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# 2 cops held for killing tycoon

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Two Phuket Provincial Police officers have confessed to their involvement in the assassination of Phuket Shooting Range owner Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas, the island's top police officer told the *Gazette*.

K. Preecha, who was also owner of the luxury Fisherman Way housing estate and other businesses on the island, was shot twice in the head while driving along Wiset Rd at about 11 pm with his wife and son in the family's black Jeep Cherokee.

The Cherokee was fired upon by a gunman in a red BMW, who riddled it with more than 10 11-mm bullets. The Jeep smashed into the back of a minivan, then careened off the road and scraped along a fence before plowing head-on into a tree.

K. Preecha's wife, Jurairat, and the couple's nine-year-old son, Kong, escaped serious injury. Ko Noi, the only one hit, died the following day at Phuket International Hospital.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth confirmed the identities of the two arrested policemen as Pol Capt Wanchana Polpalangkul and Pol Sgt Pongsak Kosi-ratanapibal, both attached to the province's elite Special Operations Unit.

The two were arrested just after midnight on March 18 by a posse of police led by the deputy chief of the Bangkok-based Central Investigations Division, Pol Maj Gen Suchat Meuankaew. He was accompanied by many of the island's top law enforcers.



Ko Noi's Jeep Cherokee slammed into a tree after the shooting.

The two suspects have already been discharged from the police force, Gen Decha said. Speaking on March 21, he told the *Gazette* that the duo were being held in the Phuket Provincial Court cells, where they were expected to be charged with conspiracy to commit premeditated murder.

"They are my men, but if they do wrong I have to punish them just like anybody else," he said.

He did not offer details of the two men's involvement in the shooting, though it has been widely reported that they were both in the BMW with the gunman at the time of the shooting. Ex-Sgt Pongsak knew what the victim looked like; his job was to "finger" Ko Noi as the target.

Gen Decha denied a local press report that the gunman,

supposedly a professional hitman from Petchaburi Province, had also been taken into custody.

"So far neither the Phuket Provincial Police nor the Crime Suppression Division have made an arrest, as was reported by some newspapers. If an arrest had been made, I would know about it," he said.

Gen Decha said he would keep the press informed of any developments in the case, but would not compromise the investigation by releasing sensitive information while there were still suspects at large. He did not comment on what motivated the assassination.

In addition to K. Jurairat and Kong, the tycoon is survived by another son, Koch, aged 12.

The cremation ceremony was held at Wat Chalong on March 20.



Suwit Sa'ngiamkul served as a Democrat MP for Phuket District 1 for five years.

## Suwit quits politics, cites 'personal reasons'

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY: Suwit Sa'ngiamkul has announced that he has decided to quit politics. K. Suwit served as the Phuket Democrat Member of Parliament for Phuket District 1 for five years, until the recent dissolution called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

"I was intending to finish my political career at the end of my second term [in 2009], but Parliament was dissolved first, so I will no longer continue [in politics]. It's for personal reasons," he told the *Gazette*.

His decision to quit came as a surprise. Just two days before PM Thaksin dissolved parliament to make way for the April 2 snap election, K. Suwit had told the *Gazette* that he was happy with his political life.

"I am not bored with politics. I have never considered quitting politics. There are three main things in my life. First is politics; for the past five years I

Continued on page 3

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# PGTV now on Internet

PHUKET: Programming from PGTV, the *Phuket Gazette's* new TV production unit, can now be watched online at [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv), or by clicking on the "TV-Phuket" link on the home page.

Ten minutes of news and 10 minutes of documentaries or interviews are now uploaded to the site every day, Monday to Friday, at 10 am from the PGTV studio.

The program consists of Phuket news, followed by the weather, and then *This Is Phuket*, the documentary or interview

segment focusing, again, on the local community.

To watch the online show, viewers will need an ADSL or faster connection.

In addition to the online service, programming can also be seen on Phuket provincial cable channels and in the guest rooms of a rapidly growing number of four- and five-star hotels.

Of the documentaries available online, *Return to Paradise* is a four-part special on the tsunami aftermath by Australian filmmaker Michelle McRae.

It looks at the reality of Phuket's recovery after the tsunami, countering much of the negative TV coverage.

PGTV was launched in January this year as part of the *Gazette's* expansion into a range of new media to complement the company's weekly newspaper, the Web's search-engine-leading *Gazette Online*, and the island's *Gazette Guide* telephone phone book.

PGTV welcomes feedback. Send email to [marc@phuketgazette.net](mailto:marc@phuketgazette.net)



In the studio: PGTV crew members (from left) Passara Kaewbumrungs, Marc Mulloy and Nattamon Meesin.

## Officer is a gem, say lucky Swiss couple

PHUKET: A Swiss couple were delighted after a Phuket Tourist Police officer organized the safe return of 360,000 baht worth of jewelry they had forgotten in a Chiang Mai hotel.

Ulrich and Blanca Christen arrived in Thailand on March 4 and, after traveling around the country. Checking into the South Sea Karon Resort on March 16, they discovered to their horror that Mrs Christen's sparklers – including lockets, pendants, a pearl necklace and gems – had been left in the safe box at the Imperial Mae Ping Hotel in Chiang Mai.

Aghast, they reported their error to Nachanan Sunwanno, an officer with Phuket's Tourist Police, who in turn phoned her counterparts in the northern city. The Chiang Mai Tourist Police lost no time in reclaiming the jewelry. The booty was then delivered by cargo to Phuket International Airport in the afternoon of March 19.

Officer Nachanan told the *Gazette* that, at first, she wondered whether the couple's story was part of an insurance scam but soon realized that the loss was genuine.

She explained, "This is the first experience I've had of dealing with a loss of this size. [Mrs Christen] cried so much when she explained that some of the jewelry had come down to her from her husband's family.



Blanca Christen checks her jewelry.

"We're very glad to be of assistance and are also grateful to the Tourist Police in Chiang Mai. We're just happy the jewelry has been returned."

Mrs Christen, a jewelry designer in Switzerland, told the *Gazette* that the return of the jewelry was "a miracle", and that she wanted to thank the Tourist Police and the Chiang Mai hotel staff for all their help.

"I don't know how [Officer Nachanan] did it. She really impressed me. We got our jewelry back almost the next day and it's all thanks to her. She's an excellent officer," she said.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

# Fight over Nai Yang park construction still simmering on

By Janyaporn Morel

NAI YANG : The months-long dispute between two government agencies, the Tambon Sakoo Administration Organization (*Or-BorTor*) and the Sirinath Marine National Park, over improvements to Nai Yang Beach, has still not been resolved.

Three months ago, the park arranged for the *Or-BorTor* Sakoo to begin construction of a row of shophouses. The *Or-BorTor* received a construction budget of 15 million baht from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The park halted construction in August 2005, however, pointing out that permission had been verbal only and that the structures, by then 60% complete, did not follow the originally specified design.

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

More than six million baht of the total 15-million-baht budget was wasted on building the eyesores and demolishing them.

Last week, Thanapong Apaiso of the Sirinath National Park told the *Gazette*, "I haven't heard anything yet from the *Or-BorTor* but, generally speaking, the law says that any construc-

tion should first receive permission from the Wildlife and Plant Conservation Committee of the Department of National Parks (DNP).

"At our last meeting with the Governor, he expressed his wish for the National Park to provide a fresh location for the new buildings, but I explained that we have to follow the law and send a request to the DNP.

### UPSET

"According to the law, the DNP can allow construction only in a designated 'service area'. I agreed that Pa Son Lekit would be a good location [for the shophouses]. But it's in a 'rest and education area', and the DNP committee doesn't want to change the area's status to 'service area', so will not grant us building permission.

"That's why the Governor was upset – he thought that I hadn't followed through on what we discussed with him. But I had to follow the DNP's directives," he said.

"We're still waiting on the *Or-BorTor* for the new plans and when we get them we'll send them to the DNP for approval."

K. Thanapong added that the national park is building a "canteen" to house 14 food vendors moved from the beach area.

The building will also have a souvenir shop and a tourist information center, funded by a 4.5 million baht DNP budget. This move is expected to help solve the park's encroachment problem.

As for the new shophouse plan, Surapong Panyawai, President of Sakoo *Or-BorTor*, told the *Gazette* that the land is being re-measured by the village chief and the *Or-BorTor* to avoid accusations of encroachment.

"We have new shophouses planned and ready for construction, but they won't be the same as the previous ones," K. Surapong explained. "This new plan includes landscaping improvements such as a parking area and a footpath.

"If the 8.4 million baht remaining from the TAT's grant is not enough, the Sakoo *Or-BorTor* will make up the shortfall."

### OTOP by the beach

PATONG: The Phuket Provincial Community Development office is organizing a One Tambon One Product (OTOP) festival from March 26 to April 1 at the football field on the beach road.

The festival will have 160 booths featuring "5-star" OTOP products from all over Thailand and nightly entertainment on two stages. The fair will open daily from 10 am to 11 pm.

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## Chalong-Patong road study complete next month

PHUKET: The project to build a two-lane road over the Nakkerd Hills from Chalong to Patong is a step closer to fruition, with the project's 7-million-baht feasibility study now 24% complete, said

Wichai Poosakulkajorn, head of the Phuket Provincial Office of the Rural Roads Department, on March 14.

He said that his office had contracted two firms, S&D Cooperation Co and Team Consulting Engineering & Management Co, to conduct the feasibility study, which is examining three possible routes over the hilly terrain.

All of the proposed routes start from Soi Luang Phu Supa, off Chao Fa West Rd in Chalong, and connect to 50 Pi Rd in Patong. Two of the routes pass around the southern end of Klong Krata, with one joining 50 Pi Rd in Patong further north than the other. The third route passes to the north of Klong Krata.

The first two routes would each require a road five kilometers long, while the northern route would require a 4-km-long road.

"While the Environmental Impact Assessments for each option are still in the early stages, the feasibility study is already 24% complete and the Governor is very happy with this project," K. Wichai said.

All three proposed routes pass through National Park land, so once a route has been chosen K. Wichai's office must apply to the Parks Department for permission to build the road, he added.

The study, begun on January 24, must be completed by August 7. Cost and construction time estimates have yet to be evaluated, he said.

## Soi Dogs President resigns

PHUKET: The Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) announced March 21 that co-founder and President Margot Homburg Park had resigned from the organisation for personal reasons.

In a statement, the SDF said that Mrs Park's resignation had been accepted "regretfully" by the board.

Vice-President John Dalley said, "Her contribution to relieving the problems of the island's stray dog population cannot be overstated. She will be greatly missed."

Senatorial candidate Dr Prasit Koeysiripong has agreed to succeed Mrs Park as President.

## Gumballers rolling into Phuket

PHUKET: The Gumball Rally, a road race featuring movie, TV and music stars as well as the simply well-heeled, is heading for Phuket.

This year's Gumball 3000, as it is now known, starts in London, heads for Brussels, Vienna and Budapest, then onto Belgrade, before touching down in Phuket on May 3. Three giant Russian Antonov cargo planes will bring the multi-million-dollar cargo of supercars – Porsches, Ferraris, Rolls-Royces and other exotica – to Phuket.

The competitors will stay at the Amanpuri before roaring off to Bangkok on May 5. From there they will fly to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the next leg of the race, to Las Vegas. The rally ends in Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles, on May 7.

The Gumball 3000 is looking for volunteers in Phuket to assist during the rally's stay on the island. For the chance to rub shoulders with stars such as Daryl Hannah, hip-hop star Missy Elliot and former *Baywatch* babe Pamela Anderson, send an email to [duncan@gumball3000.com](mailto:duncan@gumball3000.com)

To qualify, applicants must be between 20 and 30 years old, and "good looking". In return, assistants will receive a free T-shirt and a cap. For more information visit [www.gumball3000.com](http://www.gumball3000.com)



A couple of Ferraris rumble through London to the start of the 2005 Gumball Rally.  
– Photo by David Lane.

## Charity rules tightened in bid to prevent abuse

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: To prevent people from setting up phony charities, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uwarangkura will require all organizations seeking foundation status to sign a consent form allowing the province to deregister them if they fall inactive, without having to resort to the courts.

The surprise announcement was made March 16 by Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat while accepting an application for foundation status from the Youth Football Home orphanage, now under construction in Thalang.

Although he said he was favorably disposed toward Youth Football Home, *Palad* Nivit asked the organization's representatives to have its founder, Hong Kong businessman Henrik Lorenz, submit a signed document allowing the province to deregister the charity if it falls inactive.

From now on, such a consent document will be part of the approval process for every group seeking foundation status in the province, he said.

"We have many problems about foundations at the moment. Many have been registered that accept donations for tsunami relief. There are now about 70 foundations registered in the province, but, of these, about 80% don't do any [charitable] activities.

"Some of them are not really functioning as charities, but rather as a means for their [foreign] founders to live quiet, comfortable lives here," he said.

*Palad* Nivit said many foreigners wanted to want to buy land, build luxury homes and retire in Phuket. Some were using foundation status to skirt land ownership laws and evade taxes, he alleged.

"As for Youth Football Home, I think they have a good idea. I told them that Mr Lorenz has to sign a document confirm-

ing that he would fund the charity himself, without soliciting donations. When they provide the letter, I will forward it with their application to the Governor," he said.

Pandora Cheung, Financial Controller of Henrik Lorenz Ltd, said the consent form would not be a problem because Mr Lorenz's only intention was to help orphaned and destitute boys. He never planned to solicit donations for the home and was prepared to provide long-term funding for the project, she said.

The foundation will take 32 orphaned or underprivileged boys, aged between 8 and 10, and give them a home, schooling and soccer training until they are able to care for themselves, she added.

"We are a charitable organization, so we don't really expect a lot from the whole project. We just want to see the boys happy and give them a chance of growing up like other children, with a good education," she said.

## Ex-MP Suwit quits politics

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have been going to Bangkok for Parliamentary sessions every Tuesday, returning on Fridays.

"Second is my business, and third is my family. I am lucky that I have a good team at work and a family who understand my job, so that I can focus on politics," he said.

He added that he enjoyed his political work in Phuket, visiting local people and hearing about their problems.

He went on to say that he was happy to represent Phuket, even as a member of the Opposition. "Phuket people know that if they vote for a Democrat member to be an MP, they may lose good opportunities from the government [because they are being represented by a member of the Opposition], but they still vote for a Democrat," he said.

On March 20, however, K. Suwit apologized if his decision to quit had upset anyone. "I am sorry that last month I told [the *Gazette*] that I was happy and that I had no plans of quitting," he added.

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The Ministry of Science and Technology's National Innovation Agency (NIA) recently arranged for a four-man team of retired German technical experts to consult with Phuket City officials on environmental issues and ways to make the city more attractive for tourists.

The team leader, and the first to arrive in Phuket, is town planning expert Ulrich Röhren. The *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Stephen Fein report on what the German expert has learned during his first six weeks on the job in Phuket City.

Since arriving in Phuket in early February, Ulrich Röhren has been gathering information for use by himself and his three colleagues – tourism industry expert Wolfgang Geisse, who arrived in mid-March, and two environmental experts arriving in June – Dr Eberhard Böhm, a waste avoidance and recycling expert, and Jörg Ringeltaube, a wastewater and domestic water supply specialist.

Mr Röhren explained that all are members of Germany's Senior Experten Service (SES), a non-profit organization supported by German industry and with German government funding.

SES's purpose is to further international economic cooperation by tapping into the professional experience of its "Senior Experts", as members are known.

"All the experts there, all 7,000 of them, are retired and work as a form of charity. All costs are paid by the German foundation. Normally the company that orders the work [in this the NIA] will cover travel, accommodation costs and some other expenses," Mr Röhren explained.

"I am an expert in town

planning. In several German towns, I was responsible for all technical affairs, included incinerators and wastewater treatment plants, environmental planning, town planning, architecture and things like that," he said.

The group's work in Phuket City, its first venture in Thailand, stems from a request by Phuket Municipality to the NIA's Innovative Acquisition Service division.

Mr Röhren told the *Gazette* that Phuket City's incinerator, which serves the entire island, needs a second incineration system and a more advanced garbage separation facility.

Fortunately, the high-tech incinerator, completed in May 1998 by Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Company, was designed to accept a

second incinerator unit. However, although the first unit is already working well over its rated maximum capacity of 250 tons of garbage a day, the central government still has not approved funding for the second unit.

"There are some problems with ... the burning process in the incinerator, and that depends on the consistency of the waste. You are gathering all the waste of all the citizens and delivering it to the incinerator. That means that you

have an organic waste component of anywhere from 25% to 60%.

"This organic waste is very difficult to treat in the incinerator. Also, the temperatures in the furnace [are] too low, and the problems of toxins in the flue gas, especially dioxin, are too great.

"The Municipality has asked for funding to install a second incineration system. This is necessary, not only because of the amount of waste – but also because there are certain times when the one line has to be shut down for cleaning.

"This means the plant cannot accept waste for seven weeks a year, every year. During that time, all of the waste has to go to the landfill – and that's not good. For this problem alone, you need a second line.

"Another problem is that you need to sort the waste before you send it to the incinerator. That means you have to separate paper, glass and metals. You [in Phuket] do it already, but not in a very advanced way.

"Of course, all the organic waste needs to be removed too, because that is what is causing all the problems at the moment. It would be much better if the city installed a new separation plant, an advanced high-technology facility, and used the organic waste to generate methane, which could be used as a second source of energy in the incinerator. In this way, the costs of burning waste would be reduced.

"A second benefit would be that you can install a biogas plant and make compost – very good compost normally if the plant goes well – which could be used, for example, at the big hotels on the western beaches, or for green parks in the municipality. You will get income from this as well.

"Waste treatment costs would be reduced across the board by building a new separation plant and a biogas plant," he said, adding that the two environmental experts would examine this issue carefully.

"As to wastewater treatment, you already have an ad-



vanced treatment plant, but you have some problems with salt in the effluent. Because of this, you can't use the treated wastewater as 'gray water'," he said.

Gray water is water that is not suitable for drinking, but is good enough to be used as process water for industry or for watering public parks and other such uses, he explained.

"The target for the wastewater expert will be to reduce the salt content so that the treated wastewater can be used as gray water. This will also reduce the costs of running the wastewater treatment plant," he said.

"The second project for the water expert will be to come up

with new ideas for freshwater supply in the dry season. That means you have to save rainwater during the rainy period to serve as a supply in the dry period. I think he will provide some ideas," he added.

He noted that municipal water supply costs for Phuket City residents are too low to bring about any real conservation effort.

"Citizens don't pay the actual costs of water supply. It has been subsidized by the government so that the cost of the water is less than the actual cost. That will be a problem in terms of using gray water.

"At the moment, people

'All the organic waste needs to be removed too, because that is what is causing all the [incinerator] problems at the moment. It would be much better if the city installed a new separation plant, an advanced high-technology facility, and used the organic waste to generate methane, which could be used as a second source of energy in the incinerator. In this way, the costs of burning waste would be reduced.'

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# ISSUES FOR CITY



In just six weeks, German expert Ulrich Röhren has spotted plenty of environmental and tourism matters that require attention, not least Phuket City's overtaxed garbage incinerator (left).

pay about four baht a cubic meter for freshwater. The gray water will need to be cheaper than this. This is another problem the wastewater treatment expert will look at."

The teams' third field of expertise is tourism management. Phuket City needs this expertise because most foreign tourists who visit are unfamiliar with the attractions the city offers, Mr Röhren said.

"When I first came to Phuket Town, I, like most foreigners, was afraid of getting lost – not being able to find my way back to my hotel.

"Because of this, I had the idea of setting up a system of signposts for foreign tourists walking the city, so they can find their way to interesting attractions ... This is one of the problems that I have been researching for the tourism expert.

"I think this could be used

as an effective public relations tool as well, because you have a lot of very interesting attractions and a very interesting history and heritage in Phuket Town – but [no visitors] know about it," he said.

He also suggested using hotels more effectively as a means of getting information out to tourists.

"When I went to the Old Phuket festival, I met some European tourists. I asked them,

'How did you know that this festival was taking place?' They told me, 'We didn't know about it. We just happened to be in Phuket Town, and then we saw it – that's why we are here.'

"This is an example of why you have to bring in the hotels if you want to improve tourism," he said.

Mr Röhren thinks Phuket City's tourism potential has yet to be fully realized.

"The urban situation in the

"Old Town" around Thalang Rd needs improvement, such as by designating the area as a [permanent] pedestrian mall. I am originally an architect and town planner, so I have a special interest in this type of thing.

"The Old Town, with its Sino-Portuguese architecture, is very interesting – but you have to improve it. There is very good architecture, but it is sometimes destroyed by all the things going on there.

"You could improve it and make it into a very interesting place by renewing the buildings, such as the very good work they have done at the China Inn Café. There is another old house next to it being redone by an Austrian man, and that will be very good when they are finished.

"If more small owners start renewing their houses, it will become more and more attractive. This needs to be supported," he said.

Temples and shrines are other tourism attractions of interest to foreigners, he said.

"Temples are really interesting for Europeans. They might not be so interesting for Thais, because they are used to them. But foreigners are not used to seeing them and would like to see them – if only they could find out where they are.

"I saw a very, very small Chinese Shrine [Sarn Saeng Tham] on Thalang Rd. It's very nice and picturesque, but you can get to it only by passing through a restaurant. You cannot see it from the road.


"Another place of potential interest is Provincial Hall, which is well-known in Europe as the location for filming part of the movie *The Killing Fields*.


"This is a very famous movie in Europe, and a lot of people would like to see where it was filmed – but they will know only if we tell them," he said.

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## Queer News

# Seriously inconvenienced at the 7-Eleven store

CHALONG: Probably the last thing Surasak Tayan expected as he sat drinking cola late one night outside a PTT filling station's 7-Eleven convenience store was that his modest attempt at humorous self-deprecation would be the death of him. But it was.

K. Surasak was frustrated because, at 3:30 am, he couldn't buy a decent drink. Unfortunately, in expressing his disgust thereat, he used terms perhaps too earthy for some – certainly for the man who killed him.

It was a Saturday night in early March. K. Surasak, 26, lived at a construction worker camp next to the PTT station in Tambon Chalong Moo 7.

He and two friends had gone earlier that evening to Nong Joy Karaoke in Moo 10, where they enjoyed themselves until closing time.

Unable to buy another alcoholic drink at the karaoke, they decided to get one from the 7-Eleven next to their camp. When K. Surasak and another friend asked the cashier to ring up a bottle, they were met with a flat refusal, as the current regulation forbids alcohol sales after midnight.

No amount of cajoling had any effect; in the end they bought a single cola and went outside to drink it.

It was at this moment that 22-year-old Trang native Jakrawoot "Mac" Tongrod pulled up on his motorcycle. He had an unidentified friend on the back. They, too, were looking for liquor.

"So, you think you're gonna buy some booze, do you?" muttered K. Surasak. "You may have 10,000 baht or more in your pocket, but the staff here won't sell you a bottle, not for love nor money. No, not even if you're from around here; I am, and they still won't sell me any. So who do you think you are?"

"But if you are able to buy any, buy me some, too. I've got 50 baht."

Here, a short explanation of Thai pronouns is in order: "Goo" is equivalent to the first person singular "I" in English; "meung" to the second person "you"; both words are regarded as vulgar, except between friends. K. Surasak used them freely during his speech.

Jakrawoot, as it happened, didn't regard himself as K. Surasak's friend.

"I'll give you something to drink!" he said. With that, he pulled out a seven-inch knife and plunged it into K. Surasak's chest, severing the aorta. He then coolly withdrew the blade, jumped on his motorbike and sped off toward the Chalong Circle. K.

Surasak ran after him, but then collapsed and died on the spot.

When Chalong police arrived, they found a pool of blood in front of the 7-Eleven's door. About 10 meters off lay K. Surasak's corpse.

Investigation revealed that his assailant had sped to a row of rental flats opposite Chalong Police Station, where his girlfriend lived.

Officers hurried there in pursuit but found only a bloody cigarette butt outside the door. Neighbors said Jakrawoot had picked up his girl and disappeared.

Criminals, they say, always return to the scene of their crimes, and Jakrawoot did.

As police were examining K. Surasak's body, they spotted Jakrawoot driving by, his girlfriend riding pillion. They hailed him to stop.

A search turned up the still bloody murder weapon in his pocket. At the station, he readily confessed to the killing and was charged with premeditated murder.

It was not reported what prompted him to kill K. Surasak, nor whether the two were acquainted. Police offered no explanation as to why they believe the crime – seemingly a result of sudden burst of anger – was "premeditated". Source: *Siang Tai*



## TRASHING Phuket



CHERNG TALAY: These needlessly – and illegally – dumped bags of garbage and their resulting wind-blown mess were photographed at the side of the road leading to the Rydges Amora Beach Hotel, opposite the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization Office and right next to that healthiest of places, the local soccer ground.

Gazette readers are encouraged to send photos, and details of where and when they were taken, to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net), for inclusion in this regular column.



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# Six killed in brutal attack in Deep South

In one of the most brutal attacks yet by insurgents in the Deep South, six people were killed and two injured when militants opened fire on the Tambon Kradoe Administration Office in Pattani's Ma-Yor District.

Four heavily armed men on motorcycles carried out the attack at about 11.40 am. Five people died at the scene while another victim, Assistant Tambon Chief Anurat Isarapongpan, died later in hospital.

"The attack was very cruel. It took place in broad daylight when the office was crowded. The victims were easy targets because they were all in a meeting room," said Ma-Yor District Chief Wirat Prasetto.

Officials tried to fight back, but their weapons were inferior, said K. Wirat. The attackers snatched the victims' weapons before fleeing the scene, he added.

**Temple fair attack:** Two teenage girls were gang-raped by about 30 men at a temple fair site in Bangkok's Thung Khru District, police said.

Witnesses said the girls were abducted by a group of 30 teenagers at about 4 am, after the fair had closed.

The girls, 14 and 15, were gang raped and beaten at a spot near the temple wall. The men went on to threaten female witnesses with rape if they tried to intervene.

A temple fair worker, who asked not to be named, said she was awoken by a girl's cry for help and dialed 191 for help five times, but the line was always busy. After the men fled, she helped rush the victims to hospital. One of the girls was still unconscious the following morning when police went there to investigate.

Police questioned 10 teenage suspects, from whom they took DNA samples to compare with the rapists' semen, found in condoms at the scene.



Contestants in the Miss Thailand Universe beauty pageant pose for a photograph at the Central Sofitel Hotel in Bangkok.

**Combat pay:** In a bid to stop government healthcare workers from switching to the private sector, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) will increase monthly incentive bonuses for 11 categories of healthcare professionals, said the Ministry's acting Permanent Secretary, Dr Pratch Boonyavongviroj.

The bonuses will raise their incomes to between 60% and 80% of their private-sector counterparts.

The maximum incentives for doctors will rise from 13,500 baht for the last fiscal year to 15,000 baht this year. The exact payment amount will be based on workload, proficiency and how far from a city the workplace is.

Health workers in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat will re-

ceive an extra bonus, said Dr Pratch. Medical doctors and dentists who have worked in the three provinces between one to three years will receive an additional 2,200 baht, rising to 5,000 baht in the fourth year, he added.

**Gimme shelters:** To focus attention on stray dog management on Thai beaches, the Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) has launched a four-month project on Si-chang Island, Chon Buri.

The island is home to about 6,000 locals and 540 dogs, 400 of which are strays. The 500,000-baht project will be conducted in collaboration with local authorities and Mahidol University's veterinary science faculty. Goals include implementing an animal

management program; boosting tourism; and promoting community hygiene and public knowledge about animal care.

Activities will include registering all dogs, vaccination, sterilization and setting up a temporary shelter.

"To complete the circle, we'll push local authorities to build shelters as long-term solutions," said TSPCA secretary-general Sawan Saengbunlang.

**Cheap Charlie:** Immigration Police held a press conference to announce the arrest of two foreigners.

Swede Bakken Geir, 53, wanted in a murder case in Norway, was arrested at his home in Chon Buri's Bang Lamung District. He arrived in Thailand in

2002 and ran a restaurant in Pattaya. His residence permit was revoked after it was confirmed that he was wanted in Norway and he will be deported soon, said Immigration Commissioner Lt-General Suwat Thumrongsrisakul.

The other foreigner was suspected cocaine dealer Afdul Dialo, 29, arrested in a sting operation in Bangkok's Wattana District following a tip-off. Although police found only one kilogram of baking soda in his possession, the African, whose nationality was not reported, told police he had sold off his stock of cocaine and was trying to cheat a first-time customer.

Suwat said Dialo would be expelled from the country because his behavior was a threat to society.

**All the young monks:** The Young Monks' Organization of Thailand (YMOT) issued a statement calling for unity among Thai people during the current period of political instability.

The YMOT chairman, Phra Maha Dawit Yossee, called on supporters of the anti-government movement led by Sondhi Limthongkul and Chamlong Srimuang, as well as those of the Thaksin government, urging them to cooperate with each other.

The monk also called on Buddhist monks, novice monks and those studying in all Buddhist universities to take part in a simultaneous Buddhist prayer service across the country on successive Fridays. The official lead prayer will be said at the Emerald Buddha Temple for the first two Fridays.

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

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## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

**T**he severe shortage of labor in the Krabi business community is driving local business owners mad. After the tsunami, much of the labor force moved to Koh Samui, Pattaya and other tourist destinations away from the Andaman Coast, leaving many businesses short-staffed for this high season.

While December and January were lackluster, relative to normal business levels, this 30 days saw a strong surge in trade. However, businesses that were already short-staffed are now suffering from a new labor malady – The Disappearing Worker.

Stories abound of staff who don't even bother to show up for work, or who just walk off the job without explanation during peak hours.

"This is the first time we have been really busy since the tsunami," reports one resort owner, "and the staff have just disappeared." Another, the owner of a popular restaurant who earlier said that this was the worst high season he had seen in 12 years, says, "We are going to collapse," after most of his staff vanished after two busy weeks.

Part of the problem is that staff can easily find work elsewhere, or even be accepted back by former employers who are so

# Where did my workers go?



Business is brisk these days in Ao Nang, but there is a severe shortage of staff to look after visitors.

desperate that they will swallow the usual story about the family buffalo dying, just in order to get a worker back on board.

So when you next overhear a restaurant customer asking, "Where's my salad?" you may also expect an immediate retort from the kitchen – "Where's my staff?"

**Helping hands:** While we don't want to touch the politically charged resettlement issues on Koh Phi Phi Don with a 10-foot pole, it is good to see that others, namely The Asia Foundation, hope to tip the scales of justice slightly more in favor of the poor and dispossessed.

The Asia Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, has more than 50 years' experience

in Asia. With 18 offices throughout the region, last year it provided more than US\$61 million in program support, and distributed 1.1 million books and educational materials worth another US\$28 million. The trustees and officers of the Foundation are political heavyweights – and their programs are far-reaching.

On February 15, the Asia Foundation announced it had received a US\$1.8 million grant from the World Bank to start legal aid services to areas affected by the tsunami in southern Thailand. The Foundation plans to open a Tsunami Legal Aid Referral Center in Krabi Town to offer legal services to people in badly hit areas, focusing on Phang Nga and the Phi Phi Islands.

An introductory meeting

organized by the Foundation to explain the program will be attended by local NGOs, community officials, representatives of the Governor of Krabi's office and the local judiciary.

"We will be targeting Krabi (Koh Phi Phi) and Phang Nga, where there are many difficult cases," said Dr James Klein, the foundation's Thailand Country Representative.

The Foundation is the only international organization addressing the legal issues of land ownership disputes, the identification of assets, and inheritance and legal issues.

In addition to empowering and educating local people about their rights, the Asia Foundation recently allocated one million baht to the Srip hong Phukaoluan

Foundation in Krabi, which supports tsunami orphans in Krabi Province. This money means the Srip hong Phukaoluan Foundation can now sponsor 101 orphans until they reach the age of 18.

More information about the programs of The Asia Foundation can be found at their website on [www.asiafoundation.org](http://www.asiafoundation.org); for information about the work of the Srip hong Phukaoluan Foundation, check the website [www.krabirelief.com](http://www.krabirelief.com)

**Taxing times:** It's that time of year again, and the tax authorities are making their rounds of hotels and restaurants to root out those they think are trying to cheat on their taxes. As with tax systems in most countries, you seem to be guilty until proven innocent – or at least you are treated that way.

Surprise visits will be mounted at the busiest times to ask managers questions such as, "How many tables do you have? What is your normal income? What are your staff levels? Are you are busy like this 12 months a year?" until the revenueurs feel they have enough information to tell you that your reported income levels are too low.

Often, the owner or manager of a business is confronted with the following ultimatum: either increase his income and pay more taxes, or the Revenue Department will estimate what his income is for him – so he can pay even more taxes.

So forget the old tricks of wearing shabby clothes and pleading poverty to the tax collectors – for they know better. They know that we are all millionaires, even after one of the most disastrous seasons ever recorded – during which no tax rebates were offered.

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# Ushering in Lady Pie



Despite the earlier fall of the house of Usher, Susan is back to being upper crust these days.

By Sam Wilkinson

Susan Usher – Phuket's very own "Lady Pie" – first arrived in Phuket in 1993 and has lived here "...on and off ever since." Susan's always been a bit of a pie enthusiast and, "On my frequent return visits to my family in Australia, one of the first things I would do was to have an Aussie pie."

On one of Susan's visits four years ago, her sister – no doubt tired of hearing "Where's the pie?" – bought her a Breville pie-making machine, which Susan brought back to the then-quality-pieless island. At the time, however, one could not buy ready-made pastry, so practicing the art of pastry making became an obsession for her.

"I would read every pastry cookbook I could get my hands on until I mastered the art over a 12-month period. Many people told me it was impossible to make proper puff pastry in a humid climate; I've proved them wrong."

Lady Pie's success has as much to do with the yachties at Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) as Susan's legendary work ethic. "Once I made what I thought was a half-decent pie which I took to ACYC – renowned for it's beer-guzzling Aussie boys – knowing well I would walk away either very happy or with my tail between my legs, as Aussie men tell you the way it is.

"The boys liked the pies so I started making more for them, ourselves and for people who were ordering them through the yacht club. People everywhere were soon asking after my pies, so I started taking regular orders. "By 2004 I had formed an

official company and worked with a full-time employee, Boom, in a small shed next our beachside house in Kamala, serving 15 regular clients. I stopped using the Breville and began production of pallet pies in an oven."

Then the tsunami washed the business into the Andaman Sea.

But anyone who knows Susan would realize that it takes more than a cataclysmic event to stop her. Within two weeks she was back making pies.

"We moved into a house in Kamala with a big kitchen with a salvaged fridge and new equipment. Within two months it was back to normal with a lot of locally-bought equipment including a gas oven in which we can cook up to 50 pies in 15 minutes.

"I received a lot of encouragement from [the people who make] Simple Simon Pie Machines in Sydney. They had picked up my tsunami story from an Australian press article, and collected a full pallet-load of pie-making equipment donations for me – but receiving the goods in Phuket was another story. We set up premises in Cherng Talay in December 2005.

"I am now living my dream, running my own bakery, pie shop and restaurant with a full-time staff of three excellent local girls."

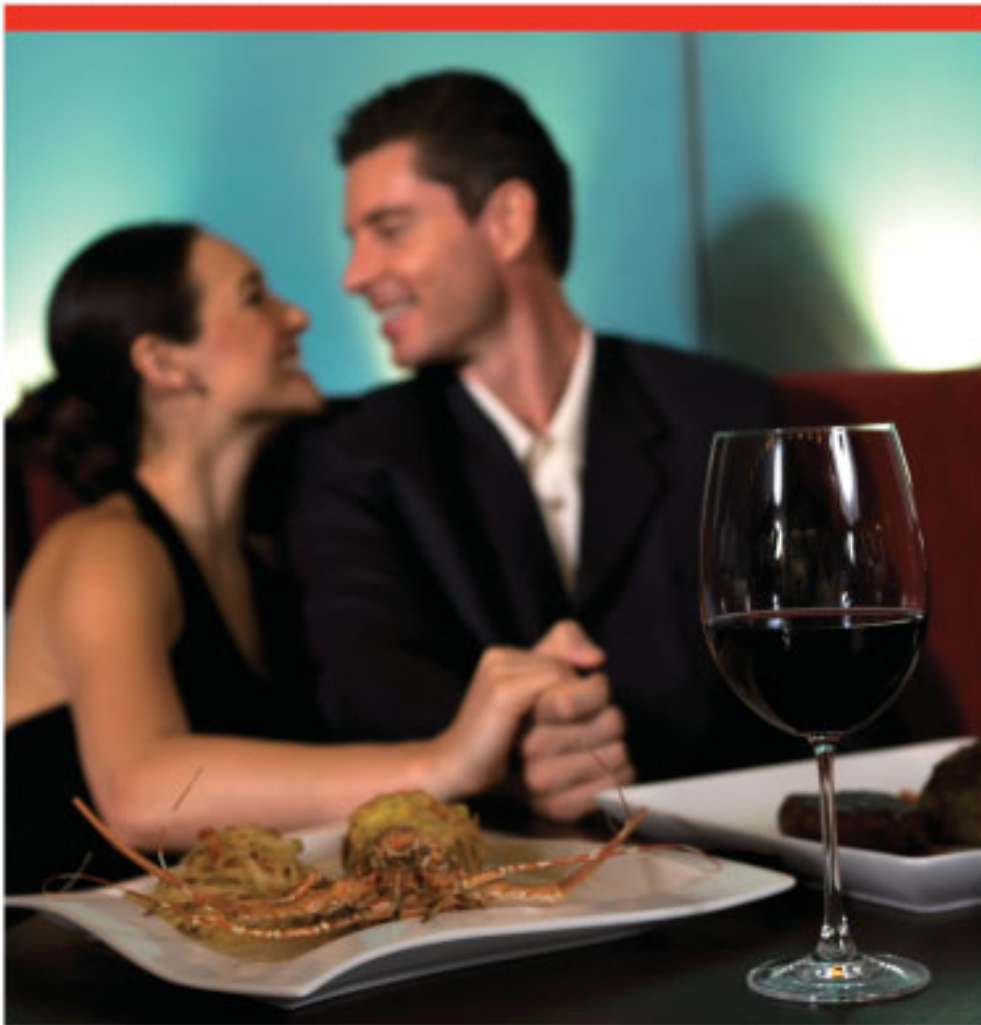
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James Boswell once asked Samuel Johnson, "Then, Sir, what is poetry?", to which Dr Johnson replied, "Why, Sir, it is easier to say what it is not. We all know what light is, but it is not easy to tell what it is."

Light is John Williams's medium. An artist may create with oils or watercolors, a sculptor with a lump of granite, but John takes light and crafts from it moods ranging from serenity to jaw-dropping excitement.

He began, of course, on a much smaller scale.

"I used to mess around with bulbs, batteries and pieces of wire when I was a child. My dad was an electrical engineer, so I could always get my hands on these things."

"It didn't take long before I was helping to do the lighting for school plays, and I suppose that it was then that I fell in love with the fascination of light."

John's first break came when he was introduced to the resident lighting designer of the Bristol Old Vic when the company visited his school.

"He invited me to work at the Old Vic, doing fit-ups at the weekend and as a freelance stage technician. I was so keen to do it; I was only 15, and probably working illegally..."

Legal or not, John's skills

**A cityscape as his canvas:  
John Williams was  
lead designer of Hong Kong's  
*Symphony of Lights*.**

were recognized and his freelance employment with the Old Vic continued until Christmas 1975. He and his father had just completed the fit-up for *Lock Up Your Daughters* at the theater when the follow-spotlight operator left.

"I was asked to take his role for the two-week run of the play, and in the way that these things go, ended up staying longer. Those two weeks turned into 12 years. I was taken on first as a trainee lighting technician. After three or four years I was Head of Lighting."

"I had toyed with the idea of going into film or TV lighting design, but am glad that I didn't; there is a certain excitement associated with live theater, an excitement that is in my blood, that won't go away," he says.

"It also gives me the opportunity to use my skills – albeit in a different way – in architectural and domestic areas, and public events. You don't find many TV or film lighting designers have the chance to do that."

John stayed at the Old Vic, working as a freelance lighting designer, until he moved to Hong Kong in the 1980s.



# LIGHT

"That move was another opportunity that came about by accident. I went out to Hong Kong to light a commercial show for [financial services company] Legal & General in 1986 and fell in love with the place – which surprised me, because I tend not to like large, noisy cities."

"I was at dinner a few

months later with Keith McLaren, a theater consultant from Carr & Angier, who was the consultant for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA). I mentioned how much I loved the city and that I hoped to work there again."

Keith told John that the HKAPA was looking for a new Head of Lighting, which, as John thought, would be a residency lasting just two years.

"Keith let the then-Dean of HKAPA, Richard Berry – who had seen some of my work in the West End – know that I was interested in the position. They flew me out. I had a chat with them with a view to staying for a couple of years and I moved there in 1988. Eighteen years on, I'm still there."

HKAPA, he says, is regarded as the flagship theater academy in Asia. "It is one of the few institutes in the world that has five schools – dance, music, drama, film and television, and technical arts – under one roof."

"The facilities at HKAPA are second to none," says John. "I am very much in the thick of it here, including involvement with theater education. But I still enjoy getting behind a production desk and lighting a show, whether in Asia or back in the West."

He works regularly with the Hong Kong Ballet. A production of Khachaturian's *Spartacus* – "a fantastic production," says John – was just one of his recent commissions.

"I'm fortunate that, in my position, I am able to pick and choose which projects I do these



days, and can light, say, *Peter Pan* for the HK Repertory Company or *Henry VI* for the Stratford Festival Theatre, as I did in Canada a few years ago.

"I still enjoy this working on large and small productions – both ends of the spectrum – of live theater – very much."

John enjoys an ongoing

agreement with Phuket FantaSea to keep the lighting design right up to date. "I really must commend FantaSea for the way they keep their show together."

It is really great for Phuket that it has such a high-quality production."

John puts his considerable skills to work on a much smaller, but equally exciting, level.

"I'm also involved with AVC (Audio Visual Creations) Phuket. Robin [Plant] of AVC and I go back a long way; he attended Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, which was affiliated to the theater company. We kept in touch and that's what led to me becom-



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# FANTASTIC

Expert lighting designer and consultant John A Williams, who began his career with one of England's oldest and most respected theater companies, the Bristol Old Vic, paints on canvases as intimate as some of Phuket's more upmarket homes and as vast as an entire cityscape: *The Symphony of Lights* – on display nightly in Hong Kong Harbour – is the world's largest permanently installed light and sound production. John, who is Dean of Technical Arts of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and a consultant to light-and-sound specialists AVC Phuket, illuminates the *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone as to what sparks his inspiration to flash.

ing involved in the development of lighting in multi-million-baht residential projects in Phuket.

"The architectural and domestic market has exploded in just the past three or four years. Theater lighting designers are turning their talents to the upper-end of the domestic market as well as the larger market, such as hotels, shopping malls or themed-environments."

The list of projects John and AVC have worked on include Sai Tan Villas, The Residence, Surin Hill, Ayara Kamala, Samsara and Keylong on Samui.

"Even the untrained eye will notice a bad lighting design, whether in a theater, a home or an airport terminal. It tends to be painfully obvious from the moment you flick the switch."

Explaining his interest in domestic projects, John says that he enjoys the freedom to "integrate an element of theatricality into a home".

"You can create mood and can create different environments and moods conducive to the use of a particular space at a particular time of day, especially with the controls that we can employ in the domestic market these days," he says.

"Ten years ago, you were lucky to have a dimmer switch and an incandescent lightbulb or fluorescent tube. LED lighting technology, for example, has given us a whole new vehicle to play with."

Careful to not name names and to assert that it is merely a reflex action, John says that he sometimes cringes when he walks into homes, hotels or malls around the world.

"I just can't believe how uninspired the lighting can be. The flipside is that I can walk into some buildings and mouth a quiet

"Wow! I wonder who did this lighting?"

The contrast between John's first experiments with bulbs and batteries and the current state of his art can be no better demonstrated than Hong Kong's *Symphony of Lights*. John was Lead Lighting Designer for Phase 1.

"The *Symphony of Lights* along Victoria Harbour is a two-phase project led by Laservision and currently comprising 33 buildings on both the Kowloon and Hong Kong sides of the harbor," he explains.

"It's synchronized to music, which can be heard on both sides of the waterfront. It's quite a spectacle, and went into the *Guinness Book of Records* on, I think, December 25 last year, as the world's largest permanently installed light-and-sound production."

The show, 16 minutes long and starting each night at 8 pm, tells – through light and metaphor – the tale of Hong Kong through the ages.

"Each of the buildings in the *son et lumière* is a 'character', with lighting themed to the fabric of the building. Some of the buildings, the Bank of China Tower for example, are used very specifically during the show, like a soloist in an recital. We even light

up the Chinese People's Liberation Army Forces Building."

The project took a year of John's life – most of it, he explains, in the evenings and at night.

"We could do the live programming of the show only at night – with 11 pm starts and 5 am finishes – but there were other restrictions too. Because lasers and searchlights are used, we had to open up windows of airspace that aircraft could fly through at particular times – it might have worried airline passengers to fly through a laser beam."

"It was worth the effort. Just to have control of so much light on a cityscape the size of Hong Kong is terribly exciting."

"It's still developing. Each festival – Chinese New Year, Western New Year, Christmas, for example – have other elements added in."

He recalls his first visit to Hong Kong in 1986. "I was staying at the Shangri-La Hotel, and went to open the curtains that the

maid had drawn. I looked out onto the city at night, this fantastic, organic lightscape and said 'Wow! I want to light this city.'

"It was like looking out onto a jewel box, and was actually the first lightscape to cause me such excitement. Of course, I may have wanted to light Hong Kong, but I never thought I'd actually have the chance to do so."

John says he sees himself weaving light for many years to come.

"I'll carry on, living mostly in Asia, but also a few months of each year in Wales, a place I love, before – of course – retiring to Phuket."

"Shorter term, I have been approached to light the Asian Games in Doha at the end of 2006, as well as doing more theater in Canada, hotel and casino projects in Macau... There are still so many things to do."

"You know, one day I'd love to light Shanghai, especially The Bund..."

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By Jonathan Fung

After a wait of years, the Xbox 360 has finally arrived to claim its place as the most powerful gaming console in today's market.

By revolutionizing the concept of a simple gaming console into a multi-purpose machine for all sorts of media, the Xbox 360 brings a concept attractive to both young and old alike.

For 11,400 baht, the cheaper Xbox Core System includes the console, a controller, a default white faceplate – which can be replaced with a range of custom designs, each to be sold separately – and an audio-visual cable.

For another 3,800 baht, the Premium Edition (PE) features a cream-colored shell and, in addition to the standard equipment, a headset, remote and a 20GB hard drive for storing games, music, and other content downloaded from Xbox Live.

This feature allows you to connect online and join a large community of gamers so that you can engage in massive tournaments or in close, personal duels.

The PE also features a wireless controller, handy for avoiding the frustrating entanglement of wires that sometimes occurs with four controllers.

Buying the PE is actually a better deal than buying the Core System as the accessories included in the more expensive package would cost around 7,600 baht in total if bought separately.

Unlike its predecessors and counterparts, the Xbox 360 is not just a gaming machine but also a formidable media hub. Plug a digital camera, a flash card reader, a ThumbDrive or an MP3 player into the Xbox 360's USB port, and if it's compatible with a Windows PC, you'll have plug-and-play access to browse your photos and play your music.

Digital media on your home network are similarly accessible through Microsoft's free-download Windows Media Connect software, and the 360 will be able to stream music and photos from the remote PC.

In addition to that, the 360 is also a CD-DVD player, allowing you to rip CDs straight to the

# Revolution in entertainment: The Xbox 360



Players pop sweat, left, in *NBA 2K6* while, below, left, the dawn glints off hyperrealistic cars in *Need For Speed*, just two of the games for the Xbox 360



360's hard drive to use as soundtracks for any 360 game.

Yet this is just a sample of the extra goodies that come with the Xbox 360. Top-notch Dolby digital audio, triple 3.2GHz processing cores and the latest ATI graphics processor that pumps out 500 million triangles a second promises to provide gamers with a revolutionary gaming experience.

The urban landscapes are amazingly lifelike and the supercars are depicted so realistically that you can almost smell the exhaust fumes and burning rubber as they dart over a dead-on creation of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Taking it from the streets to the battlefields of Europe in WWII, *Call of Duty 2* provides the most intense firefights.

ing due to the seemingly limitless possibilities offered by the Xbox 360.

We will probably have to wait a year or so until we have a clear picture of the 360's full capabilities.

*Jonathan Fung is a Year 13 student at the British Curriculum International School, Phuket.*



Clockwise from above: Seahorse from Swarovski, B4,500; Chameleon from Spice, B1,199; Angel fish from Swarovski, B4,500; Cluster from Spice, B1,990; Scarab from Spice, B2,599; Flowers and ribbons, also from Spice, B6,990.



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# PIN points

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

**B**rooches are an easy way to stamp your personality onto otherwise non-adventurous shirts, cardigans and jackets. Some people even affix brooches on their purses, just to give them that special *je ne sais quoi*.

Prices can range from the very cheap to as much as 6,000 baht. But where are the best places in Phuket to break into the world of brooches?

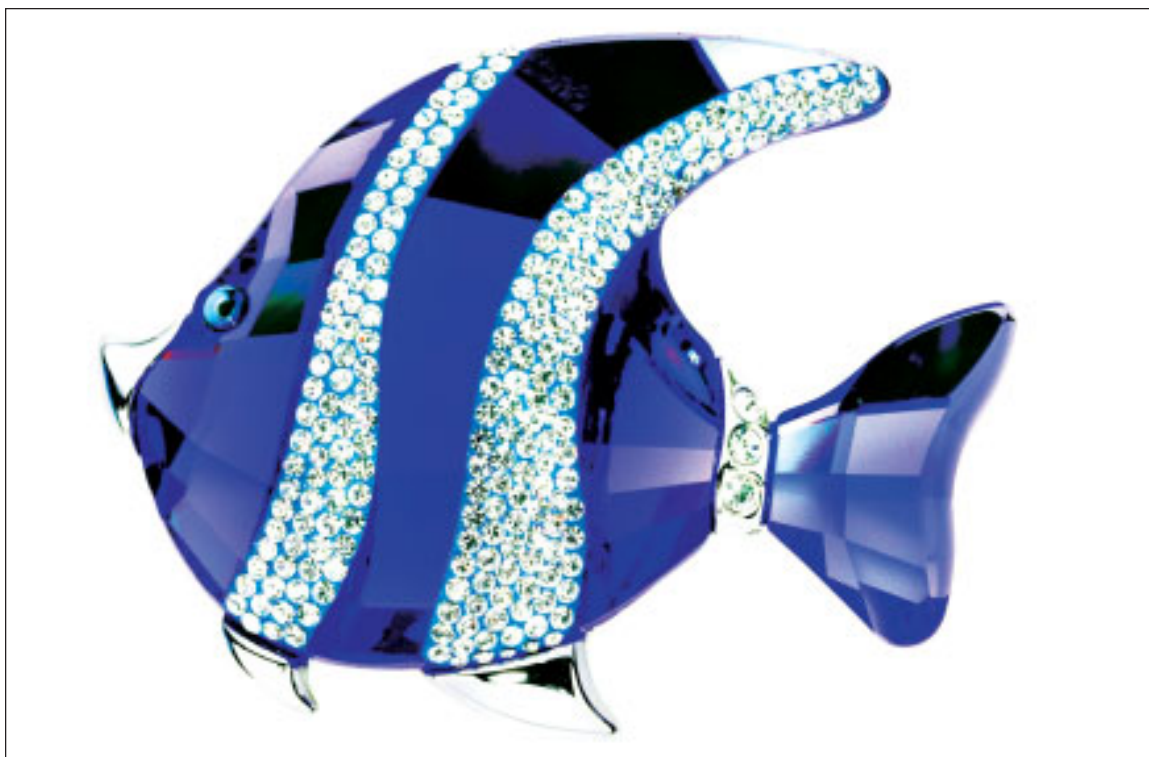
The Swarovski store, on the first floor at Central Festival Phuket, stocks an abundance of brooches such as the aptly-named purple Abundance brooch at 4,600 baht.

Marine themes abound, with the fish-shaped Colina brooch at 4,500 baht and the Celaya brooch in the form of a seahorse at 4,500 baht

Spice, on the third floor at Central Festival Phuket, and on the first floor at Ocean Shopping Mall Phuket (near Robinson in Phuket City) deals in brooches of all shapes and sizes.

"We sell brooches imported from Korea and we also deal in Thai-made brooches. Our crystal brooches are top quality and will last for a long time," claims Nithakan Tangsakul, Spice's owner.

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## This week



**THE FAIR WAY:** (From left) Chomporn Thongdee and Dollatham Thaingam of the Phuket Chapter of the Red Cross receive a donation of secondhand bed linen, cutlery, towels and other household goods from Blue Canyon Public Relations Executive Sunawan Suksabai (in white shirt) and other Blue Canyon staff.



**TO SIR WITH LOVE:** Satree Phuket School students mob teacher Wittawat Pahon with thanks and tie *sai sin* – blessed white string – around his wrists for good luck, during the school's post-graduation celebrations.



**AQUARIUS:** Royal Phuket City Hotel General Manager Ian Taylor Woodward (right) receives an Environment Certificate from Elless Co Ltd Managing Director Johan Nilsson after the successful installation of Elless water-saving devices in all the hotel's guest rooms.



**BLOOD WORKS:** Anthony Loh (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), General Manager of Laguna Service Co Ltd, which provides services and maintains common areas at Laguna Phuket, leads a blood donation drive by Laguna Phuket management team and staff that resulted in 57 units, or 25,650cc, of blood being donated to the Vachira Phuket Hospital Blood Bank.



**SPORT SUPPORT:** Former Ajax soccer player Tony Perdon (blue shirt) and his friends from Ireland, Joe and Margaret McNally (rear, center), donate sports equipments to 150 students from Kamala Prachanukroh 36 School, Baan Kalim School and Baan Sai Nam Yen School in Patong.



**SEVENTH HEAVEN:** Pimchanok Thongpa (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Accounts Executive of Studio Line Agency Co Ltd, congratulates (from left) Sales Director Chaivivat Tantipat, General Manager Nisai Ngansathil and Executive Director Sahaphat Ngansathil of Ssangyong dealer TBV Auto Service Co Ltd at the Phuket launch of the seven-seater Ssangyong Stavic sedan.



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# TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

**M**ilford Sound is one of the most pristine places in the world. And the wettest. Tucked into the top part of New Zealand's Fiordland National Park, which occupies much of the southwest coast, Milford Sound is also one of the country's most awe-inspiring attractions.

Mitre Peak, at a height of 1,692 meters, is one of the tallest in the world to soar straight up from the ocean floor. The fiord – 16 kilometers long – plunges 450 meters to the bottom at its deepest point.

The trees in the surrounding rain forest grow on rock, drawing their sustenance from water and sunlight alone.

For those who want to share in the magic, there are a couple of options beside hoofing it along one of the tracks recommended by National Park officials.

Flying is the most thrilling mode of transport, in a biplane for choice, with the wind whistling through the struts, and the mountains and waterfalls posing prettily for the camera. It is, of course, the more costly option, but the seating arrangement – in front of the pilot – affords a panorama that is second to none.

Most visitors opt for a cruise on one of Milford Sound's distinctive "Red Boats", cutting through the clear waters past sights that have changed little since the days when Captain James Cook first sailed the *Endeavour* past the fiord in 1770.

Immediately after the cruise ship pulls away from the pier, the sound of Bowen Falls, crashing down the mountainside, gives a foretaste of what is to come.

At the base of the waterfalls, Cemetery Point juts out into



Milford Sound can be visited by air (above) or aboard one of the Red Boats that cruise up the fiord. Either way, the sights are just plain stunning.

A less grisly prospect awaits at Whisky Falls, which spurt far enough out over the Sound for ships to pass underneath them. Skippers usually invite passengers to take a glass with them to the stern and fill it up with pure water that would be the envy of Perrier or Evian.

The hapless passengers, with their glasses held aloft, always get more than they bargain for – a full-on shower as well as a drink.

The wildlife that thrives in

Milford Sound is one of the high points of any cruise. Seal Point is named after the Southern Fur Seals that flop up onto the rocks. Year-round inhabitants, they are not camera-shy but are wary of boats approaching too near for a closer look. The advice for photographers is to carry a long lens and shoot quickly.

Rarer, and infinitely more beautiful, dolphins can make a showing and often play up to the audience, jumping in and out of the wake and circling the ship, truly innocent and fortunate residents of an aquatic paradise. Penguins are the third member of a happy trio of photogenic fauna.

Even in a storm, Milford is nothing short of spectacular, making it one of the few places on Earth that is actually better in the rain than when the sun is out.



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Mom Tri's Gung Thai-Japanese Inspired Cuisine on Kata Beach offers casual beach-side dining. The menu is essentially Japanese but with a unique Thai twist. Tel: 076-330-015



## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

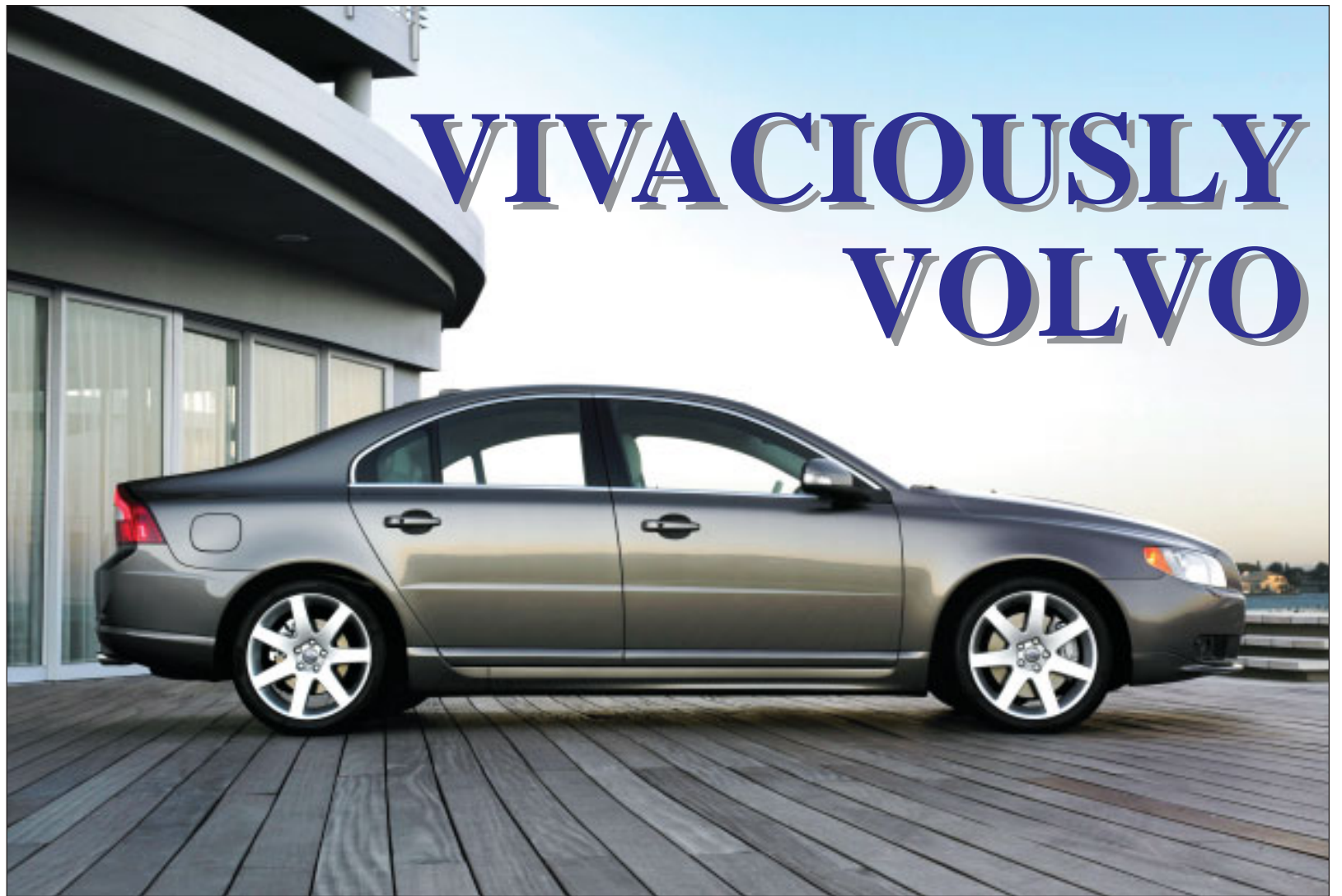
**B**efore a pedantic reader sends me an irritated email pointing out that the model shown is nothing like the car described – such people exist, believe me – let me state here and now that the Volvo built in Thailand is a “CKD” model.

That means it is assembled in Thailand from a kit with some locally-produced parts. The one depicted on this page is the new-for-2006 S80 model that was launched recently in Geneva.

The locally-built S80 D5 is a state-of-the-art luxury sedan that uses diesel technology, producing excellent fuel economy as well as low emissions. Volvo Thailand says the car can take you from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and back on a single tank of fuel. Impressive.

The lightweight aluminum, five-cylinder engine delivers 163bhp (120kW) at 4,000rpm, but it is the massive torque that sets this motor apart. Produced between 1,740rpm and 3,000rpm, its maximum is a train-pulling 340 Nm. Top speed is a sedate 210 kmh, but acceleration from rest to the magic 100kmh takes just 10 seconds. On the road the S80 feels relaxed and effortless, though, thanks to the huge reserves of torque.

Unusually for such a large sedan, the S80 is front-wheel drive, but the adaptive five-speed automatic transmission masks any potential torque-steer effect on hard acceleration. The braking system incorporates electronic brake-force distribution (EBD) as well as anti-lock braking, and



The new Volvo S80: Bangkok to Chiangmai and back on a single tank of gas, and at speeds up to 210 kmh.

traction control is also standard equipment.

As you might expect in a car at this level, the S80 is comprehensively equipped throughout. Leather upholstery, folding rear seats in a 60:40 split, powered driver's seat with three memory settings, dual front airbags, side airbags, full-length air curtain; the list goes on.

Volvo is part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group, along with Land Rover, Aston Martin and Jaguar. The iconic Swedish manufacturer is, however, the most profitable division of the beleaguered US automaker.

Its line-up contains some of the best vehicles in their respective categories, including the Fo-

cus-based S40, the superb XC90 SUV and the latest addition, the beautiful C70 coupé.

The C70 – more of which in a future column – was originally a joint creation between Tom Walkinshaw in the UK and Volvo Sweden, intended to be built at Walkinshaw's facility in Uddevalla, outside Gothenburg in the west of Sweden.

When Walkinshaw went bust (along with the Arrows F1 team), Volvo, in conjunction with Pininfarina of Italy, took over the remnants. The result is the exquisite C70.

Volvo was born in 1927 in Gothenburg, and its first car was nicknamed “Jakob” for some reason. The basic concept had been

formulated from 1924 onwards by the two men behind the company – Assar Gabrielsson and Gustaf Larson. Gabrielsson was the businessman, and Larson the engineer.

Their first car, officially known as ÖV4, was based on an American design with long leaf springs, front and rear.

It was powered by a 28hp four-cylinder engine and could reach a heady 90kmh, although Volvo recommended a cruising speed of a more modest 60kmh. Sales were a little slow in the first year, with just 297 cars sold.

But back to the S80 – the car available here in Thailand. Originally designed by Peter Horbury, who is now one of Ford's

top design gurus, the S80 uses the same platform as the smaller S60, but is a full-sized luxury sedan.

It compares well with others in its class, although it is probably not up there with Mercedes-Benz and BMW. It is, however, less expensive, and its diesel engine is certainly ahead of the rest.

It is also one of safest cars around – a feature of all Volvos. The S80 was nominated “No 1 Car That Can Save Your Life” by a US consumer magazine in 2002.

Launched first in 1998, the S80 has received a long list of awards from around the world.

This luxury Volvo is definitely a model worthy of consideration, for many reasons, and that frugal diesel engine simply adds to its appeal.

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

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## Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

When Hans Stark came to Phuket several months ago on a diving trip, he was already tired of working in Northern Europe.

The temptation of taking up employment in tropical Phuket was too much to resist and he gladly agreed to become chef at Chao Khun restaurant in Rawai.

"Like Harry Kaufmann [the owner of Chao Khun] I enjoy preparing classical dishes from Europe, but with a twist," explains Hans.

The chilled gazpacho soup is ideal for Phuket's climate and looks attractive with its stuffed tomato and decorations.

Beef Stroganoff has been given the unusual addition of a deep-fried beetroot.

As well as fine dining in the evenings, Chao Khun restaurant also offers a great value breakfast buffet – all you can eat for 120 baht.

### Gazpacho Soup To serve two

#### Ingredients

##### For the red soup:

3 tomatoes;  
1 large garlic clove;  
½ tablespoon breadcrumbs;  
Fresh rosemary leaves from 1 stalk;  
Salt and pepper to taste.

##### For the green soup:

2 medium-sized cucumbers, peeled and with seeds removed;  
1 pinch fresh dill leaves;  
1 pinch fresh lemon balm leaves;  
Salt and pepper to taste.

1 slice of smoked salmon;  
A few deep-fried glass noodles;  
3 stalks of fresh basil leaves;  
2 large peeled tomatoes, with the tops cut off and insides scooped out;  
½ yellow bell pepper, diced;  
½ red bell pepper, diced;  
1 small courgette, cut into julienne pieces;  
½ small leek, chopped finely.

#### Method

Prepare the soups by blending each set of ingredients well, then chill separately in the fridge for



Main picture: Beef Stroganoff with deep-fried beetroot; above left, Hans Stark (left) and restaurant owner Harry Kaufmann; above right, gazpacho.

# Classics with a twist

two hours before serving. Bake the tomatoes for four-five minutes in an oven heated to 250°F (120°C). When they have cooled, mix the bell pepper pieces, courgette pieces and chopped leek together and fill the tomato shells with the mixture.

Place the tomato lid on top of each and insert a stalk of basil leaves.

To serve, carefully put a serving of green soup and a serving of red soup onto each plate and put the stuffed tomato in the middle.

The green side should be decorated with strips of smoked salmon and the red side with some glass noodles.

### Beef Stroganoff To serve two

#### Ingredients

½ large onion, diced;

300g tenderloin beef, cut into bite-sized pieces;  
1 large gherkin, finely sliced;  
1 small cooked beetroot, julienned;  
½ glass red wine;  
3 tablespoons beef stock;  
2 cups whipping cream;  
1 tablespoon brandy;  
Salt and pepper to taste;  
1 tablespoon butter;  
A pinch of fresh chopped parsley;  
1 large boiled beetroot;

Flour;  
1 beaten egg;  
Salt and pepper.

#### Method

Season the pieces of beef with salt and pepper. Heat the butter in a skillet and fry the beef until the pieces have sealed.

Remove from the pan and then fry the onion, gherkin and beetroot julienne.

Add the red wine after a couple of minutes and reduce.

Then stir in the beef stock, cream, salt and pepper. Simmer for a further three to four minutes. Remove from the heat and add the brandy.

Put the beef back into the pan and cook on a medium heat for about two minutes.

Roll the boiled beetroot in flour, salt and pepper and then coat with the beaten egg and deep-fry until it is golden brown. Cut into halves.

Put the stroganoff onto plates with a beetroot half and sprinkle with the fresh parsley. Serve with Pommes Carées.

### Pommes Carées To serve two

#### Ingredients

2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into ½ inch cubes;  
½ cup small cauliflower florets;  
½ cup julienned courgette;  
½ cup small florets of Romanesco (a cross between broccoli and cauliflower);  
3 asparagus stalks, chopped about 2 centimeters long;  
1 tablespoon finely chopped onion;  
A pinch of fresh chopped parsley;  
1 small stalk of leek, finely chopped;  
Salt and pepper to taste.

#### Method

Heat some oil in a pan and cook the potato cubes slowly until they have slightly browned.

Add the other vegetables and season. Stir-fry for a further four to five minutes.

*Chao Khun restaurant, Moo 1, 39/23 Wiset Rd, Rawai. Tel: 09-2883623 Open daily except Sundays, from 7:30 am to 11:30 am and from 6 pm to 10:30 pm.*

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## PHUKET DIARY

**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" Sattiansri, owner of Min Black & White Darkroom in Bangkok. Admission is free.

For more information, call K. Suthat at Tel: 01-6893492 or Phuket Thai Hua School at 076-234-480.

**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 fair is 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 Vendors' 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 1- May 31: Art exhibition.**

YART! Gallery at the Crowne Plaza, Karon Beach, is mounting its second art exhibition, titled *Fantasie*, which will showcase a combination of surrealist and impressionist works by Thailand's finest artists.

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge.

For more information contact Cheryl Ho by email to: chexis@gmail.com

**April 6: Chakri Day, public 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, public 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.

**April 14-26: Phuket Bike Week.**

Phuket Bike Week 2006 will be held from April 12-16.

The Grand Dinner by Ride Thailand and the Phuket Riders Club will be on April 14 at Thai

Naan Restaurant, opposite Central Festival Phuket.

Tickets are for sale at 300 baht each and include dinner, a show and competitions.

Seating is limited and early bookings are recommended.

There will be an OTOP market party on April 14-15.

See the event website at [www.phuketbikeweek.com](http://www.phuketbikeweek.com) or visit [www.ridethailand.com](http://www.ridethailand.com) for more information

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

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

Twenty teams from nine countries that have confirmed they will take part this year.

Rainbow Warriors from South Africa, last year's cham-

pions, 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.

**Patong bank burgled: third time**

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

PATONG: Thieves punched a hole in the rear wall of the Union Bank of Bangkok's Patong branch, next to the Thara Beach Resort, and absconded with the safe. Bank officials did not reveal how much was stolen.

The burglary took place between closing time on February 3 and opening on the 4th. Remarkably, two guards were posted, one in front and one at the rear, when the robbery occurred.

There was no indication that

the guards were being investigated as suspects.

Branch Manager Kriangsak Somboon said it was the third time his branch had been robbed.

After the first incident, the bank's safe was found on a mountain. The second time, the thieves came in through the roof.

There was speculation that the robberies were inside jobs.

K. Kriangsak told reporters that the bank was insured against theft.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

**Scarecrows scotch spirits in malevolent 'ma' year**

*From the Phuket Gazette, issue of March 15-31, 2001*

PHUKET: It's a bad year for people born in "Ma" years, according to a highly respected fortune-teller.

He has warned that those born in *Ma Seng*, *Ma Rong*, *Ma Mia* or *Ma Mae* – the years of the Snake, Dragon, Horse and Goat respectively – will be at the mercy of perilously bad luck throughout this year.

To counter this ill-luck, all some villagers in Tambon Saku, Thalung, have put scarecrows in front of their houses.

Hanging from the neck of each scarecrow is a white poster with a message in blood-red ink, which reads, "This house has no unconscious people or anyone born in a *Ma* year."

Apparently the evil spirits, though intelligent enough to be able to read, are not bright enough to see through this simple ruse.

Wichai Sinsamoot, a 26-year-old local, told the *Gazette* how his typhoid-stricken mother, born in a *Ma* year, had recovered miraculously from a bout of typhoid.

Before he heard about the *Ma* year problem, her condition was deteriorating and she was facing the prospect of being moved to a hospital.


Then Wichai, following the *mor doo*'s strictures, put a scarecrow in front of his house. Hung around its neck was a somewhat tongue-in-cheek poster reading "This house has no one who was born in a *Ma* year. There is only Mama and Wai-Wai."

Shortly afterwards, his mother recovered sufficiently that, although she is still bedridden, there is no longer any question of her being carted off to hospital.


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**Do Not Drink Tap Water!**



Puzzles

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 20 words that go with the word “chair”. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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

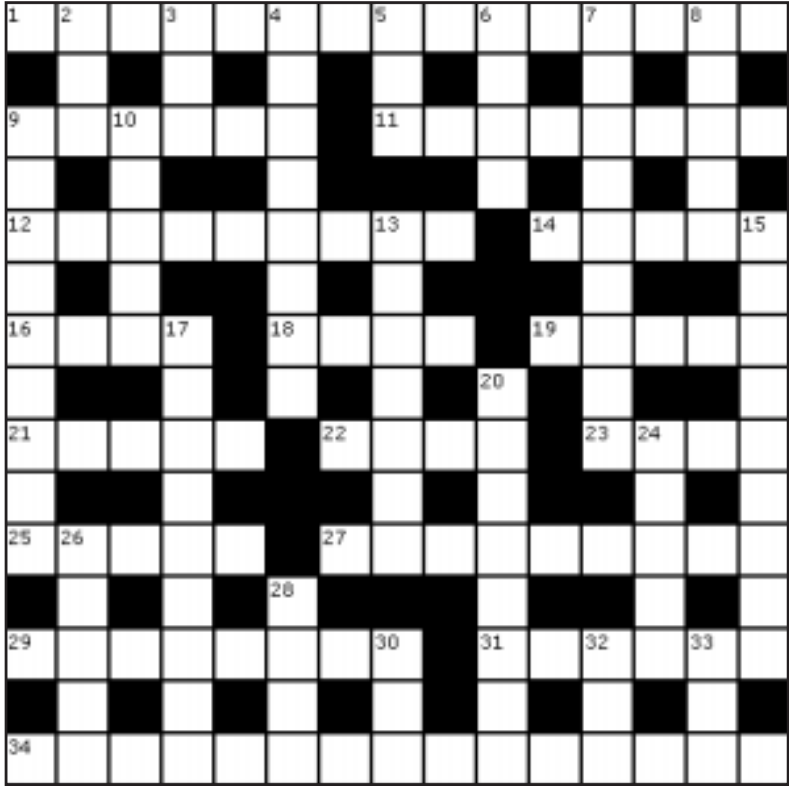
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Tour trio lenient about dangerous stuff. (15)
9. Ideal country for you to go with Pia. (6)
10. Initial bit of acid. (8)
12. Shoe cleaner very dark after kick. (9)
14. Get bored of rubber items. (5)
16. Final piece of cobbler’s gear. (4)
18. Negative? Ah! Ham, sire. (4)
19. Sorceress is almost round. (5)
21. Company support snake. (5)
22. Only a small lake. (22)
23. A tidy way to drink. (4)
25. Stitched seed out West. (5)
27. Equation for courtyard with rat in charge? (9)
29. Send king, maybe, from vacation. (8)
31. Inherent pub consumed. (6)
34. Need for glasses spotted in proximity. (15)

DOWN

2. Nonsense decay. (3)
3. Sleep at card game? (3)
4. Falling behind and a bit ill,



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

- I’m in Trang. (8)
5. Even truncated, fowl is still a bird. (3)
6. Eject nothing, you saint! (4)
7. British weather after Ian becomes another national-ity. (9)
8. I take nose out to make a sound. (5)
9. 49 and 99 in hesitation, and transport navel. (9)
10. Open up doors to admit
- smells. (5)
13. Hat for fellow on French water. (7)
15. Half glasses – quite a sight. (9)
17. Odysseus’s counselor on rock? He gives one hell. (9)
20. Time limit expired at boundary. (8)
24. Not entirely extraordinary actor. (5)
26. Ragged eastern flower. (5)
28. I take little Labrador back to Phuket rival. (4)
30. Had up code dash. (3)
32. Zero in convent? (3)
33. Sit-up? It’s archaic! (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the brand of facial tissues made by Kimberly-Clark?
2. Who invented dynamite?
3. Who recorded the soundtrack to the movie *Purple Rain*?
4. Which country’s national flag bears the shape of two triangles?
5. Which explorer was the first European to reach the Hawaiian islands?
6. Which is the world’s largest bird?
7. Who is remembered for first proposing that the Earth and other planets revolve around the Sun?
8. Arachnophobia is the fear of what?
9. What German brand of vehicle translates as “the people’s car”?
10. Who wrote *Gulliver’s Travels*?
- Answers on next page

sudoku

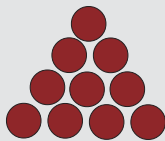
Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

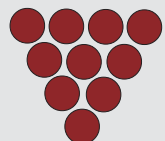
Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each “box” of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.

Brain Buster!

Take 10 coins and arrange them in a triangle like this:

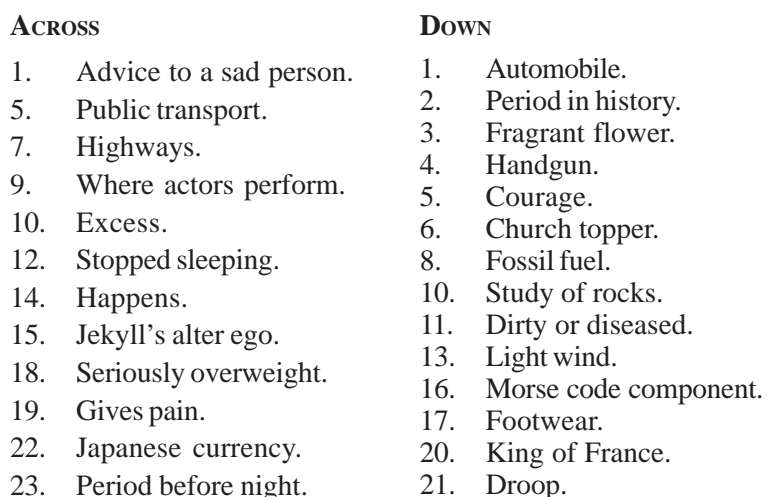


Can you reverse the triangle by moving just three coins?



Answer on next page.





*Answers below, right*

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



# Huck Finn in Laos

In a previous novel reviewed in this column, *Thirty-Three Teeth*, Colin Cotterill used humor in a detective thriller set in newly communist Laos. In *Pool and its Role in Asian Communism* (Asia Books, Bangkok, 2005, 301pp), he pulls out all the comic stops in a riotous satire on all things American.

The book moves, improbably enough, from a lugubrious loser in depressed factory town in Indiana via a foul-mouthed Lao sprite to the wilds of Laos and the tracking down of a child-smuggling ring. It is a farce of high order, told at a furious pace, with a half dozen laugh-lines per page.

The unnamed narrator has a homely, ungrammatical Huck Finn style of diction, replete with all kinds of sly jokes and country aphorisms. The novel opens with a preface: "I'm telling you this story on account of it being personal... I don't say I can tell it as good as it should be told, and I ain't gonna win one of them No Bell Prizes, 'less they got a special section for books that ain't got no grammar in them..."

"I'll try to make it sound like a real story – you know, throw in a few jokes and make you feel like you was there, too. Excuse me if I run out of skill from time to time, but I'm new at all this. Here goes."

The amazing bit about this literary ventriloquism is that Colin Cotterill is English. But he pulls off this folksy American narrative voice without a flaw (well, one mistake – it's not a wireless, it's a radio). He also illustrates the book. He is a credit to his race.

The agility of narrative voice makes the plot turn on a dime, wander off on a joke, and churn up countless surprises. The book opens in Mattville, Indiana, a one-factory town where everyone works at Roundley's Pool and Billiard Ball Company.

Waldo Monk, 65 years old, is two months away from retirement as Quality Control Officer. He weighs somewhere north of 300 pounds. He is a friendless black man in a town of stupid white men. A widower, he returns to his squalid room each night to talk to his long-dead wife Aretha.

Assigned to replace him as Quality Control Officer is Saifon, a tiny, feisty, foul-mouthed Lao woman of 23. She was abducted at age nine to the US as a sex slave, escaped, and spent the rest of her time in orphanages, foster homes and factories.

Waldo discovers that she is moonlighting as a nightclub singer – an utterly talentless one – and

this leads to an emotional attachment between them. With his retirement money, he decides to accompany Saifon to Laos to track down the ringleaders of the gang that smuggled her into America.

Waldo and Saifon land at Don Muang in 1970, a pair of innocents abroad, unaware of the CIA's secret war in Laos.

"Now you gotta hand it to them CIA guys, hiding a whole frigging war for nine years... It sure didn't get to Waldo and Saifon's ears. They thought they was perfectly safe. They thought there was two fat-ass countries between them and the war. But they was heading straight for it. Exciting or what?"

Waldo and Saifon wind up in Suwannakhet in a bubbling cauldron of CIA agents, drug traders, people smugglers, Thai mafia, Royalist soldiers and Pathet Lao guerrillas. The fast-paced chase carries on through Mukdahan and back down to Bangkok.

Like *Huckleberry Finn*, which this novel resembles, the story goes on for a couple of chapters too long, replete with a great deal of sentimentality. Over the next couple of decades in Laos, Saifon turns into Mother Teresa and Waldo into Sidney Poitier.

It could have ended with, "So I guess the only mystery left is who the hell I am. You know what? I decided that ain't none of your business, so I ain't gonna tell you. The end."

But no, the author's identity is revealed and we are treated to a five-page sentimental ending. This does not obscure the gritty reality and wild hilarity of the rest of the book, however. It is a must-read.

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



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If your birthday falls during the coming days, but you can't summon up enough energy to celebrate in the heat, make sure that those close to you understand this. Someone would like to use your birthday as a reason for partying hard. Your best days for reaching agreements of any kind are Tuesday and Wednesday. Before then, misunderstandings are likely to brew. Wear jade to encourage wisdom.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If you are frustrated by lack of progress in your life, you should stir things up a bit. The stars are on your side this week if you want to kick-start people who appear to have stopped in their tracks. The chances of long-distance love will also improve if you communicate your feelings more clearly. The number 9 is lucky next Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Single Geminis have all the right moves this week to impress a particular person. Those already in a relationship should ensure that a spot of harmless flirtation doesn't send out the wrong signals. Recent financial hiccups are soothed by a surprise cash boost mid-week. Aries has some good advice regarding investments, but Pisces and Leo don't have the necessary experience. Wear cherry red to raise energy levels.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): If you have been living in an argumentative atmosphere this month, then the only answer to this unfortunate situation is to take a break from it all. The prickly moods of everyone concerned will magically ease, leaving the chances of reconciliation much higher. There is a good chance that you will soon realize that one relationship is going nowhere fast. Make any permanent breaks as painless as possible.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You have the chance to take an arrogant person down a peg or two this weekend. You are advised to consider your words carefully before doing so as there are signs that future business dealings could involve the two of you having to communicate in a reasonable fashion. Where love is concerned, Scorpio reveals hidden depths on Sunday. If you have been reluctant to commit, this could change fast.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Harmony prevails on the home front as long as you are prepared to keep certain points of view to yourself. Enthusiasm for a recently begun project wanes as you don't get the support you expected. Understanding the reasons for this will help you to gain a more realistic perspective. If you're learning new skills, Capricorn is the ideal teacher and would appreciate being asked for help. The number 4 is lucky on Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Dreams early next week hold the key to a personal dilemma. If you have been back-pedaling regarding this matter, you will be forced to take a stand by the end of March. Remember that there's no future in the past so prepare to move on. Finances continue to be well-starred, but don't give in to expensive temptations when out shopping this weekend. The scent of magnolia will enhance your appeal to others.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Your fuse grows longer as the week progresses. Patience is never your strongest characteristic, but meditating on a lesson learned earlier this month should show you that playing the waiting game can reap rewards. If Aquarius has been sending out mixed signals, send a tactful message that this is unacceptable. Thursday is the best day for mixing business with pleasure. The color sky blue helps you set your sights higher.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): The wind of change blows strongly for you early this week. After a fairly non-eventful weekend you will be surprised by the speed of events from Monday onward. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for making a meaningful romantic gesture. Expect to be on the receiving end of some jealousy from Aquarius regarding a successful business move. Splashing out on a new wardrobe will get you noticed in the right places.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): You should contain your enthusiasm this weekend; not everyone will be equally animated by news received on Saturday. You should wait before committing money to a new scheme, no matter how sound it seems. April will be a more auspicious month for signing on the dotted line. Another Capricorn has started to see you in a romantic light; you will be surprised when you discover who this is.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Money starts to flow more freely for you, but there's no sense in vacating your bank account too quickly. The atmosphere at work will become hard to take by Wednesday; don't allow Scorpio to offload responsibilities onto you. Luckily, an affair of the heart provides a welcome diversion. The color ivory encourages calmness.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your intentions could be misunderstood this Sunday. If you want to try to help a friend in need, then take a few steps back and assess the situation again. A chance meeting with an old flame causes you to rethink a decision made in the heat of the moment. Don't sell yourself short where money making talents are concerned; there's a good chance that you're onto a winner. The number 5 is lucky next Thursday.

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## Time to get it sorted

The *Gazette* applauds the views of Ulrich Röhren, who leads a team of German consultants brought in by Phuket City Municipality to advise on wastewater and garbage management, and tourism promotion. [see Inside Story, pp 4-5]

Almost immediately after arriving, Mr Röhren homed in on garbage separation as a priority. Current garbage separation methods, he said politely, are carried out, but "not in a very advanced way".

He got that right. The only formal garbage separation is done at the Saphan Hin incinerator. Apart from that there are informal practitioners, such as staff on garbage trucks, who extract bottles that they know they can resell, and rag-pickers – who often leave the garbage that does not interest them strewn all over the roadside.

Garbage is a serious and ever-worsening problem in Phuket, which is why the *Gazette* this week launches a new series, "Trashing Phuket" (see page 6) that highlights some of the more squalid examples of civic irresponsibility by inhabitants of the island. Readers are encouraged to send us photographs and details of other examples they come across.

The island sorely needs a campaign of public education to encourage civic responsibility, along with stinging punishments for those caught dumping garbage in places they shouldn't.

Phuket City seems to be very serious about environmental matters, but its reach extends only as far as the city limits. Outside those boundaries, it's still all too often a case of "anything goes". Our MPs have never distinguished themselves on environmental issues, such as by pushing for source reduction and amending unsustainable packaging laws. There also appears to be a lack of will on the part of the Bangkok-appointed authorities or the elected Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) to do anything to address environmental issues.

The *Gazette* has already questioned the wisdom of spending tens of millions of baht on the Phuket Gateway. Those who pass through this magnificent piece of hubris will very soon afterward come upon trash piled up near beaches and garbage blowing across roads.

Providing garbage separation facilities and enforcing their use is not difficult; it's been done effectively in many countries for decades.

Yet, so far, attempts by our leaders to introduce the public to garbage separation have been pathetic. A few months ago, the *OrBorJor* began urging citizens to separate "dry" garbage from "wet", taking the dry refuse to their local tambon offices (*OrBorTor*). When the *Gazette* checked, however, no *OrBorTor* had been informed of this initiative. It died a well-deserved death. – **The Editor**

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In association with **The Nation Multimedia Group PCL**

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## Letters

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

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

### The dangers of generalizing

When I was President of the Dive Operators Club of Thailand, we set up a program to teach Thai nationals to become dive-masters. This program was free of charge.

Over four years, we trained 71 Thais to become divemasters, all of whom received their licenses after a four-month course. Of these 71, as far as I know, only nine still work in the dive industry, with five of them having become instructors.

The remainder have returned to their jobs and towns from which they came, despite having signed an agreement to work in the industry with a good salary in exchange for the free tuition. Dive companies gave up their free time and resources to teach in this program. If anyone would like the names, addresses and occupations of these 71 individuals, they can contact me.

Nivit Aroonrat, Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*), comments [*Gazette* March 11 Page 1: Dive operators face tax probe] that Thai owners are merely proxies may be true in some cases, but is a dangerous generalization which can hurt relationships. I can speak only for our own company, where my business partner enjoys a good lifestyle through hard work. I employ only Thai divemasters, who speak excellent English and who receive exactly the same pay as foreigners.

On a lighter note, I think someone at the *Gazette* has got their information skewed. In a recent article, your correspondent said that she completed a dive instructor course five years ago

and then gained divemaster accreditation three years later. Impossible! You must first gain divemaster status first and then proceed to instructor level, regardless of which diving organization you belong to.

Alistair Beveridge  
Sea King Divers Co Ltd

### Who shall guide the guides?

I was astonished by what Panomphol Thummachartniyom, President of the Phuket Professional Guide Association (PPGA) said in your February 25 issue. I would invite K. Panomphol to ask the many tour operators in Phuket why they hire foreign tour guides instead of having Thai nationals. K. Panomphol should also note the experience my wife and I had two months ago.

We went on a speedboat tour to the Similan Islands with 12 tourists on board – two English, six Germans and four Koreans. While the four Koreans were looked after by a Korean guide (because the company could not find a Korean-speaking Thai guide I was told), the Germans were looked after by a qualified German-speaking Thai guide.

My wife and I (from England) had a nice time on the island[s], as did the Koreans. When the time came to leave, it was clear to me and my wife that the qualified Thai German-speaking guide was distressed and the Germans quite angry with him. I asked if I could help. To my surprise, it came out that the Thai guide could speak few words of German and could understand very little. He was giving most of

the information in English, even though the Germans could not understand it.

It transpired that during the trip the Germans had made many efforts to direct questions to the guide in their language, but none of them was given a reasonable reply. "The guide was speaking in what it seemed like garbled German sentences," they said. I asked the guide why he ventured out as German-speaking tour guide and his answer was, "If I declare that I am only English speaking, I get less money". Considering that they paid 3,500 baht each for the trip, it came as no surprise that the Germans decided not to use that particular tour operator's services again.

In England, tour guides must be fluent in foreign languages. They undergo a thorough assessment made by the employer before starting the job and foreigners are welcomed to replace them without fuss.

Is K. Panomphol truthfully able to assess the knowledge of foreign languages among his colleagues? My wife and I do not understand why there is such discrimination towards foreign workers. On many occasions we have come across Thais plainly not up to the job, but it was explained to us that Thai laws are extremely tight about foreign workers [taking jobs from Thais]. Our impression is that the existing regulations regarding foreign workers are wrong: they are tailored for Thais – not for market needs.

We see foreign workers as the solution for Phuket and not the problem, because there is an island-wide lack of skilled staff.

Paul Saunter  
Canterbury, England

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



# All is not well in Baan Manik

## FIRST PERSON

I knew nothing about the plans to lay this pipeline until six months ago, when I read about it in a newspaper report. As soon as I learned about the project, I called a meeting so that an officer from the PIO could explain the project to all eight village headmen in Tambon Srisoonthorn.

The PIO should have consulted me about this project; they should not have even started it without consulting me. They should not overlook the importance of the local peoples' opinion because we have a right to know about what is going to happen in our area. I am sure there are some locals who still do not know about it.

All I know is that the PIO has signed a contract with the owner of the Manik tin mine lagoon to draw water from the lagoon for three years, and that the PIO has started digging a 1.2-meter-deep trench for the pipeline.

My understanding is that the PIO will pay four baht per liter for water from the Manik lagoon to be used for irrigation only, but I think it will not work because it is too expensive.

Apparently the PIO's current proposed restriction on pumping water out of the lagoons is that if the water level falls to only 50 centimeters deep, then they will stop pumping water out until the water level is restored.

There are 300 households, home to 1,500 people, in Tambon Srisoonthorn, and most of the locals get their water from their own wells. I have spoken

In anticipation of a record 5 million visitors to Phuket in 2006, a figure that will add to the strain on the island's already ever-overstretched water supply, Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura earlier this year urged the Phuket Irrigation Office (PIO) and the Phuket Waterworks Office (PWO) to come up with solutions to Phuket's chronic water shortage problems.

As a short-term measure, especially as the dry season takes hold in the coming months, the offices proposed to draw water from private tin mine lagoons in Baan Manik, Thalang, to supplement a government-owned supply reservoir in Kathu.

On January 10 the Cabinet approved a 66-million-baht budget to complete the project, which is scheduled for completion in June.

However, Thaweesak Sodraksa, President of Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), the municipality responsible for the Baan Manik area, says that the pipeline was news to him – literally. He first learned about the project by reading a news article.

Here, K. Thaweesak explains how little the local people have been involved in the development of the project, and how they now fear that the pipeline may leave their own wells dry.



with some residents about this project, and they are worried about it. They are afraid that if water is pumped out from the lagoons, then their own wells may run dry.

I do not agree that a pipe should be laid from Baan Manik to Koh Kaew, but we have no choice unless there is enough support from the local community to stop it from going ahead. If there

is enough support, then we can file a protest.

I understand that the pipe is needed as a short-term solution for ensuring there is enough water for homes and for tourists during the dry season.

But if this project causes residents problems, then we will take steps to stop it. I will collect locals names in order to form a petition against this project.

Tambon Srisoonthorn does not have problems with water shortages because it is not one of the main tourist destinations in Phuket.

We have plans to provide "general use" mains water to all homes throughout Tambon Srisoonthorn, and we have requested 19 million baht from the Department of Water Resources to carry out this project.

The PIO, however, should make sure that local people also benefit from the project, such as by connecting the pipe to homes in Baan Manik that still do not have mains water supply.

In the meantime, I have received more than 1.5 million baht to build large water reservoirs for six villages to collect water. I expect that they will be finished by the end of this year.

## Letters

### A big 'thank you' to helpful hosts

I would like to say a huge "thank you" to the Holiday Inn and its management for the generosity and the kindness that they have recently shown to Barbara, my wife, and Victoria, my daughter.

Barbara and Victoria were staying at the hotel at the end of January when Victoria began to have problems with her pregnancy. She was taken to hospital and was told that it was too risky for her and the unborn baby to return to the UK.

Because of their situation, the Holiday Inn kindly let them both stay at the hotel until we were able to sort matters out.

My wife and daughter have been at the hotel ever since and have been assisted in so many ways by the staff, including help and advice with visas.

My daughter has been allowed to return from hospital and is now at the hotel. She is expected to have her child in three to four weeks time.

It is at times like this that people need support and I think the Holiday Inn and its management have excelled in all areas and deserve a huge "thank you" for what they have done and are doing.

I came over for two weeks to do what I could, but had to return to the UK for business reasons. I feel they are both in very good hands, both at the hospital and especially at the hotel.

David Moseley

### Unfair to Khao Lak

I recently spent a few days in Phuket before taking a holiday in the now-recovered and very beautiful Khao Lak.

While in Phuket I was disturbed to hear representatives at tour desks in Phuket tell tourists that there is very little accommodation in Khao Lak and that it has not recovered yet [from the tsunami].

This is a dishonest tactic and very unfair. Is the TAT aware that these reps appear not to

know that Khao Lak is open for much-needed tourists?

Khao Lak has much to offer tourists, and tourists, in turn, have much to offer Khao Lak. A simple visit will show that the restaurants, bars and beachside bungalows are all brand new and are of a very high standard. Please don't forget Khao Lak.

Stuart Davie  
Darwin

### Pedigrees are not always chums

How it irks me to see for sale of an assortment of pedigree dogs. I am sure this is done for monetary reasons most of the time and not for the sake of the mother or the actual joy of breeding.

It is beyond comprehension that this should be on an island with so many homeless dogs.

There will of course be the argument that pedigree dogs are easier to train and are better with children and so on, but this is not the case, in my experience.

I have recently rescued a young starving dog from the side of the road, and brought her back to good health. Lots of love now has her completely house trained, sitting, staying and barking only on command.

She loves children and cats, adores a ride in the car and a day at the beach and hasn't an iota of nastiness in her. After all, as with humans, we are a product of our environment.

Pedigree is no assurance of a good dog or one that is lacking bad traits. Perhaps this letter will make just one person think twice before buying some designer dog. Here's hoping ...

Kamala Resident

### Positive feedback

In response to the recent letter regarding the shortage of A-negative blood in Phuket's hospitals, I would like to relate my experience.

My blood type is A-negative and I have been a blood donor in the UK for many years. I visit Phuket three times a year

and read the recent letter in the *Gazette* about the shortage of this blood in Phuket's hospitals; I plan to donate each time from now on. For other tourists interested in donating, this is the advice I received from Peter Davidson at Phuket International Hospital:

"Dear Sir. Thank you for your kind offer to donate blood. Phuket International Hospital maintains a blood donors' database for residents here in Phuket, which gives us immediate access to potential donors. More information can be obtained from <http://www.phuket-inter-hospital.co.th/blooddonor.htm>

"Generally, only long-stay potential donors are added to the list. During your trip in June, if you still want to donate, please contact the Red Cross Blood Bank directly, which is located at Vachira Hospital in Phuket City on the third floor. You should not need to make an appointment, just turn up, provide your details and they will collect the donation immediately."

Name and address supplied



Some people think that any writer who uses a pen name is a coward and a wanker. But there are several good reasons for using a pen name, and being a coward and a wanker is one of the best.

If you wanted to attack a tyrannical government, a fanatical religious group or a local mafia in the letters column of a newspaper, you'd have to be pretty stupid to use your own name. You'd be much safer if you made up an authentic-sounding pen name with a little pizzazz to it, like Alasdair Forbes.

Many famous writers have used pen names. Mary Ann Evans, for instance, lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was hard for women to get published. So she wrote under the pen name George Eliot.

That was a bad career move for Mary Ann, because it enabled her to publish stupefyingly boring novels like *Silas Marner*, *Adam Bede* and *The Mill on the Floss*, which were largely responsible for turning me into a youthful alcoholic when an English major at college in the late '50s.

In Mary Ann's case, adopting a pen name caused the world a great deal of suffering. My fellow English majors and I would have been eternally grateful if she had shot herself instead.

But then there was William Shakespeare. That was the pen name of Joan of Arc, who would never have been published otherwise, because she was (a) a woman, (b) French, and (c) illiterate. The irony that



By S. TSOW

Joan wrote some of the greatest works of English literature while battling the English army will not be lost on those deluded literary critics who persist in attributing Shakespeare's work to Francis Bacon.

There was also Mark Twain. That was the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. As a youth, little Sam must have endured unending torment from his fellow urchins once they found out his middle name. "Hey, Langhorne! Come out and play, Langhorne! Nyaah, nyaah, nyaah!"

Langhorne had a dorky name, and if you've got a dorky name, the smartest thing you can do is either (a) get it legally changed or (b) adopt a pen name.

It is the dorky name factor that is responsible for the names of many of the greatest movie stars. Marion Morrison was a beefy hulk who became famous for being tough. He got tough by beating up the people who taunted him about his name. Eventually he changed it to John Wayne.

Other movie stars changed their

# IN PRAISE OF PEN NAMES

names because they were long and unpronounceable. That's how Issur Danielovich got to be Kirk Douglas.

But some people have the courage to stick to their real names, no matter how long and unpronounceable they may be. That's why former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, for instance, did not change his name to Zig Brown. It's also why Arnold Schwarzenegger kept his real name, even though at one time his producers made him change it to (are you ready for this?) Arnold Strong.

So pen names are the way to go if you are a coward, a wanker or have a dorky name. There is also the spelling factor. A friend of mine, James Eckardt, is a writer who is cursed with a surname that everybody misspells. Eckhart, Eckhardt, Eckhard, and even Ekart are among the variations I have seen.

Jim could save himself a lot of grief (and also beef up his tatty image) if he called himself Jim Hard. That's a manly

name that would easily secure him a number of lucrative book contracts, not to mention a host of intimate encounters with lust-crazed female writing groupies, preferably youthful ones with large bazongas.

To clinch my case, I too use a pen name. After giving the matter much thought, I rejected such inspiring possibilities as Solomon Slime, Vermyn Carrion, Randy Outlander, Recyc Fodder, Bill ZeBub, Achilles Heel, Deja Voo, Morton Vindaloo and Fleming Essoule.

I finally settled on S Tsow, which is infinitely more interesting than my real name, which is so dorky you don't even want to know.

The initial "S" conveys an air of mystery. People wonder what it stands for. Well, I'm not going to tell you. (*It stands for "Stupid". - Ed.*)

S Tsow, whose real name is Sodom N Gomorrah (No! I'm lying! It's Jim Hard!), can be flamed at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com)

part from detailing the openings, closings, comings and goings, prices and staffing of bars across Fun Town for a variety of local newspapers, I have also been privy to a host of wonderful tales.

These usually involve foreign male visitors doing silly things, most with the aim of winning the heart of a lady of easy virtue. I call these vignettes. Here is another sprinkling of them.

**GETTING LAID IN STONE:** A friend facetiously suggested he'd like to go into business in Thailand, and his son suggested a good idea would be foundation stones for new buildings – particularly those financed by foreigners. A more permanent reminder than a simple plaque, a foundation stone could be laid by all the foreigners financing the construction of a house for their true love.

My friend has been unable

## Tales from the Crib, Part II

to come up with a generic form of dedication to be inscribed on the stone. I think it should be something simple like, "To commemorate the turning of the first sod by this clod, Horst G. Ullible, on this day, April 1."

**OPERATION REJUVENATION:** Most of us have joked about bar girls telling gullible foreign boyfriends tales of woe involving accidents and illnesses suffered by sundry family members and animals, especially the water buffalo.

One man related the story of how his girlfriend had mentioned that her family buffalo was feeling poorly and that she needed funds to get the vet in to heal the beast. Not being the type who just arrived on the last-baht bus, he told her he wanted to go and

check out the piteous quadruped for himself.

Together they traveled back to her home village, where the methane gas-emitting bovine was indeed looking down in the mouth. Satisfied, he handed over a couple of thousand baht so the buffalo doctor could restore the family's pride and joy to full health.

**CHAMBER LAID:** A young English visitor who hails from a place called Ham in Surrey booked into a mid-range sleeping palace in central Pattaya, and had his rather heavy suitcase conveniently lugged to his room by one of the chambermaids.

After entering the room and depositing the bag, she turned to the man from Ham and reached between his legs in what, in most



By Duncan Stearn

countries, would be deemed a fairly forward gesture between two people who'd only just met.

He readily agreed to her offer of a little lip service. Some 500 baht lighter and with a load off his mind, he recounted the tale to his traveling companion, who was occupying another room.

"But she's a katoey," his pal stated, matter-of-factly. It appears that the Englishman failed to notice "she" was more than a little Ham-fisted.

**SCHOOL OF THE AIR:** My friend Ray brought a new CD player with AM/FM radio tuner from Australia and presented it to his girlfriend.

After her initial burst of delight at having received this piece of technology, she frowned, turned to Ray and said, "Thank you, but this no good for here."

"What do you mean?" asked a befuddled Ray.

"Have FM radio, but can only play Australian song," she declared, matter-of-factly.

Ray plugged the device into a power point, turned it on and flicked through the dials until he came upon a Thai radio station.

Hearing Thai voices and music, his girlfriend's eyes lit up in the manner of a person who believes her paramour is imbued with qualities not normally assigned to mere mortals – especially *farang*. She believed he had been able to convert the AM/FM tuner so it could receive Thai music instead of Australian.

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# Good legs and bizarre beliefs

**Er, that's it?** "In central Patong a good pair of legs and an ability to walk will get you to most areas." (1)

Not quite: "Phuket's hotels and beaches have remained busy and at night Soi Bangla is looking crowded – but it could be an illusion? Some bar owners have observed that the modern tourist couple tends to walk around gawping at what is on offer (rather than drinking themselves into oblivion).

"This makes the streets look busy but in reality there is not much spending going on. I think these owners must be in a minority because what I see are a lot of bars packed to capacity right up to 3am closing time." (2)

**Stuporstitious?** Here's a list of Thai beliefs visitors would do well to follow if they wish to avoid crooked mouths and swollen eyes, not to mention lost digits:

1. Don't whistle at night because you will invite ghosts into your house.
2. Don't let women eat chicken feet because they will have an affair.
3. Do not let pregnant women whistle because her baby will have a crooked mouth.
4. Do not allow an adult pay respect to a child (wai) because that child will have a shortened life.
5. Do not joke while you are eating because the ghost will steal your rice.
6. Do not cover your head when you go to a temple because this will make you bald.
7. Do not sharpen a knife at night time because you will offend the angels.
8. Do not look at naked people. Your eyes will swell.
9. Do not have sexual intercourse on holy days (*wan phra*) because bad things will happen.
10. Do not let the bride and the groom meet three days before the wedding because their marriage will not last.
11. Do not smile while sowing corn because it won't grow.
12. Do not stand in a doorway because a ghost will enter the house.
13. Do not sew at night because the ghost will haunt you. (3)

**The Power of Positive Thinking:** "About 3am, Noi took a break from the guitar and told us about his bad motorcycle accident the year before, when the 'coconut tree' had 'jumped' in front of

## OUTSIDE

IN  
By Lis Kinswoman

Outside In is Lis Kinswoman's weekly look at what people say on the Internet about Phuket and the Andaman region.

Refreshing, brutal, comical, witty er... any other adjectives, anyone?

his motorcycle late one night...he smiled as he told us to look at how well his face had healed [about 1/2 of Noi's head was a tad lopsided, but we all readily agreed that they had put him back together well.]" (4)

**You'll never drink alone:** "On the way to Khao Lak, we stopped at a minimart for our morning cup of coffee. They do things a bit differently here – instead of brewed coffee, you buy a little package that contains two paper cups and two packs each of sugar, Coffee Mate and Nescafé instant coffee. (The hot water is free.) Why two cups? Thais are a sociable people who don't like eating or drinking alone. Hence enough for you and a friend.(5)

- (1) [phuket.baronbonk.com/](http://phuket.baronbonk.com/)
- (2) [phuket.baronbonk.com/patong\\_beach\\_music\\_bars\\_gogo.shtml](http://phuket.baronbonk.com/patong_beach_music_bars_gogo.shtml)
- (3) [www.thai-blogs.com/](http://www.thai-blogs.com/)
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- (5) [www.sptimes.com/2005/01/13/news\\_pf/Blogs/In\\_this\\_thing\\_determ.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/01/13/news_pf/Blogs/In_this_thing_determ.shtml)



Koh Maphrao, off Phuket City, is the latest to be 'discovered' by developers and investors.

# Islands in the dream

People are buying islands near Phuket. I didn't know that you could buy islands in Phang Nga Bay; I thought it was national park and therefore all the islands were also part of the park, but it turns you can buy islands; or at least bits of islands.

The concept of having a house on a small island is probably not for everybody. People who hate boats, beaches, sunshine and palm trees are probably not ideally suited for island life. They tend to live happily in a dingy street in London or Sydney and rarely venture further than their workplace or local pub.

I've always thought that staying on a small island would be a bit like living on a boat. Imagine the scene: you come home late at night with a few sherbets under your belt, then you can't start the dinghy's motor (if it's still there) and you eventually tip the boat over, falling over the side trying to recover yourself without your mobile, wallet and keys all finishing up in the drink.

Then a freak wave throws the dinghy back at you and your leg gets cut open on the propeller blade anon anon. Very exotic. Not.

Anyway there are some who believe that a market for houses on small islands exists in Thailand.

According to Andrew How-

ard, Marketing Director for The Village – Coconut Island, which is on Koh Maphrao – the interest focuses on investing in holiday homes that can be rented out as part of a resort.

The good news is that you won't have to rely on your rubber dinghy to get to these projects; they have a 24-hour boat service, and in the case of one luxury project in the pipeline, a helicopter will be at the beck and call of owners and guests.

"Anyway," says Andrew, "Koh Maphrao is only 300 meters off the coast of Phuket and takes just 90 seconds to get from the island to the private pier on Phuket."

This island will have all sorts of facilities, very much like island resorts in The Grenadines in the Caribbean, with plenty of water sports, restaurants and pubs, shops and health clubs.

"Many people like the idea of living on an island," says Andrew, "especially if its close to the mainland. It's peaceful and security is good, and it's going to stay pretty much unspoilt."

He's probably right. There's not likely to be a motorcycle repair shop opening up next door or a karaoke bar to assault the

senses. Although you'd have to keep a close watch on the karaoke situation, I've run into a few Westerners lately who think that karaoke in its current form is an acceptable form of entertainment.

It probably is for some, but I've got no interest at all in listening to inebriated patrons destroying good songs and producing noises that would set off melancholy howling from every dog within earshot.

That's off the subject a bit, but it's important. Karaoke clearly is popular with many executives in Asian countries, but the mind boggles at the idea of being trapped on an island with a bunch of karaoke types.

It should be hoped that any developments taking place on the islands in Phang Nga Bay and Krabi will be tasteful and inconspicuous.

This is a unique area of the world and the authorities need to be careful that it is primarily kept for all to enjoy, and that we do not see too many islands with exclusive developments inaccessible to everyone except a privileged few.

Preserving the national parks of Thailand is to preserve the long-term future for all to enjoy.

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

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## ON THE MOVE

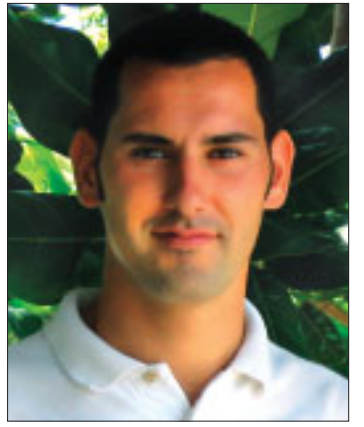
**Theera Kanjana**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Resident Manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. K. Theera is a Marriott veteran and has been with the company for over 30 years. His wide experience has been garnered from working in Marriott International properties worldwide, including postings in the US, South Korea and Guam.



Phuket native **Saichon Yathip**, 28, has been appointed Guest Service Manager at Arahmas Resort & Spa, Phuket. She holds a degree in social sciences from the Prince of Songkhla University, Patani Campus. K. Saichon previously worked at real estate agent Knight Frank and at TwinPalms Phuket Resort & Spa, also as Guest Service Supervisor.



**Christian "Jimmy" Karl**, 24, from Germany, has been appointed Culinary Executive of the Sri Panwa Project, Charn Is-sara Residence. He studied in Brussels then gained a culinary diploma in Switzerland before working in France and in London.



# At last, the Internet works

Remember the days when you had to install software, manage upgrades to new versions, back up your servers, handle hard disk crashes and generally have someone on call 24-hours a day for software and hardware emergencies?

You are probably thinking, "What are you talking about? That's my life today." That's because, for most users, software is still a huge, expensive, distracting headache.

When I started my first company, this is exactly how I felt – and it was a software company. I couldn't imagine how a home or casual business user could deal with that sort of mess.

Think about some of the applications you use on the Web. Have you ever heard people say, "My hard disk crashed! I will never be able to find out my bank balance from online banking!" Or, "I have to remember to run a backup for my Internet bookstore so I don't lose all my favorite book listings." I don't think so.

Well, here's some good news: The same approach to running software that makes your online bank or bookseller so hassle-free is now available to individuals and businesses for everyday applications.

As a user, you are actually

the person best positioned to take advantage of this oncoming wave of technology: Web-based applications.

You may have heard of these new-style applications, sometimes described as Application Service Providers or ASPs, On-Demand Applications, or Hosted Software. All those terms mean the same thing – your application vendor hosts and maintains the software, and the hardware to run it, so that you don't have to.

The types of applications available using this approach run the gamut from pure business applications to group calendars, human resources, workflow applications and specialized applications for different industries.

Some applications that use substantial resources on the PC, such as 3D modeling programs, are still on the way – but with faster networking technology even those types of programs will join this trend.

What all Web-based applications have in common is that to use them requires only a Web browser, which means you can tap into them anywhere and anytime you have access to the Internet, just as you can with your online bank or bookstore.

The application vendor handles the thorny details of op-



The use of Web-based software is growing swiftly.

erating the database, backing up the data, and managing upgrades. In addition, many of these applications are available by subscription – so instead of large up-front payments, you pay by the month, or for the amount you use.

But do these applications have all the features of their packaged software ancestors? Sometimes, but not always. However, vendors who are delivering applications in this manner are

able to improve their offerings very rapidly.

Because they don't have to deal with the hassles of multiple versions and operating systems they can also support you more easily because the customer support reps can see exactly what you are seeing without worrying about which patch you have.

The Web access to these applications is a boon for geographically diverse modern companies; employees all over the country, or world, can share the same data "on demand".

After experiencing the disastrous problems of managing software in a small business, I

decided my next company would use Web-based applications.

I work on a day-to-day basis with companies that have made the transition and have seen nothing short of amazing improvements in their overall efficiency.

We have a customer who lost his whole office in the tsunami, yet the very next day his applications were up and running and his data was intact.

This is because Web-based application vendors have secure data centers like those used by big companies. They have the backup and high-speed connections, along with extensive Internet security protection systems, all of which are far beyond the reach of a typical small business.

It will be some time yet before you can completely get out of the business of backups, operating system upgrades and incompatible hardware.

But if using a Web-based application can save you significant time and hassle in dealing with software, you will have more time for tailoring the application to your needs, training yourself and your employees on using it or cutting out early to go jogging on the beach at sunset.

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



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# Alliance seen as boost to villa rentals

By Chris Husted

KOH KAEW: The opening of the Property Service Centre at the CB Richard Ellis offices on Thepkasattri Rd on March 10 marked the launch of an informal "preferred partner" alliance between property management firm CBRE, online vacation accommodation bookings agent MyAsianVilla, international law firm Johnson Stokes & Master (JSM) and architects and designers RMJM.

CBRE Phuket Sales Manager Charlotte Filleul explained, "It's all property-based services. There should be advantages and benefits for all of us. CBRE may have buyers who want to refit the kitchen in their home [for example], and we certainly have buyers who need legal advice.

"We also have people come to us for villa rentals or to list their property for rent. We can offer them the opportunity not only to list their property with CBRE but also to list it on the MyAsianVilla portal, which will give it more exposure and, presumably, give them a higher return on their rental."

Ms Filleul said that the arrangement with MyAsianVilla (MAV) gives CBRE access to a booming market in high-end villa rentals. "What we want [to do] with MAV is look at the real high end of the market, to have real luxury, four-or-five-bedroom, US\$1,000-2,000-a-night homes for rent," she said.

"The reason we're moving forward with MAV is because we believe that this is where the market is going.



New signage on the CBRE office highlights the property agency's new partners.

"Phuket in the past has mainly been resort-based, but if you compare it with the Spanish market, or elsewhere in the Mediterranean market, what happened there is that people started building hotels and resorts, then people started building semi-permanent residences and holiday homes, and then you got this whole new market of villa rentals.

"Rather than coming on vacation and booking your family or friends into separate hotel rooms at great expense, you can rent one five-bedroom home. You can have more privacy, better value

for money and possibly more luxury, and that's not something you can do without high-end villas.

"With all the new high-end villas now becoming available on the market, many people are buying them with a view to making a rental return on them because they don't intend to live in them full-time. They want to come and use them for a few weeks a year themselves, but when they're not using them they want to make a rental return on them," Ms Filleul explained.

MAV General Manager Khanitha "Pook" Jaukirati con-

firmed that the CBRE managed properties, including units at the Plantation, Baan Chai Nam and Layan Estate, expanded the portal's database to 60 properties.

"Our main target is villa rentals. Although some of our bookings are for just a single night, most of our clients are looking to rent [for periods of] one to three months," she said.

MAV aims squarely at the high-end tourist rental market, with rentals including hotel rooms in top-end resorts at US\$1,000 a night and condos and apartments, such as at the Allamanda, at US\$95 a night. "Regardless of the rental period, we focus on offering properties with hotel-level service," K. Pook explained.

Ms Filleul said that the decision to include MyAsianVilla in the center as opposed to other online booking firms was partly a matter of convenience, as some CBRE Directors were already investors in the online bookings company, giving it the advantage of having an established relationship with CBRE.

However, Ms Filleul was quick to point out that simply because MyAsianVilla had preferred status as a source of bookings did not mean that it was an exclusive opportunity. Nor was this the case for JSM and RMJM.

Confirming that listing CBRE properties is not an exclusive arrangement, K. Pook said, "We are already working with the Sheraton [Grande Laguna Phuket], Phuket Pavilions, Sri Panwa and the Pimalai Resort. And although MAV's current focus is on Phuket prop-

erties, we are also working with Samui Villas & Homes."

She added that MAV is looking to also include properties in Hua Hin and Pattaya.

Ms Filleul pointed out that the current property boom is also, somewhat ironically, partly responsible for the surge in demand for high-end villa rentals. "A lot of people looking to rent here are involved in the property industry in some way, and that's why they're looking to relocate here and why they're looking for rentals.

They may want to rent here while they're looking to buy, so we may have a spin-off from the property purchase.

"Even developers looking to site a new project rent properties while they're looking into starting their developments," she said.

Ms Filleul estimated that up to about 20% of CBRE's confirmed buyers rented homes while deciding on a property to buy in Phuket.

**MAV General Manager Khanitha Jaukirati: Looking to include properties in Pattaya and Hua Hin.**



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See pages 44 and 45.**



Politicians, in general, are a dubious breed. In this instance, I refer firstly to the US variety and how they have gone out of their way to damage relationships between Washington and a key ally for short-term political gain.

This is against the background of Dubai Ports World's successful bid for British shipping group, P&O, which "controls" terminals in six American ports. The term "controls" is not an exact definition as P&O actually manages these terminals but is subject to supervision by both the US Customs and the local port authority.

The deal between Dubai Ports World and P&O was scrutinized by US authorities and was approved. Even the US Attorney General could find no problem.

Dubai is a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key US ally in the Middle East. Dubai's geographical position is vital to US interests. US naval ships operating in the region routinely have their overhauls and refits in UAE ports, which is, obviously, much more efficient than having to return ships to the US for this purpose.

US politicians had apparently ignored this transaction, which, in any case, had the blessing of the Bush administration. After all, many foreign companies have "control" over US terminals, including companies from Singapore and China.

Suddenly, however, the politicians, many of whom are facing mid-term elections in November this year, realized the political spin that this "control" situation could offer them. Politicians of both political parties suddenly discovered "homeland security" and, voting in Congress on a resolution to block the deal, defeated the administration by a substantial margin.

President George W Bush is not exactly popular, so both political parties are equally happy to bash any of his policies, good or bad, especially when they can wave the Stars and Stripes and talk long and sincerely about their concern for US security.

The issue would have ended up back on President Bush's desk and he would probably have vetoed the Congressional resolution, after which it would have gone back to Congress for another vote.

Dubai Ports World ended

# Meddling politicians and the damage that they do



Italian opposition leader Romano Prodi says he will, if elected, punish France for excluding Italy's Enel from involvement in the French utilities sector.

— Photo by EPA/JL Pino

the fray, however, by appointing US control over the terminals. In retaliation for its treatment by Congress, the UAE postponed scheduled free-trade talks with the US, due to start March 13, and later announced that, in future, 10% of its assets would be diverted from the US to the Euro Zone.

In an interview on CNBC-Europe, a television business channel, Dr Kenneth Courtis, the Vice Chairman-Asia of US banking giant Goldman Sachs, described the US action as a "punch in the face" for Dubai.

Another interesting part of this story was that ex-President Bill Clinton was an adviser to the UAE on this deal whilst his wife, Hilary, was organizing the opposition.

Jay Leno, host of the *To-*

*night Show*, said, tongue in cheek, that any lack of communication between the Clintons would be the "first time this had happened".

The US needs around US\$ 2.5 billion (almost 100 billion baht) in net new investment every day, just to counter its current account deficit.

**French meddling:** I mentioned in a recent column that the French government had blocked a proposed takeover by Indian steel group Mittal of France's Arcelor.

Now the French government is meddling again, on seem-

ingly nationalist grounds. It recently announced that it had arranged a merger between state-controlled Gaz de France and Suez (two French utilities companies).

This was met by strenuous objections from Italy's Enel, which had wanted to bid in the open market. Even Gaz de France voiced its agreement of Enel's right.

The French government could block a non-European bid, but in this case Enel, being an Italian company, is inside the EU and the EU regulations specifically rule out any interference by governments when two or more EU companies are in a takeover or merger situation.

The BBC interviewed Charlie McCree, an Irishman who is the EU Commissioner for Internal Competition and asked him if there was the courage to take this issue up politically.

McCree said not only was there the courage; it was also a "duty". He sounded outraged. If you met him in a pub you might easily have assumed his response to such a question would be a robust right hook.

Goldman Sachs' Courtis also entered this fray. He said that he had just completed a visit to France and had spoken to the CEOs of many large French companies. Their attitude was that it "would not take much to make them move their headquarters to London or elsewhere [even] outside the EU".

He further commented on the situation, describing the atti-

tudes of the French government and the US politicians as being "strange, almost 1930s, thinking on protectionism and economic nationalism". The 1930s were, of course, the decade of the Great Depression.

Italy's opposition leader, Romano Prodi, has already announced that if he wins the elections due later this year he will take punitive measures against France.

Prodi seems unaware of the old saying that two wrongs don't make a right, and that he would, like the French, be in violation of EU agreements.

## Japan grows:

Now for some good news; March saw the revised figures of Japanese gross domestic product (GDP) for the last quarter of 2005

move from an annualized rate of 5.5% to 5.4%.

This is excellent news as many economists were concerned that the numbers could have been much lower. In the past Japan has had to adjust its "flash" estimates of GDP, but not this time. This makes Japan the fastest-growing economy in the G7.

In a separate survey it was revealed that Japanese consumer confidence is at its highest level since 1990.

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

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By Richard Watson

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# Moto Inzi does it again on the Bay

By Chris Husted

AO CHALONG: Fair weather with a light-but-steady breeze blessed those who took part in the second race in the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series on March 19.

The conditions were near-perfect for Roger Kingdon's Firefly catamaran *Moto Inzi*, which scooted off for an early lead – and an early finish – to win the Sports Multihull class, finishing well ahead of Mark Horwood's *Charro*, which won the Cruising Multihull class.

Kevin Gillow and his crew on *Minx* sailed well to win the Racing class, but the battle of the day was for second place between Stuart Crowe on *Cinders* and John Vause on *Fidji*. The two boats exchanged the lead no less than four times, with *Fidji* finally crossing the finish line just three boat lengths ahead.

John Fenn on *Four Winds* won the Cruising class.

At the post-race awards ceremony, Mark Ray, Marina Manager at Royal Phuket Marina (RPM), which sponsored the day's racing, announced that the offer of free berthing at RPM from March 26 to April 2 was now extended to all ACYC members.



The battle of the day involved *Cinders*, pictured, and *Fidji*, which won by just three lengths.

"All you have to pay for is water and electricity," he said.

The next ACYC regatta is scheduled for April 2. However, Tony Knight of the ACYC explained that as that is the final day for free berthing at RPM, the club is considering holding a special race from Koh Rang Yai to Ao Chalong, with the event having

even more emphasis on being a family day than the usual ACYC regattas.

Before the prizes were handed out, an informal vote showed strong support to start ACYC races earlier, with a skipper's briefing at 9:30 am and race to start at 11 am, to avoid boats being caught out on the bay with winds fading as the afternoon draws on.

Mr Knight reminded skippers and crews that ACYC regattas are open for all to take part, whether regular sailors or not. Skippers can call him at Tel: 01-7470074 for the latest details before the next race on April 2.

## Patong Darts League

**Standings after March 14 matches:** 1. Didi's (28 pts); 2. Amigos (26); 3. Queen Mary (23); 4.= Dog's Bollocks, Piccadilly (22); 6. Coyote Bar (21); 7. Offshore (20); 8.= Shakers, Valhalla (18); 10. Two Black Sheep (9); 11. Boss Bar (8).

**March 28 fixtures:** Two Black Sheep v Queen Mary; Shakers v Piccadilly; Boss Bar v Dog's Bollocks; Didi's v Valhalla; Coyote Bar v Offshore. (Home teams first.)

## ICC LAUDS PHUKET CRICKET SIXES

PHUKET: The International Cricket Council (ICC), the governing body for world cricket, recently honored the 2005 Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes by presenting the organizers with the award for "Best Spirit Of Cricket Initiative Award" for the Asian Region.

Reacting to the award, Michael "Cat" Maher, Chairman of co-organizers the Asian Cricket Sixes Tour, said, "For the Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes 2005 to be awarded this major international award in the event's second year is a tremendous achievement for cricket in Phuket."

He added that the 2005 Sixes had, he believed, contributed in getting the Phuket tourist economy back on its feet after the tsunami.

Organizers also confirmed that Lighthouse Property Services Ltd, in conjunction with Holbrook Construction Ltd, will once again be the title sponsors of the Sixes, to be held at Karon Stadium from April 12 to 16.

Twenty-eight teams from around the world will compete in the cricket event. The Phuket Sixes features the popular, shortened version of cricket that is enjoyable for players and spectators alike.

A 20-over charity match will be played under floodlights at the Karon Stadium on April 15, featuring all the tournament's top players including former Test players and first-class cricketers such as Trevor Chappell. The match begins at 6 pm. Entrance is free.

For further information about the Sixes see the event website at [www.phuketsixes.com](http://www.phuketsixes.com)

In related news, on March 19 British Curriculum International School Cricket Club (BCIS CC) played Kamala Beer Garden Cricket Club (KBG CC) in the Island Furniture Cricket League.

BCIS CC reached their target of 81 within 16 overs, winning by 6 wickets and bagging 16 points in the process.

### League Table:

1. Island CC: played 6; won 5; 85 points.
2. BCIS CC: played 6; won 4; 76 points.
3. Patong CC: played 6; won 3; 64 points.
4. KBG CC: played 6; won 0; 21 points.

Match reports and league tables can be seen at the new Phuket Cricket Union website at [www.phuketcricket.com](http://www.phuketcricket.com).



## Soft tennis heroes head for Lampang Games glory

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura (back row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left), wishes the Phuket Soft Tennis Club team luck in the upcoming Nakhon Lampang Games, to be held from March 19 to 30 in Lampang Province. The 12-player team is led by Asst Prof Nipon Jang-Aiam. The Phuket team scored spectacularly in last year's games, held in Chaiphaphum, coming home with three gold, two silver and four bronze medals. This year the club is aiming to bring home at least four gold medals.



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Maneepong and Kiattisak: Certain they'll bring back medals.

## Badminton duo off to Brunei

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Two Phuket youngsters are set to represent their country at an international badminton tournament in Brunei from June 3 to 11.

The Phuket Office of Sports and Recreation Development, along with the Phuket Badminton Club, sent four representatives – two girls and two boys – to the two-day Youth Asian Badminton Contest, beginning on March 4 in Bangkok.

The boys' team, Maneepong Jongjit, 15, and Kiattisak Daramuth, 16, both from Phuket Wittayalai School, won their doubles final.

They will join 14 other Thai youngsters battling opponents from 11 other countries at the Youth Badminton Asian tournament, in Brunei, from June 3 to 11.

Maneepong and Kiattisak are the only members of the Thai squad who are not from Bangkok.

Maneepong told the *Gazette* that he started to play when he was six years old. His mother was employed at a badminton club and he was able to take advantage of the facilities on hand.

"This is my first really big competition and I'm so excited.

I'm training hard as I really want to win a medal for Thailand – I want to be a champion," he said. "My hero is Boonsak Polsana, who currently ranks No. 15 in the world.

"I love to play with my buddy [Kiattisak] as he's a good player and we know each other's moves. I've taken part in quite a few tournaments but the biggest one so far was the national doubles.

I'm going to try my best in Brunei and I'm confident we can bring a medal home."

Kiattisak told the *Gazette* that he started to play badminton when he was nine years old and has had a lot of support from his family.

"I'm glad that were chosen to play in Brunei. This is like a dream come true for me. We practice so hard, both in the morning and the evening. Boonsak is my hero, too; he's a strong hitter.

"I'm certain we can win an award in this competition, even though Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have players to watch out for," Kiattisak said.

He added, "Sport is receiving more and more support in Phuket, so young people should think more about taking up a sport such as badminton."

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## Home of the Week

Chalong

**D**esigned and built by a well-respected construction company, this spacious two-story house has excellent street appeal and is located in a tranquil cul de sac. It is also only a few minutes from Chalong's banks, post office, restaurants, yacht club and medical and dental services. Several schools are also in the vicinity.

Nai Harn and Rawai Beaches are a short drive away and the property is on a leafy green along with less than a dozen residences of similar high caliber. The four-bedroom, four-bathroom house is of a contemporary design with an eye-catching stone façade. It has double teak doors with a golden dragon motif and a walled, easily-maintained garden.

The ground floor features a tall entry hall leading to a spacious open-plan living and dining area with an adjacent well-designed and equipped kitchen. The living area opens onto a sandwashed terrace and thence into the lush tropical garden.

The kitchen has large drawers, cupboards and overhead cabinets, and the worktop is a stylish deep-gray-and-black granite. A breakfast bar leads into the dining area. A second terrace near the kitchen houses the laundry facilities. Also on this level there is a fourth bedroom which would make an ideal study, being located just inside the hall, and a guest bathroom.

A well-crafted hardwood timber staircase with ornate metal balustrades leads to the upper floor where three spacious bedrooms are located.

There are two master bedrooms both with en-suite bathrooms – one with a Jacuzzi – tiled in beige-and-black ceramics. There is ample storage space with either a large walk-in wardrobe or built-in wardrobes in all three



The attractive home has a mature garden, and is on a leafy green with just a dozen houses around.

## TRANQUIL MODERNITY

bedrooms. Off the master bedroom there is a private balcony, which has views across the garden.

The house also features a large garage with access to the rear garden. The home has cable and UBC television, a telephone, well water and a filtration system,

hot water, a septic tank and three-phase electricity. Five air conditioners and ceiling fans ensure climate control and the house has insect screens throughout.

Top-grade construction materials have been used including marble and teak, hand-glazed ceramics and sanitary ware. The

Western kitchen has a stainless-steel exhaust hood, imported stove top, a double bowl sink and large twin-door refrigerator. The house features both a home security and video surveillance systems.

This residence will suit a buyer seeking a substantial family home in a quiet and convenient

location. The land title is Chanote. Price: 15 million baht.

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

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Decor

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

# A FULL PLATE



Above, resin house number from Thanaklao; below, ornate metal plate from Suwan Supply (left) and a wooden plate from Thanaklao. The cherub, inset in the story is also from Thanaklao.



What's in a name? Quite a lot if you go by the number of people who like to show off their monikers on the island's doorways, gates and walls with name plaques. In the land of the hard-to-remember names, you'd better believe that a name plaque takes on a new meaning and usefulness.

Rather than following the trend to give houses names, so popular in the west – Dun-roamin, Sans souci, Hollyacres, Faerie Cottage, Neverland Ranch... should I go on? – Thai tradition tends to lean more towards using plaques to show passers-by the house number instead of buttock-clenching clichés – and thankfully so, too.

Materials used include alloys, wood, plastic and stone and the level of craftsmanship can be impressive. For this reason, some top-of-the-range name plates can cost up to 4,500 baht.

Plastic plaques are generally in the 1,000- to



1,500-baht range – but the lettering costs extra. So it may be a good idea to try to cut down from say, Anthony Cornelius Fotheringay-Bowles to a simple "Tony", although at 25 to 75 baht a letter one shouldn't be too tight-fisted.

Wood plaques cost around 1,000 baht and, going upscale, a teak plaque will set you back at least 1,000 baht more. Homeowners can also order a teak *kanok*-design – similar to a Thai wat roof – to add a touch of class to their abode.

For more information about alloy plaques call Suwan Supply Cast Alloy "Art Forever", on the bypass road, Tel: 076-261261-2.

For resin and wood name plates contact Thanaklao, opposite the Se-Ed bookstore in the Big C supercenter. Ask for K. Tom at Tel: 06-5951558 or K. Boy at Tel: 01-0909927.

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Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

Work on Phuket International Hospital's new six-story outpatient department (OPD) building broke ground in mid-March and is expected to be finished by September, 2007.

The main contractor on the 280-million baht project is Tiesco Co Ltd.

Phuket International Hospital (PIH) President Dr Anuroj Thansiroj told the *Gazette* the plans for the new OPD building were drawn up by hospital design specialists Architect 110 Co Ltd, which has designed over 20 hospitals in the country, including Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital and Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok.

The entire cost of the project, which will involve some renovation work on existing buildings, is to reach 320 million baht by the time the new building is fitted with medical equipment, he said.

As part of the project, access to the hospital is to be improved with the construction of a second entrance from Bang Yai Rd, which connects the bypass road and Wichit Songkram Rd. Currently, the only access is from the main entrance on the bypass road.

# B280m hospital expansion begins



No new land was required for the project, as the hospital now covers only about 40% of the 10-rai plot on which it sits, he added.

The new building will be on

the right when viewed from the main entrance, changing the layout of the hospital from its current L shape to a U-shaped configuration. Covered walkways will connect the new build-

ing to the existing outpatient building. The first two floors of the new OPD building will be designed as a split-level parking garage with capacity for 140-150 cars.

The current outdoor parking area, with capacity for just 70 cars, will be reduced to a smaller lot for just 20 cars when the project is completed.

Above the garage will be a third-floor lobby and OPD services area. The fourth floor will have a dental clinic and surgery theaters, while the sixth floor will serve as an inpatient ward.

The expansion will increase the number of examination rooms to 22 and the number of operating rooms from four to six, he added.

Dr Anuroj said the expansion was to meet growing customer demand, which is straining existing facilities.

"With the new building, we will be able to increase the number of patients we treat daily from 340-350 to as many as 700 or 800," he said.

He added that the hospital plans to hire more doctors and other medical staff to work in the facility.

The new building design stresses safety and good ventila-



Computer-generated view of the new wing (left). 'It will be even better than a hotel,' says Phuket International Hospital President Dr Anuroj Thansiroj (above).

tion, which will minimize the need for air conditioning.

Renovation work will include widening the front of the current outpatient building so that it can accommodate two more operating rooms, and expanding the ICU from eight beds to 17.

PIH also plans to add VIP patient suites of 100 square meters with sleep-over facilities for relatives, high-speed wireless Internet access, cable television, a dining area and two bathrooms.

"We understand that being admitted to hospital is stressful for a great number of patients, so we want to make them as comfortable as possible, such as by giving them an agreeable mountain view. We don't want them to get bored, even if they are staying with us for two or three days. We want them to feel like they are staying in a hotel."

Work on the project will end at 5 pm each day to minimize noise in existing inpatient rooms, and green plastic sheeting will keep areas under construction from view, he said.

When completed, trees will be planted and the grounds extensively landscaped with walkways and gardens.

"It will be even better than a hotel," he said.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

**B**ananas. There's something about them that's just... well, funny. They are bizarre things. I'm not referring to those rather magnificent feats that professional ladies of the less salubrious haunts of Bangkok manage with bananas. They exhibit muscle control that I wouldn't have thought possible. Actually, perhaps I am talking about them, after all...

No, I mean it. There's something comical about putting something of that particular form anywhere near the mouth. I'm from Yorkshire, after all. Anything even vaguely unseemly simply isn't done there.

I might even suggest that nibbling on a banana in a Leeds hostelry would hardly have the inhabitants begging for a bite themselves. Not the pubs I went to, anyway.

But why is this? What has the humble banana done to deserve such disdain? It's only a fruit, after all.

Nobody would ever dream of having a go at some poor innocent soul for munching on an apple or an orange. There is nothing suggestive or begging for a pathetic *double entendre* there.

But a banana? There's something slightly smutty about the mere thought of it.

Bananas have a side to them that is actually quite cool. I was talking about banana trees in the pub earlier, and there was some discussion as to whether or not they're even trees.

Everyone knows what a tree is, after all. Trees are large and green, and they have leaves and things. Some flower and produce fruit, while others provide welcome shade under which to enjoy a beer or two.

According to my dictionary, a tree is a "large perennial woody plant that grows to a height of several feet and typically has a single erect main stem with side branches". The naughty references keep on coming, don't they?

Trees should, therefore, be easy to categorize, and there shouldn't be too much confusion

over whether or not a large tall green plant is a tree or not.

Predictably, though, there's an exception to every rule – and the banana "tree" is exactly that – a contradiction. It really isn't a tree at all, because it has no wood. The banana tree, in fact, is a herb.

Every October, the inhabitants of Thailand celebrate *loi krathong*, at which time little *krathongs* are floated on the nearest patch of open water. Look closely at the base of the *krathong* bit, and (assuming it's not made of expanded polystyrene) you'll see that the cross-section of the banana stem it's cut from is made from dozens of tightly wrapped leaves – nothing you could describe as vaguely woody.

The trunk of this monster plant is actually made entirely of leaves. As it grows, the leaves form continually, hiding themselves in the stem and only appearing when the time is right.

Once the leaves burst into view they're huge, which is probably why they start their furtive growth early.

Once the stem has grown to its full height, flowered and produced fruit, that's it. It can't do this twice, so the stem commits *hara-kiri* and leaves the business of growing and producing more fruit to other parts of the plant.

Although it's quite emphatic about keeling over once it has done its job, before that point it is incredibly resilient. If you try to kill off a banana plant, it will simply refuse to die.

Some time ago, I watched some neighbors cut all the leaves off two of the banana plants opposite my house, with the intention of using them for cooking or whatever. The plants were reduced to bare stems peeping from



Bananas will grow anywhere – in this instance, on a garbage dump.

the soil. Despite my conviction that they were well and truly *kaput*, a week later new leaves sprouted forth from the middle of the cut stems.

A couple of months later, the plant was so happy that it produced more shoots that appeared from the ground nearby.

In due course the new shoots became miniature banana plants, destined to provide yet more bananas. It was then that yet more neighbors decided to burn some garbage, right next to the now two-foot-tall banana "saplings".

Blackened, wizened shoots were all that was left. A few days later, however, fresh new green

leaves appeared – in total defiance of the previous week's roasting.

There are more varieties of banana plant than you would ever imagine. Apart from the obvious fruit-bearing varieties we see throughout the Thai countryside, there are also some that are grown in gardens purely for their ornamental value.

These banana plants are all variations of a family known as "musa", or *kluay* in Thai, which are smaller than their commercially grown cousins. The dramatic flower they produce is very similar, but is inedible.

Well, perhaps. My neighbor disagrees, swearing that the bul-

bous tops of the musa plants outside his home are *aroi maak*. When I asked him to demonstrate his conviction, however, his reaction was not totally convincing.

The one common factor of all members of the banana family is the bulbous flower. On the fruit plants this is a deep purple/burgundy color. The shape and color of this prompted comments from my aging mother when she was over here that were highly inappropriate for a lady of her age. Even she's got in on the banana smut.

The smaller varieties of flower come in shades ranging from bright red to orange.

If you grow any variety of banana plant in your garden, just about the only aspect of its care that needs to be considered is the location.

It's not keen on strong winds, as the leaves are easily torn by the wind, which makes them hang in strips like a grass skirt. It won't do the plant any harm, but it's *mai suai*.

Also, put it in a spot with plenty of air – this isn't a plant for the jungle. Stick it in the ground, and leave it to get on with the business of growing and multiplying.

But remember – it is not a tree. To be honest, I don't think anyone cares. Perhaps some people are too busy thinking of ways they can eat a banana in a Leeds pub and look cool, without attracting unwanted attention. It just won't happen, though.

But as I said, who cares? Masticate your heart out.

Want to know more  
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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

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### NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



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Barry and Fiona Hodge

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Note: We have more villas, condos, sea view land, beach land hotels & developments available. Contact us now!

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# Property Gazette

**CBRE**  
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## Properties for Sale



- 3 b/r condominium & penthouse
  - Located on Bang Tao Beach
  - 240-322 sq.m., sea view
  - Private Jacuzzi, 50 m. to the beach
  - 5 star hotel management
- From Baht 20.5 Million**



- 33 rai flat land on Cape Yamoo
  - Road access, electricity & plenty of water, Chanote Title
  - 20 min. from Phuket Int'l Airport
  - 15 min. from Phuket Town
- Baht 650,000 / Rai**



- Luxury villas with stunning sea views in Kamala
  - 2,000 sq.m. of living space
  - 4 & 5 b/r, private swimming pool
  - 25 min. from Phuket Int'l Airport
- Baht 85 - 98 Million**



- 4 & 5 b/r villas in gated community
  - 414-450 sq.m. built up area
  - 800 m. from International School
  - 15 min. drive to the airport & shopping centre
- Baht 16.7 - 20 Million**

## OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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**6 RAI, KATA SEAVIEW**  
Top land & location with full view over Chalong Bay. Owner emigrating. 3.3 million baht/rai. Chanote. Guaranteed access. Tel: 06-2670898.

**KATA NO. 1 SEAVIEW**  
2.2 rai. The best spot in Kata guaranteed! Access road & electricity. Come look and buy. 6 million baht/rai. Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

**4 RAI IN RAWAI**  
Top spot. Nice views. 3.3 million baht/rai. Good land for development. Easy access, road, electricity, water, Chanote title. Tel: 09-6525664.

**10 RAI IN RAWAI**  
In developing area. Easiest access, near beach. 3.3 million baht per rai. Running out! Tel: 09-6525664.

**2 VILLAS IN RAWAI**  
Balinese style. Perfect spot. Pool. Top finishing. All materials on request. 7.5 million baht. Will be completed in 4 months. Come take. K. Alooh. Tel: 07-8938747.

**SEAVIEW RAWAI**  
3 rai. Stunning views 3 million baht/rai. Road, water, Chanote. Owner needs cash fast. Tel: 07-8938747.

**RAWAI - WALKING**  
distance to beach. 500sqm. Square plot. All facilities. Only 1.4 million baht. Chanote title. Tel: 01-5376866.

**17 RAI - SEA VIEW**  
At most southerly part of the island. The best spot for exclusive developments. Come to see. Final price for this type of land: 3.7 million baht/rai. Call Tel: 06-2670898 for more details.

**PATONG SEA VIEW**  
apartment. With swimming pool and car park. 2.6 million baht to 3.1 million baht. Tel: 076-296555, 09-2911112.

**BIG HOUSE**  
in Thalang. 3.5 rai. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-296555, 09-2911112.

**0.5 RAI IN RAWAI**  
Almost beachfront. Rawai, perfect spot for apartment or house. Road, electricity, water, golf course. Only 3.5 million baht. Chanote. 2 plots. Tel: 06-2670898.

**CHALONG LAND**  
for sale. 1,500sqm for 2.4 million baht. Has road, electricity and water. Tel: 01-5376866.

**1.5 RAI - RAWAI**  
Stunning hill view in villa area. Quiet but not lonely. Road, electricity, water. Unbelievable low price: 5.7 million, or 3.8 million per rai. Don't miss it. Chanote title. Tel: 09-652-5664.

## BEACH HOUSE FOR SALE



Nice wooden house with almost 1,200sqm. land, directly on white-sand beach on the west coast of Naka Island, only 3 minutes from Ao Por Pier, 25 mins from airport and Phuket's major shopping centers. For quick sale only 5.7 million baht. Tel: 01-3430777. Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com

## NEW DETACHED HOUSE FOR SALE



in Kathu. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 36-sqm swimming pool. Price 9 million baht. Soi Waterfall. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-279-9500.

**1.75 RAI RAWAI**  
3.7 million baht/rai Central Rawai. Hot area. 1.75 rai for 3.7 million baht/rai. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

**RAWAI LAND**  
400sqm. 1 rai. Chanote. Flat clear, ready to build. Water & electricity. Nice quiet area. 1.5 million baht. Call Gary at Tel: 07-8987062.

**LAND FOR SALE**  
in Rawai. 1, 2, 4 rai. 4.5 million baht per rai, and 3 rai for 9.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com

**1 RAI, CHALONG AREA**  
2.8 million baht. Superb - and quiet - area near the wat. Cul de sac. Please contact for more info. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

**3 RAI - B3.2M/RAI**  
Rawai area. Hot land at a good price in a great area of nice homes. Tel: 07-274-7470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

**12 RAI, KOH YAO YAI**  
beach. Best land on the island. 3.5 million baht. Buy now, pay later. Near pier, nice for swimming, last best spot. Come and convince yourself. Tel: 06-2670898.

**SEAVIEW CHALONG**  
10 rai with stunning view. 3.7 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-5376866.

## ECO-COOL THAI HOME



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. Tel: 07-8987062 (Gary), 01-0775042 (Wanida).

## SUPER CHEAP LAND!



Kamala, Super-cheap land near Kamala Beach, with Chanote, for sale at just 550,000 baht. Rare small plot, 150sqm. Fantastic location. Spectacular views. Short walk to famous beach, outstanding restaurants, nightlife and shopping. Only 10 minutes to Patong. Located along a peaceful, quiet, safe and charming farang enclave. Free artesian water, road access, plus 6 extra meters of road frontage. Nearby electricity/phone lines. Ready to build, a great investment. A bargain for paradise. Only 550,000 baht - under US\$14,000. Must sell! Please contact Tel: 01-8162066. Email: coneybeez@aol.com

**FULL 3600 SEAVIEW**  
Patong 350sqm. Unbelievable view on top, quiet, under 80m with building permit, perfect road access, electricity, Chanote. Last dream spot. Tel: 07-8938747.

**1 RAI AT NUI BEACH**  
Perfect spot. Stunning view. Only available land there near Rawai. Electricity, road, water. 4.5 million baht. Chanote title. Call now, not later. Tel: 06-2670898.

**RAWAI - 450SQM**  
Near main road, but in quiet area. Concrete road. Perfect spot for one-story apartment. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 01-537-6866.

## NEW VILLA FOR SALE

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

## Properties For Rent

### BOAT LAGOON ABSOLUTE WATERFRONT



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- Central location

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01-3444473, 01-8298101

### KARON SEAVIEW



Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Western-style kitchen, pool, near Karon Beach. Please contact K. Gae for more information. Tel: 06-9062220. Email: sivapatt@hotmail.com

### HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

2 bedrooms with air conditioners, hot shower. Located in a quiet area at Palai Green, Chalong. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8924311.

### 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

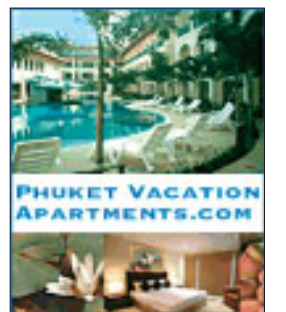
### LAGUNA RENTAL

Resort design, furnished, with 3 bedrooms, air conditioning, pool, spa and garden on 1 rai. Asking 40,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-5944067.

### 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.

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY APARTMENTS



Located a couple of minutes' walk from Surin and Bang Tao Beaches, these 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, fully furnished, 100-sqm (1,076-square-foot) apartments sleep 4-6 people. They are brand-new, with free high-speed Internet access, a brilliant kitchen, daily maid service and much more. The building includes a huge 50m-long (164-ft) swimming pool, the best gym on Phuket, a sauna, spa, a beautiful view, an Internet cafe, restaurant, bar and reception area. Available for short-term or long-term stays. Please contact for more details. Tel: 81-3-37103946. Email: bookings@phuketvacationapartments.com or visit: www.phuketvacationapartments.com

## 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

## 9 RAI

Plot with a nice view - good for a resort, spa, etc - next to Pae Ma Nam, for long-term rent. Close to hospital, about 1.5km from Big C, Tesco-Lotus, and Central Festival. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8675084.

## KRABI PLOT TO LET

Investment property idea for small resort, warehouse, etc. Paved road. Only 4km to Krabi Int'l Airport. 12m x 195m = 2,340 sqm (1.5 rai). 20,000 baht a month. Please contact for details. Tel: 06-7003376. Email: malisastam@yahoo.com

## APARTMENTS

in Patong. Near Wat Patong, 2/56 Soi Khuanyang. Small kitchen, refrigerator, fully furnished, European style, air-con, cable TV, Fan, hot water, bathroom. 8,300 baht/month. Please call for more details. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-891-4561.



# Property Gazette

## STUNNING SEA VIEW



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

## OPEN SEA VIEW HOUSE RENTAL



Located in private, quiet and safe Baan Suan Kamnan. 3-bedroom house + 1 master guest bungalow. Ideal for extended families. Teak furnishings, deep pool. Also for sale. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

## HOUSE + BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 air-conditioned bedrooms. Located at Palai Green, Chalong Bay. 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8924311.

## 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.

## BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short- or long-term. Tel: 01-8920038.

## 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.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen, fully furnished. At Land & House. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-7453886.

## OLD THAI HOUSE

for rent. Old Thai house with electricity, water, garden, parking space, for rent. Near Cape Panwa Hotel. Asking 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 076-212248, 01-892-9592. Email: kodesh32@hotmail.com

## BIG SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180 sqm on 2 open-space floors. Suitable for commercial purposes, unfurnished. Please contact. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

## PATONG APARTMENT

Sea view. Kitchen, cable TV, 10 mins to beach. 500 baht/day. 12,000 baht/month. Call Penny. Tel: 04-0514003. Email: capnard@excite.com

## NEW HOUSES FOR RENT

Long term. Chalong area, 3 bedrooms, air conditioning, 2 bathrooms, telephone, fully furnished. Tel: 09-7288311.

## LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 20,000 per month. Tel: 01-8928208.

## HOUSE FOR LEASE

10 years. 4 new detached houses offered on 10-year leases. 850,000 baht each. Each house has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm. Tel: 04-8516115.

## VILLA RENTAL

3-4 bedrooms and bathrooms, aircon, pool, garden, Western kitchen, furnished, in southern Phuket, Long-term rate: 50,000 baht a month Tel: 06-745-0914.

## Properties Wanted

## BUILDING PLOT

wanted. Building plot wanted for a single house, NOT near the sea. Area: 200-400sqm. Must have a Chanote. Road frontage and close to services is preferred. Tel: 06-079-9762. Email: akthai@phuket.ksc.co.th

## WE WANT TO BUY

or lease an established hotel or resort on Phuket. Please email full details, including property name, address, price, website, and any other relevant info. Email: buyhotels@phukets.info

## SMALL LAND PLOT

wanted for single-story house, in southern Phuket. Need 400-500 sqm. Tel: 01-9705940. Email: jae@loxinfo.co.th



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## Accommodation Available

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2 beautifully-appointed f/f houses 200 m from the beach. Private entrance, garden. Ideal for those seeking peace, solitude and comfort away from hotels. Short-term only. Tel: 076-385292, 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

## ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Standard room just 6,000 baht per month or 500 baht per day. Deluxe room is 8,500 baht per month or 700 baht per day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

## PATONG APARTMENT

Close to beach, clean and comfortable, with air conditioning, TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. Please call Tel: 01-0825707. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

## 1 BEDROOM APT

for rent. Quiet hillside location in Patong. Yearly rental. View. Swimming pool. Tel: 076-296693, 01-6076202. Email: jimsea62@hotmail.com

## PATONG TOWER

One-bed condo available for rent from April 1, for 7 months. For more details, please Email: coasters@earthlink.net or visit: www.patongtower-rentals.com

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readers every day!

## APARTMENTS

with pool. Fully furnished large studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments, on quiet and cool Patong hillside, with swimming pool, satellite TV, car parking. long or short term. Studio long-term: 8,000 baht a month. Apartments from 10,000 baht a month. Please call Tel: 01-6916147, 076-296621. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de  
www.phuket-patong.com

## KATA BEACH

from the middle of April we start our low season discounts. Southern Fried Rice, possibly the best -equipped guesthouse in the area, has seven beautifully-decorated rooms all with aircon, fan, fridge TV and safe. Also balcony room facing the beach. The guesthouse has wireless Internet, five computers are at our guests' disposal and at no charge. Room rates: daily 500-1,200 baht; monthly 12,000-30,000 baht. Tel: 01-894-8446. Please see our website www.southernfriedrice.com

## 2 BEDROOMS

apartment Patong. 110sqm apartment with 10sqm balcony. large sunken living/dining, two bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully built-in kitchen, storeroom. standard all aircon, tel, ubc, wifi, etc. 20,000 baht per month for long term pref. Tel: 04-1858536.

## Building Products & Services

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Bobcat 853 with backhoe attachment for daily hire with operator. Contact Andy. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th



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## CHERRY PICKER FOR HIRE



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- Built-in Furniture

## Household Items

## WANTED

Moving to unfurnished house in Rawai on April 1. Need lounge furniture, bed, kitchen table & chairs, TV and stand, garden furniture – the lot. Tel: 09-9091917. Email: porter20022@yahoo.com

## Household Services

## LOCKUP STORAGE

Household goods, car & motorbikes. 24hr security. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-0825707.

## AIR CONDITIONING

Aircon/fridge repairs and service. All makes. British-trained engineers. Any area, 24hr service. Tel: 09-7304502.

## Property Services

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61 Ft	1991	Custom 61'	Euro	380,000
60 Ft	New	Eleuthera	Euro	831,600
47 Ft	1974	S&S, Alu Sloop	US\$	160,000
47 Ft	1992	Searose Cat	US\$	280,000
47 Ft	1997	Beneteau Oceanis 481	US\$	198,000
43 Ft	1994	Beneteau Oceanis 430	THB	4,500,000
42 Ft	1987	Westail 42	Euro	60,000
42 Ft	1996	Wharram (under offer)	Euro	95,000
40 Ft	1991	Steel Sloop	US\$	90,000
39 Ft	1983	Astileros Barrera	Euro	39,500
38 Ft	2003	2x Athena 38 with management	US\$	225,000
37 Ft	1988	Gibsea 372	US\$	85,000
36 Ft	1974	Pearson 36	US\$	49,500
31 Ft	TBA	Steel hull 31'	Euro	50,000
30 Ft	1975	JonMari 30' cutter sloop	US\$	35,000

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46ft berth with 13 years left on lease. Asking 2 million baht or near offer. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## 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.

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Strong fiberglass hull. Stainless-steel center console; steel trailer. Brand-new! Price: only 250,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9724805.

## 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

## WINDSURFER

wanted. Windsurfer - complete - 150 liters and not too old. Tel: 07-2760141. Email: kat\_stockleclark@yahoo.co.uk

## AZIMUT 55, 2002

Rare chance to purchase as-new. Azimut 55 lying in Phuket, 2x710hp engines. Fully equipped and ready to go. For details please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

## 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.

## BAYLINER 4788

1995 model, Thai registered, nicely refurbished, equipped for game fishing, in excellent condition with full electronics package. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.



# Island Job Mart



**The deluxe Rawi Warin Resort & Spa**

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. We are currently looking for professionals for the following positions:

• Human Resource Manager	• Front Office Manager
• Chief Engineer	• Recreation Manager
• Executive Housekeeper	• Housekeeping Supervisor
• 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  
139 Moo 8, Khlong Tob, Lanta Yai Island, Krabi  
81150, Thailand  
Tel: +6675 607 400 Fax: +6675 607 499  
Email: hr@rawiwarin.com  
[www.rawiwarin.com](http://www.rawiwarin.com)




**watermark**  
bar restaurant

MODERN CUISINE  
CONTEMPORARY DESIGN  
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

**Service is not a job – it's a way of life.**  
It's a professional commitment to satisfy individual needs. It's a commitment to make someone smile, to create the ultimate experience, to surpass expectations. If you have this commitment, this is your opportunity.

**Watermark is currently offering opportunities in these positions:**

- Event Catering Supervisor
- Yacht & Event Hostess
- Restaurant Hostess
- Guest Relations
- Waitress

**Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.**

watermark bar restaurant  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
22/1 Thepkasattri Rd., Muang, Phuket  
For interview send resumé to [info@watermarkphuket.com](mailto:info@watermarkphuket.com)  
Tel: 076-239078

## SALESPERSON NEEDED

Growing supplying company for hotels & restaurants urgently needs a Salesperson to join sales team in Phuket. Good basic salary and commission. Some computer skills & basic English is an advantage. Please send your resumé or contact for more information. Tel: 076-261-157, 09-7703681. Fax: 076-261239. Email: [patbkl@yahoo.com](mailto:patbkl@yahoo.com)

## URGENT: OFFICE ASSISTANT

Female, experienced in reservations & marketing, with spoken and written English. Tel: 076-254523, 06-9516695.

## RAWAI INTERNET SHOP STAFF

Looking urgently for Thai female staff with fair English skills and computer knowledge. Good salary, free accommodation, social security. Tel: 076-288808, 07-2650652. Email: [gisbert1@gmx.net](mailto:gisbert1@gmx.net)

## COOK WANTED

For Koh Kao Pisan Bun-galows off Laem Prom-thep. Tel: 09-5944017.

## 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)

## 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. 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. Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: [accounts@thaimarine.com](mailto:accounts@thaimarine.com)

**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. Please send your CV to: [info@phuketcosmeticdentalclinic.com](mailto:info@phuketcosmeticdentalclinic.com)

## 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](mailto:mdefeo@gmx.net)

## DESTINATION AIR

Destination Air, based in Phuket Thailand, will fly over the beautiful crystal clear blue waters of the Andaman Sea. We are looking for the following dynamic and qualified persons to work and grow with us.



### 1. Sales Manager

**Qualifications:** Possess BA or MBA; Must have extensive sales experience with at least 4 years in airlines, four- or five-star hotels or the travel industry; ITB experience preferred; ability to develop sales strategies, ensure proper execution and implementation of sales plan with the objective of developing new business and finding new customers; strong interpersonal and presentation skills; proficiency in English communication; and computer literacy.

### 2. Revenue Manager

**Qualifications:** Possess BA or MBA; must have at least 4 years' experience working in the hospitality industry, preferably in front office or as Reservations Manager; strong interpersonal and presentation skills; proficiency in English communication; and computer literacy.

### 3. Sales and Reservation Executive

**Qualifications:** Must possess at least BA; must have minimum of 4 years' experience working in the hospitality business, preferably in front office or reservations; Strong interpersonal and presentation skills; and proficiency in English communication.

### 4. Executive Secretary

**Qualifications:** Must possess at least a BA; have at least 5 years' experience as an Executive Secretary; ability to handle document management; strong interpersonal skills; proficiency in English communication; computer literacy; and problem-solving skills.

### 5. Accounting Manager

**Qualifications:** Must possess at least 5 years' experience working as an Accounting Manager in a hospitality business; ability to implement and control the firm's accounting system, formulate the financial report and ensure compliance with Thai accounting standards and Thai tax law; strong interpersonal and presentation skills; proficiency in English communication; and computer literacy.

### 6. Accountant

**Qualifications:** Must possess a BA in Accounting; must have at least 3 years' experience working as an Accountant; strong interpersonal and presentation skills; and proficiency in English communication.

### 7. IT Manager

**Qualifications:** Must possess a BA or MA in IT Management; must have extensive experience in network administration (MCSE and Microsoft Exchange 2003), database programming and administration (MySQL), and web site programming (PHP); ability to implement IT systems and IT solutions packages for internal users; strong interpersonal skill; and proficiency in English communication.

### 8. Seaplane Pilot

**Qualifications:** Must have previous Seaplane Pilot experience on the Cessna 208; possess minimum 1,000 float times; minimum 1,000 hours turbine and total time 5,000 hours; team player with strong interpersonal skills.

### 9. Airport Hostess

**Qualifications:** Must possess a BA; must be well presented with a pleasant personality; strong interpersonal skills and service mindedness; and proficiency in English communication.

### 10. Baggage Handler (3)

**Qualifications:** Diplomatic graduated; must be well presented with a pleasant personality; strong interpersonal skills and service mindedness.

### 11. Airport Driver (2)

**Qualifications:** Diplomatic graduated; pleasant personality; strong interpersonal skills and service mindedness; proficiency in English communication; possess valid driver license and know Phuket well.

All positions would be Phuket based with extensive travel opportunities. Destination Air offers attractive salary and benefit packages that include a business performance bonus, great promotion prospects, the chance to work in modern and well appointed offices and the opportunity of working in a fast growing company.

Please submit your application to [hr@destinationair.com](mailto:hr@destinationair.com) or visit us at [www.destinationair.com](http://www.destinationair.com)



# Island Job Mart

**Teka group** is looking for a new assistant at our Phuket Office.

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good computer knowledge (Word and Excel are a must)
- Pleasant personality and service minded
- Sales experience preferred
- Female, between 23-30 years old
- Thai national

Interested candidates are invited to send their full resume with recent photo or apply in person to

Teka Phuket Showroom,  
52/15 Wichit Songkroam Rd,  
T. Talad Nua, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-234593, 076-234661

**Holiday Inn Resort**  
PHI PHI ISLAND

The resort is currently being upgraded with additional bungalows, food & beverage facilities, and leisure & relaxation areas.

We welcome applications for:

- Beverage Manager
- Waiter / Waitress
- Restaurant Captain
- Bartender
- Public Relations
- Rooms Division Manager - E.A.M.
- 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

**Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island**  
Tel: 075 - 620798 / 075 - 621334  
E-mail: hrdphi@escoms.com

Benefits: Competitive international-standard remuneration, service charge, accommodation, 3 meals per day and one day traveling leave per month.

## THE POOL DOCTOR - PATONG

One of Phuket's leading pool stores, 2 years' old and part of a growing network, is seeking a qualified and energetic person to fill the following position in our Patong office:



### SHOP MANAGER (PATONG)

1 POSITION

- Thai national, female/male
- Able to speak, read and write English
- Computer literate
- Work experience in sale and marketing
- Strong ability to manage and build a team

Good salary, Bonus, Commission, Accommodation, Vehicle and Telephone Allowance available for the right applicant. Please send your resume in English with recent photo to info@islandpools.co.th, Tel: 076-273087, 01-8957288.

## 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

(Khun Ton Architect & Construction Senior)



## RICHMOND GROUP

Richmond Group is a niche property developer focused on creating quality developments catering to high-end markets and the international investor community. Besides the Residence and the Park, Richmond Group has 3 other projects in the pipeline in Bangtao, Chalong Bay and Loch Palm. In addition to these development projects, Richmond Group's portfolio also includes an attractive Thai-style private retreat, the Himmaphan and a leader of Phuket finest collection of award-winning restaurants alliance, the Red Room. Both are located in the Bangtao area.

We are currently inviting hard working men and women to join our team for the following positions:

### The Richmond Group

#### Position: Senior Architect

##### Qualifications:

- Preferably Thai National (male or female)
- Proficient in written and spoken English
- Bachelor Degree or higher
- Minimum 10 years' experience in upmarket design
- Proficient in Autocad and 3D Rendering
- Able to follow up on international designers drawings and to apply to construction drawings

### The Red Room

#### Position: Restaurant Manager

##### Qualifications:

- Proficient in written and spoken English
- Attractive and outgoing personality
- Must be able to handle PR work for the restaurant
- Minimum 5 years' experience in the Restaurant & Food Industry
- Working knowledge of food preparation, costings & profit/loss
- Working knowledge of computer i.e. e-mail, msword, excel
- Be able to assist in networking with hotels, travel companies & the like
- Experience in the hotel & hospitality industry is an advantage

### Sports Bar (soon to be named)

#### Position: Sports and Music Bar Manager

##### Qualifications:

- Proficient in written and spoken English
- Attractive and outgoing personality
- Must be able to handle PR work for the bar
- Musically inclined or talented and/ or familiar with the music industry
- Knowledgeable in sports

Applicants should provide a full detailed English resume, expected salary and a recent photo to:

**Human Resources Department**  
**Richmond Group**  
Tel: (076) 326130 - 4 Fax: (076) 325732  
E-mail: hr@richmondth.com

## 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

## SECRETARY

Required for the Executive Office of the Phuket Orchid Resort. Working for foreign manager, she will require a good command of English, computer skills, great office organization and have a minimum of 3 years' experience. Applicants should provide a full detailed English resume, expected salary and recent photo to the Deputy GM of Phuket Orchid Resort, Karon Beach. Tel: 076-396519-23. Fax: 076-396526. Email: ad@katagroup.com

**Looking for a job?**  
**Still haven't found the perfect candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)!**



# Island Job Mart

## The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

### I. SENIOR ARTIST

### II. ARTIST

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop and Dreamweaver required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ 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.

### V. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

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

### MAKE PHOTOS

Beautiful lady wanted to develop photos. Training provided. Good salary, work 4 hours a day. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-270-4133.

### COOK WANTED

Cook wanted for Koh Kao Pisadan Bungalows off Laem Phromthep. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-5944017.

### 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

### TAILIFE HEALTH & FITNESS

in Patong require fun-loving, happy staff. Positions available:

- \* Head Chef
- \* Waitresses
- \* Bartenders
- \* Massage Therapists

Good salaries await the right candidates. Call Apple. Tel: 076-341116.

## 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

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### DUAL TEMP

refrigerator. Stainless steel, side by side, 5 months old, still under warranty. 28,000 baht. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

### GAS BARBECUE HALF GRIDDLE

5 months old, still under warranty. 25,000 baht. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

### GAS FRYER

Double basket, stainless steel, 5 months old, still under warranty. 25,000 baht. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

### GUITARS/AMP

for sale. Epiphone Les Paul Copy 7,000 baht, Takamine Electro Acoustic 8,000 baht, Fender 25 Watt amp. Tel: 01-5379196.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

## Business Opportunities

### FIRST-CLASS MASSAGE AND BAR

Main road, premium furniture, 4 rooms, 8 years contract, good money! Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

### 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8448381. Email: garyone1@hotmail.com

### BEAUTY SALON

for sale on Nanai Rd, Patong. Sale due to relocation. 150,000 baht ono. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4494987.

### RESTAURANT

for quick sale. Restaurant located on Kata main road. 30 covers, fully equipped, perfectly running. Asking 1.2 million baht. Rental fee only 10,000 baht/month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-0043008, 04-053-5780. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### 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

### 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

### PATONG INTERNET CAFE & TOUR SHOP

Close to the beach. 60sqm, 1 bedroom, toilet, pantry, computers & all equipment. For sale at 890,000 baht + rent of 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-290492, 04-183-1199.

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet cafe

Please contact. Tel: 01-0820039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@hotmail.com

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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.

### FEMALE MANNEQUIN

Female mannequin plus graduation gown and mortar board. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2722392. Email: michael@phuket-town.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)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## 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. Please call. Tel: 06-7430978.

## 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](http://www.lifechangingearnings.com)

## 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.

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well-run visa run business including tour office at Rawai Beach. Please contact K. Jaochim. Tel: 04-8512378 for more information.

## LARGE SUCCESSFUL

Established bar in Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-8677969.

## BAR FOR SALE/RENT

New bar in Patong on Soi Sukhumvit, at a good price and for long-term rent. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-0145817.

## BAR FOR SALE

Soi Dongtan. Refurbished. Good figures. No key money. Lease paid until December 2006. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-8528256. Email: misterkai4@yahoo.com.au

## GOOD INCOME

and return. Established Marketing company in Bangkok looking for investor/partner to help finance contracts with big international companies. Good returns and income. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-7523040. Email: nic888k@yahoo.com

## KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex: 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.

## Business Products & Services

### NO1 VISA

and accounting. Visa service for Thais and foreigners. Accounting, auditing, work permits and company formation. Best prices in Phuket- with guarantee! Tel: 076-280447, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-280-447. Email: info@no1visa.com

### S.P. VISA RUN SERVICE

We focus on quality and service as we know how important this is for you. One-day trip by minibus. Daily tourist visa 30 days. TR 60 days. Non B 90 days 1,250 baht only. Address: 17/79 Moom Muang Market, Close Phuket villa California Chao Fa Rd., Tambon Vichit, Muang District, Phuket, 83000. Tel: 076-264517, 01-9686331.

### VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



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](http://www.siam-legal.com)

### 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](http://www.mister-carpet.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



### 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](http://www.evevisarun.com)

### THANIT STONE FACTORY

State constructions tender offer & bidder (certified by all government divisions and the private sector): asphalt concrete road, drainage and dams, infrastructure, building construction, earthworks and landscaping. Facilities and equipment: plant asphalt concrete, pavers, pay loaders, excavators, rollers, motor graders, trucks, other heavy machines. For more information, please contact K. Maytinee. Tel: 01-895-2990, 09-7244102, 01-9584076. Fax: 076-224-969. For further details, visit our website at: [www.thanitstonefactory.com](http://www.thanitstonefactory.com)



### 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.

### 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.

## 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. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-597474, 01-6768797.

## Club Memberships Available

### LAGUNA GOLF

membership. Laguna Family Golf Membership available for 350,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: mclberg@netvigatator.com

## Club Memberships Wanted

### BLUE CANYON

Looking for Blue Canyon membership. Best offer will be considered. Please contact for more information. Email: kalim00@hotmail.com

## Computers

### PHOTOCOPY REPAIRS

Friendly farang fixes copiers and faxes and has laser toner refills. Please call George for more information. Tel: 06-9724805.

### 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

## 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

### NURSE CARE

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