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# The Phuket Gazette

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# MONKEY BUSINESS

By Anongnat Sartpisut

**PHUKET CITY:** Two rogue monkeys are wreaking havoc atop Rang Hill, where they have been terrorizing tourists, stealing food from diners in a hillside restaurant – and even biting people.

News of the primate pests was reported to the Kusoldharm Foundation volunteer rescue service by staff at the Tunk-ka Cafe on January 26, months after the monkeys first appeared.

Sukontip Kitsubun, who has a concession to run a small retail shop in the park there, told the *Gazette* that there are two groups of monkeys living atop Rang Hill. The first is a colony of about 10 monkeys that has lived there for a long time without creating any bother.

About three months ago, however, trouble arrived in the form of three pigtailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*), easily

Continued on page 2



My Fanta – and if you touch it I'll bite your arm off: One of the two pigtailed macaques plaguing people on Khao Rang.

## Phuket Gazette now B25 a copy

The price of the *Phuket Gazette* rises to 25 baht today. We have finally, and most reluctantly, had to recognize the massive increases in the cost of newsprint over the past 18 months. We are proud, though, that this is the first rise in our cover price since July 1997 – eight and a half years ago.

The size of our newspaper has grown dramatically. We now publish 48 pages every week (soon to be 56 pages), on the same high-quality, industry-standard newsprint used by mainstream dailies worldwide.

Though it is far more costly than the stiff bond or wrinkly coated papers used by provincial Thai-language publications, the *Gazette* has opted to stay with genuine newsprint in recognition of the quality of its (top-end) readership.

Our subscription prices – domestic, international, and 'Phuket Special Delivery' – remain unchanged.

## B1.4bn sports complex proposed for Mai Khao

**MAI KHAO:** The province will seek private-sector funding for a proposed 1.4-billion-baht sports complex and exhibition center to be sited on 617 rai of government land at the northern tip of the island.

Promchote Traivate, Head of the Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development, told the *Gazette* that a committee formed to study the feasibility of such a project presented its findings to

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura and other officials at a meeting on Tuesday at Provincial Hall.

The committee came out strongly in favor of building a regional sports center and training facility using private funding, as op-

posed to the other two possibilities considered: a sports training and development facility built with government funding; or a complex to host major international sports competitions, built with private-sector investment.

"Thailand hosts a major international sports competition only about once every 10 years. That's why we want to make training our priority," K. Promchote said.

The training center envisioned by the committee would include:

- A 15,000-seat soccer stadium;
- A multi-purpose indoor stadium for basketball, volleyball, badminton and martial arts;
- Outdoor tennis and basketball courts;

- An outdoor pool with spectator seating;
- A shooting range;
- Facilities for "extreme sports" such as skateboarding and stunt cycling; and
- Boathouses and other facilities for sailing and water sports along the coast.

The project would also include a 15,000-square-meter hall suitable for exhibitions and a total of 30,000 square meters of parking space, capable of accommodating up to 1,350 vehicles, he said.

The facility would be in the Tah Chat Chai area, near the Sarasin Bridge and the "Welcome Gate" now being built by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

Continued on page 2

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## Duncanson victorious in Phang Nga Bay Regatta

PHANG NGA BAY: Winds of 13 knots gusting to 18 turned January 31 into a thrilling last day to the 2006 QBE Phang Nga Bay Regatta, after three days of less exciting breezes.

Despite making a bit of a mess of things on the final day, Scott Duncanson and crew aboard *G4S* (also known as *Somtarn Express*) had enough points in the bag from the previous three days to win the Racing class of the regatta.

Second was *La Samudra* and third *Switchblade*.

An indication of conditions on the downhill run from Phi Phi Don to Chalong Bay was given

by *Pytheas Aura*, whose spinnaker ripped apart into three pieces, and *Ruby Tuesday*, whose crew had to haul down the kite after the spinnaker pole came away from the mast.

In the Cruising A class the only woman skipper in the 45-strong fleet, Mia Gillow, brought *Minx* home to overall victory, followed by *Cinders* and *Simba*.

*Delfina* won Cruising B, followed by *Blue Jay* and *Rusalka*.

The Multihull class saw *Moto Linzi* scorch to victory, finally overcoming her handicap. *Summersault* was second overall and *Quoll II* third.

## Mean monkeys in reign of terror

From page 1

recognizable by their bright red bottoms. Not long after their arrival, the macaques began biting and scratching tourists, especially those who tried to feed them, K. Sukontip told the *Gazette*.

"One child was bitten or scratched in the face, and a man suffered a nasty wound from a bite to his ankle," she said.

Last month, one of the three – the only male – died in the most unexpected fashion for a monkey: he fell from a tree.

K. Sukontip said it is a mystery how the macaques had found their way into the municipal park.

"Last November I called the Phuket City Municipality's Environmental Division about this problem. They told me to call the fire station. When I did, they said they would take care of the problem – but that was months ago and nothing has happened," she said.

Rang Hill is popular with tour guides, who often conduct busloads of tourists to the park so they can enjoy its impressive

views over the city. The tour guides view the two remaining macaques as a threat to tourism.

"One tour guide tried to help us by calling the police emergency hotline. The police asked: 'What do you expect us to do? Bring our guns and shoot them dead?'" she said.

Aikachai Chuwong of the Kusoldharm Foundation told the *Gazette* that three foundation staffers went to Rang Hill on January 26 in an attempt to catch the two monkeys and remove them to Toh Sae Hill or Koh Sireh. The effort failed, however, when one staff member was bitten while trying to catch the primates.

K. Aikachai said the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) should step in to solve the problem.

When contacted by the *Gazette*, PPLO Chief Sunart Wongchawalit said responsibility for the problem falls on the Municipality, but that the PPLO would be glad to provide help and expertise if the city asked for it.



Laborers work on the massive base of the 45-meter-high Buddha image near the existing image.

## Princess to attend prayers at Big Buddha site

By Suwakon Rakmanee

PHUKET: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya will attend a prayer ceremony at the Mingmongkol Buddha project site, in the Nakkerd Hills between Karon and Chalong, at 5 pm on February 11.

Supond Vanichkul, President of the Mingmongkol Faith 45 project committee that is raising funds for the project, told the *Gazette* that work on the group's mammoth Phra Puttamingmongkol Akenakkiri Buddha image is still two years from completion.

When finished, the 30-million-baht reinforced-concrete colossus will be 45 meters high and

25m across at the base. Apart from its philosophical significance, it is expected to become an icon for Phuket and a major tourist attraction.

The gold-painted image will be in the Maravichai style and will face eastward, overlooking the sea. Workers are now constructing the concrete base that will support the statue and which will be adorned with 40 images of lotus petals.

The focal point of devotion during Princess Ubol Ratana's visit will be a smaller, 12m-high Buddha image, also in the Maravichai style.

It was cast from 22 tons of brass at a cost of 8.8 million baht.

The project committee is funding the new image through a campaign to solicit donations using the slogan "Enhance your merit value in your mind".

K. Supond told the *Gazette* that trees have been planted around the site to prevent erosion, and that the project is within the terms agreed upon with the Forestry Department when it was given the go-ahead to continue last year.

Work was ordered stopped in 2003 after construction was deemed to have exceeded the original scope, and for also violating the ban on the construction of permanent structures higher than 80 meters above sea level.

## Top artists working on tsunami sculptures

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: The Office of Contemporary Art and Culture in Bangkok, and the Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi Provincial Cultural Offices have commissioned artists to create tsunami memorial sculptures to be erected at Kamala Beach, Bang Niang Beach in Phang Nga Province, and on Koh Phi Phi Don.

The Director of the Phuket Provincial Cultural Office, Thawichat Intararit, told the *Gazette*, "Award-winning Thai artist Udon Jiraksa from Nakhon Sri Thammarat will create the sculp-

ture for Kamala and American Louise Bourgeois will do the one on Phi Phi, while Swedish artist Lars Englund's work will be placed on Bang Niang Beach."

K. Udon, who was born in 1973, won bronze medals in the 48th and 49th National Arts Contests, and also third place in a Krung Thai Bank sculpture contest.

Ms Bourgeois was born in 1911 in Paris, but she moved in 1938 with her American husband to New York, where she still lives.

Even at the age of 95, she is still working, producing sculptures strongly influenced by surrealism. Her works have been exhibited in galleries all over the

world, including the Tate in London and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Mr Englund, from Sweden, was born in 1933 and is considered one of the most adept pioneers of Swedish 20th century art.

Over the years, his work has been exhibited internationally in Venice, Paris, Warsaw and New York, as well as in his home country.

In 1976, he was also commissioned to design Sweden's 50-öre and one-krona coins.

For further information, contact the Phuket Provincial Cultural Office at Tel: 076-223-617.

## Sports complex proposed for Tah Chat Chai

From page 1

The land is currently under the control of the Treasury Department's State Property Management and Services Office (*Ratchapassadu*).

K. Promchote quoted Gov Udomsak as saying that although the project would need private-sector investment, the government would retain a say in its operation and use.

When asked about concerns that the location for the

complex would be too remote to attract many athletes, K. Promchote, again quoting the Governor, said the place was suitable because athletes need somewhere quiet to train and relax.

The Governor also suggested siting a government sports institute in the facility as a way to attract users.

The committee will reach its final conclusions this month and begin preparing "terms of reference" to attract investors.

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# THAI adamant on axing Aussie flights direct to Phuket

By Natcha Yuttaworawit  
& Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Despite an appeal from Governor Udomsak Usarangkura, Thai Airways International (THAI) has stuck to its decision to suspend direct flights from Sydney and Melbourne to Phuket.

Kalayapha Panich, the airline's Phuket-based District Sales Manager for Upper-Southern Thailand, said that the direct flights from Sydney and Melbourne to Phuket were to be rerouted to Bangkok.

She added, "The main reason for this rerouting is that there are more passengers who want to fly direct to Bangkok [from Sydney and Melbourne]. In effect,

the regular flight – TG 980, every Monday, Thursday and Sunday – is the same, except that it lands in Bangkok, not Phuket.

"If demand increases, maybe we can restart the direct flights to Phuket."

Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, Assistant Director of TAT's local office, told the *Gazette* that Gov Udomsak discussed the axing of the direct service with the TAT, the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) and THAI management, and asked the airline to keep the direct flights going.

"We don't want to see THAI stop the direct flights," he added. "When our national airline stops flying straight here, people may lose confidence in Phuket. Luckily, other airlines still fly here direct."

The TAT is planning a road show in Australia and Japan this month, he added. "The Governors of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, representatives of the Andaman provinces' Provincial Administration Organizations (*OrBorJor*) and the TAT Region 4 Office will be in Australia February 11 and 12 to thank the people there who still visit the Andaman coastal provinces.

"Asian tourists still come to Thailand, but some of them have changed their destinations from Phuket to Bangkok or Koh Samui," K. Siripakorn said.

PTA Vice-President Panu Maswongsa told the *Gazette* that he believed THAI would have more passengers if the airline had better marketing and management.

"Jet Line Asia, Tiger Air and Silk Air still fly direct to Phuket [from abroad], which suggests there is passenger demand. We must help our province by contacting the airlines that still have direct flights to Phuket and co-operating with them."

With THAI having also slashed its domestic service, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to book seats to fly to the island from Bangkok.

Meanwhile, THAI's budget subsidiary Nok Air has announced that on February 1 it will launch a service between Bangkok and Trang, with one flight a day.

Nok Air already serves Chiang Mai, Haad Yai, Phuket, Udon Thani, and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

## Trial of Brit's killer to begin in December

KRABI: The Krabi Provincial Court will begin hearing testimony in the murder trial of motorcycle taxi driver Uthane Douangnoi in December.

Uthane is accused of murdering Briton Richard Mark Collins on March 8 last year.

A clerk at the Krabi Provincial Court told the *Gazette* today that the hearing would likely carry on well into 2007.

Uthane admits that he stabbed Mr Collins, but argues that he was acting in self-defense.

According to a statement given to police by Uthane's former common-law wife, Sunisa Sirirod, Uthane fought with Mr Collins because he mistakenly thought the Briton was romantically involved with her.

Uthane is currently free on bail and was last reported still working as a motorcycle taxi driver in Krabi Town.

– Anongnat Sartpisut



Chris Sieber and his wife Surapa Srijutanat.

## Gov steps into fray over yacht recovery fee

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Chris Sieber and his wife Surapa Srijutanat, the owners of *Kilo*, the catamaran recently recovered off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after going missing in December, have received a promise of help from Governor Udomsak Usarangkura to try to reduce the massive salvage fee being demanded by the Indian Coast Guard.

The 46-foot *Kilo* went missing from Phuket on December 17 and was recovered on January 20 off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, some 725 kilometers from Phuket.

The yacht is registered in K. Surapa's name. She explained that the Port Blair authorities had contacted her to say that they were going to charge US\$60,000 (2.4 million baht) as the fee for their

Coast Guard boat having towed the yacht to the islands' administrative center, Port Blair.

She said, "I was happy to get the news that the yacht had been found but dismayed when I learned that they wanted us to pay that amount of money.

"According to international law, yacht owners are not obliged to pay anything [for such services]. Nevertheless, we're willing to pay as much as US\$10,000 (400,000 baht). But US\$60,000 is way over the top."

She said that was she sure that Gov Udomsak could help obtain a reduction in the fee so that the yacht could be brought back home.

Gov Udomsak said, "I will also contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and get in touch with the Indian Ambassador to Thailand to help on this issue too."

## Burmese woman found beaten to death

By Nattamon Ratcharak

THALANG: A 27-year-old Burmese woman identified only as "Ya" was found beaten to death on January 28 near an abandoned tin mine in Baan Prujampa, Tambon Thepkasattri.

From the condition of her body, investigators believe that she had died about three days earlier.

Pol Lt Col Jamroon Plai-duang, Inspector at Thalang Police Station, said that officers visited the house nearby where Ya lived with her husband, Yusub, also from Burma.

There they found bloodstains inside the house and blood spots as far as 300 meters away from the building.

Yusub, 40, who has been in Phuket for five years and makes a living selling *roti*, was arrested on charges of murder, which he denied.

## FEVER KILLS 138 WATER BUFFALO IN PHANG NGA

By Suwakon Rakmanee  
& Sam Wilkinson

PHUKET: More than 138 water buffalo in the Thai Muang and Takuapa districts of Phang Nga Province have died from hemorrhagic septicemia, known locally as "swollen neck fever".

Health officials in the province have declared an epidemic and all cattle and buffalo slaughterhouses in the two districts have been closed for at least 30 days.

The disease normally occurs at the end of the rainy season, but has been thriving due to hot and humid conditions. Typically, infected animals develop a high fever and die of suffocation within days, sometimes hours, as the neck and head muscles swell and the airways fill with mucus.

Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), told the *Gazette*, "Phuket is not likely to have an epidemic because we

vaccinate our livestock against diseases such as hemorrhagic septicemia. We have had no reports of it on the island.

"We will, however, revaccinate around 3,000 cattle, especially in the Thalang District which has the most livestock."

He added, "Buffalo are dirty animals and are exposed to a lot of bacteria. Some farmers do not take good care of them or, worse, do not co-operate with [livestock offices] in vaccination

programs. The vaccine is effective for six months, but some farmers are neglectful. Symptoms [the cattle experience] include a swollen neck, high fever and flatulence."

He added, "Officers at the checkpoint at Tah Chat Chai are making sure that any cattle arriving in Phuket have the correct documentation from the PPLO."

There are no recorded cases of hemorrhagic septicemia being contracted by people.



# Carry on regardless

**A**mong the signs that greet people strolling around Koh Phi Phi Don is one complaining, in English, about the lack of progress in getting Phi Phi back on its feet. "Is it because we are not Thai Rak Thai?" the hand-written poster asks. "Or is it because we are just island people? Are we not important?"

Another, also in English, asks Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, "You promised within one year Phi Phi Island would be restored. This has not happened and we are very worried. On the anniversary [of the tsunami] may we question your promise?... the plans are always changing and we are always waiting."

The patience of the people of Koh Phi Phi Don is wearing thin, and they are showing irritation at the snail-like pace of government decision-making over their future – especially after a much-anticipated meeting on January 21 with Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop made no progress.

Central to the locals' grievances has been the government ban on any construction whatsoever in the flat area between Ton Sai and Loh Dalam bays. In the tsunami this area was scoured of all but the most robust of buildings, and this was where almost all of the loss of life occurred.

The government appointed the Organization for Specific Areas Administration for Sustainable Tourism Promotion (OSA-ASTP) to make plans for this flat area, and the protracted planning period is what is holding up everything else: the construction of new homes for survivors and the

reconstruction of businesses that survivors need in order to make a living.

More than a year after the tsunami, islanders on Koh Phi Phi Don are still struggling to restore their lives to normality. But it is not the havoc wreaked by the giant wave that they are struggling to overcome. It is the central government's ban since the middle of 2005 on any form of construction on the isthmus between Ton Sai Bay and Loh Dalam Bay, that has prevented the islanders from getting on with their lives.

Local families still live in overcrowded housing. Fishermen have been told to get their boats off the beaches, and local businesspeople are not allowed to rebuild – or even renovate – their shops and restaurants. Why? Because Bangkok says so. The local people have put up with it for a long time, but now there are signs that they are becoming irritated, and want the government to get out of their lives.

The *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanaporn reports.



reconstruction of businesses that survivors need in order to make a living.

At a meeting on January 27 with the Governor of Krabi, Sonthi Techanont, some 200 people made it plain that they do not want the OSAASTP involved any longer. They were polite: they said that, with the abilities of the Provincial and Tambon Administration Organizations, they did not think the OSAASTP was "needed". But the message, which Gov Sonthi promised to relay to DPM Suwat, was plain: OSAASTP, butt out.

Phankam Kitithorakul, Chairman of the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), the sub-district responsible for the Phi Phi Islands, told the *Gazette*, "We have local administration bodies including the OrBorTor, the OrBorJor (Provincial Administration Organization) and the Krabi Provincial authority. If [the government]

gives us the budget, we can handle all the evacuation routes, footpaths and so on.

"Governor Sonthi will send a report to DPM Suwat stating again that local people here don't need the OSAASTP to manage [Koh Phi Phi Don].

"But I don't know what the government's reaction will be," he added.

"As for the new homes for tsunami victims, we have not been able to build these – even though [international charity] World Vision was ready to do so – because of the government's ban on construction.

"However, Vichuda Jantharo, a local businesswoman, has donated 20 rai on Phi Phi Don, in the western foothills, which will be enough room for 166 homes," K. Phankam said.

Local people have told the *Gazette* there is a serious shortage of accommodation on the island. Some local people who lost homes in the disaster 13 months ago are still staying with relatives, resulting in overcrowding. Others sleep in their fishing boats.

Some tourists, too, are sleeping in tents because there is not enough hotel accommodation.

For more than a year, sluggish, bureaucratic bungling has kept Koh Phi Phi Don residents from rebuilding their post-tsunami lives.

The lack of progress finally attracted the attention of DPM Suwat, who visited the island on January 21 to meet local villagers and inspect the popular tourist destination.

Tourism would take off again, and fast, if the dead hand of Bangkok could be lifted. Since the beginning of the year, an average of 2,000 day-trippers a day have visited Phi Phi. The demand is clearly there.

But instead of addressing the lack of homes for survivors, or their inability to build busi-

nesses and accommodation to cater for tourists, DPM Suwat seemed primarily concerned with the island's pier. Redevelopment of the pier, at 200 million baht, was the main priority, he said, though no one seems to know yet what form this redevelopment will take – or what its aim is.

One thing the Deputy PM did make clear, however, was that once the pier work is complete, longtail boats will no longer be allowed to beach in Loh Dalam Bay.


Longtail boatman Pichert Urai feels this is ridiculous. "Longtail boats on the beach are a symbol of Phi Phi. I think tourists come to Phi Phi to see them like that, and they always take pictures of them. We beach them in rows to make them look beautiful, but if they do not allow us to beach there, where can we put our boats?" he asked.

The longtail boatmen are also suffering from reimposition of park fees for visiting such iconic places as Maya Bay.

In his January 27 meeting with locals, Gov Sonthi told them that he had already sent another letter to Damrong Phidet, Director-General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, urging him to suspend the 200-baht-per-head Na-




Ao Nang OrBorTor Chairman Phankam Kitithorakul.



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Since the beginning of the year, an average of 2,000 day-trippers a day have visited Phi Phi – the demand is clearly there

tional Park fee levied on foreigners visiting Maya Bay, on the grounds that Phi Phi's tourism industry is only just beginning to revive.

Locals have complained that the zeal of park officials, who clamber aboard boats to collect the fee from those who decide not to set foot ashore, has put off a lot of tourists.

K. Pichert told the *Gazette*, "Before the tsunami each of the 500 longtails here would take tourists to the nearby islands about three times a day. Now they are lucky to make even one run, because tourists don't want to pay the 200-baht national park entry fee."

Pitchaya Jantharo, 30, the Sales & Marketing Manager at the Phi Phi Banyan Villa, told the *Gazette*, "It's so sad for me when

Thai people ask me if Phi Phi Island is still alive. They think that Phi Phi was washed away, which is different from foreign tourists, who are already coming back.

"The international media consider Phi Phi important; they check the situation here almost every month, which is different from the Thai media, who have not updated [their post-tsunami reports].

"The government called for government officers and local businessmen to join many meetings throughout the whole year, but nothing has happened. They don't know how we are suffering. After the tsunami, we received help from foreigners from many countries, and we owe them.

"The Thai government has not helped Phi Phi's development

at all," K. Pitchaya said. "After the tsunami, many people said they expected Phi Phi to recover within about three years. But in fact, only one year after [the disaster] about 70% of tourists are back, and the accommodation that is available here now is full."

Phi Phi now has 1,200 rooms, she said – less than half the number it had before the tsunami.

Accommodation ranges in price from 300 baht a night for a tent to thousands of baht a night in a hotel.

"Most tourists coming to Phi Phi are backpackers, who are willing to pay only a little for their accommodation, but some stay for many months and spend a lot on diving and food."

But this is not the type of visitor Bangkok has in mind. It

wants to see the isthmus between the bays developed to target high-end tourists, and it wants to move the local residents' homes and businesses to the foothills at either ends of the bays.

K. Pitchaya has nothing but scorn for this idea. "How many rich people are there in the world? And why do we have to suffer for their sake?" she asks.

"Backpackers also have money to spend. The main reason tourists come here is because we have no pollution, no big buildings. I disagree with the idea of moving local people to the hills. The government should be taught how much rain we have here during the wet season and the risk of landslides."

She adds that Phi Phi is well known to tourists and has other advantages over other tourist des-

tinations in Thailand, such as a lack of bar girls and prostitutes. Most bar staff are men, she points out.

Nattawut Kaenlah, owner of Phi Phi Inn, says that the main reason local businesspeople do not want the OSAASTP to manage Phi Phi's development is that they have confidence in the abilities of the local administration organizations and the Krabi Governor, who have been managing Phi Phi's development for years.

"We have no problems with the number of tourists. The big problem is the central government not being clear about what it wants to do," he said.

"The only thing the government seems to be clear about is that it wants to take control of Phi Phi."

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# Anti-graft site ordered shut

A leading anti-corruption website was shut on orders from CAT Telecom, which oversees Thai Internet service-providers.

Auditor-General Khunying Jaruvan Maintaka, who is a founding member of [www.corruptionwatch.net](http://www.corruptionwatch.net), said it was ordered shut with effect from February 1.

"We think it very strange because no reasons for the closing of the site were mentioned... I think somebody is unhappy that many people have been visiting our website, which presents reliable information about corruption cases," said Khunying Jaruvan, recognized by many as Thailand's leading graft-buster.

The website team will hold an urgent meeting to discuss the implications of the closure. A source at Corruption Watch Online, which runs the site, said it would appeal the decision to CAT Telecom.

**Dhamma DVD:** The Tripitaka – the Buddhist Holy Canon – will soon be made into a series of feature movies, said Sangha Supreme Council spokesmonk Phra Tham Kitti Maythee.

The 250-part series, to be featured on VCDs and DVDs, is expected to attract great interest in the Buddhist teachings, as they would be shown in an interesting way.

Each disc would be priced at 200 baht, he said. Production

costs would be shouldered by production company Trai Rattana Co Ltd, which is expected to begin the series' four-year production soon. The massive undertaking, to cost about 97 million baht, is likely to be approved to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne, he said.

**Child care catastrophe:** Samut Prakan Criminal Court handed down a five-year prison term to Thananya Hommak, 33, who was convicted of intentionally poisoning dozens of students at Suan Preuksa kindergarten in Samut Prakan. According to court documents, Thananya in June 2004, laced students' milk with a pesticide, resulting in them needing hospitalization for vomiting and severe diarrhea.

At first she denied the charges, but after failing a polygraph test she confessed to poisoning the pupils to gain revenge on the school's owner, whom she said had been pestering her to repay 150,000 baht she had embezzled while helping the owner's real-estate business.

**Brought down to earth:** Retired Royal Air Force officer Atchariya Wirojsiri, his wife Rungnapha and an associate were each jailed for 18 years for luring five Thai women into prostitution in Japan. A fourth member of the ring, Samart Phromthes, was sentenced to six years for



**Fatal collision:** Rescue workers inspect the aftermath of an accident in Lop Buri's Chai Badan District, where a truck collided with a train at a railway crossing. The truck driver and three train passengers were killed. More than 40 others were injured.

supporting the other three. The four, who pleaded not guilty, were refused bail pending appeal.

According to the indictment, the four tricked five women aged 18 to 28 into traveling to Japan to work in a variety of jobs, later selling them for two million baht each to local karaoke bars, where they were paid to have sex with an average of three men a day for many years.

The five unidentified women later escaped from the bars and returned to Thailand in 2002, filing complaints with the Crime

Suppression Division in March, 2003.

**Free Flipper:** The head of the National Resources and Environment's newly established police unit will investigate complaints that Samui Orchid Resort on Lamai Beach is training a rare pink dolphin obtained from local fishermen for tourist shows – instead of returning it to the wild.

The Wildlife Friends of Thailand (WFT) group sent a written complaint to the government wildlife agency this week

about the dolphin, along with pictures allegedly showing a trainer working with the animal in a pool next to the resort's small zoo.

"This act is definitely illegal, because the animal is healthy. This is how the illegal trade in dolphins starts," said WFT head Edwin Wiek, adding that the new police unit has promised to investigate.

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

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## Queer News

### Not a lot of joy, really

PHUKET: The time-honored teenage tradition of joyriding is alive and well in Phuket – and two young men are dead as a result of it.

In the first incident, at about 1 am on January 20, a young man who had just started working at a car care shop in Koh Kaew decided to take his boss's black Toyota Altis out for a midnight ride – without first asking for permission.

Screaming up the north-bound lane of Thepkrasattri Rd, the man lost control on a curve and crashed into a power pole located about 300 meters from the Tambon Koh Kaew Public Services Building. He was killed instantly.

Rescue workers needed to use hydraulic jaws to extract his crushed corpse from the vehicle. According to one report, the force of the impact had caused him to “become one” with the steering wheel.

The vehicle's owner, 47-year-old Seubsak Boonsop, notified of the smash, arrived at the scene. He was able to identify the wreckage as that of his car. However, he was unable to identify the young driver, aged about 20 to 25, whom he had taken into

his employ just four days before.

Suffering a similar fate was 16-year-old Wacharapong Sirikolkarn, of Tambon Talad Yai in Phuket City. He and three other classmates, all students at Phuket Wittayalai School, decided to skip afternoon classes on January 23 and go for a joyride on the well-worn pavements of Saphan Hin.

The vehicle they used was a Toyota CRV sports utility vehicle driven by “Mac” (name withheld because he is a minor), son of a lumber yard owner in Phang Nga's Takua Tung District.

A water vendor told reporters she saw the four boys zooming along the roads of Saphan Hin until “Mac” lost control of the vehicle, slamming it into a power pole.

The sudden change in momentum catapulted the unfortunate Wacharapong from the front passenger seat though the windshield, leaving him dead on the pavement.

The other boys were injured, including “Mac”, who will be charged [in juvenile court] with reckless driving resulting in the injury and death of others, as well as with damaging state property.

Source: Siang Tai

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Phrom Suksirisumpun collects his prize of two bottles of Italian Prosecco Pinot Chardonnay sparkling wine and one wine bottle opener from Wine & Taste Assistant Manager Sirirat Jirattakul, for displaying a 'We Love Phuket' sticker on his car.



Sunanta Sarakul (right) receives her prize of a voucher for a one-hour refreshing spa at The Aspara Spa, at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, from *Gazette* reporter Nattamon Ratcharak.



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## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

Despite continued high hotel occupancy rates, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) on Koh Samui is working closely with several government departments to minimize damage to the island's image in the wake of the murder of Welsh student Katherine Horton.

Emergency meetings to consider appropriate action took place throughout January, and involved officials from the District and Municipality Offices, the Samui Police Department and the Tourist Police, as well as the local Transport Authority.

The first result of these discussions was the production of a brightly-colored car sticker promoting Samui as a "Total Wellness Island".

All car owners on the island have been invited to claim their free sticker before February 5. But taxis and *songthaew* are particularly encouraged to display them on their vehicles in order to help promote a positive image to visitors.

Other solutions include increasing police patrols on



## Samui tries to boost its image

beaches, providing TAT staff to help at the new mobile Tourist Police unit in Chaweng, and requiring hotels to register their staff – and possibly even their guests – with the municipality and immigration offices.

Meanwhile, three high-ranking police officers have been drafted in from the mainland to increase efficiency and improve tourist safety around the island. A second police station is also planned in Chaweng, and con-

struction will begin as soon as suitable public land is found.

**Fishermen's blues:** Following a directive from the Governor of Surat Thani Province, Vichit Vijaisarn, all fishing boats operating off Samui, Koh Pha-Eng and Koh Tao must now register the names of their crew with the local authorities every time they moor a vessel at one of the islands' designated piers.

As of this month, newly ar-

rived fishing boats will only be allowed to moor at one of two piers on Samui: Nathon on the northwest coast or Bang Rak on the northeast. Similar restrictions will apply on Koh Pha-Eng and Koh Tao in order to make things easier for the Marine Police, who will file a daily list of names with the provincial government.

The official Fishermen's Union in Surat Thani has expressed its support for the policy. Anan Chusak, the President of the Surat Thani Fishermen's Union, said the rape and murder case reflected very badly on all fishermen in the area, and urged boat owners to take responsibility for their crew and ensure they are properly chosen, registered and accounted for.

"We have around 400 members in Surat Thani Province," he said, "and all of them understand the seriousness of the situation. We will talk to the crew of every boat to make sure they register and behave in a responsible way."

In addition to local checks, K. Anan added that he hoped the government would make sure that crews on boats visiting the

area from outside the province are also thoroughly checked.

**Harbour Department move to Samui:** The provincial Harbour Department is scheduled to relocate to Samui this year, with its head office to be built either in Bang Rak or Nathon.

The offices are currently located on Koh Pha-Eng, which makes it difficult for many vessels and boat owners to register their presence or carry out other administrative tasks.

With the Samui yachting scene growing every year, the Harbour Department feels it makes sense to transfer its headquarters, and on January 18 officials in Bangkok gave their permission for the move.

Lopburi Yorthasiri will continue as head of the department and will also live on Samui. "The new office will provide easy and swift access for vessels and improve the registration and licensing process," he said. "It will also mean greater security and add to the services available for visiting leisure craft."

**Dive world record:** Koh Tao's annual Underwater World Festival will take place on February 7 and 8. The event is designed to promote recreational diving and snorkeling around the island, and to build awareness of environmental issues and reef protection.

Activities include a "Miss Dive Shop" beauty pageant, stage shows featuring live music and DJs, beach games and water sports contests, kids' activities and conservation exhibitions.

This year's festival will also include a Guinness World Record attempt, with an estimated 800 people scheduled to go diving simultaneously in the island's famed waters.

The event is sponsored by several local companies and recognized by PADI, whose Worldwide Diving Society encourages active participation in diving.

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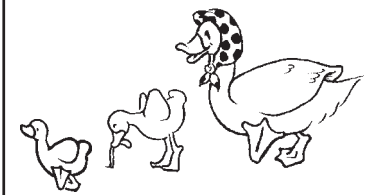
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# '1,000 Faces' in aid of street children

By Chris Husted

Every visitor to the island has a special memory of Phuket, usually triggered by a quintessential image that encapsulates the very essence of what Phuket means to them.

It is that inspiring "essence" that the Phuket Photo Club (PPC) is hoping to invoke with its "1,000 Faces of Phuket" exhibition, on display at the Holiday Inn Phuket, in Patong, until February 11.

On show are photos taken by 14 members of the club, which, after more than 10 years in existence, has about 30 members, mostly Thai but also including people from Spain, Japan and Britain.

PPC member José Gay explains, "Any reality is multiple. For any one person Phuket [may be] the food, a beach, the bars or even underwater. All these media are wonderful, but more importantly, each one has a special meaning for each individual."

## CONCEPT

Among the exhibits are photos of Phuket landscapes, cityscapes, people, buildings and other icons representing Phuket that most people truly cherish only after they have left the island.

Although the content of the show is Phuket-based, the concept reaches further to the northern border town of Mae Sai.

All proceeds from sales of photographs, along with any donations made during the exhibition, will go to the Ban Nana Childlife project, which provides meals, housing, medical care and basic education for about 100 street children in Mae Sai.

José says that the connection was made through his work with Phuket-based Life Home Project, which he set up about five years ago. The Life Home Project helps HIV-positive women, mostly mothers, restore their self-esteem by helping them contribute to society by teaching

them handicrafts and then selling the products so the women can make some money.

The Ban Nana project was founded by former businessman Mana Jeamrum, who was inspired to set up the foundation after seeing the plight of the Mae Sai street urchins.

"The children [being cared for by the Ban Nana project] used to beg in the streets. They are mostly Akha [a local hilltribe], and cannot get any education," José says.

Many of the children have drug-addicted parents or have slipped across the border to avoid strife in neighboring Burma, and are often lured into child labor, prostitution and theft.

The main Ban Nana home comprises several houses – one dormitory for boys and another for girls, with a third building for meals – and is about 10 kilometers from the center of Mae Sai.

"[The charity] has another building in the city where children are first introduced to the project, where they are given special care and taught how to live in society again," explains José.

Looking forward to next month, José says that the PPC is moving towards opening a small coffee shop and photo lab on Soi Romanee in Phuket City.

"We want to open a place where people can enjoy coffee and enjoy the photos on display, and at the same time be sitting in an art loft and a building with wonderful architecture."

All profits made by the planned coffee shop, along with sales of photos and handicrafts from Life Home Project, will go to charity.

José reserves special thanks for the Holiday Inn Phuket for providing the venue and to Epson (Thailand) for making the costly digital prints on show.



All proceeds from sales of photographs, along with any donations made during the exhibition, will go to the Ban Nana Childlife project, which provides meals, housing, medical care and basic education for about 100 street children in Mae Sai

"The Holiday Inn and Epson have been wonderful. Without them this exhibition would not have been possible," he says.

For more information about the Ban Nana Childlife project Email: [ngaow\\_beggar@hotmail.com](mailto:ngaow_beggar@hotmail.com) or see the website at [www.childlifemaesai.org](http://www.childlifemaesai.org) For more information about the Phuket Photo Club contact Ten Achidawit 01-9862547 or K. Danai at Tel: 01-8953709.

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# Patong Empower

## Ensuring that sex workers know and fight for their rights

The Empower Foundation was founded in 1985 and was originally known as *Soon Pitak Sitti Ying Borikarn*, meaning "Center for the Protection of Women's Rights in the Entertainment Sector". However, the Office of the National Culture Commission deemed the name "inappropriate", and as a result Empower was renamed *Moolniti Songserm Okard Puying* – which translates as the "Foundation to Promote Opportunities for Women".

After the tsunami, Empower opened a center in Patong. Longtime Empower Co-ordinator, **Elizabeth Cameron**, talked with the *Gazette's* **Ananya Hongsa-ngiam** about her work.



'There were a lot of sex workers lost in the tsunami who have not yet been found because they were exploited and not registered'

– Elizabeth Cameron of Empower

Elizabeth Cameron is from Australia, and she used to work as a nurse in New South Wales.

"I had a friend who was an overseas volunteer, and she suggested that I should move to another country. I learned that Empower had just opened in Chiang Mai, helping women with health problems, and needed volunteers, so I went to help there and ended up staying for 12 years.

"Every day, sex workers come to study English with me. I call them names like 'Sweet', 'Smart' and 'Strong'. Every-

body's in the same family and we all help each other.

"I've learned a lot, and have had a lot of fun working at Empower. After the tsunami, Empower decided to open a center in Patong to help sex workers, and we in turn were helped by the International Labor Organization and Australian sex workers.

"Most sex workers have families to look after and they didn't give up easily after the disaster. They helped get the bars up and running again, but there were no customers for months.

"Empower Patong was established on February 14, 2005 – Valentine's Day. There are about 30 girls who come and study English with me, but the office is very small and we have to use an old door as a study table!

"I think the girls can help tourists, act as guides, and even help to keep the beach clean. The problem is that sex workers do not have social security. There were a lot of sex workers lost in the tsunami who have not yet been found because they were exploited and not registered. This is why we have to teach them to know and to protect their rights in the entertainment sector.

"We really need a new office and meeting place. Property in Patong is so expensive and our office is not big enough for all the girls at the same time when they come to study English or for a meeting.

"We network with girls in other places such as Chiang Mai, Mae Sai and another towns. The girls here don't get to keep much money at all, as they're supporting children and their families and have responsibilities like ordinary people.

"We have to teach them to protect themselves from HIV and Aids. The number of sex workers infected with HIV and Aids is actually decreasing, and the girls are insisting that their customers practice safe sex."

Elizabeth expressed the need for a co-worker. "I had a friend who helped me to teach English for four months, but she had to go home and now I'm all alone. I could use some help.

"Empower in Thailand works together as a network. We

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all have the same objectives and no one is an absolute expert or complete know-it-all. We don't set our objectives like, say, 7-Eleven – we don't want to expand and open everywhere.

"We'd like to see sex workers being accepted more. After all, they're providing for their families. They are just the same as other women – they, too, do needlework and go out to buy their kids' school uniforms.

"We used to have a radio program called *Empower Ma Laew* ('Empower is Here'). It was first broadcast in September 2005 on local community radio and ran every Sunday from 2-3 pm. It was a great opportunity for sex workers to get information about the law, their rights, learn health tips and listen to the latest news as well as to join in games.

"It only lasted about a month. The central government said it was a business, and as such was illegal, so we had to close shop.

### CELEBRATION

"It's a great pity we had to do this, because many people were tuning in. When we stopped transmitting people told me they thought their radios were broken as they were tuning in as usual on Sunday afternoon and it was just like we weren't there for them any more. Now, if we start again, we'll have to start right from the beginning, and we'll have to inform a whole new set of listeners what Empower is about."

This year, Empower will be 20 years old. The foundation will have a celebration in Patong on Valentine's Day.

Elizabeth stresses that her relationship with Empower is like a family bond. She said, "My Mum calls me from home and I generally go back to Australia once or twice a year, but when I'm there I miss Empower and when I'm here I miss my hometown! I love my family and Empower equally. Empower is like my second family."

For more information Email: [empowerphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:empowerphuket@yahoo.com) or call Patong Empower on Tel: 076-296574

## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket

Dmitry Zimin and  
Alexandra Kozlyaninova,  
both from Russia, were  
married at the Kata Beach  
Resort on January 14.



Soonyana Ratthagai and  
Thanee Buangkaew were  
married in the Phra Pitak  
Grand Ballroom at The  
Metropole Phuket on  
January 8.

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EAR CANDY with Andy Johnstone

# To be Blunt in Bedlam

Actors, chefs, politicians, journalists and even religious leaders who were once British Army officers abound.

Dirk Bogarde (Dirk Van Boegarde) was Mentioned in Dispatches twice in two days during the assault on Arnhem; Keith Floyd was in the 2nd Tank Regiment, as was the BBC's Mark Urban; Enoch Powell began WWII as an enlisted man and ended it as a brigadier, the then youngest; the Right Rev Dr Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, received the Military Cross while in the Scots Guards during WWII. His nickname was "Killer".

But what about singers?

James Blunt – or Captain James Hillier-Blount, to give him his correct title and proper name – saw service in the Life Guards as a peacekeeper in Kosovo. He once quipped that he had been shot at more times than rapper 50 Cent.

Blunt was also a coffin bearer for the late Queen Mother.

Skilled at the piano and violin by the age of eight, to which he has added organ and guitar, he appears to have been something of a wunderkind even then, and his meteoric rise to fame has caused a few jealous words and just a little self-mythologizing.

From his website: "...and the next thing he knew he was in Kosovo with a gun and a guitar strapped to the side of a tank, wondering who he could possibly sleep with to get out of this war. To break up the super attenuated monotony, James would sometimes stroll through Serb villages wearing an East German cap singing, 'All we are saying is give peace a chance'."

Quite.

Blunt's debut album, *Back to Bedlam* is – despite the warning that "This album contains lyrics of an adult nature" – inoffensive. It may even be a little saccharine in places, yet it is not bland.

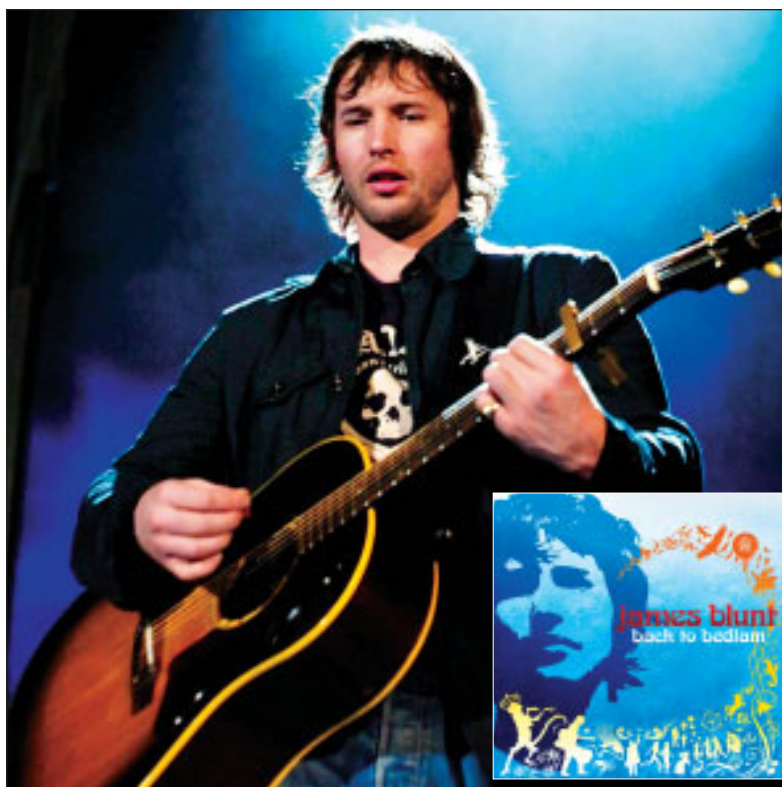
His voice has been compared to that of a young Elton John, which is an unfair comparison. If he sounds like anyone, then it is surely Al Stewart, writer of *The Year of the Cat*, particularly on the album's opening track, *High*.

A physical similarity also exists between the two, particularly since Blunt has grown his hair after leaving the army, resembling Stewart circa 1972.

Gentle lyrics, wistful almost – but not without power – dominate *Back to Bedlam*, and it isn't difficult to find the occasional literary reference in his songs.

Take Track 2, *You're Beautiful*, which, as a single, has been a massive hit around the world.

"I saw your face in a crowded place/And I don't know what to do/Cause I'll never be with you."



Then compare this to the theme of Douglas Dunn's poem *The Worst of All Loves*: "But there's one face, seen only once, A fragment of a crowd. I know enough of her..."

"Those we secretly love, who never know of us/What happens to them? Only this is known: They will never meet us suddenly in pleasant rooms."

He borrows musically, too, although perhaps not unexpectedly in *So Long, Jimmy*, his homage to Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison, even slotting the descending electric piano riff from The Doors' *Riders on the Storm* and snatching a three-chord interchange from Hendrix's *Hey Joe* towards the end of this otherwise reggae-tinged tune.

His lyrics often speak of regret, of wishful thinking, of loss. From *Goodbye My Lover*, reportedly an elegy for a girlfriend who died in childbirth: "Did I disappoint you or let you down?" Later, he sings, "I've kissed your lips and held your head/Shared your dreams and shared your bed/I know you well, I know your

smell/I've been addicted to you."

From *Tears and Rain*: "How I wish I could surrender my soul/Shed the clothes that become my skin/See the liar that burns within my needing/How I wish I'd chosen darkness from cold/How I wish I had screamed out loud/Instead I've found no meaning."

"I've heard what they say, but I'm not here for trouble/Far, far away; find comfort in pain/All pleasure's the same: it just keeps me from trouble/It's more than just words: it's just tears and rain."

The eagle-eyed – or eared – might also find some echo of Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here* in these lyrics and even of *Blade Runner*, when, at the end of the film, "Roy" says, "All these moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain."

*Cry*, the penultimate track on the album, sees Blunt exposing his conscience further still, with hints of anger towards an unnamed entity – "I have seen peace. I have seen pain, Resting on the shoulders of your name"

– before delivering the lines "I have seen birth/I have seen death/Lived to see a lover's final breath..."

Experiences of war – particularly WWI – have also served as the inspiration for many poets.

From the idealistic *War Sonnets* by Rupert Brooke (died 1915) to Wilfred Owen (died 1918), who spoke of the horrors of trench warfare to, from the opposing side, August Stramm (died 1915) who wrote "Murder on murder blinks in childish eyes", soldiers have found a voice through poetry.

Not all soldiers who have seen combat do express themselves thus. Many keep their memories private; others may discuss what they have witnessed or done only with others who also served; others, such as the war poets and now Blunt, find catharsis by setting down intensely personal experiences for public consumption.

*No Bravery*, the final track on *Back to Bedlam*, reports Blunt's witnessing of atrocities when deployed as part of KFOR's Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo in the aftermath of the 1999 NATO air bombing campaign.

Again, he uses an unnamed entity, "he" in this case, prominently in this song. Just who the "he" is is open to debate. Death is the most likely contender.

"Old men kneel to accept their fate/Wives and daughters cut and raped/A generation drenched in hate/Yes, he has been here/And I see no bravery, no bravery in your eyes anymore/Only sadness."

James Blunt has produced a very self-assured debut album, with moving lyrics to which many will be able to identify. He has also made a rod for his own back; following this album will not be easy.

Back to Bedlam James Blunt, 39 minutes 28 seconds.

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# HOLIER THAN THOU

Anyone fancy a bone through the nose? No? Well, maybe a bit of discreet body piercing then?

As with getting a tattoo, people are ambivalent about body piercing – and it's fascinating, almost tribal in that, for better or for worse, you stand out from the crowd.

Unlike tattoos, body piercings are not permanent. Sure, they can be painful at first, but for some they're ultimately rewarding.

There's also a huge selection of designs and materials to choose from out there.

Chakapong Sompipat, the owner of Pong Jewelry Body, on the second floor of Ocean Shopping Mall in Phuket City, told the *Gazette*, "Piercing is not ugly – it suits a specific group of people who find it elegant and who would like to stand out."

## SEX APPEAL

A bone through the nose would certainly stand out, but an earring here or a nose stud there can subtly enhance your sex appeal.

K. Chakapong can pierce your ears, nose, navel, tongue and eyebrows – and even your naughty parts – for prices ranging from 150 to 500 baht, depending on the materials used and the size of your chosen added appendage.

His shop features a veritable cornucopia of jewelry, earrings, spirals, libretos, bananas, and colored titanium bits for one's body.

K. Chakapong said, "It only takes 10 minutes for a piercing, and it's a very hygienic process as we use new needles every time."

He added, "This is a challenge for certain people, as some like to go to extremes."



Ear, nose, tongue, belly button, eyebrow... the list of places that can be pierced, and the objects that can be inserted therein, is long.





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# Phang Nga Bay Regatta Party



Gulu Lalvani opens the QBE Phang Nga Bay Regatta inaugural party at the Royal Phuket Marina.



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## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

**Until February 5: The 8th Annual Old Phuket Festival.** Phuket City is holding the 8th annual Old Phuket Festival, with main events focused on Thalang Rd, Soi Romanee and Krabi Rd. Festival-goers can enjoy local food, crafts and entertainment celebrating Phuket City's history, people and culture.

Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that the walking streets (*ngo ka kee*) around the historical neighborhood, famed for its Sino-Portuguese architecture, will be a highlight of the attractions. During the three-day festival, an exhibition on the history and preservation of Sino-Portuguese buildings will be held from 1 pm to 10:30pm in a Municipality-owned Sino-Portuguese building at 63 Thalang Rd.

There will also be boating on Klong Bang Yai from 6 pm to 11 pm throughout the Festival.

A ceremony dedicated to the Chinese Goddess of Mercy, Chao Mae Guan Im, will be held on Sunday, February 5, from 10:30 pm to midnight, in Suan Chalermparkiat Park, opposite the Seng Ho Book Store.

For more information about the festivities, call the Phuket Municipality at Tel:076-212196.

**Until February 11: "Abstracts of Industry" photo exhibition.**

The British Curriculum International School is hosting an exhibition of photographs by award-winning photographer Chris Swift, who is also a teacher at the school.

The exhibition, entitled "Abstracts of Industry", consists of abstract photographs taken in Bangkok and Kanchanaburi, with subjects ranging from boats and trains to a sugar mill.

The exhibition is in the school foyer, and is open to the public between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

For further information call Tel: 07-1129568, Email: cswift1@swift-mail.com or visit www.swift-images.com

**Until February 11: 1,000 Faces of Phuket photo exhibition.** Mounted at the Holiday Inn in Patong, this exhibition features work by members of the Phuket Photo Club. Proceeds from sales of the photos or from donations will go to the Ban Nana Childlife project, which provides meals, housing, medical care and basic education for about 100 street children in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai. For more information, see page 11 of this issue.

**February 23-26: Badminton talent search.** Phuket will host the first round of the Master Thai-

land Badminton Professional 2006. The aim of the tournament, staged by the Badminton Association of Thailand in co-operation with the Sports Authority of Thailand, is to identify the best badminton players in the country, region by region.

The Phuket round will be played in Building 2 of the Saphan Hin Sports Complex from February 23 to 26, starting around 10 am each day.

There will be three other rounds of the nationwide search for talent: in Khon Kaen (March 16-19), in Rayong (May 18-21), and in Chiang Mai (July 13-16). The finals will be staged in Bangkok in September.

The competition, played to International Badminton Federation rules, will be divided into men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

The winners of the regional rounds will split total prize money of 1.6 million baht, while those who make it to the Bangkok final will compete for a slice of a total purse of one million baht.

Entry fees are 400 baht for singles players and 800 baht for doubles teams.

The deadline for entries is February 1. To enter, or for more information, call Tel: 02-2510712 or 02-2553391-2.

## Naked woman chained hand-and-foot in loan shark's home

From the *Phuket Gazette*, issue of February 1-15, 2001

PHUKET TOWN: Police found a naked woman with hands and feet bound in chains in the house of a loan shark on Soi Taling Chan on January 5 after receiving a tip-off about an illegal gun.

Pol Lt Akanit Danpitaksart, of Phuket Town Police station, said, "When we arrived, we met Kongrit Patan, the owner of house, and found a naked, 46-year-old woman in chains sleeping on the stairs."

In the house, police also found 23 bullets for a 9mm pistol hidden under a sarong, and a roll of film with seven photos of the woman and a man, also naked.

The woman claimed that the house was being used as an

## THE TIME machine

### News from the past

office for loan sharking and that she had collected loan payments and interest for Kongrit. She said he had come [back] to the house and accused her of skimming 5,000 baht from payments.

Kongrit took photos of her and a former male employee, who was bound and gagged with masking tape, after forcing them to undress. He then threatened to show everyone the pictures if she did not return the money.

The police charged Kongrit with illegal possession of ammunition and deprivation of liberty, to which he confessed.

## RAMPANT VICE HITS TAI MUANG

From the *Phuket Gazette*, issue of February, 1996

TAPLAMO: Despite being the site of various government and naval units, Tap Lamoo Port in Tai Muang, Phang Nga, is reeling from unabated drug use and prostitution.

The area is inhabited largely by fishermen, which gave rise to a flesh trade that has now spread

all over the area. Drugs are sold widely. The customers are mostly from the group of poor Burmese workers who have come to southern Thailand to find some sort of living, and who are poorer than the local population.

Local people who are not involved in criminal enterprises have urged responsible officials to do something before the place is overcome by violent crime.



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By Shiona Mackenzie

# Falling in love again, at Phukana

**D**usty, crusty Phuket City, with its “Western” frontier-town aura, has a way of growing on you, and over the past six months it has become one of my best-loved stomping grounds on the island.

The Sino-Portuguese architecture and the hodgepodge of family-run shops charmed me on the first Sunday I wandered the “old town” – Phang Nga Rd, Thalang Rd, Krabi Rd and Soi Rommanee.

Although its handful of saloons showcasing local bands – great places to hang out “far from the madding crowd’s ignoble strife” – may appeal to long-time Phuket dwellers, the city is sometimes accused of falling short of ideal in terms of sophisticated venues for unwinding after work, or for after-dinner drinks in the company of someone special.

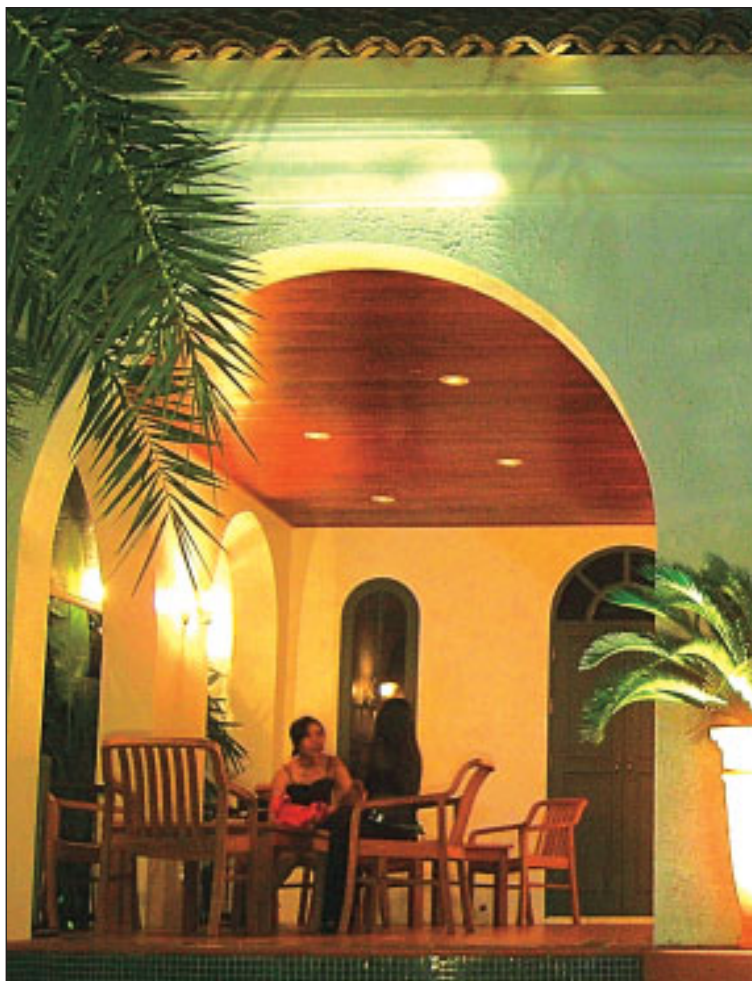
## WELCOMING

But standing well back from busy Mae Luan Rd is a Mediterranean-style mansion, a seriously seductive lair set in a small garden.

A white villa with a terracotta tile roof and high, arched entranceways and windows, Phukana is a welcoming place with an eye-catching Greco-Romanesque fresco of toga-adorned beauties surrounding a god-like male gracing a wall between the wine cellar and the bar.

The lighting is gentle on the eyes, casting a golden glow across the bar and cozy dining areas.

In front of an ample stage, the dance floor – large enough for perhaps a dozen couples –



...couples begin to salsa on the dance floor and linger on when the band play *Smooth Operator*...



proves to be an absolute necessity, thanks to the beautiful music played by a four-member Filipino band expressly chosen by Phukana's management and brought to the island from Singapore not long ago.

Phukana has a good wine cellar which yields a variety of

vintages from France, Italy, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Spain, Argentina and Chile. As the manager recommends an item or two from the “snacks only” menu, I savor a glass of the refreshing house red from Spain (180 baht).

A server soon brings a selection of the venue's most popular dishes: Shiitake mushrooms in red wine sauce, crispy pork jerky, and mildly spicy Phukana chicken wings (150 baht). Each dish complements the wine very nicely.

Softly crooning *The Way We Were*, *Just the Way You Are* and other well-known love songs, the band is accompanied by a baby grand piano and keyboard.

When they segue into the latin rhythms of *Besame Mucho*

and *Quando, Quando, Quando*, couples begin to salsa on the dance floor and linger on when the band play *Smooth Operator*. I need no further persuasion... (Note to self: return for a romantic rendezvous.)

Phukana is an intimate hide-away with reasonably priced wines by the bottle (1,200 baht to 2,500 baht).

Cocktails cost between 200 baht and 250 baht each, (half-price during Happy Hour, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm).

There is plenty of parking space, and it's convenient for private parties, too.

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# Zapped in the name of beautiful skin

A spike of pain pierced my cheek through the thick layer of cold aloe vera gel smeared across my face.

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This had been described as a non-invasive treatment using an FPL/IPL device (fluorescent intense pulsed light) to enhance skin rejuvenation and simultaneously break down sun-damaged skin cells or freckles.

With each zap, the heat from the focused beam of light penetrating the top layer of skin felt like a sharp stab of a needle.

## FRECKLES

Although Dr Orawan Kitchawengkul, who was wielding the instrument, turned down the intensity, the treatment was unexpectedly harrowing and seemed to take much longer than the scheduled 10 minutes.

The outcome? A few freckles did fade within the following week, and some fine laugh lines around my eyes seemed to diminish.

A regular session of about 45 minutes at the Bangkok Dermatology Center (BDC) in the Bangkok Hospital Phuket costs 18,000 baht, plus a 1,000 baht doctor's fee.

The BDC advertised itself on the website of the Thailand Health and Beauty Show 2004 as using "...the latest laser equipment and technology to produce



Dr Orawan Kitchawengkul has turned the Bangkok Dermatology Center into a very successful business.

instant, visible results without any need for surgery or anesthetic and without any side effects".

"It isn't necessarily effective to treat a condition with just one type of therapy," Dr Orawan says.

"The best of Western and Eastern medicines can be combined with hi-tech innovations for overall improved results."

The BDC's slogans are "Skin & Rejuvenation Center" and "The World Class Anti-Aging Institute".

It also calls itself a "holistic care and medical spa". It has a

huge menu, running the gamut from acupuncture, anti-cellulite therapy, removal of spider veins and birth marks, reflexology, body hair removal, wrinkle and scar reduction, to hair-growth treatment, and treatment for psoriasis or acne or dandruff.

Depending on the type of procedure and the equipment used, the extent of the existing condition and the desired results, several follow-ups may be required and costs involved will vary.

However, a one-hour facial treatment package now on offer



the frown and surprise lines are still there.

Finally, a soothing collagen mask was applied to my face.

For about 10 minutes, I relaxed on a bed in a dimly lit room as a beam of light swept intermittently across my face to stimulate absorption of the collagen.

Classical music played softly in the background, a reminder that the word "spa" comes after "medical" here.

A University of Mahidol graduate in dermatology, Dr Orawan is the founder and Medical Director of the Bangkok Dermatology Center, which was launched in 1989.

A BDC lab in Bangkok conducts research to develop the company's own exclusive, patented products, such as P-Jojoba Cleanser (55 grams, 1,800 baht) and Hair Growth Serum (30 milliliters, 1,000 baht) for use in the two Bangkok branches and the Bangkok Hospital Phuket branch, which has been open for six years and serves about 25 patients a day.

Dr Orawan says that her name means "Beautiful Skin", and she has turned that name into a highly successful business.

BDC won a 2005-2006 SuperBrands Award.

For more information, contact BDC by Dr Orawan, 2/F Bangkok Phuket Hospital, Hong Yok U-Thit Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-254579, 076-254421-4 ext. 1212. Email: [bdcpk@bkkdermato.com](mailto:bdcpk@bkkdermato.com) Website: [www.bkkdermato.com](http://www.bkkdermato.com)

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# Last call for alcohol ads

One can only speculate about what the ban on alcohol advertising will mean here in Phuket, where the economy practically runs on booze – and beer promotion paraphernalia makes up practically the entire décor of some business establishments.

God forbid if all of the beer-related street signs, awnings and placards lining the sidewalks of Patong were to be removed – people might actually begin to notice the tsunami evacuation signs hidden among them.

We are told this new measure is going to be the alcohol equivalent of the ban on displaying cigarettes at the point of sale. Does this mean all posters in bars will have to come down? Will keg taps displaying the brewers' names have to be covered over with black hoods?

What about the enormous Heineken billboard on the airport road? Will it be replaced with a sign reading: "Alcohol products sold here"?

Even the fate of the "7 Sexy Leo Girls" hangs in the balance. One expects they'll soon find

themselves out of a job and forced to use their undisputed talents to find alternative employment. I am sure any beer bar in Patong would be willing to take them on.

Not just tourism, but the tourists themselves could also be effected. What about all those Chang and Singha beer shirts so proudly worn by first-time tourists? Will the Tourist Police swoop in and arrest anyone caught wearing one? The prospect even has transnational repercussions: will live soccer feeds featuring action from Goodison Park need to be tape-delayed and played back with those annoying digital scrambling splotches imposed over Everton's Chang shirts?

One thing appears certain: if alcohol advertising really does end, our whole colorful landscape is bound to change. The good news, as predicted by some, is that the 2.6 billion baht saved by the alcohol industry that is spent each year on advertising will be passed on to consumers, and the price of beer and whisky will fall. I'll drink to that.

**Naughty, not nice:** Word has it that one tour "agent" is arranging shows of the lewdest nature in a small venue off Patong's Soi Dongtal and denying entry to anyone but members of the select East Asian tour groups for whom the agent caters – Thais and farangs need not apply. How's that for a combination of prejudice and poor taste?

Then again, given the prices that Japanese and Koreans on package tours are regularly (over)charged, those denied entry to this particular spectacle can take solace in the fact that they could probably afford to sink their teeth into a Bangkok sandwich at the same price.

After all, it's always better to take part than just watch.

**Yellow liver:** For the past few months, O'Malley's on Montree Rd in Phuket Town (076-220170) has been offering a 700-baht special: from 8 pm to midnight, all you can drink for just 700 baht.

This is perfect for those of us who like to drink up a storm without having to worry about maintaining the necessary cogni-



Will the ban on alcohol advertising mean that Boonrawd will have to take back the ambulance it so generously donated to Patong Hospital?

tive and motor skills to count up a bill and fumble with the money to pay it before leaving. The offer is limited to draft beer (Tiger, Heineken and Chang) and mixed drinks made from whisky, vodka and gin.

On a healthier note, O'Malley's owner Scott Shaw is organizing fun seven-a-side soccer matches, to be played at Saphan Hin on Sunday afternoons. Anyone interested in fielding a side can call him at 09-7292846.

**Revenue stream:** One barkeep lucky enough to have a bathroom in his establishment told me that charging outsiders five baht each to use the facility was his best and most reliable source of bar-related income.

This just shows that in Patong, they still get you coming, going – and everywhere in between. Both before and right after the tsunami, there was a lot of talk about building public restrooms there – but I haven't stumbled across any, and don't expect to anytime soon.

The public restroom situation (if it can be called that, because there are none) is no different from the water supply. Sure, there is lots of talk about grand schemes to pipe water in from hundreds of kilometers away, but don't expect it to happen anytime soon when people can continue to make windfall profits trucking in low-quality water from the tin mines they

control. It's the same thing in places like Soi Eric and Soi Gonzo, to name just a couple, where the situation is so bad that I no longer bother to go down there on a heavy night out.

Who wants to fight through a phalanx of demimondaines and then hand over five baht just for the privilege of lining up to take a leak?

Even more infuriating is that they insist that you pay *before* you pee.

Has my credit rating really dropped that low? And even with that stream of revenue, they don't bother to keep the damn place clean.

**Pizza find:** Normally I avoid tourist-oriented restaurants in Patong like the plague, having had so many overpriced, under-portioned and very bland meals there.

One exception I came across recently is the restaurant and pizzeria at La Capannina Hotel on Nanai 2 Rd, which makes authentic and very filling calzones for less than 200 baht.

Forget about those hideous "extreme pizzas" that need to be covered in ketchup if they are to have any flavor at all – this is the best reasonably priced Italian food I have found on the island so far.

Send tip-offs, questions, comments, queries and criticisms to [stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net)

## Rak Mak! Awards

This week's lucky numbers:

ชค 6274  
กรุงเทพฯ

Black Ford ESC

กง 1803  
ภูเก็ต

Silver Honda

1ข 6058  
กรุงเทพฯ

Bronze Honda Civic

กจ 3485  
ภูเก็ต

Silver Toyota Starlet

กจท 71  
พังงา

Red Honda Dream

อ 2525  
ภูเก็ต

Black Toyota Vios

The first three of these vehicles' owners to contact us can choose from the following three prizes: a one-hour refreshing spa for two at The Aspara Spa, at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket; or a spa package with 2 hours of relaxing at Layan Spa (Layan Beach Resort & Spa Village); or a facial treatment with Majestic Cosmetics at the Jungceylon Clinic.



The Aspara  
Holiday Inn Resort Phuket



JUNGCEYLON  
PLASTIC SURGERY CLINIC



Layan  
BEACH RESORT & SPA VILLAGE

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

Offers expire February 14, 2006.

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# Puzzles

## Spot the Difference



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



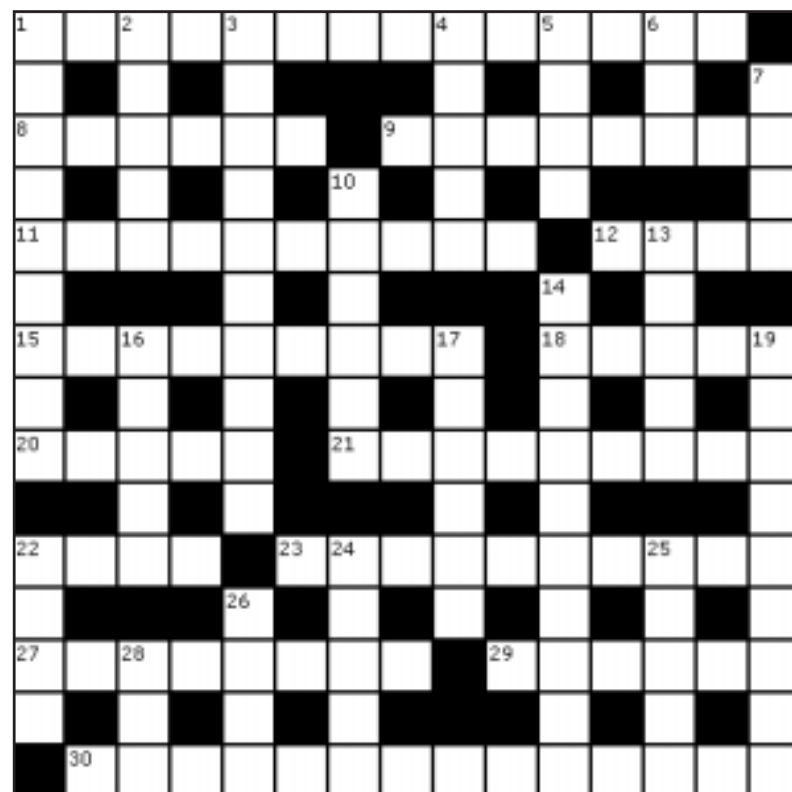
## The Cryptic Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Betrayal! Natives tore rig to bits! (14)
8. New York river back in lax throat. (6)
9. Approve penalty. (8)
11. Strangely, I note Levi's box. (10)
12. Far from beautiful in thug lymph part. (4)
15. Set fire to Thai lass – and bolt! (9)
18. Away in Scotland? Quiet! It's flooded. (5)
20. Direct cattle. (5)
21. Difficult to be behind number sphere. (5,4)
22. Sounds like a pointer to corner of sail. (4)
23. He throws down the gauntlet to exploding spaceship. (10)
27. Sure it's the right terminal? (8)
29. Principality can go back into cow call. (6)
30. Charm may scatter vain set. (14)

### DOWN

1. Such exaggerations are not for midgets. (4,5)
2. Agricultural right to

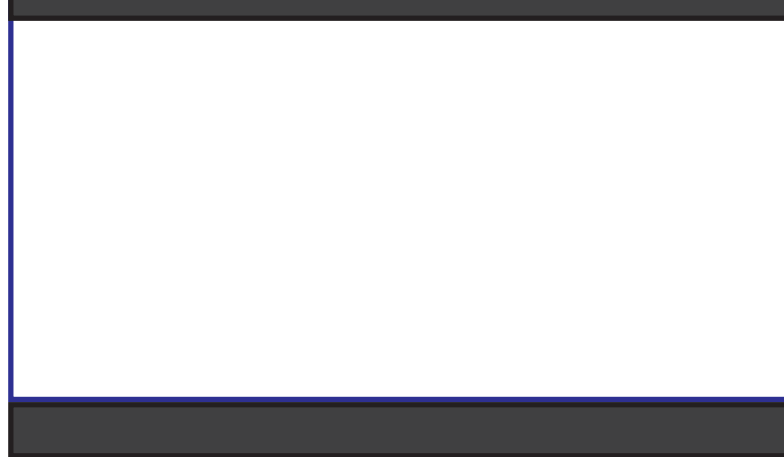


Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

3. mountain range. (5)
3. In zero tax, or south to people with new ideas. (10)
4. Quiet! A knockout piece of headgear. (5)
5. Thanks to company for snack. (4)
6. "Oddly, I owe you, yes," says Marcel. (3)
7. Two points to five with affirmative jealousy. (4)
10. Want to reach a part of church. (6)
13. Farang with green skin. (5)
14. Fight French artist with badminton gear. (10)
16. Ogre beak holds bird. (5)
17. Silence. Note the French flock. (6)
19. Somehow, I hail ours: very funny! (9)
22. Limits hats. (4)
24. Put audio-visual in this Latin chaos. (5)
25. Sort the slope. (5)
26. Wake up in prison. (4)
28. Bend it into instruction to dog. (3)

*Solution on page 22*

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Roughly how many minutes does it take for sunlight to reach the earth?
2. What is the name of the legendary ghost ship that is said to ply the waters off the Cape of Good Hope?
3. What was the name of the maid in the cartoon series Tom and Jerry?
4. What disease, whose symptoms include spots on the skin and bleeding mucous membranes, is caused by Vitamin C deficiency?
5. What is the legendary final resting place for drowned seamen?
6. In what infantile cartoon series do Tommy Pickles, Chuckie Finster and the twins Phil and Lil communicate to each other in baby speak?
7. What are the two end products when a hydrocarbon combusts completely in oxygen?
8. What is the red center of a dart board known as?
9. In Thailand, what kind of alcohol is mixed with gasoline to create gasohol?
10. What treaty, signed in 1919, ended World War I?

*Answers on page 22*

**su | do | ku**

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

## Brain Buster!

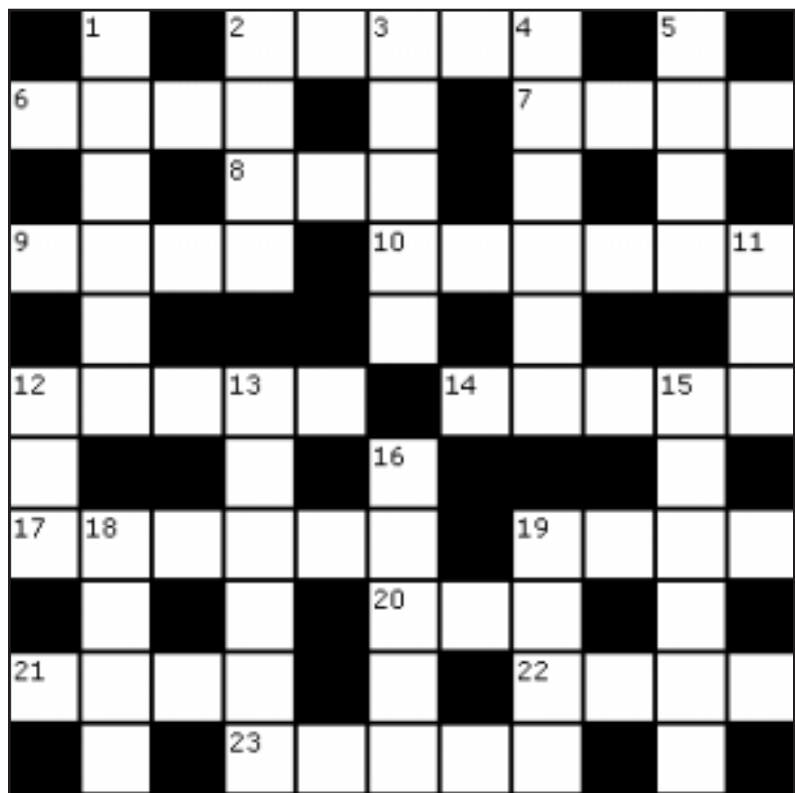
Five athletes complete a cross-country race. Chairat comes third, and Ekkawit comes second.

From the following information, can you tell in what positions Aroon, Boonchuay and Damrong finish?

Aroon is not last, but comes in after Ekkawit. Damrong is not first.

*Answer on page 22*





Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
2. Cowboy greeting.  
6. Phuket beach town.  
7. Frizzy hairstyle.  
8. Sugar liquor.  
9. Game cubes.  
10. Leg joints.  
12. Reward for movie star.  
14. Worship.  
17. Told a little lie.  
19. Was aware.  
20. Firearm.  
21. Donated.  
22. They are used to 11dn.  
23. Funereal music.
- DOWN
1. Rooms on board.  
2. Rabbit's cousin.  
3. Grown-up girl.  
4. Pulled abruptly.  
5. Large plant.  
11. Spot.  
12. Ill-mannered person.  
13. Walked casually.  
15. Smelled strongly.  
16. Writer Poe's first name.  
18. Baghdad is its capital.  
19. One up from 10ac.  
*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. In Biblical Hebrew, what does the word *negev* mean?  
2. What's the square root of 12,345,678,987,654,321?  
3. *Campfire Songs: The Popular, Obscure and Unknown Recordings* was a 2004 compilation album by which band?  
4. What was the occupation of Christopher Condent, Grace O'Malley and Hugh the younger Despenser?  
5. Who, on film, has been played by David Bowie, Michael Palin and Frank Thring?  
6. How did Tadahiko Okawa achieve fame in 1983?
7. What did the Forty-Seven Ronin do on February 4, 1703?  
8. Rerevaka na Kalou ka Doka na Tui is the motto of which republic?  
9. What, in degrees kelvin, is the melting point of the element Yttrium?  
10. The kelvin is one of the seven Système Internationale base units. Name the other six.  
11. How many stars surround the mountain on the Paramount Pictures logo?  
12. How many seconds are there in one year?  
13. What two countries can be seen from Mount Kilimanjaro?
14. Who was the only living artist at the time to have his work displayed in the Grand Gallery of the Louvre?  
15. Who portrayed Eliza Doolittle in Broadway's original *My Fair Lady*?  
16. Which victim of the French Revolution was known as The Baker's Wife?  
17. What letter is on the hot water tap in France?  
18. The *Mona Lisa* lacks what facial feature?  
19. In which year did the US enter World War I?  
20. What continent covers the smallest area?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Brain Buster Solution

Since Chairat was third and Ekkawit was second, Aroon could only be first or fourth. But we know that Aroon came in behind Ekkawit, so Aroon could not be first and must therefore be fourth. Damrong is not first, and cannot be second, third, or fourth, so he must have finished in fifth place. If Damrong is fifth, Aroon fourth, Chariat third, and Ekkawit second, then Boonchuay must be first.

EZ Trivia Answers

1. Eight; 2. *The Flying Dutchman*; 3. Mammy Two Shoes; 4. Scurvy; 5. Davy Jones' Locker; 6. *Rugrats*; 7. Carbon dioxide and water; 8. The bull's eye; 9. Ethanol; 10. The Treaty of Versailles.

Monster Quiz Answers

1. South; 2. 111,111,111; 3. 10,000 Maniacs; 4. Pirate; 5. Pontius Pilate; 6. He made a reproduction of the Mona Lisa from toast; 7. They committed seppuku (ritual suicide); 8. Fiji; 9. 1,799°K; 10. Kilogram, mole, metre, second, candela and ampere; 11. 22; 12. 31,536,000; 13. Kenya and Tanzania; 14. Pablo Picasso; 15. Julie Andrews; 16. Marie Antoinette; 17. C; 18. Eyebrows; 19. 1917; 20. Antarctica.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





**Aperitif:** The following had Lis's jaw drop lower than some islanders' scruples!

"Lovely to be back! The buzz when I walk into Don Muang is always incredible... Ah yes, I think to myself; this is Thailand. Many bittersweet memories and mixed feelings all come seeping through the haze of jet lag! And, yet, here I am again. I guess it's all part of the allure of this strange land. ...I feel I have the last laugh at my buggy chauffeur; I give him a couple of Euro coins in change! The dismayed look on his face is priceless! Actually, it isn't a bad tip at all, by Thai standards. About 80 baht. Anyway, what does he expect? I hadn't even had a chance to change travellers' cheque yet!... Now for a taxi! Ha! I won't be caught out this time around! I know what I should be paying! It's going to be 350 baht or I'm walking! Well, you know what I mean! First car – 700 baht! I laugh out loud! Second car – 500 baht! I walk on. Over to the little desk, Silom Road please? 350 baht! Nice one! Aren't I a true veteran of Thailand!"

He meets some girls and goes out with them, and later, in his hotel lobby, this happens: "Wait a minute! Music? That sounds ok! I glance left and a band is playing in the lounge. They sound great, and the gorgeous singer looks easy on the eye too! The girls read my mind, and indicate that we go in! Nice one! Again, we grab a table, beer and mineral water. I'm really buzzing at this stage! It's great to be back in Bangkok! One Night In Bangkok! I want to sing! I ask the band if they know Sweet Home Alabama! I hear the guitar player

# Blogger chronicles his downfall

## OUTSIDE

### IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Week after week, come rain, come shine, Lis examines the soft, twitching underbelly of the Internet to unearth and polish gems for your delight.

trying out the lick. I shout up chords! D C G! Ah, you play? Too right this farang can play! So next, I'm up on stage with the band!" If you're wondering if this chappie gets his comeuppance, he does – and it makes a fascinating read as he actually has the guts to chronicle his downfall.(1)

**Choice cuts:** "Pioneers and explorers founded America. How did we get so fat and lazy?" "Welcome big nose friends" says an extra large sign in Kashgar, China. One from Phuket, Thailand states, 'Of clouse we spoke England!' A restroom sign from Shanghai says, 'Deformed Man Toilet.' One from Istanbul says, 'Sorry we're open.' A sign in six Asian scripts has one line at the bottom in English, 'This is to prevent foreign visitors from getting lost.' Another lists six lines of kanji characters

and the only word in English is 'Information.'" (2)

**Main course:** "Are foreigners becoming the last vestiges of true and tasty Thai cooking? Are the Thais going through that ugly period of 'cuisine' many other countries went or are going through, when you can buy it cheaper in a packet? Please, let us pray Thai food, one of the best cuisines in the world when cooked as it should be, survives that country's desire to embrace mass tourism seemingly wherever and whenever it can. Let us hope Thais never become lazy in the kitchen. Thai food is too precious a crown jewel to lose." (3)

**Eye candy:** On a drive from Surat Thani to Phuket: "And I rejoiced that I hadn't driven this way in the dark, not because of any danger, but for the scenery. My, is Thailand a gorgeous country. The Thais' 'that'll do' attitude makes for some ugly patchwork architecture at times, but their lush forests and tremendous peaks just scream 'Alive!' Through the mountains, the countryside is blanketed with green, punctuated with palms and enormous rock formations that seem to have been punched straight up from the earth's core by some otherworldly fist. The drive was zippy, obviously, all twists and turns, up and down, with the occasional warning sign printed in English, often with some urgency: 'Re-

duce Speed Now!' read one. I took that as a challenge." (4)

**Did you say bribe?** "But then I began thinking that I really didn't want the hassle of going to the police station, so I said, Okay maybe I pay now, and the cop brightened noticeably, and I added, How much? and he said, Four hundred, and I made my best bug eyes and pleaded, Nooooo two hundred, and he said, Three hundred, and I said okay, and then I realized I hadn't followed my Aussie friend Mel's advice, didn't have the ready cash for such situations, produced a one-thousand baht note and said, Change? The cop at first shrugged, and I thought he was going to say, What do you think this is, a bank? But then he exchanged words with his friend who moved tightly into a corner of the kiosk, so no one looking in the windows could see what he was doing, pulled a wad out from his clothing and peeled off seven hundred baht and palmed me the money, and it couldn't have been more like a drug deal if drugs had been involved." (5)

1. <http://www.stickmanbangkok.com/Reader/Reader1136.htm>
2. <http://www.perceptivetravel.com/issues/1205/books.html>
3. [http://www.travlurs.org/forums/index.php/travelblogs/Travlurs\\_Blog/blogid/1.html&](http://www.travlurs.org/forums/index.php/travelblogs/Travlurs_Blog/blogid/1.html&)
4. <http://peopleonearth.net/>
5. <http://adieu.nu/0701floating.htm>

EL Doctorow is an oddity among modern American novelists – one who wears his politics on his sleeve. His ethical outlook is consistent with his New York Jewish liberalism.

Rich white people are evil, poor black people are good. Capitalists bad, labor leaders good. This dichotomy runs through his most famous novels which take place in the first half of the 20th century: *Ragtime*, *Billy Bathgate*, *The Book of Daniel*.

The dogmatism is less obvious in his new historical novel, *The March* (Random House, New York, 2005, 363pp). The story occupies the last year of the American Civil War when General William Tecumseh Sherman led a hard-bitten army of 60,000 on a 60-mile-wide swath of destruction from Atlanta to Savannah and then up through South and North Carolina to end the war.

The plot of *The March* is flawed in that, while the characters of the northern army are a mixed bag, all the Southern black characters are noble, and most of the white Southerners craven.

That said, Doctorow is a damn fine writer, a master of plot and pacing and the artful interweaving of characters.

The novel opens with a bang:

"At five in the morning someone banging on the door and shouting, her husband, John, leaping out of bed, grabbing his rifle, and Roscoe at the same time roused from the backhouse, his bare feet pounding: Mattie hurriedly pulled on her robe, her mind prepared for the alarm of war, but the heart stricken that it finally had come..." And on for another 10



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

lines of vivid description in a single sinuous sentence as the plantation family is warned to flee Sherman's army marching from Atlanta.

They leave behind Pearl, the fair-skinned daughter of the plantation owner and a slave. She's adopted by the officer in charge of the "bummers", Union troops officially charged with systematic looting, and becomes disguised as a drummer boy. With the death of her protector, she meets and is temporarily adopted by General Sherman himself, who is grieving for his dead son. Sherman is a major character in the novel, the reader privy to his innermost thoughts.

Eventually, Pearl joins the entourage of Dr Wrede Sartorius, a German-born regimental surgeon. This group includes Emily Thompson, the displaced daugh-

# Marching through Georgia

ter of a recently deceased Georgian judge, and two southern white-trash rogues, Arly and Will who, sentenced to death for desertion from the Confederate army, re-enlist in prison, re-desert in battle, change uniforms and pretend to be Union soldiers recently released from a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. Leaving Savannah, Pearl brings along her former mistress in search of her two teenage sons on the battlefield.

That's as much of the plot as I'm going to give away. There are dozens of other vivid characters who appear, reappear and are randomly killed in battle scenes that are magnificently terrible in their description. There are also

moments of great lyric beauty. Here is Pearl listening to a Union military band in a victory parade in Savannah:

"What mighty music this was, the drums spattering better than she ever could ever manage on her one-two thump, and the brass horns shooting out the rays of the sun like to their blare, and flutes and piccolos peeping from the top of the music like birds lighting on it, and the big tubas pumping away under it, and at the very back the two big bass drums announcing the appearance of the blocks of bluecoats in dress parade behind them. And all their Union flags!"

Doctorow does not subscribe to the pacifist cant of

"Wars change nothing".

The American Civil War freed the slaves and preserved the Union.

And thus, near the end of the novel, the war over, General Sherman is moved to these thoughts about history: "Though this march is done, and well accomplished, I think of it now, God help me, with longing – not for its blood and death but for the bestowal of meaning to the very ground trod upon, how it made every field and swamp and river and road into something of moral consequence, whereas now, as the march dissolves so does the meaning, the army strewing itself into the isolated intentions of diffuse private life."

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Valentine's Day has a gory and tragic history: women in Rome allowed themselves to be slapped with goat hides (dipped in holy blood to increase fertility – take note, ladies), St Valentine literally lost his head, and on one particular occasion one of my childhood friends went on a mission. He charted the newfound realm of sex like some warped and amorous version of Christopher Columbus, but still failed to negotiate a copulative treaty with one of the natives – although he did get to explore some of her natural resources.

Valentine's Day has now become ridiculously easy for the modern amorous explorer: simply get your secretary to book a table, order some flowers and chocolate to be delivered, rip off a Browning poem or buy the nearest heart-covered card and write lewd suggestions on it. Some so-called lovers have become so lazy they've even developed acronyms to save them the trouble: NORWICH (Knickers Off Ready When I Come Home) being one rather lewd example.

My favourite Valentine's Day acronym, however, is SAD: "Singles Awareness Day". The Koreans have gone a step further and declared April 14 "Black Day" – a day for single men to unite, moan and eat traditional noodles in black sauce. Of course, those poor Korean singles have to go through some sort of aberration of Valentine's Day almost every month: February is for women to give chocolate to men, March is for men to reciprocate, May 14 is Rose Day, and so on.

Doing "research" for this article has been an excellent excuse to read regency romances such as *Lady Serena's Surrender*, and I've learned three very important things:

1. "To cast up one's accounts," means to throw up, and *demimondaine* is a much more exotic term for, ahem, women of negotiable affection.

2. It's quite entertaining to think up

alliterative names for racy romance novels (because who wouldn't want to read a book entitled *The Lascivious Libertine Lusts of Luxurious Lady Lianne*?)

3. Practical girls don't feature highly in romances. Maybe that's because practical girls don't run off to the city, get chased by brigands and end up marrying a Prince. Practical girls stay at home, and marry the neighboring baker. The heroines, of course, all have to have a plucky attitude, equal-sized breasts, and no excess facial hair. Even though they're not bright enough to know not to talk to strange men, you can always rely on them to know where band-aids are, and to transform the hero from a potential scoundrel and rapist into a country gentleman with clean fingernails and fresh breath.

Not having read many romance novels when I was younger, I don't have the inflated expectations many other brainwashed women do on Valentine's Day. I've always found bouquets of roses rather depressing, seeing as they eventually wilt – and is that really something you want to use to symbolize your undying love and devotion?

One of the most baffling love clichés is the idea of romantic kisses in the snow. Many girls who have never lived in below-freezing temperatures find that this

# All that yucky love stuff



Youth 'n ASIA  
By Ella Micheler

fantasy warms their heart. Of course, your face would become so numb that the whole affair would be like snogging seafood from the frozen food section. Another danger is actually sticking together – nothing dispels romance like ripping off three layers of lip skin when coming up for air.

There is also this whole business of endearments. Admittedly, some people might have rather unfortunate names, but I don't see how calling someone "honeybunch" or "my darling little crumpet" is more

romantic. There is far too much emphasis on the edibility of your lover, which could suggest that you're starving and subconsciously contemplating cannibalism. Perhaps this is the origin of the maxim that the fastest way to a man's heart is through his stomach – although that might be because you get to avoid having to hack through that pesky ribcage.

People have become far too concerned with romantic fripperies, which has led me to believe that Valentine's Day is rather heartless. Why not shower people with love and affection every day? Why wait until Valentine's Day? Give your friends and family spontaneous hugs throughout the day! Tell your spouse of 10 years that you still love him or her! Tell your girl/boyfriend what you feel in your

own words, instead of surreptitiously stealing quotes off the Internet! And do it now, when your loved one can be sure that it comes from the heart and not out of obligation because of the damn date.

Perhaps our dreams of romance shouldn't be to be swept off our feet by tall, dark, handsome strangers. Perhaps we should simply be content to wake up next to someone who loves us.

But what's become of true love? What about this whole idea of Soul Mates and The One? Does it exist outside of our imaginations? The odds of finding The One are greater than one in six billion, and there's always the chance that one or both of you could die before you ever have the chance to meet.

Most teens scorn the idea of soul mates. Instead, they look for someone who simply "fits" them best – and maybe that is what true love is all about: sanding down the sharp edges of ourselves to make sure we fit that other perfect puzzle piece. The Greeks believed that soul mates were forged from the same flame before birth, then set on Earth to find each other again, while Wikipedia.org states that *Soul Mates* was an episode from the sci-fi series *Babylon 5*. I'll leave you to decide on your own definition.

To ensure that all my dearest, darling-est, chocolate-covered readers receive at least one Valentine this year:

You are the tonsils of my love – I could live without you but it would be a meaningless existence and I love you best when you're in my mouth... You are my appendix; don't leave me, I couldn't stand the empty void in my stomach... You are emblazoned across my heart like graffiti, and you invade my mind like algae on aquarium glass... When you sneeze, it attracts me like the call of a desperate yak in mating season.

With love more bottomless than a teenage boy's appetite, I wish you all a happy Valentine's Day.

## The strange pulling power of a 'gik'

Dear Momma Duck,

What exactly is a "gik"? Is it like a minor wife? A girlfriend? Does the word *gik* imply a sexual relationship? Can a person have more than one *gik*?

Stephano

Dear Stephano,

Chulalongkorn University students did some research among the student body about the meaning of the word *gik*. The meaning has shifted over time and varies from place to place and situation to situation, but the basic definition is pretty clear: it is a close but "platonic" relationship between two members of the opposite sex.

In other words, it is more than an ordinary friendship, but does not imply being a "fan" (girlfriend or boyfriend). However, it involves special feelings of closeness, sharing thoughts and feelings, wishing to be together and thinking of each other often.

As I mentioned, definitions vary, but some of the "rules" for a proper *gik* relationship are:

1. Feelings of jealousy and "ownership" not allowed;
2. There is no right to demand more than necessary;
3. The status of a *gik* may change toward or away from

becoming a *fan*, but there should be no sad feelings;

4. There is no question of a *gik* being "shared" among friends;

5. If your *gik* is going to have a boyfriend (or girlfriend) there should be no fretting, but rather acceptance with pleasure.

6. You do not "overdo" taking care of each other because you are "just" *gik*.

7. The number of *giks* one could have is, in theory, infinite.

8. If you are not afraid of Aids there could be sex involved. It is not common, but if it does happen there is no sense of implied commitment such as with a *fan*;

9. A *gik* should be both modest and confidential;

10. A *gik* is not normally a lover, and the relationship may have to cease if a girlfriend or boyfriend enters the picture.

*Gik* is a very popular word right now. It may have come into being as a derivative of the verb "kuk kik", which refers to the sweet nothings that pass between lovers. It is also special because it is a very short word, with an almost "out of tune" pronunciation to the Thai ear. We also love to shorten words. We can "see" a full picture when we hear this word.

Thai has a very rich vocabulary which describes subtleties of feelings and relationships between people because this is so important to us. Many people, especially men, seem to equate *gik* with "chu" (a partner in an adulterous relationship), but I think this is because many men are not comfortable with their girlfriend or wife having a close relationship with another male. *Gik* is also a great word to use when you want the status of the relationship to remain unclear.

A *gik* is a person one pays a lot of attention to – much more than a regular friend – but without sexual or marital commitment. It also has the sense of being a "confidante" and can also describe the early stages of a relationship when you are getting to know someone to whom there is still no commitment.

Having a *gik* relationship is good. It is certainly much better than being lonely, as it gives one somebody with whom to share thoughts and feelings – without having to be too serious about it. It can also be a colorful way of searching for real love.

In some cases, one's real girlfriend or boyfriend may be a boring type of person, and that is why one also needs a *gik*. Al-

ways remember that we Thais do not like to be alone. We like to be constantly with other people in a variety of relationships.

In the eyes of some women, a man who has many female *gik* is showing how good a potential lover he is. Some friends may even compete with each other. It is also possible that having a *gik* is to have someone to share expenses with – or even to get a free ride from.

Some think that boys tend to have more *gik* than girls in order to show off popularity in male drinking circles. Girls are more likely to fall into a *gik* relationship when they have trouble saying "no" to becoming a *fan*, or when they are not ready to make a decision about a suitor. Also, some girls tend to spread their charms around and feel good being popular; some may even think too highly of themselves, get bored easily or demand constant attention.

Despite the relative lack of commitment, a *gik* relationship is not always smooth sailing. Some old-fashioned people cannot accept this kind of behavior from younger generations. There can also be a lot of emotional involvement and stress on both sides, as is evidenced by the growing fre-



Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

quency of the work *gik* in newspaper headlines.

To summarize: a *gik* is not a *chu*, but if you have a *fan*, the relationship may have to stop. Both people in the relationship have to know where they stand. The *gik* couple love each other almost like a girl/boyfriend, but express their feelings as close friends.

The word *gik* does not have any strict dictionary definition, but it does create a sense of strange power in these days when the word "love" seems to have lost much of its own power.





This cat can get you to Krabi from Phuket in an hour – and in comfort.

## From boat to beach without a soaking

**Y**ou ever go sailing? The wind whistling in the rigging, or the lazy flapping of the sails because there is no wind and you're not going anywhere... "a life on the ocean wave" and all that.

It's all very pleasant apart from the fact that you've got to get onto the boat, and then, after all this enjoyment, back to shore. That often means a dinghy which, in my case, means waiting for the right moment to step in as gingerly as possible without either falling overboard, or – even worse – turning the dinghy over.

Once, during the King's Cup Regatta, while I was trying to board a dinghy from the beach, with a bag containing my camera, telephone, shoes, and clothing, a wave swamped the dinghy.

There are always waves, no matter how flat the sea is; they sneak up just as you're putting one leg over the side, and splat! – the bag is full of water, the phone and camera are wet all over, and you've got sand in your spare underwear.

It happens at the other end, too – getting off the yacht. The dinghy bounces up and down and swings this way and that, and even when you are aboard, you've still got to get out on the beach, which means being ambushed by a sneak wave again.

Once, when I was trying to disembark from a sailing boat at Chalong, the dinghy abruptly moved away from the yacht, and I found myself underwater, with my bag, wallet, money and smokes floating above me.

### LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

The sudden movement of the dinghy away from the side of the boat at the precise moment I was disembarking may have had something to do with the fact that the French-Caledonian owner of the yacht was sitting in the dinghy, and I had called him "a miserable Frog" a couple of days previously, to which he had not responded at the time.

The fact is that this whole dinghy thing is, for me, a downside to the glamor of boating.

### STEPPA

That is why I like the boats built here by Phuket Water Taxi. I've been running around on the monohull version for a few years now, and now they've come up with a catamaran version.

I like them because they can get you onto the beach without changing boats.

We've been using them for years for photography and filming because of the well-designed hulls – a New Zealand design known as Steppa.

The V-shaped bow turns very smoothly and cuts through the chop without the bone-jarring banging of the common Pattaya-built speedboats which were designed for lakes and rivers, not the swell and chop of the open sea.

But the rear end draws very little water, so you can back the boat right up to the beach and lift off the picnic basket without any danger of submersion, or even splashing.

And now the catamaran version is here, which is by far the most sensible boat for this area, especially in the shallow waters of Phang Nga Bay and narrow channels at low tides.

Like the monohull version, it's fast enough to get you to Krabi in an hour, and in comfort. It has a spacious cabin, head and powerful Suzuki four-stroke engines, which are much quieter than the two-strokes. But most important, when you get there you can step straight off onto the beach.

And another thing – if you do get stuck on a sandbank, you don't have to spend three hours or more sitting at a 45-degree angle until the tide comes back up.

Have you ever tried climbing down into the cabin of a sailing yacht when it's at 45 degrees to get another beer from the fridge?

## When court-ordered arbitration can work

**M**r A and Mr B were shareholders in a local venture building residential homes for foreigners. The venture was effectively divided into two parts: one for long-term rentals and one for building homes.

Unfortunately the venture's contractor died in the tsunami, and subsequent attempts at negotiating a replacement contractor failed.

As a result, the customers of Mr A and B worried that the construction of their homes would not be completed on time.

Ultimately, Mr A and Mr B had to employ a person to record their efforts to set up a replacement, using photographic and videotaped evidence in the event that there were further complaints from their customers. This process was both time-consuming and costly.

Finally, a new sub-contractor was employed, enabling building work to resume.

Mr A and Mr B were then greatly surprised to learn that their customers had filed a court case against them, and that the court had ordered all construction to be halted while the claims were in force. Mr A and Mr B



**LAYING DOWN THE LAW**  
With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

filed a counter-claim, and included all penalty payments, compensation for loss of time, and additional costs.

Having filed the two petitions, the court then made an appointment with both parties to sit down and, through arbitrators appointed by the court, try to resolve the dispute.

Mr A and Mr B arrived at the court with their lawyers to find that their counter-claim had achieved the desired effect – the other party was willing to settle the case immediately.

Although it represented something of a financial loss for Mr A and Mr B, it was nevertheless a speedy end to the problem, as their business had to carry on – building costs were rising every day that they were unable to continue with the development.

This example clearly shows that the arbitration system used in courts can be an effective, quick, and efficient way of resolving disputes.

### Riding a motorcycle? Please . . .



**Thai law requires that motorcycle drivers and passengers wear a safety helmet with the chin strap fastened at all times – 24 hours a day.**



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

## The people of Phi Phi do not need this kind of 'help'

It has to be said – and it has been said many times – that the tsunami, for all the horror it caused, offered an opportunity to clean up much of the environmental mess surrounding the most famous tourist beaches along the Andaman coast.

One of the most direly threatened was Phi Phi Don, with its rattling generators, chronic shortage of fresh water, lack of waste treatment, patchy garbage management (it was not unusual for divers to find plastic bags of garbage strewn across the coral) and ramshackle structures.

A former governor of Phuket even called, four years ago, for the Phi Phi Islands to be run as a state enterprise. He was booed to the rafters and nothing ever came of his suggestion.

After the tsunami, it appeared that the government was serious about cleaning up Phi Phi. A blanket ban on construction in the flat area between Ton Sai and Loh Dalam Bays was announced. In the tsunami this was a killing zone, the government said, and it should be turned into a public park, not vulnerable accommodation.

The locals resisted, not least because they were suspicious that “dark forces” were at work – but also because they feared the area would eventually be sold off to five-star hotel developers with high-level connections in Bangkok.

The government now appears to have backed away from its original post-tsunami stance. All that is holding up an end to the construction ban is the need to plan and create tsunami escape routes – or at least that was the reason given to the island’s long-suffering residents by Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptanlop.

All around Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi, warning towers have been erected and connected to the national system, and escape routes clearly marked. Planning started soon after the tsunami and construction was a priority.

Yet on Phi Phi, the clumsily named Organization for Specific Areas Administration for Sustainable Tourism Promotion (OSAASTP) has done nothing about escape routes, and its director says it needs another six months to complete planning them. DPM Suwat told him to cut that to one month, but it appears that only time will tell when this necessary work will be completed, if ever.

This is bureaucratic obstruction of the most monstrous kind. The people of Phi Phi are quite right in saying they do not need the “help” of the OSAASTP. No one in the world needs that kind of help. The OSAASTP should get out of Phi Phi now, and stay out.

– The Editor

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**Deputy Editors:** Chris Husted, Stephen Myles

**Chief Reporter:** Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

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

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### Contact us

**Advertising Sales:** adsales@phuketgazette.net

**Classified Advertising:** classads@phuketgazette.net

**Website Services:** koy@phuketgazette.net

**Gazette Guide inquiries:** guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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## Letters

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

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

### Monorail off the rails

Proposing a monorail from the airport to Phuket City is ridiculous. The new bus service between those places never has more than five people aboard, none of them tourists.

How many tourists want to be shuttled to a mass of ugly concrete after an international flight, when \$20 maximum gets them to their hotel directly? Are they supposed to get taxis once they arrive in Phuket City?

When will the public realize that the only people who propose such outlandish projects are those who will line their pockets by them?

Name withheld  
Kamala

### Hard rain's not gonna fall

I saw the front page of the Gazette (January 14 issue) and thought sadly, “Not again.”

I knew what the story was before I read it: “Luckily there’s enough water for now, but we will face another crisis soon.”

It seems that each year the authorities look to the skies for a solution to Phuket’s chronic water shortage problem instead of taking concrete steps to collect and conserve rainwater.

For years now I’ve read about the construction of the Baan Bang Neaw dam in Thalang and the Krata dam in Chalong – but it will be years before the island benefits from them. Meanwhile, Phuket’s permanent and tourist populations continue to boom.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana once admitted

that the city’s mains leaked more than 20% of their contents. Perhaps more attention should be given there.

Then, of course, there’s the continuing torrent of new developments diminishing the island’s water sources with no more thought than “has own well”.

As for water rationing – as practiced in other places on the planet that have limited water supply – in Phuket this would require self-restraint coupled with law enforcement on Phuket ... good luck!

I can’t help thinking that one year soon – and it will be sooner than later – the rains will not be enough and Phuket will suffer.

High & Dry  
Phuket

### Buses become taxis

Are there any regulations whatsoever on transportation fares?

If you take a “beach bus” from Rawai to Nai Harn (one of those blue trucks with “Rawai-Nai Harn-Phuket” on the side) it costs 20 baht.

But when you try to return from Nai Harn to Rawai on the same vehicle, it seems to have turned into a taxi or tuk-tuk – and the same route costs 200 baht!

I know there is a “tourist tax”, but this is ridiculous.

Jeff Walsh  
United States

### Short game is the secret to good golf

I found Mike Glass’s golf column in the issue of January 28 very interesting. I totally agree with

him that too many golfers spend too much time seeing how far they can hit a driver.

The problem with doing this is that a golfer will swing at top speed when hitting a driver. By repeatedly performing this movement the player will lose his rhythm in the swing. He is much better off hitting 7 irons at a target.

A driver, as Mike says, is used a maximum of 14 times in a round. He writes that golfers have an average of 30 putts a round.

If this were the case they would be playing at tour level; the European Tour putting average is 29.6. Amateur golfers with handicaps from 12 to 36 average 35 putts a round.

But the short game is where you will improve.

Mike spoke about the huge difference in equipment. When I took up golf in 1972, we had persimmon woods. My father bought me three of them for Christmas for £12.99 each (about 900 baht at current exchange rates). You can’t get a box of balls for that these days.

Last year I played with Lee Westwood, a fellow PGA tour golfer, and he uses a Ping driver and hits it around 300 yards. He is a few years younger than me, and he told me he had never used a persimmon wood.

The ball flies so much further these days partly because of the woods, but mainly due to golf ball design.

The golf courses have stayed the same, so fairway bunkers that were originally positioned to catch a wayward tee shot no longer come into play.

A golfer will think nothing of spending £500 (35,000 baht)

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



# Don't worry: Phuket is safe

Cases such as the recent ones on Koh Samui and in Pattaya certainly have an effect on the tourism industry.

Both Thais and foreigners travel to scenic areas and, naturally, want to feel safe when they are there. If they do not, then they will stop traveling to them. Safety and security are necessary factors in any tourist's decision to travel anywhere in the world.

As for the rape and murder cases in Pattaya and Samui, it was lucky that we caught the perpetrators. Rape and murder are big issues, and the Samui case showed that Thai police give tourists' security top priority.

The central government has funds budgeted to look out for the safety of tourists in each province. We have procedures to ensure tourists' security and we work on these procedures continually, especially during the high season.

In Samui's case, it has only one police station. Even that is understaffed, despite the fact that Samui is still growing as a tourist destination.

I feel that the government was not monitoring the situation

## FIRST PERSON

After the rape and murder of 21-year-old Welsh student Katherine Horton on Koh Samui, as well as the rape of an English woman in Pattaya, it is understandable that many visitors and foreign residents are asking questions about personal security in Thailand.

Here, **Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen**, Superintendent of Kathu Police Station, explains what is being done to ensure the safety of visitors in Phuket's most famous tourist town, Patong.



enough [there], although they're presently increasing the police presence on the island.

The experience of Phuket's police officers' is different from those on Samui. Phuket is a world-class tourist destination and

police here are service-minded – much more so than on Samui. We don't just have ordinary police here, either: we have the tourist police, public security officers and other units operating here.

We also have our eyes

open for terrorists and have Immigration Police at Phuket International Airport as well as an EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) squad to handle any bomb emergency. There are also ongoing training programs.

It's true that there are some areas of high risk, especially along the three-kilometer stretch of Patong Beach as well as at Kalim and at Friendship Beach, but we work around the clock and if people have a problem, we can be at an accident spot within five to seven minutes at any time of day.

Meanwhile, we have police patrols along Thaweewong Rd, Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd at nighttime, when most of the foreigners like go out.

We have four-wheel-drive beach buggy patrols as well as motorcycle patrols and foot beats for policemen.

Patong's main business is tourism and so we – local people as well as the police – need to take care of the tourists otherwise they won't come back. It's important that everyone works together and that the locals remain allies of the police.

There were 12 cases of

rape resulting death in Patong last year, and eight cases in 2004, which resulted in convictions. Sometimes there's a thin line to be drawn because if a foreigner takes a bar girl to his room and does not pay her, it's not counted as rape [even though it may be reported as such].

## AGGRESSION

Yes, there is quite a lot of drink-related aggression that results in people getting harmed because Patong is an entertainment venue, and there can be trouble when people have been drinking.

We had 80 cases of assault in 2004 and 67 cases in 2005. Tourist-related theft is also down: there were 178 cases in 2004 and 149 in 2005.

I estimate police efficiency to be 100% in Patong. Believe me, if we are not successful in our job we get punished by our superiors!

The question of safety and crime prevention is all down to police cooperating with local people and vice versa. I would say that if this happens Patong, and Phuket in general, will be safe and secure places for tourists to visit.

## Letters

for a new driver if he thinks he's going to hit it further.

So a lot has changed in golf: golfers are hitting the ball a lot longer and straighter as the club's sweet spot is bigger.

But one thing hasn't changed: golfers' handicaps, on average, are not a shot lower than they were 20 years ago, because golfers do not spend more time on their short game. The average standard of golf play has not improved by one bit.

When I'm not playing tournament golf, I'm up in St Andrews, where I spend a few days with amateur golfers. They receive golf coaching with the aim of improving their handicaps.

I guarantee them that they will knock four shots off their handicaps in the same year, or their money back. I have never yet had to return money to anyone.

I make my living from playing professional golf. The only way I can be successful at this is if my short game is hot. You have to be good from 100 yards and in. If you are, you will shoot low scores.

Tiger Woods played his first event recently after not picking up a club for 24 days. He hit only one fairway. He was hitting it all over the place, mainly right because he was scared of hooking it.

His score on Day 1 looked like this: Fairways hit – 1 out of 14. Greens in regulation 7 out of 18. Score 70-2. That's because

Tiger Woods has a fantastic short game.

So, all you readers of the *Phuket Gazette* who play golf, go to the driving range with a 7 iron, wedge and putter in the golf bag and leave the rest of your clubs at home.

Use them only when you go out onto the golf course. You will be amazed at the difference in your scores.

David Holloway  
Fife, Scotland

## Dump those British blinkers, Konrad

There are plenty of tireless tsunami heroes who didn't feel the need to tell us, as Konrad Stalin did (Toon Town, *Gazette* issue of January 21), that they were "at the center of the action".

While his concern for fair treatment of the British diplomats involved is touching, the deeds of the Thais and the international contingents were collectively so outstanding that only someone totally lacking in modesty or tact would single out just one nation for praise. Step forward, Konrad Stalin.

In his usual xenophobic fug, the *Gazette's* columnist has singled out the British as leaders in practically every aspect of tsunami rescue and relief.

Only because he raised the issue, and to make sure *Gazette* readers are given an accurate picture, it should be noted that

while the Brits no doubt did their bit, alongside more than 30 other countries, two other nations deserve special mention: Thailand and Australia.

The Thai volunteers and the Army and Navy performed magnificently. Other national contingents admitted they couldn't have reacted so well.

To their credit, the Thais have also acknowledged that the hugely successful identification of the thousands of nameless victims would not have happened without Australia's leading role.

For the record, the Australians were the first international contingent to arrive, and the first into the field.

Because of their preparedness after the Bali bombings, their representatives briefed the initial meetings of all the countries on how to proceed efficiently.

Soon afterwards, an Australian was elected by all countries to share the chief-of-staff's position of the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification project with his Thai counterpart.

The general who led the project has since revealed that Australia alone met the cost of all the TTVI equipment needs between January and May.

If Konrad took off his British bootstraps and blinkers, and told the whole story one of these days, it would make a pleasant change.

Marcia Mallows  
Chalong

## Issues & ANSWERS

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issue at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**

## What are the Thai building codes?

Where do I get a copy of the Thai building codes for house construction?

Petter Hallonen  
Phuket

**Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) Chief Suphot Suwannachote replies,**

You can contact the local administration organization (*Or-*

*BorTor* or *Tessaban*) for the area where you intend to build your house.

They can give you information about building control zones as they apply to Phuket, and as set out in the Building Control Acts of 1979 and 1991.

They can also tell you all about regulations and prohibitions, and also issue building permits.

## Where are all the house numbers?

Why is it that there are very few street signs and almost no numerical signs on buildings? How would the fire department, police, or even a pizza delivery person know where to go?

Directing someone, even one of the old-time tuk-tuk or motorbike operators, is very difficult when all you can say is, "It's near such and such."

Don Aleman  
Patong

**Sompol Khanyun, Chief of Building Control Department at Patong Municipality, replies,**

We have issued house numbers for every building in the municipality except those built in restricted areas higher than 80 meters above sea level.

Anyone who wants a house number can ask for registration at the Registration Department of Patong Municipality.



# There's no tab like an old tab

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Microsoft Office works in mysterious ways. I get a lot of questions about weird behavior in Word. Some of Word's features will drive you crazy.

Now that most people use Word as their Outlook email editor, the problems that plagued Word have come to plague Outlook as well. Take tabs for example. Please.

Back in the good old days (he says, stroking that virtual gray beard), a tab stop was a little piece of metal that stuck out of the back of a typewriter, strategically placed to stop the platen dead in its tracks.

Push the "Tab" key on an old mechanical typewriter, and the platen would zzzzzzz along until it hit the next tab stop. Literally. You could "set" a tab stop by pushing a button, which would flip down a piece of platen-stopping metal.

To "clear" a tab stop, you would move down to the stop you wanted to zap, and push a different button, which flipped the piece of metal back out of the way.

Tabbing on a computer doesn't work the same way. In fact, tabbing on the computer can't work the same way: there's no platen to go zzzzzzz. There are no little pieces of metal to stop the platen; there's nothing you can touch or see to set or clear.

But the concept of hitting a tab key and having your cursor go zzzzzzz across the page, stopping in a place that you can define, remains.

In Word, a "tab" is a character — just like any other character, like an "e" or an "@" — and a "tab stop" is a location in a paragraph, a distance measured from the left margin.

The behavior is much as you would expect: when Word is displaying or printing a document, whenever it encounters a tab character it moves to the next tab stop before continuing with the display or printing.

The very first thing you must do when working with tabs is to "turn them on" — that is, make them visible on the screen. It's easy to do: click on Tools | Options | View and make sure "Tab Characters" in the Formatting Characters area is checked.

While you're at it, make sure "Paragraph Marks" is checked, too; otherwise you'll never be able to figure out what's happening with your tab stops.

In Word, tab stops belong to a paragraph. They're stored in the paragraph mark. You might be tempted to think of tab stops as properties of lines; that is, you might think that you have to set up tab stops for every line in a document, and can vary tab stops from line to line. Not true. Indeed, in Word it's not possible. You get one set of tab stops for an entire paragraph, and they can't change within the paragraph.

To set tab stops, stick your cursor inside the paragraph that's to receive new tab stops, or select a bunch of paragraphs that are all supposed to receive new tab stops, then click Format | Tabs. You'll get the dialog shown in the screen shot.

Tab stops have a position, measured from the left margin. To put a simple tab stop at 10 cm from the left margin, for example, you merely type 10 cm in the box marked Tab Stop Position and click Set.

As you probably know, the radio buttons marked "Alignment" determine how characters are to be aligned around the stop: "Left" left-justifies (the most common type of tab stop); "Center" centers them; "Right" right-justifies; and "Decimal" aligns on the first period (presumably a decimal point). All of those were common choices when the IBM Selectric ruled the typewriting roost.

### LEADER

The "Leader" (pronounced "lee-der", not "led-der") is merely a character that's duplicated in the space preceding the tab stop — in other words, it's a character that's duplicated where the tab character preceding the indicated tab stop is taking up space.

So if you don't like white space you can fill it up with points or hyphens, or "@" symbols or any other character.

If you don't do anything to your paragraphs, they will have tab stops already set up at 1.27-cm (0.5-inch) intervals. Those are the "Default" tab stops you see mentioned at the top of the dialog box in the screen shot, and you can adjust the location of Default stops to appear at almost any interval. Default tab stops are always left aligned with no Leader.

Here's the tricky part about "Default" tab stops: they disappear! When you set a tab stop manually, every Default tab stop up to and including the location of that manual tab stop goes away.

For example, if you have Default tab stops set up every



1.27cm, and you set a tab stop manually at 5cm, the Default tab stops at 1.27, 2.54, and 3.81cm disappear. The tab stops at 5.04cm and beyond remain, though.

Finally, the trickiest part of all: tab stop inheritance. If you set up tab stops in a paragraph, those stops are stored in the paragraph mark. When you are typing in a paragraph and hit Enter to start a new paragraph, the tab stops in the old paragraph are "inherited" by the new paragraph.

(Propeller-head alert. Okay, okay. That isn't strictly true, all of the time. In one unusual situation, tab stops are not propagated to the newly created paragraph. If the style of the current paragraph is defined as having a different style from the following paragraph, and the cursor is immediately in front of the paragraph mark when you hit Enter — thus creating a new paragraph in the "Style for Following Paragraph" style — the tab stops are not carried to the next paragraph. If you don't understand that sentence, don't worry about it!)

If your tab stops in a document or an email message suddenly turn screwy, undoubtedly it's because you adjusted tab stops in one paragraph — or brought in a paragraph with weird tab stops from another document or message — and you hit Enter while your cursor was inside the adjusted paragraph. Those tab stops propagate to all newly created paragraphs.

Watch out! And keep your eyes on the paragraph marks. They hold the key.

**Warchalking update:** I hope to publish a new, revised "warchalking" list of Wi-Fi hotspots in Phuket by the end of February. If you know of any locations with Wi-Fi, send me a message! Free Wi-Fi spots get special recognition.

— Woody Leonhard  
woody@khunwoody.com

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Interpreting ambiguous signs in business matters could cause you headaches this week. If you can't see what's really going on, distance yourself from this particular situation until the end of the month. You will achieve most by applying energy to what guarantees results and by staying away from speculation. Birthday celebrations come as a surprise.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You have a lot to offer others this week. There is a slight danger that having too much on your plate will compromise your enjoyment, so reserve some time for relaxation. As the month progresses there's a strong likelihood that you will receive an invitation to travel overseas for a family celebration. This is one get-together that really shouldn't be missed.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): You run the risk of combining work and pleasure this week. As February progresses, you should keep these two areas of life separate. Where finances are concerned, everything in the garden becomes rosier; you can expect to make a profit on Wednesday or Thursday. On Tuesday alarm bells should ring in time for you to avoid making a blunder, but remain on red alert.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Travel is on the agenda this week. You may meet some interesting people along the way, so take care to note contact details down carefully. Where business is concerned, you have more control than you realize — so start exploiting this asset immediately. Love is in the air for those who are tired of sitting on the shelf. If you're already spoken for, Sunday holds sensual promise.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your emotions will be subject to ups and downs this weekend. On Saturday it will be hard to know how to take news that comes out of the blue. On reflection, you will probably realize that this surprise outcome is for the best. Facing up to facts on Monday should make you realize that action is called for regarding a business matter. The color sky blue will lift your spirits.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): The stars are ready to support new ventures undertaken by Cancerians, and February is an auspicious month if you're involved in a new business. An injection of cash is about to be offered by someone who recognizes your talents, but you should ensure that this works out to mutual advantage. Cupid shoots an arrow in your direction on Sunday — expect to meet an attractive Piscean. The number 7 looks promising on Thursday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): A magic wand will be waved above you this weekend. By Monday you should be confident that progress is guaranteed regarding a new business venture that has been slow to get off the ground. Nevertheless, cautious optimism is recommended for the rest of February as others will be hard to pin down. Wednesday is the most best day to discuss finance.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your ship is due to come in and will dock before the middle of the month. Those who were beginning to think that Lady Luck had made a beeline for competitors should receive good news on Tuesday. Flirtation can lead to something more this weekend; establish whether the person in question is available before proceeding. The number 1 is lucky on Monday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you've been trying to send smoke signals lately without success, it's high time to get the message across more clearly. Dealing with Sagittarius early in the week will prove particularly tedious, but Aries can fulfill the role of go-between. Property deals will go more smoothly during the last week of the month, so don't force any issues before then. The color russet will help you to feel more grounded.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): You should remember that although silence is often golden it can also be stony, so you should endeavor to find a balance. Allowing others to speculate what your next step will be is definitely the recommended course of action when it comes to business. Romance will benefit from laying your cards on the table. The person concerned is confused about your true feelings. Wear ruby red to encourage a healthier cash flow.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Your cosmic agenda this week includes much emphasis on socializing. This will naturally encompass making new business connections that should prove to be profitable in the long run. A personal relationship looks set to become more permanent, but a blast from the past has other ideas. Any dreams you have early next week can hold clues to a long-standing dilemma. Wednesday is the best day for bargain hunting.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Those who can't hold their feelings back any longer should choose Sunday to reveal deep desires. The astral atmosphere will guarantee the right response on that day, but don't instigate heart-to-heart talks after then. If you're looking for an opportunity to make more money, Aries has some useful tips. Aquarius will lead you up the garden path. Possessions are likely to be mislaid mid-week, resulting in a last-minute drama.





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## ON THE MOVE



The new Chief of the Phuket Provincial Revenue Office is **Pensri Passakul**, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat. She has an accounting degree from Kasetsart University and another, in law, from Ramkhamhaeng University. Before moving to Phuket, she was Chief of Sakon Nakhon Provincial Revenue Office for three years.



**Louise Barker**, 36, from Sydney, Australia, is the new Director of Sales & Marketing of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. She spent some time with Dynasty Hotels and Resorts, then Holiday Inn as National Inbound Sales Manager, followed by Mirvac Hotels and Resorts as Sales & Marketing Manager of the Hyde Park Plaza Hotel (Sydney), and then Le Meridien Port Vila Resort & Casino, based in Le Meridien's Regional Sales Office in Sydney.



**Wanvisa Thinsaku**, 29, from Phuket, has been appointed Sales & Marketing Director of The Palm Beach Club property development in Cherng Talay. She has a degree in humanities and a master's degree in art from the Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket Campus. She worked with Laguna Phuket for eight years, her most recent position being Manager of Canal Village.

# OrBorJor revenues hold steady despite tsunami

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) collected 404 million baht revenue from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005 – only 13 million baht less than predicted at the beginning of the budget year, despite the impact of the tsunami on the island's economy.

*OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepbutr told the *Gazette*, "The revenue collected

was satisfactory. Even though we had a tsunami, we still collected 404 million baht. It's a large amount, considering 80% of businesses in Phuket depend on tourism."

Fees for vehicle registrations, change of ownership details and other charges made by the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office contributed 140.79 million baht to the *OrBorJor*'s coffers, while Value-Added Tax (including VAT paid on hotel bills) pro-

vided 65.73 million baht.

"We thought that vehicle taxes would decrease," said K. Anchalee. "However, we collected 140 million baht, down from our prediction of 145 million baht."

"We doubted that this was correct, but we checked and found that cars damaged by the tsunami were mostly covered by insurance. So the owners bought new cars, which increased the amount collected in vehicle taxes to a good level again."

Some 66.28 million baht in revenue came from the Phuket Area Revenue Office, which is obliged to hand over 5% of the total revenue it collects from island businesses, and 52.05 million baht came from the central government for special projects.

Taxes on tobacco and fuel sold in Phuket netted 41.95 million baht, and 19.35 million baht was collected in fees and fines, including 17.9 million baht from the contested hotel rooms tax.

K. Anchalee explained that the *OrBorJor* waived the 1% tax on occupied rooms between January 1 and November 31, 2005, and re-instituted it on December 1.

"During the 2005 budget year, the *OrBorJor* collected 17 million baht from October to December in 2004, down from our expectation of 44 million baht."

K. Anchalee said that, as in the 2003-2004 budget year, fewer than half of the hotels required to pay the room tax actually did.

She added, however, that she expected hotel owners' attitudes to change during the current period.

"Most hotels understand that the *OrBorJor* spends most of its budget on developing the province's tourism industry. We prove ourselves to hotels with our work," she said.

But for the hotels that refuse to pay the hotel tax, K. Anchalee cited an example in Chon Buri where the *OrBorJor* took a hotel owner to court, and the hotel owner soon understood that the tax should be paid.

"We expect to collect at least 40 million baht in hotel tax in [budget year] 2006," K. Anchalee said.

"We don't think we will collect 45 million baht, as we did in 2004, as it's proving difficult to get the same number of tourists



OrBorJor chief K. Anchalee.

that we had then because of the tsunami," she added.

Of the remaining monies collected, 11.74 million baht came from rent and interest on bank deposits, 4.73 million baht was miscellaneous revenue, including from verifying and issuing copies of documents, and 1.68 million baht came from tin mine royalties.

The *OrBorJor* is not required to hand any of the 404 million baht over to the central government, and can spend it on projects as it sees fit, such as the 46-million-baht "Welcome Gate" being built at Tah Chat Chai.

In contrast, budgets provided by the central government are allocated according to Phuket's registered population, and are earmarked for projects to be carried out by provincial departments.

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# Japan leads downward charge

World financial markets entered 2006 in a positive mood and most stock markets recorded gains for the first half of January.

But then the mood suddenly changed, with Japan leading the downward charge. The initial blame was laid at the door of a Japanese Internet company called Livedoor.

A swarm of uniformed police prompted by the Japanese Securities and Exchange Commission raided the company's offices in Tokyo. The suspicion was that the company had been falsifying its financial statements to fraudulently bloat its results.

Unfortunately, Livedoor was a favorite investment for many small private investors in Japan, and this led to a stampede of "sell" orders on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

It was a perfect example of the herd instinct at work. Everybody seemed to be trying to push through the emergency exit at the same time.

Simply due to inadequate computer capacity, the Tokyo Stock Exchange was unable to process the sheer volume of transactions, and was forced to close 20 minutes early for the first time since it reopened after World War II.

The Tokyo exchange had already been under criticism for the same computer system in late 2005. A trader with the world's fourth-largest bank, Mizuho, unfortunately entered the wrong sell data. He meant to sell a single share in a company for ¥600,000, but instead his order was to sell 600,000 shares in the same company for ¥1 each.

Not surprisingly, his sell order was accepted by the market

in seconds, and Mizuho found itself nursing a loss of several hundred million US dollars. A director of Mizuho International in London later said in a television interview, "There goes our Christmas bonus."

The Tokyo exchange came in for a lot of criticism for not having a system in place to detect what was plainly a gross error. This was further compounded by two further instances, in December last year, of errors by other Japanese financial institutions.

This stock exchange was trying to limit the damage to its reputation when the Livedoor episode showed its total lack of capacity in times of over-exuberance. The capacity of four and a half million transactions a day was increased to five million from January 30.

However, situations can often develop into the stock market equivalent of a perfect storm. Intel, the US tech giant, reported disappointing earnings and future outlook, followed by Google, which had disappointed investor expectations. This led to an instantaneous reaction in Tokyo.

In the midst of all this turmoil, it was announced that Japanese consumer confidence had reached 15-year highs. But the market was in no mood to look at the big picture – the glass was half empty, and it was irrelevant to point out that it was also half full.

The Japanese market had recorded a 40% rise in 2005, and was probably overdue for a small



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

correction. Another negative factor was the rising price of oil, which had quietly crept up to higher than the mid-US\$60s a barrel. This, at the time, had created little media attention.

South Korea's stock market had also enjoyed a vibrant 2005, recording a 50% gain. Selling was also prevalent as the market corrected from record highs.

However, South Korea was overshadowed on the world stage by Japan and later by the US as Citigroup, America's largest bank, and GE also announced disappointing quarterly earnings, confounding street expectations.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which covers only 30 shares, was poised to break through the 11,000 barrier but fell back heavily into its old trading range for 2005. Again, other US indices which had reached all-time record highs, namely the S&P 400 (mid cap stocks) and the Russell 2000 index, which oversees 2,000 small companies, were almost ignored.

The same situation was reflected in other markets, for example in the UK.

The FTSE 100 index, quoted around the world as the benchmark, enjoyed double digit growth in 2005. Seldom mentioned was the fact that the FTSE 250 index, which covers 250 mid-sized companies, had enjoyed significantly higher gains over the past two and a half years, reaching new highs.

For investors who seriously want to be involved in stock mar-



An onlooker stares at a Nikkei stock market board in Tokyo, showing a rebound after days of losses.

kets, it is unfortunately true that small- and medium-sized companies are usually ignored, unless there is a tech stock frenzy in place.

It is also a simple fact that small- and medium-sized companies that are well-managed often enjoy profit growth that is the envy of their bigger brethren. They are easier to manage and adapt to change faster and more easily than large corporations.

The time not to be in smaller companies is when a recession looms; they are less liquid and can suffer greater price erosion as shareholders start to sell.

Returning to Japan, the overall situation is still good. Fall-

ing prices make for a cheaper entry point. The investor has to choose between two old maxims – "Never try to catch a falling knife" and "The best time to invest is when there is blood on the streets".

It is almost impossible to actually catch the bottom of a market, but buying close to the bottom is infinitely preferable to buying near the peak.

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](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th).

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# Record regatta fills Phang Nga Bay with riot of color

**P**oor winds dogged the 2006 QBE Phang Nga Bay Regatta on the first two days, Saturday and Sunday, with wind speeds of 3 or 4 knots leaving boats battling to complete races – and the organizers trying every ploy to ensure that there were as few DNFs as possible.

Winds picked up on the third day, Monday, to around 5 knots, when the record entry of 45 boats embarked on the colorful spinnaker run down to Koh Phi Phi Don.

In the Racing class, *G4S* shone, winning both on Day 1 and 2 by significant margins over second-placed *La Samudra* – nearly 30 minutes in the first race and 45 minutes in Race 2 (corrected times). Third place on both days went to *Switchblade*.

In Cruising A, *Minx* won the first day, being the only boat in the class to finish in time, but

ceded the honor on Day 2 to *Cinders*, with *Sudawadee* coming third.

Cruising B saw a similar situation with *Delfina* being the sole boat to avoid a DNF, but then coming second on Day 2, from Koh Yao to Krabi, two minutes behind *Blue Jay*, and ahead of *Maddalena*.

Not unexpectedly, *Moto Inzi* scorched ahead of the Multihull pack, crossing the line first on both days, but not by a large enough margin to win when handicaps came into play. Day 1 saw victory go to *Summersault*, followed by *Sting*, with *Moto Inzi* third. On Day 2, *Mumbo Jumbo* managed a three-and-a-half minute victory over *Moto Inzi*, with *Raptor 2001* third.

With 45 boats registered, the Phang Nga Bay Regatta is now the second-largest regatta in Southeast Asia, after the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

– Gazette Staff



There have been no complaints about the scenery.



Photographs by ArtAsia Press

## Thai military to swap rifles for racquets

PHUKET CITY: The Royal Thai Army Tennis Club will stage a major tournament for the armed and security forces at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) tennis courts from April 21-25.

A total of 250 players – from the Royal Thai Army, Air

Force, Navy and Police, will take part in matches at the six-court complex on Damrong Rd.

A conference chaired by Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura at Phuket Provincial Hall on January 24 heard that the Royal Thai Army had decided to stage the event in response to

the government policy of promoting tourism in Phuket after the tsunami.

The matches will be refereed by a 15-judge committee from Krabi Physical Education College.

The opening ceremony will be at 8 am on Friday, April 21.

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# ICC stamp authority on cricket league

By Rich Brown

PHUKET: The Island Furniture Cricket League, held at the British Curriculum International School, played the third match of its rain-delayed inaugural season on Sunday, January 29.

The previous weekend saw Patong Cricket Club (PCC) enjoying a reasonably comfortable victory over Kamala Beer Garden CC (KBG).

The match on January 22 was between tournament favorites Island Cricket Club (ICC) and the British Curriculum International School CC (BCIS). The school team, comprising mostly teachers, won the toss and elected to bat first, but in the end simply didn't have enough runs to vanquish ICC.

## Results and league table after Round 1

1. PCC 17 points (including 5 bonus points for bowling and 2 for batting).
2. ICC 16 points (inc. 5 bowling and 1 batting bonus points).
3. KBG 5 points (inc. 3 bowling and 2 batting bonus points).
4. BCIS 4 points (inc. 3 bowling and one batting bonus points).

(NB: Bonus point system: 1 point per 2 wickets taken and one point per 50 runs scored.)

The 10 am start on Sunday, January 29 found the KBG side a little short on players and forced to bat against ICC.

All players were hoping for a little more bounce in the pitch than it had shown the week before, as were the two BCIS schoolboys who were given the task of rolling the pitch for eight hours as part of a school punishment.

Their efforts appear to have counted for little as players still had to be watchful and get on the front foot as much as possible. This was too much for the understrength KBG, who were bowled out for just 51 runs.

Their score could have been even lower if not for a fine innings of 37 not out from their captain, Andrew Scattergood, which included a quartet of fours and a brace of sixes.

He soon determined that hitting across the line was risky and played mostly down the ground with good effect. His teammates failed to follow suit.

Bowler Jafa did the early damage, taking 4 wickets for 22 from 5 overs, while Anand at the other end bowled allowed a miserly 2 runs off 4 overs. Mention should also be made of Seemant Raju's 2 for 4 off 3 overs.

ICC began their innings somewhat off form, finding themselves at 9 for 2 after the first 3 overs with Ajay and Feroz both back in the tent for ducks, victims to Millward's tidy seam bowling.

However, this allowed Raju to join Dev in the fray and they set about the opening attack,

bringing them to the verge of victory. Raju, unfortunately, ran down the wicket to Scattergood – later declared Man of the Match – missed and was easily stumped by Terry Connell for a brisk 19.

This brought Anand to the wicket to hit a two to win the game for ICC in 11 overs. Dev batted throughout the innings for an intelligent 19 not out, showing good concentration and the ability to put the bad ball away.

Andy Millward was the pick of the bowling with 2 for 11 from 4 overs.

The players offered special thanks to ICC's sponsor Terry Hogg and the Surin Bay Inn which supplied lunch and refreshments for all the players.

Result: ICC 16, KBG 2.

## LEAGUE TABLE

1. ICC. Played: 2. Won: 2. Points: 32.
2. PCC. Played: 1. Won: 1. Points: 17.
3. KBG. Played 2. Won: 0. Points: 7.
4. BCIS. Played: 1. Won: 0. Points: 4.

The next match is between KBG and BCIS on February 5 at BCIS. First ball at noon.

Anyone interested in finding more about cricket on Phuket should contact Rich Brown at Tel: 01-7193414 or email: richardwkbrown@hotmail.com



Takraw is fast and furious. Here Phuket (in white) and Chumphon players take to the air by the net.

## Phuket take early lead in Takraw Thailand League

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

SAPHAN HIN: Phuket downed Chumphon 2-0 to jump out to an early lead in Division II play in Thailand's exciting new sports league, the Takraw Thailand League.

In the opening match on January 24, the Phuket A side of team captain Autaphol Arun-yamit, Nikorn Kongthep and Tanut Kaewpichai downed Chumphon A 21-14, 21-12. Phuket B then downed Chumphon B by a similarly comfortable margin of 21-16, 21-13.

Meanwhile, both the Ranong-Yala and Krabi-Satun matches ended in 1-1 draws, giving Phuket the early lead.

Organized by the Sports

Authority of Thailand, the league was formed to help raise the quality of play in *sepak takraw*, a sport played across Southeast Asia and also known as "kick volleyball".

Nine provinces have entered teams in the regional competition: Krabi, Chumphon, Trang, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phatthalung, Yala, Ranong, Satun, Surat Thani and hosts Phuket.

All matches are being played at Saphan Hin Gymnasium 1, where the final was scheduled to take place February 2.

The top two teams will qualify for the elite Division 1, with matches to take place in Bangkok.

Final results will be reported in the next edition.

# SOUTH KOREA'S HALLELUJAH FC TO PLAY IN PHUKET

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Hallelujah Football Club, which plays in South Korea's K2 League, will take on a team of Phuket's finest footballers as part of its upcoming tour of Southern Thailand, which kicks off in Phatthalung Province on February 5.

The Phuket side will be made up of players from the Phuket team that competes in the Southern Division of the newly established Thai League.

The match will take place at Surakul Stadium on February 16, starting at 6 pm. On February 15, the Korean stars will hold a soccer instructional clinic for children

starting at 4:30 pm. Admission to both events is free, and all are welcome.

Hallelujah FC, runners-up in the K2 League last year, have created many stars – including South Korean national midfielder Lee Young-Pyo who also plays for England's Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur. Appearing in Phuket will be Lee Sung Kil, the K2 league's leading scorer last year.

Wirat Nissaipan, who will travel with the team during their tour, told the *Gazette* that Hallelujah has a perfect record against Thai squads.

"They came to get ready for the upcoming soccer season in Korea. We hope

that the youth clinic will help to stimulate young Thai footballers and develop their skills. It will give kids a chance to see just how hard Koreans train and what it takes to get a national side to qualify for the World Cup finals," he said.

"This will also be the first time their team has ever visited Southern Thailand," he added.

Founded in 1980 by a Christian missionary group, Hallelujah FC was a founding member of the K-League in 1983, winning its inaugural championship before dropping out at the end of 1984.

A win in the 1988 President's Cup amateur competition followed as the team

prospered in the non-professional ranks.

Hallelujah FC moved their home base to the city of Iksan and joined the K2 League for the 2003 season, but took part in only the first of the two championship stages as protests by radical Won Buddhist groups in Iksan forced the Christian side out of their home stadium. For 2004, the club moved to Gimpo.

Their tour of Southern Thailand will also include stops in Satun Province (February 10-12) and Krabi (February 14).

For more information contact the Sports Authority of Thailand's Phuket Office at Tel: 076-250110.

## Patong Darts League

**January 24 results:** Queen Mary\* 9 The Boss Bar 0; Dog's Bollocks 8 Shakers\* 1; Amigos\* 5 Coyote Bar 4; Valhalla\* 9 Winchester 0 (walkover); Piccadilly\* 6 Two Black Sheep 3; OffShore 3 Didi's\* 6. (\* = Winner of beer leg)

**Standings:** 1. Amigos (13 pts); 2. Didi's (12); 3. Queen Mary, Valhalla (11); 5. Dog's Bollocks, Piccadilly (9); 7. Shakers (8); 8. Offshore (7); 9. Coyote (4); 10. Two Black Sheep (3); 11. The Boss Bar (2); 12. Winchester (1).

**February 7 matchups:** Winchester v Shakers; Amigos v Dog's Bollocks; Piccadilly v Valhalla; The Boss Bar v Didi's; Coyote Bar v Two Black Sheep; Offshore v Queen Mary. (Home teams listed first)



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short distance away.

The landscaped garden has a large *sala* and the roomy terrace area is ideal for entertaining and al-fresco dining.

The single-level floor plan features a large living and dining

area. The adjacent kitchen is equipped with the most modern appliances, including a two-door fridge, granite bench tops and ample storage in attractive timber cabinets.

A guest toilet is located at one end of the living area.

Two bedrooms, both with en-suite bathrooms, are at either end of the home, ensuring privacy. The master bathroom has marble tiles and counter top, and quality sanitary ware has been used throughout.

Hot water is on tap throughout the home.

The floors are marble and polished teak, and timber is also

used in the sliding terrace doors, internal doors and furniture. This fine home is offered fully furnished and includes air conditioning, high ceilings, undercover car parking and store room and well water.

If required, a rental management service can be arranged. The land title is Nor Sor 3 Gor and the price is 12.5 million baht.

For more information contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-288908, Email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com) or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)



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## Construction

by Anongnat Sartpisut



The site of the new development on Phang Nga Rd.

# Rebirth for Phuket commercial area

PHUKET CITY: Two rai of land on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City have been cleared in order to build 27 three-story, 216-square-meter Sino-Portuguese shophouses that are expected to be completed by September 30.

Each unit will cost 1.3 million baht.

Tamrong Tongtan, Chief of the Phuket Treasury Office (PTO), told the *Gazette* that, before being demolished, the buildings on the site – one-story shophouses erected in 1959 – had been rented out monthly for 1,300 baht per unit.

Former CEO Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi gave the land to the PTO which reached an agreement with the tenants to develop the area in order to increase its commercial viability.

K. Tamrong said, “We help local people borrow from the Government Savings Bank to rebuild better shophouses,” adding that “each tenant is responsible for the building of their own shophouse.”

“However, the Phuket City Municipality has laid down archi-



PTO chief Tamrong Tongtan.

tectural guidelines that the tenants must stick to,” he said.

He added, “Phuket City’s rapid development made us realize that these buildings were too old and dilapidated, and that a mixture of tradition with function is more appropriate and suited to the tone of the city.”

K. Tamrong explained that there are long-term benefits as each shophouse would cost only 900 baht a month to rent under 30-year rental contracts.

“We are sure that when these buildings have been completed, residents will be satisfied with the design, construction and living space,” he said. “The rent will also be very reasonable.”

Tenants’ consultant and PTO tenant, Likit Thaneerat, explained to the *Gazette* that three options were presented to the tenants: under the first option Phuket City Municipality would pay for the construction and then set the rent; under the second, the PTO would allow private investors to come in and build, then rent out the properties themselves; and under the third, the tenants themselves would pay the investment cost and the PTO would then charge minimum rent.

K. Likit said, “All of us agreed with the third idea, because that way the tenants still had the right to rent the buildings after the old contract terminated last year.”

He added, “Twenty of the 27 tenants are borrowing money, and when the project is completed we’ll all get straight back to business.”

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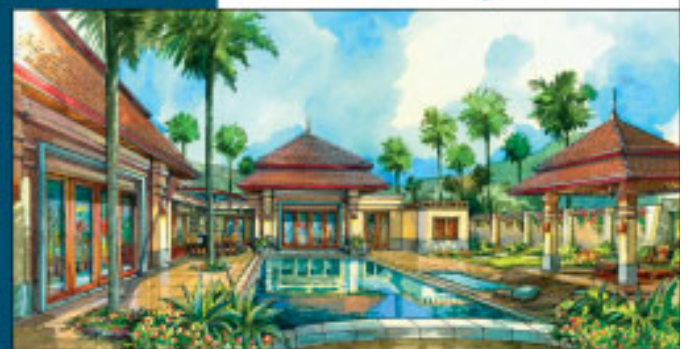
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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Dinosaurs of the plant world

I'm rather fond of dinosaurs. My favorite projects at primary school always involved prehistoric animals and gray, scaly-skinned monsters that nobody knew the names of except me. If nothing else, dinosaurs are distinctive, and they still exist today, in a somewhat different form.

Having left my school days some time behind me, I find modern-day dinosaurs much more interesting. These are the people who are convinced that little has changed since the halcyon days of their youth, and certainly have no intention of changing their own ways.

They're convinced that the music of their youth is the only logical and sensible choice, and want none of this modern nonsense. CDs? A fad. What's wrong with good old-fashioned vinyl? They will even argue that the music emerging from the speakers sounds better from an LP. They'll never change.

I'm hardly a paragon of fashion myself, but what is it with those dinosaurs of today? Now-graying old men may have looked quite dashing in their own way in their 20s wearing nothing but a thong. Silly, but perhaps dashing. Gentlemen of 65 wearing thongs on the beaches of Phuket today? Please – put on a pair of shorts like the rest of us.

And how about those grammar school teachers who insist on



Staghorn ferns get their nutrition mainly from the air.

wearing leather patches on the elbows of their jackets? I have absolutely no idea why. Then there are the sock dinosaurs. Why can't people understand that there is just something inherently wrong with wearing socks with sandals? The worst are those gray business socks that would look much more at home poking out from below the legs of a suit. It's just not right. Are these people worried about getting cold

feet? If any sandal-sockers are reading this – don't worry. Your feet will be perfectly warm in the cold light of day. This is Thailand. We may lack one or two things here, but heat is something we have in abundance.

We all know that crocodiles and alligators are the dinosaurs of the animal world, but what about the plant equivalent? Ferns are probably the closest you can get to a living plant fossil, and they are among the world's oldest

plants. Along with a few other odds and ends, ferns dominated the earth's flora in the age of the original dinosaurs.

They are from a time when flowers hadn't even been thought of. Flowering plants, or angiosperms as they are known in botany circles, didn't make their appearance until about 60 million years ago, when this incredibly successful form of plant reproduction quickly came to dominate the plant kingdom.

Stag horn ferns, or *ton fern* in Thai, properly known as platyceriums, are a part of this fern group. They are fairly unusual in the sense that they grow semi-epiphytically. In other words, they survive with very little soil, if any, and are often attached to tree trunks or branches or some other vegetable matter. They get their nutrition mainly from the air.

Staghorn ferns are among the most exotic of all patio garden-type plants. They come in a variety of 18 species, plus a number of cultivars and hybrids that those who are into that kind of thing have developed over the years. The plant is named for the antler-like fertile fronds that dominate the plant.

Since, in common with other ferns, they don't flower and obviously still have to do the business of producing more of themselves, most of them do so by periodically producing "offsets" when they feel that the conditions

are right. These offsets grow to maturity over a year or so, which starts the process of turning the single plant into a clump, to use the technical expression.

This process can be left to continue indefinitely over a period of years, and the clump can become huge. At any time these offsets can be separated from the mother plant and mounted individually. These are the new plants – clones of the parent.

Ferns also reproduce through spores, which are the brown patches that develop on the underside of the fertile frond (leaf) tips. Far from being a problem, it's actually a sign of health when these brown patches appear. In nature, some of these wind-blown spores grow into mature plants over a period of years.

The antler-like fronds that grow out from the base are the fertile ones which produce the spores. The fronds that cover the plaque at the base of the plant are called shield fronds, and cover the root structure. They hold together the soil substrate and also serve to catch nutrients. These shield fronds grow from the center out, are green for a short period, and then turn brown. Again, this turning brown behavior is normal for them, and is not a sign of an unhappy plant.

Most staghorns are easy to grow. In general, they like bright patio light but not much, if any, direct sunlight. They don't like to be sopping wet or bone dry for extended periods of time. Water them thoroughly with a hose and then let them dry out. In average Phuket conditions, they should be watered every couple of days in the dry season. These ferns thrive best on palm trunks or on the branches of trees, in filtered light beneath a canopy of trees.

Staghorn ferns are one of those plants that encourage sensible gardening. Once you've pointed them in the right direction, you can leave them to their dinosaur ways while you get on with the more important process of cracking open a beer. Lose the socks, though.

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Yes, the old *hong nam* has come a long way from the days of being banished to the end of the garden, and with interior designers' more innovative creations come a wider range of bathroom accessories. Let's have a look at a few available on the island.

For readers with 168,000 baht to spare and a yearning for a water massage, Home Pro is currently stocking Ozen whirlpools with eight standard jets, 17 "air pool" jets and 12 micro jets. The model, believe it or not, is called the "Tsunami", and the whirlpool can be fitted free-standing or sunken.

If you're going to blow 168,000 baht on a whirlpool bath, then the chances are you can afford a glass washbasin and counter for a mere 32,950 baht.

However, for those who have children within a 50-kilometer radius of their house, perhaps a more robust stainless-steel washbasin would be better, also from Home Pro, for 5,140 baht.

Keeping up with the Joneses has never been easier with stainless-steel soap holders for 490 baht (the glass model is 699 baht), and if you don't want to languish at the bottom of the social totem pole, then you could do worse than buying a matching toothbrush holder – 395 baht in glass, 799 baht in stainless steel.

To add the decisive edge on your bathroom brio, you simply must buy a boldly designed loo roll holder at 1,515 baht with a towel rack at 6,045 baht.

Saeng Chai Panich also deals in *hong nam* fittings with ceramic American Standard, Adola, Sasso and Romica soap holders from 170 to 325 baht. Making your lavatorial libations more classy should be a doddle with Adola towel rings from 380 baht and toilet roll holders from 220 to 670 baht.

The range of bathroom accessories at Saeng Chai Panich is extensive, with prices reflecting sizes, shapes and colors.

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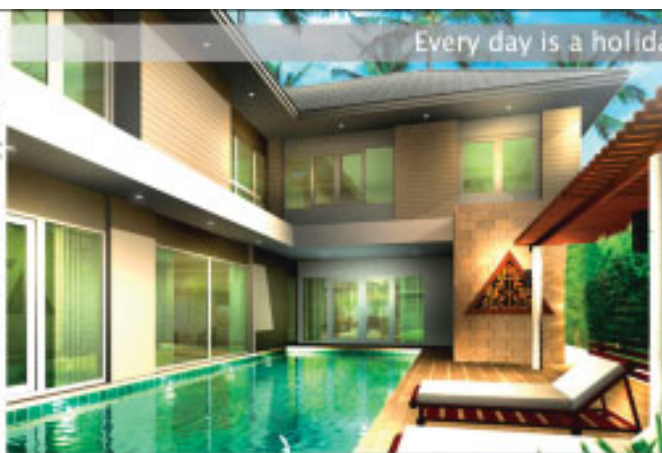
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# Property Gazette

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house. 130 & 200 sqm house with Chanote title, 400m from the beach. Asking 900,000 baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### NICE POOL VILLAS FOR SALE



In Kata, Nai Harn. Prices start from 7 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sale@chokeproperty.com More pictures of nice villas can be seen at: www.chokechaiproperty.com

### NEW HOUSES 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

### LARGE LUXURY HOUSE

Superbly-built family house for sale in a nice location. For more details and pictures, please see our website at: www.phukethouse.info

### RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

144sqm house with 400sqm or 600sqm of land, 350m from the beach. Asking 2.4 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES

2 new, connected shophouses on Wiset Rd, in Rawai. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. 2nd floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bathroom. 3rd floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area of 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. For further information, please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

www.knightfrankphuket.com

Knight Frank



### Lakeshore Residences for Rent "a grand sense of style"

- 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms villa
- fully furnished
- just minutes from Laguna Golf course and hotels
- long-term lease preferred
- spacious interior and grounds
- affordable rental, perfect for families.



### Laguna Townhome Resale (Phase 1) "guaranteed lifestyle investment"

- 3 bedrooms, maid's quarters, private pool, sala, outstanding furniture and finishes
- located in Laguna's most sought-after phase, high demand for rental, excellent lifestyle choice, secure location
- purchase includes all Laguna benefits and privileges
- construction quality to international standards.



### Layan Gardens "contemporary spacious apartments"

- just 40 luxurious apartments, most with sea views
- spacious 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 800sqm penthouses
- 65% sold out
- great lifestyle investment.



### L'Orchidee Residence "unrivalled quality with outstanding views"

- every villa has never to be built- out sea views, and private pool
- walking distance to the beach
- ideal holiday villa with short-term rentals and management by Knight Frank
- exclusive development with breathtaking views.



### New Laguna Townhome for Rent "golfer's dream"

- 3 bedrooms, spacious living, fully furnished
- secure & peaceful location
- separate maid's quarters
- well located to airport, schools and cosmopolitan restaurants
- landscaped grounds, private pool, outdoor sala
- full management services by Knight Frank.



### Laguna Villa Resale "gem of Laguna"

- 3 bedrooms + maid's quarters, land area approx 1350sqm
- pool and sala, purchase includes all Laguna privileges
- additional modifications and improvements made by current owners
- freehold ownership
- high-demand, executive rental area
- this villa has been maintained in immaculate condition by Knight Frank for over 2 years.

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Amey  
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### UNIQUE SEAVIEW LAND

High above Chalong, with panoramic 180-degree views over Chalong Bay, temple and Phuket City. Ideally suited for development of a single large residence or a small project. Approximately 3,300sqm, Chanote title and Thai company. Asking 12.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 06-2740010, 01-9799825.

### 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 for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit the website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### PATONG CONDO

Sky Inn. Located 400m from the beach. Has a 90-year leasehold. Asking 550,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Baan Benjamas on Soi San Sabai in Patong Beach area. Has a living room, Western kitchen, dining room, a storage room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, cable TV, 3 air conditioners, a telephone and 24-hour security. Located 50m from a pool. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

### 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

### 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



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# Property Gazette

## FREEHOLD FLAT



Phuket Palace Condominium, fully furnished, 1- or 2-bedroom, 1- or 2-bathroom, with kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Please call for info. Tel: 09-8719739.

## SPECIAL OFFER 3.8 MILLION BAHT

3-bedroom bungalow in Anuphas Golf Ville, Kathu, for sale on a 81sqw corner plot. Bungalow has 2 bathrooms, UBC, telephone. Located 5 minutes from Tesco Lotus, 10 minutes from Phuket City, 15 minutes to Patong and 30 minutes to the airport. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-8912926. Fax: 076-238940. Email: vikundaq@loxinfo.co.th

## NEW VILLA, KATA

Luxurious villa, on 600sqm. Ready to move into; with pool and sea view. Special price: 16 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-0639223. Email: info@msa-phuket.com

## FOR SALE/RENT

4 bungalows and 1 restaurant at Bang Tao Beach. Tel: 01-8946686. For more details, see our website at: [www.phuketnatureplace.com](http://www.phuketnatureplace.com)

## LAND IN RAWAI

3 rai in a good location. Selling for 3.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

## LAND WITH SEA VIEW

For sale on a hill in Rawai. 794sqm for 11 million baht. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 air conditioners, a new kitchen, phone line, near the beach. Asking price: 2.2 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 04-6268105.

## 16 RAI ON ISLAND

A perfect spot for a resort or hotel, with a white-sand beach for swimming and a pier for boating. Asking 3.9 million baht a rai. Please call the owner for more details. Tel: 09-6575664.

## COMPLETE PROJECT

Ready-to-launch showhouse plus office, ready to make 200 million baht profit. No brokers. Price: 90 million baht for 12 rai. Please contact for more information. Email: kanton20@hotmail.com

## BEACH LAND PLOTS



Half a rai with 15 meters of white sandy beach frontage located on Naka Island. Only 3 minutes by boat from Phuket's east coast. Excellent investment opportunity. Asking 3.5 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-3430777.

## NEW APARTMENTS

A selection of our independent listings:

- Crowne Plaza - 2 bedrooms, 12 million baht.
- Kata Heights - 2 bedrooms, 17.5 million baht; 3 bedrooms, 35.25 million baht.
- The Breakers, Kata - 1 bedroom, 6.9 million baht; 2 bedrooms, 14 million baht; 3 bedrooms, 17 million baht.

- Patong Harbour View - 1 bedroom, 4.5 million baht; 2 bedrooms, 6 million baht; 3 bedrooms, 9.9 million baht; penthouse, 15.9 million baht.
- Royal Phuket Marina - 2 bedrooms from 12 million baht.
- Mangosteen Suites - 2 bedrooms, from 13.6 million baht.

Tel: 076-398106, 07-283-7161. Fax: 076-398517. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com For further details, please see: [www.karonproperty.com/developments.html](http://www.karonproperty.com/developments.html)

## LAND: 320 SQM

16m x 20m at Sai Yuan, close to old Thai-style house. Chanote, road access, sea view from second floor, 15 minutes to Phuket City, 10 minutes to Rawai and Nai-Harn Beaches. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-244562, 01-7979781. Fax: 076-355326. Email: info@jkphukethomes.com

## AO POR BEACHFRONT

land. A wonderful piece of land (3 rai). Asking 7.5 million baht per rai. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-5388891. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

## 32 RAI WITH CHANOTE TITLE



Layan Soi 1. A premium residential zone, 5 minutes from Layan Beach. Garden view, public road access (40m). Price: 3 million baht per rai. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-0503007, 06-5658421.

## HALF-RAI PLOTS

Located in a luxury development with underground electricity, 10 minutes from the airport and 20 minutes to Central Festival. For quick sale at only 1.3 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-2712825.

## LAND - BEST PICK!

A 1,200 sqm plot in a quiet area of Kathu, with access road, water & electricity supply. Price: 4 million baht. Email for a photo. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-209424, 01-9683120. Fax: 076-209424. Email: nikkie@csloxinfo.com

## CHERNG TALAY

Near Laguna. 1 rai + 1 ngan for sale, good for commercial or residential building. Location on main road. Price: 5.1 million baht. Tel: 06-2746511.

## HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU

2-story house, land area 500sqm, 3 air-conditioned bedrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 3 bathrooms, 1 car parking space, 1 swimming pool and a garden. Price: 7.9 million baht. Please call for information. Tel: 01-5388891. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

## BEST DEAL

in Land & Houses. A fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2-year-old house at Chaiyaprek in Land & Houses Park is for sale. Includes phoneline. Asking only 3.2 million baht. Please call K. Pam for more information. Tel: 01-8105559.

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Kata Beach Property Market  
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email: [info@msa-phuket.com](mailto:info@msa-phuket.com)

## THAI-STYLE HOUSE



For sale in Kamala. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, garden, kitchen and pool. Asking 20 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7475622. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE,

villa 5. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, 2 air conditioners, kitchen, 1 car parking space. Location: behind Kajornkiat school. Price: 1.9 million baht. Please call for information. Tel: 01-5388891. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

## EVERYTHING MUST GO

House + office, furniture, 2 x 2-year-old JRD motorbikes. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-1466622.

## HOUSE IN KATA



The house is located about 800 meters from Kata Beach, in a quiet safe area, with no traffic. 3 bedrooms, one with balcony. 2 bathrooms and 4 air conditioners, UBC and telephone line. Asking 3.8 million baht. Tel: 07-0297590 (Eng) 06-7612511 (Thai). Email: bjaco2@hotmail.com

## NEW POOL VILLA

in Land & Houses Park. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Asking 6.2 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 07-8852969. Email: junekata@hotmail.com

## 1 TO 100 RAI

of beach front. The last beach in paradise is for sale, starting at 1 million baht per rai. Please call for full details. Tel: 07-8938747.

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## Properties for Sale



- ◆ Splendid villas with direct beach frontage, 4 b/r, private pool
  - ◆ Outdoor Jacuzzi, gymnasium, spa
  - ◆ Bang Tao beach location
  - ◆ Near 5 star hotels
- Baht 76 - 82 Million



- ◆ 2 b/r waterfront condo, f/f
  - ◆ Berth outside your front door for a boat, free membership to Phuket Boat Club
  - ◆ Access to hotel facilities
- Baht 5.9 Million (Freehold)



- ◆ 2-3 b/r contem. tropical villas
  - ◆ 200-290 sq.m., living area on 400 sq.m. land plot
  - ◆ 2 carports & private pool
  - ◆ Close to Banyan Tree golf course
- From Baht 7.7 Million



- ◆ Land 7.2 rai on Aman Hill
  - ◆ West coast of Phuket, sea views
  - ◆ Next to Amanpuri resort
  - ◆ Suitable for villas or boutique hotel development
- Baht 8.5 Million / Rai (Freehold)

## OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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## CONTACT PHUKET LANDSEARCH

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# Property Gazette

**Phuket Paradise Properties**  
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## Exceptional Investment Opportunity Central Patong Land Lease and Building For Sale!

The premises are situated in a prime location immediately adjacent to the luxurious new Tailife Spa on Soi Sunset, close to Bangla Road. In principle consent has been obtained to extend the existing 3-floor structure up to 5 levels, providing a rare opportunity to develop 1000m<sup>2</sup> – 1600m<sup>2</sup> of quality hotel accommodation in central Patong. Other uses may be considered. The owners are offering the lease and building for sale or will consider a joint venture development. **Contact Mike at SV Associates for details. Telephone 06 277 6698**

## THE BEST, NO JOKE, THE BEST



The old song goes: "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot..." (Sound familiar? This is what Phuket is becoming.) We refuse to do this; our land is right beside a National Park with the best sea view of Phang Nga Bay I have ever seen (considered by many to be one of the 7 wonders of the world). We are going to keep the park-like atmosphere, so no street lights and minimal paved roads. If you like giant original-growth trees behind you and Phang Nga Bay in all its wonder in front of you, call me. Chanote title, sea views. Starting at 3.8 million baht per rai. Also, flat land with some sea views available for 2.4 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Nai Harn Beach, 1.5 rai of land for fast sale. Asking 4.4 million baht or best offer. Tel: 09-7291391.

## BEACHFRONT LAND

Paradise spot on Phuket, with road and electricity. Owner needs money. Tel: 06-267-0898.

## OCEAN VIEW APARTMENT



with a rooftop terrace, for sale. This unique property has 2 bedrooms with private en-suite bathrooms, a large living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, and a private rooftop terrace with plunge pool. Fully furnished. A turn-key property at 19.5 million baht. A must-see. For full details, please contact Peter Glover. Tel: 04-847-7100. Email: info@phuketpropertysearch.com [www.phuketpropertysearch.com](http://www.phuketpropertysearch.com)

## LAND FOR SALE

Cherng Talay-Manic, 2 rai of nice land, with a mountain view, a 2m-high surrounding wall, many mature palm trees. Option to split into 1 rai parcels. Asking 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 06-2746511. Email: baancoconut@hotmail.com

## STUNNING KATA

seaview. Asking 6.5 million baht per rai. Please call for info. Tel: 09-6525664.

## 1 NGAN IN RAWAI

Within walking distance of the beach. Price: 950,000 baht. Perfect for a small home. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8938747.

## UNUSUAL



2 houses together including 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, a swimming pool and sea views; many possibilities. **Price: 12 million baht (240,000 euros)** (May sell separately) **KATA BEACH PROPERTY MARKET** Tel: 04-0639223. Email: info@msa-phuket.com

## INVESTMENT IN PHUKET

A hotel located at the heart of Patong Beach, in the exclusive residential district of Baan Benjamas, approximately 100m away from the Jungceylon Shopping Center at the new Patong Bypass Road. Has 4 apartments of 30sqm each and 2 apartments of 40sqm each, plus an owners' apartment of 60sqm as well as a restaurant and bar with 25 seats. All licenses included. Option: buyer can rearrange a maximum 3 shops of 400sqm altogether on the ground floor and 1st floor. In addition, 4 luxury apartments of 80sqm each or 10 guest rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors, as well as a penthouse of 120sqm on the top floor. Inclusive company + Chanote title + foreign work permit at basis of shareholders change, for 30 million baht. Email: philipp@loxinfo.co.th

## APARTMENT FOR SALE

2-bedroom, fully furnished apartment, minutes from Bang Tao and Surin Beaches. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

## 1 RAI

near Don's Minimart, Soi Sai Yuan. Asking 4.5 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

## 5.5 RAI BESIDE WATER, CHALONG BAY.

Asking 8.5 million per rai; good for expensive home or apartments. Tel: 07-2747470.

## NICE 2-STORY HOUSE



Approximately 140sqm, fully decorated + 5 air conditioners. Located in a safe area in Kata. Financing may be available. **Price: 4.5 million baht (90,000 euros)** **KATA BEACH PROPERTY MARKET** Tel: 04-0639223. Email: info@msa-phuket.com

## NAI HARN 1 RAI

Asking 4.5 million baht. Last plot from Nai Harn. Act fast. Tel: 09-6525664.

## NUMBER ONE SEAVIEW

Rawai. Overlooking Chalong Bay, Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Tel: 06-2670898.

## IN CHALONG,

500m from beach. 1 Rai in a perfect location near a main road, with electricity and water supply. Tel: 01-5376866.

## LAND FOR SALE

Mission Hills Golf Course, 401 square wah. Tel: 06-6858886.

## LAND & HOUSE

for sale. Good location, good price, good environment. Call K.Pasit. Tel: 06-6269899.

## 4 RAI NEAR YACHT CLUB, CHALONG BAY

Asking 2.7 million baht per rai. Has road, electricity and water supply. Tel: 07-2747470.

## NEW KATA BEACH

Good location, 2-story. Take offers. Tel: 06-5958512, 01-9704638. Email: nalumana@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 1 RAI, RAWAI & CHALONG

2 plots of 1 rai each – one in Rawai near beach, other in Chalong. 3.3 rai. Tel: 07-2747470.

## Properties For Rent

## HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Includes 2 air conditioners and a bedroom, hot shower. Location: a quiet area at Palai Green, Chalong. Tel: 01-8924311.

## 2 BEDROOM LAKEVIEW

3-story apartment/loft with 2 bathrooms near Lotus. Has air conditioning, UBC, and phone. Asking 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8928208.



## HOUSE FOR RENT

A 2-bedroom, fully furnished townhouse in a quiet, great location near Tesco-Lotus, Central Festival and Big C. Recently remodeled, with 3 air conditioners, 3 bathrooms, UBC, Cable TV, ADSL Internet and a large kitchen. Available for long-term lease.

Tel: 076-203129, 06-5941768, 076-202893. Email: urai.somjai@yahoo.com

## RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished house for rent, 220sqm, with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, air conditioning, WiFi, cable TV, a tropical garden with swimming pool, very quiet, electricity not included. Rent: 40,000 baht per month for a minimum of 3 months. Contact for more information. Tel: 07-2678389. Email: mesfilles@hotmail.com Please see the website at: [www.christianesblue.com](http://www.christianesblue.com)

## CHALONG CIRCLE OFFICE SPACE



- A 4-x4-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)**

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Chalong. Fully furnished; 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 air conditioners, a garden, hot shower and kitchen. 5 minutes from Kata-Karon Beach. For long-term (1 year) rent at 12,000 baht a month. A 6-month contract for 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-538-8891. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

## PATONG ROOMS

Fully furnished, with air conditioner, hot water, fridge and cable TV. Rent: 7,000 baht, 9,000 baht, 12,000 baht per month. Call Khun Thip. Tel: 04-6272975, 09-7306436.

## NEW POOL VILLA

near Laguna. Stunning 2 bedroom pool villa, contemporary Bali design, fully furnished and decorated, aircon throughout. Excellent security, scenic location. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 01-3701189. Email: ann@phuketrealty.net

## NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

/sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 air conditioners, cable TV, garden, hot shower and kitchen. 5 minutes to Patong Beach for long-term rent at 30,000 baht per month. For sale at 4.6 million baht. Call for info. Tel: 01-7356684, 04-1871939.

## 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.

## 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

## NEW HOME OFFICE

For rent/sale. Modern home office in beautiful project, with 3 stories and carpark 1km from Central Festival, on Chaofa Nok Rd. Asking 35,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-224620, 01-5360536.

## HOME OFFICE/SHOP

3 stories, with new glass, new air conditioner, 2 phone lines. In a prime location on Chaofa East Rd. Rent: 22,000 baht/month and 2 months' deposit. Tel: 01-0808557. Email: info@no1visa.com

## 9 RAI

Plot with a nice view, good for a resort, spa, etc., next to Pae Ma Nam, for long-term rent. Close to hospital, about 1.5km from Big C, Tesco-Lotus, and Central Festival. Tel: 01-8675084.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, phone line, big garden plus 2 air conditioners. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Call for more info. Tel: 04-6268105.

## LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 20,000 per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8928208.



# Property Gazette



## NEW 2-STORY HOME

for rent. Very convenient location in Phuket City. Just 5 mins to Tesco-Lotus, Central, Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Unfurnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, front and back yards. 18,000 baht per month. Please contact Ann-Gazette at **01 868 7676**

## 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)

## BANGTAO BUNGALOWS

New, detached, unfurnished homes with 2 bedrooms, large bath, hot water, surface cooking units, and a car park. Located in a lush garden area close to a waterfall. Long-term lease at 11,000 baht-13,000 baht per month, with 2 months deposit. Tel: 076-270377, 06-2786465, or 04-7451409.

## ROOM FOR RENT

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for rent. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, ADSL & computer, 3 air conditioners. Asking 19,500 baht a month for long-term rent. For more information. Tel: 01-8926069. Email: [meen443\\_40@hotmail.com](mailto:meen443_40@hotmail.com)

## GUESTHOUSE

for rent or sale. In a good location, Patong, on the island of Phuket. A 2-story building with 9 rooms. Ground floor: a bar with restaurant. Rental fee: 800 Euros per month. Tel: 076-345015. Fax: 076-345-015. Email: [wolfies@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:wolfies@phuket.ksc.co.th) For further details, please see our website at [www.wolfiesguesthouse.com](http://www.wolfiesguesthouse.com)

## DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pha Klok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in a quiet area with club house and 24-hour security. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: [suksavat@hotmail.com](mailto:suksavat@hotmail.com)

## HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent. Quiet, unfurnished, 260sqm, just 10 minutes drive to Phuket City, Central Festival. Has 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, garden and 24-hour security. Asking 12,000 baht per month for long-term rent. On Chao Fa Nai, 9/118. Please call for full details. Tel: 01-494-4165.

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for rent. 57square wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Asking 10,000 baht per month for long-term rental. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-263772 or 04-1857041. [www.phuketshopping.com](http://www.phuketshopping.com)

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An appealing, furnished villa near Chalong circle. Has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a comfortable living area opening onto a covered terrace. Western kitchen, air conditioning and a carport. Looking for careful long-term tenant. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-280466.

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## Property Wanted

### 1 RAI SEAVIEW

in village. Land with seaview to build a house. Must be in a good area with many neighbors, and near shopping in Kamala. Please contact for info. Tel: 05-7842004 or Send photo to Email: [ahw@telia.com](mailto:ahw@telia.com)

### TOWNHOUSE WANTED

Looking for a townhouse, ideally on a busy street in Patong or Kata area, for sale or rent long term. Ground floor will be used for small business, upper floors for living. Email: [rina@asianet.co.th](mailto:rina@asianet.co.th)

## Accommodation Available

### LONG-TERM APARTMENT WANTED

for 5 years, commencing August: a 2-bedroom apartment with pool access, located in Surin Bay area. Can pay a maximum of 40,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Email: [aussie.ridge@hotmail.com](mailto:aussie.ridge@hotmail.com)

### PHUKET SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

Luxury apartments on a hillside in Patong, rooms of 82-200 sqm, large terrace, kitchen, swimming pool. Affordable long term rates. Please contact. Tel: 076-296888. Fax: 076-297021. Email: [contact@prince-edouard.com](mailto:contact@prince-edouard.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.prince-edouard.com](http://www.prince-edouard.com)

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in Kata. Fully furnished apartments in Kata-Karon, available also for long-term rent. Tel: 076-333242, 09-651-7818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: [horstkaron@yahoo.com](mailto:horstkaron@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website: [www.capt-horst.com](http://www.capt-horst.com)

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### HOUSE OR TOP

floor apartment. wanted House, top-floor apartment or anything considered a building to live in from May 2006 for 1 year, around 7,000 baht per month. Here to view now. MUST BE QUIET. Phuket Town near the park or Chalong or Rawai best. Please contact for further information. Tel: 05-1435570. Email: [eunson101@yahoo.com](mailto:eunson101@yahoo.com)

### COMING TO PHUKET

I will be in Phuket in February and am looking for accommodation in Karon or Patong. Approx 1,000 baht per night. Pls respond by Email: [george@trommelen.net](mailto:george@trommelen.net)

### 3 BEDROOM

furnished house. We are looking for a 3 bedroom furnished house for long term rental. Must be safe and quiet, and have fenced/walled garden, aircon, screened doors/windows, and UBC. ADSL ready preferred. Include photos w/ reply if possible. We live in Phuket now. Move-in date is 15 March. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-6521799. Email: [robertmichael7@hotmail.com](mailto:robertmichael7@hotmail.com)

### APARTMENT

wanted for 3-4 months. I am moving to Phuket on February 10, or so, and would like to find a nice apartment in/near Patong. I plan to spend 10,000 to 20,000 baht per month and am willing to pay up-front for the right place. Required: furnished w/nice bed, TV, etc, kitchen, clean. I'll be having a Thai friend check everything out before I get there, so if you think you have a nice place, please let me know ASAP. Email: [finks213@gmail.com](mailto:finks213@gmail.com)

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### WOODEN PATIO SET

Square table + four chairs. Includes brand new cushions. 2,500 baht for the whole set. Tel: 09-8649957. Email: [joel757@hotmail.com](mailto:joel757@hotmail.com)

### MICROWAVE, 3 IN 1

Stainless steel, best quality, 3 functions: microwave, barbecue, heating oven (250 degrees). Like new: 15,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 076-281034, 07-2807451. Email: [peter@phuketinternet.co.th](mailto:peter@phuketinternet.co.th)

## Household Services Needs

### NANNY

housekeeper. Five 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. Tel: 076-388309, 05-8096805. Email: [dietrich@loxinfo.co.th](mailto: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. Tel: 01-5392673. Email: [chiefslave1@hotmail.com](mailto:chiefslave1@hotmail.com)



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**Translator/Project Assistant** (based in Phang Nga)

**Specific duties and responsibilities**

- Work with the American Red Cross Water and Sanitation Project and report directly to the American Red Cross Water and Sanitation Coordinator
- Accompany staff to the field as a translator
- Translate documents from Thai into English and vice versa
- Ensure the project complies with required policy
- General office reception duties, including receiving visitors and phone calls, and managing office correspondence such as email and faxes, filing, and archiving.
- Book hotel reservations for staff and visitors
- Type correspondence and reports in both Thai and English
- Take minutes during project meetings

**Requirements:**

- Thai nationality with a degree or diploma in a relevant field
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English
- Some experience/knowledge regarding Health Care would be an asset
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills
- Skilled in MS Office package and the use of Internet
- Preferably working experience with a humanitarian organisation

**WATSAN Project officer** (based in Phang Nga)

**Specific duties and responsibilities**

- Work with the American Red Cross Water and Sanitation Programme
- Liaise with coordinator and manager in implementing the community based WATSAN programme
- Supervise and monitor volunteer, school, and community programme activities
- Establish contact with local authorities and beneficiaries, and effectively communicate programme objectives to these parties
- Train volunteers involved in school and community projects
- Write bi-weekly timely and accurate reports on the programme

**Requirements:**

- Thai nationality with a degree or diploma in a relevant field
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Preferably 2 years of experience in the field of WATSAN
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills
- Knowledge of basic health care would be considered an asset
- Ability to write effective and timely reports in English
- Skilled in MS Office package and the use of Internet
- Ability to drive automobile or scooter/motor bike would be consider an asset

Candidates are requested to send a covering letter and Curriculum Vitae in MS WORD format only to Email: sumant.kumar@ifrc.org Only short listed candidates will be acknowledged. Closing date: February 10, 2006.

## Secretarial Assistant

- ➔ High discretion
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- Excellent command of spoken English (or other foreign languages)

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Please send an application letter together with resumé and one recent photo to Email: [interlaw@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:interlaw@loxinfo.co.th) or [bernd@phuket-realestate-law.com](mailto:bernd@phuket-realestate-law.com)

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## OFFICE MANAGER

A project management company is seeking candidates for the position of Office Manager. Thai female/male with a good command of both spoken and written English, computer skills required, basic accounting knowledge, experience in real estate, good leadership and communication skills. Salary negotiable. To apply, please send your CV or contact for more information: Chrysalis Estates Co., Ltd. 20/12 Boat Lagoon Moo 2, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83200.

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- A minimum of 2 years of experience in operations and planning of office buildings, condominiums, apartments is an advantage
- Fast moving and excellent service mind- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills and proven team leadership skills
- Excellent in both written and spoken English

## 2. Accountant

- Bachelor degree in Accounting
- 3 years working experience
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- Knowledge of Quickbook is an advantage

## 3. Head of House Keeping

- Minimum of 4 years experience in controlling stock, staff in hotel or service apartment
- Fast moving & service minded
- Problem solves & leadership skills required
- Capable of reporting & controlling expenditure
- Excellent spoken English

## 4. Assistant to Property Manager / Secretary

- Female, age 22-28 years
- Bachelor degree in Accounting, Secretarial College or any other related field
- Good command of English
- Good relationship, hardworking and teamwork, service minded

CBRE  
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CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
12/9 Moo 4, Theprasattri Rd., T. Kohkaew, Muang,  
Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-239987 Fax: 076-239971  
Email: wanpen.duangjit@cbre.com



## Watson Property Group Thailand

WPG is a local Property Developer whose projects include Bel Air Panwa, Kata Heights and a number more in the planning stages. In line with our expansion, we invite suitable and qualified candidates to join our dynamic Sales Team.

## Sales Executive (based in Panwa and Chalong)

### Qualifications:

- \* Previous experience in property sales
- \* Excellent written and spoken English skills
- \* Computer literate
- \* Outgoing personality
- \* Driver's license

Qualified candidates are invited to send or email a CV and recent photograph to:

Watson Property Group (Thailand)  
19/49 Moo 8, Chaofa Road, Chalong, Phuket 83100  
Email: sales@belairpanwa.com  
Website: www.belairpanwa.com

## EXEC SECRETARY /

secretary. Our clients seek a female with good English, secretarial skills and a nice personality.

1) Executive Secretary: 20,000-25,000 baht per month.

2) Secretary: 15,000-20,000 baht per month.

For more information please contact Tel: 076-264442, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-264-443. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

## NEED HOTEL STAFF

Phuket One Plus One Co., Ltd

1. Guide (2 positions)
    - Male / Female
    - 1 year of experience
    - Good written & spoken English.
  2. Masseuse (2 positions)
  3. Cleaner (2 positions)
- Contact K. Aoy. Tel: 076-286581, 09-9088148.



Paradise Designs is an Architectural Design Consultancy based in Phuket. To cope with our expanding projects, we are looking for bright & dynamic candidates to fill the following position:

## ARCHITECT

- Bachelor's degree in Architecture
- Minimum 5 years of working experience in the architectural industry
- Ability to organize & supervise projects independently
- Ability to handle all facets of architectural work including general administration, client interfacing, general design, contract documentation & site supervision
- Good communication & interpersonal skills
- Fluency in English is essential

Interested parties please send CV with expected salary to Rungrapa Sakdiwong by Email: onn@paradisepuket.com or contact Pongsatorn Prechanuwat (Senior Architect) at Tel: 09-4824668.

Paradise Designs Limited  
5/50 The Plaza Surin Building, Chermg Talay, Talang,  
Phuket, 83110 T: 076 271 241 F: 076 271 242



## URGENTLY REQUIRED

An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products/services has vacancies for

**FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH>**  
EARN 40,000.00 - 50,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

### Qualifications:

- 25-35 years of age, Thai nationality
- Must speak English
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but is not necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full, comprehensive training

## TELESALES / RECEPTIONIST

EARN 15,000.00 - 20,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

### Qualifications:

- Thai females
- Able to speak, read and write English
- Able to use computer (MS Office program)
- Work experience in sales/telesales
- Good personality and service-minded
- Interpersonal skills and enthusiastic

Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:

SVENSON HAIR CENTER THASIA LIMITED  
P.O. BOX 1057, SILOM, BANGKOK 10504

## WANTED: FARANG EXPORTER

We are looking for a farang to export drink. Very good salary offered. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8478352.

## MASSAGE STAFF REQUIRED

at a hair and beauty salon in the Surin Beach area. Applicants must be hard working with knowledge of pedicure and manicure procedures. Good salary plus accommodation provided. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-8952441.

## TEACHING

Teaching positions are available in the following disciplines:

- Science & English;
- Maths & English;
- Drama & English;
- Physical Education & English;
- Art & English.

Relevant degree/teaching experience required, and applicants must be native English speakers. Salary comparable with international schools. Submit cover letter and CV to vanasiri@satreephuket.ac.th

## ACCOUNTANCY

is fun. Core work is to input data. English, QuickBooks, Excel and Access all advantages. On-the-job training given in smart Phuket City office. Please call Tel: 01-8952206.

## 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. Please call for more info. Tel: 04-8498391.

## STAFF REQUIRED

For Western restaurant on Sai Yuan Rd.

- Head cook
- Waiter/Waitress
- Bartender

Basic English required. Please call K. Jo for more information. Tel: 01-5805886.

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

## GRAPHITE GOLF

clubs. Full set of Ben Hogan Apex Edge Irons from the USA. 18 months old. Used by 5 H/C golfer. Asking 25,000 baht. Tel: 01-9241447.

## UNDERWATER VDO

equipment for sale. Sony PC 120 with Karl Zeiss optical lens + Ikelite housing + 2 batteries + Red filter + Fire wire cable + TV cable + transport bag + Cleaning tape. 2 years old, recently serviced by Sony. 50,000 baht for all. For info. Call Fabien Tel: 01-7888912. Email: fabienbelleinguer@fundives.net

## FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Recumbent bike, elliptical. Price new: 80,000 baht. Now 50,000. Very good condition. Tel: 01-8918755. Fax: 076-341032. Email: easy4fitness@yahoo.com

## DVD SURROUND

system. Sharp DVD player with 5 speakers. Bought 4 months ago for 9,000 baht. Plays anything. Warranty card. Only 5,000 baht! Tel: 05-8787721. Email: chris\_wardle70@hotmail.com

## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

### Phuket City

Mission Hospital  
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital  
on Fri at 7 pm

### Patong

Patong Hospital  
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call  
012732053 (Scandinavian),  
018954763 (English) or  
018912895 (Frank)

## Business Opportunities

## LOOKING FOR

partner. For the first slimming Resort in Phuket. Required capital: 6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2740010.

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant and bar with 50 seats, in Patong. Lease for 8 years, low rent. Financing can be discussed. Tel: 02-249-1533, 07-0888724. Email: jsmithy2005@yahoo.com

Excellent real estate investment opportunity. \$5,000,000 will secure a guaranteed 50% profit in just 12 months.  
Kata Beach Property Market  
04-0639223  
email: info@msa-phuket.com

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well-run visa run business including tour office at Rawai Beach. Please contact K. Jaachim. Tel: 04-8512378 for more information.

Kata/Karon  
Looking for a good investment in property  
visit  
www.msa-phuket.com

## DISCO IN PATONG

Partnership with disco, great location. Interested parties. Tel: 09-5141288.

## FREEHOLD

guesthouses. 15 rooms, reception, bar, restaurant and kitchen, located in Karon - 14 million baht. 15 rooms in central Patong - 24 million baht. 18 rooms, 5 leased-out bars, bakery, tour desk, reception, located in Karon - 45 million baht. 12 rooms, restaurant, bars, Internet in central Patong - 18 million baht. 8 self-contained apartments with extra land in Kata - 40 million baht. All freehold with Chanote titles and many leased guesthouses. Tel: 076-398106, 07-2837161. Fax: 076-398-517. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com. For further details, please visit website: www.karonproperty.com/guesthouses.html

## BAR FOR SALE

In Patong, just 20 meters from the beach, includes all fixtures and fittings, such as pool table, UBC, kitchen, 40 seats. A 3-year contract + 3-year renewal. No key money. Rent: 52,000 baht per month. Asking 750,000 baht + 6 months of rent as deposit. Tel: 06-7430978.

## SHOPHOUSE

for rent. A four-story shop-house is for rent at 9/4 Prachanukroh Rd (next to Phuket Directory). Rental fee: 30,000 baht a month. No key money. To take over air conditioner, fans, etc. from current renter, add 300,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-292725, 07-8822597. Fax: 076-292-726. Email: euro-art-gallery@planet.nl

## BAR FOR SALE

Soi Bangla area, with all fittings. price: 250,000 baht. Tel: 01-8928579.



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## PHI PHI ISLAND SHOP

Three floors, cheap rent, 30 meters from the beach with a sea view. Tel: 04-1847250. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

## 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.

Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-0820039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@hotmail.com

## JEWELRY

Are you looking for high-fashion jewelry to sell overseas or a low-risk, high profit-margin opportunity to work into your own business in Thailand? Then contact us without delay, to turn your dream into reality. We are offering you the chance of a lifetime, to invest in a proven profitable business selling high-fashion jewelry made by some of the best designers in Thailand. Please call or email today for further information. Tel: 09-5875956. Email: pk\_jewelry@hotmail.com

## CAFE / RESTAURANT

& 3 rooms for rent in very good location close to Patong Beach. Can rent with the 3 rooms or the shop alone. Small key money + monthly rent. Very good price. Tel: 04-844-8381. Email: garyone1@hotmail.com

## PARTNERSHIP OFFER

European businessman offers partnership in new limited business in Europe and Phuket. I have years of experience from Europe and Thailand, and good connections in Thailand. Work permit no problem! Business beginning directly, everything prepared! Participation: 27,000 Euros. Please Email: MiamiBeachN@netscape.net

## PERSONAL TRAINING

centre. 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 information. Tel: 01-088-0422. Email: alun@vitagroup.net

## KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Tex mex: 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock, and furniture. For sale 0.5 million baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Call after 5 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

## SHOP AT SURIN

beach. On main road, in best location, opposite Silk Plaza. Asking 290,000 baht. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

## NITECLUB FOR LEASE

Patong's Bangla area. 3-4 entertainment licences + dance-restaurant/cafe licence. Tel: 07-0170135.

## BAR/ RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Profitable bar/restaurant for sale on Koh Samui. Stylish and modern design with great international and Thai food menu. 100 sqm excluding outdoor terrace area and owner accommodation (located above the restaurant). Excellent reputation for quality food and service. Located in central Chaweng along the beach road. Strong advertising and marketing campaign in place. Sale includes all fixtures and fittings, stock at time of handover, and registered company with three work permits. Five-year lease. For more info, Email: kohsamuirestaurant@hotmail.com

## 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

## GREAT BUSINESS

Opportunities. In Phuket - a prime location, in the newly constructed Simon Entertainment Plaza on busy Bangla Road in Patong. • 800sqm, 2 floors, 3-year lease with 3-year renewal option. This space is very well suited for an impressive disco/nightclub. • 5 shop-houses (ground floor only), 48sqm each, 3-year lease with 3-year renewal option. Please contact for info. Tel: 01-8267129. Email: infobangla\_entertainment@yahoo.com

## BAR FOR SALE

Kata beach bar going cheap. Pool table. For more information please call Khun Raneel Tel: 06-6833964.

## Business Products & Services

## SELLING YOUR PROPERTY ?

Come experience the best in sales and support. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-345081, 01-9241-447. Email: mail@villa.co.th

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Company Registration 2,229 baht; One Year Visa 4,999 baht; Retirement Visa 4,999 baht; Work Permit 4,999 baht; UK & US Visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 4,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Always your low price by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact. Tel: 076-345277 (24 hours). Email: info@siam-legal.com For further details, Pls visit: www.siam-legal.com

## THANIT STONE FACTORY

State constructions tender offer & bidder (certified by all government divisions and the private sector): asphalt concrete road, drainage and dams, infrastructure, building construction, earthworks and landscaping. Facilities and equipment: plant asphalt concrete, pavers, pay-loaders, excavators, rollers, motor graders, trucks, other heavy machines. Contact Mayteene. Tel: 01-8952990, 09-724-4102, 01-9584076. Fax: 076-224969. For more details, pls see our website www.thanitstonefactory.com

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## PERSIAN CARPETS

Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Free pick up and delivery. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

## Cameras & Equipment

## CANON CAMERA

For sale. IX50 with 22-55mm + zoom 55-200mm + flash 380EX. As good as new. All for 9,000 baht. For more information please call Khun Misu. Tel: 01-3973291.

## Computers

### COMPUTER REPAIRS

English technician, new or used computers. GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Tel: 09-4735080.

### COMPAQ DESKTOP

Compaq Presario, 3 months old. 293ghz, 160gb hard disk, 760mb ram. DVD writer. many great programs, modem, webcam, and speakers. 30,000 baht. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 07-2798520. Email: waikidivecafe@hotmail.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale



## GOLF CLUBS

for sale. Ping Eye 2 Irons 3-9 PWSW, Wilson 105 Driver new, Wilson Putter new, Calloway Bag new. Price: 25,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 09-5872694.

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pool table? Looking for something different? Why not re-cloth with one of our exciting new range of pool-table cloths. Different colors include traditional green, blue, red, orange, yellow or even gray, from just 7,500 baht. Tel: 01-8234627. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

## Miscellaneous Wanted

## LOAN WANTED

10 million baht required. Will pay 8% quarterly interest with good security. Email: patongbrewery@aol.com

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Qualified teachers are available to teach modern foreign languages to students or staff in the tourism industry. Tel: 076-211099, 01-2716990. Email: tutoring\_3@hotmail.com

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Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

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## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

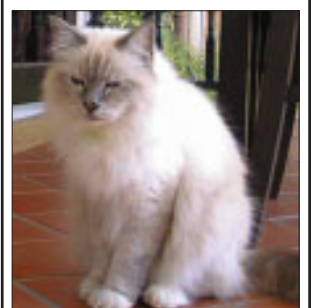
Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

## RELATIONSHIP

53-year-old man living in Phuket and USA looking for a lady 25-35 for a long-term relationship. Pls reply by email now, or call my mobile phone after March 2. Tel: 06-0681972. Email: ydelk@hotmail.com

## Pets

### REWARD 10,000 BAHT



For information leading to recovery of Suai. no questions asked. Tel: 07-050-8688 (English), 05-068-9302 (Thai).

## DOG SITTER

wanted. Dog lovers - is there anyone who could care for my young spaniel at times that I go away? I do not want to leave him in kennels. Happy to do the same for you. 8th-13th Feb needed. New to island, and would like to make friends with other dog lovers. Tel: 06-2712758. Email: annatandy@hotmail.com



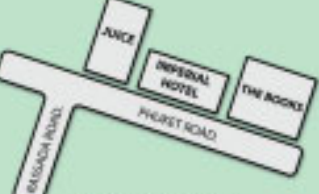
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