy". In reality, this is splitting hairs. The Chinese government is still very involved in the economy, to a far greater degree than would be common in a democratic country.

## LIMITED

I put "command" economy in inverted commas because its advantage is limited to being able to change situations without lengthy political debate.

Manmohan Singh, the Indian Prime Minister, made the same point in a speech in 2005. He was comparing India and China in this context.

Obviously, democracy and free markets are far preferable to dictatorships with socialist/communist or any other economic policies.

I mentioned that India started economic liberalization in 1991, 12 years after China had taken this route. Previously, India was a democracy, but its economy was virtually a socialist-type model. It may not have had a Soviet-style approach, but it was so "bogged down" with subsidies, bureaucratic "red tape" and so on as to be ineffective in raising the living standard of its population.

Mr Galko appears to have missed the following sentence: "China also started its economic



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

liberalization earlier, giving it a 12-year lead over India". That is hardly praise for China's previous economic policies. Nowhere did I even mention communism. Please note that my column deals with economics and markets; I try to limit as much as possible any reference to politics.

Looking at China, we see a "communist" government that has been forced to face reality and change its economic policies by 180 degrees. I have stated in previous articles that the Chinese government faces a very difficult historical situation. It still has many old "smokestack" industries, which the government cannot close down immediately as this would cause massive unemployment.

What they are trying to achieve is to allow the creation of a free market which will lead to rapid economic growth, allowing for employment opportunities for job-seekers. This is a mammoth task; not only do they wish to rid the country of the old communist industries which are totally outdated and inefficient, they also have to deal with massive numbers of previously rural inhabitants heading for the cities.

The total amount of labor "on the move" is estimated to be larger than the combined population of Western Europe.

The future path for the Chinese economy, as is the case in the present and has been in the past, is to rely heavily on export-led economic growth which, in turn, enables the domestic economy to expand. The Chinese

**Looking at China, we see a 'communist' government that has been forced to face reality**

government faces some huge challenges – it is in some ways similar to Japan in the 1960s when the latter was referred to as a "bicycle economy". This refers to the need to keep forward momentum (economic growth). If it fails to achieve this... well, we all know what happens to stationary bicycles.

China is also in the process of privatizing its banking sector. The banks in many cases had to "write off" some substantial bad loans forced on them by local and national political figures.

It is no coincidence that many of these now privatized banks will have a substantial foreign shareholding, and that most of the foreign shareholding will be by one acceptable foreign bank for each new privatized entity.

The Chinese banking system needs foreign expertise, and the easiest and most efficient way of achieving this result is to have a foreign partner who not only injects capital, but also personnel and advanced banking systems.

However, the Chinese economy is not quite so open as Mr Galko appears to believe. One example is the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), which made a takeover bid in 2005 for US oil company UNOCAL – a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation.



**Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh believes the advantage of a 'command' economy, like China's, is its ability to change things without lengthy political debate.**

CNOOC is a public company, and its shares are listed on one of the Chinese stock exchanges. The takeover bid met with a hostile political reception in the US for one reason only: the major shareholder in CNOOC is the Chinese government with a 70% stake. The Chinese government controls many "listed public companies".

I welcome readers' comments and, in fact, I receive many emails to which I always respond. It is impossible for me to always

agree with every reader's point of view.

Even within my own client base, it is not uncommon for clients to want to have their own approach – although most do take my advice.

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

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# Business is bubbling for Phuket dive industry

**T**ourists have never been more welcome on Phuket than nowadays. And people are coming back in droves.

As a result, the high season is in full swing and the diving industry is flourishing as never before.

The proof of this is that dive operators are scrambling to find qualified instructors whereas, in the past, there was never a shortage.

PADI course directors in Phuket have certified more than 50 new open-water instructors in just one month. And Phuket seems to have one of the highest number of course directors in Asia.

One course director stands out. Mona Fristedt, Managing Director of Oceanic Divecenter, is the only female course director in Phuket, proving that diving is not totally a male domain.

Mona has again begun teaching Instructor Development Courses (IDCs), after a short hiatus last season. (An IDC is necessary for dive masters wishing to graduate to being open-water instructors).

She said, "My next IDC will be in February and I'm really looking forward to teaching again."

She will be doing IDC courses in English and Swedish and may even have a group of hearing-impaired instructor candidates this season.

She added, "Oceanic Dive Center's staff is made up of 75% women, including the driver."

**Living the life:** Liveaboards are also busy. I have had a few offers to return to the Similans full time, and the *Gazette's* former diving columnist Chris Cruz can be found in the Similans this season.

## Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvia Yaffe

Although I have opted to spend my days closer to the purr of an air conditioner rather than to that of an air compressor, I did manage to get to the Similans aboard Moby Dick's new luxury liveaboard, M/V *Nautica*.

The Similans are still my favorite place in the world, and I was happy to see that the diving is still great. I am also happy to report that further north, at Koh Bon, I had one of my best manta dives ever – 45 minutes with a gorgeous manta ray that was completely black on top – something I'd never seen before and a sight I'll never forget.

**Swift recovery:** Tom Yang is a PADI instructor who has his own California-based diving company and frequently brings groups of divers to Phuket.

He has been diving in Phuket for nearly four years and brought a group with him in March last year.

Tom said, "We came back to support the area and to assess the damage for ourselves." He was very impressed with Phuket's "amazingly fast" recovery. Speaking about the Similans, he added, "The seven divers who had never been here before thought the diving was excellent." He said that there was some noticeable damage, but the diving was still great and he will continue to bring customers for liveaboard trips.

**New destinations:** Two liveaboard companies have decided to add some variety to their itineraries.



Friends for many years, Mona Fristedt of Oceanic Divecenter and Lotta Hansson of Moby Dick Adventures.

ies. M/Y *Genesis I* from Sea Bees and *Nautica* from Moby Dick have special expeditions planned to Tarutao National Park in the south, also taking in the Butang Islands.

Apart from Koh Lipe, all the islands in this archipelago are uninhabited. Patrick Catellani, Managing Director of Moby Dick, said, "We wanted to try something different and explore a new area." M/V *Nautica* is

doing a seven-day trip, leaving April 11.

Sea Bees also has a six-day trip scheduled to Tarutao in April aboard M/Y *Genesis I*, but this is already sold out. Another is planned, leaving January 24.

Both companies also have regularly scheduled liveaboard

trips to Hin Daeng and Hin Muang, famous for their manta and whaleshark sightings.

**Eco-snorkeling:** Also new this season from Moby Dick are snorkel tours on the recently launched M/Y *Sea Gypsy*. Cruise director Lotta Hansson has 10 years' experience in diving around Phuket and has designed two itineraries in the spirit of ecotourism, which she says are the first of their kind in Phuket.

One of the trips is an "ecological adventure combined with knowledge acquisition". In addition to snorkeling in Ao Makham, it includes a guided tour at the recently reopened Phuket Aquarium, a trip to the new Khao Khat viewpoint, which has a 360° view encompassing the Phi Phi Islands and Phang Nga Bay.

Lotta said she is excited about the tours, adding that the snorkeling will be in locations seldom visited by other boats. She declined to reveal the exact location, saying only, "Guests will be able to snorkel at a beach on Phuket that is reachable only by boat."

She added that both tours will include full ecological briefings about marine life and the importance of nature conservation.

Mona Fristedt can be contacted at: [mona@oceanicdivecenter.com](mailto:mona@oceanicdivecenter.com). For information on Sea Bees liveaboard trips see the website: [www.sea-bees.com](http://www.sea-bees.com). For information on Moby Dick liveaboard trips see [www.liveaboard-thailand.com](http://www.liveaboard-thailand.com). For more on the company's snorkeling tours, contact: [lotta@moby-dick-adventures.com](mailto:lotta@moby-dick-adventures.com)

## Queen Mary tops Patong Darts League

**PATONG:** Queen Mary sits atop the table after taking all three points on the road against last season's champs Nag's Head, now playing as Winchester.

In terms of beer, it was a good week for away teams.

Every team playing on the road won the beer leg except Piccadilly, who fell victim to a remarkable three-dart finish by Rene of Big Boss, who put the beer-winning arrow into the double 14.

**January 3 results:** Winchester 3 Queen Mary\* 6; Two Black Sheep 4 Valhalla\* 5; Shakers 6 Offshore\* 3; Didi's 4 Amigos\* 5; The Boss Bar\* 1 Piccadilly 8; Coyote 7 Dog's Bollocks\* 2.

(\* = Winners of beer leg)

**January 17 matchups:** Winchester v Dog's Bollocks; Two Black Sheep v Amigos; Shakers v Valhalla; The Boss Bar v Offshore; Didi's v Queen Mary; Coyote v Valhalla.

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By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Twenty-nine teams have confirmed that they will compete in the 2006 Tour of Siam cycle race from Bangkok to Phuket between January 15 and 21. Among the entries is last year's winner, Shinichi Fukushima of Japan, who will be riding with fellow Japan National Team cyclists Koji Fukushima, Tetsuya Ishida, Takashi Itiyazawa and Tohaya Sano.

This year's race, covering 1,014.8 kilometers, will be divided into seven stages raced on successive days. After the 153-km Stage 6 from Khao Lak to Saphan Hin on January 20, the final day will feature a 120.4-km circuit around Phuket.

Starting at Saphan Hin at 10 am, the course will head north through Phuket City to the turnaround point at Tah Chat Chai along Thepkrasattri Rd and Route 4027. After the turnaround, the racers will head south to the finish line at Laem Phromthep along a west coast course that will pass through Bang Tao, Kamala, Patong, Kata-Karon and Nai Harn. The racers are



Last year's inaugural race was from Chiang Mai to Phuket.

## 2005 Tour of Siam winner to compete again

expected to finish at around 1:30 pm.

Among the 29 teams will be squads from China, Japan, German, Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, Ireland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Netherlands, Singapore, Wales and Malaysia.

Six Thai teams will also compete in the race, which is sanctioned by the Union Cycliste

Internationale as a 2.2 Asian "B" country event. The six teams are the Royal Thai Air Force, Royal Thai Navy, Royal Thai Police, Royal Thai Army, Rama IX Sawasdee cycling club and the Siam Bara team, of which Thai National Team riders Prajak Mahawong, Jatupoom Lekawat and Komsan Kanbunchee are members.

A total of 1.2 million baht in prize money will be presented at the awards ceremony at Laem Phromthep after all of the racers cross the finish line.

## Savnac/Feller win Ao Yon regatta for 59ers

AO YON: Azzum Savnac and former 1999 Dragon Class keelboat World Champion Lydia Feller, who came from Switzerland expressly to sail dinghies off Phuket, proved too skillful for the small fleet in the first Ao Yon Dinghy Regatta on January 8, winning the day racing series by a point.

A good turn-out of local sailors and visitors put the entire fleet of 59ers on the water. Despite the relatively light conditions, every team capsized at least once, usually after a jibe with an asymmetric spinnaker.

In Race 1, Vadim Serbin and Russel Huebschle were first over the start line, but by the first mark Savnac/Feller were in the lead.

Before the final leg, Serbin/Huebschle rounded the mark a few boat lengths behind the leaders, but then capsized while attempting a bold jibe set. Jim Poulson and Andrew de Bruin capitalized on the mistake to finish second. After an exchange of colorful language, which was blown all the way downwind to the committee boat, Serbin/

Huebschle righted their boat and held on to third place.

All boats crossed the start line with speed in Race 2. Savnac/Feller split from the pack and sailed to the left, tacked onto port and were lifted to a commanding lead as they rounded the top mark. Serbin/Huebschle sailed well and finished second.

Regatta leaders Savnac/Feller led the start of Race 3 but capsized on the first downwind leg, relinquishing the lead to Poulson/de Bruin, who went on to win. Savnac/Feller recovered from their capsize, reset the spinnaker and nearly edged out Serbin/Huebschle at the finish line.

About a boat length from the finish, Serbin/Huebschle, riding a strong gust on starboard, forced Savnac/Feller to jibe, allowing them to blast past at full speed to finish second. Savnac/Feller had to settle for third – a slightly snappier jibe might have made all the difference.

**Overall results:** 1<sup>st</sup> Savnac/Feller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Serbin/Huebschle, 3<sup>rd</sup> Poulson/DeBruin

## More than 160 golfers expected to play in President's Cup at PCC

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

KATHU: The Phuket Golf Association (PGA) invites all golfers to take part in its annual President's Cup golf tournament at the Phuket Country Club, being held this year on January 21, starting at 11:30 am.

PGA President Surin Bamrunghol said that he expects more than 160 golfers to take part.

The open division will be in four flights based on handicap: Flight A (0-9 handicap), Flight B (10-18), Flight C (19-24) and Flight D (25-36).

There will also be a Ladies' Flight, a Youth Flight (under-15-year-olds), a Seniors' Flight (50 years and older), and a "Pro" Flight, which is specifically for

Phuket residents. Entry costs 2,000 baht per PGA member and 3,000 baht per non-member, while entry to the Youth Flight costs 500 baht.

The entry fee covers green fees and caddy fees, entry to the awards party at the clubhouse, and a commemorative T-shirt.

Prizes up for grabs in the Pro Flight are: 1<sup>st</sup> place 20,000 baht, 2<sup>nd</sup> 10,000 baht, 3<sup>rd</sup> 5,000 baht, 4<sup>th</sup> 3,000 baht and 5<sup>th</sup> 2,000 baht.

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of each of the other Flights.

For more information contact K. Sak at Tel: 076-244820-2 or K. Sirichai at Tel: 076-321039-40, or email: [info@phuketgolf.org](mailto:info@phuketgolf.org)

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Home of the Week

Rawai



## Country-style living in peace and quiet

This issue's Home of the Week is a modern-design home on 1,650 square meters of flat land in a quiet location in Rawai.

Surrounded by a large garden containing palm trees, the four-bedroom home, built in 2004, offers a choice of an ideal family home or an excellent investment vehicle to use as a rental property.

The main area of the home has an open-plan living and dining area with vertical venetian blinds setting off a modern feel while also providing an element of privacy.

The Western-style kitchen comes complete with modern appliances, including a built-in cooker with oven and extractor hood, and ample under-counter and overhead cupboard space.

The wood used throughout the kitchen creates a country-home feel, while the polished granite counter and breakfast bar surfaces add a touch of class.

Leading off the main living area are four bedrooms, two with en-suite bathrooms, and all with fitted wardrobes and dressing tables. The main bedroom has its own direct access to the pool via

tinted sliding doors. There is marble flooring throughout the home, including the bathrooms.

Outside is an open terrace leading to a 72sqm swimming pool with counter-current swimming jets and a Jacuzzi that spills into the main pool area.

At the garden end of the terrace is a sala for entertaining guests.

The property also features covered parking for two cars, an electric remote-controlled entry gate, and a high security wall to add privacy.

Utilities include cable/UBC TV, telephone, well water, a solar-powered water heater, three-phase electricity and air conditioning and fans throughout.

The property is for sale at 13 million baht. The land title is Chanote.

For more information contact Pacific Paradise Group real estate agents at 53/23 Moo 5 Thepkasattri Rd, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand. Tel: 076-313223, 076-313298; 06-5074992. Fax: 076-313319. Email: info@paradisepg.com Website: www.paradisepg.com

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## Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam



## Folding screens: separate to decorate

The oriental folding screen originated in China and evolved into more versatile styles in Japan. The oldest surviving Chinese screens date back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Today, folding screens can serve as an elegant backdrop, but are commonly used as a partition to create smaller, more private space within an open living area, or to hide clutter.

Standard folding screens have three hinged panels, but they can range from two to eight leaves.

Original, carved teak screens (right) with six panels of traditional Thai design are available at Suk Thong House for 18,900 baht each.

Phuket Golden offers two styles of folding screen. One, imported from China, features Chinese characters painted on five pine panels for 12,000 baht, while their four-panel screen with



red cotton inserts (top picture) can be had for 10,000 baht.

Suk Thong House is located on Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd, A. Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-254700-1 or contact the owner,

Cheun Thathong, at Tel: 01-6065369.

Phuket Golden is located at 46/42 Moo 6, Phra Barami Rd, Kathu, Phuket. Tel: 076-323-861.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

We all like to think that we know what we are talking about. There are so-called experts in just about every field, who will stand up and try to educate us with the depth of their knowledge and experience.

Car mechanics are perhaps the worst culprits. How come so many of these people are complete buffoons who haven't a clue what the problem is with your car? They probably have one or two vague ideas, but in reality will try one of these at a time, while extracting the maximum amount possible from your wallet until they happen to get it right.

Then there are anthropologists on Discovery Channel on TV. They're pretty easy to spot, as they always wear some form of daft hat.

## WEIRD

These are people who ensconce themselves in the deepest darkest jungles of the world, attempting to formulate explanations for some of the behavior they witness.

On seeing a tribal dance, they theorize by saying things like, "This is an ancient ritual, in which they're expressing their appreciation of their environment, and asking the gods for good fortune in the coming season." They may well be absolutely right, of course, but then again they might be just having a good dance and nothing more. After all, there's not that much to do in the jungle.

And that's my point – these "experts" are probably just making a lot of it up as they go along. I have never described myself as an expert in anything, and am quite happy to admit that when I first saw this weird, purple-flowered plant appearing, I honestly hadn't the faintest idea what it was – I had to look it up.



## That purple thing

It turned out to be the *celosia spicata*, or quailgrass. Thais call this odd little plant the *ngorn kai*.

It seems to have dozens of alternative names: Flamingo feather, cockscomb, feathered amaranth, woolflower, and red fox are a few. It's also known as firegrass, as it often grows on the site of previous fires.

There used to be a row of busy shops and restaurants along the beachfront at Nai Harn be-

fore the tsunami. Unfortunately they were all destroyed by the waves. Although a couple of buildings were rebuilt right next to Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, there is an area where there are some spectacular clusters of these plants. I'm not sure that they were actually planted by anyone there – I rather think that they just "appeared".

Nobody is actually sure where the plant originated. It could well be from China, but again the experts would just be guessing – they don't know.

It's a distinctive plant, with 15cm-long, cylindrical groups of flowers that appear on the end of slender stalks up to about a

meter in height. They're unique in that they have a metallic sheen lower down, because the lower flowers are silvery-white at their bases.

If you can be bothered to grow these things for yourself, rather than pinch a few from some wild spot where they're already growing, it's not particularly difficult.

Just put a few seeds in a decent bit of compost, covering the seed with the soil.

After sowing, put the tray inside a polythene bag and park it in a well-lit spot out of direct sunlight until germination, which usually takes 14-21 days.

Keep the soil damp, but not too wet. When the seedlings are

big enough to handle without them falling apart, and when two or three leaves have opened transplant them, putting them about 30cm apart in a sunny, sheltered spot in rich, well-drained soil. *Celosia spicata* is somewhat fussy about having its roots disturbed, so you'll need to be fairly gentle with it.

They really are a bit fickle, this lot. The soft, dense, feathery spikes that are produced in profusion are probably the reason why these plants are also popular with flower-arranging wallahs. Unlike most flowers, they don't dry out when they're cut – they retain their shape and color, and last indefinitely.

Again, if you're into that kind of thing, pick them when the leaves are dry and just before the flowers are fully open.

## LUCKY

Tie them in small bunches and hang those bunches upside-down in a dry, well-ventilated place until they're totally dry. This isn't rocket science.

In gardening terms, we don't realize how lucky we are here in Phuket. As I found out more about this plant, I realized that in other parts of the world, they struggle to keep these things alive. I found a picture online, of a smallish group of spicatas in Kentucky, of which the owner was particularly proud. The groups I've seen in Nai Harn put these to shame, and they're growing completely wild.

I'm sure there are experts who will accuse me of spouting nonsense about the *celosia spicata*. So sue me. I just hope that none of them is a car mechanic or an anthropologist, as I could throw exactly the same accusation back at them. Let's face it: none of us is an "expert".

Want to know more  
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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

# Modern Home Office in Patong

**PATONG:** Located on Sirirat Rd, near Simon Cabaret and three minutes from Patong Beach, "Home Office" town houses and condominiums are now available for investors.

Owners Surachart and Rachnee Khorana told the *Gazette* that construction of Phase I started this month and that the first four units are expected to be completed at the end of December. Phase II will start at the beginning of 2007.

Phase I features several options. There are two 500-square-meter four-story units on 240sqm of land that are priced at 11 million baht each. Another two units of 600sqm on 280sqm are 13 million baht.

Each unit has five bedrooms, six bathrooms, a living room and a dining room.

K. Surachart explained that there is an eight-meter-deep space in front of the building for extra development or simply for car parking.

"Clients have the choice of what to do with the space in front of the building; it could be a restaurant or a coffee shop," he said.

"We realize that Patong has problems with parking space and have planned accordingly," he added.

Each unit features white ceramic tiles, stainless-steel stair banisters, and American Standard bathroom fittings, along with a water system operating from a 6,000-liter tank with an automatic water pump. Windows are tinted blue to keep harsh sunlight out.

Phase II will be a seven-story condominium with 100-120sqm rooms. Prices will start at 5 million baht. Each unit will have two bedrooms and bathrooms, a living and a dining room.

Phase II will also feature a shared swimming pool and fitness center.

K. Surachart believes the condominiums come at distinctly



**'These properties offer a reasonable choice for customers who need a place to both work and live in a fast-growing area'**



affordable prices when compared with the Patong beachfront area, where properties cost in the 25-million-baht price range. "Home Office and condominiums offer a reasonable choice for customers who need a place to

both work and live in a fast-growing area like Patong," he added.

The project is developed by Thakrana Development Group, which recently completed the Baan Suan Suai project in Patong. The Contractor is

Maneesri Co. K. Surachart said, "Our customers are foreigners as well as local residents."

"A lot of people are finding that it is a good idea to invest in property rather than getting 2% interest from a bank."

For more information contact Tel: 09-7241505 or 01-597-6195, Email: [unique\\_property@hotmail.com](mailto:unique_property@hotmail.com) or visit the website: [www.phuket-info.com/house](http://www.phuket-info.com/house)

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All this continues to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

The unit is 13.25 x 23.50m on an area of 34 x 23m. Usage area is 415sqm with swimming pool included.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

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### SPACIOUS HOUSE

For sale: house 1 mile from Chalong circle. Has 3 bedrooms with air conditioners throughout, and private garden with granny flat. Please call for more details. Tel: 05-7819961.

### PRIME BEACH FRONT

For sale, located near the end of Karon Beach. This 7-rai plot with Chanote title deed is separated from the beach by only the road. Ideal for hotel, bungalow resort, condominium or housing project. No agents please. Please contact Tel: 01-8942733 or Email: jasminconsulting@gmx.net

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### KAMALA LAND FOR SALE

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### Kata Gardens "spectacular seaview apartments"

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### Sai Taan "pool villas for rent" (short or long term)

- 3 or 4 bedroom villas each with private pool
- less than 5 minutes to the beach
- spacious & private grounds, quiet location
- secure and private estate, management services by Knight Frank.



### The Estate Beachfront "intelligent investment"

- spectacular 180 degree unobstructed ocean views
- direct beach frontage (only 19 lots available)
- large lot sizes ensures privacy
- first-class infrastructure, secure and elite estate
- professional and experienced on site property management.



### Villa Grand Cru "royal designs"

- unlimited ocean views of Chalong Bay
- 19 magnificent villas designed and developed by Thailand's leading Architect
- 520sqm spacious villas + infinity-edge pool
- purchase includes access to 5-star hotel facilities and services
- exceptional rental opportunity.

The local office with global network

Phuket  
+66 (0)76 318 151  
info@knightfrankphuket.com

Massae Onn  
+66 (0)1 956 6321  
massae@knightfrankthailand.com

Amy  
+66 (0)1 970 8304  
waraporn@knightfrankthailand.com

### 0.6 RAI NEAR LAGUNA PHUKET

0.6 rai in a developing, quiet residential area just 5 minutes from Laguna Phuket. Chanote title. Asking 1.99 million baht, direct from owner. No brokers. Tel: 04-0617943. Email: rat\_phuket@yahoo.co.uk

### RAWAI CONDOS

with sea views. Area: 27, 54 and 81sqm. Prices start from 350,000 baht. Financing for 3 years available. Foreign freehold. Please contact for further information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDOS

Condos with nice sea views, 28sqm and 56sqm, for sale. Priced from 750,000 baht. Near bank and post office. Please contact for further information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.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). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit the website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### FOR SALE/RENT

4 bungalows and 1 restaurant at Bang Tao Beach. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8946686.

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This fully furnished house offers one of the best sea views available in Patong. It is located within a private area on Patong Hill and is absolutely unique.

Priced at only 14 million baht, this is a great home to buy.

Note: We have more villas, condos, sea view land, beach land hotels & developments available. Contact us now!



This beautiful detached luxury villa is well designed, and built for a western taste. It comes with a big pool, high-quality furniture, 3 bedrooms & 2 balconies. At only 17.2 million baht you will not find a better home. Call now!

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# Property Gazette

**CBRE**  
CB RICHARD ELLIS  
Professional Real Estate  
Advice on Phuket Properties  
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& Design Consultancy

## Properties for Sale



- 3 b/r contemp. tropical Thai homes
  - Fully fitted with built-in kitchen & air conditioning
  - International property management
  - 500 metres to Karon Beach
- Baht 11 - 15.9 Million**



- 3-4 b/r modern Thai-style villas with private swimming pool
  - 834 - 995 sq.m. plot size
  - Lush tropical landscaped garden
  - 800 metres from Bang Tao Beach
- Baht 23.8 - 25.3 Million**



- 2 beachfront apt. in Karon Beach
  - 2 b/r, 125 sq.m., ocean views
  - Full resort facilities
  - 2.5 km. of white sandy beach
  - Completion by March 2006
- From Baht 12 Million**



- 40 rai of land near Patong Beach
  - Sea views over the Emerald Bay & Freedom Beach
  - 2 large Thai-style villas being built
  - Great development opportunity
- Baht 9.5 Million / Rai (Incl. Villas)**

## OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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## HOUSE FOR SALE IN VILLA 5

On Chao Fa West Rd. 90sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons. For sale by owner. Asking 4.5 million baht. No agents! Tel: 04-1868531, 01-5988725. Email: s\_oranut@hotmail.com

## NEW HOUSE IN PATONG

Brand-new, deluxe house with a swimming pool on a Patong hillside, Soi Manesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room; guest toilet. 2nd floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY**  
Patong 3-story townhouse of 240sqm on hillside location. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, kitchen and dining, total sea view from all floors. Security system, hotel-quality furnishings. Urgent sale at 4.9 million baht. Please call for full details. Tel: 075-607400, 09-0075061.

## LAND IN CHALONG

1,256sqm Soi Klum Yang. Has concrete road. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 09-195-4029. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketlandservice.com

**EXCELLENT BUILDING**  
Land. 1,200sqm with road, water, electricity and a Ltd company. Suitable for a housing or apartment project in quiet area in Kathu. Price: 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-209424, 01-9683120. Email: nikkie@csloxinfo.com

## UNIQUE SPA RESORT



Home on Phuket. A new house with distinctive character. Fully furnished with select quality materials. Stunning garden and a cozy spa. 1.67 rai, 5 minutes to Nai Ham. Tel: 01-4462021, 09-6481136. Email: baanphuchaofa@yahoo.com For more info, see: www.phuchaofa.com

## SEAVIEW LAND

Nearly 9 rai for sale direct from owner. Secluded area; electricity, road and water on site. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-0575756. Email: mareeya\_pohmea@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Surin Beach. Two blocks of 1,000sqm each. Quiet and secluded, shaded area. 5 million and 4 million baht. Please contact for details. Email: costello@exemail.com.au

## PRATHONG ISLAND

In Phang Nga Province, 200km north of Phuket, a 48-rai plot with mangroves and beach front. Asking 1 million baht per rai. Please call for info. Tel: 09-5944017.

## APARTMENT IN PATONG

Melville House. 2 bed, pool, games area, private bar with views. Only 4.95 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## PATONG HOME

2 bedrooms, sea view, terrace, furnish, water fall jungle cool, large kitchen. Please call for details. Tel: 04-6301770.

## CHALONG 5 RAI

Seaview land for sale. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Please contact for further details. Tel: 01-8916143.

## ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT



for sale. 2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. Please call for details. No agents please. Tel: 07-889-1717.

## PATONG CONDO

Furnished, very nice, with 1 bedroom, sea view, terrace, bathroom, kitchen and living room. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-6301770.

## 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 for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com



## HOUSE FOR SALE

Email: mysign@loxinfo.co.th  
www.Thaisign.com

45/1 M 2 Soi Kogtanud, Kata Beach, Phuket Tel: 01-5976971, 01-5693066

## 6-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA



Owner is selling an exclusive, top quality 6-bedroom house in Kamala, near Phuket Fantasea, 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 smaller bedrooms on the ground floor and 4 large bedrooms with en-suite bathroom on the 1st floor; a large attic. Hot water supplied by Solar System, own well and drinking water, etc. Large, mature garden with outdoor Jacuzzi. Chanote title, total land area: 1,180sqm. Special price offer for January/February.

Asking price is now only baht 15 million for quick decision-makers. For more details, please contact Franz Brun in Chalong. Tel: 076-282737 or 01-476-1415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

## LAND FOR SALE

A good price for 6.5 rai of land with title, next to Laguna and with public road access, water and electricity supply. Please call for full details. Tel: 01-8062166.

## TEAK HOUSE ON 2 RAI

A superb, all-teak house with too many features to say. Includes a small bungalow, swimming pool, sala and a landscaped tropical garden. Please telephone for more details. View by appointment only. Selling for 17 million baht with Chanote title. No agents please. Tel: 04-1926298. Email: albertjames1940@hotmail.com

## RAWAI SHOPHOUSES

2 new, connected shop-houses 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 information, please see our website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

## LOCATION, LOCATION

Affordable house, land, 2 mins from beautiful Nai Thon Beach. Please contact owner. Tel: 07-2811995.

## RAWAI, NAI HARN

2 rai with trees on Soi Kok Makham. Beaches 2 minutes away; water and electricity ready to build. Price: 8.3 million baht net. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-594-4017.

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

**K.L. Mart**  
Patak Rd, Chalong

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Fax: 076-280403

**Earth Language School**  
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

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

**Sin & Lee**  
Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369  
Fax: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel**  
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Tel: 076-344521/2  
Fax: 076-344523

**41 Minimart**  
Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312



# Property Gazette

## EXCLUSIVE SALE 15 Luxury Condominium Only Two Penthouses



This condominium consists of 15 luxury one bedroom apartments set in 50 square meter plus two penthouse suites. The Penthouse suites consists of two bedrooms set in 125 square meter plus a 75 square meter roof garden. Each floor offers two units with sea view and two with a panoramic hill view.



**Reservations taken NOW!**  
Buying now will almost certainly give you a saving of around 1 Million Baht once the project has started.

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**NOW!**  
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Email: [info@msa-phuket.com](mailto:info@msa-phuket.com)

**KATA BEACH PROPERTY MARKET**

Option Plaza, Soi 2,  
Kata Road, Kata Beach

## NICE HOUSE IN KATHU

2-story house with 4 bedrooms, 3 toilets, ADSL, UBC, aircon, furnished, quiet location near market. 10 min drive to Patong, golf courses and Lotus, Central, etc. Only 1 year old. 4.5 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 06-2672462.

## 1.5 MILLION BAHT

Nice 2-story house in Kathu. Aircon, tel, furnished. Tel: 07-2786439. Email: [shall@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:shall@loxinfo.co.th)

## LAND FOR SALE

13.5 rai, 500m from main road to Kathu, waterfall, land title chanote, situated on hillside, overlooking nice seaview. Tel: 09-4736886.

## FULL SEA VIEW

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

## 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'l school and 2 major golf courses, US\$1/2-1.5 million homes being built here, complete view of Phang Nga Bay – considered one of the 7 wonders of the world. 2.4 million baht per rai, up to 3.8 million baht per rai for sea view. Please contact. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: [nsupin@yahoo.com](mailto:nsupin@yahoo.com)

## HOUSE IN THALANG FOR SALE



10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from British International College, 5 minutes to Laguna, 10 minutes to Surin Beach. 8x4 swimming pool, 5 aircons, 2 bedrooms, 1 child's room, 2 bathrooms & 1 separate building useful as a store house or maid's room. 504sqm, Chanote title, 5.5 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 01-6078000.

## 4 RAI NEAR ZOO & SEA

4 rai of flat land in a quiet area near Phuket Zoo and near the sea, with road access, electricity and water supply. Price: 2.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: [nsupin@yahoo.com](mailto:nsupin@yahoo.com)

## BIG & SMALL LOTS

in Rawai. 1-rai, 1-rai, 1-rai and 1.4-rai lots with roads, electricity and water supply in Rawai and Chalong, are for sale. Many different prices. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: [nsupin@yahoo.com](mailto:nsupin@yahoo.com)

## 9 RAI IN RAWAI

in a quiet area, perfect for development of many small homes that are easy to sell. Has electricity and water supply, road access. All land in this area sells for 3+ million baht. Asking just 1.6 million baht per rai. Please contact for more info. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: [nsupin@yahoo.com](mailto:nsupin@yahoo.com)

## BANG TAO BEACH

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

## Properties For Rent

### CHALONG CIRCLE OFFICE SPACE



- A 4-x 4-meter unit (16sqm)
- Outdoor area landscaped.
- Parking spaces for staff and customers.
- Air-conditioning included.
- Front window and built-in shelves.

Asking 7,000 baht a month per unit.

Contact Bee at

Tel: 01-0793012

(English)

### FUANG FA CONDO

Fully furnished condo for rent in a quiet area, near Dao Rung School. With an air conditioner, bed, dresser, fridge, washing machine and hot water. 5 minutes from Phuket City. Only long term. Asking 10,000 baht per month. Contact the owner. Tel: 04-0586086. Email: [tabbychiro26@hotmail.com](mailto:tabbychiro26@hotmail.com)

### PROPERTY FOR RENT

Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa, 2 minutes to Rawai Beach. Meets European standards, fully furnished, fully air-conditioned. Includes swimming pool, tropical garden, covered parking, UBC, TV and telephone. Minimum 6 months at 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8845677.

### DETACHED BUNGALOW

in Rawai. A beautifully furnished, brand-new home with 3 bedrooms, a full kitchen and lovely gardens with a swimming pool. Long-term rental only for 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-345-081, 01-9241447.

### RAWAI, 2-STORY

Brand-new house for long-term rent. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 400m from beach. Asking 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-4763623.

## UNCLE CHAI



Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. 1 bedroom. Long lease preferable. Average 15,000 baht per month. Chalong Area. Tel: 01-4926883. [www.unclechaihome.com](http://www.unclechaihome.com)

### DETACHED HOUSES



Four new, detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, in a quiet area with clubhouse and 24-hour security. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: [suksavat@hotmail.com](mailto:suksavat@hotmail.com)

### WATERFRONT RETREAT

in a secluded resort-style location with relaxing ambiance and wonderful views. Available for VIP, private or corporate, short- or long-term rental; staff available. Sale considered. Tel: 04-0541360. Email: [privacy@thehideaway.com](mailto:privacy@thehideaway.com)

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

57 square wah, located in the Chao Fa area. Has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, nearby pool. Available for long-term rent at 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-263772, 04-1857041. Email: [rai@dto.co.th](mailto:rai@dto.co.th)

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

Furnished, quiet, detached, 3-bedroom house with telephone and UBC. Asking 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8484344.

### OCEAN VIEW APT

Located in Patong. Fully furnished and fitted out; has 2 bedrooms. For long-term rental only. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-345081, 01-9241447.



## NEW 2-STORY HOME

for rent. Very convenience location in Phuket City. Just 5 mins to Tesco-Lotus, Central, Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, front and back yard. 18,000 baht per month. Please contact Ann-Gazette at **01 868 7676**

## HIGH END SEA VIEW HOUSE



Near Nai Harn, built to high specs, great sea view of Chalong Bay. Only 12 months old, this is a modern 3-bedroom house with all mod cons and private pool. Alarmed and fully furnished, cable, wireless installed. 12-month minimum contract. Separate maid's area- maid available. 95,000 baht per month. Available Feb 1. Tel: 09-8106200, 01-7372148. Email: [dan@ipdthailand.com](mailto:dan@ipdthailand.com)

### PATONG PENTHOUSE

A lovely 80sqm fully furnished unit with a sea view plus a 20sqm pool. Includes 1 bedroom, a lounge and kitchen. Asking 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-345081, 01-9241447.

### THAI-STYLE HOUSE

in Nai Harn. House has 3 bedrooms with air conditioners, a big pool and a nice garden. From Jan 12 to March 28. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-9725378.

### 2 RAI OF LAND + HOUSE

A Thai-style, 2-bedroom house located at Ao Makham, the most beautiful place on Phuket, for rent at 9,000 baht a month. Tel: 06-9488139. Email: [jefdejong@hotmail.com](mailto:jefdejong@hotmail.com)

### 4-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. Land & Houses Park, green outlook, mature garden, phone, fully air conditioned, etc. Furnished or unfurnished. Long term preferred. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-7192458. Email: [marks@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:marks@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## BRAND NEW HOUSE



in an excellent location minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. High quality, with beautiful & modern design and 162 square meters of living area. The house has 2 large bedrooms, 2 private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, a large living/dining room, terrace and a storage room; 1 air conditioner, TV & phone jacks, private car park, free water and garbage service. Asking 20,000 baht per month unfurnished or 22,000 baht furnished with 1 king-size bed + mattress, a 5-door wardrobe, a vanity set, a dining table, fridge and curtains. Call Khun Nui. Tel: 076-288611, 09-594-0887.

### APARTMENT

near Loch Palm. 1 apartment 58sqm, with 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, swimming pool, air conditioning, fan, Cable TV, telephone line. Available for rent: short-term 600 baht per day; long-term 12,000 baht per month. Please contact Manfred for more info. Tel: 076-202725, 01-8916632. Email: [golfandview@gmx.de](mailto:golfandview@gmx.de)

### HOUSE FOR RENT

A fully furnished, 3-bedroom house with a small garden in Land & Houses Park, Chalong, for long-term rent. Only 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-2712825.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

in Chalong. 36sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, quiet, car parking, unfurnished. 3,000 baht per month with 1 month's deposit. Tel: 09-7264498.



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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Includes 2 air conditioners and a bedroom, hot shower. Location: a quiet area at Palai Green, Chalong. Tel: 01-8924311.

## NEW 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Unfurnished house with a garage, located in a quiet area 3km from Phuket City, 2km to the beach. Asking 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-8855415.

## NEW SERVICED APTS IN CHALONG

Furnished studio suites and rooftop spa pool with sea view. From 9,500 baht a month. Tel: 01-8938592, 06-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

## PATONG APARTMENT

Clean and comfortable, with air conditioner, a TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. Please contact. Tel: 01-0825707. Email: ask@phuket-accommodation.info

## SHOP UNIT

Plaza Del Mar. 40 square meters. Air conditioning, 2 phone lines, ADSL, security and fire alarm. Asking 21,500 baht per month including service maintenance. A 3-year lease is available. Please contact. Tel: 01-9586805. Email: phuketsecurity@csloxinfo.com

## KARON H<sub>2</sub>O FRONT

Condo. 103sqm, 1 bedroom, all brand-new western appliances and 2 balconies with 180 degree sea view. Long-term rent only. Email: wawrx999@yahoo.com

## DETACHED BUNGALOW

in Rawai. A beautifully furnished, brand-new home with 3 bedrooms, a full kitchen and lovely gardens with a swimming pool. Long-term rental only for 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-345-081, 01-9241447.

## OCEAN VIEW APT

Located in Patong. Fully furnished and fitted out; has 2 bedrooms. For long-term rental only. 25,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-345081, 01-9241447.

## PATONG BLUE POINT

A green oasis in Baan Suan Kumnan, just outside lovely, but hectic, central Patong. Go for wine and dinner in the party town, but sleep relaxed in the green area. 1- & 2-bedroom apartments with air conditioning, UBC, TV. Long-term rent only, includes electricity. Please call Edwin for more information. Tel: 06-7866350.

## Property Wanted



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We offer professional real estate and insurance advice to those looking for property or a business in Phuket. All enquiries, large or small, are welcome. Please contact: 076-296072, 01-7196088, 09-6498703

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Email: info@gardenislandphuket.com  
www.gardenislandphuket.com  
Do you have adequate insurance?  
Because we have Phuket covered.

## Accommodation Available

### ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Rent 200 baht a day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

### KATA HIGH VIEWPOINT GUESTHOUSE

Rooms with fan, cable TV, fridge and balcony. Location: 10 minutes from Kata Beach. Tel: 06-2766597

### MODERN APARTMENT

with Internet. 2-bedroom apartment off Nanai Rd, fully furnished incl. TV, large fridge, hot water, fans, aircon and kitchenette; from 8,500 baht/month for long term; ADSL Internet available. Tel: 07-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

### BEST VIEW IN

Phuket. One bedroom, corner unit, sea view @ Patong Tower, newly finished, UBC, 2 TVs, bar, kitchen on large balcony, 2 air cons, 120 meters to beach. Short-term let only, up to three months. 2 people max. 78,000 baht/month; 21,000 baht/week. Contact for details. Email: coasters@earthlink.net

### NANAI RD

townhouse. Just available: quality 2-bed townhouse, well furnished, phone, min 6-month rental, fixed rent at 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-342601, 01-2705374. Fax: 076-342601. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.orcella.com

### KATA BEACH

Southern Fried Rice, a brand-new guesthouse, 3 minutes walk from the beach, with seaview rooms, 2 balcony rooms facing the beach, wireless Internet, a pool and an excellent restaurant. All rooms have air conditioning, a mini-bar, cable TV, a safe and a king-sized bed. Tel: 01-894-8446. Please see our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

### PATONG LUXURY

Apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

### ROOMS FOR LOW

rent. From 400 baht, with a fan only or air conditioner; your own hot shower and tea/coffee included. Located close to the beach. Please contact for info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

## Accommodation Wanted

### APT/CONDO

needed. for about 3 weeks from March 6. Must be in Patong and have aircon, cooking facilities, pool and a double bed. Must also be clean and not too expensive. I am Australian, and will have overnight guests. Tel: 61-891915621, 61-40809712. Email: frank\_pelagic@yahoo.com

### LOOKING FOR FLAT

Mar-Apr. I am interested in finding a flat for almost a month. March 7 to Apr 1, 2006. I have heard Nanai Rd is a good place to find such a place, but it can be in the environs of Patong/Phuket. I am going to be scuba diving the whole time I am there, so it really will just be my evening digs. Any (reasonable) offers or directions appreciated. Email: dterner@yahoo.com

## Building Products & Services



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24-hr security, gated and walled-in compound. Please contact for further information. Tel: 01-0825707. Email: ask@phuket-accommodation.info

### MITSUTA AIRCON

30,000 BTU. Large aircon in good condition. 11,000 baht ono. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-9785811. Email: twoballs@hotmail.com

### SHELVING UNIT

Please contact me for details. Tel: 06-6647229.

## Household Services

### HOUSE PAINTING

Do you need your house painted? Please call for further information. Tel: 07-2868634.

## Household Services Needs

### NANNY HOUSEKEEPER

housekeeper. 5 days a week to watch our 14 month old and keep the house clean. 8-5 Mon to Fri. 7,000 baht per month. for the right person. paid holidays off. Tel: 076-388309, 05-8096805. Email: dietrich@loxinfo.co.th

### DOMESTIC HELPER

Needed for 1-2 days per week for 5 months. English not required, but must be experienced, clean, reliable, and honest. Location: Cape Panwa. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-5392673. Email: chiefslove1@hotmail.com

## Properties Services

### STUDENTS WANTED

Qualified English teacher in Kata seeks more students for private English lessons. I currently teach at Phuket Wittalaya High School. Will travel to your house. All lesson materials supplied. Tel: 01-6761883. Email: scottnewby@hotmail.com

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Direct: 06-5933464  
bighome121@yahoo.co.uk

- Construction
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The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 01 894 1630 / 01 968 1437  
tel/fax: 076 238 729  
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

**Yacht Haven Marina Office**  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 01 891 3237  
tel/fax: 076 206 260  
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E-mail: goboating\_th@yahoo.com

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43 ft, 1994 Perkins 50hp

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**Selected Brokerage Listings**

Power	Sail
63ft 1977 Thai Design 2 X 280hp 4 cabins THB 8,600,000	63ft 1993 Wooden Perini Ketch Isuzu, 115hp Euro65,000
54ft 1995 Bayliner 4700 Hino 2 x 310hp game fishing US\$ 299,000	61ft 1991 Custom sloop Perkins 120hp for charter Euro430,000
36ft NEW Stepps, Built to order Engine options, 70-250hp US\$ 66,000	43ft 1994 Beneteau Oceanis 430, 50hp Perkins THB4,500,000
36ft 2003 Marlin 36 2 x 250hp Mercury, Cruising speed 28 knots THB2,500,000	40ft 1991 Steel Sloop, 50hp Yanmar US\$90,000
31ft 1997 Fountain 31, 2 x 225hp Mercury THB2,960,000	37ft 1988 Gibsea 37 racing, 24hp Yanmar US\$85,000
18ft 2000 Skip Jack 18, 2 x 85hp Yamaha THB750,000	36ft 1990 Sundance 36, 27hp Yanmar Euro56,000
	30ft 1975 JonMar 30' cutter sloop Yanmar 3GM30F US\$35,000
	26ft 1975 Marholm 26 Johnson, 8hp THB1,650,000

**Please contact** Tel: 076-239111 Email: broker@thaimarine.com

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# Island Job Mart

## BAYLINER MOTOR YACHT



Now for sale. Beam: 15ft, Draft: 1.01m. 2 x 310hp diesel engines. Recently re-built. Furuno GPS; radar; fish finder; auto pilot; music center; TV; video, DVD players; 3 double cabins; master en-suite; guest facilities. Many extras, rigged for game fishing. New parts. Re-spray, full anti-foul. In excellent condition. Asking price: only US\$299,000. Please contact. Tel: 01-8939563. Email: wolff@wittonkeep.freeseve.co.uk

## 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.

## POWER CATAMARAN

The new Steppa cat 1061. Perfect for scuba diving, transfers and all private and commercial applications. Please contact. Tel: 01-8912688. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

## FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Sport 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 and many extras. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin and convertible dining area. WC, shower, 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 or Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

## DIVING SPEEDBOAT

Fiberglass speedboat, built for diving, accommodates 12 divers, custom-made tank racks. LOA: 11.4m, BEAM: 2.89m. Flybridge, cabin, marine toilet and freshwater shower. Fuel capacity: approx 600 liters (3 stainless-steel tanks). 2 x 200hp Yamaha outboards. Thai registered, ready to go. 1.5 million baht or reasonable offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9790525. Email: bosch.michael@gmail.com

## 84FT STEEL KETCH

Built in NZ, 1981. 8-cyl Gardner, 20KW generator, good sail inventory, weather fax, SSB, GPS, VHF, auto pilot, radar. Needs deck. US\$300,000. Tel: 07-8905619.

## WINDSURF BOARD

BIC Veloce, 101 liters, 278 cm, 8.6 kg, complete rig, UP sail ultraprofile 6 sqm and 4.60m carbon mast. Everything comes in separate bags for board, mast and sail. Not used very often and in very good condition. 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-281034. Email: peter@phuketinternet.co.th

## 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.de



Arayaburi Resort on Phi Phi Island consists of large individual villas situated amongst the hilly terrains of Laem Hin, overlooking Tonsai bay, and surrounded by natural gardens and rainforest. We are now looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the team.

1. Resident Manager	1 Position
2. Front Office	2 Positions
3. Housekeepers	2 Positions
4. Bell Boys	2 Positions
5. Bartenders	2 Positions
6. Gardener	1 Position
7. Personnel Officer	1 Position
8. General Cashier	1 Position
9. F&B Cost Controller	1 Position

Applicants for all positions must have good basic English-language communication skills. Applicants for Position 2 with a knowledge of Chinese and/or Japanese will be given special consideration.

Arayaburi Resort (Phi Phi Island):  
69/1 Moo 7 Laem Hin Beach, T. AoNang,  
Phi Phi Island Krabi 81000 Thailand  
Tel: 075-618196 Fax: 075-618195  
**Head Office:** 43/19 Moo 5 Soi Ao-Chalong,  
Wiset Road, T. Rawai A. Muang, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 076-281360-3 Fax: 076-281365  
Email: info@phiphibayview.com  
or bayview@ksc.th.com

## 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
- Minimum 1 year of experience in sales/marketing in real estate projects
- Good command of both spoken and written English

### 2. Guest Relation 2 Positions

- Female, age between 23 – 29 years
- Good command of both spoken and written English

### 3. Secretary – Engineering Dep. 1 Position

- Female, age between 23 – 29 years
- Minimum 1 year of experience

### 4. Draftsman 1 Position

- Minimum 1 year of experience
- Knowledge of AutoCAD

### All positions require

- Bachelor's degree or higher in the related fields
- Salary – Negotiable

Please send your CV and recent photo to:  
Ms. Kantheera Rungsang-anotai  
☎ 076-202189, 076-321815 ☎ 076-321811  
✉ info@anuphaspiromresort.com  
http://www.anuphaspiromresort.com



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## Vacant Positions

Food & Beverage Manager  
Night Manager  
Front Office Supervisor  
Guest Relations (fluent in Japanese language)  
Tour Counter Sales  
Bell Hop & Driver  
Restaurant Captain  
Hostess  
Waiter  
Western Cook  
Pantry Helper  
Canteen Cook Helper  
Room Maid  
Florist  
Housekeeping Clerk  
Room Attendant (uniform laundry)  
Chief Gardener  
Gardener  
Engineer  
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Please apply to: hrmpc@impiana.com  
or call 076-340138  
www.impiana.com



Island Technology Co., Ltd. the leader in Innovative Digital Solutions has the following opportunities in our Phuket office:

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This Positions require a degree or relevant experience and English language skills. Training and commissions are available.

Our products & services include Broadband Internet, Communications and IT Solutions Infrastructure Design and Consulting.

Come and join our dynamic team of professionals in Phuket. Please send your resumé in English to jobs@islandtechnology.com  
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## Urgently required

Experienced Finnish and Swedish T/S reps required for Goa.  
Leading company with 15 resorts in SE Asia has immediate I/H and coldline vacancies.  
All relocation expenses paid.  
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Problems with an extra-marital affair?  
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Having communications problems?



Read her advice in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Fax: 076-213971 or email:  
momma@phuketgazette.net

## RECEPTIONIST

Female, age 22-30, good command of English and computer skills, pleasant and service-minded. Please contact us for further details. Tel: 076-238777, 01-7371678. Fax: 076-239-739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

## CAFE STAFF NEEDED

We are looking for Thai national women aged 18-30 to work in our new cafe in Patong. You must be service-minded, friendly and have fair-to-good spoken English. An excellent salary on offer with benefits. Tel: 07-2185269.

## INTERNET STAFF

in Rawai. Looking for Thai women, 18-35 years of age, with fair English skills & computer knowledge: 1 full-time, 1 part-time. Tel: 076-288-808, 01-8924282. Email: rudi542001@yahoo.de

## HAIRDRESSER

wanted. A new, upmarket salon opening now in the Laguna area requires an experienced and enthusiastic hair dresser. Basic English a must. Tel: 01-7871556. Email: marek@loxinfo.co.th



# Island Job Mart

## Dusit Laguna

RESORT  
PHUKET • THAILAND

The Dusit Laguna Resort is a 5-star luxury resort in Phuket and is among the leading hotels of the world. We are looking for candidates who have developed attitudes and behaviors that reflect a commitment to excellence, to fill the following positions:

### Executive Sous Chef

- Minimum 30 years of age
- Team player with ability to oversee 65 employees
- Positive attitude
- Good leadership and communication skills
- Extensive knowledge of Royal Thai and International cuisine, hygiene/HACCP knowledge and computer skills.
- At least 2 years of experience in position, in a 5-star hotel is a must.

### Guest Service Agent

- Thai Male/Female with Bachelor's degree in Marketing or related field from recognized university.
- 22 - 28 years of age
- Height 160 cm and Weight 45 kg
- Prefer Front Office background
- Good English communication skills and computer skills
- Extra language is a must.

Human Resource Department  
Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket  
390 Srisoonthorn Rd, Talang, Phuket, 83110.  
Tel: 076 324324 Fax: 076 324174  
Email: dlphrsec@dusit.com

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT & SECRETARY REQUIRED

AN INTERNATIONALLY-MANAGED OEM BASED IN KATHU/PHUKET URGENTLY REQUIRES A PERSONAL ASSISTANT & SECRETARY

### QUALIFICATIONS

- FEMALE
- BACHELOR'S DEGREE
- KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE OF MS OFFICE, ESPECIALLY EXCEL
- KNOWLEDGE OF QUICKBOOK IS AN ADVANTAGE

**GOOD SALARY, BONUS AND ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE COSTS**

**Woodcraft International Co., Ltd**  
46/1 Prabaramee Rd, Village No.6 Kathu Sub-district,  
Kathu District, Kathu, Phuket 83120  
Tel: 076-323525 Fax: 076-323526 Mobile: 01-8054945  
Email: woodwind@phuket.ksc.co.th www.woodwind-group.net

## Positions Now Available For One of Phuket's Leading 5 Star Restaurants & Hospitality Venues

We are now recruiting qualified professionals for the following positions, with an opportunity to work in one of Phuket's leading restaurants & hospitality venues.

### Accounting Department

- Financial Director
- Accountants
- Purchasing Manager
- Stock Auditor

### Operations Department

- Restaurant & Bar Manager
- Restaurant & Bar Assistant Manager
- Supervisors
- Bartenders
- Waitresses

### These positions require;

- Excellent communication skills with a good command of both written & spoken English
- Strong management skills & experience are essential, with experience in the related fields
- Reside in Phuket or able to relocate to Phuket

We offer an attractive remuneration package with an opportunity for advancement within the company.  
For further information & applications, please email to HRD Department; recruit@csloxinfo.com

## Le ROYAL MERIDIEN PHUKET YACHT CLUB

Le Royal Méridien Phuket Yacht Club is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, located on Nai Harn Beach, at the southern tip of Phuket island. We are inviting applicants for the following positions:



- ~ Executive Chef
- ~ Chief Engineer
- ~ Personnel Manager
- ~ EDP Manager
- ~ Japanese GRO
- ~ Chef de Partie
- ~ Food and Beverage Secretary
- ~ Chief Gardener
- ~ Chief Security
- ~ Front Desk Service Officer

All applicants must have working experience in the hotel industry, a good command of English and be service-minded. Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career opportunities are offered to successful candidates. Interested candidates are invited to apply in person or submit applications with complete resumé together with a recent photograph, stating present and expected salaries to:

**Personnel Manager**  
Le Royal Méridien Phuket Yacht Club  
Nai Harn Beach, Phuket 83130  
Tel: 076-380200, Dir. Tel/Fax: 076-288733  
e-mail address: n.srinark@phuketyachtclub.lemeridien.com

## I-B ISLAND Building Co., Ltd

### Project Administrator

Luna Phuket has an exciting career opportunity for an assistant to the Managing Director. We seek someone with good English skills and the ability to learn quickly and work independently. Some experience in real estate development or project management is helpful, but not required. We offer training, health benefits and profit sharing, so come and join our team of professionals. Send your resumé by Email: info@lunaphuket.com

## HELICAM SEEKS PHOTOGRAPHER

The ideal candidate must:

- be a Thai national
- have a keen interest in digital photography
- have Photoshop experience
- be able to communicate clearly in both spoken and written English
- be a self-motivated, dedicated and responsible team player
- be honest and reliable
- show willingness to learn
- be enthusiastic

Our business offers a varied working environment and good prospects for your future. Email us for an appointment for interview at: ding@helicam-asia.com

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following position:*

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The successful candidate will be a Thai national, aged 27-plus, 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

### SALES PERSON

Earn 30,000-60,000 baht a month. Looking for a Thai national with university degree or a foreigner - must have excellent communication skills and sales background. Must speak and write English well, and have own transportation. Call 04-8498391.

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Jobs available for Thai nationals (good English skills required) and native English-speaking teachers. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-282232, 01-979-4140.

### DIVE GUIDE/

Divemaster. Wanted for dive center on Phi Phi. Food and accommodation, salary plus commission. Must speak English. Thai nationals only. Please contact Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

### SECRETARY /

Exe. admin. Our client seeks a female w/good English, admin skills and a good personality. Salary: 15-22,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-264442, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-264443.

### PHUKET LAW FIRM

Urgently seeks legal secretary. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

## Employment Wanted

### PROFESSIONAL

hotelier. I am a young Hotelier with experience in Thailand as FOM, Activities Manager & Sales Marketing Manager, RDM & EAM. Hotel studies graduate, looking for new opportunity. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 01-080-1004. Email: executives@ehotelier.com

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at  
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Gazette Online Classifieds 10,000 readers every day!



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### SONY 53" TV FOR SALE

Big screen TV, 10 months old, like new; big refrigerator, 15cu, 6 months old, like new; Sealy custom mattress; furniture; appliances. Will fax list with price and map. Tel: 06-5960966.

### PLAYSTATION 2, X BOX

PS2 for sale 5,500 baht with games. X Box with mod, 7,500 baht. For console and electronic repairs. Tel: 06-2905067. Email: ps2\_phuket@hotmail.com

### MP3 FOR SALE

Sony's 20GB portable, rechargeable MP3 player with over 2,000 songs already loaded! The 2 month old HW-HD3 is the size of a phone and can be used as a Walkman or plug into your home stereo. Includes original box, books, software, case, headphones, AC power & USB adapters. Paid 14,000 aht. First 11,000 baht takes it! And get free music worth many times this price! Please call Tel: 09-1954005.

### 18,000 BTU YORK

aircon. A few years old but still in good condition. Suitable for office. Compressor serviced last year. Ceiling mounted. Selling for 6,000 baht. I can arrange for aircon techs to dismantle, deliver and install at your location (costs extra). Tel: 01-7371537. Email: leejamie@gmail.com

### OFFICE TABLE

80x150 Moflex office table with glass top and 5 drawers. 75% condition. Bought for 4,500 baht; asking 1,700. Tel: 01-0888848. Email: eng\_ls@yahoo.com

### SUNTO MOSQUITO

dive watch. As new, with original box, spare bracelet, glass protector, manual, etc. For quick sale at only 6,000 baht. Tel: 09-5875956. Email: hugbou@yahoo.com

### DVD PLAYER

Yamakawa EVD player "av-ophile" 715. Plays DVDs, SVCDs, VCDs, CDs, MP3s. Black. Code free. Only 1,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-281034, 07-2807451. Email: peter@phuketinternet.co.th

### LARGE AIRCON UNIT

Large aircon (35,000 BTU), under 1 year old, good condition, suitable for large office/room. Cost new: 35,000 baht. Will sell for 16,000 baht ono. Tel: 01-8946414. Email: kkthip@hotmail.com

### EXERCISE

equipment. Want to get rid of a 95% condition Norditrac Leg Shaper. Bought for 1,900 baht; asking only 600. Reason for sale: no storage space. Tel: 01-0888848. Email: eng\_ls@yahoo.com

### DIVE COMPRESSOR

Bauer Capitano 140 L/min. Fully serviced in December by STI Chalong and unused since then. Complete with frame and 5hp 3-phase motor. Fixed price: 175,000 baht. Tel: 09-9720423. Fax: 076-281527. Email: dougie@divejohnsandy.com

### LG TELEVISION

21" stereo TV, only 4 months old. I am selling because I am leaving Thailand. Cost 6,000 baht new. Selling for 3,000. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 05-8787721. Email: chris\_wardle70@hotmail.com

### PLAIN PAPER FAX

machine. Sharp, can also make copies. Asking 2,500 baht. Tel: 076-255232, 04-6259065. Email: ammarasoithong@yahoo.com

## Articles Wanted

### BMX BIKE FOR CHILD

I'm looking for a BMX (or similar) bike for a 6-year-old Thai girl. Please contact me at: Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

### SECONDHAND AIRCON

Secondhand air conditioner wanted for an office. Tel: 01-8957848. Email: best2599@hotmail.com

### CHILD CAR SEAT

wanted for 1-2 year old. Pls contact if you have or know of one for sale. Tel: 06-944-7721. Email: maxandgodders@csloxinfo.com

## Bulletins

### STOLEN PROPERTY

On Thursday evening, Jan 5, 2006, I returned home to a house that had been broken into. Items stolen were 2 Mac laptops - a 14" white iBook and a 15" silver PowerBook - our 3-month-old German shepherd puppy, 1 2-baht-weight gold ring, and 1 Sony video camera. The thieves have created a big problem for us as we rely on the laptops for business. I am offering a reward for info that will capture the individuals involved and for the return of our personal items, especially the Mac laptops and our puppy. Our house is located across from the Phuket Zoo on Soi Palai in Chalong. If anyone has any info, please call or email me! Tel: 04-8429640. Email: mow449@yahoo.com

## Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

### Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

### Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun

at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call 012732053 (Scandinavian), 018954763 (English) or 018912895 (Frank)

### MUSICIANS WANTED

Singer/guitarist seeks musicians to jam with and record some original songs. Chalong area ideal. Tel: 05-1435570. Email: eunson101@yahoo.com

### CHEST FREEZER

wanted in good condition, price about 3,000-4,000 baht. Tel: 09-0346734. Email: johnholdernesse@yahoo.com

## Business Opportunities

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well-run visa run business including tour office at Rawai Beach. Please contact Khun Jaochim. Tel: 04-8512378.

### PERSONAL TRAINING CENTER

Rare opportunity to acquire a successful and prestigious health and fitness center in Chalong. The only dedicated PT center in Phuket, it has established a reputation for quality and professionalism. Superbly equipped, used exclusively by premier expat clients. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-0880422. Email: alun@vitagroup.net

### INTERNET SHOP

for sale. In a great Patong Beach location close to the beach road and Hotels. Internet shop and overseas calls; all new equipment. Priced for quick sale. Contact me for more details. Tel: 04-6304243. Email: jurgen.hugli@gmail.com

### BAR AND KARAOKE

Large air-conditioned room for karaoke and outside bar in Rawai for sale. Excellent monthly turnover. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 05-8094153.

### BAR FOR SALE

Reasonable offers considered. Tel: 07-8817600. For more info, see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

### TOP BAR & BISTRO

Simply the finest in Rawai, for rent. A long lease with landlord for the next year. In the best location, equipped with 50 seats, fully furnished and running from 8 am to 1 pm. Satisfying turnover. For further details, call Tel: 01-8940570. Keywords: Simply the finest!

### TIME IS MONEY!

Partnership offer for Europe and Thailand. No competition, no wasting time, already have enough clients! Start-up money: 27,500 Euros. Work permit no problem! Email: sanjosee6@netscape.net

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet shop

Asking 6 million baht.

Pls contact for more details. Tel: 01-0820039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@hotmail.com

### FISH 'N' CHIPS, PIES

Restaurant established 3 years, provides good income. Comes with accommodation; staff; vehicle; cheap, long lease; air conditioning; and UBC. I'll train you before returning to New Zealand. Tel: 07-2736315.

### BAR & RESTAURANT

For rent. On Nanai road, Patong. Contact Alisia Mansion. Tel: 06-2791602, 09-0219504.

### BAR WANTED

Seeking to buy bar in Karon or Kata. Max price: 400,000 baht. Email: krille@etnet.se

### 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 or Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

### INTERNET CAFE

for sale. Located on busy Nanai Rd, in Patong. 2½-year lease; rent: 15,000 baht per month. Will sell the business for 650,000 baht. Tel: 04-7231269. Email: bmudablue@aol.com

### INVESTOR WANTED

Diving company would like to set up in Laguna-Layan area in Phuket. Please contact via Email: investor\_wanted@hotmail.com

### FOR SALE IN KATA

Bar + restaurant, 28 seats, 4 rooms, pool table, UBC, recent refurb, 2½ years on lease + 3-year option. 1.7 million baht. Tel: 04-8478139.

### NEW HOTEL LEASE

4-year hotel lease for 2.5 million baht. 22 rooms, Air conditioning, cable TV, bar, elevator, maid service, refrigerator, telephone, hot & cold water, sunset viewpoint. Easy to run, good staff. Tel: 06-9427318. Email: michael@bayproject.com For more details, visit: www.vikingresidence.com

### 26-ROOM HOTEL FOR LEASE

Located in Patong, recently equipped, fully booked. No key money. Nine years contract. Ready to run. Don't miss it! Tel: 06-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### BARS/GUESTHOUSES

We have investment opportunities in Patong, Kata, Karon and Kamala, from 700,000 baht. Please call Phuket Property Shop. Tel: 06-8343784.

### PATONG BAR

for sale. Price 550,000 baht + 150,000 baht deposit. A 2.8-year renewable lease without key money. The venue includes 40 seats, a pool table, UBC, 44" TV, terrace and kitchen. Email: huvvywilliams@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Off Soi Bangla. Comes with all fixtures and fittings including a pool table, plus small Thai restaurant. Asking a reasonable price + rent; no key money. Tel: 01-8928579.

### PARTNERSHIP OFFER

European businessman offers partnership in new establishment Ltd. in Europe and Phuket. Years of experience from Europe and Thailand, I have and good connections in Thailand. Work permit no problem! Business beginning directly, all prepared! Participation: 27,000 Euros. Email: miamibeachn@netscape.net

### KATA BAR FOR SALE

Going cheap! Call K. Rannee now at Tel: 06-6833964, or for more details Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Big area, including everything. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-9414172, 09-7275240.

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**EDUCATION FUN CLUB**

Le Club Des P'Tits Chou for children aged 2 to 6, near Rawai Gym. Open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm. Full- or part-time, hourly club available for parties and babysitting. Please contact Angelina. Tel: 07-2790264.

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Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Free pick up and delivery. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

## Cameras & Equipment

### VIDEO CAMCORDER

wanted. Cheap video camcorder required, to be donated to the Duang Prateep Foundation children's charity in Bang Muang, Phang Nga. Genuine request to help kids in need. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-385932, 04-8389063. Email: stusmith@phuket.ksc.co.th

### DIGITAL CAMERA

Canon PowerShot Pro, 1.8 megapixels. 23,000 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8921097.

## Computers

### WANTED: 256 DDR

Looking for 256 DDR RAM for PC. Please email me for more information at: jonpet@ksc.th.com

### 17" MONITOR

for sale, asking for 1,500 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-6259065. Email: changpongsak@yahoo.com

### COMPUTER REPAIRS

English computer technician fixes new or used. GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Tel: 09-4735080.

### LPs TO CDs

Who could transfer my old LPs on to CDs for a reasonable price? I will be back in Phuket (where my LPs are) in early February for 2 months. Please contact me by email if you think you might be able to help. Email: rolfkranepuhl@aol.com

## Lost & Found

### 2,000-BAHT REWARD

"Sophie" went missing from our house at Surin Beach on Jan 1. Black "soi dog", slim build (about 15kg), with a pleasant nature. Black coat with gray/white nose and white on her chest. Tel: 01-3704001. Email: claire@pipsphuket.com

### LOST DOG

Very friendly male dog found near Royal Crown Hotel on Nanai Rd, Patong. If you've lost a dog lately, email me a pic. He's been hanging around here for a few months and the hotel owner wants him gone. He's a good pet if you're looking to adopt. I'm just trying to help him out. Tel: 076-342875, 01-0862772. Email: thewizardofockandroll@gmail.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale

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## Miscellaneous Wanted

### KIDS' PARTY?

Hire a bouncing castle for great fun. For rates and information. Tel: 01-8918689.

### BBQ WANTED

I am looking for a portable gas BBQ - 2 or 3 burners with hotplate (Aussie style). Email: mike7474@hotmail.com

## Personal Services

### PHUKET ACADEMY

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### PLAY GROUP

Foreign mothers: Let's start a play group for our infants and toddlers! Tel: 06-2670756. Email: two4trinity@yahoo.co.uk

### LOOKING FOR

a babysitter? Experienced English-speaking college student looking to watch your child/children of all ages. Day or night. Tel: 06-2769735. Email: mtrjdoug@hotmail.com

### OSTEOPATHY

Manipulation, sport massage and acu-pressure specialist for back problems. Please call Robin. Tel: 04-6433915.

### BABYSITTER

Experienced French native and English-speaker will take care of your children for an evening, a day or longer. 300 baht/hour/child. Have French diploma, I live in Phuket City. Tel: 06-279-1905, 06-2793400. Email: nvstnstephanie@hotmail.com

## Personals

### SINGLE 35 MALE

Looking for lady to start up new life & business. Thai/foreigner. Email: investor\_wanted@hotmail.com

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

### EDUCATED GUY

I'm looking for a fresh, funny and pretty lady to enjoy this beautiful island together. I am honest, frank, gentle and have good habits & looks. Please contact via email at Email: merlin\_upm@yahoo.com

### CULTURAL FARANG

A 34-year-old foreign man who is interested in almost everything is looking for a lady for a serious relationship. Email: jouhey@suomi24.fi

## Pets

### CAT-SITTER NEEDED

Warm place for sweet cat for 6 weeks. Inside and outside, litter trained. All shots with records. Will pay. Tel: 03-1726453. Email: iamnotrossi@yahoo.com

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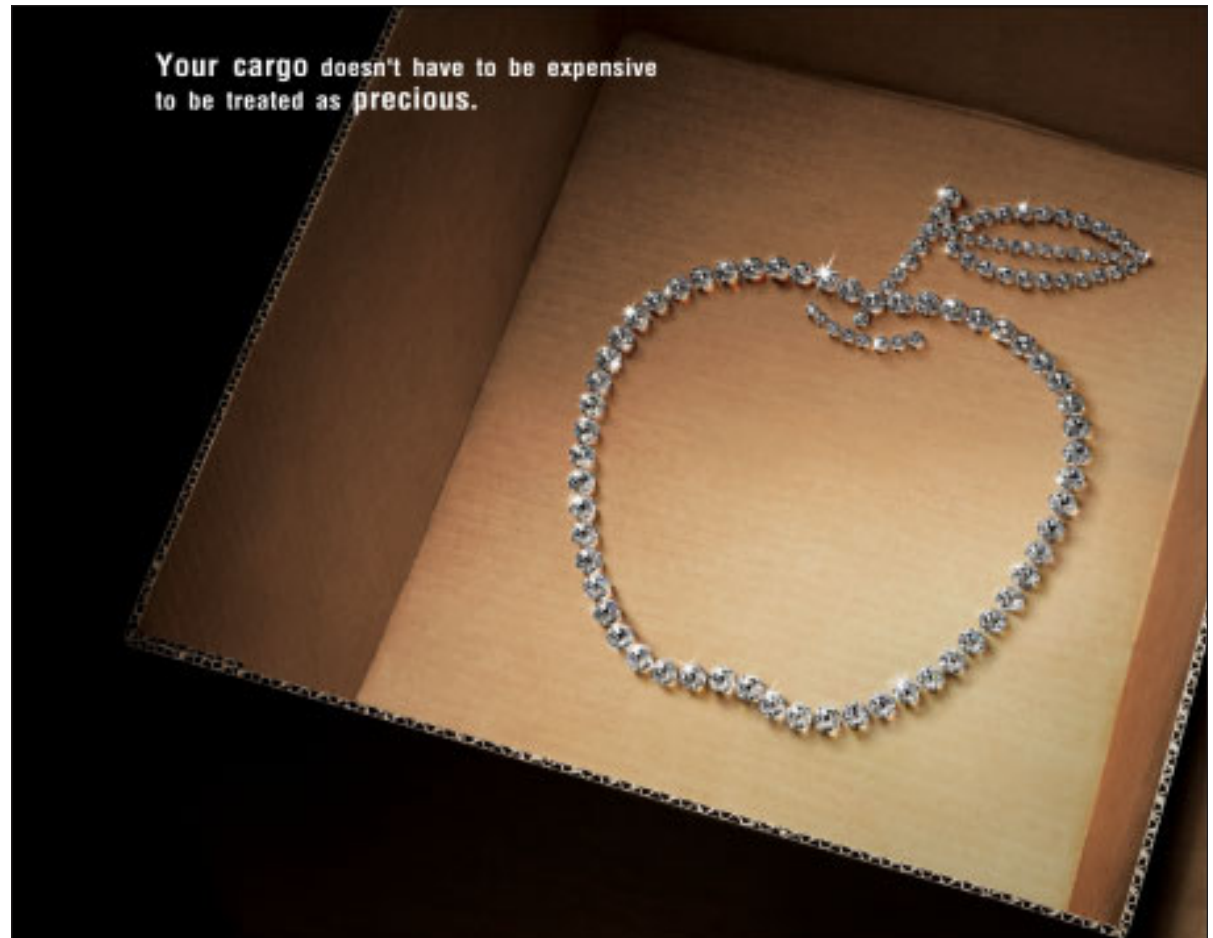
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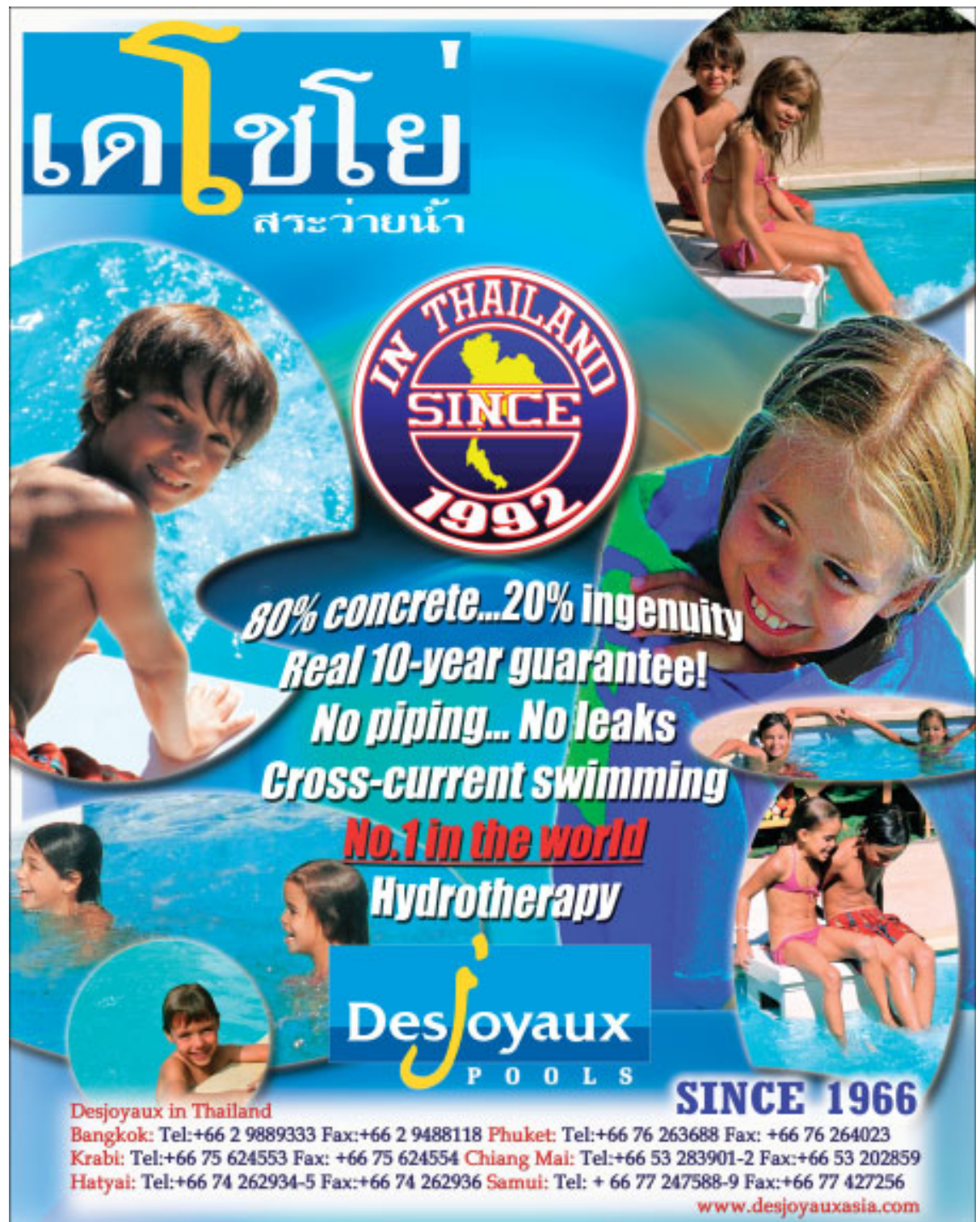


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