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# Crowne Plaza sold for B3.7bn

By Gazette Staff

KARON: The Crowne Plaza Karon Beach Phuket resort has been bought by Dubai-listed hotel and resort investment company Kingdom Hotel Investments (KHI), which is headed by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud.

KHI paid US\$98.5 million (3.7 billion baht) for the property, including US\$30.5 million (1.1 billion baht) in debt.

Prince Alwaleed was listed by *Forbes* magazine earlier this year as the world's eighth-richest man, with an approximate worth of US\$20 billion (750 billion baht).

It is the second time the resort has changed hands in just 2½ years. Originally the Karon Villa Resort, built in 1984 by the Vanich family, it was acquired in December 2003 by LaSalle Investment Management of the US and completely refurbished at a cost of US\$20 million (750 million baht).

Crowne Plaza, a subsidiary of InterContinental, was brought in to manage the hotel, which made an initial splash by hosting the Nation V event, a three-day party that attracted 2,000 gay people from all over Asia.

An industry source told the *Gazette* that, with the sale to KHI, the management contract will go to Movenpick.

KHI already owns six Movenpick properties, with six more in development. It also owns five Four Seasons Hotels, with three being developed, and five Fairmonts, with another two to come (KHI owns Fairmont).

Prince Alwaleed at one time owned The Plaza in New



The Crowne Plaza is KHI's first investment in Southeast Asia.

York, but sold half his shares in that and reinvested the money in buying the Savoy Hotel in London and the Monte Carlo Grand in Monaco.

Apart from hotels, the Prince also owns 10% of Euro Disney SCA and large investments in AOL, Apple Computer, Worldcom, Motorola, News Corp and other technology and media companies.

Following the acquisition, KHI's first in Asia, Prince Alwaleed was quoted as saying, "This is a rare opportunity to purchase a fully refurbished hotel in a pristine site on Phuket's most popular West Coast.

"The hotel will benefit from the recovery of tourist arrivals to the region, and the early reconstruction of the area."

Sarmad Zok, CEO of KHI, said, "We are delighted by the addition of the Crowne Plaza Phuket to our hotel portfolio, which represents the first opportunity for KHI in Asia. This further demonstrates our ability to consolidate our position in attractive growth emerging markets."

As for the sellers, Andrew Heithersay, National Director of LaSalle Investment Management, said, "We have achieved

Continued on page 2

## Labor Chief speeds up work permit procedure

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Work permits are being renewed in just 15 minutes and new work permits approved faster than ever thanks to streamlining of procedures at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO).

PPEO Chief Boonchok Maneechot explained that before implementing the new procedures he had consulted with employment officers for a month in order to determine the most efficient way to process work permits. The office has been using the new system since mid-April.

"Now people do not need to come to our office two or three times. We will have their work permit renewed in just 15 minutes, and new work permits approved in just one week," K. Boonchok said.

"Before, it took about three weeks for a new work permit to be approved, and about two or three days for a renewal," he added.

K. Boonchok explained that he has delegated officers to sign on his behalf when he is unavailable to do so himself.

He added that instead of details being handwritten into work permits, they are now printed by computer to make them clearer.

"I have been working here for nearly a year, and the thing I am most proud of is our improvements to the work permit process. I'm not sure if our office is the first to renew permits within 15 minutes, but I think every office has to do the best it can.

"The feedback on the new system has been very good because nobody expected that we could renew work permits in 15 minutes."



# TG, Bangkok Airways forge network alliance

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

BANGKOK: Rivals Thai Airways International (THAI) and Bangkok Airways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 27 aimed at helping THAI coordinate its flights

with services to Koh Samui and give it better access to destinations in China.

THAI Acting President Somchainuk Engtrakul said that the signing of the MOU signifies development of network coordination between the two carriers.



THAI Acting President Somchainuk Engtrakul (left) and Bangkok Airways President Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth both beam after signing the Memorandum of Understanding that will see the two carriers link services.

## On yer bikes, Gov tells officials

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usvarangkura has urged government officers to ride bicycles instead of using vehicles in order to save fuel, in light of the recent rises in fuel prices.

Speaking to provincial chief officers, he said, "We have to save fuel and save money. Please think of ways to do this. Phuket is an island, so we all should be riding bicycles, which provide exercise and are safe to use."

He said that Phuket City Municipality should lead the way, by building bicycle lanes and installing bike racks where bicycles may be parked.

"I have started walking instead of driving around after work. If the cost of fuel continues to rise to above 30 baht a liter, after I retire I'll have to walk for sure," Gov Udomsak joked. As Governor, his gasoline bills are paid by the government.

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"This has an impact on domestic markets such as Koh Samui – a destination that THAI does not currently serve – and aims to foster cooperation with Bangkok Airways.

"Destinations in China include Sipsongpanna, Xian, Guilin, Zhengzhou, Hangzhou and Shenzhen, all of which are served by Bangkok Airways but not by THAI," a press release quoted him as saying.

"This is a good opportunity for THAI to expand its reach in China, using Bangkok Airways' network, to better meet passenger needs and expectations and make travel more convenient."

The Chinese market is seen as having high potential due to its consistent growth. Figures from the Tourism Authority of Thailand show that 711,000 Chinese tourists arrived in Thailand in 2005, an increase of 12% compared with 2004.

Bangkok Airways President Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth said that Bangkok Airways and THAI will continue to cooperate in order to counter increasing competition in the airline industry.

"Cooperation between the two carriers will help strengthen both THAI's and Bangkok Airways' operations, increasing ability to compete in airline business worldwide and further solidifying Thailand's position as the future aviation hub for the region.

"The two airlines' networks will join together and open up to all groups of travelers worldwide, increasing profitability for the country," he said.

THAI and Bangkok Airways will also look at launching coordinated tour packages that use both carriers' services, the press release said.



## Stamps mark anniversary of HM's ascension to throne

SURE TO BE snapped up by collectors is this limited edition set of three-baht stamps, issued to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HM King Bhumibol's accession to the throne.

One million sets have been printed and went on sale on Coronation Day, May 5, at all Thailand Post offices, including the 10 branches in Phuket.

## CAT cuts overseas call rates

THAILAND: With effect from May 1, CAT Telecom cut international call rates to 10 countries to five baht a minute, whether calls are made from a fixed-line phone or a mobile phone.

CAT Deputy Managing Director Maroot Buranasettakul said that rates for all 009-prefix calls to Brunei, Canada, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Guam, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore and the US (including Alaska and Hawaii) are now 5 baht a minute.

For some other countries the rate is 5 baht a minute from a fixed line but is more from a mobile phone. For example, fixed-line calls to Denmark cost 5 baht

while mobile phone calls cost 12 baht.

CAT generated 800 million baht in income last year from overseas calls. This year, K. Maroot said, it expects to make more. "[Cutting the rates] could reduce CAT's income by 30 million baht a month, or 360 million baht a year, but we hope that the cheaper rates will encourage people to call overseas more," he said.

This is the second time this year that CAT has reduced its international call rates. On January 1, it reduced its rates to 32 destinations to seven baht a minute.

For more information about the promotion call Tel: 1322.

## Saudi billionaire buys Crowne Plaza

From page 1

our investment objectives on behalf of our LaSalle Asia Recovery Fund and wish Kingdom Hotel Investments continued success in their future endeavors at this beautiful resort."

Phuket-based Bill Barnett, of hotel consultancy C9 Hotelworks, which was deeply involved in the acquisition of the property by LaSalle, told the *Gazette*, "There has been substantial acquisition and institutional investment activity on the island in the first quarter of 2006.

"Seeing firms such as Deutsche Bank,

Lehmann Brothers, LaSalle Investment Management and now Kingdom Holdings showing confidence in substantial developments on the island is a key economic indicator.

"There are a number of internationally-managed properties currently being built, including big names such as Sofitel, Hyatt and Conrad. Locations such as Bang Yao, Cape Yamu, Mai Khao and Ao Por are receiving the most interest.

"Clearly Phuket is moving forward from the negatives experienced post-tsunami – the proof is in the checkbooks of the investment funds."

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# China consul calls for more safety for tourists

PHUKET CITY: Yao Bomin, China's Consul-General in Songkhla, has called for the Thai government to help make travel to Phuket safer for Chinese tourists following the deaths of three Chinese nationals from accidents in Phuket earlier this year.

"The Chinese government is very concerned about the safety of Chinese tourists, especially as three have died as a result of accidents in Phuket since the beginning of the year," Mr Yao said at an April 26 conference attended by Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanimit and Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Pattanapong Aikvanich.

Since January 1, one Chinese tourist has died, after returning home, from injuries sustained in a road accident in Phuket. Two others have drowned in Phuket's waters.

"The Chinese government recognizes that the most important thing for tourism de-

velopment is safety, and so we urge Chinese tour operators to take very good care of their tourists. We also want the Thai government to help prevent Chinese tourists from getting into unsafe situations.

"These three accidents could be bad for Thailand's image, so we want Chinese and Thai tour operators to pay special attention to safety. Tourists have an obligation to take care of themselves, but a major factor is that traffic in Thailand is different from that in China. We would like the Thai government to improve traffic safety and to make travel safer.

"We also want the Thai government to print leaflets in Chinese language explaining to tourists about any dangers that they might be exposed to in the areas they visit," he said.

Mr Yao added, "At a recent conference of Thai and Chinese tour businesses in Bangkok, guidelines for safer practices were

set down and standardized prices were set for tours to Bangkok and Phuket.

"If a company is found charging more than the agreed prices, the Chinese government will move to have the company's operating license revoked.

"Similarly, if a tour company has an accident, the Chinese Consulate will investigate and possibly move to have the company's license withdrawn."

He pointed out that more and more Chinese tourists are coming to Thailand. In 2004, 780,000 Chinese tourists traveled in Thailand. Last year, despite the tsunami, 840,000 Chinese tourists visited Thailand, an increase of 7.5%.

He noted that the Tourism Authority of Thailand aims to attract 3 million Chinese tourists a year to visit Thailand by 2010.

— Janyaporn Morel

## Publisher gunned down in street

PHUKET CITY: Opas Noonthong, 59, owner of the recently-launched newspaper *Fahkumnod* ("Natural Order") and of the Jao Khun Karaoke on Luang Por Rd, was gunned down by two teenagers while walking back to his office about 11:30 pm on April 29.

Pol Capt Rassada Kluengwong, of Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "Witnesses said that K. Opas was walking from Chatuchak market [on Phang Nga Rd] back to his office.

"He was about 10 meters from his office [on Luang Por Rd] when two teenagers on a motorcycle rode up to him, shot him three times in the back, and then rode off."

Capt Rassada explained that K. Opas' son Kraiwit, 31, who was in the *Fahkumnod* office, heard the gunshots and looked out the window in time to see the killers fleeing the scene.

"His son took him to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but he died that night from his wounds," Capt Rassada said.

He added that K. Opas had been shot once in the right lung, and twice in the liver.

"We are continuing our investigation. There are about five witnesses [to the shooting], and there are a few things about his newspaper that we are looking into. He also had problems related to his former work [as a reporter]," Capt Rassada said.



Jammin' them in: the nightclub was packed the night it reopened.

## Jammin' Pub reopens

PHUKET CITY: The popular Jammin' nightclub reopened on April 28, following a month of rebuilding after the club caught fire on April 1, causing an estimated 2 million baht in damage.

The fire is believed to have been started by an electrical fault in the DJ pit.

Shortly before the reopening co-owner Mel Perdue told the *Gazette* that all sound and lighting equipment had been replaced and that a few structural changes had been made, such as the stairs being replaced.

Apart from this, however, the venue had basically been restored to the way it was before the fire.

Mr Perdue explained that he and his wife had decided not to wait for the insurance claim to be processed. "These things take time. If we waited for them, it would take another month or so. So we just went ahead with it," he said.

The experience had been stressful, he admitted. "We've lost a little piece of our life, really. But the staff have all pulled together and helped. They have been wonderful.

"As a team-building exercise it has been excellent, though expensive. [But] it is not something I want to have to go through again," he added finally.

## 'Swimming with dolphins' plan sunk

PHUKET CITY: Plans for a Dolphin Center at Cape Panwa have fallen through due to the lack of participants in a proposed fundraising committee.

Danish marine biologist Judith Kongsted had invited PMBC Director Wannakiat Thapthimsang and other potential committee members to attend a meeting at the Pearl Hotel on April 29 but only about 15 people attended.

Ms Kongsted commented: "I'm still enthusiastic about the idea. People are fascinated by dolphins but sometimes they

bother the creatures in the wild. If we had a dolphin center, people could come and swim with them and I think that it would be an extremely beautiful experience."

The concept was opposed by Dr Roy Jones of the World Society for Protection of Animals, a UN-affiliated organization.

"I disagree with dolphins being held in captivity," he said. "Swimming with dolphins is no more than a business, and captivity with constant intimacy with humans would prevent them from living a normal life."

## Beware of fake cops, warns Police Chief

By Nattamon Ratcharak

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth has warned people to be on the lookout for gangsters impersonating police officers.

"Many rubber plantation owners have complained that thieves are disguising themselves as police, and even carrying pistols, in order to demand money from their Burmese laborers," Gen Decha said on May 1.

"Most cases reported have been from rubber workers' accommodation in Thalang. The thieves wait until the owner pays the workers, and then turn up and demand money from them. They threaten to arrest the workers if they don't pay."

Gen Decha said that two men – Jirasak Ponthong, 27, and Chakapong Krilad, 26, both from Phang Nga – were arrested at Panlan Restaurant on Srisoon-

thorn Rd on April 16 after they claimed to be police officers.

After eating and drinking plenty at the restaurant, the two men refused to pay the bill, telling the restaurant owner that they were police officers. The owner of the restaurant did not believe them – and called the real police.

The men, who were actually Community Police volunteers and dressed in their uniforms, were charged with possessing unlicensed firearms and walkie-talkies, and with carrying firearms in a public place, Gen Decha said.

Both were also charged with impersonating police officers, and were taken to Phuket Provincial Prison to await trial.

Gen Decha added, "I suggest that the Provincial Administration Organization change the color or style of the Community Police uniform because it is too similar to the uniform worn by Royal Thai Police officers."

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# Rising fuel prices: where

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn,  
Jenjira Ruengjarus  
& Nattamon Ratcharak

**T**he spiraling cost of fuel has wrought such an effect on the fishing industry – still recovering from the tsunami – that an estimated 40% of the island's fishing businesses have shut down since the end of 2005 and many fishing boats stay tied up at their moorings.

"The rise in the cost of fuel is [one factor] making us Thai fishermen uncompetitive," says **Teerasak Tanphan**, a member of the Phuket Fishery Association. "We have not applied for concessions to fish in the territorial waters of neighboring countries because we cannot afford to pay the very high fees for concessions."

"Our inability to pay [for the concessions] stems from the fact that so much of our meager income is paid out in fuel costs, and because we are limited as to where we can fish, we are able to catch only fish that are in season in the waters relatively close to Phuket."

"In addition, the economy is not so good [at the moment] and people think twice before buying anything, even food, and about economizing."

"The political situation is currently unstable, which is not helping matters. Stability – in the form of a new central government – may be sometime off, so it is up to us to help ourselves."

**Pattanapong Aikvanich**, President of the Phuket Tourist Association says that the soaring cost of oil will adversely affect Phuket's economic mainstay, tourism.

"Domestic tourists who

The price of oil continues to rise and the 500 baht or so which, a few years ago, could fill a gas tank now manages barely half that. Look back 10 years, when gas was around 8.9 baht a liter, and the tank of the average car could be filled for around 300 baht.

Everyone is affected, because everything we buy, whether food, clothes, computers – even newspapers – requires the use of oil somewhere in its production and certainly in its transportation to the consumer. The costs of these goods, too, are rising.

The effect is by no means limited to the consumer. As the costs of fuel and raw materials continue to rise, business are caught in a squeeze: raise prices and risk selling less, or keep prices down and suffer smaller margins.

The *Gazette* interviewed a number of business people for their views on the current situation and how their livelihoods have been affected.



might travel to Phuket by car or boat, for example, may be put off from traveling just as much as foreigners who might jet in here from overseas.

"Everyone will be looking at how much they can spend on

a vacation and, of course, the more of a person's disposable income that goes on simply traveling to a destination, the less they have to spend when they arrive," he said.

"The rising price of oil is going to cause Phuket's tourism industry to suffer," he warns.

K. Pattanapong suggests that the government should help by reintroducing subsidies, but adds, "[Bangkok] cannot, of course, control the price of oil [on the global market]."

"I know that the price of oil will not continue rising to infinity, but how high will it go? No one can say, and therefore all busi-



ness people, including those in the hospitality sector, must reduce expenditure."

Builders' merchant **Suriya Yorsaengrat** says he understands that Thailand is suffering from a global phenomenon.

"I keep up to date with news and current events, both domes-

tic and abroad, because I am aware that what happens in, say, Europe, can have an effect anywhere else in the world. As the old saying used to go, 'When America sneezes, Britain catches a cold'.

"Oil – and the rising price of that commodity – is a case in point. The fortunes of the Stock Exchange of Thailand are connected to this to such an extent that the Thai government has had to intervene to prevent the leakage of investors' money to foreign countries."

"Nowadays, the economy is sluggish because people's buying power – directly related to how much cash or credit they have – has been reduced so drastically," he says.

His own turnover has dropped by some 20% in recent months. "My company has many old and valued customers, but although I do not like raising my prices, I have no choice."

"The cost of the goods coming in is increasing and I must be

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# does it all end?



Rising fuel prices have brought worrying times for butcher Tossaporn Tharaporn (left) as well as (below, from left) fishmonger Anong Wongprasert, grocer Prapawadee Yeerorsar and bus driver Niwat Plubtong.

of new goods received, not those of existing stock.

"I want to be fair [to my customers], but I can't be expected to subsidize the rising cost of raw materials, can I? Anyway, there is nothing I can do about this situation. There's no way I can fight it."

**Prapawadee Yeerorsar**, a grocer, has seen her income slump in inverse proportion to the increase in gas-pump prices. "I have run this business for more than 30 years, and the worsening economy, and of course the increased costs of transporting goods, which must then be added on to the price of the food I sell, has really affected me."

Savvy enough to realize that the government can do nothing about the price of oil on the global market, she makes a plea for the government to intervene and subsidize the price of diesel and petrol – for some.

"If the government can, then it should help those on lower incomes by stabilizing the price of fuel. Otherwise, all that I and others can do is to help ourselves buy buying less goods, which will not be good for the economy."

**Tossaporn Tharaporn**, a butcher, has also seen his revenues shrink as transportation costs have risen. "Just six months ago, I sold pork for 90 baht a kilo. Now, the market price is 110 or even 120 baht a kilo and this is due to the increase in diesel costs.

"I feel that the government should put a cap on the price of fuel and also assist the [fair] pig

breeders because some unscrupulous ones are taking advantage of this crisis by raising their prices beyond what is actually necessary and simply blaming the rise on fuel prices.

"Such profiteering should be stamped out," he argues.

**Anong Wongprasert**, runs a fish stall in a local market. "Look at these fish," she says. "They may be very small, but even their wholesale price has risen because the fishermen must now pay so much more for the fuel to operate their vessels.

"I put my prices up to cover the difference, but people don't want to pay that much for such small fish, or they simply buy fewer of them.

"We fish-stall operators are trying to stick together to shore up the prices of our fish so that no one can come in and undercut us.

"That the ever-rising cost of oil affects even the price of such small fish seems so silly."

**Niwat Plubtong** is a bus driver on an affiliated bus service's Phuket-Haad Yai route. He is worried about the current high price of fuel because higher bus ticket prices have resulted in less passengers.

"Perhaps the frequency of some routes will be cut back," he says, "and what will happen then to the bus drivers whose routes have been canceled?

"Our passengers must realize that we have no choice but to increase our prices; we're not out to increase our profits, just to maintain the same level as before [prices rose exponentially]."

The prices we pay for all goods – whether those we eat, those we wear or those we put straight into our fuel tanks – show no sign of falling or even leveling off in the short term. We will all simply have to get used to paying more for less.

## Biodiesel 'is no answer' to Phuket's fuel price crisis

Following the introduction of gasohol – a mixture of ethyl alcohol and regular gas – at the pumps in September last year, there have been calls from some quarters to introduce the production and availability of biodiesel – a fuel made, not from hydrocarbons, but from vegetable oils, pulse oils or animal fats.

But it's not as simple as it may seem.

Sompon Srichok, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Industrial Office, explains, "We do not have biodiesel refineries in Phuket because there are few palm plantations here.

"There are, however, plantations of these trees in Krabi and Surat Thani provinces. But Phuket is a well-known tourism destination and is therefore not a suitable location for a heavy industry such as biodiesel production.

"In additionally, with the cost of land being so high in Phuket, even if a biodiesel refinery were to be built here, it is unlikely that the fuel produced would be any cheaper than diesel.

"The alternative, transporting biodiesel to Phuket, even from a neighboring province, would incur its own transportation costs, again potentially keeping the price equal to or just below that of normal diesel fuel."

K. Sompon says that, in any case, he feels that vehicles using compressed natural gas (CNG) would be more appropriate as it is cleaner than diesel or gasoline. CNG is popular in many markets around the world, and the cost of converting a vehicle to run on it soon pays for itself – if the facilities to fill vehicles are close at hand. In Phuket, they are not.

"I look forward to the day when the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) provides CNG for Phuket, although my feeling is that we will probably have to wait for facilities in, say, Surat Thani first, and the have a pipeline connecting us to that facility.

Rangsun Jitkhament, representative in Phuket of the Ministry of Energy, agrees in principle with K. Sompon, adding, "Palm oil is primarily used as a food. Any fuel derivatives are secondary to this purpose."



realistic and put up my prices to be in line with the world situation," says K. Suriya, adding that he will increase only the prices

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## Queer News

# MEECHAI TAKES CARE OF HIS DAD

SONGKHLA: Acquaintances of 45-year-old Meechai say he has a history of mental confusion that requires occasional incarceration and treatment; and indeed, as events proved in the early hours of April 16, he has difficulty sorting out questions of right and wrong. Nonetheless, all things considered, his heart seems to be in the right place.

Meechai had gone with his aged parents the previous evening to a neighbor's funeral party, where – to stave off ghosts – the custom is for male mourners to drink liquor till they can hardly stay awake, then stagger off homeward.

### SMASHED

After getting thoroughly smashed, Meechai took his 85-year-old father, Ming, back to their home. The melancholy gathering had apparently inspired a tender concern in his addled brain. Before leaving the party he was overheard telling a friend, "My parents are old now, and if they continue to live, they'll have no one to take care of them."

About 1am, the desk officer at Saba Yoy District police headquarters received word of a murder in the house at 12 tambon Khao Dang Moo 1 – Ming's house – and went with detectives to investigate.

Officers found the old man's corpse inside, amid a pool of blood, his throat cut. Near the body was a bloody, long-handled knife of the type commonly used for cutting rubber trees.

Meechai, whom police wanted to talk to (and whose first name means "Is victorious"), was nowhere in sight.

Witnesses told police he had probably fled to a relative's house seeking means of escape. In this case victory had deserted Meechai: investigators quickly tracked the prodigal down and placed him under arrest.

He was probably too mixed up to care. "Questioning him at the scene was of no value," said Pol Sub Lt Sayan Tongsuwan, who spoke to reporters afterwards. "His mind was completely spun-out."

The suspect was therefore taken to Racha Nakarint mental hospital "for a time" till he regains his right senses.

Relatives said it was not his first hospital visit; he has long been troubled by "nervous disorders."

"It's lucky his mother stayed at the funeral party," said one relative. "She didn't return till after the incident."

The story of Ming's murder by his own son, and the reason alleged for it, was instantly picked up by newspapers outside Songkhla, perhaps because Thailand's elderly find little in the way of state support when they become infirm, and must rely on relatives.

### BURDEN

"I understand what he was thinking of," said a local woman, who works in a government office. "When people get old they can be a real burden, and if relatives can't take care of them, they suffer."

"But I'd have handled it differently; I'd have used poison; it's kinder," she opined. "I wonder what led him to believe using a knife like that would keep his father from suffering? He must be crazy."



Near this informal dump on Soi Paniang, just outside Phuket City, is a sign from the Ras-sada Tambon Administration Organization banning dumping and threatening perpetrators with a 2,000-baht fine. So far it does not seem to be working. Previous attempts to clean up the sides of the road appear only to have encouraged more garbage.

## TRASHING Phuket



## Tsunami warning system '90% complete'

KATA: Dr Smith Thammasaroj, who was appointed to establish the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) after the 2004 tsunami, today expressed satisfaction with progress on the country's disaster warning system.

"Tourists can be sure of traveling safely in the Andaman region. Ninety percent of the warning towers are complete. The rest will be finished in the next three months," he said.

"The towers can warn not

only about tsunamis, but also about dangerous seas, as well as storms and floods."

Dr Smith added, "We will set up provincial early warning centers [in each province] from Narathiwat to Samut Songkhram within three months. Each province will have at least three warning towers."

"In the north, by the middle of this year, warning towers will be set up in Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai, Lamphun and Lamphang provinces.

"In Isarn, towers will be set up in Nong Khai, Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan and Ubon Ratchathani, the provinces along the Mekong River."

"Warnings will be given in Thai, English and French languages, and the system will be able to alert people to [impending] disasters about one hour in advance."

Dr Smith was speaking at a workshop on "Tourism Risk Management Strategy" held at the Kata Beach Resort.

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# Student results mess taking its toll

Nearly 70% of students preparing to enter university say the new admissions system has caused them stress, and almost 2% would consider suicide if they were not accepted by their first choice of university, a survey has revealed.

The Mental Health Department and Abac Poll Research Center conducted the survey of 1,079 students applying to universities this year. Of the respondents who reported feeling stress, about 9.5% said the level was high while 27.4% reported moderate stress.

Nearly 2% of respondents said they would consider suicide if they failed to win a seat at their preferred higher-educational institution.

"Two percent of respondents is too many when it comes to being suicidal," caretaker Deputy Public Health Minister Anutin Charnveerakul said.

The main reasons given by those who said they would consider suicide were: a lack of anyone to comfort them when they failed; to send a message about their feelings to adults; and to protest against the National Institute of Education Testing Service (NIETS).

NIETS twice last month voided test scores it had announced due to many errors.

"We hope to persuade students that failing to enter their favorite university isn't the end of their lives," he said.

K. Anutin also called on parents to offer their children moral support if their preferred university rejected them.

**Skin deep.** As Thais shell out more and more money on corrective treatments for their skin, they have seemingly neglected the number-one rule: protecting themselves from the sun. "Although the tummy and face are the same age, why is the complexion of the former so flawless, while the latter has problems, such as freckles?" asked dermatologist Suthatip Somboonvit, of the Institute of Dermatology.

She then answered her own question: "It's simply a matter of being exposed to sunlight, the major cause of common skin problems, which take both time and money to correct."

Dermatologist Prapawan Chawvavanich said, "The most classic recommendation from dermatologists is 'please use sunscreen and avoid direct exposure



**DOING TIME:** This young orang-utan is one of 54 that are waiting to be repatriated to their home countries. Pratapchang Wildlife Breeding station in Ratchaburi Province recently held a press conference to highlight the issues of returning smuggled orang-utans to Malaysia and Indonesia.

to sunlight', and it seems to have fallen on deaf ears."

The most common problems people seek treatment for are acne, blemishes, freckles and wrinkles, most of which are largely attributable to sunlight, he said.

A disturbing trend, however, is that the number of patients with skin cancer had increased by almost half in the past year, he said. "While it's difficult to conclude that sunlight is the main cause, exposing yourself to direct sunlight with no protection is definitely a factor in skin cancer," he added.

"In the West, sunscreen, hats and sunglasses are generally used as protection from the dangers presented by the sun, but in Thailand, where the sunlight is far stronger, not many people see the importance of protection from the sun," said K. Suthatip.

**Intoxicating youth.** Due to the growing problem of inhalant abuse among youths, Tesco-Lotus has introduced a barcode-scanning system at its stores to alert clerks when selling products containing inhalants.

The barcodes will enable clerks to screen sales of inhalants and ensure that buyers are aged 17 or over, the company's CEO

Jeff Adams said. By law, anyone selling inhalants to people under 17 faces a maximum two-year jail term or 20,000-baht fine.

The Probation Department, Muthita Juvenile Center, Royal Thai Police and related agencies held a parade to campaign against inhalant-abuse and made a visit to Tesco-Lotus Rama IV branch to inspect the scanning system.

Cracking down on sales of inhalants to abusers and reducing the problem through rehabilitation programs are the solutions to the problem, said Vice-Minister for Justice Voradej Chandarasorn.

The maximum penalty for illegal sales of inhalants to known addicts is a three-year jail term or 30,000-baht fine.

Probation Department Director-General Wanchai Roujanavong said inhalant abuse was on the rise with 11,239 abusers arrested last year, and 2,325 abusers – 679 of whom were youths and children – arrested before March this year.

Inhalants most commonly purchased by abusers include 3K glue, shoe glue, nail polish remov-

ers, lacquer and thinner, he said.

Chiang Mai topped the province list for inhalant-abuse, followed by Phayao, Nakhon Ratchasima and Loei.

**Animal rights.** The Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) and Rangsit University have launched a five-month survey of the number of stray animals and levels of animal cruelty in six provinces.

Volunteers will gather data from related agencies and visit markets, temples and other places to count stray cats and dogs in the central municipalities of Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani,

Pattaya, Ayudhya and Phuket, and in Bangkok's Khlong San, Don Muang and Wang Thong Lang areas, said project head and RSU lecturer Chuleerat Charoenporn.

The areas were picked either because they are known to attract stray animals or at the suggestion of the TSPCA, she said.

The project will also investigate cruelty to commercial farm animals, wild animals at tourist attractions and zoos, and laboratory animals at educational institutions, K. Chuleerat said. A complete report will be released in September.

The survey is part of the TSPCA's national campaign against cruelty to animals from 2005 to 2008, which includes other strategies such as the Animal Adoption Program and the Animal Welfare Act Reform Campaign, said TSPCA Secretary-General Sawan Saengbunlung.

The dog meat trade at Tambon Tha Rae in Sakhon Nakhon's Muang district would also be in the report as a special case study, K. Chuleerat said.

There is no specific animal-protection law in Thailand. Articles 381 and 382 of the Criminal Law subject animal abusers to up to one month in jail and a 1,000-baht fine, K. Sawan said.

The draft animal welfare law, consisting of 15 articles covering domesticated, wild, commercial and laboratory animals, would give officials greater authority to arrest animal abusers and increase the severity of punishments, possibly to between two and five years in prison, he added.

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

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# WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

## What you need is a cover-up

By Janyaporn Morel

**T**hermometers in Phuket seem to register just two temperatures – hot and hotter – but anyone who studied physics at even the most rudimentary level knows that heat is caused by sunlight, which is a simple way of describing the spectrum of electromagnetic radiation blasted out from the Sun.

Our small blue dot in the vastness of space has – more or less – an atmosphere to filter the solar radiation, and, when the sky is blue (itself a product of diffuse radiation) and cloudless, this solar radiation warms our bones in the form of sunshine.

The lucky among us have a carport at home and at work where the vehicle, and essentially the windows, are shielded from the glare. Out on the street or parked near the beach, however, is another story.

There, the hot sunshine penetrates windows with even the darkest tint, warming the inside of the car to the point where the contents of any water bottles left inside are warm enough to make tea – or shave – with.

Enter Venezuelan Pedro Glucksmann – a professor in transportation and urban planning from the Central University of Caracas, and the writer of two

*Gazette* First Person articles on those subjects – who has had a bright idea.

His brainwave was to turn the common windshield sun-screen idea inside out – not metaphorically – and put the reflective medium on the outside of the vehicle. He also made it large enough to cover all the glass surfaces, and came up with a name for it – the Car Cap.

“It’s hot and sunny in Phuket, and it is hot and sunny in Venezuela where I first started to think about this idea 12 years ago,” he told the *Gazette*. “I have experienced the discomfort of getting into a hot car many times, and noticed that the sunshine damages the interior of a vehicle, making plastics discolor or brittle,” he added.

Mr Glucksmann said that it is not enough to simply block out the sunshine. “You must also protect a car’s interior from the heat generated through the sunshine,” he noted, before explaining more about his design.

“The Car Cap is made from plastic bubble wrap sandwiched between sheets of reflective aluminum fabric that are covered with a resilient protective plastic coating. The edges of the Car Cap are trimmed with a soft fabric to prevent the car’s bodywork being scratched.”



Pedro Glucksmann said and designer Weerasak “Sak” Naveekarn.



The Car Cap was demonstrated at the Tesco-Lotus Motor Show from April 28-May 3.



Bubble wrap is another of those essential items invented by mistake, as was Champagne and Post-It notes. What became bubble wrap was originally intended to be a textured, wipe-clean wallpaper, although its qualities lent themselves better to packaging, relieving stress and now insulation.

Mr Glucksmann explained the theory behind the use of bubble wrap in the design.

“In engineering terms, the best insulator is a vacuum – as in a vacuum flask – and the second best is to have an air gap between two layers – such as with double-glazing.

“The bubble wrap inside the Car Cap creates the air gap, and this, coupled with the reflective outer material, offers twice the benefits,” Mr Glucksmann explained.

“In fact, the material that we use – which is made exclusively for us in Bangkok – reflects about 98% of the heat. The remainder can pass through, but,

really, that is nothing compared to how well the car is insulated.”

He said that the aluminum insulator is waterproof, very resilient and repairable by the company. “Of course, as with anything, how long it will last depends on how much it is used. Daily use might mean it will last for two years, although I think five years’ use will be the average.”

Mr Glucksmann said that he has been aided in bringing his vision to fruition by Weerasak “Sak” Naveekarn. K. Sak has a degree in graphic art, and his expertise has been vital to transform and realize the concept.

“We experimented with many designs and have come up with three models – for a two-door pickup truck, a four-door pickup truck and for a saloon car – all of which are easy to unfold, put on the vehicle and fold up again.

“We now produce about 30 to 50 Car Caps a day, depending on their size, at our factory in Phuket City and sell them for

3,500 baht each. There is not a difference in price between the smaller or bigger versions because it is only a relatively small amount of material separating the two.”

As to the future, Mr Glucksmann says that he will wait to see the market’s reaction before expanding – possibly overseas – and licensing the design.

“And, if I give a license to companies in, say, Malaysia, Australia or the US, it will mean that I won’t have to go to work each day,” smiled Mr Glucksmann.

Sounds like Pedro Glucksmann has everything covered.

*Car caps are available from iTree Digital Printing Services (Tel: 076-255425-6) opposite HomePro in at the Tesco-Lotus shopping mall, and from the Car Cap factory (Tel: 076-221992) at 432-434 Phuket Rd, near the Immigration office, in Phuket City. Call Mr Pedro Glucksmann at Tel: 05-786331.*

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**LOW SEASON RARITY:** A small group of tourists enjoy the view from the Khao Lak viewpoint; still a breathtaking sight despite the yellowish-green water caused by the southeast monsoon.

## Bleak outlook for the low season

**T**he southwest monsoon's strong winds and high waves arrived in the third week of April, bringing Khao Lak's high season to an early end. Heavy seas turned the coastline into an unpleasant looking yellowish green, and made it impossible for the few remaining visitors to enjoy a swim.

Dive boats were forced to stay in port almost all week long; reducing even further the little profits local dive operators were able to reel in during this first and short post-tsunami season. It is no secret that this coming low season will be tough for Khao Lak's businesspeople and locals alike.

It is to be expected that many will bail out, and some might be forced to sell their businesses and property as it is rather questionable whether they will be able to keep up with their monthly loan re-payments during the low season.

**Did he mean "all"?** While Phang Nga Vice-Governor Opas Sveta-mani proudly told the *Gazette* that all Phang Nga tsunami victims had been helped, the truth is that many Khao Lak locals are still struggling to make a living.

Another sad fact is that none of the foreign businesspeople in Khao Lak received sufficient funds to rebuild their businesses or homes, even though their fellow countrymen overseas donated hundreds of millions of dollars to tsunami-affected regions in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

One survivor, German master cook and proprietor of Joe's Steakhouse on Bang Niang Beach, "Uncle Joe", built up his destroyed restaurant all by himself, brick by brick, tile by tile. He is still teetering on the edge of ruin, as it appears that he lacks the funds to buy the kitchen interior, kitchenware, tables and seats to convert the empty building into

the flourishing restaurant it once was.

So for those out there willing to help, here's my appeal to you: please call "Loong Joe" at 07-8936833 and ask him what he needs.

**Ignoring the outcast.** The German parliamentary committee of tourism planned to visit Khao Lak on April 28 to assess the progress on reconstruction efforts in the area. While, at the time of writing, it was unclear if the visit actually took place, the committee did cancel an important meeting that day at which they would meet local and foreign Khao Lak residents to listen to their needs.

Olaf Schomber, Manager of Khao Lak Guide Co Ltd, where the meeting was to be held, said the event was canceled just two days in advance. The reason given: "there is not enough time for it in our schedule."

Had Mr Schomber not called to confirm the meeting he wouldn't have known about the change of plans.

Of course it makes for better press to bring toys or even more longtail boats to one of the many tsunami-affected villages than to help some farang.

To give an idea of how much the meeting meant to the foreign tsunami survivors in Khao Lak, it should be mentioned that Richard Doring, Thailand travel guide author and Manager of New Sita Garden, spent many hours typing a well-researched four-page report about the needs of Thai and foreign tsunami survivors as a basis for discussions during the meeting.

Yet there is hope on the horizon. On May 16 a Khao Lak Road Show will be held in Frankfurt, where 20 Khao Lak resorts and hotels will present their products to leading German tour and travel agencies.

For more information, Email: [bettina@thailandtourismus.de](mailto:bettina@thailandtourismus.de)



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

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## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket

Panatsaya Ponlom and Sommart Sengnoom were married at The Harbour restaurant, Boat Lagoon, on March 8.



Camilla Nolte and Kent Madsen, both from Sweden, celebrated their wedding at Phuket Orchid Resort on March 29.

# Helping those bypassed by the frenzy

Phuket is certainly not the quiet little island I moved to from Bangkok 15 years ago. I thought I had managed to escape the chaos of Thailand's capital, but apparently it has caught up with me.

Each day I become a road warrior when I leave my home and try to navigate this island's highways in an effort to get to the supermarket or a restaurant in one piece. Phuket is booming.

Even the disastrous tsunami has not quelled the eager en-

heading the initiative for World Vision, and is working with the Holiday Inn's General Manager, **Wolfgang Meusberger**.

"World Vision was established over 50 years ago as a Christian non-denominational agency to help with the great number of children who were orphaned by the Korean War," Graham explains.

"Since then, it has grown and provides services for children and their families throughout the world, based on Christian principles of good works and good deeds."

Graham has worked for many years with the Karen communities who escaped from Burma into northern Thailand. Many underage girls are forced to work in the sex industry in that region, but on Phuket his work focuses on the high number of



## Off the WALL

With Bruce Stanley

All the development and the frenzy to make money also leaves victims in its wake. Fortunately, there are also people who come to the rescue of those left behind.

**World Vision International** is joining with the **Holiday Inn Resort Phuket** to launch a home for endangered youths in Patong.

The four-story shophouse will have the capacity to provide beds and meals for up to 50 children between the ages of 12 and 16 who are currently homeless or who work in the sex industry.

Graham Tardif is spear-

heading the initiative for World Vision, and is working with the Holiday Inn's General Manager, **Wolfgang Meusberger**.

"Presently, many of these boys live in Patong houses where they are sold by local pimps and madams who keep most of their earnings," he says.

"We plan to operate a center where these boys can come and feel safe and learn skills such as motorcycle repair which will provide them with an alternative to selling their bodies to survive. Most of them have run away from home and are desperate."

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The Hagen family from California donated money for an arts center at the new Life Home Project (LHP) village on Koh Sireh. They are pictured here at the recent dedication ceremony for the center, which honors the memory of Drew's mother and stepfather, Bill and Jane Dickerson, who were lost to the tsunami. From left: Hôlone Fallon-Wood, Kathy Manthei, Therese and Kevin Beauvais, who co-ordinated the donation, Drew, Blair, Susan and Maddie Hagen, and, at rear, LHP founder Jose-Luis Gay.



Kathy Davies models the necklace she designed to raise money for tsunami victims.

baht project is coming from the Holiday Inn's parent company, the InterContinental Hotels Group, which operates the hotel, and its Singaporean owner.

OVB Holding AG, an international insurance and finance firm based in Cologne, Germany, has pledged 30,000 euros (1.4 million baht) a year for five years to maintain operations.

"After the tsunami, many of our guests gave generous donations to help our staff affected by the tragedy," Wolfgang says.

"After we ensured that our employees were secure, we had significant funds left over and decided to help [solve] problems in Patong. This project with World Vision is our way of giving back to the community."

**The Life Home Project** (LHP), a shelter since 2001 for the growing number of wo-

men and children with HIV or Aids, will be moving to the foundation's new premises on Koh Sireh in September.

This worthwhile cause currently occupies modest and cramped facilities hidden away in Phuket City.

Its new complex is large, bright and open, and, according to LHP founder **Jose-Luis Gay**, it will work much like a Kibbutz community, with all members sharing the work to generate revenue to support its operation.

Recently, **Drew and Susan Hagen** and their children **Maddie** and **Blair** traveled from California to donate funds for the new LHP Arts Center, for which programs will be designed by artist **Kathy Manthei**.

Drew lost his mother and her husband in the tsunami, and his family wanted to offer a contribution as a memorial.

The Arts Center creates banners, greeting cards and other beautiful products which give the women a source of income. Joining the Hagens were **Kevin and Therese Beauvais**, who introduced them to the LHP.

Kevin used to be the GM at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa at Mai Khao. After 25 years with Marriott, the Beauvais' have now retired to Bangkok and plan to engage in local charity projects.

**Hélène Fallon-Wood**, who has done such a magnificent job raising funds for the LHP, tells me that the charity's annual gala ball will take place in September, coinciding with the celebration of the foundation's new home on Koh Sireh.

**M**any other individuals continue to help tsunami victims. **Kathy Davies** has designed and

made, in collaboration with her friend, jewelry designer **Vicki Sarge**, an elegant Asian-themed necklace, copies of which she is selling around the world to raise funds for those still recovering from the tsunami.

Kathy chose the Buddha of Protection as the central image, surrounded by a shimmering black pearl and symbols of yin and yang and the Om, all meant to protect the wearer.

Her necklace has been featured in Japanese *Vogue*, and *Time Out*, the *Evening Standard* newspaper and the magazine *Grazia* in the UK.

"After the tsunami, I wanted to help get financial support to those most personally affected," she says.

"With sales from this necklace, I've been able to provide significant assistance to individuals thanks to the support I've had

from such sponsors as the Storm modeling agency in London – which bought the necklace for all its models – and such high-end jewelry boutiques as Di Classe in Tokyo and Erickson Beamon on Elizabeth Street in London," she tells me.

Kathy has handed over gifts such as a sidecar for a motorcycle and a bathroom for a house built by the government – which forgot to include one.

She goes regularly to Khao Lak to search out new recipients for her funds.

Kathy Davies is no stranger to good causes. In 1988 she founded "Fashion Acts" in London, a charity aimed at helping those infected with HIV or suffering from Aids.

The tsunami necklace is available at The Collection in Baan Rim Pa and at The Chedi boutique.



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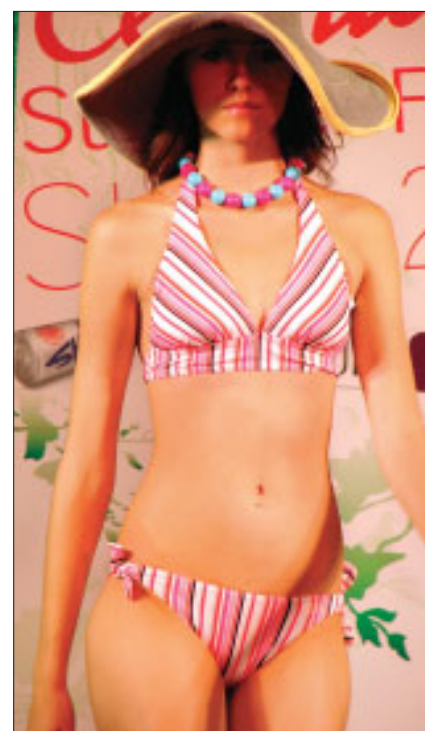
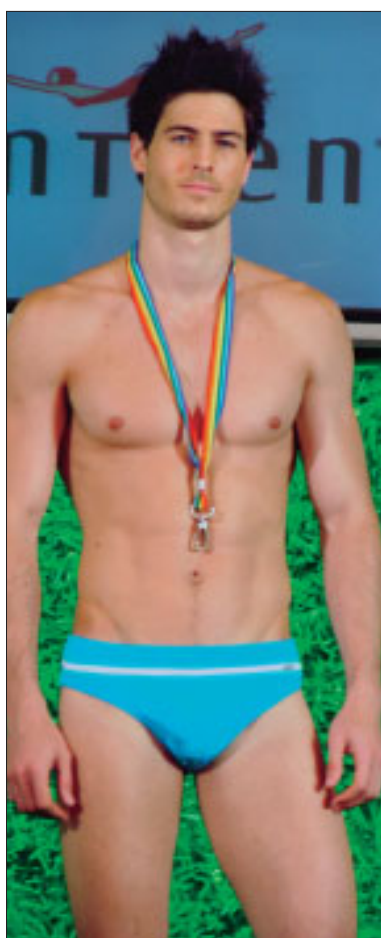
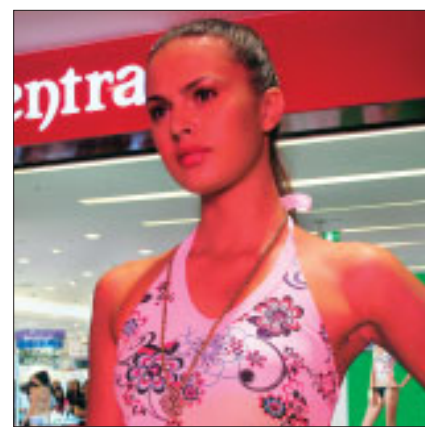
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**Mom Tri's Gung Thai-Japanese Inspired Cuisine** on Kata Beach offers casual beach-side dining. The menu is essentially Japanese but with a unique Thai twist. **Tel: 076-330-015**



# COLORFUL SUMMER FASHION



Photography: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn  
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# Getting ready to hit the beach

Just in case you were in any doubt, summer is here. Top Thai models including Yossawadee "Yo" Hassadeevichit, Chanokvanan "Tuk" Watcharakul and Nithichat "Yuan" Yosamornsoonthorn strutted the catwalk at Central Festival Phuket recently when the mall launched the summer fashion season. The show highlighted swimwear, seen on these pages, and comfortable summer clothing from some 60 brands, including Espada, Benetton, EP, Blue Conner, GR, Elle, Triumph, U2, Play Boy, Giordano, Jantzen and Billabong.



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By Jeff Heselwood

# Szisz, not Zzzz: 100 years of Grand Prix

**N**ext month sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Grand Prix. Rather different from today's 90-minute sprints, the first event took two days and was held over a 103-kilometer triangular course near Le Mans in France.

Renault won the first Grand Prix on the so-called Circuit de la Sarthe; its driver was a Hungarian gentleman by the name of Ferenc Szisz, who romped home 15 minutes ahead of the second-placed driver – and an incredible 2½ hours ahead of the last car.

Organized by the Automobile Club de France, the 1906 event, although not the first road race, was the first to use the title “Grand Prix” – or “grand prize”.

## ADVANTAGE

Thirty-two cars from 12 manufacturers started on June 26 and 27, but Szisz had the advantage of detachable rims, courtesy of Michelin, which allowed him to change tires on his Renault 90 CV in two to three minutes, instead of the more usual 15 minutes taken by his rivals.

Six laps of the circuit were covered on each day. Szisz and his riding mechanic, M. Marteau, took the lead at the end of Day One and held on to it, even though the fastest lap – at a dazzling average of 118kmh – was set by Paul Baras in a 12-liter French-built monster called a Brasier. Szisz recorded the fastest speed on the straight, however, at 154kmh.

Ferenc Szisz was a railway engineer who later became head of Renault's test department. Born in 1873 in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Habsburg empire, Szisz became a riding mechanic for Louis Renault in 1903.

But after Louis' brother Marcel was killed in the Paris-Madrid race that same year, Louis retired from racing and handed Szisz the job of head driver for the young French company.

A new car was built in 1905 and, driving under the pseudonym François Szisz – in order to give him a French identity – the Hungarian led a team of three Renault racing drivers, the other two being Maurice Bernin and J Edmond.

Szisz was the fastest of the three, finishing fifth in his first event on the Auvergne circuit close to Clermont-Ferrand – the

spiritual home to this day of tire-maker Michelin. At the end of 1905, Szisz went to the USA to compete in the Vanderbilt Cup, again finishing fifth.

The 1906 Grand Prix Renault used an enlarged version of the engine first seen in 1903. A side-valve, four cylinder unit, it displaced a massive 12,985cc – an amazing 13 liters. Power was reputed to be a modest 95bhp (70kW) at 1,200rpm.

Although there was a three-speed gearbox, Renault decided not to fit a differential, in order to save weight. The company's engineers reasoned that there were only three corners on the Sarthe



Szisz and Marteau on Les Quais de Billancourt

track and the drivers would be able to slide their way round. One innovation, however, invented by Louis Renault himself, was hydraulic shock absorbers.

In June 1906, the Renault team comprised Szisz – now officially Ferenc again, no longer François – Edmond and Claude

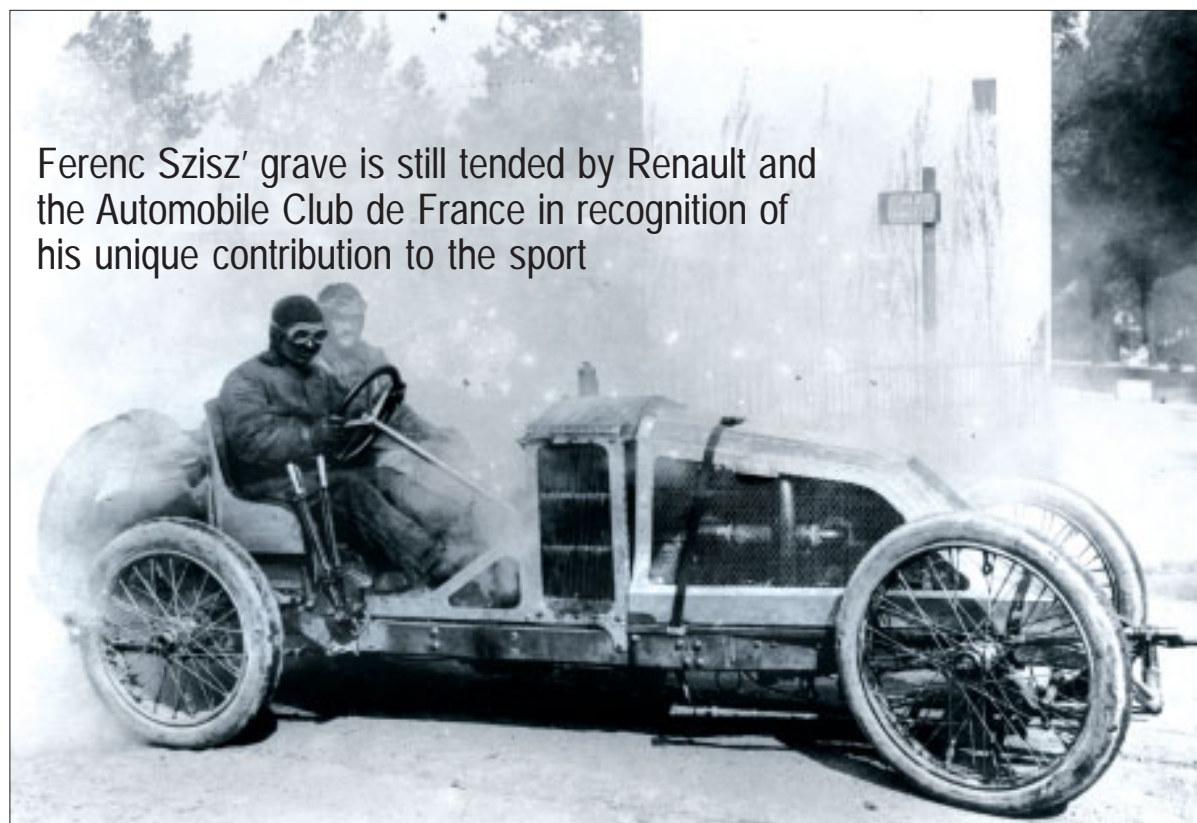
Richez, but it was to be a short career for the manufacturer. Renault lost interest in Grand Prix racing, even though Szisz won the first Grand Prix de l'ACF.

The Fiat of Felice Nazzaro came second in the first Grand Prix, while Albert Clément was third in his Clément-Bayard. A Brasier driven by Jules Barillier was fourth, another Fiat with a driver called Lancia was fifth, and George Heath's Panhard sixth. Only 11 of the 32 starters finished.

Although he raced intermittently in the ensuing years, coming second to Nazzaro in the 1907 race, Szisz broke his arm in a freak accident during the 1914 Grand Prix de l'ACF at Lyon, when another competitor hit him after he had stopped to change a wheel.

This was the last time he raced, although he continued working for Renault until his retirement. He died in 1944 and is buried in Auffargis, 35km west of Paris. His grave is still tended by Renault and the ACF in recognition of Szisz' unique contribution to Grand Prix racing.

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



Ferenc Szisz' Renault

Photos: Renault Communication

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## This week



**FRET FANTASTIC:** Taking time out during the intermission of his recent concert at Villa Royale in Kata, Russian violin virtuoso Vadim Tchijik (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) receives thanks from (from left) Alliance Française Phuket President Denis Rochel, Villa Royale GM Adisak "Dan" Pitukrojanant and Mom Tri's Boathouse GM Louis Bronner.



**COURTING PHUKET:** Dr Jirachai Amornpairoj, General Manager of the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong, welcomes Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Sonthi Boonyaratakin (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Lt Gen Ongkorn Thongprasom, Director of the Southern Border Provinces, during their stay at the hotel. While in Phuket the generals chaired the opening ceremony of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Royal Thai Army Tennis Tournament, held in Phuket from April 20 to 25.



**URBAN REVIVAL:** Arnaud Verstraete (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) Michael Lawrence (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), partners of the popular Michael's Bar on Takuapa Rd, Phuket City, and staff K. Lek (left) and K. Meow (right) pose for a photo before the bar's re-opening party on April 27.



**MAMA MIA SAN:** Phuket Tourist Association President Pattanapong Aikwanich (right) congratulates Kenny Kiichi Nakamura and his wife Kyoko at the April 21 grand opening their Italian-Japanese cuisine restaurant 2 Gusti, on the ground floor of Central Festival Phuket.



**ART HOUSE:** (From left) At the recent opening of House on the Edge, Phuket's latest venue for art and performance on Krabi Rd, Phuket City, Director Jose Luis Gay Cano welcomes artists Prasopsuk "Pom" Ittisak and Kathy Manthei, and Lori Ashton, Publisher of the Art and Culture guides.



**INDIGO I GO:** At the opening reception of Phuket City's Siam Indigo restaurant, Andrew Tan (left) is joined by partners Celine Masson (right) and Pisit Aongskultong (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) to welcome Namfon Kanjanasawa, Director of Phuket Ceramics, who created the Phra Phi Kanet sculpture (pictured), which is the centerpiece feature in the restaurant.

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## TAT aims at Asia, Eastern Europe

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May, 1996

THE SOUTH: Phuket province, among others, plans to attract Asian and Eastern European tourists by promoting its low season period.

The Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Office, Region 4, Mr Nitit Kongkut, said tourism on the Andaman Coast, especially in Phuket, Phang-Nga and Krabi, is still "busy".

The number of visitors to Phuket this year is expected to hit a minimum of 2.8 million, compared to 2.5 million last year. The majority of tourists coming to the island are European, accounting for 70% of the total. Germans constitute the highest number.

Most of the remaining 30-40% of visitors come from Asia, including Korea, Taiwan and Japan. Mr Niti added that the Asian market will help support the tourism industry on the Andaman Coast, especially during the low season.

The TAT Director also said that the average amount spent by Asian tourists may not be as high as that of the Europeans, but that resorts are currently looking to the Asians as substitutes for missing Europeans during the low season.

# Tuk-tuk drivers dislike bus plan

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May 1-14, 2001

PHUKET TOWN: The island's capital may not get a regular bus service. Instead, it may get a regular *tuk-tuk* service along fixed routes, if negotiations currently underway succeed.

But success is far from assured. Dr Prasit Koysiripong, President of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), told the *Gazette* that, at the suggestion of Phuket Governor Pongpame Vasaputi, he had invited local *tuk-tuk* drivers to a meeting to discuss the idea. No one turned up.

But, he added, he had also discussed the proposal with individual drivers, and they had expressed severe reservations.

"None of them liked the idea. They told me that, if they were to work 10 hours a day like local buses, charging passengers only 10 baht each, they were not sure how much they could earn in a day," Dr Prasit said.

This is despite the fact that earnings in the conventional *tuk-tuk* business in Phuket Town are

not good these days, forcing some drivers to move out to the beach areas in hopes of better earnings.

"Nothing is sure now," said Dr Prasit, "but we should have a better idea this month whether the *tuk-tuk* drivers are in favor of the idea."

The idea of a regular bus service along two routes – between Baan Samkong School and Phuket Vocational College, and between Rajabhat Phuket Institute and the Laem Chan Health Office – was first put forward two years ago as a private initiative by local businessman Samkhan Saengfai.

K. Samkhan dropped the idea when fuel prices rose. It was then taken up by the OrBorJor.

The *tuk-tuk* drivers, along with their motorbike taxi brethren, have traditionally been against all forms of public transport, even resorting on occasion to blocking major highways to emphasize their point.

• Note: the bus plan went ahead anyway on April 1, 2002. Buses continue to run to this day.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

### Until May 7: Arts Exhibition.

International Baccalaureate students at British Curriculum International School are staging their "Almost There" visual arts art exhibition at Thai Hua Museum on Krabi Rd, Phuket City.

The exhibition, which features works presented in a variety of traditional and non-traditional media, is open from 10 am to 8 pm. Entry is free.

### May 11: Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day – public holiday.

This auspicious occasion marks the beginning of the rice-planting season. The Ploughing Lord 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.

### May 13: Le Meridien 6th Golf Tournament.

Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort is organizing its 6th Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 13, at the Phuket Country Club.

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

The tournament will start at 7 am and will be followed by a prize-giving dinner at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

For 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: British Curriculum International School Summer Camp.

Sports & Adventure Camp organized by BCIS. For details see the website at [www.bcis.ac.th/sport2006.asp](http://www.bcis.ac.th/sport2006.asp)

### July 10: Asarnha Bucha – public holiday.

Asarnha Bucha marks the anniversary of the Buddha delivering his first sermon at the Deer Park in Varanasi, India, more than 2,500 years ago.

### July 11: Khao Phansa – public holiday.

Beginning of Buddhist Lent. This is the beginning of the "Rains Retreat" – known in Thai as Phansa, hence the Thai name for the holiday, Khao Phansa Day – during which many Thais join the monkhood for three months.



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# This irrational disgust is really some feat...

**These lowly limbs, these execrated extremities, perform far nobler service than more lofty body parts, and reap only scorn and contempt for their efforts**

One of the first things a foreigner learns in the Land of Smiles is that feet are bad. Thais regard them with disgust. They are the lowest parts of the body, and are in constant contact with the earth – which is dirty. By association, feet are also considered dirty.

The opprobrium associated with feet has inspired many taboos. In Thailand it is forbidden to point with one's foot, or to sit with the sole of the foot facing somebody, or to step over someone's body – especially the head – or to wear shoes inside a temple. And there may be other taboos I'm not aware of.

Now, the feet have many noble qualities. I believe that the prejudice against them is old-fashioned, irrational, misguided, unfair, and ought to be abandoned. But in Thailand this proposition will be a hard sell. Why

should we redeem the feet from the ignominy in which they have languished for so long?

My own feet have carried me around all my life without complaining. Without them, I wouldn't be able to go anywhere. As I've grown fatter, I have inflicted yet more weight upon them to carry. But they bear it all manfully – feetfully, I should say – without a murmur of reproach.

If my feet were Sherpas, carrying loads as heavy as my elephantine body up Mount Everest, they would surely demand more baksheesh for their labors. But my feet have never

asked so much as a single satang for their lifelong services. Silently and stoically, they bear their gross and bulbous burden without thought of recompense, and seek only selflessly to serve. If they were Catholic, the Pope would have canonized them long ago.

No, these lowly limbs, these execrated extremities, perform far nobler service than more lofty body parts, and reap only scorn and contempt for their efforts. The heart is extolled as the source of love, the brain as the locus of intelligence; but the feet are vilified merely for being the lowest items on the body's totem pole.

How would the heart and the brain be able to function if they didn't have the feet to ferry them around? All the other limbs and organs would quickly starve to death if the feet were not gracious enough to carry these parasites and hangers-on to the soil to enjoy an occasional bowl of noodles.

"Well," the anti-feetists will object, "the feet are in constant contact with the earth, which is dirty." Dirty? The earth is our Mother. She cradles the seas that spawned our ancestors, the earliest life-forms; she brings forth from her bosom grain and vegetables and fruit to nurture us. We would be in a fine fix without the earth. Say not that Mother Earth is dirty: say, rather, that she is holy, and imparts a portion of her holiness to the feet that walk upon her.

"Well," the anti-feetists will grumble, vexed at being so eloquently refuted, "the feet are ugly – possibly the ugliest part of the body." Ah, really? What of those internal organs which are so ugly that nature has chosen to hide them from public view? What about the liver? The kidneys? The gall bladder? The pancreas? And the large intestine, with all its hideous contents? Anybody want to

nominate one of those suckers to be the body's beauty queen? When it comes to ugliness, the feet have plenty of company concealed beneath the skin.

Then there is the question of temples. Note, please, that we remove our shoes before entering a temple, but our feet receive the honor of walking on hallowed ground. If the temple floor is holy, may we not assume that some of that holiness is absorbed by the feet that walk on it?

Finally, the principle of equality, which has been extended to include all human beings, logically applies to their body parts as well. With the possible exception of the appendix, every part of the body is essential to its proper functioning. Strike one part, and the rest immediately falls ill. To discriminate against any single part of the body thus violates the law of nature.

Let us therefore bid adieu to this irrational bias against the feet, and bestow upon them the gratitude, honor, and esteem which are their rightful due.

*Foot fetishist S Tsow can be flamed for his heretical views at stsow@yahoo.com, but not while he's rewarding his feet by treating them to a massage.*

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K. Pa Tai prepares vegetables for one of her Isarn specialties.



## Nong A-ngun: Where Isarn meets Rawai

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

RAWAI: When an Isarn cook comes to set up shop in Rawai you're almost guaranteed to get the best of both worlds: some of the friendliest people in Asia in a beautiful setting. That's why it's worth checking out Rawai Beach's Nong A-ngun restaurant.

It is run by 47-year-old K. Pa Tai, and her helping hands in the eatery are her daughter and Pa Tai's younger sister. Before the tsunami hit she was operat-

ing a noodle shop in Patong, but moved to the south of the island to set up a relaxed on-the-beach eatery with views across the bay to the islands.

Let's face it, Rawai Beach is not known for its culinary diversity so you'll be able to get the usual suspects here: *Som tam* (papaya salad), sticky rice, grilled

chicken, *laab* (spiced minced meat prepared in an Isarn style) and the like – but what sets Nong A-ngun apart is the fact that the food is much cheaper than its seaside contemporaries.

Individual portions of *som tam* are 30 baht while a large portion of *tom sap* (spicy soup) costs 70 baht and a set menu for

three-to-four people is just 220 baht. What could be better? The prices are right, the food is as fresh as a spring daisy and everything is spotlessly clean.

On most clement evenings Rawai beach road is hazy with barbecue smoke and as vibrant as anywhere on the island as people cruise up and down look-

ing for a choice spot. Why not watch the sunset at Phrom Thep then drive down the hill to get your sticky rice, *som tam* and grilled chicken at Nong A-ngun? It's open from 6 am until the last customer leaves.

Nong A-ngun is opposite the blue bus stop sign half way along Rawai Beach.

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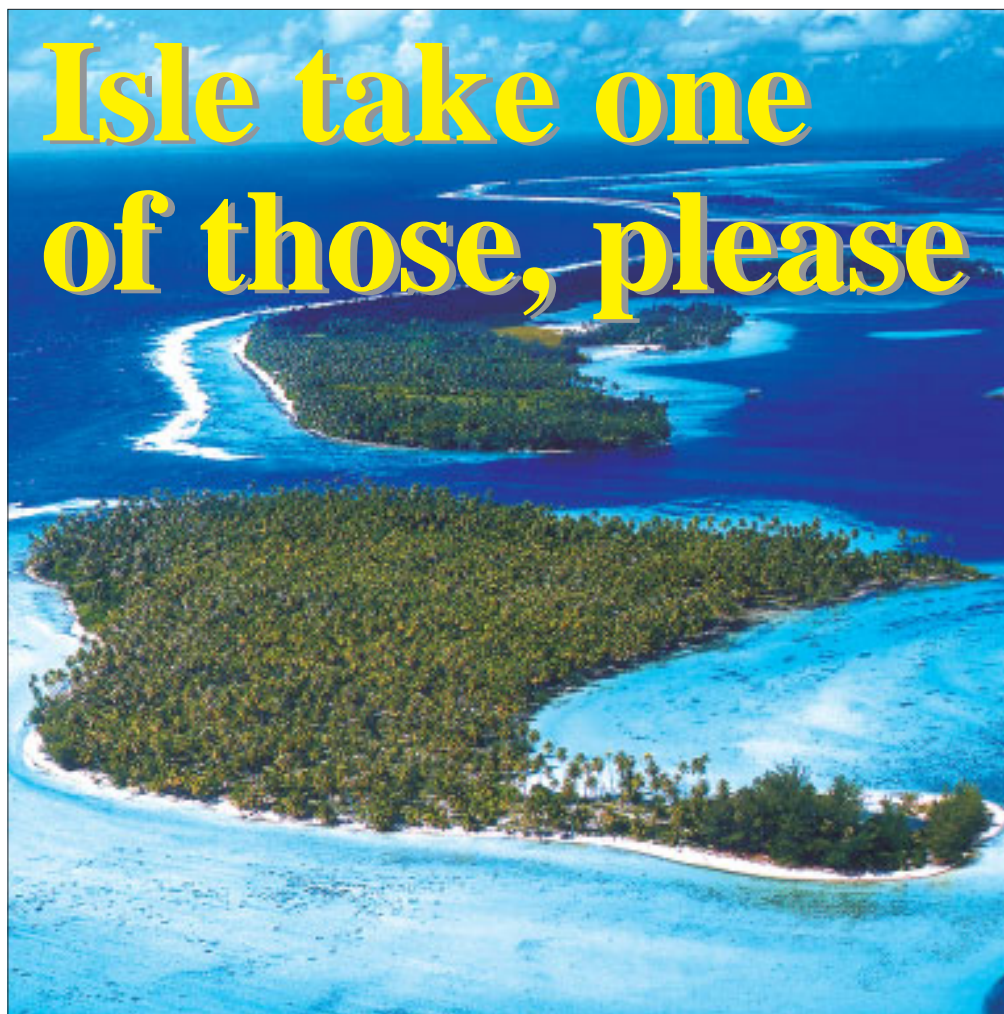
By Ed Peters

A couple of years ago, the actor Johnny Depp bought Little Hall's Pond Cay – just 18 hectares hosting a bunch of cottages, half a dozen beaches, a private harbor and a palm-fringed lagoon – in the Bahamas.

His purchase promoted him into a select club of international names such as former tennis ace Bjorn Borg, actors Mel Gibson and Nicolas Cage, and Microsoft's Bill Gates, who have all sought out their own private island versions of Arcadia.

Some 1,000 islands are currently on the market around the world – from sun-dappled specks in the Pacific to rocky outlets topped by castles off the coast of Scotland – and the stock is growing fastest in the Middle East.

In the United Arab Emirates, in one of the most awesome construction projects undertaken anywhere in the world, 300 islands are being built over 54 million square meters of sea off Dubai in an artificial archipelago shaped like the world. When the



project is completed in 2008, the largest island will measure 41,400 square meters, and even though prices range from about 413 million baht to 1.4 billion baht, around 40 have already been sold.

However, island purchase – while sadly still not a viable option for outsiders in Thailand – is not just open to the super-rich and those featured in *Hello!* magazine.

In a rather more affordable price bracket, many natural islands lie waiting to be developed. Lovers Island off Palawan in the Philippines – 3,000 square meters (about 1.9 rai) with a white sand beach – is on offer at US\$50,000 (1.9 million baht) although the price is negotiable. One-hectare plots on Big Tree Island in Quezon are going for a similar price.

Parts of central and south America are both seen as good – if slightly risky – investments, particularly where unstable political situations have lowered prices to bargain basement levels.

Probably the world's best-known island broker is Farhad Vladi, who started carving out his niche market in 1971 and has since sold more than 1,300 islands, including a dozen at one sitting to a Middle Eastern royal family.

"You don't have to be a multi-millionaire to own one," says Mr Vladi. "If you can afford a car, you can afford an island."

He does much of his marketing on line at [www.vladi-private-islands.de](http://www.vladi-private-islands.de)

The attractions of owning a private island are manifest, from complete privacy to the aura of romance, and from unassailable

bling – few symbols come loaded with greater status – to lucrative income generator though lets and leases.

As investments, private islands enjoy a double payoff.

In addition to rising value, rentals can provide a healthy income.

The owners of Tagomago off Spain's Ibiza in the western Mediterranean, which has a luxurious eight-bedroom villa, charge up to 1.5 million baht a week – and that excludes food and drink.

Island prices are soaring in the more popular and accessible parts of the world.

The Belize archipelago is one of the prime examples, where the cost of an island is now 10 times what it was five years ago.

Islands have a mysterious allure that has affected people of all ages all over the world.

Lucy Irvine's exploits on Tuin in the Torres Strait were subsequently turned into the 1986 movie *Castaway*, starring Oliver Reed and Amanda Donohoe, while New Zealander Tom Neale wrote of his solitary 1950s sojourn on Suwarow in the Cook Islands: "Time passes here as it was meant to."

As yet, nobody has come up with a better advertising slogan.



Some 1,000 islands are currently on the market around the world. They include, above, Dark Island in Canada; left, Mahare Island in French Polynesia and, below, Carberry Island, in Ireland.



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Mai Khao • Phuket • Thailand

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USD 290,000



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|------------------------------------|---|
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| All units have panoramic views ➤   | ➤ Internet café                         |
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| Freehold available ➤               | ➤ 24 hours security                     |
| Large swimming pool ➤              | ➤ 24 hours concierge and reception      |
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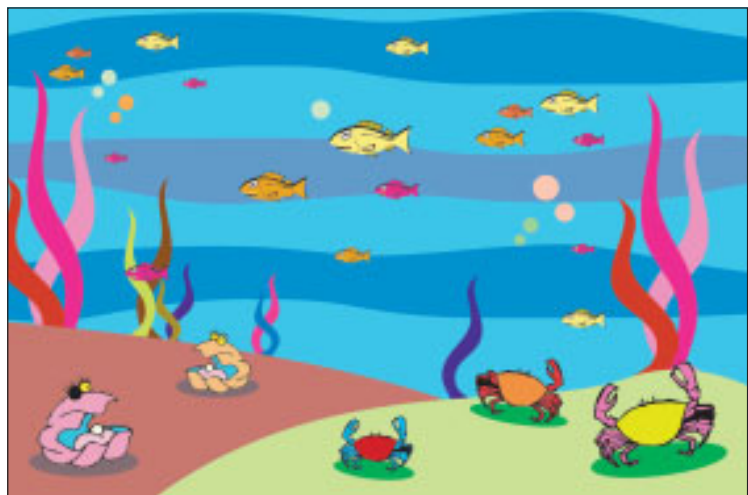
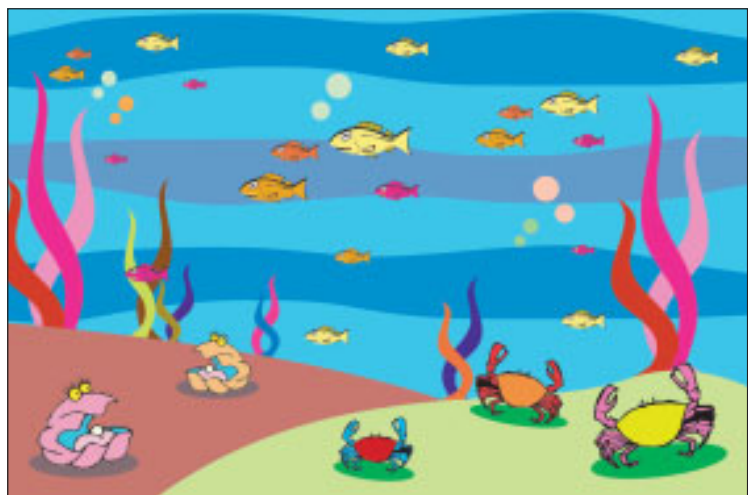


# PUZZLES

## Spot the Difference



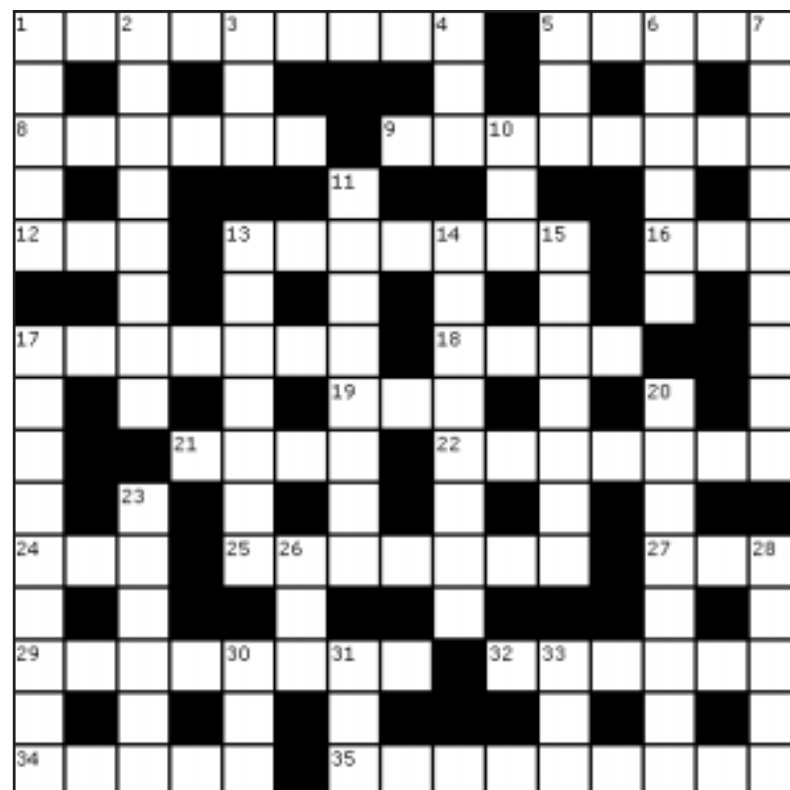
Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



# The Cryptic Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Add years for an extra bit. (9)
5. Preen very quietly around the edge. (5)
8. 1,000 ready and willing – not really enough. (6)
9. Stable sound – Rob's back next door. (8)
12. Put gas back in sink. (3)
13. Note: hesitation is the least. (7)
16. Are back in time. (3)
17. Overfill ravine after half of 'em. (7)
18. Half a truck? (4)
19. Kidnapped writer, initially. (1,1,1)
21. Airs recomposed for clothing. (4)
22. Stinky joke for gentleman. (7)
24. Stones may reverse rot. (3)
25. To Ron, and to the city! (7)
27. Crowd around the Mafia. (3)
29. Canceled. Finished. Angered. (8)
32. Billy goat's milk product. (6)
34. Bring to bear ash, for example – back around 10. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

35. Said it was sent fast. (9)

## Down

1. High points: aces hold a thousand. (5)
2. Hang in PNG – a province. (5,3)
3. Scotsman's negative? Point to notes. (3)
4. Look at potato feature. (3)
5. Fix pin. (3)
6. Rib end minced, or very closely related. (6)
7. Wave that's always the same. (9)
10. Yes, French showed new promise. (1,1,1)
11. Bury one, or minister's portfolio. (8)
13. Biting Dan in part of arm or toe. (7)
14. Squandered by young lady, writer fitted to a T. (8)
15. Myself, twice point to keepsake. (7)
17. Conductor was transported after the chosen one. (9)
20. Xylophages period – it's about direction. (8)
23. Play with shirt and weapon. (6)
26. Strangely uneven. (3)
28. Drilled Bo, the Communist. (5)
30. Not an easy clue. (3)
31. Ended there before. (3)
33. Utilize utilization. (3)

*Solution on next page*

## EZ TRIVIA

1. What do we call the sun's outer atmosphere, which is visible as a white halo during a solar eclipse?
2. Which principality is located in the eastern Pyrenees mountains and bordered by France and Spain?
3. China's Three Gorges Dam spans what river?
4. In music, what do we call the interval, consisting of eight tones, between one musical note and another with half or double its frequency?
5. Who is the President of China?
6. What is the name of the lion cub who is the main character in *The Lion King*?
7. Which US company introduced the Hula Hoop and the Frisbee in 1958?
8. What do we call the protruding portion of an animal's face, consisting of its nose, mouth and jaw?
9. Which flammable hydrocarbon has the chemical formula  $C_6H_6$ ?
10. What is the capital of Togo?

*Answers on next page*

**su | do | ku**

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

## Scribble Space

## Brain Buster!!

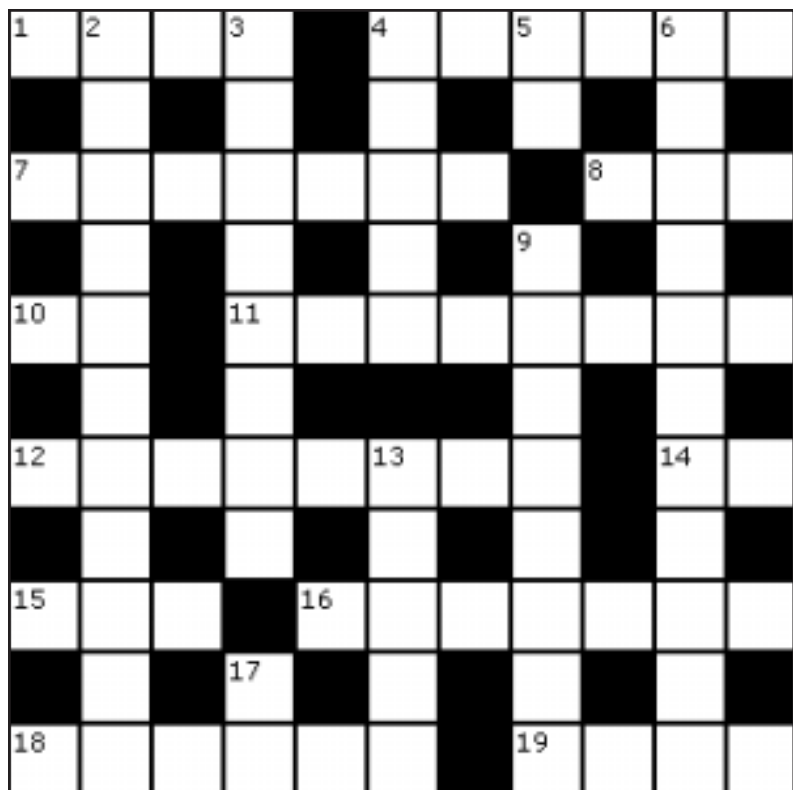
"It seems that all great geniuses have terrible handwriting," said Nat, looking at a photograph of Albert Einstein's signature.

"Hey," thought Ning to herself. "My teachers are always complaining that they can't read my handwriting. If all geniuses have terrible handwriting, then I must be a genius!"

What do you think? Is Ning really a genius? If not, what is wrong with her reasoning?

*Answer on next page*





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Fossil fuel.
4. Not frivolous.
7. Denied.
8. Overweight.
10. 3.1415 etc.
11. Amusing.
12. Glue.
14. Former.
15. Irritating insect.
16. Sets alight.
18. Six-piece ensemble.

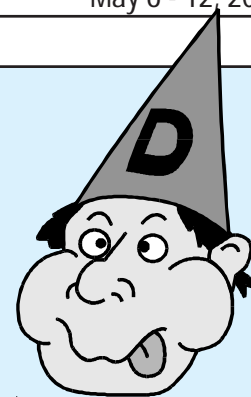
19. Intestinal fortitude.

### DOWN

2. Eat and drink too much.
3. Sound of amusement.
4. Very hot water.
5. Behold!
6. Dimension.
9. Very difficult.
13. Bar of metal.
17. And, in France.

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. Who shot and killed John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of US President Abraham Lincoln?
2. Which iconic German actress, famous for roles in *Morocco* and *The Blue Angel*, died May 6, 1992?
3. In 1848, John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Holman Hunt founded which artistic movement?
4. Charlene Choi Cheuk-Yin and Gillian Chung Yan-Tung comprise which Cantopop duo?
5. Knickerbocker Avenue, Bleecker Street and Cypress Avenue are stations on which city's metro system?
6. What is the track gauge for this system?
7. *Cyprus Avenue* is Track 4 of which Van Morrison album?
8. Where would you find the omohyoid muscle?
9. Womb Future Style is a nightclub in which city?
10. Abbotsbury Abbey is in which English county?
11. What train crash occurred on January 6, 2005, in South Carolina?
12. Who is the only person to have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame three times?
13. Michael Caine earned an Academy Award for best supporting actor in which two movies?
14. What station has been built outside Lyon to cater for the Paris-Marseille TGV line?
15. Which country is ranked as the 167<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of area?
16. What is a "BD" in France and Belgium?
17. Which cartoon character disappeared from the comic book *The Beano* in 1990 after being featured since 1938?
18. Which British comic book is even older than *The Beano*?
19. If Finland is included in Scandinavia, what would be the correct term to describe the entire region?
20. In which European city would you find the Frauenkirche?

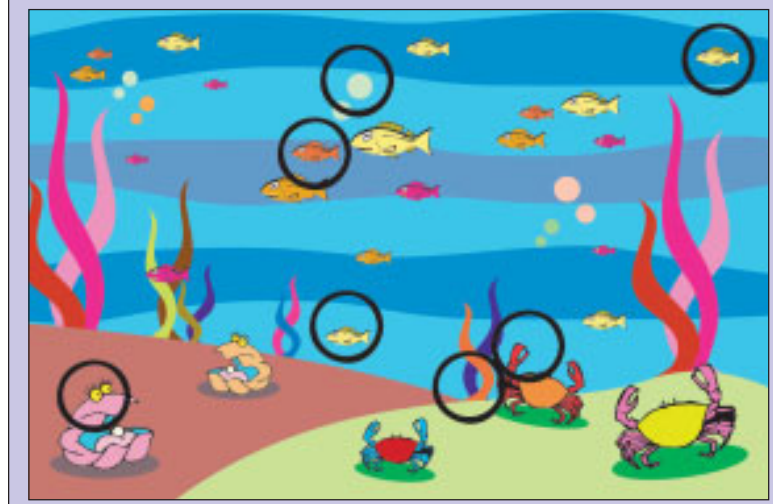
Answers below, left

# Puzzle Solutions

**Monster Quiz Answers:** 1. Boston Corbett; 2. Marlene Dietrich; 3. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; 4. Twins; 5. New York; 6. 4' 8½" (1,435mm); 7. *Astral Weeks*; 8. At the front of the neck; 9. Tokyo; 10. Dorset; 11. The Graniteville Train Disaster; 12. Eric Clapton; 13. *Hannah and her Sisters* and *The Cider House Rules*; 14. La Gare TGV de Satolas; 15. Luxembourg; 16. *Bande Dessinée* or comic strip; 17. Lord Snooty; 18. *The Dandy*; 19. Fennoscandia; 20. München (Munich).

**EZ Trivia Answers:** 1. Corona; 2. Andorra; 3. The Yangtze; 4. An octave; 5. Hu Jintao; 6. Simba; 7. Wham-O; 8. A snout; 9. Benzene; 10. Lome.

### Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



## Brain Buster Answer

Judging from the way Ning uses logic, she's definitely not a genius.

The fact that an individual shares *one characteristic* of a group does not logically imply that the individual is a *member* of that group.

Think of it this way: if Nat said, "All whales are good swimmers," Ning would probably not think to herself, "Hey, I've always been a good swimmer so I must be a whale!"

On the other hand, if Nat said, "All good swimmers are whales," Ning would have to assume either that she really is a whale – or that Nat's statement is false.

### Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



I normally beat the bejesus out of hacks writing yet another lame novel about Bangkok bargirls, but David Young is different; he's funny. He's written four novels about the Patpong-Nana-Cowboy nexus, and his last – *Sukhumvit* – was a fat rollicking farce of a book.

His fifth is *Bangkok Dick* (Hostage Press International, Bangkok, 2006, 219pp), a slim detective tale that tries to adapt the classic conventions of Raymond Chandler's noir LA novels to modern Bangkok.

There are plenty of wise-cracks, a running joke about an incompetent Australian competitor, and a plot premise that, at least at first, is intriguing.

"Bangkok Dick" is the website of Dick Reilly, who has been a PI in Bangkok for 10 years. At first he made a living doing background checks on bargirls for their farang boy-friends, but then he got burned out.

"It wasn't the girls. The girls were sweethearts. The majority consisted of liars, cheats, thieves and con artists with lives like bus station crappers. But they were still sweethearts."

# Philip Marlowe in Bangkok



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

So he switches sides to track down the errant husbands of wives in the US. Stockwell, his Australian rival, works the other side.

The novel opens with Reilly and his highly competent assistant, First, preparing to impersonate a bargirl and client so they can barge into a hotel room and snap a photo of a husband in bed with a hooker. First is applying a double layer of lipstick. Reilly tells her to plant a fat kiss on his cheek. She says to give her 100 baht.

"One hundred baht? What are you talking about? You work

for me. You can't ask for money to carry out my requests. Now goddammit, I'm your boss and I say, kiss me."

"One hundred baht," she said, applying an extra layer of lipstick. "Boss."

Which deftly delineates First's character.

Reilly's next client is straight out of Raymond Chandler: the Beautiful Femme Fatale Red-head. Suzanne Phelps is the wife of Alex Phelps, a has-been action-movie star who is in Bangkok making the sequel to his comeback film. After his first divorce, he fell into clinical depression and booze, but sobered up when he met Suzanne. She offers Reilly an awful lot of money to get the goods on Alex Phelps so she can go back to the US and divorce him. Only problem is, he is faithful to her.

Reilly's job is to get Alex Phelps laid and to take pictures of it.

Alex Phelps turns out to be an awfully nice guy. Reilly fi-

nagles his way into a film-crew dinner and ingratiates himself with the star. The action then shifts to Soi Cowboy, where First impersonates a damsel in distress, who has been beaten and raped by bad guys.

Shifting into action-hero mode, Phelps goes with Reilly and First to find the villains in a bar in Nana Plaza, a place described ad nauseam in bad novels. But the author gives it his best shot:

"Nana is a three-story Legoland of bars and a-go-go's. It's an outdoor shopping arcade of sex, roughly the size of an average American shopping mall balled into a fist. If hostile aliens visited Nana, believing our leaders to be hidden in the most gaudily lit palaces on Earth, they'd either flee in terror at the sights that awaited them or steal Thai working girls to take as brides. Either way, we'd win."

Reilly points out Stockwell as the bad guy – and Phelps flattens him. Phelps gallantly puts

First up in an upscale hotel and leaves. But Reilly follows him to Patpong and a very weird establishment owned by an American transvestite friend. Phelps sleeps with a hooker who has been made up to look like his wife – and all is recorded by a hidden video camera.

Mission accomplished. Except First is disgusted by the moral sordidness of the deal, and goes home to her mother. Reilly has twinges of conscience too.

We're halfway through the novel now, and the plot is undeniably intriguing.

But the second half falls apart completely – becoming a shambles of contrivances.

I won't give away any more of the plot, except to say that it creaks with unmotivated and unconvincing action, with ciphers rather than characters running along greased skids.

No surprises, no character revelations, just a stumble to an improbable and melodramatic ending.

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello everyone. With more regularity than a Thai by-election, here I am back this week with snippets from the Internet about our lovely island (and an honorable mention for our sister island, Koh Samui). We've got wacky geography, carpeted walls, deep-fried bugs and a town for myopic tourists.

**Up the alley:** "We went to a strip of bars, and I can't even explain, it's like a little alley that is JUST bars, and JUST bars filled with Thai girls waiting around for guys to come so they can get them to drink and spend money. One bar was completely staffed by Ladyboys, which are obviously men dressed as women and who usually have real breasts and everything."

"Let me tell you, these guys/gals look BETTER than most of the normal girls!! It's AMAZING! And they are SUPER hard to tell – since they are very thin and shaped pretty much like Thai women. If they had a nice face, it is so hard to tell. The only way I could see is if they had slightly wide shoulders. But they were up on the bar dancing around, and so confident and proud."

"It was so strange. It's like, here, the transvestites hold jobs and live their everyday lives AS transvestites. like you'll go to a department store and there will be a guy with maybe short or medium length hair... with make-up and lipstick on. Very different

# Mmm... Styrofoam cup flambé!

than most transvestites in the US, who seem to keep hidden!" (1)

**Bugging out:** "We asked how the natives do it. Basically, the preparation is the same for all crawlies: deep fry the hell out of 'em until crunchy, slather with Maggi sauce and a generous shake of salt, masticate while washing the bugs down with lots of beer. Piece o' cake! You could savor a styrofoam cup that way." (2)

**In hindsight:** "Given the extraordinary number of opticians [in Phuket City], you might also be tempted to wonder if myopia is unusually prevalent in the island." (3)

**Off-the-wall English skills:** "We stayed at the Phi Phi Villa Resort, and though we found it difficult to communicate with the front desk given their lack of English proficiency skills, we still managed to finally check-into our room. Thank God it's decent. The mosquito nets just show the dangers of getting bites while you're getting your Zzzzzzzs. The wall is uncarpeted, mainly because [the] beach is just in front of the hotel, and one can easily get sand in the floor." (4)

**Abnormally normal:** "Normal???? I've just spent an afternoon there and I guess you could consider it normal if you enjoy being ripped by every taxi meter guy you see, touted for everything and anything and made to feel as though you are in Ibiza or Blackpool or something. And I never even went anywhere near Patong, we only went to Hat Nai

Yang coz its near the airport and said in the bible that it was quite a laid back affair and a nice place to while away a couple of hours ie like waiting for a connecting flight when coming back from some of the beautiful islands around it. Still if thats your bag go for it." (5)

**Fin de circle:** "Today I spent a few hours at the beach (Nai Harn) which is a really nice one if not the nicest on Phuket. It's not too busy, the water is really clear and people alert you when a shark is coming." (6)

**Miles off target:** "Laem Kah Beach, a sandy strip dotted with rocks and boulders. Okay for swimming, but watch out for coral close in. The extensive coral reefs off shore make for interesting snorkeling mornings, when the waters are clear. Bungalows, Thai food, and boat charters to the islands are available. Laem Kah is 7 kms. west of Chalong Circle." (7)

**Samui-sent wishlist:** "Sun shines again for the 300<sup>th</sup> day in a row on Samui; man receives correct change from taxi driver; bloke has good cheese sandwich in restaurant; Samui's 250<sup>th</sup> Irish pub to open soon; emergency ink supplies to be airlifted to Samui's overworked tattoo shops; topless Swedish sunbather not molested by drunken fisherman; fisher-

man's pants sale at Tracy's trendy boutique; all Indian tailor shops declared illegal and closed down; British land developer injured in tragic roof collapse incident, poor quality workmanship blamed." (8)

**Where'd you buy your compass?** "The wave hit the southern tip of the island, around Cape Promthep, hard. But although a mountain of detritus was dumped on Nai Harn Beach, most of the beachfront property was out of reach of the water. Roaring up the northwestern coastline, the wave damaged the seawall at Rawai, sank several boats." (9)

**Well defined:** "Patong is a stifling, crowded, noisy mess, unglamorous and hot, just the sort of party slum I would have loved when I was 24 and unslakeable, but which now, a decade later, is the picture of some other young fellow's resplendent trouble and glory." (9)

1. <http://tblogs.bootsnall.com/kelly/archives/001752.shtml>
2. <http://www.fiery-foods.com/dave/thaifood.asp>
3. <http://www.eccthai.com/lifestyle.asp>
4. <http://ravencrows.blogspot.com/2006/03/last-days-in-phuket.html>
5. <http://www.thailandqa.com/forum/showthread.php?p=60473#post60473>
6. <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/Phuket/Phuket-Town/blog-47701.html>
7. <http://www.phuketthailand.com/htm/muang.html>
8. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=63436&st=45>
9. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9405E3D71339F937A25756C0A9669C8B63&sec=travel&pagewanted=print>

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## Is Phuket winning?

Seven years ago, few would have imagined that Phuket would transform itself in the way that it has. The only high-end property development on the island was Vanich Bayfront, next to Ao Makham, with prices ranging from 8 million baht up. ML Tridosyuth Devakula was considering building Baan Kata.

There was no Tesco, no Big C, no Central Festival. Work begun on the four-lane road to the airport was part-complete, but the project was bogged down in financial troubles.

Fast-forward to four years ago, and the island appeared split between those who thought it was being spoiled and those – mostly property developers – who could see a bright future for Phuket as the Miami of the Andaman coast.

It has not gone that far yet, but Phuket has moved a long way from the “tropical island paradise” discovered by backpackers in the 1970s, and “progress”, if that is the right word, is accelerating.

There are many indications of this acceleration. Seven years ago, anyone with a computer and English-language skills could be a property broker. Not so today. Supermarkets were hardly super – most were small family affairs not much bigger than a 7-Eleven.

Property prices have skyrocketed. The Phuket Real Estate Club estimates that average land prices on the island have risen 100% in three years.

Four years ago, most major hotels were still family-owned, though the Dusit Group and Sheraton were managing properties in the Laguna complex. As competition increased in the wake of a series of tourism disasters, including the US invasion of Afghanistan, SARS and bird flu, family hotels found themselves at a severe marketing disadvantage when up against large chains. Many, including the island's largest, the Arcadia, brought in international management.

Recently, the pace was ratcheted up another notch with the arrival of big international money, including LaSalle, Lehman Bros and, most recently, Dubai-listed Kingdom Hotel Investments (*see page 1*). These companies do not simply manage hotels; they buy and sell them.

Where will it all end? Will “progress” ruin the island? Certainly, Phuket has been going through some severe growing pains. Much of this pain has had to do with the lack of legislation to regulate development. There has been a great deal of talk about zoning, for example, but precious little action. With the arrival of the global heavy hitters, one hopes that there will be pressure for this talk to be translated into action. The continuing devil-take-the-hindmost rush for profit threatens to turn Phuket's golden opportunities into dust.

– The Editor

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In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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## Letters

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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.

### Ee, by GOM

I refer to Graham Doven's "Larger Than Life" column in the issue of April 29. First I should like to endorse fully his comments on restrictions on sale of alcohol during elections, particularly with respect to their effect on unsuspecting tourists.

Secondly, I have to correct a possible misconception that may have been created by his comments concerning the newly formed Phuket Grumpy Old Men's Society.

I was delighted to read that Graham had noticed some of our members enjoying a drink and a joke after our inaugural meeting. Unfortunately he failed to notice that raising money for charity was what it was all about.

In our view, most guys over the age of 50 tend to be grumpy at some time – admittedly some more than others. So we decided to get together a couple of times a month to do it convivially and at the same time raise money for Phuket Child Watch.

At the time of writing we have 17 full members, two associate members and four overseas members, and this just two weeks after the society was formed. I can assure you that there is no risk of us chasing rival gangs with baseball bats, so Graham will have to look elsewhere for entertainment.

Interested in joining the PGOMS? Email phuketgoms@yahoo.co.uk.

The Blue Gom  
Cherng Talay

### Good riddance

I have traveled to Thailand and to Phuket many times but this time will be my last.

When I return home to Australia next month I will tell people about being charged 100 baht by a tuk-tuk to travel less than 100 meters to take my sick Thai girlfriend to Patong Hospital.

I shall tell them about the rude day manager at my Patong hotel with its non-existent service; the street hawkers who harass farang for every baht in their pockets; and about the motorcycle taxi drivers who swoop on you continually to sell timeshare real estate. I was stopped seven times one morning during my early walk – what a joke.

And then there's the stench from the drains...

All I will say to my friends is that they should give Phuket and Thailand a big miss and go to Malaysia or Fiji – somewhere they won't be harassed or overcharged, and where smiles come from the heart. Goodbye Phuket.

Gary Markham  
Sydney, Australia

### A plot of land

Foreigners wanting to buy land in Phuket should be careful that they do not fall prey to the following scam.

An English friend wanted to buy a beautiful 2½-rai plot of land through an agency. When, however, he had paid for the land and the land titles had been transferred, it turned out that the plot he had bought was not actually the plot he had viewed and thought that he had bought.

He spent his life savings buying a parcel of land that he doesn't really want, and there seems to be little he can do to get the land he really wants.

Don't let yourself be duped.

Palita Nahiran  
Chalong

### Pier pressure

In your Issues & Answers online you posted the following comment on April 24: "If Phuket wants to be developed into a marine industry hub in Asia, some of [Thailand's] ancient laws must be reviewed."

"Wouldn't it be nice for guests staying in a hotel to be able to walk down the beach, get on a boat and enjoy a nice sunset trip on a beautiful vessel?"

We are two of the hotel guests that this Issue & Answer refers to. We have visited Kata Noi Beach several times and have fallen in love with the place. We would not find more boat traffic [to the beach] at all enjoyable and would definitely prefer to board a tour boat from a pier.

Leif and Gerd Ahrgren  
Sweden

### Avoid Patong water

I have been a resident of Patong Beach for eight years. I no longer swim or frolic at the beach, nor do my friends. Why? Because the water is disgusting. This filth was limited to the low season only, but now it is all year round.

It is so bad that you cannot see your feet in one meter of water. The problem is not just toxic seaweed, but cloudy water and litter. Some tourists I spoke to were told by hotel staff that the brown seaweed sludge is natural and good for their skin!

All the money spent on building public toilets and a promenade will be wasted if we don't have clean water in which to swim. Europeans are not so desperate for sunshine that they will swim in garbage.

Wok  
Patong

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



# What matters most – new Senator looks at Phuket's pressing problems

## FIRST PERSON

First, I would like to thank the people of Phuket for their confidence in me. I have a very strong commitment towards representing Phuket. I introduced myself around the island, in every village and on every road, and knocked on doors and listened to people's problems. I wanted them to know what I'm really like and I wanted them to see how strong my resolve is in helping them.

While canvassing, I saw the difference between the rich and the poor people in Phuket, and it's a very wide gap. Some poor people don't even have water in their homes, so they have to buy it. In some areas they still don't even have electricity. That's incredible. Many people in Phuket still lead difficult lives.

I understand that the government tries to help the poor, such as through the OTOP (One Tambon One Product) project, but I noticed that one of the problems is that when many people make the same kind of things, such as batik clothes, flowers made from rubber tree leaves or fish scales, in the end they cannot sell their products because the market is flooded.

These people told me that the government lends them money to invest in making their products and tells them to follow

On April 29 when Thanyarat "Gee" Achariyachai, 53, was voted in as the new Senator for Phuket. She also made history as the island's first woman senator.

K. Thanyarat graduated with a master's degree in public administration from the University of Manila, and is the owner of Kata Group Hotels, Phuket Center Tour Co and many other regional businesses.

She was also a Special Judge at Phuket Provincial Court for Juvenile and Family Affairs and last year she received a "Good Southern Business-woman" award from the Business and Professional Woman's Association of Thailand.

K. Thanyarat is married to Pamuke Achariyachai, a businessman originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat. K. Pamuke was President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce from 2001 to 2004. They have one teenage son, Pariyawit.

Here K. Thanyarat explains which issues she believes most need her attention in her new role as Senator.



When the Miss Thailand beauty pageant came to Phuket, the Kata Group provided free accommodation and we helped out with the meals, too.

We did many things, but not only to earn money for us: we wanted to help promote Phuket because when tourists come it means that money will circulate through every business in Phuket.

I talked to the former Senator of Phuket, Paiboon Upatising. He said that it would be good to have a Senator who has knowledge and experience in tourism because Phuket relies heavily on tourism. I think my experience in this will help a lot.

I intend to carry out my Senatorial duties as well as possible. Senators have to scrutinize the law, keep checks on the government and generally act as a neutral. As I've never been a member of a political party I believe that I'm well suited to the task.

I also believe that my personality is well suited to the position as I always consider the facts and think things through before making a decision.

I'm used to working by myself, so I'm not afraid of taking on the leader's role as I have my own ideas and not many people can convince me otherwise.

## Are there any Muay Thai camps in Phuket City?

I am looking to train at a Thai boxing gym in Phuket City. I live in the town, I have a full-time job, and the usual tourist-oriented gyms that pepper the rest of the island are terribly inconvenient, as they are far away and close early.

I am specifically looking for a Muay Thai gym that is in the Samkong area in town.

Laurent Gorse  
Phuket City

**Suriya Awachart, Deputy Director of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand, replies:**

Unfortunately, there are no places to learn Muay Thai in Phuket City. The boxing stadium near the old Lucky Complex building at Saphan Hin is for boxing matches only.

I suggest you contact Patong Boxing Stadium, which offers a full range of lessons, training and also stages boxing matches.

Call K. Noom at Tel: 04-0513163.

**Kitisak Wongwai, Manager,**

**Suwit Promotion (Thai Boxing Camp), replies:**

Our boxing camp is behind the Nabon Minimart, near the junction of Soi Palai and Chao Fa East Rd. We have four Thai coaches who can train you in English. Our individual training sessions last about two hours a day. You can choose what time

of day you would like to train. However, we are closed on Sundays.

You can choose to pay daily or monthly, and if you take a long course we can offer a discount.

For more information call the camp's owner, Suwit Wongwai, at Tel: 076-381167 or 01-737-6072.

## Seeing red over tuk-tuks

I have noticed that most, but not all, of the tuk-tuks in Phuket are red. Is this by law or convention?

Marshal Wedlock  
Samkong

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

Tuk-tuks in Phuket are red by agreement of the tuk-tuk operators.

When the PPTO first started registering tuk-tuks, the sole tuk-tuk association at that time chose to use red – there is no regulation or law stipulating that

a tuk-tuk must be a specific color.

There are three large tuk-tuk operators in Phuket: Thavorn Co, Saha Yanyont Co and Ruamjai Yanyont Co. Their tuk-tuks can be identified by little differences, such as a logo or yellow stripes on the sides the vehicle.

There are some blue and some green tuk-tuks in Phuket, which were registered by personal operators before the three main companies registered.

Phuket has about 1,200 tuk-tuks and the PPTO will not permit more. So we will not see tuk-tuks in any other colors in Phuket.

After the tsunami I talked to a lot of people from different walks of life and professions. Everyone was affected – even if they had nothing to do with tourism – and when the tourism economy is down everyone on the island suffers.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

## Who will fix all the potholes on the road from Karon to Patong?

Congratulations to the road department for finally paving the road from Karon Beach to Patong. However, the newly paved road is now potholed in several places. In others the new surface has separated from the road.

Several of these potholes are very large and cause severe stress on vehicle suspension systems. They are also a very severe hazard for motorcycle riders, who could be thrown off their bikes.

Why doesn't the road de-

partment either fix these areas permanently, or routinely examine and maintain these roads on a more frequent basis?

Frank  
Karon

**Thanit Sakiya, Chief Engineer of the Phuket District Highways Office, replies:**

Noppawong Co Ltd, the contractor that made the road, has inspected it and was due to begin repairs April 24. The repairs should take no longer than one month.



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): A game of cat and mouse will be entertaining this weekend. Your flirtation factor is high now, and this is the ideal time to attract new admirers. Those with their sights already set on a special someone will be able to dictate the game plan – but are advised to remember why relationships went wrong in the past. If your birthday is due this week, Pisces has a surprise in store.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Calming astral influences could mean you approach the week in a lighter mood. Ripples caused by your recent attitude will still have an effect on relationships, so be prepared to apologize for words spoken in the heat of the moment last week. Leo has romantic sights set on you, but Cancer has interests elsewhere. The color azure helps you feel in control.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): If you're creative, you can use the past to secure the future. Influential friends can also help you get ahead, but try not to ask for favors more than is necessary. Working toward stronger material security is highlighted this month, but you should also set quality time aside to spend with those nearest and dearest to you. Legal matters are best resolved after Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You can't put a foot wrong at work this week, so asking for that pay rise now is advisable. But if you thought everything in the garden of romance was rosy, you may have to think again. New relationships are about to be put to the test, but you will realize in retrospect the benefits of this. If you find yourself footloose and fancy-free once more, Sagittarius will be happy.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Those contemplating a change of address could find the house of their dreams this week. The stars are smiling on plans for a change of location, so make every effort to follow up leads. Aries, in particular, has a hot property tip. If you're single and would like to change that, Cupid is ready to work on your behalf. The color sage green encourages smooth talking.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Personal pressures finally evaporate into thin air and you will feel like celebrating this weekend. Party-loving friends will need no second invitation to accompany you on your quest for fun, but events could get out of hand if Scorpio is involved. Make Sunday a day for relaxation, as work may be more challenging than usual. Wear jade to promote insight.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): A happier outlook is forecast for you now. Your gloomy mood of late is about to be blown away by positive cosmic vibrations. An extra sprinkling of stardust will also add to your romantic appeal, and a chance meeting on Sunday should ensure that a hot date is made for later in the week. Wear light lemon to send a subtle, but clear, message.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): It's best to keep your opinions ambiguous this weekend. Taking sides in an argument is not recommended, particularly if this concerns a personal situation between friends. Your partner receives a tempting job offer which you should both consider carefully, as frequent travel will be involved. The number 6 is lucky on Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): An unpredictable week lies ahead. You will have the power on Monday to decide the outcome of a business-related question, but be careful how you use this advantage. Aquarius can't be trusted to deliver the goods in this matter, but you can count on Virgo. A stroke of fortune on Tuesday may mean new directions, but don't put all your eggs in one basket.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): A proposal will be made this week by the special someone in your life, but it won't make you feel like jumping for joy. Stall for time and mull the matter over thoroughly. Travel plans this weekend are subject to last-minute alterations because of someone's forgetfulness – so make sure that person isn't you. Wear the color scarlet to ensure positive energy.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Over-indulgence this weekend could easily mar your week ahead. Many Pisceans will be unusually reckless and accept every invitation going. Be alert on Monday and Tuesday when a game of Chinese whispers may give you the wrong message. Surprise a friend on Wednesday. Long-distance love needs honest communication in order to flourish, so say what's really on your mind.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): You'll be glad you paid attention to a rumor last week. Astute Arians who acted quickly will be congratulating themselves. Business looks set to run smoothly because of your actions, and expansion is a serious possibility. Consult colleagues before listening to proposals. Family affairs are complicated this weekend. The color purple encourages creative thinking.



By Top Dog

People sometimes write to me, complaining about dogs chasing their motorbikes or chasing them while they are jogging on the beach. If you are frightened of dogs, then seeing one or more hurtle down the beach towards you can be terrifying.

What is important to realize is that these dogs do not want to attack you, they are simply following their natural instinct to chase something running away from them.

It all goes back to the wolf instinct to chase prey, and to the modern domesticated dog, it is often nothing more than a hugely enjoyable game. The dogs may also see you as an intruder on

their territory, and know that when they give chase the intruder inevitably runs away – and that they have won the game.

I am very familiar with a beach dog on Layan beach known as "Tsunami" – he was born on December 26, 2004, apparently – who always joins me when I walk there. This dog has no interest in chasing joggers.

But horses are a different story. Horses and riders are a regular sight on this beach, and most walk at a leisurely pace with inexperienced riders aboard. Tsunami shows absolutely no interest in these.

But sometimes an experienced rider will come along at full gallop, and this is an entirely different matter. Tsunami will inevitably chase them the full length of the beach, putting his own life

at serious risk from flaying hoofs until the horse eventually stops.

At this point he loses interest and jogs back down the beach with the canine equivalent of a huge grin on his face. This may be no comfort to the person being chased, but it does give a clue about how to react in such situations.

Another true story probably shows even more clearly the best way to deal with such dogs. When I was a child, the first dog I ever knew well was a border collie cross called Rip, who lived next door.

His favorite pastime was a cliché: chasing the postman. Every day without fail he would hide under a bush at the appointed time – and in those days you could rely on the postman being punctual.

The postman would ride his bicycle down our quiet street, and without fail all hell would break loose as Rip chased him. The postman would aim kicks at Rip from his wobbling bike, and would of-



'Tsunami' just loves to chase horses, and the faster the better.

ten come pre-armed with stones to throw at him.

This continued for months, and was undoubtedly the highlight of that dog's day. Then a new postman took over the round. As usual, Rip hurled himself at the bike, but the postman – probably forewarned by his predecessor –

showed no sign of alarm. He stopped his bike, and instead of a stone produced a biscuit. The dog was clearly confused, but eventually took the biscuit and succumbed to a pat.

From that point on the daily excitement in the street stopped. Rip always greeted the postman enthusiastically and clearly loved him, but I suspect as much as he welcomed his occasional treats he also missed the excitement of the chase.

Joggers and bike riders on Phuket can be seen reacting in both of the ways above. Those who don't understand dogs inevitably keep running, sometimes into the sea, waving their arms or throwing anything that comes to hand. Bike riders lash out with their feet. I have never seen a dog attack in such circumstances, but it does keep chasing until it tires of the exercise.

To someone afraid of dogs the following advice might sound

Continued on next page

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# Dogs that let rip

similar to telling an arachnophobe to pick up a tarantula, but it does work – or I will pick up the resulting hospital bill myself.

If chased by a dog, stop running. Turn and face it. Crouch or bend down, and not looking directly at him, hold your hand out at arm's length with the fist clenched.

Call the dog to you.

One of two things will happen: either the dog will keep its distance (most likely), maybe bark once or twice, and then slink off looking miserable because you have spoilt its fun; or it may approach you, sniff your hand and then either walk away or very occasionally run with you as a new-found friend until it tires.

If you want to touch a dog, first talk to it – it doesn't matter what language, it's the tone that matters – and tilt your head a bit. Then present the dog with the back of your hand towards its face (not too close) and let it sniff you. This is its way of meeting you.

Then, if the dog is agreeable, start by scratching the side of its head and neck by sliding your hand across the side of its mouth.

## THE HEAD

If the dog shows any displeasure, stop and back away.

Many people want to touch dogs on top of the head; but this scares most dogs because they cannot see your hand properly and will move their faces upward. People don't like being touched on top of the head either – think about it!

Never touch a sleeping dog.

If you have a real fear of dogs and following this advice is too horrifying to contemplate, take an empty drink can, put some screws or coins inside, and tape it shut. Use the can as a rattle or throw it on the ground when a dog chases you, after you have stopped.

Dogs don't like the sound of metal against metal. When a dog experiences this repeatedly, it will associate the chase with an unpleasant feeling and will eventually give up. Do not throw the can at the dog directly, just use the noise.

If you carry a stick, dogs usually find this threatening – especially animals that have been abused – and it makes them more aggressive.

The biggest problem faced by volunteers who work with street dogs on Phuket is being able to get close enough to a dog to pick it up.

I have never been bitten by a dog here – cats are a different story – and have picked up literally hundreds of them.

They are, by and large, frightened of humans – and with good reason – but are not naturally aggressive toward people.

## THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

My California family was scuba-certified in 1957, so we bought something new for the time – a 6.5-meter fiberglass cabin cruiser with two 35hp outboard engines, and we took it just about anywhere. We fished, dived, water-skied and slept the entire family in this utility boat, exploring from Oregon to Mazatlan, Mexico.

Teenage John water-skied from Long Beach to Santa Catalina Island and back on weekends, but wanted more power to negotiate the channel's afternoon overhead swells. Although we could easily afford Twin 50hp engines (the biggest outboards of the day) my father resisted.

"These two-cycles aren't car engines. If we don't stay small, one day they will kill the planet with their pollution," he said. He taught me that two-cycle motor oil mixes into the petrol, going straight through the engine and into the water.

Today, I paddle. By definition, sea kayakers think combining speedboats with kayaks is mixing oil and water. But we live in the speedboat capital of the world. Google "speedboat tours", which shows seven of the first 10 search results to be Phuket companies.

It may be good business, but what are the environmental consequences? I looked back to my California birthplace. On January 1 this year, the world's seventh-largest economy banned all two-cycle engines because of their air and water pollution. The transition to four-cycle should be relatively painless, with only environmentalists complaining that the



Most of the speedboats around Phuket have four-cycle engines, but there are still too many two-cycle machines on the water, which are noisier, pollute more and waste fuel.

# Ditch that two-cycle engine

seven-year switch should have been reduced to four.

Stimulated by California's effort, four-cycle technology is well-developed, and today's transitions can be accomplished immediately – ban new sales of two-cycles, but allow attrition to replace existing two-cycles so nobody gets hurt economically.

I researched studies by the California Air and Water Resources boards. Starting in 1991, they studied all two-cycle outboards, jet-skis, generators, lawnmowers and chainsaws to "achieve the greatest possible emission reductions in a technologically feasible and cost-effective manner" – a euphemism for "don't hurt manufacturers, dealers or users economically".

By 1994, results proved what most people already knew – two-cycle engines eliminate the four-cycle's exhaust stroke with disastrous results. The California study found two-cycle's advantages are simplicity, light weight and good power. Disadvantages include poor efficiency creating high fuel consumption, high emissions and an oiling system in which lubricating oil is used once, then expelled with the exhaust.

Low efficiency and high emissions result from the simultaneous charging and exhaust cycles. Up to a third of the fresh fuel mix escapes the cylinder with the exhaust, going straight through the engine without burning, creating extremely high hydrocarbon emissions.

Just how bad are two-cycle emissions? Two-cycle outboards generate 70% to 90% more hydrocarbon pollution than four-stroke outboards of equal horse-

power – and 95% more pollution than automobiles of similar power. Just one trip to Koh Phi Phi in a 2x240hp speedboat creates more global-warming pollution than two American V8 SUVs in their entire lifetimes!

Because jet-skis are propelled by sucking water into and through the craft, these have even more drag – and are more polluting – than speedboats. Seven hours of jet-ski use is the equivalent of 100,000 miles in an average American car.

Look at the number of speedboats and jet-skis based in Phuket and it becomes clear that our travel industry is a major contributor to global warming.

There are, however, solutions that could actually benefit speedboat and jet-ski operators.

For example, there are two four-cycle speedboats at The Racha resort on Koh Racha Yai. General Manager Urs Aebi told me four-cycles may cost more, but that the savings are immediate.

Fuel consumption is 50% of two-strokes, without expensive two-cycle motor oil – and four-cycles are more reliable, meaning fewer repair bills.

My only other recommendation is to waive import duties on four-cycle engines – and charge 100% on two-cycles. With such economics, laws would not be necessary – and how effective is such legislation anyway? You only have to look at jet-

skis, which were officially banned on January 1, 1999.

The most efficient motorboat option is an inboard-powered stern drive.

Costing just a bit more than outboards, stern drives offer lower maintenance and petrol consumption than outboards.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand could also benefit by promoting eco-friendly four-cycle outboards.

These days, Phuket needs every marketing advantage it can think of, and that includes educating the market.

We can't expect the individual traveler to understand the nuances of speedboat pollution, but international incentive planners with their large speedboat groups are some of the worst villains of global warming. They should develop a modicum of environmental responsibility and demand four-cycle speedboats.

The best incentive, however, is "doing the right thing".

Joe Adams, owner of Windward Marine, Hawaii's largest boat shop, says, "Hawaii doesn't have a two-cycle law, but 95% of my outboard sales are four-cycle anyway. The other 5% are outboards under 20hp. In Hawaii we love the sea, so we don't need a law to tell us what's right."

It's true. In Hawaii, there are 60,000 privately owned sit-on-top kayaks, and who knows how many surf and boogie boards – all human- or wave-powered.

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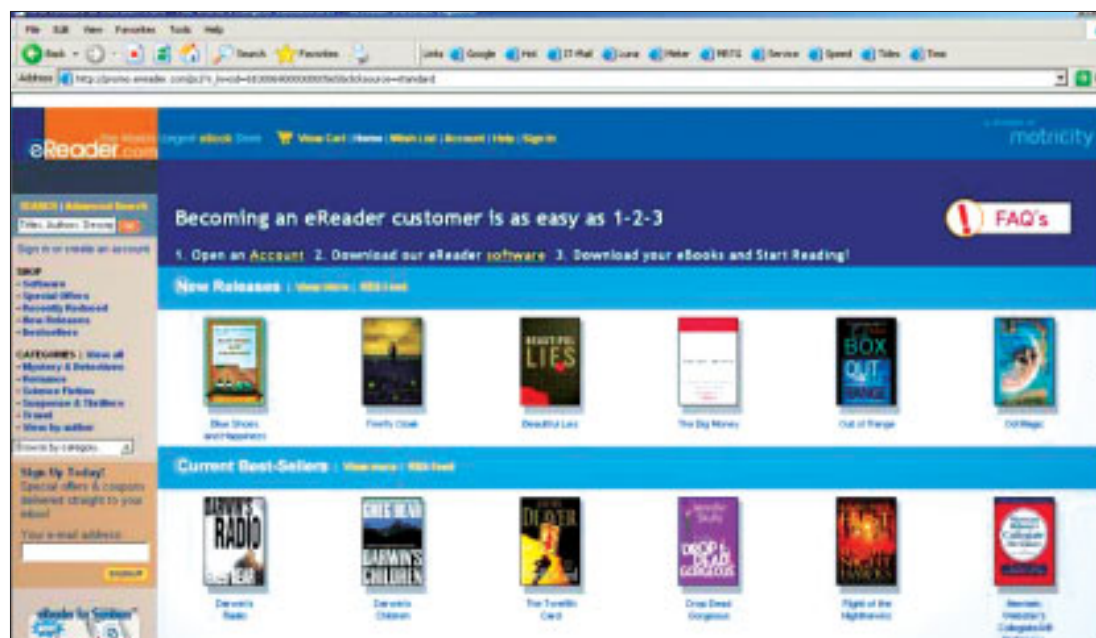
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## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

# E, lad, what's that you're reading?

Contemplate the absurdity of poring over a chunky Stephen King novel – or anything longer than a stock quote, really – on a tiny handheld-computer screen. Reading a book is a visceral experience that is impossible to replicate in a liquid-crystal display.

In the early 1990s, companies like Voyager and Vertigo Development Group sold books on disk, but their products failed to catch on. Many readers' computers did not have the CD-ROM drives necessary to "play" books on their screens. Besides, you don't normally curl up with a good computer, do you?

Publishers were still typesetting manuscripts at the time anyway, making it a huge hassle to digitize a book.

But now it looks as if e-books, despite the absurdity factor, might actually take off.

The Internet's distribution power, together with higher-resolution screens and powerful processors, have made the world a friendlier place for electronic books than it was just five years ago. And publishers now create books on computers, so the files are already in digital form.

This is a complete revolution that has all happened since 1996.

Last fall, several e-book companies joined forces with Microsoft and, with the blessings of publishers such as Simon & Schuster and Bertelsmann, defined a technical standard for publishers' electronic files so that books can be read from desktop computers, dedicated reading devices (portable gizmos used solely for reading books), and handheld computers.

That flexibility should help develop consumer confidence and thus build a market for e-books.

Pricing for reading devices has been a hurdle, but the costs are beginning to come down.

Last November the price of the Rocket eBook, a reading device from NuvoMedia, dropped from US\$499 to US\$199 a year earlier. Another company, SoftBook Press, has also put reading devices on the market.

Imagine your own private library, only instead of having to build bookshelves and buy overstuffed leather chairs, you just need to log on to the Internet. That's precisely the service

Versaware Inc hopes to provide. At the company's website, visitors build personal collections that include a free dictionary, thesaurus and encyclopedia – plus many other free titles and competitively-priced newer books.

The books reside on Versaware servers, so the library doesn't clutter a user's hard drive, though downloading is an option at no extra cost. So far, the company – which employs some 400 people in India, Israel, and the US – has added the "e" to more than 2,000 books.

But these aren't just any old texts. People are probably not going to prefer reading on a screen, so Versaware jazzes up the content with sound, video and a collection of 350,000 photos.

Customers organize their books by category on separate "shelves", and can perform targeted searches on them. Someone interested in, say, the spawn-

ing habits of salmon, can search for the fish on the science shelf and leave out the cookbooks.

Once a book has been digitized, Versaware can make money from it more than once by posting it on other sites. Case in point: Lycos hosts Versaware reference materials, such as Funk & Wagnall's multimedia encyclopedia, on the Lycos Research Center Web page. Lycos and Versaware share advertising revenues from the page, and surfers using the reference materials stick to the Lycos research pages for 50% longer than they did before

Lycos posted the Versaware content.

Another e-book contender, Librius.com, abandoned plans for its own reading device last summer to focus on software after it realized that handhelds were going to swamp its "Millennium Reader".

Everyone in the business is in it for the content, so Librius.com figured thus: Why struggle upstream trying to sell 20,000 units at cost so you can also sell some books, when 10 to 20 million new handhelds are flowing in?

That's where Peanutpress.com comes in. This promising start-up offers free software, called Peanut Reader, for reading books on Palm OS or Windows CE handheld devices. Pea-

nut Reader lets readers flip through, dog-ear and even write all over books.

To soothe publishers worried about readers "sharing" books without paying for them, e-book producers are developing encryptions and passwords that safeguard content.

Such measures have convinced major publishers – such as Random House and Simon & Schuster, which signed deals with Peanut – to join the smaller publishers that jumped in earlier.

Peanut says that by the end of last year, some 10,000 people had bought the company's books, which cost the same as – or less than – a paperback. The firm predicts revenues, currently in the six figures, will increase sevenfold during the next two years.

Lending further legitimacy to the e-book market, Microsoft plans to release new reading software this year.

Still, it remains to be seen whether readers will become as fond of e-books as they are of, say, that battered and beloved paperback. And it's probably unwise to read e-books in the bath.

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

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## ON THE MOVE

**Wanchat "William" Pandon-suk**, 34, from Bangkok, has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of Thavorn Beach Village & Spa.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in hotel management from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, as well as studying at the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic in Tauranga.

Before moving to Phuket K. Wanchat worked as a management trainee at The Regent, in Beaufort, New Zealand, to gain experience with a five-star hotel and an international resort chain.



**Ananya Pungrasamee**, 39, from Bangkok, has been appointed Marketing Manager of the Courts Megastore (Thailand) Ltd.

She holds an MBA from Liverpool's John Moore's University, in the UK, and a degree in business administration at Assumption University in Bangkok.

After graduating K. Ananya spent a year in Bangkok as Marketing Manager of CVD International.



Phuket-born **Pinmuk Wongboon-yakul**, 27, has been appointed Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager of the Royal Paradise Hotel, Patong.

K. Pinmuk graduated with a double master's degree in international business and international relations from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia and a degree in business administration from the same university.

Before moving back to Phuket she worked as Marketing Coordinator at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University for more than two years.



# Costs give online chandlery an edge

By Chris Husted

**KOH KAEW:** The official launch by Phuket-based charter company PhuketSail of the [www.yachtsupplyasia.com](http://www.yachtsupplyasia.com) website on March 21 has been followed by an explosion in the sales of yachting equipment, the company says.

Julian Hill, Director of PhuketSail, told the *Gazette*, "Sales have grown by 10 to 13 times on a month-on-month comparison with the previous year. In short, we're selling more in a month now than we did in the whole previous year."

He explained that the [phuketsail.com](http://phuketsail.com) website originally focused on charters, so he launched a second website – [www.yachtsupplyasia.com](http://www.yachtsupplyasia.com).

"The website is key in exposing our business to a much broader market. I wanted to be in a regional business. I did not

want to be reliant on Phuket customers, and overexposed to the problems that affect the island – the tsunami, Sars, bird 'flu, and so on," Mr Hill said.

The launch of the new website was also a natural progression. Turnover had been snowballing as PhuketSail became the regional distributor for leading boat-equipment brands. First to give distributor rights was Star Brite, a high-end brand of boat-cleaning products, followed by Lewmar in the UK, famed for its reliable winches.

But the big one, said Mr Hill, was Plastimo, from France. "Now PhuketSail is the distributor for Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore," he said.

"Of course you must promote their products and hold stock – many people simply do not have the capital to do that. But the relationship is beneficial to both.

PhuketSail is listed as the distributor for the region in the catalog, which is distributed worldwide," he explained.

Well before the website launch, PhuketSail was enjoying soaring sales that led to the company expanding its premises by 50% late last year.

However, Mr Hill explained, "It didn't take long to run out of space. In just three months we needed to take over a building to use as a warehouse. That won't last long either. Last month our first full container of supplies was delivered. We'll probably need more space in another three months."

The expansion has allowed the firm to carry a wider range of products. "We always had a full range, but now we carry more than 2,600 products – from low end to medium to high-end products," Mr Hill said.

"Before, my main trade was yachties just passing through, but I realized that [in order] to survive I had to serve business customers – and product availability was the key," he added.

"In the past, 90% of my customers were Phuket-based retail customers, now more than 80% of my customers are business customers – and 60% are not even on Phuket," Mr Hill explained.

"We now ship to anywhere in the world. Although most of our orders are delivered within Asia, we have also delivered to destinations further abroad, including New Zealand and Saudi Arabia," he added.

Mr Hill attributes the company's success to a range of factors, but its main competitive advantage, he explained, is sourcing direct from manufacturers. This has resulted not only in savings that he can pass on to customers, but also in a greater range of higher-quality products custom-made for PhuketSail.

Another reason for the company's success, Mr Hill says, is streamlined importing through experience. "PhuketSail's long-running experience has resulted in a smoother import process, saving time and money and frustration ... It's a matter of doing

your homework and complying with the law."

Being based in Thailand gives PhuketSail an edge over its international competitors because of the lower overheads and a relatively cheaper skilled labor force. "I do not need to have big margins to remain competitive in the global market. The winner is the company with the lowest administrative costs," he said.

Looking to propel further the growth PhuketSail is enjoying, Mr Hill said that he is working toward building a regional distributorship for the company.

"We are now engaged in negotiations to have resellers in Singapore, Malaysia and the Seychelles, and we already have three in Thailand," he said. "This will of course increase our orders with manufacturers, which will in turn result in very attractive pricing for customers."

To Mr Hill, lower prices are paramount. "With online orders and shipping you must be competitive. Any of my customers can pick up this [West Marine] catalog and check the price in US dollars. If I can't compete with the price, I shouldn't be in business."

"It's a constant battle to strip away costs, but that is the strength of PhuketSail."



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# When you have the REIT to choose

Investors have noted the very substantial contribution made to world economic growth by Asia. In fact, the center of global economic focus is likely to shift to this region in the decades to come.

Property is an attractive investment to many people, but acquiring more than one property means entering a difficult area; most people I meet in Phuket who have taken the route to multiple property ownership have found that it was not quite as easy as they thought.

There may be problems with tenants, maintenance or construction. And many have found that employing a contractor to build a house is not as simple in practice as it is in theory.

From people within my own circle of friends, acquaintances and clients, I have heard many horror stories of building contractors who were incompetent or dishonest, and it is quite common for people wanting to have a house built to have to employ two or more different contractors.

One reader recently told me about his very successful business in Britain, in which, over decades, he had built, renovated and traded in property. He admitted that when he tried to do the same in Phuket it was a disaster – and he gave up in disgust.

Everyone who tries to invest in multiple properties in Phuket finds it at least a challenge – and often something approaching a nightmare.

There are also legal issues involved. Thai law states that for-

eigners may not own land. Sadly, the island's real estate history includes many cases in which foreigners thought this was a simple issue to overcome – by registering the property in the name of a Thai national.

There are cases where this has had no adverse outcome, usually when the Thai national is a spouse in a successful long-term marriage. But handing over assets to any individual – regardless of nationality or relationship – has to be one of the most reckless and financially dangerous acts possible.

Sophisticated and wary investors use companies as investment vehicles. When one property is involved this can be relatively simple, but when there are many it becomes far more convoluted, and problems multiply.

For the average individual merely wanting to make a profit out of property investment, this has become a difficult process. Many properties in Asia are rising in value, but it is not just in Phuket or even in residential property that profits are being made.

Commercial property all over the world is an area that individual investors generally avoid for the most basic of reasons – capital and expertise. Commercial property of any size, be it a shopping center, office block or industrial property, is simply so expensive as to exclude the individual investor.

The Americans solved this problem decades ago with the introduction of Real Estate Investment Trusts, commonly called REITs. These enable individuals

## Problems buying or selling property? Maybe it's time to consider investing in a Real Estate Investment Trust, and forget going it alone

to invest in real estate as participants in a stock market-quoted investment entity.

The Phuket comparison would be when investors buy shares in a private company that owns a housing complex by buying one, two or more units in that development.

When I first came to Phuket, I rented a property in a development that was well-maintained and had good security. I had no intention of remaining a tenant, but I wanted to rent while I gained knowledge of the local property market so I could make a better-informed buying decision later.

During that period I noticed that the maintenance of the development went steadily downhill, and security staff were dismissed and not replaced.

It was easy to imagine the effect this would have on property values, and if I had shares in the development company –

which was a private firm – it would not have been easy to offload them to anyone else, especially at a profit.

This is where publicly quoted REITs have the advantage; they have to be able to satisfy the stock exchange authorities that they are professional managers and developers.

They often have multiple developments tied into the same REIT. The shares are traded publicly and the income that accrues from rentals has to be distributed evenly. Their accounts are also a matter of public record, which is not the case with most private companies.

The American REIT model has now been accepted as the most advanced type available, although standard mutual funds that own property are equally acceptable. Britain has also recently incorporated REITs into its legal code.

Asian countries are also

very aware of the advantages of having REITs, and most advanced countries in the region have already approved the structure, or are in the process of approval.

The problem for the individual investor then becomes which REIT to choose. There is a simple solution: employ a professional.

One attractive choice is the Henderson Group, an investment house of British origin that has been managing clients' assets for more than 150 years.

It is regulated by the authorities in every jurisdiction in which it operates, and it also has a fund called the Henderson Horizon Asia-Pacific Property Equities Fund.

This is a registered mutual fund, so the managers do not even hold the assets. By law these have to be held by a custodian bank. It also means that buying and selling is no more complicated than it is with any other mutual fund.

The investment objective of such a fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation by investing at least 75% of its assets in the quoted equities of companies or REITs – or their equivalent – that have their registered office in the Asia-Pacific region listed or traded on a regulated market, and which derive most of their revenue from the ownership, management and/or development of real estate in the region.

That makes life simpler, doesn't it?

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



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# Taiwanese trio dominate Senior Masters golf play

By Gazette Staff

KATHU: Chung Chun Hsing spearheaded a trio of Taiwanese golfers who won the top three places at the Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2006, held from April 25 to 27 at Phuket Country Club (PCC).

The 52-year-old, who won the title with nine-under 207, appeared surprised at his victory, saying that he had played "for safety" because of back pains that had caused him to stop playing for a month before the tournament.

Chung received the winner's prize of 480,000 baht.

Chung was lying third after

the first day's play, having scored a 69.

On Day 2, however, he took a firm grip on the title with the tournament's best round, a scorching 66, six-under par.

Day 3 saw him ease back a little, to 72, but that was enough. Fellow Taiwanese Chang Chin Kuo came second with 68-70-71 for a seven-under-par 209, and win 280,000-baht.

Chen Tsang Te, yet another Taiwanese, who played a scorching 67 to head the leader board on Day 1, went off the pace on Day 2, recording a 72, then dropped further back on Day 3, managing only a 73.

He, too, picked up 280,000-

The skies may have been dark but for Senior Masters winner Chung Chun Hsing it was a day full of sunshine.

baht for third place in the tournament with his score of 212, four under par.

Australian Stewart Ginn, who won last year's competition in Malaysia, came in equal fourth with Malaysia's M. Ramaya, both on one under. They took home 160,000 baht apiece in prize money.

## TEAM EVENT

Thailand best finisher was Suthep Meesawat, the father of Asian Tour player Prom Meesawat. Suthep shared joint sixth with the Philippines' R. Alit with a 216 total.

Another two Thai pros Umpon Maneerat and Pachoen Prempreeda shared the eighth spot with a total score of 217.

Thailand fared much better in the Pro-Am team competition, played on April 23.

Winners were the Siriyanont team – Thongchai Sukwudthikul, Kobchai Pirapiroj and Wirat Wandsuk – with a score of 139.

Phuket Vice-Governor Niran Kalayanimit, PCC Managing Director Phummisak Hongsyok and Prachuab Subcharoen, President of the Thai senior Professional Golfer's Association, officiated at the prize-giving and closing ceremony.

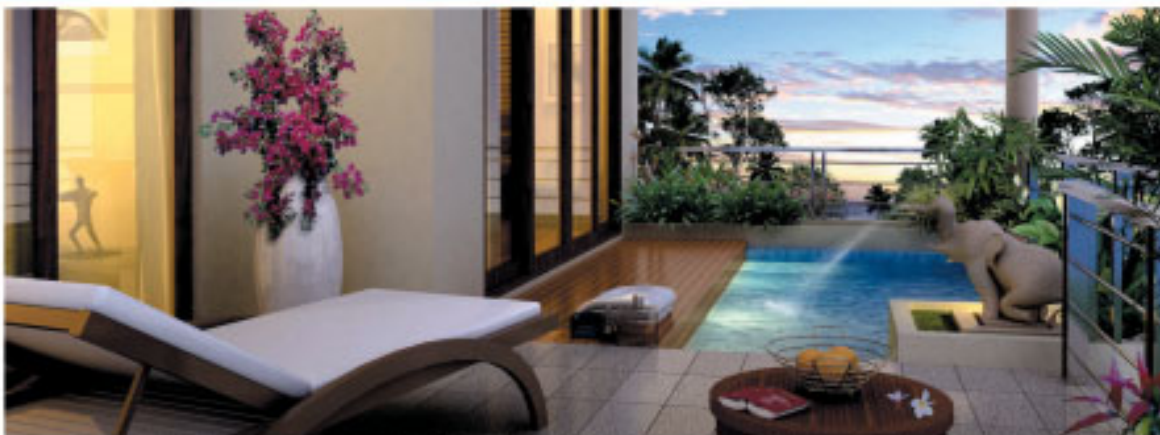


Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr hands a certificate to one of the 189 students aged between 6 and 18 years who joined the summer camp between March 28 to April 30 at the public swimming pool in Saphan Hin.



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The Thai team celebrate after winning the inaugural Senior World Cup with a convincing 4-0 victory over the UAE, at Phuket's Surakul Stadium.

# Thais win inaugural Senior World Cup

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Thailand defeated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 4-0 in the final of the inaugural Senior World Cup, played at Surakul Stadium on April 30, in a fast-paced, at times fractious, match attended by a crowd of about 1,000 enthusiastic fans.

The players, who had to be current or former professional players at least 40 years old, played a full-length match of 45 minutes each way in the afternoon heat.

Former Thai international player Piyapong Pew-on netted twice in the first half, much to the delight of the home supporters and the foreign spectators there to root for the Thai side.

In the second half Thai dominance persisted, with Bin Bunluerit scoring after 10 minutes of play.

Looking at a 3-0 defeat, UAE pushed all their players forward in the hope of scoring at least one goal. Their goalkeeper, perhaps a little overzealous, was just short of the halfway line, ahead of two of his own defenders.

Sensing a chance to add to the tally, Bin called for the ball out on the right wing. He received

a quick pass and headed straight for UAE's undefended goal, where he scored unchallenged.

The UAE defenders did not even attempt to intercept Bin, but instead appealed for offside. The referee, however, ruled that the goal was good.

The decision outraged the UAE squad, and they massed around the referee arguing against the decision. The UAE goalie even stormed off the pitch in protest.

Words between the Thai and UAE players turned to pushing and shoving until a linesman came on field to break it up before any punches were thrown.

After checking again with both linesmen, the referee maintained his decision and allowed the goal.

Play resumed, and rather than risk suffering further humiliation, the UAE Manager sent on a substitute goalie for the dying minutes of the match.

Final score: Thailand 4, UAE 0.

Thailand, the winner of Group A in the initial round-robin stage, reached the final after beating Australia 3-0 in the semis, which were played in Krabi. The UAE beat Hong Kong, winners of Group B, 4-0.

## Feast of boxing set for Rawai

RAWAI: Rawai Tambon Administration Organization is organizing its third "Original Thai Boxing Competition".

The tournament will be staged at Muang Phuket School near the Chalong Traffic Circle on Sunday, May 7, starting 8 pm.

According to organizer Rewat Areerob there will be 10 matches. Most will feature Thai fighters from Bangkok, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi, Phang Nga and Songkhla. There will also be two foreign fighters, one from Italy and one from the UK, and one all-female match.

Tickets, at 500 baht each, will be sold at the entrance. All profits will be donated to Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai.

For further information, call K. Rewat at Tel: 01-5977499.

## An ace way to support the Andaman region



Winners of the We Love Tennis of Andaman Club Tournament 2006 are shown after the recent tournament held in Patong. Players – mostly tennis pros – from nine hotels competed in the tournament.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With four rounds to go, things are tight at the top of the Patong Darts League, with leaders Didi's just two points ahead of the pack.

**April 25 results:** Queen Mary\* 4 Offshore 5; Dog's Bollocks\* 6 Amigos 3; Valhalla 2 Piccadilly\* 7; Didi's\* 5 The Boss Bar 4. (\* Winner of beer leg.)

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (39 pts.); 2. Dog's Bollocks 37; 3.=Queen Mary, Offshore 36; 5.=Amigos, Piccadilly 35; 7. Coyote Bar 31; 8. Valhalla 28; 9. Shakers 23; 10. The Boss Bar 14;

**May 9 fixtures:** Queen Mary v Piccadilly; Valhalla v Dog's Bollocks; Didi's v Coyote Bar; Offshore v Amigos. (Home team first.)

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Home of the Week

Patong

# GETTING HIGH IN PATONG

**T**his five-story home, among the loftiest residences on Phuket, is certainly an eye-catcher. With extra-thick, reinforced exterior walls and support pillars, it was designed by its Swedish builder to be high as well as earthquake-proof.

Its location at Baan Suan Kamnan, a relaxed residential neighborhood on a hillside at the South end of Patong, is superb. It is not normally easy to find such a quiet neighborhood near such a lively place as Patong. Even rarer is a home in such a neighborhood that offers such truly stunning sea views.

Originally built to be used if required as rental property, the upper portions of the house have a separate entryway to the rear to ensure privacy.

The attractive Art-Deco design may give the impression that it is old, when in fact it was built less than five years ago and has been very well maintained..

The home is as spacious as it is high, featuring five bedrooms, four bathrooms and a lovely pool with a whirlpool bath next to it.

Other interesting features include some that the seller is only willing to disclose to serious prospective buyers, saying these are on a "need to know" basis.

There was interesting use of local materials, some very simple, in its construction. The steps in the garden – and there are many of them – were created with railroad ties originally meant for a rail link to Phuket City.

The railroad never happened, but the house certainly did.



Everything about this house is high...

It is a well-known maxim in the property business that there are three important factors that dictate value: location, location and location. In this respect this home is "outstanding" indeed, as it is located near Blue Point and offers the same spectacular views.

Everything about this house is high. Is it 70 meters above sea level and probably the tallest home on the island. Its price reflects its exclusivity as well; in-

terested buyers may expect to pay around 30 million baht, the exact price depending on extras such as land or any neighboring apartments they wish to include in the negotiations.

Owner Edwin van de Mosselaar says he is not worried about finding a buyer. "Spacious quality houses in a great neighborhood like this are hard to find," he says. "The price of a house does not depend only on the number of stones used to build

it, but also on what the neighborhood and surroundings have to offer. It's location that really counts."

Mr van de Mosselaar says this property has been a good investment for him – "and it will be for the next owner, too".

"A house like this, in such a

prime location, is a more-than-solid investment," he says.

For more information, contact Edwin van de Mosselaar direct at Tel: 06-7866350; Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com or visit: 24/1 Muean Ngen Rd, Baan Suan Kamnan, Patong.

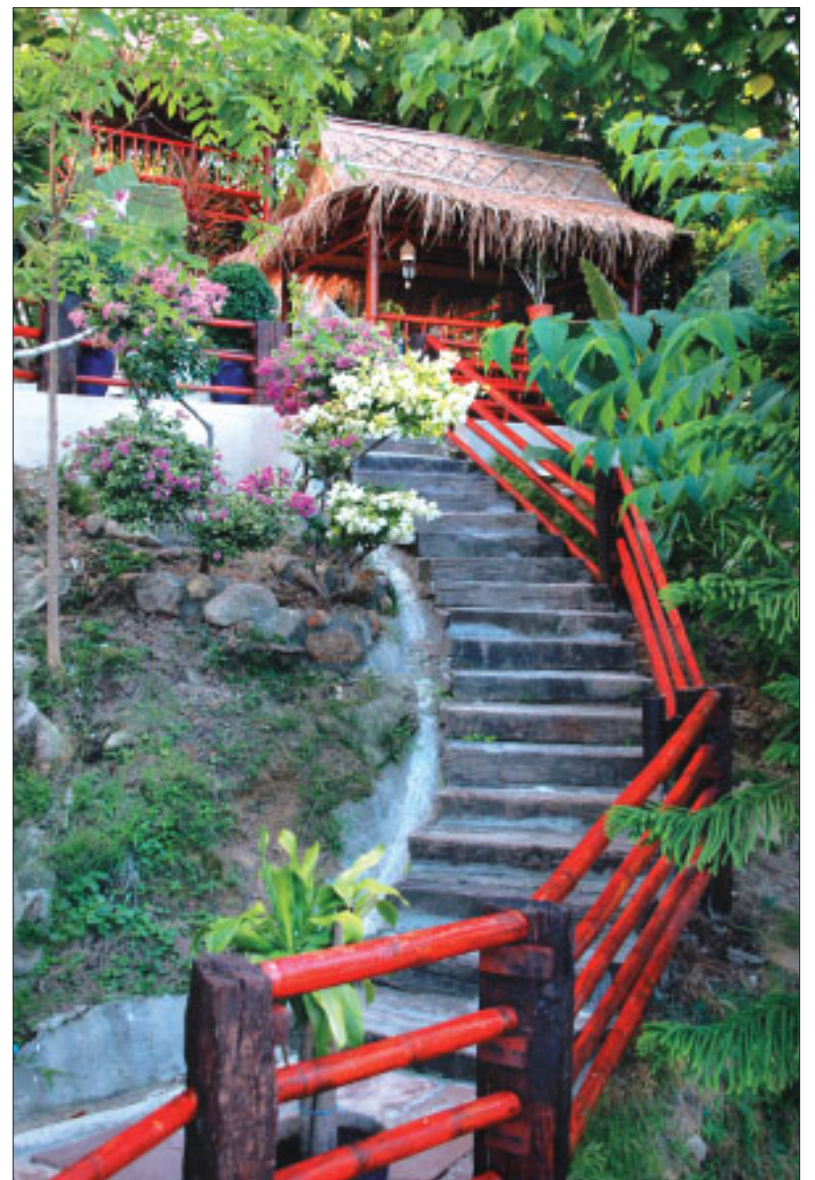


Quite a view...

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The garden steps are made from wood intended for railroad ties.



## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



# WICKED

Ever tried to get intimate under fluorescent strip lighting? It's akin to romancing on an iceberg. Just ask any Inuit. Candles, on the other hand, have the defining edge on intimacy. They're the stuff of dreams, the backdrop to bliss, indispensable to would-be Casanovas and, come to think of it, are pretty handy in a power failure.

But let's stay in a romantic vein. Oriental Wicks, a candle exporter and retail shop on Wiset Rd in Rawai, has been around since last year and deals in every shape and size of candle. You might say that Canadian owner David Rudd is waxing strong in the North American market as the retail shop exports Cambodian, Chinese, Indian and of course Thai-designed candles.

Perfect for gifts and for decorating your pad, not to mention creating the right dining ambience, the range here is tremendous and you will receive expert advice from Pakaporn "Ple"

Muongmit who is there help you chose from the plethora of wax shapes, cones, Buddha heads, waxy flowers, Brahma heads, Sri Ganesh heads, hefty blocks and dinner candles. It's a real East-meets-West deal with a price range as diverse as the choice.

Prices range from 50 baht to 4,800 baht for a Cambodian Up

Sorn ("angel") candle weighing 21 kilos, which takes 480 hours to burn down. That's a lot of romance. All are made in Thailand.

*Oriental Wicks is open daily from 1 pm to 9 pm. See [www.orientalwicks.com](http://www.orientalwicks.com) or call Tel: 076-384011 for more information.*

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Progress is a wonderful thing. Nothing should ever stay the same – things need to move on, becoming bigger, better, faster and more efficient. Why would we ever want to perpetuate old ideas?

I am, as usual, talking balderdash. Progress is over-rated.

You can't buy a normal car any more, for example. You remember what they used to be like? You unlocked the door with a real key, started the engine – which you could actually hear running – and drove away. Not any more. That was too easy. Progress has kicked in.

Some people will accuse me of being a traditionalist, but I don't care. All I want is a car that will get me from A to B. I don't want one that tells me the time in Mozambique, or the shoe size of the mechanic who did most recent oil change.

Roads are no better in terms of people wanting to "improve" things. A wonderful example is Wiset Rad, between Chalong and Rawai. This is hardly a major thoroughfare. It doesn't really go anywhere, it just connects Chalong Circle to one of the more tranquil parts of the island.

Why, then, have they decided to widen the road all the way down? I can understand the need for trunk roads between major conurbations to be as wide as possible, but the *Rawai* road? I can't honestly say that I, or any of the other residents of that part of the island, have ever felt the



# One, two, tree... chop

## The red cross meant death for Wiset Rd's yellow poincianas

need to travel two abreast when traveling north or south.

Death and destruction of flora have ensued as a result of the project. It began a few weeks ago, when mysterious red crosses started to appear on all of the trees near the roadside. It soon became apparent that these were crosses of death, the recipients being doomed to meet the business end of a chainsaw.

There were some spectacular trees there, and all were felled mercilessly in the name of progress. One of the more visible examples was the yellow poinci-

ana, of which a dozen or so were doomed with red crosses.

Shame. The yellow poinciana is particularly distinctive because the bright canary-yellow flower panicles of the tree stand above the rest of the foliage and are easily visible from a distance. Once the sprays of flowers are spent, they give way to masses of bright copper-colored pods. Unimaginatively, another name for the yellow poinciana is the copper pod tree.

Although it is called yellow poinciana, (*haang nok yoong sri leuang* in Thai), it's not closely



related to the royal poinciana (the flame tree), being more like a second cousin. From a distance, though, the leaf structure looks similar, and the individual yellow flowers bear a slight resemblance to the royal variety.

Originally native to Sri Lanka, Malaysia and northern Australia, yellow poincianas can grow to about 20 meters tall and are perfect for a big garden, but maybe not ideal for an apartment balcony.

The yellow poinciana is a bit of a show-off – in full bloom the flowers are spectacular. Its wide-spreading branches form an umbrella-like crown that can be up to 10 meters across. The stems and twigs are a kind of rusty-red and slightly fuzzy.

The leaves are bipinnate – in other words they're divided into leaflets that are themselves subdivided, about 60 centimeters long with 10 to 20 pairs of two-centimeter-long oblong leaflets.

The fragrant flowers are clustered on upright stalks (racemes, to use the technical term) about 50cm long. Each flower is about 3cm across with translucent yellow, crinkled petals.

The flowers have conspicuous orange stamens, and each petal has a reddish brown mark in the center. When the flowers fall, they are followed by purplish brown, flattened, oblong seed pods, about 10cm long, which remain steadfastly attached to the tree until the next time it decides to flower.

The yellow poinciana does very well in semi-shade, but can tolerate full sun if well-watered. Moist – but well-drained – soil is ideal. That's the theory, anyway. The old trees that used to live beside Wiset Rd didn't look too unhappy in full sun, and they weren't exactly well tended. Once established, these trees are survivors – succumbing only to a chainsaw-wielding municipal worker.

You can grow them very easily from seed which you can find in the pods, and they usually

flower in their third year. There's a knack to it, though. The seeds need to be "treated" a bit before they germinate.

In nature, the seeds would have passed through the digestion system of a bird or mammal before germinating in a pile of rich "compost". That process can be simulated with scarification (use a file or sandpaper), or a two-minute immersion in dilute acid or boiling water.

The fact that it needs regular pruning to control its weedy, somewhat unkempt habit gives this particular tree character. Yellow poincianas can even be grown with a single or multiple trunks – just point them in the right direction early on. Discipline – that's what it needs. Oh dear, I'm beginning to sound like my grandfather.

### HARDINESS

Trunks or branches of multi-trunked trees should be well-spaced along a central stem and not allowed to grow larger than half the diameter of the main stem. This will increase wind hardiness. You should plant only single-trunked trees along streets or other public areas, to ensure a durable plant.

I'm not sure if anyone actually "planted" the trees that used to be along Wiset Rd. They're not there now, though.

What must we do to slow down the seemingly maniacal desire of those in charge of Phuket's road-planning to convert even the quietest, most unassuming roads into superhighways? This is a tropical island, and one that people from all over the world come to visit and enjoy. Please leave it alone. We rather like it as it is.

Want to know more  
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# Patong's big stink to clear by '08?

Phase II of Patong Municipality's waste water treatment system – being built at a cost of 11.1 million baht – was announced at a media conference at the end of March, despite the fact that work started some months earlier.

Of the project, Patong Municipality Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Poonsak Naksena told the *Gazette* that the system must be expanded to ensure adequate treatment of wastewater both now and in the future.

"The growth of the population, both residents and tourists, in Patong shows no sign of slowing down," he began.

"The main areas – those that are the most heavily populated or that we estimate will become heavily populated – are in and around Nanai Rd, Phisit Gorani Rd, Sai Nam Yen Rd and Sirirat Rd.

"Not one of these areas is linked to the sewage system; all of the wastewater from these areas is released straight into the sea untreated. There will be an

effect on Patong's environment – and, consequently, on the tourism industry – if we do not address the problem now," he cautioned.

Palad Poonsak explained that the water-treatment system in Phase I – finished last year at a cost of 3.99 million baht – can cope with 5,250 cubic meters of wastewater a day. "Phase 2 will be able to treat up to 18,000m<sup>3</sup> a day, meaning that, in conjunction with Phase I, as much as 23,250m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater could be treated daily.

"Phases I and II will be sufficient for Patong's wastewater needs until 2020," he said.

Work on Phase II, set to begin in January 2006 and expected to be finished in 2008, will, admitted Palad Poonsak, cause disruption.

"It will, of course, necessitate, excavating roads to lay new pipes and filtering equipment, resulting in inconvenience for many. However, the end result – cleaner water and less pollution in Patong Bay – will be worth it," he said.

'Not one of these areas is linked to the sewage system; all of the wastewater from these areas is released straight into the sea untreated.'



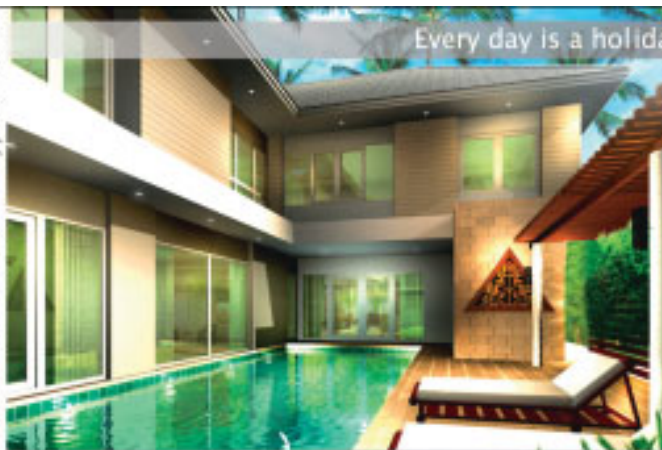
Above: where it all goes now. Left, some of the new sewer pipes have already been installed.



**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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A social modern-style home with local touches. The overall design emphasizes simplicity. An L-shaped unit allows more space for family activities and privacy. 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.

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Each unit comprises :  
3 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, living room, reception room, dining room, kitchen, maid's room, storage room, 2 parking spaces with storage facilities. 4 x 10m swimming pool includes pump room.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### NEW VILLA FOR SALE



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

### 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.

### 480 SQM AT RAWAI

2 minutes' walk to the beach and caf  s. Perfect for family-size home. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 06-6845368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

### 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.

### PHUKET CITY CONDO

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

### 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

### NEW DETACHED HOUSE FOR SALE



in Kathu. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 508sqm, 4m x 9m swimming pool. Price: 9 million baht. Soi Waterfall. Tel: 07-2799500.

### CHUAN CHUEN

Close to international school, 3-4-bed/bathroom house. Built-in furniture throughout, excellent condition. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 04-8376440.

### SEAVIEW LAND

Seaview land for sale & also beach land - good environment, serene. Please call for more details. Tel: 06-626-9899.

### 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

### 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

### NEW VILLA FOR SALE



360sqm living space, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms plus office. Absolute privacy and security. 15.9 million baht. Please call Tel: 07-8896074.

### 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: jasminconsulting@gmx.net

### RAWAI, 2-STORY

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

### 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, fully furnished, brand-new condos. 550,000 baht. 400m from beach. Tel: 06-6865567.

### 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

### 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

### 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

### KATA LAND PLOTS

900m to the beach, from 1.3 million baht. Tel: 07-885-2969. Email: junekata@hotmail.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

### 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

### MISSION HEIGHTS

land sale. 2x1-rai land plots. Secure area. Roads, 3-phase underground electricity, water. Ready to build on. 3.5million baht/rai. Tel: 09-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

### RAWAI CONDOS

for sale. Freehold, newly renovated, fully furnished, 400m from beach. 550,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### YANUI, 1 RAI

500 meters from beach. Stunning view. Only plot with Chanote title. Perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

### 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

### EXCLUSIVE LAND SALE

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.

### 2-BEDROOM HOME

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### 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

### 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.

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This fully furnished house offers one of the best sea views available in Patong. It is located within a private area on Patong Hill and is absolutely unique.

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This beautiful detached luxury villa is well designed, and built for a western taste. It comes with a big pool, high-quality furniture, 3 bedrooms & 2 balconies. At only 17.2 million baht you will not find a better home. Call now!





**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Property Gazette

## Courtyard Homes



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## HOUSE AT PA KHLOK



3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with usable area of 117sqm. Living room and kitchen. Fully furnished. Close to Yamu Beach. Price 6.5 million baht. Tel: 09-8148564, 01-9022504.

## LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Affordable, luxury pool villas. 6.2 million baht. Four boutique pool villas. Luxury, affordability, simplicity, elegance and style. 2-bedroom/2-bathroom villas built in an elegant L-shaped form around an infinity-edge pool. Tel: 01-087-5828. Email: [homes@phuketpp.com](mailto:homes@phuketpp.com) or visit at: [www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330030](http://www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330030)

## AUTHENTIC BALINESE

-style luxury villa complex. 8 villas w/private pools and Jacuzzi. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters w/ bathroom, storage room, laundry room, garage for 2 cars and Balinese-style gardens. 17.9/19.9/24 million baht. Tel: 01-0875828. Email: [homes@phuketpp.com](mailto:homes@phuketpp.com) Please see our website at [www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330182](http://www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0330182)

## LAYAN SEAVIEW

15 rai. Stunning view through Layan National Park, access to beach. For sale by owner, good for developer. Own source of water, sunset in front of plot, Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Tel: 01-7371688. Fax: 076-273083.

## VILLA IN CHALONG

countryside: 11.5 million baht. Villa near orchid farm: 9.5 million baht. For details call Tel: 01-9241447.

## PATONG SEA VIEW

houses. Fully furnished and in lovely locations. Prices from 8.6 to 12 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: [mail@villa.co.th](mailto:mail@villa.co.th)

## AO CHALONG BEACHFRONT



Lighthouse and guesthouse with Chanote title land in the rear is available for development. Email: [maipenrai@hushmail.com](mailto:maipenrai@hushmail.com)

## PATONG SEA VIEW

apartments, brand-new, 121sqm. Lovely location with pool etc. Priced from 4.2 to 6.9 million baht. Tel: 01-924-1447. Email: [mail@villa.co.th](mailto:mail@villa.co.th)

## 2 RAI: 800,000 BAHT

per rai. On beautiful Koh Yao Yai. Chanote, water, electricity. Great. Residential. Tel: 01-8928208.

## CHANOTE CORNER HOUSE in KATA

Quiet location, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, western kitchen, 2 aircon, nicely furnished with ample parking. 3,900,000 Baht Inc Thai Company Tel: 040 639 223 or 017 888 280 email to [david@katabeachpropertymarket.com](mailto:david@katabeachpropertymarket.com)

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Cozy, secluded 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. Living area: 143sqm. Land area: 340sqm. All bedrooms have air conditioning, walk-in closets. Large living room, dining room, built-in European kitchen, large 60sqm covered veranda, beautiful garden area with outdoor shower, Ipstar Internet connection, direct telephone line, UBC and more. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 01-087-5828. Email: [homes@phuketpp.com](mailto:homes@phuketpp.com) For details please see our website at: [www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0150004](http://www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0150004)

## NEW HOUSE: NAI HARN

New house, hill view, few minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Land plot over 1,600 sqm, Chanote title. For sale by owner. Tel: 01-7371688. Fax: 076-273083. Email: [info@phutawanresidence.com](mailto:info@phutawanresidence.com)

## 10 RAI IN KAMALA



4.5 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! 1.5 rai in Kamala for only 4.5 million baht per rai. Great location, walk to beach, spectacular views, only 10 minutes to Patong. This beautiful flat parcel is a rare gem. You can build 6 homes on it. It's set in a peaceful quiet and charming expatriate neighborhood where land values are skyrocketing. Includes Nor Sor 3 Gor title, main road access, electricity and phone hookups nearby. Priced below market value, this is an incredible bargain, a super cheap price, for just 6.5 million baht total. It won't last long. Tel: 01-8162066. Email: [coneybeezo@aol.com](mailto:coneybeezo@aol.com)

## NEW SEAVIEW APARTMENTS



in Patong. Fully furnished and air-conditioned 2-bedroom apartment of 85- or 96sqm, hillside, Nanai Rd, Patong, Soi Thamdee. Starting at 4.1 million baht plus a 186sqm penthouse with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Kitchen comes with high-quality teak furniture 10.9 million baht. Tel: 09-4725530 (local) or +49-2421931444. Email to K. Bert at: [kuepperhubert@aol.com](mailto:kuepperhubert@aol.com)

## LAND PLOTS IN KATA with Chanote title

2 plots available in a quiet area surrounded by luxurious villas. Electricity & water, close to road and near to beach. 329/496 square meter from 2,500,000 Baht. Tel: 040 639 223 or 017 888 280 email to [david@katabeachpropertymarket.com](mailto:david@katabeachpropertymarket.com)

## BEAUTIFUL

character. Recently-renovated beach house. 2 mins to Kata Beach. Great price for quick sale. Tel: 04-8405834.

## PATONG SEAVIEW

2-bedroom apartment for rent. Fully furnished and with UBC, etc. Lovely location with private parking and a 20-meter swimming pool. 45,000 baht per month. Chalongs/Rawai villas for sale. Large beachfront villa: 23 million baht. Villa in Chalongs countryside: 14 million baht. Tel: 01-9241447. Email: [mail@villa.co.th](mailto:mail@villa.co.th)

## HOUSE IN PATONG

Hill, pool, sea 900m away, 3 bedrooms. Land: 500sqm. House: 200sqm. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 076-292-596, 06-2678477. Email: [tourniechristian@hotmail.com](mailto:tourniechristian@hotmail.com)

## NEW 2-BEDROOM

house in Kamala with parking. 1.2 million baht. Easy sale. Tel: 01-8928208.

## LAND FOR SALE

1.34 rai - with Chanote title - 50m from Mission Hills Golf Course 2.5 million baht. Tel: 07-8979511.

## Properties For Rent

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## 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](http://www.christianesblue.com)

## NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



New house for rent in Chalongs at Land and House Park. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet area, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8516115. Email: [suksavat@hotmail.com](mailto:suksavat@hotmail.com)

## VILLA FOR RENT



275sqm living space, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, Nai Harn. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-8896074.

## RAWAI CONDO

for lease. Has 5- to 10-year lease. Asking 150,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@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.

## 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.

## 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.

## LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 per month. Tel: 01-8928208.

## FULLY-FURNISHED

apartment in Kata. Has aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden near beach and swimming pool. 9,000 baht per month. Furnished room with cable TV, balcony, swimming pool. Near beach. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 07-5333589, 06-2766597.

## NAI HARN

Near beach. Nice garden, 120sqm Thai-style house, 2 bedrooms, aircon, common swimming pool. Long-term only: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-9725378.

## APARTMENTS

and houses for rent. 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom houses available for long-term rent in quiet area in Patong. All have aircon, kitchen, etc. Please contact for details. Tel: 04-020-7288. Email: [tcarpenter@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tcarpenter@ozemail.com.au)

## 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.

## HOUSE & BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms. 11,000 baht per month. Located at Palai Green, Chalongs Bay. Tel: 01-8924311.

## LARGE STUDIO APTS

Chalongs. for rent short/long term. Aircon, WiFi, satellite TV, kitchenette, hot-water shower, housekeeping. Rooftop spa pool. From 9,500 baht/month. Tel: 06-282-6221, 01-8938592. Email: [saneroad@yahoo.com](mailto:saneroad@yahoo.com)

## BUNGALOWS

for lease. Fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, good surroundings, safe, 2-3 bedrooms, price 18,000-22,000 baht per month. Chalongs Bay. Tel: 01-6064279.

## KATA LUXURY

2-bedroom furnished apartment. Aircon, teak kitchen, 2 bathrooms, huge covered terrace. Short- or long-term let. Quiet location. Parking. En suite. Nice garden. Tel: 09-5926890.

## PATONG TOWER

luxury condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Sea view. 100 meters to beach. Fully equipped, maid service. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-375-3970, 04-1590501. Email: [honaunau69@yahoo.com](mailto:honaunau69@yahoo.com)

## NEW VILLA, NAI HARN

3 double bedrooms, part aircon, semi-furnished. 20,000 baht per month, long term. Tel: 076-288047, 01-8941660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th)

## APARTMENTS

for rent. 2 mins from Nai Harn Beach, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, cable TV, wireless Internet, swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 09-0491785. Email: [eltonkirk@hotmail.com](mailto:eltonkirk@hotmail.com)

## NEW PATONG

apartment & bike. Modern, 1-bedroom apartment, sea view, aircon, kitchen, JRD motorbike. 22,000 baht + services. Tel: 06-9453450, 06-945-3450. Email: [coltat1962@yahoo.com](mailto:coltat1962@yahoo.com)



# Property Gazette

## STUNNING SEA VIEW



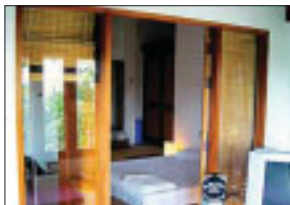
A villa with 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a maid's room. Location: Cape Yamu, elevated, east coast, providing some of the prettiest views in Phuket. Furnished, Internet, a pool and gardens in a very quiet, exclusive estate, 10 minutes to BCIS/Laguna. Asking only 80,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 06-279-6283.

## DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 04-851-6115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

## UNCLE CHAI



Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. One bedroom. Long lease preferable. Average 15,000 baht per month. Chalong Area. Please call. Tel: 01-4926883. or visit [www.unclechaihome.com](http://www.unclechaihome.com)

## 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. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-273515, 07-2789908. Fax: 076-273516. Email: ftwth@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 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 For further details, please see our website at: [www.koumbele.com/kata2](http://www.koumbele.com/kata2)

## 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

## BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Short- or long-term. Tel: 01-8920038.

## 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.

## SHOPHOUSE SPACE

First & second floors in a double shophouse for rent, 600 meters from Chalong Circle. Tel: 09-8739123. Email: eichinger@intercallservice.com

## ROOMS TO LET



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Standard room just 6,000 baht per month or 500 baht per day. Deluxe room is 8,500 baht per month or 700 baht per day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

## HOLIDAY BUNGALOWS

to rent. Fully furnished 1- or 2-bedroom bungalows in a quiet hillside location in Kata-Karon just walking distance from shops & white sand beaches. Full cooking facilities, air conditioning, satellite/cable TV, DVD player, hot water shower, laundry service, free maid service, free drinking water, mini bar, private balcony with seating area, tropical gardens, free resort facilities within walking distance - including 5 swimming pools, tennis, sauna, health & fitness center - motorbike & jeep rental, and free car parking. Best prices - daily or monthly - starting from 1,250 baht per day. Please contact for details to Email: hillsidebungalows@hotmail.com

## 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](http://www.phuket-accommodation.info)

## ONE-BEDROOM

apartment. Bright, airy apartment. Lounge, kitchen, dining, bedroom with en-suite shower/toilet. Private entrance/balcony. Cable TV & Wi-Fi. 12,000 baht/month + electric and water. Long term only. Tel: 076-342-601, 01-2705374. Fax: 076-342601. Please see our website at: [www.orcella.com](http://www.orcella.com)

## PATONG TOWER

luxury condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Spectacular ocean view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, Internet access, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 01-3753970, 04-1590501. Email: honaunau69@yahoo.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. Tel: 06-9488139. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### HOUSE, VILLA, APT

needed. Looking for a 2 bedroom house or villa to rent for month of June. Should be in Patong, Kata or Karon area. Should also have a pool and be close to the beach if possible. Email: lee\_pfc@yahoo.co.uk

### APARTMENT

wanted. Small furnished apartment or house wanted for short-term rental (3 months). Should be near the British Curriculum International School, Phuket. Please contact Mrs Khetrat ASAP. Tel: 06-7427714. Email: asian\_creations@hotmail.com

### JAN-FEB 2007

I want to rent a villa with 2 or 3 bedrooms and a swimming pool. Must be furnished and of a high standard. Location: Karon, Kata or Koh Lanta. It could be 2 months in Karon/Kata or Jan in Koh Lanta, February in Karon or Kata. Email: klippasa@broadband.net

### CHEAP ROOM

wanted for 2 weeks from May 3. I am on a budget and will be traveling on my own so will need a single room. I don't mind a host family letting me stay with them. I can pay up to 3,000 baht. Email: s\_murkin@hotmail.com

## Property Wanted



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[www.gardenislandphuket.com](http://www.gardenislandphuket.com)  
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## LONG-TERM RENTAL

in Kathu. 1- or 2-bedroom house in Kathu required as soon as possible, preferably semi-furnished but not important. However MUST have phone line and small garden. Addition to family forces move from Patong. Can provide reference from present landlord for last 17 months. Tel: 01-8022800. Email: markbowen@ji-net.com

## PROPERTY WANTED

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## RENTAL WANTED

I would like to rent a 2-bedroom apartment in Patong, Kamala or Karon for 3 months from December. Please forward full details. Tel/Fax: 144-6409546. Email: t.walsh193@ntlworld.com

## UNIT IN PHUKET

palace. I'm looking for a unit in Phuket Palace Tower, preferably on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor and up. Please contact me by email. Email: g.vandenbergh@hotmail.com

## WANTED TO RENT

3-bedroom house within 15 minutes of the British Curriculum International School. Must be in good condition. Preference given to good views and garden. Minimum of 6 months rent, possibly up to one year. Tel: 01-5398118.

## CONDOMINIUM

I am looking for a condominium (studio, 1 or 2 bedrooms) in Patong to buy freehold. Purchase can be made quickly. I am able to pay up to 2 million baht. Please contact at Email: feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk

## Accommodation Available

## PATONG APARTMENT

Seaview, kitchen, cable TV, 10 minutes to beach. 600 baht per day, 12,000 baht per month. Please contact for full details. Tel: 04-0154003. Email: ken@divejohnsandy.com

## PATONG CONDO

Good room in Patong Condotel with "everything". 500 baht/night. Please call Tel: 01-8948446 or Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

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\*Ads may be submitted in person or online (phuketgazette.net/classifieds), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City  
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

### PROJECT MANAGER REQUIRED

A Project Manager is required for construction site. Salary: 25,000-35,000 baht, depending on experience. Please contact for more information. Tel: 075-636243, 01-7973401 Fax: 075-636243. Email: yoon@krabisunset.com

### FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT

English-speaking Thai woman with good Word & Excel skills required. Written English & basic accounts skills an advantage. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-206704 Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.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. Tel: 076-200-204, 05-2121794.

### SECRETARY NEEDED

Wanted: A woman who can speak good English, is computer literate and drives a car. Email resumē for interview. Tel/Fax: 075-636-243, 01-7973401. Email: yoon@krabisunset.com

### WEB DESIGNER WANTED

Looking for web designer. Please contact for further information. Tel: 07-898 6566. Email: kurtvallant@gmx.at

### 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 information. Tel: 076-388681. Email: j.r.vinton@gmail.com



# Island Job Mart



The Right Place. Always

## Vacant Position

- ✦ Food & Beverage Manager
- ✦ Front Office Manager
- ✦ Event Sales Manager & PR
- ✦ Guest Relations
- ✦ Bell Boy/Driver
- ✦ Night Auditor
- ✦ Waiter & Waitress
- ✦ Housekeeping Supervisor
- ✦ Room Maid & Cleaner

Please apply to: [hrmipc@impiana.com](mailto:hrmipc@impiana.com)  
or call 076-340138-40



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

We offer competitive International salary, service charge, accommodation, 3 meals per day and 1 day extra traveling leave per month.

Thai Nationality applications are welcome for the following positions:

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

Please send your CV with a color photo, your current salary and salary expectations to [hdpfi@escoms.com](mailto:hdpfi@escoms.com)

Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island

Tel: 075 - 620798 / 075 - 621334

[www.phiphi-palmbeach.com](http://www.phiphi-palmbeach.com) <http://phiphi-palmbeach.com/job.php>

## Red Cross Finland

Finnish Red Cross (FRC) is currently completing its tsunami recovery program in Phang Nga Province. One of FRC's objects is hospital infrastructure construction and renovation. Program includes construction work and equipment purchasing for nine hospitals in Phang Nga Province.

Finnish Red Cross is now looking for a suitable candidate for the following post:

## Technical Assistant

### Duties and responsibilities:

- Assist the technical delegate in implementing the hospital construction and renovation program.
- Work includes writing memorandums, interpreting and translating.

### Requirements:

- Good command of written and spoken English and Thai
- Technical education or work experience in a technical field.
- Computer skills
- Driving license

Position is located at the FRC office in Phang Nga and work requires traveling in the tsunami affected areas.

Applications with curriculum vitae should be sent by e-mail to: [th04@finrc.fi](mailto:th04@finrc.fi) subject Technical Assistant, by 15 May 2006

Additional information concerning duties can be received by phone: 01 968 6223 (Mr. Ari Ruuskanen)

## MIORA VILLAS (PHUKET)

### Marketing wanted!

For a luxury Development at Kalim Beach, Phuket, Thailand

### Requirements

- ✦ Thai/Foreign nationality
- ✦ Bachelor's Degree in Marketing (or other related field)
- ✦ Experience in sales and marketing is essential
- ✦ Must speak English
- ✦ Good communication skills and customers service oriented
- ✦ Self motivated
- ✦ Energetic and willing to learn new challenges
- ✦ Able to work at overseas exhibition

Position available in Phuket! For more information please contact  
Ms. Tina at 09-4749532 or landline at +66 (076) 296615, 296676  
Mr. Kieran at 04-0548122 Email: [estina@worldwidelegalsolution.com](mailto:estina@worldwidelegalsolution.com)

### FINANCIAL MANAGER

World Concern, an international relief and development organization, will hire a Thai national who must be qualified to supervise and manage all financial, accounting transactions and monitor records and exchanges and advise on financial planning for our tsunami-related project located in Phang Nga. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-423757. Email: [yohuncp@gmail.com](mailto:yohuncp@gmail.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. Contact K. Amnuay. Tel: 01-3675870. Email: [satreephuketep@yahoo.com](mailto:satreephuketep@yahoo.com)

### STAFF NEEDED

- CUSTOMER SERVICES
- SALES STAFF
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are looking for a competent and highly-motivated person to join our advertising and media business in Phuket City. Must be a Thai national with good spoken and written English, driving license, car and motorbike, and computer skills. Previous experience required. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-236637-8.

### 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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83000. Email: [info@derani-yachts.com](mailto:info@derani-yachts.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](mailto:peter.lachman@gmail.com)

### OFFICE STAFF

Needed: female; age 21-35; college or bachelor's degree in accounting, hospitality or related field; Windows, Excel, Word and work experience required. Good command of written and spoken English. Tel: 076-292073, 06-3418781. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### CLEANING STAFF

for guesthouse in Karon. Must speak some English. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2718254.

### URGENTLY REQUIRED

Anan Group Asia (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is a hotel operator, land consultancy and property developer in Phuket.

Our business is expanding and we have exciting career opportunities for dynamic, qualified people to work and grow with us. Currently we are looking a **Business Manager** and a **Night Auditor** to strengthen our team.

#### Business Manager

- \* Male or female, not over than 40 years old, Thai national preferred
- \* Hotel, hospitality or related bachelor's degree
- \* Modern hospitality industry knowledge of more than 5 years' experience. Construction and Real Estate experience.
- \* Excellent command of both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus
- \* Excellent computer and organizational skills and able to work independently
- \* Pro-active, entrepreneurial, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills; good social connections.

#### Night Auditor

A lovely and small boutique resort in Patong has a vacancy for an ambitious and committed Night Auditor to strengthen our team.

#### Requirements:

- \* Female Thai national, over 22 years old.
- \* Hotel hospitality or related bachelor's degree
- \* Modern hospitality industry knowledge
- \* Excellent command both spoken and written English. Other foreign languages would be a plus
- \* Excellent computer skills, especially in Fidelio program
- \* Pro-active entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, motivated team player. Responsible and reliable with a hands-on approach, good interpersonal skills.

Please submit CV with salary expectation and a current photo by email to: [agm1@clubbamboo.com](mailto:agm1@clubbamboo.com)

#### For more information:

Tel: 076-345345-7

Fax: 076-345099

Email:

[m@clubbamboo.com](mailto:m@clubbamboo.com)

### LAW FIRM

seeks an accountant, secretary and lawyer. Please send resume to: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)

Looking for a job?  
[www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net) !



# Island Job Mart



Central Karon Beach Resort is a modern mid-rise resort with panoramic views of Karon Beach and the lush hinterland of hills behind.

We are looking for highly motivated and service-minded individuals, who are committed to grow within the expanding group of Central Hotels & Resorts, to fill in following positions:

- Sales Manager
- Chief Accountant
- Purchasing Manager
- Training Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- EDP Supervisor
- Bar Supervisor
- Bartender (2 positions)
- Operator
- Kids Attendant

#### Qualifications required:

- At least 1-3 year experience in position applied
- Experience in hotel industry is an advantage
- Good command for written and spoken English

#### \*APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME\*

We offer attractive remuneration package to the successful candidates. Interested persons should send detailed resumé stating current and expected salary, contact telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

**General Manager**  
Central Karon Beach Resort, Phuket 502/3 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Muang,  
Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 7639 6200-5 Fax: +66 (0) 7639 6491 E-mail: [gmckp@chr.co.th](mailto:gmckp@chr.co.th)  
website: [www.centralhotelsresorts.com](http://www.centralhotelsresorts.com)



Our combined companies are the leading provider of Data, Broadband, Communications, Electrical Power and Infrastructure Solutions to the Business & Developer Construction Markets. We have the following career opportunities in our Phuket offices. We offer health benefits, annual bonus, profit sharing and training plus excellent career growth.

**Project Manager:** Coordinate Multiple Construction & Infrastructure Related Projects.

**Electrical Engineer:** Design and Installation of Mechanical and Electrical Infrastructure.

**Sales:** Creative Independent Salesperson Who Takes Charge of Their Own Success.

**Technicians:** Experience with PCs, LANs, WANs, Routers and Broadband systems.

**Senior Office Manager:** Working Directly with the MD, this Position Requires Strong Problem Solving and People Skills.

Please send your resumé in English to [jobs@islandtechnology.com](mailto:jobs@islandtechnology.com)

#### COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate requires a British copywriter for property listings. Experience not necessary – if you have writing skills. Work from home with computer. Hours flexible. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: [richard@siamrealestate.com](mailto:richard@siamrealestate.com)

#### ADMINISTRATOR

- Female, Thai national
  - 22-28 years old
  - Computer literate (Word, Excel, Internet and Outlook)
  - Excellent written & spoken English.
- Tel: 076-273379, 09-474-1246. Fax: 076-273379. Email: [mick@octopusasia.com](mailto:mick@octopusasia.com)

#### PATONG BEER BAR

Bartender/Cashier. Good salary. Able to speak English a must. Please call for more information. Tel: 05-7838336.

#### Employment Wanted

##### BA DEGREE INT'L TOURISM

Dutch female, 26, looking for office job in marketing, e-commerce, management. Please contact for full details. Email: [suzanne@suzannessource.com](mailto:suzanne@suzannessource.com)

**Gazette**  
**Online Classifieds**  
– 10,000 readers every day!

#### 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.

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

#### Articles for Sale

##### SATELLITE TV

"magic box" for UBC for sale at 4,500 baht, full year subscription remaining. Tel: 01-859 7239. Email: [mpasiastar@hotmail.com](mailto:mpasiastar@hotmail.com)

##### KING BRAND 5-BURNER

pizza oven for sale. Size: 178cm x 78cm. 14,000 baht. Deep-fryer, twin, with stainless-steel baskets: 15,000 baht. Tel: 09-4452333.

#### ARTICLES FOR SALE

Samsung SyncMaster computer, 783 Intel Celeron D processor, Pleomax basic keyboard, all unused. 17,000 baht ono. Sharp HC-1460 14-inch TV/multi-AV system, unused. 1,800 baht. Call Tel: 076-396781 for full details.

##### HOTEL SAFES

18 electronic hotel safes, 4-digit personal code, Safe Place brand, cream color. 1 Override Unit with different-password operator managing levels. Everything extremely easy to manage and maintain. Dimensions: 35cm wide x 22cm high x 40cm deep. Reason for sale: Company converting from hotel into apartments for sale. Sale price: 3,000 baht each plus 5,000 baht for the Override Unit. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-893-3077. Email: [dudone@hotmail.com](mailto:dudone@hotmail.com)

#### 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](mailto:ecobrand@truemail.co.th)

#### TATAMI MAT

Folding tatami exercise mat, foam inside. 500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2672260. Email: [thurston@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:thurston@loxinfo.co.th)

#### AIRCON FOR SALE

Very good condition, 30,000 BTU. Offers from 18,000 baht. Tel: 076-333423, 07-2680490.

#### Bulletins

##### Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

**Phuket City**  
Mission Hospital  
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm  
**Bangkok Phuket Hospital**  
on Fri at 7 pm

**Patong**  
Patong Hospital  
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call  
012732053 (Scandinavian),  
018954763 (English) or  
018912895 (Frank)

#### Business Opportunities

##### KATHU, HAIR

& beauty salon lease for sale. Modern air-conditioned shop. Located near main road junction. Has living accommodation at rear plus fixtures and fittings. 150,000 baht ono. Tel: Araya 01-0874866 or Jane 07-9996621.

##### GUESTHOUSE

in Kamala. Restaurant/bar. 5 new rooms. Fully equipped. New. 1.25 million baht. Email: [swisstreff@gmx.net](mailto:swisstreff@gmx.net)

##### SALON FOR SALE

Good location in Kata center. Contact K. Suporn. Tel: 09-5944633.

##### SAMUI RESORT

for rent. Well-known beach resort in the north of Samui for rent. Fully operational. 11 air-conditioned bungalows, restaurant, pool and owner's house. Lease = +24 years at very low monthly rent. Key money: 15 million baht. No agents, please. Email: [m\\_rombaut@yahoo.com](mailto:m_rombaut@yahoo.com)

##### BAR/RESTAURANT

Bar and restaurant for sale on Nanai Rd, Patong. 250,000 baht, 15 months on contract. Contact K. Porn. Tel: 07-008-8637. Email: [johncamel927@hotmail.com](mailto:johncamel927@hotmail.com)

##### BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Part of the Andaman Bazaar, close to the beach. Rent 52,000 baht. 3-year contract plus option for 2 more years. Asking price: 400,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2706297.

##### LARGE, SUCCESSFUL

established bar in Soi Bangla for sale. Pool table, darts and own sound system. Please call Tel: 09-8677969 for more details.

#### MINIMART FOR SALE



Near university in Kathu. In good condition and with full equipment. Can start trading immediately. Only 150,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740790.

#### TWO BOUTIQUE

hotels for sale and/or rent. Turnkey, brand-new. Many purchase options. Please call Tel: 01-0875828 for further information, or please see our website at: [www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing\\_#0310186/#0310189](http://www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing_#0310186/#0310189)

#### SEARCHING

for business partner from Switzerland or Germany for Internet business. Tel: 06-8605713.

#### GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT



Best location in Karon, 7 rooms, office, laundry, telephone, Internet, WiFi, cable TV. 45,000 baht/month plus 1 million baht. Contact. Tel: 06-2718254. Email: [ninguesthouse@hotmail.com](mailto:ninguesthouse@hotmail.com)

#### 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. Tel: 06-2718254.

#### FOR SALE

One of the best bar/restaurants in Patong, almost on the beach in a busy hotel area. Many customers all day long, all seasons. 2 bars, large restaurant, totaling more than 100 seats. Kitchen with all equipment. Pool table, 7 TVs, fans, coolers, cabins and more. Very nicely decorated. Contract until April 2009 with an option for 3 more years. Rent: 85,000 baht. Take over a running place. Asking 5.7 million baht. Please contact for more info. Email: [patong-bar-for-sale@hotmail.com](mailto:patong-bar-for-sale@hotmail.com)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## RAWAI MASSAGE AND BAR



No need to pay any salary. Good and long rental contract. Good income! Tel: 06-7396031. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

## FOR SALE

German carwash technology. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Big returns, low risk. We are financing mortgages for foreigners with a guaranteed buy back in event of NP loans. We are looking for serious investor(s). Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-0639223, 01-7888280. Email: david@katabeachpropertymarket.com

## 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

## 2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht/year. Tel: 01-8924311.

## 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 K. Arunee. Tel: 07-8947985.

## 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.

## Business Products & Services

### A++ ACCOUNTING SERVICES

For all your accounting needs in Thai and English:

- \* Monthly accounts - VAT/WT
- \* Payroll
- \* Financial reports
- \* Accounting Software

Please contact Mam or Gun. Tel: 076-313137, 09-4744637. Email: admin@aplusplussoftware.com

### VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company Registration 2,229 baht; One Year Visa 5,999 baht; Retirement Visa 5,999 baht; Work Permit 5,999 baht; UK & US Visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 5,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's LARGEST legal service network. Always your low price by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact. Tel: 076-345277 (24 hours). Email: info@siam-legal.com For further details, please visit: www.siam-legal.com

### JAPANESE TEACHER

Japanese teacher (TEFL) is seeking a full- or part-time job at local schools in Phuket. I speak & read Thai. Private lessons welcome too. Please contact. Tel: 076-282542, 01-476-7806. Fax: 076-282542. Email: hiromi\_niederhauser@hotmail.com

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Castles and slides for children's parties. 7 models to choose from. Please call. Tel: 01-8939742. Please see our website at www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

### VISA TRIP TO RANONG

Double-decker tour bus (not minibus), toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks, on-board buffet lunch. No extra to pay, fully inclusive. Only 1,500 baht. Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. Tel: 04-7457024.

## Computers

### THE COMPUTING MASTERY

Established in Patong Beach, Phuket, since 2004, Interall Co Ltd keeps a qualified and experienced professional team at your beck and call in each of its departments and occupations. Install depuis 2004 Patong Beach, Phuket, Interall Co Ltd met votre service des professionnels qualifiés et expérimentés dans chacun des départements d'activité. Email: interall@gmail.com Please visit: www.interall-thailand.com

### COMPUTER

1) Biostar iDeq-200T SFF. Intel P4 3.0, 512MB memory, ATI 9600 PRO graphics, 80GB HDD, Sony DVD burner. 18,000 baht. 2) XFX 6600GT AGP graphics card. 4,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-283-9806. Email: leonsk@yahoo.com

## Mobile Phones

### NOKIA 8800 FOR SALE

No scratches, like new. Currently used with 1-2-call, but it can be used on any network. Asking 22,000 baht. Please call. Tel: 09-0666178. Email: singto@caramail.com

## Notice

### Public Notice

This notice is to inform the public that as of February 20, 2006, Mrs Duangkamol Khaochatr (Mod) has no further involvement and is no longer associated in any way with The Surin Bay Inn Hotel.

### Public Notice

This notice is to inform the public that as of April 15, 2006 Mr Vimal Kant Sharma (Robert) has no further involvement and is no longer associated in any way with King's Fashion located in the Merlin Beach Hotel, Khao Lak Merlin Hotel and Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach Resort & Spa.

## Personal Services

### LEARN THAI AT HOME

Charming Thai Lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practice and home study material. Beginners or more advanced. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

### HEALING & PSYCHIC

Readings in the comfort of your home. Call Alexander. Tel: 09-7367148.

### NURSE CARE

Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

## Personal Services Wanted

### LOOKING FOR A GERMAN-SPEAKING

dog trainer for my Thai dog of about 5-6 months old. Please call Tel: 01-259-6052.

### HOME TEACHER

in the Cherng Talay area for children 6-8 years old. Math, English, Thai. 5 days/week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

## Personals

### LIFETIME PARTNER

German Gentleman - golfer, kind, thoughtful, true, secure and personable - would like to meet a special, well-educated, smart and pretty Thai Lady for a good, lifetime relationship in Phuket. If your age is 35-45 and you speak English, take the chance and let's take it slowly. Please email me with photo. Email: he.bergen@t-online.de

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 8,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Deliver To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State or Province Zip Code

Country: \_\_\_\_\_



To ensure clarity, please attach photo. Do not Fax!



# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

### NEW ZAFIRA 2.2 SPORT

Very nice Chevrolet Zafira 2.2 Sport, black, 9,000km, 1st-class insurance free for 1 year, 4cd-reader system, aircon, black windows, leather interior. Has never been damaged and is in perfect condition. Price when new 1,45 million baht. I will sell for the best offer. Must be seen and road tested. Tel: 01-8512280. Email: dm@janydan.com

### TOYOTA COROLLA SALOON

1.5 DXI, 1998, manual, metallic silver paint, radio, tape, aircon, tax and full insurance 'till Jan 07. Very good condition. 238,000 baht. Tel: 07-265-0652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

### MERCEDES C180

2000cc, petrol, 1995, 4-door, 140,000km, good condition. 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 06-7421780. Email: acorngray@aol.com

### NISSAN CEFIRO VIP FOR SALE



Only 3 years old. Black 3.0L auto. 35,000km covered. Asking 1 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 07-2678389.

### 2003 HONDA CIVIC 1.7 VTI AT

Silver color, 6-CD changer good condition, 1st-class insurance. Contact K. Por. Tel: 076-327272, 09-6484703. Fax: 076-205339. Email: pietankam@yahoo.com

### HONDA JAZZ

Approx 2 years old, must sell by May 10 for 470,000 baht or goes to the dealers for 430,000. One owner, never rented, full service history, never crashed. Can see on May 8. Gold color, auto, one-year tax and insurance. Can take over payments: 150,000 baht still owed. Tel/ Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

### AUDI A4

Metallic green with beige leather interior. 17" rims with brand-new Yokohama tires. The car is in excellent condition, serviced by authorized dealer in Bangkok. 480,000 baht. Tel: 09-2872672. Email: c\_commie@yahoo.com

### 1995 VOLVO 440

Silver, automatic, in good condition. Serviced regularly. Offered at: 150,000 baht. Tel: 076-333423, 07-2680490.

### HONDA CITY 2003

New model, automatic, CD/MP3, metallic gray. Girl's car. Tel: 09-6520694. Email: cherrypuffgirl@hotmail.com

## Pickups

### 1999 ISUZU SPARK

Dark green, 250,000 baht. The pick-up is now in Surat Thani; Please contact. Tel: 09-6506221. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

### SUZUKI JEEP 1993

Top condition, no rust. Newly painted at a cost of 40,000 baht. Now for sale at 140,000 baht. Tel: 076-333-242, 09-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

### MITSUBISHI TRUCK

Very low mileage. Will sell for cash, or you can take over the payments. Leaving the country. Call for details. Tel: 01-7192908.

### NISSAN NV

125,000 baht. 1996, power steering, aircon, sport wheels, stereo, van model, 1600cc. Please contact via Email: karonphuket@gmail.com

### NISSAN NV

1996 Estate, well maintained and economical. 120,000 baht. Call for further details. Tel: 04-0639223. Email: eburneday@hotmail.com

## 4 x 4s

### TOYOTA HILUX VIGO

4x4. Farang owned, 9 months old. Silver color, 4-door, automatic, 2.7-liter petrol engine. Luxury package, special leather interior. 22,000km. Top condition. On sale because owner going home. For quick sale. Price new: approx 810,000 baht, now 630,000 baht ono. Tel: 05-7844305, 05-7844305, 01-0989870.

### FORD RANGER XLT

2.5TDhi-rider, 4door, 11,000km, silver, ABS, roof rack, roll-bar, carryboy, tinted windows, front-bar, Pioneer, 800-watt stereo, alloy wheels, side-steps, quick sale. Call now! Tel: 04-7467304.

### FORD RANGER

Double cab, 2002 model with airbag, ABS. 82,000km. Price: 390,000 baht. Deposit: 90,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-8952678. Email: lahusell@msn.com

### 2004 FORD RANGER

Extra Cab. Good condition. CD player. 31,000km. Asking 500,000 baht ono. Please call K. Russ at Tel: 01-5977543.

### FORD RANGER XLT

2.5 TD Hi-Rider, 4-door, 11,000km, silver color, ABS, roofrack, rollbar, Carryboy, tinted windows, Pioneer, 800-watt stereo, alloy wheels, side-steps. Quick sale. Call now! Tel: 04-7467304.

## Motorbikes

### HONDA SHADOW

American Classic, year 2001, metallic black, many Harley parts (about 70,000 baht), very good condition. Price 240,000 baht. Tel: 01-3676373. Email: austrianer@web.de

### 1150cc BMW FOR SALE

Bought July, 2003, but 2004 model. Only 1300km: driven only long distances, not short hops around town. A1 condition, all services by BMW dealer in Phuket city. Silver color, race tires, always parked in a dry place. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-9091008. Email: peterphuket@hotmail.com

### HONDA WAVE 125i

Honda Wave 125i (injection) for sale. 2 years old. Price: 25,000 baht. Can be viewed in Khao Lak. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-443149, 06-281-1945.

### HONDA WAVE 125S

Blue-and-black Honda Wave S. 3 years old, excellent condition, only 15,000km. Regularly serviced and used only locally by little old lady - well, not that old actually. Has digital fuel gauge and odometer. New battery. Call or email for pics or further info. 25,000 baht ono. Leaving town May 12, so must sell. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-8872094. Email: redfast900@hotmail.com

### HONDA DREAM 100

Old but reliable. 11,000 baht. Email for further details and photos. Tel: 076-330247, 09-6450160. Email: bt5@tesco.net

### HONDA WAVE

As new Honda 125i Wave. Bought new Feb 22, 2006. Only 1,400km. Blue, fuel injection, electric starter, Givi Monolok luggage system. Owner returning home overseas. Cost 54,000 baht new, will sell for 44,000 baht. Tel: 076-290366, 04-7121727.

### 1999 CBR 900RR

Reduced by 30,000 baht - now only 185,000 baht. Excellent condition. Custom paint, Michelin Pilot Sport tyres (front new, rear 70% tread), stainless exhaust with carbon Termignoni muffler. Serviced 300km ago. Quality parts, including new sprockets, chain and wheel bearings. Email for pics, more info. Leaving soon, be quick! Tel: 05-8872094. Email: redfast900@hotmail.com

## MOTORBIKES

JRD 125cc Quest Junior. Blue, December 04. 6,300 km. 29,000 baht. In good condition. Tel: 07-2705754.

### CHEAP MOTORBIKE:

Suzuki Viva 110cc. Electric starter, all papers, green book, tax, insurance, inexpensive to run. Only 8,000 baht. Email: th246810@hotmail.com

### JRD SNOW SCOOTER

2004. 125cc, automatic. Only 2,000km. 25,000 baht. Tel: 07-8822462.

## Rentals

### A1 CAR RENT

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### CAR FOR RENT

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## Wanted

### WANTED: DAIHATSU PICKUP

Wanted: Phuket tuk-tuk (*songtaew*) Daihatsu-type light pickup. A scruffy piece of junk will do, so long as it starts (with a price to match of course!) Will throw away after using for a year moving light building materials. Any seats, etc, to be removed as to be used in the original pickup configuration. Note: I do not want an Isuzu or other heavy, large pickup. Tel: 09-9191596. Email: ribbands@ribbands.co.uk

### MOTORBIKE WANTED

I'm looking to buy a Honda CBR 150cc and am ready to pay up to 45,000 baht. A Honda 125cc might also be of interest at no more than 30,000 baht. Tel: 07-098-7348. Email: mcole96@hotmail.com

### WANTED: FORTUNER

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#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

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#### Taurus Travel

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