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**JOE'S Downstairs**

# Phuket Gazette

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## Phuket Airlines 'off ban list soon'

### Air France helping to improve safety systems

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

BANGKOK: Phuket Airlines, recently blacklisted by the European Commission (EC) as one of 93 airlines barred from flying to the European Union (EU) and Switzerland, is confident that it will be reinstated soon, a senior official of the airline said on March 28.

As if to reinforce that confidence, the *Gazette* has learned that Phuket Airlines has applied to launch another airline, to be called Holiday Airlines. The application is currently being considered by the Thai Aviation Department (TAD).

Phuket Airlines was included in the EU ban list on safety grounds. It is one of only two airlines in East Asia banned, the other being North Korea's Air Koryo.

The European Commission (EC) has also advised passengers to avoid flying with the 93 airlines anywhere else in the world.

Grp Capt Pattana Tareekes, Phuket Air's Vice-President, Administration, told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview, "We realize that safety is the most important part of being in the aviation business and we try to improve constantly.

"We are ready to let [EC inspectors] audit our aircraft and we have already let the Aviation Department invite the EC to conduct a safety audit.

"The EC list is to be revised every three months and we want to get off it as fast as possible; it



Flashback to September last year, the nadir of Phuket Airlines' fortunes, when one of its aircraft slid off the end of the runway at Tak airport.

would be good if they could remove us earlier than that," Capt Pattana said.

"We are very sad that this has happened," he added, "because it has given us a negative image worldwide, and that has seriously affected our business."

However, the airline's management is not about to give up, he said. "We will prove that we are an international-standard airline and, when the EU team comes here, I believe we will pass their audit."

The TAD supports Phuket Airlines's contention that it should be removed from the blacklist.

Kanika Khemawuthanond, the TAD's Deputy Director-General, told the *Gazette* that, after the airline was barred from the UK and the Netherlands, her department had ordered it to improve its safety, and had kept a close eye on it.

"Phuket Airlines has employed Air France to revamp all systems, especially those relating to safety, to bring them up to international standards. We have checked on progress and believe that the airline is now up to standard, and we have invited the EC to send inspectors to check.

"Unfortunately, at the time

when the papers were on their way to Europe, at the beginning of March, the 25 member-countries of EU were meeting [to decide which airlines should be included in the blacklist]."

She noted that Phuket Airlines' entry in the blacklist was marked by an asterisk, indicating that it would be audited soon to see whether it should be removed from the list.

"The EC knew that we were working to fix Phuket Airlines' safety systems – that is why they marked the entry with an asterisk.

"I cannot say for sure that the airline will pass the next audit, but the airline is ready for it and I believe we have done the best that we could – it should pass," K. Kanika added.

Referring to Phuket Airlines' application to register Holiday Airlines, she said, "The TAD committee is checking the documents now to decide whether to allow it or not. In fact, we are examining seven or eight such applications."

Capt Pattana declined to comment on the application.

Phuket Airlines began to have problems with its safety image in April last year, when passengers aboard one of its Boeing 747s bound for London forced a takeoff to be aborted after seeing fuel pouring from a wing tank after a refueling stop in Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates.

A few days later another

**Continued on page 3**

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## New issue of stamps features Royal buildings

PHUKET: The latest issue of special stamps by Thailand Post is a set of four 3-baht stamps featuring four important historical Royal sites: The Throne Hall, King Taksin's Shrine, the Two Chinese-Style Residences and King Pinklao's Residence.

First day covers will be available from April 2 at all 10 post offices on the island at 17 baht each. Thailand Post will issue 1.2 million sets.

## PIWC elects new officials

PHUKET CITY: At the recent annual meeting of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC), the following officials and committee members were elected:

**President:** Cindy Ratcliffe; **Vice-President:** Joan Watson; **Treasurers:** Linda Cumming and Wipa Tanmanatragul; **Secretaries:** Carol Fryer

and Sue Arnulphy; **Membership Committee:** Kirsten Lund, Brigitte Beck and Anna Tandy; **General committee:** Marion Tide-man and Christine Robinson.

**Scholarship Committee:** Cindy Ratcliffe, Olivia Bhuntip Krisnaraj, Wipa Tanmanatragul, Porn Sween, Pen Forbes, Margaret Spratt, Sue Arnulphy, Katey Pianko and Sharon Cook.

**Fundraising/Ball Organization Committee:** Deborah Williamson, Lynne Daniel, Nadine Oliver and Anne Hanson. **Adviser:** Julie Street.

**Lunches:** Margaret Spratt, Rhoda Warnes; **PR:** Nor Moorhouse, Sharon Cook, Ilse Gibson and Nadine Oliver; **Newcomers/Hospitality:** Anna van Royen and Mandi Maynard; **Activities/Newsletter:** Maryanne van der Reijden and Nadine Oliver.

## 'Long Live The King' wristbands go on sale

PHUKET: The King Power Foundation, Siam Commercial Bank, Thailand Post and the Thai Military Bank are producing "Long Live The King" silicon wristbands and accompanying greetings cards to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne.

Last year, the King Power Foundation manufactured one million similar wristbands, sales of which raised 105 million baht for His Majesty's royal charities.

The royal yellow silicon wristbands will cost 100 baht each and will feature the words, "We Love the King" in Thai and "Long Live the King"

in English. On the inside of the wristband is written, "In commemoration of 60 years reign, long live the King" in Thai as well as the auspicious number 9.

Greetings cards are included with the sale of every wristband, to be used to convey best wishes to His Majesty.

Phuket Post Office Chief Wisarn Pongtiwatanakul told the *Gazette*, "We have about 56,000 wristbands at Phuket Post Office at the moment and they are also available at the King Power Duty Free Shop, Siam Commercial Banks and Thai Military Banks. They will be on sale until May 31."

# Lawyer appeals against poll ban

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Lawyer Thavorn Permpoon, would-be District 1 candidate of the *Thai Chuay Thai* (Thais Help Thais, or TCT) Party, appealed to the Supreme Court after the Phuket Election Commission (PEC) ruled him out of the April 2 general election.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on March 23, he explained that the PEC had removed his name from the register for the elections on the grounds that he had not been a member of TCT for the obligatory minimum of 90 days.

He said that he was sur-

prised by the PEC's decision. "I have been a registered member of the party since March 23, 2005, and the party appointed me an honorary member on May 11, 2005," he said.

"The misunderstanding stems from when the PEC checked the party's membership list. Every party has to send to the registrar a list of any changes in membership.

"But when the PEC checked, they didn't see my name on the list because they were looking at the list of changes sent to them after December 31.

"Of course they didn't see my name there because I was

already a member and didn't appear on the list of changes," he said.

K. Thavorn said that it was not fair that the PEC had announced the candidatures of his two rivals – Dr Sriyada Palimapan of the *Thai Rak Thai* Party and Pol Sgt Panya Borirak of the *Pattana Chart Thai* Party – without waiting for the outcome of his appeal, which was due to be heard on March 29.

The lawyer was a member of Phattalung's Provincial Council, and six years ago ran for a seat in the Senate, representing Phuket. He lost to the current incumbent, Paiboon Upatising.

## Bypass road contractor raided

PHUKET CITY: A team of Crime Suppression Division officers, along with officials from the Phuket Provincial Industrial Office, on March 25 seized rock-crushing equipment belonging to Chiang Rai Harn Charoen Enterprise Co, the main contractor for the bypass road widening project.

The seizures took place following complaints that Harn Charoen had been crushing rock without a license to do so.

Thongchai Wichaidith,

Chief of the Phuket Provincial Industrial Office, told the *Gazette* that Harn Charoen now has a choice of paying a fine or of facing a full police investigation.

"The company only has a construction permit from the Highways Office; it doesn't have a permit to crush rock. We have informed them of their options, but so far have not had a reply."

Phuket Highways Department Engineer, Boonyakiat Kongketyai, told the *Gazette* that Harn

Charoen has been working on the bypass road since May 2004 and that the job is almost finished.

He added that he did not believe the raid would greatly affect construction because there are only 200 meters of road still to be paved.

"They have not contacted me yet and work is temporarily halted because of rain. I think the job will be completed after Songkran," he said.

– Janyaporn Morel

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## After 10 years, 'Battman' set to move on

PHUKET: James Batt, Joint Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH), will leave the island in June to take up a new post as the head of a chain of hotels headquartered in San Diego, California.

Mr Batt joined LRH in November 1995 and shortly after joining was promoted to Managing Director.

He told the *Gazette*, "We [long ago] made a family decision to return to the United States after 10 years in Phuket, and I received a call asking me to consider a position in San Diego."

"After they came here to see what I do in Phuket, and I went there to meet the team, I have accepted the position of President and Chief Operating Officer of Woodfin Suite Hotels."

Woodfin currently operates 17 hotels in 11 US states.

"The company has hotels across America, with new ones under development, including [properties on] Harbor Island in San Diego, and at Marina del Rey in Los Angeles," Mr Batt said. "The plan is to move the existing hotels up-market, and to become the major player in the upscale all-suites market."

Thus far, LRH has not said who will succeed Mr Batt.

## Assassination gunman named

PHUKET: Police say they now know the identity of the gunman who assassinated Phuket businessman Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas, and are hunting him. They have named him as Samrerng Klaising, from Petchaburi.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth said that Samrerng and the man who drove the red BMW for him were believed to be "at large in Central Thailand".

# Gov urges tax boss to chase Villa Santi

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura said two Dutch investors in the 800-million-baht Villa Santi project in Kalim could have their work permits renewed, but only for long enough to ensure that they pay some 11 million baht in income taxes supposedly owed on the hillside villa and hotel project.

Gov Udomsak called a meeting of provincial officials on March 27 to discuss the work permit status of Villa Santi investors Bart Duykers and Johannes Oranje, both from the Netherlands.

In attendance were several members of a provincial committee whose inspection of the project site in early February resulted in the developers being ordered to stop work. The committee members cited failure to obtain all the necessary building permits for the project, as their reason for ordering the stoppage.

However, it was revealed at the meeting that rental villas do not require an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), the lack of which was a main reason why the project was halted.

Nevertheless, the Governor said he would no longer authorize work permits for "clever" foreigners who come here "to exploit loopholes in the law for their own benefit, while destroying the Thai environment".

"Villa Santi can find other people to work here, and it doesn't matter if they are from the same country as these two men. I just don't want any more of these people who come here to cheat and destroy Thailand," he said.

Gov Udomsak urged all of the committee members present to look into ways to use existing laws to change the building codes at the provincial level so that this loophole could never be exploited again.

The Governor agreed to re-

new the work permits after the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Revenue Office, Pensri Passakul, told him that Villa Santi was 11 million baht in arrears in its income taxes and that she feared that the two foreign investors might try to use the fact that they had no work permits as a reason not to pay the tax.

The Governor agreed to extend their work permits until the end of their existing visas, which expire in April and May, but urged K. Pensri to move aggressively on the tax issue. He threatened to "take steps" to prevent the two from leaving the country if they failed to pay the overdue taxes.

When contacted, Mr Duykers told the *Gazette* that his work permit was in fact extended some hours before the meeting took place.

He added that he had not been contacted by any government agency regarding the tax issue.

"We have very good relations with the government, so I don't see what the issue is," he added.

Boonchoke Maneechote, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office and one of those who attended the meeting, later told the *Gazette* that the work permits were renewed because neither of the two men had broken any labor laws.

## Patong assault victim dies

PATONG: Chatchai "Ghee" Ritchohor, 32, who fell into a coma after being head-butted by a foreign tourist in July last year, has died.

K. Ghee's younger sister, K. Oranuch, said her brother died on March 25 of long-term complications from emergency brain surgery performed at Vachira Phuket Hospital after the assault, which caused his brain to hemorrhage and swell.

Doctors in K. Ghee's native Nong Khai Province listed the causes of death as Hepatitis B infection, pneumonia and peritonitis, she said.

The assault on K. Ghee occurred after a darts match outside the Piccadilly Pub on Soi Kebsup.

Scotsman Tommy Hunter admitted to head-butting K. Ghee, but said in an email to the *Gazette* that he was acting in self-defense and that he hoped K. Ghee would recover.

Kathu Police police issued a warrant for Hunter's arrest but by that time he had already left the country.

Pol Lt Pateuang Fonmanat of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette* on March 27 that he was unaware of K. Ghee's death.

He added, "Hunter faces a charge of committing bodily harm but if the victim's relatives report [K. Ghee's death] to us and there is medical evidence that he died as a result of that bodily harm, we can amend the charge [to manslaughter]."

## Airline 'off EU blacklist soon'

From page 1

flight was abandoned after it had to turn back to London with a hydraulics problem.

Phuket Airlines dumped its London route and attempted to switch instead to Amsterdam, but the Dutch authorities barred a flight from taking off after it was discovered that emergency lighting inside the aircraft was not working properly. There were also some questions over the pilot's papers.

In May, the airline was barred from Dutch and British airspace. In August it had an aircraft seized in South Korea for non-payment of airport fees, and in the same month it was barred from France.

By the end of August, Phuket Airlines had all but withdrawn from the international market, serving only one international route, between Bangkok and Yangon.

In September, one of its smaller aircraft skidded off the end of the runway at Tak airport, in northern Thailand. No one was injured, but one passenger, Senator Udon Tantisunthorn, suggested the crash might have been caused by pilot error. "If you ask me," he said, "the plane should have touched down at the beginning of the runway rather than around the middle of it."



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An essential tool for selling tourism to the world, particularly Europe, is the annual International Tourism Bourse, or ITB, in Berlin. This year representatives from Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga went there in force. As **Sangkhae Leelanapaporn** and **Natcha Yuttaworawit** report, they came back full of hope that the 2006-2007 high season will be exceptionally good.

# Berlin tourism

**T**ourism business people from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi returned recently from the ITB exhibition in Berlin, the world's largest travel show, highly optimistic at prospects for the 2006-2007 high season, starting in November this year.

The only threat to a boom year appears to be the dearth of direct international flights to Phuket; travel agencies in Europe seem no longer concerned about continuing violence in the Deep South, having accepted that it is confined to the three provinces bordering Malaysia.

At the show, most of the questions about safety concerned the possibility of another tsunami hitting the Andaman Coast and continuing political uncertainty in Bangkok.

Some 60 businesses from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi set up booths at the ITB, held from March 8 to 12. The first three

days were for trade visitors, while the final two days were open to the public.

Many of these businesses then went on to Stockholm and Copenhagen, the Swedish and Danish capitals, to promote tourism to Scandinavians.

Phuket Tourist Association President Pattanapong Aikwanich told the *Gazette* that feedback was good at ITB this year, with higher-than-expected numbers of travel agents and individual tourists visiting the Phuket booths.

No one asked about the violence in the Deep South but, instead, people quizzed the Thais about politics and protests in Bangkok, he said.

"We told them that there was nothing to worry about; the protests had been going on for some time but had consisted entirely of rhetoric, with no sign of violence.

"Nobody seemed too concerned about the political situa-



Talking deals at ITB is Pearl Group's Wichit na Ranong (facing camera) with European travel agents.

tion, but many asked about the earthquakes that have been detected not too far away in the Andaman Sea. We were able to tell them that we have a good

system of warning towers that will give people time to evacuate safely. However not that many people asked about this," he added.

He said the top four sources of tourists for Phuket are currently Australia, South Korea, Germany and Sweden.

"The Japanese also want to come to Phuket, but there is still a problem with direct flights. This is different from South Korea – there are many direct flights from there, and Koreans like to come to Phuket.

"In Swedish eyes, Thai people are heroes because of the way they helped after the tsunami. Many Swedish people died, but Thai people were generous and helpful to survivors. I asked many Swedish travel agents about this and always got the same answer, that the image of Thai people is very positive.

"Luckily, there are still many direct charter flights from Scandinavia to Phuket. We do have a problem with getting tourists from Japan, Australia and Singapore after [Thai Airways International

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# expo lifts spirits



Thai massage therapists were in big demand from weary of walking around the huge Berlin exhibition.

– TG] canceled many important direct routes. We understand that TG could not make a profit on those services [after the tsunami]. We don't know how to fix this problem. It still seems that there is no chance of those flights being resurrected," K. Pattanapong added.

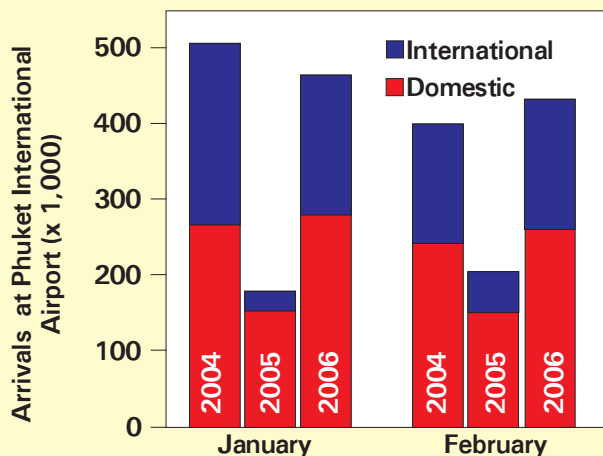
Poomiphat Navnukroh, General Manager of the Cape Panwa Hotel, told the *Gazette* that booths in "Thailand Hall" at ITB attracted more travel agents and tourists than any other.

He said that this was his third visit to ITB, and that feedback this year had been good.

"We signed many contracts with travel agents and made appointments with others," he said. Whereas in the past Cape Panwa had done a lot of business with British agents, this year he had signed new business with agents

## ARRIVALS BOUNCE BACK

In January, arrivals were to close to pre-tsunami levels. February saw them exceed those levels.



Source: Airports Authority of Thailand, Phuket

from Germany and other North European countries.

ITB had been a good show for the hotel, he said. "In November I believe we will get more tourists from the Scandinavian market. Our occupancy since last November has averaged about 70%, which was not as

good as 2004 [before the tsunami]. Some tourist markets still have not returned, such as the Asian markets, which are still concerned about political turmoil in Thailand and the continuing earthquakes around [Sumatra]," he added.

He noted that modern communications and the media allow news to spread very fast. If the Asian tourists do not return, he said, that could mean danger ahead for tourism in Phuket.

He, too, had received complaints about flights. "Some agents complained that [direct] flights to Phuket are always full, or that there are not enough flights."

K. Poomiphat was impressed with the resurgence in tourists from Scandinavia. "Kata and

Karon Beaches are full of tourists from Scandinavian, which is a surprise, given that so many people from there lost relatives in the tsunami.

"That is especially true for the Swedish; the population of Sweden is about 8 million, and about 300,000 of those have come to Phuket since November 2005, staying mostly in hotels in Kata and Karon. Swedish tour agents expect Phuket to be the top tourist destination for Swedes for several years to come," he added.

The President of Krabi Tourism Association, Itirit Kinglek, told the *Gazette*, "There are 20 travel agencies from Krabi [at ITB], and the response has been rather good because the perception of Southeast Asia, including Thailand, is improving.

"Our tourists are almost exclusively from northern Europe. No one asked about the possibility of another tsunami and tourists said that they are not worried about the political situation as long as it is non-violent."

He added, "In 2004, before the tsunami, we had about 1.8 million tourists. In 2005 that decreased to 1.03 million tourists. But I think this high season the number of tourists will increase by about 20% from last year.

As for Koh Phi Phi Don, he agreed that there had been some problems about government rules for rebuilding accommodation.

But he believed those prob-

lems could be overcome. "By the end of this year, I believe Phi Phi will be able to support tourism, though not 100% as before.

In the first three months of this year, hotels in Krabi averaged 70% to 80% occupancy, he said. "The next high season will be better. We plan to do road shows to target new markets, including Russia and Hong Kong, and we will also go to the Arabian Travel Mart in Dubai.

"Our idea is to keep expanding into new markets. We think Krabi's tourism will improve so long as there is no effect from political problems."

His counterpart in Phang Nga, Anupong Sa-Nguannam, agreed that ITB had been useful. "The feedback at ITB was good and will help Khao Lak because European tour agents met many tourism businesses from Khao Lak. They trust us and will put the name of Khao Lak back into their brochures.

"Tourists who visited out booths did not seem worried about another tsunami – they see it as a natural event that happens only rarely. They seem more worried about the safety on the roads. Some asked about Thai politics, but I don't believe it is an important factor for tourism."

"After the tsunami, the number of rooms in Khao Lak was cut to about 20%, but now we are back to about 70% or 80%. We have had some problems getting labor for construction. Workers from Isarn do not want to come to Khao Lak, possibly because they are afraid of another tsunami. It's expensive to use foreign labor because government registration fees are so high. That is the reason we have been slow in rebuilding."

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## Queer News

**D**isappointment famously prompts extreme measures in victims. Disappointed of proper stage effects for his fiddling, Nero burned Rome; of artistic ambitions, Van Gogh cut off his ear; and of the American colonies, George III went mad.

In Lampang Province, a 39-year-old man disappointed with women fell in love with a real bitch, – a two-year-old poodle named Olé – and married her.

The story was told by the bride's master, identified only as "Uncle Gik", who gave away her away for a bride price of a mere 999 baht. "They love each other a lot," he said.

Uncle Gik said that his dog's swain, a factory worker whom he called "Pupé", was staying in his house.

"Pupé asked to come live in my house many years ago and has stayed with me since," he explained. "In return, he helps around the house. He's an energetic sort, always looking to be helpful."

In Gik's opinion, women have too often fooled Pupé: "He's had many girlfriends, who get close to him – to the point of marriage – then make off with his money. He's lost a lot that way. So he says he'll have nothing more to do with women."

The plight of Pupé duped by human females apparently excited machinations of a different sort behind the ringlet-framed snout of little Olé.

"Pupé came to me recently," said Uncle Gik, "and confessed that he had been seduced by Olé. She snuggled beside him

## His wife's a bitch – and that's why he loves her

while he slept, using her tongue to lick his face and body, which aroused him till finally he consummated his passion."

Pupé said he was surprised at the depth of his own emotions: "I feel strange. I love her, and we're so close – as if in a former existence we were lovers."

Although Thais, especially rural Thais, traditionally regard dogs as unclean – as sinners from a past life forced to go on four legs in this life – Pupé feels no animadversion toward Olé's present canine status.

"At the same time, little Olé undeniably loves and is close to Pupé," said Uncle Gik.

"He came, apologizing formally, and tendered 999 baht as a bride price, begging to marry my dog," Gik said.

"I accepted it, because I could see he was being honest. He agreed to take care of her, to feed and shelter her. We arranged a marriage party, then went to make merit, bringing along food for hungry children."

Since then, the old man explained, his new, er, son-in-law shows every sign of being smitten by the blushing bride: "He buys expensive toothpaste to brush her teeth and food supplements to make her fur glow. They spend their time fondly hugging and kissing."

Uncle Gik said news of Olé and Pupé's wedding elicited considerable consternation among

neighbors in the village: "They say it's unnatural," he said, "and impossible for man and dog to live together as husband and wife."

Regarding the latter issue, Chiang Mai's chief veterinary officer in the Provincial Livestock office, Dr Somporn Pornwisetkul agreed with villagers.

"Such a thing seems impossible," he said, "because men and dogs are wholly different. As far as their sexual relations go, I don't think there will be any offspring: the two anatomies differ greatly."

He did not, however, rule out the possibility. Asked whether he felt Olé suffered during the sexual congress, Dr Somporn begged not to offer an opinion.

Assistant Professor Dr Pairat Preuksachat-Kunakorn, described as an expert in psychiatry, said regarding the couple's psychological state that "many factors may figure."

"Psychological testing must be performed first, but I would say on the face of it that [this] is somewhat unusual," he averred.

He noted that "such behavior can be either long-term or temporary," and suggested "a responsible elder go talk [with Pupé] so he understands the consequences, especially the social consequences" of marrying a dog.

Poodles, it should be noted, range tremendously in size. The relative statures of Olé and Pupé were not reported.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*



## TRASHING Phuket



**PATONG:** This particularly fetching sight is to be found on Patong's Phangmeuang Rd, behind the municipal waste water treatment plant.

Perhaps to show that its sense of humor is still razor sharp, Patong Municipality has placed a "No Dumping" sign like a cherry on a rotting cake. Those who are found guilty of doing so face a 2,000-baht fine, or so the sign says...


Meanwhile, people sift through the mess in search of retrievable objects.

Gazette readers are encouraged to send photos of "informal" garbage dumps, 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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# Pornthip to investigate 300 bodies

**K**unying Pornthip Rojanasunand, Director of the Justice Ministry's Forensic Science Institute, said she would investigate a recently-discovered burial site in Pattani Province, where about 300 corpses have been discovered.

A large majority do not appear to have died from natural causes, she said.

Khunying Pornthip did not specify the exact location where the corpses were found, but local rescue workers from the Por Tek Tung Rescue Foundation said they believed she was referring to a section of the Talubok Cemetery in Pattani's Muang District, where unclaimed bodies from Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat are buried.

The officer, who asked not to be named, said most of the bodies were foreign fishermen working on Thai-owned trawlers in Pattani.

Khunying Pornthip said she was alarmed that there were no police records to account for the bodies, which were not dumped in a mass grave, but placed individually in the ground without coffins.

Police normally record such deaths as part of standard operating procedure, she said.

It would be another month before her team could conduct any autopsies at the site, she added.

**Cool crockery:** Researchers from the National Metal and Materials Technology Center and Thammasat University have jointly developed what they call "The Food Plate", an edible plate made of food-grade cassava root powder.

After a year's research, the team came up with a prototype that can be used only for dry food.



**TRUCK DRIVER LOSES GAMBLE :** A man surveys the scene following a collision between a train and a speeding 10-wheel truck in Ratchaburi's Muang district. The accident killed six people and injured at least 50 others, including many foreigners. The train, traveling from Butterworth in Malaysia to Bangkok with 400 passengers, partially derailed. Four cars plunged into a rice field. Police said the truck driver broke through barriers at a rail crossing in an attempt to beat the train across. He and his two passengers were among the dead.

For the next stage, the team plans to develop packaging with heat-resistant polymers so it can also be used for hot food.

The team will search for an appropriate polymer which has heat-resistant properties to coat on the edible tableware, a research assistant said.

"We have to find a coating polymer which is not only resistant to heat, but also degradable and safe for people's health," he said.

Most people do not choose to eat the edible plate as it has no taste whatsoever. After meals,

instead of throwing the plate away, diners could grind the plate up and cook it for their pets.

**Fatal fitness:** Chiang Mai Police plans to improve the physical fitness of its officers suffered a blow when traffic cop Pol Sen

Sgt Maj Insom Kamla, 50, collapsed in front of fellow officers as they took part in a physical training test at Muang Chiang Mai Municipal Stadium. He was immediately taken to hospital, where he died of heart failure.

Chiang Mai Police Com-

mander Maj Gen Jirut Prommophon said he had asked officers to join the training on a voluntary basis. He urged them to proceed slowly with the program, which requires a physical test every six months.

As he died on duty, Sgt Maj Insom could be considered for a posthumous promotion, Gen Jirut added.

**Botch-ulism:** Following a botulism outbreak in Nan's Navai Mai village, military and health officials want to learn how the botulism bacteria could be used to make a deadly toxin, Thailand Health Minister Pinij Jarusombat said.

The outbreak occurred after 161 villagers became ill from eating contaminated bamboo shoots at a merit-making ceremony.

After some of the victims were flown to Bangkok for treatment, K. Pinij told a press conference the mass poisoning provided a rare opportunity to study *clostridium botulinum*. The bacterium is used to produce botulinum toxin, one of the most poisonous substances known to man.

The overnment agencies would study the process of producing biological weapons from the bacteria in order to prepare for its use in a possible terror attack, he added.

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

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With the next Full Moon Party on Koh Pha-ngan coinciding with the Songkran New Year festival, the Samui Harbor Department is planning special patrols to boost maritime safety in the area.

Lopburi Yothasiri, the head of the island's Harbor Office, recently announced the imminent arrival of a 130-foot patrol vessel with more than 10 crew, which will check boats arriving at and leaving Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan, as well those encountered at sea nearby.

"Our staff will check passenger numbers on every boat," said K. Lopburi, "and we will engage extra staff from Surat Thani to lend a hand. During big festivals like this it is important to make sure tourists are safe. The new boat will be patrolling from April 12 to 17."

As for speedboats arriving and leaving the Full Moon party itself, although the harbor police have already conducted inspections to ensure that all such vessels comply with safety standards, K. Lopburi also wants passengers to be informed of the potential risks before they board.

"A lot of problems can occur when people are drunk and lose control on a boat," he said. "If tourists know the risks before they board, they can look after themselves better. If the boat is too full they should just wait for another one."

Some 15 people died, six of them tourists, when a speedboat hit a rock after a Full Moon Party on January 25, 2005. Since then, the Harbor Department has been working to increase safety on tourist boats in the area.

**No political fallout:** Recent reports in the Thai press suggested



The ferries to Samui can expect heavy traffic around Songkran, which coincides with a full moon.

# Extra checks on boats during Songkran

## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

that tourism figures in major destinations such as Phuket and Chiang Mai have been hit by the current political crisis.

Panu Woramit, the head of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) on Koh Samui, says the island has not suffered at all, however. According to the TAT, Samui's tourist numbers so far have matched and may even exceed expectations this year.

"Last month, the island reached 90% occupancy," said

K. Woramit, "and although the peak tourist season generally ends in March on Samui, bookings are still high for April – especially over the Songkran holiday period."

It would appear that neither

political nor natural disasters can deter visitors from coming to Koh Samui – although some local commentators have been warning that a massive increase in development and construction on the island might do so.

**Tsunami boost:** According to figures recently released by Surat Thani Provincial Commerce Officer, Sompeng Aonprasert, the December 26, 2004, tsunami brought about a significant increase in commercial and residential registrations on Samui during 2005.

The number of applications for juristic person registration in the province rose by 20% last year, with 1,300 applications for company registration and 310 partnership registrations – representing an overall capital investment of 3.5 billion baht.

Koh Samui accounted for the lion's share of business reg-

istrations, with 1,199 applications filed on the island compared with 178 registrations in Surat Thani's Muang district and 113 on Koh Pha-ngan.

**Developers head south:** With the property sector still booming on Samui, developers are now targeting more remote areas such as beach areas in the south of the island.

Large, exclusive residential projects along the southwest coast near Baan Taling Ngam are attracting particular attention and investment, both regionally and internationally. Thanks largely to the unspoilt surroundings, agents say that high-end properties in this area could fetch as much as US\$2.5 million (100 million baht) per home.

Up-market residential developments also attract services such as restaurants, bars and recreational facilities. According to one local developer, areas once seen as agricultural backwaters may soon be competing for the title of "the Park Lane of Samui".

**Intelligent offices:** A second high-tech office building on Koh Samui, known as "IT Complex II", is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. It will be six stories high with 4,700 square meters of office space, and the units will incorporate a number of technological benefits that the developers say mark a move toward more sophisticated business communications on the island.

The new IT Center will house property-related businesses such as real estate agents, lawyers, architects, construction firms and interior designers.

Facilities will include 10MB hi-speed broadband Internet with ISP satellite backup, ISDN telephone lines and full generator backup for electrical equipment. There will even be an onsite helipad.

The first IT complex opened two years ago, causing controversy because of its urban design, which many people felt was inappropriate for an island.

But the Samui Estate Corpo, sole agent for the IT Complex II, believes the new building is essential for the island.

"The digital future of Koh Samui is progressing due to international demand," a spokesman said. "The intelligent office is a must for the island in order to increase the efficiency of our businesses."

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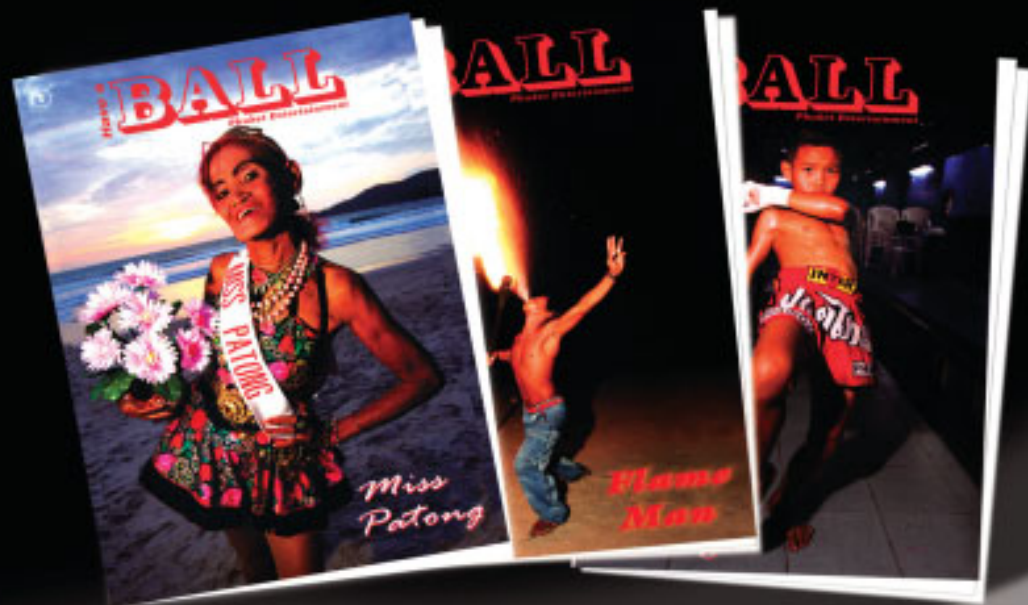
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Left, plastics are loaded on a truck for consignment to a Bangkok-area recycling plant. Above: Wongpanit Phuket boss Niti Ruktaetrakul

By Janyaporn Morel

As Phuket's population and economy grows, the amount of garbage produced on the island also increases inexorably.

Some visitors to these shores might be forgiven for scratching their heads in disbelief and asking, "Where on earth are the bottle banks and the recycling dumps?"

The ironic fact of the matter is that, in Thailand, the idea of separating, recycling and reusing garbage occurs more readily to the poor – out of sheer necessity – whereas the concept seems hard to grasp for the average middle-class and professional Thai.

While municipalities struggle to dispose of the ever-growing tonnage of trash on the island fast solutions are required.

In Thailand, the *samlor* or *rot sa-leng* – a motorcycle and sidecar – carrying Thailand's equivalent of the long-disappeared British rag and bone man – is a familiar sight. This happy chappy relieves householders of discarded glass and plastic bottles, paper, long-broken-down household appliances and anything else that can be recycled.

Unfortunately, there is no way that these junk merchants can handle Phuket's current garbage problem – up to 470 tons a day by some estimates. Enter Wongpanit, a Phitsanuloke-based

# The Niti-gritty of recycling

company dedicated to separating and recycling used materials.

The Phuket branch of Wongpanit is run by 28-year-old Phuket native Niti Ruktaetrakul. A computer management graduate, K. Niti admits that the business is in his blood; he has always had a tendency to keep things rather than throw them away.

He therefore took a course at the Wongpanit factory in Phitsanuloke after graduating and obtained a business franchise to run a separation plant in Phuket. K. Niti eventually found an ideal plot of land close to Dents Done, on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd in Kathu, and set up business in December 2004.

K. Niti explains, "After finishing the training course, I learned that the Phuket Municipality incinerator had more garbage than it could handle and that was a very good start indeed. In point of fact, we are not a recycling factory; our company separates usable materials and pre-

pares them for the larger recycling factories around Bangkok and Chon Buri.

"We classify the main types of reusable material into five main groups: paper, non-ferrous metal, ferrous metal [iron and steel], glass and plastic. We also deal with electronic parts and batteries."

K. Niti is also consultant to a smaller Wongpanit branch in Thalang District. He points out that Phuket is a growing province and that soon even districts like Rawai will need a separation plant.

And the rag pickers with their *samlor*? Has Wongpanit put them out of business? Quite the contrary. They now collect for the plant. Still, K. Niti encourages local communities to separate at source. He has also introduced two consciousness-raising projects, called "Usable Garbage Bank" and "Usable Garbage Market".

"Basically, for the Usable

Garbage Fair, we choose a place, usually a school, where people can bring their used materials. The school records what materials the students have brought in and when we come to collect the garbage we pay students accordingly."

He adds that he has run this project at about 20 local schools so far and that he expects more to take part in the scheme.

"As for the Usable Garbage Market, we provide a location then inform locals that we're there to buy their recyclable garbage off them. We've had about

five occasional garbage markets so far, but we also have a regular one, twice a month, in Moo Baan Kathu, on Soi 4."

Predictably enough, Wongpanit's main source of usable materials is Phuket City Municipality's incinerator, which provides about 17% of the plant's overall materials.

K. Niti explains, "I'm planning to introduce a plastic disposal process that would, in effect, grind the plastic down to manageable size."

"The problem is that we have to follow a lot of environmental rules and the process is not only very noisy, but also requires a lot of water."

"For the Municipality, their biggest disposal problem is getting rid of polystyrene and they'd prefer us to tackle that."

For more information contact Wongpanit Phuket at Tel: 076-203271 or see the Wongpanit website at [www.wongpanit.com](http://www.wongpanit.com) (Thai language only).

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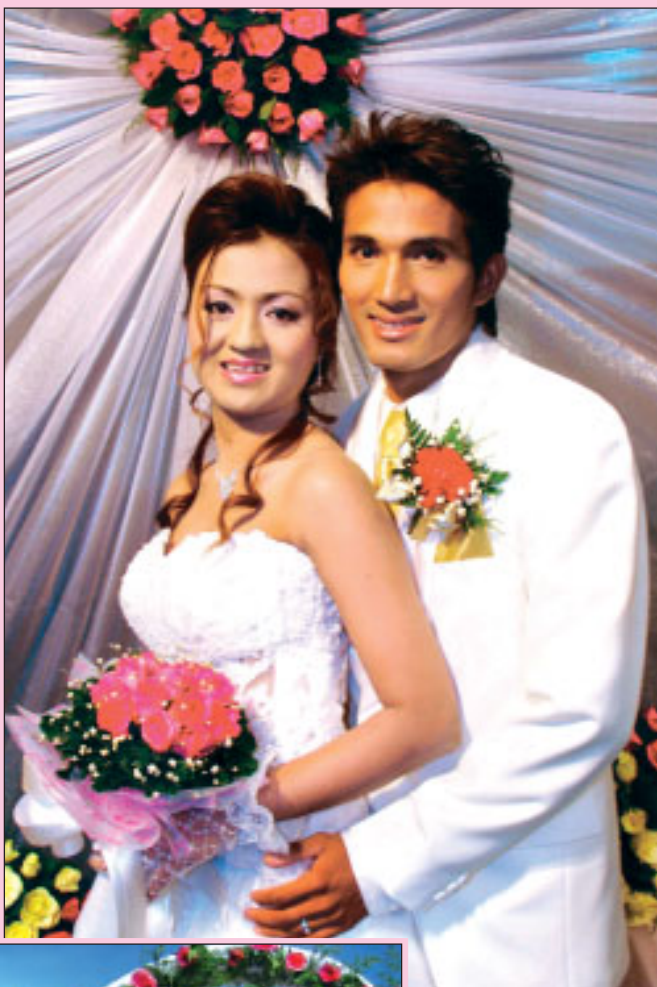
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# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket

Right, Apichaya Kanasut and Samart Sangsuwan were married at The Metropole hotel, Phuket City, on March 9.



Left, Deatrice Marckie and Andrew Evans of the USA celebrated their wedding on Karon Beach, next to the Karon Beach resort, on March 18.

Since the institution of a constitutional monarchy in 1932, Thailand has suffered more than a few attempts by strongmen to create a totalitarian state. Some lasted longer than others, but eventually the people's fierce independence has always won.

A stalwart group of veteran politicians – many of whom were mere children in 1932 – remain, offering sage counsel and opinions to younger generations.

Sakul Na Nakorn, who is now 84, is one of those elder statesmen. The recent recipient of a Pridi Banomyong Foundation Award, he recorded his experiences and views in his book *Tam Roy Prawattisart Tee Yung Mee Lom Hai Jai* – or *On the Trail of Living, Breathing History*.

He spoke with the *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn about what it has been like to live through 'interesting times'.



Sakul Na Nakorn was born in Phuket on October 23, 1921, the son of Chuan and Kham, and studied first at Plookpanya School and then at Phuket Wittayalai School.

He says that the most significant event in his life was his separation from his extended family when, as an adolescent, he and his family accompanied his father – a government financial controller – to Bangkok. There, he continued his studies at Wang Somdej Burapa School.

Subdued for a moment, K. Sakul explained that his mother and younger brothers came back to Phuket, but that he decided to stay with his father in Bangkok.

He said, "But I also felt I needed to be in Phuket – that, as the eldest child of three, I had a responsibility to be the man of the house in Phuket. But I also knew that I had to study to improve myself.

"My intention was to study at Thammasat University, although I missed my mother – now back in Phuket – so much. I also wanted to help her; she was raising the other children more or less on her own."

He decided instead to study at Changkon Pathumwan – a

technical college also in Bangkok – undertaking a three-year course. "It was not too long a course, so I knew I would be back home soon," he said.

The years passed, and K. Sakul graduated from Changkon Pathumwan on December 7, 1941 – the date now infamous for the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor. He returned to Phuket, and soon took up a post with the Mine and Rubber Co at Takua

Pa, Phang Nga. There he met Naree Tanthonghe. They married and are still together after 61 years. The devoted couple raised four sons and a daughter.

Naree once saved him from assassin's bullet by standing between him and his would-be killer. The gun-

man ran away.

Democracy has always been a concern of his, even when he was just 11 years old, during the country's move to a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

"In 1932, we fought against power that was undemocratic. 'Power corrupts' was our rallying cry.

"Times change, however, and what was once simply the lust for power for its own sake became also a lust for power for monetary gain. The problems that

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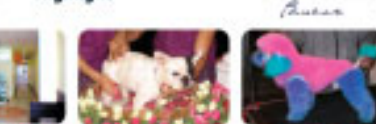
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# ELDER STATESMAN

stem from wanting power became twofold," he asserts.

"Democracy is a simple concept: it must increase the quality of life for all people in all strata of society."

In 1947, he became a surveyor with the Kamala Tin Dredging Co. Living in company accommodation, he saw first hand the difference in lifestyle and pay between foreigners and Thais. Two years later, these differences came to a head when K. Sakul was one of the leaders of a strike by employees. The company caved in to all their demands.

In 1952, while still working in the tin industry, he and some friends set up *Pak Tai*, Thailand's first local newspaper outside Bangkok. He continued to write for the newspaper for 30 years, building a reputation as a clean and honest journalist.

His writing made him some powerful enemies. For example when he wrote in great detail about the massive profits tin companies were making from processing ore bought cheap from local people, the column caused a backlash that resulted in lower profits for the tin companies.

In 1956, K. Sakul was elected *kamnan* of Rassada and also joined the provincial council, in those days an advisory body appointed by the Provincial Governor. He served six terms on the council, stepping down in 1985.

By that time, the former tin mine surveyor had turned against his old profession. Seeing the rise of tourism and its potentially wide benefits to society, he campaigned against tin.

He was at the forefront of the protest against the opening of a tantalum factory on the outskirts of Phuket Town, a protest that ended with the plant being burned down.

K. Sakul is now a consultant to the governor of Phuket, a role he first undertook with the first CEO Governor, Pongpayome Vasaputi, and which he con-



**Sakul Na Nakorn: 'What was once simply the lust for power for its own sake became also a lust for power for monetary gain.'**

tinues with the current Governor, Udomsak Usvarangkura.

"Some of my suggestions have been taken up and it is gratifying to see them come to fruition for the benefit of all who live in Phuket. However, as

time passes, the views of the 'older' people such as myself tend to be seen in a more negative light."

K. Sakul said, "I have always been more concerned with people than material wealth. But

there are parallels between business and governance.

"Phuket's multi-track development plan is a number of threads woven together. For example, the development of the island's economy goes hand-in-

hand with its social development, both of which are in line with the strategy for the nation as a whole.

"The local governor implements the plans and if successful, he is rewarded for it; business and the province are more successful and all benefit."

Each path to success, he believes, has many smaller paths feeding into it "like the tributaries of a mighty river, such as the Orinoco. It is because of these smaller paths that so much care must be taken; they must all be examined. Even the smallest of these offshoots must be checked, for they are just as important as the main path."

He extends his analogy to the people within society. "Most people progress through life along the main path, although some – for many reasons, not necessarily of their own doing – are on different paths.

"Take the poor, for example. We may see them on the street, and it is easier sometimes to look away from them, but we should not walk on by without considering them and what can be done for them.

"Can a society, an individual within society, claim to be successful if it, or he, ignores those less fortunate or able? This is one of the guiding tenets of my life."

Plainly a man of strong convictions, he says that he has five mottoes for life: 1. Know your strengths; 2. Be satisfied with what you are and have; 3. Be confident; 4. Exercise self control; 5. Respect yourself.

Of the current political turmoil, K. Sakul said, "It is impossible for me to predict what the outcome will be, but one thing I am sure of is that all the struggling our nation is seeing is democracy in action."

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A famous remark – often attributed to Brian Eno – about The Velvet Underground (VU) is that while only a few thousand people bought a VU album upon its initial release, almost every single one of them was inspired to start a band.

An exaggeration, undoubtedly, but one that goes some way to suggest the strength of the band's influence and the cult following it garnered then, and which exists even today, 40 years later.

Formed in 1965, VU rapidly became part of the hedonistic, avant-garde New York scene. Perhaps not surprisingly, the band soon came to the attention of painter, filmmaker, publisher and actor Andy Warhol, arguably the leading light of the Pop Art movement.

Warhol became VU's manager and secured for the band – by this time comprising Lou Reed, John Cale, Sterling Morrison and Maureen Tucker – a contract with Verve Records. He also suggested that the stunning Christa Päffgen, the model, actress and icon, better known as Nico, sing with VU.

Warhol's suggestions soon became insistence. He demanded that Nico sing with VU on their debut album, *The Velvet Underground and Nico*, which he produced, apart from one song, *Sunday Morning*.

The album was recorded in one or two days in November 1966, and released in March 1967.

# Underground resurrection

**EAR CANDY with Andy Johnstone**

The album cover is famous for its typically Warholian design: a bright yellow banana with "Peel Slowly and See" printed on the early versions near a perforated tab.

Those who did remove the banana skin sticker found a pink, phallic, peeled banana beneath. Rumors that the sticker was impregnated with LSD were untrue.

While the American west coast was undergoing its Summer of Love, psychedelia, flower power and hippy phase, and The Beatles were only just playing the counter-culture game, VU concerned themselves with altogether darker subject matter: transvestites, heroin addiction, alienation and sadomasochism – an appropriate east coast alternative.

Eleven songs from VU's debut showcase their style and range – only two of which do not feature on *The Velvet Underground Gold* – on a two-disc budget-price CD from Polydor.

This compilation draws



**The Velvet Underground: Clockwise, from top left: Nico, Maureen Tucker, John Cale, Sterling Morrison and Lou Reed.**

from the band's three albums and two out-take compilation and live albums, including four "slightly" raucous live tracks that most other compilations have shied away from.

*Gold* also includes two Nico solo tracks – *Chelsea Girls* and *It Was A Pleasure Then* – co-written and played by VU band members Lou Reed, John Cale and Sterling Morrison, and taken from her 1967 debut album, *Chelsea Girl*.

The tracks from VU's de-

but album career from the pounding *I'm Waiting For The Man* to the often misinterpreted *Sunday Morning*, and from the droning *Venus In Furs* and *Heroin* to the bitter *Femme Fatale* – written about socialite and Warhol muse Edie Sedgwick, and sung by Nico.

The overall sound is driven by Reed's deadpan vocals, Cale's droning – occasionally shrieking – viola, Morrison's often R&B and country-influenced guitar and Tucker's hypnotically simple drumming. And, of course,

Nico's husky, almost frosty Teutonic voice.

Though not a commercial or critical success upon release, the album, often known as *The Banana Album*, is now regarded as one of the greatest ever. In 1998, *Q Magazine* readers voted it the 71<sup>st</sup> greatest album of all time; in 2003, TV network VH1 placed it at Number 19. *Rolling Stone* placed it at Number 13 on its 500 Greatest Albums list.

*Gold* progresses with notable tracks – there are only six on the original album anyway – from the 1968 release *White Light/White Heat*.

Included are the title track and all 17 minutes and 27 seconds of *Sister Ray* – the improvised murder tale, a mini-opera really, based on some of Reed's near-perennial song motifs: violence, drug abuse, homosexuality and transvestism. Not for the faint-hearted.

Also from *White Light...* is the free-jazz/grunge *I Heard Her Call My Name*, which features guitar work from Reed considered by many to be his finest to date. The grungy distortion is so heavily multi-layered that not much else is audible in the track. Although this style is now common in rock music, the song is still recognized as one of the best examples of this technique.

The remainder of this compilation covers the years up to 1970's *Loaded*, VU's last "proper" album – 1973's *Squeeze* featured replacement bassist/key-boardist Doug Yule and Maureen Tucker, plus session musicians. By this time, the volatile forces and personalities within VU – there had by this time been numerous personnel changes – caused the band to separate.

*The Velvet Underground Gold* Polydor 988 060-4. Part of a series of low-price 2-CD compilations including *Cream*, *Bob Marley*, *Marvin Gaye*, *Parliament* and *Peter Dinklage*, each priced at 299 baht.

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## This week



**BOOM BOOM BABY:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr (left) and photographer Suphat Satiansri opens the Phuket Baby Boomer photo exhibition at Phuket Thai Hua School on March 16.



**INTERESTING:** Decha Tulanan (right), Vice-President of Bangkok Bank (Thailand), and Kittu Ningnoi (center), Bangkok Bank Manager for Southern Thailand, were special guests at the March 17 opening of the new Bangkok Bank branch at Coliseum Paradise Multiplex, in Phuket City.



**ON THE GO:** Thai actress Pataratida 'Tangmo' Pacharawirapong (left), joins DTAC Customer Group Head Sunti Maethawikul (rear, right) and DTAC Post Paid Group Head Director Boonyakiart Chartudomdej in leading the nationwide caravan to promote DTAC's 'Work More' package as it passes through Phuket City.



**ROAD STOP:** Hong Kong hunk Chen Yee Kin Dior (center), takes a break from filming his travel show *On The Road* at the Dusit Laguna Resort (DLR). With him are (from left) DLR Sales Executive Praisie Huang; Laguna Phuket's PR and Advertising Manager Rung-aroon Wichitwatee, DLR's PR Manager Kanittha Thanthanasap and Guest Relations Officer Supansa Meelong.



**GRAD ALL OVER:** Students from Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) gather round Asst Prof Daranee Boonya-udomsart (in lilac outfit), Head of PRU's English Program, after their graduation ceremony.



**CARTED OFF:** Janista 'Aim' Chuchouysuwan (red top), Miss Teen Thailand 2005 runner-up, with her mother (rear seat, right) and friends, practices her driving skills during a recent visit to the Mission Hills Phuket Golf Resort & Spa.

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## PHUKET DIARY

## of coming events

**To April 16: Exhibition of 1950s baby photos (see picture on facing page).**

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 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 show-

case 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 yartgallery@gmail.com

**April 2: Seafood Sunday Brunch at The Mangosteen.**

A great seafood special brunch at The Mangosteen Restaurant. The ideal family Sunday with great food, wine and sea views. 950 baht per person only (children 350 baht), including wine.

Reserve your favorite table by calling Christophe Lopez at Tel: 076-289399 or by sending email to info@mangosteen-phuket.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 9: Italian Sunday Brunch at The Mangosteen**

The Mangosteen offers an Italian Theme Brunch with a great choice of Italian delights.



10-a-side rugby action returns to Phuket on May 27 and 28.

Spoil yourself with a Sunday afternoon at the restaurant with a beautiful view, good food, wine and music. 950 baht only (children 350 baht).

Reserve your table by calling Christophe Lopez at Tel: 076-289399 or by sending email to info@mangosteen-phuket.com.

**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 Phuket 10s takes place this year at Karon Stadium.

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

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

Other teams, in addition to Phuket's own Vagabonds, include former champs the Moorabbin Rams (formerly the Melbourne Cruiser Rams), and the 2003 champs British Club Bangkok, which will field two sides.

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

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# Spa MAGIC



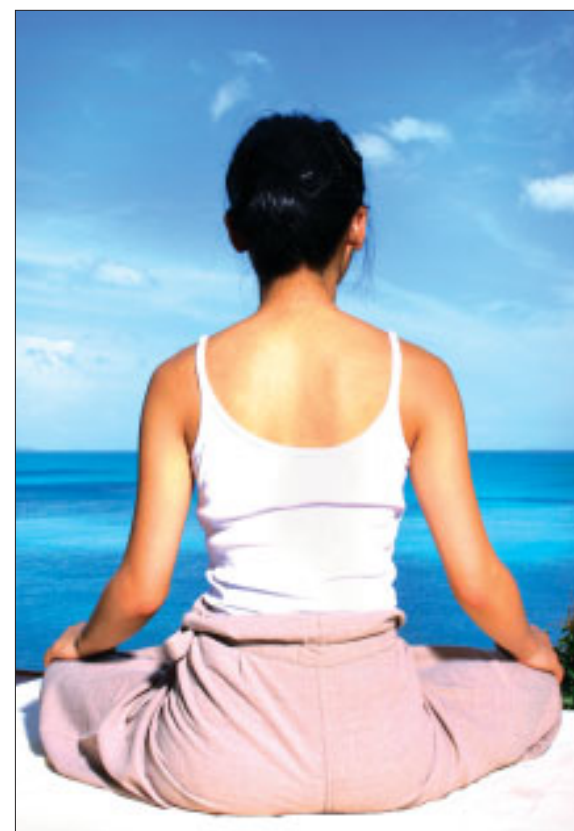
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Many adjectives are used in spa reviews with "relaxing", "healthy" and "holistic" being just three. But how many of these words really ring true in a spa experience?

I was determined to find out and so went to Sri Panwa Phuket with an open mind and a serious desire to be pampered like a princess.

This boutique villa hotel, part of the upscale Sri Panwa property development, features accommodation and treatment rooms in an elegant combination of tropical contemporary and traditional Phuket-style décor.

It was quite a climb up to the hotel's spa, but once on top the view of Panwa Bay and the easterly sweep across Phang Nga Bay was magnificent.

There are two treatment rooms with four spa massage beds and five therapists to handle your every need and – here's the lovely touch – Sri Panwa has "mobile massage beds" – 10 of them in fact, so you can have a poolside massage or a massage in your room.

I was greeted by Saowarot Khunsong, the Spa Co-ordinator, who immediately put me at my ease with a traditional *wai* and a herbal drink.

K. Saowarot explained that the spa uses exclusively natural Thai herbs in its wide range of treatments, featuring, amongst others, the three 'R's – the Rejuvenation package, a Romance treatment and a Relaxing session.

Just to be on the safe side, I chose the full body massage, called the "Sri Panwa Serenity".

This is a one-hour treatment and costs 2,000 baht.

K. Neung, my therapist, lived up to her name (*neung* means "Number 1" in Thai) starting with a heavenly foot massage.

The treatment room provided sound-and-vision therapy in itself with its ambient music and aquamarine blue walls and before I knew it, K. Neung was easing into a body massage starting, of all places, with my stomach, for a five-minute rub "to help digestion".

Next was a one-hour 1,900-

baht Sabai Facial Treatment. K. Neung explained, "We use specific herbs for different types of skin along with yogurt to cleanse and feed the pores."

Tamarind is a natural moisturizer and honey heals and repairs any blemishes.

"In addition an oatmeal treatment reduces and closes any fine lines to make you look younger."

K. Neung gently rubbed cool yogurt into my face to remove any cosmetics or dirt and then applied a tamarind and milk powder scrub followed by a honey massage.

After deep cleansing my face with cucumber, she applied an oatmeal-and-yogurt face mask. A final cleansing and then she rubbed in a jasmine-scented moisturizer.

All of this may sound a little messy but the end result after an hour was a smooth, clean skin.

I felt absolutely wonderful afterwards.

Sri Panwa Spa is open daily from 10 am to 9 pm. For more information visit the website at [www.sripanwa.com](http://www.sripanwa.com) or call Tel: 076-371000.

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## On the menu



WITH  
**Andy Johnstone**  
**Capannina**

The hills are most certainly alive with the sound of music tonight, although Julie Andrews doesn't even get a look in. The soundtrack to the drive from there to here – and every car journey needs a good soundtrack – is none other than the Pet Shop Boys' *Please* album.

This music takes us back to ... well, longer ago than either I or my dining companion at first wish to recall.

A certain sense of disbelief momentarily descends as we determine that it's more than two decades since the synth-pop sublimity of the opening track *Two Divided By Zero* and then *West End Girls* first caught our attention.

"*Mais ou sont les neiges d'antan?*" we ejaculate simultaneously, wondering also where have all the flowers gone and where do you go to my lovely, before finding where the streets have no name.

Another wrong turning.

However, a blessing of good karma arrives in the form of a g-slow by some gloriously lobster-pink tourists, who are merrily ambling down the middle of the road oblivious to a vehicle approaching them as if the Devil himself was tapping at the rear window.

"That's a good sign," says my companion as I am forced to slow from 100kmh to zero in sinus-hurting time.

She points out the C-A-P of Capannina, tonight's destination for the West End Girl and self.

The tires screech – as tires are wont to do – as I fling the car sideways, dispersing yet more tourists and the odd security guard through the gentle flashing of the car's headlights, the stabbing of the horn as if it were the "Fire" button on a Typhoon's control column and the uttering of – in my best South African accent – a number of slurred ethnic slurs.

Incidentally, the turning is off Kata Rd down a small soi to Phuket Kata Resort; La Capannina is opposite the entrance to the hotel, and a number of parking spaces exist.

La Capannina is the brainchild of the robust yet reserved Mario Eleonori from the Italian Adriatic Coast town of Montecassiano, which is not to be confused with Monte Cassino, inland of the Mediterranean Coast. Mario arrived in Phuket in 2000,



Capannina's ravioli burro e salvia with, inset, the insalata rucola.

# Maestro Mario

fresh from having run a cooking school in the seaside town.

Cooking has, he happily admits, always been his passion – and the particular peculiarity of this passion is pizza. Many of Phuket's Italian pizza cognoscenti – the Pizzarati? – declare Mario's pies the peak, the very apotheosis of the genre. Consider that a gauntlet thrown down to the rest of the island's pizza purveyors.

The original La Capannina was hemmed in by four walls, and although the food was – and remains – first-class, the alfresco version, opened in November 2004, gained much in the way of ambiance by losing the walls.

It is a typically busy night at

La Capannina when we arrive; the clientèle made up – unsurprisingly – of Italian and other Euro tourists and expats; the restaurant's reputation extends far beyond Kata, with the Pizzarati traveling from all points of the compass, even from the mainland, to savor the fare of Mario's culinary savoir-faire.

Drinks first, however, and white seems right for the night. Mario breaks open a Planeta La Segreta Bianco, which is a bit of a snip at 1,600 baht a bottle.

It offers a rich, fruity bouquet of mango and lychee, with a hint of mint and a peppering of er... pepper. The taste is nicely balanced and dry. Mario does

know his stuff, stocking a pleasingly replete wine cellar and deli.

La Capannina is the only place I have found in Phuket serving locally-produced mozzarella, made from Thai buffalo milk and a feature of the *insalata Caprese*. With typical perversity, we decide on neither this nor pizza tonight. Having enjoyed them both numerous times before, we sally forth into the rest of the menu.

It's no exaggeration to say that, despite the obvious effort he lavishes on his food, his talent is as natural as the pattern made by the dust on a butterfly's wings.

Beginning with *bruschetta pomodoro* (90 baht), *insalata*

*rucola* 180 (baht) and *carpaccio* – 350 baht for a plate the size of a cricket pitch. Having jointly devoured the beef sliced to mere microns thick that has evanesced in our mouths, we're left wondering just how we are going to cram in all the other delights on offer tonight.

Quick-witted conversation between my dining companion and myself. We discuss the concept that the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two diametrically opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. This, plus the pleasure of listening to the myriad conversations in a handful of Romance languages, causes suitable pauses between courses.

A goodly time later – the super Mario does not rush his *patroni* – he asks what we would like for our main courses. Milady is being mercurial over her choice, but finally gives Mario her order: *gnocchi* with salmon, the sauce to be his choice. As has often been noted, I am far easier and choose *ravioli burro e salvia* for 200 baht.

Mario's sauce for the *gnocchi* (350 baht) is bolstered by a healthy shot of vodka, the essence of which adds bite to the rich satiny sauce. My ravioli, stuffed with spinach and with a butter, sage and Parmesan sauce, is simple and simply divine. Do I really need to state that the pasta and *gnocchi* is homemade? No? Good.

We then share a dreamy dessert – *tortino caldo al cioccolato con gelato all vaniglia* (warm chocolate cake with creamy chocolate filling) – before continuing on our long day's journey into night to the sounds of the Pet Shop Boys.

*La Capannina Italian restaurant & pizzeria, 30/9, Moo 2, Kata Rd, Karon. Tel: 076-284318 or email capannina@fastmail.fm for reservations (recommended).*

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By Andy Johnstone

The smallest craft in the "S" line – Azimut's Open range – together with the 62S, was presented at last year's Genoa International Boat Show. The Avigliana boatyard in Turin has achieved an exceptional goal: a new, four-model range, from 43 feet to 86ft, in just three years.

Another unique "open" design by Stefano Righini, the 43 Open has distinct living and sleeping quarters that. With a perfect balance of openings and windows, it combines the commodiousness and elegance of a fly-bridge with the sporty freshness of an open.

Extensive industrial developments have been taking place in Avigliana over the past two years, leading to a more technology-driven process that delivers higher quality and a marked increase in production.

The 43S has a squared-off prow that not only enlarges all the deck areas, but also improves mooring maneuvers. The fore-deck has its own large sunpad, with cushions and glass rests in Plexiglas. It is easily reached via the wide walk-around decks, protected by sturdy steel handrails. Water supply filler caps are to starboard and fuel supply filler caps are on both sides.



Quintessentially sexy: the Azimut 43S. The twin Volvo engines give it a top speed of 33 knots.

## ITALIAN STUNNER

The cockpit, reached by a starboard gangway, has a six-seat U-shaped cushioned sofa, with storage cupboards underneath, and a central table that, when lowered, has its own cushion – transforming the divan into a very comfortable sun lounger. The door leading to the dinette has

four sliding crystal-glass panels. When fully opened, each panel slides over the other to create a large open-plan living space that unites the dinette and cockpit.

The engine room can be reached via a hatch under the sofa in the cockpit or from another in the floor of the saloon.

The air-conditioning system and the generator are in the auxiliary area. Ventilation is guaranteed by two fans and an extractor. The batteries are high-current and rapid-charging. Engine exhausts are below the waterline.

The 43S is the first Azimut to be fitted with the new IPS 500 system, developed by Volvo. This delivers exceptional maneuverability and is very quiet during cruising. The twin 370hp Volvo engines give the same performance as obtained from a traditional 450hp engine – maximum speed 33 knots and a cruising speed of 29 knots – while consuming far less fuel.

The two engines also offer a significant reduction in exhaust fumes, putting them well within IMO (International Maritime Organization) gas emission rules.

The internal décor, designed by the renowned Carlo Galeazzi in collaboration with Azimut's styling department, is modern and

refined. The exceptional luminosity granted by the large windows is enhanced by shades made of high-tech fabrics and by the interwoven fibers used on the door paneling to the cabins and wardrobes. This contrasted well with the dark tones of wengé wood used for floors and furnishings.

All furniture on board is lined with scented cedar wood, and the fabric used for the curtains, sofas and bed covers can be chosen by the buyer from two different lines: Sport or Charm.

Access to the salon is through a sliding, four-paneled crystal glass door that faces two sofas. The one to starboard, which is L-shaped and can be transformed into a spare queen-sized bed, has rounded seating facing forward, a rounded Ottoman to aft and a side table.

A second sofa is to port between a cupboard for tableware and steps leading down to the galley. The central table has a pivotable top and its height can be adjusted, allowing it to serve as both a dining table and coffee table. Should the owner choose the optional extra bed, the table may be lowered to facilitate the transformation from sofa to bed.

The helm station has been designed with the same materials and colors as the other Open models; iridescent gray and aluminum-colored instrument panels with a two-seat reclining sofa for comfort while navigating and a glass-top cabinet to one side.

Opaline inserts, positioned under the windshield, filter daylight through to the corridor leading to the sleeping area and the bathroom in the master suite.

This is a spectacular vessel. Although it is the "baby" of the range, is far, far more than an entry-level boat.

The Azimut 43S range starts at 465,000 euros. For more information, Simpson Marine at Phuket Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-239768; Fax: 076-239927; or visit: [www.simpsonmarine.com](http://www.simpsonmarine.com)

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# Puzzles

## The Cryptic Crossword

### Spot the Difference

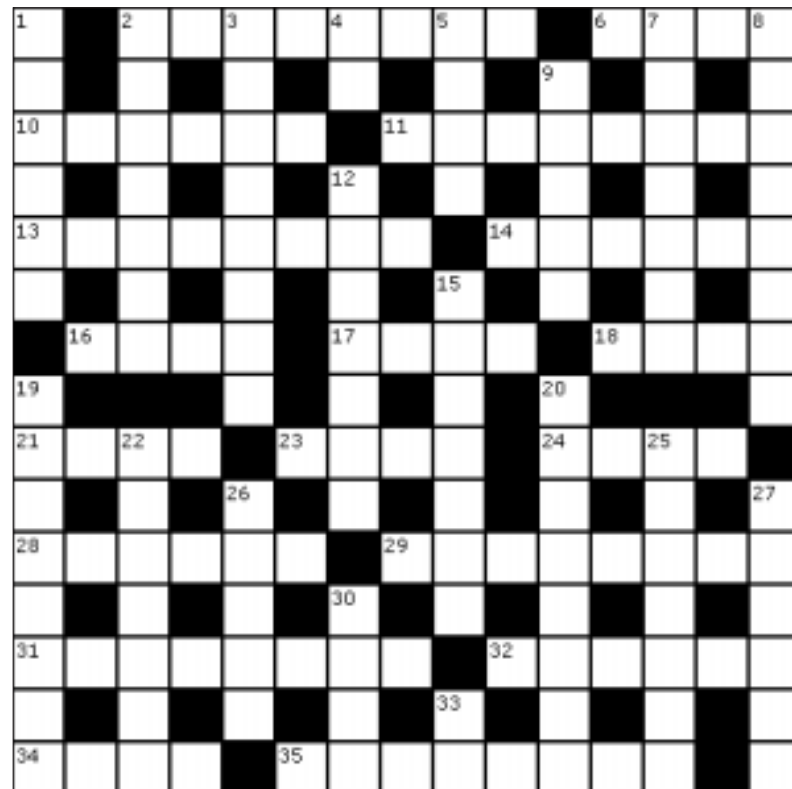


Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family? Solution on next page.



#### ACROSS

2. Echoes of thieves in underwear. (8)
6. I would take printer's measure, all the same. (4)
10. Incarnation of Ms Gardner with black goo. (6)
11. Thai solver of business disputes has a couple of donkeys in. (8)
13. Stole and amassed about returning referee. (8)
14. Order in the most straightforward way. (6)
16. Cheers for hoteliers' club!
17. Character may run east. (4)
18. American ship takes Romeo to Russian empire. (4)
21. Score for speed. (4)
23. Does Cardinal snip tail? (4)
24. Three points about quiet fencing implement. (4)
28. A fellow with the Spanish church. (6)
29. "I'm powerful!" Not. (8)
31. Minister to AI in country-side. (8)
32. Dodges a space to the south. (6)
34. Can take shirt color. (4)
35. Rides bus, strangely, to make payments. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

#### Down

1. Restricts spasms. (6)
2. Resort area had muddled "Aloha" in 2000. (4,3)
3. Is a ringer a Spanish queen? (8)
4. OK in boxing? Quite the opposite. (1,1)
5. Headstrong skin condition. (4)
7. Those who work with rags. (7)
8. As to currency, painter took a railway. (8)
9. Old language in American part. (5)
12. Deflect light and react with a little French in. (7)
15. Partical in any bodily structure. (7)
19. Loony may damage vessel. (8)
20. Weapon turner. (8)
22. Great leader, thin, takes query oddly. (7)
25. Recluse before parasite. (7)
26. Singer's general meaning. (5)
27. No motion, oddly, in its ass. (6)
30. Transport strain for I. (4)
33. King of pellets. (1,1)

### Scribble Space



### EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the currency of India? "The Tramp" in silent films?
2. What is an ozone molecule made of? 7. Which past president of Yugoslavia has just died?
3. Who discovered the antibiotic properties of penicillin? 8. Which comic strip character, still running today, was drawn with a cigarette dangling from his lips from 1957 until the 1980s?
4. Which planet in the solar system is closest to Earth in size? 9. What is the capital of Laos?
5. Name the two US space shuttles lost to accidents. 10. Which country was called Ceylon until 1972?
6. Which comedic actor played a character called

Answers on next page

### su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

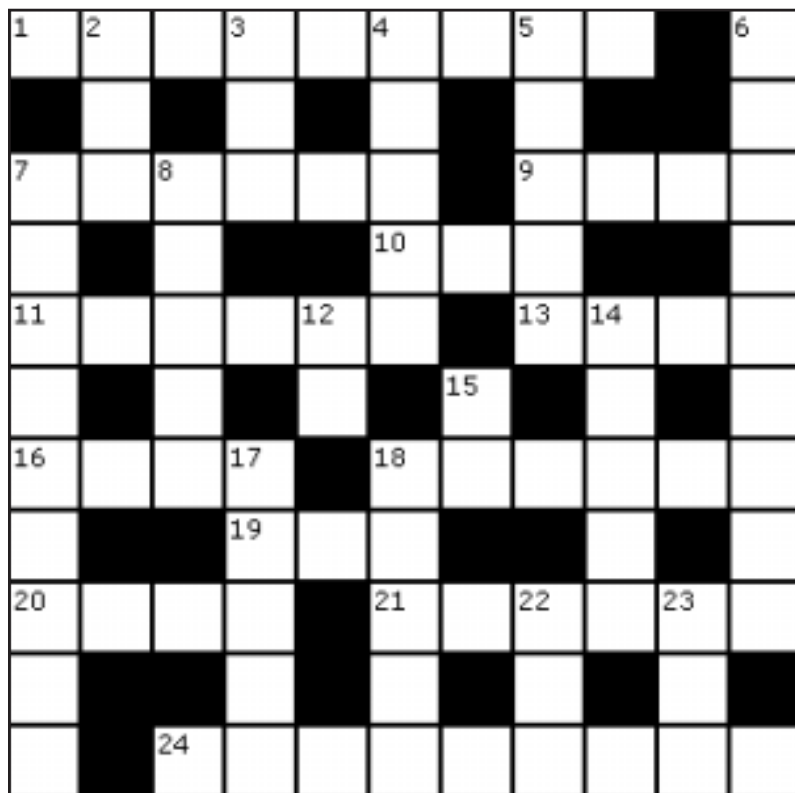
## Brain Buster!

Chairat, Arun and Meechai were all at Daeng's house when a package was delivered. Each guessed what was in the box, but only one of them was right. Using their guesses as clues, can you figure out what was in the box?

Chairat said, "It's a laptop computer." Arun said, "I'll bet it's a pizza." Meechai said, "I think a picture or a laptop computer is in the box." "It's a picture, for sure," said Daeng.

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

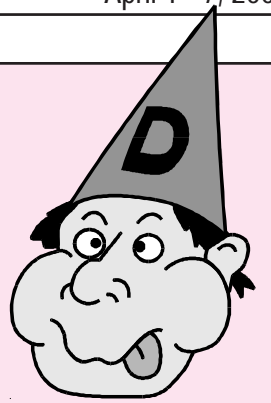
1. Cabbage or pea, for example.
7. Sickly.
9. Barbie or Cindy, maybe.
10. Every one.
11. Come to an end.
13. Sports TV channel.
16. Stink.
18. \*\*\*\*\* Clooney.
19. Opposite of SSW.
20. Frizzy hairstyle.
21. Metal.
24. Anthony's beloved.

### DOWN

2. A very long time.
3. Female sheep.
4. Book of maps.
5. Very large spoon.
6. Not a conscript.
7. Not sure.
8. Make cloth.
12. Former.
14. Luggage binding.
15. Exist.
17. Small hill.
18. House lizard.
22. Ammo for a shooter.
23. Go wrong.

*Solution below, right.*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Which revolutionary aircraft entered service with Britain's Royal Air Force on April 1, 1969?
2. Whose novels include *The Joke*, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* and *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*?
3. From where does the hardwood wengé originate?
4. Which writer popularized the term "Generation X"?
5. In which country would you find the Dentifoss waterfall?
6. Which famed Russian film director was born April 4, 1932?
7. In which cemetery, in which town, is he buried?
8. In which year was the Emerald Buddha installed at Wat Phra Kaew in Bangkok?
9. In which F Scott Fitzgerald novel does this line appear: "In a real dark night of the soul it is always three o'clock in the morning, day after day"?
10. *3 A.M. Eternal* was a 1991 hit single for which Acid House band?
11. Roughly how many pieces of luggage did airlines worldwide misplace in 2005?
12. Which character did actor Johnny Briggs play for 30 years on British TV?
13. How was the character written out of the storyline?
14. Whose last words were, "Show my head to the people. It is worth seeing"?
15. Which band is made up of Alex Turner, Jamie Cook, Andy Nicholson and Matt Helders?
16. Which university did Coldplay members Chris Martin, Jon Buckland, Guy Berryman and Will Champion all go to?
17. Who won the Whitbread Book of the Year in 2005?
18. Who was the subject of the book?
19. Which movie won the Oscar for best picture in 1996?
20. What is the name for curry soup?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Brain Buster Solution

The box contained a pizza. Since two children can't both be right, Chairat, Meechai and Daeng must be wrong, leaving only Arun.

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Hawker Siddeley Harrier;
2. Milan Kundera;
3. West Africa;
4. Douglas Coupland;
5. Iceland;
6. Andrei Tarkovsky;
7. Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois, Île-de-France, France;
8. 1784;
9. The Crack-Up;
10. The KLF;
11. 30 million;
12. Mike Baldwin;
13. He died of Alzheimer's disease;
14. French revolutionary Georges Jacques Danton;
15. Arctic Monkeys;
16. University College, London;
17. Hilary Spurling;
18. Henri Matisse;
19. *The English Patient*;
20. Mulligatawny.

## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Rupee;
2. Three oxygen molecules (O<sub>3</sub>);
3. Sir Alexander Fleming;
4. Venus;
5. *Challenger*, destroyed after liftoff in 1986; *Columbia*, destroyed during re-entry in 2003;
6. Charlie Chaplin;
7. Slobodan Milosevic;
8. Andy Capp;
9. Vientiane;
10. Sri Lanka.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# Endlessly painful academic blather

My editor asked that I read *Verisimilitude* because the novel is set in contemporary Phuket. Self-published by Australian university lecturer Harry Nicolaides, the 226-page book was printed in Thailand.

Like other paperbacks, the first four pages contain paragraph-long quotes of extravagant praise for *Verisimilitude* – “an undisguised bold-faced assault on Thailand’s presentation culture and its rank obsession with the appearance of truth”; “the archetypal Odyssean journey”; “asks the most important question of our age” ... all of them written by the author himself! Sublime chutzpah.

The first two chapters are not so much badly written as badly overwritten, with swathes of deep-purple prose. Driving up by jeep from Phuket, hero Savvas and girlfriend Prisana return to her lovely home village of Nongpajik in Chiang Rai. After teaching at “Prince of Mahidol University” in Phuket, they are to teach at Chiang Rai University.

You can almost forgive such purple prose for the sheer novelty that the girlfriend is a university *ajarn* and not a bar girl. But after a two-day idyll in the village, Savvas slips out to his jeep, intent on abandoning Prisana.

Chapter 3 is a flashback to two years before. Savvas is teaching at a language school in Phuket. There is the obligatory morally-horrified description of Soi Bangla: “The sheer sun-worshiping hedonism that sweated through the voluptuous landscape of white sandy beaches and azure water during the day gave way in the evening to buttock-slapping, beer-swilling debauchery and buccaneer carousing in the hundreds of go-go bars and beer bars that infested Patong.”

But his true moralistic horror he reserves for that scum of the earth – teachers of English. They reek of malignant neuroses, private obsessions and sordid sexual fetishes. “His pot-marked [*sic*], wrinkled skin sagged with sin. His large forlorn eyes were cesspools,” is how one teaching colleague is described.

Furthermore, it’s all a CIA plot – with operatives planted in the Thai educational system to promote “acquiescence and rapacious consumerism. This appetite for Western products had developed into a cargo cult of consumption with only the vested in-

terests of American businesses being served at the expense of cultural diversity and heritage.”

And on and on and on. *Verisimilitude* is 226 pages of loony left rhetoric, punctuated by insipid dialog, cardboard characters and a gimcrack plot. This is not a novel but a rant, peppered with howling typos and dumb errors. For example, the resort beaches of Phuket are on the west coast, not the east, and Krabi is east of Phuket, not north-east.

And this is the gimcrack plot: *Ajarn* Prisana falls in love with Italian teacher Georgio Fandango

(yes, really).

“She curled her tongue into his mouth and licked his ears like a serpent. Georgio sighed in ecstasy, his body convulsing and buckling with powerful spasms. Engulfed by passion, their bodies bonded together in a ferocious rhapsody of lust.” The author really should stick to politics.

American teacher Kane Lambin doesn’t like Savvas, and one day washes up drowned on Kata Beach. Murder or suicide? Four FBI agents (!) turn up to investigate. Their interrogation of Savvas turns into a lesson in which the reader is treated to a 14-page disquisition on nasty American politics, Western depravity, epistemology, Buddhism, God, metaphysics, fate, free will, good and evil. Savvas dearly loves the sound of his own voice.

This is followed by another 21-page catechism in which Savvas expounds on love as he and Prisana, now lovers, drive up from Phuket. A stop in Bangkok allows this observation: “Under the golden arches of McDonald’s a delinquent generation was exposed to a combination of rapacious consumerism, corporate corpulence and the cultural imperialism of the West.”

And so on and so forth. You get the idea. This is – and I say this in genuine awe – the worst novel I have ever read.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



Harry Nicolaides.



**Thai girls in uniform:** “Most obvious are the university girls who are obliged to wear schoolgirl gear. To distinguish themselves from their younger sisters, the pretty ones often stretch the dress code to its limit. Their white blouses are sprayed on and their black skirts are worn extra short – often with a split up the side.

During term-time, crowded Skytrain carriages can sometimes resemble the upstairs dance floor at Soi Cowboy’s Baccara Bar. The mass transit system becomes a pervert’s paradise and Thai and *farang* men alike don’t know where to look.

Thai hospitals can seriously raise your blood pressure. A visit to Bumrungrad is like stumbling into a ’70s German porn flick. The nurses are stunners and their spotless white uniforms are pure Benny Hill. The delightful Thai nurses look like they should work behind a cosmetics counter at Central Chidlom.”(1)

**ThaisNews getting a little mixed up:** “An official of the department... said Phuket has not faced with any problems and no impact should occur from the incidents.

“He said local residents have been urged not to panic since the warning systems have already been installed. The systems will work 40 minutes prior to the natural disaster takes place.” (2)

**Konichiwa! Nightlife in Patong FAQ.**

Q: Why do Thai girls love Japanese men?

A: The girls know Japanese are stupid, they always pay too much.

Q: Why do Thai men love Japanese girls?

A: I don’t know.

Q: Why are Patong more quiet this year?

A: Because this government have worked hard in one year now to scare tourists away from Patong. Everybody knows there are only one reason to go to Patong and it’s not for the sun and beach.” (3)

**Bloggers galore:** “We are now in Phuket and our Southern Thai-

# Uniformly fascinating

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello once again, all you voyeurs and Internet curtain-twitchers. Here’s Lis’s weekly look at Phuket from the outside in – through the eyes of bloggers, news reports and websites. One word of caution, however: these points of view may or may not correspond with those of Lis herself. It all depends on which side of bed she gets out of in the morning...

land trip is coming to an end. This part of the trip has been somewhat of a culture shock compared to our experiences in the North.

“When I say ‘shock’ it’s not in a good way. Southern Thailand is full of fat westerners, neon lights, over-priced food, too many tourists, dodgy shops selling crap stuff or take-offs, and dangerous water sports.

“Even walking down the street is taking your life into your own hands. Not to mention how the locals drive. Yesterday we drove from Krabi to Phuket and saw death come towards us so many times I’m surprised we made [it] in one piece...

“So, we sat down at a table, ordered our drinks and a late lunch. Unfortunately, the food did not meet our expectations... to be honest, it was shitty shite. I even sent my duck back but they thought I sent it back because it was undercooked so about 10 min

later they brought it back to me.

“I just didn’t know how to say ‘Your food is shit’ in Thai!” (4)

**More bloggers galore:** “We took a taxi to Phuket Town and man, you think Singaporeans are bad drivers, come to Thailand. Geez. Our hotel wasn’t too bad, well considering we were only paying about A\$2 a night for it. No hot water and an air-con that sorta worked.

“We went for a walk around and well, it’s pretty darn dirty. But maybe I have been living in immaculate Singapore for too long. Cats and dogs roam the streets, mopeds everywhere. Actually the whole family rides on the moped, dad on the front with the toddler between his legs, mum on the back holding a 6 month old baby.

“It’s just amazing the different things you see to back home. We wandered around the streets and then decided to try and catch the bus. We went to the bus stop and there was some kids there and we asked where the bus goes and they obviously didn’t speak English.

“When the bus pulled up they said ‘Bus, Bus’ and motioned us to get on laughing. So we did and got on but it was full of school kids!! We tried to pay and the guy just looked at us. They were having us on!! So we got off at the next stop and you could hear all the kids cracking up and waving to us. Hee hee.” (5)

1. [http://www.mangosauce.com/thai-secrets/sexy\\_thai\\_girls\\_uniform.php](http://www.mangosauce.com/thai-secrets/sexy_thai_girls_uniform.php)
2. <http://www.thaisnews.com/news-detail.php?newsid=166200>
3. <http://phuket.as/diary3.php>
4. <http://suesadventure.blogspot.com/>
5. <http://www.getjealous.com/printdiary.php?username=trixecat>

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## Best advice is being ignored

Now that the country is in the midst of a political stalemate that has hamstrung the democratic process and divided the electorate along class lines, it is a good time to reflect upon the words of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's speech of December 4, 1997, to mark his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

During that address, His Majesty urged his subjects to adopt a "self-sufficiency" economy, based on the Buddhist principles of self-reliance and on taking the middle path. Being honest, finding satisfaction through moderation and freeing ourselves from the clutches of greed were the keys to happiness, we were told. But we did not listen.

About six months after that speech was made, the Phuket Solid Waste Incineration Plant went into operation at Saphan Hin. Since then, the amount of garbage sent to the plant from the island's 21 local government administration bodies has increased by 7% a year, on average [see *First Person*, page 25].

Some 430 tons of garbage are now being sent there every day, even though the incinerator is capable of burning only 250 tons of it. What better indication could there possibly be of our collective failure to heed HM The King's sage advice than this enormous increase in the amount of refuse we produce?

A 12-rai landfill near the incineration plant, initially intended to serve as a refuse pit for incinerator ash, is now being used to bury the garbage the incinerator cannot handle – about 180 tons of it daily. The man in charge of it admits that the site will be filled by year's end.

Phuket desperately needs a second incineration unit at the plant in order to prevent the entire island from becoming one giant garbage dump, an extension of the wasteland one can now see behind the water treatment plant in Patong (see page 6), along Soi Panieng north of Phuket City and at numerous other locations islandwide.

But unfortunately, thanks to the current political situation, no one knows when funding for the 1-billion-baht incinerator upgrade project will be approved.

In the meantime, many people are now appealing to HM The King to intervene in the current political standoff. Others are rushing out to buy one of the 56,000 "Long Live The King" bracelets now available on the island to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his accession to the throne. Many are doing both.

One has to wonder, however, how many of these people are also taking the time to reflect on his advice and to find a way to put it into practice in their own lives.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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 road to hell – or Patong...

We all know that Patong Hill is a nightmare when it rains. Even with good tires on my car I experience wheelspin in the wet as I nose my way through the traffic.

However, the problem can be easily solved.

I am a regular user of Route 41. Just south of Thung Song there is a hill not as steep as Patong's.

Even so, the hill's potential dangers are well signposted.

The department that looks after this piece of road hasn't just left it at that; they have laid down a very rough tar surface to ensure maximum traction and grip.

I don't see why similar cannot be done on Patong Hill.

Michael G Finn

### ... is not paved with good intentions

With reference to your Issue & Answer about cats' eyes road reflectors, Thanit Sakiya, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Highways Office, said, "Generally it is not the road but the driver at fault when an accident happens."

I have come off my bike more than once on that damned Patong Hill, due to the terrible road that, with just a few drops of water, turns as slippery as hell.

Everyone is aware of this; just ask the rescue team standing by for tragedies to happen.

I am really fed up with all the excuses made by people "in charge". The sad reality is that they think that lives are not valuable enough to be saved.

My wife is too terrified [by

Patong Hill road conditions] to take this route.

Just two days ago, after queuing for a long time at the foot of the hill, I turned around and decided to go to Phuket City via Karon and Chalong to avoid an accident.

That this was necessary is shameful. I'm not asking the authorities to build a tunnel (which is actually the safest option), but at least remove the old asphalt and lay down a new good-quality non-slip surface. This would avoid a lot of accidents.

It is not just for me, but for your own citizens. It is your duty.

Ivan  
Phuket

### Top Dog doesn't know his shows

I do not intend to go into the pros and cons of purebreeds against mongrels (after all, a dog is a dog is a dog).

However, I would like to challenge "Top Dog's" remarks in his recent article in which he states "Dog shows, although not unheard of, are still novel in this country and reputable breeders are therefore rare."

Perhaps he is unaware of the fact that dog shows held on the mainland, generally in Bangkok, are not only numerous but are now helping Thailand to gain a reputation as the main venue for most of Asia's top Dog Shows.

The Kennel Club of Thailand (KCT) is extremely active and hosts Asian Kennel Union Shows at least twice a year.

Moreover, the Federation Cynologique Internationale – the largest canine organization in the world – hosts international shows

with international titles awarded to the winners. Besides this, there are general championship shows.

There is a dog show of some form or other held most weekends in Bangkok, run under the auspices of the KCT. These are well-attended affairs.

At the international four-day shows dogs and their breeders attend from many countries in the region such as Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan, and quality is high in a lot of the breeds.

Judges are invited from around the world and the organization of these events is on par with anything in the West.

As far as dog breeders are concerned, there are many top-class breeders in Thailand.

In fact, a breeder from Bangkok took one of his Thai ridgebacks to the World Show the year before last and won Best in his Group which is a real feather in any breeder's cap.

Other breeders are sending puppies to the US where they compete.

I believe in the good work which Soi Dog Foundation is undertaking, but I also believe that choice is an individual thing and there are many folks out there who want a specific breed of dog because of its looks or its character.

They all fall sick from time to time and they are not all of the best temperament, but we who love our canine friends love them regardless.

Jackie Perry  
Ao Makham

(Jackie Perry is a renowned judge of international dog shows – Editor)

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



# Solid reasons behind Phuket's waste problem

**S**olid waste disposal poses a serious problem for Phuket because the amount of trash continues to grow annually.

Knowing that the budget approval process for a new incinerator was likely to be slow, the city began a garbage separation campaign at the beginning of 2006. By doing this, we hope to reduce the amount of waste that needs to be put in the landfill until the second unit, also to be rated at 250 tons per day, goes into service.

The amount of solid waste collected in Phuket has been increasing about 7% annually. It increased to 430 tons per day in 2006, up from 248 tons daily in 2000.

The Phuket Solid Waste Incineration Plant in Phuket City is responsible for burning or burying all waste delivered to it from the island's 21 local administrations. As we weigh each delivery, we know that Phuket City Municipality contributes the most with an average of 38,600 tons a year (approximately 106 tons a day). After this comes Patong Municipality at 21,000 tons a year (57 tons a day), and Tambon Rassada with 10,600 tons yearly (29 tons a day), on average.

In addition to 21 municipalities, there are other sources of waste. These include the private sector and trash brought to Phuket from off-island. All of the waste from the Phi Phi Islands is brought to Phuket by barge, for example. Another source is from yachts that visit and offload their garbage here. We can expect the contribution from this sector to continue growing as well.

At the plant, we have to separate out the 250 tons that is to be burned. The rest we have

## FIRST PERSON

Phuket City Municipality has requested a 1-billion-baht budget to build a second incineration unit at its Phuket Solid Waste Incineration Plant at Saphan Hin, where all of the island's collected garbage is sent. The existing incinerator can burn only 250 tons of trash per day, far less than the 430 tons currently delivered to it daily. The rest is being dumped in a nearby 12-rai landfill site, which is expected to reach its capacity by year's end.

**Prachoom Suriya**, Director of Phuket City's Environmental Group, has been in charge of operations at the plant since it was completed in May 1998.

Here he discusses the island's solid waste disposal problem.



to bury at the landfill near the plant. This is going to be a problem when the landfill is full, which I expect to happen by the end of this year.

We need a second incineration unit if we want to incinerate all of the waste produced here, but the billion-baht budget for this still has not been approved. Even when it is approved, it will still take about 18 months to build the facility.

In the meantime, we really need a shift in people's attitudes with regard to waste disposal. If people are given an economic incentive, they will sort, recycle and re-use their household waste. We already see this with the people who go around and pick out bottles and other salable items from people's roadside trash be-

fore the municipal trash trucks arrive.

A big problem is that up to 65% of the garbage collected in Phuket today is waste food [and other organic wastes]. We have to find economic incentives in order to reduce this organic waste component. This is particularly challenging in a province such as Phuket, because for a long time provincial development has favored tourism over more traditional industries, like raising pigs and chickens, that can put much of this waste food to good use. If Phuket were still an agricultural province, we could compost the organic waste and sell it to farms.

We want to build a more advanced waste separation and biogas plant next year, as this will help produce compost and cre-

ate methane gas, which can be used to help power the incinerator. [see Inside Story, *Gazette* issue of March 25, 2006].

We have also had the idea to begin the sorting of refuse at each house, with three different trash trucks to collect waste of various types: the first for garbage and other organic waste; the second for dry waste to be incinerated; the third for toxic and other hazardous wastes. We already have the vehicles we need, and this will start as a pilot project in the city in mid-2007, expanding into other areas after that.

We will need cooperation from local administrations to accomplish this, however. If we get it, we could greatly reduce the amount of waste that needs to be incinerated or put into the land-

fill. Unfortunately, on many of the occasions when we hold meetings on waste disposal issues, they are only attended by low-ranking officials from the tambons and tessabans [municipalities] who lack decision-making authority. Many high-ranking officials seem not to care, since the incinerator is in Phuket City, not their own jurisdiction.

It is because of this lack of cooperation that garbage separation schemes are never successful in Phuket – or in the rest of Thailand for that matter. There are no laws forcing communities to sort their garbage, and community leaders are either unable or unwilling to make it happen.

In fact, Governor Udomsak Usarangkura earlier this year announced an island-wide garbage separation campaign, asking the local administrations to encourage homeowners to sort their garbage into three groups: recyclable materials such as glass bottles; biodegradable wastes such as wood, leaves and durian husks; and hazardous wastes. But even though Phuket is a small province, wherein such a program should be easy to implement, there was no action by local administrations.

Even if we do get the budget for a second incineration unit, I still think Phuket faces enormous waste disposal problems in the future because the amount of garbage will continue to increase while at the same time the island is running out of landfill space.

We have about 20,000 people visiting the incineration plant each year. We hope this will help people to become more aware of the waste disposal problem and encourage them to take part in efforts that will reduce the amount of garbage.

## What is the dress code for government offices?

I recently went to the Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO) to apply for a Thai driving license. Staff there explained that to get a Thai driving license, I needed to go to the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office for papers and obtain a medical certificate, and return before 9:30 am the next day for several short tests. Great! Easy, I thought.

I traveled from Patong with my papers, photocopies, photos and money, and I arrived only to be turned away for wearing shorts, and long ones at that. As I was wearing the very same

shorts I had worn the day before, I was dumbfounded. As usual, with no explanation, and seeing no signs to explain what was dress was required, I was told to just, "Go!"

I realize that this is a government building and that a dress code applies, but so many of my friends have done the same procedure in shorts.

What is the dress code?

Snappy Dresser  
Phuket

**Theerayuth Prasertphol,**

**Chief Technical Officer, Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), replies:**

There is a regulation stipulating that any person visiting any government office must dress appropriately.

At the PPTO, there is a notice in Thai informing people to dress appropriately, but we still do not have such a sign in English. We will soon have one for foreigners.

Whether a person is dressed appropriately can be determined only by seeing what that person is wearing. At the PPTO,

we accept long shorts worn with closed-heel shoes, such as trainers, and we even serve people wearing T-shirts so long as the shirt does not look dirty.

But we do not serve people

wearing vests, shorts that are too short or dirty flip-flops.

Thank you for your comments. We will soon have signs posted explaining the dress code in both Thai and English.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?  
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# Headless chickens and fake it's the Internet,

A random thought can often be like a decapitated chicken. Not in the sense of running around a farmyard spurting blood like an extra in *Scream*, but more like Mike the Headless Wonder Chicken, who managed to live 18 months without a noggin.

So when a friend pointed out to me that the title of this column sounded an awful lot like "euthanasia", the headless chicken of my thoughts began its wild dash across the farmyard, tripping occasionally on thoughts such as "hospitals" and "nametags", until it finally collided with the word "addictions".

An addict is someone who repeats a pattern of behavior, regardless of the consequences. That means I can't call my obsession with Johnny Depp an addiction, though my indecent love of coffee comes pretty close.

A popular addiction nowadays is the Internet, and it's not just weedy computer geeks camping out in Internet cafés who suffer from it.

One symptom of Internet addiction is obsessively checking your mail. But isn't this akin to



**Youth 'n  
ASIA**

By Ella Micheler

sitting next to your phone on a Friday night, willing it to ring? Perhaps checking your mail 474,639 times a day doesn't indicate Internet addiction, just a need for contact with others.

Personally, I always feel disappointed when, instead of a chaty email from a long lost friend, I receive spam trying to sell me a Russian mail-order bride.

I despise spam. Not because it's annoying, but mostly because, being a grammar and spelling Nazi, I get hives just reading that atrocious spelling. Spammers use an extra 's', to slip past the filter, but it still doesn't work because who would want to buy a mortgage off someone seemingly so illiterate?

"Buy your mortgage with uss!" makes it sound as if angry snakes or some Gollum-like creature wrote it. "Yes, preciousssss, buy your mortgage with usss, little hobbitsess! We have low rateses, we does..."

And again, that decapitated chicken runs off in the opposite direction.

There's a theory that claims if you give a million monkeys typewriters and set them to work, they'll eventually come up with the complete works of Shakespeare.

The Internet has proved this theory to be false. There are hundreds of millions of monkeys rabidly typing away at their keyboards and none have even come close to writing the next *Othello*.

Not for lack of trying, of course. There are 31.1 million online bloggers at any given time raving on about why they chose to eat Raisin Bran for breakfast instead of Corn Flakes, or why they've decided to leave their spouse and run off with a José or a Juanita – all in the hope that someone will bother to comment.

The word "blog" always reminds me of the sound the

plunger makes with you finally unclog the toilet. Or perhaps its onomatopoeia for the sound your brain makes when you unclog all the crap that's been sloshing around in there and release it down the drain of blogsites like MySpace or LiveJournal. (Not that I should talk – I've got one as well.)

The word "blog" actually comes from the word "weblog", although some still believe it was lifted from a Dr Suess story. Like a lot of urban legends that are spread on the Internet quicker than the 'flu, we'll never know the truth or who it was who sneezed first.

Internet addicts are usually fluent in netspeak and that's okay within reason. The problem is when they start speaking netspeak in real life. A symptom of Internet addiction is saying "lol"

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your current light-hearted approach to life will ensure there are no hard feelings when someone plays an over-the-top joke on you this week. You will find a way to reciprocate later. Arians with a birthday this week can look forward to an easier year ahead. A business plan that got off to a shaky start attracts attention from someone with influence.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If you feel you've been stranded at a crossroads in your love-life, you will soon know exactly which direction to choose. Before committing, however, be sure that this is what you really want. In business, opportunities for extra work will come in thick and fast this month. Don't bite off more than you can realistically chew. The

color moss green helps you feel quietly confident.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Younger people take their toll on your patience this week. If you can't see the funny side of their words or actions, try to make allowances for their lack of experience. The atmosphere at work is charged with potential expansion, but a Piscean colleague who can't take the heat is about to leave you in the lurch. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for sealing important deals.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Stillness and calm prevail this week. April will provide the right astral atmosphere for you to make steady progress with at least one important project. Virgo has the right skills to support your plans

– but beware of Aquarius, who is full of hot air. A question of love will be laid on the line once again on Sunday – stick to the decision already made.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): The stars are ready to support you if you've been having a difficult time in business lately. You will receive inspiration on Monday regarding a tricky deal that has been causing sleepless nights. Last-minute changes to plans are forecast mid-week; regard these as an opportunity to learn to be more flexible. The number 4 can bring luck on Saturday.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Do not take everything you hear at face value this weekend; someone's pride will get in the way of a truth being revealed. Taurus can supply information that will help you see what's really going on. If you've been waiting for a sign that romantic advances would be welcomed by Libra, be on red alert this weekend. Cupid would love to help matters along. Wear sea green to help show your true colors.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your imagination is fired up

by something that happens on Sunday. If your creativity has been blocked this year, you can look forward to high productivity in the weeks ahead. Romance is also well-starred – early next week Sagittarius rocks your boat. Allow yourself to jump in at the deep end and have some well-deserved fun in the sun. The number 6 may be lucky on Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Success can be found only if you finish what you yourself started. If you assumed you would be able to delegate tasks you'll have a rude awakening early in the week. There will be no point in beating around the bush – not that this is something you usually do. Give those responsible a clear deadline for getting their act together. Meanwhile, you'll need to put in extra hours.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You're likely to be feeling lethargic this week. After last week's demands on your energy, you should spend time recharging your batteries during the first half of April. As the temperature climbs, try to pace yourself.

This is an ideal time to catch up with personal administration – you may even find that money owed to you has not been paid. A Scorpio has surprising news on Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Take care not to upset people in high places. Many Capricorns may get the wrong idea and should check their facts before making any kind of accusation. Gemini is in a good position to give useful advice. Romance is subject to ups and downs – if you're considering playing any kind of prank, it could result in you being the April Fool. The color beige encourages stillness.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): You should receive good news this weekend. An ongoing dilemma is about to be resolved, and this should give you more financial security. As the month progresses you should seek professional advice about long-term investments. Travel is highlighted during the coming days, and romance would certainly benefit from some time away from your normal environment. Another Aquarian asks a loaded question on Wednesday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your best intentions could be misunderstood this week. Concentrate on your own life and allow others to figure mistakes out for themselves. There is at least one personal concern that you should be addressing. While "out of sight, out of mind" may have worked so far, you will have to face reality before the end of April. Wear ice blue to stay cool.

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# boobies – of course

out loud, and using acronyms such as “OMGWTFBQQ” with your RL (Real Life) friends.

The opportunity to meet people is one of the main reasons people become addicted to the Internet. Let's face it; in a chat-room, nobody knows for sure if you're a pervy old man, a 10-year-old kid or, for that matter, a particularly intelligent dog. Love stories such as *You've Got Mail* are rare in real life – most communication is made up of the likes of, “Ur hott do u have webcam or cn u send me nekkid pix plzktxh;”) Very romantic.

There are communities for everything on the Internet, ranging from sects that worship egg-plants to those who have pledged to speak like a pirate for the rest of their lives. There's a treat for every imaginable kind of fetishist, and, best of all, it's anonymous. You can be as voyeuristic as you like.

Psychologists have come up with loads of theories to explain IAD (Internet Addiction Disorder – don't they just love their initials?).

There are the usual ones: anxiety, stress at home and at work, escapism, and attention seeking – the latter being my favorite. Admit it, most of us are attention whores, and on the Internet it's easy to get attention.

Just log on to a forum discussing how wonderful Britney Spears is and type, “BRITNEY SUX AND HER BOOBIES R FAKE!” and voila! You've got hundreds of people abusing you and giving you all that lovely attention.

Forum discussions gone awry are rather like a car wreck. Except that, rather than just hav-

ing to rubberneck to get a peek, you have to get out of your car and give your own personal opinion about the incident to whoever happens to be bleeding quietly in the wrecked car.

Internet addiction has also been linked to gaming addiction, which, in my humble opinion (IMHO) is far worse. Video games help spread the misconception that women with breasts one-third of their

body mass are capable of fighting and defeating aliens whereas they are more likely to knock themselves out with their amazing bouncing breasts because – believe it or not, boys – breasts obey the laws of gravity like everything else.

A good 10% of the world's population today have access to that wicked thing called the Internet. That's approximately 645 million monkeys, all bashing away. As Miss Texas Teen of 1998 put it ever so eloquently: “There's a lot of weirdos on the Internet.”

The word “blog” always reminds me of the sound the plunger makes with you finally unclog the toilet. Or perhaps its onomatopoeia for the sound your brain makes when you unclog all the crap that's been sloshing around in there.

## Questions about a red-letter day

I got an *ang pao* (a red envelope containing a cash gift) from some Thai-Chinese friends over the Chinese New Year. Am I expected to write a written thank-you note to show my gratitude? Just for some background, I have been teaching English to their kids for several years. Thanks.

Stephen

Dear Stephen,

There is a very interesting fable about *Ang Pao* Day. Many years ago, a strange wild animal came to the village to eat a child year after year. The parents would hold a raffle and the unlucky loser would sacrifice his or her child to this beast.

One day an old man came to the village and pointed out that the animal came only on one particular day each year.

He advised them to wear red, light firecrackers and beat pots and pans together on that dreadful day. This, he said, would scare the beast away.

It worked, and the villagers,

having thus saved their children, were happy and gave *yah soi chien*, or red envelopes, to their children so that they would be happy too.

Since then, it has become tradition for Chinese people to practice this activity yearly.

*Yah* means “fold” and *soi* means “one year”. The word *chien* means “money”. Later, the shorter expression “red envelope” or *ang pao* replaced the use of *yah soi chien*. The adults would present red envelopes at midnight or noon on the last day of the year or they could also be given on New Year's Day.

Everyone looks forward to this special day. The family come together and pay respect to the gods and to their ancestors.

The older people such as the father, mother, grandparents, aunts and uncles give each of their nieces, nephews, grandchildren and their children an *ang pao*. The older children present their parents with *ang pao*, too.

The red packet contains



### Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

mostly new bank notes, and the children are quite excited and eager to see how much money they will receive.

In a Chinese company, the owner will give *ang pao* to employees as a bonus. The amount depends on how successful the business was in the past year.

This is a way of wishing children and adults good luck for the New Year. In your case it is not necessary to write a thank-you note – a verbal “thank you” is enough.

But if you would like to write a thank-you note to show your gratitude, please do so. This will help ease your mind, and will also help your Thai-Chinese friends to learn about your culture.

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# The view from Windows Vista

Any way you look at it, Windows XP is getting long in the tooth. When XP first hit the stands in October, 2001, it set new standards for reliability, usefulness, fun ... and orneriness and inscrutability.

Four and a half years later, XP's manifest shortcomings have turned our lives around. Don't believe it? Think about how many times you heard the terms "virus", "worm", "phishing" and "spoofing" five years ago.

I have spent most of the past two months working with

progressively more interesting beta test copies of the next version of Windows

— formerly codenamed "Longhorn" and now branded "Vista".

I don't get excited about new Microsoft software very often. I'm excited about Vista. I rant and rave and swear at it, to be sure. But Windows Vista has all the hallmarks of a worthy successor to Windows XP — high praise indeed — if Microsoft can get the bugs ironed out in the next six months or so.

Windows Vista will appear in eight — count 'em, eight — different versions. Microsoft hasn't yet nailed down all of the features, but the way things stand, most of the people I know will be interested in only three of the versions.

Vista Home Premium will rapidly become the most common choice for home- and small-business users. It includes features that are currently in Windows

Media Center (for controlling audio and video throughout the house, including HDTV, recording broadcast TV shows, burning DVDs, working with a TV-like remote control, and so on); the new Aero Glass interface (about which more shortly); simplified backup and lots of new security features.

Vista Business apparently won't include Windows Media Center, but it will have Remote Desktop (so you can dial in to your computer while you're away from your desk); various meeting capabilities and full support for

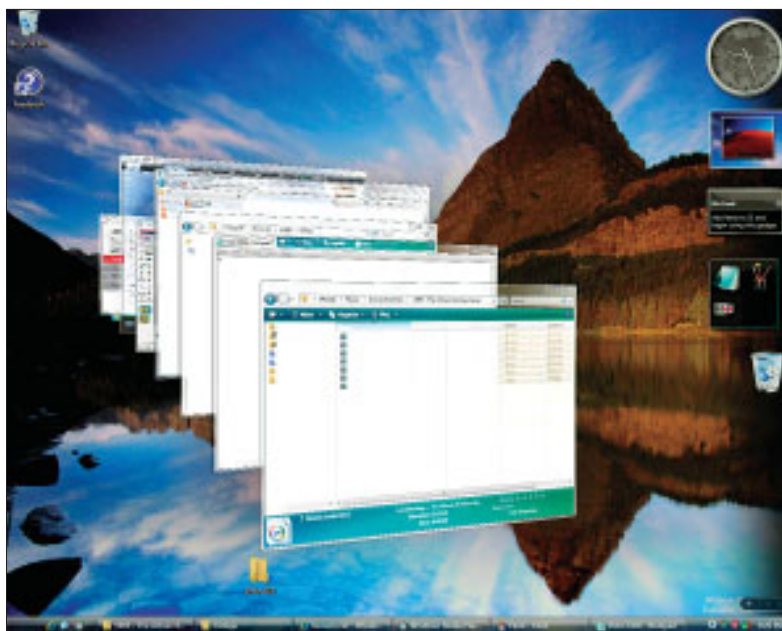
attaching to a client/server "domain".

Vista Ultimate contains all of the features in all of the versions — and I'll bet it's going to have a price tag to match.

The other five versions sport congenital flaws that probably won't appeal to most users. Windows Vista Starter Edition, like the current XP Starter Edition, consists of a massively stunted copy of Windows aimed at specific Third World countries. I think of it as an insult, and a placeholder — most folks who buy a new computer with Starter Edition will immediately install a bootleg copy of the real Windows over the top.

Vista Home "N" and Vista Business "N" serve as grotesque window dressing, dropping Windows Media Center Edition to placate European Union regulators. I bet they'll sell 10 copies each.

Vista Home Basic rates as



The Aero Glass interface in Windows Vista includes the ability to riffle through open windows, like riffing a deck of cards. Remember Tom Cruise in *Minority Report*?

basic, indeed. No Media Center. No DVD burning. No network backup. And a stripped-down user interface that looks just like XP. I think of Home Basic as "Vista Home Bait and Switch". Why? Microsoft obligingly ships all of Vista Home Premium on the Home Basic CD.

If you decide to upgrade, you need only fork over your cash in exchange for a key that "unlocks" the features everyone should have anyway.

Leave it to Microsoft to find a novel way to keep milking that cash cow.

The eighth version, Vista Enterprise, contains all of the features in Vista Business, plus a handful of goodies that make it easier to administer and protect a Vista Enterprise PC on a large

client/server network. As far as I can tell today, you will be able to buy Vista Enterprise only through Microsoft's volume licensing plan, called Software Assurance.

What's to like about Vista? Plenty. If you bought the right version (which is to say, any except the Starter Edition or Vista Bait and Switch), and you own a fairly hefty video card, the moment you start Vista you'll see the new Aero Glass interface, and it'll take your breath away.

The see-through effects around the edges of windows on the screen, combined with a truly useful stripe on the right side of the screen called the Sidebar, make Windows work much better.

I know Aero Glass looks like

simple eye candy. I know that Mac OS/X has something that acts much like the Sidebar. (In fact, both Apple and Microsoft "borrowed" the Sidebar idea from a company called Konfabulator.)

But if you play with the new interface for more than a few minutes, I guarantee you'll come away impressed.

Behind the fancy interface is a vastly improved core, with security a foremost concern. In the current beta test version, Vista 5308, security settings are so tight they make you click and click and click again, simply to perform mundane tasks.

I fully expect Microsoft to back off most of the ridiculous restrictions in place now, but I know that Vista will take a lot more work than XP, simply to keep the creepy-crawlies out of your machine.

In the coming months, as Vista's features shake out, I'll keep you posted on its progress. The important point to know right now is this: Microsoft will release the next version of Windows (and the next version of Office) in early 2007.

As we get closer, you'll hear no end of hype, propelled by Microsoft's US\$500-million (20-billion-baht) advertising push. Most of what you'll hear will amount to little more than marketing drivel. But if Microsoft stabilizes Vista in time, without cutting too many features, it's going to be a magnificent product.

You can email Woody at [woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com)

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Two weeks ago this column, under the headline "Coming in from the cold", focused on Japanese monetary policy.

The Bank of Japan, Japan's central bank, has now arrived at a compromise – it is gradually ending its ultra-loose monetary policy in a process known as "quantitative easing" by tightening liquidity in the system. This process is expected to take about three months, but, in reality, will depend on economic data.

It is difficult to compare directly inflation rates in Japan with those of most other major economies. This is because of the way Tokyo measures inflation or deflation. Normally, when central bankers or economists refer to inflation, it comes in two varieties – "headlines" and "core". The latter excludes the effects of energy and food prices, both of which tend to be volatile and can cause distortion.

The Japanese, however, include energy prices as part of their "core" inflation/deflation statistics, and this makes their real situation more obscure.

The US, meanwhile, has been recording some very moderate economic data, prompting US Treasury Secretary John Snow to comment that the US economy has hit a "sweet spot".

Looked at from a domestic US perspective, this makes sense. Core inflation is running at around 2%, and economic growth at around 3%.

The "flash" estimate of Gross Domestic Product for the first quarter of 2006 may well reflect a higher annualized figure, but when account is taken of the lower-than-anticipated 1.7% revised figure for the last quarter

# US in a 'sweet spot' – but currency a worry

of 2005, the overall situation may well be relatively balanced.

There is, unfortunately, more than a totally domestic economic perspective that needs to be considered by the international investor, or even by US investors looking at the broader picture.

Assuming that the "sweet spot" continues, the US is approaching the end of its interest-rate-tightening cycle. Perhaps the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, or "Fed", will stop raising interest rates at around 5%, or maybe a little higher.

Currency markets are concerned that the focus is switching from the US tightening cycle to another area – the US current account deficit. This was an enormous US\$225 billion (9 trillion baht) in the last quarter of 2005. The only way to fill that "hole" is with foreign money, but economic data so far in 2006 show that foreign investment in the US is not keeping pace. This is worrying.

The European Central Bank is raising short-term interest rates, and has clearly indicated that it intends to continue doing so.

In Japan, tightening domestic liquidity – assuming that the economic recovery remains intact – is a precursor to raising interest rates. This will probably



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson



Warren Buffet (right) is predicting a slide in the value of the dollar.  
– Photo by EPA/Peter Foley

not occur until late 2006 or even early in 2007, but already long-term interest rates have moved upward.

It is now more attractive for Japanese investors to move their money back home. Allied to this situation is the fact that the Yen has been used extensively by hedge funds and other market participants as a "funding" currency. In other words, huge sums of money have been borrowed in Yen to invest in other higher-yielding markets, principally emerging markets.

But if interest rates are to move higher, investors will have to start reversing their positions. This is not the sort of party where it is best to be the last to leave, as the devil will take the hindmost.

With higher rates becoming apparent, who is going to invest in the US in sufficient volume to

keep the dollar stable? It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is likely to be a shortfall, and this means that – in pure economic terms – the US dollar will fall.

Even Warren Buffet, the Sage of Omaha, has recently predicted a gradual decline in the value of the dollar. Last year he took positions against the dollar, betting that it would fall, but his timing was wrong and he lost some US\$800 million. Despite this he is now again predicting a slide.

However, economics and reality often differ. Economists live in a world of frictionless markets, and markets frequently ignore situations – but when they do react, the reaction can be very abrupt. Bulls and Bears exist not only in stock markets only, but in every market. When perceptions change, markets have a tendency to overreact.

In an ideal world, the US dollar would probably have fallen in value already, and the current account problem would have at last been partly corrected as imports become more expensive and exports cheaper and more attractive.

But it is not as simple as that. Countries such as India and China are maintaining what is politely termed a "managed float" against the US Dollar. The other term – which is not so politically correct – is a "dirty float". In other words, these countries are holding down the value of their currencies against the dollar artificially, in order to benefit from competitively-priced exports to the US.

One only has to look at the vast foreign exchange reserves, especially in Asia, to see what is happening. However, the Japanese are not managing their currency against the US dollar at present levels, as their investors have moved enough money out of Japan.

Combined with the use of the Yen as a funding currency, this has naturally kept the Yen "weak" for about two years.

The situation appears to be changing, and the Euro is likely to benefit – although European politicians will begin to panic once the Euro approaches US\$1.30. The US Dollar may well be under pressure in 2006, but unless the Fed increases interest rates too much there may be reasonable gains this year in US stock markets.

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

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## ON THE MOVE



**Parichart "Tim" Kotrajarus**, from Chiang Mai, has been appointed Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) Resort Manager. K. Tim has been in the hotel business for more than nine years, including five years with Four Seasons in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. She joined the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa as Director of Events Management in 2001 and was promoted to Director of Guest Relations in 2004. In her new role, she will take on responsibility for the operation of MVCI, the Vacation Ownership division of Marriott International, at the Marriott's Phuket Beach Club.



**Kitti Chomdee**, 28, from Prachine Buri has been appointed Manager of Karon Studio Apartment. A tourism graduate of Phuket Rajabhat University, he also holds a certificate in design from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and a diploma in international tourism and hotel industry management. After completing his studies in Australia he joined Karon Studio Apartment where he worked initially in reservations, then as the Front Office Manager and in sales.



**Aya Hosogawa**, from Japan, has been appointed Front Office Manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. Ms Hosogawa has been in the Thai hotel industry for over eight years, including three years with Maithon Resort, Phuket, as Front Office Manager. She joined the Marriott Phuket as Duty Manager in 2001.

## Property Club gears up for its first exhibition

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Real Estate Club (PREC) will stage its first property expo – called the Property Investment Exhibition – at Central Festival Phuket from April 6 to 10, with 60 property projects on show, as well as booths manned by staff from companies offering a range of property services.

Thanet Traiwut, Managing Director of the exhibition's organizer, Delice Thai Co Ltd, said,

"There will be 60 booths in the show, with 56 representing properties in Phuket and the remaining four for Koh Samui properties."

K. Thanet explained that the expo will showcase mid-range and high-end properties, with booths representing property projects grouped together according to the prices of the properties available, which range up to US\$1 million (40 million baht) for a luxury house at Baan Cocoon.

Other prime property projects on display will include the Leelawadee Resort & Spa, which has units available at more than 40 million baht each; the Moon Terrace project on Koh Sireh, which has units from 25-35 million baht; and Baan Rommai Chailay, which has units ranging in price from 14-39 million baht.

Non-project displays will be grouped according to their pri-

mary business in the property industry, such as offering legal advice, developers, construction and finishings, he said.

Property service companies will include consultants, architects, interior design companies, lawyers, banks and the Phuket Land Office, which will handle questions about land ownership.

PREC President Phummi-sak Hongsyok said, "We are not focusing on sales at this exhibi-

tion. Instead, we aim to provide information and present products to potential investors."

Free bus services will shuttle interested visitors from selected hotels and resorts to Central and there will also be free transport for those wanting to inspect property developments.

For more information about the event call K. Thanet at Tel: 06-6823770 or Delice Thai at Tel: 076-258417-9.



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# Andaman provinces to host football's Senior World Cup

PHUKET CITY : The Senior Footballers' Association of Thailand (SFA), in association with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, is organizing the first Football Senior World Cup tournament to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

The tournament is to be held in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga provinces, tentatively between April 24 and 30. It will include teams from at least 12 countries and is to feature squads from footballing greats such as Brazil, Argentina, England, Germany, France, Italy, along with Australia, Iran, South Korea, Japan, China, and the United Arab Emirates. Another two countries, as yet unnamed, are also to be invited to take part.

Somprasong Eimsakul, Secretary of the Chief Executive Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), told the *Gazette*, "The *OrBorJor* was asked by the SFA to help publicize and provide training locations for the tournament.

"In Phuket we will use Surakul Stadium for the competition itself, while facilities at Rajabhat University, the Prince of Songkhla University, Sanam Chai and Karon Municipality Stadium will be used for training."

The players are scheduled to arrive around April 20 and the SFA expects that the tournament will also attract spectators from many of the participating countries.

K. Somprasong went on to explain that there will be a grand



Hearing the call from Thailand? Pelé may attend the tournament.

— Photo EPA/Guillermo Olivares

opening ceremony in Krabi on April 24, and the final, along with the closing ceremony, will be held at Surakul Stadium. The SFA has planned three "leagues", with Phuket hosting Group A, Phang Nga Group B and Krabi Group C.

1993 World Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio and the former coach of the German national team, Rudi Voller, are among the stars expected to participate.

K. Somprasong says that there is a possibility that Brazilian legend Pelé will attend but that this is not yet confirmed.

Revenue from sponsorship will go to local tsunami-affected schools. Entrance to the matches is free.

For more information contact K. Somprasong at the PPAO Tel: 076-210421-3, 01-8953132 or the SFA Tel: 02-2606020-5.



## 60 take part in Marriott triathlon

More than 60 competitors (above) took part in the second Tri Ballistic triathlon at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa on March 25. On hand (left) to give support to the younger athletes were Swedish guests Therese Alshammar (left), the current world champion short-course swimmer for freestyle and butterfly, and two-time Olympic swimming champion Johan Wallberg, pictured here with Tasha Peters and Tiffany Smith.



## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Surprise of the week must be Boss Bar's 6-3 win at Piccadilly.

Meanwhile, Didi's continued on their winning streak, this time with a three-point win over second-place Amigos.

**March 21 results:** Dog's Bollocks 7 Coyote Bar\* 2; Amigos 4 Didi's\* 5; Valhalla\* 6 -Two Black Sheep 3; Piccadilly 3 Boss Bar\* 6; OffShore\* 7 Shakers 2; (\* = winner of beer leg)

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (31 pts); 2.= Queen Mary, Amigos (26); 4. Dog's Bollocks (24); 5. OffShore (23); 6.= Piccadilly, Coyote Bar (22); 8. Valhalla (21); 9. Shakers (18); 10. The Boss Bar (11); 11. Two Black Sheep (9).

**April 4 fixtures:** Queen Mary v Didi's; Amigos v Two Black Sheep; Valhalla v Shakers; Piccadilly v Coyote Bar; Offshore v The Boss Bar. (Home team first.)

## Beach volley world champs for Kata

KATA: Geoffrey Rowe, Managing Director of Pentangle Promotions, and Kritsada Panaseri of the Thai Volleyball Association, are presently putting the seal on the organization of the Phuket Thailand Open 2006 Women's Volleyball World Championship.

The championships are planned to take place on Kata Beach from November 1 to 5. The Thai Volleyball Association will erect a 3,000-seat grandstand. Entrance for spectators will be free.

Thailand will field six of the 60 teams slated to compete for prize money totaling 8 million baht.



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# BCIS win inaugural cricket title



The two teams pose for a photo before the match.

By Rich Brown

KOH KAEW: Once again the weather gods dealt out a wet hand and the pitch had to be moved to avoid various swamps around the outfield. Island Cricket Club (ICC) went into the game as favorites, with depth in both batting and bowling.

However, under the circumstances, the toss was crucial and once again BCIS won it.

Captain Roddy Meyer sent ICC in to bat on the unpredictable surface.

His call was spot-on; BCIS had ICC at 24 for 4 after 8 overs with Nifty Catts, once again, doing the damage. Catts has been, without doubt, the bowler of the tournament and one of the few players to realize that it was line and length that would produce results, and not sheer pace.

While the varnish was still on the ball, he also achieved a late swing that was too tricky for most batsmen. He ended up with 4 for 14 off 5 overs.

At the other end, Andy Millward (2 for 25 off 7 overs) was chipping away as usual, though without the success he deserved. However, he set up Bob Wesson to take over and Wesson took 3 for 9 off 4.4 overs.

Once again, tight bowling proved the key factor and ICC managed only 67 all out.

With games being played on Sundays, the previous evening's beers can dictate sloth in the field,

but BCIS were up for this final, Mike Ailing's diving catch at silly mid off exemplifying their efforts.

So BCIS went in to bat with just 68 to win: not a mammoth task but, as is often said, "Cricket's a funny old game."

BCIS have little depth in their batting and if Meyer, Ailing and Wesson went out early, then ICC would still be in the game.

Meyer (21 runs) took 12 balls to get off the mark and was an example to those who complained about the conditions.

Meyer has been BCIS's rock in the batting department and his runs – although not what one would call prolific – proved decisive in a low-scoring game.

ICC stayed in the game thanks to some fine seam bowling from Diwan Mydeen (3 for 21 of 7) and Jafar Ali (2 for 12 off 8) but they just didn't have enough runs to defend and BCIS cruised to a 5-wicket victory to win the inaugural Island Furniture Cricket League.

Man of the match was Nifty Catts (5 overs, no maidens, no wides, no no-balls, 4 for 14)

Teams or players interested in competing next year should call Tel: 01-7193414 or email richardwkbrown@hotmail.com.

The league was sponsored this year by Island Furniture, Sunrise Diving and The Green Man. The BCIS pitch and facilities were used for all games. The umpires were Terry Williams and Ken Ferguson.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I am not a great fan of social climbers. You know the type – they're desperate to be seen with the right people in all the right places, so they can move up in the world – or at least in their own estimation.

The larger the city, the more this kind of nonsense takes place. In a metropolis such as London or New York, they're everywhere.

Every art gallery is packed to the gills with pretentious types doing their best to be creative in front of each other. I'm convinced that most of them haven't a clue what the so-called "art" in the middle of the floor is actually supposed to be.

## ANGST

They can, of course, never admit to such a social *faux pas*, and have long-winded conversations with similarly pretentious types about the artist "capturing the true essence of the angst of inner-city youth, while enhancing the juxtaposition of modern architecture against the stereotypical environment of the working classes".

Surely they must realize what they're staring at is just a pile of bricks?

Luckily, here in Phuket, this kind of pillock (the word speaks for itself, even if you have never heard it before) is not too prevalent. Inevitably there's an exception to every rule, and there are those who like to join the right business association so they can "network".

All I can do is quote that wise old Yorkshire expression, "The higher a monkey climbs, the more it shows its arse."

One of the more famous climbers of the plant world is also fairly social, but doesn't exhibit this by joining local business associations. The philodendron, or

## SOCIAL CLIMBERS



Philodendrons already climbing and ready to go to new homes. Just make sure they get water, and keep them out of the sun.

*mai luay* in Thai, does so in a more laid-back manner.

It doesn't even bother to grow a supporting structure for itself; since it has better things to do. The name philodendron derives from the Greek *philos* for loving and *dendron*, a tree.

Indolent (I've been looking for an excuse to use that word) doesn't begin to describe this plant – it relies solely on stronger and more self-reliant plants

nearby to do the tiresome job of providing support, and it engages in some inevitable climbing on the way.

It attaches itself to the host and wraps around it. It doesn't do any harm in the process – it may be bone idle, but it doesn't display any malice. Why would it want to harm the plant that's doing all the hard work for it?

There is a huge variety of philodendrons, in all shapes and colors. If you get one for yourself, train it to grow up a moss-covered stick so that the roots can sink into the moss. If you buy one from a garden center, the pot may already have a moss-covered stick in the middle anyway – someone has already set the plant off in the right direction.

The support system doesn't even have to be something natural in order to act as host to this

selfish climber – the plant will use it, man-made or otherwise. If you have a concrete pole supporting a carport or balcony roof, then this is the perfect way to try to hide it – the philodendron will quickly become the pole's best friend as it claws its way upwards.

These pole plants must be continuously pruned to keep the vines on the pole, as they can frequently go astray. You'll probably prefer something that's fairly "leafy" looking, so you'll need to trim back new growth on the vine tips. This keeps the plant full, helps to prevent it from looking stringy, and curbs its natural tendency toward dreadlocks.

This group of plants ranges from vines with heart-shaped 10-centimeter-long green leaves to vines with leaves up to a meter in length. Some types have glossy,

solid green leaves, others have velvet-textured, patterned leaves, while yet others have deep-red leaves and stems.

Most of the philodendrons in Thailand are of the larger varieties, although there are a few that are quite small. These are the ones you see clambering up a metal chain from a pot, wrapping themselves around the links which would appear to be the perfect way to encourage them.

These little things grow like crazy – even indoors. Their progress will be curbed only if the pot they're climbing from runs out of water.

Water is just about all the philodendron needs. Water it often enough to keep the soil evenly moist, but don't let it get claggy, or let the plants stand in water. Phuket's high humidity is ideal for enthusiastic growth, but philodendrons will also tolerate a low level of humidity if you want to grow them inside your air-conditioned mansion.

## SUNBURN

Most philodendrons are native to the jungles of tropical America, and are more content with the medium light intensity they would have on the jungle floor. They do get unhappy if given a sunny spot in the garden, as the leaves start to develop sunburn. Most philodendrons prefer indirect or curtain-filtered sunlight.

The philodendron may be one of the champion climbers of the plant world, but it will never be caught whispering nonsense about a pile of bricks. Take one out for a day in the Phuket sun, and the plant will make it quite clear that it should be where we all should be – quietly enjoying a beer in the ample shade of a conveniently placed tree.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

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## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

To paraphrase the old Chuck Berry song, "The temperature's rising and the aircon's blowin' a fuse." Yup, we're back in the dry, sticky hot season. If it were not for an unusual spell of showers recently the island would be sweltering and decidedly brown.

Still, there's no escaping the dog day afternoons to come so now is the time to think of ways to stay cool at even cooler prices. Assuming that your aircon hasn't blown a fuse, it's still expensive to run and not very environmentally sound, so what's a viable alternative?

Why not try the tried and tested Thai *sala*? One advantage of a *sala* is that it is highly visible and adds an instant touch of class to the most mundane of gardens.

It's a place where the kids can play, where the lads can drink. It also provides a wonderful parking spot for mothers-in-law. In short, it's a miracle of economic design. And above all, it's cool.

*Sala* in Phuket come in many shapes, sizes and prices. You can even buy reconstructed *sala* made from old wood.

At Wattana Wood Furniture on Chao Fa East Rd you'll find a wide range of *sala* in teak, rosewood and hardwood designs.

Prices hover around 28-30,000 baht and you can even submit your own design for consideration.

Wattana Wood leans towards Thai rural "cartwheel" motifs, although there are several modernistic units for sale there — each with a traditional Thai-style roof.

One point that is notable throughout the various designs and models is the typical *sala's* durability.

They're built to last and can handle droughts, downpours and most three-year-old children.

The *sala* there are assembled in Kamphaeng Phet Province in Central Thailand, and trucked down to Phuket, making them true "mobile homes". To contact Wattana Wood call Tel: 076-383-264 or 01-8923766.

In downtown Phuket City, *sala* hunters can try Muang Mai shop on Mae Luan Rd, diagonally



Above and below, Wattana has a variety of traditional designs.

# SALA DAYS



opposite the DTAC mobile phone shop.

The *sala* there are assembled in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and specialize in traditional Thai style.

Prices range from 25,000 to 48,000 baht, depending on size and design. Muang Mai is open daily.

For more information call K. Jo at Tel: 01-894-3135.

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

# Quiet home near the sea

**T**he Nai Harn area is popular with foreign home-buyers, and for good reason. It features a host of fine properties – this one among them. The house even has a “one-man” gym in the gardens.

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac in an excellent area just minutes away from the beach, this 230-square-meter house on a private 1,110-sqm block has three bedrooms (with another room that could become a fourth), four bathrooms and lush, established gardens.

It has a 70.5-sqm swimming pool, and a *sala* with a keep-fit machine and exercise bench.

The ground floor features a spacious entry leading to the large living and dining areas, which open out to a terrace leading down to the garden and pool.

There is a well-designed and well-equipped Western-style kitchen. Ample storage is provided with timber overhead cabinets as well as cupboards beneath the imported black granite counter tops.

Fitted appliances include a four-burner cook top, oven, double sink, large two-door fridge, extractor hood and ceiling fan.

A laundry adjoins the kitchen, and there is also a roomy



The home sits in lush, mature gardens, and has a pool. It is also just minutes from Nai Harn Beach.

bedroom and a bathroom on this level – ideal for a maid’s quarters. There is also a double carport.

Rosewood timber stairs with a timber balustrade lead to the upper floor, where there are three large bedrooms. Two of

these also have their own sitting areas, furnished with comfy rattan suites.

The bedrooms feature en-suite bathrooms, one with a full-size bath. The sanitaryware, fixtures and stylish ceramics are of top quality, and the vanity units have timber doors and tiled tops with recessed bowls. The bright, well-ventilated en-suite bathrooms were designed in sparkling white, with deep blue tiles, gold taps and

other fixtures. Two bedrooms have built-in timber wardrobes.

The upper floor has a timber-railed veranda with teak furniture, with views over the pool and the gently sloping gardens.

Built around three years ago, this is a modern, well-designed home. It was built using top-grade materials, including rosewood and teak, with hardwood eaves and ceilings, imported granite, and sandwash flooring. There are custom-made curtains and blinds on many doors and windows, which also have insect screens.

The utilities include ceiling fans and air conditioning, two telephone lines, ADSL, well water with a back-up tank, a filtration system and water heaters, a septic tank and three-phase power.

The home comes fully furnished with elegant, expensive furniture including an upholstered rattan lounge suite, stylish glass-and-wicker dining room suite, timber cabinets and limed teak bedroom suites.

The tranquil semi-rural area of Nai Harn hosts a number of substantial homes and up-market villa developments, and this fine residence will please a discerning buyer seeking a quality house with garden in a secluded location. The land title is Chanote, and the asking price is 24 million baht.

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

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## Construction

by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn



Computer-generated impression of one of the huge homes to be built at Phutawan Residence &amp; Spa.

## Project aims at high end

LAYAN: Work got underway in January on the Phutawan Residence & Spa, a luxury villa complex on a 60-rai hillside overlooking Layan Beach.

Developer SuriyaJan Properties Co is investing 17 million baht in the construction of each of the project's six units, all to be located under the government's 80-meter limit on permanent hillside structures.

Total investment in the project has not been disclosed, but the homes will sell at prices starting from 45 million baht.

The project's access road, already cut through forest and rubber plantations, begins on Srisoonthorn Rd, about 500 meters from the Ban Don Rd intersection.

The project's Managing Director, Suriya Chaowanich, said the company was looking for a way to follow up on the success of its Ocean Villas.

SuriyaJan wants to do something "both unique and elegant" with the tropical forest setting, for which it holds *Nor Sor 3* land title deeds.

The project will be built in three phases. The 19-rai first

phase will involve construction of six villas, each on one rai of land. The other 13 rai will serve as a private park with trails, where residents can walk, enjoy sunsets and, say the developers, "observe rare fauna". The park will also be home a miniature golf course and clubhouse, he added.

### FEEDBACK

Planning of the project's second phase will begin two years after the first phase is fully completed to allow sufficient time for Phase 1 residents to give feedback that can be applied to the next phase.

Construction of the project's show home will begin in May, with a scheduled completion date in December.

All six units should be completed and sold within two years, he said.

Each villa will have at least 1,200 square meters of usable space and five bedrooms, each with en-suite bathroom. Three of the bathrooms will be equipped with Jacuzzis.

In addition to a spacious living and dining room, each unit will also have a laundry room, stor-

age room and a 21-meter infinity-edge swimming pool.

Water mains and power conduits will all be underground. There will also be a 300-tonne water reserve and a well, in order to ensure continuous water supply through the dry season, he added.

K. Suriya said the target buyers would be foreigners seeking a secluded, natural setting designed to ensure the utmost privacy.

To maintain the natural atmosphere, hardwoods such as teak and *takien* will predominate among the construction materials.

Common areas will be maintained by a management company that has yet to be named.

Project design is by architectural firm Point Studio Co and the construction work will be carried out by Hat Yai Nantakorn Company Ltd.

For more information visit *SuriyaJan Properties Co* at 394 Moo 1, Tambon Cherg Talay, Thalung or call Tel: 076-273-371 or Fax: 076-273083, E-mail: [info@phutawanresidence.com](mailto:info@phutawanresidence.com) or visit the website: [www.phutawanresidence.com](http://www.phutawanresidence.com)

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**The Beach Boulevard. A smart move in Paradise**

These luxury boutique hotel-style guesthouses are designed specifically for sale to discerning investors looking for a property with potential in the Kata Beach area. The project is being developed and managed by a professional team with more than 10 years' experience.

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

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

The suites in each boutique hotel all come fully equipped with a kitchen, dining room, living room and luxurious office area. High-quality materials have been used throughout.

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All this combines to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

The unit is 13.25 x 23.50m on an area of 34 x 23m. Usage area is 415sqm with swimming pool included.

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Financed by Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) Co., Ltd.



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### NAI YANG – PHUKET

Small development of 5 houses. Display home now open. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living + dining room, European kitchen, laundry, all-round veranda, boundary wall, electric gate, carport, landscaped garden. Living area 153sqm, land 532-740sqm. First house for sale at 7.5 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-328424, 01-8953481. Email: goldigger\_phuket@hotmail.com

### BAAN PRANGTHONG

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

### RAWAI LAND

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

### HOUSE IN KATA



The house is located about 800m from Kata Beach, in a quiet safe area, with no traffic. 3 bedrooms, one with balcony. 2 bathrooms and 4 air conditioners, UBC and telephone line. Asking 3.8 million baht. Tel: 07-0297590 (English) 06-7612511 (Thai). Email: bjaco2@hotmail.com

### PHUKET CITY CONDO

32sqm, freehold, brand-new, furnished, 550,000 baht. Close to Central Festival. Please contact for details. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### PANORAMIC VIEW

of Ao Por. 10.76 rai with Nor Sor 3 land title, fronting main road. Price: 55 million baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-270846, 01-737-8899. Email: fineroom99@yahoo.com

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### WOW! What a Deal!

HOTEL DEVELOPMENT SITE  
IN KHAO LAK FOR SALE

This superb, 60-rai beachfront site was being developed as a 5-star resort hotel and is now for sale at 348 million baht. There are over 160 meters of excellent white sandy beach and coconut groves on level land ideal for a resort hotel development.

We have much more prime land for sale!

### BEACH APARTMENTS

Spacious, modern, 2-bedroom apartments, some with a sea view, a 2-minute walk to the beach, gardens, pools, clubhouse, gym, sauna. Prices start from 8.5 million baht. On-site sales office. Tel: 06-2806624. For further details, please see our website at: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

### NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



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

### NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



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

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



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

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"grand master"

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- versatile separate living areas
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- large balconies, great breezes.



Laguna Villa for long term rental  
"live the view"

- spacious 4 bedroom residences available for long-term rental
- stunning Laguna fairway and water hazard views
- private infinity edge pool, huge outdoor verandas, great shade
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Phase 1 Laguna Townhome for Rent !!  
"entertainers dream home"

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- short-term rentals only.



Private Pool Villa, Sai Taan Resale  
"Lifestyle Living at it's Best"

- newly completed, 4 bedrooms spacious villa, just minutes from the beach
- partially furnished, opportunity to decorate according to your style
- Sai Taan villas have proven high-income stream, strong demand for short-term rentals
- perfect holiday villa, ideal for corporate or private entertaining
- walk to Laguna, restaurants, clubs, bars, 5-star hotels, etc
- estate management services by Knight Frank
- priced to sell.



Immaculate Laguna Villa (Resale)  
"exclusive residence – opportunity beckons"

- direct golf frontage, approx 450sqm built-up area on a 1,100sqm land plot
- 3 "master" bedrooms, study, formal living and dining areas, pool, maids-quarters
- teak furnishings, well-appointed furniture
- tropical landscaping, picturesque views of the fairways
- secure and peaceful location in the heart of Laguna
- ideal residences for retired couple or the astute investor
- Laguna benefits & privileges included in the sale.

### PATONG CONDO

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

### RAWAI, 2-STORY

house. Twin 2-story house, brand-new, 400m from beach. Asking 1.3 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-6865567 (owner).

### KAEO PISADAN ISLAND

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

### RAWAI CONDOS

for sale. Freehold, fully furnished, brand-new condos. 550,000 baht. 400m from beach. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-6865567.

### 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@chokechainproperty.com

### SEA VIEW LAND

for sale. Half rai (800sqm) in Rawai, perfect sea view. Asking 3.5 million baht, or 1 rai 8 million baht. No agents. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-7291391.

### BEACH HOUSE FOR SALE



Nice wooden house with almost 1,200sqm of 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. Please contact. Tel: 01-3430777. Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com

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# Property Gazette

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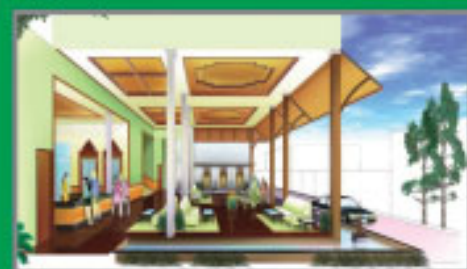
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### 0.5 RAI IN RAWAI

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### BIG HOUSE

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## 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.

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

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### Properties for Sale



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- 1,330-1,995 sq.m. plot size
- Magnificent location on Surin Beach
- Professional estate management
- Beach, shops & restaurants nearby

Baht 60 - 67 Million



- Modern contemp. apts. on Layan Beach, 2 b/r, 212-378 sq.m.
- Duplex 3 b/r penthouse, 308 sq.m.
- Walking distance to the beach
- For sale leasehold or freehold

Baht 12.5 - 18 Million



- 19 rai land on Tri-Trang Beach, on the west coast of Phuket
- Sea Views over the Emerald Bay
- Near Sar 3 Kor
- Great investment opportunity

Baht 8.5 Million / Rai



- 2 b/r beachfront apts. on Karon Beach, 125 sq.m.
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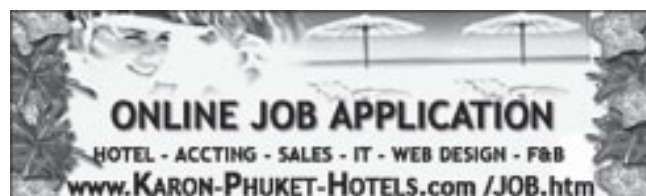
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We offer very competitive salaries, service charge, benefits, accommodation, first-class training and excellent career opportunities to the right candidates. For an interview please send all CVs, resumé and photographs to [kung@evasonhideaways.com](mailto:kung@evasonhideaways.com)

9/10 Moo 5, Baan Plai Laem, Bophut, Koh Samui, Surat Thani 84320, Thailand  
19/F Two Pacific Place, 142 Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand



**Worldwide Legal Solution & Accounting Co., Ltd.**

**Urgently required**

**ACCOUNTANT**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English
- Good computer skills
- Accounting experience would be an advantage

Qualified candidates are invited to send a resumé to:  
[estina@worldwidelegalsolution.com](mailto:estina@worldwidelegalsolution.com)  
or contact for more information  
Tel. 076-296676, 076-296615 Fax. 076-296713

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED**

Experienced graphic designer needed full-time for web design and various print design jobs. Applicant should have good skills in Photoshop, Illustrator, etc. Tel: 076-282211. Fax: 076-283251. Email: [oil@asiadebit.com](mailto:oil@asiadebit.com)

#### **SALES PEOPLE REQUIRED**

We are looking for people who are experienced in sales. Fluent English is required. Excellent remuneration package available. Please contact Chris at [escapeit@yahoo.com](mailto:escapeit@yahoo.com)

#### **COOK WANTED**

For Koh Kao Pisadan Bunglows off Laem Promthep. Please call. Tel: 09-5944017.

#### **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)

#### **GERMAN-SPEAKER WANTED**

Do you have some computer skills? Would you like to work, and be paid well, at our call center 5 days a week? Please feel free to contact us for more info. Tel: 09-8739123. Email: [eichinger@intercallservice.com](mailto:eichinger@intercallservice.com)

#### **WEBSITE SALES**

Urgent: An organized Thai national needed to sell websites. Email skills, transport, energy and knowledge of tourism or construction helpful. Make it with a fun, new company. Please call May. Tel: 09-9733276.

#### **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: 076-261157, 09-7703681. Fax: 076-261-239. Email: [patbkl@yahoo.com](mailto:patbkl@yahoo.com)

## 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



Currently being upgraded with additional bungalows, food & beverage facilities, and leisure & relaxation areas.

We welcome applications (Thai Nationality) for the following positions:

- Beverage Manager
- Waiter / Waitress / Bartender
- Restaurant Captain
- Public Relations - German & English Language
- Room Division Manager
- Front Office Manager
- Guest Service Agent
- Reservations Manager
- Reservations Executive
- Massage Therapist
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Water Sports Coordinator
- Water Sports & Bell
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Technician Supervisor
- Technician & Officer
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper (Garden & Landscape)
- Laundry Supervisor
- Bungalow Attendant
- Public Area Attendant
- Garden Supervisor
- Garden Attendant
- Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Administrator
- Sous Chef
- Chief Steward
- Steward
- IT Manager
- Cost Controller
- General Cashier
- Account Receivable Supervisor

Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island  
Tel: 075 - 620798 / 075 - 621334  
E-mail: hrdphi@cscoms.com  
www.phiphi-palmbeach.com  
http://phiphi-palmbeach.com/job.php

Benefits: Competitive international remuneration, service charge, accommodation, 3 meals per day and 1 day extra traveling leave per month.

## 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.

Email: jom@surinheights.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. Please call Apple. Tel: 076-341116 for more information.

## CLINIC ADMINISTRATOR

and 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

## CASHIER

& accounting required. Accountant/storekeeper urgently required. Attractive salary offered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

## Urgently Requires

- Waiter / Waitress
- Bartender
- Lounge Manager
- Cashier
- Kitchen Staff

Please send CV to numoparat@sanook.com  
For more details, please call 09 7804541  
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THE SOUTH SEA  
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GROUP

The South Sea Resort Group in Phuket, a unique resort on Karon Beach, is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

- Human Resource Manager
- G.Training / HR Coordinator
- Training / HR Officer
- Sales Representative / Administrator (base in Phuket)
- Sales Representative (Thai or Expat, base in Bangkok)
- Reservation Manager (Thai or Expat)
- PR / Activities Executive
- Guest Service Agent

The successful candidate should be in possession of the following qualities:

- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any related field or experience in related field.
- ▶ Highly self motivated, well organized with excellent interpersonal skill.

In order to be consider an interview please send all CV's, resumes and photographs to:

hr@southsearesorts.com

and copy to

ggm@southsearesorts.com

Interview is by appointment only, please indicate if you would like to interview in Phuket or Bangkok and expect salary in your e-mail.

204 Karon Road, Muang District, Phuket  
83100 Thailand  
Tel. 076 370 888 ext. 561, 562  
Fax. 076 370 899

## URGENT: OFFICE

Assistant. Female, experienced in reservations & marketing, with spoken and written English. Tel: 076-254523, 06-9516695.

## MAKE PHOTOS

Beautiful lady wanted to develop photos. Training provided. Good salary, work 4 hours a day. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-2704133.

## TEFL LANGUAGE

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## Employment Wanted

### SWEDISH MAN SEEKING WORK

I am a 34-year-old Swedish man looking for work in Phuket. Open for any job you can offer. Please contact. Email: jensjoberg@hotmail.com

### GERMAN WOMAN/ MANAGEMENT

German woman, 33, is looking for a job on Phuket. 11 years' experience in fashion/textile industry, HR management and training of sales staff, and motivating/managing branch managers. I speak German and English. Email: muenchen1@gmx.net

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

**PHILIPS 29" TV + DVD**  
2 AJ speakers plus stand. Only 8 months old and still under warranty. Only 15,000 baht. Tel: 06-0742471.

## SHARP 29" TV

Original price: 12,000 baht; selling for 7,000. Perfect condition. Please contact. Tel: 04-7467304. Email: steverose\_76@hotmail.com

## GYM 3 STATION

New, cheap at 15,000 baht. Tel: 07-0170135.

## RUNNING MACHINE

Keep fit! Brand-new, computerized, never used, fold away, 20,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 07-0170135.

## LEATHER LOUNGE

5-piece corner unit, brand-new, excellent quality, mustard color. Tel: 07-0170135.

## GREAT DEALS

Fast sale: 29" TV speakers + DVD TV stand: 14,000 baht. Big fish tank stand: 10,000 baht. Big bed mattress & frame: 8,000 baht. Nice designer desk chair: 5,000 baht. Leather designer couch with two matching leather chairs and ottoman. Other misc items. All items only three months old. Each cost about two times what I am selling them for. Call Tel: 076-283-360, or the best way to contact me is by Email at: turtlewax47@gmail.com

## KITESURFING

equipment. Everything you need to start kitesurfing today! (Good wind not included.) A 160 beginner-to-advanced board, 5ft kite, pump, Naish harness/impact vest. All in good condition. 45,000 baht for the lot. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-367-5413. Email: wesleybaxter@hotmail.com

## Births

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY JIF!



Dear daughter, Happy Birthday! Love and regards, Papa Tom. Tel: 248-673-9687. Email: nglsh4u@hotmail.com

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

#### Phuket City

Mission Hospital

on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital

on Fri at 7 pm

#### Patong

Patong Hospital

on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call 012732053 (Scandinavian), 018954763 (English) or 018912895 (Frank)

## Business Opportunities

### SMALL HOTEL FOR SALE



Beautiful, 8 bedrooms, coffee shop, in the center of Karon Beach. 9.8 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-1719705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

### WANTED IN NAI HARN

I am looking for a business in the Nai Harn area. If you have one or know of one for sale please email me at Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

### BAR 4 SALE: AO NANG

Krabi. Stylish and profitable double unit bar in busy tourist area. Tel: 075-637862, 06-2773160. Email: hedley@loxinfo.co.th

### 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.

### SMALL RESTAURANT

Nanai Rd, Patong. Internet, bar, 2 bedrooms, 480,000 baht. Please contact. Email: thomaspatong@gmx.de

### BAR FOR SALE

Soi Dongtan. Refurbished. Good figures. No key money. Lease paid until December 2006. Tel: 06-8528256. Email: misterkai4@yahoo.com.au



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE



on Nanai Rd in Patong, Phuket. Fully equipped. 80sqm. 7,000 baht per month. Everything new. 3-year contract. Key money 700,000 baht. Urgent and negotiable. Please call. Tel: 09-2898628.

## SHOPHOUSE

Shophouse - 5 m x 12m - for rent at 5,000 baht a month. Ideal for office. Get yearly lease agreement, and take over for only 450,000 baht. No key money. Tel: 076-383240, 01-4154883. Fax: 076-383240. Email: info@r-armanitailor.com

## NICE RESTAURANT

plus 3 rooms. Close to the beach. Lease has 4 years left + rent at 35,000 baht a month. Only 850,000 baht for furniture and equipment. Excellent location near Banana Discotheque. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8448381. Email: garyone1@hotmail.com

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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. For more information contact us. Email: phuket\_carwash@hotmail.com

## BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

If I can work from my home in Bangkok and make over US\$ 4,000 per week, so can you. I will prove it. Go to my business website, then call Derrick at 02-2629287. Serious inquiries only please. If you do not go, enjoy what you are presently doing. You will probably be doing it forever. Tel: 02-2629287, 01-7543731. Fax: 02-6611148. Email: derrickturnbull@yahoo.com For more details, visit: www.lifechangingearnings.com

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nice office located in a business area. 50sqm, fully furnished with all office equipment and ready to start. 18 million baht. Company car is available if required. Tel: 09-8750017.

## PATONG BAR

for sale. Nanai Rd, pool table, UBC, kitchen, terrace, 2½ years left on renewable lease. Please contact for full details. Tel: 07-8895736. Email: huwviliams@hotmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE

New bar in Andaman Bazaar. Fully furnished, has pool table. Seats 35, and has kitchen, etc. 3 + 3-year lease. No key money. Take over for 500,000 baht. Rent 52,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 06-7430978.

## 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

## INVEST NOW

Are you interested in a Disco business in Patong? Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-7975977. Email: make@thaicard.net

## 26-ROOM HOTEL

for lease. Located in Patong, recently equipped, fully booked. No key money. Nine years on lease. Ready to run. Don't miss it! Tel: 06-004-3008. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net

## BAR FOR SALE

Prime location, just off Bangla Rd, long lease. Tel: 09-514-1288.

## RESTAURANT

for rent. Good location, 1km to Nai Harn Beach, including kitchen equipment. Tel: 06-9474494, 01-5365416.

## BAR FOR SALE

Soi Bangla area. All fittings, including pool table and small Thai restaurant. 250,000 baht. Tel: 01-8928579.

## CAFE/RESTAURANT

New, very nice, 2 rooms. Lease for 5 years. Nanai Rd 2.3 million baht. Tel: 04-013-7941.

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## TODAY'S HOME

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For sale as lot or separately. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-267-2260. Email: thurston@loxinfo.co.th

## NIKON D50

and equipment. 2 months old. Comes with 18-55mm wide angle lens + 70-300mm zoom. Lithium battery with charger, 1GB memory card, filters, bag, flash, etc. 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-597474, 01-6768797.

## Computers

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Friendly farang fixes copiers and faxes and has laser toner refills. Please call George for more information. Tel: 06-9724805.

### COMPUTER 4 SALE

- Pentium 4. 1.6GHz. 512 DDR, 40GB hard disk. CD/DVD, 64MB video, Windows XP Service Pack 3, Office. 17" monitor. 8,000 baht.

- Celeron 2.4GHz. 512 DDR, 40GB hard disk. CD/DVD-RW, 128MB video. 17" monitor. 10,000 baht.

- Pentium 3. 1GHz. 384 SD RAM, 40GB hard disk. CD/DVD, 32MB video. 17" monitor. 6,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 09-2898628.

## 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

### PERSONAL TRAINING

Tailor-made physical training at all levels. Scheduled sessions at home or outside area. First lesson free. Tel: 07-2808077.

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privately. One-on-one lessons with qualified and experienced teacher in the privacy of your home or office. Read it, hear it, ask about it, and absorb it online. I speak English comfortably and will answer your questions precisely. Contact me for details and references from successful students. Serious inquiries only, please. Tel: 09-7482572. Email: ajarn44@hotmail.com

### PART-TIME SERVICE

after 6pm. Foreign man seeks part-time work after 6pm, weekdays or weekends. Can do anything, including computers, language teaching, sales & marketing, security, etc. Tel: 05-1601670. Email: paulivarlarsson@hotmail.com

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

### GOOD FRIENDSHIP

Kind gentleman, pleasant and secure, is looking to start an enjoyable friendship with a traditional, pretty Thai lady. Please contact via Email: henry\_harjus@yahoo.com

### FUN DATING

Looking for fun? For a date? Call her now and you'll never walk alone! Please contact. Tel: 076-280447, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@fun-dating-thailand.com For further details, please see our website at: www.fun-dating-thailand.com

### SAILING TO BANGKOK

Looking for adventurous couple to sail from Phuket to Bangkok via Char Buri and Chumphon by road. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-280420, 09-8758691. Fax: 076-280420. Email: info@riverrovers.com



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