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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Phang Nga tsunami victims 'have all been helped'; Anchalee raps Gov over Phya Thai deal. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: Saving all that free rainwater. **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE REGION: Samui readies for regatta. **Page 8**

AROUND THE ISLAND: Mining museum in Kathu. **Page 11**

PEOPLE: Time for Chico - No 1 pop star in the UK. **Pages 12 & 13**

LIFESTYLE: It's all about the bikes - almost. **Pages 14 & 15**

SPA MAGIC: Moved at Montra. **Page 18**

DINING OUT: Baba at Cape Panwa. **Page 19**

MOTORING: Gumball Rally preview. **Page 20**

FIRST PERSON: Driving home the lessons. **Page 25**

MONEY TALKS: Massaging a Chinese bust. **Page 30**

BUSINESS & MONEY: Good deeds from BCCC. **Page 31**

SPORT: 'Cricket Heaven' in Phuket; Veterans' golf and soccer on the island. **Pages 32 & 33**

PROPERTY: Home of the Week: Kamala; Construction: Leelavadee Resort & Spa; Decor: Potter works magic. **Pages 34-37**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 16; DOVEN, PHUKET DIARY 17; TAKE A BREAK 21 & 22; OUTSIDE IN, BOOKS 23; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 24 & 25; YOUTH 'N ASIA, HOROSCOPES, LAW 26 & 27; COMPUTERS 28; ON THE MOVE 31; GARDENING 36; CLASSIFIEDS 38-47.

It's back to the polls - again

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Dr Sriyada Palimapan on April 23 became Phuket's first Thai Rak Thai (TRT) member of parliament, despite amassing only 7,893 votes - equivalent to just 8.18% of the electorate in Phuket District 1.

But in District 2, her TRT partner, Wisut Santikul, running unopposed, again failed to meet the requirement of getting the votes of 20% of the electorate.

As a result, a third round of voting is to be held today (April 29) in an attempt to elect an MP for the district.

Dr Sriyada told the *Gazette* after her victory, "I would like to thank for all the voters who voted and supported me. I will do my work as Phuket MP for District 1 as best I can."

Her opponent, making his national political debut, was Thongchai Kaewthong of the Siam Party. He received 2,456 votes.

K. Thongchai explained that he did not run in the April 2 general election because at that time he had not been a member of the Siam Party for at least 90 days, as required by electoral law.

In District 2, TRT candidate Wisut Santikul failed to win a seat in Parliament because he ran unopposed and did not receive votes equivalent to 20% of the total electorate in the district, as required by electoral law. He received 8,920 votes, equivalent to 8.56% of the electorate.



Phuket's first Thai Rak Thai MP: Dr Sriyada Palimapan was elected by just 8.18% of the electorate.

His opponent, Prayoon Poonchan of the Pattana Chart Thai Party, was barred from running in the April 23 election by the Supreme Court because he had run for Parliament in Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the April 2 poll, but failed to win a seat.

As in the April 2 general election, "no votes" heavily outnumbered votes for candidates. In District 1, 42,991 people voted, with 30,517 people - 70.98% - choosing the "No Vote" box on the ballot sheet. There were 2,025 spoiled ballots.

In the District 2 poll, 47,053 people cast votes, with 34,845

(70.05%) choosing the "No Vote" option. There were 3,288 spoiled ballots.

Five voters publicly tore up their ballot papers in Phuket, in protest at the election and at the current state of Thai politics.

Krit Thepbamrung, Sommart Mankid, Wikrom Issarangkura Na Ayudhaya, Boonchai Jarasratsami, and Sonchai Rittichai were arrested and charged with violating Article 108 of the Elections Act.

The maximum penalties for this offense are two years imprisonment or a 20,000-baht fine. Offenders may also be deprived for five years of their right to vote.

All five were released after posting 20,000 baht bail apiece.

K. Wikrom, 42, said, "I am angry with this government and with the Election Commission [EC] for trying to help the government form a parliament as quickly as possible.

"I tore up the ballot paper in a temper to protest the government and EC. At first I intended to burn it but it that might have been considered too drastic.

"This government sucks, and so does the EC. I have never seen anything like it in all my years. I'm sure that if they hold another election, more people will tear up their ballot papers," he added.

His prediction will be put to the test today in District 2.

Editorial: page 24



Thanyarat wins race for Senate

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Thanyarat "Gee" Achariyachai is Phuket's first woman Senator, after winning the April 19 Senatorial election by a convincing margin.

She polled 34,142 votes compared with 28,539 for second-placed Prawat Suwannadithakul and 14,198 for Dr Prasit Koeysiripong.

K. Thanyarat, owner of the Kata Group of Hotels and of Phuket Central Tour Co, is a former Juvenile Court Judge and wife of former Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Pamuke Achariyachai.

Vote counts for the other candidates in the race were: Uthai Suksirisamphan 6,431 votes; Cherdchai Wongseeree 6,419 votes; Banlue Aiyara 2,531 votes; Akkrawat Jitharn 2,005 votes; Kanit Vinijpairoj 1,338 votes; Adirek Engchuan 752 votes; and Maliwan Jindawong 405 votes.

A total of 20,566 voters - 17% of all those eligible - ticked the "No vote" box on the ballot. There were also 3,391 spoiled ballots.

Of 203,983 eligible voters, 120,914, or 59%, turned out for the poll.

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Phang Nga wave victims 'have all been helped'

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

KHAO LAK: All Phang Nga residents who were in need of financial aid after the tsunami have received it, either through government assistance or in the form of private-sector donations, a senior provincial official has told the *Gazette*.

"We can say that 100% of the people who lost homes and fishing boats have had them replaced," Vice-Governor Opas Svetamani told the *Gazette* when asked about the province's tsunami recovery effort.

However, V/Gov Opas admitted that there were still some problems with post-tsunami recovery in Phang Nga, the Thai province hit hardest by the killer waves.

Among those problems, he said, were people using low-quality donated boats to go out to sea.

"Some of the donated boats were not built of hardwood and were intended only for use on *klongs* [canals], but people have been taking them out on the open ocean in order to make a living," he noted.

Other problems included the failure of some business people to secure the bank loans they needed in order to rebuild.

The number of such cases was small, he said, and most resulted from bad credit histories dating back to before the tsunami.

Some major resorts, particularly in Khao Lak, have already reopened. Of the remainder, V/Gov Opas said, "Many [small] hotel owners have started rebuilding, with the goal of being back in business by the start of the next high season [in November]."

Total tourist arrivals in the province were down about 40% compared with the same period in years before the tsunami, he added.

The government was trying to coordinate some 40 private-sector organizations working in the province in order to prevent unnecessary duplication of relief efforts, he said.

The province is also investigating claims that some Christian foundations had been offering tsunami relief aid only to people who agreed to convert to Christianity, he said.

He added that one private-sector group wanted to set up a special school for Burmese children.

"We won't reject their offer of help, but we will insist that they follow government rules in doing so," he said.



Christian relief organizations being checked: Vice-Governor Opas Svetamani.



Big Boy swims in the waters off Phang Nga.

— Photo by Milton Lister, West Coast Divers

PHANG NGA: A popular whale shark nicknamed "Big Boy" has been spotted off Koh Surin, and around Richelieu Rock, Hin Daeng and Hin Muang, Pakdee Khruthanang of the Phuket Eco-Tourism Association told the *Gazette* on April 18.

"Big Boy has been spotted off Koh Surin almost daily since the beginning of last month," she said.

"He is about eight meters long and weighs more than a ton. Whale sharks average about five meters in length, but can grow to as large as 12 meters," K. Pakdee explained.

She recommended that tourists and divers alike take the opportunity to see this prime example of the world's largest fish. "Whale sharks live in

oceans with water temperatures, between 21°C and 26°C. Big Boy migrates from Alaska every year to escape the cold temperatures there," she said.

"Now is the best time of the year to see him. He is rarely spotted here after April," she added.

K. Pakdee said that another, smaller whale shark has been spotted in the same areas. "It is five meters long and has been nicknamed 'Son of Big Boy' by local divers," she said.

Dive companies frequently complain that whale shark sightings have become increasingly rare due to the activities of fishing boats in the Andaman Sea. — Saranya Leardpoonvasin

'Live with it,' TAT tells complaining hoteliers

KAMALA: The losses hotels have suffered from tourists canceling bookings after seeing the rebuilding work on Kamala Beach are just a sacrifice they have to make, Wanchai Ruangudom, the landscaping coordinator hired to complete the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Kamala beautification project, told the *Gazette*.

"This is a sacrifice they must make. This project was approved by Kamala beach operators at a public hearing. They understood that after the tsunami something had to be done, that it's better than leaving a mess on the beach," he said.

"We planned to start this project last October, but because it was the start of the high season we just worked on the public park.

"And now it's the end of the

high season, when there are fewer tourists, we have started digging holes in the sand to make the beachfront walkway. If we wait any longer it will be the rainy season, which will make it very difficult for the contractor to work," K. Wanchai explained.

"Every time I've been to Kamala, I have explained to people there that the TAT knows that it's difficult for everybody, but we have to do it. They have to consider the final result, which will be good for them," he said.

Kwanjai Samani, Executive Assistant Manager of the Layalina Hotel, told the *Gazette* that the hotel has had cancellations since the TAT project began.

"Guests who booked their rooms through our website canceled when they arrived; they were shocked by what they saw.

"Some said they would sue

us because the website showed a nice hotel close to the beach without this project in front of it.

"We complained to the TAT, and asked them to make sure the project ends exactly on schedule, because it's not only our hotel [that is suffering]," she said.

The post-tsunami rebuilding started at the end of last year, and includes a beachfront footpath, public park, tsunami evacuation routes and public restrooms.

K. Wanchai explained that large holes have been dug along Kamala Beach for steel supports for the beachfront walkway, and that these will be backfilled when the project is complete.

"We are trying to complete the project as quickly as possible. Now it looks a little messy, but it will be nice and safe when it is finished," K. Wanchai said.

— Janyaporn Morel

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B200m dolphin center proposed

CAPE PANWA: The Phuket Marine Biological Office (PMBC) is considering building a 200-million-baht "Dolphin Center" to treat handicapped people and promote tourism.

The project, which has already been approved in principal by Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura, would be run jointly with Danish marine biologist and dolphin expert Judith Kongsted.

PMBC Director Wannakiat Thapthimsang told the *Gazette*, "The Danish researcher has welcomed us to join her in researching ways to treat people with handicaps, such as paralysis and autism, by allowing them to interact with dolphins."

He admitted, however, that he had reservations about the idea of using dolphins to treat sick people because this smacked of commercialism using a protected animal. "It is now just a proposal," he said. "We must do more research – we are not even sure whether dolphins can treat such patients effectively," he said.

The plan has already come under fire from the UK-based Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, which argues that it is "impossible to accommodate the mental, physical and social needs of dolphins in captivity and that it is cruel to confine them." (See Letters, page 24.)

Anchalee raps Gov over delay on hospital deal

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is ready to buy the abandoned Phya Thai Hospital but the deal has stalled because Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has not yet approved a request for 215 million baht in bank loans to seal the deal, says *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr.

"[The Governor] knows the deadline is approaching. He has already approved a loan request for 108 million from the Interior Ministry, so why doesn't he approve the 215-million-baht loan request as well?"

"If he fails to do so and the deal falls through, he will have to answer to the public," she said.

She told reporters that the *OrBorJor* has taken every step necessary to acquire the hospital, including commissioning feasibility studies, holding public hearings and negotiating the purchase price down from 492 million baht to 315 million – a discount of 36%.

She said that reaction at the last public hearing, held April 7, indicated that the public was "99.99%" in favor of the *OrBorJor* acquiring and renovating the facility, which would take pressure off the overcrowded Vachira Phuket Hospital.

K. Anchalee said that the property's current owner, the Thai Asset Management Corporation (TAMC), had extended the deadline for the *OrBorJor* to buy the hospital at the lower price until April 31. After that time, however, the purchase price would revert to 492 million baht, she said.

Under the purchase package the *OrBorJor* has negotiated with the TAMC, 108 million baht would be borrowed from the Interior Ministry's Cooperatives Support Loan Fund. A request for this loan, half of which would be at zero interest, has already been approved by Gov Udomsak.

The request for the remaining 215 million baht, to be borrowed from the Krung Thai Bank and the Government Savings Bank, has yet to be approved.



Her Royal Highness arrives to open the Special Task Unit building.

Princess opens tsunami aid center

PHUKET: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn paid a Royal Visit to Phuket to preside over the official opening ceremony of her Special Task Unit (STU) building in Tambon Wichit on April 25.

The STU is dedicated to supporting the long-term recovery of tsunami victims in all six Andaman coast provinces. Funded jointly by Her Royal Highness's Fund and the Thai Red Cross Society, the STU Building is the organizational hub for STU work in the region.

Its facilities include offices, a meeting room and laboratory. Construction began in July last year and was completed in December.

During her two-day stay she performed Royal Duties and visited tsunami victims on Koh Yao, in Krabi and in Phang Nga.

– Jenjira Ruengjarus

Furious monk clobbers dog-lover

PHUKET CITY: With no end in sight to Phuket's stray dog problem and island residents continuing to dump unwanted pets at *wats* around the island, monks are finding it difficult to keep temple grounds clean.

On the morning of April 21, one senior monk grew so angry with an elderly dog lover who had come to his temple to feed the dogs that he beat the man over the head with a stick, causing a gaping wound that required 40 stitches to close.

The victim, 66-year-old Phuket native Wanchai Kongsawad, told the *Gazette* that at 7:30 am he had gone to feed the dogs at the *wat* near his home.

"My house is behind the temple, so I have to pass through its grounds often. This happened be-

cause the *Phra* ordered me to clean up dog faeces, thinking that the dog that left them was mine. I tried to explain that this wasn't the case, and the *Phra* grew very angry. He picked up a stick and started bashing me over the head with it," he said.

The beating shattered K. Wanchai's motorcycle crash helmet and opened a gaping head wound. With blood streaming from the wound, K. Wanchai rode to the Phuket City Police Station to file a complaint.

From there he was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors closed the wound with 40 stitches.

Police negotiated a settlement whereby the monk paid K. Wanchai 10,000 baht compensation.

'Mick the Pom' jumps bail

PHUKET: When British murder suspect Michael John Taylor failed to make a scheduled court appearance on April 24, Phuket Provincial Court issued a warrant for his arrest and seized the land title document he posted as bail.

Taylor, also known as "Mick the Pom", is on trial for the August 17, 2005, stabbing murder of his 28-year-old live-in girlfriend Jantra Weangta. He was released on bail from Phuket Provincial Prison on March 7, when the Phuket Provincial Court accepted as bail a *chanote* land title deed valued at 400,000 baht.

Taylor's lawyer, Somsak "Sam" Chattay, told the *Gazette* that when he called his client on April 21 to remind him of the court appearance, Taylor said would attend.

"He knew what he needed to do and where he could contact me to ask the court to reschedule if necessary," he said.

When asked if he thought his client was a flight risk, K. Chattay said it would be difficult for Taylor to leave the country without his passport, which is still being held at the Chalong Police Station.



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Everyone realizes the importance of water, but how many of Phuket's residents and hoteliers actively work toward saving this precious commodity? The *Gazette's* Sam Wilkinson spoke to three island residents about strategies to collect and save water.

Many regular visitors to the island fail to understand why so much of Phuket's abundant monsoon-season rainfall flows uselessly into the Andaman Sea, only to be followed by chronic water shortages in most dry seasons.

First, a basic calculation. Phuket has an average annual rainfall of about 2,400 millimeters. Multiplying this figure by its surface area, 543 square kilometers, reveals that more than 1.3 trillion cubic meters of naturally-purified rainwater falls on the island annually.

Could it somehow all be collected, it would be enough to fill the island's 7.3-million cubic meter reservoir at Bang Wad 178 times over.

Although unusually heavy rains in March and April averted a shortage this year, Phuket has overall suffered worsening chronic low-season shortages over the past decade. This trend appears likely to continue in future dry seasons – and it could



Don Smith of Rainwater Solutions: 'Installing continuous guttering will ensure you save every drop of rainfall rolling off your roof.'

spell disaster if there is a ever a prolonged drought.

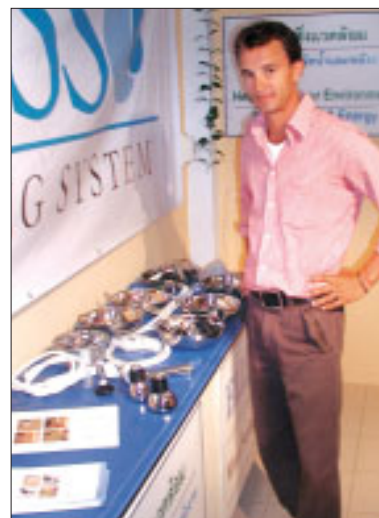
The reason is simple enough: Phuket's swelling population and property boom are not only placing greater demand on surface and subsurface supply sources, they are also decreasing the abil-

Saving for an (un)rainy day

ity of these sources to replenish themselves naturally.

The government scrambles to find more tin-mine ponds from which to pump low-quality water and talks of building two more reservoirs. It has even contracted to buy water, at great cost, from a private firm which is building a desalination plant in Karon. The grandest scheme of all, piping in water 300 kilometers from a dam in Surat Thani, seems to be a non-starter.

Remarkably, the government has done little or nothing to protect our diminishing groundwater resources. Regulations on water well installation are virtually non-existent in Phuket. The *Gazette* phoned one local administrative body in the southern part of the island to ask what rules applied only to be told, "None. Just keep the diameter under four



Johan Nilsson with some of the Elless product line. By aerating water through shower and tap heads, water bills can be slashed in half, with big savings on electricity from reduced pumping.

meters and don't bother your neighbors."

With ever more wells being sunk, neighbors in many parts of the island find themselves in competition during droughts to see who can suck the most water out of the local groundwater table – before it runs dry. Even worse, residents in some coastal areas are now finding their once fresh water supplies turning brackish and unusable, through a phenomenon known as "saltwater intrusion" that is directly related to over-pumping in most cases.

This year's good luck aside, the overall trend portends a major water crisis for Phuket – unless some alternative strategies are taken. Given government inaction, the private sector is leading the way in solving the island's water woes.

Rather that constantly seeking to source more water, one sensible strategy is to make the water we do have go further.

Swede Johan Nilsson, Managing Director of Elless Co, a firm specializing in water-saving aerated taps and shower heads, has been trying to sell island hotels the

concept of water conservation for years, though he is not happy with the local response – so far.

"Will this island last another five years? Perhaps I came too early. My water-saving concepts are hard for many here to grasp," he sighs.

It was a 2001 *Gazette* story on water wastage that originally alerted the former tour leader to Phuket's water woes and inspired him to enter the water conservation business.

Mr Nilsson tells the story of how one hotel asked "to wait a bit" before taking a decision on whether to install Elless's simple-yet-revolutionary products – which can save up to 60% of water usage by mixing air into tap and shower water.

When he went back some time later, the chief engineer cheerfully informed him that the hotel had installed large "rainwater" shower heads – at 10 times the price of his products.

SAVINGS

Mr Nilsson explains that human nature has a lot to do with decisions to switch to more environmentally-friendly shower heads: "There are two factors. People like to feel that they're having a good, strong shower, and they also want the shower head to look the same [as a regular shower head]."

Patong's Royal Paradise Hotel recently installed Elless aerating taps and shower heads, and for the first month after installation consumption was "cut drastically", said Mr Nilsson, adding that reduced water usage also results in big savings on electricity, especially at high-rise hotels that incur huge electricity bills from having to pump water up to the roof.

Among the island residents who regularly suffer water shortages are the hillside homeowners in Patong and Kata-Karon,

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Steen Jansen opens one of his large water storage tanks. A laboratory rated the quality of the rainwater collected mainly from his roof (above) as "perfect" after basic treatment.

where many pay to have water trucked in – at great expense.

Yet Dane Erik "Steen" Jansen and his wife don't have a water problem, even though they are surrounded by people who sometimes complain bitterly about shortages. The Jansens, who haven't paid a water bill in years, have 160,000 liters stored under and around their four-story home above Patong.

When they moved into the house some 10 years ago, roof runoff went straight into a fishpond. This quickly overflowed, sending the extra liters running uselessly down the hillside. So Mr Jansen installed two large storage tanks, did a bit of plumbing, and was soon reaping rainwater at industrial rates off his 229-square-meter roof. For treatment, he uses a charcoal filter as well

as an off-the-shelf wall filter.

The results? Experts who tested the water declared it "perfect" drinking water quality, far better than any water found in a tin mine lagoon.

"Water storage [in house design] should be mandatory," Mr Jansen believes. "The fact that we have water shortages in Phuket – with this amount of rainfall – means that things are extremely badly planned. Look at all these expensive houses going up. Can't they even afford a storage tank?"

Stockpiling 160,000 liters, as Mr Jansen does, may appear excessive to some, but the Jansens have the last laugh when they are out watering their lawn and at a time when their neighbors can't even have a shower.

But is 160,000 liters really

necessary? Asked what size storage capacity would be enough to ensure a year-round supply, Mr Jansen gave the estimate that two people per household use an average of 200 liters a day, which adds up to 6,000 liters a month. Given that during a typical year, Phuket can expect very little rainfall during a four month dry season, a 40,000-liter tank should be enough – or "50,000 liters if you have a guest".

A 40,000-liter tank can have a length of five meters long, a width of four meters and a depth of two meters. Such a tank can easily be incorporated into the design of any new home or installed underground in the garden of an existing home.

Even if Phuket's residents suddenly experienced an environmental epiphany and converted to

environmentally-safe water use and storage, the problem of the hotels would still remain. A recent survey on the Greek island of Rhodes showed that a typical tourists uses 10 times more water than a local resident.

Don Smith of Rainwater Solutions, a company introducing a "continuous guttering" concept to the island, agrees with Mr Jansen on many points.

"Phuket needs to have regulations," he says. "Most islands around the world have mandatory water storage. Bermuda has, and even Gibraltar, where the rain runoff [from] the Rock itself is enormous. When you consider just how much water there is here – and how little is stored – it's scandalous."

Using a long list of computer readouts and rain forecasts,

Mr Smith demonstrates that Phuket does indeed have rain all year round, albeit very little at the beginning of the year. He points out that "normal" guttering itself is not quite enough. In a coastal environment, corrosion-resistant materials like aluminum and copper are the best choices for guttering, although copper can be prohibitively expensive.

"Apart from near a couple of west-coast beaches, Phuket doesn't have pounding surf resulting in excessive salt corrosion problems from sea spray," he says. "But we still have people coming to us asking about our products when their guttering starts to rust and warp after only a few months."

Mr Smith also says storage tanks are not only "an absolute must", but also the logical complement to his product.

BRANDING

Industry experts believe that in the future, "environmental branding" will become increasingly important in the hotel industry.

Establishments willing to embrace simple-yet-effective technologies such as continuous guttering and aerated showers and taps will not only be patronized by environmentally conscious tourists, but also enjoy a big competitive advantage over their water-wasting counterparts.

For most homeowners, it already makes sense to install a rainwater-collection system, even if it is just as a back up for unreliable municipal supply systems or, with treatment, as a source of drinking water.

For more information about Rainwater Solutions visit the site www.rainwatersolutions.com or call Don Smith at Tel: 01-8337836.

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Queer News

Family give grave robber a sharp lesson in respect

BURI RAM: What crime could be more repugnant than grave robbery? How about unearthing the remains of a recently dead infant and selling them to a witch doctor for use in a black magic rite?

It sounds like the plot from *Tales from the Crypt*, but this is exactly what happened in Buri Ram's Muang District earlier this month.

After receiving a call just after midnight on April 8, Buri Ram Muang District Police rushed to a forested area next to a temple in Buri Ram.

Led by Crime Suppression Inspector Pol Lt Col Preecha Aranyik, they arrived just in time to prevent an angry mob from beating to death a young man identified only as "Noi".

As police held back the mob, relatives of seven-month-old Passakorn, or "Nong Fluke", explained that, at 2 pm on April 7, they had buried their son, who had recently died of pneumonia.

Returning to the gravesite at around 9:30 the following evening with milk and other offerings to pray for the infant's spirit, they found that the casket had been dug up and the body was missing.

Cowering in a thicket just a few meters away was Noi, with the tiny corpse in his arms.

A thin young man, Noi had been employed by the temple as the keeper of the crematorium and graveyard.

When the relatives discovered Noi, he received a beating that left him "on the verge of death", according to one vernacular report.

However, when police arrived the family said they didn't want to press charges. They insisted, however, that Noi light incense sticks before the corpse and pray to the child's spirit for forgiveness.

Despite the severe beating, Noi complied – as the police held back the crowd to prevent them from launching another attack on him.

People living in the area alleged that Noi had dug up infant corpses many times in the past, selling them to a witchdoctor for use in a rite known as *look krok*, in which believers pray to the corpse of an infant child in return for protection of their home.

As nobody had ever pressed charges against him, Noi was emboldened to continue his obscene but profitable trade, they said.

Locals said that many of the corpses buried at the temple cemetery came from a nearby hospital. Patients who died had often come from far-off districts in Buri Ram or from other provinces entirely. Because of the distances, families often did not know that their loved ones' graves had been disturbed, they added.

Sources: Manager Magazine, Kom Chad Luek



RAWAI: This lovely sight is on Soi Khok Makham, just a short walk away from the popular Nikita's Bar. Even though it is just 20 meters from Rawai's beach road, tambon officials seem to have overlooked it – and many others like it on the same stretch of road. The *Gazette* is confident, however, that they will have it all cleaned up very soon.

TRASHING Phuket



Songkran road death toll totals five – or six

PHUKET: Road accidents took the lives of five people in the province during Songkran. Or six, depending on how one counts.

Officially, five people died on the roads between April 7 and April 16, officers from the Phuket Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) said.

This was two higher than the 2005 figure and one above the government's "target" of no more than four fatalities.

Among this year's dead

was Ulai Netrapakdee, 33. However, as reported in the *Gazette Online* on April 11, K. Uai had a woman riding on the back of his motorbike when it was hit by a pickup truck. Both he and his passenger died.

The identity of the dead woman, registered as an employee of the My Friend bar in Pa Khlok under the name Wannipa Siri-ariya-osot, could not be confirmed.

Officials think she may

have been Burmese. Because she could not be identified, her death was not included in the official toll, an ODPM staffer explained.

Saeree Noonsiri, 60, handed himself in at Thalang Police Station 11:30 pm the same day and admitted he was driving the pickup involved in the accident. Police charged him with dangerous driving

See also First Person, page 25.

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Chiang Mai's campaign against alcohol sales within the city walls during this year's Songkran Festival was a success, with a 70% drop in sales, said Wallop Namwongphrom, a member of the Chiang Mai Cultural Council.

However, some people brought their own alcohol, which led to drunken brawling and women being molested, he said.

Next year, alcohol manufacturers will be prohibited from promoting their brews in the festival parade.

The council will also ask parade organizers to ban shows featuring young women dancing in skimpy clothes. Such spectacles were broadcast to the nation this year, giving the city a bad image, K. Wallop said.

Next year the city will continue its ban on alcohol sales and will promote activities in temples with people wearing traditional dress, he said.

A sticky problem to solve:

Drug users have apparently switched from *ya bah* (methamphetamine) to inhalants such as glue and paint thinner as a reaction to the government's war on drugs, said Wanchai Roujanavong, Director of the Probations Department.

After the government's crackdown on drugs in 2003, the incidence of inhalant abuse rose 10%. In 2005, inhalants accounted for 25% of all drug abuse cases, he said.

Under a 1990 law, those who sell inhalants to people under 17 years of age for the purpose of drug abuse face a up to two years in jail or a fine of up to 20,000 baht. The maximum penalty is soon to be increased a three-year jail term and a 30,000-baht fine.

"Regrettably, the law seems to be unknown to most of those handling inhalants, like store owners who sell construction materials," said K. Wanchai.

Back to the jungle: Fifty-four orangutans confiscated from a private zoo in Bangkok in 2003 will likely be returned to their native Indonesia and Malaysia once their exact origins can be deter-



WHEELY OLD: Classic cars, including models from the World War II period, on display in the recent Classic Car Exposition III at Seacon Square in Bangkok.

Songkran to be 'dry' in Chiang Mai next year

mined by DNA analysis and consultation with experts in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Wildlife Department displayed two of the primates, Coke, 7, and Jelly, 5, before reporters during a recent press conference at their headquarters in Bangkok.

Their presence there angered Wildlife Friends of Thailand Director Edwin Wiek, who asked, "What's the reason to bring them there? All reporters know what an orangutan looks like."

"They were loaded on a pickup truck, not sheltered from sunshine, and spent more than five hours on the road. Is that good for the animals?"

Since the primates were confiscated from the zoo, environmentalists in Indonesia, Europe and the US have demanded they be returned to their natural habitats.

Reform school: The Corrections Department is training 90 female convicts to work as maids,

giving them skills in caring for the elderly, babysitting, massage and general housekeeping.

"There is a demand for reliable carers for the elderly. So we want to produce skilled maids who are socially acceptable and trustworthy," said department Deputy Director General Kanchana Ketkarn.

The training is now underway at three women's prisons, where the trainees were selected for their good behavior records. None were convicted of theft-

related crimes, as this kind of criminal behavior is considered difficult to correct, K. Kanchana said.

"The project is aimed at preparing inmates for their imminent return to society," she said, adding that those who complete the course will receive certificates documenting their special skills to assure employers that they are efficient and trustworthy.

China influx: Low fees, cultural similarities and the variety of interesting courses on offer are bringing more and more Chinese students to Thailand each year.

Pavich Tongroach, Secretary General of the Education Ministry's Higher Education Commission, said the number of Chinese students at Thai universities had increased from about 1,000 four or five years ago to about 4,000 now, and the number is growing steadily.

The trend is welcomed by Thai universities, which are making preparations to accept even more students from the giant country.

The students could be divided into two groups: those taking full international courses, which take about four years; and those enrolled in Chinese universities who were sent here to take short-term classes, he said.

Among the full courses, the most popular are business administration, tourism, IT and the sciences, while the most sought-after shorter courses are Thai-language classes taken by students majoring in Thai at Chinese universities.

K. Pavich said Thai-language courses were popular in China because of the increasing number of Thai tourists visiting China each year, as well as growing business connections between the two countries.

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

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FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

Samui set for regatta

Next month will see yachts from all over the region and from farther afield competing in the fifth Koh Samui Regatta from May 21 to 27.

Inaugurated in 2002, and also known as the Tropical Island Regatta, this international event is becoming one of the highlights of the Asian yachting calendar.

Boats converge on Samui from throughout Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the Philippines and even Australia and New Zealand for the event.

The Samui Regatta attracts a high number of returning boats, but this year it is expected to draw new entries, most notably from China, spurred by the inaugural Chinese entry into the world's oldest and most prestigious yacht racing event, the America's Cup.

This year should see an active Sports Boat class, with entries from Pattaya and Phuket joined by two new Elliott 7s imported from Australia by Samui-based company Yachting Siam.

The offshore Multihull class competition will comprise 11 boats, with the locally built Radical Bays from Coco Sailing, which

took first and second place last year, facing stiff opposition from the Mark Pescott Phuket-built Firefly catamarans *Voodoo Child* and *Moto Inzi*, which have been showing blistering pace in Thai regattas.

The organizers hope to see at least 30 yachts coming to Samui's largest international sporting event, which does so much to promote the island as a high-end lifestyle destination. Further information can be found at the event's official website, www.samuiregatta.com

Full Monty Party: Every year, the April full moon marks the beginning of another Thai New Year and the Songkran festival. This not only guarantees large crowds, but also raises many potential problems for those in charge of safety and security at the big event on Koh Pha-ngan.

On April 13, around 30,000 revelers, many of them Thai,

traveled to Samui's sister island to enjoy this year's Full Moon Party, and more than 400 personnel were drafted in by the island's District Office to deal with potential problems and requests for assistance.

According to the island's District Chief, Prawet Thai-Prayun: "Police officers, volunteer security staff and government officials worked together to set a new standard of event management, providing all the support and security necessary for a trouble-free celebration."

The Harbor Department was reinforced by a special patrol boat from Bangkok to monitor speedboats and other craft, and "help stations" were established along the beach to provide both information and assistance.

The party generated an estimated 30 million baht for businesses on Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao, and no serious incidents were reported.



Front to rear: *FFreefire*, *Moon Blue 2* and *Hocus Pocus 2*, all from Hong Kong.
Photo: www.shufen.net

Airport expansion hits snag: On April 16 more than 100 villagers from Ban Bang Rak on Koh Samui's north coast gathered to express their concerns at plans to expand the island's airport.

Bangkok Airways, which owns the island's airport and also operates Samui's only airline, recently began construction work that the villagers say will affect the public water supply and also damage the island's last remaining area of mangrove forest.

Two representatives of the company attended the meeting, at which local community leader Samrueng Thangrueang said the villagers were happy to support any development that helped the island to grow – but that local people felt they should be consulted about plans affecting them.

"We think it would be both fair and sensible to sit down and discuss the best approach to these expansion plans, so everyone benefits," K. Samrueng said.

The villagers were later asked to choose 11 representatives to attend another meeting with Bangkok Airways officials to be held in the coming weeks.

Gang shooting: A suspected gang member was shot dead in the car park of Samui's main retail superstore, Tesco-Lotus, on April 11.

Eyewitnesses reported that shortly before the 2 am shooting there was an altercation in a nearby bar, when members of two rival Samui gangs from Chaweng and Ban Tai faced off and were then told by the management to leave.

Outside, one 19-year-old gang member, Chatawan Gueasakun, ran into the car park and was chased by four assailants, who caught up with him and fired four shots at his head and legs, killing him.

The four attackers then escaped on motorbikes.

After interviewing witnesses, police arrested a man and a woman who admitted involvement in the shooting, but who said they were unable to identify the killer.

Samui's Chief Superintendent, Pol. Col. Chakkrit Srisawan, was quoted later as saying that the gang members were all from relatively well-off families.

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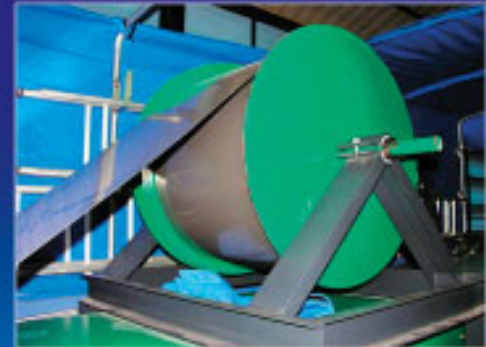


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By Natcha Yuttaworawit
& Stephen Fein

KATHU: If ever there were a transition year in Phuket's history it was 1985. That was the year the price of tin on global markets plummeted to nearly half its former value, just as the island's tourism boom was taking off.

Two decades later, few island residents know much about Phuket's tin mining past, even though evidence of it is all around us: in the scores of abandoned tin mines that many people mistake as natural ponds and lakes.

In fact, there are no naturally-occurring bodies of water in Phuket – they are all former tin mines. Considering this fact gives one an idea of just how expansive the tin mining industry once was here.

To give island residents and tourists a window back into the past, Kathu Municipality is building an epitaph to Phuket's tin mining days – in the form of a 50-million-baht Mining Museum.

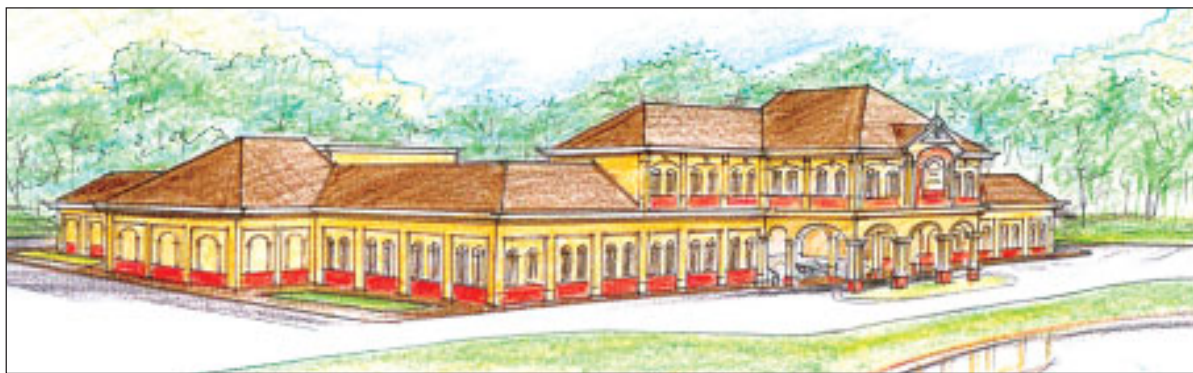
CLASSIC STYLE

The museum is to be located on a 200-rai site in a former tin mining area in Kathu Village 5, off the Kathu-Koh Kaew Rd. Construction got underway September last year, and is now about 10% complete, Kathu municipal officials say.

Sirichai Nakara, Director of the Kathu Municipality Engineering Department, which is overseeing construction, told the *Gazette* that the 7,000-square-meter museum will be built in the classic Sino-Portuguese style, with a two-story main building and a grand, covered portico as its entranceway.

Off the main building will be one-story wings connecting separate exhibit rooms, giving the museum the look of a sprawling plantation manor.

Although partially air-conditioned and to be built of concrete instead of wood, the design by



Above, architect's illustration of the new museum dedicated to the island's tin mining past. Right and below, among the items on display will be some of the machinery used to create much of the island's wealth.



Sometin for tourists to see



Kathu Municipality architect Panjapat Churaj conjures up all the romantic images of Phuket a century ago, when tin barons, European traders and Chinese coolies all conspired to tap the enormous mineral wealth of the island.

In their lust for the lustrous, gray metal, it is likely that many overlooked the island's beauty,

which must have been stunning at that time. Fortunately, much of that beauty remains in the hill-sides surrounding the project.

Perhaps ironically, the industry that dominated Phuket for at least 200 years will now serve the needs of the industry that supplanted it some 20 years ago.

"We are building the Mining Museum because we want to

promote tourism in the area, which was once a principal tin mining area.

"Currently, many people drive through this area on their way to Patong or other places without stopping. I want to develop this area for tourism as well, and give people a chance to learn about our tin-mining past," K. Panjapat said.

Although the museum was supposed to be complete by October this year, K. Sirichai admitted that work is somewhat behind schedule and work will probably not be completed until January next year.

He said part of the reason for the delay is the release of the construction funds. Totalling 50.7 million baht, these were approved under the CEO Governor's discretionary budget in successive years, 17.7 million being made available last year and 33 million more released under this year's budget.

What will the exhibits be like? Expect mining equipment to take center stage.

The Kathu Conservation Cultural Heritage Center, located in the primary school across from Kathu's town hall, has a great deal of equipment it plans to put on display – some of which its experts plan to restore.

When visitors have finished viewing the exhibits inside the museum, they will be able to stroll the expansive grounds outside. The 200-rai site will have landscaped gardens in front and a large bird park behind.

Although much work has yet to be done, the museum promises to be an important attraction when it opens next year.

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Prakaidao Kamluang and Pakapon Thongbaipetch married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 10.



Naomi Fukaishi and Muneo Arai, were in the Laguna Phuket Wedding Chapel on March 20.

Chico is an impresario's dream. Not only is he handsome, photogenic and blessed with a fine singing voice, but he also has a life history that even the most creative record company press officer would find hard to make up.

Born Yousseph Slimani, he left Wales when he was a baby to live with his extended family in Oujda, Morocco. He spent much of his childhood tending the family's goats.

"That was certainly a job that gave me a lot of time to think about the future," recalls Chico. "Conversation with goats is a tall order, so rather than look a bit mad by trying that, I'd hum or sing to while away the hours."

But the pastoral life, while giving Chico the chance to consider his life – "I didn't really believe I'd be forever herding goats," he grins – was not without difficulties. He was tending to the family's main source of income with all the responsibilities that entails and, when he was around 14, he lost a younger brother, Faisal, to leukemia.

"Heartbreaking" is the only word to describe it, both then and now. He was so young – he hadn't reached his seventh birthday – and was a perfect child. Handsome, bright, fascinating... I could sit and listen to what he was saying for hours on end."

Chico is a Sufi, a follower of the mystical tradition of Islam, and this helped him to deal with what he describes as the "sledgehammer blow" of losing Faisal. "He was an angel, really, so it wasn't surprising that God took him," he says.

Chico returned to Britain to live in Crawley, West Sussex, where he continued his education before entering the job market.

"I decided to keep away from goats for a while," he laughs, adding, "Not that there were many in West Sussex at that time."

There can be few of us who have never dreamed about one day being a pop star. Whether standing in front of a mirror with a hairbrush for a mike or playing air guitar, the attraction of playing to crowds of thousands and having a No 1 single is indeed the stuff of dreams.

For most of us, however, such dreams remain dreams. But for a few – the dedicated, the patient and of course the talented – dreams can become reality. Chico Slimani, born in Wales in 1971, realized his dreams recently when, at the age of 34, he hit the top of the UK charts with his first single, keeping even Madonna from the coveted top slot. The *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone, a musical legend in his own shower, met Chico – who has strong family connections to Phuket – and discovered that there was more to the singer than meets the eye.



Chico had fun dancing in Bangkok: 'The women went absolutely bananas for us up there.'

After school he began training as a hairdresser, which, looking at his casually coordinated coiffure, is plainly a set of skills he maintains to this day.

He soon swapped teasing locks and a hairbrush for stripping wires and a screwdriver, becoming an electrician.

This, he says, gave him the chance to continue sending mon-

ey back to his family in Morocco, particularly his ailing grandmother, and although the hairbrushes and screwdrivers soon vanished, the teasing and stripping did not.

"I joined an exotic dance troupe – no, don't grin – called 'Extreme Force' – with my brother, the actor JC Mac – which was riding the crest of the wave led by acts such as the Chippendales and the film *The Full Monty* – but we were well, just better than all of them. Far more refined and er ... artistic! Much sexier, too, if you don't mind me saying so.

"Seriously, we were really good, and it gave me and the lads the chance to go to loads of places. I must admit that I did get a little addicted to the adulation of the ladies out there though, and to being on stage."

His time with Extreme Force even saw Chico visit Bangkok.

"What a place! I tell you, the women went absolutely bananas for us up there. In fact – is that thing recording? – Yes? OK, I'd better *not* tell you about some of the things that went on in Bangkok, then.

"So much fun; I really love the city, in fact, all of Thailand that I've seen so far. But the first trip was one of the most memorable I've had.

"We could have opened a lingerie shop with all the underwear we had thrown at us, and no, I'm not going to tell you where it all is now!"

Chico explains that the usual format for a show by Extreme Force would include a singer before the main event. One night, the crooner failed to turn up.

"I knew that I had a more than reasonable singing voice – I'd been practicing my style for long enough – so I suggested to the manager that I be given the chance to do the warm-up songs.

"There was a bit of 'should we, shouldn't we?', but in the end I was allowed to get up on stage – keeping my clothes on this time – and sing.

"I loved it. Even though I had been performing in front of people for years, this was different. And I didn't need to have my toosh hanging out all over the place, either," says Chico.

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Chico in Phuket with 'sister' Skye (back, center) and part of his extended world family.

Amazing dreams of a goat boy

"It was easier work, too," he adds, "I could make more singing than I could dancing 'exotically', so to switch to singing full time and professionally was quite an easy decision to make."

The abundance, some might say surfeit, of "reality TV" shows has given many – the majority of whom are not blessed with Chico's natural talent and infectious positive persona – the opportunity to claim their allotted 15 minutes, sometimes less, of fame.

The X Factor is a British TV series, effectively a popular music talent show, and a near-clone of an the international hit show *Pop Idol*. (For those familiar with Thai TV, *The Star* is a similar program.)

Chico applied for a spot on *The X Factor*.

Leading the three judges on the show is Simon Cowell, the love-him, hate-him impressario famed in Britain for his trademark caustic wit and withering looks at performers who do not have "it" – the X factor, that is.

The other judges are Sharon Osbourne, music promoter and wife of bat-chewing singer Ozzy, and Louis Walsh, manager of Westlife, Boyzone, Girls Aloud and Samantha Mumba.

"I was one of the 72,000 people who applied to audition for Series 2, which ran from August to December last year," begins Chico. "Simon wasn't that impressed with me – to put it mildly – when I was first on stage be-

fore him, but that's just his style.

"He didn't faze me, though. In fact, his attitude spurred me on, because I thought, 'Right, I'll show you that I'm not afraid, mate!'"

"Sharon and Louis were a little more amenable, a little more encouraging, and because it depends on a majority decision of the judges, I went through to the next round, which is called 'Boot Camp'."

Chico explains that the Boot Camp section – with mentoring from one of the judges, in his case, Sharon – is to improve the skills, appearance and appeal of the singer before a smaller group, whittled down from the thus-far lucky entrants, then go on to the home of one of the

judges to perform and hone their skills further.

"For us in Series 2, we had to go to Sharon's home in LA and by this time I was feeling really confident, really able to let my hair down and belt out the songs. I really gave it my best shot singing the Prince song *Kiss*, but performing it in a style halfway between Prince and Tom Jones, who covered the song in 1988.

"I was moving in front of Sharon, the crew and the cameramen like I was on fire, and everyone was loving it – me especially. They all went wild when – as my finale – I jumped into the swimming pool," he notes.

"For the first couple of seconds I thought that they were screaming just because I'd excited everyone so much.

"It then dawned on me that they were also screaming because I'd jumped into the pool with a live mike, and they were panicking that I was going to be electrocuted."

Chico was popular with the TV audiences, who can vote for their favorite act, not least because of his dancing, but he was voted out in the penultimate show.

"I knew that that wasn't the end, though," says Chico, who landed a recording contract with Sony BMG within weeks.

"I composed and wrote the single *It's Chico Time* [backed with the song *Kiss*], which was released on February 27 this year. It hit the No 1 spot in the UK charts the next week and stayed there for the following week. I was told that it outsold the next-biggest seller, Madonna, by a ratio of two-to-one."

Not bad for a first release by a 35-year-old former goatherd. Indeed, it was the first British No 1 single by an Arab.

"I have apologized to Madonna; perhaps we could record a song together to make up for it?" he says, beaming.

Chico explains that the song is about positivity and fulfilling one's dream. "It's about what I have done," he says, "about what anyone can do. Develop your

own PMA – positive mental attitude – and anything is possible."

Chico's talents have also been put to good use elsewhere, particularly in the 2004 movie short *Winner Takes All*, co-written by JC Mac, director Helen Grace and Chico.

The six-minute movie, the tale of a cocky stranger, called Stranger, who accepts a challenge to win a large pot of money.

Told in rhyme, and narrated by Chico – who also composed the music – the film was very well received at film festivals around the world, including the Raindance Film Festival and garnering a BAFTA nomination.

Chico and JC Mac are collaborating on *Lunchbox*, a movie currently in production about the art of exotic dancing.

Aside from the more public side of the entertainment industry, Chico is also genuinely grateful, humble even, for the opportunities he has had to work with his "sister", Skye, well-known to many in Phuket as a former Hollywood stunt woman, in helping children.

"We are working on a project called Rainbow Child, which was set up to help street children in Cambodia, the ones who really have nothing to look forward to and no-one else to help them," says Chico, who reports that a major fund-raising event is being planned for July this year to be held at London's Royal Albert Hall.

"Someone has to look after the children," he says.

There are children running all over Skye's house, where the interview is taking place. JC Mac is here, too, as is Chico's wife, who is expecting their child. The atmosphere is very familial, very open, aided by Chico's zest for life.

After the interview, with a handshake and a warm smile, he says, "God bless."

In an age of manufactured pop stars, meeting someone genuine and unaffected by the business – and with his heart firmly in the right place – dashes any thought of cynicism.

For more information about Chico, visit www.chicomusic.com



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CHOP CHOP

For participants in Phuket Bike Week, denim and black leather may have been de rigeur, but when it came to the bikes, it was a different story. Art on wheels was the name of the game.

We'll let the pictures, by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Jenjira Ruengjarus, speak for themselves.



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This week



ON CANVAS: Guests at the opening of the 'Painting My Dreams' exhibition of works by Engon Homsuwan (2nd from right) at Phuket Art Gallery, on Thalang Rd in Phuket City, were Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thephabutr (3rd from left) and her husband K. Tossaporn (2nd from left).



SOCCER STOP: Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura (left), Kata Group Managing Director Pamuke Archariyachai (2nd from right) and General Manager Andrew Swadipakdi (right) welcome FIFA President Sepp Blatter (2nd from left) and AFP President Mohamed bin Hammam (3rd from left) to the Kata Beach Resort during their recent visit to Phuket.



SHELLED OUT: (Front, from left) Laguna Phuket Joint Managing Director James Batt, Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kanlayanamit and Thai TV stars Warattaya Nilkuha and Stephan Salamone release turtles to the sea at the 2006 Sea Turtle Conservation Ceremony at Laguna Phuket.



ROTARY REWARD: Dr Chartchai Pookayaporn (right), Vice-Minister of the Office of the Prime Minister, hands the Prime Minister's Award to Rotary Club of Patong Beach Past President Jeroen Deknatel, for the club's work in helping tsunami victims. Club President Arnaud Verstraete looks on.



POLICE PICK-ME-UP: Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Vice-President Suthep Thepsakul hands the key to a pickup truck to Pol Lt Col Chartchai Nicrodhanon, Deputy Superintendent of Crime Suppression at Phuket City Police Station. The truck will be used by officers at the Rassada Community Police Station.



HERE KITTY KITTY: Thai star singers Nisita 'Annita' Pongsong (left) and Pawaporn Bhuwapatchim pose with a tiger cub at Phuket FantaSea during their recent visit to Phuket.



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A grumpy kind of a week in Phuket

It's been an odd sort of week in Phuket. There are some seriously disgruntled people around, and with good reason.

One couple who fit into the aforementioned "seriously disgruntled" category came from England for a week's holiday, arriving on Sunday, departing the following Saturday.

They planned to do what a lot of people do on holidays in a tropical paradise – lie around on the beach or around the pool and go to local pubs and restaurants at night.

Nobody told them that they would have only three nights out of the seven to enjoy themselves in the local hostels, and that the other four nights would present the grim vista of darkened pubs and bars more in line with a country at war rather than an international holiday island.

Four out of seven nights the nightspots were closed to the tourist industry because the host country was holding elections.

It's not the business of tourists or any foreigners to interfere in the sovereign rights of another country, however ridiculous the rules might be, such as the ban on the sale of alcohol between 2 pm and 5 pm in any supermarket.

You can just imagine dozens of drunken teenagers running amok, as they would surely do if they were allowed to buy alcohol during these afternoon hours.

Obviously the booze that they buy from any small shop in a side street at any time must be

a different sort than the "running amok" variety.

It is high time that archaic laws that do not take into account the fact that Thailand is an international destination and earning good money from such, be reformed.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand should make it their duty to see that these things are fixed. Not only that they are fixed, but that the same rules apply to everybody. Apart from that, I wonder how much money will be lost this year by the hospitality industry because of elections?

It seems a bit odd though, that on the evening of election day, while you

are not supposed to sell alcohol till midnight, I was eating in a big seafood restaurant with a few foreigners and maybe 500 locals and at 6 pm we were drinking whatever we wanted.

But later, at 10:30 pm, a small restaurant catering mainly to foreigners was raided for selling alcohol.

You cannot blame the local constabulary; they received a "complaint" and they are obliged to act on it.

Apparently someone "complained" that the restaurant was selling alcohol, and rumor has it that that someone may have been another foreigner.

What kind of a lowlife piece of dog poo fingers his fellow man like that?

What could anybody gain here? By the way, the local officers of the law have the same opinion of this as I do.

There are other odd things going on this week. You remember my tale some months ago of the goms, (Grumpy Old Men), the red gom and the blue gom fighting over the establishment of a sala for the massage girls to solicit their wares?

Well, the blue gom has set up a gom association which held its first meeting this week. I saw some of them afterwards, all drinking beer and yapping happily on like anybody else, not in the least bit grumpy.

Totally ridiculous actually; imagine having an association of grumpy old men who go around being cheerful.

The funny thing is that the original goms were the blue gom and the red gom, and the red gom, it seems, is not included in the association.

He'll probably start his own gom club, and there will be hostilities. You can just see two

mobs of goms, carrying flaming torches and baseball bats, heading for a fight in the middle of the village.

Now that would nicely round the week off.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

What kind of a lowlife piece of dog poo fingers his fellow man like that?

What could anybody gain here? By the way, the local officers of the law have the same opinion of this as I do.

PHUKET DIARY of coming events

To May 31: Art exhibition.

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

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For more information email: yartgallery@gmail.com

May 27 and 28: Phuket International Rugby 10s.

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

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

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

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

May 1: Labor Day.

Public holiday for all private sector workers; government offices will remain open.

May 5: Coronation Day, public holiday.

Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 11: Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day, public holiday.

This auspicious occasion, which predates even the birth of the Lord Buddha, marks the traditional beginning of the rice-planting season.

The Ploughing Lord – ap-

pointed by HM the King – performs ancient rites and attempts to forecast the rainfall for the coming months, to predict whether the rice seedlings about to be planted will provide a bountiful crop this year.



Golfers will compete to win the Champion's Trophy in the Le Meridien Tournament.

May 13: Le Meridien 6th Golf Tournament.

The Le Meridien 6th Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 13 at Phuket Country Club.

The entrance fee of 2,700 baht for local residents and 3,500 baht for non-residents includes the green fee, caddie fee, a polo shirt and the awards dinner.

For further details contact K. Punjaporn at Tel: 01-7473036 or K. Narumon at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort Tel: 076-340480, or K. Sirichai at Phuket Country Club Tel: 076-321038.

July 2-30: Sports & Adventure Camp.

For details of the camp at the British Curriculum International School, email: summer@bcis.ac.th



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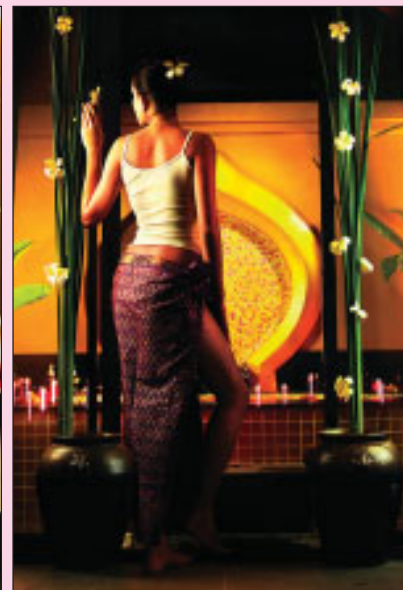
Mom Tri's Gung Thai-Japanese Inspired Cuisine on Kata Beach offers casual beach-side dining. The menu is essentially Japanese but with a unique Thai twist. Tel: 076-330-015

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MAGICBy Nattamon
Ratcharak

Montra Spa

High on heaven

It's amazing what a couple of hours in paradise can do for the soul



When I arrived at Montra Spa at the Aramhas Resort in Nai Yang, the sun was shining and a song was in the air. So when I entered the spa it was a pleasant surprise to find that the air inside actually smelled sweeter and the atmosphere was fresher than outside.

I was welcomed by Warunthip "Ning" Visetkantarakorn, Spa Service Supervisor. She offered me a cup of herbal tea before explaining that the Thai tea represents more than a welcome cuppa.

"Montra Spa wishes to express its Thai identity and to reflect Thai people's image and their natural hospitality.

"We cater to the five senses. For the visual part we are surrounded by lush green gardens with 10 separate spa villas – each named after a Thai flower. Our interior design keeps to a Thai theme and we have six therapists, all – of course – Thai.

"As for taste, we provide roselle-flavored iced drinks and hot herbal drinks to promote blood circulation. People's sense of smell is stimulated through aromatherapy.

"In order to cater for our clients' sense of hearing we use Thai music in the background to



help them relax as they receive a massage, which, of course, pampers their sense of touch.

"Montra Spa has four types

of massage oils that pertain to the four elements – earth, water, air and fire – and we use these elements for a holistic approach to health. It is very important to keep these four elements balanced throughout life as they affect one's health."

I learned that, because of when I was born, I am a water person. K. Ning explained, "Lavender oil goes best with this element to decrease stress and blood pressure, and to balance mind and soul. In addition, it helps to heal burns and skin lesions.

"The earth element responds well to sandalwood oil, which helps to relax muscles.

"People of the air element should have a kaffir lime oil massage which helps the heart, and

people of the fire element should choose rosemary massage oil to stimulate their circulation."

K. Ning added, "We also provide services for children from six years up. If parents have treatment here there's no reason why the kids shouldn't join in."

I eventually accepted a "Soul Balancer" package, which included a 30-minute body scrub and 60 minutes of full body massage, all costing 2,800 baht.

We made our way to the Supannikar spa villa, which was surrounded by a verdant tropical garden. K. Ning settled me into a sofa and gave my feet a thorough warm-water wash. Later, I changed clothes in a sumptuous bathroom that featured a steam room and an open-air Jacuzzi.

Minutes later I was receiving a tension reliever treatment that homes in on the head, neck and shoulders

K. Ning applied a honey and sesame body scrub comprising a mixture of honey, sesame oil and white and black sesame seeds. Not surprisingly I could smell sesame all around. After 30 minutes I could feel the difference in my skin; it was a lot smoother.

Then I was in for a full hour of body massage that was a combination of Thai and Swedish medium-pressure techniques using kneading strokes and circular pressure methods.

A sort of Eurasian affair, its purpose was to increase oxygen flow in the circulation and to release toxins.

I confess that I fell asleep and when I woke up K. Ning asked if there was an area I would like her to focus on.

Minutes later I was receiving a tension reliever treatment that homes in on the head, neck and shoulders. I was in heaven – I later learned that this package was fittingly called "Top Heaven".

For more information, contact Montra Spa at Aramhas Resort & Spa in Nai Yang. Tel: 076-316000 or visit <http://www.aramhas.com>

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On the menu



WITH

Andy Johnstone

Baba, Sri Panwa

One might be forgiven for assuming that a review of the restaurant at the Sri Panwa development, which goes by the name Baba (Baba oh really?), will feature a plethora of references to the stunning view from the villa development.

References to the spectacular tableau visible from the table and elsewhere, which is remarkable enough, almost, to cause me to tear up my Class War membership card and join the serried ranks of the capitalists so as to afford one of these villas, will abound.

Photos of it, however, will not, because it is simply too beautiful, too private and too personal to be photographed and stored on any medium save for on the internal hard drive of the mind's eye.

MAJESTIC

Sunset is, of course, the best time to view this majestic panorama of a serene sea and islands such as Koh Lone and Koh Hei, with views far beyond, and we roll up at around 6 pm to catch the natural light show.

Baba, explains Christian "Jimmy" Karl, the Culinary Executive at Sri Panwa, is located in one of the villas. This affords the diner, whose funds may not run to actually owning or renting one of the properties, the chance to wallow in Sri Panwa luxury for a couple of hours. My dining companion and I do just that, making the odd wistful comment about



Seared snapper and lamb chops, and a B52 dessert (left) to follow.

Sunset trip

how pleasant it would be to sleep, eat or swim with God's great canvas to look at day in, day out.

Part of me wonders, however, what Jimmy can rustle up in the kitchen to – if not best, then complement – the scene.

We don't wait long to experience the consummate skills of Baba's service staff, who deftly seat us at the best table in – literally – the house. Cocktails are the order of the day, and the menu provides an exhaustive – but not tiring – list of classics and new favorites, no doubt to become classics one day.

Champagne cocktails are chosen, and not just because the

bubbles explode so wonderfully against the palate and up the nose, but because... well, one senses a desire to celebrate in such surroundings, especially in the company of a charming dining companion.

Jimmy advises us that he creates a quasi-generic menu for new diners at Baba, featuring some local variations on familiar themes.

Returning diners – and he tells us that the recent occupants of one villa enjoyed Baba so much that they breakfasted, lunched and dined there each day of their stay – can call or email him with their particular wish list

of favorites from past meals.

One can, of course, simply throw caution to the wind and leave the entire menu in his capable hands.

Our menu – priced at 1,500 baht per person – begins with chicken satay with a selection of dips, which includes a wasabi dip.

Something of a radical and welcome departure from the standard peanut sauce, the unexpected combination of flavors works well together, with none of them masking the traditional taste of the turmeric-marinated chicken.

A mango salad – a variation on the classic *somtam* – fol-

lows a gentle pace behind, and the waiting staff are surprised at our pleas for it to be spicy. The delicate taste does not assail the senses, and the ingredients are delectably fresh.

We had decided to sample all three of the wines available by the glass at 330 baht – all from the Taras label – Chardonnay Bin 681, the Shiraz and the Cab Sauv, but having developed a taste after just one glass of the popular Chardonnay, we stick to that.

Jimmy excels himself with the main course of pan-seared white snapper with a lemon grass and white wine sauce, and grilled lamb chops with a rich green curry. The white wine sauce, which has more than a hint of French about it, but which goes off the map into delightfully uncharted territory, is almost beyond compare. Nay too rich nor too gentle for our palettes, it is an experience rather than just a sauce.

The combination of fragrant Thai spices in the green curry that bedecks the lamb works like a charm, the sweet intensity of the chili cutting through the scented oil on the tender lamb.

The main courses are accompanied by a splendid home-made pesto with penne and a dish of fresh, mixed vegetables.

Dessert comes with a bang – metaphorically speaking – in the shape of a B52 chocolate mousse, the measures of Kahlúa, Baileys Irish Cream and Grand Marnier blending perfectly with the alternating layers of dark and milk chocolate.

The food is superb, the service excellent, the atmosphere both calming and uplifting and the view a dream.

Baba at Sri Panwa. Contact Christian "Jimmy" Karl at tel: 076-371000 or email: eat@sripanwa.com for more information.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The Gumball Rally, probably the world's most exotic and quirky motor ing adventure, kicks off April 30 in London and will hit Phuket May 3, after passing through Salzburg in Austria, Budapest in Hungary and Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and Montenegro.

The aim of the event is to get round the world in eight days.

From Belgrade, all 120 cars will be airlifted to Thailand where drivers will stay overnight at the Amanpuri at Pansea Beach. Three giant Russian Antonov cargo planes have been chartered to bring the multi-million-dollar cargo of vehicles to Phuket.

You may never have heard of the Gumball 3000, but it has been around for some time – this is the eighth year it is being run. The event follows the traditions of the celebrated Cannonball Run in the US, which took its name from Erwin G “Cannonball” Baker, the greatest cross-country record breaker who ever lived.

ILLEGAL

Baker's most famous coast-to-coast drive – from New York to Los Angeles – was in 1933, when he took 53 hours to complete the solo attempt – averaging an astounding 80kmh.

The Cannonball Run was an illegal road race that continued Baker's pioneering efforts, traveling from the US east coast to the west coast, mainly in protest against the blanket speed restriction of 55mph (88kmh).

The brainchild of US motor-ing writer Brock Yates, the rally was first run in 1971, and was popularized by the 1981 film of the same name starring Burt Reynolds. Yates also wrote the screenplay for the movie.

The Gumball 3000, as it is now known, was the creation in 1999 of eccentric motoring enthusiast Maximillion Cooper. For all his ambition, Cooper is a mo-

tormouth who sometimes fails to live up to his outlandish promises. He once declared he would either start or buy a Formula One team. Well, there are now 11

teams in F1 – and Maximillion Cooper ain't one of 'em.

The multinational, well-heeled competitors in the Gumball will stay in Phuket before heading for Bangkok on May 5 for a rest period at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. From the Thai capital they will fly to Salt Lake City in Utah, and then on to Las Vegas, Nevada. The rally ends in

California on Los Angeles' Rodeo Drive on May 7.

The selection of cars entered this year is quite outstanding. It includes, for the first time, a monster 1,000bhp Bugatti Veyron, as well as the usual collection of Ferraris, Porsches, Lamborghinis and Chevy Corvettes.

There is also the inevitable

Hummer, a restored 1930s Rolls-Royce, a 1970 Holden and, rather improbably, a Porsche-engined Volkswagen Camper van. There is also an exotic Farboud GT, an unusual supercar; despite its unusual Iranian name, it is actually built in Britain and powered by a three-liter Ford V6 engine.

Somewhat more mundane, but strictly in keeping with the madcap Gumball spirit, are a Citroën 2CV and a humble London taxi.

A number of celebrities are taking part this year, including Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody (of *The Pianist*), singer Missy Elliott and actress Daryl Hannah. singer P!nk will also join the Asian leg of the rally.

One former competitor, Hong Kong-based Gary Pudney, sums up the Gumball spirit: “We drove through the evening, the night and into the morning. At one time we had torrential rain and could travel safely at no more than about 120kmh.

“But despite the weather, we were passed by Jodie Kidd in a Maserati – sideways! – closely followed by a Ferrari Enzo and a GT2 Porsche.”

It may be that not all the entrants get as far as Phuket, for many will fall by the wayside before reaching Asia.

Here's Gary Pudney again: “One year, we labeled it ‘Black Saturday’, as we lost two Ferraris which were destroyed in high-speed accidents, a Ford Escort Cosworth which was written off, a Dodge Viper seriously bent, a Porsche Turbo of which there was no sign and a badly damaged Porsche GT3.”

Look out for those entries that do make it, on the road from Phuket International Airport to the Amanpuri resort on May 3. The Gumball 3000 promises to be a procession like no other.

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

Celebs rally round the world in 8 days



Supermodel Caprice driving a Porsche 911 Turbo last year.

Photo by Dan Onslow



A 2005 McLaren Mercedes SLR entered in the 2005 Gumball Rally.

GUMBALL HITS PHUKET



Formula 1 driver Jenson Button waves off last year's rally.

Photo by Michael Tomlinson

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PUZZLES

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 15 characters in the *Ramakien*. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 5 or more, good; 10 or more, very good; 15 or more, excellent.

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

Solution on next page.

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Focus in camp. (13)
8. Despotism rat I place in
200 after car. (10)
9. Using part of plus, easy
to make sled. (4)
10. To the east, a digit. (3)
11. South Africa saints are
cheeky. (4)
14. In monk's room, love
instrument. (5)
15. Lake of black goo to the
north. (4)
17. Bird fuel? Sounds like it.
(6)
19. Chewer's target tips
back to little cartoon. (8)
21. Rich, tore into manner of
speaking. (8)
23. I'm quiet in the blue, and
inadequate. (6)
26. Limp to a stop. (4)
28. Wanderer is not crazy.
(5)
29. Miss K in a little drink.
(4)
32. Regret street in Paris. (3)
34. Writer Munro sounds
sarcastic. (4)
35. A Tulsa Arab reforms an
unformed mind. (6,4)
36. Wandering agent goes
back, for example, to
Romeo with one nation.
(13)

[illegible]

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

DOWN

- DOWN**

 1. For the boys, covers for pants. (5)
 2. Marks bits of music... (5)
 3. ...and French church mark with acid. (4)
 4. Ammo for private eye, maybe. (6)
 5. Technician drinks, it's said, with plate. (9)
 6. Cry of pain to allow small bird. (5)
 7. Before note, Nancy's nine months. (9)
 12. Swallowed most of a tea. (3)
 13. Support swagger. (5)
 16. Before a turn. (3)
 17. Grip letter to give buyer. (9)
 18. Let go tern, oddly, and handled glasses. (9)
 19. Pouch for Strategic Air Command. (3)
 20. Follows rear ends. (5)
 22. 45 inches east to a couple of learners. (3)
 24. Quiet, love! I make Hawaiian food. (3)
 25. Drama as Abu and I add a couple of kilos. (6)
 27. Food is nonsense. (5)
 30. Potassium Rab and I take to seaside place. (5)
 31. Simple, flat area. (5)
 33. May have a Central American. (4)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Which Gothic church in London is the traditional place of coronation and a burial site for English monarchs?
 2. Which European peninsula is bounded by the Black Sea to the east and branches of the Mediterranean Sea to the south and west?
 3. In which year was the Berlin Wall dismantled?
 4. What is the official name of the London metro system?
 5. Which Thai highway starts at the Malay border in Songkhla and ends in Bangkok?
 6. In Thailand, where is the official office of the Prime Minister?
 7. In the nursery rhyme, where did the Kookaburra sit and eat gum drops?
 8. Which device, invented in 1908, is used to detect alpha and beta radiation?
 9. On September 1, 2004, a middle school in which Russian town was seized by Chechen terrorists, resulting in 344 civilian deaths?
 10. Which country produces the most beer?
- Answers on next page*

Answers on next page

Brain Buster!

What is the four-digit number described by the following three statements?

1. The 1st digit is one-third of the 3rd digit.
2. The 4th digit is two times the 2nd digit.
3. The 1st digit and the 3rd digit add up to twice the sum of the 2nd digit and the 4th digit.

Answer on next page

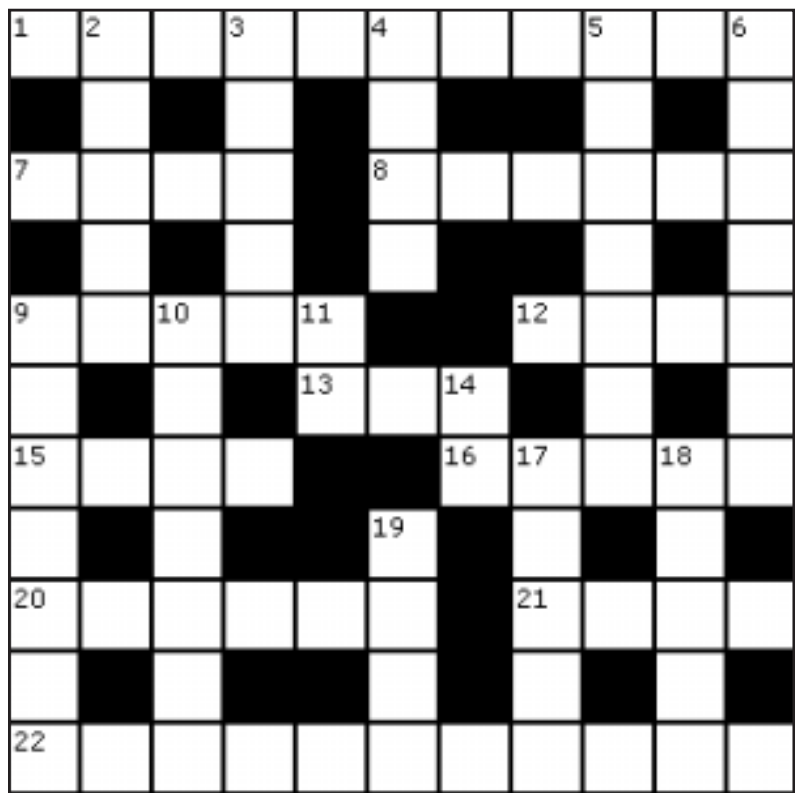
su | do | ku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. End of the journey.

7. Pierce with a knife.

8. Not rare.

9. Villain.

12. Against.

13. Cereal.

15. Cow meat.

16. Things.

20. Financial checks.

21. "Thing" word.

22. Desperate situations
2. Go into.

3. Forbidden.

4. Pleasant.

5. Vast.

6. Silly people.

9. Kimchi ingredient.

10. Late.

11. Knock-out.

14. Between La and Do.

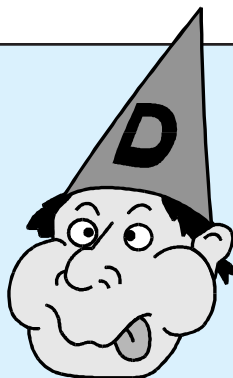
17. Gin mixer.

18. Rodent.

19. Land in the sea.

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. American Lorado Taft was famous in which field?

2. The Iguassu Falls is on the borders of which two countries?

3. Which concentration camp was liberated by US troops on April 29, 1945?

4. The film *Finding Neverland* was based on the life of which author?

5. Which Irish actor, famous for his portrayal of Christy Brown in *My Left Foot*, was born April 29, 1957?

6. If they are *manhua* in China and *manhwa* in Korea, what are they in Japan?

7. Where would you find the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, sometimes called La Maison Bleu?
8. What, reportedly, did Gaius Julius Caesar say after crossing the Rubicon in 49 BC?

9. What and where are the horse latitudes?

10. Who invented the word "widget"?

11. What is the name of the oldest newspaper in the Netherlands?

12. Who is Brazil's first astronaut, currently at the International Space Station?

13. Salem is the capital of which US state?

14. Which two actors and classmates were voted by their class as "most likely not to succeed"?

15. Whose song about a restaurant occupied the entire A side of his debut LP in 1969?
16. Sam Sullivan is the Mayor of which city?

17. The New Zealand Parliament recently passed an act making what the country's third official language?

18. Who was the original illustrator of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes series?

19. How many times does the master criminal Prof James Moriarty appear in the 60 published Sherlock Holmes cases?

20. Peter Benenson and Eric Baker founded which organization in 1961?

Answers below, left

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Sculpture;

2. Argentina and Brazil;

3. Dachau;

4. JM Barrie;

5. Daniel Day-Lewis;

6. *Manga* (comic books);

7. Penang, Malaysia;

8. *Alea iacta est* (The die is cast);

9. The two regions of calm seas and light winds near 30° north and 30° south;

10. Raold Dahl;
11. *De Leeuwarder Courant*;

12. Marcus Pontes;

13. Oregon;

14. Dustin Hoffman and Gene Hackman;

15. Arlo Guthrie's *Alice's Restaurant*;

16. Vancouver, Canada;

17. New Zealand Sign Language;

18. Sydney Paget;

19. Two;

20. Amnesty International.

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Hidden Words SOLUTION

Brain Buster Solution

3,294.

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EZ Trivia Answers

1. Westminster Abbey; 2. The Balkan Peninsula; 3. 1989; 4. The Underground; 5. Route 4; 6. Government House, in Bangkok; 7. In an old gum tree; 8. Geiger counter; 9. Beslan; 10. China.

Cryptic Crossword

Quick Crossword

Sudoku

Overheard in a police station near you: "A farang used a language that in my home country would justify a fine around 20,000 baht, but the police man only smiled. That's the good thing about Thailand, police smile here!!!" (1)

Gold-digging pays: Asia "Old Hands" waxing on about ladies of the night sometimes get carried away. Never mind, just as long as they get to hear their own voices: "Each year, thousands of western men marry a Thai girl only to discover that she is a con-woman. Rich rewards await the smiling perpetrators of this perfect crime. The awful truth is that gold-digging pays. Lonely, soft-hearted men are the hapless victims left without a pot to piss in."

"If you are dating a girl who often stands you up or changes her plans at the last minute, you can be sure that she's got other guys on the go. Her expensive cellphone will normally be ringing... As in the west, respectable girls will be busy during the day. Beware of Miss Available who can easily book time off."

Lis understands. If "Miss Available" is not available she's a hussy, and if she lives up to her name and is willing

Why 'Miss Available' is always a hussy

to drop everything to be with you she's still a hussy. Sigh.

But the writer does have a fair point in saying, "Many guys seem to leave their brain behind when they come to Thailand. The media loves to stereotype the daft old git who believes that a stunning Thai babe is crazy for him. The truth is that many sensible old codgers are growing old disgracefully here and enjoying every minute of it. They get what they pay for. Wisdom is one of the few benefits of advancing age." (2)

Ouch! "The beer wasn't going down well; the last couple of mouthful's tasted as if someone at the brewery had been pissing in it. My bo**cks were developing some sort of tropical heat rash. They were so raw in places you would have thought I'd been dragging them across the carpet. My arse was numb from sitting on bar stools, designed to cripple overweight English backsides. Welcome to Thailand."

"Its time to find another bar, but I'm already having trouble standing. I ask one of the bar girls to the check the

OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Laughing policemen, dodgy bar girls, drunken lads and katoeys – a richer slice of Phuket's Cyber-pie you couldn't hope to find. So let's take another look from the outside in with Lis Kinswoman.

bin and I don't mean for her to go riffing through the trash. If you ask them for the bill they just look at you daft. The only bills these girls know are the ones that turn up every year from America with their lily-white skin and the all-powerful dollar." (3)

Transpotting: "i have no idea why but some males in thiland dress up as girls. they were pretty skirts, high heels, little tank tops and tons of make up and they are always with old white men.

"i dont know if the old white men know if they are actually boys or not. marie and i always try to pick them out when we are walking down the street and it is very easy because you just have to look for girls with large adams apples!!!" (4)

Same same: "Phuket has quite a few ladyboys or katoeys, as they are known in Thai. Just a heads up to avoid confusion on your nights out. They can be found in Soi Crocodile just off Bangla Road. Many can be stunningly beautiful and can easily mistaken for real women. Some things to look out for are height, as ladyboys are quite often much taller than real girls. Large hands and feet are also a good clue." (5)

1. <http://phuket.as/diary8.php>
2. <http://www.phuket-info.com/forums/general/4469-your-thai-sweetheart-really-con-woman.html>
3. <http://festusanders.on.blogspot.com/>
4. <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/Phuket/Patong-Beach/blog-50349.html>
5. <http://www.travellerspoint.com/forum.cfm?thread=20946>

Sir Harry Flashman is my kind of hero – drunkard, lecher, liar, bully, braggart, coward and scoundrel.

Flashman on the March (HarperCollins, New York, 2005, 328pp), by George MacDonald Fraser, is the 12th novel in his series about a philandering British army officer who bumbles his way through all the major military campaigns of the Victorian Age, always intent on saving his own skin.

Flashman, the first of the series, was published in 1969. The conceit is that Sir Harry left behind a stack of packets describing his many adventures, while George MacDonald Fraser, editor and arranger, provides 20 end pages of historical footnotes.

Flashman originally appeared as the upper-class bully in *Tom Brown's Schooldays* by Thomas Hughes, a novel first published in 1857.

The first book, *Flashman*, takes off where the Victorian novel ends in 1839 – with Flashman expelled from Rugby School



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

for public drunkenness. He winds up in India in time for the disastrous First Afghan War. Though a coward, he still manages to get decorated for valor.

From the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea to Custer's Last Stand in the American West and all points between – China, Borneo, Germany, Russia, Madagascar, Zululand – Flashman meets the great figures of the day and beds any number of grandes dames.

His eye for the ladies is generally what lands him in trouble in the first place.

In *Flashman on the March* the year is 1867, and he is re-

A scoundrel for all times

turning to Europe by steamboat from service to the recently executed Emperor Maximilian of Mexico.

He fetches up in Trieste, one step ahead of the furious German relatives of a teenage maiden he ravished while at sea.

To escape Trieste, he accepts an offer to convey a fortune in silver Maria Theresa dollars to the paymaster of Field Marshal Robert Napier, who is encamped 100 miles from the Red Sea in Abyssinia.

The task of Napier's army is to free the British Consul and other hostages from the half-mad Emperor Theodore, who is overly fond of mass crucifixions.

When he reaches Napier, all Flashy wants to do is go home to his wife in England.

But Napier wants Flashman to get behind Emperor Theodore's army encamped in the mountain fortress of Magdala, contact Queen Masteeat of the fierce Galla tribe, and bribe her

to block Theodore's escape from the rear. In his month-long journey, he is to be guided by a Galla princess named Uliba-Wark.

Half sister to Queen Masteeat, Uliba-Wark is also scheming to depose her. Not that Flashy cares. They become lovers through their many adventures during the horseback ride to Lake Tana.

South of Lake Tana, their canoe is swamped in rapids just before the lip of the roaring 150-foot tall Tisisat Falls.

Fetches up at an islet, Flashman grabs a clump of branches while Uliba-Wark clings desperately to his leg. As he loses his grip, both are about to be swept to certain death.

"There was only one thing to be done, so I did it, drawing up my free leg and driving my foot down with all my force at Uliba's face staring up at me open-mouthed, half-submerged as she clung to my other knee. I missed, but caught her full on the shoul-

der, jarring her grip free, and away she went... One glimpse I had of the white water foaming over those long beautiful legs, and then she was gone. Damnable altogether, cruel waste of good womanhood, but what would you do? Better one should go than two, and greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down someone's else's life for his own."

Good ol' Flashy!

But Uliba survives – and gets her revenge later at the camp of Queen Masteeat.

After a drunken romp with the fat queen, Flashman is kidnapped and Uliba is about to castrate him when she is killed by a band of guerrilla Amazons, led by none other than Emperor Theodore!

And this is only halfway through the novel.

In his introduction to *Flashman on the March*, MacDonald Fraser compares Napier's successful in-and-out campaign in Abyssinia to the current debacle in Iraq.

"Those were the days," he concludes.

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Of the people, by the people, for the people?

There has to be something bizarre going on when a person can be elected to represent a community by getting just 8.18% support from that community (See news pages).

If the figures showed that most of the community simply could not be bothered to vote, and that 8% of the electorate represented at least half of those few who did make the effort to go to the polling booths, then the election would be a legitimate expression of the wishes – albeit very lukewarm wishes – of the community.

But things get seriously out of whack when 7,893 people vote for the winning candidate and more than 30,000 vote specifically and emphatically for none of the candidates running.

Despite understandable election fatigue – the April 23 by-election was the third election for a national post in three weeks – some 40% of registered voters still turned out to make their mark. Of these, 70% stated quite clearly that neither of the candidates met their expectations.

Oddly, although Thai electoral law makes provision for a “no vote”, that vote carries no weight in the overall outcome. Make no mistake, the “no vote” box on the ballot paper is more than an abstention. Abstaining implies that the voter has no opinion, or is scared of siding with one party or another, or simply does not care.

Abstaining in a Thai election is simple: stay home. Don't vote. Or, if you want to avoid going through the rigmarole of re-registering the next time there is an election, go to the polling booth and simply fold up the ballot sheet without making a mark on it.

But in Phuket District 1, nearly 45% of all registered voters made their way to the polling booths and marked the “no vote” box. This was more than abstaining. It was a clear statement that they did not want either of the registered candidates listed on the ballot to represent them in Thailand's most powerful national assembly.

Some will argue, of course, that Phuket's historical political preferences are the cause of this outcome. There will also be the inevitable charge of political shenanigans from both sides. While it is possible that these factors were at play, it seems impossible that they could have had such an overwhelming effect.

Unfortunately, under existing election law the “no votes” are essentially worth nothing – they simply do not count.

Something is badly out of kilter; calls for the Constitution to be overhauled are germane. The question now is, who will do it? That is a whole new can of worms.

– The Editor

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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.

Road rage and rash responses

As if stung by a stream of chilled water, the *Gazette* seems to suddenly become interested in the road accident toll each year at Songkran.

Yet, for some considerable time now, the closest thing the island has to a newspaper of record has failed to devote space to the road toll figures it once regularly reported each month.

Statistical comparisons are, after all, the only way to tell whether the island's quality of life (and the spread of sudden-impact death) is growing better or worse.

I don't recall ever even seeing the annual toll figure for 2005 reported, even though it must have involved the deaths of close to 200 people, most of them local residents.

While dozens of young lives are being snuffed out unnecessarily, these tragic cases go unmentioned – except when the victim happens to be foreign.

Given that between 15 and 20 people die on Phuket's roads each month – or at least that was the usual toll back when the *Gazette* used to record these appalling deaths – the toll for Songkran 2006 was similar to any other 10-day period.

In fact, in 2004 and 2005, the extremely low 10-day death toll demonstrated that Songkran can often be the safest time to be on the roads in Phuket.

Residents have proved they are capable of having fun without risking lives unnecessarily, and the police deserve to be congratulated for the success of their crackdowns.

But why doesn't the *Ga-*

zette report that, compared with the rest of the year, Songkran is no longer a time of great carnage on the island's roads?

We are informed ad nauseam that gambling has topped the crime statistics, that people are dumping rubbish and that so dogs are running free.

Yet to me, and I suspect to many other readers, the tragedy of the continuing loss of young life and the scale of the risk that all of us face each day are of much greater concern.

Marcia Mallows
Rawai

Forcing a sense of purpose on dolphins

I am writing on behalf of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) to express our concern about a proposal to open a facility in Phuket to display dolphins in captivity so people can interact with them.

The WDCS believes that it is impossible to accommodate the mental, physical and social needs of dolphins in captivity and that it is cruel to confine them.

Scientific evidence suggests that dolphins in captivity suffer extreme mental and physical stress, lower life expectancy and higher infant mortality than in the wild.

We are also concerned at reports that the proposed facility will offer “dolphin therapy” and programs whereby visitors can swim with dolphins.

The WDCS has many concerns relating to the interaction between visitors and dolphins in captive facilities.

These include the welfare of the animal – including the lack of respite for the dolphins, which

is inherent in programs where dolphins are forced to interact, and the potential for injury and mental disturbance from irresponsible human behavior – the risk of aggression toward people and the potential for disease transmission between human and dolphin.

We would like to take this opportunity to praise the ongoing work of the Thai authorities to protect whales and dolphins in the waters of Thailand and respectfully urge them not to allow the development of a captive dolphin facility in Phuket.

Cathy Williamson
WDCS
UK

How much observing did observers do?

Your article “Tough itinerary for UN poll-watchers” (*Gazette* Online April 18) was aptly headlined.

Indeed, in between lunches and visits to Phuket FantaSea they even managed to visit two or three places connected with the Senate elections.

I would like to invite these gentlemen to visit some areas where their presence at the polling stations would really count, such as in Isarn.

Somebody should have told them that Phuket is not a place where many election irregularities can be found and the buying votes is hardly ever, if at all, practiced in this province, certainly not during elections for the Senate.

If they want to see voting irregularities, they should visit Isarn where the buying of votes is rampant. Alas, there is no Phuket FantaSea there, nor any beaches.

Guenter Bellach
Ban Lipon

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

Crash position

I understand that the roads in Phuket are not good, some are narrow and the road surface is often not that good, and the number of vehicles on the roads is increasing.

The sharp curve at Kuan Din Daeng in Sapam is one curve where accidents frequently happen. We put traffic cones on the road there to indicate to people that they should reduce speed and be careful because, if they drive too fast and cannot control their vehicles, they may cause an accident. But people still drive too fast there because there are four lanes. We have asked the Highways Office to install traffic lights there.

Most people killed or injured in accidents are on motorbikes, and there are several reasons for this. We do not have a good public transportation service in the province. That is why so many people ride motorcycles. We do not have a good alternative for them.

Another is that effective marketing by motorcycle companies and their agents allow people to buy motorcycles with only small down payments.

The rising cost of fuel is another factor that is prompting people who own cars to ride motorcycles instead. This, of course, adds to the number of motorcycles on Phuket's roads.

Most accidents in daytime are caused by people crashing into the back of one other, and the injuries are not too serious. This is different from nighttime, when most of the road deaths are the result of people being drunk and riding too fast.

My boss, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen

FIRST PERSON

Since the beginning of this year more than 70 people have been killed in accidents on Phuket roads, with February and March claiming 48 lives in just 59 days.

Statistics from the Phuket Provincial Health Office, collected from the island's three government hospitals, also show that so far this year 3,795 people were injured in accidents; 3,460 of these people were on motorbikes.

Although accidents do happen, most can be avoided through care. People lose friends and family, and some of those who survive a serious accident remain handicapped for the rest of their lives. Yet still the recklessness endures.

This is the battle Phuket is losing on the streets. Phuket's drivers generally seem to have little regard for their own lives and safety and those of others, and have little respect for traffic laws that were created to save them from themselves.

Here, **Pol Maj Teerawat Leamsuwan**, 35, who joined Phuket City Police Station in November as the new Traffic Inspector, explains his take on what is stopping Phuket's drivers from saving themselves.



Decha Budnampeth, is worried about the increasing number of people dying in accidents and has ordered us to set up checkpoints to reduce the number of accidents and to catch those breaking the law.

The most common traffic offenses are people driving without a license, not wearing a helmet and not wearing a seat belt.

As to foreigners, I don't understand why they break the law. Their countries are very

strict on traffic laws, such as wearing helmets, obeying the speed limit and wearing seat belts, but when they ride motorcycles in Thailand they do not respect the law.

We have set up traffic police centers on the bypass road, Chao Fa Rd and Thepkasattri Rd to watch out for people breaking traffic laws. There are BMW motorcycles on standby at each of them. An advantage of the BMW bikes is that they are fast,

which means we can catch up with motorcycle gangs and get to accidents quickly.

I know that people get tired of traffic police setting up checkpoints, but it does help to reduce the number of accidents and to catch criminals such as motorcycle thieves or bag-snatchers. If we did not have checkpoints, the number of accidents and crimes would increase.

The government's Songkran road safety campaign "Ten Days

of Danger April 7-16" aimed to limit the number of people killed on Phuket roads to four during the holiday period. Although six people died in accidents during the nation's traditionally most dangerous period on the roads, the campaign was a success of sorts because the average number of people killed each day was less than the daily average in the preceding two months.

We are trying every way we can to reduce the number of people being killed or injured in accidents, such as by teaching traffic laws to students in schools, and with road safety campaigns at department stores and in local communities.

It would be good if people were less selfish when driving too, and did not cut in front of other vehicles. If they used their indicators each time, and respected the traffic laws and traffic signs, that would be much better, too.

We don't want to see anyone killed or injured in accidents, and we don't want to fine anyone for breaking the law, but we do want people to have more respect for the law and for others when driving on the road.

We have about 60 officers in the traffic department, with 45 of them patrolling the roads. We also have to provide two officers in front of each school, where people make dangerous U-turns before and after school hours. In addition, we have many VIPs coming to Phuket, and we have to redirect traffic for this.

We try hard – and we risk our own safety out on the streets – but if the number of accidents continues like this, we will have to do more.

Stamping out the jobs - for good

I would like to thank Paul Visconti [Letters, *Gazette* issue of April 15] for his comments on my original letter, and I believe his letter has shown us a new dimension regarding Thailand's immigration policy. The growth of, in Paul's words, the "yob factor".

The powers-that-be in Phuket have often stated that it is their policy to attract "quality" residents. However, I believe Thai immigration policy suffers from a huge hole that, left unchecked, could defeat this objective.

I have lived here for nearly four years and to obtain my first visa I had to provide proof of financial security, ie 800,000 baht in a Thai bank and provide health certificates. I also had to prove that I had no criminal record by obtaining written confirmation from Scotland Yard in London.

Within 90 days of arrival I had to register a permanent address with the immigration office in Phuket and I have to report and reconfirm my address every 90 days. When wanting to renew my visa, I have to satisfy all these criteria again. I am more than happy to do this as I wish to remain a model resident and live out my life in Thailand.

However, if I had no financial security, was suffering from a disease, or had a criminal record in my home country, all I would need to do is to arrive here on a tourist visa, and then do monthly visa runs. I could then stay here indefinitely.

I would not have to report my address to the authorities or abide by any of the conditions demanded in order to obtain a long-stay visa. I wonder how many people there are now living permanently in Thailand who cannot meet the minimum requirements to obtain a long stay

visa, but stay here by virtue of the visa-run system.

Perhaps consideration should be given to some sort of limit on the number of re-entry stamps allowed in a foreigner's passport before having to meet the criteria laid down for residing in Thailand.

Would this not help Phuket in achieving its objective – by vetting all visa applications – of attracting the "quality" residents it claims it wants to live here?

John Lunn
Phuket

Letters

Cool down, please, Gazette

After being told by some friends that the recent edition of your paper had stooped to new levels of fawning, I just had a look for

myself and couldn't believe how sycophantic the paper is to the likes of Gulu Lalvani.

"Wedding of the decade"? Please! Can you [as a newspaper] show a little restraint?

That kind of feature makes those not "in the know", that is to say most of us, think that money or favors have been exchanged, which doesn't do your reputation any good.

L Masters
Rawai

The lion's share

With reference to the Issue & Answer [*Gazette* issue of April 15] about fees for parking above Laem Singh Beach, this has been going on for years now, so why worry about it?

Give the locals a chance to make some money, and if you can't afford the 20-baht fee, then go to another beach.

Khun Ian
Kamala

Laem Singh: the blues continue

I parked above Laem Singh Beach and was walking down the steps when I heard somebody shouting "Boss, boss, boss". A man came and asked me for 20 baht for parking my motorcycle.

I explained that I did not want to pay because I was on public land.

The man became angry, pushing and insulting me and making me out to be a "Mafiosi". I had to withdraw from the place because of his aggression, waiting in vain for 10 minutes for a policeman to pass by. None did.

Meanwhile, the guy wanted to give me his mobile to call to the Kamala Police Station. I wasn't sure if it was a good idea to follow up, so I went to Surin Beach instead.

John Doe
Phuket

In The Stars

by Isla Star

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Any lingering doubts about the wisdom of pursuing a new romance will be laid to rest. Proof of someone's interest could not come more clearly, so just relax and enjoy. If you're celebrating a birthday this week, there may be some heated discussion regarding who to leave off the guest list. Make it a small and intimate gathering if you want to avoid this predicament.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your partner's bad habits are threatening to disturb your peace of mind. It also appears that you have a bit of a short fuse at the moment. Making mountains out of molehills will cause more trouble than you will want to handle. Chill out and focus on what is good about this relationship to get things in perspective. A new work colleague has ideas worth listening to next week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you feel you haven't progressed as much as expected this year you can look forward to good news. All the effort you put into a project is about to be appreciated – and rewarded. The only bitter pill this week will be when you discover that a supposed friend had an ulterior motive all along. This is a good chance for you to learn to reserve judgment before trusting people in future.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Wearing your heart on your sleeve is inadvisable until you understand exactly what someone else wants. A leap of faith could result in disappointment. Romance should play an important part in your life later this year, but anything that happens in the meantime should be taken with a pinch of salt. If you are already in a relationship, you will be surprised by your partner's revelations this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your positive attitude helps to make this week go smoothly. The astral atmosphere is unsettled, particularly regarding

WHAT THE HEAVENS HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU THIS WEEK

work relationships. Others may appear to be finding fault unnecessarily, but you'll find a tactful way to sort out such situations. Money is highlighted this weekend, and the number 8 can bring good luck. Wear the color marigold orange for its feel-good factor.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Current celestial trends look encouraging if you have been struggling with a difficult personal decision recently. Helpful advice is about to be offered by Aries, who went through a similar situation. This week, try to set concerns aside and concentrate on the pursuit of pleasure. Pisces would love to be asked on a date, but lacks the courage to make his or her feelings known.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If business is not going to plan, it's time to take a realistic look at your long-term aims. You sometimes have the tendency to assume that others will behave exactly as you expect, but this is definitely not the case right now.

Be prepared to listen to different points of view and adapt accordingly if you want to see success by the end of the year. The number 4 is lucky on Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You may be tempted to throw your hard-earned cash around this week. Someone close will try to remind you that money will be needed in May to meet a commitment – so take heed. Your fiery nature could be dampened when a bureaucrat tries your patience. Even if you're right, make allowances for cultural differences. Love will flourish if you move slowly.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You have more rice on your plate than you care to admit. As April ends, many Capricorns will be galloping round in circles to try to beat deadlines. Stalling for time is one option that could work, but not everyone will agree to this. You can trust Virgo to take over tasks, but don't rely on Pisces, whose head is in the clouds. The color burgundy encourages focus.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Expressing affection is not usually easy for cool-headed Aquarians, but during May this won't be a problem. Cupid is on your side if you want to make a light-hearted relationship more permanent. Wedding bells are likely by the end of the year. If you're already spoken for, recent troubles become a thing of the past and your partner will appreciate your spontaneous gestures.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A new job gets off to a shaky start. When you discover what's really at the bottom of your colleagues' attitudes, you will understand the reasons for this inauspicious beginning. Meanwhile, tread water and stay open to new learning experiences. Friends surprise you with their thoughtfulness this weekend. Leo, in particular, goes all out to impress. The number 3 is lucky on Monday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): If you feel that someone has left you stranded on the rocks, there's every reason to let your feelings be known. The person concerned needs to be put in his or her place, and you are exactly the right one to do this. Expect to receive a lucky break concerning work opportunities – a good word has been put in on your behalf, and you will soon find out who was responsible.

It's getting

I often tell myself that sleep is merely a symptom of caffeine deprivation, and having to wake up in the morning is the penance I pay for having sarcasm instead of a soul. But then again, talking to yourself is a sign of madness, isn't it? So perhaps I shouldn't believe a word I say...

Maybe I'm being harsh on mornings. I love the wee hours, and sunrises can be very pretty. As long as I have coffee that's strong enough to crawl out of the pot by itself, I can cope with the annoying abundance of sunlight, rush hour and the first roadkill sighting of the day.

What I cannot stand about mornings is the early birds that slaughter worms and then twitter a victorious aria outside my window. Although my cat has a penchant for birds, as evidenced by the number of corpses she drags to the front door, she never manages to get her paws on the Pavarottis of the bird kingdom.

I knew it was going to be a bad day when the most obnoxious, happiest bird in the universe began chirping.

This manipulative feathered fiend knew what it was doing, too. After a few minutes I went to the window – and it stopped. I went back to bed. It started again. Back to the window – it flew away. Bliss... for about 30 seconds.

Mini Pavarotti had flown five meters, and now had a full dawn chorus as backing, in the form of the Vienna Birds' Choir. I admitted defeat, and for the rest of the day I was in a funk.

What is a funk? It is a) James Brown music; b) the smell coming from your socks; or c) a bad mood. This article concerns itself with c), although James Brown's *It's Too Funky In Here* is now stuck in my head.

Funks can be caused by a large number of things, the most popular being getting out of the wrong side of the bed, getting up in the wrong bed or not having gone to bed at all.

Teenagers, for example, need a minimum of nine hours' sleep, but on average get only six to seven. Sleep deprivation can make anyone grumpy. But when a teenager is moody, this is usually attributed to hormones, stress at school, or the mystical "Bad Attitude".

Sometimes it's the culmination of many little things that lead



Youth 'n ASIA

By Ella Micheler

to a funk: stabbing yourself in the eye with eyeliner, that death-defying motorcycle driver, or the skirt that's gone missing at the back of the closet. It has found its way to Narnia, where Mr Tumnus is now fauning around in it.

Bad moods escalate during the day, usually when you lash out at others. A good way of stopping this from happening is to keep your mouth shut. My second grade teacher used to say, "Twist your tongue seven times before you speak." (Figuratively,

Patong hit fire – then

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of April 15-30, 2001

PATONG: In just two weeks, Patong was hit by a major fire along the beachfront, and then by floods that inundated the same road and others.

The fire raged through a collection of vendors' stalls near Ocean Plaza on Thaweewong Rd early on the morning of March 10, causing damage estimated at 20 million baht. Firefighters took about one hour to put out the fire.

Pol Col Paween Pongsirin, superintendent of Kathu Police Station, told the *Gazette* that no one was hurt in the blaze.

The forensic science inspector of Phuket province, Pol Capt Thanapong Morktong, said that the fire started at a souvenir stall. An electrical short circuit was thought to be the most likely culprit, he said.

"The blaze spread quickly to 30 other stalls because of high winds. The items for sale – including clothes, bags, suitcases, leather and handmade products – made good fuel as well," Capt Thanapong explained.

"I don't think the fire was caused by arson; we have found no evidence of this," he added.

The investigation would be completed in about five days, said Capt Thanapong.

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funky in here...

not literally – I've tried it and it doesn't work.)

If you must, you can let your eyes do the talking. Example: when your mouth says, "Good morning!", your eyes may say, "Curse you, abominably chirpy person. May fire and brimstone blister the paintwork on your new car." Chances are that most people are too tired themselves – or too abominably chirpy – to pick up on the funkwaves radiating from your eyes.

Another way of getting out of a funk is to beat something up. Pillows are always good, and the sound of ripping paper is also very satisfying.

Channel your aggression into work, or into sport. Take up Thai boxing and you'll have the added benefit of really nice abs. For those with a more sedentary lifestyle, don't despair. Just the other day, I threw the *Oxford School Thesaurus* a full 10 meters, and nearly bagged a cockroach. (All right, so it was the *Mini Oxford School Thesaurus*.)

A less violent way of banning a bad mood is to play any music that makes you happy, whether it's the Bee Gees or

Nine Inch Nails. Dancing in public may not be a good idea, though, especially if you have the elegance of a penguin. But perhaps there could be de-funk cubicles in all workplaces, in which people can dance without breaking anything, scream without being heard, or have a good cry without people asking repeatedly, "Are you all right?" as if they're running for title of "Most Likely to State the Bloody Obvious."

Housework is an excellent way of channeling aggression. However, if you can't clean up for fear of disturbing the delicate ecosystem that's developed in your office, try sitting down for a minute or so, and think of all those who are worse off. Remember that it is impossible to hit rock bottom – you can always drill a bit more. Indulge in a few daydreams, but don't let anyone catch you – particularly when the daydreams cause you to salivate.

Write down your feelings,

the reason for your bad mood, or the number of ways you'd like to murder the boss. These can be a laugh when you read them again a few weeks later. Do be careful when you write them, though; during English class is not good if you should be taking notes on Shakespeare, instead of designing medieval torture devices and who you would like to use them on.

If you have the money, retail therapy is the ideal cure to a bad mood. Usually you end up buying clothes doomed to be worn only once, books that will remain unread and kitchen utensils you don't know how to use. But for some reason, spending money makes some people happier. Perhaps it's the satisfaction of having achieved something. This is certainly a theory I'll put to the test if I ever get rich, through legitimate means or not.

For now, I'll just concentrate on training my cat how to kill Avian Pavarottis on command.

Curse you, abominably chirpy person. May fire and brimstone blister the paintwork on your new car.

Untying the knot in Thailand

Mr and Mrs A were married in Germany, although Mrs A was originally from the Philippines. They had a child and moved to Thailand.

After a while it became clear that they would like to go their separate ways, and after lengthy discussions both agreed that they should divorce.

However, they were unable to agree on the terms of a settlement. Each therefore appointed a lawyer to take care of his and her interests, but still with the aim of divorcing by mutual agreement and without recourse to the courts.

Because of the legal situation in Thailand, which states that the parties to a marriage must file for a divorce at the District Office of the region where their marriage was registered in this country, there was a complication – the wedding had been in Germany, and the child was not born in Thailand.

After long discussions over assets and visiting rights to the child, however, a divorce agreement was prepared by the law-

LAYING DOWN THE LAW With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

yers, and this was signed by Mr A and by Mrs A.

The case was then referred to the Family Court of Phuket. Because both parties wanting the divorce were now living in Thailand, the Thai court had jurisdiction – but the divorce laws of the country in which the marriage had taken place had to be translated into Thai and presented before the court. This was because the presiding judge wanted to ensure that his decision did not conflict with the laws of Germany, where the couple married.

In this specific case the procedure was relatively easy, since the terms to the divorce had already been agreed.

After three months, during which both parties were heard as witnesses, the case was closed by the Family Court and the couple were granted a divorce.

by B20m by floods

THE TIME machine

News from the past

On March 23, after 10 hours of torrential rain, the people of Patong awoke to find many streets and businesses flooded.

Patong Municipality councillor Surasak Maneesri said the worst flooding was in Rat-U-Thit 200 Phi Rd at the junction near Sai Namyen School, where the water reached 80 centimeters, while lower parts of the beach road were flooded to a depth of 20 centimeters.

"There are always floods in Patong when there is heavy rain but this was exceptional because the rain went on so long.

"We are currently laying drains all around Patong but they are not finished yet. And the rain swept a lot of rubbish into the drains that do exist." The drainage project will be finished next year, he added.

"This morning we tried to drain off some of the floodwater by digging up private land opposite Christin Massage, and we called fire engines from Kathu Municipality to help pump out the water," K. Surasak told the *Gazette*.

Police Cite Recent Hotel Thefts, Offer Tips For Island's Visitors

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of April 1996

PHUKET TOWN: Police Lieutenant Colonel Sati Malakanond, Deputy Superintendent of Police, chaired a meeting at the Merlin Hotel on March 13 about ways to guard against theft in hotels.

According to local press reports, Pol Lt Col Sati said that there have always been groups of thieves preying upon tourists

in Phuket Town, and cited as examples well publicized recent cases at Daeng Plaza, the Pearl Hotel, and the City Hotel.

He said the thefts were creating image problems for Phuket and for Thailand. Tourist groups were making formal complaints to the Interior Ministry and others, including the Foreign Ministry.

He suggested the following for visitors:

- ◆ Check the locks and slide the bolt shut when in the room.
- ◆ Look for any possible avenues by which thieves might enter.
- ◆ Keep any valuables on your person at all times *when you are in the room*.

As for the hotels themselves, the deputy superintendent said they needed to pay close attention to the personal histories of those applying for work, so as

to avoid hiring thieves. He said it was also a good idea to take fingerprints of every applicant. Hotels also need to keep an eye on suspicious guests, to check their identity papers, and to make photocopies of any that appear irregular or otherwise questionable. Pol Lt Col Sati recommended that security guards going off duty make reports of suspicious activities to those taking up the next shift.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Q I can't seem to open a PDF file that contains pictures of some mementos that I would like to identify. Do I need special software for this?

JFS, Rawai

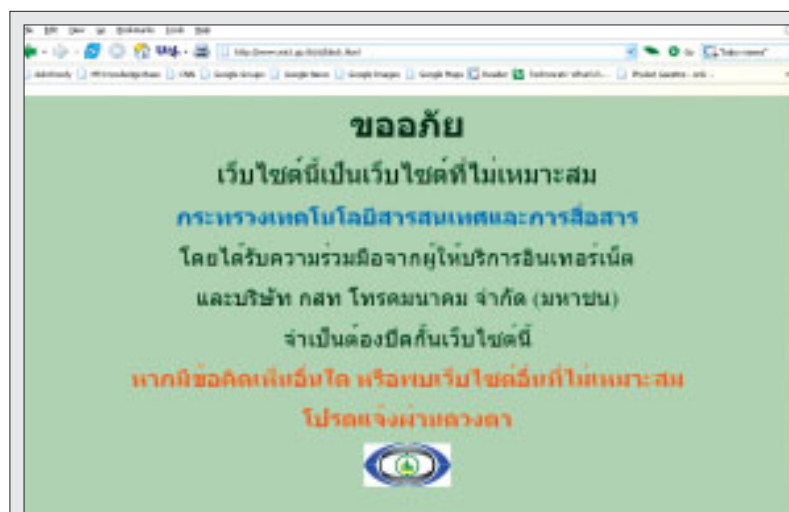
A PDF files have become the standard for exchanging documents. Microsoft Word has many problems, not the least of which are version incompatibilities and hidden data buried in the files that can prove embarrassing. Many organizations all over the world now publish PDF forms that you can complete – without the need to print the form and then fill it out by hand.

You can read PDF files for free, by downloading Adobe Reader from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html. Follow the instructions to install it. When you're done installing, double-click on the PDF file. You should then be able to see everything.

If you want to create your own PDF files, however, you either need to buy an Adobe product, or – better – construct the document in Word, then use an add-in to convert the document to PDF format. OpenOffice 2, the free, open-source equivalent of MS Office available at www.openoffice.org, also allows documents to be exported in PDF formats.

One of the best-known PDF converters is MakePDF, which can be downloaded at a cost of US\$40 (about 1,600 baht) from www.makepdf.net/EN/makepdf_word.htm. I've also heard good things about PDF Creator Plus (US\$29.95 – about 1,200 baht), from www.peernet.com/pdfcreator/index.html.

Q I know a great software developer who built a program for me many years ago, using DOS.



Thailand's Information, Communications and Technology Ministry blocks (above) 'offensive' websites such as www.kalabrians.com (below), which lists the meanings of baby names.



Now he says he's going to build a new version of the program that will run in Access. He says the software has features that lend themselves nicely to inputting data, getting answers compiled and creating reports. I don't have Access, and have never used it, so I don't have a clue if what he's saying makes sense. Does it?

BS, Patong

A Yep, if he can rewrite the program in Access – and he does a good job – you've got it made. It'll be so much easier to use than any DOS program. Access includes hundreds of tools that really can help him build lots of new features into the program.

You don't need to buy Access, however. He can give you

something called the "Access runtime". With this, you will not be able to create your own databases and programs, but you will be able to run his. You can also back up his programs and your data, run updates, install new versions of his program, and much more. The Access runtime is free.

Q I already have your book, *Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, but this dummy still needs your help! I use Outlook Express for emails, and all of a sudden my task bar (Create Mail, Reply, Reply All, Forward, Print, Delete, Send/Recv, Addresses, Find) has disappeared.

I can't find any info about bringing it back in the online Help or anywhere else – not even in your book. Please help me. Did I do something that removed it?

AT, Cape Panwa

A Don't panic. Right-click to the right of the "Help" menu or any other empty spot on the main menu bar at the top of the window, and make sure there's a tick next to "Toolbar".

Making PDF files, bypassing Access and blocked babies...

Q I was searching through Google, looking up "baby names" to see if I could find a good name for a newborn, and also to learn what different names mean in different languages.

One of the Google results pointed to www.kalabrians.com. When I clicked on the link I got a message that claims to come from the Royal Thai Police, saying that the site had been blocked "due to inappropriateness".

I didn't know there was Internet censorship in Thailand. And why would they block a site that lists the meaning of baby names?

SL, Kathu

A I also tried getting through to www.kalabrians.com, and received the message you see in the screen shot pictured at the top of the page. It's a notice from the Thai Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, saying that the site has been blocked.

Few governments try to block websites – it's a hopeless task, with thousands (if not tens of thousands) of "offensive" sites popping up every day. The only

government I know that has had some limited success in censoring the Internet is the People's Republic of China, where every site accessible to the populace must receive government approval.

Local sites critical of the government are shut down.

Censorship is a slippery slope. Earlier this year, Google adapted its search engine to conform to Chinese government dictates (www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=16262).

Yahoo apparently helped the Chinese government track down dissident Shi Tao, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for posting "offensive" material (www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=14884).

I have no idea why the ICT Ministry is blocking access to a baby names website.

Perhaps someone from the Ministry would care to enlighten us?

Woody Leonhard

Woody's Web site, AskWoody.com, covers all the latest news in the wacky world of Windows and Office. Email him at woody@khunwoody.com

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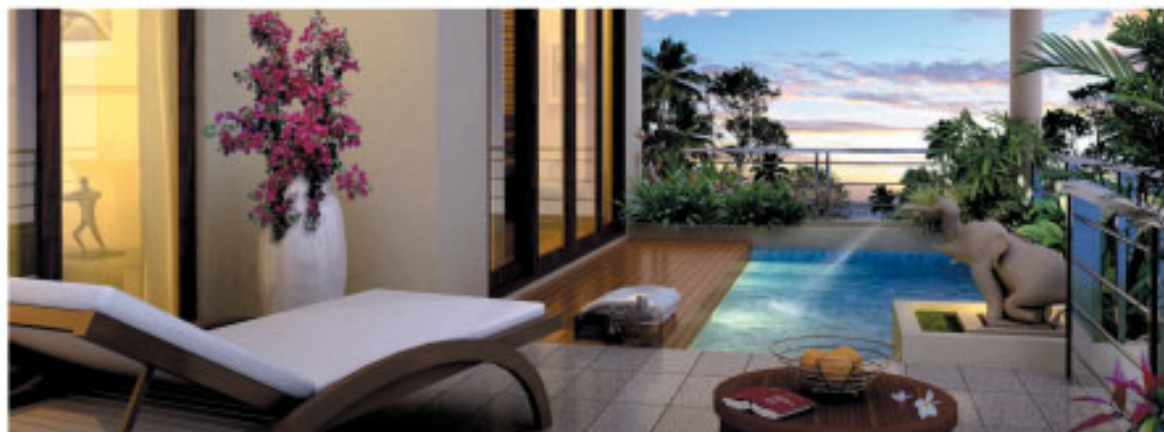
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MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The Chinese government made a prediction late last year – that the country's economy would slow in 2006. This was a situation it wanted to engineer, for a number of reasons.

The main factor behind this thinking was that economic growth in China has exceeded 9% for a number of years – 2005 was typical, reflecting growth of 9.9%.

The government was concerned that an economy growing at this pace would create bottlenecks in infrastructural development, and also that there could be side effects such as regional asset booms – especially in real estate – and mounting stress in the banking sector, which is still unsophisticated and would be unable to handle credit problems.

A deep awareness also existed that the economic boom was of great benefit to city-dwellers, but that little of the money was reaching those living in the country's vast hinterland.

STATUS QUO

Not being democratically elected, the government in Beijing is acutely aware that at some stage the rural "have-nots" may voice their dissatisfaction with the status quo – and that the situation could become uncontrollable.

This is always a problem with dictatorships once change has been allowed to come about; it is not always possible to manage the situation afterwards. The Soviet Union's last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, found himself in exactly that situation.

China has managed to allow a great deal of economic liberalization so far with almost no political liberalization. This does, however, lead to a situation where, as the old saying puts it, the rulers want to "hold the cat and play with the kittens".



China is booming, but Beijing worries about a possible backlash – the benefits are not reaching the rural poor, such as this woman in Yunnan, harvesting her crop by hand. Photo by EPA/Michael Reynolds

When boom can also lead to bust

The free market forces the Chinese government has unleashed are not always easily controlled

To divert political attention they have to date successfully embraced another old adage – "to have peace at home, have a war abroad".

The "wars" have been confined to political rhetoric, as the government realizes only too well that an actual shooting war is not in China's best interests.

The targets to date have been mainly Taiwan and Japan, with occasional jibes thrown at the European Union and the USA.

The old enmity with Russia has been forgotten, however – China is now simply too depen-

dent on Russian energy and mineral supplies, and President Vladimir Putin's Russian Federation poses no threat.

The free market forces that Beijing has unleashed are not always easily controlled. Economic growth has not yet begun to slow to the government's desired level of around 7.5%. In fact, during the first quarter of 2006 it actually accelerated to an annualized rate of 10.2%.

The government has seen what happened in other countries; uncontrolled booms have a habit of becoming uncontrollable busts. The authorities also know that the

Chinese banking system is still embryonic by any standard, and would be unable to cope with a financial crisis.

It is this state of affairs that has caused China to allow partial foreign ownership of its banking system by major foreign banks, in an effort to make the system more stable.

China is having to manage and control many simultaneous situations, and this is not easy. Its vast increase in economic output simply has to be maintained at high levels, because Beijing has to rely on the economy's ability to go on supplying jobs.

However, this government is not alone in wanting to develop the economy. India is a prime example of another country with a huge population that has both government and private aspirations toward rapid expansion. The Asian Development Bank has predicted that Asian economic growth – excluding Japan – will reach 7.2% in 2006.

For investors this is an interesting scenario, for economic growth at these rates means opportunities.

China has seen torrid stock market performance if viewed through its stock market indices alone. Judging simply by these, China has been a place to avoid; there has been insufficient regulatory oversight, and many firms have the incompetent hand of government influencing their management – or simply incompetent and inexperienced management, period.

Many Chinese companies do enjoy good management, however, and these are producing healthy profits. Some of these firms are also listed on the Hong Kong Stock exchange in addition to their main listings in China.

For the investor, one advantage of a dual listing is that companies in this category have to bear scrutiny to more exacting standards.

This is not to say that all firms with a "China only" listing are poor quality, but it does mean that an investor's research has to be exhaustive if such a listing is involved.

RESEARCH

Some investment groups, such as HSBC, have demonstrated a clear ability to make money in China, in direct contrast to the stock market indices. Going into China through such investment groups is clearly the best route, as the burden of research involved is likely to overwhelm any private investor.

There are good choices available for those wanting to benefit from China's economic transformation and its knock-on effect on many other countries. In fact, the wider the range of countries in the region covered by any fund, the greater the number of appropriate choices.

Regional markets such as Thailand are cheap in terms of price/earnings ratios, but in the case of Thailand the current political situation is holding the market back – markets just do not like uncertainty.

India, at the other extreme, has enjoyed spectacular gains. But at current levels it is expensive, and bargains are few and far between. This is not to say that India's stock market will necessarily crash, it simply means that investors are starting to tread on thin ice.

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

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ON THE MOVE

Craig Smith has been appointed Area Vice-President Asia for Marriott International. Mr Smith was formerly General Manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa.

Mr Smith is now responsible for 18 properties in Thailand, Singapore, India, Indonesia and Pakistan, with a further seven properties under development. He will be based in Hong Kong.

His experience includes serving as General Manager of JW Marriott Hotel and Stellaris Casino in Lima, Peru. He also had assignments in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, the US Virgin Islands, El Salvador, Mexico and California.



Australian **Philip Raiss** has returned to Phuket as General Manager of the Phuket Orchid Resort at Karon Beach. Mr Raiss, whose first position in Thailand was as Food and Beverage Manager of the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok, spent several years as Executive Assistant Manager of the Kata Thani Resort Phuket. He has also served as the GM of the Windsor Suites in Bangkok, and as the F&B Manager of the Hilton International Korea. Before returning to Phuket, he was General Manager of the Twin Lotus Resort & Spa on Koh Lanta.



Amanda Drummond, from New Zealand, has joined the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket as Marketing Communications Manager. Ms Drummond has a degree in hospitality management from Auckland University of Technology. Before coming to Phuket, Ms Drummond was the Marketing Communications Manager at the Langham Hotel, Auckland, in New Zealand, previously known as the Sheraton Auckland Hotel & Towers.



In a simple but significant ceremony held recently, Joseph Long became the first fully-fledged owner of a luxury condominium at Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC), as the golf course and property development comes out of financial restructuring and looks to the future.

Mr Long's receipt of the title deeds to the property he bought 11 years ago heralds a turning point in the realization of property investment by individual investors at Blue Canyon Country Club.

Mr Long is the first of 84 condominium buyers to take full possession of their property at BCCC. This resolution of the decade-old problem also paves the way for new investors to buy similar property at Blue Canyon. This is especially significant for the golf club with the impending development of luxury villas conceptualized by hotel guru Adrian Zecha of Aman Resorts. Work on these is expected to begin in the third quarter of this year.

WATERSHED

Mr Long said, "I am really excited to finally receive the deeds to my condominium at Blue Canyon Country Club, not only because it is especially satisfying after a wait of 11 years, but also because I spend most of my vacation time here in Phuket, playing golf [at] Blue Canyon."

"In addition to this new feeling of ownership is the knowledge that this is one of the best business and leisure investments I have made. This is a huge step forward and I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Blue Canyon team for working tirelessly to make this happen."

Sia Leng Yuen, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BCCC, said, "This is a watershed moment for us all at Blue Canyon. After seven years of dedicated hard work, we are tremendously proud that this day has come around."

"We are confident that this realization of property investments at Blue Canyon reinforces the positioning of Blue Canyon not only as Asia's premier golfing destination but also as one of the

Blue Canyon owners finally get their deeds



Joseph Long receives his title deed from Blue Canyon's Selina Newton.

best property investments in the region."

Blue Canyon was previously unable to hand over the deeds because the land titles were held by the creditor bank as surety against loans borrowed

more than 15 years ago. In a Catch 22 situation, BCCC could not repay the loans because condominium buyers refused to pay in full until they received the title deeds.

The vicious circle was un-

tangled through a process of business restructuring under the supervision of the Thai Asset Management Corp, the secured creditor, and the Central Bankruptcy Court. The court also appointed experts to map out a business restructuring plan for the company and its finances. The land deeds were finally released late last year after the company made full payment to TAMC. This was no simple matter, and took four years to bring about, starting in 2002.

In December last year, BCCC announced that the investment fund managed by the giant Deutsche Bank had invested 2 billion baht in the golf club, allowing it to carry out plans for elaborate refurbishment and expansion.

Already, the Lakes Course has been closed temporarily and work on a complete renovation and upgrading has started.

In addition, hotelier Adrian Zecha, Chairman of General Hotel Management Ltd (GHM), along with Kerry Hill Architects and Jaya Ibrahim & Associates have been engaged to ensure "an elegant transformation of the re-

owned property" a BCCC press release stated.

Developed in 1988 from an old tin mine and rubber plantations, the club covers 1,800 rai and is recognized as being among the top golfing establishments in Southeast Asia. It has two 18-hole courses – the Canyon Course, built in 1991, and Lakes Course, built in 1999.

The club has hosted top tournaments, including the 1998 Johnnie Walker Classic, during which Tiger Woods staged a stunning come-from-behind win. BCCC also staged the Johnnie Walker Classic in 1994 as well as other major tournaments, such as the Honda Invitational, the BMW International World Final, and the SAS World Tour Final.

In 2005, it hosted the Thailand Open and the Tiger Skins featuring Colin Montgomerie, Grace Park, Retief Goosen and Thomas Bjorn.

The club has won a slew of awards for its golfing. Its spa has also claimed plaudits, helping BBBC win the title of Best Golf and Spa Destination at the Asia Crystal Awards last year.

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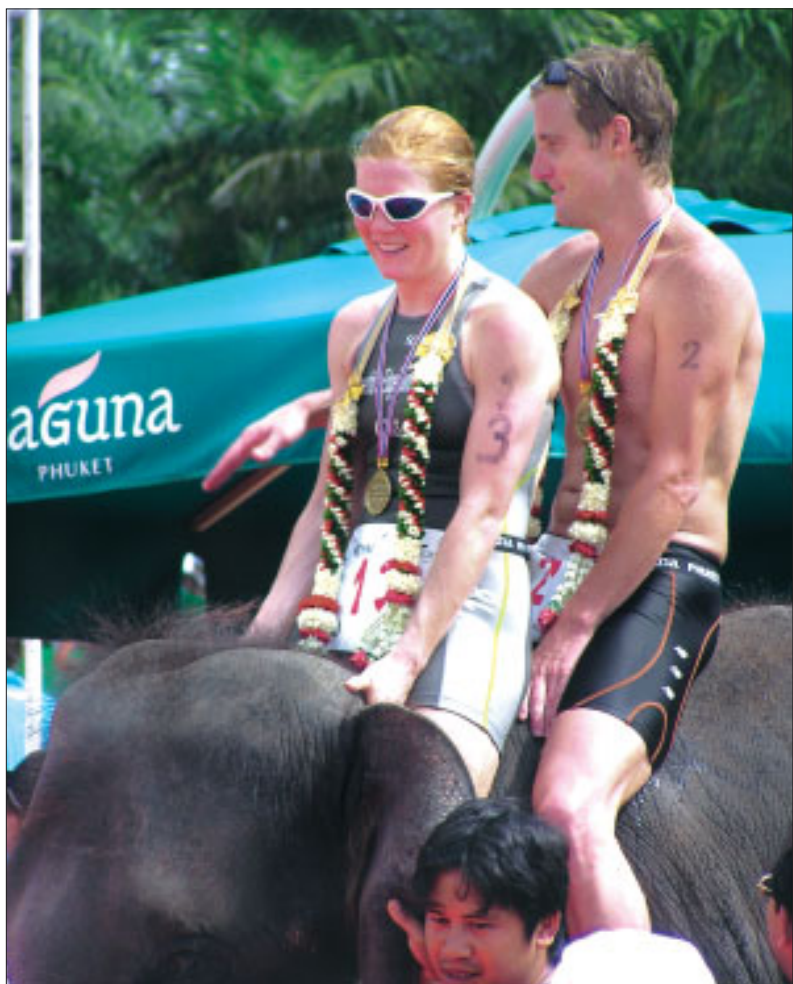
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And the really nifty thing is that if you win, you get to ride on an elephant: McGlone and Bennett get special transport from the finish line after last year's Laguna Triathlon.

Champs to return to defend their Laguna Triathlon titles

CHERNG TALAY: The 2005 Thai Airways Laguna Phuket Triathlon champions, Greg Bennett from Australia and Canadian Samantha McGlone have confirmed that they will return to Phuket on December 3 to defend their titles.

Both Bennett and McGlone were newcomers to the Phuket event last year.

For the first time in the history of the event, registration was closed before to the 2005 race with a record number of triathletes from over 30 countries.

The race office is anticipating another sell-out this year after receiving positive feedback from athletes, sponsors and spectators.

Event Director Paula Himel said, "The popularity of the triathlon in Southeast Asia and around the world has taken off."

"I believe this continued growth, and the fact that we offer a unique, fun event in such a setting, makes this a race that pros and amateurs from all over

the world look forward to competing every year."

As in past years, the 2006 course will comprise a 1.8-kilometer swim, a 55-km cycle and a 12-km run which, for the first time, will wind its way around the Laguna Phuket golf course.

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon offers a US\$20,000 Pro Prize Purse and 25 guaranteed entries into the 2007 Ironman Australia to the highest-placed finishers in each age group.

Once again, a 6-km Fun Run will be held on race day, set to begin once the triathletes have transitioned to the bike course.

Online registration will begin on May 1 and all five Laguna Phuket hotels will offer discounted room rates.

For online registration or further information and updates, visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com, or contact Ms Himel by email to triathlon@lagunaphuket.com or by calling Tel: 076-324-060 or by Fax to: 076-324061.

Phuket is 'Heaven'

By Mark Burns

PHUKET: "Cricket Heaven" was how one player described the experience of taking part in the Lighthouse Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Few would argue with that opinion, certainly not the International Cricket Council, whose President, Ehsan Mani and other distinguished members of the selection panel, awarded the Global "Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative" to the tournament.

By winning the award, the Phuket Cricket Union will receive US\$1,000 of cricket equipment from Kookaburra to help develop cricket on the island.

Twenty-eight cricket teams, including 24 that flew into Phuket just for the event, joined with ex-Test players Adam Hollioake, Alan Mullally, Pranab Roy, Trevor Chappell and former first-class player Rizwan Sattar, all contributing to a spectacular week of sixes action and inspiring camaraderie.

Sixty-six matches were played in Cup, Plate, Bowl and Spoon Divisions, plus a successful under-the-lights Twenty20 match on the evening of April 22.

That match featured many of the best players from the tournament in an entertaining affair that went right to the wire, with the Trevor Chappell XI eventually triumphing over the Adam Hollioake XI.

A full range of cricket skills was on show at the tournament: from former international professional cricketers to the keenest total novice, with players of every ability able to soak up the atmosphere and give it their best out in the middle.

Two women cricketers represented Lamma CC and acquitted themselves with aplomb, Kylie Knott especially performing with distinction with the ball.

The Perth Postels ran out winners of the Cup Division after posting a competitive 87 runs against a reasonable bowling attack from defending Champions, Corner Tigers from Pakistan. The Postels then tenaciously defended their total, restricting the Tigers' formidable batting lineup to just 69 and taking their first Phuket Sixes Championship.



Brad of Formosa Spartans heaves one into the bush.

Photo by Wayne Morrison

Daniel Shaw and Cameron Park of the Postels were jointly named Player of the Cup Final.

In the Plate Division final, a valiant innings of 35 by Kelawar skipper Henry Tattersall could not prevent his side from going down to the Moonshine Warathais of Australia, as Kelawar mustered 82 in reply to the Warathais massive innings of 113. Simon Porter and Trevor Chappell took to the Kelawar bowling attack, both batsmen retiring, with Trevor Chappell being awarded the Player of the Plate Final trophy by the umpires.

The Bowl Division was a real nail biter for the partisans, with another Aussie side, Applecross CC, taking on Drifters from England. It was the highest aggregate total of all matches during the tournament, Applecross batting first and posting a hefty 108 with "Zads" and Mel of Applecross both retiring.

The match went right down to the last ball, 4 being required off it by Drifters to take the title, after Dean Morrison and Rob Hall had both retired. But it wasn't to be; a single was all they could manage, Applecross won by two runs, completing the Aussie sweep of the three tournament titles. Chris Zadow of Applecross

was named Player of the Bowl Final.

The Phuket Cricket Union (PCU) had only one one match all tournament coming into the Spoon final.

They faced a buoyant Bounty Bar Buccaneers, who posted a reasonable 69, Graham Witt scoring 20 and Gupindar Mahal 21 not out for the Malaysians. PCU hit a vein of form at just the right time with excellent innings from Mark "Scarfy" Whetton and skipper Rich Brown, who guided the local side to the their target with just two balls to spare. Brown was later

Didi's victory to a halt with

PATONG: Didi's remarkable winning streak in the Patong Darts League finally came to an abrupt end on April 11, with the team losing all three points at home to OffShore and then meeting the same fate a week later against Dog's Bollocks.

Five teams are now separated by just two points at the top of the table with five weeks left to play.

With venues closed for elections for four days, it was remarkable that only one match had to be postponed – the Valhalla fixture against Coyote will be played this week by mutual consent.

Piccadilly took a break, with two walkovers in a row; unfortunately one more bar, Two Black Sheep, has opted out of the league, which is now down to 10 teams.

Any bars interested in joining the league next season, which starts the first week of June, should contact Bez or Terry at Amigos Bar on Soi Sea Dragon.

Only bars that are confident that they can field a six-member team every week should apply.

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for cricket aces

awarded the Player of the Spoon Final award by the umpires.

Players of the Tournament were, in the Open category Imran Idrees of Corner Tigers for his all round performance (innings of 33, 23, 35 & 33 and 2-2, 0-7, 1-17 & 2-2 with the ball); in the Spoon category Mark Sayers of the Wild Men from Borneo was named Player of the Tournament (innings of 41, 15 & 24 and 1-14, 1-15 with the ball).

There were many comments about the high standard of officiating at this year's Sixes,

which contributed so much to the high standard of cricket played.

The tournament was fortunate to benefit from the services of several highly experienced and qualified umpires, including Glyn Davies, Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers, and Chanky, Chairman of Umpires at the Cricket Association of Thailand.

The umpires of the Sixes were ably overseen by Paul "Hagar" Jones from England. Kim Leung and Kevin Bishop provided the bulk of the essential

scoring services for the 66 matches, assisted by Barrie Radburn of Awali Taverners.

In keeping with the spirit of the tournament, generous players and spectators raised 100,000 baht for local charity Childwatch and the Youth Development Program of the Phuket Cricket Union. Particular thanks from organizers go to Kitten for her tireless fund-raising efforts and to Allan Mullally for his donation of a lovely piece of Ashes cricket memorabilia, which was auctioned off for US\$1,500.

Senior World Cup kicks off quietly



Anchalee Vanich-Thepbutr and Theppitak Chansuthep hold up the Senior World Cup at the press conference, held at Surakul Stadium.

streak comes double losses

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

All walkovers and scheduled matches with teams that have dropped out of the league will no longer be reported, they will just go down in the ledger as 3-point wins.

April 11 results: Shakers 2 Dog's Bollocks* 7; The Boss Bar* 4 Queen Mary 5; Didi's 3 Offshore* 6; Coyote Bar* 5 Amigos 4.

April 18 results: Queen Mary* 5 Shakers 4; Dog's Bollocks* 6 Didi's 3; Amigos* 6 Boss Bar 3. (*=winner of beer leg)

Standings after April 18 play:

1. Didi's (36 pts.); 2.= Queen Mary, Amigos (35); 4.= OffShore, Dog's Bollocks (34); 6. Piccadilly (32); 7. Coyote* (27); 8. Valhalla* (26); 9. Shakers (20); 10. The Boss Bar (14).(*= one match in hand)

May 2 fixtures: Amigos v Queen Mary; Piccadilly v Dog's Bollocks; Coyote v Shakers; OffShore v Valhalla (home teams listed first).

PHUKET: With little fanfare – indeed, with no fanfare at all apart from a last-moment press conference – soccer's very first Senior World Cup kicked off this week in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

The competition features eight teams – Thailand, South Korea, Australia, Iran, Macau, the UAE, Hong Kong and Vietnam. The semi-finals take place on April 29 in Krabi, with the final being contested at Surakul stadium on April 30. The kick-off is at 4 pm and entry for spectators is free.

At the press conference on April 22, the President of the Senior Footballers' Association of Thailand (SFA), Theppitak Chansuthep, explained, "Thailand has already played host to the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games, but this is somewhat

harder as many larger, more experienced nations have hosted the World Cup before and it will be hard to match their standards.

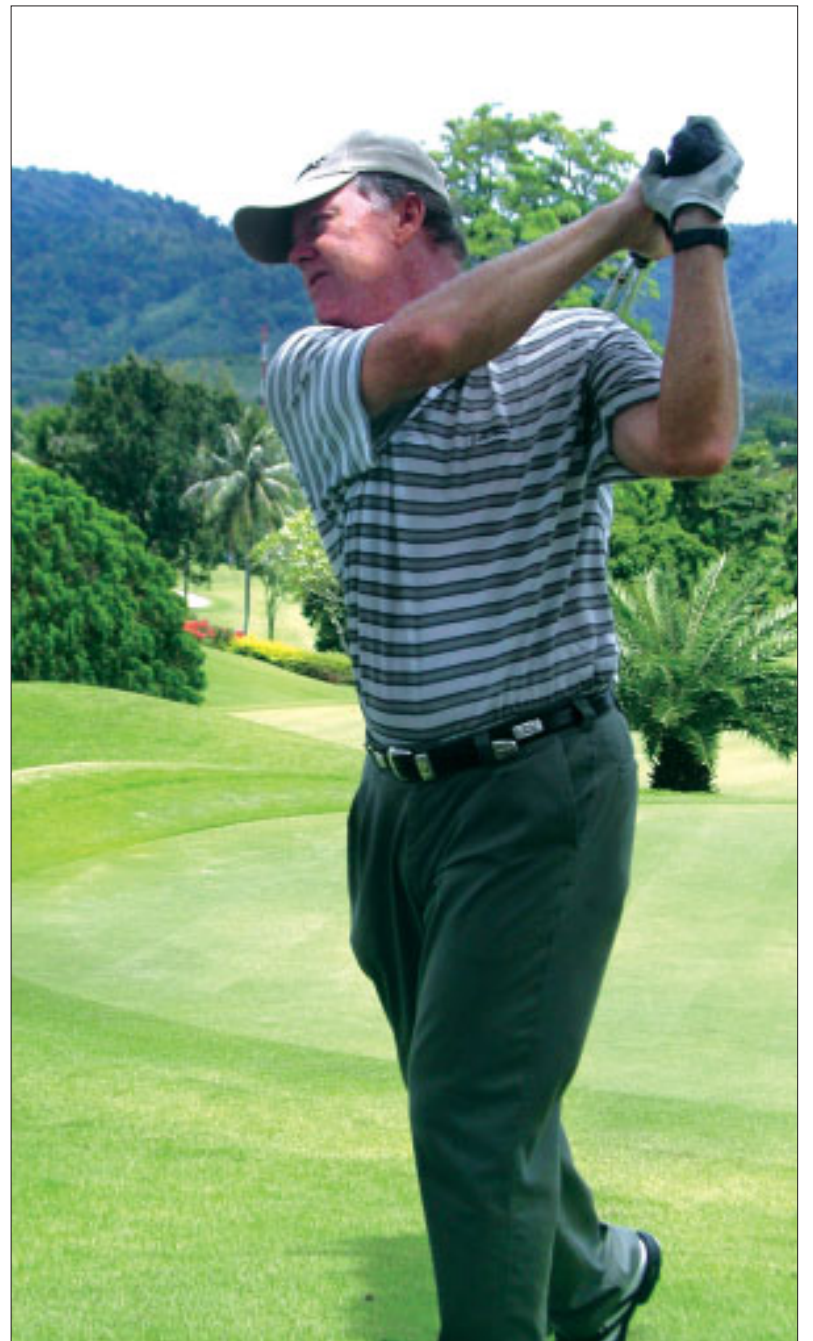
"However, if we can do it well, we will have many visitors to our country and will be able to generate good income."

Anchalee Vanich-Thepbutr, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, which owns Surakul Stadium, said, "Phuket is ready to be involved in the competition and we will use the stadium for matches, for the final and for the closing ceremony.

"Phuket has already organized other world-class competitions so it's not a worry for us."

To qualify for the competition, players have to be professional or former professional players over 40 years of age.

Natcha Yuttaworawit



Competitors limbered up with a charity match the Sunday before the main event.

Seniors vie for Asian title

KATHU: Phuket Country Club this week hosted the third Asian Senior Masters (ASM), with more than 105 senior pros and 576 amateur golfers from 15 countries expected to compete. The winner was due to take home approximately 3.7 million baht in prize money and a trophy.

Last year's winner, Kuala Lumpur-based Australian Stewart Ginn, presently playing on the European Senior's tour, was set to defend the title he won after a thrilling competition in Johor, Malaysia. Ginn never lost his lead, calmly fending off a competitive field, including the winner of the 2003 inaugural competition, South Korean Koi Yoon Soon.

Phuket Country Club also hosted a one-day pro-am charity

tournament on Sunday April 23. The winning team, with a score of 139, was the "Siriyanyon" team consisting of Phuket locals Khobchai Pirapiroj, Thongchai Sukwuttikul and Wirat Wangsuk.

The President of the Thai Senior Golfers' Association, Prajuab Supcharoen, is set to resign in July and his secretary, Khun Wattanachi, told the *Gazette*, "This tournament is being hailed as the first event of its kind in Phuket and a first for the Phuket Country Club. It will be K. Prajuab's legacy and a good publicity coup for Phuket."

The ASM was inaugurated in 2003 in Singapore. It is for male professional golfers, who must be at least 50 years old on the first day of the event.

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Leelavadee Resort & Spa enters home-building phase



Computer-generated artist's impressions of how the project will look, when complete.

Installation of the basic infrastructure of the Leelavadee Resort & Spa housing development on Sapam Hill, at the northern end of the bypass road, is 90% complete, and the developer, Leelavadee Resort and Spa Co, is now finalizing the styles of the homes to be built on the 138-rai estate.

Underground power cables and municipal water mains have been installed, and estate roads have been marked out throughout the 92-plot development, which can be reached from Soi Sapam Thung Kha, off Thepkasattri Rd.

Although Leelavadee will eventually include a 50,000-square-wah boutique resort, it was decided to complete the housing estate first.

Although the project is below the 80-meter limit, it is high enough to enjoy panoramic views stretching to the north, to the hills to the west and across Ao Sapam and Phang Nga Bay to the east.

Homes will be offered in four zones – Top Sea View, Sea View, Sea & Garden View and Garden View – differentiated according to the view offered by the plot.

A total of 42 units will be offered as a combined land-and-house package with the style of house to be built on each particular lot already designated. Each land-and-house unit will cost between 15 million and 22 million baht, with plots ranging from 260 to 710 square wah.

For those who buy one of the 50 “not-predestinated” plots, owners must choose from one of five home designs provided by the developer. Plots for these homes range from 286 to 707 sq wah. Prices start

at 40,000 baht per sq wah. Construction of display homes in each of the five styles will begin in the coming weeks, with all five homes to be completed by the end of the year.

Three of the homes will be fully furnished.

Each house will have its own swimming pool with pool terrace, as well as its own reserve water tank in case the municipal supply fails.

The tanks will be large enough to provide about 15 days' supply.

Each home will also have two direct telephone lines.

After the display homes are complete, work will begin on building a clubhouse complex, which will comprise a restaurant, gym, beauty salon and swimming pool.

A company will be set up to maintain common areas and organize 24-hour security, and to organize rentals for homeowners who choose to let out their properties.

The five-star Bali-style boutique resort will be built on more than 5,000 square wah, offering accommodation as well as beauty and health spa treatments.

Villa owners will be able to take advantage of and enjoy preferential rates at the resort and spa.

The project architect is East West Architect Co Ltd and the Project Consultant is DCS Associates Co, Ltd.

For more information call Tel: 06-9463223 or 06-9468998 or visit the website: www.leelavadeeresortandspa.com



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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



As the sunset fades over the horizon, lighting in this home takes over to keep the special mood going.

THE LIGHT TOUCH THAT COUNTS

One thing is for sure; you can have the most beautifully decorated house in the world but come dark, it may as well be a shack if you don't have adequate, complementary lighting.

Yet if you are looking for something to transform your humble abode or your mansion into an Austin Powers-like super pad, Andaman Lighting Systems (ALS) may be the place to start. Lighting specialist Ian Potter from England started ALS, which now has a showroom on the bypass road, nine years ago.

ALS has since been involved in many outstanding lighting projects, local and nationwide, such as at the Blue Canyon Golf Club, the Banyan Tree Hotel, Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club, Kata Thani Hotel, Trisara Villas and the big daddy of them all – the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok.

Before moving his business to Phuket in 1997 Mr Potter had 10 years' experience in Hong Kong in building service control. From 1993 to 1997, he worked in Singapore on prominent projects such as the Merlion on Sentosa Island and even a Hindu Temple.

The range of fixtures at Mr Potter's disposal includes spotlights, linear lights, sunken floor and table lights, lamps, lampshades and chandeliers, color lights, fiber-optic lights – indeed he can produce nearly any form of lighting custom-made for any effect required.

Mr Potter said, "This is



Ian Potter: 'When people build their dream home they want special lighting.'

my favorite work, and I'm happy when I'm doing it. I like to design in different styles and want to respond to my customers' requirements.

"At home I've lit my place in a very romantic style and it makes me and my wife feel

happy and relaxed after a hard day at work."

He added, "About 80% of our work is in Phuket – for private villas, hotels and other venues, including bars, boats, golf courses, retail outlets, and so on. We work with architects, interior designers, landscape designers, hoteliers, individual builders, developers, and directly with the owners themselves as well as international agencies.

"We chose to set up office here because nine years ago Phuket was different and there were not many lighting system companies.

"When people build their dream home they want special lighting."

For more information contact Andaman Lighting Systems. Tel: 076-254826 or visit www.andamanlighting.com

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Guess what? I've been accused of ranting. Moi? I looked up "rant" in a dictionary, to discover that it's "to speak in a very loud, exaggerated, aggressive, or bombastic way, usually at length and repetitively". The accusers have got it completely wrong – that's not me at all.

I will concede that occasionally I may have had a pop at Americans, moths, Germans, people who wear socks with sandals, fat people, the Welsh (obviously), bored botanists, the English weather, Internet bulletin board posters, Italians, teetotalers and buffoons who don't appreciate *Fawlty Towers*. Have I missed anything out?

But I do have a good excuse for my occasional light-hearted jibes. They all asked for it – everyone and everything above is screaming out for someone to have a go at it/them. And I'm only too happy to oblige.

I can now add ugly people to the ever-expanding list of victims of Bert rants. I don't have anything against ugly people per se – don't get me wrong. It's just that here in Phuket we get to see a lot more of them than perhaps in other parts of the world.

I'm not talking about numbers. Percentage-wise, there is probably the same ugly to non-ugly ratio here as in most other parts of the world – except, perhaps, in Skegness on England's east coast.

I am referring instead to the amount of themselves they inflict on the hapless inhabitants. It's somewhat warm in Phuket, and ugly people feel the urge to remove as much clothing as possible. I suppose they can be forgiven for doing so at the beach. But elsewhere? Please.

I was sitting in a restaurant in Karon the other day, enjoying some superb pasta, when in



Err on a G-string – now *that's* ugly

walked a European "gentleman" wearing nothing but a G-string thong. The fact that this garment was several sizes too large had inevitable consequences. I nearly choked on my food.

The plant world is not immune to the ugly syndrome. Most plants are pleasing to the eye, and I do really like plants. Some people may find that rather sad, but I really do. I can get enthusiastic about most species of flora, and generally I have at least a few

kind words to say about most of them. All plants seem to have their own kind of charm.

One exception to this rule has to be the "crown of thorns". Far from being a stunner, this has to be one of the most unattractive plants ever. It doesn't seem to make any effort at all; nasty-looking thorns dominate a fat little stem, and its few tiny flowers appear to be an afterthought.

Believe it or not, this odd creation is actually related to the Poinsettia, or Christmas plant. The Poinsettia certainly hasn't passed on any *suay* genes to its cousin.

The crown of thorns, or *euphorbia mili*, is a succulent plant that is originally from Madagascar. Some feel it should have stayed there. In Thai it's known as *poi-sian*.

Like so many plants that can be cultivated in Phuket, it's incredibly easy to grow. Some

plants reward gardeners by producing results proportional to the amount of effort they put into it. This one is the same – it requires no work whatsoever, and therefore gives very little back. It just sits there, looking depressed. It doesn't even need much water, and can endure long periods of neglect.

The small flowers are pleasant enough, I suppose, and beauty is certainly in the eye of the beholder. My old next door neighbor loved them, and must have had about 50 scattered around his balcony in pots.

There are literally hundreds of varieties of the crown of thorns, each slightly different. You certainly can't knock the diversity of colors, from bright scarlet to pale yellow, with just about every hue in between. Some have more than one color. But why does every other part of the plant have to be so unsightly?

Predictably, it's also poisonous. The milky latex contained throughout the plant will make you quite ill, should you be daft enough to ingest it. Blisters will form following contact with skin, and it can cause temporary blindness if it comes into contact with the eyes. The crown of thorns really wants to hurt you. If it falls into your pond, it will even paralyze your fish.

Apart from the lack of care required for its upkeep, another reason for the crown of thorn's popularity is that it blooms year-round. It normally becomes dormant in the hot season, though, so don't throw it on the compost heap if it loses its few leaves.

To propagate, it's another "cut it and stick it" kind of plant. Trim the stems that are too long – ensure you wear gloves, to prevent contact with the sap – let them dry for a couple of days, and stick them into potting medium.

They'll grow easily. An older plant can reach up to about five feet in height, but it isn't in much of a hurry to get there.

VERSATILE

As much as I hate to admit it, the crown of thorns is actually quite versatile. It can be grown as a dwarf shrub or as ground cover. It can be used as an edging or container plant. It's also quite adept on the oceanfront, and is common in rock gardens, too, as it requires little or no irrigation after it's established.

It will grow best when placed in an area that receives full sun or partial shade. Just about its only requirement is well-drained soil, but it won't put up with over-watering or over-fertilization. Just leave it alone.

The crown of thorns isn't a plant that exactly cries out for attention, and even an over-sized G-string wouldn't improve the looks of this ogre. Thankfully it can fend for itself, so don't pamper it – it doesn't deserve it.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: bloominbert@hotmail.com

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Home of the Week

Kamala

Three-in-one pavilions, but not far



This is a truly magnificent two-bedroom furnished home with a glorious garden on a private 1,200-square-meter plot near Kamala Beach.

Built in traditional Thai style, it has a soaring curved roof with handmade terracotta tiles, timber eaves and trims. Featuring tasteful furniture and décor, the home was constructed using top-quality materials and fixtures.

A single-level residence, it comprises three pavilions or wings.

Under one roof are the living and dining rooms, European-style kitchen – complete with imported granite counters, glass cook top, conventional oven, microwave oven, exhaust hood, timber cabinets and stone wall finishes – a laundry room and guest bathroom.

Two elegant bedroom suites are located in the other two wings, each with its own private en-suite “courtyard” bathroom, featuring a stylish oval bath. The bright and gorgeously decorated bedrooms are very spacious, and have private sitting areas overlooking the swimming pool and gardens.

The pool is accessible from all rooms of the home via timber-

framed doors, and is surrounded by a lush and established garden.

Furnishings include a custom-crafted timber dining room suite, a variety of beautiful cabinets and tables, bedside furniture, richly upholstered lounge suites, rattan and teak furniture, silk wall panels and custom-made window treatments.

The floors are of gleaming hardwood, high quality ceramics and terracotta.

The home has ducted air conditioning, ceiling fans, a carport with parking for two vehicles, and a large garden.

Utilities include UBC TV, a telephone line, well water with a filtration system, solar-heated hot water, a septic tank and three-phase electricity.

Those seeking a luxurious and traditional Thai-style house, already furnished and decorated to a high standard, should view this superb property.

The land title is Chanote, and the price is 18 million baht.

For more information contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate, at Tel: 076-288908, Email: info@siamrealestate.com or visit the website at www.siamrealestate.com



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The Beach Boulevard. A smart move in Paradise

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

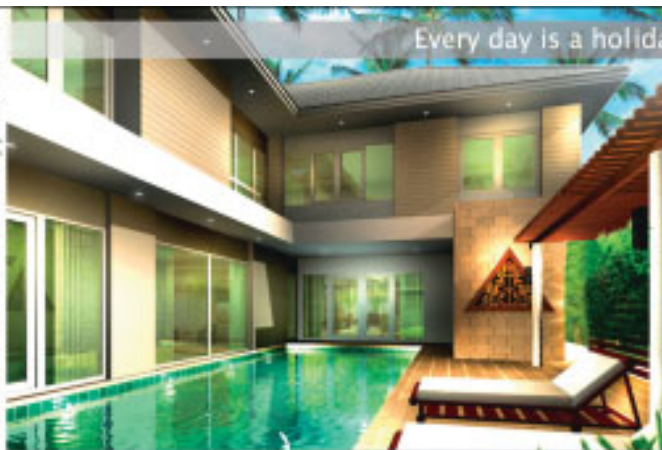
The Beach Boulevard is located just 300 meters from the Club Med, a few minutes away from the popular Kata Beach, and is a short drive from Phuket City (30 minutes) and Phuket International Airport (50 minutes).

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

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

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THE Beach POOLVILLA

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www.phuket-goldenplace.com

Every day is a holiday at The Beach Pool Villa.

3 units of detached two-story homes on 11 rai of land. Only 400m from Kata Beach. Feel the warm ocean breeze and enjoy the uniqueness of being in a tropical paradise. A special modern-style home with some local touches. The overall design emphasizes simplicity. An L-shaped unit allows more space for family activities or party. Glass walls make it possible to view all areas of the house. A private swimming pool with salt water has therapeutic benefits. It is located in an enclosed area adjoining the unit and can be viewed from two master bedrooms on the second floor. To increase privacy, the garage is specially designed to stand in a spot that partly covers the pool. All this continues to make The Beach Pool Villa one of the best-designed two-story homes with a pool in the Kata area.

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



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

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



Island Living Co Ltd is proud to offer for sale a new 2-bedroom house built to the highest quality of materials and construction. Very quiet and natural location in the hills at the northern end of Patong Beach. The house can be custom-designed to your requirements. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296-160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAYAN SEAVIEW

34 rai of seaview land for sale. See the website www.thephuketproperty.com for details and photos.

RAWAI, 2-STORY

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

NEW DETACHED HOUSE FOR SALE



in Kathu. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 508sqm swimming pool 4x9 meter. Price: 9 million baht. Soi Waterfall. Tel: 07-2799500.

RAWAI HOUSE

for quick sale. New house for sale in Rawai. Owner leaving Thailand, therefore needs to sell house quickly. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Large garden with hill view. Located in a quiet residential area. Best offer will secure. Tel: 076-220190, 01-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

CHERNG TALAY VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 125sqm house, on 300sqm land corner plot, being built. Will be ready in 6 months max. Easy access to Bang Tao and Surin Beaches. 2.5 million baht, Chanote title. Please call. Tel: 04-7468607, 09-8750530.

ECO-COOL THAI HOME



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

PHUKET CITY CONDO

32sqm, freehold, brand-new, furnished, 550,000 baht. Close to Central Festival. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDOS

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

RAWAI 680SQM

Small plot. 2 million baht. Good location. Chanote title. Tel: 07-8938747.

NAI YANG - PHUKET

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

RAWAI SALE/RENT

130sqm house, newly renovated, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. 500m from 7-Eleven and beach. Asking 6,000 baht a month. Will sell 1.2 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

HOUSE & LAND

for sale. House and land for sale just 2 minutes from beautiful Nai Thon Beach. Call the owner at Tel: 07-2811995 for details.

RAWAI LUXURY

villa. New house, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with 400sqm. Freehold land. Asking 3.4 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

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RAWAI HOUSE + GUESTHOUSE



Distinctive 2-story house plus large, Thai-style guesthouse on a half-rai, with walled, tropical gardens. Private pool, woodland views. Chanote title. 10.8 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-2730141. Email: howells_sue@yahoo.co.uk

BEACH APARTMENTS

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

NEW HOUSE

New, well-furnished contemporary-Thai house on hillside with hill view. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, very beautiful landscape, just minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Own fresh water, total land of nearly 2,300 sqm. For sale by owner. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-272371, 01-7371688. Fax: 076-273083. Email: info@phuket-suriyaestate.com

RAWAI - 500 SQM

Near Rawai Beach. 1.4 million baht. Chanote title. Very popular area. Tel: 06-2670898.



SAEHAN REAL ESTATE



Sireh 124 Rai - 868 million baht

One of the best sea views in Phuket. A fantastic opportunity to purchase and develop a parcel of land offering stunning views.



Kata Noi, 40 rai - 400 million baht

Undeveloped land on Kata hillside overlooking the Andaman Sea and the charming Kata Beach - an atmosphere of calm and peacefulness.



Koh Sireh, 40 rai - 280 million baht

Level land plot on a beach on Koh Sireh. Would suit hotel or apartment development.



Ao Por, 36 rai - 180 million baht

Large development site with magnificent sea views, in the north east of Phuket. Ideally suited for development of luxury villa, luxury private home or nice resort.



Palai 13 Rai - 52 million baht

Good location near famous fresh seafood restaurants. Emphasis on relaxing environment and on-site facilities for easy living. Near business area. Convenient access to main road. Surrounded by properties. Plot ripe for residential development.



Bor Rae 14 Rai - 87 million baht

This land plot is located on the hillside overlooking Chalong Bay. With excellent panoramic sea views of Chalong Bay from the upper half and nearby viewpoint, this plot would suit the development of a luxury villa, a nice resort and apartments.



Sireh 9 Rai (near the Dusit Project) - 45 million baht

An impressive site high above Sireh with 20 degree panoramic view. Ideally suited for development of a private residence.



Sireh 9 Rai - 63 million baht

This beachfront plot is located on Sireh Island along a white sand beach. A good opportunity to develop a luxury villa or house with fantastic sea views.

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Property Gazette

APARTMENT IN PATONG



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61sqm) for sale or lease (60-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. All apartments are fully furnished with a built-in kitchen and bathroom. The bedrooms are equipped with high-quality hardwood floors. The apartments further offer air conditioning, safety box, 24-hour security, high-speed Internet, telephone and cable TV connections. The common area includes: garage, elevator, corridors and garden. The construction will be completed by December 2006. Prices start at 2.6 million baht. Please contact K. Peter at Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: www.phuket-besthomes.com

NEW HOUSES IN PATONG



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

NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



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

LAST PARADISE

For sale at 6.7 million baht. Chalong Phuket, Soi Nakok at the intersection of the three routes to the radar station in Chalong. Two Chanote deed titles of 1-rai plots (= 2 rai). Two household-registered houses of 205sqm & 55sqm plus car park, terracotta mosaic floors of 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 toilets, kitchen, two living rooms, plus extra hall 50sqm. Land mountain-like with natural waterfall in rainy season and garden with fruit trees. First floor 25sqm balcony with sea view over Chalong Bay and Wat Chalong. Phone Stefan at Tel: 01-9796011 or contact at 53/10 and 53/12, Moo 5, Tambon Chalong, Amphur Muang, Phuket. 5 minutes to town, Central, Big C and Rawai. Email: 019796011@gsmandvance.com

LAND FOR SALE

2,344sqm, with Chanote title, in Soi Kokmakham, Sai Yuan area. Just a few minutes to Nai Harn Beach. 5.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 09-7298365.

DETACHED HOUSE

One-story, 3-bedrm, 2-bathrm house of 86sq wah in L&H Park Chalong. 2 aircons. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 09-7292313.

CHALONG SEA VIEW

Almost beach front. Chanote title. Stunning view. Only 4 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

HOUSE IN KATA



The house is located about 800 meters from Kata Beach in a quiet, safe area with no traffic. 3 bedrooms, one with balcony. 2 bathrooms and 4 aircons, big storage room, UBC and telephone line. 3.4 million baht. European standard. Tel: 06-7612511. Email: bjaco2@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE

Villa and bungalow complex. 3 en-suite bedrooms, European kitchen, landscaped gardens. 8 million baht. 5 bungalows, large swimming pool, communal gardens, situated in sought-after area of Kamala. 10 million baht. Tel: 01-6064649.

10-ROOM GUESTHOUSE

with approx 1 rai of land, close to beach, 8.5 million baht, or will lease. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

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Knight Frank



Ocean Breeze "when space counts"

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- plantation-style design, large outdoor terraces
- studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments
- superb finishings, high ceilings
- Laguna resort, airport and international restaurants just minutes away.



Paradise Heights "live the dream"

- luxury villas, waterside townhomes and condominiums with sea views
- integrated marina, hotel, residential and retail development
- rental and on site management provided by Knight Frank
- property values on the East Coast of Phuket are rapidly appreciating, this is an opportunity not to be missed.



Crowne Plaza Residences "a resort like no other"

- seaview apartments, just 1 minute walk to Karon beach
- managed by Crowne Plaza (Intercontinental Hotels Group)
- residents have full use and access to hotel facilities
- spacious living areas and outdoor terraces to capture sea breezes
- exceptional rental returns expected
- walk to international restaurants, shopping and entertainment areas.



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

- apartments with partial sea views
- sizes from 124 sqm with Western-style finishings
- owners' clubhouse, spa, gym, 2 pools, BBQ areas and tropical landscaping
- exceptional forecasted rental returns and outstanding capital appreciation
- 90% sold.



Luxury Holiday Retreat "a grab at 30 Million baht"

- 4 bedroom private residences with pool and security
- well appointed villa near Laguna
- excellent as a holiday or retirement villa, or as investment
- on-site facilities include tennis court, club house and common pool.



Casuarina Shores, Bang Tao Beach "blue chip location"

- new release development (just 40 apartments) 2 minutes walk from the beach
- 2 bedroom spacious apartments from Baht 7.5 million, penthouse apartments with sea views
- located in the Surin-Laguna growth corridor
- communal pool, sports centre, sauna and tropical landscaped grounds
- excellent short term rental prospects, outstanding capital appreciation expected
- award-winning international architects, built quality to international standards
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We have 5 plots at an exclusive location in Kata with easy access on a good road, electricity & water. 329-496 sqm from 2.5 million baht. Kata Beach Property Market. Tel: 04-063-9223, 01-7888280 or 09-5916125.

OCEAN-VIEW LAND

7 rai with 160 meters of water front for sale in Phang Nga. Opposite Yacht Haven marina. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished. 41.25 sq wah. Many home improvements. New project in Thalang. 1.3 million baht. Quick sale. Tel: 06-2746580, 04-8512536.

1,300 SQM, KAMALA

4.9 million baht. Hill views. Sea 800m away. Free building. Please contact. Tel: 076-292596, 06-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

BLUE CANYON

condo available. I would like to sell a condo at Blue Canyon at a special price urgently. Pls email me for details. Email: thipkamoly@yahoo.com

LAND IN YA NUI

Stunning plot. Beautiful area. 5 minutes from beach. Chanote title. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

KATHU TOWNHOUSES

Two new 2-story, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouses with parking and security for 1.6 million baht. One almost-new 2-story, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse with aircon, parking, a garden and security for 1.9 million baht. Furniture available. Tel: 07-8822462.

KATA SEA VIEW

Small plot. The most beautiful sea view. 400sqm. Don't wait. Tel: 09-6525664.

RAI IN NAI HARN

Square plot. Top location, Asking 2.4 million baht. Be quick. Tel: 01-5376866.

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WOW! What a Deal!

HOTEL DEVELOPMENT SITE
IN KHAO LAK FOR SALE

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

We have much more prime land for sale!



Property Gazette

CBRE

CB RICHARD ELLIS

Acquisitions
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- 3 b/r apt. on the south coast of Phuket, 230 sq.m. built up area
 - Fully furnished, sea views
 - 15 min. to town & shopping area
- Baht 14 Million**



- 4 b/r luxurious Thai-style villa
 - 879 sq.m. built up area
 - 1,520 sq.m. plot size, 1/4
 - Freehold ownership
- Baht 65 Million**



- 2-3 b/r luxury condos. in Cape Panwa, 106-202 sq.m.
 - Penthouse available
 - Freehold title in own name
- From Baht 4.2 Million**



- 20 rai land in Layan
 - Spectacular ocean views
 - Nor Sor 3 Kar Title
 - 2 min. drive to the beach
- Baht 4 Million / Rai**



- 2 b/r apt. on Ao Por
 - 163 sq.m. of usable area
 - Private balcony
 - Stunning ocean views
- Baht 40,000 / Month**

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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www.cbre.co.th

THE HIGHEST HOUSE IN PATONG



With the best panoramic sea views in Phuket. A brand-new, Thai-style house with rooftop pool and garden. Urgent sale: must sell immediately. This special house is all about sea views and location. It has the most amazing unobstructed, dramatic, panoramic sea, hill and city views in Patong. It's in a superb elevated hillside setting amid a lush tropical rain forest jungle, right in the center of Patong Hills. It features exceptionally powerful sunset views over Patong Bay. The city lights at night make for a romantic and breathtaking experience. The house is 70 talang wah and has a Nor Sor 3 Gor title. It includes 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, laundry room, parking and a fantastic rooftop pool deck and garden. It comes with a finished kitchen, nice furnishings, beautiful gardens and a sala. The owner needs to sell quickly and has desperately lowered the price by 5 million baht as incentive for a smart investor to take advantage of the situation and snap it up fast. This is a rare investment opportunity. Own a house with some of the best views in Patong. Priced low to sell fast at just 25 million baht. Tel: 01-816-2066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com or see our website www.phuketlandforsale.com

EARTH HOUSES

holiday homes. Sea view Ko Maphrao from 1.5 million baht. 1-36 rai Chanote from 2.6 million baht. Email: info@maphrao.com

RAWAI CONDOS

for sale. Freehold, newly renovated, fully furnished, 400m from beach. 550,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

EXCLUSIVE PLOT

in Nai Harn. Owner is selling a 3-rai plot with Chanote, with a 450sqm home and separate guesthouse, enclosed pool, a well-maintained garden, garage and 2 phone lines. Ideal for a private housing project. Only 5 minutes to beach. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 01-8942733. Email: jasmineconsulting@gmx.net

EXCLUSIVE APARTMENT

Patong with sea views, gardens, private pool, etc. Fully furnished studio. Marble and granite bathroom & lounge. Must view. 2.65 million baht ovno. Tel: 07-8893838. Email: lovephuket@hotmail.com

SUPER CHEAP LAND NEAR LAGUNA



Urgent sale! Must sell immediately! Super cheap land near Laguna, for just 1.4 million baht per rai. This gorgeous, 24-rai parcel is right next to a spectacular high-end golf course and beautiful National Park reservoir. It has a Nor Sor 3 Gor title, 2 access roads, nearby electricity and an abundance of the very best water in Phuket. It's in a superb, central location only 20 minutes to almost everything on the island. This is a dream project with amazing potential. An extraordinary, rare investment opportunity, and perfect for a small investor or medium-sized builder/developer. The owner has just reduced the price by 10 million baht for a quick sale. So, now you can own 24 rai in a great location with unlimited water and golf course views for the bargain price of only 33.6 million baht. That's less than the price of a small luxury villa. Call today. Tel: 01-8162066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com www.phuketlandforsale.com

6 RAI NEXT TO LAGUNA

with Chanote title, on main road right next to Laguna: 5.5 million baht/rai. Also have 16 rai at Layan with Nor Sor 3 Gor title for 5.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-8162066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com www.phuketlandforsale.com

680 SQM, RAWAI

Small plot. 2 million baht. Good location. Chanote title. Tel: 07-8938747.

CHUAN CHUEN

Close to international school, 3-4-bed/bathroom house. Built-in furniture throughout, excellent condition. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 04-8376440.

EXCLUSIVE LAYAN

land. Available now! Marina development site and a wide selection of seaview and non-seaview plots. Starting at 3.5 million per rai. Please contact Sean at Tel: 076-282864, 04-8501340. Email: sean@theritzcove.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND

between Nai Harn and Rawai. Very beautiful 3-rai plot with Chanote title. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

2 LUXURY VILLAS



2 detached & elevated luxury villas opposite a national park in Kathu (one villa sold out). Just minutes to everything. 50sqm pool, 3 bedrooms, plus 1 huge 40sqm office or 4th bedroom (with en suite). Intelligent remote-control lighting system. Stunning views & 60% complete (ready end of July). One of them has been sold. Price: 10.9 million baht. Tel: 09-6198703, 01-7196088. Email: info@gardenislandphuket.com or see our website at: www.gardenislandphuket.com

NICE POOL VILLAS FOR SALE



In Kata, Nai Harn. Prices start from 7 million baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-8374429. Email: sales@chokechaiproperty.com More pictures of nice villas can be seen at: www.chokechaiproperty.com

LAND + HOUSE

for sale. Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, newly decorated and furnished. Offers around 6 million baht. Tel: 06-2790837.

KATA LAND PLOTS

900m to the beach, from 1.3 million baht. Tel: 07-885-2969. Email: junekata@hotmail.com

RAWAI - 10 RAI

Best area - great for developing successful projects. Last big plot at this price. Tel: 01-5376866.

LAND FOR SALE

Half-rai in Rawai with perfect sea view. 3.5 million baht or one rai 8 million baht. Tel: 09-7291391, 04-6268105.

1,820 SQM, RAWAI

Flat land, square plot: 4.3 million baht. Full title. Quick sale. Tel: 09-6525664.

1 RAI, YANUI

500m from beach, stunning view. Only plot with Chanote, perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

BEACHFRONT LAND

South of Phuket. Live on the beach boat on front 1 rai by owner calling after 5 pm. No brokers. Cheap and stunning. Tel: 06-2670898.

THE BEST, NO JOKE, THE BEST



The old song goes: "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot..." (Sound familiar? This is what Phuket is becoming.) We refuse to do this; our land is right beside a national park with the best sea view of Phang Nga Bay I have ever seen (considered by many to be one of the 7 wonders of the world). Near Mission Hills Golf Course. We are going to keep the park-like atmosphere, so no street lights and minimal paved roads. If you like giant original-growth trees behind you and Phang Nga Bay in all its wonder in front of you, call me. Chanote title, sea views. Starting at 3.8 million baht/rai. Also, flat land with some sea views available for 2 million baht/8-rai lots. Tel: 07-2747470. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

3 RAI, RAWAI

Chanote, road, electricity. Top spot, great price: 3.2 million baht. Call Tel: 07-8938747.

1.5 RAI, RAWAI

Villa area, only 5.5 million baht. Great views. Electricity. Top for small resort. Tel: 06-2670898.

1 RAI, CHALONG

200m from beach, open views of the bay. Chanote. 4 million baht. Private sale, no brokers. Tel: 07-8938747.

1 RAI, KARON

Sea view, road, electricity, Asking 6 million baht. Chanote. Tel: 09-6525664.

2 RAI, CHALONG

Includes 3 houses. Perfect for spa. Aircons, tropical gardens. Unbelievable price at 12.9 million baht. Sale by owner. Tel: 01-5376866.

700-SQM VILLA

Newly built, Bali style. Valued at 25 million baht, selling at 19 million baht. Stunning sea view. Kata. Tel: 01-5376866.

ISLAND FOR SALE

1 million baht a rai. Buy this paradise from owner to build a resort. Call K. Lek. Tel: 07-8938747.

1,800 SQM, RAWAI

Top land location, Chanote, road, electricity. Perfect for house. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

SMALL PLOT - RAWAI

Perfect for small villa. Chanote, road, electricity. 200,000 baht. Don't wait. Tel: 01-5376866.

SUPER CHEAP SEA VIEW LAND



Right next to world-class golf course, for just 2.3 million baht per rai. This 50-rai paradise is a unique property, with both incredible east-coast sunrise sea views and stunning west-coast sunset sea views. Its outstanding natural beauty is breathtaking. It's conveniently located close to Laguna and overlooks a gorgeous national park and reservoir. It has amazing, unobstructed, dramatic, panoramic, sea, golf, hill and lake views. It's in a superb, elevated hillside setting amid a lush tropical rain forest jungle, right in the center of Phuket. It features exceptionally powerful views of 4 tropical islands. It's an extraordinary property in a great location. Easily accessible and close to almost everything on the island, the property has a Nor Sor 3 Gor title, 3 roads and excellent water. The owner of this parcel must sell quickly to realize other project obligations. He has dramatically reduced the asking price by 20 million baht as incentive for someone to snap it up fast. This is a fantastic investment opportunity with unbelievable potential and is one not to be missed. It's going to make some smart investors a very large fortune. Tel: 01-8162066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com or see our website at www.phuketlandforsale.com

SEAVIEW PLOT AT BANG TAO



Electricity, water and road to 1,100sqm plot. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 3 million baht. Tel: 06-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT

50m from beach. Electricity, road, golf course views. Bargain! Great for apartment building. Tel: 09-6525664.

KATA SEA VIEW

Most stunning view, best plot, guarantee success. 3 rai Asking 5.9 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote title. Tel: 06-2670898.

SEAVIEW LAND

Seaview land for sale & also beach land - good environment, serene. Tel: 06-626-9899.

Property Gazette

YELLOW HOUSE FOR SALE



Location: The way to Patong. 18 sq wah. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 stories, kitchen, living room, fully furnished, 3 aircons, storage tank. Price: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 09-4691813.

FULL SEAVIEW HOUSE



Seeing is believing the view from this newly-decorated 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with air conditioning, ADSL, UBC, pool, phone and big-screen TV. Long-term let. 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-292279, 07-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

2 HOUSES IN NAI HARN



We have two 3-bedroom homes for rent. Fully furnished, swimming pool. Good location. Tel: 01-7974197. Email: dannie@dvas.dk

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.

Accommodation Available

PATONG

Low-season offer room with "everything". Monthly 9,000 baht. Daily 500 baht. Tel: 01-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

PATONG ROOMS

Aircon & fan rooms, your own shower, 10 min walk to beach. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

NANAI, 1-BEDROOM

apartment. Patio, lounge, full kitchen, bedroom, en-suite shower/toilet. Cable TV, phone, WiFi. See website for details. 12,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel/Fax: 076-342601, 01-270-5374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th or visit our website at: www.orcella.com

CONDO IN PHUKET

Town. Fully furnished, in town - Hot/cold shower - Direct telephone line - 24-hour security - Key card entrance - Large swimming pool - TV, fridge, kitchen, wallpaper, walk-in closet, built-in furniture. Long term only (minimum 6 months). Please contact. Tel: 076-272371, 01-7371688. Fax: 076-273083. Email: info@phuket-suriyaestate.com or see our website at: www.phuket-suriyaestate.com

ROOMS FOR RENT

in the City. Tai-Tan Court. Unlimited Internet access. Fully furnished, including fridge, TV, cable TV, aircon, hot water, car park and common kitchen. 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-243118, 09-1885300. Email: passakorn_hongsyok@yahoo.com Please see our website at: www.taitancourt.com

HOUSE & POOL

Patong studio. Own swimming pool, ADSL, motorbike, sea view, furnished. 15,000 baht a month or 78,000 for 6 months. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-9488139. Email: jefdejong@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. Tel: 01-894-8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Please visit our website www.southernfriedrice.com

PATONG LUXURY

apartments. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. For information and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

Accommodation Wanted

PATONG LONG-TERM

Single quiet German looking for bungalow or small house to rent beginning June or July. Price range 16,000 to 17,000 baht per month. Contact Peter. Tel: 04-7594668.

PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to beach, clean and comfortable, with air conditioning, TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. Please see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

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Household goods, car & motorbikes. 24-hr security. Tel: 01-0825707.

Property Services

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Get an inspection before final payment. 25 years' experience. 6,000 baht and up. Tel: 076-388309.

NEW VILLA FOR SALE



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

FURNISHED CONDO

Luxury condo in Phuket City, finished in teak, for sale at 1.8 million baht. Please contact Lee. Tel: 01-7979272.

1 RAI, CHALONG

2.4 million baht. Road, electricity, Chanote, great spot. Tel: 09-6525664.

Properties For Rent

VERY NICE HOUSE FOR RENT



In Rawai with private swimming pool. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, aircon, garden and terrace. Full size. 1 rai. Asking 50,000 baht. Electricity not included. Tel: 07-2678389.

WATERFRONT

For long-term rent: 2-year-old waterfront townhouse at Boat Lagoon. 3 en-suite bedrooms, tastefully furnished, outside Jacuzzi and sala. ADSL, cable for UBC. Tel: 076-273515, 07-2789908. Fax: 076-273516. Email: ftwth@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW PATONG

apartment & bike. Modern, 1-bedroom apartment, seaview, aircon, kitchen, JRD motorbike. 22,000 baht + services. Tel: 06-9453450, 06-945-3450. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

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.

HOUSE & BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms. 11,000 baht per month. Located at Palai Green, Chalong Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

3 SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

- 6 bedrooms
- 6 bathrooms

Samkong area.

Ideal for offices/residences. Call Thanat.

Tel: 01-5367159.

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. www.christianesblue.com

CONDOMINIUM

for rent or sale in Phuket City. Price: 530,000 baht. Down payment: 120,000 baht. Rent: 4,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-8738339. Email: karonwater@hotmail.com

HOTEL FOR RENT

or sale at Karon Beach. 4-story building, 16 rooms. Price: 5 million baht. Rent: 15,000-18,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-8738339. Email: karonwater@hotmail.com

APARTMENT

in Patong Tower. 1 or 2 bedrooms for rent - daily or monthly. Sea view, fully furnished. Tel: 076-292672, 01-5974425. Fax: 076-292407. Email: desyww@samart.co.th

HOUSES SELECTED

by Wellta. My name is Wellta. I have a website with houses on my island featuring many houses for rent and for sale. Tel: 01-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com or visit www.houseinphuket.com

NEW HOUSE

for rent. in Chalong, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon & telephone. Tel: 076-280466.

PATONG OCEAN

condo. A beautiful 2 bedroom, 2-bathroom, 18th-floor, ocean-front Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views. Fully furnished, available June. Please contact at Email: txxtt@yahoo.com or for more information, please see our website at: www.PatongTowerRental.com

PATONG BLUEPOINT

Furnished 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Baan Suan Kamnan, a residential area just outside Patong. If you like the beaches, fun and nightlife, but prefer to sleep without the traffic noises, then this is the place. Yes, if you like green and nature, this is the place where you'd love to be. Prices from 16,000 baht long-term only. Tel: 06-7866350.

EXOTIC KATA

sea front. Aspasia: luxury 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom apartment. Spa, pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area. June to December. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com Please visit at: www.koumbele.com/kata2

APARTMENTS

in Patong. Fully furnished, for long term rent, near Patong Temple, 2/56 Soi Khuanyang. They have a small kitchen, refrigerator, a European-style balcony, air conditioner, cable TV, fan, hot water, and one bathroom. Asking 8,300 baht per month. Tel: 04-8450541, 01-8914561.

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.

RAWAI BEACH

Seaview. 1-bedroom house in a quiet location for 13,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 09-6519532.

1-BEDROOM

bungalow. Rawai. Lounge, bath, cable TV. Very quiet. Only 7,000 baht. Tel: 06-2790837.

2-BEDROOM APT

Patong. Sea & hill views, aircon, UBC, swimming pool. 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 06-2790837.

LAGUNA RENTAL

Resort design, furnished, 3 bedrooms, air conditioning, pool, spa and garden on 11 rai. Asking 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-5944067.

RAWAI CONDO

for lease. Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 150,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, fully furnished, European kitchen. Email: pen47@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH

apartment. Cable TV, hot water, furnished. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-9704638, 06-5958512.

2 APARTMENTS

Rawai. For rent, furnished, maid service, swimming pool, TV, DVD, satellite TV, kitchen, safe, aircon, bed linen. Tel: 01-0804702. Email: colin1216@hotmail.com

RAWAI STUDIO

condo. Rent empty or furnished. 3,000 to 4,000 baht per month. Close to 7-Eleven & Laem Ka Beach. Tel: 09-4740227.

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65 Ft	1993	Penahu Penisi	Euro	150,000
65 Ft	1993	Indonesia Penisi	US\$	125,000
63 Ft	1993	Wooden Penisi Ketch	Euro	65,000
61 Ft	1991	Custom 61'	Euro	380,000
60 Ft	New	Eleuthera	Euro	831,600
47 Ft	1974	S&S, Aki Sloop	US\$	280,000
47 Ft	1997	Beneteau Oceanis 461	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

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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	
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54 Ft	1995	Bayliner 4788	Hino 2x310 Hp	US\$	299,000
35 Ft	New	HIGHLAND 35		Euro	199,000
24 Ft	Rigid	AB Inflatable Boat		Euro	24,000
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E-mail: broken@thaimarine.com

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* 1 x 15 KVA 1,800rpm 950,000 baht. * 1 x 8 KVA 1,800rpm 152,000 baht. Both checked (pump impellers, injectors and compression tested), fully serviced and in good order. Located in Langkawi. Please contact. Tel: +60-49553006, +60-17-480051. Fax: +60-49553006. Email: randall@gypsiemarine.com

OUTBOARD MOTOR

4-stroke Honda outboard engine. Short design. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2811995.

NOVA MARINE RH460

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: 074-731198.

DIVE/TOUR BOAT

14m wooden dive/tour boat with HINO engine. Cabin with 4 berths, toilet, covered sun deck. Contact Charlott. Tel: 077-456216, 07-9700913. Email: Charlott_Ragnarsson@hotmail.com

NEW BOATS

for sale. Open boat. 4.2 meters long, 1.8m wide. Only 85,000 baht. All boats custom built. Tel: 05-9233214.

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Island Job Mart

The French Red Cross in Thailand seeks:

ACCOUNTING and ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for its office in Phuket

- Work with and under the direct responsibility of the administrator to whom he/she supports in the administrative and accounting management of the mission.
- Manage all aspects of office administration (including translating, copying, filing).
- Maintain all office financial records under the supervision of the administrator. Follow-up on Human Resource issues.

Requirements:

- Excellent written and spoken French.
- Autonomous and capable of taking initiative.
- Strong organizational skills and adaptable.
- Capacity to work precisely and accurately under tight deadlines.
- Computer literate (Word, Excel and Internet).
- Experience in accounting and office administration, ideally in an NGO.
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in administration or accounting.
- A good level of English is a bonus.

Location: Phuket. Travel to Bangkok is a possibility.
Start: As soon as possible.
Duration: 6-month contract with possibility to extend.
Payment: 30,000 baht/month

Job applications, including cover letter, CV and references can be submitted to:
 CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE - DELEGATION THAILANDE
 100/170 Moo 6, Main Rd Srisuchat Village, Tambon Ratsada, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: + 66 (0) 76 376 259 Fax: + 66 (0) 76 376 260

The French Red Cross in Thailand seeks:

ONE LOGISTICS ASSISTANT

- Work under the direct responsibility of the Head of Mission and in coordination with the administrator.
- In charge of the Logistics of the mission.
- Is responsible for all supplies according to FRC procedures: quotations, orders, purchase and reception of goods.
- In charge of the maintenance of all equipment and cars belonging to the mission.

Requirements:

- Excellent written and spoken French.
- Autonomous and capable of taking initiative.
- Strong organizational skills, adaptable and flexible.
- Computer literate (Word, Excel and Internet).
- A good level of English is a bonus.

Location: Phuket. Travel to Bangkok is a possibility.
Start: As soon as possible.
Duration: 6-month contract with possibility to extend.
Payment: 30,000 baht/month

Job applications, including cover letter, CV and references can be submitted to:
 CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE - DELEGATION THAILANDE
 100/170 Moo 6, Main Rd Srisuchat Village, Tambon Ratsada, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: + 66 (0) 76 376 259 Fax: + 66 (0) 76 376 260

The French Red Cross in Thailand seeks:

ASSISTANT RECEPTIONIST

- Work with and under the direct responsibility of the administrator.
- In charge of the switchboard.
- Provide support to all senior staff, including taking appointments, booking accommodation and flight tickets, copying or translating according to their needs and requirements.

Requirements:

- Good written and spoken French and English.
- Autonomous and capable of taking initiative.
- Flexible.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Well presented and good mannered.
- Computer literate (Word, Excel and Internet).

Location: Phuket.
Start: As soon as possible.
Duration: 6-month contract with possibility to extend.
Payment: 20,000 baht/month

Job applications, including cover letter, CV and references can be submitted to:
 CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE - DELEGATION THAILANDE
 100/170 Moo 6, Main Rd Srisuchat Village, Tambon Ratsada, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: + 66 (0) 76 376 259 Fax: + 66 (0) 76 376 260

2Gusti

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Authentic Italian Cuisine
 &
 Japanese - Italian Cuisine
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 Home Made Bakery
 illy Coffee
 Private Events

2Gusti, authentic Italian & Italian-Japanese Cuisine, 1st floor, Central Festival Phuket. We have over 10 years' restaurant experience. We are currently looking for professionals to fill the following positions:

Urgently Required

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

Qualifications:

- Thai nationality
- Male / Female
- No military service obligation (for male)
- Good command of spoken English
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Salary + service charge

2Gusti

74 - 75 Central Festival, Unit 140, M. 5, Chalempriak Rd, Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: +66 (0) 7620 9124 Fax: +66 (0) 7620 9125
 Please send your resumé to info@2gusti.com

CLEANING STAFF

for guesthouse in Karon.
 Must speak some English.
 Call Tel: 06-2718254.

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 K. May at Tel: 09-9733276.

LAW FIRM

seeks an accountant, secretary and lawyer. Send resumé to: scphuket@yahoo.com

SALESPeople REQUIRED

We are looking for people who are experienced in sales. Fluent English is required. Excellent remuneration package available. Please email Chris at: escapeit@yahoo.com

OFFICE STAFF x 2

- * Female, 21-35 years old.
 - * College or bachelor's degree in a related field.
 - * Knowledge of Windows, Excel, Access and Adobe Acrobat Professional.
 - * Work experience required.
 - * Excellent command of both written and spoken English required.
- Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-385758, 04-1871068. Email: smash.consulting@gmail.com

RECRUITMENT

consultants. International Recruitment Agency based in Phuket requires a native speaker of English to join its talented and affable team. Applicants to be intelligent, articulate and sales minded. 25,000 baht basic plus 60,000 OTE. Please contact. Tel: 076-200204, 05-212-1794. Email: ian@evocation.net

THAI MASSAGE

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. Tel: 09-6518885.

OFFICE MANAGER

Position available in Kamala. Female, between 20-30 years, Thai national with good written and spoken English. Should possess relevant computer skills, be sales driven and customer orientated. Please contact K. Thanida for more info. Tel: 09-4742958. Email: info@phuketgoldcard.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Secretary wanted for expanding lighting business. English, computing and basic accounting skills a must. Salary based on experience. Tel: 076-270-660. Fax: 076-270662. Email: robin@avcphuket.com

ATC IS RECRUITING

Sales staff. Asian Travel Club with offices in Karon and Patong is looking for Thai/English-speaking Sales Representatives for our holiday club. We also need Thai-speaking staff for telemarketing, and have 1 position available for household/cleaning. You should be easygoing, hard-working, with a positive attitude and a professional and positive appearance. Good salary, commission and benefits offered. Full training provided and no experience required. Only female Thai nationals required. Please contact. Tel: 076-341820, 05-1601670. Fax: 076-341714. Email: paulivarlarsson@hotmail.com

Island Job Mart



A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking a candidate for the position of

Personal Assistant

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- Female, Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any related field or experience in a related field.
- Experience in secretarial and administrative functions.
- Computer literate and fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

For interview please send all CV, resumé and photograph to wanvisa@thepalmbeachclub.com

GST International Co., Ltd.
326 Prabamee Road, Patong,
Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: (01) 968 1601 Fax: (076) 290 155



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COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

A media and marketing company based in Phuket is looking for staff to join us.

Position: Computer Programmer

Qualifications: Applicants must have experience and skills in the following fields. Computer language: Perl, PHP and mySQL. Macro media Dreamweaver, HTML, Javascript. Photo-shop or graphic design, etc. Experience of other related programs an advantage. Must be able to maintain Linux server, Microsoft Windows Client, etc. Experience in network system is an advantage. Good interpersonal and communication skills. English literate. Applications should be made to K. Nee to arrange an interview. Tel: 01-9281530. Email: nee@leadingedge-media.com



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ISLAMABAD MARRIOTT, A LEADER IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, IS LOOKING FOR COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS AND ACTIVE PROFESSIONALS TO JOIN OUR TEAM IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.

HEALTH CLUB AND RECREATION MANAGER	1 Position
PERSONAL TRAINERS	2 Positions
YOGA SPECIALIST	1 Position
AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR	1 Position

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JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT & SPA
231 MOO 3 MAIKHAO, TALANG,
PHUKET 83110, THAILAND.
OR EMAIL: PANSAK.L@MARRIOTTHOTELS.COM OR FAX: 076 348 354
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.MARRIOTT.COM

TEACHERS WANTED

Satree Phuket EP (English Program) Department. Positions: Math teacher (native English-speaker), Science teacher (native English-speaker), German-language teacher (native German-speaker). Required: related degree. Please contact K. Amnuay for more info. Tel: 01-3675870. Email: satreephuketep@yahoo.com

WEB DESIGNER

wanted. Looking for web designer. Please contact for further information. Tel: 07-898-6566. Email: kurtvallant@gmx.at

INTERNET CAFE STAFF

We're looking for female Thai nationals to work as cyber cafe receptionists. 1 full-time, 1 nighttime (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The applicant must speak English. Patong and Phuket City area. Please contact K. Yupa. Tel: 076-341255. Email: leco@liontchai.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Supervisor sought for redevelopment of eco-resort on Koh Phra Thong in Phang Nga. Beautiful beaches with abundant animal and plant life. Salary 30,000 baht up, food and housing provided. Experience in similar work required. Full details available on application. Please contact Peter Lachman for more information. Email: peter.lachman@gmail.com

FINANCIAL MANAGER

World Concern, an international relief and development organization, will hire a Thai national. 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. Tel: 076-423757. Email: yohuncp@gmail.com

PATONG BEER BAR

Bartender/Cashier. Good salary. Able to speak English a must. Tel: 05-7838336.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with good English skills, based in either Rawai or Patong. Can be part-time. Please contact for more info. Tel: 06-2790837.

RESTAURANT STAFF

needed. Hiring: pizza cook; waiting staff; bartender; cooks; manager. Great pay. Will train. Please send your CV and photo or contact for more info. Tel: 076-388681. Email: j.r.vinton@gmail.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. Exec Admin: 20-27,000
3. Senior HR: 25-30,000
4. Senior Accountant: 30-45,000.

Contact. Tel: 076-264442, 01-5354108. Fax: 076-264-443. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com



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It's a professional commitment to satisfy individual needs. It's a commitment to make someone smile, to create the ultimate experience, to surpass expectations. If you have this commitment, this is your opportunity.

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Cashier / Guest Relation (one position)

Excellent English skills, great personality, inspired attitude & service-mind required in all positions.

watermark bar restaurant
Phuket Boat Lagoon
22/1 Thepkasatri Rd, Muang, Phuket
For interview send resumé to info@watermarkphuket.com
Tel: 076-239078



The Peach Hill Hotel & Resort and Andaman Cannacia Resort & Spa located at Kata Beach,

URGENTLY REQUIRES

- Personnel Manager 1 position
- Executive Housekeeper 1 position
- Front Office Manager 1 position
- Spa Manager/Spa Supervisor 1 position
- Computer Graphic 1 position
- Reservations officer 1 position
- Receptionist 1 position

Interested candidates are invited to send their resumé with a recent photograph to:

Peach Hill Hotel & Resort Thailand
2 Laemsai Rd, Kata Beach, Karon, Phuket 83100 Thailand
Tel: 076-333291, 076-284211 Fax: 076-330895
Email: personnel@peach-hill.com

OFFICE MANAGER

An Office Manager is wanted for a dynamic yacht brokerage firm at Phuket Boat Lagoon. For more information, please contact Mr Hakan Lange at: Derani Yachts Co Ltd, 20/37 Phuket Boat Lagoon, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83000. Email: info@derani-yachts.com

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SECURITY SYSTEM SPECIALIST



Sales Executive

- Thai/English language skills
- Male/female, 25-35
- Electric/electronic or related field background
- Sales experience
- Entrepreneur, Pioneer and result-oriented
- Knowledge and experience of Phuket construction industry would be a plus
- Living in Phuket with a driving license

Apply by email to: kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com
For more info call Tel: 01-9586805

Urgently Required

Kalim Seaview Restaurant, Thai & Italian food at Kalim Beach, north of Patong Beach, Phuket.

Food & Beverage Manager

- Female or male, Thai national, age 30-40 years old
- 3-4 years' experience in hotel, restaurant
- Computer literate and good spoken and written English
- Trustworthy personality and strong leadership skills

Restaurant Manager

- Female or male, 3 years' experience
- Good spoken and written English
- Waiter & Waitress (3-5 positions)**
- Good English skills
- Salary 6,000 baht/month

Please contact. Tel: 01-6766214

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Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Operation Supervisor (1 position)

PIPS offers an attractive salary, including service charge.

- Experience in hotel or property management, good computer skills an advantage
- Good command of written and spoken English essential

Please send your application with a recent photo to: Human Resources Dept.
Phuket Island Property Services Co., LTD (PIPS)
452 Sasinthorn Rd. Chong Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 076 270 750 Fax: 076 270 751
Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

MAID WANTED, SURIN HILL

American couple seeking English-speaking maid for spacious villa. Hotel experience preferred. Live-in required. Separate maid's lounge with kitchen. Excellent salary for candidate. Call Lorna. Tel: 01-845-1492. Email: shdrbkk@ksc15.th.com

STAFF REQUIRED

Internationally renowned property agent seeks high-caliber Thai candidates for various positions. Applicants must:

- Be fluent in written and spoken English,
- Be hard working, self motivated and pro-active,
- Be computer literate, and
- Be extremely customer focused.

Experience in the Phuket real estate market would be a plus, but not essential. Attractive package and development opportunities. Email: internationalpropertyagent@yahoo.com

MAKE PHOTOS

Beautiful lady wanted to develop photos. Training provided. Good salary, work 4 hours a day. Tel: 01-2704133.

Articles for Sale

GENERATOR 26 KWA

Air-cooled diesel, silent housing, 220/380v 30 Amp. European import. Mint condition, only 125,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 01-7198419.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

Latest models. Portable 3-wheel, 4-wheel, latest models. Full service by distributor. For catalogs and prices please contact Ecobrand. Tel: 02-9656291, 01-8750860. Fax: 02-965-6294. Email: ecobrand@truemail.co.th

OPPORTUNITY!

Sauna and steam bath equipment for sale. Stove, boiler, thermostat, wood-glass door. Good condition, cheap price. Please call William. Tel: 01-9796220.

AIRCON FOR SALE

Very good condition, 30,000 BTU. Offers from 18,000 baht. Tel: 076-333423, 07-2680190.

CALLAWAY X-18 IRONS

Brand new men's clubs. Never hit! 9-club set (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, PW, SW) Condition: brand new never been used. Specification: they come with Callaway constant weight steel unifix shaft, and original Callaway x-18 grip. standard lie, length and loft. Price: only 33,500 baht. Location: Kamala. Tel: 01-2704133. Email: pbzik@web.de

SONY MP3 PLAYER

Tiny NW-E99. 1 GB memory. Up to 70 hours' play on one AAA battery. All manuals, install CDs, etc. Original ear-phones with spare pads (unused). As new. 4,750 baht. Tel: 01-9783089. Email: krsowton@loxinfo.co.th

BABY COT & PLAYPEN

A small cot (for 6 months old): 500 baht. Also have playpen (for 9 months-3 years old): 2,000 baht. Both 4 months old and in good condition. Price for both: 2,000 baht. Tel: 076-296301, 06-2771941. Fax: 076-296301. Email: ampm_net@hotmail.com

NEW SPEAR GUN

Thunder 70 dual-band spear gun. Spear rod with barbed spear tip. Keeper string over 30" in length. Powerful for stripers and other game fish. 7,500 baht. Please contact for info. Tel: 09-4701000. Email: guru66@wp.pl

Business Opportunities

MASSAGE SALON



Established 3-story massage salon for sale in the heart of Patong. Excellent furnishings, fully equipped; has long-term staff. For more information, call Khun Arunee. Tel: 07-8947985.

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No need to pay any salary. Good and long rental contract. Good income! Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

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

NEED WORK PERMIT?

Take over my company at a bargain price: 26,000 baht, includes balance sheet. Urgent sale. Tel: 04-1857504. Email: mantabay@yahoo.com

2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht/year. Tel: 01-8924311.

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8750017. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

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5-star venue, 3-star price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8817600. Please see our website at: www.homebarphuket.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT



Best location in Karon, 7 rooms, office, laundry, telephone, Internet, WiFi, cable TV. 45,000 baht/month plus investment of 1 million baht. Tel: 06-2718254. Email: ninguesthouse@hotmail.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

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.

BAR FOR SALE

Off Soi Bangla with fittings and pool table. 160,000 baht. Tel: 01-8928579.

KATOYS 'R' US

After 6 years, Patong's famous cabaret bar is for sale at 4 million baht. Genuine owner retiring. No emails please, personal calls only. Call Nick at 01-8922824 or K. Nong at 01-8955242.

PARTNERSHIP

wanted. Looking for a shop - or part of a shop - from which to run a Turkish doner kebab shop. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8862640. Email: lazusagi@gmx.de

BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale. Large modern kitchen, large bedroom with balcony front and back, aircon throughout, UBC TV. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 01-0832580.

TOUR INFO DESK

for rent in front of a guesthouse in the best street in Karon. Tel: 06-2718254.

LARGE, SUCCESSFUL

established bar in Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, darts and own sound system. Tel: 09-8677969.

RESTAURANT

for rent. Good location, 1km to Nai Harn Beach; includes kitchen equipment. Tel: 06-9474494, 01-5365416.

WEALTH OFFER!

Print my best-selling booklets We sell for US\$5 each. 50% share of profits. Estimated demand: 100,000 copies. Tel: 01-4151894.

SHOP FOR RENT

Best location Karon, busiest street Karon, about 1,400 sqm, complete bathroom, electric water heater, aircon, No key money, 25,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2718254.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for a small business in Phuket? Check this: 48-seat restaurant in Rawai with aircon and all equipment. Only 5 months old and a very busy little place. Tel: 076-388478, 06-5969553. Fax: 076-388-478. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

Great location in Patong. Price was 1.1 million baht. Owner must sell urgently. Inspect and make an offer. Contact Brian Taller at Tel: 07-0673360.

BAR FOR SALE

Fully equipped and stylish, located on Soi Bangla, 3 + 3 year lease. Price: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 04-8379068. Email: dna-muswell@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

German carwash technology. Wash up to 100 cars or more a day! Seles, installation, service, training, investment. Contact for more information. Email: carwash_phuket@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT/BAR

Surin Beach main road. Full of top equipment. 680,000 baht. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

BAR/RESTAURANT

Kata Beach, 38 seats, a pool table, 4 bedrooms recently refurbished. Fully stocked. 1.1 million baht. Quick sale. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-8478139.

HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 36 rai, 200m. Beach front, 80 villas totaling 120 rooms. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8896074.

SHOPHOUSE

Shophouse - 5m 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