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# The Phuket Gazette

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**News:** Reefs 'generally in good shape' following tsunami; *OrBorJor* to resurrect Phya Thai Hospital.  
**Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** Anchalee's Golden Gate.  
**Pages 4 & 5**

**AROUND THE REGION:** Foam isn't fun.  
**Page 9**

**PEOPLE:** Off the Wall: It's party time; Photographer Chris Swift.  
**Pages 10 & 11**

**LIFESTYLE:** Love, lust and laughs for Valentine's Day.  
**Pages 12 & 13**

**GOOD LIVING:** Read 'em and eat - at Food For Thought.  
**Page 14**

**CHIRPY SLURPY CHEAP EATS:** Fishballs and noodles.  
**Page 19**

**NEW! CAPITAL LETTER:** Conversation with a Cannibal.  
**Page 25**

**FIRST PERSON:** Monorail madness.  
**Page 27**

**SPORT:** Blue Canyon Open; Jet-ski tourney; Volleyball; Cricket league.  
**Pages 32 & 33**

**PROPERTY:** Construction: Patong Natural Home; Decor: Doilies; Home of the Week: Chalong; Gardening: Bloom-in' Bert knows.  
**Pages 34-37**

## PLUS

**QUEER NEWS, WEDDINGS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 16; HOROSCOPES, PHUKET DIARY 17; MOTORING 18; TAKE A BREAK 21 & 22; OUTSIDE IN, BOOKS 23; MAKING TRACKS 24; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26 & 27; COMPUTERS 28; ON THE MOVE, BUSINESS AND MONEY TALKS 30 & 31; CLASSIFIEDS 38-47.**

## JUNGCEYLON RESCUED

Mystery investor breaks deadlock between battling partners



The 'Grand Opening Soon' banner outside Jungceylon is now looking like a realistic boast.

By Anongnat Sartpisut

**PATONG:** A mysterious white knight has ridden to the rescue of the stalled Jungceylon megamall project, buying 53% of the mall's operating company from one of the two main partners, who have been at loggerheads for months.

The identity of the white knight was being kept secret at the time of going to press, but it is understood to be a major investment fund that has pledged sufficient money to cover the operating company's debt and give it the funding it needs to complete the mall.

The deal breaking the deadlock between Thanit Rattana-Kamchai - who owns the site - and Manit Udomkunnatum, principal of the operating company, Phuket Square Co, was brought about through mediation efforts headed by Samrarn Yothayai,

Chief Judge of Phuket Provincial Court.

Judge Samrarn said that the two parties met at the Bankruptcy Court recently to conclude a deal with the major creditor, Krung Thai Bank, whereby K. Mani relinquished his 53% share of Phuket Square Co to K. Thanit, backed by the investor.

### LAWSUITS

As a result of that hearing, the investor will cover all the debt accumulated by K. Mani, and both K. Mani and K. Thanit will withdraw all pending lawsuits against one another.

Jungceylon, which occupies 55 rai of land off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, was due to open in November last year, but K. Thanit and K. Mani became involved in a protracted legal dispute in early 2004, over the ballooning cost of the project.

Originally Jungceylon was

projected to cost 1.7 billion baht, but this soared to 3 billion baht, and K. Mani started looking for new investors to join the project.

K. Thanit, however, disagreed with this strategy, saying that he could accept neither the inflated cost nor changes to the management committee of Phuket Square Co. He refused to countersign checks issued by K. Mani to pay the main Jungceylon contractor, Powerline Co.

Powerline stopped work and, as a result, Krung Thai Bank declared its loan to K. Mani to be in default. The bank filed a complaint with the Bankruptcy Court in Bangkok, asking for him to be declared bankrupt.

With the new injection of funds, however, Powerline could soon be back at work on the Jungceylon site. Judge Samrarn told the *Gazette* he understood the mall could open for business as early as September this year.

## Police to seek Austrian's extradition following jet-ski death

By Gazette Staff

**KAMALA:** Kathu Police are to seek the extradition of an Austrian in connection with the death of a Thai man, allegedly killed by a jet-ski while spearfishing near Laem Hin on January 25.

Kathu Police Superintendent Pol Col Teeraphol Thipja-roen told the *Gazette* that the Austrian, a 29-year-old tourist, was questioned after the incident but was released because of lack of evidence. The Austrian had since left the country.

But Col Teeraphol said police now have a witness who saw the Austrian in the water near the victim. The Austrian was then seen to get back on the jet-ski and leave the area.

### UNCONSCIOUS

Kathu Police will now forward the case to the Foreign Affairs Division of the Royal Thai Police, he said.

Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Chaowalit Niemwadee earlier identified the victim as Nikhon Nachaiya, 28, from Chong Talay.

K. Nikhon, who was wearing a diving mask, was found by lifeguards, floating unconscious in the water off Laem Singh, Kamala. He was rushed to Patong Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Col Chaowalit said that when police questioned the Austrian soon after the accident, he admitted to having rented a jet-ski, but denied hitting anyone.

The man who rented the jet-ski to him backed up the Austrian's story, saying that the vessel was undamaged and had been returned before the accident occurred.

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# Reefs 'generally in good shape' following tsunami

By Nattamon Ratcharak

PHUKET CITY: Some 13% of reefs inspected after the tsunami had 50% or more of their coral destroyed by the waves, experts from Japan and Thailand, as well as local divers, were told on February 1 at a seminar at the Phuket Merlin Hotel. In many other places, however, the coral was undamaged.

Spearheading the seminar was Sakanan Plathong, who led a team of volunteer divers and staff from the Coral Reef and Benthos Research Unit (CRBRU) of the Department of Biology at Prince of Songkhla University, Haad Yai Campus, in a survey of

reefs along the Andaman Sea coast between December 30, 2004, and January 15, 2005.

Benthos is a term used in marine biology to refer to animals and plants living in, on, or just above the seabed.

## REJUVENATE

K. Sakanan said that, at the popular Similan Islands, dive sites off Island No 9 had suffered the most damage from the tsunami. However, he added, 70%-90% of the coral in the park had survived intact.

He explained that, in order to rejuvenate the coral as quickly as possible, the CRBRU organized teams of divers to clean

debris from reefs. Longer-term steps to protect the coral include closing some dive sites, monitoring sea water quality and installing artificial reefs, he said.

"The initial recovery involves volunteers and divers from marine foundations. They are assigned to help surviving coral recover by fixing iron frames to the seabed so the corals are not drawn away by the current.

"After this first phase, we use other methods, including attaching frames made with quick-drying cement or epoxy resin.

"We have already saved about 250 colonies, but we have about 500 more colonies to follow up on," K. Sakanan said.

## Ticket scam Brit skips court hearing

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Court has issued an arrest warrant for 24-year-old Briton Jonathan Duncan after he failed to appear in court on February 6 to face fraud charges.

Duncan was arrested on August 30 last year, following complaints by people who bought cheap air tickets from him.

It is alleged that Duncan bought the air tickets by fraudulently using other people's credit cards. When the card owners discovered the fraudulent charges, they ordered payments stopped, and the airlines therefore invalidated the tickets.

Duncan was released five days after his arrest on bail of 50,000 baht and the court set February 6 as the initial hearing date.

The court was told that a representative of Duncan's bail provider had spoken to Duncan by phone on February 3 to remind him to keep his court date.

However, on February 6, Duncan did not answer his phone and did not appear in court.

Judge Yupawan Phurisinsit ordered the 50,000-baht bond forfeited and issued a warrant for Duncan's arrest.

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## Work ordered stopped at Kalim development

PATONG: A new provincial committee set up at the behest of Phuket Governor Udomsak Usarangkura to monitor work on construction projects has made its first move, ordering a temporary halt to work at the Villa Santi housing project in Kalim.

The order followed an inspection of the site by committee members including Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat, and Suphot Suwannachote, head of the Provincial Land Office.

## CONCERNS

K. Nivit told the *Gazette* that although there had been no written complaints about the project, "concerns" about Villa Santi had reached the ears of the Governor, who raised the issue during a provincial meeting.

Members of the committee said that the halt order was issued on the grounds that the project failed to comply with stipulations in its environmental impact assessment (EIA), the committee members said.

In fact, only the EIA for the project's initial phase had ever been approved by Patong Municipality. This EIA "had problems", they said.

A subsequent EIA, submitted in 2004 to cover the work now in progress, had never been approved by the Municipality.

The committee ordered closer compliance with the existing EIA. The developers must correct the problem of dirt and dust on the nearby roadside, they said, and must plant more trees to help prevent landslides.

They added that they would return to inspect the site again. If the project is in compliance at that time, construction would be allowed to restart, they said.

Bart Duykers, Executive Director of Villa Santi, downplayed the importance of the work stoppage at the project which, when completed, will have 56 homes and 24 hotel rooms.

"During the meeting with the Palad, we discovered that the application for some of the building commissions was interrupted because we did not have all the excavation licenses we needed. We had some of them, but we didn't have them for one part.

"That was used by the committee as an argument to say that we have to correct that first before we can continue."

## SELLING FAST

He said that 52 homes in the development have already been sold. "Because everything is selling so fast we have to build fast too. So we are really excavating on every part of the development. On a steep hillside like this, it's quite difficult to hide that.

"The government doesn't like that so much. Because of the recent tsunami developments and landslides that have happened, they are quite cautious about exposing excavated areas and they want you to cover them up more.

"So that's basically what we were told. To cover them up, do more of the landscaping."

He added that buyers of homes had been informed, but were "not concerned".

— Anongnat Sartpisut



## Thai-Iran stamp issued

PHUKET: On February 11 Thai Post releases a 3-baht stamp carrying images of Wat Chai Wattanaram at Nakhon Sri Ayudhaya and the Apadana Palace in Iran to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Thai-Iranian diplomatic relations.

One million copies of the 48mm x 30mm stamp will be

printed. They will be available at all post offices on the island.

This new occasional column, in collaboration with Thai Post, will let philatelic readers know when new issues of stamps are due to come out. We will also include details of stamp fairs and other items of interest as they arise.

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## 7 held with forged visas

THALANG: Phuket Immigration arrested seven Bangladeshi men who tried to enter Thailand through Phuket International Airport using forged visas on February 1.

Pol Col Chirdchai Rattana-metanon, the new Superintendent of the Phuket Immigration Office, told the *Gazette* that the men were arrested at Immigration at about 9 pm after arriving in Phuket on a flight from Singapore.

Col Chirdchai explained, "They didn't behave like normal tourists. They had no suitcases

and carried only small bags containing a single change of clothes. I believe they came here to try to find work."

During questioning at the Tah Chat Chai Police Station, the seven told Immigration officers that they had bought the bogus visas for US\$700 (28,000 baht) apiece from a travel agency in Bangladesh. They are being held for further questioning.

Many poor South Asians come to Phuket to work illegally in the tourism industry, often using their English language skills to find work as touts.

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# Thaksin should listen more, says TRT MP

PHUKET CITY: Following anti-government protests in Bangkok, Thai Rak Thai party-list MP Dr Premrak Pearyura called for Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to make changes to his leadership style.

Visiting Phuket on February 6 in his capacity as Vice-President of the Parliamentary Natural Resources and Environment Committee, the outspoken MP from Khon Kaen started by making a vague call for the people of Phuket to preserve and restore the environment.

That done, he launched into a topic clearly more to his liking: the current political turmoil.

Speaking with about 30 members of the local media corps during a luncheon, the legislator suggested that the Prime Minister should be more open-minded and willing to listen to people's needs – and

should spend more time outside his native Chiang Mai Province.

Acknowledging that the events of the previous weekend were unprecedented in PM Thaksin's five years in power, he said: "It's normal to have this kind of event in a democratic country, but it might be not good in terms of business and investment confidence abroad."

He said the Prime Minister should consider the causes of dissent, rather than simply writing his critics off as fools.

"I'd like the Prime Minister to review his political management over the past five years and [ask himself] whether or not it's his mismanagement that has caused the current conflict, because it's not normal for so many academics and intellectuals to sign their names as being against [a political leader]," he said.

PM Thaksin's comments during the protests have been ill-advised, he said.

"I feel the PM should listen to comments from all sides and open his mind. Also, his responses should be more measured because, even if his comments are made at [a private school] in Chiang Mai, they are transmitted all across the country."

"I think he should use this criticism [of him] as a way to strengthen democracy," he said.

Dr Premrak is one of the more outspoken Thai politicians. In 2002, when he was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, he caused consternation in Phuket's expatriate community when he urged the Ministry of Labor to raise the fee for an initial work permit from 3,000 baht to 300,000 baht.



Premrak: Thaksin should not simply write critics off as fools.

## OrBorJor to help resurrect hospital

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) plans to join with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to buy and renovate the abandoned Phya Thai Phuket Hospital on Soi Si Sena, just outside Phuket City.

Under the plan, the 190-bed facility – providing both inpatient and outpatient services – would be reopened under the name Vachira Phuket Hospital 2.

The idea of making use of the abandoned hospital was approved by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra during a meeting at Phuket International Airport on August 25, 2004, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Jessada

Chungpaibulpatana told the *Gazette* on February 3.

He said that the MoPH had not acted on the plan, however, despite several requests by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and Vachira Phuket Hospital that it do so.

Now, however, the *OrBorJor* and the MoPH have finally agreed in principal to split the cost of buying and renovating the facility.

Dr Jessada explained that the hospital is currently a state asset under the control of the Thai Asset Management Corporation (TAMC), with a listed sale price of about 492 million baht.

"The price has increased from last year's figure of about 315 million baht. But we believe

that, working together, the *OrBorJor* and the Ministry should be able to negotiate a lower price," he said.

The doctor added that the purchase would by law have to be made in the name of a single organization. As a result, one scheme the partners are considering is to have the *OrBorJor* make the initial purchase and then transfer ownership to the MoPH, which would pay for the renovation work.

Dr Jessada said that he expected a decision on this to have been reached on February 8.

The *OrBorJor* has targeted the end of February as its deadline for the purchase.

The hospital, which closed down in 1999, was built and was originally run by the Phya Thai group, itself part of the Prasit Pattana Group, headed by Dr Arthit Ourarirat, which also owns the British Curriculum International School.

## Towers for Nai Harn, Kata Noi

PHUKET: The iTV television network has donated 4.5 million baht for the construction of two tsunami warning towers, one at Nai Harn Beach and one at Kata Noi Beach, neither of which currently has warning towers.

Tawee Homhuan, an engineer with the Phuket Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office, told the *Gazette* on February 6 that his office had already received the funds and was awaiting final approval from Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura before starting construction.

He said he expected work on the two towers, which will be connected to the National Disaster Warning Center in Nonthaburi, to begin in the middle of this month and to be completed sometime in April.

Once the two towers are complete, Phuket will have 18 tsunami warning towers. Of the other 16, there are three at Patong and one apiece at Ao Chalong, Ao Por, Bang Tao, Cape Panwa, Kata Yai, Karon, Kamala, Koh Lone, Laem Tukkae, Nai Yang, Mai Khao, Rawai and Saphan Hin.

## Oil companies cut pump prices

BANGKOK: Thai petroleum giants Shell and PTT announced on February 3 that they have both dropped fuel prices by 40 satang a liter.

In a press release, Chaivat Churitti, Senior Executive Vice-President of the Oil Business Group of PTT, explained that average prices of oil on world markets had fallen recently and PTT had therefore decided to lower retail prices of all products by 40 satang a liter. He warned, however, that fuel prices could easily rise again.

PTT prices in Bangkok and its suburbs are now as follows, the press release added: 95-octane gasoline 26.84 baht/liter; 95-octane gasohol 25.34 baht/liter; 91-octane gasoline 26.04 baht/liter; diesel 24.29 baht/liter; and palm-oil diesel 23.79 baht/liter.

Promsin Suppokekul, Manager for all Shell gas stations in Phuket, told the *Gazette* that fuel prices outside Bangkok will be higher than in the capital, depending on where the fuel is sold.

However, he added, "The prices [in Phuket] will not be more than one baht a liter higher than the prices in Bangkok."

## Minibus driver dies in smash

THALANG: The driver of an airport minibus was killed instantly when his vehicle smashed into a water truck on the airport road on the morning of February 2, the third fatal accident involving airport transport vehicles in just 12 days.

Pol Lt Col Jamroon Plaiduang, an Inspector at Thalang Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the white minibus, from the Phuket Vehicle Service Co-operative and Confederation, was speeding to the airport when its driver, 35-year-old Phuket native Mana Singkorn, apparently failed to see a water truck that was moving slowly along the outside lane, watering plants growing in the median strip.

The minibus smashed into the truck and K. Mana was killed instantly.

On January 22 an airport limousine driver died in a high-speed smash on the edge of Phuket City, and on January 26 a pedestrian was killed by another limousine on the airport road.

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Soil excavation ... pile driving ... bulldozing trees: work on the 'Welcome Gate' being built by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) in Tah Chat Chai is now well underway. When the 57-million-baht project is completed, it is expected to serve as an icon commensurate with Phuket's status as a 'world class tourist destination' – or so its proponents say.

Critics of the project see it as an unnecessary waste of taxpayers' money – and an insult to what is left of Phuket's natural environment.

The *Gazette's* **Anongnat Sarpisut** spoke with *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr and local people about the project.

# Mixed welcome



*OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr officiates at the *Sao Ek* ceremony – the planting of the first post in the project.



**O**n her first day on the job as Phuket's first directly-elected *OrBorJor* President, Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr in May 2004 unveiled her plan to build a "welcome gate" at Tah Chat Chai, so that tourists arriving on the island from the mainland would know not only that they had arrived in Phuket – but that they had also reached a "world-class" tourist destination.

The "welcome gate" will serve not only as a new landmark, but also as a rest area, police and Livestock Office checkpoint, OTOP sales center and – perhaps most importantly in K. Anchalee's view – a tourist information center.

"We would like tourists to know about Phuket's background before continuing on to Phuket City. If they want to travel in Phuket, visitors need to know how to get where they are going and how far they have to drive to get there. That's one purpose of the project – providing tourists with necessary information," she explained.

As Phuket hopes to attract some 5 million tourists from a-

broad next year – plus many thousands of domestic visitors – it's essential that newcomers get a feel not only for the island's geography, but also for its historic background and social customs, she maintained.

To this effect, a focal point of the new facility will be a rendering of Phuket's history portrayed on 29 sculpted stone pillars of various sizes, the largest of which will be about the size of a lighthouse.

K. Anchalee saw the state of the island's northern tip, between the outbound Sarasin Bridge and the inbound Thao Thepkasattri-Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge, as inappropriate for a world-class destination like Phuket.

"Just having a small tent to serve

as the police checkpoint is an example of not reaching 'international standard'. The police didn't build anything better than that. They just set up a tent on the median strip and some barricades to slow the traffic down. We met with police officials many times during our planning to ensure that both sides understand each other's needs," she said.

"Besides, if the *OrBorJor* doesn't build it, who will?" she asked.

'The current police checkpoint looks like garbage. Isn't it good if the *OrBorJor* builds a new one for them?'

– Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr

She said that incorporating the two checkpoints into a rest area will leave a better impression with arriving visitors.

"The police understand why we need a welcome gate. Phuket is not a border town. We have to welcome our visitors, not make them feel as if they are under suspicion," she said.

The new facility would better separate the Livestock and Police checkpoints, which are currently seen as one and the same by most people, she added.

The installation of a 10-million-baht closed-circuit television (CCTV) system will improve security, reduce the police workload

and give Phuket a more sophisticated image, she said.

"The current police checkpoint looks like garbage. Isn't it good if the *OrBorJor* builds a new one for them? When tourists arrive we don't want them to think they have arrived in some provincial backwater, with police waving them over like they do now," she said.

"We will have a video record of every vehicle coming into or leaving the island, as they do in Singapore," she said, adding that the CCTV system will allow for more rapid screening of vehicles.

K. Anchalee has big hopes for the project she conceived and has championed all along.

"We hope that this project will be a major new tourist attraction, a landmark similar in international recognition to the Merlion Fountain in Singapore.

"We want visitors to feel

that if they visit Phuket without having seen it, then their trip here was incomplete. Whether or not we can actually make it so is another matter, but that is our intention," she said.

To inform the public, the *OrBorJor* held two public hearings at Sirinath National Park, K. Anchalee explained. The project enjoys public support, she claimed.

"Local people will be a part of this project. They will sell their products there and serve as our eyes and ears, since we can't oversee the site 24 hours a day," she said.

K. Anchalee explained that 100 million baht, the biggest slice of the *OrBorJor's* total 404-million-baht 2005 budget, went to education. Tourism promotion projects, including the Welcome Gate, were second, at 70 million baht.

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# for Anchalee's Gateway



Wet concrete glistens in the evening sun. Plenty more will be poured before the Welcome Gateway project is completed.

Other categories such as "quality of life improvements", infrastructure and information technology development and environmental protection received smaller amounts of funding, she said.

"Our budget is so tight. The number of *OrBorTor* officials is increasing and we need a bigger building – but we have put the needs of the Phuket people first by investing in this project," she said.

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat said that government officials agreed to the Gateway project, both from a tourism

promotion standpoint and also as a way to improve security on the island.

"With this project, we will have a record of all people and animals coming onto and leaving the island. This will help from a security standpoint and also ease traffic congestion," he pointed out.

But Sarawut Sirkukham, President of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which administers Tah Chat Chai, told the *Gazette* that if the *OrBorTor* had made any effort to gauge public opinion beforehand, it had not done it through his agency.

"We learned about this project only when its construction began. The *OrBorTor* didn't tell the local people anything about it.

"I swear 100% that I am telling you the truth. The *OrBorTor* never came to ask for our cooperation, nor did it send us even a single document about it. We received no information whatsoever.

"I think they should have sought our cooperation before going ahead with this project, which I fear will harm the mangrove forest in the area," he said.

[K. Anchalee previously told the *Gazette* that no mangroves

would be destroyed, but when the *Gazette* visited the site it was clear that several tree species often associated with mangrove ecosystems, such as the *samed* (or Cajuput Tree), had been felled to make way for the new construction.]

To see if Tah Chat Chai residents had been left completely in the dark, the *Gazette* asked some local villagers what they knew about the project, if anything. Some had more questions than answers.

Samnang Khunjamnong, 57, said, "I don't know much about this 'gateway' because I never got a letter from the *OrBorTor* about it. Is it going to be a resort? A retail center? If so, who is going to be doing the selling, local people or outsiders?"

Not all local reaction was negative, however. Another local resident, 36-year-old Jariya Jangkrajang, not only knew about the gateway, but was also in favor of it.

She thinks it might bring a new economic spark to her village, which now consists of government-built homes to replace those damaged or destroyed on December 26, 2004.

She said she had heard comments about the project during a meeting arranged at the local Health Office.

"The *OrBorTor* staff said that this project will bring a lot of *farang* tourists to the area.

"I know they will have to pour a lot of concrete, but I don't think it will cause a lot of environmental damage because there weren't many big trees in the project area to start with," she said.

"I agree with this project, as I believe it will bring develop-

ment to the area, which was affected by tsunami. When tourists come, we will have work and income," she said, adding that she thought local people should be given any jobs the new project produces.

Shopkeeper Fontip Hongsa, 22, told the *Gazette* that she first learned about the project when she overheard two *OrBorTor* officials discussing it in front of her small business.

"I have heard that the *OrBorTor* will do a lot of landscape development here and that the [*OrBorTor*] will do the gateway project.

"I would like them to develop Tah Chat Chai as an attractive place,

like Nai Yang Beach...If they do, local people here will get revenue from tourism and fishermen can ferry tourists around in their boats," she said.

One person who did attend the *OrBorTor* public hearing was 48-year-old Yuree Yindee. She said she was informed about the hearings through a flier that was distributed along with a calendar she received from the *OrBorTor*.

There was much disagreement about the Welcome Gate in the community, she said.

She herself disagreed with the project because she thought it might harm the nearby mangroves and also threaten the area's limited freshwater resources.

"Before the Welcome Gate project, there was once talk of building a small public water supply pond in this area so that local people could have access to clean water.


"[As that is no longer an option] this is another reason I do not agree with this project," she said.


**Editorial: page 26**

'I swear 100% that I am telling you the truth. The *OrBorTor* never came to ask for our cooperation.'  
– *OrBorTor* Mai Khao President Sarawut Sirkukham

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## Queer News

# Miss Chicky gets herself fingered

PATONG: It is well-known that women, in general, spend more money than men in the effort to keep themselves attractive. But for men trying to pass themselves off as women, expenses are greater still.

In the case of one Thai post-op ladyboy, the costs of ongoing upkeep proved so great that he turned to a life of crime.

At 10 am on February 3, four police officers led by Pol Maj Serm Khwan-nimitr, head of the Kathu Police Crime Investigations Unit, knocked at the door of 112/1 Nanai Rd, home of 29-year-old *katoey* Kritsakorn "Saow Gai" Thai-on.

With the authorities were Sijitra Khunthep, a 20-year-old employee of the Marine Hotel, and hotel guest Phanit Sasipongpreecha, 35, from Bangkok.

The unfortunate hotel guest was robbed the night before. Some 5,000 baht in cash, three bank books, a gold watch worth 20,000 baht, cosmetics, a blouse and a briefcase containing unspecified "important documents" were all missing from her room.

The pair identified suspect Saow Gai – whose name means

"Miss Chicky" and tends to imply she is a character of negotiable affection – as having been a guest the night before in the Marine Hotel's room 25, next door to K. Phanit's room.

The police had no need to search Saow Gai's home to uncover the missing goods, as the victim's bankbooks, briefcase and watch were quickly spotted. The transgender thief confessed immediately to the theft, telling police it was just one in a string he had committed in the effort to transform herself into a beautiful woman and keep it that way.

One of her favorite crimes, besides outright thievery, she said, was conning tourists. This had allowed her to have 50,000 baht worth of breast implants done in Phuket, and gender reassignment surgery, costing 200,000 baht, done in Yala, thus transforming herself into a "complete woman".

Saow Gai continued down the path to easy money to pay for medical maintenance and check-ups, as well as to pay legal costs relating to previous crimes she had been charged with.

Source: *Siang Tai*



Swedish couple Michael Isberg and Marie Wilhelmsson married in a truly romantic Phuket style – on the beach in front of the Kata Beach Resort on January 19.

## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket



Douglas Ferguson and Tanisara Yanpaisarn were married at the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel January 27.

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

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





# Alcohol bill bad for tourism – hoteliers

The Thai Hotel Association (THA) disagrees with a new Public Health Ministry draft bill that would raise the drinking age to 21 and restrict sales of alcoholic beverages in hotels and restaurants to lunch hours (11 am to 2 pm) and dinner hours (5 pm to 11 pm).

The THA warned that the measure will harm the tourism industry, which provides many jobs and generates revenue for local economies.

THA Vice President Prakrit Chinamoupong said that about 50% of the industry's total revenue comes from food and beverage sales. He warned that the move ran counter to the government's policy of attracting more tourists and promoting the Kingdom as a tourist hub. If enforced, the measures could wreck those ambitions, he said.

The THA has sent lawyers to work with the ministry on adjusting the draft bill's conditions.

**Early birds:** The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is planning to launch a "Golden Travel Card" program, targeting people aged 55 and over. The TAT expects to sign up 15,000 members in the first year of operation.

A working group plans to propose the project to the TAT's Deputy Governor for Marketing within the next two weeks and hopes to have the card ready by the end of March, a source in the agency said.

The Golden Travel Card project aims to encourage retirees to travel more on weekdays. A 500-baht annual membership fee would include special travel packages and 20% discounts at hotels, restaurants and hospitals.

**Snitchy business:** Cyber Cop, a Government radio show aimed at cracking down on websites promoting pornography, is now in operation. To be aired on Bangkok's FM105 between 3 and 5 pm on weekdays, the show will serve as a channel for people to



All is not well: With seasonal drought looming, about 100 families in Buri Ram's Khu Muang district start queuing at dawn to draw water from the only well in their community.

inform authorities of obscene websites and vendors peddling sex movies. Information on porn sites and obscene material in other media will be passed to police, who will then take legal action.

The campaign will extend to offline promoters and sellers. PM's Office Minister Newin Chidchob, warned shopping mall operators to monitor tenants, saying they would be held responsible if police caught shopkeepers distributing pornography on their premises.

Newin said he planned to ask the courts to hand down the harshest penalties to people convicted of selling obscene materials, a crime that carries a fine up to 3,000 baht, three years in jail, or both.

**Dental damnation:** Nonthaburi Provincial Court awarded 4.4 million baht in compensation over a dental procedure three years

ago that left Chanayuth Patangsthane, now six, with atrophied limbs and brain damage.

The Ministry of Public Health was held responsible because the March 2003 incident took place at one of its hospitals, Chumsaeng Hospital in Nakhon Sawan.

Dentist Waleewan Weerapong failed to give the toddler a tranquillizer before drilling out his cavities and filling them – despite the fact Chanayuth was terrified, the court said.

Instead of waiting for the toddler to calm down, Waleewan ordered him strapped to the chair. During the procedure Chanayuth went into shock and stopped breathing. He was rushed to the emergency room and revived, but suffered brain damage from prolonged loss of oxygen.

**Renaming roses:** Due to growing sentiment against free-trade agreements (FTAs), the govern-

ment plans to rename all bilateral free-trade pacts "economic partnership agreements", in a bid to divert attention from free-trade issues and avoid protests.

Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said that the free-trade aspects of bilateral pacts were just a part of the countries' economic partnership objectives, so it was appropriate that the name of FTAs should reflect that.

Somkid said he had asked Thailand's partners in the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership (Jtep) to agree to rename it "economic partnership agreement", or EPA, so that it is known neither as a free trade agreement, nor as Jtep.

**State enterprise:** TOT Plc insisted that a 3 baht/minute charge for its 1133 directory service was needed to improve the system, update its contents and support more customers.

The operator-assisted service, which was free for 40 years, started charging on February 1 and has since been inundated with complaints.

A TOT spokeswoman said that if 1133 remained free, it could not be improved. TOT statistics from last year revealed there were 10 million requests for phone numbers a month, while the TOT had capacity to service only six million requests a month.

She said the extra income would be used to update content and add more services, such as information about transport routes, road maps, hot news and emergencies.

**Terror attack:** Two deputy village headmen were burned to death in a pickup bombing in Narathiwat, as the violence in the

Deep South continues. The bomb, hidden under village headman Anuwar Sulonga's pickup, exploded shortly after it passed a checkpoint in front of the Joh I Rong District Office in Narathiwat.

Anuwar, 40, managed to escape from the truck, though he suffered shrapnel wounds and severe burns. His deputies, Isman Doloh, 38, and Malayeng Chema, 36, were stuck in the vehicle and burned to death. The three were on their way to attend a monthly meeting when the explosion occurred.

Investigators suspect the bomb was set off remotely, possibly by a mobile phone. They estimated the power of the bomb as equivalent to about 10 kilograms of TNT – the truck was completely destroyed and shrapnel scattered throughout the area.

**Jackpot jilt:** The holder of a winning lottery ticket will have to wait while the Government Lottery Office (GLO) decides on whether to award him his 19-million-baht prize.

Norasing Decha, 25, bought the ticket in good faith, but could not collect his prize because the dealer who sold it to him had failed to file his records with the GLO in time.

After an urgent meeting to consider the ticket holder's plea, GLO assistant director Pairoj Panjaprateep said the agency should be able to conclude an investigation into the matter in about a week.

Norasing lodged a police complaint and threatened legal action if he did not get his money.

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

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# FLASHY GNASHERS

By Stephen Fein

**K**arma, original sin, yin and yang ... whatever balance sheet one chooses to employ, there is precious little escape from mistakes made in the past.

Fortunately, if the error of one's ways includes a lifetime of drinking black coffee and drawing in the tar-enriched smoke of nicotine sticks, modern tooth whitening procedures can go a long way to undo a lifetime of bad habits – and all in about an hour.

In an attempt to reward myself for giving up cigarettes about six months ago, I made my way to the Promjai Clinic on the bypass road to do something about the yellow portfolio my choppers had become over the years.

Promjai's Managing Director, Dr Achara Pandaen, explained that all tooth-whitening treatments employ the same basic strategy: bleaching with a hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) solution.

## RADICAL MEASURE

The strength of the solution varies from 15% - 20% for time-consuming "home bleaching" formulae to solutions of up to 38% for professional whitening using lasers or a "cool light" plasma arc.

The theory is that when applied to the teeth and heated, the  $H_2O_2$  gel is converted to  $H_2O$  and a negatively-charged oxygen ion ( $O^-$ ) known as a "free radical".

Oxygen atoms hate to hang out by themselves, so they merge with just about anything around – even those nasty, hard-to-remove molecules that might have become chemically bonded to your once pearly whites during an



**OPEN WIDE:** no choice, really, with all that gear in one's mouth. But it's not as uncomfortable as it looks.

espresso-and-unfiltered-Camels binge back in 1989.

Given the choice between laser tooth whitening and the Rembrandt whitening using the plasma arc, both offered at Promjai, I decided to have a bit of both just for the experience.

Performing the whitening was Dr Sitthanon Wangsai, who started me off with a regular cleaning before getting me ready for the first part: laser whitening. I admit that the idea of having a high-powered laser beam directed inside my head was a little, er, unnerving at first.

Putting me at ease, however, was Dr Sitthanon, who has been doing laser whitening for eight years. He measured the pre-operative shade of my teeth (dark yellow in my case), before fitting me with a set of cheek and lip "retractors". The whole idea is to make sure that the activated gel comes into contact only with the teeth, and not soft tissue. To protect the gums, a "dental dam" is applied and "cured" or hardened before the gel is applied and heated.

That part is the same, whether the treatment is done with lasers or the futuristic deep-blue rays of plasma arc light. Either way, your mouth is kept open as you bite down on a tongue guard. This makes one look rather like that poor character in expressionist masterpiece *The Scream*.

You also get to don a pair of enormous plastic sunglasses to protect your eyes, sort of like Arnold in *The Terminator* or like

so many grandmothers in nursing homes. In fact, it looks a lot worse than it feels – mildly uncomfortable, mostly due to the difficulty in swallowing.

I am told the two whitening regimens are equally effective. The laser cleaning is probably the more comfortable – though in both cases you have to work at maintaining your patience. Nervous types might want to consider a sedative. Also, make sure you use the bathroom before you start, because once the lip retractors are in place there is no turning back.

Fortunately, the treatment rooms at Promjai clinic are first rate: cool, quiet and even equipped with a top-notch sound system. In fact, perhaps the most stress I felt during my time in the chair was when a song by that whiny white rapper Eminem broke the flow of the West Coast hip-hop that had been playing.

The word "pain" seems to be *verboden* among dentists, who

This makes one look rather like that poor character in expressionist masterpiece *The Scream*.

You also get to don a pair of enormous plastic sunglasses to protect your eyes, sort of like Arnold in *The Terminator*

prefer to warn patients by saying things like "you may feel some pressure" of "you might experience some sensitivity". This makes sense, of course. It's just the dental equivalent of the airplane captain saying "buckle up your seatbelt, we may experience some turbulence" after the aircraft tail has just been blown apart by an Exocet missile.

Joking aside, one should never underestimate the power of suggestion. While I did feel some real pain in a bottom tooth that always gives me trouble, the fact is that whitening, using either the laser or the plasma arc, is probably less discomforting than a getting a filling.

## PRICE

While the procedure left me feeling "sensitive" enough to require pain killers afterwards, about a day later my "sensitivity" was completely gone.

After a few days of having to forgo hot and cold foods, coffee, green tea and red wine (can't afford that anyway) all I had left from the experience was whiter, more attractive teeth.

Perhaps best of all is the price offered at Promjai: just 7,000 baht for the "Rembrandt" treatment (a special offer last month) and about 12,000 baht for the laser treatment. Treatments using precisely the same technologies would put you back at least US\$500 (20,000 baht) and US\$1,100 (44,000 baht), respectively, in the US and most European countries.

Promjai Dental Clinic offers a wide variety of services by dental specialists, including pediatric dentistry and metal-free restoration by CEREC. Its Phuket offices are in Patong (5/4 Sawatdirak Rd, 2nd floor of the All 4 Diving building. Tel: 076-345341-2; 01-8934304) and Tambon Rassada (108/109 Charlermpriakiat Ror IX Rd, near Mr Curtin and Woodpecker furniture shops on the bypass road, outbound lane, north of the Tesco-Lotus junction. For more information, call Tel: 076-261836-7, 01-9510999 or email: info@promjaidental.com. The clinic's website is at www.promjaidentalclinic.com

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## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

**K**hao Lak was the worldwide center of attention around December, but it seems to have been forgotten now – just six weeks after the first tsunami anniversary and four weeks after the area was blessed with the staging of the Thai version of the “Grammy Awards” near the stranded navy vessel in the Bang Niang area.

Thousands of plastic bags and foam food containers were disposed of “local style” by simply dropping them on the ground – walking to a garbage container 50 meters away was plainly just too exhausting for visitors and participants alike.

Cleanup teams who waited to see whether the wind would do the job for them must have been pleased with the result: about two square kilometers of ground strewn with white foam takeaway boxes.

Khao Lak’s artificial “white Christmas” amazed locals and tourists alike for about seven days until cleanup efforts finally got underway.

Oh, don’t we just love a white Christmas in Thailand?

**Message with a smile...** January 14, Children’s Day, proved to be an exciting and unforgettable day for 32 children from the tsunami-hit island of Koh Phra Thong.

German tour operator Geoplan helped the destroyed village by buying boats and offering to foot the school bills for the island’s children for the next two years.



The tsunami shelter in the hills east of Baan Bang Niang will be a grand building – but it’s a long way for anyone to run.

# FOAMING AT THE MOUTH

There were other benefactors, too: the children, along with the village headman, were invited by the management of the Sarojin Resort for a day on the mainland.

During a brief inspection tour of the resort, the kids learned some interesting facts about working at a hotel.

The most exciting part of the afternoon, however, took place at the Laem Kaen Elephant Village, south of the Lamru National Park. Here, the kids enjoyed elephant rides while the *mahouts* taught them about working and living with elephants.

A jungle walk and a swim at a nearby waterfall, followed by

a picnic at the elephant camp, where all children received games and toys, rounded off the day.

Geoplan’s Managing Director, Stefan Kraft, said he aimed to show his clients that it is okay to return to Khao Lak.

He explained, “We believe our regular clients will return soon. I inspected several excellent hotels here in Khao Lak that offer a perfect vacation, and the whole situation here is very much the opposite of the images of the tsunami everybody had to watch on TV on its first anniversary.”

**Run for the woods!** The con-

struction of a three-story Tsunami Evacuation Shelter near the Bang Niang Buddhist temple on the way to Chong Fah waterfall, at Khao Lak’s northern end, boggles the minds of locals and tourists alike.

While the efforts to make Khao Lak “tsunami safe” are certainly very much appreciated, the question is: what is the exact purpose of the evacuation shelter?

The shelter is 1,200 meters from the sea and thus would only do any good if an early enough warning was given.

As rumors spread about the lack of funds for completion of

the “Ready by December 2006” tsunami warning system along Phang Nga’s coastline, it would be much more reassuring for all if such shelters were built closer to the beach and strong enough to withstand the forces of a tsunami.

Poor planning is taking over again, a good example of this being the construction of longtail boats for Khao Lak’s fishermen.

Before the tsunami, there were 16 longtail fishing boats in Khao Lak. Now, more than 80 have been built and handed over to locals, most of whom have never done a day’s fishing in their entire lives.



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## Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

For those of you who appreciate the latest music and wild, uninhibited dancing, the rest of February promises some international entertainment that is certain to put Phuket on the map as Southeast Asia's party headquarters.

**José Padilla**, the Ibiza-based DJ whose *Café del Mar* CDs are essential ear candy on most hip people's iPods, will fly into Phuket for a one-night party on the beach at The Chedi, Saturday, February 11.

José revived Ibiza's fortunes as the Mediterranean playground with his mix of cutting-edge dance and ambient music, which attracted people from all over Europe. He's been the world's top spinmaster since the 1970s and Chedi GM **Daniel Meury** – never one to shy away from a good time – has enticed José to our island for an unforgettable night of food, dancing and whatever else that might happen that night on the beach.

"We want to celebrate our wonderful return to a successful season of tourism," Daniel tells me, "We've had almost 100% occupancy since Christmas so we want to throw a special party for our valued guests to show our appreciation for their support."

Daniel is offering a full evening's entertainment with a stunning buffet on the beach and



Above, applause please, here comes José Padilla. Left, DJ Tommy T (white T-shirt) gets 'em dancing on Laem Singh Beach.

# Party, Party, Party!

a long evening of great music and dancing. Tickets are available just for the José Padilla party for 650 baht net.

Call the Chedi at 076-324017-20 for dinner and dance tickets.

**TABLE DANCERS:** For those of you who will miss Señor Padilla, I've discovered a young Thai DJ who has his Western guests dancing on the tables.

**DJ Tong Skunk** carries a trunk of several hundred records around Thailand, his soulful and funky house music making him one of the country's top music *meisters*.

While he plays mostly at full moon parties on Koh Phangnan and Koh Tao, he is currently the house DJ at the very upscale La Baia Bar and Restaurant in Patong Beach across from the new entrance to the Holiday Inn.



The smiles say it all at Miguel Kirjon's latest bash at Twinpalms.

DJ Tong Skunk is a regular guest artist at clubs on Bangkok's hip Silom Soi 4.

If you're into the latest sounds, catch this young artist from 10 pm onwards, every night except Mondays.

**BEACH PARTY:** And here's a heads up for those of you like to party in the daytime: THE place for this is on Laem Singh Beach every Sunday afternoon with Soundwave Sundays at the south end outside of **Khun Ott** and

**Jenny Vild's** party headquarters.

**DJ TommyT** has the trendy crowd dancing in their sarongs and bikinis until late into the night. It gets so crowded with revelers that many have to shake their stuff while standing in the sea.

It's a great place for people-watching or for letting it all hang out. The music is great with the latest club mixes. Laem Singh Beach is chill-out headquarters for Phuket.

**MIGUEL TO THE MAX:** Good news for fans of **Miguel Kirjon**, the impresario behind the gone-but-not-forgotten Gitano's bistro. He's back and designing special theme parties at the Oriental Spoon, the very chic restaurant at Twinpalms Resort at Surin Beach.

Recently, Miguel organized a Black Moon party at Oriental Spoon and on Saturday, February 25, he plans another fun evening of eating, drinking and dancing. Don't miss it as all of the "beautiful people" will be there.

**CURRY CUDDLES:** For those of you yet to find true love or even fleeting romance, **Billy Chima**, proprietor of Phuket City's Khanasutra Indian restaurant, wants to help.

Also on February 25, he will be hosting his second Kama Sutra event designed to bring together those looking for love, romance – or sex. Or all three.

"We have different categories of singles drawn to our event and each wears a special badge for the evening," Billy explains. "We offer the MBA (married but available), the L4L (looking for love), the H2G (hard to get) and of course, The Slut... There's someone for everyone."

At the last Kama Sutra night, local beauties **Ann Hanson** and **Kerrie Hall** were seen mixing with the more than 30 Western men who made an appearance. This month, it may be a standing-room-only crowd.



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# MACHINE SHOOTER

Award-winning photographer Christopher Swift has a long-standing love of images of dilapidated machines and desolate industrial scenes, and he shares his vision of the beauty of decay with others through vivid abstract photography. Here, he reflects on his passion with the *Gazette's* Shiona Mackenzie.

Born in Cairo, but growing up mainly in the suburban US, American Chris Swift started shooting architecture and street life in black and white as well as infrared while living in New York City in the 1980s.

But he wasn't happy there. "The overall horror and nose-to-the-grindstone life of the city wore me out and I took a year off to travel around the world, visiting Egypt, India, Thailand and Japan," he explains.

The journey changed his life. "My trip was an amazing and fantastic experience and I wanted to return to the country I had the greatest love for – Thailand."

Most of his photographs depict industrial sites and relics discovered on jaunts in and around Bangkok, Phuket and northwestern Thailand.

"The influence of industrial architecture is strong, omnipresent and affects us in ways both obvious and subtle. It contributes to how we define ourselves. I find that industrial designs have

no gray area; they are either gorgeous in their simplicity, or horrific and imposing.

"While I appreciate the beautiful, I must say that I've always been fascinated by the horrible – the juggernaut of industry: a horrible yet irresistible force.

He admits that he is not much of a people photographer. "I'm not a people shooter; I'm a machine shooter. I want to sit down with them like old friends and listen to their stories. I've seen half-century-old trucks and trains that have more personality than some people I've met."

He has exhibited his photographs in the Four Seasons Hotel and galleries in Bangkok, but not without some trepidation.

"I kept expecting to run into all these artsy people with pretentious comments about 'juxtaposition' and 'contrast' and 'elements'. But my fears proved groundless.

"I've been getting really positive feedback and I'm glad to find other people who 'see' the same things I do. It comes as a complete surprise to me because when I first started getting into this, I was my own harshest critic.

I was convinced that people would hate my photos; that they'd be considered too weird, too abstract, and that nobody would make any sense of them."

Chris, who is currently a full-time physics teacher at the British Curriculum International School, won Honorary Mention in the 2004-2005 United Nations International Photography Competition, and an Award for Photographic Content from PhotoAwards.com.

He and his wife, Pojjana, have a son, Nicholas, and twin daughters, Sarinya and Rinrada.

"We're Phuket people. I just wish there were more remains of heavy industry in Phuket for me to shoot."

Chris Swift's exhibition of 24 limited edition prints – "Abstracts of Industry" – featuring a sugar mill, boats and trains, is on display at the British Curriculum International School until February 24, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information, contact Chris Swift at Tel: 07-1129568 or view his website: [www.swift-images.com](http://www.swift-images.com)



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# VALIDATING VALENTINE

In the Attic calendar of Ancient Athens, what is nowadays mid-January to mid-February was the month of Gamelion, when the marriage of Zeus and Hera, the king and queen of the Greek gods, was celebrated.

In Ancient Rome, February 15 was devoted to the Lupercalia, the festival in honor of Lupercus, god of agriculture and shepherds – and, by extension, fecundity.

Priests celebrating this festival would run through the streets clad only in goat skins, striking people lightly with goat-skin whips to imbue them with virility or fecundity.

As with so many pre-Christian festivals, these were taken over by Christianity and twisted to serve the needs of the faith. In this case, they were combined as St Valentine's Day, marking the martyrdom of an early Christian. In fact, there were three possible candidates,

all called Valentine and all martyred in the early years of the faith.

But a couple of thousand years on and halfway round the world, it is surprising how little has changed, especially in Soi Bangla, where the high priestesses of the street touch passers-by lightly in rituals aimed at bringing forth demonstrations of virility.

The popular customs now associated with St Valentine's Day – the day for affirming one's love for another – probably owe their origin to a belief generally received in England and France in the Middle Ages that February 14 was the date that birds began to mate.

Geoffrey Chaucer, the English poet, writer, philosopher and diplomat – wrote in his *Parliament of Fowles*: "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day/ Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

Phuket, by happy coinci-

dence and to provide a segue, is a place where people (some very foul indeed) look for and find mates.

Keeping one's main squeeze interested can require quite a bit of effort and the occasional gift to demonstrate what the heart truly means and what the pocket can really afford. Cheap cynicism aside, remember – with thanks to Khalil Gibran – that "Love possesses not nor would it be possessed".

Fearlessly, the *Gazette* makes a few suggestions as to what the born romantics out there might like to give or receive on Valentine's Day 2006.

Enjoy the day with your true love – perhaps even striving to make every day romantic – and don't forget that, according to Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "...love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."



The traditional dozen red roses are offered by many florists. The *Gazette* found this bunch at Prim Flowers, which is close to Vachira Phuket Hospital on Yaowarat Rd. Prices rise astronomically in the run-up to Valentine's Day.

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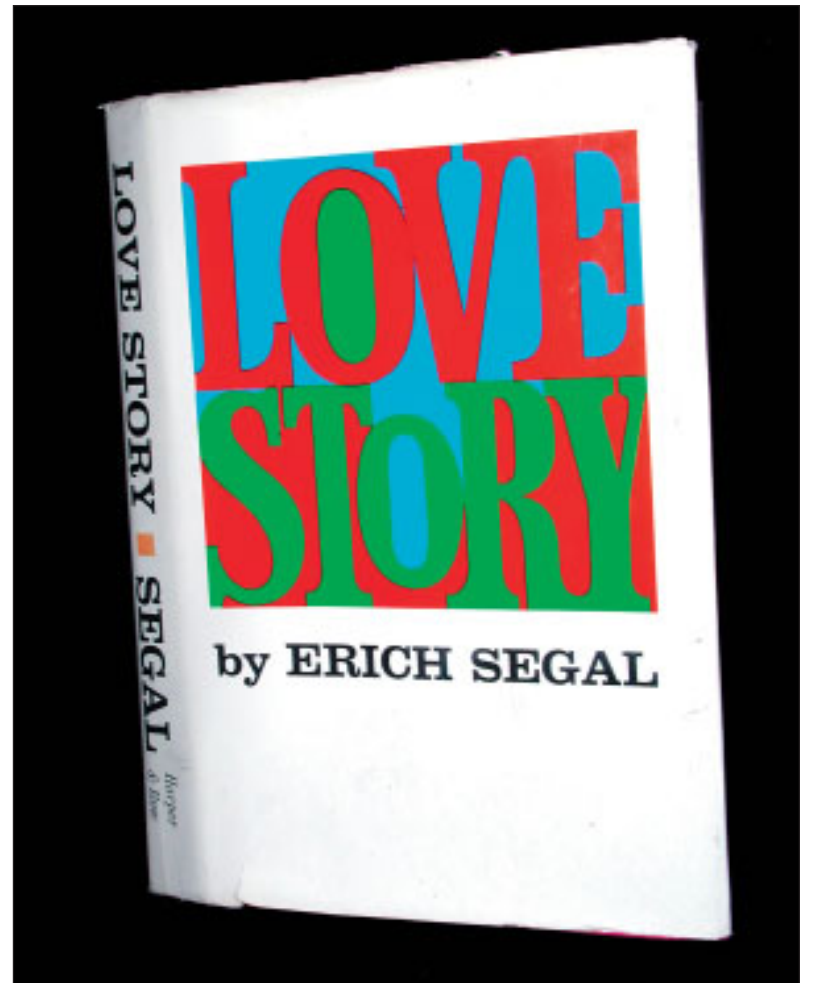
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Erich Segal's 1970 classic, *Love Story*, can be bought online from Amazon.com, or – for those who don't mind who's been there before them – from a number of used book shops in Phuket.



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Above: This pretty shell-and-clear-bead necklace is a steal at 380 baht. Check out others in the range at one of the stalls in the mall at Tesco-Lotus, just beyond HomePro.

Below: The "Million Hearts" potted plant is available from Suan Khun Oy on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd, Phuket City. Call Tel: 06-6821248 for more information.



Right: As pretty as a picture, this rose-motif handbag is available from Andaman Fashion Shop, at Expo Fair on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd, Phuket City.



Below: Durex "Love" condoms – for those suitors careful about what they give on Valentine's Day, are available from pharmacists, supermarkets and convenience stores all over the island. Expect to pay 55 baht for a packet of three.



Below: To make love last, Viagra is best obtained by prescription from your doctor, although some chaps are known to foolishly buy it on visa runs to Burma, where it is known as Caverta, so the *Gazette* is informed.



Right: Ideal for the Cinderella in ... er, all of us are shoes from Rattana Shoes Fashion at Expo Fair on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd, Phuket City, at 659 baht a pair. Prince Charming not included.



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# BREAKFAST EPIPHANIES

While never one to consider going wholly native when in a country far from or near to dear old Blighty, I do attempt to follow the maxim of St Ambrose that *Si fueris Romae, Romano vivito more; si fueris alibi, vivito sicut ibi* – more commonly remembered as “When in Rome...”

This extends to everything, including breakfast.

In Tel Aviv, I bag a bagel and lox. In Spain, I choose *chocolate y churros*. In Egypt, I favor *ful medames*. In Thailand, I consider *khao mun gai*. In the Netherlands I might dice with *mice (muisjes)*. In the US, I prefer to stay on the plane and eat airline food.

In fact, I could write about breakfasts week after week, making it a serial. [Groan... Ed]. But occasionally it is necessary to forgo dreams of assimilation and to demand something most definitely of one's place of birth.

One of the major culinary contributions of the splendid islands just west of continental Europe is the Full (insert country of choice) Breakfast.

The benefits of breakfast have been assumed for years, yet it is only recently that any form of scientific rationale has backed up the theories. The *British Medical Journal* reported that “Missing breakfast has been shown to be associated with poor school performance.”

Studies have indicated that food eaten early in the day is less likely to contribute to putting on weight than food eaten in the evening. Other studies suggest that those who breakfast regularly weigh less than those who do not. Few of us would disagree that a decent meal first thing in the day is a good way to soak up

## On the menu



WITH  
Andy Johnstone

### Food For Thought

the booze from the night before.

The breakfast in question may be English. It could be Scottish. It might even be Welsh – served with laverbread, made from seaweed and oatmeal, and cockles.

And it can definitely be Irish – with no political inferences made, just geographical ones – whether the north or south of that island.

Down Chalong way is Food For Thought, run by two of this emerald isle's only slightly well-known ladies: Julie Hirunchai and Hélène Fallon-Wood, dubbed “Thelma and Louise” by one of Phuket's more social butterflies.

Rolling up to Food For Thought (FFT) at a leisurely 9:45 am was a treat for the olfactory sense: the air was pleasantly fragrant with the scent of bacon, a smell that has been known to cause even ardent vegetarians to jump ship to *SS Omnivore* once again.

Guided by our noses, my dining companion, Stephen Myles – lately of the *Phuket Gazette*



Doing what she does best: Julie Hirunchai (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with her crew at Food For Thought.

and now heading back to Cyprus – and I walk in to be greeted by the effervescent Julie.

After introductions, and before Julie has got further than “And what would you boys like to...” we say in unison, “The Wicklow Breakfast”, swiftly followed by “And tea. Lots of tea.”

None of yer Lipton's excuse for tea at FFT, oh no. The breakfaster has the choice of Barry's or Lyons' tea. We choose Barry's, because my father is called Barry.

A guided tour of FFT before breakfast reveals more than expected. Books abound, not surprisingly with Julie – recently of the late lamented Good Earth Books – involved.

I pick up a small tome on

Irish proverbs, which features such gems as “If you're the only one that knows you're afraid, you're brave” and “Drink! Feck! Arse! Girls!”

The floor above this has tons of books on every subject imaginable from *Choose The Right Career!* (I buy that one) to *National Heroes of Albania. No 345: Sir Norman Wisdom.*

Quite delightfully, this floor also has a comfortable window seat manned by two teddy bears. A gentle reader may scoop one of said bears up to enjoy a volume, or simply to watch the world go by on Patak Rd. Truly a room with a view.

FFT serves not only breakfast – ours is on its way – but a scrumptious range of pastries,

salads and other wonders doled out with tea strong enough for the spoon to stand up in it and, if necessary, a nice dose of sympathy. You can practice yoga here, too.

Summoned not by bells but by smells, we know that it is time to eat.

Back to bacon, and the mighty slabs we are served amid the other rare treasures on the plate is proper bacon.

Proper, smoked back bacon from Canada, fried to fragrant perfection. When it comes to most of the bacon available in Phuket “frying” is almost a contradiction in terms; it tends to contain so much water that it boils instead.

Our plates are also graced by sausages made by a Brit master butcher. He makes the black pudding, too. The scented, slightly sweet mix includes oats, suet and bread, caramelized on the outside and just plain heavenly.

Homemade potato cakes – possibly the Irish caviar – baked beans, tomato, a fried free-range egg and lashings of toast fill the rest of the plate and us – and all for just 190 baht. Wonder if they could throw in a pint of Beamish to the breakfast menu?

The blackboard menu reads like a quick tour through culinary nirvana: couscous; insalata caprese; croque monsieur; cottage pie; meringues, apple pie or scones and jam with fresh cream; and quiche, which real men *do* eat, by the way.

And that's just what we do, after numerous more cups of tea. Julie and Hélène insist that we stay a little longer to allow breakfast to go down before we eat more treats.

Not that they need to insist too much; the atmosphere in this oasis of tranquility doesn't hurry one along; why should it, when one can read, chat, eat, drink tea and repeat the process quite happily all day long.

An added joy will be the imminent Sunday morning opening and the Friday evening literary circle. Call Thelma and Louise for details.

Using the wireless Internet to listen to radio from around the world – we choose BBC Radio 6 – is another joy here.

Stephen and I enjoy our cream tea, not just the scones but the delicate cucumber sandwiches too. We vow to find space for the spinach and cheese quiche, and the ham and cheese quiche – with salads of our choice coming to a very reasonable 145 baht each – later.

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## This week



**SUPPER WITH SIPA:** Taking a break at Kan Eang 2 restaurant in Chalong before their recent seminar on IT certification are Software Industry Promotion Agency President (Sipa) Dr Manoo Ordeedolchest (center) and his crew (standing, from left) Dr Rattana Wetprasit and Piyarat Kulvanich, with guests Dr Prasit Koeyesiripong (left) and Phummisak Hongsyok.



**FEAST OF FASHION:** Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit (gold-colored shirt) presided over the opening of Phuket-themed "Puntae Food and Fashion" show, with Phuket Provincial Red Cross President Maneephan Uswarangkura (5<sup>th</sup> from right), Phuket Vocational College Director Somjit Suttangkul (front, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and other VIP guests who dined together while viewing the fashion show put on by students.



**UNA NOCHE CALIENTE:** Tai Life Spa and Health Club hosted a hot latin night with Henry Knowles (right), who is regarded as the world's best salsa deejay. With him (from right) is Thailand's leading salsa dance couple, Thatima Sukjai and Jiraroj Tikkawee, and salsa dance instructor Khun Apple, Jost Wagner and team.



**LET'S GET STARTED:** Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Praivet (left) presents a ceremonial key of the first Toyota Yaris in Phuket to Saroj Angkanapilart at an inauguration ceremony christened "Toyota Yaris Be Groovy & Thank You Party" at the Toyota Pearl dealership in Phuket City.



**ON YER BIKE:** Phuket Area Revenue Office Chief Pensri Passakul (left) and Phoonsin Sinthanaphat (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Vice-President of Thanachart Bank, Phuket Branch, present 50 bicycles to Thalang District Chief Administrative Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Utai Thatthong (center) and Baan Prujampa School Director Niyom Phromkunthong (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) for students.



**PROST!** (From left) Bootleg Media Digital Imaging Solutions Director Thomas Gottschalk, Royal Bavarian Beerhouse Director Hermann Siegner, Lemonsurf Computer & Web Solutions Managing Director Franco Ferri and Sea Bees Diving Technical Director Michael Giger, attend the first anniversary of the Royal Bavarian Beerhouse opening in Rawai.

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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): If you have been burning the midnight oil recently, ease off – particularly if it is your birthday this week. If you don't get some much-needed rest, even blowing up the balloons could prove too much exertion. Leo is likely to pick holes in your latest business scheme, but with good reason. Cutting necessary corners can only lead to failure. Wear the color lotus flower pink to help you chill out.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): All systems are on go this week. The remaining days of February should prove to be the most productive time so far this year. Making too much of an effort to impress a certain someone will deplete your funds quickly; try showing your interest with meaningful gestures instead. You will need spare cash to pay off an unexpected bill on Tuesday or Wednesday. The number 4 is lucky on Monday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you can't make up your mind whether to commit to a surprise job offer, you should seek advice from a trusted Sagittarian friend. Don't let the cat out of the bag to anyone else until the deal has been signed and sealed. A last-minute social invitation on Saturday shouldn't be turned down, no matter how tired you are. This is a good chance to widen your circle of friends.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Double-check arrangements before setting off on a trip. If you are enjoying a burst of romance in your life you probably won't have been thinking about much else recently. Your positive attitude has an effect on people you meet, and a stranger will be grateful for helpful advice. This is an auspicious time to put creative ideas into practice. The color cherry red encourages money to flow toward you.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): When it comes to the crunch your instincts can be trusted. This week will bring a seemingly irresistible offer, but astute Geminis should see the hidden catch without too much difficulty. Your partner feels he or she is being kept in the dark regarding finances; keeping details to yourself can only bring future problems. If you're single, an interesting introduction on Sunday holds the promise of happiness. Monday is the best day for venturing into new business territory.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Don't get caught in the middle of disagreements between friends. Taking sides is bound to cause more trouble than it's worth. In the romance zone, it looks as if someone has got hold of the wrong end of the stick. Unless you honestly want to include this person in your future, a gentle let-down is highly recommended. The color marigold orange encourages spiritual interest.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Effort you make at work will set you up for the rest of the year. If you aren't afraid of trying something new, the stars will support you. Inconsistent cash flow could be a source of stress if you let it; there's no point getting hot under the collar about this situation, as it will stabilize by the end of the month. The number 5 comes alive on Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You are about to enter a phase of change which will affect most areas of your life. Clever spending will be the key to wealth, so don't allow others to have control of the purse strings. A forgotten business connection will make a reappearance soon – joint ventures that didn't have a chance to get off the ground before can soon become concrete. Tuesday is the best day for negotiating a tricky deal.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): The romantic rollercoaster continues for those who are unwilling to look realistically at an unstable relationship. You are in danger of losing at least one good friend whose shoulder has been cried on enough. This week should offer a good opportunity to face up to the facts. Expect to be invited on a business trip – this will involve last-minute planning, but should not be turned down.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Your confidence is at an all-time high. Not many people will be able to refuse Scorpio this week, so put that asset to productive use. If you've been toying with the idea of changing your career direction, it's now or never. On the romantic horizon, Aries is preparing to show an interest. This could be the exciting relationship you have been looking for. Those already involved will be surprised at their partner's suggestion midweek.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you haven't yet managed to shed surplus pounds gained during the holiday period, you have run out of excuses to get to the gym. Your sluggish energy levels will benefit greatly from a change of both exercise and diet habits. A friend born under the sign of Cancer, who is in a similar situation, would appreciate being asked to join in your endeavor. Good deeds carried out late last year are about to be rewarded.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): If you are tired of counting small change in order to get by you will receive sudden inspiration this weekend. If you dare to branch out in a totally new direction, the stars will provide all the support you need to succeed. Your feelings for someone born under the sign of Taurus are likely to be reciprocated, but tread with caution as there's more going on in his or her personal life than meets the eye.

## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

**February 13: Makha Bucha Day.** This Buddhist holiday falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, and commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings.

It also marks the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings just months before his death.

**Until February 24: "Abstracts of Industry" photo exhibition.** This exhibition of photography by award-winning photographer, US-born Chris Swift, is on display in the foyer of the British Curriculum International School.

It can be seen between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday. It features a sugar mill, boats and trains in abstract, taken mainly in and around Bangkok and Kanchanaburi.

For more information contact Tel: 07-1129568; Email: cswift1@swift-mail.com; or visit the website at [www.swift-images.com](http://www.swift-images.com). See also page 11 of this issue.

**Until February 28: "We Are Not Alone" art exhibition.** This exhibition features the work of 20 artists from the Andaman coastal region.

The goal of the exhibition, say the organizers, is to show solidarity with those who are concerned about the environment.

The show, at Phuket Art Gallery, 74 Thalang Rd, Phuket City, will be open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm, seven days a week, until February 28.

**February 13 to 15: Cliff and underwater weddings.** The Krabi Tourist Association and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) are to stage "Krabi Cliff Wedding" ceremonies on February 13 and 14 at Ton Sai Beach on Koh Phi Phi Don and at Rai

Lay Beach, on the Krabi mainland, near Ao Nang.

Couples will take their vows while hanging off the cliff face, in ceremonies recognized by Thai law.

The Trang Chamber of Commerce (TCC), meanwhile, will stage its annual Underwater Wedding Ceremony from February 13 to 15 at Pak Meng Beach, Sikao District. This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first underwater wedding staged in Trang.

For more information on the Trang ceremony, see [www.underwaterwedding.com](http://www.underwaterwedding.com)

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

For more information, call Tel: 02-2510712 or 02-2553391-2.



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A motor car you will almost certainly never see in Phuket, and glimpse only rarely in Bangkok, is the magnificent Rolls-Royce Phantom.

The history of Rolls-Royce is well-documented, but suffice it to say that CS Rolls, a wealthy aristocrat, and Frederick Henry Royce, an engineer and maker of electric cranes, first met in Manchester in 1904 and produced their first car, the Silver Ghost, in 1907.

Rolls-Royce took the almost bankrupt Bentley concern under its wing in 1931, and the two marques continued side-by-side, sometimes nothing more than an exercise in badge-engineering, for another 70 years.

In 1998 Volkswagen's chairman Ferdinand Piech made a bid for the company, only to be out-manoeuvred by fellow German and BMW boss Bernd Pischetsrieder. The former is from Lower Saxony, and the latter Bavaria – they are arch-rivals.

### AUDACIOUS

Pischetsrieder made an audacious bid for the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars name, Spirit of Ecstasy hood motif and the intertwined "double-R" logo. The Rolls-Royce deal cost a fraction of the amount Piech paid for the aging Bentley factory and brand.

By a delicious irony, Pischetsrieder was "let go" by BMW over the Rover debacle of 2000, and has now succeeded Dr Piech as chairman of VW.

Volkswagen continued to produce relatively small numbers of the Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph, under licence from BMW, until 2002, when the new Rolls-Royce greenfield site was ready to begin production in southern England.

The new facility is located within the grounds of Goodwood House, family home of the Earl of March. While it is principally an assembly plant (the aluminum bodies are produced in Germany), all the intricate wood veneers, sumptuous leather upholstery and other refinements only found in a car of this stature are all produced locally by craftsmen, many of

# ROLLING ON



Right: For Dubai's six-star Burj Al Arab hotel, only Rolls Royce Phantoms would do.

Above and top: The Phantom bodies are now made in Germany but the hand-crafted leather and walnut work is done at the new Rolls-Royce plant in Britain.



whom were recruited from the nearby boat-building fraternity.

The aluminum bodies are transported by road from a BMW plant in southern Germany, and the same purpose-built containers are used to ship the cars back and on to dealers worldwide. Late last year, Rolls-Royce delivered its 2,000<sup>th</sup> Phantom, an achievement many claimed would never be possible because of the upheaval the original 1998 deal caused.

At the recent North America International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, Ian Robertson, Chief Executive and chairman of Rolls-Royce, said what many people had never believed: "Coming to Detroit is special,

because it was right here, in January 2003, that we unveiled the Phantom to the world. I believe we can now say confidently and unequivocally that the Phantom has re-established Rolls-Royce exactly where it ought to be – at the top of the super-luxury sedan segment."

While the US is – with around 50% of total sales – by far the most successful market for the Phantom, Rolls-Royce has delivered cars to South Africa, Nigeria, Chile, Bulgaria, Algeria, Poland and Uzbekistan.

"We retailed 796 Phantoms across the world in 2005," said Mr Robertson. "For the second year running, our Beverly Hills dealer sold more than any other

in the world, although it was closely followed by London, Tokyo, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

"To meet the demand from our customers in Asia and the Middle East, we have introduced an extended-wheelbase Phantom, which offers even more space in the rear, as well as extra room for bespoke features such as fridges, wine cellars, safes, humidors and computer equipment."

There will be the addition of a new Rolls-Royce convertible, smaller than the Phantom, but which will share much of the technology.

Production begins in 2007, and reaction from well-heeled customers has been so good that

Rolls-Royce is running out of build slots.

Mr Robertson hinted, in closing, that there may be other models currently on the drawing board at Rolls-Royce: "We now have three cars, all built on the Phantom platform, but watch this space for one or two surprises later this year."

Even Henry Royce would have been impressed at the way the company is going. More than 100 years after its creation, it is good to know that the world's most famous luxury brand lives on.

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

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Deep-fried fish in batter is a firm favorite with Kor Tor's customers.

# Mouthwatering fish and noodles

Jarouyporn "Moy" and Udomporn Wongthaworn opened the clean and spacious Kor Tor Fish & Noodles shop in Phuket City six years ago.

From 8 am to 7 pm daily, they serve their customers a variety of enticing homemade Thai favorites.

Three of Kor Tor's most

*Bamee yum heng* is another dish popular with customers.

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

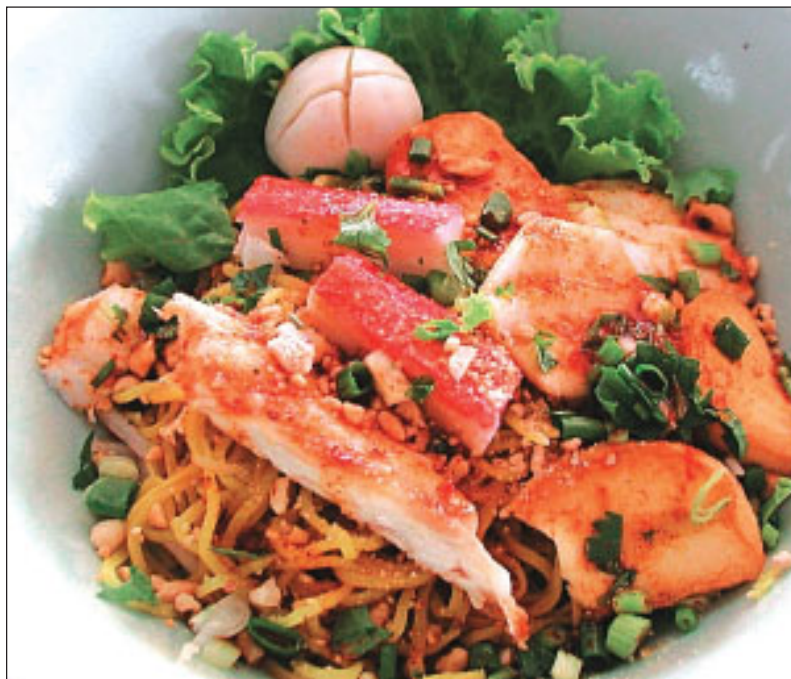
popular dishes are: the healthy *Bamee yum heng* (noodles in fish stock with fish, lettuce and bean sprouts) at just 30 baht a bowl; boiled fish balls served with some lettuce and a tasty sauce for 60 baht; and a portion of their battered, deep-fried fish (*Pla kao mao*), also served with lettuce

and sauce, costs a mere 30 baht.

K. Moy and K. Udomporn make their fresh fish balls by hand and sell a remarkable 10 kilograms of them each day. And don't worry about monosodium glutamate (MSG) – they never use it.

When it's too hot and humid to enjoy a meal outdoors, retreat to Kor Tor's air-conditioned dining area where you'll receive the same friendly and speedy service in which they take great – and deserved – pride, and at no extra cost.

Kor Tor Fish & Noodles shop on Tilok Uthit 2 Rd is closed on government holidays. For more information, or to order in advance, call K. Moy at Tel: 01-5390799.



Above: The huge piles of bowls are an indication of how busy this restaurant gets. Below: Kor Tor makes all its own fishballs.



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# TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

If Sydney is laid-back, then Katoomba – in the heart of the Blue Mountains, 90 minutes' drive to the west – is practically horizontal.

For over a century, the town has acted as an alpine retreat from the coastal capital, a haven for artists and drop-outs, alternative lifestylers and anybody in search of a breath of country air in the wilderness.

The Blue Mountains, listed as a World Heritage Site, cover an area roughly the size of Belgium that's an inspiring mix of rainforest, canyons and heathlands. As recently as 1994 one explorer found himself standing in a grove of "dinosaur" trees that were believed to have been extinct for 20 million years.

Today, Katoomba is not so much prehistoric as precocious, providing a heady mix of natural beauty, outdoor activity and sheer, rip-roaring fun, spiced with some excellent restaurants and spas.

One of the area's earliest immigrants was Norman Lindsay, who set up home at nearby Faulconbridge in 1912. A controversial artist by the standards of his day, he favored paintings and sculptures of satyrs and nymphs, which have been reckoned to be fairly close portraits of himself and numerous lady friends, though apologists state he simply just admired women with a passion. His cottage has been turned into a gallery and museum, and will be familiar from the film *Sirens*, starring Hugh Grant and Elle Macpherson, which was filmed there.

If nothing else, Lindsay was typical of the people who have made their way to the Blue Mountains in search of solitude and the opportunity to do their own thing undisturbed. With a million hectares of wilderness surrounding Katoomba, there are ample walking trails, ranging from short hikes to full-blown treks that last several days. One of the most

# Of sisters and sirens



popular, the Prince Henry Cliff Walk, leads off from Echo Point, which overlooks the spectacular Three Sisters rock formation. Stretching nine kilometers, with a fair bit of up and down, it takes in the Katoomba Cascades and Jamison Valley.

For those without the time or inclination to break a sweat, The Edge cinema's six-story-high stadium screen showcases the Blue Mountains' natural wonders, with panoramic footage describing the discovery and exploration of the area six times a day.

Despite its primeval surroundings, Katoomba provides much in the way of recreational sophistication. Aromatherapy, massage and beauty treatments are all on tap at the newly refurbished Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa.

For anyone seeking more than a quick health fix, there's the Brahma Kumaris Centre for Spiritual Learning. And for some "Priscilla – Queen of the Mountains"-style cabaret entertainment, The Clarendon Guesthouse Theatre Restaurant rocks every

Above: Some of the walking trails end in dead-ends.

Right, the Zig Zag Railway, a marvel of Victorian engineering.



Saturday night, just as it has done for the past 22 years.

Katoomba is easy to reach by road, and is also served by trains from Sydney. However, railway enthusiasts usually detour to another part of the Blue Mountains.

Puffing up and down the seven kilometers between Clarence and Bottom Points stations,

through two tunnels and over three sandstone viaducts, the Zig Zag railway – built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, later abandoned but since restored by a group of enthusiasts – is a marvelous exponent of the ingenuity of Victorian engineering, and a minor tribute to human endeavor in the midst of the splendor that is the Blue Mountains.

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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 25 types of material used for clothing. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on page 22

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

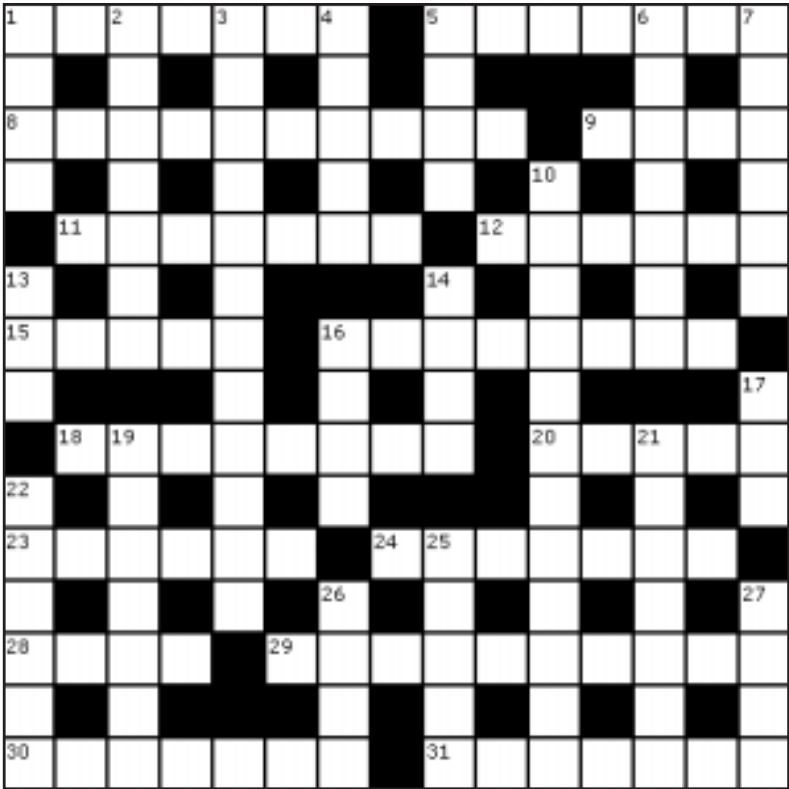
### ACROSS

- Financially support sister to half be. (7)
- Don't take blood group mark. (7)
- Where's the diamond? Call digit! (10)
- Encourages chaps – if they are good ones. (4)
- Britain takes bend with the French twice. It's playable. (7)
- Survive on her own? Violet can. (6)
- Prod her? It's just a game. (5)
- Stole a news agency? Nah, was asleep. (4,1,3)
- Leader who gives secretary a talking-to. (8)
- View six at station. (5)
- Communist footwear on diamond? (3,3)
- Examine district attorney and learner to uncover a disgrace. (7)
- Close-cropped Irishman? (4)
- Tease a bun, scruffy child. (10)
- The one with the least water? (7)
- Finders' partners in goal. (7)

### EZ TRIVIA

- What travels at  $3.08 \times 10^8$  meters per second?
- On a computer keyboard, what is the symbol ^ known as?
- What is the name of the process whereby sugar is converted to alcohol using yeast?
- Which US President had the nickname "The Teflon President"?
- In a game of Scrabble, which two letter have values of eight points?
- What river system, Europe's largest, rises in the hills just northwest of Moscow and flows 3,700 kilometers east and southeast before emptying into the Caspian Sea?
- What is the official language of Iran?
- What famous monument sits under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris?
- What US rapper is known as The Black People's President?
- What city is hosting the 2006 Winter Olympics?

Answers on page 22



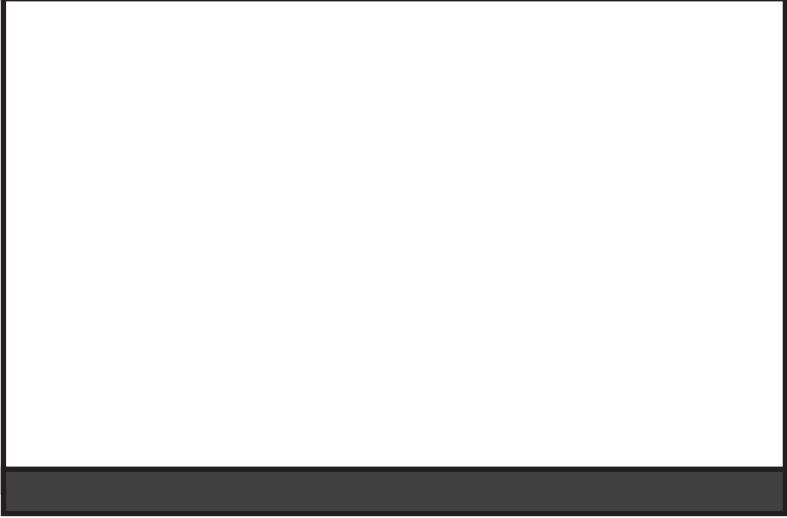
Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

### Down

- Fortune teller, we hear, is very dry. (4)
- Whack the rooster, say? Capital! (7)
- Sneaking in, I anoint flirt oddly. (12)
- To take LAN back, like Thai. (5)
- Copy mystery man at the top. (5)
- Logical system for a garble garble. (7)
- After three points, Ted sat on 9 ac. (6)
- Miss the lark, and misfortune. (12)
- Speed of marina, initially. (1,1,1)
- To float on air sounds painful. (4)
- Bishop's ballet gear? (4)
- Two notes about a silence. (3)
- The state of Mr Jones! (7)
- Bit fan and self, oddly. (7)
- Is near mixed up. (6)
- A break for drugs?!? (5)
- Break up a bit. (4)
- Finishes results (4)

Solution on page 22

### Scribble Space



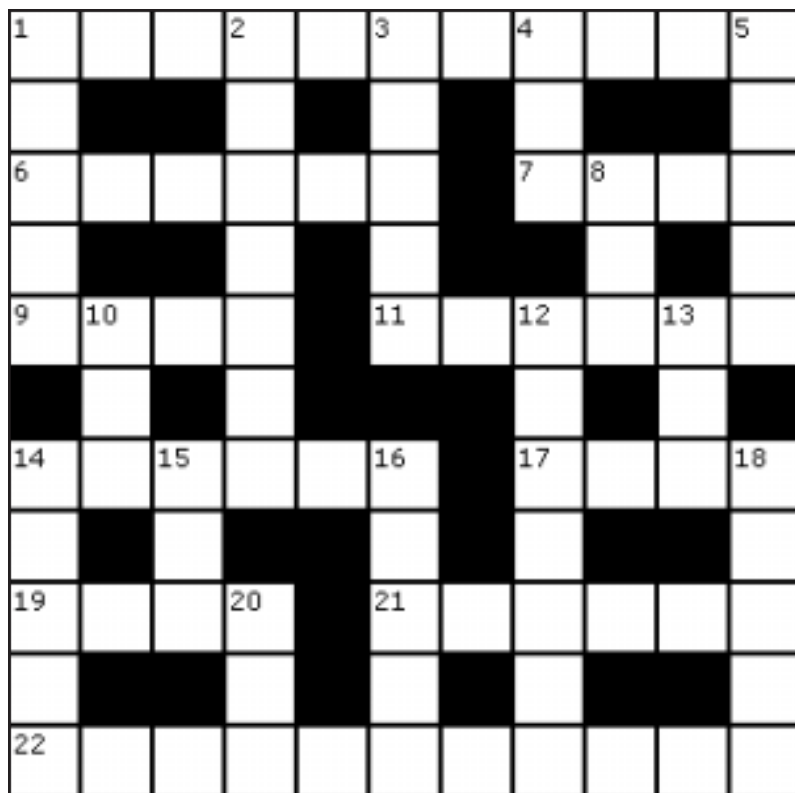
## Brain Buster!!

Jeremy has a habit of taking people with him, uninvited, to others' parties. But the hosts rarely complain because Jeremy always offers them an amusing riddle when introducing his uninvited companion.

On this particular occasion, he introduces his companion as Robert, and tells them, "Brothers and sisters have I none, But this man's father is my father's son." How are Robert and Jeremy related?

Answer on page 22.





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Personal identifier.
6. Small, tasty bit of food.
7. Where bacon comes from.
9. Costa \*\*\*\*.
11. Same-sounding line endings.
14. Deciding race.
17. Nothing, in Spanish.
19. Simple plant.
21. Brother's daughters.
22. Reward for a bright child

### DOWN

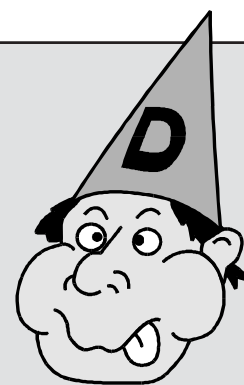
1. Thigh bone.

2. Nazi police.

3. Boss of a country.
4. Sales agent.
5. Long animal teeth.
8. Computer maker.
10. Debtor's promise
12. Baseball team
13. Finish.
14. Cuts crops.
15. Old horse.
16. Fizzy drink brand.
18. Teller of fables.
20. Fuss.

*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. Go south-east of Detroit and which country will you arrive at first?
2. Which two impressionist painters have identical family names apart from one letter?
3. What's the most abundant element in the sun?
4. Why were the Lone Ranger's bullets made of silver?
5. In the US, whose profession is considered the greatest insurance risk?
6. How many soccer teams will be competing in this year's World Cup finals in Germany?
7. In which century AD was the Domesday Book written?
8. What player holds the record for the most goals scored in a World Cup Final?
9. In which Dickens novel did the convict Magwitch appear?
10. By what name is the Lent lily more commonly known?
11. Who recently replaced Sheikh I Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah as Emir of Kuwait?
12. Which legendary singer's most recent album is called *Ma vérité*?
13. Which Nazi war criminal finally went on trial on February 11, 1961?
14. Where did the trial take place?
15. Who was the "designated survivor" during the 2006 US State of the Union Address?
16. What is RTVi?
17. What, in nanometers, are the wavelength range parameters of blue light?
18. Which three artists or bands have released albums called *Discovery*?
19. The Angel Interceptors fighter squadron appeared in which puppet science-fiction series?
20. What, after being played at 5.30 am every day for 33 years, is to be removed from BBC Radio 4 scheduling?

*Answers below, left*

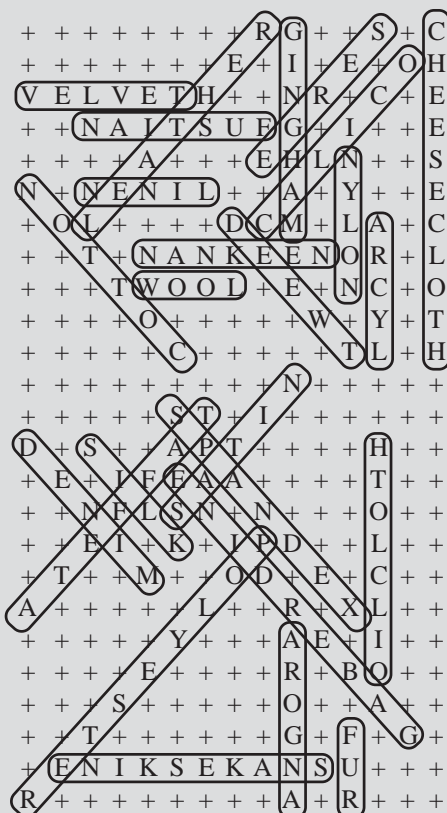
# Puzzle Solutions

**Monster Quiz Answers:** 1. Canada; 2. Manet and Monet; 3. Hydrogen; 4. To show the value of human life; 5. An astronaut's; 6. 32; 7. The 11th; 8. Geoff Hurst; 9. Great Expectations; 10. Daffodil; 11. Sheikh Sabah IV Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; 12. Johnny Hallyday; 13. Adolf Eichmann; 14. Jerusalem; 15. Jim Nicholson, US Secretary of Veterans' Affairs; 16. An international Russian-language TV network; 17. 420-490nm; 18. Electric Light Orchestra, Jean-Michel Jarre and Daft Punk; 19. Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons; 20. The UK Theme.

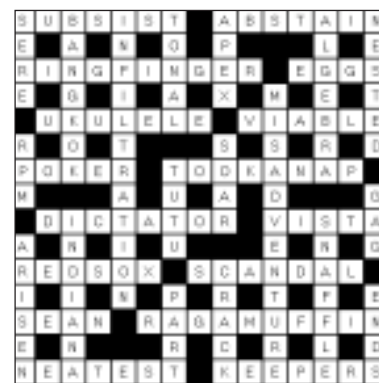
**EZ Triva Answers:** 1. Light; 2. A caret; 3. Fermentation; 4. Ronald Reagan; 5. "J" and "X"; 6. Volga River; 7. Persian, also known as Farsi; 8. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; 9. Snoop Dogg; 10. Turin, Italy.

**Brain Buster Answer:** Robert is Jeremy's son.

### Hidden Words SOLUTION



### Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





**T'was ever thus:** "Clean-up, yes. Plan ahead, no. The Thais authorities have done a magnificent job of cleaning up the beachfront. There were literally tons of debris to be removed, and kilometres of sidewalks to be repaved. They have (more or less) done all that, though I suspect it was a rush job and the quality of work less than desired – already, some brand new paving stones were coming loose or missing. What they haven't done was to seize the opportunity to remove the electricity poles and bury the cables and other utilities, so as not to obscure the view. Nor have they applied any new thinking to what Patong should look like. The authorities left it to private property owners to restore their shops, restaurants and hotels and the result, as inevitable, is a cacophonous mess of building designs, roof heights, frontage alignments, floor levels and steps, made garish by neon displays and tacky decorations. They don't seem to have any plan or land-use rules to promote more greenery and walking paths." (1)

**More scams:** "While some scams, such as the gemstone scams, are well known, some of these other blatant rip-offs aren't. Sure, there are plenty of honest vendors, but it seems there are almost as many shady characters. Given that shopping is one of the reasons people choose to visit Thailand, it would seem to me that many of the locals are playing with fire. piss off enough tourists and they might not return. Too often when buying products or services in Thailand, it seems that every effort is put into enticing one to make the purchase, often promoting the goods or service to be something that it may not

# Paid and peeved in Phuket

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Minna-san, konnichi-wa! Didn't know that Lis could speak Japanese, did you? She's a cunning... old bird, eh? Well, here it is: another collection of sparklers for you, fresh off the Internet for your perusal. Why, she's got cacophonous messes, baht-ignorant Americans and smelly seafoods. Tanoshinde kudasai!

necessarily be. Once the buyer has either parted with their money or has reached a point where it is clear they will not be backing out, such as actually making an order for food – even though it may not yet have been consumed, little effort is made to actually meet the customer's expectations. And if you want to back out, change your mind or even just make a small amendment, that supposedly kind, friendly service disappears altogether and is replaced by a surly, unhelpful attitude which in a worst case scenario can get nasty." (2)

**Innocents abroad – American style:** The main logo under this webpage's title sums up this couple's view of the world outside the good ol' US of A: "\$1 U.S. =

43 Thai Baht. By this time the sun had set and night was approaching, and I began to think about how my mother never seems to like for me to drive at night, so I can only imagine how she'd feel if she knew I was zipping along on THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD in a foreign country... At the airport, he handed what he thought was 800 baht to the driver, who thanked him profusely, then sped away. Once inside, Wiley realized he had given the driver 8,000 baht, not 800. That's the equivalent of giving a taxi driver \$180 on an \$18 fare. Ouch... We tried to console ourselves by thinking about how we had just made that guy's week, month, and year. Oh well – it's only money, right???" (3)

**No bargain!** "We decided to ride the seven-miles back to the Sheraton Laguna by tuk-tuk, and selected a healthy looking bright red one. A price was negotiated – 300 baht – a bargain! Next morning, a pre-booked car took us to Phuket's airport. The fare was 300 baht, but the driver offered no change for our 500 baht note. 'Mai bpen rai!'" (4)

**Peeved off in Patong:** "Patong Beach, Phuket has a nice boardwalk for strolling. Much nicer than Pattaya's. If you take your exercise after dark, though, you had better bring a lady friend along. Either that, or a baseball bat to ward off the katoeys. Extremely aggressive, those. (Someone has coined the humorous term 'Trans-

testicles' for these abhorrent creatures. I suggest 'sans testicles' is more accurate, if perhaps less funny.) But if you are not overly distracted by the katoeys groping and clawing at you, perhaps you will then notice that the salty sea air has an especially sharp tang to it. What gives it that peculiar quality? The odour is strangely familiar, yet not very pleasant. If you are out in the daytime, when the sun is baking the ground, you will notice it is almost overpowering in places. But, only at night will you discover the cause: A few feet off the boardwalk, barely in the shadows, there is the dim figure of a tuk-tuk driver answering nature's call! You stroll a bit further, and there's another guy doing likewise! All the vendors, touts and taxi drivers who hustle tourists along the beach road use the tree lined beach promenade as a public toilet after dark. The constant on-shore breeze ensures that every passer-by gets a good strong whiff of it. There's more in the air than just the briny sea!" (5)

1. [http://www.yawningbread.org/arch\\_2005/yax-454.htm](http://www.yawningbread.org/arch_2005/yax-454.htm)
2. <http://www.stickmanbangkok.com/Weekly/weekly161.html>
3. [http://www.longsstrangetrip.com/the\\_beach.htm](http://www.longsstrangetrip.com/the_beach.htm)
4. <http://www.interlog.com/~wwhite/thailand.html#Phuket>
5. <http://www.stickmanbangkok.com/Weekly/weekly67.html>

The international publishing industry will eventually produce several thick tomes about the December 26 tsunami, just as it did for the September 11 attacks, but Bill O'Leary's slim book is a worthy pioneering effort.

*Tsunami Stories Thailand* (Image Asia, Phuket, 2006, 122pp) brings together 16 personal accounts of survivors who were caught up in the horror. This is a non-profit publication with a requested 500-baht donation for the MINOR Tsunami Recovery Fund, which is committed to providing for the future education of 13 schoolchildren from Khao Lak; all but two of them orphans.

Damian Barrett, a marine engineer, was on Patong Beach when the water emptied out of the bay. When the wave came in, he was knocked over the esplanade and into a gold shop, dislocating his shoulder. As the water swept up to the ceiling, he prepared for death:

"The ceiling was visible again and the water was pulling me back toward the entrance. I was propelled back out onto the street and into a swirling washing machine of salty foam filled with motorcycles, cars, cement walls, sheets of tin roofing and screaming people. The wave was retreating toward the sea. I didn't like my chances, scrambling in the death soup. I hit a tree on the esplanade that the Buddhists tie colored ribbons around."

The tree saved his life.

The next three stories are related: how Manfred "Richie" Neustifter called Bill O'Leary from a lifeguard tower on the Amanpuri resort telling him that

## A worthy beginning



By James Eckardt

the water had mysteriously disappeared from the bay. On the other side of the island, O'Leary barked orders to clear the beach and the Amanpuri guests and staff emerged unscathed. Trapped in a marine workshop further down the beach, Bernard Berteau managed to escape on a jet-ski for a 600-meter ride before latching onto an apartment balcony.

"There were hundreds of rats and thousands of cockroaches all swimming on the top of the water," he reports. "Terrified people were hanging in trees and sitting on rooftops."

These accounts and others from Phuket are just finger exercises for the mighty orchestration of horror that fell upon Khao Lak.

On vacation from Paris, Patrice Fayet, his wife Samantha and six-month-old daughter Ruby Rose were staying at a bungalow 100 yards from the beach. When the first wave hit, both Samantha and Ruby Rose were soon swept away to their deaths. Patrice survived by riding the



wave for miles till he was left on a hillside rubber plantation.

"I was so tired, injured and in shock," he reports. "In fact, I have never been so exhausted in all my life. I thought I might die right there. Then I saw this woman limping in the mud. She was naked. I looked at myself. I was naked. Everyone I saw was totally naked. The wave had stripped us all."

He found sanctuary further up the mountain: "The Thais are truly magnificent people deep down. They came to me every few minutes and tried to feed me and give me water and make sure I didn't die right there. Many did. They just sat down, went into deep shock and died right there."

The next three stories are by three Thai businesswomen in Khao Lak: Noot, Kwan and Boom. When the wave washed

over her 35-room beach resort, Noot crouched down, frozen in fear, as her staff ran past her in terror. She was sucked down into whirlpools twice and woke up hanging upside down from the top of a tree. Her fear had actually saved her: while people running away were crushed by a wall of debris, she simply floated to the top.

Kwan ran to safety, watching her tour office and seven vans wash out to sea. Boom and her husband Kevin were swept away on an aquatic roller coaster ride, but survived.

Even more horrific are the tales from Koh Phi Phi Don. "We saw hundreds of dead bodies," recalls one survivor, Mr Blue. "It was a butcher's shop with many people's stomachs cut open and intestines hanging out for meters

around them. Legs, arms missing, torsos halved and decapitations."

Though the Thai military comes in for high praise for their swift evacuation of Phi Phi, Burmese survivors at the end of the book complain of being accused of looting and stripped of their savings. Just another example of the wild contrasts of that terrible day.

*Copies of the book have been selling fast, but at the time of going to press, copies were available at Island Furniture on Chao Fa West Rd, at the JW Marriott, Trisara and the Chedi resorts, at the Bang Tao Beach Gardens main office (Tel: 01-6064809), and at Food for Thought in Chalong.*

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**O**n a recent trip to Chiang Mai I was privileged to meet a lady who last year topped *Time* magazine's list of Asian heroines.

Sangduen Chailert, known to everybody as Khun Lek because of her small stature, has been recognized the world over for her mission to save the Thai elephant and its habitat.

Also known as the "Elephant Whisperer", she is a rare recipient of the National Geographic Ford Motor Company Hero for the Planet Award, and has been the subject of numerous documentaries, including the award-winning *Vanishing Giants*, which graphically exposed the cruelty baby elephants are sometimes subjected to in early training by their handlers.

Her story is quite remarkable. She was born in a hill tribe village north of Chiang Mai. Her grandfather was the village shaman and taught her traditional healing methods.

On one occasion her grandfather received a young elephant as payment for healing someone. Lek grew up with the pachyderm, regarding it as a member of the family and after a while even adopting a trait so often found in female elephants – the tendency to treat another's offspring as their own, and to protect them fiercely.

Lek did well in school, going on to graduate with a teaching degree from Chiang Mai University.

For the past 10 years, however, her life has been devoted entirely to elephants.

The Asian elephant is very much on the endangered species list. The figures tell a frightening story: A century ago there were more than 100,000 of these animals in Thailand alone. Five years ago there were 4,000. Today it is estimated that only 2,000 remain, most of them employed in the tourism industry either offering rides or begging in city streets.

Very few wild elephants remain, and those that do are in danger of being killed by poachers, or by farmers when they encroach onto farmland.

It is estimated that as many



# Defender of the gentle giants

as two out of every three baby elephants seen in hotels and amusement parks in tourist areas such as Phuket have been poached from the wild. Often, poachers will kill the fiercely protective mothers in order to get to the babies.

It is difficult for the Thai authorities to prosecute poachers as the law does not require elephants under eight years of age to be registered – so anyone can "own" one.

The youngsters are often

"tamed" using an ancient and barbaric method known as the *phajaan*. Baby elephants are placed in a crush cage for several days, deprived of sleep and stabbed repeatedly with metal spikes and heated irons to break their spirit.

Lek has documented scores of these sessions, during which, she says, half of the animals die. "Of the survivors, about half go mad," she says. "This brutality can make them aggressive and dangerous. Elephants do not need to taste pain to learn how to listen."

Seen as a visionary abroad, here in Thailand she has been vilified for her decade of conservation work that has disclosed widespread cruelty to elephants, the animal Thai people hold most sacred.

She took the brunt of the backlash after the radical animal rights group Peta used some of her footage of savage training sessions to call for international sanctions against Thailand.

Lek was branded a traitor and a crank, and had to go into hiding. Even her family disowned her. Her favorite baby elephant was killed with a cyanide injection as a "warning" to her.

"I won't tell people to boycott elephant safaris, as long as the animals are well treated," she

says. But then she points to infected pressure sores along the spines of two elderly elephants that used to have to

wear metal chairs to give tourists rides. Elephants' backs are totally unsuitable for carrying people, she says. The massive neck muscles are much better suited to bearing weight.

International recognition has brought a reduction in harassment by officials, and Lek is keen to educate Thais. Education, she believes is crucial. She cites the case of a local abbot who left her park in tears, ashamed that he had once enjoyed elephant shows in which the creatures played harmonicas, posed in bikinis and painted murals.

Lek's dream is to release working elephants back into the forest. She has two centers; Elephant Nature Park and Elephant Haven, which together cover about 625 rai of land some 50 kilometres north of Chiang Mai.

Having spent just one day there I can testify that, for anyone remotely interested in elephants, this is an experience not to be missed. The Elephant Nature Park stretches over 375 rai, and has been lauded globally for its natural approach to elephant care.

Forget the elephant rides, football games and other tricks. Instead, you will experience close encounters with these huge, gracious creatures in a beautiful natural environment.

Every elephant in the park has a tragic story, ranging from land mine and traffic accident victims to one who was blinded when her handler lost patience with her, and shot arrows into her eyes.

Fortunately, thanks to Lek and the park's many supporters across the globe (Hollywood star Meg Ryan has visited), they now have a future.

There are organized tours every day of the week. For those wishing to stay longer, accommodation is available.

You can also stay there for longer periods working as a volunteer, but beware: one Australian couple are still there two and a half years after they first went to visit.

For more details of the project, Visit [www.elephantnaturepark.org](http://www.elephantnaturepark.org)



By Top Dog

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I'm a cannibal", he says casually in the manner of a stranger introducing himself as a teacher or an estate agent.

I continue to chew in an attempt to look unfazed and place my falafel gently back on the plate.

"But I don't kill people, I only eat the dead," he reassures me. "I've only ever killed in self defense." I'm not quite sure what expression I'm supposed to have on my face; much the same as when faced with a naked, gyrating pole dancer smiling seductively and pouting at me in a Soi Cowboy bar – just how is a man supposed to react?

What brought me to Banglampu that night is irrelevant, but my meanderings led me to a little soi near Khao San Rd where I had been told there was a small Israeli café that was worth a visit.

I had chosen a vacant seat outside, opposite this gaunt looking, shaven-headed figure dressed in a sarong and a tatty old black vest; old tattoos covered his skinny arms and from what I could see his skull had let go of all but three of his teeth.

## CURIOUS

I suppose many would take his introduction as a cue to make that falafel an instant takeout, but cannibal or not, I feel that would be rather rude of me and, to be honest, I'm curious. I am intrigued as to why anybody would present such a revelation just moments after saying a friendly "hello" and gesturing that the seat opposite is free.

If he thinks he can shock me then he will be disappointed; if he is a bullshitter then I'll smell it. But if he is mad, then he could be telling the truth and, judging by his appearance (I've met some pretty odd characters over the years) I have no reason to disbelieve him. Besides, it is a new experience for me, so I am in no rush to finish my food.

He says that he was born in Texas under the name of Gary Stevenson and endured a heart-breaking sad life under this name. I can't help feeling the sympathy as he casually reveals more and more about his childhood and how, later, his wife had treated him.

I begin to understand just how far the cruelty of Western

# EATING other PEOPLE

One of the most bizarre American citizens on the planet must be the former Gary Stevenson, who now goes by the name of Kapalnath and who espouses a version of Hinduism called Aghor, whose rituals include eating dead people. The *Gazette's* new Bangkok columnist just happened to bump into him in a restaurant near Khao San Rd. He came away in one piece and recounts here the strange conversation they had. And if you don't believe it, try Googling Kapalnath...

## CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

culture can go and where it can take a man. But to take a man so far away from sanity that he embraces cannibalism?

He then fishes out of his satchel a tattered photo of his daughter that appears to have been taken in the late '70s. He also produces a mobile phone which he can't figure out, some human finger bones and a tin cup before going on to tell me cheerfully that he lives in India but is in Thailand to meet a guy who is writing a book about his life.

Nearby, a couple of young Thai children play with toy cars. He seems agitated by this and shouts at them to "F\*\*k off!"

How he ended up in India is never revealed, but it was there that he found a religion known as Aghori and changed his name to Kapalnath, which means "skull cap". I have since discovered that Aghoris, followers of a radical Hindu sect, wander the jungles and cremation grounds of India, some of them eating human flesh and practicing gruesome, cannibalistic rituals.

As if it were as ordinary as socks, he tells me that he is wanted by the FBI in connection with missing backpackers in Hawaii – but reassures me that this is just speculation and hype. He



coughs and shouts at the children in the street, holding his walking cane threateningly above his head.

There are concerned looks from other tables and a few locals, but they soon go back to their falafels and their business. Meanwhile Gary, or Kapalnath, continues with his story, showing me photos of himself, a different-

looking, heavily dread-locked self, holding charred meat over a pile of ash somewhere near the Ganges River.

He describes to me how a charred skull cracks open easily and how he juggles the hot globes of the brain between each of his hands until they are cool enough to eat.

I feel that to act surprised

at this stage may come over as sarcastic, so instead I ask him what he does for money. He tells me he makes sex movies, which nearly makes me laugh. If you were sat opposite this man you would understand why this was a rather incredible statement to come out with.

He goes on to explain that these are not ordinary sex movies. He's talking about necrophilia. "Some people are so sick in their head that they buy this stuff." A couple of Swiss women at a nearby table stand up and leave.

## REPULSIVE

I struggle to believe that I have heard him right and, again, I can't think of anything to say but he fills the silence by reassuring me that it's legal; it's not rape as the body is dead, and by that same rationale, eating a dead body isn't murder.

Aghoris apparently consume human flesh in order to gain the spiritual energy found therein. They also meditate over bodies in an attempt to control the spirit of the dead person. However necrophilia isn't something that I have found to be connected with this cult, though I did discover later that the Aghori believe they should embrace whatever is considered to be repulsive to society. Kapalnath had enlightened me in that respect.

"It's just a way of making money," he says as he moves the tin cup under the table. I see him lift his sarong.

With a slight wobble of the wrist he puts the tin cup back on the table, full of his own freshly passed urine, and I – still struggling with the mental image of him screwing some Indian's dead daughter in front of a camcorder – ask him why he doesn't go back home to his family.

He downs his urine on a matter of seconds and winces before he slams the empty mug down on the table before replying, "My family don't want to know me".

"Funny, that," I thought to myself as he stood up and limped toward the toilet, looking rather unwell.

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## A monumental mistake?

One of the first announcements former Member of Parliament Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr made when she won election as President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) was her ambition to build a "welcome gate" to let people know they had reached Phuket.

That ambition is now being fulfilled, at a cost to taxpayers of 57 million baht.

Tourism should, of course, be high on any list of priorities for the Phuket *OrBorJor*, but there must be those who question whether this is the most effective way to support tourism.

K. Anchalee points out (see pages 4 and 5) that the "welcome" people currently receive as they arrive in Phuket is the Tah Chat Chai police vehicle control point, consisting of a tent in the median strip, speedbumps in the road and barriers to slow traffic. This, she says, does not accord with Phuket's desired image as an international tourism destination. The gate, she says, will.

One wonders, however, how many of the island's foreign tourists will actually see the gateway. After all, the vast bulk fly here – and the road from the airport to their hotels takes them nowhere near Tah Chat Chai. The only time they are likely to gaze on the gateway is if they make a trip by road to Khao Lak or Krabi.

Most of the tourists who pass through the gate will be domestic tourists, driving themselves here or arriving by bus in the early hours of the morning.

And when those who arrive here by road get beyond the wonders of the gate, one thing that may strike them quite forcibly is the amount of garbage along Phuket's roadsides. Does this accord with Phuket's image as an international tourist destination? Hardly.

Yet the environment, it seems, is not high on the list of *OrBorJor* priorities. Indeed, it seems to have been separated from tourism when, surely, care of the environment should be an integral part of any tourism policy.

The *OrBorJor* recently proposed that people all over the island separate their dry waste from their wet garbage and then take the dry waste to their local tambon offices. Nothing came of this. Indeed, most tambon administration organizations knew nothing about it. The idea appears to have been dropped.

Effective garbage separation and recycling have been proposed several times by the *OrBorJor*, both in its current incarnation and before, but nothing has come of it. In the meantime, the incinerator at Saphan Hin continues to operate way beyond its capacity, an adjacent landfill is rapidly filling up, and smashed bottles and plastic bags are an omnipresent feature of our island utopia.

– The Editor



## Letters

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

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

### Costa del Phuket?

I would like to comment on the story in a recent *Gazette* regarding the increasing number of burglaries of foreign nationals' homes. It is not a new phenomenon for foreign investment to be seen by the native population as being detrimental to their interests.

In the late '70s to early '80s, the coasts of Spain became the target of foreign investment. The English, Germans and Scandinavians started to buy holiday/retirement homes there because it was seen as cheap by comparison to their home countries.

The trickle became a flood and investment and property companies sprung up overnight and started to buy and develop land at an ever-increasing rate – and cost.

Many of these property companies were owned or run by foreign nationals who had little or no regard for the financial welfare of the local Spanish.

Profit and pushing prices even higher were the order of the day. Property shows were held all over Europe to encourage people to buy property as an investment.

Very soon, land and construction costs made it almost impossible for the local people to buy land themselves.

This first created resentment toward foreign residents, which turned to near hatred and then to violence. Houses had to become fortress-like with high walls, window bars and security cameras.

Many foreigners also experienced muggings and did not venture out after dark in some areas. What had started out as a beautiful dream was turning into a nightmare.

Property prices eventually caught up with other countries

and the urge to invest diminished.

A similar pattern could be developing in Phuket. What will the current generation of young men feel when they are about to get married and find they cannot afford to buy even a small piece of land to start a home on? Will they not feel resentment, that on the island that has been their families' home for past generations, they cannot own their own house and land because the price is now out of their reach, thanks to foreign investment?

Could that resentment turn to more sinister actions? Is what has been reported in Cherng Talay the tip of the iceberg with a lot more ready to come to the surface?

I sincerely hope not as I love living on this island and the people are warm and generous. Please don't let what happened in Europe happen here.

I implore the "developers" to think about what they are doing to the "ordinary" people of Phuket and curb their greed for profit.

I also implore the Governor to use his office to protect the interests of all Phuket residents, and not just those who come to his door with grand plans for marinas, exhibition centers, hotels and villa developments.

John Lunn  
Phuket

### Letter to Ed

While some of Ed Peters' comments regarding Phuket International Airport [First Person, January 28] were valid, others, I feel, were rather unjustified.

The purpose of an airport is to process people and their baggage through to their aircraft as quickly as possible. This definitely happens at Phuket. There are never long queues at check-in, the staff are always helpful, and

I only ever allow 45 minutes for departure when I check in.

Most other airports around the world want at least two, and sometimes three, hours.

People do not go to an airport for a gourmet meal or to shop – they go to catch a plane. Yes, it is nice if there are some good shops, but that is not the purpose of your visit.

Surely if you put in more shops and restaurants, they will make you check in earlier, and all you will do is spend more time and money there.

Unfortunately Mr Peters' comment about Immigration is valid. The Immigration staff are extremely sullen and unwelcoming – and to new visitors, I would imagine, quite intimidating.

However, this isn't restricted to Phuket. Have you flown into Bangkok recently? The smiles in Thailand are not quite so evident these days.

Liz Smith  
Chalong

### Sounding off at trucks

With regard to the Issue & Answer published in the January 28 *Gazette* about village loudspeakers in Thepkasattri Municipality, we are having a similar problem in Patong, with sound trucks driving through the streets.

Many people who own shops or restaurants get a headache from these trucks.

If people want to promote a company, no problem – but it would be far better without the loud music.

If Jatupon Wechapun [the Public Works Engineer who fixed the Thepkasattri problem] had the authority to get rid of these sound trucks, then he would make many people happy.

Ray Lukassen  
Patong

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# Monorail to oblivion

## FIRST PERSON



There must be strong reasons for considering a light rail transit (LRT) line to improve travel between Phuket International Airport and Phuket City (population 74,208 according to Phuket City Municipality records in December last year).

In Phuket, which is a traditionally important tourist destination, a system of this type will not, in my view, improve the accessibility of the airport, particularly as a four-lane highway already exists to serve this purpose.

LRT systems are used in some large cities to compete with public bus services, offering more options and improving the speed at which people can get around. Considerations for an LRT system in Phuket must be based on passenger demand.

How many passengers would be willing to use the LRT instead of taxis or other transportation?

The willingness I refer to is the decision of a potential LRT user who needs to travel as quickly and directly as possible from a hotel or a resort to the airport, or vice versa.

The real problem is that a system connecting Phuket City to the airport would not serve the purpose of moving people from the airport to the scattered tourist areas scattered around the island, or the other way.

Anyone thinking of using the proposed LTR would first have to go by taxi from, say, Kata, Patong or Cherng Talay, to the nearest LRT station. This would mean that several LRT stations would have to be built along the route.

In an LRT system, the maximum effective speed of the train would not exceed 50 kilometers an hour, and it would have to stop at all the stations en route, resulting in a journey time from Phuket City to the airport of 60 to 90 minutes.

Added to this would be the time that a traveler would spend in a taxi getting to the LRT station, which, depending on one's starting point, could be as much as 30 minutes more.

Travelers would undoubtedly conclude that it would be simpler and faster to take a taxi the whole way – which is what people do now.

In a place where fast travel is desirable, even essential, introducing a change from one type of transport to another in a system where fast travel is essential is the worse possible scenario.

Even low LRT fares would not help. The cost is a very low priority to someone wanting to get to the airport quickly and easily.

Anyone wanting to impress the public with grand tourist facilities by building an LRT sys-

tem on the island should first look at other cities of the world that have so-called rapid transit connections to the airport. There is no such system that improves airport accessibility.

Take Singapore, for example. Its fast, fancy, impressive subway starts from a sub-station that connects with other subway lines and ends at the airport. Most of the time this fast metro train runs empty for the reasons stated above, and it does little to serve the purpose intended, unless of course the idea is to reduce pollution and congestion in the future.

The only justification for an exclusive rapid transit system to an airport would be that congestion in the city is so bad that the LRT looks like a fast escape route to the airport.

The idea of a monorail transit system for Phuket may seem very sexy, and just the thing to prove that Thailand's top tourism jewel is also a thoroughly modern province. But Pedro Glucksmann doubts the practicality of the idea.

He is in a better position than most to know: he is a professor in transportation and urban planning at the Central University of Caracas, Venezuela, with more than 35 years' experience in transportation engineering. He was involved in urban planning and design planning of subway systems in the Venezuelan cities of Caracas and Valencia, as well as elsewhere in the world, including Toronto.

Here, he explains his doubts.

In Phuket, it is difficult to see how an LRT could compete with taxis, or even with the shuttle buses that travel on the excellent highway, delivering passengers door to door, hotel to airport.

So why have an LRT when there are options that are already in place, serving quite adequately the need to get to the airport? A proper survey of transportation demand would reveal the truth. The numbers would not lie.

Even in cities that have severe congestion, LRT systems are by no means an ideal solution. Consider Bangkok (population 9,935,988) with its different subway lines and now the BTS SkyTrain (BTS). These systems serve a city that is legendary for its traffic jams.

Traffic congestion is due to haphazard urban planning, and by

the time it is realized that urban planning is of paramount necessity, congestion has become such a big problem that little can be done to make any improvements without enormous amounts of money being spent.

There is also a cost in terms of quality of life. The decision to build the BTS was taken because the construction of an underground system would have been far more difficult. The only way to get the BTS off the ground – figuratively and literally – was to build massive overhead structures to carry the trains. These pylons and platforms block out the sky, making the city even more inhospitable.

As communities grow in size so do their needs. One of these is a constant need for more efficient street networks. As with all living things – including cities and towns – the rate of growth must take mobility into account.

When city growth starts getting out of hand and nothing is done to keep up with the demand for mobility, all kinds of urban diseases arise. At this point you must call the doctor – a transportation engineer – to see what can be done to alleviate the growing pains and to maintain a decent quality of life.

Phuket is developing and growing like any other city and, since it is still a small city, urban planning is by far the best prophylactic to avoid future maladies of insoluble street congestion and poor quality of life, and to prevent it becoming a tourist destination that the tourists shun.

I know that proper urban planning can save Phuket from almost cancer-like growth in the near future, before the island becomes deathly ill. But proposals to build redundant transportation systems will hasten the illness of congestion because there will be no funds left for real solutions.

This would be a tragic way to plan for progress.

## Dual and duality

It is extremely disturbing that civil servants give their own interpretation of the law, such as in the case of the officer stating (Issues & Answers, Gazette of January 28) that "under Thai law anyone over 20 years old may have only one nationality". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website makes it plain that a Thai may have dual nationality.

It is the same with the officials when registering a birth, who once claimed that I could not give my son an English name, and that he could not have my surname, despite me being on the birth certificate as the father. A lawyer quickly put a stop to that nonsense, but it's a waste of time, effort and money.

Similarly, many police seem to have little notion of the letter

of the law they are supposed to administer, and just follow their instincts as to what seems right and what seems wrong – sometimes even debating among themselves what they should do. Not once have I seen a policeman consulting a law book.

Ian Jones  
Chalong

*On the point of dual nationality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website has the following:*

*Question: If a person of Thai nationality is married to a foreigner and has acquired his/her spouse's nationality, does that person lose his/her Thai nationality?*

*Answer: According to Thai law, the person still holds Thai nationality, unless he/she wishes to renounce his/her Thai nationality by declaring his/her*

## Letters

*intention to the competent authority, or his/her Thai nationality is revoked by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. – Gazette*

## Morals crusader

So your reader Francis Urquhart [Letters, January 21 edition] believes there is no smoke without fire, and that my opinions [First Person, January 14 edition] give some sort of succor to pedophiles?

I'm not clear where such a line of thinking comes from, and it was certainly not intended. My agenda was to point out how viciously the British media will turn on unsuspecting friends whose

cause they are in town to champion.

Personally, I neither condone the fact nor dismiss the existence of child abuse. I merely point out that every man who visits Patong is not necessarily a pedophile, and that I deeply resent the inference that they are, or that I am.

As dangerous as such an opinion may be, if men do not stand up and say "enough" when the morally censorious press seizes the high ground, then creeping paranoia will gain an ever-stronger grip.

In the same way that the feminist lobby would have had us believe all men to be rapists, so the moral crusaders will now tell us that all men are pedophiles – or will be unless watched very carefully.

The British media, the

smugly married and worldly unwise may well be aghast at the antics on Soi Bangla, but there is no story about child abuse to be had there.

It may well be that there is a child abuse story elsewhere in Phuket; I have not looked and I don't know, but the reality is that neither have the British media.

No smoke without fire? In the Middle Ages women were burned as witches for having warts on their noses or a cat. We supposedly live in a more enlightened age than that, but sometimes I wonder.

Newspapers hold themselves up as bastions of the truth, the voice of the people. They have a responsibility to be accurate and factual; when they fail in that duty I will point it out.

SP Finn  
Phuket



A few articles back I reviewed the importance of data backups and some of the technologies available to keep your data safe from system crashes, fires and theft. I received quite a few emails asking for more information and answered all of them.

However, as is standard in the IT business, things have changed dramatically in just a few short years, so I thought I would revisit this topic to share with you the latest developments in data backups.

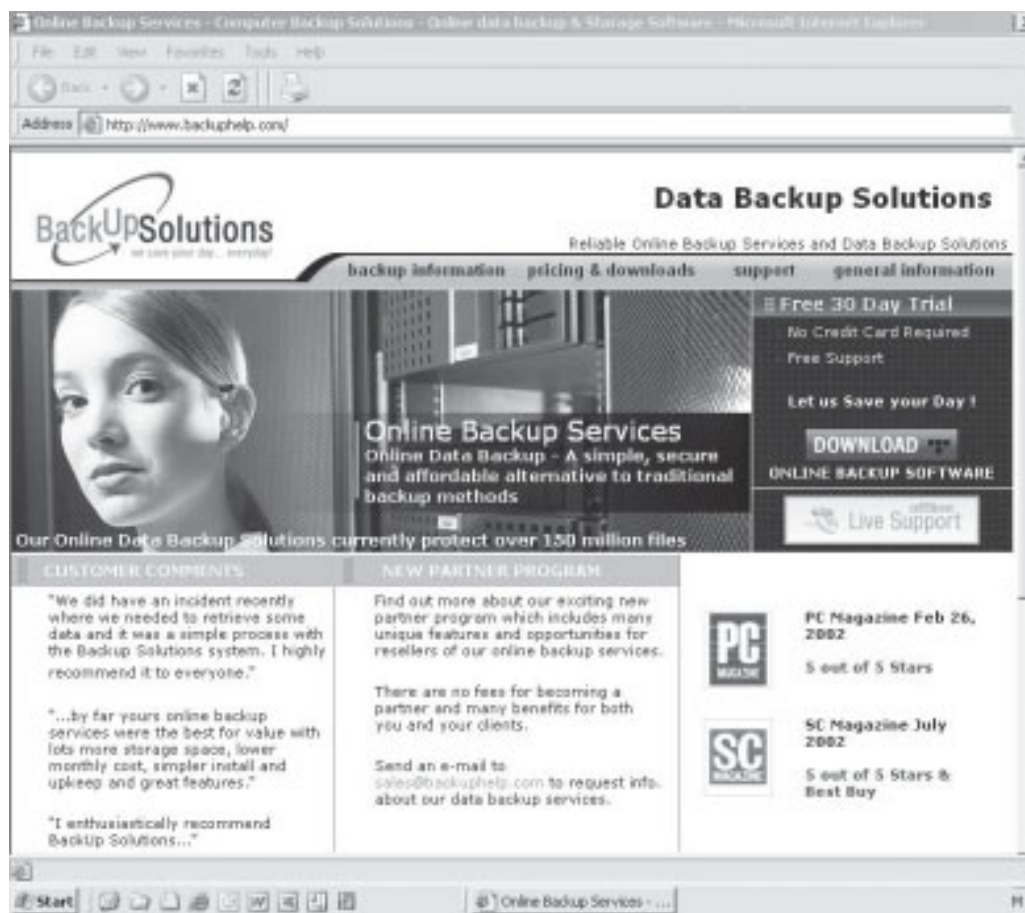
In that earlier article, I suggested that the most widely accepted method to backup your data is to use removable or portable hard disks. I went on to suggest that this is somewhat dangerous because hard disks have moving parts inside and eventually will fail.

The better solution is – or was up until recently – the use of tape backups because they are more portable and have virtually no moving parts. As luck would have it, I came across information that highlights the alarming statistics of unsuccessful tape backups, and even more alarming, unsuccessful tape restores.

So now what? Well, I did a little research and found that the newest accepted practice for data backup is online. That's right, you can install software from an online service provider so that when you run it, your data is backed up over the Internet to their secure servers somewhere in cyberspace.

Now I consider myself to be pretty open minded when it comes to using the Internet for security-sensitive transactions – I routinely buy software, books, music and airline tickets online using my credit card and have never had a problem – but I draw the line when it comes to sending my accounting records or my client database to some faceless location somewhere in cyberspace.

# Internet backups gaining in popularity – with good reason



Backing up to sites on the Internet is now effective and, if the data is encrypted first, it is also secure.

However, after further investigation, I learned that this is actually the most common practice for banks, accounting companies, government agencies and other big players.

The reason this all works so well is that the data is first encrypted, which means it is scrambled and coded so that not even

the backup service company can make any sense out of it. After the data is encrypted, it is compressed and sent to a secure server where it sits forever, or until you need it.

The good thing about this online system is that you can schedule the service to run overnight and update your most recent backup with only the files that are either new or changed.

This is especially important here in Thailand, where Internet speed – or the lack of it – can make sending even an email a slow and painful experience. That said, do not try this with a dial-up connection or even the government-subsidized ADSL services from TT&T and TOT – it won't work.

The following are just a few advantages of this emerging technology. According to certain statistics – and all things being equal – tape backups fail to restore all of your data 35% of the time whereas online backups fails less than 1% of the time.

This means your restore will be at least 24 hours old – and that's the best-case scenario.

A recent study found that only 37% of businesses actually test their backups regularly, and of those that did, you guessed it, an alarming 77% were unable to fully recover data from those tapes, meaning that the data they got back could be many days or even weeks old.

With continuous data protection (CDP) technology, online backup and recovery solutions solve this problem by automatically and continuously transmitting changes to your data across the Internet to a secure, offsite facility. This way, if there is a disaster, you can restore your data from moments before the interruption, rather than from the previous evening.

## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

### AUTOMATIC

You think you're doing everything right: you back up your data on a regular basis and you check that your backup equipment and configurations are up-to-date, are working properly and you also test your restores.

Yet when a water pipe bursts or a very large wave rolls through your office and covers your server, desktops and backups in water, you lose all of your critical data in an instant. Even if

you're extremely careful about backing up your data, that's only half of the picture. To comprehensively protect that data, you must also get it offsite.

Too many businesses store backup tapes onsite, needlessly exposing them to risk from fire or flood. Some businesses assign an employee to take the tapes home. While that might work (when they don't forget), what if the employee leaves the tapes in a car, vulnerable to theft or temperature damage?

The time and money you spend recreating lost data can be costly not only in terms of lost productivity, but also in terms of lost revenue, as well as customer goodwill and confidence.

On the other hand, disk-based online backup and recovery uses your current Internet connection to automatically transfer data offsite just minutes after it's been updated. No matter what type of disaster strikes your business, you can restore data from mere moments before the calamity happened. One obvious point here is that you require a good, reliable broadband connection.

### COMPLETE

Data protection is not a simple thing and it is not a once-off event. It's a multi-stepped ongoing commitment to your data protection that goes far beyond simple onsite backups to include continuous backup, onsite storage, archiving and recovery.

If your data protection solution doesn't address the complete picture, your company runs the risk of only partial protection that could easily result in the loss of invaluable data with devastating results.

With their complex, time-consuming, error-prone processes, tape-based solutions can't address the full data-protection issue.

However, disk-based online data protection delivers a complete solution that includes fast data backups, automatic and immediate transmission to an offsite location, archive creation and immediate recovery.

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

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## ON THE MOVE

**Katesuay "Kate" Dornbandith**, 31, from Bangkok, has been appointed Conference and Banquet Sales Manager at the Dusit Laguna Resort Phuket. Previously, she worked as Guest Service Manager at the Pakasai Resort in Krabi for four years, and as Guest Service Agent at the Dusit Thani Bangkok for five years. She holds a degree in tourism from Rajabhat Thonburi University, Bangkok.



The new Managing Director of Santafé's Steak & More at Tesco Lotus, Phuket, is 32-year-old, Phuket-born **Wipana Teawpradit**. She has a master's degree in commerce and accounting from Chulalongkorn University. Before moving to Santafé's Steak & More, she worked as a Senior Manager in three branches of Black Canyon and Adviser for Jee Or Food and Souvenirs in Krabi Province.



**Auchalee Pimolnok**, 29, from Phang Nga, has been appointed Manager of Santafé's Steak & More at Tesco-Lotus, Phuket. After graduating with a degree in accounting from Phuket Vocational College, she worked as Manager of Tsutaya at Big C and as Assistant Manager of Finance at 7-Eleven.



By Natcha Yuttaworawit  
& Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

**PHANG NGA:** Major hotels in Phang Nga have denied they have been poaching experienced, skilled staff from their Phuket counterparts, an accusation leveled at them by Phuket Provincial Labor Office Chief Decha Prekpatanarak.

"The 'stealing' of labor is a major problem that is creating a shortage of skilled workers in Phuket this high season," K. Decha told the *Gazette* in December.

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

K. Decha cited as an example the Laguna Phuket hotels, which have, he said, lost 20 staff to Phang Nga businesses.

"Workers are moving to Phang Nga because [employers] are offering double the salaries

# Phang Nga hotels deny poaching Phuket staff

'Some workers go to work in Phuket because they can get a higher salary than in Phang Nga.'

— Amnuay Sriyota, Chief of the Phang Nga Provincial Labor Office

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

Amnuay Sriyota, Chief of the Phang Nga Provincial Labor

Office, confirmed that there is a shortage of skilled labor, but added that only a small portion of the hotel workforce was affected.

"We held a seminar for skilled workers in the hotel industry — we have more than 3,000 rooms for travelers this high season — but only 40-50 of the workers [who attended] said they did not want to return to their jobs because they were afraid of another tsunami," he said.

K. Amnuay also countered that hotel labor tended to head in the opposite direction, from Phang Nga to Phuket. "Some workers go to work in Phuket because they can get a higher salary than in Phang Nga," he said.

He explained that the problem of poaching was most likely the result of Phang Nga having a less well educated labor pool.

"Our biggest problem is the educational background of the workers [in Phang Nga], which does not match the jobs and positions offered. Most have graduated from vocational college, but are not qualified for higher positions requiring a bachelor's degree," he said.

"If hotel workers in Phuket are coming to Phang Nga because they are being offered double the salary, that would be because of the [top] hotels, which have big budgets and can afford to do that. But it depends on whether the staff choose to come," he said.

However, Kate Kemp, Owner and Executive Director of the five-star Sarojin resort, denied that her hotel had been targeting Phuket workers.

Mrs Kemp explained that The Sarojin, a 56-room luxury boutique resort in Khao Lak, was due to open on January 10, 2005, but the tsunami struck, delaying the resort's opening until October 1, 2005.

"The Sarojin had 101 staff on December 26, 2004 and they were all kept fully employed on full pay and benefits and guaranteed service charge. The staff helped clean up and repair The Sarojin.

"Now we have 190 staff and we have kept to our original

salary scale and organization chart as before the tsunami. We have so far been able to attract the staff that we need. The staff have come from all over Thailand," said Ms Kemp.

"Perhaps keeping the staff fully employed post-tsunami helped, because it cemented our relationship with them and perhaps helped our reputation and standing among employees as a sort of 'preferred' employer, which in turn helped attract new staff without us changing the salaries offered," she added.

Gregory Anderson, General Manager of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort, was a little more obscure in his email reply to questions from the *Gazette*.

"We're delighted to have offered employment to approximately 300 people, most of whom are from the local region. This number will increase as tourism returns to Khao Lak. Further to creating employment, our early opening impacts the local community, such as suppliers of food products and a wide range of equipment the hotel requires to run at a five-star level," he said.

Asked whether Le Meridien Khao Lak offered staff in Phuket higher salaries and higher positions to work in Phang Nga, he replied, "Most of our associates have returned to join us. They're a committed and enthusiastic group of people."

Concerning the problem of recruiting from Phang Nga's less-developed hotel labor pool, Mr Anderson explained, "As an international brand, Le Meridien has a global policy of investing in people. We've invited anyone in the local area who would like to join our company, with or without experience, [to do so].

"We have the resources and commitment to train our associates and we're delighted that guests don't seem to be able to praise our associates highly enough."


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A Thai friend who is a medical specialist, and a keen investor, recently remarked to me that, while he is a regular reader of my column, it is usually not of much use to him because he is limited, because of legal reasons, to investing in Thai assets.

This had also been my understanding of Thai law. I even checked it with a local bank manager who in turn checked this issue with his head office in Bangkok.

The only way, I was told, that Thai nationals could invest abroad was by placing an application from their local bank to the Thai central bank, the Bank of Thailand (BOT). This process was likely to take about six weeks and there seemed to be great uncertainty about the outcome.

In my offshore business, I have dealings with many prominent international financial institutions and when I contacted them I found that they, without exception, also believed it was nigh on impossible to move funds out of Thailand.

#### MINIMUM FUSS

In fact, the reality could not be more different. Money can be moved out of Thailand, and with the minimum of fuss.

The main focus of the media in Thailand in recent weeks has been on the acquisition of Shin Corp by the Singapore Government's investment company, Temasek Holdings.

During all the hoopla, it has emerged that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra formed and invested in a tax haven company nearly seven years ago, in April, 1999. This company, Ample Rich, is registered in the British Virgin Islands.

*The Nation* newspaper queried the legality of a Thai national investing funds offshore. In *The Nation's* business section on Wednesday, February 1, the following headline appeared: "PM

# Shock! Horror! Thais CAN invest overseas



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

didn't break BOT rule in taking his cash offshore".

According to Pridiyathorn Devakula, the Governor of the BOT, "Thai individuals and corporations must inform the BOT of the purpose of a proposed offshore investment and seek its nod to transmit funds abroad if the investment exceeds US\$10 million (almost 400 million baht)".

For sums less than that amount, no permission is required.

Should anyone want to read this story, it can still be seen online at <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/page.arcview.php?clid=6&id=126983>

The only problem that Thai investors face when investing overseas is anti-money-laundering regulations, and these rules apply to everybody, regardless of nationality.

To satisfy these requirements, an individual or company has only to show documentation to prove the source of the wealth being moved across borders. What all overseas financial institutions are trying to establish is that the money they are receiv-

For Thai nationals wanting to invest abroad, I believe that the biggest hurdle will be to gain the acceptance of their local bank, but only because the banks do not understand Thai banking law. Amazing!

ing is not from criminal sources or terrorist groups.

It is not essential for documentation to be in English; Thai documents are equally acceptable, though they need to be translated into English and certified either by a Thai notary or by myself, as I am classed as a "suitable certifier".

#### REDUCING RISK

The natural reaction of a number of readers will be, "Why would a Thai national or Thai company want to invest overseas?"

The answer is simple: when people acquire substantial assets they often wish to diversify their holdings – it gives them access to a far greater range of choices and also reduces the risk in having all their eggs in one basket or, in this case, one country.

Many millions of people throughout the world invest their money in other countries. This asset allocation can include physical real estate – a house or condo – investment in property funds that hold commercial property or

real estate investment trusts, stock markets, balanced portfolios, bonds and convertible bonds, money market funds, or hedge funds anywhere in the world.

In reality, while millions of people knowingly invest in other countries, probably many more do so without realizing they are doing it. This is because they are investing in pension funds and the managers of these funds usually wish to spread their investment opportunities and risk as widely as possible.

For Thai nationals and even expats living in Thailand who wish to simply broaden their investment horizons, it is already very simple to do so.

Every day, *The Nation* publishes fund prices in the business section for Aberdeen Asset Management and Ayudhya JF Asset Management. Both groups are well-known global investment companies.

Aberdeen Asset Management includes in its list of fund choices the Aberdeen Asia Pacific Equity Fund, which has over 1.7 billion baht in assets. Ayudhya

JF Asset Management offers the AJF Global Convertible bond fund and AJF Euro Sovereign Plus Fund.

It is likely that other funds in the range also have a foreign component. These funds are all denominated in Thai baht and are designed for Thais.

Other Thai groups probably also offer similar choices. Ayudhya JF Asset Management is a joint venture between the Bank of Ayudhya and JF, now part of JP Morgan Chase & Co, one of the largest investment and banking groups in the world.

#### NO PROHIBITION

For Thai nationals wanting to invest abroad, I believe that the biggest hurdle will be to gain the acceptance of their local bank, but only because the banks do not understand Thai banking law. Amazing!

However, because the Governor of the BOT has now stated clearly what the rule is, that there is no prohibition on investing one's money overseas, it is only a matter of educating your local branch manager.

I predict that banks throughout Thailand will be approached in the coming weeks by people willing to educate them.

*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: 01-081-4611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th)*

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# Lowson wins 2006 Blue Canyon Open

BLUE CANYON: Graham Lowson took the honors in this year's Blue Canyon Golf Open – presented by Nike Golf – which saw a bumper field of 240 players from 16 different countries competing for the title of Open Champion in the event played under clear skies on February 4 and 5.

Although Lowson enjoyed a deserved win, having hit clean rounds of 76 and 78 (154), second-placed player Surin Bamrungphol was just behind him with a cumulative score of 157. Only one point off the leader on Day 1, he dropped three shots on Day 2 on a course described as "tough".

Other highlights on Day 1 included Evan Burford posting a blistering 75 on the Lakes Course in the Men's Division and Pim Hamilton shooting a fantastic 79

on the Canyon Course in the Ladies' Division.

The draw for Day 2 was based on the grade of scores from the first day's play with those playing the Canyon Course on the first day, now playing the Lakes Course and vice versa. Special mention must be made of Wasana Schaupp's outstanding gross 76 on the Lakes Course in the Ladies' Division.

As in the preceding two years, the Blue Canyon Club Championships were held in conjunction with the Blue Canyon Golf Open. In one of the closest finishes seen in Phuket, a three-way play off was held between Evan Burford, Alec Pettigrew and Surin, who was crowned Club Champion after playing Hole 18 of the Canyon Course twice.

Hamilton defeated Schaupp



Winner Graham Lowson (right) finished with clean rounds of 76 and 78, just ahead of Surin Bamrungphol who finished just four strokes behind.

by one shot over the 36 holes to take the Ladies' Club Championship title.

The Blue Canyon Golf Open appears to be fast-becoming one of the must-play events on the

amateur golfing calendar in Asia, and many players vowed to be back for 2007.

## Patong venue for jet-ski champs

PHUKET: Despite the Governor's plan to phase out jet-skis on the island, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and the Thai Jet Sports Boating Association (TJSBA) will jointly host the 600,000-baht Round I of the Jet Ski Thailand Championship 2006 on March 4 and 5 at Patong Beach.

TJSBA committee member Parikhhet Suebsahakarn told the *Gazette* that both Phuket Province [the Governor's office] and the *OrBorJor* had sent the

TJSBA a list of organizational requirements for the event, which the government bodies feel will promote tourism in virtue of the fact that the competition will be broadcast on ESPN.

The TJSBA tried to host last year's event in Phuket, but their request was denied by the Governor's office as "...being in conflict with provincial policy," which is – or at least was at the time – to phase out jet-skis and forbid events that might promote their use.

The event will be held a little

over a month after a jet-ski allegedly collided with and killed a Thai man who was in the water spearfishing, Nikhon Nachaiya.

Despite this latest incident, the future of jet-skis in Phuket is alive and well, said K. Parikhhet.

"This year is special. TJSBA President Sanit Worapanya sees a big increase in the number of competitors and even managed to attract a team from Japan, which will make this event the first-ever Asian Jet-Ski Championship, with the winner declared as the Asian Jet-Ski Champion," he said.

## Aquarius win gay beach volleyball contest

PATONG: Aquarius beat Tangmo Group to win the exciting final of the 7th Phuket Gay Festival 2006 four-a-side Beach Volleyball Championship, played on the afternoon of February 4.

Four teams took part in the two-day, round robin competition played in the sands in front of the Phuket Cabana Hotel.

Many beachgoers cheered on both sides in the fun event, with many players wearing outrageously sexy attire while taunting and teasing their opponents

and hamming it up for the crowd.

When the sand settled, it was Aquarius taking home the 1st place trophy and 10,000 baht prize. Runners-up Tangmo Group took home 8,000 baht and a trophy; Boat Bar came in third, winning 5,000 baht and a trophy.

Chanok "Tangmo" Kaewseenuan, President of Phuket Gay Club, told the *Gazette* that the annual event was a good way to promote tourism and hone the skills of the island's gay athletes.

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# Phuket earn place in elite takraw league

By Anongnat Sartpisut

SAPHAN HIN: Phuket's Sepak Takraw team earned a spot in the elite Takraw Thailand league by finishing second in Division II (South) in the Takraw Thailand League competition from January 24 to February 2.

Seven southern provinces entered teams in the competition, which saw Phattalung emerge victorious with straight-sets wins over the host side. Phattalung A beat Phuket A 21-15, 21-15 while Phattalung B closed out the match with a 21-17, 25-23 win over Phuket B.

Phuket came into the match with a perfect record of shut-outs against Chumphon, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Satun, but, with

The aerial action was spectacular in the final between Phattalung (red) and Phuket.

the southern region title on the line, were no match for Phattalung.

As second place finishers, however, they will have a chance to hone their skills in the capital, as the win books them a place in Division I.

Third were Nakhon Sri Thammarat, who beat Satun 2-0 in the third-place playoff.

Prize money was awarded to the top four finishers: 1. Phattalung (50,000 baht); Phuket (30,000 baht); 3. Nakhon Sri Thammarat (10,000 baht); 4. Satun (10,000 baht).



## CRICKET LEAGUE GETS HOTTER

KOH KAEW: In the February 5 match between British Curriculum International School Cricket Club (BCIS) and Kamala Beer Garden Cricket Club (KBG), KBG won the toss and, in confident mood with a full-strength side, elected to bat in perfect conditions that included a refreshingly stiff breeze.

Muller and Scattergood strode out to open their innings and were looking in good shape after the first 10 overs having added 40 runs without loss.

After the drinks break, Scattergood (31 runs) decided to up the scoring rate and launched bowler Weston back over his head for a huge six.

However, Weston replied well, sending him back to the tent next ball with a precise in-swing-

ing leg stump yorker. This left Muller to control the innings and he concentrated well against some tidy seam bowling from Millward, Catts, Weston and Meyer, although the batsman was not supported well by his team mates at the other end.

They proceeded to crumble around him with six of the remaining batsmen failing to trouble the scorer, although it is suspected that Muller may take a couple of days to recover from his nine overs of medium pace bowling and 24 overs batting.

From 90 for 4, KBG were dismissed for 107 with Muller eventually making a fine 40.

The pick of the bowlers was Millward. He bowled an excellent line and length and was rewarded with the exceptional fig-

ures of 7 for 34 from 10 overs, including three wickets in his final over, narrowly missing out on a hat-trick.

He was supported well by the other three bowlers and mention must be made of Meyer's spectacular diving catch off his own bowling, clutching the ball one-handed just millimeters off the ground.

BCIS set about the run chase with gusto and were 50 for 1 after 10 overs, with Meyer looking in destructive form. Indeed, he took his team to the brink of victory before falling for an

aggressive 56 including six fours and a six.

He received good support from Millward (11 runs) and particularly Oldfield (32 not out), who pushed and clipped the ball for ones and twos, giving Meyer as much of the strike as possible, enabling BCIS to reach their target for the loss of just two wickets in 24 overs.

The KBG bowlers toiled hard in the hot sun and 14-year-old Jhi Davison showed great potential with his right-arm "wobblers". The fielding was also of a high standard, everyone

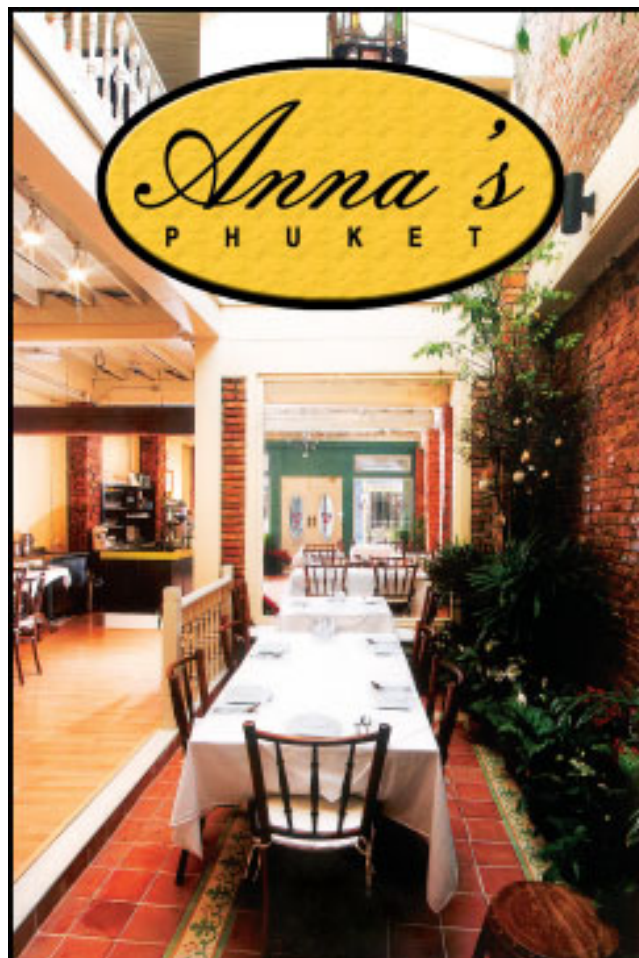
chasing hard and putting bodies on the line.

**BCIS CC - 17 points; KBG CC - 3 points; Man of the Match - Andrew Millward.**

Next weekend Patong CC take on BCIS on Saturday and Island CC on Sunday to conclude first-round matches. All matches played at BCIS.

**League Table:** 1. Island CC - played 2, won 2, points 32; 2. BCIS CC - played 2, won 1, points 21; 3. Patong CC - played 1, won 1, points 17; 4. KBG CC - played 3, won 0, points 10.

- Rich Brown



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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut



# Central Patong development approaches halfway mark



PATONG: Construction of the 250-million-baht Patong Natural Home development on Phang Meuang Rd – the incomplete road

that spurs north off the Nanai Rd and Sirirat Rd intersection – has reached the halfway mark.

Somsak Sukho, Managing Director of developer DTOT Co, told the *Gazette*, “Construction of Patong Natural Home began in March 2005, and all units are expected to be complete by the end of November this year.”

He explained that the 14-rai project aims to serve Patong’s fast-growing residential needs by offering 68 units – comprising five styles – for sale and 85 apartments for rent.

To date, five of the 13 Baan Chonlakan-style, two-story detached homes have been sold, with each unit offering usable space of 215 square meters. These include three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living and dining area, kitchen, maid’s quarters and parking space for two cars. Prices range from 7 million baht to 10.2 million baht.

On par are sales of the Baan Chonlaprulk-style units, with four of the 12 units having been sold. These units are also two-story detached homes, but with 195sqm of usable space, including three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living and dining area, kitchen and parking space for two cars. Prices range from 7 million baht to 8 million baht.

The most popular design, however, is the two-story Baan Krissada semi-detached house,

with 17 of the 26 units available having sold. These offer 150sqm of usable space, with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living and dining area, kitchen and car parking space. Prices range from 4.8 million baht to 6 million baht.

Four-story shophouses will comprise 17 units of the project, each offering 150sqm of space, including three bedrooms and four bathrooms. Prices start at 5 million baht.

The 85 apartments will be in two five-story buildings: one comprising 50 units, the other housing 35 units. The units will be available in two sizes: 6m x 4.5m and 4.5m x 8m. “Each will be for rent at about 5,000 baht per month,” K. Somsak said.

Regarding the problem of new developments adding to Phuket’s chronic water shortage problems, K. Somsak said, “In the dry season, Patong has a lot of problems with water. However, this project has 2,000-liter underground reserve water tanks for each unit, and the project has its own well water supply.”

Once the project is complete, DTOT will set up a committee to manage the common areas of the development.

For more information, call Tel: 076-341798-9, 01-9704789 or 01-7872711, or Fax: 076-341799.

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## Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam



## DOILY ROUTINES

**D**o you remember those ornate, hand-decorated mats grandma used to keep the vase from scratching her prized teak table, or under the candlestick holders on the mahogany sideboard? Well, although currently rare sight in modern households in Asia, doilies may well be making a comeback.

Few would argue that embroidered doilies can add a classic, homely feel to a room, which is why Natnicha "May" Boonyanit of Nicha Design & Handmade offers a range of doilies, from small, simple doilies with crocheted borders to larger, more elaborate designs that can even be used as place mats on the dining table.

At K. May's stall, a simple cotton doily, with embroidered flowers, to act as a coaster costs 79 baht. Also for the dining table, A set of wool cov-

ers – available in red, green, blue and pink – tailored for a cruet set costs 169 baht. For 30 baht more, one can acquire a an embroidered cotton place mat.

While a large but rather plain doily, more suited to placing under a vase, costs 69 baht, more elaborate designs are also available, such as one that costs 669 baht that features four swans and is tailored specifically to go under a candlestick holder.

Of course, here is but a sample of the range at K. May's stall.

*For more information about the full range available at of Nicha Design & Handmade, located in front of HomePro at Tesco-Lotus. Contact K. May at Tel: 01-7191293 or Email: nicha21@hotmail.com*



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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Smells are weird. They have the power to evoke memories in a way that none of the other senses can. You can look at someone or something all day and the best you can often come up with is "I've seen that somewhere before".

The sense of sight may be useful, but it's not much good for helping to recall things buried deep within the memory.

Smell is different, though. One quick whiff can instantly remind you of experiences from way back that you didn't realize were still there.

I was following a tuk-tuk the other day on my trusty Honda Wave, and oozing from the vehicle in front was the cheap perfume of one of its occupants.

It hit me in an instant – it was exactly the same overpowering odor that used to waft from Mrs Barretto, my second grade teacher. How can a smell from a moving tuk-tuk possibly evoke reminiscences of a dim and distant past that I hadn't thought about for years? The tuk-tuk's perfumed lady (I presume it was a lady...) even helped me to remember my old teacher's name.

I've stayed in a few dodgy hotels in my time. You know the type – a few shekels a night for a room with a "colorful" past, to say the least. The proprietors have obviously tried to do something about unwanted deposits that have accumulated there, as all those hotels smell just like the old folks' home my grandma used to stay in, which I vividly remember visiting as a kid.

There's a pattern developing here – are all recalled smells



Beautiful to behold, but hold your nose: the flower of the stinking passion flower, or *loc-chang*.

# A REAL STINKER

about old people? Perhaps not. There's a small plant that's made its second home in this part of the world that immediately brings to mind that soggy "cut grass" smell.

Not the fresh, clean odor of grass that's freshly cut mind you, but something much less pleasant. Imagine that the grass has been sitting there for a few days and has begun to decay. All parts of this particular plant stink.

It's one of the most bizarrely and yet aptly named plants around – the stinking passion flower. It certainly doesn't come up smell-

ing of roses (sorry – couldn't resist that one).

Thais know it as the *loc-chang*. I'm hardly fluent in Thai, but the *chang* part comes from the tendrils' ability to wrap themselves around whatever they can find, a bit like an elephant's trunk.

These tendrils aren't there for fun; they enable the plant to climb up anything they can get hold of. The *loc-chang* has a number of other names – the wild maracuja, love-in-a-mist, wild water lemon, granadilla colorada and pop vine.

It's part of the passion fruit family, and is indigenous to the Amazon rainforest. It has now spread all over the Pacific Rim, and has even become an invasive weed on some Pacific islands.

The fruit itself is fairly tiny

– nothing at all like its distant cousin. It's about a couple of centimeters in diameter, and yellowy-orange. It has a flavor similar to the common passion fruit, but you need to get past that smell first. I haven't.

I'm told that the fruit is usually eaten fresh, or used to flavor drinks. My Thai neighbor tried to explain that they do something here with the leaves, too. She even said they were the best part of the plant – *aroy aroy* apparently.

The life cycle of the stinking passion fruit is fairly predictable. The buds that initially appear develop into flowers, which are pollinated either by the wind, or more commonly by pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other insects, or even by hummingbirds.

The flowers really are incredible close up. They're only four or five centimeters across, but they manage to cram a lot into that space. Stigmas and stamens and other technical bits are all over the place.

The pollinated flowers turn into fruit as the fertilized ovary swells with the seed inside, and the flower crumples. The fruit builds a weird cage around itself, to hide what's inside. Presumably this is an attempt to prevent the fruit being seen by birds and the like before it's ripe.

Once it is mature, the fruit usually drops to the ground.

This is not a difficult plant to grow in the garden, but it is seasonal; it is there at the moment, but doesn't appear all year round. It prefers full sun and very good drainage. These vines are versatile and are perfectly content either in the ground or in a pot. A small pot produces a medium or small plant, while a large pot produces a large plant.

Some passion flower plants can easily grow up to several meters in length if they're planted in the ground and would need a fair bit of pruning to control the size. The only thing you need to avoid is over-watering.

If you're into that kind of thing, you can grow the stinking passion flower from seed. The best way is to use the "nick-and-soak" method.

Use a fingernail clipper to nick the side of the seed coat, and soak the seed in warm water for 24 hours. A thermos flask can help to retain the water's warm temperature. After the seed has been soaked, sow it in rich compost and cover lightly. Sown seeds should be kept in a brightly-lit spot, and the planting medium should be kept moist rather than wet.

There are even some medicinal applications of the stinking passion flower. It's used as a traditional medicine in Suriname. There, a tea of the leaves is used as a natural cough medicine, and for certain "nervous disorders". I'd certainly be nervous if I had to drink a tea made from these smelly leaves.

This plant sure is a stinker. How can something that looks so pleasant smell so horrible? Were she around today, Mrs Barretto would probably love it.

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Home of the Week

Chalong

# Quiet quality for family living

This three-level residence, with four bedrooms and four bathrooms, has fine street appeal with its terracotta-topped garden wall, Bali-style double entrance gate and imposing quality home, with charcoal-colored roof tiles and cream-colored rendered walls, all set in small landscaped gardens.

A delightful Lanna-style entry pavilion leads to the front door and large living areas, which feature high ceilings and a balcony overlooking the front garden. Also on the entry level is a spacious room that can be used as a bedroom or a study.

Several steps up from the living room is a large kitchen, equipped with top-class appliances including an SS-brand electric cook top and oven, exhaust hood and granite bench tops. Dark timber cabinets overhead and below-bench provide more than ample storage and the area is bright and well ventilated.

An elegant dining area with a private terrace is also on the kitchen level.

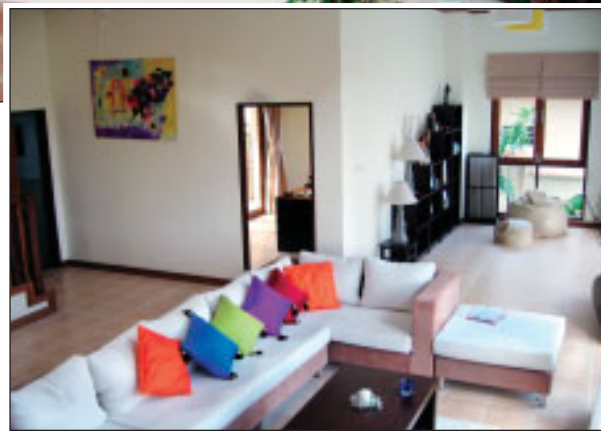
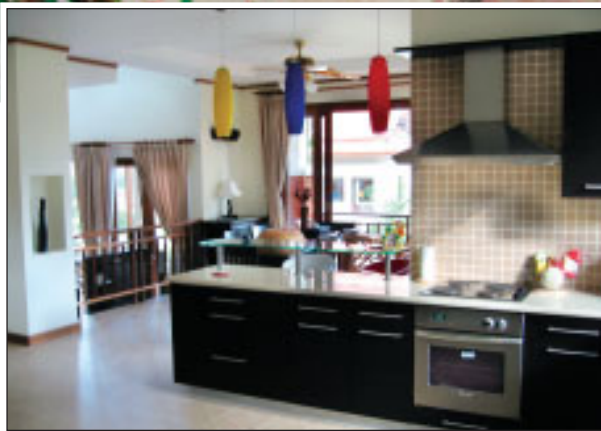
A finely crafted timber staircase leads to the upper floor and three big bedrooms, two of which have en-suite bathrooms, and the luxurious master bedroom, which features a large bath, a private glass-walled balcony and walk-in closets.

There is a third bathroom on this level. Private balconies off the bedrooms feature timber railings and terracotta tiles.

The home has been built using top-quality materials such as timber and granite for the floors. Timber features in doors and windows, built-in furniture, cornices, skirting and balustrades.

Ceiling fans, down lighting and air conditioning are also fitted. The small easy-to-maintain garden is landscaped and has a variety of tropical palms, plants and lawn.

Facilities include two tele-



The impressive exterior, above, is matched by the spacious kitchen (far left) and the living room (left).

phone lines, well water, hot-water systems, septic tank and carport.

The price includes excellent-quality furnishings and fittings.

This impressive home, located in a quiet area of Chalong, yet close to conveniences such as banks, post office, shops, restaurants, schools and medical services,

would please the most discerning buyer seeking a large stylish family home. The property has Chanote title and is for sale at 19 million baht.

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

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All this combines to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

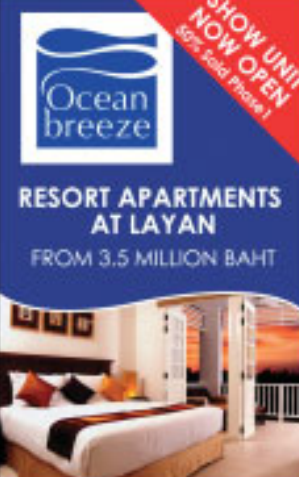
The unit is 13.25 x 23.50m on an area of 34 x 23m. Usage area is 415sqm with swimming pool included.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale



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### 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

### 2-STORY, RAWAI

house. 130 & 200sqm 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

### 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

### NICE POOL VILLAS FOR SALE



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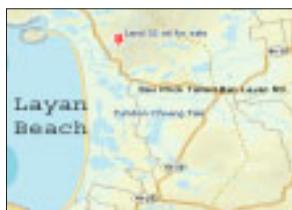
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### NEW HOUSES PATONG

3 new, connected, deluxe houses on a 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 further information. Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com



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- each Thai style villa includes an 18-meter infinity edge pool.



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- managed by Crowne Plaza (Intercontinental Hotels Group)
- residents have full use and access to hotel facilities
- spacious living areas and outdoor terraces to capture sea breezes.



### Laguna Villa Resale "gem of Laguna"

- 3 bedrooms + maid's quarters, land area approx 1350sqm
- pool and sala, purchase includes all Laguna privileges
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- freehold ownership
- high-demand, executive rental area
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# Property Gazette

## 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

### HOUSE IN THALANG FOR SALE



10 minutes from the airport, 10 minutes from British Curriculum International School, 5 minutes to Laguna, 10 minutes to Surin Beach. 8m x 4m swimming pool, 5 aircons, 2 bedrooms, 1 child's room, 2 bathrooms & 1 separate building useful as a store house or maid's quarters. 504sqm, Chanote title, 5.5 million baht. Please call Tel: 01-6078000.

### HOUSE & LAND

for sale. House and land for sale just 2 minutes from beautiful Nai Thon Beach. Price is a negotiable 3.2 million baht. Tel: 07-2811995.

### PRA THONG ISLAND

Phang Nga Province. 48-rai plot with mangroves and beach frontage. 1 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-5944017.

### AO POR BEACHFRONT

land. A wonderful piece of land (3 rai). Asking 7.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-538-8891. Email: patthai\_phuket@hotmail.com

### 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

### 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

Kata/Karon  
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### UNUSUAL



2 houses together including 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, a swimming pool and sea views; many possibilities.

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KATA BEACH  
PROPERTY MARKET  
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Email: info@msa-phuket.com

### LANDCHALONG BAY 4 RAI

Near yacht club. Asking 2.7 million baht per rai. Has road, electricity and water supply. Tel: 07-2747470.

### WATER CHALONG BAY

5.5 rai beside water. Asking 8.5 million per rai; good for expensive home or apartments. Tel: 07-2747470.

### KATA LAND PLOTS

900m to the beach. Priced from 1.3 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 01-0918908. Email: katabeachestate@hotmail.com

### 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. Tel: 076-209424, 01-9683120. Fax: 076-209-424. Email: nikkie@csloxinfo.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

### 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

### SEAVIEW LAND

Nearly 9 rai for sale direct from owner. Secluded area; electricity, road and water on site. Tel: 04-0575756. Email: mareeya\_pohmea@yahoo.com

### SHOPHOUSE IN KATHU

New 4-story shophouse with solar cell hot water, reserve water tank, Noble kitchen, back terrace, 3-phase electricity, and car park. Internal house area: 250sqm. Land area: 25 sq wah. Chanote. For details, contact Toi as above. Bargain price: 3.1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 02-9243868, 01-8155392. Email: orasahomkhajorn@hotmail.com

### KATA, 1 RAI

Beautiful sea view, a gentle slope, last plot. Please call for info. Tel: 06-2670898.

### SEAVIEW VILLAGE



9 houses overlooking Kata/Karon Beach, including 1.5 or 7 rai of land. Priced for quick sale at 17 million baht or 39 million baht. For more information and pictures, call Tel: 01-0808557 or email: info@no1visa.com

### LAND FOR SALE

at Boat Lagoon Resort. "North Bank Residence", area approximately 688sqm. Tel: 06-5950258, 01-6932791. Email: info@phuketprivatelagoon.com

### RAWAI TWIN-HOUSE

Price: 1.6 million baht. Located near the beach. 2 bedrooms, a living & dining room, with land area of 198sqm. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-6481505. Email: kavvee8899@yahoo.com

### NEW POOL VILLA

In Land & Houses Park, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 6.2 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 07-8852969. Email: juuekata@hotmail.com

### PATONG APARTMENT

for sale. 2 bedrooms, a pool and a private bar, with views. Price: 4.95 million baht. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

### 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. Tel: 01-2712825.

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### Properties for Sale



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  - 2-4 b/r, large open areas
  - 900-2,000 sq.m. land plots
  - Sea views over Phang Nga bay
  - Full use of Cape Yamu facilities
- From Baht 25 Million



- Beachfront land in Koh Yao, Phang Nga
  - 19 rai of elevated flat land
  - Nor Sor 3 Kor land title
  - Ideal for resort & villa projects
- Baht 5 Million / Rai



- 4 b/r villas sold fully furnished
  - 320 sq.m. built up area
  - Set in quiet area & secure estate
  - Close to Phuket town & shopping areas
- Baht 19 Million



- 2 b/r terraced apt. overlooking Kamala bay, full facilities incl. clubhouse, fitness room, etc.
  - Private garden available
  - Generous payment terms
- From Baht 11 Million

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## TROPICAL HOMES REAL ESTATE

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WWW.TROPICAL-HOMES.NET





# Property Gazette

## NAI YANG DETACHED HOUSE



A large 110sqm house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen and garden with fountain. Located near to airport. For sale. Contact K. Gae at Tel: 01-9202527. Email: sivapatt@hotmail.com

## 2 HOUSES

One in Kamala: 37 million baht. One at Loch Palm: 39 million baht. All nice and new. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-2688061. Email: schendl@loxinfo.co.th

## 16 RAI BEACHFRONT

land on Koh Yao Yai, with white sand, perfect for a resort or marina hotel. Don't wait. Buy now. Tel: 07-893-8747.

## AO MAKHAM

Stunning sea view near main road, with electricity supply and the most beautiful view. Good for a developer. Chanote title. Price: 4.6 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-6525664.

## CHALONG, 1 RAI

2.3 million baht. A good plot for a house, in a nice location. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-5376866.

## RAWAI, SMALL PLOT

480sqm. The last plot. Cheap price: 1.1 million baht. Act fast. Tel: 06-2670898.

## KATA, 1 RAI

Beautiful sea view, a gentle slope, last plot. Please call for further information. Tel: 06-2670898.

## BEAUTIFUL LAND

in Anuphas Manorom housing project for sale. Asking 36,000 baht per square wah. Total: 110sqm. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-6894785 or 07-0170135.

## LAND FOR SALE

2 rai of nice land at Baan Manik, Cherrng Talay. Hill view, a 2m-high surrounding wall, and many mature palm trees. Option to split into 1 rai parcels. Asking 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 06-2746511. Email: baancoconut@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE IN VILLA 5



Phuket Villa 5, 90sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large living area and kitchen, 3 air conditioners, wardrobe build-in, 5-piece rattan lounge suite and a phone line. Only 5 minutes to Central Phuket Festival and only 15 minutes to Rawai. For sale by owner. Asking 4.5 million baht (negotiable). No agents! Tel: 04-1868531, 01-5988725. Email: s\_oranut@hotmail.com

## ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT



for sale. 2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. Please call for details. No agents please. Tel: 07-889-1717. Email: wayne\_phuket@yahoo.com

## LAND IN RAWAI

3 rai in a good location for 3.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

## LAND IN RAWAI

with 50% sea view, for sale. On 7.75 rai, in a good location, for 38 million baht. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

## LAND IN RAWAI

with partial sea view for sale, with 62 rai. 10 rai with sea view panorama. Price: 370 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

## APARTMENT FOR SALE

2-bedroom, fully furnished apartment, minutes from Bang Tao and Surin Beaches. Please contact for details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Nai Harn Beach, 1.5 rai of land for fast sale. Asking 4.4 million baht or best offer. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-7291391.

## LARGE LUXURY HOUSE

Superbly-built family house for sale in a nice location. Please see our website at: www.phukethouse.info

## 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 full details. Tel: 09-8719739.

## Properties For Rent

### RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished house for rent, 220sqm, with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2678389. Email: mes\_filles@hotmail.com See our website at: www.christianesblue.com

### HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Includes 2 air conditioners, a bedroom, hot shower. Location: a quiet area at Palai Green, Chalong. Tel: 01-8924311.

### NEW 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Unfurnished house with a garage, located in a quiet area 3km from Phuket City, 2km to the beach. Asking 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 05-8855415.

## KAMALA PENTHOUSE

Large 2-bedroom apartment with 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, UBC, for 25,000 baht per month, long-term. Also a 2-bedroom luxury house with pool, for 30,000 baht per month, long-term. Please call for more information. Tel: 05-7810734.



## 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 at 01 868 7676

## QUALITY HOUSE CHALONG AREA



A detached fully-furnished 200-sq-wah house with 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a large living room and a modern kitchen, is available for long-term rent at 35,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2730662. Email: polypage45@hotmail.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

or 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.

## RAWAI CONDO 4 LEASE

Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 150,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## NEW 1-BEDROOM APT

in Patong Tower. Beautiful, newly renovated apartment in Patong. Near beach and shopping. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4887875. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

## LAKE VIEW

2-bedroom, 3-story apartment/loft with 2 bathrooms near Lotus. Has air conditioning, UBC and phone. Asking 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8928208.

## LAKE HOUSE

in Kamala. New, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, UBC, air conditioning. Asking 20,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 01-8928208.

## TROPICAL GARDEN HOMES

2 minutes from Chalong Pier. Houses with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, phone, satellite TV and access to a big swimming pool. From 14,000 baht plus 2 months' deposit. Tel: 01-0808557. Email: info@no1visa.com

## SHOPHOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

29-square-wah shophouse with 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 4 aircons and hot water. Near Royal Palace (Phra Tamnuk area), 100m from the beach. Rent: 30,000 baht/month. Sale: 4.2 million baht. Please contact K. Nuntana for more information. Tel: 09-711-7750. Email: mvanichakul@hotmail.com

## PATONG CONDO

for rent. Available from April 1, 2006. Great views, pool. Rates: 3,500 baht weekly; 12,000 baht monthly. Please contact for more info. Tel: 07-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## UNCLE CHAI

Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. 1 bedroom. Long lease preferred. Average 15,000 baht per month. Chalong area. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-4926883. Website: www.unclechaihome.com

## BANG TAO BUNGALOWS

New, detached, unfurnished homes with 2 bedrooms, large bathroom, 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. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-270377, 06-2786465, or 04-7451409.

## FUANG FA CONDO

Fully furnished condo for rent in a quiet area, near Dao Rung School. With an air conditioner, bed, dresser, fridge, washing machine and hot water. 5 minutes from Phuket City. Only long-term rent. Asking 9,000 baht per month. Contact the owner. Tel: 04-0586086. Email: tabbychiro26@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 K. Thip. Tel: 04-6272975 or 09-7306436.

## HOME OFFICE/SHOP

3 stories, with new glass, new air conditioner, 2 phone lines. In a prime location on Chao Fa East Rd. Rent: 22,000 baht/month and 2 months' deposit. Tel: 01-0808557. Email: info@no1visa.com

## KARON H<sub>2</sub>O FRONT

Condo. 103sqm, 1 bedroom, all brand-new Western appliances, and 2 balconies with 180 degree sea view. Long-term rent only. Email: wawrx999@yahoo.com

## 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.

## DETACHED HOUSES

Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in a quiet area with club house and 24-hour security. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: 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 Rd, 9/118. Please call for info. Tel: 01-4944165.

## ROOM FOR RENT

in Kathu. Asking 3,000 baht per month. For Thai lady only. Tel: 01-7281887.

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted



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**Please contact:** 076-296072, 01-7196088, 09-6498703

**Our office is situated at:** 38/56 Nanai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket

**Email:** [info@gardenislandphuket.com](mailto:info@gardenislandphuket.com)  
[www.gardenislandphuket.com](http://www.gardenislandphuket.com)

**Do you have adequate insurance? Because we have Phuket covered.**

### 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. Email: [aussie.ridge@hotmail.com](mailto:aussie.ridge@hotmail.com)

### HOUSE TO RENT

We are a family from Sweden looking for a nice house to rent for the month of December 2006. Can be in Chalong, Phuket City, Karon or Kata. We want at least 3 bedrooms, kitchen with fridge and microwave, garden, washing machine and aircon. We can pay up to 30,000 baht per month. If you have something that might interest us, please contact Tel: +46-7055-50307, +46-70555030. Email: [annja2003@telia.com](mailto:annja2003@telia.com)

### WANT TO BUY

Looking for a 2-story house with at least 3 bedrooms to buy this month. Should be in a secure estate with pool, or a house with access to a pool. Please email me details, including size of land, house and pictures. Want to buy this month. Max price: 4 million baht. Tel: +47-90054565. Fax: +47-77842596. Email: [tg-a@online.no](mailto:tg-a@online.no)

### OFFICE WANTED

Kata/Chalong. Smaller office (25-40 sqm) in Kata, Kata Noi or Chalong from March 2006. ADSL is required. For more info. Please contact. Email: [pereriknorback@msn.com](mailto:pereriknorback@msn.com)

### KATA BEACH

Southern Fried Rice, a brand-new guesthouse, 3 minutes walk from the beach, with seaview rooms, 2 balcony rooms facing the beach, wireless Internet, a pool and an excellent restaurant. All rooms have air conditioning, a minibar, cable TV, a safe and a king-sized bed. Tel: 01-8948446. [www.southernfriedrice.com](http://www.southernfriedrice.com)

## Accommodation Available

### ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Rent 200 baht a day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: [ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com](mailto:ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com)

### ROOMS IN PATONG

Your own hot shower, fan-only or aircon rooms, close to beach. Call for info & pics. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: [palm@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:palm@phuket.ksc.co.th)

## Accommodation Wanted

### APARTMENT

2 persons looking for Villa or apartment in Patong, Karon, Kata or nearby areas, for March-April, and if everything works good, perhaps also May. 2 bedrooms, kitchen – living room not required. Must have ADSL Internet connection; prefer Wi-Fi network. Working connection a HIGH priority. Email: [ekim9999@hotmail.com](mailto:ekim9999@hotmail.com)

### ONE-ROOM APT

I am looking for a one-room apartment or guesthouse room in Patong for one person for February. Must be within walking distance of the beach and shopping area. Prefer Patong or Kata, will consider other locations. Email: [giuseppe\\_ercolani@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:giuseppe_ercolani@yahoo.co.uk)

### APARTMENT

Wanted in central Phuket City: apartment for 1 month from mid-February to mid-March. Tel: 02-6121275. Email: [celtaphuket@ecc.ac.th](mailto:celtaphuket@ecc.ac.th)

### WANTING TO RENT

in Kamala. I want to rent a small house or apartment in Kamala or close by. Long-term rental and reasonable price required. Tel: 06-2664338. Email: [mustiquematt@ehotelier.com](mailto:mustiquematt@ehotelier.com)

### NEED BASIC ROOM

& Internet. I'm looking for a basic room with access to the internet. Anywhere in Phuket is fine. Under 6,000 baht per month. Will look at anything. Tel: 06-2677236. Email: [wes@1stchoicecommerce.com](mailto:wes@1stchoicecommerce.com)

### NICE ROOM KATA OR RAWAI

Wanted: 1 bedroom or room only with furniture and aircon in quiet location in or around Chalong, Kata or Rawai. Long-term rental required. Email: [admin@thaiservers.com](mailto:admin@thaiservers.com)

### SEEKING LONG-TERM

accommodation. 42-year-old Aussie male seeks semi-long term accomm. Prefer unit or just a room, with toilet and shower (cold water ok), with fridge, cooking facilities and some furniture, such as a bed, table, chairs, etc. A ceiling fan or two would be nice, also. Am currently at the OnOn Hotel and happy, but would like to start cooking, any ideas, open to anything. Email: [clarkstar888@hotmail.com](mailto:clarkstar888@hotmail.com)

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**Please contact:**  
**05-0098471**

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### EVERYTHING MUST GO

House + office, furniture, 2 x 2-year-old JRD motorbikes. Tel: 07-1466622.

### ADSL PHONE LINE

TOT phone line with ADSL for sale, suitable for Soi Kuktanod, Kata. Phone line + cable + modem: 3,000 baht. Call Fabien at 01-7888912 or Phi (Thai) 06-221-7077, 01-788-8912. E-mail: [fabienbelleinguer@fundives.net](mailto:fabienbelleinguer@fundives.net)

### 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)

### NEW QUEEN-SIZE

mattress. Therapeutic mattress, recently bought. Perfect condition. Bought for 9,000 baht; will accept any reasonable offer. Tel: 04-8484226. Email: [zdarlington@hotmail.com](mailto:zdarlington@hotmail.com)

## Household Services Needs

### NANNY/HOUSEMAID

wanted. British-Thai family would like an honest, reliable person to help with general housekeeping duties. We have a four month old son. English speaking preferred. Please send a reference. Email: [nmorgan@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:nmorgan@loxinfo.co.th)

### HANDYMEN

Urgently needed. Must be able to do: painting, landscaping, carpentry work. Must work independently. Tel: 06-2688061. Email: [schendl@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:schendl@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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-5392673. Email: [chiefslave1@hotmail.com](mailto:chiefslave1@hotmail.com)

## Properties Services

### CONSTRUCTION

wastage. We have a place to dump construction wastage - concrete, cement, tiles, dirt, soil, etc. If interested, please contact. Tel: 01-4190 4502. Fax: 076-239837. Email: [nichakan@capeyamu.com](mailto:nichakan@capeyamu.com)

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**\$160,000 USD**

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Mobile: 01 894 1630 / 01 908 1437  
tel/fax: 076 238 729  
Email: brokerage@leemarine.com

**Yacht Haven Marina Office**  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 01 891 3237  
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Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

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### 24FT SWISSCAT



For urgent sale! Has 2 Honda 4-stroke outboards, 50hp each; 24kts; 160 hours; Semi Catamaran; Thai flag; built in 2004; fully equipped at Boat Lagoon. Bring us your best offer. Tel: 01-2734000, 09-9725378.

### 5HP OUTBOARD

Yamaha. 10,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9704638.

### 19FT FISHING BOAT

Stong fiberglass hull. Stainless-steel center console; steel trailer. Brand new! Price: only 250,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9724805.

### FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Sport fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's Vindex design. Built under license in cedar strip/epoxy. Beam: 12ft; Length 36ft. 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel engine. ZF hydraulic gear. Hydraulic steering from main cabin or flybridge and many extras. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin and convertible dining area. WC, shower, handbasin, galley and bosun's locker. Fully taxed and registered in Thailand, including berth for nearly 1 year at Boat Lagoon. Please contact K. Peter for more information.

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121 Ft	NEW	Motor Launch	Hino x 3 engines	4,000,000
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**Defever 58'**  
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## THAI CHEF WANTED

Experienced Thai chef required to run 2 busy upscale restaurants in Dublin, Ireland. Basic English required. Good salary. Interviews Feb. 6 & 7 in Phuket. Call to make an appointment. Tel: 04-849-1500. Email: timvongswang@yahoo.com

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Proof reading officer: 1 position; Client service officer: 1 position. Requirements: Bachelor's degree or higher and a good command of spoken & written English. Send your application & recent photo to K. Jirada Millennium Graphics 22/14 Moo 5 Chalermprakit Ror 9, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Email: suaik@e-mail.in.th

## ADMINISTRATION

Officer. Bowen Training seeks a female with fair English skills and a bright personality. Salary: 8,000-10,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-264442, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-264-443. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

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Phuket Receptif (a travel agency in Phuket) is seeking qualified persons for the following positions: 1 PR & Marketing Secretary; and 1 Operations Office staff member. Qualifications:

1. Minimum of 2 years' experience in the hotel or travel & tour industry is an advantage;
2. Good attitude, willing to learn and work in a team;
3. Computer knowledge;
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Salary depends on experience. Please send your CV and photo. For details, call Tel: 076-261195-6. Email: info@phuket-receptif.com

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Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:

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## OPERATIONS

Manager. Permanent position for an organized, motivated English-speaking Thai national in a real estate company in Phuket. We are looking for someone who is comfortable liaising with both developers and clients. Excellent opportunity with an excellent salary and incentive package. Own car preferred. Tel: 076-264460, 07-2982028, 01-8337836. Email: t.ross@baansiamrealty.com

## PROPERTY MANAGER

Siam Home Care, part of Siam Real Estate, requires an experienced Thai service manager to handle our private villa properties and development business. Must have transport. Good prospects, salary and commission. Please contact. Tel: 076-288908. Email: anna@siamhomecare.com Please see our website at: [www.siamhomecare.com](http://www.siamhomecare.com)

**Layalina Hotel (HIP Boutique Hotel) in Kamala Beach, invites ambitious, self motivated and service-minded professionals to join our team as:**

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- Pool Conceierge (Male)
- Barman (Male)
- Room Attendants (Female)

Competitive salaries and benefits.  
If qualified, please call Tel: 076-385275, 01-0790054.

## ADMINISTRATOR/

Thai teacher. Urgently seeking a Thai female with good English and computer skills required and full-time Thai national teachers who are able to teach basic English and also the Thai language. Tel: 076-296372, 06-9513010. Email: anna\_patong@hotmail.com

## VILLA COOKS WANTED

A high-end villa estate is looking for 3 cooks with a good knowledge of Thai food and the ability to speak English. Good salary and benefits are offered to successful candidates. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8959144. Email: peter@shibumithailand.com

## COOKS AND WAITERS

2 cooks (a couple) with experience in both Thai and international food. Waiters with some experience, and knowledge of English. Tel: 02-2491533, 07-0888724. Email: jsmithy2005@yahoo.com

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The British Curriculum International School, Phuket (formerly Dulwich International College) is a leading British International day and boarding school (18 months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. We require the following:

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**Silk Restaurant and Bar**, the leading restaurant development and management company by Lan Kwai Fong Entertainments Group, is seeking qualified and energetic persons to fill the following positions:

**SERVICE STAFF**

**BAR STAFF**

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Team player
- Good command of English
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- Energetic & passionate about your work
- Between 23-26 years of age
- Minimum of 2 years in a similar position or experience in the hospitality industry is preferred
- Willing to learn

For more information please call  
The Plaza Surin 5/50 moo 3, Cherng Talay, Talang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-271702 [www.silkphuket.com](http://www.silkphuket.com)  
Email: [silk@silkphuket.com](mailto:silk@silkphuket.com)

## HAIRDRESSER

in Phuket. A leading fitness center with French management is looking for an experienced English-speaking hairdresser. International experience preferred. Tel: 05-782-1194. Email: checknat2000@yahoo.com

## SEEKING GOOD

staff. Civil Engineer, Foreman, Secretary wanted to work in Krabi. Staff house and good benefits offered. Tel: 01-7973401. Fax: 076-274272. Email: yoon@krabisunset.com

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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### GRAPHITE GOLF

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### GATES FOR SALE

Two metal gates for sale. 2m high x 1m wide with all fixings. Offers? Tel: 01-5395329. Email: grahamtre@hotmail.com

### SECONDHAND GYM

equipment for sale. Full range of free weights, multi-station, 2 x benches (flat and inclined) and bars. Needs attention. 15,000 baht ono. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-270752. Fax: 076-270751. Email: tuk@pipsphuket.com

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Two armchairs, couch (three-seater) and glass table. Cushions are red. 9,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-245297, 01-597-4218. Email: kana811209@hotmail.com

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## Articles Wanted

**COT, TRICYCLE, ETC**  
wanted for visiting grandsons aged 9 months and 5 years: Cot, tricycle, baby walker, pushchair, etc. Willing to buy or rent from you. Good and safe condition only. Tel: 06-2712758. Email: annatandy@hotmail.com

### SEXTANT WANTED

Good-quality sextant wanted. Plath, Tamiya or similar. Cash waiting. Pls contact via Email: peter@islandhomephuket.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

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bargain. Hotel reservation website for sale at bargain price. Tel: 075-637862, 04-1179567. Email: hedley@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.krabi-reservations.com/sale.htm

### 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 rent as deposit. Tel: 06-7430978.

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email: info@msa-phuket.com

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www.msa-phuket.com

### SEEKING PARTNER

for the first slimming resort in Phuket. Required capital: 6 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2740010.

### WIDE, 3-FLOOR BAR,

Bangla. Beer bar/go-go bar with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and air conditioning. Asking 1.5 million baht (extended lease option). Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9476298. Email: viagem2002@hotmail.com

### 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  
Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-0820039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@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. Email: MiamiBeachN@netscape.net

### KATA BAR FOR SALE

Good location, fittings, as new. Rent paid till 2007. Price 500,000 baht. Tel: 07-815-8653.

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### INVESTORS WANTED

Business. Looking for a project in Phuket, at 1 million baht minimum! Money returned + profit in 1 year. Email: gozilla\_consulting@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Soi Bangla area, with all fittings. Price: 250,000 baht. Tel: 01-8928579.

### INVESTOR/PARTNER

for bar-restaurant wanted. Best venue in Patong. Work permits available. Call Tel: 07-8817600 1 pm-3 am.

### 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 www.vikingresidence.com

### BAR FOR SALE, KATA

34 seats, pool table, UBC, 4 rooms above a recently refurbished kitchen. Price: 1.7 million baht. Tel: 04-8478139.

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well-run visa run business including tour office at Rawai Beach. Please contact K. Jaochim. Tel: 04-8512378 for more information.

### TAILOR SHOP

for immediate sale. 8m x 25m fully furnished, located on Patong road, near Thara Patong Hotel. A 5-year lease. Tel: 09-6656195.

### SHOP/OFFICE

for rent. Patak Rd (main road of Karon Beach), semi-furnished, ADSL. For more info. Tel: 09-1968429. Email: info@phukethomecare.com

### 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

### DISCO IN PATONG

Partnership with disco, great location. Interested parties. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-5141288.

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### LOAN WANTED

4 million baht required. Will pay 6% interest quarterly in advance, good security. Tel: 01-8924804.

### DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extras to pay, all-inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sunday. Tel: 04-7457024.

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### NO 1 VISA SERVICE

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State constructions tender offer & bidder (certified by all government divisions and the private sector): asphaltic 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 details, visit our website: www.thanitstonefactory.com

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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## Cameras & Equipment

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For sale. IX50 with 22-55mm + zoom 55-200mm + flash 380EX. As good as new. All for 9,000 baht. Call Khun Misu. Tel: 01-3973291.

## CAMERA & PHONE

Wanted: Basic digital camera and a basic mobile phone. They can be, but do not need to be, a combination gizmo. In other words, 2 separate units is ok. Also need an MP3 player. Prefer secondhand/like-new to keep costs down. Tel: 04-1732757. Email: ken@adventure1.com

## NIKON N80 SLR

in mint condition with original Nikon 28-80mm 1:3.5-5.6D lens + UV & Hoya 81A filter. Only 6,900 baht. please cinctact for full description. Email: tingtongmakmak@hush.ai

## Computers

### COMPUTER REPAIRS

English technician, new or used computers. GPRS, ADSL, WLAN and Internet access without a phone. Tel: 09-4735080.

### SECURE WIRELESS NETWORKS

Long-range links. phuket-data-wizards.com Tel: 076-383575, 06-682-7277.

### POCKET PC – B6,000

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### NEW MONITOR

Brand-new, 17-inch Laser computer monitor, still in box. 4,000 baht. Bought January 31, 2006. Tel: 076-225215. Fax: 076-234832. Email: eric@insurance-in-thailand.com

### FAST SALE

ATEC desk computer, 2 years old, with CD writer. Also have a 3-year-old Compaq Notebook. 20,000 baht for the two of them. Come and have a look. First come, first served. Tel: 06-9908171. Email: dakitchenlady@hotmail.com

### 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. Tel: 07-279-8520. Email: waikikidivecafe@hotmail.com

### PC MOTHERBOARD

Epox. 8K9A7I Socket 462 VIA KT400A, 3x DIMM DDR400, AGP 5 PCI, USB 2.0, S-ATA LAN and more. Unused in factory package. 1,300 baht. Tel: 09-9087350. Email: wagner\_fin@hotmail.com

## Lost & Found

### PATONG - 26 JAN

Lost a digital Canon camera in a Lower Pro black/red nylon bag during the night of Jan 26. Please contact me asap because I miss the heart of this camera. Tel: 07-2765540. Email: val.gilles@wanadoo.fr

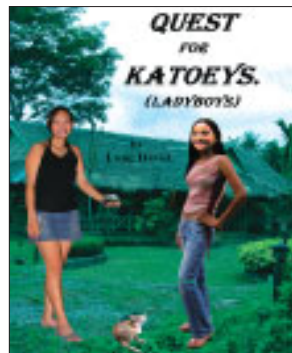
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## Personal Services Wanted

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or furniture finisher. Thai carpenter and furniture color finisher wanted. Please send e-mail or call. Tel: 076-244652, 01-7722300, 01-6764849. Email: info@etwood.com

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

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## Pets

### REWARD

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