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ONCE MORE Phuket to vote again but Dems still boycott

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Voters are to go to the polls once more on April 23 after Phuket's two Thai Rak Thai Party (TRT) candidates failed to get elected to Parliament on April 2, despite running unopposed.

However, it seems unlikely that anyone will be elected in this second round of voting, as the Democrat Party has announced that its boycott of the polls will continue despite Thaksin Shinawatra's announcement that he will step down from the Premiership.

In a dramatic speech on April 4, broadcast live by all TV channels, the PM announced that he would not be Prime Minister in a new Parliament, but that he would continue to be an MP and leader of the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party.

This raised concerns among his opponents that any TRT Prime Minister would be a mere puppet, with Thaksin pulling the strings.

Former Democrat MP for District 2, Chalermklak Kebsap, told the *Gazette* the following morning, "We have to examine this more closely because PM Thaksin has said he will resign after Parliament reconvenes, but right now he is still the PM. If you think about it, nothing has changed."

"What the PM did last night was for his own benefit; ordinary people who do not understand politics in depth will have seen his announcement and will admire him. But last night, as I was listening to him, many people



NO RESULT: A woman places her vote in the ballot box in the Prince of Songkhla University polling station on April 2.

called me to ask, 'What does it mean?'

"He said that he would continue to push TRT policies [after stepping down], so that means nothing has changed."

"If he is sincere [about resigning] it will be good but if he is simply maneuvering for position, things will get worse."

She added, "In fact, the PM and the entire Cabinet should quit, and a royally-appointed interim Prime Minister should take over the running of the country."

The continuing Democrat boycott is likely to result in the April 23 poll being a replay of the April 2 election, in which TRT candidates Dr Sriyada Palimapan and Wisut Santikul failed to garner enough votes to get elected. They were defeated by a rule that states that candidates running

unopposed must receive votes equivalent to 20% of the total electorate in their district.

Both have confirmed that they will run again in the April 23 poll. Dr Sriyada told the *Gazette*, "TRT in Phuket must go on with its work. We will continue to do our duty as members of the party."

Commenting on Thaksin's announcement, she said, "I think this will improve the political atmosphere. The skies will be clearer."

Clarity may not be that easy to come by, however. For the present, the standoff continues: Thaksin will not vacate the PM's office until a new Parliament is convened, and the Democrats will not stand for election until he steps down, which will likely mean no Parliament can be convened.

Ko Noi assassin still in hiding

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: The hunt continues for Samrerng Klaising, the gunman wanted for assassinating prominent Phuket businessman Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas, but so far without result.

However, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth said on April 3 that police are making progress in their investigation.

Samrerng, originally from Petchaburi Province, and his driver in the shooting, whom police have yet to name, are believed to be hiding in Central Thailand.

"The gunman is a member of the Thai Practical Shooting Association, and police are working hard to find the two criminals," Gen Decha said, adding, "We can't say more because it might help them evade arrest."

Two police officers, Pol Capt Wanchana Polpalangkul and Pol Sgt Pongsak Kosiratana-pibal, who were formerly attached to the province's elite Special Operations Unit, were arrested shortly after the murder but are now out on bail.

Answering criticism over this, Gen Decha explained that this was not a police decision, nor the decision of the Phuket Provincial Court.

"The two were granted bail by the Region 8 Court of Appeal [in Surat Thani]."

The Phuket police opposed bail at the first hearing in the Phuket court," he said. The court agreed with the police and denied bail to the two men.

The two then appealed to the court in Surat Thani, which freed them.

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Gov calls for procedures to be followed

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura has called for government officers to apply rules and regulations consistently, especially for government projects approved or ordered by senior officials, including Ministers.

At the March 30 meeting of provincial office chiefs at Provincial Hall, Governor Udomsak said, "Any official who receives orders or approval from a Minister to carry out a project should not forget that Ministers work at a management level. You are the ones who have to take action and ensure that everything is done according to the law.

"Please do not [cut corners and] simply say that you're following the Minister's orders."

For reasons that were not made clear, Gov Udomsak used as an example the 49-million-baht Welcome Gate being built at Tah Chat Chai. The Gateway is a Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) project.

"We should respect each other. For example, if the *OrBorJor* wants to build the Welcome Gate at Tah Chat Chai, it must ask the Mai Khao *OrBorTor* [Tambon Administration Organization] for permission to construct buildings on that land.

"In other words, the *OrBorJor* cannot just go ahead without official permission," Gov Udomsak said.

"If a contractor or private company is doing some government project, it must apply for permission from every officer whose department is [affected or involved]. If it doesn't, that means that [its managers] don't know how to go about their business," he added.

MARINA ROW: Fishermen appeal to Human Rights body

By Janyaporn Morel

PA KHLOK: The Fishermen's Association in Moo 6, Pa Khlok, which staged a protest at Provincial Hall and lodged a formal complaint over the construction of the Ao Por Marina on March 16, has applied for advice from the Human Rights Commission as to what rights it has in defending its members' livelihoods.

Rattanaporn Jaengjaidee, an adviser to the association, told the *Gazette*, "We have sent a letter to the Office of the National Human Rights Commission to ask them if any rights of any Ao Por villagers are being violated by this project. We are waiting for a reply from them."

The announcement came after the villagers boycotted an inspection of the area by Phuket's Chief Administrative Assistant (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat, on March 21.

"We didn't want to go because we've inspected the area twice already. The first time was on February 8 with the PMBC [Phuket Marine Biological Office] and the Environmental Office, Region 15, [to assess the marina's initial impact on the area's environment].

"The second time was on February 23 with the PMBC and the Chief of the Phuket Marine Office," she said.

"The PMBC filed a report stating that there was a lot of coral there before, but that it has been destroyed by the construc-



Palad Nivit (right) and *Phu Yai Baan's* Assistant Moosa Ngan-khaeng (left), say that the fisherfolk have no case. The locals disagree.

tion. The province should reconsider the decision [to allow construction], but it seems that they don't care about what the report said."

K. Rattanaporn said that villagers felt they already knew what the conclusion would be. "Villagers believe the province is not sincere in helping them, otherwise K. Nivit would have come to check when the Fishermen's Association lodged its complaint at the beginning of February," she said.

However, Moosa Ngan-khaeng, assistant to the *Phu Yai Baan* (village headman) for Moo 6, said, "I warned reporters and any other people affected by this to stop protesting, as I'm the person responsible for this area.

"They are not being reasonable. They lodge a protest and then don't turn up when we come to check. They come, instead, when the company is working, checking every four to five days, and now the company is worried about continuing working under these conditions."

During his inspection, K. Nivit said that because no villagers had turned up to inspect the area, he would now support the decision to allow construction of the 95-million-baht project by Italian Thai Development Co to continue.

"I came here to see with my own eyes whether there is still coral in the area or not, because the protesters complained that I

didn't come to check it for myself. Now that I see nobody here, I will uphold the decision that the construction of the marina can continue," K. Nivit said.

He added that there was no reason for divers to go into the water and check whether any coral within the construction zone was still alive. "I have already been told by the Chief of the Marine Office that there is no healthy coral in the area," he said.

Nalinee Thongtham of the PMBC said that the report, compiled by the center before the project started, explained that about 5% of the area had coral but that very little of it was still alive. However, she added, "What coral was still alive has been dug out."

Meanwhile, Ao Por fish farmer Supachok Wangrung-ruengthavorn petitioned Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura on April 3 after receiving a notice from *OrBorTor* Pa Khlok threatening court action if his company did not remove its fish pens from Ao Por within 30 days.

The company had been farming in the area for over 10 years and was still struggling to recover after its equipment was destroyed by the tsunami and replaced using loans and compensation money from the Fisheries Department, he said.

The Marine Department said it was prepared to issue the firm a permit because the pens do not interfere with navigation.

TAT invites people to 'bless HM'

PHUKET: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has invited everyone to "bless HM the King" by signing "blessing books" at either the Provincial Hall or the TAT's office in Phuket City. The books opened on April 3 and will remain open for good wishes and signatures until the end of June.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the TAT office in Phuket, explained that similar books are being opened for signatures in every province of the country.

At the end of June, the books will be gathered together and presented to His Majesty before being placed in the Hall of Records at the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

Rain staves off water shortage

PHUKET: The heavy downpours late last month boosted Phuket's water reserves in Bang Wad Reservoir to 2.7 million cubic meters – enough to last until mid-June. Watchara Arepornsir, Project Director at the Phuket Irrigation Office, told the *Gazette*.

"The amount of water in Bang Wad Reservoir has risen to 2.7 million cubic meters. We should have no problems because we have checked with the weather forecasters and they say the rainy season should arrive by the end of April," he said.

Meanwhile, Sayan Waree-aroonroj, Manager of Phuket Provincial Water Supply Office, told the *Gazette* that the 66-million-baht pipeline from the Hitlor and Manik tin mine lagoons in Tambon Srisoonthorn, Thalang, is about 20% complete.

The new pipeline, which should be ready in June, will run from the lagoons, which have a combined capacity of 2 million cubic meters, to a tin mine in Kathu on state land controlled by the Phuket Excise Office.

K. Sayan added that construction of the reserve-osmosis desalination plant in Kata, which will turn sea water into fresh water, is underway and will be completed by July this year.

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Power cable stolen from tsunami tower

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has lashed out at thieves who stole the power cable from the tsunami warning tower at Ao Yon, rendering it inoperative.

"I don't understand them. Why would they steal [one of] the most important things for saving lives?" the Governor asked angrily at the March 30 monthly meeting of provincial office chiefs.

"Whoever finds out who stole the power cable from the tsunami tower should use the wire to electrocute the thieves," he fumed.

Chatchawan Mumpolsri of the Phuket Provincial Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), was also angered by the theft. "The thieves may make just 500 baht [from selling the copper cable as scrap metal], but they didn't think that it might save more than 100 lives if a tsunami happens," he said.

He added that the tower at Ao Yon is in an isolated location, making it easy for the thieves to steal the wire without being detected.

"I would like to ask local administrations,

please, to keep a special watch on the tsunami warning towers in their areas. Towers have been installed at 18 places [in Phuket]. If the power is cut from one tower, then all the other towers further down that line will put out of action," K. Chatchawan warned.

"ODPM officers run a full system check every day, so we know if there are any problems [with the towers], and we can fix them quickly," he said, adding that the Ao Yon tower was repaired soon after it was vandalized.

— Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Bypass road fully open at last

PHUKET CITY: March 31 marked a milestone in the 111-million-baht bypass road widening project, as the new northbound lane, blasted out of the hillside north of Tesco-Lotus, was finally opened fully to traffic.

The opening caused some confusion among motorists, who had grown used to the contraflow traffic system using the southbound lane near Chan's Antiques.

Phuket Highway Department Engineer Boonyakiat Kongketyai told the *Gazette*, "Officials took down the detour signs and put up new signs indicating that vehicles should take the new road.

"Unfortunately, many drivers ignored the signs and still tried to cross over onto the southbound lane, which is now one-way. We've been lucky that there have been no reports of accidents so far," he said after the opening.

"However, I think motorists will grow accustomed to using the new lane before long."

Those who do figure it out are in for a treat, he said. "People heading north from Phuket City will enjoy a different, beautiful new view," he said.

The entire project, which has tested the patience of island motorists since it began in May 2004, should be completed before the Songkran holidays.

Only minor details such as putting up signs and painting road markings remain, K. Boonyakiat said.

The project, originally scheduled for completion in just 510 days, is now fast approaching the two-year mark.

Much of the delay resulted from government fumbling in issuing the necessary blasting license to project contractors Chiang Rai Harn Charoen Enterprise Company, which last week also had its rock crushing equipment seized for operating without a permit.

Patong gets environmental certification

PATONG: Despite being embroiled in a brouhaha over whether it correctly handled Initial Environmental Examinations for the Villa Santi project, Patong Municipality has received ISO 14001 certification from the International Standards Organization, one of only 20 municipalities in Thailand to achieve this – and the first one in the South.

Ironically, the ISO 14000 family of standards, according to the ISO, exists "to help organizations (a) minimize how their operations (processes, etc) impact [on] the environment (ie, cause adverse changes to air, water, or land); (b) comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmentally-oriented requirements, and (c) continually improve in the above".

The drive to have municipalities ISO 14001-certified is part of a project by the Thailand Environment Institute, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin told a press conference.

Blaze puts Jammin' Pub out of action

By Chris Husted

PHUKET CITY: Fire broke out in the popular Jammin' nightclub in the early morning of April 1, causing damage estimated at between 2 million and 3 million baht. No one was hurt in the blaze.

Co-owner Mel Purdue told the *Gazette*, "It would appear not to have done too much structural damage.

"Unfortunately it was the the DJ pit, and it looks like [the cause] was faulty wiring.

"It's [caused] about 2 to 3 million baht's worth of damage, but we can't ascertain [exactly how much] yet because we're waiting for the insurance assessors to come and have a look."

He explained that the fire was noticed about 6 am by staff who live next door, and that the fire brigade had extinguished the blaze by 8 am.

Mr Purdue and his wife, who took over the popular city



The blaze melted a wall fan (left) but left the band's drumkit almost unscathed.

nightspot in October, spent more than 1 million baht on refurbishing the premises and upgrading the sound system.

The club was experiencing a resurgence in popularity. "Last

night we were packed with about 300 people," he said.

Mr Purdue added that he expected the club to reopen "in about a month, but hopefully sooner".

Gambling again tops table of arrests

PHUKET: Gambling, with 162 arrests made between March 1 and 25, has again topped the monthly arrests statistics, Phuket Provincial Police announced on April 4. Of these, 25 people were arrested for being involved in the sale of illegal lottery tickets.

There were three cases of murder – including that of Preecha "Ko Noi" Kraitas.

Three arrests were made, two of them in connection with K. Preecha's death. There were 14 reported assaults.

Police also announced that one rape was reported.

Eighty-one people were arrested in connection with the possession or consumption of controlled substances. There were 53 reports of theft, followed by

26 arrests. Three motorcycles were stolen during the period and two arrests were made in connection with those thefts.

Seventeen people were ar-

rested for working illegally and 70 for offenses related to prostitution, most of them in Phuket City. Eight people were arrested for illegal possession of firearms.

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THE PHUKET



1

Prawat Suwannadithakul**Age:** 47.**Education:** Master's degree in Public Administration from NIDA.**Occupation:** Engineer; Managing Director of Trimit Engineering Co.**Experience:** Former member of Phuket City Municipal Council.

2

Akkrawat Jitharn**Age:** 41.**Education:** Master's degree in Liberal Arts from Rajabhat Phuket University.**Occupation:** Self-employed, investor in real estate and agriculture.**Experience:** Hotel industry, Phuket Island Resort and Coconut Villa Patong Hotel.

3

Uthai Suksirisamphan**Age:** 57.**Education:** Degree in Public Administration from Suan Sunanta Rajabhat University.**Occupation:** Managing Director of Phan-Thep House and Land Co.**Experience:** Vice-President, Phuket Tourist Association; Deputy Chairman, Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

4

Dr Prasit Koeysiripong**Age:** 53.**Education:** Doctor of Medicine, Chiang Mai University.**Occupation:** Doctor, businessman.**Experience:** Former President of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization.

5

Thanyarat Achariyachai**Age:** 53.**Education:** Master's Degree in Public Administration, University of Manila, Philippines.**Occupation:** Owner of Kata Group of Hotels, Phuket Central Tour Co.**Experience:** Former Special Judge of Phuket Provincial Juvenile and Family Court.

As this issue of the *Gazette* goes to press, Thailand's democratic process continues to flounder. Eclipsed by the political drama playing out in recent months, however, has been the upcoming Senate election, to be held on April 19. Here the *Gazette's* Janyaporn Morel gives a preview of the election and looks at the Senate's role in government.

A bit of history: The Senate of Thailand was first established in 1947, with its members appointed by HM the King. The number of Senators was initially equal in number to the number of members in the Parliament, and each Senator's term lasted four years.

The role of the Senate changed greatly in 1997, when the new "People's Constitution" mandated that Thailand's national assembly would now consist of two houses, both to be elected. The new Senate would have 200 members, the number from each province depending on the population. Phuket, being a small province, has just one Senator.

In a Senate election, each province is regarded as a single

voting district. In the case where a province has more than one senator, the candidates receiving the most votes are elected, in order, to fill the available seats. The new Constitution also extended the term of a Senator to six years and specified that Senators could not stand for re-election.

The last Senate term came to an end on March 21, within 30 days of which new elections must be held under election law.

Usually, national elections are held on a Saturday or Sunday, but because of the timing of the Songkran Festival this year, the Election Commission decided to hold it on Wednesday, April 19, which has been declared a special public holiday – and incidentally for bar owners, another day of lost trade.

THE OTHER ELECTION

Qualifications: Senate candidates must be at least 40 years old, Thai nationals by birth and hold a bachelor's degree or higher. They must not be Members of Parliament, political officials, members of any local assembly, or be local administrators.

Senate Responsibilities: The Senate's responsibilities under the Constitution are:

1. To scrutinize draft laws that have been passed by Parliament;

2. To sit with Parliament in order to consider matters related to Monarchy and Constitution, important procedural matters, declarations of war or peace, and ratification of international treaties and important legislation turned down by Parliament.

The Senate must also control the administration by written interpolation, and set up commissions to make proposals or call for general debate;

3. To nominate persons for Royal Appointment, to sit in different organizations under the constitution;

4. To impeach allegedly corrupt politicians or officials.

Prohibitions: As the Senate is meant to be a neutral oversight

'Above all, I would like to tell the new Phuket Senator to be neutral and independent, and to listen carefully to the public's problems.'

– Former Senator Paiboon Upatising



body, members may not belong to a political party, nor may they receive support or assistance from political parties, either directly or indirectly.

The press, however, gave the last Senate the nickname "The House of Slaves" as a way of demonstrating the extent to which they thought this neutrality and independence had been compromised during its term.

A non-campaign: Under election law, Senatorial candidates shall not "campaign" and are therefore restricted to "introducing themselves" to voters, often through small fliers with a brief description of their qualifications.

An underlying assumption is that Senatorial candidates are already known to voters and thus do not need to campaign for election.

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CANDIDATES



6

Kanit Vinijpairoj

Age: 50.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Engineering.
Occupation: Air-conditioning systems engineer.
Experience: Don Muang Airport and Bangkok Subway Garage.



7

Cherdchai Wongseree

Age: 45.
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Law.
Occupation: Lawyer.
Experience: Member of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization from 1991 to 1995 and from 2000 to 2004.



8

Banlue Aiyara

Age: 53.
Education: Certificate of Pediatric Medicine, Bachelor's degree in Law.
Occupation: Pediatrician
Experience: Former Director of Bangkok Phuket Hospital.



9

Maliwan Jindawong

Age: 42.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Education.
Occupation: Merchant.
Experience: Financial control officer.



10

Adirek Engchuan

Age: 45.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Law.
Occupation: Lawyer.
Experience: Over 10 years in hotel management; legal consultant to foreigners.

Phuket's first elected Senator was local businessman Paiboon Upatising. Elected as Phuket Chamber of Commerce President in 1997, K. Paiboon was the developer of the five Phuket Villa projects on the island and, through one of his companies, also holds the exclusive rights to distribute Boonrawd Brewery products on the island, including Singha Beer.

As his term was coming to an end in late February, the *Gazette* asked K. Paiboon what he would like to see from his successor.

"Above all, I would like to tell the new Phuket Senator to be neutral, independent and to listen carefully to the public's problems. The main responsibilities of the

Senate are to inspect the government's work, scrutinize laws, nominate people to serve on independent bodies and to start impeachment proceedings against politicians or other government officials thought to be corrupt. Therefore, the senator must be free from all political [bias]," he said.

It was of the utmost importance for Senators to be free of political persuasion when nominating people to serve on independent bodies such as the Election Commission or National Counter Corruption Commission, he noted.

When asked about his achievements during his six-year term, K. Paiboon said that he had been instrumental in amending

many laws introduced by the lower house.

As an example, he said he had initiated a successful effort to amend draft provisions of the Hotel Act so that hotels seeking an operator's license would not longer be required to show that their managers held a degree in hotel management by a certified school.

K. Paiboon, who has a reputation for fiscal conservatism, told the *Gazette*, "We already knew the process for getting a license approved was taking too long and that hotel managers tend to move from job to job rather frequently.

"This requirement also opened the door for corruption, such as when applicants wanted

to hire people who did not have [the right credentials].

"Instead, we changed the act so that hotel managers only need to demonstrate experience working in a hotel. This makes the approval process easier, which is also good for tourism," he said.

K. Paiboon added that he had also worked hard to study the laws relating to the privatization of state enterprises, such as by recommending that the newly-privatized bodies must be majority-owned by Thais and limiting to three the number of state enterprise boards any one person may join.

"We did this because we don't want state enterprises transferring money back and

forth among themselves," he said.

K. Paiboon said that the new Senate would need to continue pressing the lower house to tackle chronic problems, citing the lack of teachers in government schools and encroachment on public land as just two examples.

Senate oversight was also needed, he said, in making sure that Airports of Thailand did not raise airport taxes to levels that could harm tourism and also in continuing to expose corruption cases, especially at the Suvarnabhumi Airport project outside Bangkok.

"There are many corruption problems in Thailand. I'd like to see the new Senate follow up our work on [these]," he said.



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Queer News

LIVING THE FANTASY

Wichai Hengjarernsook is in the junk business, and so not a man to overlook a bargain when he sees it. The 24-year-old native of Samut Sakhon's Baan Paew District, where women are far-famed for beauty, couldn't decide which of two identical twin sisters in his village he wanted to wed.

So, being an astute businessman, he popped the question to both at the same time, stating frankly that he wanted them in the plural. Much to his delight, they happily agreed.

After the announcement of the marriage, a wedding party was organized for the morning of March 23 to celebrate the nuptials of Wichai (whose full name means "Researching Improved Pleasure") and his blushing brides, the Sirintara and Tipawan Puttanookulchai, both slender and fair-skinned beauties.

The party, held at the brides' home in Village 1 of Tambon Lak Sam, was attended by many hundreds of relatives and friends, and broadcast around the nation on the morning news.

The bride price was reported as 80,000 baht and 120 grams of gold – times two.

The brides' parents were reportedly ecstatic over their daughters' match; "This is the happiest day of our lives," they said. "We're not upset in the least, because the twins grew up together and have never been apart."

The groom said his many-

splendored love was the natural result of proximity: "Our homes are quite close to each other," he explained, "and every day in going to school I walked past their house. After they grew into women, I couldn't make up my mind.

"I liked both, so I wooed both. Every time I asked one to go out, I asked the other along as well. If I bought something for one, I bought the same for her sister. Finally, after we had been seeing each other in this way for three years, I confessed to both I couldn't decide between the two.

NO HESITATION

"I want to marry both of you," the handsome Wichai told them. "Will you have me?"

Without the slightest hesitation, both replied in the affirmative. Having received the double thumbs-up from the prospective brides, K. Wichai asked a respected elder to approach the parents and formally request their daughters' hands. They readily agreed – and now the best is yet to come.

Will the trio live happily ever? It has been observed that women are notoriously catty when forced to share the same man – to say nothing of sharing the same house and the same bed. But faint heart never fair lovers won: the happy groom is thus optimistic, as are his brides, who vowed not to let jealousy come between them.

"My sister and I grew up

together and have never been apart. Now we never shall be," said Sirintara, elder of the two beauties by a matter of minutes. "We'll dedicate ourselves to looking after our husband, to ensure a happy family, and we'll never let envy or jealousy enter the picture."

"I've prepared the house," said Wichai. "Each has her own room; they'll decide between themselves which goes to whom. As to how I divide my time, I don't expect any problem. During the week, I'll sleep with each on alternating nights," he said, turning to give each a big mushy kiss, to show how much he loved them.

Wichai denied newspaper reports that on the seventh night the trio would consummate their passion as an ensemble – thus ending speculation that the marriage would bring to reality the common male fantasy of having a three-way with a pair of gorgeous identical twins.

The total bride price of 360,000 baht is not unusual as bride-price for a single virgin, but it is a bargain for two.

Said Tipawan as she stood, decked out in her gleaming new gold: "Now we're married we'll help our husband in the junk recycling factory. He's a good man – doesn't drink, smoke or run around with girls; and what's most important, now my sister and I will never be apart. That's why we married him."

Sources: Thai Rath, Ruang Laow Chao Nii


TRASHING
Phuket

WICHIT: This dump, which the photographer reports is around one month old, is in Moo Baan Hok Huad, Tambon Wichit, which is on the way to Ao Makham.

The collection of detritus includes bags full of garbage – mostly household waste – wood, foam packaging, mattresses and a broken toilet bowl.

The dump is on an empty piece of land with few houses in the vicinity, although some building work has recently started nearby.



Gazette readers are encouraged to send photos of "informal" garbage dumps, along with details of where and when the photos were taken, to dump@phuketgazette.net, for inclusion in this regular column.




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Botulism antidote needed: doctors

Dr Thiravat Hemachudha said the recent botulism outbreak in Nan Province offers convincing evidence that the botulin toxin that causes the disease could be used successfully in a terror attack and shows the need to make botulism antitoxin more widely available.

The outbreak was the world's first case of mass poisoning by the toxin and thus captured the attention of the international community, especially the US, said Dr Thiravat of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Some 160 residents of Nan fell ill after consuming fermented bamboo shoots served to them during a merit-making ceremony. The shoots were later found to contain the deadly toxin, which affects the nervous system by disrupting the neurotransmitter function – often resulting in paralysis, respiratory failure and death if not treated in time.

Despite its lethal qualities, small doses of purified botulism toxin are commonly injected into human facial tissue during “botox” treatment, a popular form of cosmetic surgery used to reduce wrinkles.

Plastic surgeon Thanom Baanprasert said botulism antitoxin should be made more widely available. Botox patients who receive overdoses during surgery currently have to wait months for the effects to wear off because no antitoxin is available on the commercial market, he said.

The Nan patients quickly reached a stage where they could survive only with help from respirators.

After the outbreak, antitoxin was flown in from the US and Japan in exchange for allowing experts from those countries to study the cases.

Shoeless in Ayudhya: A blaze destroyed a distribution warehouse at an Ecco shoe factory in Ayudhya Province, destroying finished shoes and raw materials



Youngsters cool off with a dip in the Ping river in Chiang Mai as temperatures soar. Artificially-induced rain could soon be on the way to damp down some of the dust in the northern province.

worth about 1 billion baht. There were no casualties.

Police initially said they suspected the fire was caused by a short-circuit.

It took about 30 fire trucks almost three hours to extinguish the blaze, which broke out about 5:30 am.

About 30 employees who were working inside the warehouse tried to put out the fire, but failed.

Apart from a few beams at the front of the building, the ware-

house, located in the Saha Ratana Nakhon industrial estate in Nakhon Luang District, was burned to the ground.

EMS Rally: Around 200 paramedics from throughout the northeast provinces attended the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Rally, said to be the first of its kind to be carried out in Thailand, at a 60-rai area beside Khon Kaen's Bueng Kaen Nakhon freshwater lake.

It is said that the medical

emergency simulation, adopted from Japan, will help medical personnel save lives in real emergencies.

Up to half of all of those who die as a result of emergency situations perish at the scene, while 35% die after one or two hours, said Dr Witaya Chadbunchachai, head of the World Health Organization Center for Injury and Prevention and Safety Promotion.

However, only 15% of deaths occur after the patient is admitted to hospital, he said.

“With such a window of opportunity for saving life, more lives can be saved, and disabilities and illnesses mitigated, with an improvement of the country's EMS system,” he added.

Of the approximately 3.5 million incidents requiring emergency medical services a year nationwide, only about 100,000 cases are handled adequately, due to the lack of capacity in the country's EMS system, said Dr Surachet Satitniramai, Director of the of Emergency Medical Services Bureau.

Many victims' lives are left in the hands of rescue volunteers whose knowledge of EMS is next to zero, he added.

Chiang Mai skies: Despite its reputation as a tourist destination with lush tropical vegetation and fresh air, the northern city of Chiang Mai has been suffering from dust particle concentrations far in excess of internationally accepted levels.

“During the dry season the problems in Chiang Mai are not just about heat and water shortage, but also the worrying levels of dust particles [in the air],” said Somchai Ruangsuthinaruphap, Director of the Upper Northern Region Royal Rain Operation Center, as his agency planned a

cloud-seeding operation above the city.

The artificially-induced rain, primarily intended to help farmers, would also help reduce air pollution in the town, he said.

Chaiwat Pansilp, an official with the local environment office, said that in mid-March the amount of dust particles with a diameter smaller than 10 micrometers had risen beyond 240 micrograms per cubic meter, more than twice the internationally accepted limit.

The main cause of the pollution was the burning of forest areas, he said.

“As a long-term solution, we need to encourage people to help protect the environment and refrain from polluting,” he added.

Water watch: Large reservoirs across the country are two-thirds full, on average.

Danuporn Punnakan, a Deputy Government Spokesman, said in a report to the caretaker Cabinet that there was 47.6 billion cubic meters in the reservoirs, or 69% of capacity.

This represented a 19% increase in the amount stored at the same time last year, he said.

Reservoirs on the priority watchlist are Ubolrat in Khon Kaen, Lam Nang Rong in Sa Kaeo, Thap Salao in Uthai Thani and Bang Phra in Chon Buri.

The Royal Irrigation Department asked farmers to refrain from cultivating second or third rice crops and to switch to raising plants that need less water.

Drought-saving measures had helped save 52 million baht in crop losses this season, he said.

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

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ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

With the first post-tsunami high season slowly coming to an end, Khao Lak's businesspeople are faced with the prospect of a long, tough rainy season.

While December was a very good month, the long stretches of next-to-nothing tourism that have followed have tested the patience and survival skills of everyone here in Khao Lak.

Fortunately, there was an unexpected influx of tourists in mid-March. This gives us reason to hope that things might finally be taking a turn for the better and that the big travel agents are starting to consider Khao Lak as safe for tourism in the coming high season – and thereafter.

Notice arrived recently that Swedish tour operator Fritidsresor is planning group charter tours to Khao Lak for the 2006/2007 season. This will make it a must for other Scandinavian players such as Ving Resor and Apollo Tour to follow suit.

This is a very promising development; Sweden was among the greatest source countries of tourists who visited Khao Lak before the tsunami.

There is also positive news coming from Germany, another major source of tourists, that a German parliamentary committee will make its way to Phuket to inspect the post-tsunami reconstruction efforts here.

Such efforts are underway

all over Khao Lak, including areas where the landscape was left looking more Martian than terrestrial after the waves rolled through.

These include the left-hand side of Phetchkasem Rd, heading north from Phuket, in the areas near Khao-Lak Laguna and Baan Khao-Lak Resort.

If all goes well, there is a good chance that the German committee will decide to once again view Khao Lak as one of Thailand's major destinations.

Zero-results: Far behind in fulfilling its promises to support post-tsunami tourism in Khao Lak is the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), whose official website still fails to include Khao Lak independently as one of its "Grand Destinations" in the South. A visitor to their website still has to find his way to Khao Lak by first clicking Phang Nga, which does have such lofty status.

Clicking on Phang Nga, one is rewarded with a 116-word description of Khao Lak – one that would

hardly excite interest in visiting.

Click on the "where to stay" option for Phang Nga and the potential visitor finds not a single Khao Lak resort among those listed. So congratulations to the TAT for a job well done in promoting the tsunami-battered Khao Lak.

'As a thank-you gesture for surviving and getting the businesses back on their feet again without government aid, Khao Lak dive shop operators have been blessed with visits from Immigration officers.'

HOPE FROM EUROPE



RIGHT NEIGHBORLY: At this new resort on Bang Niang Beach, you could hand your newspaper to the people in the next 'bungalow' without ever leaving your chair – a sign of desperate times as land owners try to squeeze as many units as possible into the space they own.

Even more impressive is the search function on the TAT website, which yields "zero results" for a search with "Khao Lak" entered as the keywords.

That was no surprise to me, of course, but when I repeated the process using "Phuket" "Krabi" "hotel" – and even "Thailand"

– as keywords I still got the same result: Found 0 record(s). Visitors will find that really helpful.

Outside In: A research study on the after-effects of the tsunami released last December by the German study group Passau finally reached Khao Lak in hard-

copy form in March. One of its conclusions was that foreign residents from Western countries received no post-tsunami relief, whether from Thai government agencies, non-governmental organizations or their home countries.

A section of the 25-page

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study headed "Who misses out on aid?" concluded that *farang* were bitter and resentful about the fact that although enormous amounts of aid were donated by their fellow countrymen back home, they received not a single cent of it.

Another interesting finding of the report was that 21 out of 37 organizations analyzed during the research in Khao Lak had religious backgrounds and that some churches or other Christian organizations were "looking forward to install Christian communities in the area". The effect of this could be assumed to have "an influence on the social structure", the study found.

Other findings that seem to match the situation on the ground here:

The economic consequences of the reconstruction sections point toward a possibly negative social behavior problem in the newly constructed donated housing estates, due to lack of privacy as houses are standing too close to each other.

The study also said there was a possibility for "emerging rivalry due to tsunami survivors such as fishermen changing their line of work to become, for example, taxi drivers – a job sector that is already oversaturated.

Aid, while generous in volume, has been poorly targeted, the report found.

A PDF version of the report may be found at: www.unispace.de/lehrstuhl/index_druck.php?filename=Research#disaster

While most of the help organizations have solely focused on rebuilding homes and longtail boats (Khao Lak has most likely the biggest fleet of longtail boats in all of Thailand by now), all organizations have missed out on supporting the very people who create the most jobs for Thai people in Khao Lak, namely resort owners and dive operators who have been on their own since December, 26.

As a thank-you gesture for surviving and getting the businesses back on their feet again without government aid, Khao

Lak dive shop operators have been blessed with visits from Immigration officers checking work permits and passports in early March.

To compensate for their losses and the need to make money fast to repay debts and bank loans in the coming years, many resort owners are trying to squeeze as many rooms as possible into limited spaces.

While most bungalow resorts in Khao Lak provided an atmosphere of tranquility, comfort and peace featuring huge gardens and ample space between bungalows before the tsunami, most of the newly-constructed resorts lack such amenities right now. Even though no high-rise buildings are under construction yet, Khao Lak residents fear for the worst.

Recurring question: "How can we continue to help Khao Lak?" is a question often asked by tourists who love Khao Lak and by aid organizations. Although the answer has been given many times, it somehow remains unheard. So here it is again: give Khao Lak a proper hospital and an international school.

A Thai property developer in Khao Lak told me under the condition of anonymity that the post-tsunami property market in Khao Lak has been progressing at a snail's pace compared with Phuket, which he described as a "sheer explosion".

"To be honest, most foreign families who would be potential buyers are put off by the fact that Khao Lak has no school that meets international standards. The father of one family from Sweden asked me directly whether there is a school in Khao Lak where children would learn more than broken English, basic math, marching and singing the national anthem," he said.

"Of course, I had to answer 'No'. It appears that the reputation of Thai government schools has already jumped borders.

"I waved the potential buyer goodbye as he drove back to Phuket, where he bought a house in Rawai and enrolled his kids at the British Curriculum International School.

"If I could make one wish, it would be for a decent international school in Khao Lak. It would help the area much more than more longtail boats and unoccupied houses for tsunami victims, many of whom have already moved back to their home provinces for lack of work anyway.

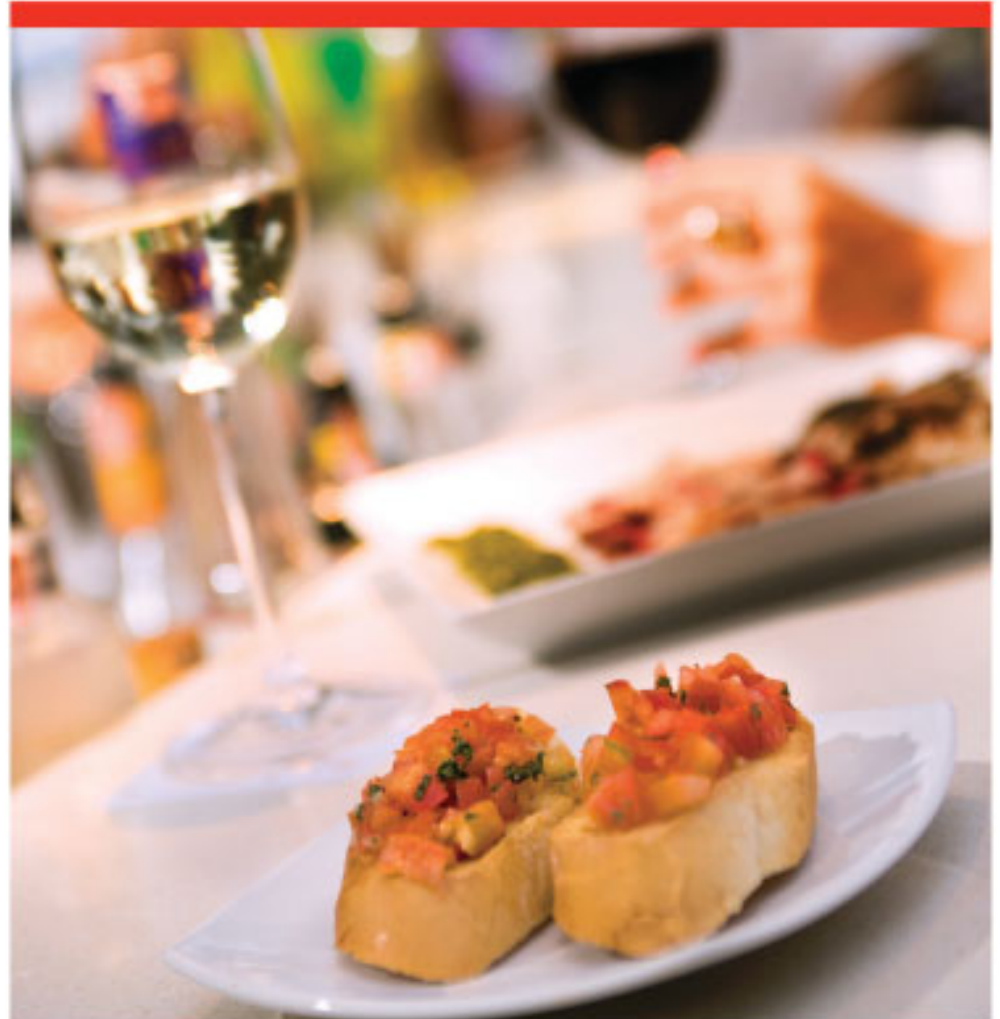
Also, our very basic local health office could really use some support, as health is as important to foreign investors as education," he said.



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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Above, Janpim Kulawattanasopon and Waiyawit Eawphoo, married at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 12.



Right, Gillian Browne and Richard Smith were wed at the Evason Phuket on March 14.

Pruk Charupongsopon was at the popular soy milk vendor's stall on Yaowarat Rd in Samkong, busily quizzing the stall owner about the exact ingredients used in his soy milk. As the boy methodically jotted down all the information, his father, Wirat, said, "He's not like other boys his age. He can speak five languages and is a dab hand at both the piano and the trumpet."

Pruk, whose name comes from the Sanskrit word for "Tree", finished extracting the required information from the soy milk seller, and handed me his business card, which reads: "Pruk Charupongsopon: Genius, Speaker of Five Languages, Presenter." Below this is printed, in English, "Knowledge is Everything."

An extraordinary child. But wait; there's more. The back of the card reads:

1. Invited to read news by the Thai Red Cross Society's Genius Center;

2. TV appearances on *Thii Nii Prathet Thai* [Thai TV Channel 5 variety show], UBC, iTV, Channel 11, Thai Global Network;

3. Featured in page 1 newspaper stories in *Thai Rath*, *Matichon*, *Ban Muang*, *Kom Chad Luek* and others under the topic: The genius child who can speak five languages.

No stranger to the media, K. Wirat, a senior sales consultant for Thai American International Assurance – the family is also the Phuket distributor of Time Life educational books – invited me to visit the family's home near Phuket Provincial Hall, to get a first-hand glimpse of the environment in which the precocious presenter was raised.

Pruk was at home with his father, mother Pornphan and twin elder sisters Jaruphan and Phanarat when I arrived a few days later. His remarkable linguistic talents first started to reveal themselves when he was just two, his father explained.

"One day as my wife and I were driving to the airport, we heard our son read out the words printed on an English-language sign we happened to be passing. We were very surprised at this, especially as we had never made any effort to teach him English. We couldn't believe what we were hearing, so we asked him

to read some other signs in English – and he did."

Recognizing Pruk's amazing ability, his parents continued to encourage him to learn English by giving him books to study. By the time he was three, he was making complete sentences in the foreign tongue.

"The first English sentence he spoke was when he told our maid, 'I'm hungry.' Unfortunately, he didn't get any food, because she couldn't understand him," recalled K. Wirat, laughing.

"By the time he was six years old, he could read and write three languages: Thai, English



He speaks five languages. He is an gifted pianist and trumpeter. He can work out complex problems in ar-ithmetic without peeking down at his fingers.

These are just a few of the skills of Pruk Charupongsopon – who is just eight years old.

The *Gazette's* Nat-tamon Ratcharak (who speaks only two languages) gets to know Phuket's very own boy-genius.

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NOT YOUR AVERAGE KID



Pruk at home with his sisters Jaruphan and Phannarat. He started speaking English when he was two.

and Japanese. If he's in a good mood, he can quickly translate song lyrics, such as from Thai to English or English to Japanese," he added.

"Pruk knows the capital and national flag of every country. Sometimes I think he is a mobile encyclopedia," he joked.

Now eight, Pruk is functionally fluent in English and Japanese as well as his native Thai. He can also hold his own in Chinese, Korean and French – skills that will no doubt serve him well if he ever tries to get a job as a

tour guide.

But Pruk is likely to have many other promising career options when he joins the workforce, because he is also a gifted musician, studying both trumpet and piano at Kasame Piano school on Mae Luan Rd.

His piano teacher there, Ajarn Pramnit Khartapatomyo, said, "I have been teaching Pruk for three years. He has a very good memory. When I teach him the notes the first time, he can always play it back from memory, so I never have to teach him any-

thing twice," she said.

Although he can read sheet music precisely, Pruk is by no means an automaton. "He has his own imagination; sometimes he expresses his ideas through his music," she added.

Trumpet teacher Peerakarn Tanrattanasongsang agreed. "Pruk learns faster than others. He is sometime naughty, which is natural for a boy of his age, but he still obeys me," he said.

After demonstrating his skills by blowing out some sweet melodies on the trumpet, the lively

and slightly chubby virtuoso said, "I've been studying the trumpet for five years and the piano for three. Now I can play both from sheet music and can recognize all the notes," he said.

With all of his extraordinary talents, it is only natural to wonder about Pruk's formal schooling. Perhaps not surprisingly, he is not a product of the mainstream Thai education system.

"After we realized his potential, we began looking for ways to feed his hunger for knowledge. We bought English-language books for him to study from and he was able to learn all of the vocabulary in a short time. He has also been learning through an Internet-based home-schooling curriculum from America since he was four," his mother Pornphan explained.

"In my opinion, all children can benefit from the 'play and learn' or 'plearn' approach... Children who are taught using this approach are more likely to acquire and remember new items of knowledge than those who do not," she added.

Asked if there were any disadvantages to home schooling, she said, "I do not worry about Pruk. We have him tested every year at the Phuket Education Service Area Office and his knowledge is now equivalent to that of *Mattayom* 3 [grade 9] student," she said.

While many child prodigies are infamous for being temperamental, that's not the case with Pruk, said his mother. "I don't worry about Pruk's behavior. He is always a good child and obeys my instructions," she said.

As for his English-language ability, she thinks it began to de-

velop while Pruk was still in the womb.

"When I was pregnant with him, I often watched to English-language TV programming. I think some of what I listened to was passed on to him."

Pruk is the driving force behind his own education, she added.

"I never force him to do anything. His father and I give him the freedom to do whatever he wishes, as long as it is in line with our family traditions," she added.

Pruk is also living proof that television doesn't have to be the "idiot box". Asked how he acquired his language skills, Pruk explained, "I like

watching news, Discovery Channel, Japanese movies and Japanese TV shows, especially *TV Champion* and Japanese cooking shows.

"I love everything that comes from Japan. I also love to cook Japanese food – it is very delicious. I also love speaking Japanese the most and when I meet Japanese people I usually have a conversation with them," he said in English, laughing.

On a more sober note, he admitted that educating himself via the Internet is not always easy.

"When I am studying, I have to be disciplined and punctual and force myself to study, because while I am studying through the Internet, I have no teacher to control me," he said.

Anyone interested in talking to K. Pornphan about how to raise a child prodigy may call her at Tel: 076-212616 or 01-5367965.



Pruk started trumpet lessons when he was three.



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Not for the faint-hearted



Above, Sexy Bar & Shop owner K. Nong is happy to make special underwear for any shape or occasion. Left: Time to butterfly in this G-string. Right: He doesn't want to shave off that beard? Get your own back. Far right: Ready for a game of Cowboys and Indians?

Girls, have you been acting hard to handle lately? Is your man getting bored stiff – or not, as the case may be? Have his assets frozen while yours have dropped? Have your foundation garments been doing little to make the earth move for him?

Why not make a clean breast of it and put some spice back into your love life by paying a visit to Sexy Bar & Shop, opposite the Royal Phuket City Hotel on Phang Nga Rd?

The owner, K. Nong, makes bras, lingerie and all the handmade naughty-bits-covering kit you could ever imagine – and for both sexes, too. Just don't ask how she measures the boys for size, though.

From girls with *gai tort* chests to Lolo Ferrari mega-sized cups, K. Nong

can rustle up any sexy combination for you.

She says, "I think up all the designs myself because I like sexy bras. And I want my customers to confide in me and to feel that they can tell me what they'd normally be shy to tell others. This shop is really not that unusual as we also sell flowers and drinks. I like to think of it as a three-in-one place."

A sort of triple knocker-on effect, then.

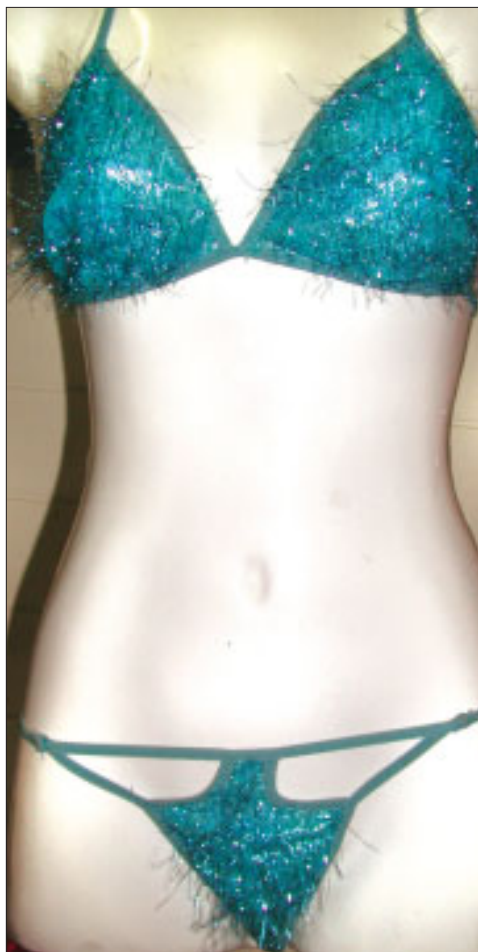
Prices range from 100 baht to 1,000 baht for items such as lacy bras, sexy baby-doll nighties, G-strings and outfits guaranteed to get your man's putter to flutter.

The Sexy Bar & Shop is open daily from 10 am to 1 am. So don't be a booby and get melancholy – this is Thailand after all, or, as the old Bangkok hack

would put it, "T.I.T.". Tel: 03-1727565 or 01-5463158.



By Natcha Yuttaworawit



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Essential Kit

By Andy Johnstone

A brief case study? There is – to borrow a line from *Fawlty Towers* – enough material for a conference on the matter.

Anyone who has followed the “Essential Kit” series, so far comprising cigarette cases, hip flasks and multitools, will have realized that even if wearing the most accommodating Harris Tweed suit that money can buy, one’s pockets soon become rather full.

Such weight in the pockets will also absolutely ruin the line of the suit.

Of course, one may also have other paraphernalia such as a wallet, keys, camera, spare batteries for the camera, a self-help book and perhaps documents – briefs, even – to carry around.

Yes, even in these days of on-screen presentations and USB flash drives, it is still occasionally necessary to schlep around with reams and reams of that quaint medium: the paper document.

The case for a briefcase cannot be overstated. Rolling up to a business meeting in one’s best togs, with shoes shined to perfection will count for naught if the carefully-drafted business proposal is extricated from a knapsack.

Even worse, of course, if



Clockwise, from left: Leather briefcase from Coco, in black or tan, 2,900 baht; Samsonite Black Label Kevlar case, 18,600 baht; One for the ladies – the Samsonite Hommage at 7,590 baht

the proposal is on paper; one might also have to carry around a travel iron just to get the creases out.

It goes without saying that a briefcase should be wide and tall enough to accommodate standard-size documents. Aside from this, however, a briefcase can be little more than an inch or two deep, or deep enough to contain a couple of ring binders, a laptop or a modest change of clothing – including, of course, a pair of briefs.

The most fundamental choices most of us will face when buying a briefcase are whether one has a preference for the hard or soft option, and, as a consequence, its material.

Leather is still ranked by

many as the only material from which to craft a case. Age may weather a leather briefcase, but

the rich patina that frequent use gives to a leather – be it buffalo, cow or calfskin – cannot be bettered, even if it requires more care in a tropical climate.

Aluminum cases have the look of the rufty-tufty photographer about them and are tough enough to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune on the road, the indelicate touch of the baggage handler and the boisterousness of a bar in far-off Bogotá.

Samsonite is a brand renowned for the durability of its luggage and cases. A friend of the writer once, when both rather

drunk, enlisted his help – by the Berlin Wall of all places, under the watchful gazes of the forces of both evil and good – in trying to destroy his Samsonite briefcase so that he would have justification for buying a new one.

The writer held the briefcase while his friend repeatedly drove his hire car over it. All they succeeded in doing was scratching the case and damaging the suspension of the car:

Some 18 years on, Samsonite has, in addition to producing a range with designer touches by Philippe Starck, produced a range of briefcases made from polyparaphenylene terephthalamide, or Kevlar.

Just how difficult does Samsonite expect the average business meeting to be?

Coko Shop, 14 Soi Surin, Montri Rd, Phuket City (near Boots the Chemist). 076-2147-95. The charming K. Coko, who opened his shop 15 years ago, will offer discounts on list prices. Open from 10 am until late.

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By Jenjira Ruengjarus

For most parents, the birth of a child is the perfect family moment. Once word gets out that the world's six-billion-plus population has just increased by one, congratulatory cards, emails and SMS messages flood in from near and far, bearing good tidings from overjoyed grandparents, relatives and friends.

Could any occasion be more joyful? Perhaps not, but notably left out in all this rejoicing is the one person who is at the center of it all – the newborn baby.

Born practically hairless and blind, it will be about another three years before the fêted bundle of joy develops the neural hardware necessary to store memories that will last into adulthood.

Fortunately, the Happy Family Studio on Mae Luan Rd in Phuket City make the perfect souvenirs to commemorate the birth, so that the newborn can perhaps enjoy the occasion when he or she gets a little older.

These keepsakes come in the form of custom picture frames bearing a photo of the baby and a plaster cast of the baby's tiny footprints or handprints.

There is a common saying used by Thai mothers to remind their kids of their filial responsibilities: *liang khun tangtae teen thao faa hoi*, which means "I raised you from the time your feet were the size of seashells". Now mothers will be able to point to those little casts and say, "See?"

The frames also have another special feature: they can store a recording of the baby's voice.

The "Talking Frame Kits" come with all the materials needed to make a cast by first pressing the baby's feet into a completely non-toxic compound – the same kind used by dentists when making a cast of one's teeth – to create what is called a "negative impression mold".

This, in turn, is used to make the cast that is incorporated into the frame.

Happy Family Studio's picture frames are sold in Phuket under a franchise agreement



Above: Okay, who shrank my feet?
Left, Rattapon and Sudjai Seuapaan and their son, with examples of their work.

A SOUND INVESTMENT

with the manufacturer, Bangkok-based At Frame Group Co.

Happy Family's owners, Rattapon and Sudjai Seuapaan, have been selling the frames since 2002, when K. Sudjai was pregnant with the couple's first and only child.

Forced to take time off from her job, she began to read business books and surf the Internet, seeking ways to supplement the income of her husband's photography studio. That was when she discovered the talking frame kits made by At Frame.

"Not only were the frames beautiful, but it was a perfect opportunity for me to keep working after I had the baby," K. Sudjai said.

It was not all smooth sailing at the start, however. Once the frame kits arrived, the couple found it took a bit of practice to use them to their full potential, which requires quite a bit of technical knowledge as well as some artistic flair.

"Our first frames didn't come out very well, but we kept on trying and soon got it to work," she said.

Interest in the frames grad-



ually increased, thanks to a nifty marketing strategy whereby sample frames are exhibited prominently in the maternity wards of the Mission Hospital and the Phuket International Hospital.

Proud parents can either have K. Sudjai come to the hospital to order a frame or visit the studio at a later date. There are numerous patterns, shapes, sizes and materials to choose from – and customers can also come up with their own unique designs.

Some people may think that picture frames are meant to be seen – and not heard – but the "talking" frames are undeniably popular. A special card is placed

into the middle of the two-sided frame. Powered by a small battery of the type used in wrist-watches, it can record and play back up to 10 seconds of sound after a button on the frame is pressed.

It takes about one week for the studio to make the frames, a process which involves photography, casting and decoration, usually including information about where and when the baby was born and his or her weight at birth.

"You don't have to bring anything, just your baby," said K. Rattapon, adding with a laugh that getting a good photograph of newborns can be difficult work.

Just press the button on the frame to hear the baby's voice.

Prices for the keepsakes range from 700 baht to 5,000 baht, depending on the materials used, the options chosen and the difficulty of the work.

K. Rattapon added that while the talking frame kits are marketed particularly for baby pictures, they are also appropriate for other important life events, such as weddings.

Given their size, however, adult footprint casts don't look nearly as cute as a newborn's, he grinned.

To sum up their work, the couple have added a new twist to the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words, he said: "The memories are more magical still if the picture can talk."

For more information visit Happy Family Studio, located at 18/30 Soi Sanjao, Mae Luan Rd, Phuket City (near the turn off for Rang Hill) or call Tel: 09-6500333; 07-8893987; 076-249102; or 09-7293472.

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This week



SHAPELY STOPOVER: Nantida Atiset (right), Assistant Managing Director of Katathani Phuket Beach Resort, welcomes Miss Thailand 1998 Chalida Taochalee to the resort during her recent stay. While in Phuket, K. Chalida filmed part of *Living in Shape*, which will air on TV Channel 3 in June.



BEL DU JOUR: (from left) Mark Watson, Director of Watson Property Group (Australia); Sales Executive Apawan Nakkaew; Norbert Zuber, Sales & Marketing Manager (Thailand); David Serra-Sanfelin, Sales Representative (Perth, Australia); and David Petrus (rear), Project Coordinator (Thailand) celebrate the March 29 grand opening of the display unit of the Bel Air Panwa project at Cape Panwa.



SWIMMINGLY STARRED: Cape Panwa Hotel Assistant PR Manager Vareeporn Arunsurat (2nd from left) welcomes *Today's Women* magazine staff, with model Ploy Jindachote (center), who will shoot the Arena swimwear special for the April issue on location at the hotel.



BIRTHDAY BOY: Hans De Beer, Executive Managing Director of Baan Yin Dee Resort (3rd from right) celebrates his birthday with Belgian singer Luc Sterno (2nd from right) and Baan Yin Dee Chairman Alex Bressers (left) after a cabaret show and fireworks at the resort.



IMPRESSED: British artist and sculptor Paul McGarry (right) celebrates the opening of an exhibition of his bronze sculptures and oil paintings at Dusit Laguna Resort on March 23 with Patchana Sangket (2nd from left), owner of Narai Art Restaurant & Gallery, and Katesuay Dornbandith, Conference & Banquet Sales Manager at Dusit Laguna Resort (2nd from right). The exhibition runs until April 15. Entry is free.



MAKING MOVIES: Patitta Hongsakul (left), PR Manager of the The Metropole hotel in Phuket City, welcomes Nitad Srisosub, Location Manager of Thai film producer Santafilm (3rd from left), and Kudos Film and Television film crew from the UK (from left) Assistant Director Chris Fry, Producer Finola Dwyer, Director Bharat Nalluri, Production Designer Richard Bridgland, and Director of Photography John De Borman. The film crew are in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi in April and May to film a tsunami-based movie to be shown in the UK.



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Above: the works, with essential accompaniments: lime, banana flower and bean sprouts. Right: owner and chef Pimonpan Limpanon.



Thai style – with a twist

CHEAP eats



BY
**Jenjira
Ruengjarus**

If you're the type to relish a light, nutritious yet cheap lunch, you couldn't do better than to order a plate of *Pad Thai*.

Pimonpan Limpanon, owner of the Pad Thai Restaurant, on Komaraphat Rd, opposite Wittayasathit School, does one of the best plates of *Pad Thai* in Phuket City.

K. Pimonpan has been

serving up delicious variations of this popular dish for 10 years.

Born in the northern province of Lampang, she was formerly a chef in a Kata hotel but decided to open her own restaurant after realizing that hotel work didn't suit her.

Her *Pad Thai* features fresh shrimps and other extra ingredients that transform an ordinary dish into a memorable one.

These "specials" cost 35 baht, with a plate of the "standard" fare costing 30 baht.

Her vermicelli *Pad Thai* is

just 35 baht – a snip for the flavorful dish that would set you back the equivalent of somewhere in the region of 700 baht in major cities such as London.

Over the decade of specializing in this dish, K. Pimonpan has not only perfected the cooking of the noodles – the texture is just right: not too firm and not too soft – she has also developed some special touches that add a distinc-

tive twist to the Thai staple, such as adding banana blossoms and healthy Chinese chives.

True to her preference for Thai style, K. Pimonpan's open-air restaurant has a friendly family atmosphere,

Pad Thai Restaurant is open daily from 9:30 am to 4 pm, but closed on public holidays. Tel: 076-354339.



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Ford aims for solid and savvy – the S-Max

When Ford Thailand was asked, “Does Ford have any plans to introduce the newly launched S-Max in the Kingdom?”, the reply was a cryptic, “Currently there are no plans to launch the S-Max in Thailand... though Ford continues to explore opportunities to bring in more exciting new products that would appeal to Thai customers.”

Make of that what you will, but the new S-Max, launched at the Geneva Motor Show last month, is positioned nicely between the Mondeo Wagon and the larger Galaxy SUV. Accommodating up to seven occupants, the S-Max would appear to be ideal for the Thai market.

The Volvo S80, reviewed recently in this column, forms the basis of the new S-Max, as it shares the same front structure, floor pan and ventilation systems, as well as Volvo’s sturdy five-cylinder turbocharged engine.

The new SAV – “Sports Activity Vehicle” in Ford parlance – will be built at the company’s Belgian plant at Genk, alongside the Mondeo and Galaxy. Genk has recently undergone a 715-million-euro (33.7-billion-baht) investment program, principally in a new flexible manufacturing system for meeting demand more effectively. Since it opened in 1964, more than 12 million vehicles of various types have been produced at Genk.

Whereas the Galaxy was developed as a joint venture with Volkswagen – the VW derivative went by the unlikely name of Sharan – the S-Max is the pro-



The launch of the Ford S-Max drew a great deal of attention from the motoring press – and from Ford’s rivals.

duction reality of Ford’s concept car shown at last September’s Frankfurt show.

In addition to the 2.5-liter five-cylinder Volvo engine, also available to power the S-Max are a two-liter, 16-valve gasoline engine and two common-rail diesel lumps of 1.8 and two liters. The turbo-gasoline engine produces a very healthy 216bhp (160kW), while the diesel engines settle for

118bhp and 138bhp respectively – but score heavily in the torque department with 285Nm from the 1.8 and a whopping 320Nm from the two-liter. All S-Max engines are mated to either five- or six-speed manual transmissions.

Europe these days favors diesel power, as it is generally cleaner in its emissions and produces relatively higher fuel mileage, although there is a new alliance between a number of manufacturers to develop a range of synthetic fuels.

Standard equipment on the S-Max is fairly comprehensive, with full-length curtain air bags,

a driver’s knee bag, four-wheel disc brakes, an electric tailgate release and Ford’s unique fold-flat seating system for the rear two rows – ensuring more than adequate luggage space. The fold-flat system allows a five- or seven-seating arrangement.

Options include an automatic light sensor, rain sensor, front and rear parking sensors and cruise control. The cruise control is an adaptive system that recognizes the driver’s style.

There is also an active suspension system and a tire pressure monitor, one of motoring’s most recent innovations and one which, it should be said, is more of a marketing gimmick than a useful addition. Ask yourself when you last had a puncture.

The S-Max is sophisticated, practical and well-designed, but

is it revolutionary? Based on a number of other models within the Ford range, it is inevitably a little bland. Good, yes, but outstanding? I’m not convinced.

Ford, like its American rival GM, is experiencing a downturn in sales, mainly because of strong competition from Japanese and Korean automakers. In the US, both Ford and GM have seen a significant reduction in market share, but in Europe Ford in particular is fighting back.

The launch of the S-Max will have Ford’s rivals taking note, and undoubtedly speeding up their own plans for similar models. The S-Max, whether it gets to Thailand or not, is an assured success.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com

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LAYING DOWN THE LAW

With Friedrich
'Sam' Fauma

DOING IT BY THE BOOK

This month we're going to take a look at long-term lease agreements – in this case a lease for land on which a home is to be built.

Mr A moved to Phuket, found a piece of land he liked and signed a 30-year lease on it.

He had problems securing a building permit in his own name, so applied for a permit through a Thai national. This was granted. Aware that a building permit imparts a form of ownership right, he later applied to have it changed to his name, which was done with no problem.

Mr A built his house and lived in it during his vacations in Phuket. Later, however, he decided to sell his property, along with the lease.

As required in his lease agreement, he sent an official notice to the landowner that he had sold the building and the lease.

However, when the new owner, Mr B, moved in, the landowner was very upset, informing him that he had no right to be there, that he did not agree to the change of lessee, and that he would not agree to sign any change-of-lease documents.

Mr B instructed his lawyers to file a complaint in court that would force the landowner to accept his purchase of lease rights and change the registration of the lease title to his name.

When the case went to court the landowner did not show up. In the light of the procedurally correct transaction between Mr A and Mr B, the court ruled in favor of Mr B, issuing an order to the landowner to change the lease registration.

The landowner did not comply with the ruling, but the court order enabled Mr B's lawyers to do it without him.

This was an important step, since one day Mr B may, too, want to sell his lease rights and the building, and thus needed to be able to prove that his rights had been properly registered.

This case demonstrated clearly to the landowner that, having leased the land for 30 years, he had no rights over it during this period – despite his claims.

First aid for dog poisoning

This month I return to a subject covered a couple of years ago, because it continues to be a problem for pet owners. The poisoning of pet dogs and cats in Phuket is, sadly, a common occurrence.

In the past, victims have usually been individual animals targeted by a disgruntled or malicious neighbor.

As I have stated before in this column, owners need to be responsible. Letting a dog roam freely, thereby allowing it to, perhaps, kill chickens, chase motorcycles or otherwise cause a nuisance, is simply asking for trouble.

What appears to have happened recently in at least three different locations is totally different, however.

INDISCRIMINATE

On Nai Harn Beach, Patong's 50 Pi Rd, and in the Layan area of the island, there have been reported incidents of indiscriminate laying of poisoned bait.

In the first two instances at least, the local authorities have been accused of carrying out this action, presumably targeted at the local stray population.

The authorities strenuously deny doing this, and I will not concern myself here about who is actually carrying out the poisonings.

If it is a plan to reduce the stray population, then it has failed miserably, as far more pet dogs have died than strays.

It is also a hopeless method of trying to reduce the stray population. As has been documented many times, killing or incarcerating any group of animals is doomed to failure unless at least 70% of the population is sterilized – at which point the population cannot increase and will decrease naturally.

If this isn't achieved, other animals will simply fill the void to the natural carrying capacity of the area, which in the case of dogs is about one animal for every 10 people.

This scientific fact, which has been proved indisputably, is why the animal welfare groups here concentrate on sterilization. Any other method of stray control is doomed to failure.

Poisoning is also, of course, an extremely dangerous practice, as not only dogs and cats are killed, but also birds and other wildlife. How long will it be, I won-

SDF appeals for people to adopt 90 dogs

The Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) is appealing for people to adopt dogs from its center in Phuket City. More than 90 dogs – both adults and puppies – are currently living there.

The center, originally established as a sterilization clinic, was never intended to be an animal shelter. But over the past year, many dogs have been left at the premises.

Some were dumped by owners leaving the island, while others were brought by people wanting a newer pet. Some arrived suffering from horrendous injuries – including wounds from attacks with axes, boiling oil and even sexual abuse.

The lease on the SDF center will expire soon, and although land has been acquired to provide shelter for animals that can never be rehomed, there is a desperate need to find people willing to give the other dogs a new life. Otherwise they face an uncertain future.

These dogs make wonderful and loyal pets. They crave love and affection and very quickly become devoted to their owners – protecting them and their property fearlessly.

All the dogs have been sterilized and fully vaccinated, and are available free of charge. If you can help, please call Tel: 01-7884222.



This is Nina, currently residing at the SDF center. She is a labrador-retriever cross, about three years old and loves being made a fuss of.



By Top Dog

Watch your dog, and if you see it eating something, investigate closely. If you suspect poison, take the dog to a vet immediately. This may not always be possible, so keep with you a simple first aid kit consisting of a bottle of strong saline solution and a large 50-milliliter syringe. The latter, available for a few baht in the pharmacy section of Supercheap, makes it easier to get the dog to swallow.

The saline is easily made up by dissolving salt in water until no more will dissolve.

ANTIDOTES

Force the dog to swallow copious amounts of the saline solution until it vomits its stomach contents.

If this is done fast enough, it may be all that is required to save your dog – but you should still take the dog to a vet as soon as possible.

Most poisons used here have antidotes that will work if administered early enough. Any delay, however, will almost certainly result in the death of the animal.

As I have advised before, if your pet is staggering, shaking or frothing at the mouth, you should suspect poisoning.

Other symptoms can be diarrhea, severe vomiting, asthmatic breathing, convulsions and coma.

I hope you will never see these signs, but forewarned is forearmed – because poisoning is a horrific death for any animal.

der, before a curious toddler becomes a victim? Any parent knows that young children will stick all sorts of rubbish in their mouths if given the opportunity.

If you are a dog owner, especially of a large breed that needs regular exercise, it can be

a worry taking your pet for a walk in a park or on the beach. There are several precautions you can take, however.

Always remember that people do not generally throw away tasty pieces of chicken and other meat.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Whether you call it Saigon, or – to give it its full modern title – Thanh Pho Ho Chi Minh, this scintillating southern Vietnamese city roars a merry path through life, the exuberance of the myriad motorbikes forming a seemingly endless cavalcade along its boulevards.

It is the premier business address in Vietnam, largely driven by the ethnic Chinese community who make up a substantial proportion of the city's four million residents.

Despite new skyscrapers and hotels altering the modern landscape, much of the city scene is focused at pavement level, with alfresco coffee stalls dotting street corners and hawkers shouldering their wares, which are suspended from bamboo poles. Such sights would have been familiar to Graham Greene among others in pre-war days.

An intriguing blend of the old and new, Ho Chi Minh is very much Vietnam's metropolis of the future.

Just over a century old, for



Above, the faintly gothic Rex Hotel glows in the night. Right, cyclos are still a very handy way to get around.

SAIGON: At play in the 'Paris of the East'

example, the Jade Emperor Pagoda is one of the most spectacular in Asia. Its roof is covered with statues of dragons, birds and

animals, while fiendish-looking Taoist and Buddhist deities inhabit the interior. Carved gilt woodwork, clouds of incense and a



general air of mystery combine to provide a very other-worldly ambiance.

Pride of place here goes to the statue of the Jade Emperor, the Ruler of Heaven in Chinese mythology.

At most times of day there will also be a number of supplicants before *Kim Hua*, the goddess of fertility. The Chief of Hell hangs out nearby, though, together with explicit illustrations of the fate awaiting sinners in the afterlife. You have been warned.

Art and lacquerware top many shoppers' must-buy lists and there is no shortage of galleries and boutiques stocking both. More unique items deck the shelves at Mekong Merchant, a very original designer homeware store.

For jewelry, including made-to-order items which can be made overnight in some cases, drop by the inspirational Ngoc Trai shop. And Anupa's exclusive chic, one-of-a-kind bags are also highly sought after.

Notre Dame Cathedral and its twin spires, at the northern end of Dong Khoi, is unmissable – even more so now that the spires contrast with the bland glass

façade of the nearby Diamond Plaza shopping mall. The cathedral was built in the 19th century, complete with beautiful marble reliefs and stained-glass windows; it continues to be used by the city's many Catholics.

Hoh Chi Minh loves nothing more than a rip-roaring party, although curfews tend to come and go – descending at the whim of the civic authorities.

Most of the nightspots are concentrated in the center of town, usually just a short stroll or "cyclo" ride apart.

A sunset cocktail on the roof of the old and vaguely gothic Rex Hotel is a good way to kick off the evening. Q Bar, which has sneaked in to occupy the lower floor of the Municipal Theater, currently holds the "ultra cool" mantle, with its spiffy contemporary design.

Vasco's Bar puts on some good live music and things can get raucous there as the night wears on. Temple Club is rather more sedate, with sofas and wall hangings and soft sounds emanating from the stereo. King of all the city's clubs is Volcano. And if all else fails, head for – where else? – Lost in Saigon.

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The Cryptic Crossword

Hidden Words

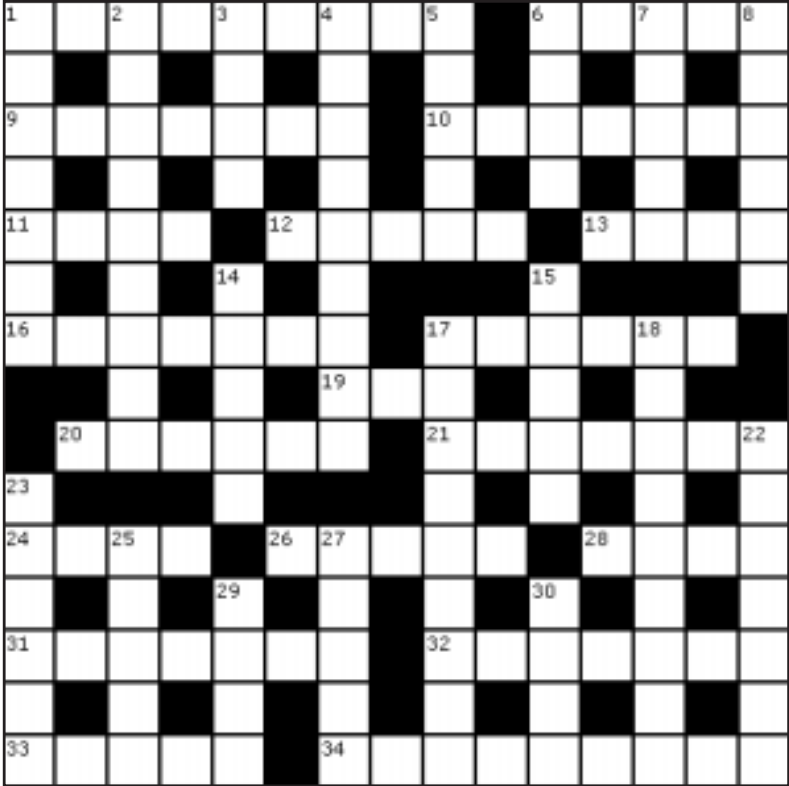
Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 parts of the body. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 15 or more, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on next page.

ACROSS

1. United Nations direct to take off the reins. (9)
6. Part of Jupiter in the French drink. (5)
9. Fear of cousins, relatively speaking. (7)
10. No saint takes drink as a remedy. (7)
11. Growth in a month of saints. (4).
12. Pair get ready for impact. (5)
13. Instrument for fibbing, we hear. (4)
16. Skin hat confused PM. (7)
17. Dry place may give Sara a laugh. (6)
19. One with nine tails or lives. (3)
20. See about blame for shawl. (6)
21. It's definitely the thing – or indefinitely. (7)
24. Foot I am. Bravo! (4)
26. Sees agents. (5)
28. Sailor quietly makes canvas. (4)
31. Living in deep water, oddly, lace pig. (7)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

32. Anger about Victor, and note to Nemesis. (7)
33. Try a bit of writing. (5)
34. Lead attack to harpoon principal. (9)
14. Like, say, test. (5)
15. Loud drinks? (5)
17. Deadlock resulting from spouse lacking freshness. (9)
18. Record snarl in square, maybe. (9)
22. Finally ran out of breath. (7)
23. Pander to the French skin problem. (6)
25. Footwear for cross-breeds. (5)
27. Walks in space, bizarrely. (5)
29. Such a scene is not attractive. (4)
30. Say "Beloved Doe!" (4)
- Down
1. Scruffy punk met hybrid. (7)
2. Greeting from victim of Parkinson's? (9)
3. Sun god twice goes with car hire firm. (4)
4. Ability to withstand twisted red nuance. (9)
5. Child in charge of noise. (5)
6. Barely fare. (4)
7. Truck Larry changed a little. (5)
8. Lass for each way to
- indulge. (6)
- Solution on next page

EZ TRIVIA

1. What is the correct word for deer meat?

2. Who founded Kentucky Fried Chicken, or KFC?

3. According to folklore, which English forest was said to be home to Robin Hood?

4. Which Semitic language, still in use today, is thought to be the language Jesus spoke?

5. What is the capital of Afghanistan?

6. Which chemical element, with the symbol W, is widely used in lightbulb filaments?

7. What was the the name of the "supercontinent" that existed during the Mesozoic era?

8. What is the collective name for the puppets and costume characters created by Jim Henson and shown in the TV series Sesame Street?

9. Which Russian submarine sunk on August 12, 2000, with the loss of all on board?

10. Which number did basketball superstar Michael Jordan wear when playing with the Chicago Bulls?

Answers on next page

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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.

Scribble Space

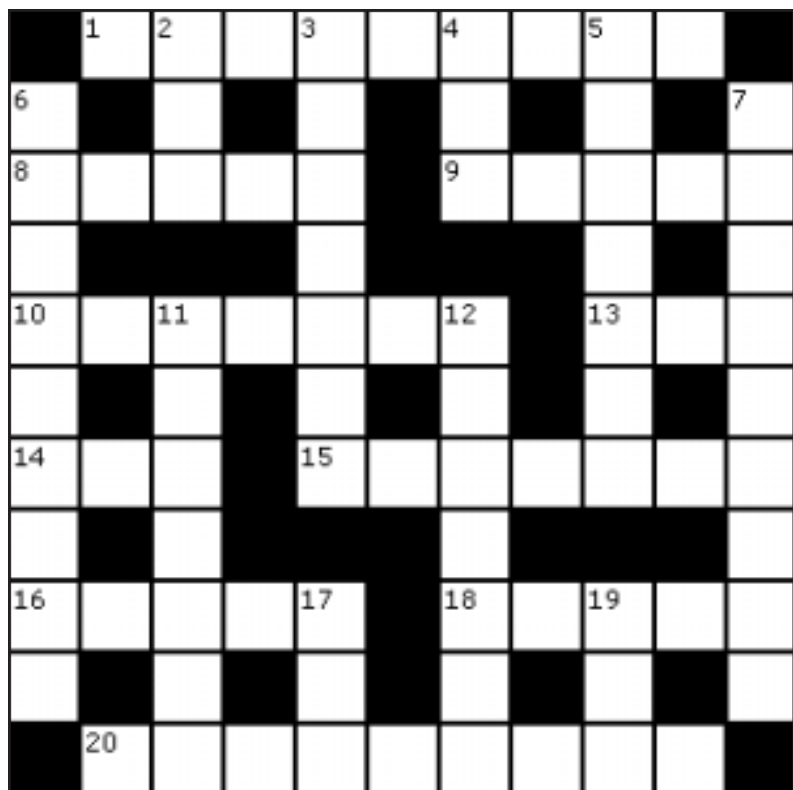
Brain Buster!!

Jaroon, on vacation with his family, sent his friend Oy an email. In it, he told her he had caught a fish. But instead of telling her how long the fish was, he wrote a puzzle for her:

The head of the fish was 10 centimeters long. The tail was the length of the head plus half the length of the body. The body equaled the length of the head plus the length of the tail.

How long was the fish?

Answer on next page



Quick Crossword

ACROSS

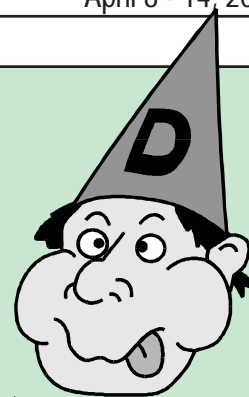
1. Bullet propellant.
8. It's for sitting on.
9. Color of money?
10. Feeling
13. Employ
14. Part of your foot.
15. 5-cent coins.
16. Actor's platform.
18. Happening.
20. Two days before tomorrow.

DOWN

2. George Bush's country.
3. Iranian, in the old days.
4. Dog-tail movement
5. Put to death.
6. Dr Frankenstein, eg.
7. Strength.
11. A surgeon may do this.
12. Kind of power.
17. Consume.
19. When the flight should arrive.

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 pilot and writer created the character Biggles, ace pilot and adventurer? | 8. In which cemetery are the remains of Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison and Isadora Duncan interred? | journey, I went astray from the straight road and woke to find myself in a dark wood"? |
| 2. Which Belgian singer and composer was born April 8, 1929? | 9. What is an epithalamium? | 16. What was J.R.R. Tolkien's full name? |
| 3. <i>Let Go</i> and <i>Under My Skin</i> are albums by which Canadian singer? | 10. Who wrote <i>The Donkeys</i> , a history of British involvement in World War I? | 17. Which Country & Western/American Music singer died on March 25 this year? |
| 4. Which horse won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in the years 2002, 2003 and 2004? | 11. Zak Starkey, Ringo Starr's son, plays for which band? | 18. Which European country's national orchestra has more members than its army? |
| 5. Giora Feidman and Frank London are exponents of which style of music? | 12. What is the collective noun for a group of cobras? | 19. What culinary ingredient was used in large quantities in World War I as a disinfectant? |
| 6. What is the "real" name of the superhero Daredevil? | 13. Which American TV show of the 1960s had the working title <i>Double Trouble</i> ? | 20. Who was Picasso's private art collection given to? |
| 7. What is the capital of the Dominican Republic? | 14. Whose last words were, "Am I dying or is this my birthday?" | |
| | 15. Which book starts with "Midway in our life's | |

Answers below, left

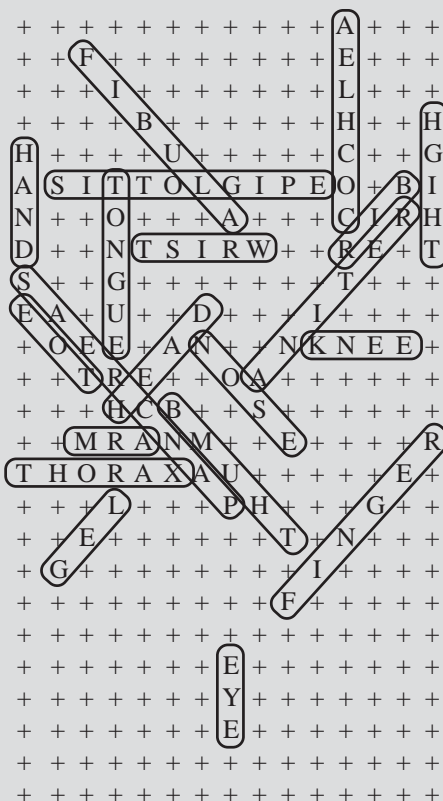
Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers: 1. Capt W E Johns; 2. Jacques Brel; 3. Avril Lavigne; 4. Best Mate; 5. Klezmer; 6. Matthew Murdock; 7. Santa Domingo; 8. Père-Lachaise Cemetery, Paris; 9. A poem written specifically for a bride; 10. Alan Clark; 11. Oasis; 12. A quiver; 13. The Dick Van Dyke Show; 14. Lady Nancy Astor (when she woke up during her final illness to find her family gathered around her); 15. Dante's *The Divine Comedy, Inferno*; 16. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien; 17. Buck Owens; 18. Monaco; 19. Garlic; 20. The French people.

EZ Triva Answers: 1. Venison; 2. Harland "Colonel" Sanders; 3. Sherwood Forest; 4. Aramaic; 5. Kabul; 6. Tungsten (formerly called wolfram); 7. Pangaea (or Pangea); 8. The Muppets; 9. *Kursk*; 10. 23.

Brain Buster Answer: The fish was 80 centimeters long: The head was 10cm long; the tail was 30cm and the body was 40cm.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



The story behind Deep Throat

Three decades is an eternity to keep a secret, especially in a hot-house environment like Washington, DC. But that is exactly what journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein did with "Deep Throat", their famous source.

Only in the June 2005 issue of *Vanity Fair* was his identity unmasked. Mark Felt, the former Number 2 man at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), admitted that it was indeed he who had guided Bob Woodward in his investigation into the Watergate scandal – one that would ultimately bring down President Richard Nixon and send most of his fellow conspirators to jail.

In *The Secret Man* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2005, 249pp) Woodward describes his long and often fractious relationship with Mark Felt. Of the Watergate duo of Woodward-Bernstein – who co-wrote *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days* – Woodward has been by far the most prolific, publishing 12 books, ranging from a life of actor John Belushi to two inside-looks at the George W. Bush White House.

Woodward admits that his loyalty to his promise to keep Deep Throat's identity secret gave him entrance to many an

inner sanctum. Confidential sources trust him.

When the Deep Throat story came out, Woodward was prepared. He had already written a draft version of his relationship with Mark Felt. As Bernstein notes, somewhat acerbically, in *A Reporter's Assessment*, the 12-page conclusion to the book, "I knew that Bob, who is prone to complete his homework before it is due or even assigned, had written a book-length draft of the Deep Throat story."

There is not much new here if you've read the first two Watergate books, but the core portrait of Mark Felt is an intriguing one. His greatest loyalty was to the FBI and its legendary – though highly controversial – founder, J Edgar Hoover. In his own book, *The FBI Pyramid from the Inside*, Felt devoted a 15-page chapter to a defense of Hoover, whom he characterized as "charismatic, feisty, charming, petty, giant, grandiose, brilliant, egotistic, industrious, formidable, compassionate, domineering".

When Hoover died in 1972, Felt believed that he would naturally be named as his successor. Instead, Nixon appointed a flunky named L Patrick Gray. And as the Watergate scandal gathered steam, Felt deeply resented White House pressure on

the FBI to lay off its investigation. So he decided to talk to Woodward.

Woodward dates their relationship to 1965 when he was a young Navy officer assigned to a command and communications ship "that served as a floating Pentagon and an alternative relocation for the president in case of nuclear war". Ironically, he met Felt at the White House itself.

Another great irony is that, after Nixon's fall, Felt was eventually convicted of illegal wiretapping. While Washington Post editorials were baying for his blood, Nixon testified for the defense.

One of the great mysteries for Woodward was Felt's motivation. When he was finally reunited with Felt at Felt's daughter's home in Santa Rosa in 2000, after decades of estrangement, Felt was 80, suffering from senile dementia, and with a memory that was almost totally erased. There were no answers there.

Woodward falls back on quoting Peter Gay, one of Sigmund Freud's biographers. "Gay wrote that personality is really not the resolution of an individual's various impulses but rather the organization

of those impulses. In other words, one's less desirable impulses, desires or inclinations are not conquered, but fit into a life hopefully dominated by the more desirable impulses. So contradictions abound. Any attempt I might make to explain or fully make sense of Mark Felt's behavior would probably fail.

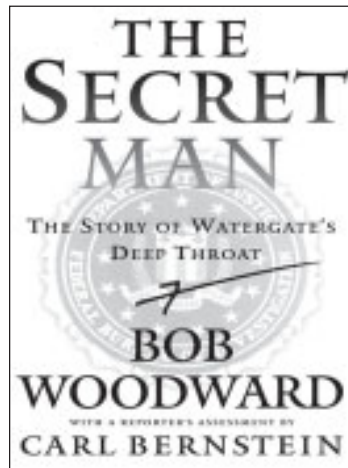
"At the same time, there is a certain consistency – even a nobility and surely courage – in what Felt did if you adopt J Edgar Hoover's overall view of the FBI's role in the United States government."

The enemy this time around wasn't gangsters or spies or commies. The war now was with Nixon and his cronies. Woodward concludes, "So Watergate became Felt's instrument to reassert the Bureau's independence and thus its supremacy."

In the end, the Bureau was damaged, seriously but not permanently,

while Nixon lost much more, maybe everything – the presidency, power, and whatever moral authority he might have had. He was disgraced.

"By surviving and enduring his hidden life, in contrast and in his own way, Mark Felt won."



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Dubious fashion: "This high season has re-established the beer belly as the ultimate trend in Patong fashion. Despite being frowned upon in the outside world Patong appears to be leading the way in beer belly fashion."

"The 'Patong Belly', as it is known locally, can take many years of work before it can be accepted as fully developed."

"The use of large quantities of Chang does speed up results and the belly must be displayed proudly at all times. So far the trend has made waves with the male population but women have yet to follow suit." (1)

Some people believe everything they read: "I don't know how reliable this news source is, but in Patong, Phuket in Thailand, the beer belly is trendy."

The 'Patong Belly' requires years of work to become fully developed and must then be displayed proudly. Apparently, the trend is only popular among men." (2)

Belly dancing: "Imagine the biggest middle-aged Caucasian pervert you can, balding head, tacky tropical shirt and beer belly, danc-

ing drunkenly with five tiny and gorgeous Thai women."

"Each woman is hoping that this creature is going to carry her off into the Western world and give her a better life. Or, she's just waiting for him to pay her for her services."

"It's gross. The men are such losers but then they come to Southeast Asia and pretend that they're on par with Brad Pitt." (3)

Look who's talking! "The first things that hit me about Thailand was it was obviously poorer than Malaysia, and that its language looked like its written in silly string. Honestly can't believe they actually read let alone write that seemingly cryptic language." (4)

Shurely shome mishtake: "After another cheap English style breakfast (60 baht for the full works) headed down to Karon Beach for a morning of sunbathing and swimming. I'd booked myself on an afternoon tour,

GOING BELLY UP

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello Campers! This week Lis looks at that most earnestly desirable fashion accessory – the beer belly.

Tongue-in-cheek blogging or downright rubbish? That's for you to decide; this stuff could be classic or forgotten the moment you turn the page. As usual Lis's quotes are unedited and rightly so, otherwise there'd be "sic" all over the place and that'd be messy, wouldn't it?

which was named 'The James Bond Adventure'. This was because one of the stop off points was 'James Bond Island' (where they filmed 'The Man with the Golden Gun'. We took a 'shpeed' boat that 'shped' across the water (university mates will understand the spelling – think Sean Connery, although it's Roger Moore who appears in this Bond movie) to the island...

"On the journey back to the resorts, we were shown 'The Man with the Golden Gun' on

VCD, which was a nice, if rather cheesy, touch." (5)

'Scuse me? "We rode back to Patong, and got pulled over by the police! We were trying to find the post office, and drove the wrong way up a one way street. We didn't have our passports, licenses, or anything else that he wanted. We didn't realise that there were road rules here, since the rest of SE Asia doesn't." (6)

Fair enough: "You may have heard of the sex scene in Phuket. Everything you've heard is true. I'll leave it to you to decide if it's sad or wonderful, whether it degrades or empowers women. It's there, there's a supply and a de-

mand. If you want to see what the deal is, it's safe and easy to sit at the outdoor bars in Patong and watch the nighthawks go to work... It's really no better or worse than Japan, Singapore, or America. It's just more open."

Back to bellies! Here's a dude that has ridden his mo'bike through Myanmar, Laos, China, and most of Thailand. His reaction to Patong? "And then came Patong Beach. The highlight of Phuket. Bungalow rental by the hour. The Patpong of Bangkok plus sand. A thoroughly disgusting crowd in both sight and action. What caps it all off are the Euro grannies going topless. I've never seen so many beer bellies..." (8)

(1) <http://www.phuket-info.com/forums/news-articles/12462-beer-bellies-latest-trend-patong.html>

(2) <http://daysthatendinday.com/email.php?entry=127&PHPSESSID=f0e3d420bde8b9d2822f05bb9c4ac1>

(3) http://www.kahunna.net/pilgrims_progress/hope/journal19.shtml

(4) http://www.travelpod.com/cgi-bin/guest.pl?twweb_UID=jonnytheroth&twweb_tripID=asia_-2005&twweb_entryID=1113286440&twweb_PID=tpod

(5) http://travelpod.com/cgi-bin/view_printer.pl?twweb_UID=rowly26&twweb_tripID=se_asia_2002&twweb_guest_password=

(6) <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/Phuket/Patong-Beach/blog-46182.html>

(7) http://glennh.tripod.com/wa_thai_phkt.htm

(8) http://www.groovydomain.com/travels/t3a8_story.html

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

Maintain faith in the ballot box

The phrase “uncharted waters” is being used a great deal by the press worldwide in reporting the April 2 general election in Thailand.

At the time of going to press, not all the votes had been counted, but most pundits were predicting that the election could result in a parliament that would not meet constitutional requirements, leading to a second election, possibly a third – until something radical happens to break the deadlock brought about by the major opposition parties’ decision not to field candidates.

This is all very worrying. Indeed, in Bangkok, a recent opinion survey found that many people were worried that the country would descend into chaos and violence.

These people are right to be worried – and wrong. Thailand’s recent past has examples aplenty of electoral corruption, coups and other forms of subversion of the democratic process.

Equally, however, Thailand has made great strides toward a more democratic system, as have countries worldwide. Britain offers some fine examples of the steps that countries have to go through in order to unclench the fists of those who would hang onto power at all costs.

In 1648, Parliamentarians – the Roundheads – with the help of the army, were determined to wipe out all opposition in the parliament. Soldiers, led by Col Thomas Pride, arrested 231 MPs, imprisoning 45 of them, in order to gain a majority in parliament. Does that sound familiar?

Until the 1880s, balloting in British parliamentary elections was not secret, allowing “rotten boroughs” to thrive. These were constituencies with very small electorates, all of whom could be controlled by the candidate as they were mostly tenants or other people who benefited from his patronage. Does that sound familiar?

Every democracy has gone through periods when it was abused and twisted by those in control, and many will undoubtedly go through similar periods again. But this two-steps-forward-one-step-back progress can eventually yield positive results.

In Thailand it has done so in a remarkably short time. It is only 14 years since the last military coup. Yet last month, the head of the Thai military emphatically ruled out intervention in the current turmoil. Voters should take heart from this and maintain their faith in the ballot box.

Democracy is a slow process but it does work, and is working in Thailand. To quote Sir Winston Churchill, “It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

– The Editor

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Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet Izmen

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Editorial Team: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Sam Wilkinson, Nattamon Ratcharak, Natcha Yuttaworawit, Janyaporn Morel, Jenjira Ruengjarus

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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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Letters

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

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

Not worth its wait in gold – or silver

I made an online application for ADSL CyberGold on January 4 but so far nothing has happened; I am not yet connected and none of my emails to the service provider has been answered.

Because my online application had apparently been lost, I went to my local TOT office on March 3 and was asked to complete a lengthy [paper] application for the service. I also paid the installation fee, opting for the CyberSilver rather than the CyberGold package.

I was told that the connection would be operable in around a week. One month has now passed.

I went to the TOT office a couple of times since making my application in person, and each time I went, I was told that it would be ready “next week”.

I don’t think it’s a problem with the telephone line – I am in the center of town and surrounded by Internet cafés – and I will go and ask TOT again.

This time, however, I may take my 2,000-baht ADSL modem, which is lying around useless with me while I am forced to write this email to the *Gazette* using a 56Kbps dial-up line.

Alexander J Herrmann
Trang

Airport is unfair to Khao Lak

Why does Phuket International Airport (PIA) not have a travel desk to promote hotels and resorts in Khao Lak? The airport should not be for the Phuket tourist market alone, as it currently appears to be.

Why is there no shuttle bus service from Phuket airport to Khao Lak? Khao Lak is an at-

tractive and untainted destination that Thailand can be proud of and which it should promote to overseas visitors as “the real Thailand”. Khao Lak really still is the land of smiles with nice happy friendly Thai people.

PIA is the gateway to the region, not just to Phuket.

Stuart Davie
Darwin, Australia

Can’t get the staff? Serves you right!

I am sickened by the hypocritical complaints of tsunami-affected businesses bemoaning the current lack of staff, most recently in your *Around The Region*, “Where did my workers go?” (*Gazette*, March 25).

While the tsunami was certainly devastating, it was the secondary shock of irresponsible employers cutting wages or laying workers off that drove staff to search for employment elsewhere in the country. Having found such employment, why would they now return to work for hotels and restaurants that so callously laid them off in a time of terrible crisis?

Happily, not all tourist industry operators fired their staff. Some chose to retain their employees despite the expense and, in return for their wise investment, these businesses are now reaping the benefits of an experienced, loyal and grateful staff.

Of course it is understandable that small businesses did not have the financial resources to keep their staff or even remain open after the tsunami. Yet, for the larger domestic and international hotel chains, it was inexcusable, especially considering the average worker could have been retained for a measly 6,000 to 8,000 baht per month.

For these same operators to

now be complaining of a lack of staff is no less than an open admission that they were insensitive to their employees in a time of dire need.

I only hope the workers who were fired last year have found more responsible employers, and that they might read the *Gazette*’s stories and enjoy the satisfaction of saying, “som nam na!” – just desserts!

Jeffrey Studebaker
Rawai

Quality breeders yes, but problems remain

In response to the letter from Jackie Perry [*Gazette*, issue of April 1], I have no doubt that the Kennel Club of Thailand does organize excellent dog shows regularly in Bangkok.

I am also aware that there are reputable breeders in Thailand, particularly of Thai ridgebacks.

The point of my recent article was to highlight the dangers of buying foreign breeds of dogs here. With very few exceptions these dogs are bred – purely for profit – from poor-quality stock.

I know of two people who bought dogs – a German Shepherd and a Bull mastiff – from Bangkok in recent weeks, which is what prompted the article.

In both cases the puppies died from canine distemper within a few days.

Jackie Perry is a very reputable breeder and I have no doubt there are others in Thailand. But, as I stated, finding a reputable breeder of foreign breeds of dogs in Thailand is nigh on impossible. Every owner I know who has bought a foreign breed here has done so via a pet shop or market.

Top Dog
(Author of the “Making Tracks” column)

The necessity of foreign-run operations in Phuket's 'plagued' dive industry

I've read with great interest the issues and concerns following the current investigation into possible tax evasion by foreign-owned dive operations. As a farang dive instructor who lived and taught in Phuket for five years, I'd like to share my thoughts on the matter.

In my five years' experience, I can count on the fingers of one hand how many tourists I encountered who spent more than 100,000 baht on a diving holiday. The vast majority spent far less, especially with a full day trip costing an average of 2,000 baht and a four-day live-aboard costing around 25,000 baht.

Secondly, in all the time I spent teaching and guiding in Phuket waters, I can recall meeting less than a dozen qualified Thai PADI instructors and dive-masters, although I admit that these individuals were exceptional at their jobs.

The reason for this lack of Thai representation in the industry is, in my opinion, that the majority of Thais with the educational and language skills required to complete a PADI instructor course simply aren't interested in working in the dive industry, even when training is offered for free by the Dive Operators Club Thailand (DOCT).

The number of Thais who undertook and completed the free training course attests to that fact.

FIRST PERSON

Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*), Nivit Aroonrat, recently expressed his fears to the *Gazette* that the island's recreational dive industry – largely foreign owned and staffed – was guilty of tax evasion and that Thai dive instructors were being elbowed aside in favor of foreign dive teachers.

Canadian Kirk Leader spent five years teaching diving in Phuket. Here, he offers his side of the diving industry dispute.



This leads to my next concern, and one that always irritated me deeply in my time spent in Phuket: the belief that farang instructors were taking money out of Thai pockets by occupying all the instructor or divemaster jobs.

Every company I have ever worked for, and there have been many, would gladly have hired Thais to teach and guide as opposed to Westerners, simply be-

cause they would not have to worry about the huge problems that [applying for and securing] work permits entail. The reason they didn't was because there were no Thai divemasters or instructors available for the job, even when free training was offered.

Every baht I earned while working in Phuket went 100% back into the local community,

through the taxes I paid, the rent for my Thai-owned bungalow and the Thai-owned restaurants I ate in. And, for the record, it cost me several thousand dollars (out of my own pocket) to complete my PADI instructor-level training.

The government needs to develop an understanding of the industry they are so eager to criticize and condemn.

The industry does require

regulation, if only to ensure that reputable operators remain in business and disreputable companies do not. This will not only ensure that the highest safety standards are met, but will also control the damage occurring to the reefs that are still worth diving in in Thai waters.

That being said, the government must stop categorizing all farang dive instructors as parasites and evil entities. The Phuket dive industry needs foreign dive instructors until the industry reaches a point where Thais can manage it on their own; if not tourism dollars will migrate to new horizons – plain and simple. Until that point is reached, the government needs to be realistic with its expectations and stop listening to those not qualified or knowledgeable enough to criticize.

Work permits should be closely regulated, but accessible to those firms who need them to operate profitably. An annual review should be undertaken to reassess the dive industry's requirements, with adjustments being made accordingly.

Until common sense finally overrides the jealousy, greed, ignorance and misunderstanding that plague the Phuket dive industry, nothing will ever change.

Like all things in life, education and communication are the keys to the industry's survival.

Does Thai law allow foreigners to practice psychology?

What do I need to practice psychology in Thailand in a clinic for expatriates, and how long will it take?

Lon Hodge
Guangzhou, China

Atinart Phuengkhwamchob, head of the Bangkok-based Medical Council of Thailand's Training and Licensing Department, replies:

The Medical Council of Thailand issues licenses to practice psychology at a clinic only to those who can pass our test, which is in Thai language.

We do not issue licenses to foreigners to practice psychology in clinics, but foreign psychiatrists may apply for a license to work for an accredited medical institute, such as a medical school hospital or private hospital, that

will supervise their practice.

A foreign psychiatrist can also be licensed in an administrative capacity, provided he or she agrees not to practice on patients.

The Gazette notes:

All of the normal work permit procedures would also apply, so you would first need to have a job offer from such a medical institute.

Can a foreigner own a Thai-registered boat?

I am building boat in Ranong, which will be finished soon.

When I started this project I was told by a number of sources, including the *Phuket Gazette*, that I am allowed to own a Thai-registered boat in my own name as long as the boat is for my own personal use and not for carrying customers or to be used in any commercial way.

However, the Ranong District Office told me that I may not own a Thai-registered boat.

Can I please have a definitive answer as to whether I may or may not own a Thai-registered boat?

Scott Adkins
Phuket

Surin Theerakulpisut, Chief

of Marine Office 5, in Phuket, replies:

A foreigner may own a Thai-registered boat as long as the boat is for personal use and not for commercial use, such as ferrying passengers.

However, if the boat is for commercial use, it must be at least 70% Thai-owned; foreigners may own the remaining 30%.

Issues & ANSWERS

Do you have a question about how things are done in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to the powers that be?

If so, then write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

When will my dusty road be surfaced?

Can someone at Thalang Municipality please tell me how much longer people living on my unsurfaced road have to keep on eating dust from the street? I have lived on my road for about three years now and have eaten dust every day.

Last year the street was upgraded to "road" status (from *soi* to *thanon*) and some street-lamps were erected.

Surely three years is long enough to wait for surfacing?

Dusty Meals
Thalang

Wichai Kaewprajanthorn, Chief Engineer, Thepkasattri Municipality, replies:

This road was the access road to a housing estate that has since been demolished. We will improve this road soon by surfacing it with asphalt and concrete.

We have allocated a budget of about 1 million baht and are currently receiving tenders from companies to surface the road. We expect construction to start in April and take about two months to finish.

No butts: let's make medical history

You've all heard about the first human face transplant. But recently it occurred to me that I could become famous in medical history by donating for transplant an organ of my own.

Not long ago, Stephen Fein, an editor at the *Gazette*, wrote an article about exercises he did to cure chronic back pain. This problem, he assured us, stemmed from a physiological failing that had plagued him since birth – Stephen doesn't have a butt.

I read this confession with incredulity. Surely he must have a butt. It is not possible to function in this world without one. If he doesn't have a butt, how does he take a you-know-what?

Unfortunately, the article was not accompanied by a photograph verifying Stephen's claim to buttlessness. So I decided to come down to Phuket from Bangkok to check it out.

HANDS-ON

I thought a brief visual examination should suffice to determine the validity of Stephen's claim. I would forgo a hands-on examination in the interests of good taste, and also to deter malicious accusations of kinkiness from ill-intentioned low-life scum.

Whether Stephen had no butt at all, or a very skimpy and attenuated butt, or a butt that was shriveled, desiccated, and quite possibly leprous, it wouldn't matter. I had good news for him.

My own bottom is very large. Visually challenged observers, squinting at me as I lumber down the street, often inquire, "Is that an elephant or a humanoid?" Sometimes they exclaim, "Oh! I thought elephants had been banned from the streets of Bangkok. There goes a big one."

Yes, my Brobdingnagian bottom earns me much flattery.



People are always assuring me that my ponderous posterior is my most attractive feature. But alas, such an enormous endowment has its shortcomings.

Its size, its weight, and its sheer colossal breathtaking magnificence create problems. Trousers made by ordinary tailors are inadequate to encompass its lordly girth – I have to seek out tent-makers. Sidewalks crack, floors cave in, chairs collapse, toilets crumble, and bathroom scales implode when assaulted by the massive majesty of my bountiful bum.

Paparazzi swarm to photograph me, strong men gasp, little children cry out in wonder and women swoon in erotic excitement whenever I waddle by.

Nevertheless, in a supreme act of selfless renunciation and sacrifice, I planned to make medical history. I would volunteer to be the donor in the world's first butt transplant.

Naturally I wouldn't donate the whole thing, but a good part of it – enough to augment Stephen's scrawny buttocks and give him some ballast when he walks. I figured that doctors could liposuck at least 50% of the fatty tissue from my tremendous tush and pump it into Stephen.

Of course, I would insist that the doctors sculpt the remnants of my daunting derriere into voluptuous contours that would be esthetically appealing to the

world at large, and sexually seductive to women.

I did anticipate some problems from the moral guardians of our world, for such an operation would raise moral and ethical issues that theologians would debate for decades. The Rev Jerry Falwell would surely disapprove. "Another sinful example of human interference in the Divine Order!" he would thunder. "If God wanted Stephen to have a big butt and Tsow a small one, he would've made 'em that way."

Pope Benedict XVI would issue an encyclical, *De Transplantibus Assorum* ("On Tush Transplants"), defining the Catholic Church's sulfurous position on this emotionally charged issue. The Chief Rabbi and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem may disagree on many questions, but on this one their thinking would be united. Their only point of contention would be which hell I would be sent to – a Jewish hell (no hot dogs), or a Muslim one (no hot dogs – and no beer, either).

CRUSHED

Only the Dalai Lama would keep an open mind. "It sounds like fun," His Holiness would chuckle. "Mind if I watch?"

Alas! To my dismay I discovered that Stephen Fein does have a butt after all – although, he assured me, a butt that is out of proportion to the rest of him, which is rather large. I was crushed.

But the dream lives on. If anybody out there needs butt augmentation surgery, give me a call. Medical glory awaits us.

You can contact S Tsow to arrange for butt augmentation surgery at stsow@yahoo.com. Be sure to have the donated organ checked for lethal viruses beforehand.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If you have been waiting for the right moment to get back at someone, you should especially enjoy *Songkran* on Thursday. At work you will be treading on thin ice when you submit a risky proposal. Think carefully before doing this. Wear the color aubergine to be taken seriously.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your usual good humor may not be enough to survive the week ahead. Keep a low profile and concentrate on personal tasks. Financial success should be yours very soon, but don't share the good news with everyone. The number 3 can bring luck on Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You may be in the hot seat when an issue is raised at a meeting early in the week. You may see this as a positive event, for it will mean there's light at the end of the tunnel. Because your signs are compatible, a romantic encounter with Aquarius should be nurtured.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If your search for alternative employment last month yielded nothing, remain alert to chances that will come this week. In between all the aquatic frolicking there is certain to be an introduction that could lead to an exciting change of career. Give romance with Pisces a second chance.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Make contact with colleagues you haven't seen in a while. A juicy business tip will be your reward. The stars are providing support for new endeavors started by the end of April. Cupid is also ready to lend a hand; if you're single, make your feelings known to someone who has recently piqued your interest.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Long-distance communication clarifies how someone truly feels about you. Be prepared to reciprocate – this is not the time to keep your desires hidden. In business, don't have too many irons in the fire or you'll get burned; streamline your interests. Scorpio asks a probing question on Sunday. Think carefully before answering, or you could find yourself in hot water.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): It will be necessary to go over old ground in order to get ahead this week. Be patient and remember that pride comes before a fall. An influential Arian friend can help to smooth the path. Where romance is concerned, your shyness will be an added attraction. The number 4 can bring luck on Tuesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): It probably seems that there aren't enough hours in a day. You may have to rethink your upcoming deadlines. The holiday period will cause unavoidable delays, so you may as well sit back and join in the celebrations. The color emerald green will enhance your charm.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If you've just begun a health regime, ease up a bit to avoid getting tired. If you listen to advice offered by well-meaning Aquarius, there is a good chance you'll give up on the whole idea. Work will increase during the latter part of April, so work on building energy. Leo would like to get to know you better.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Timing is everything this week. Finish a business plan and make presentations on Tuesday or Wednesday; after Thursday, work-related matters will be subject to adverse influences. But as long as you have already signed the deal, nothing untoward can happen. Gemini looks forward to fun with you on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If the prospect of all the water madness doesn't float your boat, there is hope on the horizon. You can expect to receive a tantalizing invitation to get away from it all. If you're single, there are strong signs that a meeting of minds could take place. Those already in a relationship should heed hints from their partners.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you're still intent on swimming against the current, expect to lose your supporters soon. If you have been ignoring the voice of reason you will have one last chance to back down gracefully this week. A dream you have this weekend can provide enlightenment.

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Are you tired of traffic, rubbish, dangerous airport taxis, pushy tuk-tuk drivers, two-stroke exhaust fumes, undisciplined driving, commission stops, illegal fishing, corruption, coral reefs becoming marinas, shrimp farms, jet-skis and pushy touts?

If you are, then there is hope. In February, I studied a city of 200,000 people in Southeast Asia and found none of the above.

For two weeks I searched for a single cigarette butt, candy wrapper or bottle cap on the street, in a yard, anywhere – and found none. Motorbike tricycles were orderly, polite, charged a fair price and always had proper change. The sophisticated emergency center, meanwhile, had taken just one call in January – and that wasn't even a crime being reported.

There is a province-wide "prison", really a rice farm. Its handicrafts shop sells curios made from recycled plastic, and only one convict in every 500 is recidivist.

Valentine's Day was celebrated as a "Love Affair With Nature". While most of Southeast Asia is extracting mangroves for shrimp farms, on February 14, 3,000 people started planting mangroves at 4 am – for the fifth year in a row. Schoolchildren consistently told me, "Somebody has to make a difference."

We can't get World Heritage status for Phang Nga Bay, but this small city has two World Heritage sites, with another in process. Beaches, seas, even harbors are swimming-safe and run like clockwork.

The city is Puerto Princessa on Palawan. Within the Philippines, "Princessa" is legendary – Mayor Edward S Hagedorn is a national hero, a living legend who chairs the powerful National Council of Mayors. Unfortunately, because Princessa is in the Philippines, it is virtually unknown elsewhere.

After 11 years of occasional visits there, I wanted to go again to study how the city had become a Southeast Asian environmental Utopia – and how we might do the same on Phuket.

The phenomenon isn't difficult to dissect, but the qualities feeding it are rare – unless you are "there" already. For one, Princessa residents openly accept outside ideas because they



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

want to be at the top of the environmental curve.

Like most of the Philippines, before 1991 Palawan was devoured by mining, logging, and fishing, mostly illegal. Remote Palawan was virtually denuded. Then Princessa's city wells ran dry – something Phuket adroitly averts almost every year.

It didn't take long before a handful of concerned artisans and environmentalists realized that Princessa was destroying its watersheds. Princessa needed trees on its mountains – and fast.

These visionaries created a tree-planting celebration to replant forests and create environmental awareness. In 1991, 2,500 volunteers planted seedlings and 7,500 volunteers did likewise in 1992. The numbers leveled out at 30,000 from 1993 to this day. Several million trees have been planted, and today Palawan's jungles are back.

Better yet, participants in this exercise know why they do what they do. Even children's comic books discuss the consequences of siltation from mountains to coral reefs, watershed management, and loss of wildlife habitat.

The "Festival of the Forest" made people feel so good that oth-

good. Unlike that other clean Asian city, Singapore, Princessa achieves this through inner happiness, not the sometimes heavy hand of the state. Except for traffic cops, I never saw a policeman while I was there.

How can this be?

This answer is role model leadership – honest, sincere, hard-working untouchable leaders who set the example by serving with unquestioned integrity and commitment.

Mayor Hagedorn is inspirational, always visible, approachable and helpful. He knows every environmental angle, and even invents some – including his giant tridachna clam colony, conserving this highly-endangered bivalve. His house is simple, his private island magical but undeveloped, and his door is always open. He's the first to say he is just one of many.

How does he do it?

Educate the Kids: Starting at the age of three. Environmentalism is taught in the schools, in the playground, in coffee shops

CLEAN AND GREEN: a typical street in Puerto Princessa

and at rock concerts. In schools or while out shopping, experienced eight-year-old tree planters discuss watershed management and coral reef conservation with authority.

Make it feel good: Every Manila rock star at a city-sponsored rock concert said on stage how great it was to be in "Puerto Princessa, environmental capital of the Philippines". This wasn't a rehearsed line – they had just driven from the airport to their hotels, and had seen for themselves.

Princessa, Festival Capital of Everywhere: My first night there coincided with a mass wedding celebration that continued with the mangrove planting the next morning.

I enjoyed the culturally-authentic Princessa City Dancers, attended the teenybopper rock concert and finished with a 7 am "Three Festivals In One" parade that kicked off the week-long Foundation Day Festival.

Everybody takes part, feeling good about being honest, environmental and crime-free. Civic pride is overwhelming, and is so much more fun than drugs.

As I flew home I looked down at Princessa from 30,000 feet. Surrounded by perfect jungle, Ulagan Bay – home to 10% of all the mangroves in the Philippines – appeared. Then we crossed an imaginary line and only brown hills lay below, denuded. We had crossed into another municipality, and the rest of the world.

The next Festival of the Forest is on June 24. Go and take a look. Do it for Phuket. A believer in the sister cities concept, Mayor Hagedorn extends an invitation to you personally.

John Gray started commercial sea kayaking tours in Hawaii in 1983, and moved to Phuket six years later, setting up the first sea kayaking operation in Phang Nga Bay, SeaCanoe. Today he runs John Gray's SeaCanoe, also based in Phuket. For more information call Tel: 076-254506.

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Sipa holds IT seminars for small companies

The Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa), Phuket Branch, recently staged the first of a monthly series of one-day seminars for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Phuket.

The seminar, held at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Hotel on March 24, discussed techniques to enhance business efficiency through the use of e-commerce and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Asst Prof Rattana Wetprasit, Branch Manager of Sipa, told the *Gazette*, "Phuket is a key location because its main income is derived from international tourism. Therefore, businesses in Phuket must develop themselves to reduce costs and to expand further into the international market, specifically by applying new technology."

"We realize the importance of this, and that is why we arranged this seminar. We will hold seminars with SMEs on the third or fourth Friday of each month for as long as there is demand."

"In April we will launch an 'ICT Directory', which will be free for SMEs. Our aim is to instruct and advise SMEs on the use of the ICT Directory in administration, accounting and marketing."

She added, "First, we would like to focus on ICT use in the the tourism sector. Companies



Asst Prof Rattana Wetprasit, Sipa Phuket Branch Manager: 'Businesses in Phuket must develop themselves to reduce costs.'

can deal with software providers direct or through Sipa."

Pantit Sirapobthada, Managing Director of consulting firm Ebusiness Today said, "SMEs can ... experience solid growth through the use of ICT. E-commerce is the future, because the Internet is far superior and faster [than conventional business methods]. However, there is a short-

age of IT-skilled people for the [Thai] ICT market."

The next seminar will be held on April 28 at a venue to be arranged. For further information contact Prof Rattana at Tel: 076-379111 or see the website at www.sipaphuket.org. All seminars are conducted in Thai.

Meanwhile, *The Nation* reports that Sipa in Bangkok has

announced that it will work with IBM to provide a pilot one-stop service center in Phuket in support of "E-government".

Sipa President Manoo Ordeedolchest said the one-stop service was aimed at making access to government services easier by providing a one-stop online portal with information for "customers".

The portal is based on service-oriented architecture (SOA) to link together the databases of all government agencies. The integration will run on the Internet on IBM WebSphere software.

In the coming few months, the pilot project will allow people living in Phuket to pay their utility bills via the website.

"Formerly, users who wanted to pay utility bills had to go in person to each provider. With this service, they just click to pay bills, with a service fee of 10 baht per payment," K. Manoo said.

Government agencies and public and private companies involved in the project include the Provincial Electricity Authority, the Provincial Waterworks Authority, International Call Service, UOB Bank, the Bank of Ayudhya, government hospitals, the Immigration Bureau and the Justice Department, as well as several educational institutes.

Those who want to use the services need to register a 13-digit code at the site.

Phya Thai hospital purchase pushed back

PHUKET CITY: The deadline set for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*) to buy the abandoned Phya Thai Phuket Hospital has been extended to the end of April. The purchase deadline originally set by the hospital's owner, the Thai Asset Management Corporation, was March 31.

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on March 30, chaired by Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanamit, to discuss the future of the hospital, *Or-BorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said, "The price to buy the hospital is about 315 million baht."

"We estimate the cost of renovating facilities at between 120 and 150 million baht, with another 30 million baht for medical equipment."

"We hope to install 50 patients' beds at first and will initially lease the medical equipment. If we can make a good profit, then we will buy the equipment."

She added, "We do not plan to compete with private hospitals in Phuket but we would like to become a choice for middle-income people."

Dr Koson Tang-uthai, who runs a gynecology clinic on Thalang Rd and acts as a consultant to K. Anchalee, said, "Our management team will come from Ramathibodi Hospital Foundation and Baan Paew Hospital Foundation, both of which are expert in hospital management."

Post Offices, 7-Elevens expand counter services

PHUKET: Post Offices and 7-Eleven outlets across the island are now offering a huge range of counter services, from settling water bills to paying US visa fees, as value-added attractions for their customers.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of services offered at Post Offices and at 7-Eleven stores.

Counter services at Post Offices

No fee

Mobile phone bills: All mobile operators except Thai Mobile. Credit cards: Citibank and Diners Club.

Credit bills: Central Personal Loan, Cetelem, Easy Buy and Bank Thai PCL.

Goods bills: Avon and Mistine. Insurance premiums: Prudential TS Life, AIA, New Hampshire Insurance, Ayudhaya Allianz CP Life, Nationwide and ACE Insurance.

US Embassy visa fees. Donations to "Develop Thai Children by ICT" project.

10-baht fee

Traffic fines. Electricity: Metropolitan Electricity Authority and Provincial Electricity Authority. Water: Metropolitan Waterworks Authority and Provincial Waterworks Authority. Telephone: TOT, TA and TT&T.

Mobile phone: Thai Mobile. Credit card: SCB Bank. Credit and Credit Card Plus bills: DBS Bank.

Payments for goods bought on instalments: AEON, Quick Cash, First Choice, Power Buy, Home Pro, Central Card, Tesco card, Big C

Card, GE Auto Lease, GHB Bank and Easy Buy.

Insurance premiums: Nationwide Group, Siam Samsung Life Insurance.

Income Tax bills: 90 and 91. Student enrolment and examination fees: Sukhothai Tham-mathirath Open University EPT.

20-baht fee

Depositing money orders in bank accounts.

40-baht fee

Motorcycle insurance: Viriyah Insurance, Syn Mun Kong Insurance, Thai Zurich, Dhi-paya Insurance and Siam City Insurance.

Renewal of operating permit for a medical clinic.

Counter services at 7-Eleven stores

Public Entities, government departments

Metropolitan Electricity Authority and Provincial Electricity Authority; Metropolitan Waterworks Authority and Pro-

vincial Waterworks Authority; TOT and CAT Telecom: 10 baht.

Revenue Department: 15 baht.

Insurance premiums

AIA, Finansa Life Assurance, Ayudhaya Allianz CP, Thai Life Insurance, Thai Cardiff and Safety Insurance: 10 baht.

Mobile phone and page bills

World pager 142: 10 baht; PCT buddy, TA Orange, Phone Link, CAT wireless-free: 15 baht.

Bills for goods or services

Mistine, Avon, U-Star, CPRetailing & Marketing (CPRAM) and Diethelm and CPAC (bills of less than 90,000 baht): no fee.

Reservations via tour agent Hotel Hub: 25 baht.

ISPs

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By Nattamon Ratcharak

NAI YANG: The Pearl Village Resort is currently closed for an 800-million-baht project that will transform it into the Indigo Pearl Phuket, a five-star resort themed on Phuket's historical tin mines.

Work began March 7 and the resort is scheduled to reopen on October 15, Wichit Na-Ranong, Managing Director of the privately-owned resort, told the *Gazette*.

"We are refurbishing all 290 guest rooms to five-star accommodation, with units ranging from 56 square meters to 120sqm. There will be seven Pearl Shell Villas – each with a private pool – 49 Private Pool Pavilions, 43 Plantation Villas, 85 Pearl Beds and 108 Kelly Quarters [the name refers to a piece of equipment used in tin mining] arranged around a central lagoon," said K. Wichit.

THEME

The Indigo Pearl will also have eight bars and restaurants offering modern Asian and international cuisine, he said, along with recreational facilities including three swimming pools, a cookery school, tennis courts, spa services, a kids' club, a fitness and meditation pavilion, a diving school and a games room with a snooker hall.

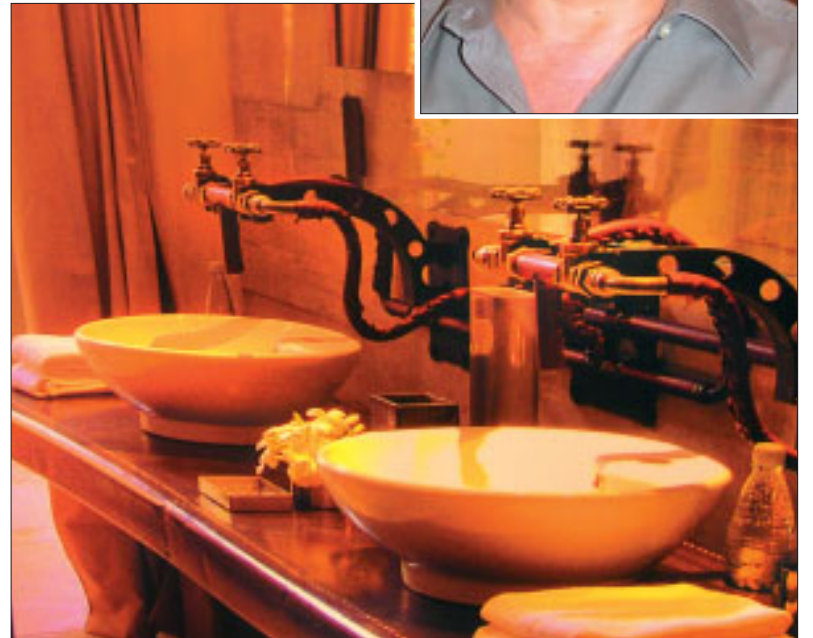
For in-room entertainment, K. Wichit explained, "Guests will be able to access high-speed Internet and a digital music system in their rooms."

The major change, however, is the transformation of the resort into one themed on Phuket's tin mines. "We explained the concept and direction of the Indigo Pearl to architect and interior designer Bill Bensley, who has integrated Phuket culture into the

Pearl Village resort undergoing B800m upgrade to 5 stars



Earth tones with splashes of bright color feature in the new designs.



Above, the bathroom faucets have echoes of Victorian-era machinery; top, Wichit Na Ranong.



service characteristics of the hotel."

Mr Bensley has gained a reputation among architects for his ability to integrate resorts into their natural surroundings.

"We are looking forward to the transformation, recreating both our image and our concept as a 'Design Hotel'. The concept will reflect the significant cultural, lifestyle and traditional aspects of Phuket," K. Wichit said.

"I think guests will appreciate the new image. We will use *samlor* to ferry guests throughout the resort and we will use Phuket's historical tin mines as the theme for the resort, including decoration of the guest rooms," he added.

In addition to the resort's physical appearance receiving a facelift, K. Wichit explained that staff are receiving training to improve their skills. "We are upgrading our service [from four stars] to five stars, including re-

training more than 400 staff members."

He believes that the move to a higher level of service and facilities should open opportunities for the resort to explore new markets, though without compromising the stable market share Pearl Village established over the 20 years since it first opened.

"We will maintain our focus on keeping our mix of guests, of whom 95% are from Europe, with the remaining 5% from Asia,

but we will also look at other groups within existing markets and expand into new markets.

"We will also concentrate more on Thai markets, such as MICE [meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions]," he said.

The re-launch of the Pearl Village includes a new website dedicated to the Indigo Pearl, which can be found at www.indigo-pearl.com

Now let's keep this just between ourselves, shall we?

There's something you can't help but notice when you get around Phuket a bit. Once upon a time, people sat around tables in restaurants and bars in Phuket with maps of the island, brochures and magazines describing exciting things to do and beautiful places to visit.

Junk cruises, canoeing in caves, scuba diving in the Similan Islands, interesting restaurants with all sorts of exotic cuisines; that's what people were interested in.

Now, people are sitting around tables in restaurants and bars with different sorts of literature: land titles and architect's construction drawings. They're all huddled together, casting suspicious glances at anyone else who walks into the restaurant.

You know the look: it's the "If you see this I'm going to have to kill you" look.

It must have been a bit like this in the gold rush days in California and Australia. People huddled around rough maps of rivers and mountains – their eyes bright with excitement and fever, the same disease in a slightly different form: Phuket's very own "gold fever".

Everywhere you go, people are hav-

ing private meetings in public places. Thai people are waving copies of land titles under foreigners' noses, looking for buyers for their land, which often turns out to belong to the second-cousin-of-the-wife-of-a-distant-uncle.

Try this: stop your car next to a vacant piece of land. Get out, and stare at the land. See how long it takes before someone stops and asks you if you want to buy the land you are looking at. Guaranteed it'll be 10 minutes at most.

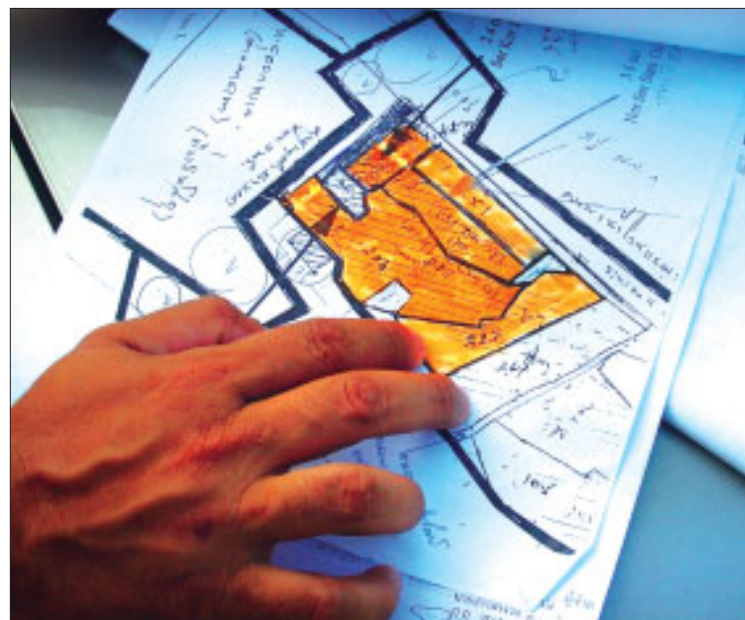
If you ask them if they know the owner, they usually claim to be that very selfsame person.

Try it again the next day with the same piece of

land, and chances are that a totally different person will arrive on a motorbike and also claim to be the owner.

But back to the point of this story. The island is suffering from a form of "gold fever". It's all very well to say that the island's property market is booming, but here, where there are few checks and balances in many areas of the industry, there's the possibility of a variety of things going wrong; things that could affect everybody.

There are already signs of discon-



DON'T look at the picture! You looked! Now I'm going to have to kill you...

no idea of how the marketing should be done.

It only needs a couple of these to go belly up and dangerous rumors will be whispered and passed on with smug satisfaction in the ale houses of Hong Kong's Lan Kwai Fong and Wanchai.

While government controls are

getting better all the time on construction and environmental matters, there is no control on whether a project will sell, and whether it's the right product for the market.

Stars in developers' eyes can very easily turn to tears if there is no proper advice offered or taken at the beginning. It's in everybody's interest to try to ensure that every project is successful, or we'll find our markets turning elsewhere.

Some people I've met are planning to build a project without having done any form of market research, and indeed have

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

ON THE MOVE

Phuket native **Prakaikaw Na-Ranong Theerathada**, 37, has been appointed Assistant Managing Director of Indigo Pearl (formerly the Pearl Village) Phuket (see story on facing page). She has master's degree in international hotel management from the University of Buckingham in England and a diploma in hotel and restaurant management from the École Hôtelière de Lausanne.

She has worked at the InterContinental Paris Le Grand Hotel, the Noga Hilton in Geneva, the Outrigger Reef hotel in Honolulu and the Swissôtel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok. Before moving to Phuket, she was Sales Executive at the Regent Hotel in Bangkok.



Magrin Phromyothi, from Bangkok, has been appointed Assistant Director of Sales – MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions) at the Cape Panwa Hotel. He has a degree in tourism from Rangsit University in Bangkok, and a master's degree in tourism management and marketing from Bournemouth University in the UK. His resumé includes working as Executive Director of the Thailand Incentives & Conventions Association and as Travel Planning Manager of Krungthai Card Public Co Ltd.



Nattamon Ratcharak, 26, from Surat Thani, has joined the *Phuket Gazette* as a reporter. She has a degree in business English from Surat Thani Rajabhat University and another in mass communications from Ramkhamhaeng University. She is currently studying for a master's degree in Tourism and Hotel Management at the Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus. Her work experience includes lecturing at Tapee College in Surat Thani and working part-time as a news reader for Channel 11 TV in Surat Thani.



The UK economy has enjoyed uninterrupted economic growth for the past 13 years, and this looks likely to continue.

When most financial commentators look at the UK's stock market, it is in terms of the Financial Times 100 Stock Exchange Index – the FTSE 100 or "Footsie". This index covers the largest 100 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. Not all of them are British, however, as they also include Australia's BHP Billiton and South Africa's Anglo American, SAB Miller and Old Mutual.

There is great interest in the Footsie now that it is over the 6,000 level, not far from the record high achieved on December 30, 1999, when the index almost reached 7,000. However, comparisons with the Footsie of more than five years ago are misleading – of the 100 companies listed in this index in 2000, only 32 are still members of the same index today.

The real money has been made in recent years in the "mid cap" FTSE 250 Index, and in the FTSE SmallCap Index, both of which have significantly outperformed the FTSE 100, and which have been reaching new record highs for some time.

Corporate profits overall have been good, and the British market is not overvalued. In general, with the trend that is sweeping many countries, merger mania is in full swing. Strong corporate balance sheets and – by historical standards – low, short and long interest rates are fueling the takeover boom.

One reason for the current wave of mergers and acquisitions is the realization that organic growth for many companies is a relatively slow process. Many UK firms want to expand their presence to become Europe-wide or even global. In such a scenario it is often necessary to become a predator to avoid becoming the prey. This situation is likely to continue for at least the whole of 2006. Globalization is a reality. Companies are mainly hold-

Britain not booming, but well balanced

ing on to their core assets and business activities. Conglomerates are out of fashion, and where they still exist, they are often selling off non-core assets to focus on primary business activities.

The UK economy has slowed, but it will probably still achieve 1.5% to 2.25% growth this year. This may not be exciting – maybe even boring – but for investors in the financial markets, at least it is not in an area where anything approaching a stock market crash is likely.

The residential housing market, which enjoyed huge gains in the late 1990s and early 2000s, began to cool in 2004, and many predicted a crash. But this never happened, and the outlook for 2006 appears positive. The optimism began when the Nationwide Building Society, the UK's second largest, predicted in December that the average national house price increase for

this year would be 3%.

Some of the larger London stockbroking firms were even more optimistic, expecting moves of up to 6%.

Last month, the President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Steve Williams, announced a prediction for growth in the residential sector of 4% to 5% this year. Maybe not boom times, but certainly in excess of the inflation rate.

Analysts have observed that significant purchases are being made by foreign buyers, especially in London and southeast England. This will help to keep consumer confidence levels in a reasonable condition, although the spending sprees of a few years ago are unlikely to be repeated in 2006. This is all to the good, as consumer indebtedness has been a cause for concern.

Short-term interest rates

vert to REITs, came as a very welcome step to the industry. Naturally, REITs operate in the commercial property sector, which is looking forward to a good 2006.

One of the factors supporting the commercial property sector in the UK is the Pensions Regulator. The government saw the damage that was inflicted to the pension fund industry by the stock market collapse of the early 2000s.

Now, the Regulator is forcing pension funds to strictly limit their exposure to stock markets. The alternatives – cash and bonds – are extremely unattractive, and the commercial property sector is increasingly becoming the best alternative.

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



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson


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Phuket team no softies

PHUKET: The Phuket Soft Tennis Club has come up trumps in the 22nd National Youth Sport Games, held in Lampang Province.

The games, held from March 19 to 30, saw the club bring home a bag of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Sakan Tansiroj won the title of "best sportsman" with three golds for the men's team competition, the men's doubles, and the mixed doubles, as well as a bronze in the men's open.

Asst Prof Nipon Jang-aiam, the President of the Phuket Soft Tennis Club, also won the Best Trainer prize.

PHUKET'S MEDAL HAUL:

GOLD:

Men's team: Itti Tansiroj, Sakan Tansiroj, Pakorn Niyom-adul,

Permyot Tansakul, Peeranat Promrak, Wutti Raktae-ngam

Men's doubles: Itti Tansiroj and Sakan Tansiroj

Mixed doubles: Sakan Tansiroj and Tanyapat Kongkaew

SILVER:

Women's team: Tanyapat Kongkaew, Paoleena Laksameesangchandra, Ruethairat Kuru, Chayanit Kongkaew, Pitchakorn Karnkanok

Men's singles: Pakorn Niyom-adul

Women's doubles: Tanyapat Kongkaew and Paoleena Laksameesangchandra

BRONZE:

Men's singles: Sakan Tansiroj

The 23rd National Youth Sports Games will held in March 2007 in Surat Thani Province.



Asst Prof Nipon Jang-aiam (2nd from left), President of Phuket Soft Tennis Club, was awarded the Best Trainer prize, while Sakan Tansiroj (right) took three golds and a bronze.

Practice makes permanent (and often that's not a good thing)

Are you one of those golfers who spend hours on the driving range, yet feel that you're not improving at the rate you should be? Do you sometimes go out onto the golf course with your golf buddy who never practices but succeeds in taking you to the cleaners?

It's hard to accept that someone who never practices can stand there and whack that ball straight down the middle of the fairway, whereas you, who spends hours on end working on your golf swing, end up with one of your balls in the trees.

If you do practice, but feel you're not improving, this is because you are going about it the wrong way. But take heart, you're not alone: I would say that more than 75% of golfers make the same mistake.

How many times have you heard people say, "Practice makes perfect"? Well it doesn't; Practice makes permanent.

Hitting hundreds of balls at the range is not practicing, it's merely beating balls.

For the average golfer, here's a how a practice session goes.

He arrives at the range and orders 100 balls. Without doing

any stretching exercises first, it's out with the 7-iron and off he goes. After a few shots he moves on to the 5-iron. He hits around 20 shots and all seems fine, and then he goes to the driver. His rhythm gets quicker and the balls starts to fly all over the place, then he hits one perfect shot straight down the middle and thinks he's found the answer – only to watch the next ball slicing off over the driving range fence.

The 100 balls are now finished, and his confidence is lower than when he started.

All that the golfer did was to practice a movement so many times that it became permanent. He can now stand there on the first tee and, without thinking about it, hit a big slice. On the range, he hit around 50 balls in a row with a driver; something he would never do on the golf course.

A golfer who slices the ball can stand on the tee, take his normal swing and slice the ball into the trees. But ask him to hook a ball, and he's completely lost, because he needs to use a swing which is new to him, and this is something he has never tried.

But were he to take a golf lesson to understand why he slices it – and what he needs to



TEE TIME

By David Holloway

do to cure it – then with a bit of practice he'll be cured.

There are a few reasons why golfers do not take lessons. One of them is the cost factor. Many golfers won't pay about US\$50 to improve their golf, but they think nothing of spending US\$500 for a new driver which guarantees them an extra 30 yards or so – generally 30 yards further into the trees.

Another reason is that many golfers do not like change; they know that their swings are not correct, but would rather carry on playing like that instead of changing things.

If you are a golfer who is happy with your game, and not really bothered about improving your handicap and scores are not important then that's fine, but this

column is not written for you.

Golfers who wish to improve their games can do so as long as they go the right way about it. Remember: practice will improve your game but bad practice will do the opposite.

Quality – not quantity – is the way to practice golf.

First you need to find a golf coach who suits you. The balance between coach and player is a bit like that between husband and wife.

Throughout my career I have had four coaches; my present coach is someone I liken to the husband and my golf swing his partner. My swing loves him and understands him. When things are not going the way they should, the coach picks me up again, and he puts confidence into my game. My coach and my swing are the ideal couple.

So it's so important to find a coach you get on with and can understand. You may have to try a few out first, but when you have found the right one, stick with him through both good times and bad. The longer you are with him, the more he will understand your golf.

If a football team has a bad season they sack the manager, not the players, and this sometimes happens after just a few games. The club will not wait until the end of the season, merely hoping things will get better. If you feel you are not improving then you need to change your coach.

Many golfers do not like to do this because they think their coach will be disappointed. That's not the case. A good pro would not want a pupil to stick with him if he wasn't happy. It's not that you do not rate him as a teacher, it's just the relationship isn't working. The most important person

is you, and it's you who wants to improve, so make sure you are with the correct coach.

Remember; you're not looking for a perfect golf swing, you're just trying to learn a swing on which you can rely. This, together with a good short game and a strong mental attitude, will cause your game to improve and your handicap will come down.

Ideally, you should take a lesson, then go and have three or four practice sessions alone before you take the next lesson. Make yourself a training plan and stick to it.

The great golfers around the world are just normal human beings. Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, Lee Westwood are all fantastic golfers. You hear so many people say that these guys have so much natural talent, but I disagree. If this was the case, then why do they still need to spend hours a day practicing? Why do they have their personal trainer with them as they travel around the world? And why do they not always play great golf?

Yes, they have some talent, but what they also possess is desire, persistence, dedication and imagination.

To become a good golfer you do not need an enormous amount of talent, and it doesn't matter how old you are. All golfers can get good at this game. With the right approach and lots of hard work you will be amazed at what you can achieve.

David Holloway turned pro golfer at the age of 17 and is a successful PGA Tour golfer and coach. Comments and questions can be sent direct to David at Email: davidholloway@golfingfife.com

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Top Test players for Phuket Sixes

KARON: Former England Test cricketers Adam Hollioake and Alan Mullally will take part in the Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes 2006 to be held from April 12 to 16 at the Karon Stadium.

Former England all-rounder Hollioake said, "I'm really looking forward to playing in the Phuket Sixes next month."

"It looks like it's going to be a fantastic place to spend a week playing cricket – although it might be a little less intense than playing at the Oval or in Sharjah."

Hollioake, 34, a former captain of the Surrey & England One-Day International (ODI) team in Sharjah and also the former coach of Hong Kong, retired from first-class cricket only two years ago. He played in four Test matches and 35 ODIs for England between 1996 and 1999.

He recently came out of retirement to play in a World XI against an Asian XI in a Twenty 20 charity match in aid of tsunami victims, played at London's famed Oval in June last year.

Alan Mullally, too, says he is looking forward to coming to Phuket. "With 28 teams from around the world playing, the Phuket Sixes is a pretty large international tournament. I'm really looking forward to the experience of playing cricket in Thailand."

Mullally, 36, a top left-arm seam bowler, played 19 Tests and 50 ODIs for England between 1996 and 2001.

He made his mark in ODIs, not so much for his penetration as for his accuracy. His economy rate was so good that at one time he was listed as the No 2 ODI bowler in the world.

"It's a real coup to have



Adam Hollioake: 'It looks like [Phuket is] going to be a fantastic place to spend a week playing cricket.'

cricketers of this caliber playing in the tournament," said Michael "Cat" Maher, Chairman of the Co-Organisers of the Asian Cricket Sixes Tour.

"The presence of players of this caliber is a great reflection on the amazing growth of the Phuket Cricket Sixes as an international cricket tournament since the first event just two years ago."

Also adding his support to the Phuket Sixes is former Australian Test batsman and regular competitor at the Phuket Sixes, Trevor Chappell, one of the three legendary Chappell brothers.

The Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes recently won a major award for the "Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative" from the International Cricket Council.

The competition features the popular, shortened version of cricket, said to be enjoyable for players and spectators alike.

It starts on April 12 at Karon Stadium, with the finals taking place the following Sunday.

A 20-over charity match will be played under floodlights at the Karon Stadium on April 15, from 6 pm, featuring all the tournament's top players.

Proceeds from the match will go towards the event's chosen local charity, Childwatch. Entrance for spectators is free and all are welcome to all the matches.

For further information about the Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes 2006, see the event website www.phuketsixes.com or contact Mark Burns, Media Director, Tel: +852 9636 5545 or email: media@phuketsixes.com



I thought it was pretty tough... A couple of runners analyze the race.

Schildknecht wins QSI run

KATHU: Richard Schildknecht won the 6.3-kilometer race in the fourth annual Quality Schools International (QSI) Phuket Fun Run at the Bang Wad Reservoir on April 1.

Schildknecht finished in a time of 22.17 minutes, ahead of Bunnam Ginlek and Dusit Tongyam. The first woman to finish, in 28.08 minutes, was Siriyakorn (no last name given), followed by Debbie and Teischa Jones.

There was also a 1-km race. About 100 people took part in the two events.

QSI Phuket won the school team trophy, with Dowroong Wittaya School second and British Curriculum International School third.

Zap Cat races for Phuket

AO CHALONG: Tony Knight of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced that on July 22 and 23, the ACYC will stage its "Speed Week", during which Thundercats, also known as Zap Cats, will race in the waters off Phuket.

Mr Knight said he expected the two Zap Cat races each day to provide a spectacle for onlookers. "These boats are raced in South Africa and Australia. They are capable of going 90kmh and they leap waves. Surf is not a

problem," he said. The boats are powered by twin 40-hp outboard engines.

The first race will see the Zap Cats race from Ao Chalong around Koh Maithon. "We'll see how it goes after that," said Mr Knight, adding that it was likely that all courses for the cats will be "long bursts".

He added that plans are also being laid for a multihull regatta, which he hopes will attract competitors from Koh Samui and Pattaya.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

March 28 results: Two Black Sheep 3 Queen Mary* 6; Shakers* 3 Piccadilly 6; Boss Bar 7 Dog's Bollocks* 2; Didi's* 8 Valhalla 1; Coyote Bar* 2 OffShore 7 (* winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Didi's (34 points.); 2.= Amigos, Queen Mary (29); 4.= OffShore, Dog's Bollocks (25); 6. Piccadilly (24);

7. Coyote Bar (23); 8. Valhalla (21); 9. Shakers (19); 10. Boss Bar (13); 11. Two Black Sheep (9).

April 11 fixtures: Two Black Sheep v Piccadilly; Shakers v Dog's Bollocks; Boss Bar v Queen Mary; Didi's v OffShore; Coyote Bar v Amigos. (Home team first).

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Spacious living in Bang Tao

Bangtao Tropical Residence will consist of just nine villas on a 4.5-rai plot of land 300 meters from the beach.

Each villa is being built in "modern Oriental" style, and will have 237sqm of indoor space, including three bedrooms, each with en-suite bathroom. The master bedroom will have a large bathtub. The bedrooms will also have separate personal dressing rooms and private balconies.

The living space on the ground floor is designed to provide flexible accommodation, say the developers.

The landscaped tropical gardens will vary in size from 600 square meters up to 744sqm. Each will have a swimming pool.

Construction started in January. Virote Ploysri, the Project Director, expects to sell all nine villas within six months.

"Our show house is now 60% complete, and I think when the customers come to see it they will be enthusiastic as other projects in this area are not built to such large dimensions as ours."

He added that the high quality of the construction materials

is also a selling point, with each house featuring teak windows, doors, balconies and stairs.

The modern Western-style kitchen design will be equipped with the latest appliances and a large preparation area.

The prices of the villas will range from 18.5 million to 19.6 million baht. The estate facilities will include an eight-meter-wide concrete road with landscaped verge and drainage; two direct external telephone lines per home, and water from Tambon Cherno Talay's public supply.

The project is within easy reach of Phuket International Airport and the Laguna complex, as well as three of the island's golf clubs – Banyan Tree, Mission Hills and Blue Canyon.

The project's developer is Residence Park Property, the contractor is Team Consultant Phuket & Building, and architecture is by Home One Design.

For more information, contact Residence Park Property, 100/316 Chalermprakit Ror 9 Rd, Phuket. Tel. 076-261772-3, 076-376236, www.phuket-andaman-tropical.com, Email: tcp_building@hotmail.com



Computer-generated images show, above, one of the houses, with the extensive bedroom balconies; below left, the 'flexible' living space; and below right, the spacious kitchen.



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PULLEEZE!

If you have a radio,
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Above, elegant 'spring' jar in calming gray shades.
Right, the Orange Spring is a top-seller.
Below; A bit of fun as a ceramic cat goes fishing.
All examples pictured available from Leo Wood.



Water wonderful world

The soothing effect of the sound of trickling water was well-known to the ancients. Ever since, Man has incorporated water features, both outside in the garden and inside the home, to add a feeling of freshness and atmosphere.

Having your own personal Niagara in the back yard may be somewhat extreme, but there are many options available locally that won't have you over a barrel.

Chokchai Charoen Karnka, next to Wat Thepnimit on Chao Fa East Rd, stocks different varieties of waterfall fixtures, either ready-made or to order. They are constructed from natural rock in three colors – black, white and brown. This company has been bringing them to Phuket from central Thailand for nearly a year.

At Chokchai Charoen Karnka You'll be tapped for anything up to 39,000 baht for your own deluge. Other models sell for 8,000 baht to 10,000 baht and more.

Larger models will, of course, be delivered to your door;

some even come with small trees and the local equivalent of garden gnomes in the West. And because of circulation pumps that recycle the water used in such features, you won't have to worry about leakage from your wallet.

If you feel a personal waterfall may be going slightly over the top, you could, of course, take the rapid decision to go for something small and more discreet. Anything spring to mind? Exactly: a trickle instead of a torrent.

After a hard day at the office, when you may feel tense and coiled and just wanting to unwind, coming home to a spring can soothe the soul – and maybe even add bounce to domesticity.

A spring can make you feel lively, and you can project your personality through your choice of the many designs and colors available. Many Chinese believe that a spring can be as good for business as it is for your health – its circulation complements your own, and its presence is also a sign that your money will remain in the pipeline, so to speak.

To locate the source, drive from Phuket City to the Dow-

roong Wittaya School on Chao Fa East Rd; the shop is past the school on your right, near the traffic lights at the T-junction. Look for the sign "Leo Wood" out front, and you've found it. The shop is open daily, and it also installs the product in your home, without charging for delivery.

Popular choices here include the Glitter Spring for 8,500 baht, and the colorful Orange Spring costing 9,000 baht. The top-of-the-range offering at this shop is the Dragon Spring, made from Grade-A ceramics. For this one, expect to pay 20,000 baht. It is from Ratchaburi, famous for its pottery.

For indoor use, smaller models cost from as little as 1,500 baht. Put one under the staircase, and then you'll really be able to say you have a spring in your step.

For more information about Leo Wood, which is open from 8:30 am to 6 pm, contact K. Panarat at Tel: 01-5378455. For Chokchai Charoen Karnka waterfalls, contact K. Thaptim at Tel: 09-1955863. This shop is open daily from 9 am to 7 pm.

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

The ways of local government are a mystery to nearly everyone. Perhaps even those who actually sit in hallowed halls for weekly meetings are equally baffled as to what they're doing.

I don't think it matters what country you are in – local government decisions often don't make any sense at all.

The logic of Phuket's municipal councils likewise eludes me. These people really do take the cake for making strange moves.

I've been watching with interest the development around the Darasamut Intersection, near Central Festival Phuket, where a few months ago they decided to rip up all the trees and vegetation in the median strip.

Giving them the benefit of the doubt, I thought perhaps that they were planning to build one of those huge storm drain things in the middle of the new road, like they have outside Big C.

But no. What have they done? Trucked in tons of soil, dumped it and covered it in new grass, which – despite the downpours late last month – will now struggle to take root at the height of the dry season. Why? What was so offensive about the well-established grass or the old trees that were there before?

"They have to go," somebody in the higher echelons of Phuket's administration obviously decided during a meeting. So they went, bulldozed in just one day. Maybe things will return to normal in a few years.

They did exactly the same at Nai Harn Lake. What must have been millions of baht were spent on ripping out all the exist-



The sea hibiscus grows well in sandy soil and tolerates salty air. It grows wide, providing lots of shade.

BEACH TREE

ing plants – including some spectacular trees – to be replaced by a sterile-looking path round the lake, dotted with trees that look as if they were bought from a bargain-basement tree nursery. What used to be a gorgeous, natural-looking area now looks like the promenade at Bournemouth on the south coast of England.

For anyone not from the UK, the implication here is that it now looks extremely boring – all character has been unceremoniously removed. What were these people thinking? Maybe they actually like the idea of part of Thai-

land looking like Bournemouth.

In both areas, they could have been a lot more imaginative with the trees they decided to plant. A perfect option would have been the sea hibiscus. The official name is *hibiscus tiliaceus*, but I'll stick to sea hibiscus for now. Australians call it the cottonwood.

The sea hibiscus is a distinctive tree, native to the shores of the Pacific and Indian oceans, but today naturalized throughout tropical and subtropical regions – particularly in



coastal areas. It is grown mainly as an ornamental tree for landscaping, although its wood, bark and flowers are used for various other purposes elsewhere in the world.

It can grow to a height of up to 10 meters, becoming very wide if not pruned. It is a common tree along the coast in its native and naturalized habitats, where it is found near watercourses, mangrove swamps and estuaries, often forming dense, impenetrable thickets covering enormous areas.

For this reason, the sea hibiscus is perfect for moist, sandy soils, although it will also grow well under drier conditions and in a variety of soils. It can also stand brackish water and is tolerant of salt spray. If this isn't one of the trees that they should have planted around the lake at Nai Harn, I don't know what is.

The sea hibiscus is particularly ornamental, with large heart-shaped leaves, which are hairy underneath. These leaves are usually dark green, but there are also varieties that have variegated or purplish foliage. The hibiscus-like flowers are bright yellow with a crimson center, usually point-

ing downward or slightly sideways.

The flowers are about 10 to 15 centimeters wide when fully open, and like most hibiscus species, usually last only a single day. After blooming they fall off at the end of the day or the next morning, when you can see lots of day-old flowers scattered on the ground beneath the plant.

The sea hibiscus can be propagated from seed or cuttings. Since its seeds are normally dispersed via water in the wild, they benefit from soaking in warm fresh water for 24 hours or so before planting. Filing the back of the seed with an emery board or sandpaper before soaking is also helpful, but don't go as far as the tender embryo inside the seed.

After soaking, the seeds can be planted in coconut husk compost available in small white sacks, which should be kept moist. Seedlings will usually emerge in a week or two. They should receive plenty of light from the start. The seedlings can reach between 60cm and 80cm tall in the first year, and will grow very quickly after that if planted in good soil and kept well-watered, although they may take a few years to mature and flower.

If this seems like too much hard work, cuttings are probably the most sensible way to propagate the *hibiscus tiliaceus*, since plants grown from cuttings will usually have exactly the same look as the original plant; they are clones, after all. Cuttings appear to root faster if two or three leaves are left on.

The sea hibiscus is a fast-growing tree that is best suited to the garden, although it can be kept in containers if properly pruned and potted up as necessary. It can also be grown successfully as a bonsai.

This plant prefers full sun. It can be grown indoors if placed by a window where it receives much direct sunlight, preferably in the morning, but it may be difficult to get it to flower indoors. Elsewhere in the world, it's frequently planted as a street tree because it has such a dense, shady canopy.

I know I'll never understand local governments. I do have a suggestion for the esteemed leaders who make decisions in the Nai Harn area, however.

Perhaps they should contact like-minded individuals in Bournemouth, and swap ideas. They'd get on well. I can see it now on road signs at the southern end of the island – "Nai Harn – proudly twinned with Bournemouth". Scary.

Want to know more
about a plant
in your garden?

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

Airy spaciousness near the beach

In a quiet Nai Harn street, behind an intriguing white door and gray façade with yellow trim, lies this delightful three-bedroom, three-bathroom home set in a lush garden with swimming pool and charming thatched-roof sala.

This property, in a private setting, features a spacious open-plan living and dining area, with large glass doors opening onto the garden.

The adjoining kitchen has black granite counter tops, white cabinets and all the necessary equipment including dishwasher, microwave, gas cook-top and oven.

There is ample overhead and below-bench storage space and good ventilation.

The three large bedrooms have individual en-suite bathrooms, one featuring a full-size bath. All are bright and cheerful with floor-to-ceiling ceramic tiles, quality sanitaryware and granite vanity units with timber cabinets.

On a lower level is a study and a laundry, as well as a guest bathroom off the living areas.

Flooring is of light-colored marble, ensuring cool comfort underfoot on even the hottest of days. The house also has ceiling fans and air conditioning.

The color scheme is complemented by large doors and windows in white powder-coated aluminum, stepped ceilings finished with patterned cornices, terracotta tiling and multi-toned sand-wash terraces.

The exterior is painted light gray, with attractive orange concrete roof tiles and roof gutters all round. The 700-square-meter garden is well-landscaped, with palm trees and wide steps leading from the patio to the pool terrace and garden.

A two-car garage fronts directly onto the street.

Facilities include telephone, well water and septic tank.



Nai Harn is popular with foreign home owners, investors and holiday-makers.

The area boasts a wide variety of cafés, restaurants, bars, boutique shops and bakeries, and Nai Harn Beach is just a short drive away.

This nicely presented residence, a new listing, would be ideal either as a home or as a rental investment property. The land title is Chanote, and the property is on the market at 13 million baht.

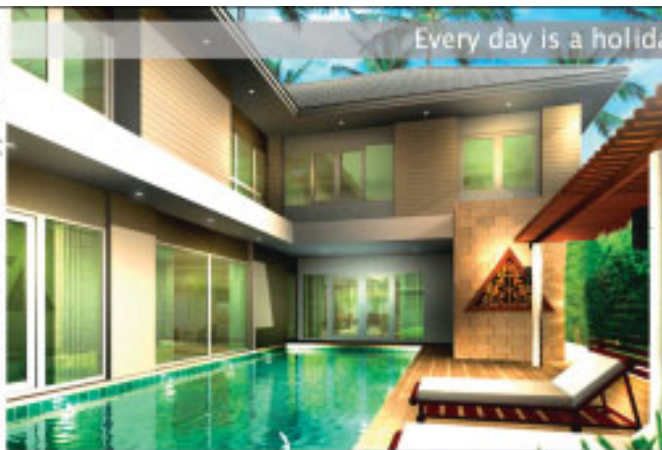
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The Beach Boulevard. A smart move in Paradise
These luxury boutique hotel-style guesthouses are designed specifically for sale to discerning investors looking for a property with potential in the Kata Beach area. The project is being developed and 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.
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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NAI YANG - PHUKET

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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

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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).

RAWAI CONDOS

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

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



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Knight Frank



Laguna Townhome Phase 1

We sold this property within days of it appearing in the Phuket Gazette. The capital appreciation being achieved in the Laguna development in our opinion will continue their sharp climb, as too will rental values.



Laguna Townhome Phase 1

Within hours of this townhome settling, we received an offer for long-term rental, giving the new owners an immediate rental return on their investment.



Laguna "Chaba" Villa

Within the same day of the purchaser inspecting this property (managed by Knight Frank) we sold it. Located in Phase 1, a highly sought-after area for rentals and sales, the owners had achieved an outstanding capital gain, negotiated on their behalf by Knight Frank Phuket.



Laguna "Banburi" Villa

Our instructions on this sale were crystal clear, "bring me the best offer" Indeed, that's just what we did - and not just one offer, but 2 at the same time. We continue to receive strong inquiries for 2-story residences for both rental and sales, and transact them very quickly after listing.



Laguna Townhome Phase 1

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Property Gazette

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5 RAI - RAWAI

2.7 million baht per rai. Good area. Perfect for small development. Roads, 3-phase electricity, water. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

3 RAI - RAWAI

3.2 million baht per rai. Central Rawai. Good area of nice homes. Road, electricity, water. Please contact. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

19 RAI SEA VIEW

land with Chanote title and Chalong Bay view. 2 million baht a rai. Tel: 06-7406156.

NAI HARN SEA VIEW

7 rai, stunning view. 4.8 million baht a rai. Please call 06-1202625.

Properties For Rent

STUNNING SEA VIEW



A villa with 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a maid's room. Location: Cape Yamu, elevated, east coast, providing some of prettiest views on Phuket. Furnished, Internet, a pool and gardens in a very quiet, exclusive estate, 10 minutes to BCIS/Laguna. Asking only 80,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-279-6283.

VILLA FOR RENT



200sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, pool, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Nai Harn. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8896074.

FUENG FAH CONDO

Fully furnished room for rent in a quiet area, near Dowroong School. With an air conditioner, bed, dresser, fridge, washing machine and hot water. 5 minutes from Phuket City. Only long term rent. Asking 7,500 baht per month. Please contact the owner. Tel: 04-0586086. Email: tabbychiro26@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR RENT



275sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedroom, Fully furnished, Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8896074.

RENT MY BEACH

house. The one and only beachfront house directly on Kamala Beach; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths; fully furnished; aircon in bedrooms, fans throughout; full Western amenities. Available for rent immediately. Price dependent on length of lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-894-3839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

RAWAI CONDO

for lease. Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 150,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

KAMALA VILLA

for rent. Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking a swimming pool and landscaped gardens. Stunning sea views only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Minimum 3-month rental. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-385305, 07-8989741.

LARGE SUITES

in Chalong. Furnished studio suites with a rooftop spa pool. Aircon, WiFi Internet, satellite TV, kitchenette, hot water shower, housekeeping. From 9,500 baht/month long term. Tel: 01-8938592, 06-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

UNCLE CHAI



Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. 1 bedroom. Long lease preferable. Average 15,000 baht per month. Chalong Area. Tel: 01-4926883. www.unclechaihome.com

FOR RENT IN RAWAI



Soi Suksan 2, beautiful villas of 220sqm in a quiet resort. Asking only 32,000 baht per month, electricity not included. For long-term rent, minimum 1 month, maximum 6 months. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, TV, UBC, ADSL, aircon, swimming pool. Tel: 07-2678389. Please see our website at: www.christianesblue.com

BIG SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

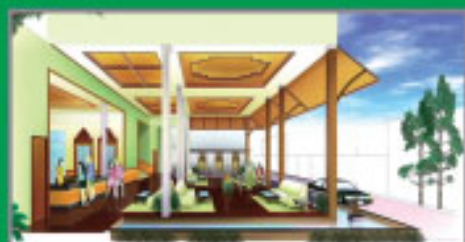
Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180 sqm on 2 open-space floors. Suitable for commercial purposes, unfurnished. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 500-600 sqm, 2 kms from Natai Beach. Suitable for office, showroom, commercial purposes. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-9707019. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

SHOP, RESTAURANT,
bungalows. We have 5 new bungalows in Phra Ae (hot water, aircon and fan) built in tropical gardens. Shop and restaurant adjacent. 20-year lease already paid. Can extend lease further. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 09-2095268. Email: jutsa_mt@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH
seafront apartment. Aspasia 5-star luxury 1-bedroom furnished apartment. Spa, pools and ADSL. In a very quiet area. 30,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017. For further details, please see our website at: www.koumbele.com/1br

BEACHFRONT
condo. Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short- or long-term. Tel: 01-8920038.

LAKE HOUSE
New, in Kamala. Fully furnished, has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 baht a month. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8928208.

RAWAI STUDIO
condo. Rent empty or furnished. 3,000 to 4,000 baht per month. Close to 7-Eleven & Laem Ka Beach. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-4740227.

BUNGALOWS FOR LEASE

Fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, good surroundings, safe, 2-3 bedrooms, price 18,000 - 22,000 baht per month. Chalong Bay. Tel: 01-6064279.

Property Wanted

WANTED TO RENT

3-bedroom house within 15 minutes of the British Curriculum International School. Must be in good condition. Preference given to good views and garden. Minimum of 6 months rent, possibly up to one year. Tel: 01-5398118.

WANTED FOR RENT

I would like to rent a 2-bedroom apartment in Patong, Kamala or Karon for 3 months from December. Please forward full details. Tel/Fax: 144-6409546. Email: t.walsh193@ntlworld.com

CONDOMINIUM

I am looking for a condominium (studio, 1 or 2 bedrooms) in Patong to buy freehold. Purchase can be made quickly. I am able to pay up to 2 million baht. Please contact at Email: feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk


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Accommodation Available

ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Standard room just 6,000 baht per month or 500 baht per day. Deluxe room is 8,500 baht per month or 700 baht per day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH

from the middle of April we start our low season discounts. Southern Fried Rice, possibly the best-equipped guesthouse in the area, has seven beautifully-decorated rooms all with aircon, fan, fridge TV and safe. Also balcony room facing the beach. The guesthouse has wireless Internet, five computers are at our guests' disposal and at no charge. Room rates: daily 500-1,200 baht; monthly 12,000 - 30,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Please visit www.southernfriedrice.com

ROOM FOR RENT IN THE CITY

Unlimited Internet access. Fully furnished including fridge, TV, cable TV, aircon, hot water, car park and common kitchen. 6,000 baht/mth. Taitan Court. Please contact. Tel: 076-243118, 09-188-5300. Email: passakorn_hongsyok@yahoo.com For further details, please visit at www.taitancourt.com

KAMALA

guesthouse. Serviced rooms. Close to beach. Aircon, TV, fridge, balcony, WiFi Internet. Daily rate 600 baht. Bar open all day. Tel: 07-9372574. Email: phuket4u2@yahoo.co.uk

NICE, 2-BEDROOM

house in Kata for rent for 1 year from May 1. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 aircons, ADSL, etc. 10,000 baht per month, prepaid. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0633185. Email: svein@byggguiden.no

KO KAE PISADAN

Off Laem Promthep, bungalows, camping. Tel: 09-594-4017. Please see our website at www.kokaeopisadan.com

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

110sqm apartment, with 10sqm balcony, in Patong. Large sunken living/dining area, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Fully built-in kitchen, storeroom. Standard all aircon, Tel, UBC, WiFi, etc. 20,000 baht a month for long term (preferred). Tel: 04-1858536.

KATHU LAKE VIEW

bungalows. One of Phuket's finest accommodations, in Kathu near Loch Palm golf course and right next to a crystal-clear lake located in beautiful and quiet natural surrounding. Offered for long- and short-term lease with all comforts and facilities... rooms, bungalows and a luxurious apartment. Tel: 076-2031034, 01-8945310. Fax: 076-203102. Email: savary@loxinfo.co.th

Accommodation Wanted

VACATION RENTAL

3-4 bedrooms, 2-3 bathrooms, Chalong, Rawai, Kata areas. Tel: 076-281109, 09-8681823.

WANT TO RENT

house or apartment. We will come to Phuket in March or April next year and stay for 4 weeks. We want to rent a house or apartment in Kata or nearby. Not over 30,000 baht a month. Email: jensjoberg@hotmail.com

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Dry ice blasting
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Liquid-film protection

Household Items

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Cooler counter for display, 1.5m wide. Mint condition. 6 months old, still under warranty. New price: 55,000 baht. Now 40,000 baht. Tel: 05-7844305. Email: pommer@home.se

WASHING MACHINE

Samsung Tornado 5.5kg. Only 20 months old and in excellent condition. 4,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-8512878. Email: nussbandit@hotmail.com

FRIDGE 1 DOOR

New commercial, glass front, 6 ft high, never used, very cheap. 15,000 baht. Tel: 07-0170135.

WANTED: USED

television. Would like to buy a used television that is in good condition. Tel: 06-5358409. Email: mauritson@gmail.com

LEATHER LOUNGE

5-piece corner unit, brand-new, excellent quality, mustard color. Tel: 07-0170135.

BEDS + MATTRESSES

8 brand-new single beds. Cheap: 10,000 baht for the lot. Tel: 07-0170135.

FRIDGE 2 DOOR

Glass front commercial, 6ft high, good condition. Tel: 07-0170135.

THAI TRIANGULAR

pillows. Several Thai-style triangle pillows with 2 square cushions attached. Each one was handmade in Isarn. A couple in better condition than the others. Selling due to moving overseas. 250-800 baht each. Tel: 04-8512878. Email: nussbandit@hotmail.com

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THAI MARINE leisure

YACHT SALES & PURCHASES

Sailing Yachts

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------------------------------|------|-----------|
| 65 Ft | 1993 | Penahu Penisi | Euro | 150,000 |
| 65 Ft | 1993 | Indonesia Penisi | US\$ | 125,000 |
| 63 Ft | 1993 | Wooden Penisi Ketch | Euro | 85,000 |
| 61 Ft | 1991 | Custom 61' | Euro | 380,000 |
| 60 Ft | New | Eleuthera | Euro | 831,600 |
| 47 Ft | 1974 | S&S, Alu Sloop | US\$ | 160,000 |
| 47 Ft | 1992 | Searose Cat | US\$ | 280,000 |
| 47 Ft | 1997 | Beneteau Oceanis 481 | US\$ | 198,000 |
| 46 Ft | 1997 | Oceanis 46' | US\$ | 198,000 |
| 43 Ft | 1994 | Beneteau Oceanis 430 | THB | 4,500,000 |
| 42 Ft | 1987 | Westail 42 | Euro | 60,000 |
| 40 Ft | 1991 | Steel Sloop | US\$ | 90,000 |
| 39 Ft | 1983 | Astilleros Barrera | Euro | 39,500 |
| 38 Ft | 2003 | 2x Athena 38 with management | US\$ | 225,000 |
| 37 Ft | 1988 | Gibsea 372 | US\$ | 85,000 |
| 36 Ft | 1974 | Pearson 36 | US\$ | 49,500 |
| 31 Ft | TBA | Steel hull 31' | Euro | 50,000 |

Motor Yacht

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------------------------------|------------------|------|-----------|
| 121 Ft | NEW | Motor Launch | Hino x 3 engines | US\$ | 4,000,000 |
| 63 Ft | 1997 | Hatteras Copy 2 x 280 hp Cummins | | THB | 7,050,000 |
| 58 Ft | 2003 | Deever 58' | 2x225HP | US\$ | 799,000 |
| 54 Ft | 1995 | Bayliner 4788 | Hino 2x310 Hp | US\$ | 299,000 |
| 24 Ft | Rigid | AB Inflatable Boat | | Euro | 24,000 |
| 18 Ft | 2000 | Skip Jack 18 | Yamaha, 2x85 Hp | THB | 750,000 |



Athena 38'
Available with management deal and charter package.
For sale at US \$225,000



Custom 61'
Vessel in pristine condition. Owner is purchasing a bigger one.
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Capacity: 200,000 liters. Length: 26m, Beam: 5.5m. Thai registered, ready to move. 2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-244820, 01-8912333. Fax: 076-223-237. Email: tailor@loxinfo.co.th

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20ft, inflatable fiberglass hull, Yamaha engine 40hp, steering control, trailer, in good condition. Only 150,000 baht. Please contact David Soh for more information. Tel: 074-731-198.

BAYLINER 4788

1995 model, Thai registered, nicely refurbished, equipped for game fishing, in excellent condition with full electronics package. Please contact Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

AZIMUT 55, 2002

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Senior Office Manager: this position requires minimum 5 years experience with good problem solving and people skills.

Accountant: working with our bookkeeping service, this position requires good experience in general accounting and bookkeeping.

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Sous Chef / Junior Sous Chef
Indian Cuisine Chef

Engineering

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Housekeeping

Assistant Executive Housekeeper
Housekeeping Attendant

Qualifications Required:

- Thai nationality
- Fluent spoken and written English (depending on position applied for)
- Computer skills (depending on position applied for)
- Minimum 3 years' experience (depending on position applied for)

Interested persons are invited to send a detailed resumé and qualifications to:

Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort

155 Moo 2, Baan Klong Muong, Nong Thale, Muang, Krabi 81000
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1. Executive Secretary 1 Position

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor or master's degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literacy and administrative skills
- Able to work under pressure and handle lots of contact with parents

2. Assistants to Head of Maintenance 2 Positions (System Division)

- Male / Age between 27-35 years
- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering or related field
- Minimum 3 years' experience in related field

3. Maintenance staff 4 Positions

- Male / Age between 22-35 years
- Thai national
- Diploma in technical or related field
- Minimum 1 year experience in related field

4. Store staff 1 Position

- Male / Age between 22-35 years
- Thai national
- Diploma or higher in accounting
- Experience in related field preferable

5. Teaching Assistant 2 Positions

- Thai national • University degree
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office
- A high level of English fluency
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care / teaching preferable

Please send a short letter of application and CV with a recent photo or apply in person to
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 or E-mail: ubonvadeer@bcis.ac.th



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| | |
|--|--|
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| Waiter & Waitress (3-5 positions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good English skills • Salary 6,000 baht/month | |

Please contact. Tel: 01-6766214

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Lawyer, accountant. Send resumé to the email below. Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

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FINANCIAL MANAGER

World Concern, an international relief and development organization, will hire a Thai national who must be qualified to supervise and manage all financial, accounting transactions and monitor records and exchanges and advise on financial planning for our tsunami-related project located in Phang Nga. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-423757. Email: yohuncp@gmail.com

THAI MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team as massage practitioners. Women certified in Thai massage and willing to learn about other massages – full training given – should call Janpen for more information. Tel: 076-338502, 09-6518885.

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Island Job Mart

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd. is the developer of Cape Yamu, The Yamu Hotel and The Bay project. Cape Yamu and The Bay are two exclusive luxury residential property developments on Phuket's East Coast. With our unique peninsula setting, stunning architecture and the recent announcement of our 5 star boutique hotel project.

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our growing business:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
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| Site Secretary | 1 Position |
| Admin Secretary | 1 Position |
| M & E Engineer | 1 Position |
| Quantity Surveyor | 1 Position |
| P/A to Director | 1 Position |
| Interior Designer Coordinator | 1 Position |
| Procurement Secretary | 1 Position |

Please send your CV to Human Resources Department
28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasatthi Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
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Send your resume with recent photo to: info@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)
12/39 Moo 2, Thepkasatthi Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-238081 / Web site: www.TheParadise.biz

PHUKET **CBRE**
CB RICHARD ELLIS

We are looking to recruit high-caliber personnel to fill the following position.

Villa Rental Reservations Officer:

- Thai national
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good vibrant personality
- Enjoy meeting people
- Experience in dealing with customers via e-mail
- Computer literate
- Skills in PhotoShop is an advantage

Property Manager/Estate Manager:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in Business Administration, Hotel Management or related field
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in operations and planning of office buildings, condominiums, apartments is an advantage
- Excellent written and spoken English

Please apply in person or send your CV to:

CBRE CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd. 12/8 Moo 4, Thepkasatthi Rd., T. Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000, Tel: 076-239957
Fax: 076-239971, Email: wanpen.duangjit@cbre.com

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

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

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 for more information. Tel: 09-973-3276.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with good English skills, based in either Rawai or Patong. Can be part time. Tel: 06-2790837.

RESTAURANT STAFF

needed. Hiring: pizza cook; waiting staff; bartender; cooks; manager. Great pay. Will train. Tel: 076-388681. Email: j.r.vinton@gmail.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Secretary wanted for expanding lighting business. English, computing and basic accounting skills a must. Salary based on experience. Tel: 076-270660, 01-9700805. Fax: 076-270662. Email: robin@avcphuket.com

STAFF REQUIRED

Our clients seek staff w/ good English and bright personality to fill the following positions:

1. Project Manager: 25-35,000 baht
2. Exe. Admin: 20-27,000
3. Senior HR: 25-30,000
4. Senior Accountant: 30-45,000.

Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-264442, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-264-443. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

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.

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 or visit us at www.destinationair.com

Island Job Mart

The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. SENIOR ARTIST

II. ARTIST

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop and Dreamweaver required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ English speaker

III. DISTRIBUTION MARKETING PERSON

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ Reasonable command of written and spoken English
- ▶ PC experience in Word, Excel & Internet
- ▶ Good administrator
- ▶ Must have own car and driver's license

IV. IT OFFICER

- ▶ Bachelor's degree in computer science, electronics or a related field
- ▶ Knowledge of using, installing and troubleshooting PCs, servers, networks
- ▶ Knowledge of HTML, using Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe PageMaker
- ▶ Good skills in providing technical support to end user
- ▶ Ability to work independently with little supervision
- ▶ Dedicated, friendly, follows direction well, hard-working and team-player attitude

V. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076-213971 Email: fon@phuketgazette.net

PERSONAL ASST/ MARKETING

Thai national. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. This is a varied and exciting position working with the Director of Marketing of three of Phuket's top restaurants promoting both locally and internationally. Excellent computer skills and graphic design experience in advertising, brochures, flyers etc and some knowledge of website design would be an advantage. Sales experience would also be an asset. Excellent salary package will be based on experience. Email: sue@baanrimpa.com

HOTEL

reservations.

- Male/female, Thai national.
- Experienced in hotel reservations or hotel industry.
- Computer literate and fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability with other languages an advantage.

Tel: 076-292801. Fax: 076-292808. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.avantika-phuket.com

SECRETARY

- Female, Thai national, age not over 35.

- Experienced in secretarial and administrative functions.
- Computer literate and fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

Please send your CV and photo or contact for more information. Tel: 076-292801. Fax: 076-292808. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com For more information, please see our website at: www.avantika-phuket.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.

URGENT: OFFICE

Assistant. Female, experienced in reservations & marketing, with spoken and written English. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-254523, 06-9516695.

TEFL LANGUAGE

school. Service and hotel staff needed now. Certificate Course plus on-the-job training. Learn Thai, English, Russian, French, and many more languages. Take the 120-hour International TEFL Certificate, approved by the Ministry of Education. Monday April 3, 2006. Improve your life, improve your business. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-219241, 076-219251. Please see our website at: www.teflschool.com

CASHIER

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

Employment Wanted

A NURSE FROM BANGKOK

Seeking a job in Phuket. 5 years' experience, now working. Please contact for full details. Email: bijorakan@yahoo.com

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.

DIGITAL MICROWAVE

Must sell, moving from Phuket. Very good condition, bought it 2 months ago. Only 3,500 baht. Tel: 09-8649957.

ORCHIDS

Beautiful handmade artificial orchids. Last forever, different sizes. Very good price. Please contact Khun Nong. Tel: 04-1898419. Email: albertjames1940@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE

LG front-loading washing machine: 1 year old with 5-year warranty. Stainless-steel drum. Best offer. Contact for more info. Tel: 04-0543719. Email: andrewfeatherstone@yahoo.ca

THE PERFECT GOLF

swing. I have for sale a brand-new Medicus flexi club used to perfect your golf swing. Can be used at home without hitting balls, a great invention for reducing your handicap and improving your game. 3,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8507170. Email: rooke_simon@hotmail.com

MESSAGE TABLE

Portable Athlagen massage table. Excellent condition with adjustable legs. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-8512878. Email: nussbandit@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

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 36 rai, 200m. Beach front, 80 villas totaling 120 rooms. Tel: 07-8896074.

EXCLUSIVE

restaurant on Koh Lanta. 56 seats, bar, pool table. In a major entertainment area on the main road. 9½ years left on lease 2½ years paid up front. Low monthly lease. Urgent sale. 2.4 million baht ono. Tel: 01-0989870. Email: jari12se@yahoo.com

2 GUESTHOUSES

in Patong. 4 and 6 rooms, snooker, bar/restaurant. 1.2 and 1.3 million baht. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

RESTAURANT

for sale. Good location in Phuket City, big room and kitchen, fully furnished. 32 seats, 9 tables and 10-year contract. Tel: 09-2911386.

BAR ON BANGLA

Located on famous Soi Bangla. Best location. 4.5 million baht. Contract until November 2009. Tel: 07-2822917. Email: calle@bajen.com

LARGE SUCCESSFUL

Established bar in Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. 5-year lease. Tel: 09-8677969.

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 for more information. Tel: 06-7430978.

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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-383240, 01-4154883. Fax: 076-383240. Email: info@r-armanitailor.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

WA-JUNG-DAI



(Isarn restaurant) for sale, Thai-style, Chao Fa East road, close to Mook Phuket store. Please contact K. Laddawan. Price 200,000 baht. Tel: 01-1768404.

BAR FOR SALE

Soi Dongtan. Refurbished. Good figures. No key money. Lease paid until December 2006. Tel: 06-8528256. Email: misterkai4@yahoo.com.au

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

RESTAURANT

for rent. Good location, 1km to Nai Harn Beach, including kitchen equipment. Tel: 06-9474494, 01-5365416.

DISCOTHEQUE 500 SQM

Central Patong. Qualified foreign management. Fast ROI. Seeking 6 million baht investment. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9684541. Email: j_vpartners@hotmail.com

FITNESS CENTER

for sale. Phuket's the best personal training center boasts an enviable client base, an active waiting list and has developed a reputation for quality. Superbly equipped, over 3 stories. Contact for full details. Tel: 01-0880422. Email: alun@vitagroup.net

SMALL HOTEL FOR SALE



Beautiful, 8 bedrooms, coffee shop, located in the center of Karon. 9.8 million baht. Tel: 01-1719705. Email: atatayap@yahoo.com

INVEST NOW

Are you interested in a Disco business in Patong? Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-7975977. Email: make@thaicard.net

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

MINIMART FOR SALE



In good condition with full equipment. Can start trading immediately. Only 450,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740790, 06-6642297.

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 for more information. Tel: 01-082-0039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan_75@hotmail.com



NO 1 VISA

and accounting. Visa service for Thais and foreigners. Accounting, auditing, work permits and company formation. Best prices in Phuket- with guarantee! Tel: 076-280447, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@no1visa.com

Business Products & Services

VISA TRIP TO RANONG

Double-decker tour bus (not minibus), toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extra to pay, fully inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. Tel: 04-7457024.

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castles and slides for children's parties. 7 models to choose. Please contact for further details. Tel: 01-8939742. Email: zimbo@netuigator.com Please see our website at: www.phuketjumpingcastles.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

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. Tel: 09-2898628.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nice office located in a business area. 50sqm, fully furnished with all office equipment and ready to start. 1.8 million baht. Company car is available if required. Tel: 09-8750017. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex: 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock, and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Call after 5 pm. Tel: 03-1753996.

SMALL RESTAURANT

Nanai Rd, Patong. Internet, bar, 2 bedrooms, 480,000 baht. Please contact. Email: thomaspatong@gmx.de

FOR SALE

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. 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. Serious inquiries only please. If you do not go, enjoy what you are presently doing. You will probably be doing it forever. Contact Derrick. Tel: 02-262 9287, 01-7543731. Fax: 02-6611148. Email: derrickturnbull@yahoo.com

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For all your accounting needs in Thai and English:

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Please contact Mam or Gun for more info. Tel: 076-313-137, 09-4744637. Email: admin@aplusplussoftware.com

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Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Free pick-up and delivery. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail_carpet@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at: www.mister-carpet.com

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NOVOTEL PHUKET

Health club membership, new tennis court, fitness center. Swimming pools, sauna & weight training. Other privileges: Tae-Bo kickboxing, Aqua Exercise & Aerobic Class. Pay 15,000 baht for 1 year. No membership fee. Tel: 076-342777 ext. 2135.

Computers

PC LAPTOP HITACHI

Price: 14,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-8605713.

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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Experienced Thai language teacher with comprehensive English skills available to tutor all levels. Tel: 01-0135136.

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Handmade carpets, kilims & real pashmina shawls (we can wash & repair too). Tel: 07-8187591. Email: jkashmiry@hotmail.com

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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

Personals

EDUCATED GUY

If you are a cute and warm lady seeking a neat guy, please email with pics. I am also caring, romantic and decent. Email: forrish2000@yahoo.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 information. Tel: 076-280420, 09-875-8691. Fax: 076-280420. Email: info@riverrovers.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 Please see our website at: www.fun-dating-thailand.com

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

Pets

NEWBORN PUPPIES

Puppies looking for a new, loving home:

- Rottweiler (6 boys, 4 girls)
- Lhasa Apso Shih Tzu Toy (3 boys)
- Siberian Husky (4 boys, 3 girls)

If interested please contact Master Jay for photos and more info. Tel: 01-272-2629, 09-5916280. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

FREE DOG, NEUTERED

under 1 year. Location 55/146 Soi 2 Chao Fa Rd. Good with children. Nice golden coat. Attractive and healthy. Owner moving to Bangkok Tel: 07-2719414. Email: pritchah@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR A SIRE

I have a 10-year-old bitch cocker, and I am looking for a male cocker dog to sire cocker pups. If you have a male cocker and would like to share, please contact me. Tel: 09-6451953. Email: ratcha_2001@yahoo.com

PLEASE HELP ME!

Alice is a 2-year-old bitch who was thoughtlessly abandoned at Nai Harn Beach a year ago. She is an exceptionally gentle and friendly dog – now sterilized – who would greatly appreciate becoming part of a family. If you can give Alice a home before the next poisonings, we would be very thankful. Please call Tel: 09-8682563 if you are genuinely interested.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Two neutered female cats around 6 months old. Prefer not to split but will if necessary. Expat must return home soon. Email: archiedixon@hotmail.co.uk

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Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

NISSAN ALMERA 2002



1800cc, red, automatic, leather seats. Only 20,000 km. The car stands out as new. Driven for 4 years by lady, never in an accident. 400,000 baht down payment, the remaining 320,000 paid in monthly installments over 2 years. Tel: 01-8941175.

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Only 3 years old, 3.0L, black, auto, 35,000km. Price new: 1.65 million baht. Asking 1.1 million baht. Tel: 07-267-8389.

MIRA 105,000 BAHT

Daihatsu Mira, metallic green, good condition, very economical. Only 105,000 baht. Tel: 01-2712825.

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Metallic green with beige leather interior. 17" rims with brand new Yokohama tires. The car is in excellent condition, serviced by authorized dealer in Bangkok. 480,000 baht. Tel: 09-2872672. Email: c_commie@yahoo.com

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GL NEO. November 2004, automatic, 40,000km. If interested please call for details. Tel: 03-1805069. Email: k_kueyong@yahoo.com

2003 HONDA CIVIC

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Light blue automatic Corsa in good condition. Recently serviced, many new original parts fitted with 6 months' warranty on new parts. 135,000 baht. Tel: 01-090-9686, 01-0906096. Email: rebootmack@hotmail.com

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EVO VIII. White, very low mileage. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 09-2872672. Email: c_commie@yahoo.com

4 x 4s

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Jeep Cherokee, 1998, 4.0L, auto, leather seats. For quick sale, only 270,000 baht or next best offer. Tel: 01-5371050.

FORD RANGER XLT

2.5TD hi-rider, 4 door, 11,000km, silver, ABS, roof rack, roll bar, carryboy, tinted windows, bullbar, Pioneer, 800-watt stereo, alloy wheels, side-steps, quick sale. Call now! Tel: 04-7467304.

TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

Farang owned, 6 years old, metallic silver, 5 doors, 7 seats, 3-liter diesel engine. Pre-Runner model. Only 41,000 km. Many options and in excellent condition. All services done. Asking price: 460,000 baht ono. Tel: 053-451871, 01-7642330. Email: wilbert_5@hotmail.com

TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

May 2000, only 69,000km. Silver color, excellent condition, all services done. Asking price: 480,000 baht, negotiable. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-282737 or 01-4761415. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

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Older Willys jeep, totally redone. Looks and runs great. Price: 220,000 baht (firm). Tel: 076-388309. Email: dietrich@loxinfo.co.th

Motorbikes

HONDA SUPER FOUR 400cc

Black and good condition. 70,000 baht. Please call Tel: 04-8528158.

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Suzuki motorbike 130cc. Yellow, new engine. Tel: 06-8605713.

HONDA CRM250

Mark 2, two-stroke enduro bike. Excellent condition, with lots of parts recently replaced, including tires, brakes, DID o-ring chain, twin air filters, all rear suspension bearings and seals, fork seals and oil. Also just stripped to frame, sand-blasted and re-powdercoated frame, repainted engine and all other paintable parts. Bike looks and runs beautifully and has green book registered in Phuket. Everything on this bike works - speedometer, indicators, all lights, etc, etc. Must see. 75,000 baht or partial trade toward late model XR250 or similar. Tel: 01-3648102. Email: brad_mooney@hotmail.com

HONDA SHADOW

Slasher 2001 (one of 3 in Phuket) in immaculate condition with book. Lots of chrome and custom paint (air brush). Must be seen. Tel: 07-893-8745. Email: charles001w@hotmail.com

SUZUKI SMASH 110cc

5 months old. 8,000km. Cost 32,000 baht new. Accept 20,000 baht. Please contact. Tel: 04-8404059. Email: shaun634@hotmail.com

CBR, KATANA, NSR

Honda 250 CBR: 30,000 baht. Suzuki Katana 750 S3: 85,000 baht. NSR 250 Racing: 30,000 baht. Tel: 06-9488139. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

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like new. Silver color, only 5,500km, like-new. Serviced on regular basis. Only 29,000 baht. Also monthly payments possible. Please contact. Tel: 01-0897401, 07-0776534. Email: remydielemans@yahoo.com

HARLEY DAVIDSON

Sportster. XLH 883 custom paint, powder-coated forks, bars and cases. Very clean bike for island riding. 320,000 baht, including registration book. Tel: 01-5430980. Email: spiritsailor1@yahoo.com

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650cc-750cc

chopper wanted. I am looking for a used 650cc-750cc chopper, in reasonable condition, within the next 2 months - price not more than 50,000 baht. Please send offers via email; pictures would be nice. Tel: 06-2811264. Email: sundayshot@hotmail.com

WANTED TO BUY

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WANTED: 250cc

Canadian on 4-month vacation in SE Asia looking to buy a 250cc or so used or new motorcycle or scooter. Prefer expat-owned, but let me know what you have. I don't understand Thai, so in English or Spanish is preferred. Email: jayincanada@hotmail.com

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Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312



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Then hand it to any of our agents.

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