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# FIRE GUTS CROCODILE

## Forensics experts probe cause of B40m blaze

By Natcha Yuttaworawit  
& Anongnat Sartpisut

PATONG: A fire in the early hours of March 13 gutted the popular Crocodile Disco off Soi Bangla, causing damage estimated at 40 million baht, according to the disco's manager.

The manager, Amnuay Kuabkum, told the *Gazette* that the fire broke out around 5 am, while guards were sitting outside to ensure the safety of the three-story complex, located at the end of Soi Moulin Rouge.

The soi, more commonly known as Soi Katoey because of its go-go-dancing ladyboys, is home to one of Patong's most popular strips of beer bars.

"The bars nearby had already closed, so nobody knows how it started. I just heard from the police that the building was gutted," K. Amnuay said.

Forensics experts from the Phuket Provincial Police were trying to determine the cause of the blaze, he added.

"The damage was about 40 million baht, because everything on all three floors was destroyed. We plan to rebuild and hope to reopen in about six months," he said.

He said he did not know whether the owner had insured the building or its contents.

Pol Lt Patak Kwanna of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette* that seven or eight fire trucks were on the scene very fast and were able to prevent the



The blackened hulk of the wrecked Crocodile disco lowers over the colorful bars of Soi Katoey.

fire from spreading to other structures.

As to what started the fire, he said, "It takes time to establish the cause of a fire. We have already combed through the site twice. Now we need to wait for the report from the forensics experts." He declined to go into greater detail.

Less than three hours earlier, in what appeared to be a show of support for embattled caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, arsonists set fire

to the backdrop of a stage set up by opponents of the PM, destroying most of it.

The stage had been set up several weeks earlier by supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy, which has been holding a mass sit-in in Bangkok's Sanaam Luang for weeks in an attempt to force PM Thaksin to resign.

Like the one at Sanaam Luang, the Saphan Hin backdrop was emblazoned with the words, "Thaksin Get Out!"

A security guard at the nearby sports complex raised the alarm at about 2:30 am.

Arriving at the scene, police officers led by Phuket City Police Superintendent Pol Col Nos Svettalekha found the remains of a large, gasoline-soaked cloth apparently used to start the blaze.

Col Nos said the evidence pointed clearly to arson. "I think agitators did this, wanting to stir up trouble. We will try to find out who was responsible."



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## Dates set for 2007 Blues Festival



California's Rich Harper has confirmed he will return for the 2007 Phuket International Blues Festival.

PHUKET: Phuket Music Production Co has announced that an agreement has been signed with the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa for the resort to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Phuket International Blues Festival on February 16 and 17 next year.

The headliners will again be the highly acclaimed blues-rock trio from Los Angeles, The Rich Harper Blues Band.

So far, three Thailand-based bands – Phuket's Groove Doctors and Blues Machine, and the Soi Dog Blues Band from Bangkok – have also confirmed they will play.

The organizers are now seeking local sponsors. See [www.phuketbluesfestival.com](http://www.phuketbluesfestival.com) for details.

# Patong beach chair 'disorder' slammed

PATONG: The unexpectedly swift recovery of tourism after the tsunami has resulted in "disorder" on Patong Beach, with tsunami escape routes blocked by beach chairs and harsh words exchanged at a recent meeting of the Patong Municipality.

At the meeting, Vice-Governor Worapot Ratthasima said that he had received an instruction from Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura to control the disorderly state of beach chairs and umbrellas on Patong Beach.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin told the meeting that the problem stemmed from rental operators reneging on an earlier deal struck between their representative organization, the Beach Chairs and Umbrella Operators Club (BCUOC), and the Municipality.

K. Pian said the agreement was that there would be no more than 2,300 beach sets, each consisting of an umbrella and two loungers, set out in two rows.

Ampian Tuantin, the chairman of the BCUOC, explained that the unexpectedly large number of tourists coming to Phuket was at the root of the problem.

The agreed number of beach sets, he said, did not meet the current high demand. He added that he had approached K. Pian and requested "flexibility" in the application of the rules during December and January. As a result, a third row of beach sets was allowed.

K. Pian agreed that this was accurate, but added that the situation was "not orderly" and that tsunami evacuation routes were sometimes blocked by chairs and umbrellas.

"You should tell your members to keep the beach chairs more orderly," he told K. Ampian, "I don't mind if you have two rows or three rows but it must be orderly. If not, we will fine those who are responsible for moving the chairs [out of line], even if some of them are foreigners."

K. Ampian told the *Gazette* later, "The original number of beach chairs and umbrellas that we first requested permission for was based on our estimate immediately after the tsunami.

"The government didn't want to have any beach chairs at all. But we proposed 2,300 sets because we thought that the tourists wouldn't come back for at least three years.

"But they're back in far larger numbers than we expected and that's why we've added more beach sets."

He added, "We have regular customers and some of them even sent us money when we had no work after the tsunami. But if they come back now and have nowhere to sit, then we can't give them the welcome we feel they deserve.

"We want to be warm and friendly hosts – just as the government wants us to be – but we can't be if we're restricted."

– Janyaporn Morel

## Tourism bosses worry about political crisis

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Key figures in Phuket's tourism industry on March 10 called for peaceful resolution of the current national political crisis, following the detonation of a small bomb the previous day outside the home of former Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanonda in Bangkok, which slightly injured a British tourist.

Kitti Pattanachinda, Vice-President of the Phuket Tourism Association (PTA), told the *Gazette*, "Our political problems are broadcast around the world and when potential tourists watch the news they may change their minds and travel to other countries they see as more peaceful.

"Me, I wouldn't want to risk going to Manila because of the political problems in the Philippines – I'm not sure about security there," he added.

Thailand's current political turmoil is affecting Phuket's tourism industry and Scandinavian travel agents had already been inquiring about security and risks on the island, he said.

K. Kitti added that many



'This can only mean bad news' – Kitti Pattanachinda.

people were to blame for the present problems because so many organizations were involved. "We lost out last year because of the tsunami and now we have political turmoil," he said. "This can only mean bad news.

"I would like to ask every faction in this political crisis to stop, please, because it will affect the country's economy. The many hundreds of thousands of protesters in Bangkok will, in turn, affect hundreds of thousands more around the country, as well as Thailand's financial wellbeing.

"If we could publicize that

Phuket has no political problems whatsoever, it might help us to get through and survive this crisis," he added.

"But if so-called responsible adults all over the country cannot talk together to solve the problems, how can we keep our self-respect?"

Pamuke Archariyachai, CEO of the Kata Group and Consultant to the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, said that the March 9 bombing in Bangkok will definitely affect tourism in Phuket.

"If the political situation takes too long to settle down, then tourism will be adversely affected because everyone's safety is threatened. I would like to ask all those politicians who say that they love their country to bring an end to this crisis soon.

"Phuket and other Andaman coast provinces were severely affected by the tsunami and things were just getting better, but now we have this."

He added that it was hard for tourists to differentiate between the two places; they would tend to equate the political crisis with the entire country.

## Call for more care over water use

PHUKET: Arun Keodsom, Chief of the Phuket Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), has urged islanders not to waste water.

"The provincial office has set up a center to try to prevent severe shortages, while the managing committee is overseeing water distribution.

"There are 86 deep wells and 92 tin mine lagoons on the island, making up a total of 24.5 million cubic meters [of water] in the province."

Not all of this water is available for public distribution, however. Many of the deep wells and tin mine lagoons are privately owned and are not linked to the main supply.

"The island's only reservoir, at Bang Wad, currently holds just over 3 million cubic meters.

"Phuket uses about 72,000m<sup>3</sup> of water a day, so if we calculate on the rain starting again by the end of May, we will have enough water this year. However, we still should be careful about the amount of water used."

He added, "Not every district was affected by water shortages last year, but we still have to plan ahead.

"We will have 23 water pumps [to pump water from tin mines] and 100 water trucks to distribute it – all this is covered by a budget of about 50 million baht.

"We plan to have weekly meetings with the media to keep the public informed. In the meantime we urge people to control their water use."

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Dead sharks lie on the foredeck of the fishing boat.

# Marine Park boss calls for help in curbing poaching

KRABI: Amarin Intarasombat, the Chief of Koh Lanta Marine National Park, has urged dive operators and other park visitors to notify him immediately if fishing boats are seen in the park.

He made his call after seeing photographs, passed to him by the *Gazette* and taken by a local dive operator, showing dozens of dead sharks on the deck of a fishing boat in the park.

The dive operator, requesting anonymity, said that, in his

estimation, about 30 reef sharks were caught in one night alone around Hin Daeng and Hin Muang in Krabi Province.

The operator commented that the few thousand baht fishermen will receive from the sale of the sharks is nothing compared with the millions spent by visitors who want to see the sharks swimming in their natural habitat – in Thailand's Marine National Parks.

K. Amarin said, "After I get

a call, it usually takes about an hour to get to the scene. Fishing in national parks is not allowed, nor is coral collecting. We try to go out and check as much as possible but cannot do so every day."

Divers and visitors to Hin Daeng and Hin Muang who witness illegal fishing are urged to call K. Amarin at Tel: 01-968-0843 or his deputy, Utane Siripuwadol at Tel: 06-7438642 or 03-1735059.

– Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

## Former cop to challenge Sriyada in Apr 2 election

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: A former policeman will take on Dr Sriyada Palimapan of the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party in District 1 of the April 2 parliamentary election, but the TRT candidate for District 2, Wisut Santikul, will run unopposed.

Provincial Election Commission (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunagrit told the *Gazette* that in District 1, covering Phuket City and its environs, the candidates will be Dr Sriyada and Pol Sgt Panya Borirak, 35, who is running under the banner of the little-known Pattana Chart Thai (Develop the Thai Nation) Party.

Two other people who registered for the parliamentary election were, however, turned down by the PEC. Lawyer Thavorn Permpoon, 50, of the Thai Chuay Thai (Thais Help

Thais) Party and businessman Soraphong Khaokitpaisarn, 30, of the Pandin Thai Party (Thai Homeland Party), were barred because neither had been a party member for at least 90 days before the April 2 poll, as required by election law.

Sgt Panya told the *Gazette* that his party was formed decades ago to help push former Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanonda policy, aimed at getting Communist insurgents back into the democratic process.

"I have been a member for more than a year," he said, adding that he had resigned from the police on March 7 in order to comply with election law.

A graduate from Phuket Rajabhat University, he said his previous political experience included an unsuccessful attempt to gain a seat in the Phuket City Council in 2004.

Despite his affiliation with Pattana Chart Thai, K. Panya said he would run under the slogan: "I am beholden to no party; I will give my all for Phuket."

Sgt Panya's decision to run against Dr Sriyada may actually make things easier for the TRT candidate. Unlike K. Wisut, who is running unopposed and must therefore get votes equal to 20% of the number of registered voters, Dr Sriyada must now only defeat the Sergeant and get more than 5% of the number of registered voters.

There have been reports that "a big party" has been paying individuals as much as 30,000 baht to run in the election. In only three cases, however, has a complaint been lodged about this.



Pol Sgt Panya Borirak.

## Ex-cop sought for murder at bar

PATONG: Kathu police have issued an arrest warrant for an ex-policeman, L/Cpl Anan Hinchearanan, formerly of the Special Branch of the Royal Thai Police and latterly a security guard at Soi Bangla's Crazy Bar, for the murder of Metha Thongkaew, his counterpart at the Snack Bar on Soi Tiger. Both bars are foreign-owned.

K. Metha, 28, from Haad Yai, was shot four times in the early hours of March 12 and died on the way to hospital. Pol Lt Col Supreecha Onsod, Deputy Superintendent of Kathu Police Station, said witnesses had seen K. Metha and Anan arguing two days earlier, and had overheard Anan threatening to kill K. Metha.

He suggested that Anan may be hiding out in Bangkok.

Although Anan is currently eluding capture, Kathu Police have arrested Praporm Chonlatarn, 46, and Kampol Pairoj, 39, in Patong. Both men were accused of being accomplices in K. Metha's murder and of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Police found a bloodstained cloth in their possession. They also seized a Honda Wave motorcycle believed to have been used as a getaway vehicle.

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## Patong officials 'negligent over Villa Santi'

PATONG: The recently formed provincial committee, set up to check construction projects on the island, has recommended to the Governor that disciplinary action be taken against Patong Municipality's Public Works Department for negligence in failing to oversee work at the Villa Santi Project in Kalim.

The committee, set up at the behest of Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura to monitor work on construction projects, issued a stop-work order on the Villa Santi project on February 6.

Following a closed meeting of the committee on March 9, its chairman, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Assistant (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat said the panel had concluded that Patong Municipality had failed to follow up on the developer's application and had allowed construction to proceed without approval.

"When the developers submitted plans and then started construction before the plans were approved, why didn't the Municipality stop them?" K. Nivit asked.

In his defense, Sompol Khwanyuen, head of the Building Control Subdivision of the Patong Public Works Department, told the *Gazette* that, of the

26 units already built, eight had received building permits "a long time ago" and two more received permits in January this year.

He added that in March 2005, the Municipality had ordered work stopped on all unapproved construction, but had no comment as to why construction was allowed to continue unabated for almost a year after that.

"The result of the provincial committee [investigation] suggests that the Municipality is at fault, but we have all the evidence to show the real truth," he said.

Asked whether the developers, too, would face sanctions, K. Nivit said that the committee's brief is to look only at the local authority's performance.

If there was any wrongdoing by the developers, that matter would have to be settled by the courts in an action brought by the Municipality, he said.

K. Nivit added that, now the committee had submitted its findings to the Governor, its work on the case is finished. The Governor is expected to follow up by ordering the Municipality to launch its own investigation.

It is now up to Patong Municipality to decide when work on the project can resume, he added.

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# Dive operators come under the microscope

**J**eroen Deknatel, Managing Director of Fantasea Divers – Ocean Rover Cruises, who has been in the dive business in Phuket since the 1970s, agrees that the industry needs government oversight.

“Basically, it is good that the authorities are taking a closer look at the diving industry,” he said.

“Dive companies should work harder at being good corporate citizens. There are still some dive shops that employ foreigners without work permits and there are many dive boats that are not up to Western safety standards,” he said.

But, he added, few government officials have a detailed knowledge of how the industry actually works, which can lead to misunderstanding and false accusations, such as was the case a few years ago, when Tourist Police arrested some foreign dive masters because they believed

Nivit Aroonrat, Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer, or *Palad*, recently announced that the province will establish a special committee to crack down on tax evasion in the local dive industry.

K. Nivit complained that most of the Thais listed as owners of the 106 dive companies registered in the province are mere proxies and accused the real owners of 70% of the 106 dive shops registered here – foreigners – of denying Thais the right to work in the industry.

The *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn, Stephen Fein and Natcha Yuttaworawit asked some local dive industry people what they thought about K. Nivit's comments.

they were working illegally as tour guides.

“Phuket's diving industry is quite advanced and there are many different types of diving businesses. Some companies specialize in equipment sales, some offer diving instruction and others specialize in multi-day tours.

“Each of these specializations is different in terms of logistics, cashflow and human resources. I fear that this is not well

understood by the authorities,” he added.

“It would be good if the government officials that [are to be] assigned to scrutinize the dive industry could join a half-day seminar during which we could explain to them how the dive business in Phuket really works.

“I would gladly volunteer to organize such a seminar to help avoid the kind of misunderstandings we've had in the past.”

Mr Deknatel said that Thailand's reputation as a world-class dive destination is under serious threat.

“Already, many high-spending, well-informed dive tourists are turning their backs on Phuket,” he said.

He suggested that the committee also address other issues facing the industry's future, including overcrowding of dive sites, inexperienced divers being taken to marine parks where they damage the coral, pollution from substandard boats at dive sites and marine national parks being used to generate government revenue.

Prasert Banmuang is one of the few Thais who operate and own dive companies, in his case Phuket Ocean Divers in Patong. He told the *Gazette*, “My company has been going for 27 years and during that time I have just minded my own business, not worrying too much about what other companies are doing,” he said.

That being said, he believes that everyone in the industry should play by the same rules.

“If they are [examining the industry] in order to create a level playing field, then I think it's a good thing. Here in Patong, 80% to 90% of the dive shops are actually foreign-owned; there are few companies that are really administered by Thais.

“I do not have a problem with this, except that now there aren't enough customers to go

around all year. In the high season, it is still good. I am fully booked for each trip, with 30% of my customers Thais, 70% from other Asian countries and just a few Europeans.

“I think that if the Governor gives the committee permission to go ahead with this, it will make it fair for everyone. As for companies that use Thai names but are actually run by foreigners, I don't think this is a problem as long as it is all done legally and they don't make trouble for other companies,” he said.

One accusation by K. Nivit is that Thais are often excluded from working as dive instructors or dive masters.

One of the few Thai dive masters working in the industry in Phuket is Reuthaiwan “Noon” Chakrutpong of Petchaburi Province. Speaking in fluent English, she told the *Gazette* she paid for most of her dive instruction herself, completing a dive instructor course five years ago and then gaining dive master accreditation two years ago.

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Assisted by Thai crew members, customers prepare to dive off the stern of the *Ocean Rover*, which was built in Thailand.

fessional Association of Dive Instructors] and ask how many active Thai dive instructors there are in Thailand, you will find it's very small compared with the number of dive shops in the country – maybe 20 Thai instructors for 400 companies.

"The Dive Operators Club of Thailand [DOCT] has offered free training numerous times. It's been free from open water all the way to dive master level, but how many Thais have completed the training?" he asked.

"The DOCT did this for four or five years in a row... but only a few people made it through. Many companies would love to use Thai dive instructors, but how many of them are there? That's the problem.

"It's not that we want to keep them from learning... It's quite the opposite: we want them to learn," he said.

"As for saying we're lying, cheating and stealing from these people, that's really sad. I am guessing that they think this after they see a lot of foreigners wanting work permits. But is that such a bad thing?

I don't understand it. If you have a lot of people applying for work permits, that means they want to be legal and do things the right way," he said.

"Making all those people legal would generate a lot of money in taxes compared with the current situation," he said, admitting that the work permit procedures had forced many dive instructors to work illegally.

He said he wasn't worried about his own operation, as it is completely above-board.

"I am not really too stressed about this. If they come in to inspect me I have all the documents," he said.

Are foreign dive masters taking from Thailand and not giving anything back? "What about the money we spend on our rooms and our food? I don't know how many man-hours we did cleaning the reefs...

"All those comments are just somebody [stirring things up], and I'm not going to listen to people like that. It's not worth my while to get upset about it.

"A lot of people who have not been here a long time get upset about these things. Remember two years ago, the story about [former Thai Rak Thai party list MP Premasak Peayarua] who wanted to raise the work permit fee to 300,000 baht? It's like that... just talk," he said.

He added that K. Nivit's comments about using proxies to subvert Thai business ownership laws was poorly timed given that such arrangements are commonplace and that even Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had used them.

"It's not just the dive industry that has been targeted, and at the end of the day it's all about money – that's just the way the world works.

"It's up to them, because it's their country. They want to get it either under the table or through taxes.

"But to be rude about it, characterizing all foreigners as coming here to sleep with their women and steal their money, which is how I read such comments, that's just sad – and it's a waste of time."

paid for her Advanced and Open Water courses when she worked for them, she added.

Are foreign dive operators fair to Thai dive masters? "Most of the time if they think that the Thai person is good enough, they pay them the same as a foreign instructor. But some friends have told me that at some foreign-owned shops Thai dive masters are expected to accept lower pay.

"They say, 'Oh because you are Thai and you don't have to pay for a work permit, and your cost of living is cheaper. So you should get paid less.'"

K. Noon said she experienced this situation once, when she first arrived in Phuket

"I was working freelance and they paid the farang 1,000 baht and I got 900 baht. It was okay – only 100 baht difference. But on the live-aboard the foreigners got 1,200 baht and I still

got 900, even though I was doing the same work as the other dive masters and I speak fluent English – better than some *farang*.

"When I asked why I was being paid less, the manager told me: 'You are Thai. You eat rice for 30 baht, but a *farang* meal costs 200 baht.'"

She said because most people who come here to learn to dive speak English, she didn't see language as a big barrier.

"The dive master course, all the manuals and everything are in English. Most of the [customers] speak English. Personally, I think many people like to dive with local guides. So I don't think that language is really such a big deal.

"We have a lot of foreigners working here as instructors and dive masters. So if someone really has a problem with English, then he can hire someone who

speaks his own language. For most of the people who speak English, I don't think it's a big deal."

One well-established foreign dive shop owner, who asked not to be named, and who employs Thai dive masters and instructors, said that the problem was not that dive shops do not want to give Thais a chance, but that there simply aren't enough qualified Thai instructors to go around.

"I consider myself extremely lucky to have found one," he said.

"I don't know a single Thai dive instructor who is out of work, and if there are any I would like to talk to them... Most dive shop owners would love to hire Thai dive masters and not have to deal with getting work permits and all that," he said.

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# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket

Kamomthip Dumrongchue and Vatcharin Sattayapornpipat were married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 5.



Noriko and Hideki Hirata celebrated their wedding ceremony in the Laguna Wedding Chapel on February 28.

## Queer News

# Rescue workers need rescuing after trying to rescue girl

THALANG: Three Kusoldham Rescue Foundation workers had to call in rescuers themselves at about 3 am on March 10, after being assaulted by a group of more than 20 girls and ladyboys at the PTT filling station in Baan Lipon, Tambon Srisoonthorn.

Chaiya Pariensati said he and two other rescue workers were on duty when they noticed a young woman stop at the station's 7-Eleven convenience store.

Just as she was about to enter the store, a group of about 20 young women and ladyboys arrived, marched up to her, and began a violent assault that left her on the ground screaming for help, he said.

### ASSAULT

When the trio of rescue workers went to help, the group turned on them.

One rioter grabbed the police radio from an unidentified Kusoldham worker and smashed it on the ground.

Several more launched an assault on the rescue workers' Isuzu truck, which was clearly marked on the side "Kusoldham Phuket Foundation", K. Chaiya said.

Police finally collared three katoeys and four girls, including the hapless victim, whom

they named as "Bow". At Thalang station she demanded just 3,000 baht for bodily injuries suffered at the hands of the six suspects.

"She didn't want any more problems with the group," K. Chaiya said.

"This sort of incident ought never have occurred at all," K. Chaiya later told a reporter. "Everybody at the rescue service wants only to help people in danger; that's all."

"We saw the girl being beaten, heard her cry out for help, so we tried to stop it."

"Those teenagers should never have assaulted us, especially as they knew we were just trying to help."

"I'd like to ask them, should anyone in their group be injured, who's going to take them to the hospital — if not rescue service staff?"

Police will now investigate the incident further and try and get the attackers to pay for damages to Kusoldham Foundation property.

The motive for the group's assault on K. Bow was not revealed, nor were her personal details, surname or profession. It was not reported whether K. Chaiya or other Kusoldham staff were previously acquainted with her.

Source: Siang Tai



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**BEST-SELLER:** The *Gazette's* Laurent Gorse checks out the display of best-selling books at Se-Ed Book Center. At right is the shop's Supervisor, Janjira Katekaew.

## Gazette Guide the No 1 seller

PHUKET: It may not qualify as a racy read, but the *Gazette Guide 2006* recently topped the best-seller list in the Se-Ed Book Center at Tesco-Lotus for two weeks in a row.

Janjira Katekaew, the shop's Supervisor, told the *Gazette* that she was very surprised that the *Guide* was top of the list. "We've seen very good

sales of it. Some people – most of the buyers are foreigners – have bought two or three copies and we had to order a new batch after just a few days," she added.

Coming second to the *Guide* was *Hua Jai Nee Mai Mee Por* (*This Heart Is Never Satisfied*), a historical novel, while in third place was a driving manual for students.

## Ranong quake rumor denied

PHUKET: The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) denied rumors of a major earthquake in the Ranong area on March 11.

Rumors circulated that day stating that a quake of magnitude 7.5 on the Richter scale had taken place near Ranong.

But Patrawan Tuamlee of the NDWC said that this was not the case. She did say, however, that there had been a slew of temblors in the Andaman Sea, centered around an area some 210

kilometers southeast of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and 300km west of Ranong. The situation was being watched closely by the NDWC, she added.

K. Patrawan admitted that the number of quakes in such a short time – the NDWC said it had recorded 31 of magnitude 4.1 to 5.3 in the previous 48 hours alone – was "abnormal".

She also asked fishermen and others on the water to report any strange maritime phenomena by calling Tel: 1860.



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By Anongnat Sartpisut

People in Phuket City may get a little surprise the next time they go to sign for a letter or parcel sent by EMS (Express Mail Service) or Registered Mail – when the post office worker hands them a Pocket PC to sign instead of a clipboard stuffed with forms.

Visal Pongtiwattanukul, Postmaster at Phuket Post Office (PPO) in Phuket City, explained to the *Gazette* that Thailand Post initially started using Pocket PCs to record EMS and Registered Mail deliveries as a pilot project in Bangkok. The system has now been extended to Phuket.

### UPGRADE

Currently there are five Pocket PCs in use on the island, all in the hands of staff at the main Post Office in Phuket City, but the plan is for other post offices around the island gradually to get them as well.

K. Visal said the PCs are being used as part of Thailand Post's program to upgrade and modernize its services, notably the Track & Trace service, which allows senders to check online at Thailand Post's website ([www.thailandpost.com](http://www.thailandpost.com)) whether their EMS or Registered Mail parcels have been received, and if so, when and by whom.

For each delivery, the PC lists the receiver's name, the delivery address and the parcel's tracking number, and records the name of the receiver, the date and time the item was delivered and any pertinent remarks.

Although the Pocket PCs display Thai characters only, the screen area where receivers sign for a parcel "capture" the signatures exactly as entered.

These are later downloaded and used to show those checking online who has signed as receiving the parcel. Recipients also enter their names in full.



**Pocketing the difference?**  
The *Gazette's* Rungtip Hongjakpet signs one of the new Pocket PCs being used by Phuket postmen to record that an EMS or Registered Mail parcel has been delivered.

online, which will show them the time and post office where the parcel was sent from, the time and address the parcel was delivered to, the intended receiver's name, and in the case of another person signing for it, it will show the name of that person."

He explained that the data is downloaded from the Pocket PCs at the end of each day, and automatically sent to Bangkok where the Track & Trace online system is updated.

### TOUGH

K. Visal said that Phuket Post Office is hoping to have six more Pocket PCs by the end of this year. The units, which are waterproof and shock-proof, and are designed and built especially to withstand heavy use, cost about 70,000 baht apiece.

"We have had positive feedback, so we have asked to have six more, which will give us 11 in total for the Phuket City area," he said.

The Post Office is already enjoying the benefits of using the PCs. "There are fewer people calling to check whether their EMS or Registered Mail parcels have been delivered, because they can check for themselves on our website, which saves our officers time in answering enquiry calls.

"It's very good because it gives our staff much more time to serve customers in person," K. Visal said.

"[In the longer term], if they prove to be a success, we will extend the use of them to the other post offices in the province," he added.

# POST OFFICE JOINS THE DIGITAL ERA

"If the addressee is not present when the parcel is delivered, someone else can sign to receive it instead, but they must

declare in the remarks box what relationship they have with the intended receiver, such as whether they're a relative, a parent, or

a friend," K. Visal explained.

"If the intended recipient does not receive the parcel, he or she can check Track & Trace

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Stephen O'Brien (center) with buyers Martin and Lizelle Van den Berg from Hong Kong at their new home, Plot No 17, Townhomes I, Laguna Residences II.

Stephen O'Brien  
Knight Frank Phuket



**O**n March 8, a number of high-ranking police officers and government officials met in Surat Thani to discuss ways to reduce mafia-like crime in the region.

Pol Gen Sereephisut Te-meeyawet, renowned throughout Thailand for a number of successful anti-mafia campaigns, will introduce a series of measures in Surat Thani and nearby provinces to stamp out organized crimes such as drug dealing, extortion and gambling rings.

Gen Sereephisut was brought in to train officers and assign them to specific cases in order to deal with the problem of organized crime more effectively.

He will also look at ways to reduce corruption connected with entertainment venues. The police said they would not yet focus on tourist areas, however, until issues such as official closing times for clubs and bars remain unresolved.

The campaign will begin with a period of surveillance for officers to identify problem areas, as well as individuals and gangs believed to be involved in organized crime in the region. Once the main players are identified, investigations and arrests will follow.

**Driven by irony:** Earlier this month, a 47-year-old man, believed to be under the influence of marijuana and cocaine, was arrested at a beach bar by the Samui Police for threatening people with a knife.

The man, Australian Mark Colligan was handcuffed and taken to a police booth, but later managed to run outside and lock himself inside a police car.

He was able to start the car and drive away, still handcuffed. Police gave chase around the island's ring road with some 20 officers called in to assist and road blocks were set up to stop the speeding vehicle. Mr Colligan,

# Crackdown on 'mafia' (again)



**YELLOW-AND-RED PERIL:** Police have told taxi drivers not to be so pushy with cruise passengers.

realizing he could not escape, stopped the car outside Bangkok Hospital Samui and ran inside.

After another chase on foot the police caught and arrested the Colligan, who was taken to the police station – in the car he stole.

**Love bomb:** A small explosive device discovered outside a police station in Surat Thani was inscribed with the message, "Miss you ... with love."

Police were alerted by a passer-by who reported spotting "an unusual object" outside the police station in Muang District.

It had wires sticking out of it and a timer attached.

Police quickly cleared the street and placed car tires around the device until an explosives expert was called in to defuse it.

Nobody was hurt in the incident, but it is still not known who planted the bomb – or what motivated them to do so.

**Jai yen taxis:** The Samui Tourist Police have asked local taxi and *songtheaw* drivers to be less pushy with tourists arriving on the island by boat from the Singapore-based Star Cruise liners.

Star Cruises now includes a day on Koh Samui as part of its itineraries from Singapore to both and Ho Chi Min City. Several hundred passengers disembark during a single day to go shopping and see the sights, and this generates up to 10 million baht per trip for the island's economy.

However, the arrival of such a large group of tourists can also cause chaos when taxis rush to offer their services. The Tourist Police are worried that the aggressive tactics of taxi drivers will put tourists off, leading the com-



**FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND**

By Barry Singleton

pany to choose an alternative destination.

Regular reports about taxis overcharging passengers on Samui recently led the Mayor to call for strict action against drivers whose behavior damages the island's reputation.

**Body found in Chaweng:** The body of a Caucasian male found in Chaweng on March 8 has yet to be identified.

Police doctors examined the corpse to determine the cause of death; investigators say that at present they believe it was a suicide.

The man had cuts on his hands and arms, but preliminary examinations indicate that he died of a seizure that may have been caused by drug or alcohol use.

Officers say they are trying to discover the man's identity and will then conduct a full investigation into the incident in order to establish the cause of death.

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# A fine idea: high-tech traffic policing

Tenix Traffic Solutions (Thailand) Co is prepared to invest 3 billion baht to install high-tech traffic-monitoring devices nationwide – in exchange for half the revenue raised from the traffic fines it issues, its Managing Director Nithikorn Piama said.

K. Nithikorn said Tenix's Safe T Cam uses lasers and infrared light, allowing it to detect speed at both a distance and at close range. The device can be installed in cars or be hand-held.

Tenix's 12-million-pixel Axis Red Light Cameras have sensors that detect cars running red lights and record all vehicles using the intersection, transmitting images to a control center via the Internet.

The devices have been used in Australia, the US, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, he said.

Traffic Police Commander Maj Gen Panu Kerdlappol agreed with the idea in principle, but said that to let a private company run the scheme and receive revenue from the fines would require an amendment to the traffic laws.

"If implemented, conflicts between the police and motorists would be reduced," Gen Panu said, adding that the requested share would be difficult to manage.

Currently 50% of the fine goes to the municipality or local administration organization, while 30% goes to the officer who made the arrest. The remainder goes to related units supporting the arrest.

"If we give half to the company, the officer and those supporting the arrest would get nothing," he stated.

Deputy Commander Pol Col Somsak Pathumrak said he agreed with the idea of installing the high-tech devices nationwide,



About 3,000 women took part in an International Woman's Day parade in Saiburi District, Pattani Province. Participants in the fun march sought to raise awareness of the important role of women in the family and society.

but said amendments to the law would take a long time.

**Help for domestic abuse victims:** The Ministry of Public Health will expand its "reliable center" network to every hospital in the country this year in an effort to assist women and children who fall victim to domestic violence, Health Service Support Department Director-General Supachai Kunarattanapreuk said.

Citing last year's network report, he said violence against women and children was rising. Of 11,542 people admitted to the centers in the 109 hospitals that are currently in the scheme, 5,094 were girls, 792 were boys and 5,656 were women, most aged between 18 and 35.

The report revealed that 4,762 victims were aged between

11 and 18 years, 668 were between six and 10, and 456 were under five.

Friends or acquaintances were blamed for more than a third of the violence; a quarter was attributed to male spouses; 13% was blamed on other relatives, the report said.

Jealousy and heated arguments were cited as the causes of 24% of the incidents; alcohol and drug influence was blamed for about 22%. The report said 5,483 cases were sexual assaults while 5,389 were other physical attacks and the rest involved mental abuse.

**Young 'need' phones:** Almost half of the young people surveyed across the country said mobile phones were essential and one-third said their day would be in-

complete if they did not play a computer game, according to a poll by the Ramjitti Institute and the Ministry of Culture.

About one-third of the male respondents regularly visit pornographic websites, the survey found.

"We have to take steps to ensure the young use technology constructively," said Dr Amornwich Nakornthap when announcing the findings.

Researchers polled 3,360 young people in 14 provinces between September and October last year. On average, each one spent: 384 baht a month on cell-phone services; 500 baht a month on Internet access; 352 baht a month on computer games; and 334 baht on CDs, VCDs and cassettes.

Dr Amornwich said many

respondents believed cell phones had a negative impact on their lives.

"They say the phones have made them impatient, experience loneliness, lose sleep and cost them a lot of money," he said.

Cell-phone use did not affect academic performance however, the survey found.

**Kidney disease warning:** Citing a report by the International Society of Nephrology, Deputy Public Health Minister Anuthin Charnveerakul warned people of the grave threat of chronic kidney disease.

Ahead of "World Kidney Day", which was held on March 9, the Deputy Minister warned that by 2015 as many as 36 million people each year will die globally of kidney failure.

Figures for 2004 showed an estimated 100,000 Thais suffering from chronic kidney disease. With medical bills running as high as 30,000 baht per patient per month, prevention is of primary importance, he added.

Permanent Secretary for Public Health Dr Prat Boonyawongwirot said kidney failure could result from diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, kidney stones or heavy smoking. Symptoms of kidney malfunction include foamy or bloody urine, frequent urination and swellings of the legs, eyelids or other parts of the body, he said.

Dr Prat urged people to exercise regularly, avoid excessively salty or sweet food and quit smoking.

People with kidney problems are advised to visit their doctor regularly, he added.

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



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Ariana Ramirez practices kicks with Master Toddy in the gym at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

# A gritty dose of reality

By the time you read this, the pretty faces in the main picture may not look quite so pretty. Black eyes, bumps and bruises are all part of the game when you're a Muay Thai boxer, which these ladies from the US are.

The three girls were in Phuket to film the climax of a new reality show revolving around Muay Thai, *Fight Girls*, which will air in the US and elsewhere, including on Star Sports in Asia.

The show follows the trio as they learn Muay Thai while at the same time juggling family and day jobs, fight their first fights and then come to Phuket for the big slug-out, on March 10, at Saphan Hin against Thai women boxers.

The *Gazette's* Alasdair Forbes caught up with them as they trained at Le Meridien Phuket's gym.



**L**isa King's mother didn't want her to do Muay Thai. "Mom thought the girlie things were more appropriate for me, and she didn't want me to get hurt or get broke up in any way," she says through one of the widest grins in the world.

But Lisa had two older brothers who practiced boxing and other martial arts. When she graduated from high school and subsequently moved to Las Vegas, she figured she was old enough to make her own decisions.

She was terminally bored with normal gym work so, "about nine years ago I enrolled in a course with Master Toddy [Thohsaphon Sitiwatjana], basically as a form of self-defense

and to keep myself in shape.

"I didn't start fighting till three years ago. It's a whole different training regime. It's a different mentality."

Up to now, the 32-year-old has juggled being a mother of two, a marketing and PR job and her dedication to Muay Thai.

Back in Vegas, she gets up at 5:30 to run a few miles, "just to get it out of the way", gets the kids ready and takes them to school, then heads for work. At lunchtime she trains for an hour and then, at the end of the day, she and the children, a daughter of 15 and a son or five, all head for the gym.

"My daughter does kick-boxing and my son does tae kwon do. I do about an hour of pad work and an hour of sparring, so that's three hours' training a day."



The reality show has, in fact, brought a whole new reality to her life. In Thailand, according to Master Toddy, she and the other fighters face serious Thai opposition in their Saphan Hin bouts.

Lisa knows that the bar has just been raised massively. "I've observed that so-called Muay Thai masters from outside the Thai culture are not as good as the Thai trainers," she explains. "So regular fighters I fought may be good but they will not be at the level of a Thai opponent."

Being surrounded by a crowd of spectators who really know the sport inside-out is also a challenge, even though Master Toddy teaches using Thai instructions and is careful to explain cultural details.

"It's one thing in the US when you've got people drinking beer and thinking they're at just another fight, and they don't understand *Ram Muay* [the pre-fight dance] and they're asking, 'Why are they doing that dance thing?'"

"But here in Thailand they are judging you [with expert eyes] from the moment you get into the ring to the *Ram Muay* – and you've got to get it right because they are going to know good, bad or indifferent.

"If I'm doing knees, they'll be looking at my footwork and going, 'Oh, she's not on the balls of her feet...'"

"Here you've got people who understand the sport and are going to critique you to the end of the earth, so you have to step up your game."

Do the girls worry about being hurt?

Ariana Ramirez sells real

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Fight Girls: From left, Kourtney McCarty, Ariana Ramirez and Lisa King.

estate and is also a part-time model. She has astonishing violet eyes and one has to wonder how a black eye helps with the modeling.

But Ariana, whose husband is a champion in both Muay Thai and tae kwon do, is philosophical. How does she handle a battering? "Lots of ice. It just takes determination and perseverance. It's in your heart – you have to have a lot of heart."

"I've taken my lumps and my bumps – and I've given them."

Lisa firmly believes that Muay Thai, in addition to teaching how to fight, also teaches them their limits, and this protects them from too much damage. "I have a child who fights and I tell her, 'Be prepared. Don't get in the ring if you don't feel you can do what you're supposed to do."

"Don't ever go in there overmatched. You have nothing to prove."

That wide grin again: "The same things can go wrong if you drive a car, even in Thailand – everyone drives a little bit more crazy than they do in the US, so I think I stand more of a chance of getting hurt in the street than in the ring."

Are the girls prepared for

the fame that will follow if the *Fight Girls* reality show takes off the way that *Survivor* or *The Bachelor* did? None of the three seems that interested.

Ariana says, "I don't have any expectations about that. I didn't do this for stardom. I did it because I love Muay Thai and I'm hoping it will do a lot for the sport – not for me or my career."

"If that happens it's going to be insane, 'Oh my gosh! I'm one of those reality stars!' But it's more about the sport and I really hope that people will come to have an appreciation for it, as we do. I think they will."

Kourtney McCarty, a 27-year-old freelance writer from Wisconsin, says she is not even comfortable with talking to the cam-

era. In any case, she does not believe fame will follow.

"You don't remember those [reality show] people after. I don't really watch TV and I'm not into reality shows. I'm doing this because they're giving me a great opportunity, and I'm enjoying it."

"It's definitely strange. Not every person gets to be in a reality show, but the world is not my stage. I'd rather stand back and observe." She writes every day "to keep sharp" and, for her, the experience will make a book.

Lisa, too, says she is taking part in the project to promote the sport, "because I love it".

But, she adds, "If this turns into the reality show that they hope it does, then yeah, my whole life is exposed to everybody. Fortunately I don't have too many skeletons to hide, so I'm okay with that."

"And if at any given point I don't like the way things are going I can just say, 'Stop'."

To see how the trio did in action against their Thai opponents, see this week's sports pages.

# REAL DEAL

The boxers, who were picked after a nationwide talent search, arrived in Thailand to film the climax of a pilot for a reality show, *Fight Girls*, revolving around Muay Thai. Heading up the film crew are producers Clay Roberts and Scott Messick. Mr Roberts

produced the *Charlie's Angels* movies while Mr Messick, who ran MTV Sports for a couple of years, was the Supervising Producer and Director of the first *Survivor* series.

Funding for the pilot has come from Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen cable channel, the sixth-biggest in the US, with an estimated 200 million subscribers, of which Mr Roberts expects 20 to 25 million to tune in to see the pilot.

If the initial show is deemed a success, then a series will follow, with the cast and crew expected to return to Thailand every eight episodes to match the cast against Thai opponents.



Co-producer Clay Roberts.

Training the fighters is Thohsaphon "Master Toddy" Sitiwatjana. Originally from Surat Thani, he has run a highly successful Muay Thai gym in Las Vegas for 20 years, and returns to Thailand with his best fighters from time to time.

The pilot is expected to air in June in the US. For those who cannot wait, a made-for-DVD reality movie, *Fight Girls*, which also features Lisa King, is due to hit the stores in May – or earlier in Patong.

For more information see also [www.mastertoddy.com](http://www.mastertoddy.com) and Lisa King's website at [www.theblackwidow.us](http://www.theblackwidow.us)



Thohsaphon 'Master Toddy' Sitiwatjana.

'Here in Thailand they are judging you [with expert eyes] from the moment you get into the ring to the *Ram Muay* – and you've got to get it right because they are going to know good, bad or indifferent.'

consin, says she is not even comfortable with talking to the cam-

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# ASIAN ART THAT IS READY TO WEAR

By Shiona Mackenzie

**P**huket-based French artist Danny B designs and makes adornments with distinctive, oriental glamor for The Spirit of Asia, a newly formed company specializing in Asian art and jewelry.

"I feel very passionate about this part of the world, and I feel that my love for Asia shines through in my creative expression," she says.

The Spirit of Asia, run by her friend Diane Stoffel, features Danny B's unique, limited edition necklaces and bracelets composed of turquoise, coral, rose quartz, freshwater pearls, Burmese jade, agate, citrines and white-gold-plated Chinese coins. Another colleague, Dominique Chereau, helps source materials in China.

First known for her elegant acrylic paintings with bronze, gold-leaf or terracotta inlay, Danny B has lived in – and been inspired by – Asia for some 15 years. Her talent diversified from

painting to jewelry in October last year with encouragement from Diane, who had bought some of her creations as gifts for family and friends.

Their response was immediate: impressed by the quality, style and uniqueness of the designs, they wanted more.

Combining business with friendship and art has proved a great success.

Today, Danny B's luxurious necklaces are popular items in major hotels in Phuket and boutiques in Europe and Canada.

She also custom designs pieces to order. Prices in Thailand range from 1,000 to 7,000 baht.

The Spirit of Asia is to showcase Danny B creations for men and women in a fashion show in May, at bar-restaurant Siam Indigo on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket City.

*The Spirit of Asia: 69/7 Nanai Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-345353; Email: thespiritofasia@yahoo.com; Website: <http://www.phuketisland.info/thepiritofasia/index.htm>*

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PARTNERS IN ART: From left, Spirit of Asia owner Diane Stoffel, designer Danny B and Dominique Chereau, who helps source materials .



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A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, smiling and looking at the camera. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace.

A photograph of four glasses of beer, each with a different label, arranged in a row.

<http://www.bavarian-entertainment.com>



## This week



**DATA TRANSFER:** Phuket Internet Managing Director Narisara Chavantanpipat (left) and Phuket Provincial Court Chief Judge Samran Yothayai prepare to cut the ribbon to officially open Phuket Internet's new offices on Phra Barami Rd in Kathu, where it will operate from May 2. Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth (rear, center) looks on.



**RAINY DAZE:** Taking time out in Phuket after his recent 'Rainy day in Bangkok' concert, Korean pop star Jeong 'Rain' Ji-Hun poses with Kata Group Chairman Pamuke Archariyachai (left) and his son Pariyavit at the Kata Beach Resort.



**PRESTIGE POSSE:** *Prestige* magazine's Thailand team stopped by at the Dusit Laguna Resort Hotel during their recent stay on Phuket. Pictured with the Dusit Laguna's PR Manager Kanittha 'Gem' Thanthanasap (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) are (from left) Media Consultant Director Nawindha Supaphol, Editor-in-Chief Jane Kanjanaphoomin, Managing Director Nataya Natrat and Media Consultant Prangwalai Phansiri.



**SMOOTH AS SILK:** Sukko Spa General Manager Sunai Wachirawarakarn (left), with HR Director Piyawan Chatpetch (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Dr Nongthanan Theppabutr (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), the spa's Director of Product Research and Development, launch the spa's latest skincare product, Thai Silk Powder. The powder was launched internationally at the ITB tourism trade fair in Germany earlier this month.



**ALL THAT JAZZ:** Jay Ujjan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) celebrates the grand opening of his Ratri Jazzrestaurant in Kata with (from left) opening party organizer Worapot Srabua, Managing Director of Oriental Leisure, and Kanokporn Chantana and Nattawee Sittiworakun of the Phuket-based Tourism Authority of Thailand Region 4 office.



**GM PAO WOW:** At a party to welcome Stanley Pao (center), incoming General Manager of the Arahmas Resort & Spa, are (from left) Kata Thani Hotel Manager Uwe Lukas; Kata Beach Resort GM Andrew Swatdipakdi; Pichai Tangnavarad, GM of the Pavilion Queen's Bay Hotel in Krabi; and the Arahmas resort's HR Manager, Prasert Monprasit.

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## Upcoming events on the island

### To April 16: Exhibition of 1950s baby photos.

A collection of 100 black-and-white photographs of Phuket babies is on display at the Phuket Thai Hua School, on Wichit Songkhram Rd.

The exhibition will be open every day but Monday from 10 am to 9 pm.

The photos were taken by Aree Khojaroen in 1950, and the exhibition is being staged by photographer Suthat "Mr Big" Satiansri, owner of Min Black & White Darkroom in Bangkok. Admission is free.

For more information, call K. Suthat at Tel: 01-6893492 or the Phuket Thai Hua School at 076-234480.

### March 19 to March 28: Phuket Delicious Food Festival.

Phuket City Municipality and the Phuket Food Vendors' Club will hold their annual food fair at Saphan Hin.

This year, the fair, entitled "Phuket Delicious Food Festival", will feature more than 100 food and beverage stalls showcasing famous local foods, specialties from other provinces, seafood dishes and One Tambon One Product wares.

The grand opening will be held on March 19 at 6:30 pm. One highlight of the opening day will

## Punchline Comedy Club returns to Phuket

On March 22, the hilarious Punchline Comedy Club returns to the Watermark Bar & Restaurant in Boat Lagoon.

The show will feature three headline comedians from Britain: James Dowdeswell, Sean Meo and Mandy Knight – the first time the club has included a comedienne in the tour.

James Dowdeswell's act has been described as "Witty one-liners and extended pieces – like Eminem rapping Shakespeare", while of Sean Meo it has been said that he is "Deliciously sardonic" and "the thinking man's comedian".

Mandy Knight was labeled by *Time Out* as "inspired" while *The Guardian* described her act as "A stream of priceless gems".

Doors open 6 pm. Happy hour 6 pm-8 pm. Three-course dinner available 6 pm-8 pm for 995 baht. DJ 7:30 pm. Show starts 9 pm sharp!

Drink promos all night. 150 tickets only. Punchline Comedy Club stages only four shows a year in Phuket so this is an event not to be missed.

Note: Crude content and obscene language, so this show is strictly for adults only.

For more information contact Stuart Bird at Tel: 01-7376184 or 076-239730, or Email: [stuart@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:stuart@watermarkphuket.com)

be the *Gaeng Pla Too Mi* (spicy coconut milk and fish soup) cooking competition.

Entertainment will include music and performances, a cabaret show and cultural perfor-

mances.

The fair will be open daily from 4 pm to 11 pm. Admission is free.

For more information call Phuket City Municipality at Tel:

076-212196 or 076-219379, or the Phuket Food Sellers' Club at Tel: 01-1251526 or 01-9799329.

### March 23-April 15: Art exhibition.

Dusit Laguna Resort will host an exhibition of bronze sculptures and oil paintings for public viewing. Entrance is free.

The works are by British artist and sculptor Paul McGarry, who incorporates Thai motifs and myth into pieces of modern art.

### April 6: Chakri Day, national holiday.

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

### April 11: Mawlid al-Nabi.

Mawlid al-Nabi (the Prophet Muhammad's birthday). Islamic holiday.

### April 13-15: Songkran, national holiday.

Songkran (Thai New Year). Also known as the Water Festival, and held during the driest months in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days

more playfully a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

### May 27 and 28: Phuket International Rugby 10s.

The annual Phuket 10s takes place this year at Karon Stadium.

Twenty teams from at least nine countries that have confirmed they will take part in this year's Rugby 10s.

Rainbow Warriors from South Africa, last year's champions, have confirmed that they will return to defend their title.

Other teams, in addition to the home side, the Phuket Vagabonds, include former champs the Moorabbin Rams (formerly the Melbourne Cruiser Rams), and the 2003 champions, British Club Bangkok (which this year will field two squads).

Also booked are, from Thailand, Bangkok Japanese, South-erners Bangkok and Thai Barbarians; Selangor Dogs and Penang All Blues from Malaysia; Asian French Babas from Vietnam; Bucks RFC, Wanderers RFC and Bedock Kings from Singapore; Pot Bellied Pigs from Hong Kong; Flying Kukris from Brunei; Al Ain Amblers RFU from the UAE; Tulsa USA, and two multinational sides, the Flying Elvises and Magnum RFC.



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# The good life at TaiLife

After being roasted and dehydrated by the merciless March sun, it comes as a relief to arrive at a serene oasis in a sweltering afternoon in Phuket. The oasis in question is TaiLife Health and Leisure in Patong's Soi Sunset. TaiLife opened just five months ago and features a poolside bar, restaurant, sauna, steam rooms, sun terrace, massage lounge and gym.

This new fitness center was conceived by Australian Brett Taylor, and all things to do with health seem to run in his family. His older brother is a top body-builder.

Yet TaiLife is not about lifting weights and "getting big" Brett emphasizes.

"I advocate moderate exercise; you only need about 20 minutes a day to get results. We are about caring for the person who comes in, as opposed to an attitude like 'Here it is. Now we've got your money, do what you like.'"

"Our priority is looking after our clients' health and avoiding injuries. What sets us apart is not only our gym's first-class, up-to-date equipment, but also our restaurant, Number 26, that serves food suitable for health-conscious people."

The menu provides a wide selection: Thai fare, such as *tom yam* (100 baht); vegetarian dishes, such as tagliatelle with wild mushrooms (160 baht); filet steak au poivre (560 baht) and surf 'n' turf (650 baht). All desserts (including crêpes Suzette and tiramisu among others) are 120 baht each. The house wine is 190 baht a glass; Heineken is 110 baht; and the refreshing "Give Me a Break" (a pineapple, banana, lemon juice and Sprite drink) costs 110 baht.

Brett's approach is refreshingly realistic: "We do have a bar, so you have the alcohol option and you can smoke outside," he says. "You should enjoy your life. I, myself, enjoy a couple of drinks. I'm not the kind of guy that drinks 10 soya milks a day."

His decade of experience in the fitness industry is reflected in

**Spa  
MAGIC**

By Shiona  
Mackenzie

**TaiLife**



TaiLife's philosophy of a healthy balance and choices. Brett worked in the Tokyo American Club before starting his own personal fitness training business in 2002, serving corporate clients. Having achieved some standing and a solid reputation while working with diplomats and even a US President, he moved on to work at the American Club in Hong Kong, quickly establishing his business there and in Shanghai.

Brett feels at home in Asia and, by the end of 2004, he decided Thai lifestyle and culture suited him well enough to choose to stay here. "After enjoying several holidays in Phuket, I felt comfortable here, and thought this would be a good place to expand the business further."

For first-time gym users Brett offers a 20- to 30-minute free consultation and also offers advice on how to use the gym's equipment. He also designs appropriate exercise programs for the individual and offers nutritional advice. For personal training, he charges 1,000 baht an hour. TaiLife's other personal training staff are qualified with sports science degrees, too, and charge about 700 baht an hour.

Swimming and scuba diving lessons, yoga and Pilates are in the works.



**THIS IS THE LIFE:** Above, the pool at TaiLife; Right, Moo the masseuse, a graduate of the famed Wat Pho traditional massage school, applies some pressure.



"It's all about balance and consistency," Brett adds.

Select spa-style treatments are also available, including Swedish therapy, a course of reflexology, sauna/steam room and Swedish massage (150 minutes for 1,300 baht); and full body therapy combining foot, back, hand and shoulder massages (135 minutes for 1,100 baht).

I opt for the full body therapy and sink gratefully into one of three comfy armchairs for a foot massage, sipping a "Give me a Break". Soon, K. Moo, a graduate of Bangkok's famed Wat Pho traditional massage school, applies aromatic lavender oil combined with tiger balm, at once soothing and invigorating, to my aching feet.

Gradually, the rhythmic movements on my hands, arms and, finally, my shoulders and neck lull me into a delightful languor.

The pressure varies from gentle to firm, and with soft Thai music playing in the background, I feel my tension floating away.

As I re-emerge into Patong's sultry evening air, I feel remarkably ready for another dose of dancing in the moonlight.

TaiLife Health and Leisure, located on Soi Sunset with access also from Soi Sansabai, offers family passes, individual day, weekly and month-long passes, six-month and annual, and corporate memberships. For more information, call Tel: 076-341-116, email: [info@tailife.com](mailto:info@tailife.com) or visit [www.tailife.com](http://www.tailife.com)

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First impressions can be deceptive. Carry a motorcycle helmet, and people assume you have a motorcycle. Wear a glazed perma-smile and people assume you are a property developer. Wear an Irvin sheepskin flying jacket, and people assume you have a Spitfire or a classic sports car.

Actually, wear one here in this heat, and people will assume that you have gone rather crackers.

Wear a pair of deck shoes – particularly within five miles of a marina – and people will assume you to be a salty old sea dog, fresh from working his or her passage all over the seven seas.

We, however, are traveling to only the east coast of the island, although the rolling gait – the result of a sleepless, albeit indefatigably affectionate, cat and half a bottle of Champers for breakfast – is no mere affectation, nor the effect of one being tossed on a ship for months.

The brunchtime meeting today – a heavenly joy on a Sunday – is at Les Anges, the boutique patisserie at the Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

## DELIRIOUS

For anyone who has not been to RPM – and I believe that the entire population of the island, save for a half-dozen Burmese laborers in Nai Harn have now been there – it is a rather imposing site. I am slightly awed by its grandeur, but then I do suffer from an edifice complex.

Sun-split clouds amid the delirious burning blue Phuket sky make the option of eating at one of the marina-side tables highly attractive, but to maintain our cool – and to relish the striking Art Nouveau-style décor of Les Anges – we sit inside.

Scanning through the menus, we decide to pick and choose from the standard lunchtime treats and the brunchtime specials, but not, however, before happening upon a lacquered box of chocolates on the table.

Fearful that we may be scolded for eating sweets before our meal, we are reassured by a

# JUST PLAIN ANGELIC

## On the menu



WITH  
**Andy Johnstone**  
**Les Anges**

quick smile from Peter Webber, the motive force behind and the Chef Patisserie and Patron of Les Anges and formerly Executive Patisserie Chef of The Oriental Hotel in Bangkok and The Savoy in London, that we won't be spoiling our appetites.

The chocolates, by the way, are good enough to make a coordinated missile strike on the Hershey's, Nestlé and Cadbury factories seem a calm and measured response.

In fact, only the fictitious Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory could craft better bitter chocolates and sweeter sweets. Just ask Charlie Bucket.

And so, in order of, er ... ordering, we choose chilled beetroot soup, salad Nicoise, a selection of frightfully good salamis and cured European meats, a mixed green salad of items from the salad bar, ham, cheese and broccoli quiche and a pan-fried filet of salmon. Oh bread, too, naturally – and wine.

Now, Peter has let us go a little beyond the realms of decency with our ordering, but we have ordered only a smidgen more than the reasonable 750 baht a head for brunch actually allows.

Top marks for the beetroot soup, which is, naturally enough,



Main picture, the salmon steak. Above, cooling beetroot soup and right, Peter Webber and staff of Les Anges.

a spectacular crimson. Slightly peppery, slightly sweet and utterly cool, it chills even the most flushed of faces.

The divine salmon filet and the equally delicious salad Nicoise are rich with the taste of the sea; I spy the pepper – one of my favorite spices – ready to add a twist, but to do so would be to gild lilies.

Not that Peter would become upset at this, unlike, say, Marco Pierre White, who *The Guardian* reported as having said, "It was 10 months before I threw out my first customer."



"But I was like a serial killer. Once I'd got the taste for it, I couldn't stop."

No, Peter is far too polite to do anything like that, and Les Anges is a very pleasant venue to while away a few hours in polite company, trying to remember the lyrics to *Sunday Morning* and *Lazy Sunday Afternoon*. After all, we've got no mind to worry...

As for the chocolates and the picnic baskets, well, more about them will appear in a future edition of the *Gazette*.

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# Suzuki's Grand leap forward

**BEHIND  
THE  
WHEEL**  
By Jeff Heselwood

Japanese minnow Suzuki has grand ambitions for the future: the company intends to enter the World Rally Championship (WRC) with a modified version of its new SX4 sedan.

Final decisions have yet to be taken by the company, because of some uncertainty over the WRC regulations for 2007, but the announcement that it would step up from the Junior WRC, which Suzuki has dominated in recent years, was made recently at the Geneva Motor Show.

In addition, Suzuki goes into the 2006 World Superbike Championship as defending champion, with Aussie title-holder Troy Corser.

Meanwhile, Suzuki has gone firmly upmarket with its latest Grand Vitara compact SUV.

The Grand Vitara is now powered by a potent 2.7-liter V6, while safety features include six airbags as standard and an electronic stability program (ESP), which incorporates traction control.

So good is this little off-roader that it was nominated "Best-kept Secret of 2006" by US-based Autobytel, the on-line dealer.

Suzuki was established in Japan in 1909 as Suzuki Loom Works, and made its first motorized bicycle only as recently as 1952. In 1955 Suzuki produced its



first micro-car, the innovative Suzulight 360cc. The Vitara and Grand Vitara arrived in 1999.

The 2006 Grand Vitara is all-new, offering sleeker styling and a larger, wider body, giving greater interior space, with extra headroom and increased leg room, both front and rear. There is also an increase in luggage space, thanks to rear seats that fold in a 60:40 split.

There are now two four-wheel-drive options – a full-time single-mode all-wheel-drive system, or a four-mode system, which offers greater flexibility. All Vitaras are equipped with ESP and electronic brake-force distribution, or EBD.

The ESP uses a variety of

**The new Grand Vitara is a far cry from the two-stroke sit-up-and-beg jeeps Suzuki first produced.**

electronic sensors to measure speed, steering wheel angle and the yaw of the vehicle. Under certain conditions, such as when unintentional oversteer or understeer is detected, the system can apply individual brakes and reduce engine torque to allow the driver to maintain control.

In simple terms, if the driver wishes to turn, but the Vitara tries to take a wider line, that is understeer, and the system will brake the inner rear wheel. Conversely, if the system detects oversteer – that is, the rear trying to overtake the front – it will add braking force to the outer wheels and reduce torque.

Despite its apparently user-friendly image, the Grand Vitara can still be considered a serious off-roader.

Its high ground clearance and four-wheel-drive systems, along with the ESP, allow it to cover rough terrain as steadily as a more established 4x4.

The V6 engine produces a healthy 185bhp (136kW) and 250Nm of torque, both of which are improvements on the previous model.

A variable induction system improves throttle response and increases overall efficiency, while the lump also sits on hydraulic engine mounts to reduce vibration and noise.

A five-speed manual transmission is standard, although a five-speed automatic is an option. Unusually in this class of vehicle, the Grand Vitara still relies on rear drum brakes, instead of the now almost universally accepted

all-round discs. Presumably the Suzuki rally car will have a better braking system.

With the 2006 Grand Vitara, Suzuki is clearly serious about establishing itself as a major automaker. Its name is currently synonymous with motorcycle racing, in the MotoGP as well as World Superbikes – Suzuki was world champion in MotoGP in 2000 with Kenny Roberts Jr. However, when the SX4 world rally car gets going next year and becomes fully competitive in 2008, it will present a united front on the competition side.

It's clear that little Suzuki wants to be known and admired worldwide.

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



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Puzzles

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

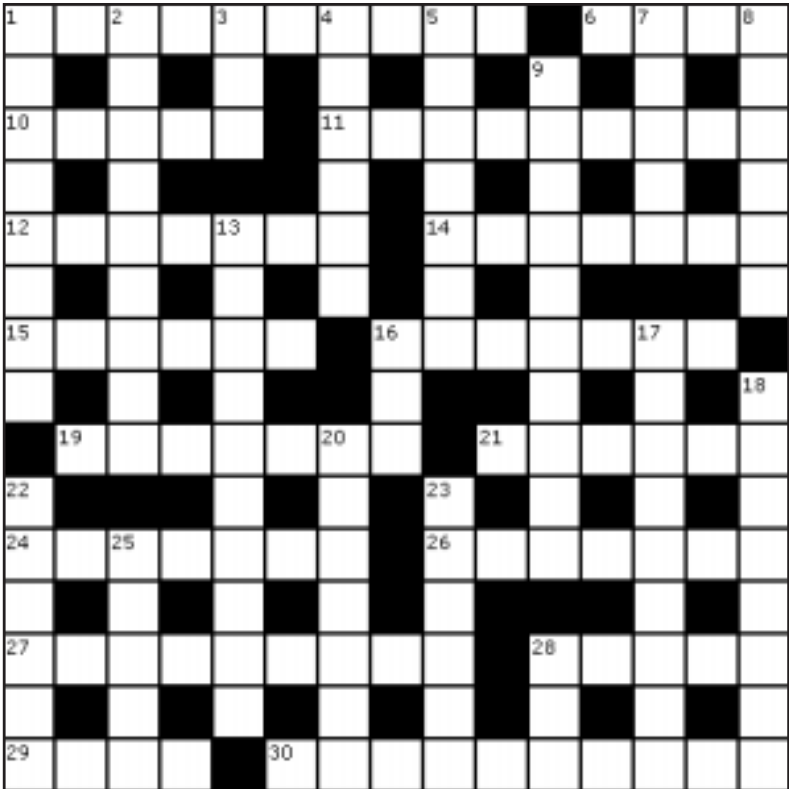
		5			6	3
		7	1			
		3		2	7	
9						
2		8				5
	1					
			5	3		8
					8	4
8		9	7			1

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

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Cheated, gangster closed an eye. (10)
6. Binding for load of wood. (4)
10. Choose. Without direction, choose. (5)
11. Rock? Pity about identification causing sluggishness. (9)
12. Milk sugar may have no digits, we hear. (7)
14. Taught pharaoh or Edward. (7)
15. I confuse Scots – they can put up with a lot. (6)
16. Bitter, I hear a Serb in charge. (7)
19. Fatty? A Diana attitude. (7)
21. Auto cat? And it’s mat, maybe. (6)
24. Not wanting to move, I ran tie badly. (7)
26. Accountant who listens. (7)
27. Jailbird, located, mixes things up. (9)
28. Swift ships. (5)
29. Hop, and do it to a beat. (4)
30. Having credentials account, believe Edward. (10)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

DOWN

1. Reckless, pay less attention. (8)
2. Above the mob, fill too full. (9)
3. Initially, when abbot takes temple. (3)
4. Loony Margaret is spicy. (6)
5. Unreliable, go wrong with a twitch. (7)
7. Sore, I weave willow. (5)
8. Desert commercials for nymphs. (6)
9. Cooked dinner halt in the back of beyond. (10)
13. Job conquest. (10)
16. Get sick, we hear, from beer. (3)
17. I’m long-suffering. No I’m not! (9)
18. Edit edit rate, repeated. (8)
20. Tinny sounds almost demonic. (7)
22. Talk over abbreviated projectile. (6)
23. Emperor said “Seize ’er!” (6)
25. You and I after directions for boredom. (5)
28. Craze will fade, mostly. (3)

Scribble Space



EZ Trivia Quiz

1. Which island, located in the Irish Sea, is a Crown Dependency of the United Kingdom?
2. What is the name of the largest Japanese Island?
3. In physics, what do we call a subatomic particle with no net electric charge?
4. What do we call an animal skin made smooth and flexible by removing the hair and tanning?
5. What does the word “parasol” mean in the original language, Spanish?
6. In which year did people first walk on the Moon?
7. Aku, the “shape-shifting master of darkness”, is a character in which cartoon series?
8. Which TV comic hosted this year’s Academy Awards?
9. Kingstown is the capital of which Caribbean nation?
10. Which cartoon character is famed for his catchphrase, “Eh, what’s up, doc?”

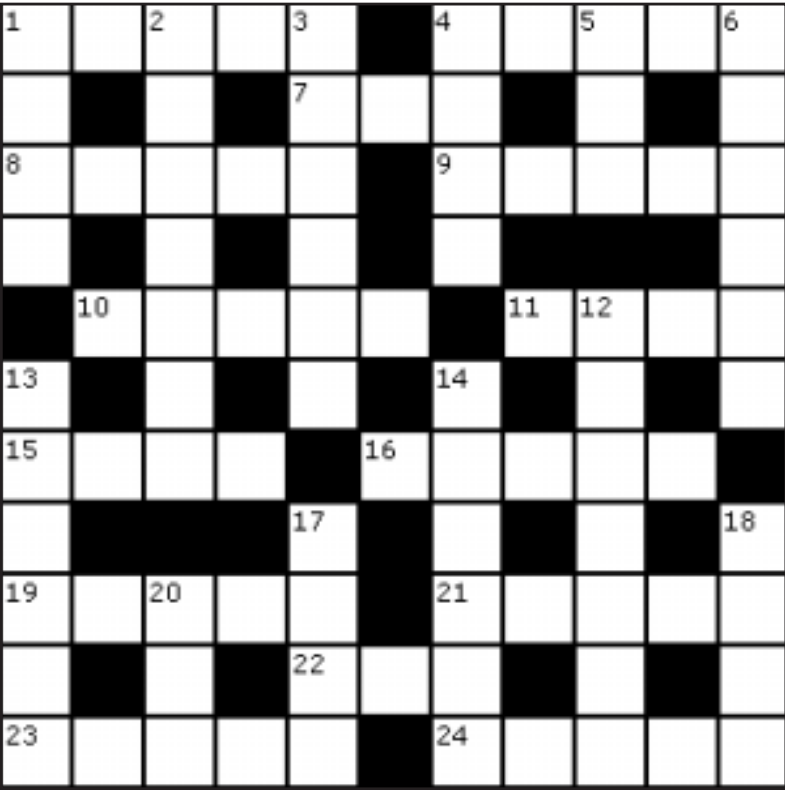
Answers on next page.

Brain Buster

Train A and train B are crossing the US, from coast to coast, over 3,000 miles of railroad track. Train A is going from east to west at 80 miles per hour, and Train B is going from west to east at 90 miles per hour. Which train will be closer to the west coast when they meet?

Answer on next page





Quick Crossword

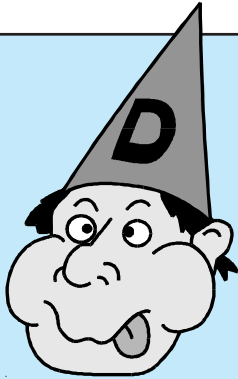
- ACROSS

  - 1. Skeleton parts.
  - 4. Tiny piece of food.
  - 7. \*\*\* Jima.
  - 8. Hand-arm joint.
  - 9. Italian fashion center.
  - 10. African river animal.
  - 11. Yemeni port city.
  - 15. Thread.
  - 16. Of the Pope.
  - 19. Of the moon.
  - 21. A third of nine.
  - 22. Mr Lincoln, in short.
  - 23. Bride price.
- DOWN

  - 1. Soup vessel.
  - 2. Louder.
  - 3. Exercises. (3,3)
  - 4. Hair smertener.
  - 5. Internet address.
  - 6. Yellow fruit.
  - 12. Blueprint, for example.
  - 13. Eye protector.
  - 14. Pale color.
  - 17. Mix of black and white.
  - 18. Blood vessel.
  - 20. Not old.
24. Yellow fruit.

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. "Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong" are the opening words of which book?
  - 2. Jeraboam, Rehoboam, Methuselah, Salmanazar ... What comes next?
  - 3. In 1999, New York City designated March 18 as what?
  - 4. The wreckage of which aircraft can be found at 27° 6' 0" N 23° 42' 60" E, some 440 miles from Soluch, Libya?
  - 5. Which French Ligue 1 football team has *Droit Au But* as its motto?
  - 6. Which model, singer, actress and muse of Andy Warhol was born Christa Päffgen?
  - 7. Who were the male and female stars of Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*?
  - 8. Who wrote the novels known as *The Ripiad*?
  - 9. Name the manufacturer of bizarre, often non-functional gadgetry in the *Road Runner* cartoons.
  - 10. What is the first sentence of the novel *Out of Africa*?
  - 11. What Shakespearean character was Sir Walter Scott's dog named after?
  - 12. 100 kopecks make what?
  - 13. Who, in 1844, sent the world's first telegraph message?
  - 14. According to the official Oscars website, how many people watched the presentation ceremony on TV this year?
  - 15. What New York street is named after a barrier built to keep hostile American Indians out?
  - 16. In 1929 Donald Duncan introduced a toy based on a weapon used by Filipino hunters. Name the toy.
  - 17. What is the the largest flightless bird found only in Australia?
  - 18. Lusitania was the Roman name for which country?
  - 19. What is Ozzy Osbourne's real first name?
  - 20. Name the directors of the two movies called *Crash*.

Answers below, left.

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. *The Little Engine That Could*; 2. Balthazar (they are the names of different sizes of Champagne bottle; 3. Marcel Marceau Day; 4. The B-24 Liberator *Lady Be Good*; 5. Olympique de Marseilles; 6. Nico; 7. Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Ekberg; 8. Patricia Highsmith; 9. Acme; 10. "I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills."; 11. Hamlet; 12. One ruble; 13. Samuel Morse; 14. 38.8 million; 15. Wall Street; 16. The yo-yo; 17. The emu; 18. Portugal; 19. John; 20. David Kronenberg and Paul Haggis.

Solution to Cartoon Puzzle

**EZ Triva Answers**

1. Isle of Man; 2. Honshu; 3. A neutron; 4. Leather; 5. "For the sun"; 6. 1969; 7. Samurai Jack; 8. Jon Stewart; 9. Jamaica; 10. Bugs Bunny.

**Brain Buster Answer**

Neither. When the trains meet, they will be at exactly the same point. Therefore, they will be the same distance from the west coast.

Cryptic Crossword Solution

**Quick Crossword Solution**

**Sudoku solution**

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



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You should have learned by now that trying to reinvent the wheel is a waste of time. However, you seem determined to continue throwing good energy away. This week, Capricorn calls your bluff and this can be a lesson to take on board. If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect to receive a special gift from a surprising source. The number 4 is lucky on Thursday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): This week you can have your banana cake and eat it too. If you are determined to pursue a challenging path, you will succeed where others fail. As outdoor temperatures rise, your love life gets past the simmering stage. A passionate weekend is forecast but in the heat of the moment you run the risk of forgetting social arrangements already made. Wear ice blue to maintain some cool.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If you have been up in the air regarding romance, you will have your mind put at rest this week. It's more than possible that delayed snail mail will finally arrive. Indulge yourself on Sunday; you deserve it, to compensate for all the hard work you've been doing. The financial big picture looks promising, but for the time being gains will only be small.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): The chances of finding a lost object are strong this week, and if you had given up hope of finding it, you may be pleasantly surprised. A light-hearted flirtation takes the edge off your mood this Sunday, but don't expect any more from it. It will come as a shock to discover the reason for a friend's recent strange behavior. The color lime green boosts energy.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): You should be ready to strike while the iron is hot. Your best days for accomplishing the most are Monday and Tuesday. After that, energy begins to wane. Midweek, an Arian acquaintance approaches you for a financial favor. It will be worth remembering that you should never lend more than you can afford to lose. Number 8 looks promising this Sunday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your outlook is good this week, particularly if contracts are to be signed; any new business ventures you launch during the remaining days of March are guaranteed to succeed. Family matters cause an unexpected hitch this Sunday; be ready make last-minute changes to plans. A heart-to-heart talk with your partner this weekend clears the air. Wear an amethyst to encourage relaxation.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Fishing for answers will pay off this weekend. If you are tired of roundabout explanations, you will find it easy to ask the necessary direct questions. A fortuitous development at work on Monday

means that snap decisions must be made; those in a relationship are advised to keep their partner informed of likely changes to the domestic situation. Single Virgos will make a lasting impression on Sunday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): The penny may drop for you this week. A personal matter that has been occupying your thoughts for much of this year is going to be laid to rest. You may find the outcome a little difficult to deal with, but it really is for the best. A cash bonus cheers you up on Tuesday or Wednesday; if you're single, ask Pisces to join in a celebration. Wear jungle green to make a subtle impression.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): You will be in a prickly mood for the first few days of this week. Take a deep breath before entering discussions with your nearest and dearest to avoid matters being blown out of all proportion. Leo is worth listening to on Tuesday, shedding new light on an abandoned business project. Cancer is full of hot air. Wear gold to warm your mood.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Let go of an old grievance to take advantage of an opportunity this week. It's high time to let the past dissolve away into oblivion and live for the moment. The coast is clear for romance to develop with Aries, but you will need to show your feelings. On Wednesday, finances receive a boost when a mistake is rectified in your favor.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): You may be in sparkling form this week. Others are attracted by your charisma and at least one new friendship will be started. Be careful not to have too many irons in the fire as unexpected challenges are forecast toward the end of the month. Gemini wants to share a secret on Sunday, but all is not what it seems, so avoid telling others.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Early next week you may have a chance to make amends to someone you have treated unfairly, who is ready to forgive and forget. In business, you should resist the temptation to take on more commitments. Pressure builds up after next week and you could find yourself skating on thin ice in order to meet end-of-March deadlines. Number 3 is lucky on Wednesday.

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# LIFE ON A BRUTAL BORDER

Phil Thornton has paid his dues. For five years he has been living in a small house in Mae Sot with his wife Kanchana, a nurse at a Karen refugee clinic.

He is a hardheaded, sharp-eyed reporter who has devoted exhaustive legwork to bring the story of his chosen Karen border patch to a wide readership.

*Restless Souls* (Asia Books, Bangkok, 2005, 220pp) begins, like many stories, with a beer in a bar. A freelance photographer in Mae Sot tells him about an American Vietnam veteran who is training Karen assassination squads across the Burmese border. Thornton sets out across the Moei River to find him, and he does – a giant, blond, bullet-headed ex-Major doing his own Colonel Kurtz number. During his stay, two Burmese captives are summarily executed.

He bunks down with a veteran refugee-soldier named Captain Lay, and they compare their lives in Sydney and a Karen refugee camp: "My children never knew any empty fridge, his never had a fridge to open."

Captain Lay puts him in touch with a Karen elder called Tha Ko who knows everybody in the border area. "Tough, abrasive, straight-talking, smart," Tha Ko would become the Virgil for Thornton's descent into the various circles of a Dantesque Hell.

In time Thornton meets and interviews all the major figures of the Karen exodus: General Bo Mya, whose Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) has been fighting the Burmese for 55 years; Dr Cynthia Maung, whose clinic cares for 80,000 patients a year; and General Maung Chit Htoo, whose Buddhist break-away faction caused the downfall of the KNLA's last military stronghold at Manerplaw in 1992.

But he also presents an in-

tricate and vast panorama of the ordinary "restless souls" who inhabit the environs of Mae Sot – foot soldiers, refugees, medics, massacre survivors, gem traders, drug smugglers, sweatshop workers, beggars, prostitutes, street kids, adventurers, journalists, backpackers, NGO workers, missionaries and abandoned children.

"There's no escaping it," writes Thornton. "Every meal cooked, shirt washed, road or house built, rice paddy planted, fish caught, garment sewn has been done by migrant sweat.

Hotels, manufacturers, construction companies, government officials, and police all take advantage by either underpaying illegal migrants or stealing their money."

Still, it's better than Burma itself. Thornton documents the Burmese Army's systematic destruction of Karen villages, accompanied by mass murder, rape, mutilation, the slaughter of animals and the burning of homes and crops. The Karen forces can only mount the occasional hit-and-run ambush in retaliation.

With Tha Ko, Thornton traveled to Let Per Her, a camp housing 840 Karen on the Burmese side of the Moei River, 60 kilometers north of Mae Sot. Food was scant, sanitation poor, malaria rampant. A Buddhist abbot described how his village had been destroyed:

"The military arrived at the end of the wet season. They went around catching chickens, ducks, and pigs. They got drunk and wanted young girls and food."

The villagers fled after the

soldiers raped a deaf and dumb woman and murdered her husband.

A few weeks after Thornton's visit, Burmese troops attacked and burned down Let Per Her. The villagers fled, and when the Burmese left, they moved back into the blackened ruins. In a makeshift school under a tree, a teacher observed, "They burned all our tables and benches, but our children are safe. It's only wood, we can build again."

Finally, General Bo Mya and his staff accept an offer by Burmese junta leader Khin Nyunt to meet for a peace conference in Rangoon. With the subsequent ceasefire, the Karen elite – teachers, medics, skilled workers – rush to apply for resettlement visas to the US while ordinary villagers await with dread their repatriation to Burma.

The book climaxes with Thornton's long and agonizing trek into the interior of Burma with a team of backpack medics, a journey that is aborted when the village they are heading for is destroyed by the Burmese.

An epilogue produces only more distressing news; Khin Nyunt is jailed and the Karens' position is more perilous than ever.

This short review cannot do justice to the complexities of the border region. It's all there in Phil Thornton's book, written with striking intelligence and unflinching honesty.

Reviewer James Eckardt's seventh book, *Thai Jinks: Madcap Misadventures on Land and Sea, has been published by Asia Books.*

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

In a makeshift school under a tree, a teacher observed, 'They burned all our tables and benches, but our children are safe. It's only wood, we can build again.'

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# Fair's fair at temples

**W**hen ministerial regulations are launched, we should follow them, but temple fairs have been in existence for hundreds of years, and over that time have developed from simple affairs to the high-tech extravaganzas we witness today at some temples.

The Wat Chalong temple fair is a provincial-level event, with people coming from near and far with their relatives to pay their respects to the monks – and to have a good time together.

We need to get permission from the district office for the annual fair to be held – and we have received permission every time.

The Wat Chalong temple fair has taken place ever since I can remember and goes back to my grandparent's generation. We never have performances disrespectful to Buddhism. A few years ago, we arranged to have a cabaret show perform, but when we noticed what they were planning to wear and how the stage would be visible to the monks' quarters, we decided to cancel it.

As for games like “dunk-the-pretty-girl”, shooting games and things of this nature, it is possible to argue that this is gambling, since [you have to pay to play] and prizes are on offer. However, it is really up to the police to determine what constitutes gambling, and also to decide whether to simply give warnings or make arrests. I admit that there is a commercial element in some of these games of chance. As for the game where the pretty girl gets dunked, who would enjoy it

## FIRST PERSON

**O**n January 30, the Government sent a directive to provincial government offices ordering a crackdown on “un-Buddhist” activities at all temple fairs. Governors, Chief Administrative Officers and District Chiefs were ordered to strictly enforce a set of Ministry of Interior regulations issued in 1994. These rules prohibit any activities at temple fairs that could be perceived as disrespectful to monks and Buddhism, including: the sale and consumption of alcohol; gambling; and shows involving scantily-clad performers.

As such activities are the main attractions for many fair goers, the *Gazette's* **Anongnat Sartpisut** asked **Opas Chobdee**, a member of the committee that arranges entertainment for the Chalong Temple Fair, what effect the crackdown had on this year's temple fair.



if she were to be clothed in a normal fashion?

These types of things add color to a temple fair. If we had to do away with them, we could still hold a temple fair – but it just wouldn't be the same. People come to the fair to eat, drink and enjoy the performances. If we can add some fun and excitement, they will get more enjoyment out of the fair.

I think we should be able to continue having these things, especially as they are part of a tradition. Yes, we have a beauty contest, but only using traditional Thai costumes and not for women of the second kind [lady-boys]. We also have to stage many traditional singing contests and other such performances.

Alcohol? Yes, it is still sold at the temple fair. The police and government officials want the fair

to go well too. And it has; every year the number of stalls increases and they now number in the hundreds. The Phuket Excise Office has led some arrests at shops selling alcohol over the years, but overall, I would say the authorities have shown a good deal of flexibility on this issue.

I am a beer drinker myself. I like to order a bowl of noodles, maybe some fried rice – and then I like to wash it down with a bottle of beer. They go together. (laughs)

We follow some rules strictly, but are more flexible with others. We don't have shows disrespectful to Buddhism and we end alcohol sales at 1 am. But in other cases [such as a complete ban on alcohol] we need to be a little flexible.

It may be morally wrong to sell or drink or sell alcohol on

temple grounds, but we have to think about the villagers' way of life and traditions as well – and alcohol has been around for a long time. I think we should try and meet half way on this.

The fair welcomes all people, both Thais and foreign. It is important means of passing down local traditions from one generation to the next, such as with traditional local performances like *talung* shadow puppets, *nora* dance and music performance or *kor kong sai* [building mounds of sand from around the community and placing a flag at the top to demonstrate that the temple is the center of the community].

Over the week it was held this year, the fair had more than 1,000 visitors each day. Even people from other provinces come to enjoy the top-notch performances. This year alone we

took in 10.3 million baht in revenue.

As for the issue of alcohol sales, it's actually a small percentage of this whole. With cooperation from the police, soldiers and volunteers, it goes smoothly and we can take care of any people who overindulge and get out of hand.

I don't think there is a problem with the Wat Chalong temple fair's continued growth; there are no problems with having so many shops and stalls, and it's good to have a variety of things for visitors to choose from. The biggest problem is traffic congestion. In the past, private land owners donated their land to be used for parking. Now, however, some people have begun to charge money for this.

People come here to respect the Buddha images and images of our famous monks, such as Luong Poh Cham, Luong Poh Chuang and Luong Poh Kreum. There are also a lot of good things for them to buy as souvenirs.

In my eight years of working on the planning committee, I have seen the Wat Chalong temple fair grow from a small affair with 300 stalls to an important regional event with some of the best performers in the country taking to the stage.

We will continue to arrange the fair, and we can't say that we will no longer allow alcohol to be sold.

I think we need to meet at the provincial level to reach an agreement on how the regulations should be applied in practice. I believe there is a solution to every problem.

## Letters

### A reflective letter

Kudos to the Phuket Provincial Highways Office for their reply to the road user unhappy with the newly installed reflective road markers [see Issues & Answers on-line].

The markers are also called Bott's Dots, named after the man who invented them 40-plus years ago. When they were first used in the US, I remember the same lame arguments against them as those now being put forward by Mr Pietra. They have, in fact, saved thousands, if not millions of lives over the years they have been installed. I'm not surprised that there are always a few who only think about themselves. If motorcycle drivers would pay more attention to traffic laws in the first place they wouldn't have so many accidents.

Jerry Hess  
By Email

### Unlucky number

With reference to the recent Issues & Answers question about house numbers, about six months ago we were burgled, and, naturally, reported it to the police. The police, however, were not able to find our house, which is near Baan Sai Yuan.

We had to pick them up and show them the way. I guess we'd have the same problem if there was a fire. We drove around a day later with two other policemen from Chalong because they were investigating another burglary in our area. We looked for the place for 90 minutes and were not able to find it, even though we had the house number.

It was not the policemen's fault; they tried really hard – I guess it's a system that doesn't work.

Uwe Moskito  
Baan Sai Yuan

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions?**  
**Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

## When does the new school year start?

My daughter will start at Satree Phuket School this year, but before she starts, though, I want to take her on holiday. I asked Satree Phuket when the next school year starts.

They told me that she *might* be able to go between April 9 and 25. How can one plan a holiday if the school cannot tell you when the holidays are?

Staf Sulaiman  
Phuket

**Ajarn Natthapong Phathairat,**

### Academic Section of Satree Phuket School replied:

The next school semester starts on May 16, but I hope you are aware that there are certain steps students must take before starting with us, as these may affect your vacation planning.

New students who do not take part in our selection system – by the drawing of lots – have to apply for entrance and select one of our three programs.

After that, applicants must take an entrance examination and

the exam dates vary according to the program selected. Students who pass the entrance examination then have to register at the school on either March 14 (for our two special programs) or on April 3 (for our regular program).

Parents of students who wish to go on holiday during the tutoring program period must inform the school in advance.

Please contact me at Tel: 076-211034 or visit the Satree Phuket School website at [www.satreephuket.ac.th](http://www.satreephuket.ac.th)



# DOGGING THE DOG

I am on a Number 60 bus during rush hour and I have lost the plot. I can't smash the window with my fist, so I stalk up and down the aisle impersonating a chicken instead, flapping my elbows and squawking with my chest puffed out, much to the bemusement of the Thais on board.

I notice one whispering to the other, probably saying, "Bloody farang, bet he's English." Still, they seem unbothered, just as they are indifferent to the fact that we have moved just several meters in the past 20 minutes.

The bus jolts forward slightly, my daydream dissolves and again I find myself repressing the urge to shout obscenities. There are those who love Bangkok and there are those who hate it – and the latter are more than justified if today's journey is anything to go by.

Personally I lean to the former category, but there are things about this city that make me mad, and the traffic is one of them. The spanking new subway system has had little impact, as its users are simply those who took buses or other public transport beforehand.

Those who own and drive cars, meanwhile, continue to own and drive cars. To do otherwise would be a loss of status, a demotion of rank into the class below. This obsession with status will be the downfall of Bangkok, and will inevitably lead to complete gridlock.

Thais, laid back as they are, will probably take this in their stride and rot in their seats without protest, humming along to Loso on the radio and finger-drumming on the wheel. I, on the other hand, will be on my back on a footbridge, clutching my stomach, tears streaming down my cheeks, laughing my head off and shouting "Som-nam-naa!".

The bus hisses to a halt again and we are overtaken by the soi dog I saw limping along the sidewalk 10 minutes earlier.

Another five minutes pass and we still haven't moved. I want to haul the driver from his seat, take his place, and acceler-

## CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

So you think the traffic in Phuket is bad? Try traveling round the world capital of traffic jams, the place where people carry bottles in their cars in case they get caught short during the four-hour journey from work to home – Bangkok. It's not quite as bad as it used to be, but it's still pretty bad, says our Bangkok correspondent.

ate into the bus in front. Then I will slam into reverse and shunt the car behind, repeating the process until I am overpowered by the driver and conductor, and the police arrive to take me away amid a torrent of abuse that I don't understand.

I daydream about a giant unstoppable snowplow. It pushes cars up and over each other, smashing them out of the way, scooping them into a pile.

I'm late and I'm stressed out and I'm bored, and after being in an air-conditioned environment for so long I can now add "chilly" to the malaise. I can't take much more of this. I paid 14 baht for my ticket, but am willing to forego that. I have never ac-

tually understood why they bother with tickets anyway, as Thais never forget a face. In four years I have never had to produce one as proof of purchase.

Another annoyance about air-con buses is that they don't let you off where you want, and you have to wait until the next official stop.

This can be particularly frustrating if standing opposite one's destination with only a door blocking the way, and many a time I have stood in the aisle like a lemon, looking at the driver as if to say, "Go on then, gormless, hit the switch" – a plea that is lazily ignored.

This time the doors suddenly open with a hiss, and a gaggle of uni girls climbs aboard, giving me the chance to escape the mind-numbing torture.

I hail a motorbike taxi, and am soon passing the bus and weaving in and out of traffic, pulling my knees in as the driver steers through tight gaps between the thousands of taxis and SUVs.

At last we hit an open side-road, and I head for my destination with speed – albeit a little too much of it.

I squeeze the driver slightly with my thighs, as a jockey might signal his steed to slow down. This is more than reasonable since he hasn't provided me with a "lid".

Since the crash helmet law has been enforced, it states only that you have to be wearing head protection. Even when fastened, the standard Thai helmet is about as much use in an accident as an umbrella. Poorer folk in rural areas often hold saucepans or buckets above their head, and did you know that it's actually legal in Thailand to drive to work wearing a colander?

The chaos of cities like Bangkok is as endearing as it is hazardous. It is completely unaffected by the obsession with safety and the paranoia of being sued that restricts the West, and although I loathe the traffic jams it is nice to be able to ride on a bus or a train with the window open, despite exhaust fumes.

The Skytrain is quick, clean and efficient, and the water taxis are noisy but fast and very cheap, providing you don't mind getting wet occasionally.

Tuk-tuks are ideal for showing first-timers around Bangkok, and the taxis – when able to move – are smooth, comfortable and plentiful.

There are also pickup trucks modified to take passengers with

a canopy and benches on both sides; these are dirt-cheap and regular, so there are alternatives – they just need to be discovered and tried.

I eventually reach my destination; an empty shop unit next to a flyover ramp.

Once inside I peel some potatoes and defrost a pork chop, deciding to write a letter to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

I want to ask why on earth he doesn't ban all personal vehicles in central Bangers and charge motorists who use their own cars instead of public transport.

Then I remember that motorists are voters, and it all becomes clear. The horrid realization of Bangkok's destiny is disturbed only by the realization that the spuds are almost done and that I'm out of butter.

So I switch off the gas and head for Tesco. And this time I walk.

# Thatch

There have been some big changes in the Patong nightlife industry: some well-established night-spots are up for sale, while the never-ending expansion in the number of cheap beer bars (aka "bar beer") continues unabated.

One of the newest trends in beer bars, the mock thatched-roof "ring bars", started along the main drag of the OTOP Plaza complex off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

Before long, these watering holes (which cost only 5,000 baht a month to rent) had filled up whatever space was left at OTOP Plaza that was not already filled with stalls selling shoddy trinkets.

Needless to say, these are all manned by annoying touts. This is Patong, after all.

This "ring bar" syndrome has now jumped from OTOP

over to the small soi in front of Phuket Gym, just south of Patong Hospital, where about 10 more have cropped up recently.

God only knows where the next colony will pop up.

While the mock thatching makes these look like they belong on a beach, they seem to multiply best on expanses of asphalt or some other impermeable surface.



**Over the OTOP?** A few months ago Stool Pigeon spent one afternoon searching in vain for any actual OTOP products available at OTOP Plaza. The result? I couldn't find one – not a single one.



For newcomers and those with short memories, OTOP stands for "One Tambon One Product", an initiative of our Amply Rich leader to

tap into local wisdom and skills to help rural villagers produce something marketable. Or at least that was the reason given by the government. Critics say the whole thing was just a ploy to win over the rural vote.

Whatever the reason, things like silk-covered tissue box holders, coconut husk mobile phone holders, wicker baskets and the like seem to dominate OTOP output. The only qualification to be an OTOP product seems to be that it have a purely decorative, as opposed to practical, use.

While any number of use-less trinkets are available at the OTOP Plaza, you'll be more likely to find actual OTOP products at

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# Spinning a Web of love and hate

**Tuk-tuk, nyet nyet:** "I'm just back home after bad experience in Phuket that really spoiled the holiday. As tuk tuks are kind of like the main transport in Phuket, My friends and I took a tuk tuk from Patong Beach to Phuket town (China Town). However, instead of going to the destination, the driver took us on a half day ride to every attraction instead of China Town. It's really bad. The driver even took us to a seafood restaurant that gives us out of the world prices... When we tried taking another tuk tuk to Phuket Town again the next day, the driver dropped us in the middle of nowhere. I do hope that there will be some clean up by the tourism board on these issues."

"We had an experience with

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

This week, let's have a look at people's opinions on the very same subjects: hotels, transportation and Phuket itself. Some are unanimous – predictably so in the case of those naughty tuk-tuk drivers – and some are laughably diverse. So dive in and have a good wallow in the Internet, courtesy of good old Lis.

a woman Tuk Tuk driver at Kata centre to Kata beach resort. She

kept nodding off & was all over the road. We had to keep banging on the glass to snap her out of whatever she was on. We finally got her to pull over & we walked." (1)

**Staremaster:** For obvious reasons Lis won't name the place mentioned in the following and will only give you part of the URL: "If you ever felt like climbing Mount Everest in your bathing suit then this is the place for you. There are a gazillion steps to climb before you get to your room. My husband even fell and cut his toes in the first 10 mins upon arrival. That's not all, I've never seen a more boring pool before! The \*\*\*\*'s pool is shaped like an octagon. So everyone pretty much just sits in there and stares at each other." (2)

**Tickled pink:** "My husband and I stayed at this romantic hideaway for 8 nights in November. We loved every minute of it. From the orange juice and cool hand towels offered on a tray when we checked-in, to the cookies that were hand delivered to our room every night." (2)

**Soft opening?** "Before you even consider staying here, make sure the construction is finished. We checked out early because of it. From 8am-9pm (staff lied about times), we heard saws, hammers and everything else. There were actually construction workers underneath our bungalow at 8am yelling and sliding supplies down the hill. We understand that there was a tsunami, but you should not be charging people \$400+/night while the construction is going on." (2)

Even Thai restaurants? How unusual... for Thailand: "There is a massive variety of

restaurants on Patong beach. With a range stretching from Italian to Greek to Japanese to Lebanese and even Thai you really can have problem choosing. Mostly the quality of the food is good, and there are very few really bad restaurants." (3)

**Same place...** "This hotel was alright all around except for a few really bad things. The hotel was an easy 10 minute walk to the beach however [it was] surrounded by bars filled with prostitutes. In the morning when taking a walk you saw all the prostitutes leaving the hotel room. Room service was terrible. Possibly might of had food poisoning as I was ill for two days after eating it. Breakfast was terrible as well. The one chef dropped bacon on the floor used her tongs picked it up and chucked it back on the tray. Very little selection. New Years gala dinner was alright the food terrible as many other guests agreed with us it was not worth what we paid. Some of the reception staff were rather rude and obnoxious others were very kind. Bed sheets were never changed in the room. We arrived with a tomato sauce stain on the blanket and we left with it still there. Towels also were not changed." (4)

**Different opinions:** "My sister and I LOVED THE \*\*\*\*\*! We stayed in the spa wing with a view of the pool. The room was lovely even though it and the bed were med-small size - 2 beds vs 1 - but everything felt bigger. There was a big balcony overlooking the pool. No bathtub - shower only - but if you have a little extra cash (and I'll do this next time) I recommend staying in a deluxe room." (4)

**Amazing:** "Went to Phuket for

the first time in my life in March, and it won't be the last! I'm truly amazed by everything the people have done to get things back on track and how they never stop meeting us with a smile no matter what has happened! I tell all my friends to go there! its not like anything else! and for me it has truly been a time of my life! I miss all the people working on Patong beach and I thank them for giving me the best vacation ever! Can't wait to come back in February next year!" (5)

**Ugly sights:** "When we stayed at the Marriott on Phuket 2 years ago, we took the free trip limo to Patong for the evening. I really disliked it there and could not wait to get back to the Marriott. We just returned from another trip to Thailand (with a week on Phuket) and had no desire to even spend any time at all in Patong. Of course I must tell you I really have such a problem seeing these beautiful, lovely, Thai girls with ugly, old, old, European men in Thailand on a sex tour, and they were everywhere in Patong." (6)

**A different angle:** "Hi, This is just another view. Guess it depends on how much night life you want, etc. My husband and I took a taxi to Patong for the day and couldn't wait to get back to Karon Beach, where the beach was cleaner and quieter." (6)

(1) <http://www.asiaweb-direct.com/forums/showflat.php?Number=45583>  
(2) <http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews>  
(3) [http://guidebook.thaisouth.com/showpage.php?page\\_id=95](http://guidebook.thaisouth.com/showpage.php?page_id=95)  
(4) <http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews>  
(5) <http://www.phuket-photos.com/frame.php?page=phuket-supporters.htm>  
(6) <http://www.fodors.com/forums/threadselect.jsp?fid=27&tid=34760492>

# attack!

Tourists tend to get taken advantage of. They are routinely overcharged, accosted by touts and subject to any number of scams. Now it seems that someone has taken this shameful exploitation of tourists to an unprecedented new low – by offering them up as food.

Most of these bars are manned (or should I say woman-manned?) by just one or two girls, very few of whom possess the physical and character traits it takes to attract the type of free-spending customers such places rely upon to turn a profit.

**Going bananas:** Regarding the above, many complain of the "lack of talent" problem that hit Patong during the post-tsunami exodus of bar girls to Pattaya and that has continued. Word comes to Stool Pigeon that the best hunting ground for those with more refined taste is the Banana disco from about midnight.

Questions, comments, queries and tipoffs to: [stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net)

a 7-Eleven than at the OTOP Plaza.

However, the number of beer bars there of course begs the question: perhaps the "P" in OTOP in this stands for something other than "product".

At any rate, the great beer bar proliferation there resembles a honeycombing effect: but without the honey.

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## ON THE MOVE

The management of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa has appointed a new General Manager, **John Kidd**, from England. Mr Kidd comes to Phuket from managing the Hilton Chongqing and Hilton Nanjing on China, both award-winning Hilton properties. His career includes managing and overseeing numerous Hilton International resorts and hotels since he joined the company in 1993.



**Wallop Srangkiat**, 32, from Bangkok, has been appointed Administration and Human Resource Manager of the Sri Panwa development in Ao Makham, a project of Bangkok-based developer Charn Issara Residence Co. The holder of a degree in General Management from Rajabhat Suan Dusit University, he joined Charn Issara Development in Bangkok as Administrator in 1993.



Indian national **Richy Sadarangani** has been appointed Assistant Sales Manager of Desjoyaux (Phuket) Co. Mr Sadarangani holds a degree in commerce from Morocco and has lived and worked in Phuket for the past 11 years as a freelance salesman for many companies.



# A paragon of bookstores

I spent last weekend in Bangkok. For once, I'm not complaining. A friend of mine implored me to drop by the Siam Paragon mall and take a look at a bookstore called Kinokuniya. He swore that it rivaled the large bookstores in Singapore, Europe and North America.

I was skeptical, having haunted nearly every corner of almost every English-language bookstore in Thailand. To my absolute, complete and utter amazement, he was right.

If you love books as much as I do, it's worth a trip to Bangkok just to walk through the bookstore. No kidding. But there's more.

True Corporation (which you may know better as TA Orange) boasts a gigantic, chic shop at Siam Paragon called Smart Shop. Walk into the shop and bask

in the best of high tech and high touch – everything from a giant “true” pixel poster, to state-of-the-art cameras to futuristic banks of high-definition monitors, waiting for you to bring them to life. Oh, and a great cup of coffee, too.

The Smart Shop offers free wireless Internet in the coffee shop, and cheap hourly use of those gorgeous high-definition terminals, all connected to a

1 . 5 G b p s Internet feed. Yes, you read that right – 1,500Mbps, in Bangkok, fully functional, for a

few baht an hour. Remember that when you fume over your 10,000-baht-per-month 0.5Mbps ADSL connection in Phuket.

True provides Internet connections for all of the shops in Siam Paragon. More than that, though, True has fully integrated VoIP technology, right there in the

mall: shop-owners get their voice telephone connections over the Internet – long-distance calls cost nothing. If you ever wondered about VoIP (as in, say, Skype) in Thailand, take a look at this press release: [www.truecorp.co.th/eng/news/news\\_detail.jsp?id=49](http://www.truecorp.co.th/eng/news/news_detail.jsp?id=49)

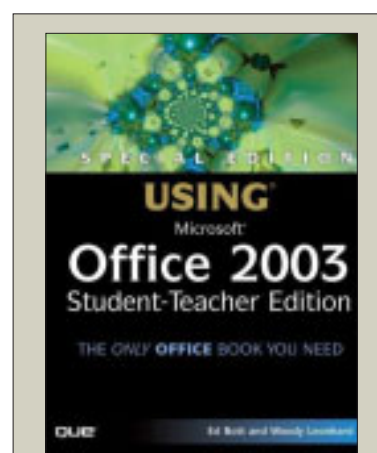
Not to be outdone, AIS has its own shop, near the True Smart Shop. If you have an AIS mobile phone account and pay a little extra to become a Premier member, you can use the wireless and wired connections in the shop free.

The folks at the entrance told me the shop runs on a 1.5Mbps ADSL line. They aren't even playing in the same league.

In January, AIS opened a new facility in Siam Paragon called AIS Future World, “to showcase futuristic wireless technology”.

It's a 600-square-meter room, with a 360° theater. Future World wasn't open while I was there (the same thing happened to me once at Disneyland), so I couldn't kick the tires. But I'd be willing to bet that it's all about 3G – the latest mobile telephone/mobile broadband/Internet technology that AIS plans to roll out over the next couple of years. 3G has taken England by storm, I've heard. The technology's great, but if AIS (and Shin Corp) have a virtual monopoly, I wonder how well it'll go over in Thailand.

I'm not one to gush about



My method for assessing the depth of a bookstore's computer book collection is simple: I count how many of my titles are on the shelves. Sure, it's an egocentric exercise, but it's also a pretty good barometer.

upscale shopping malls. Give me a down 'n dirty Panthip or Sim Lim Square any day. But if you take the Skytrain to the Siam stop, find the entrance to Siam Paragon, wade your way through the Maseratis, Lamborghinis and Ferraris, and somehow slog through the 300,000-plus square meters to Kinokuniya on the third floor, your efforts will not be in vain.

Which brings me back to where I started.

Imagine this: 250,000 titles, in six languages, with the vast majority in English (I've been told that the Thai selection is quite good, too.); 2,000sqm; navigation computers that'll help you narrow your search, then print a map, for goodness' sake; enormous collections of art and design books, academic books, travel books, language books, classic tomes and modern schlock. And, oh, did I mention? Computer books. Tons of computer books.

You probably thought I'd get to that eventually.

I have seven “current” computer books: *Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies* (2nd edition); *Windows XP Timesaving Techniques For Dummies* (2nd edition); *Windows XP Hacks & Mods For Dummies*; *Windows XP Gigabook For Dummies*; *Special Edition Using Office 2003* (2nd edition); and my latest book, *Special Edition Using Office 2003 Student-Teacher Edition*, which was released in early February. The books have been translated into dozens of languages, and are widely available all over the world.

My method for assessing the depth of a bookstore's computer book collection is simple: I count how many of my titles are on the shelves. Sure, it's an egocentric exercise, but it's also a pretty good barometer.

Most computer stores in North America and Europe will have two or three titles. Large, well-stocked general bookstores typically have four or five. (For example, Borders bookstore on Orchard Road in Singapore usually has four, sometimes five.) When I checked, Kinokuniya in Siam Paragon had five, including the title that had been released only a few weeks earlier. I'm very impressed. Check it out.

Woody's books are not readily available in Phuket, but he keeps a small collection at his Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Contact him by email at [woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com)

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There has been considerable comment on the state of the Japanese economy and its prospects. This is no mere intellectual exercise; Japan's is the world's second-largest economy. Its economic outlook is of great importance to the world. In particular, a growing Japanese economy has many benefits for Asian economies.

Much attention is being focused on China and India, and certainly the brisk economic growth of both of these countries is of great benefit, but when one considers, despite their huge populations, the combined economic output of these countries is only around 60% of that of Japan.

The Japanese economy has now enjoyed three years of economic growth – and the pace appears to be quickening. Initially, Japan felt the benefits only in its export sector, but as that accounts for 15% of Japan's output, its positive effects were limited as regards the overall situation. However, as economic growth has continued, it has brought positive change to the whole economy. Capital investment by Japanese companies is rapidly rising and even retail sales are reflecting the growth trend.

For the past three months, signs of inflation have been evident. For the first two months it was recorded at 0.1% on an annualized basis. The latest month's figures moved up to 0.7%. This is all taking place in an economy where deflation has been the norm for years. Deflation itself is a serious problem. It is symptomatic of low demand and leads consumers to postpone buying decisions because of the perception that whatever an item costs today, it will become cheaper in the future.

The reemergence of inflation is encouraging, especially when the levels of inflation are low. It is much healthier for an economy to have a slight infla-

# JAPANESE RECOVERY: FACT OR FICTION?



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

tionary bias rather than a deflationary trend.

However, what is of vital importance to Japan is that the inflation, albeit in a very modest form, is "real" and not just what is called headline inflation, which includes energy and food prices. The reason for the importance of emergence of real inflation caused by increased demand is not a problem. However, if the figures are merely a "blip" it has potentially serious implications.

Already there are rumblings from Japan's central bank, the Bank of Japan (BOJ), perhaps signaling a change in stance on monetary policy.

BOJ Governor Toshihiko Fukui has made it evident that the ultra-loose current policy of quantitative easing, that is, pumping vast sums of money into the economy while keeping interest rates near zero, may be about to change.

This has brought a strong reaction from the Japanese Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is concerned that the BOJ could, by shifting policy prematurely, choke off what is still an economic re-



There are rumblings from Japan's central bank, the Bank of Japan (pictured), perhaps signaling a change in stance on monetary policy.

– Photo EPA/Andy Rain

covery in its early stages. Normally, I agree with central banks when they come into conflict with politicians and government departments.

However, in this case, it would seem prudent to see more data to establish that Japan has really left its deflationary cycle before changing monetary policy.

Retail figures are rising, as are residential and commercial property prices. An increase in office rents is also becoming a reality. Property prices have started to rise but the effect is being felt

mainly in the Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya hub – it is still not a nationwide situation.

The labor market has also improved; there are now more job vacancies in Tokyo than applicants to fill them. Currently there are three job vacancies for every two job seekers. But on Hokkaido and Kyushu, Japan's major islands, there are more applicants than jobs.

Overall, unemployment has fallen, but only at an annualized rate of 0.5%. Unemployment is currently at 4.4%, which, by

Japanese standards, is still quite high.

Obviously, when compared with other countries, Japan becomes an object of envy; unemployment in the Euro zone is 8.4% and Germany alone has 11.3% unemployment. Even the US has 4.7% unemployment.

The Japanese Bond market has experienced a rapid sell-off and this has been caused by a number of factors: economic growth has improved; there is widespread concern that the BOJ could start raising interest rates sooner rather than later; and perceptions are shifting – perhaps inflation rather than deflation is now the reality.

The Japanese stock market has had a lot to digest; it leaped 40% in 2005 and now has to soberly assess future monetary policy. Another big factor, which seems to have avoided media attention, is that March 31 is the end of the Japanese financial year. Many corporate investors want to be able to "book" profits and this usually makes for turbulent markets in February and March.

Assuming that the recovery in Japan continues, the outlook for the stock and property markets is good. The stock market is trading at PE levels of around 19. This is not cheap, but when near-zero interest rates, substantial corporate investment and rising profits are taken into account it is still a market in the early stages of recovery. This is not to say that the rise will be without volatility but it is a very interesting proposition for the patient investor.

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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Austrade Business Development Manager, Phuket, Alisara Na Takuatung (left) with Australian Counsellor (Commercial) and Trade Commissioner Jodie McAlister.

## Austrade opens office in Phuket

KARON: The Australian government's international export promotion agency, Austrade, has opened an office in Phuket, with Alisara "Pam" Na Takuatung as its Business Development Manager.

At the official launch of the office on March 9 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa, the Australian Counsellor (Commercial) and Trade Commissioner Jodie McAlister told the *Gazette* that K. Pam is the trade organization's first representative based permanently outside Bangkok.

"We are here in Phuket because the region is experiencing

a lot of growth and a boom in tourism industries," she said.

"I know that [since the tsunami] everything is starting to come back, and we have a lot of tourism potential here. I understand that, last year, 3.5 million people visited the region and there is a lot of high-end tourism here.

"Australian products complement that because we have high-quality food and wine."

*For more information about Austrade, contact K. Pam at Tel: 076-219040 or 01-9065463, or Email: alisara@austrade.gov.au*

## Jungceylon deal to be finalized March 28

PHUKET: The transfer of Manit Udomkunnatum's 53% share in Phuket Square Co Ltd – the company that owns Jungceylon – to Rattanakamchai Co will take place on March 28, after which construction of the Patong mall will resume, the *Gazette* has learned.

After the transfer, Rattanakamchai will pass the shares to Real Estate Capital Asia Partners (Recap).

Recap is the US-registered investment fund that recently came to the rescue of the project, breaking a seemingly intractable dispute between K. Manit and

Tanit Rattanakamchai, Managing Director of Rattanakamchai Co.

The amount Recap will pay for its 53% share of the project remains a closely guarded secret.


The transfer of shares will take place at the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, a Jungceylon source told the *Gazette*, confirming that contractor Power Line will most likely go back on site by April, with the mall opening by November.

"Construction has not restarted yet," the source said, "but it is certain that once the transfer of shares has been effected, [Jungceylon] will open on time."

### VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS BOOM BY 136%

Type	Feb 2004	Feb 2005	Feb 2006
Limited company registrations	92	87	205
Limited partnership registrations	25	28	24
Limited companies changed	190	211	302
Limited partnerships changed	39	38	31
Companies deregistered	10	9	11
Partnerships deregistered	5	9	10

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office.



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# Mixed results for US boxers

By Anongnat Sartpisut

SAPHAN HIN: A crowd of about 500 people turned up to the humid confines of Saphan Hin's Gym 1 on the evening of March 10 to watch the "Miss Lily Supermodel Muay Thai Championships 2006".

The tournament pitted some of Thailand's best female Muay Thai fighters against some American fighters trained by Las Vegas-based Muay Thai trainer Thossaphon "Master Toddy" Sitiwatjana.

Some of the matches were filmed as part of a pilot for an American reality TV show entitled *Fight Girls*, to air on the Oxygen cable network in the US.

The fight night was organized locally by NS Sport (Thailand) Co and online flower delivery service MissLily.com "as a way to promote Phuket's post-tsunami tourism revival".

Among the highlights for the Master Toddy stable was Gina Carano's successful three-round defense of her Muay Thai International Association title against a feisty Bonus Sor Buraphajan.

Among the men, Anthony Brown, also one of Master Toddy's crew, beat Wanmai Sor Jor Suwit with a second-round TKO.



Gina Carano (nearest to camera) grapples with Bonus Sor Buraphajan during their title bout.

Reality show contestants Lisa "The Black Widow" King, Kourtney McCarty and Ariana Ramirez all lost to their more experienced Thai opponents, with

only King managing to go the distance.

After the tournament, Master Toddy said, "This was a very successful event. We now plan

to organize at least one tournament a year in Phuket, to promote the province."

See also "A gritty dose of reality", pages 12 and 13.

## Tri Ballistic to stage triathlon

MAI KHAO: Tri Ballistic Triathlon Club will hold its second Team Challenge triathlon on March 26 at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa.

The event is designed to attract teams of two or three people who may enter any of the following categories; Open, Under 15 years, Under 11 years, Novice (for those who have never competed in a triathlon before) and Family. Individuals may also compete.

The race, consisting of a 300-meter swim, a 9-kilometer cycle race and a 2.5-km run, will go through the grounds of the Marriott and the neighboring Sirinath National Park.

A pre-race briefing will be held at the Marriott at 5 pm on March 25. The race itself will begin at 9 am the following day.

For more information contact Hugo Jones, Tri Ballistic Triathlon Club Phuket at Email: hugodeb@loxinfo.co.th, Sean Panton at Email sean.panton@marriott-hotels.com or the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa at Tel: 076-338000 ext. 3700.

## Darts league turning into a nailbiter

PATONG: With the first half of the 22-week season completed, nine teams are separated by just eight points at the top of Patong Darts League table; it looks like another close race.

In a twist of irony, Didi's – a team many thought were left for dead last season – now sit in the top spot, while last year's champions, Nag's Head, are kaput.

Didi's owe their league-leading position to yet another three-point win, this time at home against Shakers.

In another interesting match, Queen Mary swept through the singles to win at Dog's Bollocks, but then something went wrong (too much free beer perhaps?): they got swept in the doubles and lost the beer leg.

OffShore, at home, squeaked past Piccadilly 5-4, also taking the beer leg, to move into a three-way tie for seventh place with Shakers and Valhalla.

**March 21 fixtures:** Dog's Bollocks v Coyote Bar; Amigos v Didi's; Valhalla v Two Black Sheep; Piccadilly v The Boss Bar; OffShore v Shakers (home teams first).



HAND IN GLOVE: Riders prepare for the start gun.

THALANG: 215 mountain bike racers took part in the Tao Thepkrasattri & Tao Sri Soonthorn Cultural Fair mountain bike races on March 12.

In the 35-kilometer Category A event, the men's winner was Prasert Chitmad and the women's winner was Arunlak Sirilak. The riders received trophies and 3,000 and 2,500 baht respectively.

In the 25-km Category B event, Rachun Rakcheep triumphed over a field of 122 competitors. The women's winner was Chatchadaporn Ruanpae.

A 10-km course for children under 13 years old attracted 31 riders. Thaikom Chitmad and Mesiya Suksawad were the winners of the boy's and girl's categories respectively.




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# Laguna to be host of Phuket International Marathon

CHERNG TALAY: Laguna Phuket, known worldwide for its annual triathlon, will be the official host and presenting sponsor for the inaugural Phuket International Marathon, to be held on June 18.

Raimund Wellenhofer, Managing Director of Bangkok-based event organizer, Go Adventure Asia, said, "We are thrilled to be working with Laguna Phuket. Their extensive experience with the triathlon makes them an ideal partner and [will] make this an exciting, not-to-be-missed sports event in Asia."

Marathon activities will kick off on June 15, with daily sporting activities for all ages, culminating on June 18 in a marathon, a half-marathon and a 10-kilometer run, all of which will begin and end in Laguna Phuket.

Online registration is now open with "early-bird" reduced

entry fees available for all three distances. Runners who register before May 1 for will pay the reduced rate of US\$50 (2,000 baht) for the marathon, US\$40 (1,600 baht) for the half-marathon and US\$35 (1,400 baht) for the 10-km run.

The official travel partner, Go Thailand Tours is offering accommodation packages at the five Laguna Phuket hotels. These include marathon entry fees, hotel transfers, and tickets to parties that will take place in the complex.

The marathon will be run entirely on a flat course, with bands along the way encouraging the runners with Thai music.

*For more information or to register online, visit the official event website at [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com), or email the organizers at [info@phuketmarathon.org](mailto:info@phuketmarathon.org)*

## ACYC looks for more boats to contest series

AO CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2006 will continue with its second race on March 19.

All yachts and visitors are welcome to join in, whether regular sailors or participants keen to experience the thrill of yacht racing.

"Participation costs 100 baht for ACYC members and 150 baht for non-members," explained Tony Knight of the ACYC.

The rest of the ACYC race series will be held on the following dates: April 2 and 16, June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16, August 13 and 27, October 1, 15 and 29, and November 12 and 26.

Mr Knight explained that this year's race series has been scheduled so as to allow local yachts to compete in other regattas around the region. "For example, there will be no ACYC races in May, so local yachts can compete in the Top of the Gulf [of Siam] Regatta and the Koh Samui Regatta," he said.

The presentation night for this year's series will be held on Friday, December 1.

Mr Knight added that on every second Sunday starting March 12, the ACYC will have three Optimist dinghies available to introduce children to sailing.

"We would like to encourage parents to bring their kids out for a day's sailing," he said.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Not quite a total lettuce

I have very few skills. In fact, there really isn't much that I'm any good at. This weekly column of inanities certainly isn't going to win any literary awards.

I don't have a creative bone in my body – I can't draw to save my life. Anyone who has heard me sing will confirm that the only thing that seems to make me stop (and believe me, they really do want me to stop) is thrusting another beer in my hand.

But there's one thing in life at which I excel – I am rather good at insulting people. It's a skill. It's a shame that hurling abuse isn't an Olympic sport, because I do feel that I could have represented my country.

There are some crackers that you can throw around. Try calling an American (a race of people known for their awareness, of course) a "pillcock" with a big smile on your face.

When they ask you what it means, which they inevitably will, just tell them it's somebody who enjoys the sun, or something. They'll love it.

If you call someone a "minger", you are of course referring to their exquisite taste in fine arts, (certainly not implying that they whiff a bit) particularly with references to Chinese vases from the Ming dynasty, in the same way that "plonkers" are known for their flower arranging abilities.

You can even get away



Sea lettuce will thrive in the driest conditions, growing in 100% sand. This lot's on Karon Beach.

with this in the courts system in the UK. A certain word for two very similar parts of a gentleman's anatomy are also the twin pulley blocks at the top of a ship's mast. Back in the '70s, the Sex Pistols escaped having their one of their albums banned under British obscenity laws by claiming this usage.

A "right lettuce" could be one of many things; none of them particularly complimentary. At last – a mention of a plant. Specifically, the sea lettuce, a common sight in many areas of Phuket's shores.

Nobody seems to know where the sea lettuce originally came from. The so-called experts' answer is a bit of a cop-out.

They say that it's native to the coasts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans – you hardly need a doctorate in botany to figure that

one out. What a bunch of wazzocks.

The sea lettuce isn't a particularly exciting plant. It just kind of sits there and grows, quietly minding its own business. Kind of the bank clerk of the plant world – nobody really notices its existence. Certainly not the most exciting plant on the island.

This large shrub – or even small tree – is, however, a useful addition to any garden near the sea, since it tolerates sandy soil (it even grows in 100% sand) and strong, salty winds. It's freely

branching, often sprawling, and has fleshy, pale green leaves. It has small, five-lobed white flowers that appear on only one side, leading to another popular name, "half flower".

The sea lettuce thrives in full sun and tolerates very dry conditions. Once you plant this thing in your garden and get it going, you can totally ignore it, as it's perfectly capable of looking after itself. It's propagated by seeds or by terminal cuttings; the oval berries of the sea lettuce float for long periods, which means that it spreads all over the place.

For the DIY garden enthusiast, seeds soaked in saltwater are said to germinate better, and large branches for cuttings should be kept moist until rooted. I wouldn't bother though – just go and pinch a huge clump from Karon Beach – if anyone asks, tell them I sent you.

It can get quite large and bushy, up to about five meters tall, often forming dense hemispherical mounds. The leaves are fairly thick, presumably because of the water that's stored inside them. They're a shiny green, wider near the tips, around 20cm long, and a bit hairy on both sides.

Because of the way it thrives in beach areas and binds sand together, the sea lettuce was promoted in the early 1980s for use in beach stabilization projects in some parts of the world.

This practice is now very much discouraged, as it can totally take over in areas that it is not supposed to, doing all sorts of damage to the local ecosystem.

We're fine in Thailand – it came here naturally and seems to be behaving itself.

The fruits of the sea lettuce are buoyant, with a corky outer layer, which helps ocean currents to do the dispersing act.

They are also eaten by pigeons and sea birds, and moved by crabs and other animals. This plant doesn't mess about when it comes to dispersing its seed.

Although the seeds can last in sea water for a year or more, they will germinate only with fresh water, when they're washed ashore on a rainy day.

Somehow, I managed to get through this whole column without insulting anyone here.

Hang on, I did call botanists who couldn't be bothered to figure out where this plant originated a bunch of wazzocks.

I'm not even sure that I can define a wazzock. Is it the same as a total lettuce? It is now.

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Work is already well underway on Phase 1 of the Royal Street Arcade project.

## Work starts on 'third corner'

Work on Phase I of the 990-million-baht Royal Street Arcade shophouse, home office and condominium project is now underway at the northwest corner of Samkong Intersection, diagonally opposite Tesco-Lotus.

Supakorn Boonyakajorn, owner of developer VS Property, told the *Gazette* that Phase I comprises 59 three-story shop houses.

Six contractors are now working to finish by the scheduled completion date in October.

Total project investment will be about 990 billion baht, included the 300 million it cost to buy 18 rai of land, he revealed.

Investment in the Phase I is about 90 million baht, while the 40 "home office" units of Phase II will cost about 100 million baht; Phase III will comprise an eight-story condominium project with 120 to 130 units, to be built at a cost of nearly 500 million baht.

Work on the second and third phases will begin in September 2006 and mid-2007, respectively. The final phase is expected

to take about 18 months to complete, he added.

K. Supakorn said that deposits have already been received for 56 of the 59 shophouse units, which cost from 6.9 million baht upward. Each will have a total interior area of 144 square meters on three stories.

He attributed the number of bookings to the project's central location. "This location is convenient whether you need to go to Patong, the airport or Phuket City. People think that if they don't book now, they won't get a chance later," he said.

The project concept is based on property trends in Bangkok, where developments of this kind are selling well, he added.

The Phase II home office units will have 250 sqm over three floors, with four bathrooms, with prices starting at 6.5 million baht.

The Phase III condominium project, to cover a total of 15,000sqm, will be built to a height of 23 meters, the maximum allowed under existing building codes, he explained. Units on the highest floors will enjoy an im-

pressive view of the city, he added.

Three types of condo unit will be available: Type A will be 57-sqm one-bedroom units starting at 2.3 million baht; Type B will be 90-sqm, two-bedroom units starting at 2.3 million baht; and Type C will be three-bedroom units starting at 5 million baht. These will range in area from 140- to 160-sqm, he said.

All units will come with living and dining areas. Parking will be available and all owners will have access to a communal swimming pool. Other facilities will include 24-hour security and maid service, he added.

The developers will rely on the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority [PWA] to provide water.

The project is targeted at both Thais and foreigners, said K. Supakorn, whose other projects include The Royal Spa and Baan Dhamaraksa, both in Samkong.

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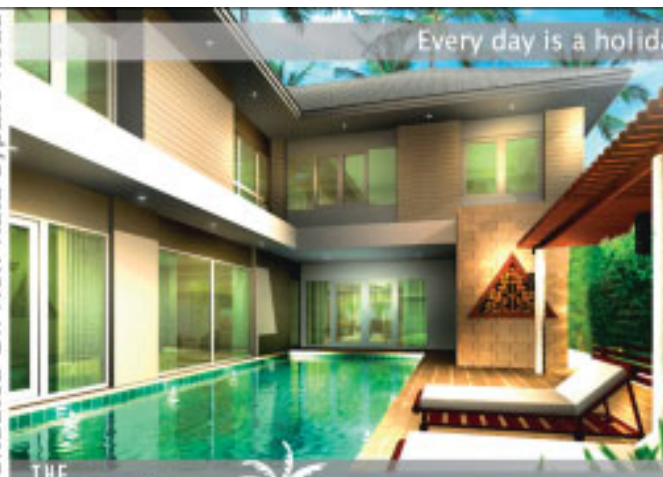
The Beach Boulevard is located just 300 meters from the Club Med, a few minutes away from the popular Kata Beach, and is a short drive from Phuket City (30 minutes) and Phuket International Airport (50 minutes).

Each three-story hotel compound has 12 bedrooms and 13 bathrooms. Facilities include air conditioning and water heaters.

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Home of the Week

Nakalay

# A CLASSIC THAI STYLE VILLA

Several adjectives spring to mind when describing this outstanding two-story home in Nakatani Villas Estate – stunning, splendid and impressive, to name but three.

It is a magnificent four-bedroom, four-bathroom property, superbly furnished with classic Asian furniture and set in beautiful gardens, with views of the Andaman Sea and surrounding tropical forest.

With an eye-catching traditional Thai roofline and hand-made “temple” terracotta tiles, teak gables and trims, this house has excellent visual appeal.

Situated in a quiet area of Kamala, the first level features luxurious formal and informal living rooms and an elegant dining room, with an adjoining, well-equipped Western-style kitchen. This includes a two-door refrigerator, oven, cook top and extractor hood, and the stylish decor is of black granite, beige hand-glazed ceramics and dark-timber cabinets. It also incorporates a large breakfast bar.

The floors are of gleaming



The imposing entrance to the home gives a hint of the sumptuousness within.

teak, which has also been used to fine effect in window surrounds and doors, the well-

crafted staircase, built-in furniture and the *pièce de résistance* – soaring ceilings.

The ground floor also has a guest bathroom and a laundry room with washing machine.

The living areas open to a beautiful teak deck that surrounds the swimming pool, which has a traditional sala at one end. The tropical gardens are an absolute delight.

A timber staircase leads to the upper floor and the sumptuous furnished bedrooms, complete with built-in wardrobes and two en-suite bathrooms. The master suite has a whirlpool bath set in imported black granite, and the

vanity unit features “his-and-hers” basins and twin mirrors.

The bathrooms are a combination of black granite, beige hand-glazed tiles and top-quality ceramics and sanitary ware.

The home has ducted air conditioning and ceiling fans, and the utilities include UBC television, telephone line, mains water and well water – with water filtration system – water heater, septic tank and three-phase electricity. The property also has several terraces and balconies, and undercover parking.

Nakatani Villas Estate is a peaceful and lush garden complex with a community pool and 24-hour security. The management, if required, can arrange maid service and individual pool maintenance.

This fine home has been constructed with the best of imported and local materials, and has special furnishings and fixtures, including timber-slatted blinds and custom-made wood and rattan lounge and dining room suites.

Combined with an eclectic collection of fine Asian artifacts, it makes a truly stunning home that would please the most discerning buyer.

The land title is Chanote, and the price is 34 million baht.

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

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Decor

by Ananya Hongsa-ngiam

# Beauty and the breeze

In colder northern climes, home heating and keeping out the cold are primary design considerations. Here in tropical Phuket, however, the opposite is true: what would be one of those dreadful "cold drafts" back home is a pleasant cooling, breeze.

At the other extreme, anyone who has ever walked into an unventilated home without air conditioning knows that you don't need a spa membership to get a steam bath in the tropics.

Most Thai homes have some sort of built-in ventilation in strategic places, most commonly in the form of ventilated concrete blocks above bathroom doors or built high into kitchen walls.

Although functional, these have a downside: concrete blocks, no matter how you paint them, still have a greater décor affinity with a prison cell or schoolyard bathroom than with a stylish, seaside villa or swanky hillside bachelor pad.

Fortunately, there are places on the island that sell ventilation blocks (*chong lom* in Thai) and panels that are as attractive as they are functional.

One of these is Phuket Natural Living, on the bypass road. Here you can choose from a wide variety of ventilation blocks with a range of floral designs: frangipani, *chaba*, bird of paradise and more.

Prices range from about 350 baht each for 30cm-by-30cm unpainted floral blocks to about 1,500 baht for large 45cm-by-45cm painted blocks.

There are also a wide variety of oblong ventilation panels, just perfect for ventilating areas near walls and walkways that would otherwise become oppressively hot. These can be particularly useful around small resorts and villas, as they provide privacy and security: a cool breeze may be able to get through, but burglars cannot.

Ranging in price from 2,200 baht, for a 30cm-by-90 cm design to 12,000 baht for a 80cm-by-100cm panel, these can make your home not only more comfortable but also more beautiful.

Another option is to use wood ventilation panels. The Fine Orient shop on Thepanusorn Rd, in Wichit, has some intricately carved imports from China that are perfect for anyone pursuing a quintessentially Asian interior design motif.

Basic styles start at about 6,000 baht, for a small version, to as high as 110,000 baht for an enormous oblong panel carved from elm.



Chong lom are not only practical but can also be a stunningly attractive addition to the home, as seen here on an old house in Dibuk Rd, Phuket City.

Phuket Natural Living is located at 107 Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd (bypass road), on the north-bound lane, diagonally opposite the Nissan dealership. For more information call K. Sonthya at Tel: 06-6823613 or K. Vichukan at Tel: 06-682-7761.

Fine Orient is located at 51/20 Moo 3, Thepanusorn Rd in Tambon Wichit. For more information call Tel: 076-223686 or Fax: 076-223047 or email: info@orient-antique.com or visit the website www.orient-antique.com where a location map is available.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### BEACHFRONT LAND



63 rai, 300m beachfront land in Chalong. Price 185 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8916143.

### NEW VILLA FOR SALE



240sqm living space, pool, 3 bedrooms. Absolute privacy. Price 9.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-8896074.

### CHALONG 5 RAI



Seaview land for sale. 3.5 million baht per rai. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8916143.

### NEW VILLA FOR SALE



4 bedrooms, office building, total 350sqm living space. Ready to move in. Price 15.9 million baht. Tel: 01-8916143.

**3 NGAN IN CHALONG**  
2.5 million baht, with Chanote title, near main road, good location. Tel: 01-5376866.

**RAWAI, SMALL PLOT**  
500sqm, a short walk to Rawai Beach. Nice location. Tel: 01-5376866.

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t: 076-319-070 m: 09-908-1880

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shop-houses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area 200sqm, freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. (US\$113,000). Please contact K. Peter for more information at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



Brand-new, deluxe house, with a swimming pool, on a Patong hillside, on Soi Maneesi. 2 floors, modern Thai-style architecture, completely furnished, ready to live in. Ground floor: big living room, Western-style kitchen and dining room; guest toilet. Second floor: big master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi, 2 bedrooms and a separate bathroom. Each room has an air conditioner and a balcony. Living area: 200sqm; freehold land 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. (US\$210,000). Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### LAND IN CHERNG TALAY

3 rai with Chanote title near Laguna Phuket. Prefer sale of whole 3 rai but may consider division. 3.5 million baht on per rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8925478. Email: [euansandy@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:euansandy@tiscali.co.uk)

### NAI YANG - PHUKET

Small development of 5 houses. Display home now open. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living + dining room, European kitchen, laundry, all-round veranda, boundary wall, electric gate, carport, landscaped garden. Living area 153sqm, land 532-740sqm. First house for sale at 7.5 million baht. Tel: 076-328424, 01-895-3481. Email: [golddigger\\_phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:golddigger_phuket@hotmail.com)

### BEACH APARTMENTS

Spacious, modern, 2-bedroom apartments, some with a sea view, a 2-minute walk to the beach, gardens, pools, clubhouse, gym, sauna. Prices start from 8.5 million baht. On-site sales office. Tel: 06-2806624. See our website at: [www.bangtaobeachgardens.com](http://www.bangtaobeachgardens.com)

### PATONG CONDO

Studio 47/65 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the last, for sale. Title in foreigner's name. Asking 850,000 baht. Tel: 01-5367985.

### LAND IN RAWAI

1, 2, 4, 9 rai. 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: [sales@chokechaiproperty.com](mailto:sales@chokechaiproperty.com)

### LAND IN PATONG

Stunning sea view. More than 1,000sqm. Private road. 4.4 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-296555, 07-8893838, 09-2911112. Email: [lovephuket@hotmail.com](mailto:lovephuket@hotmail.com)

### BAN PRANGTHONG

Estate. Exclusive - price reduced! 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, custom built! Offers considered. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7195565.

[www.knightfrankphuket.com](http://www.knightfrankphuket.com)

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### L'Orchidee Residence "the new face of Patong"

- every villa has never to be built-out sea views and private pools
- walking distance to the beach
- ideal holiday villa with short-term rentals and management by Knight Frank
- exclusive development with breathtaking sea views
- Knight Frank are receiving strong holiday rental enquiries, outstanding-yields anticipated



### Bang Tao Beach Gardens "location, location, location!"

- apartments with partial sea views
- sizes from 124 sqm with Western-style finishes
- owners' clubhouse, spa, gym, 2 pools, BBQ areas and tropical landscaping
- exceptional forecasted rental returns and outstanding capital appreciation
- 80% sold.



### Laguna Home Resale "quaint hideaway"

- 4 bedrooms, 2-storey villa on the 5th fairway (water and course views)
- peaceful, yet very secure location
- generous-size rooms, designed to enjoy the picturesque views of the Laguna course
- ideal for further extensions
- family golf membership included in the sale
- perfect for the first-home buyer!



### Laguna land plot

"give me land, lots of land under starry skies above"

- chanote title
- approx 1,640 sqm land plot
- golf course frontage
- design your own spacious villa
- cool, northeasterly aspect
- only minutes to the beach, restaurants, golf pro shop and Laguna hotels
- owner moving overseas, priced to sell.



### Freehold seaview apartment, Karon Beach "B-R-E-E-Z-E through this summer"

- 167 sqm, 2 bedrooms, commanding sea views from every room
- 3 km views of the coast, just 2 minutes' walk to the beach
- minutes from restaurants, luxury hotels, entertainment establishments and spas
- common pool, fitness center, tennis and squash courts, Jacuzzi
- cool and refreshing sea breezes all year round
- perfect holiday apartment, stress-free.



### Brand-new, 4-bedroom Laguna Villa (Resale) "Invest in an outstanding lifestyle"

- brand-new 4-bedroom residences, direct golf frontage
- superior living areas (approx 277 sqm) on an enormous land plot (with pool)
- 5 minutes from the beach, 20 minutes from the airport
- build quality to international standards, backed by a public listed developer
- golf membership + Laguna Residents Privilege card included in the sale
- escape from the everyday pressures of urban living, inspect today!

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### 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. Call owner for details. Tel: 07-2811995.

### KATA SEA VIEW

Asking 3.3 million baht for the most beautiful land in Kata: a 6-rai plot, with Chanote title. Tel: 07-8938747.

### RAWAI SEA VIEW

Good for developer. Has Chanote title, road and electricity supply. 4.5 rai. Please call for further info. Tel: 09-6525664.

### SEA VIEW, RAWAI

2 rai in Nai Harn/Rawai. Asking 6 million baht per rai. Many small plots available. Tel: 07-8938747.

### RAWAI HOUSE:

Distinctive, two-storey house with large, Thai-style guest cottage, in 870 square metres of walled, tropical gardens. Private pool, woodland views. Chanote title. 12 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 07-2730141.

### SEAVIEW HOUSE

in Rawai. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, sala. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 01-8941660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th) For details, please see our website at: [www.homesinphuket.com/saliga.htm](http://www.homesinphuket.com/saliga.htm)

### SEAVIEW LAND

in Nai Harn. 640sqm, panoramic views out to Phi Phi. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 01-894-1660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th)

### BEACHFRONT LAND

on Koh Yao Yai. 16 rai, with white sand and very beautiful water. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-6525664.

### PATONG SEA VIEW

A small plot of 75 square wah, nice for a house. Has road, electricity supply and Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

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# Property Gazette

## 1.8 MILLION BAHT CHALONG SEAVIEW



20 rai of Chanote-titled seaview land. Superb location and priced for immediate sale @ 1.8 million baht per rai. Serious inquiries only. Please call Tel: 076-282864 or 04-8501340, or Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

## 3.5 MILLION BAHT KATA SEAVIEW



Perfect for high-end development, 13.5 rai of panoramic seaview and hillside land for 3.5 million baht per rai. Chanote title and priced for immediate sale. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 076-282864, 04-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

## 2 MILLION BAHT MAI KHAO SEAVIEW



25 rai available in this rapidly appreciating area @ 2 million baht per rai. Amazingly positioned, close to the stunning 10+ kilometer beach of Mai Khao. The famed Blue Canyon Golf Club is only 5 minutes away and the international airport only a 10-minute drive away. With views of both the Andaman Sea and Phang Nga Bay, this is perfect for the discerning developer of high-end properties. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 076-282864, 04-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

## NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



3 new connected deluxe houses on Patong hillside, Soi Thamdee, for sale. Ground floor: Garage and separate one-room apartment with toilet. Second floor: 2 bedrooms and bath, balcony. Third floor: living room with balcony, built-in kitchen and dining room, toilet. Fourth floor: big roof garden with Jacuzzi. Usable area: 200sqm; freehold land: 100sqm. Price: 6.2 million baht. (US\$155,000). Please contact K. Peter. Tel: 01-8928526. For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com

## KAMALA VILLAS



2 Thai-style villas with 3 bedrooms and two bathrooms. Ground level has marble flooring, the upper level has hardwood flooring. Swimming pool & Jacuzzi. Price: 8.2 million baht. Tel: 07-8948379. Email: info@malee-baan-thai.com Please see our website at: www.malee-baan-thai.com

**CHALONG 4 BEDROOMS**  
4 bathrooms, impressive, 2-level spacious home, pool, sala. Land: 804sqm. 10.5 million baht ono. Tel: 06-281-7605. Email: baansala@yahoo.com.au

## KATA SEAVIEW

development. 9 houses on 2 rai of land overlooking Kata Beach. A great investment. Price: 17 million baht. An additional 5 rai also for sale at 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-280447, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: admin@no1phukethomes.com

**BARGAIN: BIG HOME**  
Chalong, new 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, spa 7.3 million baht. Tel: 062817605. Email: chalongvalley@yahoo.com

**RAWAI, 2-STORY**  
house. Twin 2-story house, brand-new, 400m from beach. Asking 1.3 million baht. Tel: 06-6865567 (owner).

## PRIME BEACHFRONT AT A LOW PRICE



27 rai of truly prime beachfront land on an island with hornbills and a unique natural habitat. Suitable for eco-friendly estate or resort. Joint venture considered. Price: 42 million baht. Email: dsandler@inet.co.th

**RAWAI CONDOS**  
for sale. Freehold, fully furnished, brand-new condos. 550,000 baht. 400m from beach. Tel: 06-6865567.

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## FREEHOLD APARTMENT



Phuket Palace Condominium, 300m from beach. Fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 1 or 2 bathrooms, plus kitchen, living room. 120sqm. Asking 5.9 million baht. Tel: 09-8719739.

## CHEAP LAND

Inside Mission Hills Golf Project, Chanote title, flat land, 1 rai. 2.3 million baht. Please contact Wanphen. Tel: 06-6834996. Email: fenefc@yahoo.com

## SEA VIEW CONDO

1.6 million baht, Rawai, 69sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, all-new interior. Own it in your name! Call Tony at Tel: 01-6936386.

## KATA APARTMENT

One-bed, 70sqm apartment, with pool and great views over Kata. Private, secure accommodation, fully serviced. 3.75 million baht. New lease. Tel: 076-333244, 09-9091917. Email: porter20022@yahoo.com

## 161 TALANG WAH

Large corner block near back of Maneekram Estate, handy for Phuket City, Central Festival Phuket and Chalong. 22,000 baht per wah. Please call for more info. Tel: 05-0691327 (Eng/Thai).

## KATA YAI SEAVIEW

land. 13 rai of Chanote-titled, hillside land looking north over Kata Bay. Priced under market value @ 56 million baht, for immediate sale. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-282864, 04-850134. Email: sean@sean10.wanadoo.co.uk

## LAST PARADISE HOT PROPERTY



For sale at 7.4 million baht. Location: Chalong, Phuket, on Soi Nakok at the three-way intersection to the weather station; 5 minutes to Phuket City, Central Festival, Big C and Rawai. Two Chanote deed titles (for 2 x 1-rai plots). Two 3-bedroom, registered houses (290sqm, 55sqm), with terracotta floors, 3 bathrooms, 2 toilets, a kitchen, two living rooms, plus an extra hall (50sqm, 300 sqm), and a carpark. The land is hilly with a natural waterfall in rainy season and a garden with fruit trees. The first floor has a 25sqm balcony with a sea view over Chalong Bay and Wat Chalong. Private sale, no commission. Please call Tel: 01-9796011 (Stefan), or contact 53/10, 53/12, Moo 5, T. Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket.

**KAMALA: SALE/RENT**  
2-story house with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, air conditioning, a pool, walled-in garage, and a garden. Asking 35,000 baht per month or will sell for 6.2 million baht. Please call after 5 pm for more details. Tel: 03-1753996.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

in Patong. 2 stories with 5 bedrooms, fully furnished. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

## KHAO PILAI

beachfront. 26 rai. Nice plot with coconut trees. Price: 4 million baht per rai. Email for photos. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

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Award-winning 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom, energy-efficient home in Rawai. Learn how to beat the tropical heat without air conditioning. Has a modern, open air design. Many designer features, 400sqm pond/pool. Price: 9.5 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 07-8987062 (Gary), 01-0775042 (Wanida).

## RAWAI LAND

172 sqm, 880,000 baht. Cheap 12m x 15m flat plot, ready to build on. Quiet, convenient location near Don's Mall. House on either side with fence wall already. Must sell soon. Tel: 07-2806275. Email: zleinfelder@yahoo.com

## APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Spacious 1-bedroom ground-floor apartment, 46sqm, located in beautiful surroundings. All furniture included, communal pool, free satellite, telephone. Service facilities available. Very desirable for rental. Quick sale, hence only 1.99 million baht. Normally 2.2 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-324038, 01-7974806, 09-8733451. Email: tonygwynne@csloxinfo.com

## KAE0 PISADAN ISLAND

Home-style bungalows, camping, cooking, very private. Please call. Tel: 09-5944017. www.kokaeopisadan.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Central Phuket City location, just off Choa Fa Rd. 400,000 baht. Please contact for info. Tel: 07-8968436. Email: arunleklai@hotmail.com

## NEW SEAVIEW APARTMENTS



in Patong. Fully furnished and air-conditioned 2-bedroom apartment of 85- or 96sqm, hillside, Nanai Rd, Patong, Soi Thamdee. Starting at 4.1 million baht plus a 186sqm penthouse with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Kitchen comes with high-quality teak furniture 10.9 million baht. Please contact us for more information. Tel: 09-4725530 (local) or +49-2421-931444. Email to K. Bert at: kuepperhubert@aol.com

## KATA EXOTIC SEAFRONT

Aspasia 5-star luxury 1-bedroom furnished apartment with a swimming pool, spa, gym, ADSL and a view in a very quiet area. Yacht mooring available. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 09-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For more information, please see our website at: www.koumbele.com/kata1

## BARGAIN HOUSE

in Kathu. A 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house is under construction in a small development in Kathu. Pleasant location. Price: 4.25 million baht. For more information, please contact us by email at: somlerdee@yahoo.com

## KATA YAI SEAVIEW

land. 13 rai of Chanote-titled, hillside land looking north over Kata Bay. Priced under market value@56 million baht, for immediate sale. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282864, 04-850134. Email: sean@sean10.wanadoo.co.uk

## SUKORN ISLAND



Trang Province. 2 rai, 1.2 million baht. 4 rai, 2.2 million baht. Natural, quiet beachfront. Tel: 01-8913013. Email: odo\_jp@hotmail.com

## BEACHFRONT LAND



5.5 rai of beachfront land. Ideal for a hotel or resort, a rare opportunity. Price on request. Tel: 07-8948379. Please see our website at: www.malee-baan-thai.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE IN VILLA 5



Phuket Villa 5, 90sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large living area and kitchen, 3 air conditioners, built-in wardrobe, 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 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

## HOUSE & LAND FOR SALE

Sea view & beach land for sale. House with freehold land. Please call K. Pasit for more information. Tel: 06-6269899.

## SEAVIEW LAND

for sale. 2-rai, seaview and lagoon view, in Nakok, Chalong. 4 million baht per rai. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-6937786.

## Properties For Rent

### BOAT LAGOON ABSOLUTE WATERFRONT



For rent at 50,000 baht a month.

- 200m<sup>2</sup>
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01-3444473, 01-8298101

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You like the night-life and adore the beaches of Patong, but you prefer to sleep in a quiet, green and more relaxing neighborhood, then come and check out the Baan Suan Kamnan area, which is just outside Patong (next to the viewpoint Blue Point). Some nice apartments and also a beautiful 3-bedroom house for rent with stunning sea views, overlooking Patong Bay. Call Edwin for appointment. Several different apartments available, no price-info on phone. Come and see and introduce yourself first. Tel: 06-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

## VILLA FOR RENT



275sqm living space, 3 bedrooms, 10m pool, 1,200 sqm of land. Fully furnished, Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Please call for details. Tel: 07-8896074.

## FUENG FAH CONDO

Fully furnished room 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 7,500 baht per month. Please contact the owner. Tel: 04-0586086. Email: tabbychiro26@hotmail.com

## NEW 2-BED HOUSE

Unfurnished house, big garage, quiet area, Muang Tong Soi 1, 3km to town, 2km to beach. 5,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 05-8855415.

## RAWAI CONDO

for rent. Empty or fully furnished, air conditioned. 3,500 baht per month and 4,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-686-5567.

## BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

at Ao Yon. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, aircon, great dining room, kitchen, hot shower, outside table, 10 minutes to Phuket City, nice place, quiet, safe, near swimming beach. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-200961, 01-0792592. Email: jarbau19@hotmail.com

## APARTMENT

near Loch Palm Golf Club available for rent. 58sqm, 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, swimming pool, fan/air, telephone line. Short-term: 600 baht a day. Long-term: 12,000 baht a month. Please contact Khun Jamriang. Tel: 076-202725, 01-8916632. Email: golflandview@gmx.de

## APARTMENT

with seaview. Condo for long-term rent in Rawai. Asking 8,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8505413. Email: myprojob@hotmail.fr

## RAWAI CONDO

for lease. Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 150,000 baht. Please contact for info. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## RAWAI HOUSE

for lease. Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 250,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

## BEACH RD PATONG

New 1-bedroom, beautiful, all-new modern apartment. Long term. Low season price: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-4887875. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

## COMMERCIAL UNIT

Surin Beach, main road, 7,000 baht per month, bathroom, glass front, parking place. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

## NICE HOUSE

to rent in Rawai. With big garden, 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, 1 kitchen. To sell: 6-month-old wooden furniture already inside house. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-8512312. Email: sabidalli@hotmail.com

## 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

of 28sq wah on Chao Fa Rd is available for long-term rental. Includes furniture, one aircon unit and a parking space. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-6451953. Email: ratcha\_2001@yahoo.com

## BIG SHOPHOUSE

located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Nearly 170 square meters on two open floors. Not suitable, as it is, for residential use. Please contact for further details. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

## RAWAI HOUSES

for rent. Twin, 2-story, fully furnished houses, all brand-new, for 6,000 baht or 7,000 baht a month, including parking space. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-6865567.

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## "Boats & Marine"

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**BOSTON-WHALER**  
21ft fiberglass central console and twin 4-stroke Honda 50hp engines. Trailer, Thai registration. As new, made in 2004. For sale in Pattaya for just 420,000 baht. Contact. Email: carlossecretgarden@yahoo.com

**WINDSURF BOARD**  
BIC Veloce, 101 liters, 278cm, 8.6kg, complete rig, UP sail ultraprofile 6sqm and 4.60m carbon mast. Everything comes in separate bags for board, mast and sail. 15,000 baht. Please call Tel: 076-281034.

### WINDSURFER WANTED

Windsurfer – complete – 150 liters and not too old. Tel: 07-2760141. Email: kat\_stockleclark@yahoo.co.uk



# Boats & Marine

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Email: goboating\_th@yahoo.com

## FISHING BOAT FOR SALE



Sport fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's Vindex design. Built under license in cedar strip/epoxy. Beam: 12ft; Length 36ft. 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel engine. ZF hydraulic gear. Hydraulic steering from main cabin or flybridge and many extras. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin and convertible dining area. WC, shower, handbasin, galley and bosun's locker. Fully taxed and registered in Thailand, including berth for nearly 1 year at Boat Lagoon. Please contact K. Peter for more information.

Tel: 01-8166940

Email:

peterhae@e-mail.in.th

## BOAT BARGAIN

7.5m x 2.5m, fiberglass, Solas approved, many accessories made in stainless steel, etc. Unfinished project. Price: 40,000 baht. Tel: 076-279543.

## BAYLINER 4788

1995 model, Thai registered, nicely refurbished, equipped for game fishing, in excellent condition with full electronics package. Please contact Simpson Marine for inspection. Tel: 076-239768.

## 37FT WOODEN

speedboat hull. Designed for people transport; 5 years old but never stayed in the water; half-refurbished, already covered with epoxy; includes trailer: 120,000 baht. Extra parts e.g. tanks, hydraulic steering, pumps, solar panel, seat covers 30P, etc: 85,000 baht. 2 x outdrive (Z-Drive) Volvo 290, 20 years old (needs refurbishing), imported from the US, with all papers: 120,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8924282. Email: taxiregio@freenet.de

## SPEEDBOAT

24ft imported American sports boat for skiing, wakeboarding or fast cruising. New 420hp, 8.2-liter high-performance V8 petrol engine with stern drive (Bravo 1). Excellent condition. Price: 1.65 million baht. Tel: 01-619-8626. Email: ttrail@loxinfo.co.th

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## MAYOTTE 465 CAT

Large well-laid out sailing catamaran. Recently painted. Many spares, fully equipped to make fast comfortable passages. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## AZIMUT 55, 2002

Rare chance to purchase as new. Azimut 55 lying in Phuket, 2x710hp engines. Fully equipped and ready to go. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## 50-FOOT

steel ketch. Van de Stadt design, big and strong. Made in Singapore, wood joinery by master craftsman in Thailand. Perkins 6-cylinder marine diesel, rebuilt '04; uses 6 to 8 L.P.H. Yanmar/Denyo genset, 15hp @ 8kva. GPS sounder, VHF & CB radios. Tools and spare parts. 3 anchors and chain, stern platform with ladder. Sleeps up to 11 in comfort. Lying in Phuket, photos available. Price reduced to 1.6 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8969319. Fax: 074-442170. Email: starfishscuba@starfishscuba.com

## 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.

## 5HP OUTBOARD YAMAHA

10,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9704638.

## RUDY 40 SLOOP

1990 center cockpit. Very clean & tidy yacht, recently refitted. Excellent blue-water yacht. Steel hull. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## BOAT LAGOON BERTH

46ft berth with 13 years left on lease. Asking 2 million baht or near offer. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## 84FT STEEL KETCH



Built in NZ, 1981. 8-cyl Gardner, 20kw generator, good sail inventory, weather fax, SSB, GPS, VHF, autopilot, radar. Needs deck. US\$300,000. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8905619.

## 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.

# Island Job Mart

## HOUSEKEEPER

We need a housekeeper with experience for a period of 3 months starting as soon as possible. Tel: 01-7971207. Email: mdefeo@gmx.net

## CLINIC ADMINISTRATOR/RECEPTIONIST

Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic is seeking a Clinic Administrator/Receptionist. Female, Thai national, age 23 up, bachelor's degree. Fluent written and spoken English and French. PC experience in Word, Excel, Internet and Email. Pleasant personality and team player. Email CV to: info@phuketcosmeticdentalclinic.com

## INTERNET CAFE

2 Thai females, good written English and computer skills, friendly and service-minded. Urgently needed. Tel: 07-0554551. Email: bmdublu@aol.com

## SECRETARY

for project & land business. Very busy, good future, good salary. Must have perfect English, accounting, computer skills, sales experience and have a car license. Tel: 09-6525664.

## MANAGER

We are looking for a foreigner to take care of our customers and staff. Tel: 04-8478352.

## TEFL LANGUAGE

school. Service and hotel staff needed now. Certificate Course plus on-the-job training. Learn Thai, English, Russian, French, and many more languages. Take the 120-hour International TEFL Certificate, approved by the Ministry of Education. Monday April 3, 2006. Improve your life, improve your business. Tel: 076-219241, 076-219251. Please see our website at: www.teflschool.com

## SECRETARY

with perfect English and knowledge of Phuket wanted. Able to drive car. Salary of 12,000 baht a month and good commission. Please send CV by email at: info@phuketlanddeals.com

## COOK WANTED, GOOD SALARY

To assist farang in small restaurant. Must speak reasonable English. Good salary. Tel: 076-294330. Email: sgb.fishnchips@gmail.com

## The Image Sign Asians Co Ltd

### Urgently Needs: Project Secretary

- \* Good command of written & spoken English
  - \* Educated to degree level
  - \* Computer literate
  - \* Highly discreet
- Cleaner (Part-time)**

### 23/105 Boat Lagoon

Tel: 076-273512, 01-8949974

(Kun Ton Architect & Construction Senior)

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Andaman Silver, a residential property developer based in Surin, requires an Executive Assistant to report to the Managing Director. We are looking for a dynamic and hard-working individual with the following qualifications:

- \* Thai female or male aged 23 years or above
- \* Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Accounting
- \* Fluent spoken and written English
- \* Excellent interpersonal and multi-tasking skills
- \* Excellent computer knowledge, including MS Office and Internet
- \* Have driving license and own car.

The successful applicant will receive a generous compensation package, including a performance bonus. Interested candidates may apply by submitting a full resume and recent photos to: Andaman Silver Co Ltd. 326 Prabamee Road, Patong, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-325511, 01-7531527. Fax: 076-325513. Email: jom@surinheights.com

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

Accountant/Storekeeper urgently required. Attractive salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061, 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

## TAILIFE HEALTH & FITNESS

in Patong require fun-loving, happy staff. Positions available:

- \* Head Chef
- \* Waitresses
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Good salaries await the right candidates. Call Apple. Tel: 076-341116.



# Island Job Mart

## Absolute<sup>®</sup> SALES CORPORATION

Due to the rapid expansion of our vacation ownership business we are currently seeking dynamic individuals to join our team in Phuket or Pattaya to apply for the following positions:

The remuneration package and benefits will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience of selected candidates.

### Reservation Officers 2 positions

- Thai national, female
- Strong command, written and spoken English
- Good computer literacy
- Flexible working hours
- Previous work in holiday ownership business/office, secretarial work is a plus

### Receptionist 2 positions

- Thai national, female
- Strong command, written and spoken English
- Flexible working hours

Interested applicants are invited to send their full resumé with recent photo to email: [hr@clubabsolute.com](mailto:hr@clubabsolute.com)  
Tel: 076-341427 Fax: 076-341425

### SECRETARY WANTED

Looking for a Thai woman to work as secretary/office administrator. Must speak fluent English, have good computer skills. A car driving license would also be nice. Please contact. Email: [damian@electrical-marine.com](mailto:damian@electrical-marine.com)

### JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Must have diploma or BA in accounting, and be able to read and write English. Please send your CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: [accounts@thaimarine.com](mailto:accounts@thaimarine.com)



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will be Koh Lanta leading's resort. With the unique setting at the foot of Lanta Yai's hill, Rawi Warin will offer the very finest in luxury and the best in famed Thai hospitality.

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| ■ Human Resource Manager | ■ Front Office Manager    |
| ■ Chief Engineer         | ■ Recreation Manager      |
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| ■ Chief Accountant       | ■ Reservation Officer     |
| ■ Income Auditor         | ■ PR (Public Relations)   |

#### Requirements:

- Willing to reside on Koh Lanta Yai, Krabi
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Enthusiasm, able to learn and grow in the organization

Human Resources Department  
Rawi Warin Resort & Spa  
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81150, Thailand  
Tel: +6675 607 400 Fax: +6675 607 499  
Email: [hr@rawiwarin.com](mailto:hr@rawiwarin.com)

[www.rawiwarin.com](http://www.rawiwarin.com)



### COOK WANTED

Cook wanted for Koh Kao Pisadan Bungalows off Laem Phromthep. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-5944017.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

/Marketing Assistant. Thai national. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. This is a varied and exciting position working directly with the Director of Marketing of three of Phuket's top restaurants. Must have excellent computer skills. Experience in design of advertising and knowledge of website design would be an advantage. Office is based in Kamala. Email resumé to: [sue@baanrimpa.com](mailto:sue@baanrimpa.com)

### CASHIER & ACCOUNTING REQUIRED

Accountant/storekeeper urgently required. Attractive salary offered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: [sohail\\_carpet@yahoo.com](mailto:sohail_carpet@yahoo.com)

### SALES STAFF

Females required for office in Kathu. Educated to standard or better. Some computer skills useful. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. For more information or to apply, call Phuket Island Development Co Ltd at Tel: 09-4742799.

### URGENTLY NEEDED

for Internet café. 2 Thai females, good written English and computer skills, friendly and service-minded. Work from 10am-10pm and 10pm-10am. Please contact us. Tel: 07-9091640.



The resort is currently being upgraded with additional bungalows, food & beverage facilities, and leisure & relaxation areas.

We welcome applications for:

- Beverage Manager
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- Bartender
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- Front Office Manager
- Guest Service Agent
- Sales & Reservations Executive
- Massage Therapist
- Water Sports Coordinator
- Water Sports & Bell Hop
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Technician
- Officer
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area Attendant
- Garden Supervisor
- Garden Attendant
- Assistant Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Administrator
- Executive Chef
- Sous Chef
- Chief Steward
- Steward
- Cost Controller
- General Cashier
- Accounts Receivable

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E-mail: [hrdphi@cscoms.com](mailto:hrdphi@cscoms.com)

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The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

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- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ English speaker

### III. DISTRIBUTION MARKETING PERSON

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- ▶ PC experience in Word, Excel & Internet
- ▶ Good administrator
- ▶ Must have own car and driver's license

### IV. SENIOR REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, aged 27-plus, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car. Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax: 076-213971 Email: [fon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:fon@phuketgazette.net)

### Employment Wanted

### GERMAN WOMAN/ MANAGEMENT

German woman, 33, is looking for a job on Phuket. 11 years' experience in fashion/textile industry, HR management and training of sales staff, and motivating/managing branch managers. I speak German and English. Email: [muenchen1@gmx.net](mailto:muenchen1@gmx.net)

### CREW POSITION

Experienced non-smoking sailor seeks crew position on private yacht for adventure sailing & diving for 2-12 weeks. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-536-3060. Email: [steendenmark@hotmail.com](mailto:steendenmark@hotmail.com)

### RESIDENT MANAGER

Energetic, self-motivated resident manager wanted immediately for a private beach resort, consisting of 25 homes, at Railay Beach, Krabi. Must be fluent in Thai and English. Previous hotel experience preferred. Interested parties please send resumé or contact for more information. Tel: 075-622-528. Fax: 075-622596. Email: [generalmanager@raileibeachclub.com](mailto:generalmanager@raileibeachclub.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

**HUGE WOODEN BAR**  
counter. Dark brown, good condition, U-shape. L: 3.70m, H: 1.06m, W: 0.45m. Includes 6 stools. 5,000 baht. View at 48/15 Wiset Rd (beside PTT Petrol Station). Tel: 076-288808, 07-2650652.

## GYM 3 STATIONS

Electric running machine, leather lounge corner unit, 2 fabric lounge corner units, glass-fronted commercial fridge, 8 new single beds plus mattresses. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-0170135 after 1 pm.

## PANEL SPEAKERS

1.2m tall, excellent sound, also ProAc response SC1 and big tube amp. Tel: 01-7888535.

## OFFICE CHAIR

80% condition. Bought for 1,300 baht. Asking only 500 baht. Email: eng\_ls@yahoo.com

## BABY GOODS

I have the following items for sale:

- Graco crib, 2 levels with mosquito net: 2,500 baht
- Urban Detour sports type 3-wheel pram with mosquito net: 2,000 baht
- Camera car seat: 500 baht.

All items clean and in good condition. Tel: 07-8814734. Email: lamsai@yahoo.com

## FOOD SLICER

as new. Table model, stainless steel, suitable for deli or butcher. Tel: 076-289041, 04-851275.

## TOP GOLF EQUIPMENT

- 1 cart bag, full leather (red/brown)
  - 1 weekender bag, linen and leather
  - 1 comfort trolley, 1 big size trolley, 1 flight trolley
  - 1 set Mizuno Astro irons, drivers, putter, hybrids-rescue, iron wood, and more...
- Best condition. Complete sale only 25,000 baht.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-249295. Email: wim-phuket@web.de

## BIKE FOR SALE

Red bicycle for sale. Would suit teenager/adult. Very good condition - used once. 1,000 baht. Available now. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-0798208. Email: hcknapman@aol.com

## LONGINES WATCH

Slim and great-looking. 8 years old and in excellent condition (the older the better). Please call me for a pleasant buy. Tel: 04-6263886. Email: maxcomdive@gmail.com

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

#### Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

#### Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun

at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call  
012732053 (Scandinavian),  
018954763 (English) or  
018912895 (Frank)

## Business Opportunities

### BAR IN PATONG FOR SALE

Poolside bar and restaurant. Very good location on Nanai Rd opposite 7-Eleven and Family Mart. 80 square meters, 3-year lease. Running business. All amenities and materials new. Very nice decoration and design. Price: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 076-346004, 07-8850055. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

### NICE RESTAURANT

plus 3 rooms. Close to the beach. Contract has 4 years left + rent at 35,000 baht per month. Only 850,000 baht for furniture & equipment. Excellent location near Banana Discotheque. Tel: 04-8448381. Email: garyone1@hotmail.com

### IT SOLUTIONS DEALER WANTED

Dealer required to market new Thai/English POS system for restaurants, bars and stores. Call or email your details. Tel: 01-9408191. Fax: 038-720919. Email: stevedickens@hotmail.com

### HOTEL TO SELL

New modern building - with lift, bar and restaurant - in center of Patong. Comprises 23 rooms all with aircon and TV. Very good location. 4-year lease. 2.5 million baht key money. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8423992. Email: capeyamoo@yahoo.com

### PIZZA DELIVERY BIZ

for sale. Low overhead business delivering Patong's best pizza. Huge potential, including franchising for someone with advertising & promotion skills. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-341827. Email: thairuss@yahoo.com

**RESTAURANT & BAR**  
in Karon for sale. Only 222,222 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8874626. Email: alio1@web.de

### WA-JUNG-DAI

(Isarn restaurant) for sale, Thai-style, Chao Fa East Rd, close to Mook Phuket store. Please contact K. Laddawan. Tel: 01-1768404.

### LARGE SUCCESSFUL

established bar in Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. 5-year lease. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-8677969.

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Certified business opportunities. Excellent quality and value for money. Well-trained staff are available. 3 months support guarantee. Wash up to 100 cars a day. Clean and safe by German carwash technology. Starts from 3.2 million baht. For more information contact us. Email: phuket\_carwash@hotmail.com

### KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Tex-mex: 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock, and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Call after 5 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

### SERIOUS INVESTMENT

Thai company since 1998, with two work permits, and includes 2 rai of seaview land (Chanote). Unique offer, investment opportunity. Tel: 01-3652020.

### QUICK RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Entertainment venue (disco, club & lounge). A prime location in the heart of Patong with qualified foreign management. Seeking an additional 5 million baht investment. Serious inquiries only. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-968-4541. Email: j\_vpartners@hotmail.com

### MASSAGE SALON

Established 3-story massage salon for sale in the heart of Patong. Excellent furnishings, fully equipped; has long-term staff. For more information, call Khun Arunee. Tel: 07-8947985.

### TAILOR SHOP

for immediate sale. 8m x 25m fully furnished, located on Patong Beach road, near Thara Patong Hotel. A 5-year lease. Price 1.35 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-6656195.

### FISH RESTAURANT

Very nice restaurant and bar for sale, specializing in fish 'n' chips but serving a large international menu. Fully-fitted, large kitchen with all latest mod cons. 20 seats outside + 6 bar stools + 4 sofa seats and 2 tables. Townhouse with 2 rooms upstairs, 2 bathrooms, and extra kitchen. Good business and growing, but ill health forces reluctant sale. Tel: 076-294330, 07-8960235. Email me for details and price. Email: sgb.fishnchips@gmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

New bar in Andaman Bazaar. Fully furnished, has pool table. Seats 35, and has kitchen, etc. 3 + 3-year lease. No key money. Take over for 500,000 baht. Rent 52,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-7430978.

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Guesthouse and restaurant, located opposite the main entrance to the Royal Paradise Hotel, for sale. Six luxury guest rooms with shower, aircon and TV. Beautiful restaurant with kitchen. High standards. 14 million baht. Tel: 01-5385322, 01-8956587. Email: rudolfpanz@hotmail.com

### BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

If I can work from my home in Bangkok and make over US\$ 4,000 per week, so can you. I will prove it. Go to my business website, then call Derrick at 02-2629287. Serious inquiries only please. If you do not go, enjoy what you are presently doing. You will probably be doing it forever. Tel: 02-2629287, 01-7543731. Fax: 02-6611148. Email: derrickturnbull@yahoo.com For more details, visit: www.lifechangingearnings.com

### BAR-RESTAURANT

Separate pool room, 2-room guesthouse, all fully airconditioned, well established, with long-term lease. Located on Nanai Road. Asking 1.35 million baht. All genuine offers considered. Tel: 01-747-7520. Email: phuketpete@yahoo.co.uk

### BAR FOR SALE/RENT

New bar in Patong on Soi Sukhumvit, at a good price and for long-term rent. Tel: 07-0145817.

### GUESTHOUSE SALE

or lease. 5 year lease, rent 8,000 baht month sell with 1 rai land 7.5 million baht. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

### SALE COMPUTER SET

Full Internet shop equipment: 7 computer stations. Best offer. Tel: 04-6304243.

### FEMALE MANNEQUIN

Female mannequin plus graduation gown and mortar board. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2722392. Email: michael@phuket-town.com

### SMALL INVESTMENT

Coffee/Internet shop with bar-restaurant in Patong. 490,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

## Business Products & Services

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Up to 75% discount  
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### PERSIAN CARPETS

Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Free pick-up and delivery. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com Please see our website at: www.mister-carpet.com

### LOOKING FOR

a venue for a birthday? Wedding? Get together? Party by the pool at Tailife Health and Fitness. Beautiful venue, delicious food. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-341116.

### THANIT STONE FACTORY

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 Maytinee. Tel: 01-8952990, 09-724-4102, 01-9584076. Fax: 076-224969. For details, visit our website at: www.thanitstonefactory.com

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Company Registration 2,229 baht; One Year Visa 5,999 baht; Retirement Visa 5,999 baht; Work Permit 5,999 baht; UK & US Visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 5,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Always your low price by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact. Tel: 076-345277 (24 hours). Email: info@siam-legal.com For further details, please visit: www.siam-legal.com

## EVE VISA RUN TO RANONG

Only 1,350 baht for the best service. Includes: visa, boat transport, minibus transport, lunch and soft drinks. Contact for more info. Tel: 01-5352637. Email: info@evevisarun.com For more details, visit: www.evevisarun.com

## TODAY'S HOME NEWSPAPER

280 titles from 60 countries. Price 180-220 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-346218-9. Fax: 076-346232. Email: aleks@newspaperdirect-phuket.com

**Complete Magical Entertainer**  
(with Vern the Bird)  
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By Dave "Paul" Jones  
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of The Magic Circle for 10 years!  
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★ Childrens Parties, etc.  
Magical Promotions  
07-8887676



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## 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.

## Cameras & Equipment

### NIKON D50

and equipment. 2 months old. Comes with 18-55mm wide angle lens + 70-300mm zoom. Lithium battery with charger, 1GB memory card, filters, bag, flash, etc. 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-597474, 01-6768797.

## Club Memberships Available

### LAGUNA GOLF

membership. Laguna Family Golf Membership available for 350,000 baht. Email: mlcberg@netvigator.com

## Club Memberships Wanted

### BLUE CANYON

Looking for Blue Canyon membership. Best offer will be considered. Email: kalim00@hotmail.com

## Computers

### 17-INCH MONITOR

Samsung, one year old, used a few hours, in best condition. 3,500 baht. Tel: 076-249295. Email: wim-phuket@web.de

## SKYPE WITH STYLE

I have one Olympia Cordless VoIP/DECT phone to connect landline and SKYPE @ USB + Siemens Gigaset S440 DECT with M34 USB cordless/Skype. New and boxed, 5,900 baht and 8,900 baht respectively. Tel: 09-041-1470. Email: eriksson.p@gmail.com

## PHOTOCOPY REPAIRS

Friendly farang fixes copiers and faxes and has laser toner refills. Please call George. Tel: 06-9724805.

## PRO DATA RECOVERY

All kinds of computer magic phuket-data-wizards.com Tel: 06-6827277, 01-581-9782.

## EXTERNAL CD/RW

External CD re-writable for sale. Ideal for someone with a laptop that cannot burn CDs. 3,500 baht. Tel: 07-8896758. Email: ukdj007bond@yahoo.co.uk

## NOTEBOOK

Toshiba Satellite P10, blue, P4 2.8GHz, 512 RAM, 60GB HDD, Combo drive, German keyboard, 15.4" display, wireless. Price: 30,000 baht. Tel: 01-3676373. Email: austrianer@web.de

## Miscellaneous for Sale

### TREADMILL

and Strider Super condition. 15,000 baht. Call quickly; it will sell fast. Tel: 01-6919679. Email: choice@loxinfo.co.th

### HIGH-END AUDIO

Magneplanar flat panel speakers excl for music or movies. Tel: 01-7888535.

## Miscellaneous Wanted

### LOAN WANTED

10 million baht required. Will pay 8% quarterly interest with good security. Email: patongbrewery@aol.com

### POLO SHIRTS

Need price for 50 plain, good-quality polo shirts with pocket, in large and XL sizes. Email: mike7474@hotmail.com

## Notice

## Public Notice

This notice is to inform the public that as of February 20, 2006, Mrs Duangkamol Khaochatr (Mod) has no further involvement and is no longer associated in any way with The Surin Bay Inn Hotel.

## Personal Services

### KIDS' PARTY?

Hire a bouncy castle for great fun. For rates and information. Tel: 01-891-8689.

### NURSE CARE

Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

### PERSONAL TRAINING

Tailor-made physical training at all levels. Scheduled sessions at home or outside area. First lesson free. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2808077.

### HOUSESITTERS

We are a South African couple who are available to housesit in any area in Phuket. We are responsible, good with animals and reliable. Tel: 076-319-091, 04-6290181. Email: t\_phunk@hotmail.com

ENGLISH, SCIENCE, math. Private lessons/tutorials in English (at all levels), science (at all levels), and math (primary/pratom level). 350-400 baht per hour. Call for more details. Tel: 04-6684537 or email: miyax\_25@hotmail.com

## Personals

### THAI LADY NEEDED

American businessman will visit Phuket April 14-27 to register a business. Fit, 54 (but looks 45), handsome, classy and fun, seeking beautiful, fit, Christian Thai lady 25-45 for relationship. First meeting no expectations. Please contact for more details. Tel: 702-5920888. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

### NICE GENTLEMAN

seeks a smart, nice and lovely lady. If you also enjoy sunsets and picnics on the beach that would be fine. I am a thoughtful, true, passionate and attractive gentleman. Email: daniel29200@yahoo.com

## Pets

### PLEASE HELP ME!



Alice is a 2-year-old bitch who was thoughtlessly abandoned at Nai Harn Beach a year ago. She is an exceptionally gentle and friendly dog – now sterilized – who would greatly appreciate becoming part of a family. If you can give Alice a home before the next poisonings, we would be very thankful. Please call Tel: 09-8682563 if you are genuinely interested.

### FREE DOG, NEUTERED

under 1 year. Location 55/146 Soi 2 Chao Fa Rd. Good with children. Nice golden coat. Attractive and healthy. Owner moving to Bangkok Tel: 07-2719414. Email: pritchah@hotmail.com

### LOOKING FOR A SIRE

I have a 10-year-old bitch cocker, and I am looking for a male cocker dog to sire cocker pups. If you have a male cocker and would like to share, please contact me. Tel: 09-6451953. Email: ratcha\_2001@yahoo.com

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# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

Trusted Suppliers of Phuket's Finest Quality Vehicles  
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### CIVIC 2005 TOP MODEL

Excellent condition, both exterior and interior. 200,000 baht down payment and 13,000+ monthly. First-class insurance & tax have just been renewed. Please contact K. Tik for more information. Tel: 06-9456433. Email: khuntik@myway.com

### 1975 BMW 2002

In perfect condition. Silver, double Weber carburetors, CD player, best one in Thailand. 275,000 baht. Trade possible, and please, please, no dreamers or time wasters! Please contact for full details. Email: poverboatimport@gmail.com

### OPEL CORSA 95

1.4L, 80hp, 150,000km. In good condition, all maintenance done on a regular basis. Tires in very good shape. Insurance and taxes included until October 2006. Price: 150,000 baht (negotiable). Tel: 07-2782090. Email: wartnerst@bluewin.ch

### NISSAN ALMERA 2002



1800cc, red, automatic, leather seats. Only 20,000 km. The car stands out as new. Driven for 4 years by lady, never in an accident. 400,000 baht down payment, the remaining 320,000 paid in monthly installments over 2 years. Please call for full details. Tel: 01-8941175.

### HONDA CIVIC LXI

for sale. 1995 Civic LXI 1.6, Navy blue, 4 doors, air conditioning, power windows, locks, steering, 42,000km, excellent condition. Never been in an accident. Best gas mileage. 290,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-4152877. Email: jutimapaul@gmail.com

### 2005 HONDA JAZZ

V-TEC just 5 months old, excellent condition, 5,750km, black, CD-player and lots of extras. Price: 625,000 baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-7470352. Email: hondajazz@yahoo.com

## 4 x 4s

### 2006 TOYOTA FORTUNER

2.7L petrol, auto gears, 4WD, silver, tan leather interior, twin airbags, CD/MP3 stereo, 8,300km, Toyota warranty, new condition. 1.04 million baht with full insurance. Car is in Bangkok; can be delivered to Phuket. Tel: 09-0597625. Email: kfarang@yahoo.com

### TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

4x4, 2002, perfect condition. New clutch, new tires. 620,000 baht. Tel: 07-271-9414. Email: pritchah@hotmail.com

### WILLYS JEEP M151A1



Reluctant sale, all original, reconditioned engine and gearbox, sunbrella fabric hood, Panasonic stereo, solid road tires, roll bar and seatbelts fitted. Will only sell to a good home. Interested? Tel: 076-381010, 06-294-7297. Fax: 076-381009. Email: aj@sixsenses.com

### MITSUBISHI STRADA

4x4 turbo-diesel, November 2002, silver/red color, 83,000km, has all the extras including Carryboy and full service history. Asking 400,000 baht. Please contact Khun David. Tel: 07-8887676

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN 4WD

Year 1999, 1300cc SJ413 model pickup. 110,000km. CD player, alarm, tinted windows. Original paint, no accidents or dents. Excellent running condition, immaculate inside and out. 250,000 baht. Can be seen in Khon Kaen. Email: tom\_issan@yahoo.com

### TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

3.0L, 1.5 years old (Aug 2004). Automatic gears, beige color. 35,000km. Tel: 01-5353043. Email: rainier\_vig@yahoo.fr

### TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

4 x 4, diesel, manual, 3 years old, 65,000km, 7 seater, excellent condition with all the extras. 650,000 baht. Tel: 01-8920130.

### JEEP CHEROKEE

1999 Cherokee 4x4, automatic, full leather interior. Full service history. Contact Mr Reini Koster at Tel: 01-8919631 or by Email at: erikdidy@hotmail.com

### NEW

### GRAND CHEROKEE

4WD SUV full luxury spec in/out. As-new condition, garaged, service book, cost 2.7 million. Quick sale 895,000 baht. Please call for full details. Tel: 076-345096, 01-9066243.

### 4WD SPECIAL

Modified Suzuki Caribian, with extra roll bars, big Powerguard tires and more. Body and engine excellent. 95,000 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 07-2730141.

## Motorbikes

### HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Heritage. Immaculate, customized, retro-looking 1992 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail that has been well maintained and has recently had a cosmetic rebuild. New beach bars, sprung solo seat (has second seat also), retro grips, teardrop mirrors, engine respray, retro-carburetor cover, new floating brake rotors (front and rear), chrome swing arm, headlamp covers, derby cover, new chrome chain guards, smoked lenses (front and rear) as well as new floorboards and gear shifts. Bike has a Mikuni 45 carb jetted down to a 42 and a Andrews EV47 cam - lots of power. Exhausts are twin fish-tails and the tank is a 6 gallon beast. Rims are polished Fatboy rims. This awesome bike is Phuket registered and in excellent condition. 660,000 baht on Please contact Craig for more information. Tel: 06-2783352. Email: cdouglas@hotmail.com

### HONDA DREAM 400cc

Black Honda Dream 125cc. In very good condition with only 20,000km. Oil changed around every 1,000 km. Chain and cogs replaced after 20,000km. Green book and papers in order. Selling due to relocation. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-283404, 07-2630948. Email: davigle@yahoo.co.uk

### JRD, 9 MONTHS OLD

110cc JRD Surf motorbike for sale. Moving back to the UK, so it's something I don't need. Comes with registration book. If you would like to view it, then please drop me a line. Was 28,000 baht new; will sell for 20,000 baht. Electric starter, front disc brake, alloy wheels, helmet. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-788-7991. Email: thebritscott@hotmail.com

### HONDA REBEL

Honda Rebel chopper, 250cc, in good condition. Driven by a lady and seldom used. Please contact Pupa for more details. Tel: 01-892 0531 or by email at: phuket-roadangel@hotmail.com

### SUZUKI BANDIT 400cc

in excellent condition. Registration and green book. Asking 45,000 baht. Tel: 06-687-1245. Email: supertony8@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: [www.album.romerun.com/amnuay\\_r/folder/27037/album/45423/html/index.html](http://www.album.romerun.com/amnuay_r/folder/27037/album/45423/html/index.html)

### HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Heritage Softail, 1999, black, 35,000km. Very nice condition. 650,000 baht. Please contact for further information. Email: ragge96@hotmail.com

## Rentals

### LOW PRICE

Many types of well-maintained new cars, with CD player and insurance. Low price for long-term rent. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-6078567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### BP RENTALS

Suzuki Caribians for 11,000 baht per month. Discount for long-term rental. Full insurance. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-4727304.

## Wanted

### JEEP CHEROKEE

I would like to buy a Jeep Cherokee or Grand Cherokee at a fair price. Please contact me if you have one for sale. Tel: 06-3039395. Email: s\_natanan@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

wanted. 1999-2002 model. Please let me know if you have, or know of, one for sale. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

### USED CAR WANTED

Especially Honda Civic year 2000-2004. Contact me by e-mail or telephone with full details. Tel: 076-346131, 06-2678432. Fax: 076-346-131. Email: newphuket@yahoo.com

### LOOKING FOR A BIKE

I'm looking for a secondhand bike, 150cc and up. Could be a trail bike. My budget is a maximum of 40,000 baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 07-0987348. Email: mcole96@hotmail.com

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

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

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

#### 41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312



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 Then hand it to any of our agents.

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(heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 85 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Wheels & Motors page: Saturday 12 noon.**



**Juice**



Fresh Juice  
Smoothies  
Deli Sandwiches  
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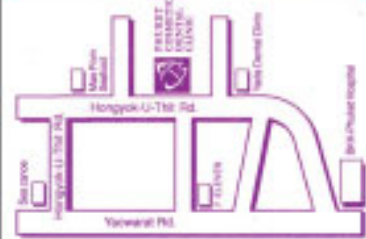
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