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# New rules define 'sailing yacht'

By Chris Husted  
& Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: The Marine Department has announced that Thai-registered sailing vessels with a length of 16 meters (52.4 feet) or less no longer need to have a Thai skipper or crew on board.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Surin Theerakulpisut on May 23 told the *Gazette* that the new rule came into effect on March 1.

Vincent Tabuteau, Managing Director of Asia Marine, explained to the *Gazette* that the Marine Department has also finally provided a separate classification for sailboats, one that did not exist previously under Thai marine regulations. Asia Marine, as a member of the Marine Alliance of Thailand (MAT), an informal consortium of marine businesses in Thailand, is one business that has been lobbying for the new rule.

"Before, sailboats had to be classified [by use] as for transportation, cargo or fishing – but charter sailboats are used for none of these," he said.

In technical terms, the new category defines sailing boats as having a sail area:displacement ratio of at least 9:1. The Thai rule does not state what units are used for this calculation, but the *Gazette* understands that it is based on the UK maritime law Blue code, which stipulates square meters for sail area and metric tons for displacement.

The lack of a definition of a sailboat created confusion with government departments when applying for commercial licenses, as boat-operating licenses are



The Marine Department's new definition of a sailing yacht opens the door to legal bareboat charters without a Thai skipper or crew.

classified according to their use, Mr Tabuteau explained. "Without a proper definition of a sailing boat it was difficult for government officials to properly regulate the commercial activity of charter yachts," he said, though adding that most government departments were sympathetic to boat owners facing problems arising from the lack of provision for sailboats in the law.

The new definition alleviates a major insurance headache for bareboat charters, Mr Tabu-

teau said. "Before it was so ambiguous that – although this never happened – there was a worry that an insurance company might claim that a bareboat charter was improperly insured because it was being operated without a professional crew.

"But another interpretation of the law could be that there was no requirement for a professional crew because the boat was not being used for transportation or for fishing," he said.

He added that the new defi-

nition also helps with financing new projects involving sailboats. "Financial institutions do not like business plans with elements of uncertainty," he said.

Mr Tabuteau explained that the new rules would have little effect on bareboat charters at the operational level. "There will be no layoffs because bareboat charters did not have Thai captains or crew on board," he said, adding that there also would be little effect on safety.

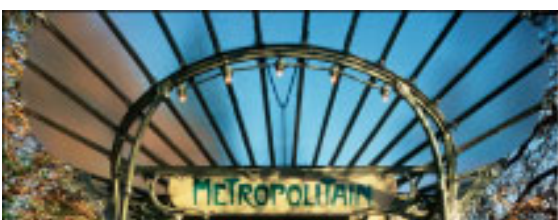
"There was no permanent crew on board anyway. The boat owner carries the risk of incurring higher insurance premiums, but it's a commonly accepted concept. We even did a brochure for bareboat charters with the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand]," he said.

Meanwhile, at Ao Chalong, the Phuket Marine Office has announced it will enforce regulations designating areas for foreign vessels to moor in an attempt to control marine traffic, prevent criminal activities and reduce damage to coral reefs.

K. Surin said that the regulations are designed to tackle growing disorder caused by the large number of yachts that come to moor in Phuket.

Thai marine law dictates that foreign vessels must tie up in Chalong Bay so that officials can check the boat before it sails to other destinations, and that all vessels must register at Phuket Pier Controlling Center, also in Chalong, he said.

"Anyone who ignores this order is subject to a fine of between 500 baht and 5,000 baht, and up to three months in jail, or both," K. Surin stressed.



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## 3 held on smuggling charges



Some of the smuggled kretek cigarettes seized by excise officers.

RASSADA: Two Thais and a Taiwanese citizen have been arrested for their involvement in smuggling cigarettes and batteries into Phuket.

The contraband, seized from the trio in a raid by officials from the Phuket Area Excise Office (PAEO), is estimated to be worth 5 million baht, the richest smuggling seizure in five years in the province.

Led by Surat Sangnej of the PAEO, and assisted by Marine Police, the officials on May 18 searched a warehouse in Tambon Rassada, outside Phuket City, and uncovered 9,310 packets of Gudang Garam-brand kretek (clove-flavored) cigarettes and 8,444 ABC Power batteries.

Investigation revealed that the smuggled goods had been brought into Phuket aboard a tuna boat.

The three arrested were identified as Suthawat Nupej and Thongsuk Saelee from Thailand and Lin Chih-lung from Taiwan.

— **Nattamon Ratcharak**



## Swansong for the 'Mayor of Laguna'

A farewell party for James Batt, Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, was held at the Laguna Beach Resort on May 22. Pictured with Mr Batt (center) are, from left, Governor Udomsak

Uswarangkura, entertainer Meria 'Nat' Benedetti, former Governor of Phuket Pongpayome Vasaputi and Dr Prasit Koeysiripong. Mr Batt and his family leave Phuket June 5. (See also pages 4 and 5.)

## Sea gypsies in protest

By Janyaporn Morel

RAWAI: A protest by a group of sea gypsies has led to the Rawai road-widening project being halted. The group, from Rawai Village 2, complained about the proposed destruction of four houses to make way for the widening of Wiset Rd. The project has now been put on hold until a solution is found.

On May 19, Seksan Bangjak, a representative of the villagers, filed a complaint with Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat, calling for assistance in finding new places to live.

The complaint is now being handled by Gen Surin Pikoolthong, Director of the Land Poverty Problem Solving Subcommittee of The National Command Center for Combating Poverty (NCCP).

The land on which the four houses were built is owned by a former *Kamnan* (tambon chief) who signed an agreement with the Phuket Provincial Highways Office (PPHO) allowing them to use the land.

Gen Surin, however, explained, "If they can prove that they or their family have been living on the land continuously for an extended period then they have

the right to a fair amount of compensation. They should not just be thrown by the side of the road with 2,000 or 3,000 baht. I will try to see an end to this problem by the middle of June."

PPHO Chief Thanit Sakiya told the *Gazette* that he received a call from Gen Surin telling him to halt the project on the area in question until a viable solution can be found for the villagers.

"Gen Surin didn't tell me when the case will be finished, but we will continue our project in other areas. In the end, we may even have to decrease the road width around the four houses," he concluded.

## TV correspondent dies

SURAT THANI: Phuket-based TV correspondent Colin Hillis died May 20 after a seizure and fall at the Koh Samui ferry pier in Don Sak. He was 41.

The Scottish reporter worked with Lanarkshire Television as anchor on its nightly magazine programme Live@6 and was also a newscaster for the station between 1999 and 2001.

Earlier in his career, he was assistant director on the 1994 six-part BBC drama series *Taking*

*over the Asylum*, which won a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) award for best series.

Before moving to Phuket five years ago, he worked as a presenter on various Scottish radio stations including Radio Clyde (Glasgow), Radio Forth (Edinburgh), Radio Borders (Gala-shiels), Central FM (Stirling) and West Sound Radio (Ayr/Dumfries), as well as BBC radio.

Up to the time of his death he had worked with Bangkok-based Capital Television (CTV) for almost two years. During that time he also covered the tsunami for several international networks.

CTV Managing Director Les Nyerges said the team had been "shocked and saddened" by Mr Hillis's sudden death. "He was a focused and hardworking person," Mr Nyerges added. "We will greatly miss his enthusiasm, strength and insight."

## Storms damage 35 houses

PHUKET: Storms over the weekend of May 20 and 21 damaged about 35 houses, and caused damage around the island estimated at more than 3 million baht.

The Phuket Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) reported that heavy rain and strong winds on the Saturday night and in the early hours of the Sunday toppled trees and electricity pylons, damaging buildings and cars and causing widespread blackouts.

In Phuket City, 25 houses were damaged, 20 in Phuket Municipality and five in Tambon Wichit.

ODPM Chief Duty Officer Chatchawan Munpolsri told the *Gazette* that three power poles in front of Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura's mansion were blown down, damaging a car and causing power cuts in the area behind Phuket Provincial Hall lasting nine hours from midnight on the Saturday. In Samkong, a burst transformer caused an hour-long blackout.

"In addition to this, there was damage worth about a million baht in the area of Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus," K. Chatchawan added.

Eight houses in Thalang and two houses in Patong were damaged, and a tree fell into the car park of Kathu Police Station.

## Hong Kong property show sees villa sales

HONG KONG: Three villas at The Mangosteen Resort & Spa in Rawai were sold to visitors to the Tropical Asia-Pacific Property Exhibition in Hong Kong on May 13 and 14.

The exhibition, organized by *Asia-Pacific Tropical Homes* publisher ArtAsia Press at the Renaissance Harbour View Hotel, featured 38 exhibitors from around Asia, most of them from Phuket and other locations in Thailand, as well as the Indonesian islands of Bali and Lombok, Penang in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Australia's Queensland.

The Managing Director of The Mangosteen, Hajo von Keller, said that in addition to the unexpected sales, The Mangosteen picked up 20 or so good leads, with several expected to come to Phuket soon.

Virtually all of the 2006 exhibitors told ArtAsia's Colin Piprel they planned to return for the 2007 event, planning for which is now underway. Exhibitors from the Philippines, Fiji and Vietnam are expected to take part.

A wider range of products, including financial services and yacht chartering, will also be on offer in the 2007 show.

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# Fishermen take bus home after 20-hour ordeal

AO MAKHAM: Two Thai fishermen missing after their boat sank on the night of May 16 turned up safe more than 20 hours later having been swept by wind and current from a position to the west of the Sarasin Bridge to Ao Makham, on the other side, and at the other end, of Phuket.

The men managed to climb ashore at Ao Makham on the evening of May 17 – and took a bus home.

The fishing boat *Sin Piphat* sank in rough seas about 13 miles west of the Sarasin Bridge after being hit by a large wave.

Eight of the 10 Thai and Burmese crew members were picked up on the morning of May 17 about six miles west of Phuket International Airport by a Royal

Thai Navy rescue helicopter after spending the night clinging on to two gas tanks.

The remaining two fisherman, who had grabbed life buoys just before the vessel went down, were separated from the main group.

Commodore Thiwa Daramuang, of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, told the *Gazette* that the Navy received a call at 6 pm saying that the two missing fisherman were alive after having floated to Ao Makham.

“Life buoys can carry people on water better than gas tanks, though I’m still very surprised that both of them came ashore so far away from the Sarasin Bridge area. The strong winds and tides always bring things to the south of the island. The

men managed to bring themselves safely to shore in Ao Makham,” Cdre Thiwa explained.

“The strong winds made it very difficult for us to locate the missing men; by the time we received a report that a boat had sunk, the men had already been carried a long way from the scene. The eight crew members picked up yesterday morning [May 17] had also drifted a considerable distance,” he added.

Commodore Phuchong Rodnikorn told the *Gazette* that a call had been received from the men’s relatives to say that both were safe and had got home by taking a bus from Ao Makham to Phuket City.

“I’m not sure at exactly what time they got out of the water, but we got a call

at 6 pm saying that they were alive,” he said.

Cdre Phuchong explained that it was quite possible for the men to have been swept all the way from Sarasin Bridge, around the south end of the island and north again to Ao Makham because of the strong winds caused by Typhoon Chanchu, which caused huge damage and considerable loss of life in the Philippines and southern China.

However, he added, the two fishermen have not yet met or talked with any naval officers.

Cdre Thiwa added that the Navy rescue service is available 24 hours a day and can be contacted at Tel: 076-391598.

– Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

# Phuket-Spanish team win tsunami prize

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

BANGKOK: NagaConcepts of Phuket in collaboration with Disc-O of Spain have won the international competition to design a tsunami memorial at Haad Lek in Lamru National Park in Phang Nga, caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop announced May 18.

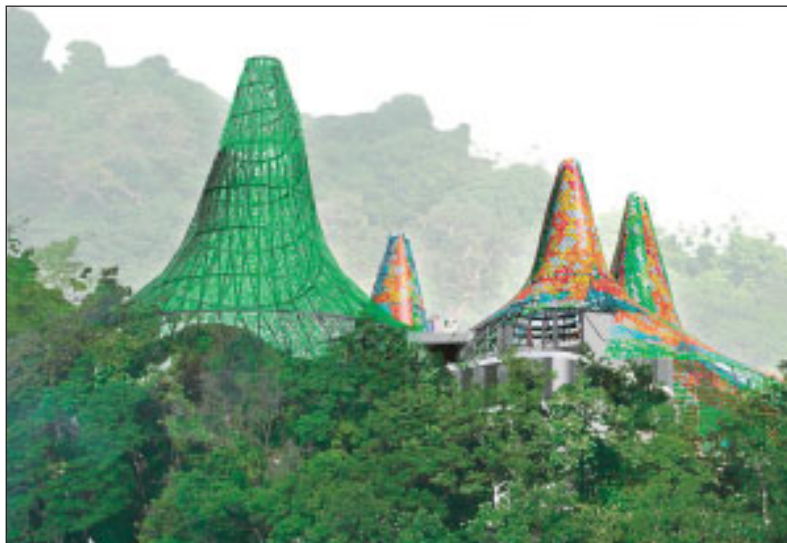
The Spanish team of architects – Ana Somoza, Juana Canet, Eva Sebastian Pena, Angel Martinez Rodriguez and 10 other members – described their design, entitled “Mountains of Remembrance”, as intended to “recreate an artificial piece of nature integrated in the park” with the aim of providing people with a place to “meditate, experience and teach themselves to live with the force of nature”.

Tharupan Wiriawiwatt, Director of the Phuket branch of NagaConcepts (Thailand), who was involved in the project, described winning the award as “something that happens only once in a lifetime”.

“Winning this high-profile award against so much competition is a dream come true.”

He worries, however, that the 700-million-baht budget for construction of the memorial will be either cut or delayed.

“I understand that the gov-



Computer-generated illustration of the ‘Mountains of Remembrance’ design by Naga Concepts and Disc-O.

ernment wants to see it completed by the end of 2008, and we are preparing a letter to Bangkok in an effort to add pressure for it to happen. But in the end, it will be up to the government,” he told the *Gazette*.

Visitors would enter the Mountains of Remembrance site through a gate and then a hall that “invites [them] to enter the forest”. A path through the forest, with meeting points and rest areas along the way, will lead to the memorial site and then to the sea.

At the highest point of the site would be five towers erected

in a cluster: The Memorial Tower (for meditation and reflection), The Museum Tower (including a lookout platform), The Warning Center (for education), The Restaurant and Shop Tower (as a place to rest) and The Amphitheater Tower (for presentations).

The Thai-Spanish design beat entries from four other finalists, from Australia, China, Finland and the US.

## Mechanics, metal bashers to be moved

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Industry Office (PPIO) has announced that car and truck mechanics’ garages and metal workers’ shops in Phuket City are to be relocated to an area outside of the city center.

The move comes as part of a zoning scheme aimed at cutting noise and air pollution. Businesses that refuse to comply will risk losing their licenses to trade.

All new car and truck repair garages seeking a license will also be required to locate in industrial parks, the first of which will be located in Kathu.

Thongchai Wichaidit, Director of the PPIO, explained that local people had been complaining about the noise and air pollution from such businesses, many of which are thought, in any case, to be in violation of pollution control rules as specified in factory control legislation.

Tackling the problem as part of the CEO Governor’s Development Plan for Phuket, the PPIO has launched a plan to move pollution-producing businesses to an industrial zone in a less-populated area, K. Thongchai said.

Provisions of the Factory

Act will be used to determine which existing businesses will be required to relocate, although small motorcycle repair shops as well as the service centers of car and truck dealerships are likely to be exempted, he said.

“We have found a suitable place for these businesses. It is a 250-rai plot of land on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, Kathu. The owner of the land, Anuphas and Son Co, is hiring a consulting company to conduct a feasibility study. I expect this to be complete around six months from now.

“Once the study is complete, the company will rent out land to businesses that have to relocate. The PPIO is finding financial institutions to assist them,” he said.

“We will take strict measures against anyone who refuses to comply with the new zoning regulations,” K. Thongchai warned. “We will not renew the licenses of businesses that pollute the city and cause complaints.”

The PPIO is also studying potential sites in other parts of the island, including Cherng Talay and Rawai, on which to set up other industrial parks.

Editorial: page 24

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**James Batt**, Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, leaves Phuket next month for a new post in the United States. Here, he looks back at the 10 years he has spent with Laguna, and some of the lessons he has learned from the experience.

# 10 years

When I first arrived in Phuket, a Thai colleague told me something I was to hear many more times during my life here: “Phuket people say that as long as there are fish in the sea, and rice in the fields, then they are lucky, and can be content with their lives.”

Well, I can't argue with the fact that Phuket is indeed a lucky place, both for its citizens and for those of us who have been fortunate enough to be adopted by it.

But it didn't stop with fish and rice. Along came rubber and tin, and with them the migration of Chinese families to Phuket. And for many decades Phuket was thus luckier still.

And then came the goose with the golden egg called tourism, and we would have to say that nowadays we are a long way from a subsistence economy of fish and rice!

Tourism and Phuket are a perfect fit. A beautiful tropical island, the charm of Thai hospitality, and an airport big enough to accept the airplanes that bring the people here. Well, nearly, but more about the airport in a moment.

First of all, how do we answer the questions which confront us in our daily lives?

Can Phuket sustain the seemingly exponential growth it has seen in recent years?

Why is law and order so important and so difficult to implement?

And even more enigmatic questions such as what exactly is it that happens to the gentle spirit of the Thais when they get behind the wheel of a car?

**Politics and Religion:** On a recent trip to the United States, I was asked whether it was true that it was the persecution of Christians in Thailand that actually saved so many of them from the tsunami, because they had taken to the hills to avoid discovery at Christmas time, and were therefore out of harm's way.

I mention this not because it is such a bizarre example of urban legend, but because it came from a very well-educated bible scholar who had read this in a trusted source.

Of course we all know that this is a place of religious tolerance. Predominantly Buddhist, but with a large population of Muslims, and, yes, a few Christians, all of whom are free to practice their faith.

As part of my life here, I have regularly attended services in Wats and Mosques, as well as our weekly Catholic Mass at Laguna.

It works beautifully. I have learned from my Buddhist and Muslim friends and colleagues, and would have to say that this has been one of the most enriching ingredients of my stay in Thailand.

The cremation service for the late Abbott of Wat Cherno Talay was as magnificent as any religious service I can remember.

The Muslim population of Bang Tao is surely a model of how one group can be free to follow their particular faith and impress the rest of us.

Their youth programs, community outreach, and sense of civic pride would be the envy of any community, of whatever faith, anywhere in the world.

But what of politics? I am sure that if I had been born Thai, I would stand for public office.

I share my enthusiasm for matters political in Thailand with very few non-Thais (one of the few is editor of this newspaper) but, probably as part of my job, I studied it more and more, and over time, I began, I think, to understand.

As I move on from this arena, I do so with hope; and here's why: Some eight years ago, Thailand framed a new constitution moving much of the power down the line to local authorities.

The concept was right, and came at an important time in the evolution of democracy in the country. But as time has passed, I have made two observations and I have a feeling that recent events at the center of the political arena may lead to their resolution.

First, the position of *Kamnan* and *Phu Yai Baan* (local headmen). Under the new constitution, they were not included in the chain of command.

The tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) and municipalities (*Tessaban*) go about their work, and their orbits collide from time to time with these traditional roles, but if you drew an organization chart of local government, their positions would be linked by a series of dotted lines.

I heard an interesting tale from Sudjit Nimitkul, our former Governor of Phuket (he is now retired in Bangkok, but I visit him every New Year, and he is doing very well).

During a large meeting to

discuss local government, it was mooted that the positions of *Phu Yai Baan* and *Kamnan* should be eliminated altogether.

It was K. Sudjit who stood up at the meeting, in front of the chairman, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and argued that this could not possibly be the solution and that the people of Thailand would not wear such a decision, and that they must be allocated a meaningful role.

The chairman agreed with him, and the meeting moved on to another topic.

Second, the division of responsibility and authority. Assuming that accountability is a basic precept of productivity, I suggest that what we need in order to make all of the laws work is an organization adjusted to reflect the concept, starting with the appointment of the CEO Governor.

The idea of an elected Governor for Phuket (like the one in Bangkok) is debated from time to time, but it is surely unlikely that a central government of one party would let this loose when all the signs are that a Governor of the opposition party would prevail.

We have been lucky to have Governor Udomsak Usurangkura in Phuket, but I believe he will retire later this year and within the current Civil Service structure, there is still a need to tidy up the arrangements.

It should be said that I was brought up in a family that served on a mixture of county councils, borough councils, urban district councils and rural district councils; organizations awfully similar to our *OrBorTor*, *Amphur*, *Tessaban* and *OrBorTor*, so I am sure it can be done!

And my reason for hope? I think that current events in the government may lead to another look at the Constitution, and the opportunity to tweak the work done the last time around.

Of course, it's not quite as simple as that; there are years of history, delicate customs and traditions, which must be respected. But we need a framework to prevent the “dark influences” as they have been called, from hiding behind such arguments to further their illegal causes.

You won't be surprised to hear me include beach hawkers in this group, but we all have our pet peeves, whether they be the airport taxi situation (and, by the way, meter taxis are still prevented from operating at the Laguna hotels), or the interesting situation where boats cannot pick up passengers from certain beaches “protected” by local “citizens”.

**Property and Title:** It is quite a challenge to explain Thai land title laws to newcomers to the Kingdom. It's a bit like trying to describe the rules of cricket to an American.

Sure, it's a delicate subject even when you think you know the rules, but I have to believe that it is a critical nettle which needs to be grasped, because it isn't going to get better on its own.

What we need is a modern-day Magna Carta – a once-and-for-all map that shows who owns what and describes clearly what is in private hands (and whose hands those are!), and what is under public ownership.

It's a huge task, but Phuket would surely be a good place to



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# in Phuket

start (well, perhaps I shouldn't say "start" because there have been some starts, perhaps "complete" would be better). Hands up who would like to be on the committee that makes the decisions, though!

**The Phuket Convention Center:** I have lost count of the number of times this subject has been raised during my time in Phuket.

Objectively, I don't really agree with the idea as it is currently conceived. A large convention center which will necessarily need to be filled for a large part of the year with the type of convention traffic currently catered for by the likes of Pattaya, would not, I would argue, be in the best interest of the island's long-term development.

What we should be concentrating on is increasing the spending by the tourists already coming to the island or, as hoteliers put it, increasing the average rate and discretionary spend of the visitor.

This will fuel revenue growth without putting further strain on the infrastructure.

But if you want to be inspired by some really great potential, and a possible answer to this, go and have lunch in their restaurant on the top floor of the Royal Phuket City Hotel and take a look at the view over Phuket Town's waterfront.

Then overlay Singapore's Clarke Quay, or San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf. It could be absolutely world-class, would revitalize Phuket Town, and feed the downtown hotels which deserve a break and perhaps could spawn a small convention center into the bargain.

If I were a political party wanting to curry favor in this province, I would jump on this opportunity. Seriously, go and take a look, and dream a little.

**Infrastructure:** Hoteliers and property developers never lose sight of the fact that we are fortunate to have such wonderful infrastructure. Good road networks, international-standard hospitals, an international school, and shopping centers; a recipe for success indeed.

It was the building of the airport that enabled tourism in the first place. A Thai colleague at Laguna jokes that his first job was chasing the buffalo off the runway when a flight was expected and unquestionably it is the airlines and the airport which deliver the guests who are our tourism industry.

But two things should be high on the agenda concerning the provision of direct flights into Phuket. We need these to stay competitive as more and more tropical locations offer direct service without the need for a stop-

over (in our case, this is usually Singapore or Bangkok).

First, what is happening about lengthening the runway? I have asked this question several times recently, but did not get a concrete (if you will excuse the expression) reply.

The problem is that big aircraft can land here from distant lands, but when they are laden with passengers, fuel, and cargo (or baggage) the runway isn't quite long enough for them to take off again for the return leg.

Second, we need to continue to work with our partners in the airline industry to encourage direct services to Phuket, particularly from regional markets.

I have been particularly interested in Hong Kong, for example, which has far fewer direct flights into Phuket than before the tsunami. At a meeting with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Thai Airways International in late April, we discussed this matter again, and the task of keeping this issue on the front burner mustn't be neglected.

**Property sales and the economy:** The selling of property has become a major part of Phuket's economy in recent years. For Laguna Phuket, a significant share of our profits now comes from this sector, and we see this as continuing for the foreseeable future.

The sector should be recognized as an important ingredient of Thailand's tourism income (Phuket accounts for about a quarter of the nation's tourism revenue).

The recent arrangements to facilitate long-stay visas undertaken by the TAT are an excellent example of the kind of thing that will help.

Some relaxation on the strictures concerning foreign ownership of land will be very difficult to achieve, but would have a dramatic effect on the economy.

**Cross culturalism and cross cultural 'heroes':** For nearly 10 years, we have insisted that every manager at Laguna Phuket attend a cross-cultural seminar which is organized by Dr Henry Holmes (the author of the excellent book *Working with Thais*).

The course is for both Thais and non-Thais and, for two days, it attempts to explore the differences and the similarities between Thai and non-Thai cultures.

Of course it is just an introduction, but has produced excellent results in team-building, and encouraging managers to understand what makes their cross-cultural colleagues tick.

But for all of this, I have become convinced that there are



some people who will "get it" and some who never will.

The never-will-get-it category don't usually stay long, but we have become increasingly good at spotting them during the recruitment process, so failures of this sort have become a rarity.

Let me end by celebrating some "cross-cultural heroes" – people who have made a difference in Phuket largely due to their understanding of others.

It would be easy here to include such luminaries as Phummisak Hongsyok (legendary for his public service in Phuket), Kanit Yongsakul, Wichit Na Ranong, Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, Eam Tavornwongwong

and so on, but how about some people whose labors often go unnoticed but whose contribution are so valuable? People like...

Poo Yai Manoch Panchalad, one of the leaders of the Bang Tao community I have described earlier. He is a healer of differences, a voice of common sense in often difficult times; a humble man; a holy man and a beacon of his faith after the tsunami.

Piyanoot Hongsyok, sister of K. Phummisak, whose managerial skills shaped the Bangkok Phuket Hospital into the world-class facility it now is, and whose attention has more recently been turned to medical tourism.

Prasit Koesiripong, a doc-

tor of medicine who never lost the ethic of serving the people after he had turned his attention to politics, as if his Hippocratic Oath is still in force. He is a bridge between the Thai and non-Thai communities.

Niyom Tassaneetipagorn, close to home for me – the Phuket man who led me through the mysteries of Thai politics and its culture. He is Laguna Phuket's government and community liaison officer (and serves on our company's board).

And three non-Thais for good measure.

Father Richard Woodarek. A Catholic priest who has lived on the island for some 40 years, teaching (I am amazed at how many of Phuket's Phu Yais know him; he taught them all!), preaching and reaching out to the Phuket community.

John Magee, who founded the *Phuket Gazette* and who has so responsibly steered the reportage of the newspaper to great effect in gently airing the other point of view.

Neil Cumming, a visionary who early on saw the potential of the Internet and registered phuket.com but who, apart from his business interests which have done so much to promote the island, was a pioneer of charity work on Phuket and was a founder of perhaps the original charity fundraising group, "Helping Hands".

He is still to this day a sponsor of good causes for Thai and non-Thai causes alike.

To these "Magnificent Seven", and the dozens more they represent, who have made my time in Phuket the richest years of my life, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude, and to wish you all the very best for what I am sure will be a prosperous and very bright future.

Chork dee Phuket! And a heartfelt thank-you.

”

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## Stamps commemorate life of renowned monk

**T**his set of four three-baht stamps commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Bhikkhu Buddhadasa (1906-1993), a revered monk from Surat Thani province and founder of the Suan

Mokkhabalarama temple (Wat Suan Mokkh), in Surat Thani. 1.5 million first day covers have been printed and are due to go on sale at all post offices on May 27, Bhikkhu Buddhadasa's birthday. Price is 22 baht.



**NAI HARN:** Reader James Litorice sent us this photo of this impromptu dump in the middle of an upscale villa neighborhood on Nai Harn's Soi Naya.

The photo was taken 24 hours after the dump was set alight. Six days later, Mr Litorice wrote, it was still smoldering. For several days there was no breeze and as a result a toxic fog settled on the neighborhood.

Sourly, Mr Litorice remarked, "The next time a developer touts 'fresh exotic breezes' as a feature of the property he's selling, make sure he means it's oxygen you'll be breathing in and not the result of someone else's trash disposal."

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## Queer News

# ER, NOW, WHO AM I TODAY?

**I**n some places a person who frequently changes his or her name might fall under suspicion of illegal activity. But in Ubon Ratchathani Province's Phibun Mungsaharn District it is the pillars of society – school teachers and other career bureaucrats – who change their names most often.

Teachers in the district have been heading for the local registrar's office in droves to change their names, hoping the personal re-branding will bring them improved fortune – such as through promotions or pay rises at work.

Aram Somsuay, an accountant with the Ubon Ratchathani Educational Area District 3 Office, said teachers in Phibun Mungsaharn District were among the most prolific name changers.

"Some teachers had already changed both their given names and family names four times, persuading their family members to do the same," he said.

One entire family that had recently undergone a complete name change, with better reason than most, were the surviving relatives of deceased Tessabaaan 1 School English teacher Dissanee Thongnarkthae, who was murdered and dismembered earlier this month in Bangkok by a Pakistani man she met in an online chat room, he noted.

Niyom Saisena, Director of Tessabaaan 1 School in Ban Potiklang, Phibun Mungsaharn District, said that more than 20 of the school's 55 teachers had changed both their first and last names at least once at the advice of a colleague who is also a fortune teller.

"As a result, I find it hard to remember their names, so now I just call them by their nicknames," the Director confessed.

"It isn't just in schools, though; it's common in all civil service departments," he said.

One man who reported positive results from such a name change was teacher Jakkrapan Chaifyingkijisiri, who began life as Somchai Chaifying before going through three name changes.

"Before I changed my name I was quick-tempered and moody. After changing names I have calmed down somewhat," he said.

A source in the district registrar's office revealed that in the first half of May alone, more than 100 people had come to the office to change their names.

He noted, however, that among this number were quite a few people who had already changed their names as many as four times and were now changing back to the names their parents had given them at birth.

*Source: Kom Chad Luek*



Advocates for night workers urged the Ministry of Labour (MoL) to take care of an estimated 300,000 employees working in night-entertainment venues who are not protected by employment laws and are often taken advantage of by unscrupulous bosses.

The recent fire at Pattaya's Route 999 a-go-go complex, which killed eight people, was a prime example of how night workers were left unprotected, said Chantawipa Apisuk, Director of the Center for Sex Workers' Protection, also known as Empower.

Fire exits at the Pattaya club were useless because the operators locked them to stop customers slipping out the door without paying, she said.

Night workers, who should be protected by labor laws if they clock in and out and are paid a fixed salary, are usually not included in social-security schemes because their employers claim they skip from one place to the next at short notice, she added.

National Human Rights Commissioner Naiyana Supapung agreed night workers should not be discriminated against, even if their place of employment falls under the Service Places Act of 1966.

Without offering specifics, Sathaporn Charupa, Director of the MoL's worker's protection bureau, said his agency would be more strict with nightclub owners in the future.

**Medical travel soars:** Moves to make Thailand one of Asia's top medical hubs have gone well, with a more than 50% annual increase in the number of foreigners using health services here.

Health Service Support Department Director General Supachai Kunarattanapreuk said the project, begun in 2003, had yielded a satisfactory result. About one million foreigners now use medical services in Thailand each year, generating almost 30 billion baht in revenue.

The most popular services among foreigners are surgery for chronic illnesses, cosmetic surgery and dental services, he said.

Japanese were the largest group of customers followed by Americans, Britons, Taiwanese and other Asian nationals, he said.

Currently, Thailand ranks second – after India – for medical services in Asia, he added.

**Back to basics:** After fighting with spiraling oil costs, some farmers in Isarn have decided to ditch their petrol-driven tractors for grass-fed water buffalo.

"They're cheaper, more environmentally friendly and better for our income," said Prawat Khamphakdi, chairman of the Roi Et Thai Buffalo Conservation Club.

K. Prawat, who has led a neighbors' campaign promoting buffalo-powered farming, said, "With the same cash, we now can get only half the fuel we used to. So we can no longer use motor-



**EAGER TO LEARN:** A policeman and his wife prepare to take their two sons to school in Bangkok on the first day of the new academic year. It is a scene repeated at many places around the country as schools reopen this month after a two-week holiday.

# Sex workers 'need more protection'

ized equipment for farming. We have to cut all unnecessary costs as much as possible, and the buffalo option is one good way out," he said.

The club has enlisted 100 households with some 300 head of buffalo; all of the households have agreed to farm with their draft animals, he said.

"It takes a longer time to prepare the soil for planting rice, but the natural fertilizer from buffaloes means farmers pay less for chemical fertilizers," he added.

**One tambon one doctor:** In a bid to alleviate the chronic shortage of doctors in rural areas, the Ministry of Public Health has come up with a "One tambon, one doctor" (OTOD) plan.

The six-year project, to begin this year, will train 4,530 new doctors. Separated from the normal university admission system, the medical students will be under the control of the Medical Council, said Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat.

Normally, Thailand produces about 2,000 doctors each year, which is far from sufficient to meet demand because hundreds of doctors move to private hospitals annually.

Those trained and employed under the OTOD scheme will be obligated to work in a certain hos-

pital for 12 years, or face a fine of 2.2 million baht.

Currently, the obligatory period of working after graduation is only three years; failure to comply carries a fine of 400,000 baht.

**In hot water:** Following a 5-million-baht grant by the European Union, the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency agreed in principle to

collaborate in a project to develop solar water-heating technology for use by Thai industry.

However, Ministry of Energy representative Nitiratana Suponpis said similar technology failed to become popular after it

was introduced in Thailand in the 1980s.

Many hospitals and hotels that stopped using their solar systems a few years after installation cited poor design, difficult maintenance and lack of spare parts available locally as reasons for abandoning their systems. The project should first overcome such barriers, otherwise the technology will face even more skepticism, he noted.

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

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## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

**T**he Chief of Thailand's Tourist Police, Pol Maj Gen Panya Mamen, visited Koh Pha-ngan on May 12 to check on security at the monthly Full Moon Party.

On the night of the party, the Major General and his team inspected a 200-strong police and volunteer patrol force comprising officers from the Samui division, as well as others from the Koh Pha-ngan Police and local volunteers.

Pol Col Teerawat Namsi-taan, Chief of the local Tourist Police, invited his commander to the party, hoping to gain more support from Bangkok. During the visit, Gen Panya held meetings with the Samui District Office to discuss ways to improve the safety of foreigners attending the event.

Before Gen Panya's May 9 visit, the Koh Samui Tourist Police, in concert with officers from Choeng Mon police box, apprehended a 29-year-old woman who was under investigation for drug dealing.

A few days before the Full Moon Party, the police discovered that Sudarat Mikeaw had called a local village leader, Withaya Sucksom, to discuss



The islands around Koh Samui are finally receiving protection from exploitation, with the launch of the Eco City Plan for Koh Taen.

# Tourist Police crackdown on Full Moon Party

renting a speedboat to take her to Koh Pha-ngan.

Col Teerawat contacted the speedboat owner and asked for his cooperation. He agreed, and

when the woman arrived to rent the boat, K. Withaya kept her at his house until the police came to search her.

K. Sudarat had 21 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets and two packs of *ya ice* (a crystalline form of methamphetamine) concealed in napkins and straws about her person. She admitted that she intended to sell the drugs at the Full Moon Party and was later arrested and taken to the police station for further questioning.

### Eco plan posted for local ap-

**proval:** On May 16, the Samui Municipality officially announced an "Eco City Plan" for the small island of Koh Taen, located off the south coast of Samui.

The plan will be posted at public offices for three months in order for local residents to air their grievances and concerns regarding the development of the island.

According to Warakorn Rattanak, head of the Samui Municipality office, the eco-plan includes a no-vehicle policy for the island, which means locals and visitors will be able to travel

only on foot or by bicycle. There will also be strict construction regulations imposed, restricting the height of all new buildings to no more than six meters.

Koh Taen covers an area of 7½ square kilometers and is home to some of the last extensive mangrove forest in the region.

It is also famed for a large population of Lesser False Vampire Bats, and is renowned throughout Thailand as the only island in the country without any dogs.

**Major Cineplex opens on Samui:** A much anticipated three-screen Major Cineplex, located at the Tesco Lotus Superstore in Chaweng, opened its doors to the public in early May.

The island's first cinema attracted long queues of people to buy tickets for the first two screenings of some of the latest Hollywood blockbusters and will continue to screen major box-office films.

The latest addition to Samui's culture and entertainment scene is sure to make an impact and some local people see it as a sign that companies are broadening their services to include the residential as well as the tourist market.

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By Janyaporn Morel

If your children have been threatening to run away and join the circus, there's no need to worry. If they're as smart as you say they are, they probably have not gone any further than the KidzSolé Circus at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa at Mai Khao.

There they can learn to juggle, build pyramids, become human jump ropes, ride on a bicycle built for eight, do flips on a trampoline and fly through the air on a trapeze.

KidzSolé Founder and Director USA/Asia Ronald J. Pascoe, or "K. Pee", explained to the *Gazette* that KidzSolé started offering its courses at the JW Marriott at the beginning of April.

"We have just started our low-season schedule, offering morning classes for children from four to seven years old at 10 am and at 11 am children from eight to 12 years old can join in too," K. Pee said.

"Depending on the numbers wanting to participate, we are also offering flying trapeze classes for all ages – from basic to advanced-level training – on Asia's only 'mini rig' at 3 pm, 4 pm and 5 pm," he added.

One of the simple trapeze maneuvers taught is the "catch and return". K. Pee explains that flyers are taught positions on a stationary trapeze on the ground then given the opportunity to perform the trick in the air. The newly trained trapeze artists fly through the air, make a catch and then return back to the fly bar from where they began.

He said that no special skills, talent or athletic ability are required. All that is needed is a willingness to take part and a desire to go beyond self-imposed limits.

"The kids gain a greater sense of worth and confidence, and learn to work in groups. They develop listening skills and learn to trust themselves and their trainer," K. Pee said.

"They are taught choreographed routines as they build confidence and overcome fears. They also increase their body awareness," he added.

The kids also get a chance to show off their newly found talents to their parents by performing each Friday afternoon in a "grand finale" called The JW KidzSolé Family Circus Extravaganza.

"Each child has an opportunity to be in the show, based on their ability and willingness to participate," K. Pee said.

He added that the courses are not just for kids. "We have a 'Flying For Fitness' program that gives you a total body workout

# No need to run away to join the circus

and an experience to enlighten the senses. It's great for corporate events and team building exercises," he said.

K. Pee explained that Thailand's enticing charm was one of the main factors in deciding to bring KidzSolé to Phuket.

"After having visited the Kingdom regularly over the past few years, we decided on Thailand for many reasons. We love the Thai people, the warmth, the sincerity, the kindness, the generosity, the calm soothing voices, the beaches, the food and of course the famous Thai smile is number one.

"There is something that happens to you when you are greeted everyday, every moment with a Thai smile," he said.

"We chose the JW Marriott for our campus for several reasons. First of all, it is a highly respected hotel and vacation property chain worldwide. We realized we had the opportunity to create memories to last a lifetime and to offer an experience to enlighten the senses for all the members and guests of the hotel.

"Another huge reason, and maybe the main reason for us being here, is because of two very important people: Sean Panton, Director of Recreation and Corporate Team Building, and Sam Samahrat, Assistant Director of Recreation at the Marriott," K. Pee explained.

"I had contacted many resorts in Phuket to give them the opportunity to be the first hotel in Thailand to introduce this new and unique program. Everyone was interested, but nobody stepped up.

"I had actually kept in excellent contact with Sam for more than a year. We were close to an agreement after eight months of emails, until it was decided against at the last moment.

"In January I contacted Sam again and in two weeks we had

made an agreement for KidzSolé to make its debut in Thailand. It was also the first time that KidzSolé had ever teamed up with a Marriott hotel. Sam acted quickly, decisively, with confidence and 'positive vibes'. He did in two weeks what before could not be achieved in months. This is a guy and a team we wanted to work with, so it was done."

K. Pee said that so far he has received very good feedback from children and their families.

"We have been involved in this program for over 19 years and have taught it around the



Below, left: Flying through the air with the greatest of ease. Above: adding a bit of bounce on a ring in the ring.

world in three languages. The response from the families and kids has always been positive. We have already had families returning to the Marriott two or three times just to do the circus," he said.

All are invited to join the KidzSolé circus training program. Prices are 900 baht for

a one-day training course and 4,000 baht for a five-day course. The weekly KidzSolé Family Circus Extravaganza is free to join and to watch.

For more information, contact K. Pee by email to [KidzSole@msn.com](mailto:KidzSole@msn.com), or Sean Panton at Tel: 076-338000 ext 3700 or email: [sean.panton@marriotthotels.com](mailto:sean.panton@marriotthotels.com)



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## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket



Dr Sasimet Tabthieng and Pittaya Khorpanlert celebrated their marriage in the Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on May 1.



Dararat Khonkaew and David Weale from England were married at the Karon Beach Resort on April 22.

*Leo, does your voice change in the tropics?*

That's an interesting question. Last night during the full set it went a bit funny. It was all there, but it broke up a little bit and I think the high humidity made it all a bit of a fight. It's not so much a physical thing – I mean I'm reasonably fit even though I don't work out, but I've always had this powerful voice. But the humidity!

*Is this your first time in Phuket?*

Would you believe that it is? I've been to Samui, Chiang Mai, all over Bangkok and the South, but this is my first time in Phuket.

I've got many friends who have lived here for years; some of whom live in Phuket [City] and in this area [Cherng Talay] but I've never had the opportunity to come here before.

When the tsunami happened I was on Koh Samui at a spa, a health place in the hills. We saw a change in the water – all of a sudden it became brown from the effects of the tsunami.

As for Phuket I've got a couple of friends who are no longer around because of it. I've been trying to write a song about it. Not gratuitously, it was something that came up from a story I read about a German lady who regularly flies over and waits for her daughter to come back, even though she knows it's impossible.

*How long have you been on the road?*

Since I put the Australian band together we've been on the road for nine months now.

*What makes a happy tourer?*

A good band! Basically they're a good bunch of friends that I'm working and playing with. They've become my family. It's difficult to describe to the "outside world" as all they can see is Leo standing there but it's not like that – I work very closely with the musicians so it becomes a shared experience.

People in Thailand may not know Leo Sayer, but sing "Woh, woh, yeah, yeah, I love you more than I can say..." and eyes light up all round. It's by no means Leo's only hit, however; he has had a successful singing career spanning three decades. Discovered by singer-turned-manager Adam Faith, he hit No 2 in the UK charts with his debut song *The Show Must Go On*. He has had transatlantic hits ever since, particularly in the '80s.

More recently, he made a surprise return to the top of the charts with Meck's remix of *Thunder In My Heart*. Sydney-based Leo was in Phuket with his band to play at a party of the recent incentive group event at Laguna Phuket for customers of electrical components giant Hagemeyer.

The *Gazette's* Sam Wilkinson, no stranger to the mike himself, caught up with Leo in the Dusit Laguna.



*Do you actually play an instrument?*

Only in the studio. I mean there are keyboards and computers and all sorts to get us out of trouble these days.

*I've got a guitar in the car in case you want to bash out a song for us.*

No, no! You would try, wouldn't you?

*You were top of the charts a couple of months back. How did that feel?*

It's a very strange feeling to be in there battling with the likes of Madonna and Eminem and being knocked off the top of the charts by people who weren't even around when I started.

The other strange thing was going over to England recently to do [TV program] *Top Of The Pops*. There wasn't one person

in the building that was born when I did the original track [of *Thunder In My Heart*] in 1977.

But that's the lasting power of music and very much proof of how good songs hang around. Good music is timeless, but I'm really not into nostalgia and I mostly listen to new music.

*Does your first album Silverbird (1973) seem like an eternity ago?*

No, not really. I have to listen to it at the moment as I'm doing a project with an artist called Geoff Todd, who's doing pictures to accompany my lyrics. So I'm looking back at a lot of the music now and putting it all together. For me it all blurs. Something you wrote in 1973 could sound like something you write right now.

*Did you ever feel like a mirror image of Elton John and Bernie Taupin? After all, you wrote the lyrics and David Courtney wrote the music while Elton wrote the music and Bernie wrote the lyrics.*

Not really, no. Everything that worked then was relevant at the time and none of what worked then is relevant now, so even if you listen to the music now you can't listen to it with the same relevance, because songs grow. Nothing is held to just that time.

I suppose if you're a band like Kool & The Gang or Slade then you live in the past because the style is very much part of it.

Time is something you have to wash out of your life. I'm an anti-time person, anti-nostalgia. History doesn't make any difference because, basically, the songs live in their own structure.

I've had people from bands like Travis come up and ask, "Was that song recorded last year?" *Moonlighting* to them sounds like something new. I've never gotten too hung up on the time thing.

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The show must go on for a singer who makes us all feel like dancing

# There's still thunder in Leo's heart

In my day we had Paul Simon, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, all at their peak, so there was a lot to compete with...



Which present-day artists would you say will have the same quality in 20 years' time as they do today?

There are people like David Gray, who are obviously great songwriters and who always come up with good songs. I think Ben Harper is terrific.

Still, there are a lot that are purported to be the next Bob Dylan and it just doesn't quite happen.

I don't know how many people know – and I may be a little controversial here – but people like James Blunt and Natalie Imbruglia don't actually write their own songs. They have co-writers and it's all very constructed.

Don't forget that in my day we had Paul Simon, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, all at their peak, so there was a lot to compete with and I don't really think you have that same essence now. There's not a lot now, so good songs will stand out.

Nowadays you have a situation in which songs are written on music sequencers and computers and the same chorus will go over and over and over and the same verse will go over and over.

The craft isn't really the same. I mean there's so much happening in the world and

they've got all this technology and what do they do? They write bloody love songs!

*But isn't repetitive music a play on tribal music?*

Perhaps. Some of the rap stuff is more relevant than anything else.

But we're in a world where everyone seems to have a short attention span. You go see *King Kong* one week and it's the greatest thing, everyone talks about it and the next week it's completely and utterly forgotten. It's as though it never existed.

This short-attention-span world is not so good for music that is made from passion and music that has a great amount of work going into it.

I have a current album called *Voices In My Head* that is doing the rounds. But because it's not immediately commercially accessible, most people don't get the album in one sitting, so it lives in a different stratum and world.

Again, time is not a factor as [the album] might be a record that hangs around for a while, like *Dark Side Of The Moon*.

If Elvis and Bob Marley can come back, then *Thunder In My Heart* by Leo Sayer can. All these things can live again. If the

music's good, it's timeless. *Many people say that When I Need You is their favorite Leo Sayer song because it encapsulates you. Which of your songs does it for you?*

Oh, that song's only a part of things. That's the ballad singer. *Thunder In My Heart* is now arguably a bigger hit than *When I Need You* and that's the soul singer side. *Giving It All Away* is the singer-songwriter side.

There are lots of different sides to it. There's not really one song that describes me more than the others.

*Who was the song One Man Band about?*

It was about me! I was busking and, I dunno, I got run over by a taxi cab! It described my life so I wrote it down.

*Is that where you got your big*

*voice? From singing on the street?*

No, I used to sing in school choirs and rock 'n' roll bands. There weren't many good PA systems in those days, so you had to sing out. The guitarist would be louder so you had to get over him to be heard.

*Why are you living in Sydney?*

In England I'm forced to live in the past and I don't want to do that. I don't think it's healthy. I felt I wanted to come to a new country and Australia is a place where I can go and do new things. There's a fresh "can-do" attitude. Everyone wants to go for it.

I mean, in England I've just had a No 1 hit and I've got 20 to 30 people every day telling me why things can't happen. There's no positivity in Europe, that's what's really sad.



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The phone, designed for simplicity with no screen or number pad, is available in five colors.

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

## A bear necessity for all children

In modern Thailand, mobile-phone fashion is almost impossible to avoid. Shopping malls devote whole floors to stores selling the newest models of phones – often priced at two or three times the average monthly wage – along with a plethora of covers, decorations and accessories.

Now a Taiwanese company is hoping to get children hooked on the mobile life from an even earlier age.

Guidetek's "I-Care" kids' telephone is aimed squarely at pre- and primary-school aged children – and their anxious parents.

The external design is purely for children under 10 years old. It comes in five bright colors and is shaped like a bear, complete with flashing LEDs in the ears. The phone has no screen or number pad, just large speed-dial buttons with pictures representing mum and dad on them. It can store up to four numbers, but they

must be downloaded from another mobile phone.

It is full of features to ease the minds of those worried about their children's safety. The phone has a 'remote activities monitoring' (RAM) function, which allows parents to phone up and listen in to what their children are doing.

It also has two SOS buttons, which when pressed will send a message to three stored numbers simultaneously and turn on the RAM function. Very useful in a ransom-demand situation, according to the manufacturers.

The makers of the I-Care claim that their phones release 88% less radiation than average cell phones, which will be a comfort to parents worried about the possible side effects of their children using mobile phones. The

phone's shell is also specially designed to withstand the rough treatment that any children's possession is likely to receive.

The phone takes an ordinary SIM card so can be used on any network. The battery has a standby life of around 100 hours and a talk time of around 90 minutes. It was released in Thailand at the beginning of this year and is now available in Phuket at OA Mobile, in Big C Super-center.

"Sales of the phone have not really taken off yet," admitted K. Aew, the shop's owner.

"At 3,990 baht the price is as high as for a normal phone. Most parents still prefer to buy a regular mobile," she explained.

"Children, on the other hand, love the phone. When they see it, they beg their parents to buy it for them. Some parents give in and buy one, but we have had some embarrassing scenes when children don't get their own way and have to be dragged from the shop kicking and screaming."

*The I-Care Kids telephone is available at OA Mobile, Big C Supercenter, Chalermparkiat Ror IX Rd. It is open every day from 9 am to 9 pm. For further details contact K. Aew at Tel: 076-249135.*

Teenagers turn to technology to

# Is your nail art up to scratch?



Queen shop employee Paipan 'Ae' Petjan shows off the nail machine.



Some of the many designs available.

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## let their fingers do the talking, reports JENJIRA RUENGJARUS



**A** new hi-tech development from the world of fashion made its debut in Phuket recently.

A shop in Ocean Shopping Mall, a popular teenage hangout in Phuket City, has invested in an automatic computer-aided nail-painting machine.

This new piece of technological wizardry can paint com-

plicated patterns on fingernails in a fraction of the time it would take to do by hand.

The craze for nail art spread from Hong Kong and South Korea to Bangkok and now is popular all over Thailand.

In April, Sathimon "White" Suwannapong, owner of The Queen clothing and accessories shop, decided to take advantage of the trend by bringing the first nail-painting machine to Phuket.

"The nail-painting machine is operated by a normal home computer.

"You just need to enter the code for the pattern you want and the machine will paint it. We then use a varnish solution over the top so that the pattern will last for two or three weeks," K. White explains.

After choosing a pattern from the many available, there are three steps to making beautiful nails.

First, a foundation is applied. A basic color, either white or white pearl, is used to make the pattern stand out more clearly. Then a fluorescent varnish is painted on to make the nails appear brighter.

When the varnish is dry, it's time for the nail-painting machine to do its work.

There are two types of machine, one for doing one nail at a time and another for doing five nails together.

The process takes about 30 minutes in total and the price for painting all 10 nails starts from 50 baht and rises to 250 baht, depending on the complexity of the design.

Both long and short nails can be painted by the machine as it can be adjusted to fit any size.

Moreover, customers who want to use their own design, or even a photograph, just need to bring the computer file into the

shop where it can be loaded into the nail-painting machine.

Customers have brought in photos of friends, boyfriends, pets and flowers to have painted on their nails.

"Teenagers are very interested in the nail-painting machine because it is new to them and is quicker than doing nails by hand. The application of the color is smoother, too.

"I installed this technology at the beginning of April so that it

would be ready for the school holidays.

"When the schools are closed most of our customers are students, but during school time we have more people of working age," she adds.

*The Queen shop is on the second floor of the Ocean Shopping Mall, Phuket City, between Sunita garment shop and Chocolate shoe shop. It is open daily from 10 am to 9 pm.*



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## This week



**BABA BAAN:** Dr Koson Tang-uthai, Adviser to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, hands a certificate of appreciation to Boonsri Hongyok for allowing a seminar on *Baba Peranakan* (descendants of Chinese who settled in the region) to be held in her Sino-Portuguese-style home Baan Hongsyok, in Phuket City.



**PREFAB FOUR:** Peerapong Supaorus (center), General Manager of the The Metropole hotel in Phuket City, welcomes UBC *Academy Fantasia* stars (from left) Panupon 'Joe' Ake-etch, Anusara 'Preaw' Wanthongthak, Alisa 'Kookai' Sim and Thanakrit 'Wan' Phanitwit, who were on the island recently to perform at a concert for the Phuket launch of the Honda Click motorcycle.



**IN THE PINK:** Artist Pongpipat Prasertkornkit (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and guests, including Jay-Da Rodnit of Rinda Magical Art (left), attend the opening cocktail party for the 'Modern Thai' exhibition – a series of acrylic paintings influenced by Buddhism and nature's cycle of life – at Mom Tri's Lobster Square Gallery.



**STATE VISIT:** *Phuket Gazette* Managing Editor Alasdair Forbes and Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaporn welcome Ravindra Kumar (right), Editor and Managing Director of India's *The Statesman*, to the *Gazette's* offices recently.



**BACK TO SCHOOL:** At the C&N Resort and Spa in Patong to welcome students to this year's Hospitality and Tourism Management MBA course at Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket campus, are (front, from left) Dr Aree Tirasatayapitak; Pathummalai Pattaro, Dean of the Faculty of Service Industries; and MBA program director Assoc Prof Manat Chaisawat.



**A HOUSE FOR A HOME:** Life Home Project founder Jos L Gay (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and friends celebrate the grand opening of The House of the Beautiful Images coffee shop and photo gallery in Soi Romanee, in Phuket City's Sino-Portuguese quarter, on May 11. All profits from sales at the shop go towards supporting the Life Home Project, a shelter for HIV-positive women and children in Phuket.



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By Andy Johnstone

**B**riton Peter Goldsmith of SEA Marine Services (SMS), at Yacht Haven Marina, begins with a cautionary tale.

"I think it may be from one of David Niven's autobiographies, and concerns a friend of his who served in the [British] Royal Navy (RN) on motor-torpedo boats (MTBs). Day in, day out, 24 hours a day, the sailor had to wear a cumbersome, hot and uncomfortable cork lifejacket. 'It will save your life,' he was told.

"He hated the thing though, and, when he returned to civvy street, he made point of symbolically dumping the detested lifejacket over the side of the MTB. The lifejacket sank like a stone."

The point of the anecdote, continues Peter – who spent 18 years in the RN as well as working for Inmarsat, other marine electronics and communications companies, and his own company in the same field – is that regular testing of all equipment aboard a boat is vital.

Marine electronics professional Peter, who at the time was semi-retired, and his wife, Sue, of Phuket-based Yachtstyle, left England in 2003 and sailed to Phuket on their boat the long way round – across the Atlantic and then the Pacific.

## TSUNAMI

The journey took in Panama and Australia, and they arrived here just in time for the tsunami.

"[We] got knocked around, nearly drowned and the boat had to be repaired. The repairs took three months.

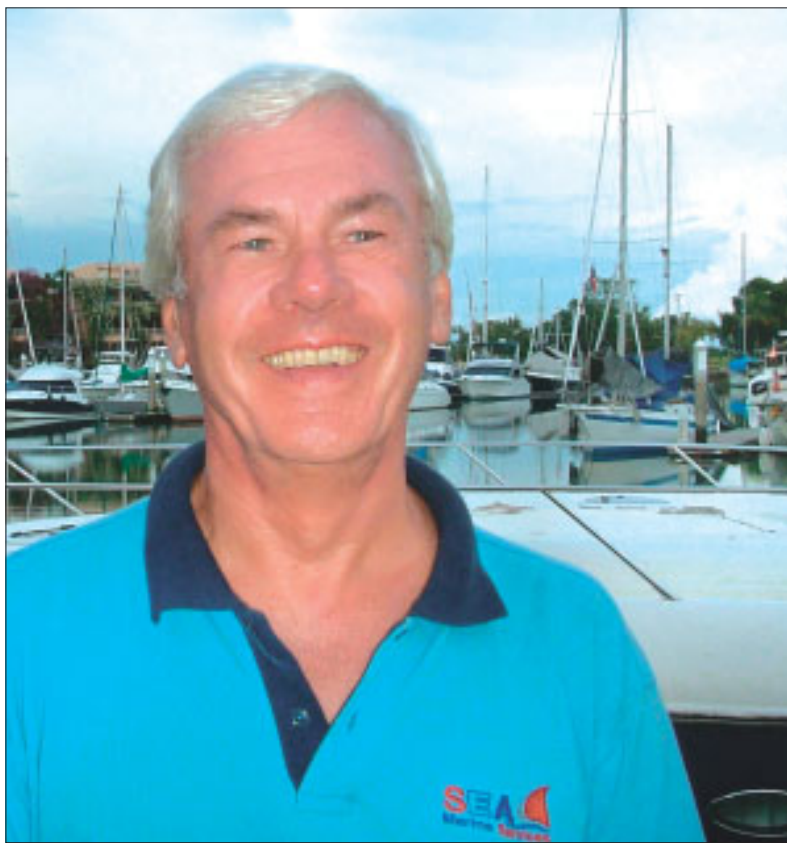
"Our son, Roger, was already here. As the months went by, Sue and I found we liked it here and decided to stay," says Peter.

Once Sue had started up her business, he realized that he needed something to keep him occupied.

"SMS is a effectively a combination of my marine electronics background – I'm a bit of a 'Mr Fixit' – and looking after boats for generally absentee owners. Those are the two 'arms' of the business: management of the boat itself and of all the systems on board.

"Naturally enough, owners who are not resident on the island and come here, say, just for the high season, want to be out on the water while they're here.

# Experience counts



The level of ignorance about equipment on yachts is 'huge', says Peter Goldsmith of SEA Marine Services.

They want things done while they're away; they don't want to be upside down in the bilges when they're in Phuket," says Peter.

"The management of boat repairs, upgrades and on-going maintenance is a growing business," he says. SMS advises on the best companies suitable for the task, and then manages quotations, project plans, adherence to deadlines and milestone reporting.

Long-term yacht management and some maintenance may also be undertaken by SMS's own personnel. This can range from simple tasks, such as turning an engine over every week and washing decks, to a full maintenance package that may encompass 30 or more tasks a month.

SMS business comes from all types of vessel, from small speedboats to large superyachts, with or without sails.

This aspect of the business has developed hand in hand with the electronics repairs side, Peter adds.

The couple's son Roger has recently joined SMS. "Roger, who recently left Royal Phuket Marina as Hardstand Operations Manager, will be working with me to provide project management experience for a recently award-

ed superyacht interior refit contract. Can't say which one, though," he grins.

"He'll also be SMS's dog-sbody," says Peter, tongue firmly in cheek as Roger listens with a grin.

However, the father-son exchange is obviously an in-joke for a family where seawater runs as much in their veins as does blood. Peter adds, "He's brilliant at boat-construction techniques."

Roger studied yacht construction and design in Southampton, in the UK, and worked for numerous well-known marine industry companies supplying materials for boat building in the UK and Australia. He played a key role in the development of international yacht brands and high-profile racing and superyacht projects.

"We make a great great team, because Roger knows everything about which I know nothing."

The father-and-son team combines the essential elements of boat building and repair expertise with Peter's 40 years' experience of marine electronics, as well as the knowledge garnered through the family's 25 years of sailing.

It is this level of experience that brought Peter and SMS to the attention of a number of boat owners. "When I began [SMS], a lot of people said to me, 'It would be nice to know more about my echo sounder, GPS, radar, how it works and how to use it,' so I devised a series of short courses on these subjects, which evolved into a series of articles in *SEA Yachting* magazine," says Peter.

He explains – and Roger agrees – that some boat owners are ignorant of the equipment, particularly the electronics, of a boat.

"The level of ignorance is, in fact, huge. It's not dissimilar to the ignorance most of us have of our mobile phones or cars. For most people, the simple fact that they work is all that matters," says Peter.

"Problem is, whereas you can take your car to the nearest garage or your phone to the nearest shop, it can be a bit difficult finding help in the middle of the sea. Also, drawing an analogy between marine electronics and mobile phones or computers, there are so many functions that they don't use or don't know how to use.

"You buy a new phone but you don't receive training on how to make the most of it, and for many boat owners, it's the same with their electronic equipment.

"It's the simple, basic things, such as knowing where the depth transducer for depth and speed is located on the boat," says Pe-

ter, "Especially as – unless calibrated correctly – a depth transducer will show the amount of water between it and the seabed rather than the keel and the seabed.

"If you haven't checked or had it calibrated accurately, you can actually have a lot less water between the keel and the seabed than you think. It's not rocket science, but unless people think about it or have it pointed out to them, they won't know," he adds.

Peter gives another example, this time the tale of a boat in the English Channel, and of a boat owner who used a channel marker in the water as a waypoint.

"He logged the marker into his navigation system as a waypoint and what did he do? Went straight into it, gouged a huge chunk from the bow of his new boat, which cost a fortune to repair. He'd not bothered to look, because it is so easy for a boat to operate itself. The systems, however, are 'dumb', in that they simply do as they are told."

So many people, says Peter, need to have this basic knowledge, including the use of charts, GPS navigation systems and common sense, particularly if it they have bought a secondhand boat with perhaps unfamiliar electronic systems that the owner must get used to.

"A broad appreciation of the fundamentals and the systems on board and how they work is essential. Aside from the fact that it can save a life or a boat, people will simply get so much more out of their time on the water if they know more and have the systems checked," he says.

"It is, after all, a great life out on the water, especially here."

For more information about SEA Marine Services, contact Peter Goldsmith at Tel: 06-2696124, Email [peterg@seamarineservices.com](mailto:peterg@seamarineservices.com) or visit the company's office at Yacht Haven Marina.

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## On the menu



WITH

Andy Johnstone

## Wine Connection

# Wine, wine, everywhere, and lots of drops to drink

Rain falls as we arrive at Wine Connection. The drops are as large as golf balls and coming down like a barrage on a bad day in Basra. A mad dash to sanctuary is called for.

Slightly moist from the dousing – not the last of the evening – we pile into the wine shop-cum-bistro to be greeted by the effortlessly affable Paul Clark, the GM of Wine Connection Phuket.

The greeting from Paul, a Californian, is warm and our anticipation of a splendid evening rises as he calmly enthuses about the bottle of Les Palombieres Cabernet Franc rosé. “New in, and a bargain at 550 baht,” he says almost before we sit down.

Such enthusiasm is infectious and we waste no time in savoring the refreshing, fruity – strawberries and a certain something else I can’t quite put my finger on – wine.

## ROSÉ OUTLOOK

I must confess to having become slightly partial to rosé of late, having enjoyed another inordinately pleasant one – Les Vignerons de St Tropez, again from Wine Connection – on my birthday the other week.

My earlier aversion to rosé wines – now discarded – stemmed from an unpleasant experience many moons ago with a bottle of Mateus Rosé one Christmas Eve when I should have been on my way to midnight mass.

“It’s just a thought, only a thought,” I was asked on my birthday, “but what about a touch of pink?” I couldn’t say no to such a suggestion, and I have not looked back since.

The bistro at Wine Connection opened October 1 last year, and chef Eric Lamiroux – part of the French connection – has been at the helm of the kitchen ever since. Busy in the kitchen – the bistro is buzzing with diners



aplenty tonight – he pops out to say hello and introduce our starters.

Plates of simple but daz-zlingly tasty bruschetta and tapenade bread are presented to us. These are emptied in double-quick time, but not before the zingy taste of the ripe tomatoes and the salty bite of the tapenade are declared hands-down winners.

Chef Eric, a veteran of Thailand of some 12 years – his CV includes eight years in hotels and restaurants in Bangkok and a further four on Samui – brings his Gallic flair and va-va-voom to the kitchen.

Next up are plates of cold delights including quiche Lorraine, salmon and spinach quiche, as well as a delectable homemade paté of chicken and pork liver. Not too smooth, not too chunky – and served with heaps of bread – Chef Eric gets a well-deserved pat on the back for the terrine.

Wine Connection holds three all-you-can-eat feasts each week on Monday, Wednesday and – to get the weekend going with a bang – Friday.

On Monday it’s pepper chicken and boeuf Bourguignon (199 baht); Wednesday sees the downing of bowl after bowl of steamed mussels and French



fries (150 baht) while Friday is a dinner buffet (249 baht) and an open-to-all wine tasting.

As Paul explains, he wants to “...knock a little of the sophistication off the wine business.

“I want to demystify it or wine drinkers and people who may want to switch from, say, beer once in a while,” he says, and I find myself nodding in agreement.

Not that I drink beer.

While Paul and I are chatting, the trio that makes up tonight’s dining companions have been choosing their main courses.



## A rosé outlook on life

Left, the cold plate with salmon roll, spinach and salmon quiche, chicken and pork liver paté, and quiche Lorraine. Below: Pan-grilled lamb chops. Above: No shortage of wine at this venue.

## ‘Pan-grilled lamb chop? I drool, but too late – that one’s already been taken’

Adventurous? Me? Possibly. A challenge? Not in the slightest. It is a rare delight. I first had tripe in Hong Kong just last month and was eager to taste it prepared in an occidental rather than oriental manner.

Tripe absorbs flavors well and, as prepared by Eric, it’s as tender as scrambled eggs.

Another dousing is in prospect as the coffees and cognacs arrive, and time has run out for a dessert. Next time – and there will be a next time at Wine Connection – I shall start with dessert, possibly bitter chocolate soft cake or caramel custard because, as my grandmother used to say, “Life is too short not to have dessert.”

A quick scan through the menu reveals duck breast and duck confit (430 baht), with the latter already chosen by one. “Pan-grilled lamb chop?” I drool, but too late; that’s already been taken, too. Salmon carpaccio (150 baht)? Alas, the companion of honor has plumped for that.

A hushed silence descends as I resolutely state my choice of grilled pork tripe Anduiollette (330 baht), described – so it says in front of me on Wikipedia – as “...typically an acquired taste, and ... an interesting challenge for adventurous eaters.”

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In the middle of the confusion of downtown Phuket City, I was told, is a haven where I could relax and be relieved of my stress.

Wound up after a hard week of work and not keen to travel out of town, this seemed an ideal solution, so I headed for The Raintree Spa on Montri Rd, opposite the Seng Ho bookstore.

The Raintree Spa is a cozy delight set in gardens in the heart of town. It is easy to find – there is a huge tree reaching skyward from the spa's grounds.

The spa provides traditional Thai Swedish, "Aromatic Oil", "Special Creamy" and foot massages, body scrubs, facial treatments, herbal remedies, and spa and Jacuzzi relaxation packages to give the muscles a break and to revitalize the body and mind after working or playing hard, all at reasonable prices.

There is even a special treatment package for golfers that includes a floral foot bath, foot and leg massage with mint oil, lower-back massage and a back-and-shoulder massage applied with a hot herbal compress.

Owner and Manager Pannaree Na Nakorn welcomes me with a warm smile and I am served an iced herbal drink. "There were giant rainforest trees here a long time ago," she says, "and I wanted to preserve the memory of them, so I named this spa after them."

The Raintree has been operating for six months. It is decorated in Sino-Portuguese style and furnished with a collection of Sino-Portuguese antiques that give it a true Phuket feel.

"The products we use for our facial and body scrubs are made from fresh local herbs," K. Pannaree says. "Our signature scrub is called Raintree Secret Scrub, which is a mix of tropical fruit, herbs, sea salt and sugar."

"We have 15 certified therapists, each of them with at least three years' massage experience, and we regularly retrain our therapists and spa receptionists so customers receive a consistently high standard of hospitality."

There are 15 rooms. Of these, 12 have two massage beds each, while the other three have one bed apiece and a Jacuzzi.

I choose the Tropical Fruit Treatment, some 2½ hours of serious pampering. My therapist for this session is Jiriya "Ya Ya" Yindeerum, who starts by deep-cleansing my feet with a mix of sea salt and ripe tamarind flesh.

I am then treated to a 20-minute herbal sauna, during which I can definitely feel my circulation improving. I emerge with cheeks as rosy as a Russian Matryushka doll.

Next is an hour-long deep body cleanse with the Fruit Salad Body Scrub – kaffir limes, or-

# BRANCHING OUT

**Spa  
MAGIC**



By Nattamon  
Ratcharak  
**Raintree Spa**



**Above: blue and white porcelain echoes Phuket's Chinese history. Right: Nature almost comes into the treatment room – in the middle of Phuket City.**

anges and limes blended with salt. K. Ya Ya carefully scrubs while I lie face down on the massage bed. She says the treatment promotes younger-looking skin because it removes dead skin and stimulates growth of new skin cells, giving brighter, cleaner skin.

After the cleanse I am smothered in milk for 10 minutes as an intensive moisturizing treatment to promote softer skin.

Last but not least, I am given a one-hour Swedish massage with a special scented, creamy mixture of yogurt and herbs imported from Bali to brighten up my skin and make it yet softer. As K. Ya Ya applies the creamy balm, its herbal scent sends me to deeper levels of relaxation.

She wraps up the massage by working my shoulders, at my request, to relieve the tension built up from stress at work.

The smell of the herbs and the sensation of the creamy rub down remain with me well into the night, long after I return home. I believe the pleasurable memory of them shall remain with me for quite some time yet.

*The Raintree Spa. Open daily from 10 am and receives the last guest at 9:30 pm. The Tropical Fruit Treatment normally costs 2,200 baht, but Raintree is currently offering a 50% discount on all prices until the end of June. Tel: 076-232054, 01-8921001 and 01-8933030.*



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# To cut a long name short

Thai-made Mazda BT-50 pickups go on sale soon



By Jeff Heselwood



The BT-50 has an aggressive presence and powerful turbo engines that Mazda says 'will provide leadership in the competitive truck segment'.

Ford's Ranger was reviewed in these pages recently, but its sister company Mazda – Ford controls Mazda, although it does not own a majority share – unveiled its own version of the one-ton pickup at the Bangkok motor show held at the end of March.

Mazda has labeled the latest model the BT-50, although its precursor was known as the B2500.

General manager of Mazda's Overseas Sales division, Malcolm Gough, says, "In line with Mazda's global alphanumeric nomenclature strategy, we have named the new truck range BT-50, a global name that will be used in all markets."

With new three- and 2.5-liter, common-rail, direct-injection turbo-diesel engines, the new truck delivers, says its makers, "an exciting blend of sophisticated design, refinement, responsive handling and dynamic performance".

Gough is less poetic: "The BT-50 builds on a tradition of Mazda heritage and values. Its aggressive presence, command of the road and powerful turbo engines will provide leadership in the competitive truck segment."

The three-liter model delivers 154bhp (113kW) with peak

torque of 380Nm at the impressively low speed of 1,800rpm, while the smaller unit produces 140bhp and 330Nm.

In 1995 Ford – which controls Mazda, although it does not own a majority share – and Mazda formed Auto-Alliance (Thailand), or AAT in short, to make pickups, beginning in mid-1998.

At its plant in Rayong Province, AAT produces the Ranger pickup for Ford and the new BT-50 Mazda and assembles a number of other Fords and Mazdas from imported kits.

The first unit was delivered in May, 1998, with exports beginning that December. In August 2000, the plant celebrated production of 100,000 vehicles, and it hit the 200,000 mark 18 months later. AAT currently exports to more than 130 countries.

Mazda itself began in 1920 as the Toyo Cork Kogyo Co, and by 1929 the Hiroshima-based firm was producing Toyo machine tools. It began manufacturing motor vehicles in 1931, with a three-wheeled truck. The following year Toyo Kogyo began exports to China, but it was not until the early 1960s that the company – now called Mazda – established itself as a full automaker with the

introduction of a two-door passenger car, the R360 Coupé.

It was also around this time, 1961, that Mazda built its first compact pickup, the B-series 1500. The following year saw its first four-door, the Carol 600, but it was in 1964 that the company really became a full-fledged vehicle manufacturer with the first generation of the 323. The 323 is still with us, though now known as the Mazda3. It was reviewed in the *Gazette* of January 28.

Mazda signed a licensing agreement in the 1960s with West Germany's NSU, which controlled the patents for Dr Felix Wankel's unique rotary engine.

In 1967 the rotary-powered Mazda Cosmo Sport was launched. Unfortunately, early problems with the rotor seals made the vehicle a flop. But Mazda persevered, and later-generation sports cars – notably the superb RX-7, and more recently the four-door RX-8 – make Mazda the only mainstream manufacturer to retain rotary technology.

Other milestones in the company's history include winning the Le Mans 24 Hours race in 1991, the first – and still the only – victory in the famous endurance race by a Japanese car-maker. It was also the first win by a car with a rotary engine, thereby proving beyond doubt the reliability of this type of engine.

Back in Thailand, the new BT-50 will go on sale shortly, with prices starting at 452,900 baht for the 2.5-liter regular cab, while the double cab range will cost from 583,000 baht. After the Bangkok launch in March, Mazda began a lengthy road show, taking the BT-50 to eight provinces.

For more information, visit the website [www.mazda.co.th](http://www.mazda.co.th) or call Tel: 02-6619880 or (provincial toll-free) 1-800-226-408.

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



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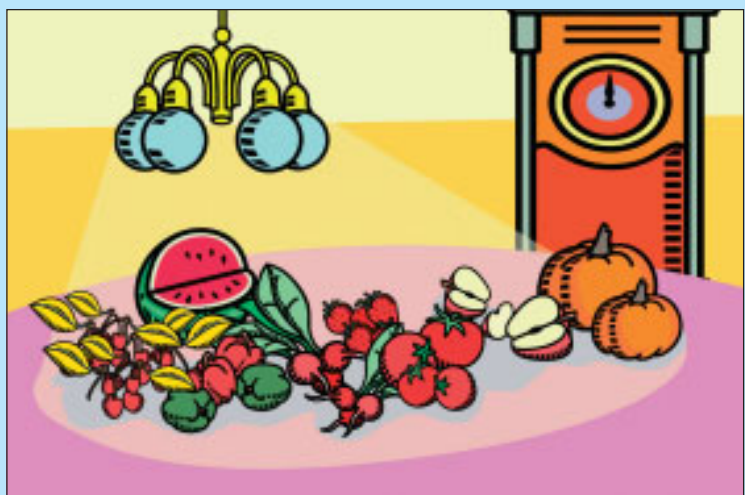
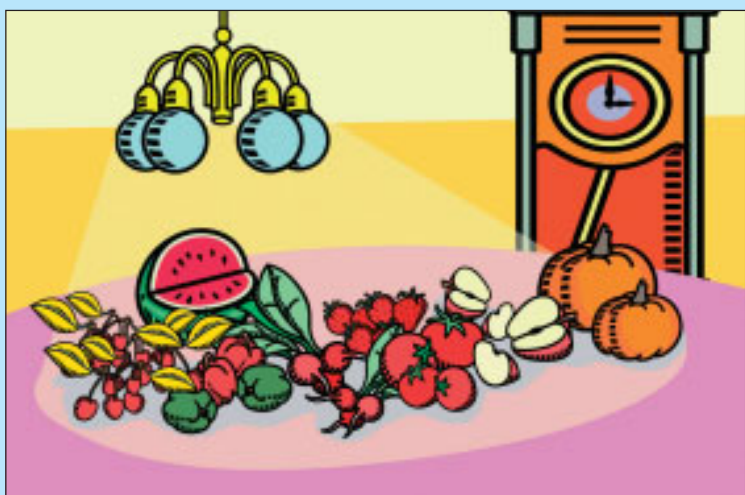


# Puzzles

## Spot the Difference



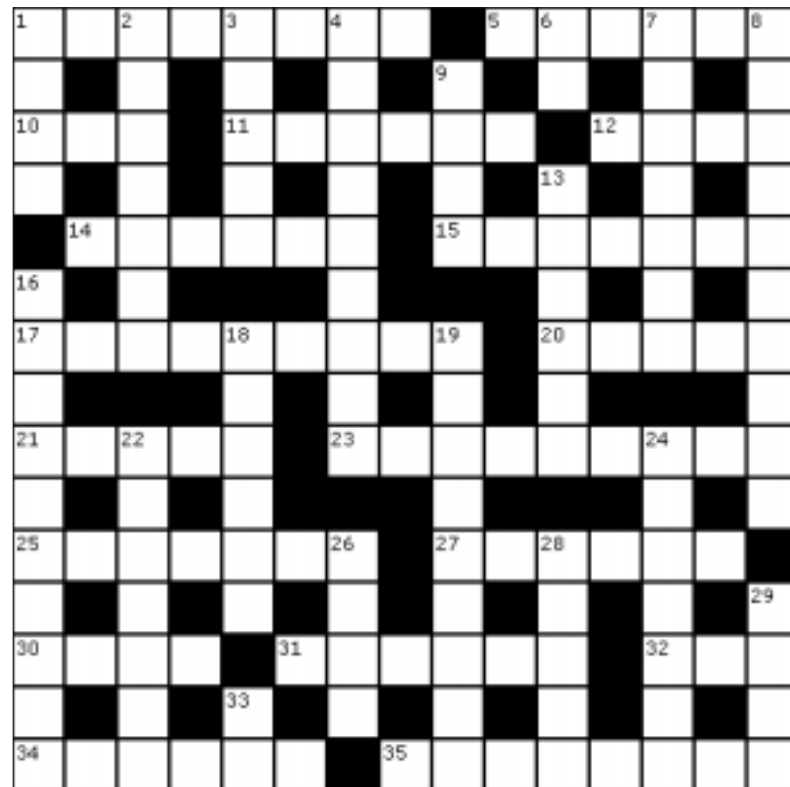
Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?  
Solution on next page.



# The Cryptic Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Greed for love god with it? Yes. (8)
5. Pica manager may make relief. (6)
10. Pelt unpleasant tongue covering. (3)
11. Ban trouser opening in boozer! (6)
12. Missile shelter in disturbed soil. (4)
14. With pot, rip our mess. (6)
15. Two chaps – or one arriving from space. (7)
17. Pierce writer, and French score. (9)
20. Very steep cut. (5)
21. Attend to wants of cat and queen. (5)
23. Informed by experiment, I clap Emir terribly. (9)
25. Carry plum cases. (7)
27. Made restitution for agent's help. (6)
30. Swarm meet back. (4)
31. Public Relations is onto it, immediately. (6)
32. Air we heard before. (3)
34. Leave dry area. (6)
35. In transport, yearn for appendage. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

## Down

1. Slap part of sphygmomanometer. (4)
2. Steal nothing in roof part. (7)
3. Forbid place to get de booze. (5)
4. Xylophage in North America? Kill! (9)
6. May stand, or run for seat. (1,1)
7. Opening on the other hand, if coolant... (7)
8. ...mixed with cold nurses and rogues. (1)
9. Styptic bit of metal. (4)
13. Rubber time direction to queen. (6)
16. Cardinal embezzled and took a gamble. (10)
18. Tooth deposit for a couple of sailors. (6)
19. Seep around, and ran to language. (9)
22. Cat ringleet takes normal gravity. (7)
24. Bit of ceramic takes him to monster. (7)
26. Almost hears with them. (4)
28. Point to right in stink. (5)
29. We all, almost, have wellbeing. (4)
33. Hesitant queen? (2)

## Scribble Space



## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.

## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Who invented the ice resurfacer machine for ice rinks, now commonly referred to by his last name?
2. The football team Juventus is based in which Italian city?
3. Which was the first indoor sports stadium to have Astroturf?
4. Which small antelope is also the name of the South Africa national rugby union team?
5. Anne Robinson has hosted the UK and US versions of what popular "reality" game show?
6. Which Walt Disney character first appeared in *Pinocchio*, serving as Pinocchio's conscience?
7. Alligators recently killed three women in which US state?
8. Which cartoon character started a club called "G.R.O.S.S." (Get Rid Of Slimy girls)?
9. Who was the principal author of the US Declaration of Independence?
10. Which US actor is believed to be an "Operating Thetan Seven" – in the Church of Scientology?

Answers on next page

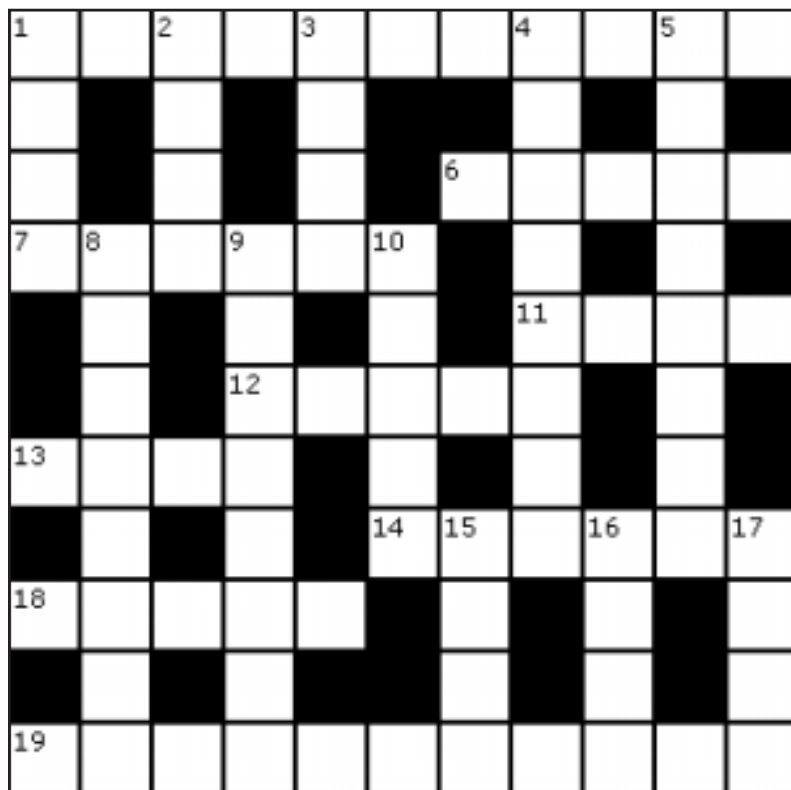
## Brain Buster!

In front of you are three covered cartons. One is labeled "mustard packets"; one is labeled "ketchup packets"; one is labeled "mustard and ketchup packets". None of the cartons is correctly labeled.

How can you relabel the cartons correctly if all you're allowed to do is close your eyes, reach into one carton, take out one packet, and then look at it?

Answer on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Top yachting trophy (7,3)
6. Quick meal.
7. Indication of gasoline power.
11. Machine for moving fluids.
12. Sporting sides.
13. Cartoon bear.
14. Failing to win.
18. Publish.
19. Argument.

### DOWN

1. Frizzy hairstyle.
2. Direction of sunrise.
3. Computer image.
4. Precis.
5. Rare.
8. Huge.
9. Height.
10. Computer correspondence.
15. Ladies' fingers.
16. Zulu warrior unit.
17. Gang thug.

*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. Where would one find the Finland Rail Terminus?
2. Which city was founded on May 27, 1703, by Tsar Peter the Great?
3. *Solsbury Hill*, *Don't Give Up and Games Without Frontiers* were hit singles for which British musician?
4. The world's longest-running radio soap opera, the BBC's *The Archers*, is set in which fictional village?
5. What is theme tune to *The Archers* called?
6. What does the initialism NIMBY stand for?
7. What is the Kison Force?
8. *Hong Kong Garden* was a 1978 hit single for which punk/goth band?
9. Captain Kevin Darling is a character from which 1989 comedy series?
10. Which pop star portrayed the character Lucy Wagner in the 2002 film *Crossroads*?
11. Which actor placed third in the 1953 Mr Universe competition?
12. Which musical city is twinned with Cologne?
13. Which famous left-handed drummer plays a right-handed kit?
14. Esther Pauline Friedman was an agony aunt who died in 2002. What was her nom de plume?
15. Which two bands were named in a 1968 *Melody Maker* article as "Most likely to succeed"?
16. KP Chen founded what in Shanghai on June 15, 1915?
17. Which province – three times the size of France – is the biggest in Canada?
18. Who wrote *Essays* or *Essais* in the 16th century?
19. In Stendhal's 1830 novel *Le Rouge et le Noir* (The Red and the Black), what do the colors represent?
20. How many provinces are there in the Netherlands?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Saint Petersburg, Russia;
2. Saint Petersburg, Russia;
3. Peter Gabriel;
4. Ambridge;
5. *Barwick Green*;
6. Not In My Back Yard;
7. A series of waterfalls on the River Swale in England;
8. Siouxsie and the Banshees;
9. *Blackadder Goes Forth*;
10. Britney Spears;
11. Sean Connery;
12. Liverpool;
13. Ringo Starr;
14. Anne Landers;
15. Led Zeppelin and Yes;
16. The Shanghai Commercial and Savings Bank;
17. Quebec;
18. Michel de Montaigne;
19. The church and the army;
20. Twelve.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



## Brain Buster Solution

You already know the carton mislabeled "mustard and ketchup packets" must contain only mustard packets or only ketchup packets.

If the packet you select is mustard, you should relabel the carton you took it from "mustard packets". Since you've already used up the label "mustard packets", the carton mislabeled "ketchup packets" cannot possibly contain only mustard packets; since it is mislabeled, it can't contain only ketchup packets; so you should relabel it "mustard and ketchup packets".

Therefore, the remaining carton has to be relabeled as "ketchup packets"; it's the only possibility left.

## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Frank J. Zamboni;
2. Turin;
3. The Houston Astrodome;
4. The Springbok(s);
5. Weakest Link;
6. Jiminy Cricket;
7. Florida;
8. Calvin of Calvin and Hobbes;
9. Thomas Jefferson;
10. Tom Cruise.

## Cryptic Crossword



## Quick Crossword



## Sudoku





**Slippery people:** "Our second night on Railay, we went to 'The Last Bar' to watch Thai kickboxing, a King Cobra Show, and a fire show. It was ridiculous. The Thai kickboxers were viscous. Emily and I could barely watch." (1)

**When?** "The villagers enjoyed a comfortable existence there for around 60 years. On Dec 26, 2005 everything changed. Within minutes, the village was all but erased. One house survived the rising seas." (2)

**How far?** "Khao Lak: This stretch of beaches 185 miles north of Phuket on the Thai mainland has developed in the past decade as a low-key destination for divers and lazy beachcombing." (3)

**No speaky de lingo? Shame on you:** "my biggest complaint is against the long term Thailand residents who have not put in the effort to speak fluent Thai. When one moves to a new country they are basically adopting this country as their home and also expecting this new country to adopt them in return."

"But when khun farang basically thumbs his nose at Thailand as says your country isn't good enough for me to learn to speak your language or learn your customs, then why should khun Thai be so happy to have us there?" (4)

**Hydrophobic homophobia:** "I was constantly asked why i was carrying a um-

# Emily gets sticky

brella around. After Bangkoks downpour i didnt want to get soaked again walking miles back to the hotel. Finally in Patong a girl told me that if you walk around with a umbrella your considered gay... cause your a man and you shouldnt be scared of rain.... well im not scared, just sick of walking around in soggy clothes , well that would explain all the questions.. i dont care im still gonna bring the damn umbrella with me.... and im not gay either." (5)

**Wise words:** "I think it easy to forget in many situations that it is you who are the foreigner. I find it hard to see myself as arrogant but I am only seeing things one way. My way. I think it wise to be respectful of other cultures. There is no percentage in getting angry in Thailand."

"At home, it seems to me, that the louder you shout the quicker you solve your problem. We would, I would, not think twice about rocking into a police station and shouting the odds. I know my rights."

"Try that shit in Asia and you may well not be seen again for some time. It can be an incredibly frustrating experience but you will be wise to sit on your hands and shut your mouth." (6)

## OUTSIDE IN

By Lis Kinswoman

Hello dearies. Heavens, will you just look at that rain. Lis hopes you've all stocked up with knee-high boots, plastic ponchos and strong rubbers. She also hopes you've bought appropriate clothes for the wet season. This week we have a year-late tsunami, something about Khao Lak relocating to somewhere north of Ranong, and more! There are so many bloopers on the Net that someone's got to collect them...

**All roads lead to nowhere:** "The happening hub is Patong Beach with tourists far outnumbering Thais."

"There's too much concrete in this area, hotels, restaurant, pubs, go-go bars and shops all jumbled right by the beach."

Beaches here are crowded and therefore more polluted ...

"Apart from some old buildings, Phuket Town is a dead end." (7)

**Bak to skool:** "While your at the Phuket Zoo you should check out the monkey show, well worth it, while there you can sit and chat with a uranatang, very cute." (8)

1. <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Thailand/Phuket/Patong-Beach/blog-50347.html>
2. [http://www.mikenaiman.com/index\\_files/Page358.htm](http://www.mikenaiman.com/index_files/Page358.htm)
3. [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/hotels/2006-04-25-bonus-rebuild\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/hotels/2006-04-25-bonus-rebuild_x.htm)
4. <http://www.stickmanbangkok.com/Weekly/weekly120.html>
5. [http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Thailand/Southern\\_Thailand/Phuket-1444813/Local\\_Customs-Phuket-BR-5.html](http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Thailand/Southern_Thailand/Phuket-1444813/Local_Customs-Phuket-BR-5.html)
6. <http://www.thethaibutterfly.com/bkk/ladyboys.htm>
7. <http://www.asiahotels.com/cityguides/thailand-phuket.asp>
8. [http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Thailand/Southern\\_Thailand/Phuket-1444813/Things\\_To\\_Do-Phuket-More\\_excursions\\_and\\_shows-BR-3.html](http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Thailand/Southern_Thailand/Phuket-1444813/Things_To_Do-Phuket-More_excursions_and_shows-BR-3.html)

James Eckardt is a buddy of mine, so if you expect this to be an objective review, go think again. Aside from friendship, he's bigger than I am – twin considerations that have shaped this fawning paean to the excellence of his latest literary work.

*Thai Jinks: Madcap Misadventures on Land and Sea in Thailand* (Asia Books, 2006, 273 pages) is Jim's seventh book. Aside from two novels, *Running with the Sharks* and *Boat People*, he has chronicled his own slapstick misadventures in the wonderfully named *Waylaid by the Bimbos*, *On the Bus*, and *The Year of Living Stupidly*. Another book, *Bangkok People*, profiles a motley collection of well-known and lesser-known Bangkok people.

In *Thai Jinks*, Jim returns to his roots and his favorite topic: himself. Here he fills in the gaps in his own stupendous personal history. If you begin to suspect that he has a touching belief that every blink and twitch in his mis-spent life ought to be immortalized in print, you'd have it about right.

Jim is Bangkok's answer to Brendan Behan – a braying, bawdy, hirsute hulk of guffawing gusto and irrepressible exuberance. A matchless cartoon on



## Off the SHELF

S Tsow on  
James Eckardt

page 28 captures his essence, and the first line of his first story sets the tone: "Out onto the polo field in Hua Hin slunk the craven *Bangkok Post* team: squint-eyed, slack-jawed, pigeon-toed, spindly-shanked, slump-shouldered, pot-bellied, limp-wristed woebegone wimps." And from there we're up and away on a roller-coaster ride of a rollicking read.

The book is illustrated by 35 sprightly cartoons – one for each chapter – by Colin Cotterill, a popular author in his own right. All the cartoon characters look grubby, diseased, or insane. For this book, that's exactly right.

*Thai Jinks* is divided into two sections: "On Land" and "At Sea." "On Land" covers a kaleidoscope of Jim's terrestrial adventures: elephant polo matches, what it's like to work at *The Na-*

# Jim's boat comes in

*tion*, his stropky granddaughter, playing second fiddle to a dog in a movie, giving succor to jailed Americans as a Vice-Consul in Songkhla, his Peace Corps stint in Africa, his education as a Roman Catholic seminarian. It's hard to believe, but this Falstaffian figure was once an aspirant to the priesthood; even today he can quote St Thomas Aquinas and Hunter S Thompson with equal ease.

"At Sea" has illuminating portrayals of Koh Samui before it was spoiled by upmarket greed, and Laem Phra Nang, which in 1989 was what Koh Samui used to be. But for the most part, "At Sea" is about boat races. I confess that I skimmed most of this

section, because I am not a boat guy. I mean, boats kill people. Look at what happened to the passengers aboard *Titanic*. And that was a pretty big boat.

But Jim is a boat guy, and also a race guy. There are 10 chapters devoted to boat races – from a marathon race to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and back, to the King's Cup Regatta, down to a lowly race between scruffy teams of journalists on the Nan River.

There are five chapters on various King's Cup Regattas alone. For a non-boat guy who doesn't know the difference between a Hobie Cat and a spinnaker, one would have sufficed. Jim must have had many tussles with

his editor, the immortal and generally infallible Richard Baker, on the question of how many Regatta chapters to include. Looks like Jim won most of them. Next time listen to your editor, Jimmy.

In their defense, it must be said that these chapters are enlivened by the antics of a variety of colorful crew members, with much witty banter and beery camaraderie. Boat guys 'n' gals will love every race, and the rest of the book is a rollicking read for anybody.

As one who has read every book Jim has published, I can testify that he's getting better and better. I eagerly await his next masterpiece. But, Jim: next time, not so many boats.

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## Zoning, private enterprise and transparency

The recent announcement by the Phuket Provincial Industry Office (PPIO) that it will force car and truck repair garages and metal-workers' shops that "cause pollution" to relocate from residential areas of Phuket City (see news pages) will come as welcome news to long-suffering residents in many neighborhoods.

In order to limit the charges of favoritism that will inevitably result, the PPIO needs to establish objective criteria from the outset about which types of businesses will need to relocate. The agency states that the main factors behind the forced relocation are air and noise pollution, and that it will use existing legislation governing factories for its criteria, but it is still unclear whether a business will be given chances to "clean up its act" before being ordered to relocate and, if so, how many chances.

While small motorcycle repair shops tend to blight residential communities, their presence is convenient for the many island residents who travel by motorbike and need to service their vehicles, and these will be allowed to stay put.

At the other end of the spectrum are large service centers that have invested millions in setting up their operations in the areas they currently occupy. In some cases, their presence there predates residential communities that have grown up around them.

Is it fair to ask the owners of such shops to shoulder the financial burden of relocating to an area where many of the competitive advantages they now enjoy will be lost?

Another area of concern is transparency. The company on whose land the new industrial park would be located, Anuphas & Son, has long enjoyed close links to Phuket City Municipality.

While the company has long put public needs before its own bottom line – for example, by allowing the Municipality to draw water from its tin mines for decades, free of charge – the decision as to where to site such an industrial park should be open to public participation and an open bidding process in order to ensure fairness to all sides.

This is especially important for local residents and property owners along Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, which is also the site of considerable residential property development, both planned and already underway.

The current plan highlights the need for zoning to be put in place before rapid development occurs – not after. Having argued for years in favor of zoning on the island, the *Gazette* supports this scheme – but it must be implemented fairly.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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**Editor:** Rungtip Hongjakpet Izmen

**Managing Editor:** Alasdair Forbes

**Deputy Editor:** Chris Husted

**Chief Reporter:** Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

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

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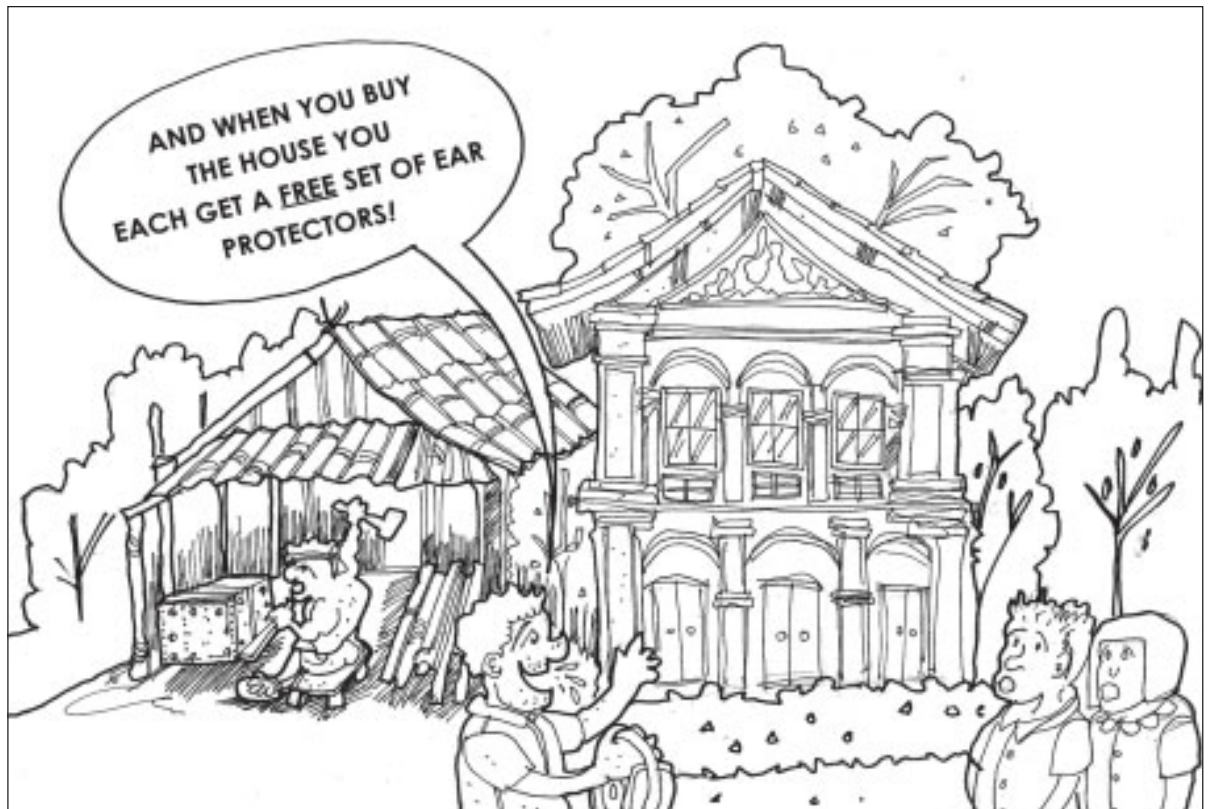
**Website Services:** koy@phuketgazette.net

**Gazette Guide inquiries:** guide@phuketgazette.net

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

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## Letters

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

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

### Let straying dogs die

Your editorial of May 20 extolling the decision of the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) and Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) to finally bury the hatchet and begin working together is correct – as far as it goes.

However, it misses the key point: sterilization and re-release of strays never has been – and never will be – the solution to the stray dog problem on an island where the vast majority of pet owners fail to accept responsibility for their animals.

As the poll conducted on the *Gazette* website a few years ago showed, a majority of island residents – both Thai and foreign – would like to see an end to the stray dog problem once and for all, even if it means having to put down some of these unfortunate animals.

Whether at each others' throats or working together in harmony, the SDF and the PPLO will hardly make a dent in the island's stray dog population.

Unfortunately, and despite pseudo-scientific arguments to the contrary, only mandatory pet registration, enforced leash laws, dog catchers and – as a last resort – euthanasia, will accomplish that.

Name withheld by request  
Rawai

### Wholly unsuitable

Although the resurfacing work to Chao Fa West Rd appears to be moving on apace, something must be done – and bally swiftly – about the potholes along certain stretches, in particular, the area close to the Wang Talang duty-free store.

The potholes there can be

as much as 15 centimeters deep and 30cm or more in length or breadth, perfect, in other words, for a motorcycle's front wheel to descend into it, causing the unwary rider to be catapulted over the handlebars of the machine.

Drivers of vehicles with four or more wheels are at risk of destroying their vehicles' front suspension in craptacular style if they inadvertently deposit a wheel into one of these micro-abysSES.

To avoid these potholes requires the driving finesse and lightning-fast reactions of Juan Manuel Fangio on speed. Factor in, too, that certain sections of this road and others are not blessed with functioning streetlights and the potential for disaster is all too plain; whose grim task will it be to clean the mess up afterwards?

And, just as important, who will take the blame squarely on the chin like a man instead of fudging a response, smiling, shrugging and blaming an underpaid coolie?

My daughter, Penelope, has already come a cropper on this appalling stretch of road. I urge all readers to submit claims for repairs to motor vehicles pranged to the head of the relevant department charged with overseeing this mess of potholes.

Sir Hugh Creighton-Ward  
Blackburn  
Lancashire

### Impressive Patong

I recently visited Patong and was impressed with how the beachfront is starting to look, after the much maligned makeover [by the Tourism Authority of Thailand].

Families were picnicking in the park, children were playing on the swings and I could walk down

the beach side of the road without being harassed to buy anything.

It reminded me very much of the early days of the Gold Coast in Australia, and some of the first steps that that beach resort took in growing.

I do hope, however, that Patong does not follow the Gold Coast all the way to the air-conditioned-shopping-mall monstrosity that Surfers Paradise is now.

All that Patong Beach needs now is for the beachfront parking to be sorted out and for the power cables to be put underground and it will be worth visiting.

Chuck  
Chalong

### Utterly bill bored

Two large billboards have recently appeared near Laem Singh Beach, advertising a beer hall in Patong.

Are huge and incongruous boards like this legal on public land? Have the appropriate advertising taxes been paid? Does the *farang* barmaid depicted on the billboard have a work permit for this allegedly reserved occupation?

I don't know if I'm alone in thinking these things look a bit vulgar and out of place.

Perhaps there's some kind of nonsense about them being allowed because they also "point the way" to the (irritatingly misspelled) Laem Singh Beach? That's only my guess.

Please don't identify me by name, since I'm relatively new here and already have my share of enemies, and don't need any more.

"Ogden Nash"  
Phuket

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



# Keep the momentum moving

The main mass of international-standard hotel product in Phuket has, over the past 10 years, seen a defined shift north. Before that, the focus was on the traditional tourist areas of Rawai, Kata-Karon and Patong. Because of their heavy dependence on European tourists, a key characteristic of these places was their marked high-low seasonality.

With the introduction of the Laguna mixed-use development in the mid-1990s, Phuket became a year-round destination, seeing a more rounded market mix that included tourists from Asia and the growth of the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions, or "Mice", business.

By attracting these two new market segments, Laguna was able to lift both its annualized occupancy and its average room rates. It also set the performance bar well above that of the rest of the island.

Key demand drivers for this shift toward the north included its closer proximity to the airport, the selection of branded products and the coming of age of the private swimming pool villa, as found at Banyan Tree and Amanpuri.

Moving into 2000 and the succeeding years, Phuket was able to draw level with Bali in the race for the title of Asia's premier resort destination, and to capitalize on rate growth and brand-name recognition.

Key regional economies grew during these years. That growth created greater demand from these same regional markets for good tourist destinations, and Phuket offered primary benefits: favorable door-to-door travel time and political and economic stability.

Phuket was soon able to eclipse Bali, which was hampered by political issues and extraordinary events within Indonesia. Despite a golden hotel market on Bali, there was not a marked increase in hotel supply during this period. In Phuket, however, the year-on-year hotel performance of the Laguna-area properties, compared with that of the rest of the island, surged.

Informed by this, Bill Heinke's development of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and adjoining vacation-ownership complex in the northwest of the island signaled a fundamental shift in property development and investment on the island.

Looking at the maturation of island resort markets such as Bali, with its grass-roots cottage industry in Kuta, and then larger resorts in Sanur and the mixed-use development of Nusa Dua, and finally to the Jimbaran area with its premium products, it can be said that every market experiences geographical shifts over a number of years based on a number of factors.

In Bali, such fundamentals

## FIRST PERSON

Recent high-profile news stories about huge hotel deals on Phuket indicate that the island must be doing something right. From the recent 3.7-billion-baht sale of Crowne Plaza to Islandia Park for 1.1 billion baht to the breaking news of Le Royal Meriden Yacht Club being sold for a reported 1.3 billion baht, international financial institutions are showing a surge of interest in the island. Phuket is plainly doing something right.

Here, analyst Bill Barnett, Managing Director of asset management and hospitality consulting company C9 Hotelworks, looks at how this came about and pinpoints three areas that will require continuing attention in order to preserve the momentum.



as distance from the airport, availability and cost of land, and changes in hotel product (the pool villas of the Four Seasons Bali or Ritz Carlton, for example) saw a shift in the marketplace.

This same template is easily adopted in Phuket, and the trend is clear.

Despite 9/11, Sars and the Bali bombings, Phuket has remained a profitable hotel market. Worldwide economic growth, together with regional markets, the introduction of low-cost air carriers and increased demand in key feeder markets (Singapore and Hong Kong) contributed to tourism in the area.

A key development in 2003, and a sign of a more developed infrastructure as well as an offshoot of the maturing of the hotel industry, was the emergence of the residential and holiday home market.

Driven by wealthy individuals from Hong Kong, Singapore and more recently Britain, a number of million-dollar estates quickly came to market and equally quickly were sold.

On the heels of this, Bang Tao, Kamala, Surin and then the east coast of the island saw a boom in high-end estates capitalizing on large land plots reaching the market, as well as the development of marinas such as Boat Lagoon, Yacht Haven, Royal Phuket Marina, the Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) and the Jack Nicklaus-designed Mission Hills.

Phuket post-tsunami has seen continued growth in the real estate market and the return of the tourists. Institutional investors have entered the arena. These

include LaSalle Investment Management, Lehmann Brothers, Lippo Group and Deutsche Bank Group (DBG).

The acquisition and development – now in the initial stages – of the site formerly owned by Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels in Bang Tao, the purchase from EIE of nearly 1,000 rai adjacent to its existing development by Laguna Hotels & Resorts and the DBG partnership with BCCC all demonstrate this shift to larger projects.

At the same time, new upper-tier hotels products including Trisara, Twin Palms, Treetops Arasia, Phuket Pavilions, along with rooms extensions at the Sheraton Grande Laguna, the Banyan Tree and the Marriott Resort have increased supply in the north of the island.

Following this shift are new building projects currently under development including Cape Yamu, to be managed by GHM (affiliated to the Chedi and the Aman group); a luxury all-pool villa resort next to the Marriott developed by Bill Heinke's stock-market-listed Royal Garden Resorts; and the 120-room Sala property in Mai Khao, being built by the same group that owns the Evason on Koh Samui.

New mixed-use developments, combining hotel and residential products – include the Bang Tao site now being developed by Durham Investments, affiliated to Indonesian giant JSI; the West Sands project in Mai Khao being developed by the CEO of UK supermarket giant Tesco; and the launch of Lag-

una's Laguna Village community next to the resort.

One should also not forget Allan Zeman's high-end boutique Andara Hotel, the Hyatt Regency slated for Nai Yang, the private Barama Bay island project in Ao Po and the upgrading of the Pearl Resort at Nai Yang to five stars.

Further afield, in Phang Nga (in particular Ko Pilai and Natai Beach), the opening of the up-market Allenta will show that the combination of white, sandy beaches, easy access to the airport and more natural surroundings will see development in that area move quickly.

Looking into the coming few years there, issues do remain that must be addressed for the benefit of hotels and, on a larger scale, tourism in Phuket.

First and foremost is the current lack of a dedicated government or private-sector destination marketing body.

The post-tsunami experience has taught us the dangers of relying on the TAT and its ill-advised Andaman Recovery promotion. Instead, we must ourselves build overseas recognition of Phuket as a brand name and destination.

Second is the reintroduction of direct flights to Phuket from vital markets such as Hong Kong. This seems to be on collision course with Bangkok's short-term focus of pushing all international traffic through the new Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Last, improvements to the infrastructure of roadways serving the central and southern parts of the island are badly needed, along with the rerouting underground of power and telephone cables so as not to impair the natural splendor of what is still Southeast Asia's premier destination.

The recent heavy investment in Phuket from overseas is a show of confidence in the future of tourism here, but keeping that confidence will mean continuing promotion and investment in infrastructure.

## Proof of no previous marriage

My problem concerns a visa application my Thai wife made to enter the UK. We met almost three years ago and married in November 2005.

Later the same month she made her initial application to the British Embassy and returned for a second interview earlier this month when the application was refused.

The main reason for refusal was the fact that – before we were married – she titled herself as "Mrs", although she had never been married. She has a daughter, which is why she took the title.

Is there any way we can prove that she had not been previously married? We cannot prove she has been divorced as

there was no marriage in the first place. Is there a central office that records all marriages, or are marriages recorded only at the local District Offices?

If there is a central office, is it possible to search there to show that my wife was never married before marrying me?

Steven Fletcher  
By email

**Suksan Siang-Ake, chief (Palad) of the census registration department at Kathu District Office, replies:**

Many years ago, Thai law stipulated that a Thai woman who has had children must use the title "Mrs", even if she had not married. However, this law is no longer in effect.

## Issues & ANSWERS

For your wife to be issued a letter stating that she did not marry before she married you, she has to take her ID card and *tabien baan* (house registration document), and the birth certificate of her daughter, to the District Office where she is registered on a *tabien baan*.

If the census registration officer there is satisfied that there is enough evidence to prove she had never married before marrying you, the officer will issue a letter stating that this is the case. You will then be able to then show that particular letter to the British embassy.



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Stepping stones will appear as if by magic, enabling you to further progress. This will be relevant if you have been frustrated by an inability to move on to the next level of a business project. Romance is in the air this weekend; Scorpio has got your number and intends to use it. Make hay while the sun is shining, but take time out to rest when it is not.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): You will have reason to thank your lucky stars this week. You will have had a narrow escape from a situation that would have been costly. Unwinding should be the name of your game on Saturday and Sunday. Keep your agenda free and only do what really takes your fancy. If you thought the month of May has been an eventful one, get ready for even more action in June.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): The only thing you should guard against this week is over-excitement. A whirl of social activity catches you unawares, with unplanned get-togethers occupying most of your time on Saturday and Sunday. If you're in the mood to take a chance on romance, Aries needs little encouragement. Wear mellow yellow to encourage a tranquil mood. Those already in a relationship will discover a new side to their partner's character.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You are advised to shape up or ship out. You will soon have regrets if you don't make the effort to nurture a particular relationship. Show how much you care by making a spontaneous gesture this weekend. Financial rewards are about to increase as your talents have been noticed by someone on the sidelines. The outlook for June is promising if you're prepared to take some calculated risks.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You are in danger of jumping the gun concerning a business arrangement. It is not ad-

## WHAT THE HEAVENS HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU THIS WEEK

visible to believe what Aquarians have to say; their silver tongues could easily lead you up the jungle path. The snail's pace of May is about to give way to faster action in June. Personal relationships will give you more satisfaction and finances will be affected by benevolent astral conditions. Number 3 can bring luck on Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Your talent for changing direction faster than a chameleon alters color will come in very useful this week. Scorpions who believed they were firmly on the track toward establishing a new business interest will be faced with a new set of circumstances before the end of May. Luckily, your creative energy is running high at the moment and coming up with innovative ideas won't be a problem. Number 9 is lucky on Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you have become romantically interested in an Arian, you should receive encouraging signs this weekend. Be honest about your expectations in a relationship from the beginning to avoid disappointment in the near future. Work wise, you are entering a phase when others will appear to disregard your opinions. Keep written proof of everything that is said at meetings, no matter how trivial it seems at the time.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Inspiration strikes just when you need it most. If you have been feeling burned out lately, you will receive a timely boost of energy from the stars. You can count on Pisces to back you up, but Gemini is another kettle of fish. If you're single and tired of it, make contact with an old flame who you still have feelings for. There's good chance that this relationship could work out the second time around.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): You may heave a sigh of relief as May gives way to June. You can be forgiven for thinking that you've had an unfair share of problems in recent weeks, but life is about to become smoother. One pressing financial problem is certain to be solved in your favor and a personal dilemma will benefit from both sides taking time out. The color sapphire blue encourages better luck with money.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Networking is your key to success this week. Broadening your circle of social contacts will ensure that you have more fish to fry in June. Travel is highlighted, particularly if you have recently got back in touch with old friends overseas. Disagreements with a partner are likely towards the end of next week and these will probably be sparked off due to different financial aims. You are strongly advised to listen to their point of view.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): You shouldn't let a friend's irritated mood affect you. Words spoken in the heat of the moment this Sunday could lead to an estrangement that will be hard to repair. Where romance is concerned, give out clear signs of your interest to ensure that a golden opportunity doesn't pass you by. This should occur on Monday, when Cupid is poised to lend a hand. Number 3 is lucky on Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): You often make the mistake of expecting others to behave as you would in certain situations. You are now faced with the discovery that someone is really not going to do what you would do. Remain as flexible as a bamboo shoot to avoid disappointment in love. If work commitments are thin on the ground, utilize your free time to make progress with creative personal projects.

# The edge

Belinda Carlisle crooned, "Ooh heaven is a place on earth!" Explorers combing the globe have yet to confirm this. High school students smirk and point at Graduation Day.

Graduation Day: the teasing light at the end of the tunnel, the summit of the mountain that has taken seven years of secondary education to climb. The question is: does it all go downhill from here?

As I'm writing this, my graduation seems a long way off. I'm in the middle of my exams, and I'm sitting at my desk, the perfect picture of a stressed high school student.

Textbooks that would be ridiculously obese if they were people are piled up on my desk in an attempt to touch the ceiling. Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is teetering precariously at the top, threatening to fall on my head if I don't read it soon to prepare for my English exam.

The coffee cup next to me is begging to be refilled, and is probably more awake than I am, even if it's empty. I've started hearing voices: it's as if the textbooks are exuding the voices of the trees that died in making them, and the screams of previous students who fell victim to their pages.

In the weeks leading up to Graduation Day, the pressure inside us builds up exponentially – not only do we have exams to worry about, but then there's also university applications, finding the right dress for the graduation dinner, the nagging regrets about the things you wish you could have changed about your high school years, and the worries of going out into the big, bad world all on your own.

In that sense, Graduation Day is like a pin poking a hole in an anxious puffer fish. The second we get to throw those groovy graduation caps towards the skies, the air escapes and we're free!

Or are we?

Sure, we're adults now, we're free to make our own decisions, to party and get tattoos on our asses. On the other hand, we're constrained by added responsibilities: paying bills, juggling a part-time job with university courses, having to clean up after ourselves and feeding ourselves. The last point is the most worrying to teenagers – we learn cool things like how many up-quarks there are in a proton, but when it comes to practical things like cooking fried rice, schools look away guiltily. Getting good grades on exams may get us into university, but it doesn't guarantee success and it's bloody useless in everyday life.

As if that isn't enough, previous generations have done a fine job of screwing up the planet and now expect our genera-



## Youth 'n ASIA

By Ella Micheler

tion to fix it all for the good of the human race. It's no wonder that many teenagers these days have little interest in politics – we're considered adults when it comes to paying entrance fees in amusement parks, but we're not adult enough to be able to vote before the age of 18.

Certain politicians are no more mature than we are, and some are even less so. Governments fight over oil the way toddlers fight over a train set – except that certain governments have a nasty tendency to bomb places they're not pleased with, while toddlers will merely pull

# Hotels

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

What's going on in the hotel business? 3.7 billion baht for a hotel behind the road that runs along the beachfront? And another resort going for 1.3 billion baht the same month?

Every bit of beach land left on the west coast seems to be getting snapped up for new hotels, and by big names like Hyatt, Conrad, Peninsula and the like.

Does this mean that we can expect to see a lot more bodies here in two or three years? Probably.

"The future of the tourist industry in Phuket appears to be rock solid," says Bob James, current President of the Pacific Asia Travel Association and former Vice-President and Director of Marketing for the Central Group of Hotels.

"In spite of the glitch last year, the industry is coming back very strongly in Phuket, but the investment in hotels is Thailand-wide, especially Bangkok.

"The hotel investment is stronger than the property industry at the moment, when previ-

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# of adulthood

each other's hair. Following this dubious example, it would be perfectly reasonable to bomb California because the new Red Hot Chili Peppers CD is overpriced.

Science now is also far more difficult – you can't just sit under an apple tree or jump into a tub and have an epiphany. All the "easy" things have already been discovered ("easy" meaning discoveries that don't require super fast graphical calculators and millions of dollars in funding). Now we're left with the hard stuff, such as how to save the world's natural resources, or finding an exact quantitative value for the meaning of life.

If there even is a meaning to life, that is.

Education has improved in that students are being challenged to question given truths. English Literature classes do an excellent job in confusing teenage minds, by forcing philosophical works down our unwilling throats.

At a time where we're still trying to figure out who we are and what we want in life, we're being asked to consider the possibility that there might not be a point to our life (Yes, I'm talking to you, Samuel Beckett, and you too Albert Camus! And don't think you can hide back there,

Shakespeare – you're the worst of the lot with your whiny tragic heroes and observations on the human condition!)

The confusing thing is, schools don't really want us to embrace the idea that there is no meaning to life – that would contradict everything we've ever been told about doing well in exams, getting into a good university, getting a good job, getting married, having cute rugrats and a dog, then dying happily.

The question I've been asked most frequently over the past few weeks is, "What are your plans after graduation?"

While I give the standard answer of "going to university", the truth is, I only have a vague idea of what I want out of life. The majority of my graduating class are the same. Perhaps the most important thing I've learned in school is that it's useless to plan obsessively for the future. Things don't turn out the way you want them to, no matter how many back-up plans you have. You have to be flexible.

Science now is also far more difficult – you can't just sit under an apple tree or jump into a tub and have an epiphany.

Darwin was right: adaptation is the key to survival.

Of course, the reason why things are looking so bleak at the moment is because I've spent most of the day despairing over my history notes, wondering what the acronym LUST stands for in the context of the Spanish Civil War. (Franco was a Livid and Ugly Spanish Totalitarian? The main cause of war was Lots of Unresolved Sexual Tension?)

I'm nearing the end of the tunnel and the light is warm and inviting. Graduation isn't just the end of our high school life, it's the beginning of our adult life, our independence. Graduation doesn't only occur once – it's an ongoing process as we continually change ourselves and our view of life.

We may not have a clue as to who we are, but we do know that individuality should be embraced. In that case, my one wish for all the graduates of 2006 would be to wear our hat of choice, rather than mortarboards. I'd wear a sombrero.

## fine. As for the rest...



The hotels are wonderful, but getting to and from them is a nightmare.

ously it was the other way round. Possibly the slight slowdown [in property] is due to the current political atmosphere, which doesn't concern the big hotel and financial institutions as much as the private buyer. It will be very temporary."

But there are other issues to consider. A lot more bodies means that by the time the airport's immigration section is upgraded to three times the current capacity, there will be three times more bodies arriving, with three times the number of people standing in long lines wondering how there can be so much difference between Immigration in Singapore and Immigration in Thailand.

It's not just the airport. Can we expect to see the infrastructure of the island massively upgraded to cope with the rapid growth? Three times more bodies probably translates into three or more times the number of cars on the island's roads.

It's great to talk about hotels with five-star-plus facilities and service and staying in such establishments is no doubt very pleasant, if not a little boring at times.

I mean, have you ever looked at the people sitting around lobby lounges and bars? They always look as if they're waiting to see the dentist.

They all wear a sort of blank look on their faces, probably won-

dering if they're having a good time or not – or maybe they're thinking about having to go out and leave the sanctuary of the hotel or perhaps about the journey back to the airport.

Phuket's hotels and resorts are certainly five star, but there is nothing five star about the rest of the island.

For example, the road that carries huge numbers of people every day, winding across the island from Thalang through Cherng Talay, Patong and Kata to Chalong is a disaster.

Tour buses thunder around the bends by the western beaches, overtaking concrete trucks and getting overtaken by mini-buses carrying people to large tourist attractions.

Motorcycles cruise along sometimes three abreast, the riders yapping to each other and paying no attention to traffic behind that cannot get past.

It's not going to get any better and nobody seems to have any idea of a solution. It's wonderful to have all these resorts, but something needs to be done about the island's infrastructure, and soon.

And it's not only the roads that need attention. There's an even bigger issue: water. Let's not even go down that road in this column. I'm only allowed so much space...

## Busted in the bush

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May 1996

CHALONG: On April 14, Chalong police told *Siang Tai* that a group of gamblers were found playing cards in Rawai district bushes.

The police raided the area after receiving reports about the gamblers hiding their flashlights under a 'bushel'.

They then sent in a dozen 'bush-crime busters' to surround the bushmen. However, when the embarrassed strip poker players

saw the uninvited guests, they beat it about the bush, split up, and hit the dust. After a flat-out run which left everyone bushed, the good guys arrested nine bad bush'-nessmen.

The evidence seized included playing cards valued at 1,080 baht. Big deal. The players were charged with illegal gambling, once again proving that old adage that a bird in the buff is not necessarily better in the bush.

### THE TIME machine

News from the past

## Gov denies being 'too strict' on work permits

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of May 15-31, 2001

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi has denied being too strict on work permits and new company registrations. In a statement made on April 26, he insisted that he was simply enforcing the law.

"I haven't done anything extraordinary. All I've done is ensured that procedures are followed according to Thai law.

"The problem before was that no one checked and no one followed the law. If someone applied to set up a company, the officers approved the application immediately and never checked if the company was bona fide or not," he explained.

Gov Pongpayome told the *Gazette* that if foreign businessmen have problems and want more flexibility [in investing], then they should tell the government that made the law.

"I'm not against foreign business people, but they should do things by the book, and not bypass the law," he said.

He also said that businessmen who follow the law and operate legally will have no problems, and that the only people who should be worried are those who have lied to government officers.

"Which country in the world would approve a new company in only 10 minutes?" he asked. "I'd also like to know which country would approve a Thai setting up a new firm in an hour."

The crackdown has had an effect, said Veerachai Tantiwanavallop, chief of Phuket Commercial Register Office. "Because of the difficulties in applying for a work permit or setting up a company, we have seen a drop in foreign investment," he noted.

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## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

This week I will discuss one of my favorite new subjects – podcasting. The word itself is a combination of the “broadcasting” and the popular Apple MP3 player, “iPod”.

However, it is not necessary to use an iPod to view or listen to podcasts; just about any MP3 player and for sure every PC and laptop can play them.

Put simply, podcasting is the posting of audio – and recently video – files on a webpage or blog as an RSS 2.0 envelope or feed (RSS stands for Real Simple Syndication), which allows users to subscribe through a newsreader, such as Ipodder.

Users can sign up on a webpage and choose to automatically receive these files or manually select and download them whenever they want. Once they have them on their PC or laptop, they simply synchronize with their favorite player such as iTunes, Windows Media Player or Music Match and listen or watch their favorite podcasts at their leisure.

Many users compare podcasting with digital video recorders (DVR), such as TiVo, because it allows you to “record” or download the information and enjoy it

# Podcasting Pearl Jam and more before...

later. The main difference is that with podcasting the information is received in its final format and placed onto a portable device that is independent of the recording device. This allows full freedom in downloading and listening or watching the files.

Podcasts follow a simple “publish and subscribe” model, but with a convenient twist. Consider this example: you have just heard that your favorite author or a politician has agreed to do a one-on-one interview with a fa-

mous newscaster or magazine. You first rush to check which channel or radio station is going to air it, and at what time. You then do your best to be available at the scheduled broadcast time, or, if it the interview is to be broadcast on TV, program your VCR – if you still have one.

All this is a bit hit and miss, so let's try the podcasting alternative. You hear about the interview, so you find a webpage that allows you to subscribe to receive a podcast of the interview.



Simple as black and white: iPods gave the world the word ‘podcasting’ though it is no longer necessary to own an iPod in order to enjoy podcasting. – Illustration courtesy of Apple.

The next time you check your email, your computer automatically connects and downloads a copy of the podcast.

Then when you plug in your portable MP3 device, the podcast is automatically downloaded to your player, where it sits until you have time to enjoy it.

This is only the beginning – just imagine the possibilities as digital formats allow smaller files and MP3 players, including mobile phones, to get better.

There is no end to what you can subscribe to and later enjoy at your leisure.

Podcasts are rapidly increasing in popularity because they are simple to produce and very inexpensive to deliver.

At its simplest, all that is required to create a podcast is a personal computer with a sound card, a cheap or built-in microphone, sound editing freeware, and an Internet connection with access to a website. Because of the low cost of entry, nearly anyone with a computer can be a publisher, or more accurately a broadcaster.

Podcasts should not be confused with video-on-demand “VOD casts”, which are a bit more complex and require a slightly larger investment in equipment and time, but still fall well into the technical and financial realm of anyone with a digital video camera and a higher-end desktop or laptop computer.

Both of these technologies are evolving rapidly and will become major players in global media.

As the tools to capture content become more available and easier to use, you can imagine the flood of information that will soon be heading our way.

Already, variations are oc-

curing. Mobile blogs, called moblogs, currently allow individuals with Internet-enabled camera phones to instantly submit photo images from their phone directly to the moblog.

The images are then in turn automatically transferred to someone else's phone through a Macromedia Flash-enabled browser.

Some people are using their mobile phones to record sounds and songs and then submitting them to specific websites that automatically turn them into podcasts that sends them to a list of subscribers.

The new generation of videophones will bring this whole thing to bear. The cool thing is that this is all evolving in weeks rather than months or years.

The exact impact is impossible to predict, but if things continue as they have, we will see highly useful, if not amazing, changes to the broadcasting world in general over the next five years.

I for one am jumping onto this bandwagon in a big way. The implications for advertising and loyalty programs are staggering, so I just can't help myself from inventing a few new ways to shop using podcasting. My next step is to complete the business plan and offer it up to seed capital so let me know if you have some extra cash laying around.

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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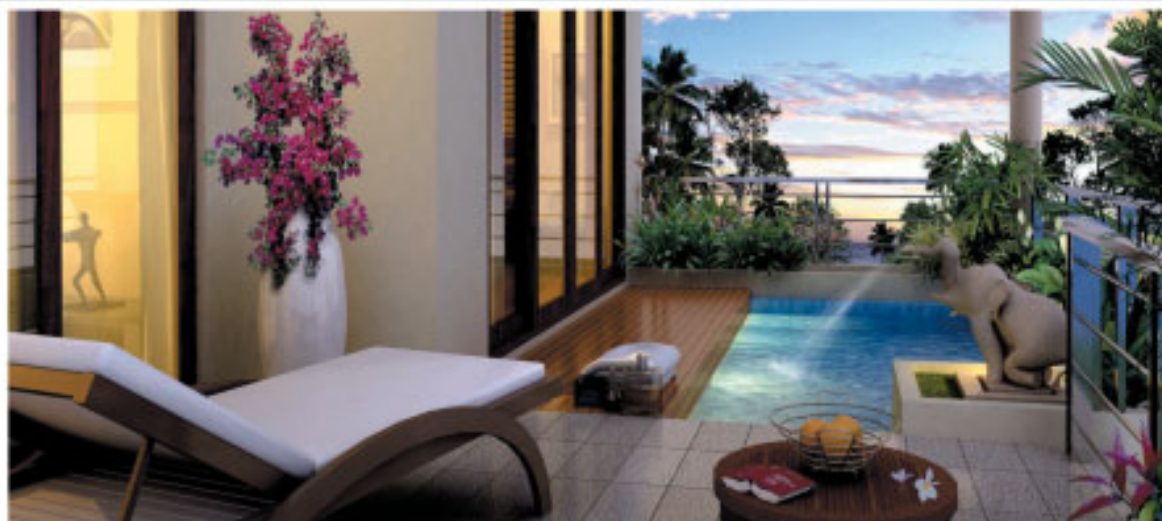


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## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

**T**he logic of some organizations is often difficult to fathom. Indeed, sometimes the question should be, "Was logic used at all?"

One organization to which this applies is the Group of Seven, or G7, which encompasses the "old" seven most-important economies in the world – France, the US, Britain, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

They held a meeting at the end of April and came to the decision – applauded by the IMF (the International Monetary Fund) – that Asian currencies should rise in value.

They were not specific about which currency the rise should take place against, just that Asian currencies should rise in value. The result was a swift appreciation of the yen from around ¥118 to ¥109 per US\$1.

### RESPONSE

This provoked a swift response from the Japanese Minister of Finance, Sadakazu Tanigaki, who said that rapid movements in currency markets were "undesirable".

However, the Chinese and Indian currencies remained static against the US dollar (USD), as neither country is a member of the G7 and neither currency is fully convertible – allowing them to set exchange rates exactly where it suits them.

Foreign exchange markets, which already had a growing distaste for the USD, pushed against it with renewed vigor.

Moreover, it was not just the yen that moved but the euro, pound sterling and many others

– few of them from Asia. Calls by Japanese Finance Minister Tanigaki for the Chinese to re-value the yuan were ignored.

The US Treasury Secretary announced that the US Administration policy was aimed at making the USD stronger. However, the US has been singing this tune for decades, possibly as far back as George Washington's days. As a result, markets ignore such statements.

Then along came Ben Bernanke, the new Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, aka "The Fed", the US's Central Bank. Bernanke and a number of his colleagues had been making soothing but obscure statements to markets, leading speculators to believe there would be one more interest rate increase in June be-

fore a pause to assess the effects of the previous interest rate increases.

But then Bernanke changed his tune in an interview with television business channel CNBC, showing that he was not as dovish as everyone thought.

This introduced an element of uncertainty to the Fed's policy, which is not something that any market applauds. Markets like certainty; the news can be good, bad or somewhere in between and the market will price according to the prevailing circumstances.

Bernanke's words caused the Dow Jones Index to fall from a 25-point gain to a 75-point loss on the day.

When the Fed predictably raised interest rates in May, for the 16<sup>th</sup> time, it referred to future

moves as being "data dependent". Foreign exchange markets paused in their assault on the US dollar, reversed slightly, digested the information but then renewed their assault the next day.

Just before Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Washington in April, the Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Parliament said that China should invest more of its foreign exchange reserves in gold and other assets, obviously at the expense of USD holdings.

This statement was promptly contradicted by the Chinese Central Bank. There is little doubt that this was a deliberate strategy and not just a Chinese politician stating a personal view.

Next, US Vice President Dick Cheney launched a two-pronged verbal attack on the Russian government. He accused them of using their energy supplies as weapons, and he criticized them for their slow adoption of democracy.

He was probably correct on both fronts but the timing of these remarks was dubious, when one considers that Russian support in the UN is vital if the US is going to succeed in its moves to impose sanctions on Iran.

Russian President Vladimir Putin later made a speech that ignored Cheney's remarks entirely.

However, Russian national carrier Aeroflot publicly announced a delay in the purchase of new aircraft as "the matter had now become political".

President Putin presumably ignored Cheney's remarks to avoid being invited to one of Cheney's now infamous "hunting parties".

**T**here has been much speculation about the Dow Jones Industrial Average index which was heading for the record highs recorded in early 2000.

The "Dow" is for some reason used by the media as the main indicator of the state of US stock markets. In reality, the index covers only the 30 largest companies in the US.

It is an old index, with each of the 30 stocks having an equal weighting in the index despite the huge difference in the market capitalization between the smallest and the largest.

A far more appropriate measure of the health of otherwise of large companies is the Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 index, which is used as the barometer of performance of large companies by virtually every institutional investor.

What is interesting is that in 2000 the S&P 500 was trading at a very rich price/earnings ratio of 26; it is now trading at around 15.

A correction in stock markets has since taken place, with the S&P dropping about 5%, but this should be viewed as a buying opportunity.

Meanwhile, global growth is still on track. The IMF recently raised its prediction for global economic growth in 2006 from 4.3% to 4.9%. This is a very high level.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381-997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*



US Vice President Dick Cheney: 'Hey, wanna come to my next hunting party?'

Photo: EPA - Matthew Cavanaugh

# Strange signals



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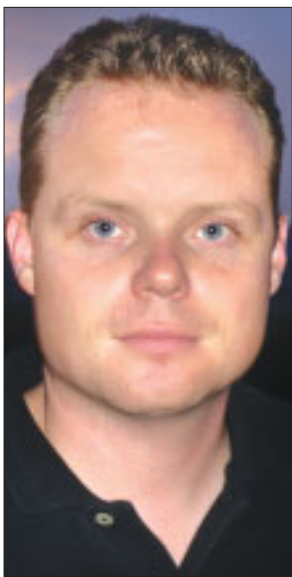
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## ON THE MOVE

**Marco Groten**, from the Netherlands, is the new General Manager of the Evason Hideaway & Six Senses Spa on Koh Yao Noi, scheduled to open early next year. Mr Groten, a graduate in hotel management from Cornell University, has spent the past two years as Resort Manager at the Soneva Gili & Six Senses Spa in the Maldives, which he joined as Executive Assistant Manager. He also supervised the Six Senses Gallery and oversaw the quality performance of the resort's water activities. Before joining Soneva Gili, Marco held positions in Phuket, Indonesia and the Caribbean.



Canadian **Kymerley Sproule** has been appointed Marketing Communication Manager for Le Meridien Thailand Resorts. Her experience, especially in public relations, includes having held executive positions at a number of international hotels in Thailand over the past six years. She will be based at the Bangkok Sales Office, working for Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club and Le Royal Meridien Baan Taling Ngam Samui. Before joining Le Meridien Thailand, she was the PR Manager of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.



Slovak **Martin Michalik** is the new Food & Beverage Director at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. Previously he was Hotel Project Manager with consultancy firm Bed Management, developing restaurant concepts for the Indigo Pearl at Nai Yang. He has worked with many top hotels and resorts, including Four Seasons properties in Hawaii, Japan, Nevada and Canada, at the One and Only Kanuhura Resort & Spa in the Maldives and the Aerie Resort & Spa in Canada.



By Janyaporn Morel

# US beef battles competition

Since the partial lifting of the ban on importing US beef, consumers in Thailand have had more choice as to where to get their steaks from. Some industry sources even predict that America could overtake Australia as Thailand's favorite source of high-quality beef.

The ban was imposed in December 2003 following the detection of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy— BSE or mad-cow disease — in a cow in Washington State. In February, the Thai Ministry of Commerce announced that it would partially lift the ban on US beef to allow boneless beef from cows under 30 months of age to be imported into the country.

In Phuket, however, US beef doesn't seem to have made too much impact on the local market yet.

Ron Brandon, Managing Director of Phuket Meat Importers, the biggest meat importer on the island, told the *Gazette*, "Despite the fact that Thailand has allowed some US beef imports to recommence, a number of beef products are still banned.

"We import very little from the US because of the high transportation costs.

"I can't give the exact percentage of beef we import from America but I can say it's very small when compared with the amount we import from Australia."

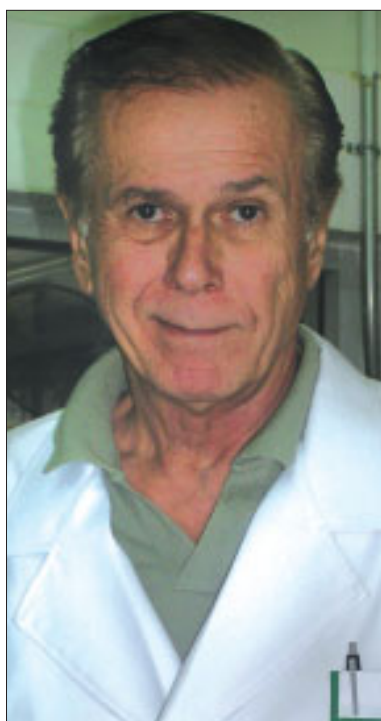
He explained, "The transportation costs at the moment are very high because of the rising price of fuel. Whereas it used to be four dollars per kilogram of beef, it is now up to six for transportation alone. On top of that we have to pay taxes to the Thai government on the transportation cost too.

"Of the beef we have in stock now, 100% is from Australia. It takes only six hours to transport it to Phuket. We don't import beef from New Zealand, even though it is cheaper, because it's not good quality. We want to supply only high quality beef to our customers," he said.

Mr Brandon said that his company occasionally imports US beef but only on request for some of his customers in Bangkok. "The price of one kilogram of US beef would now be about 1,500 baht. It's difficult to find customers who will pay that much when we can offer the same quality beef [from Australia] for half the price," he added.

"What people like about US beef is that it has more fat, but that doesn't mean it tastes better. In my opinion it depends on the cooking procedure and the recipe," he explained.

Don Battles, the owner of Don's Mall in Rawai, has been concentrating on developing the beef industry in Thailand rather



Ron Brandon of Phuket Meat Importers.

than importing expensive meat from abroad.

"In my company, we now have high quality Thai beef. We supply the beef to our businesses in Samui, Phuket, Prachin Buri, Chiang Rai and Bangkok.

"Now our suppliers are helped by Kasetsart University to improve their meat products. We believe that Thai beef is good. It may not be better than imported beef, but the taxes and the transportation costs are much lower.

When you eat imported beef you have to pay a lot just for the tax," he said.

"We sell some imported beef for hotels that order it specially, but overall 95% of the beef we sell in our shop is from Thailand. I'm working with Kasetsart University to develop the quality of Thai beef. The beef is from Nakhon Pathom, Sakon Nakhon, Suphan Buri and Ratchaburi. The taste is good and the price is much cheaper than imported beef.

"I've been working with Dr Chainarong Kantapanit from Kasetsart University for many years to improve the quality of Thai beef products to the level required by 4- and 5-star hotels."

Mr Battles added, "US beef is more expensive than Australian beef, but it is much higher quality.

"But in my opinion it isn't necessary for Thailand to import US beef when we can produce high-quality beef ourselves."

The difference in price between imported and local beef, however, is likely to get smaller in the future as import duties on meat from certain countries are decreased.

Under the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which came into effect on January 1 last year, the import duty on Australian meat is being re-

duced gradually from its previous 40% level to zero by 2020.

Thailand is also in talks with the US about implementing a FTA. This could lead to similar drops on the duty imposed on meat from the US.

Jakkapong Limpavattananon, Manager of the Market Place at Phuket Central Festival, told the *Gazette*, "Market Place has four sources of beef. We have beef from Thailand, imported Angus beef from the US, and also beef imported from Australia and New Zealand.

"Most of the beef sold is from Australia. It is still too soon after the ban on [US beef] imports was lifted for us to be able to see any trends for US beef. The beef products from the US that we stock are boneless steaks such as sirloin and tenderloin."

K. Jakkapong said that the customers who buy US beef from Market Place are mostly hotels and restaurants, although there are also some retail customers. The price of US beef now is about 1,300 to 1,600 baht per kilogram, while Australian beef is about 300 baht cheaper.

"I think that beef consumers' behavior will not change. Americans are familiar with US beef and Australians are used to eating Australian beef. I don't think they will switch because of price," he concluded.

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# Spills and thrills in city road race

PHUKET CITY: Tittipong Worakorn proved the better of the wet-weather riders in the third round of the Yamaha Cup Race 2006 on May 20 and 21, winning the Yamaha 135cc All Star race.

Keen to push the bike and tires to their limits on the wet track marked out at Chatuchak Market on Phang Nga Rd, Tittipong was snapping at the back tire of No 53 until the leader slid out at the end of the main straight.

Worawut Foongsuk, content to ride slower in the drizzle to secure points, finished second in the 25-lap race, and Montri Phumchuay finished third.

The spectators, who got to watch the races for free, certainly got good entertainment value in the Yamaha X1 One Make Race, when one rider slid into the tire barrier on the second corner only

to have another crash into him, spilling more tires from the safety barrier onto the track, causing two more riders to fall.

Avoiding the pile-up, Phirapong Disata went on to win the race, with Chanarong Kwan-nin finishing second, and Sukrachaet Phetyeunyong third.

Tawatchai Rortjan won the Yamaha Automatic race, with Mungkornthong Klaewkla finishing second and Pairat Sae-tun coming third.

In the Yamaha 110cc Family race, Jirawut Ratsamee beat Kittipat Phalaphol across the finish line, while Pairat Sae-tun claimed his second third-place finish for the day.

The riders will move on to Nakhon Sri Thammarat, where the fourth round will be held on June 24 and 25.

— *Jenjira Ruengjarus*



The slippery course made for plenty of excitement.



Brothers Ithi and Sakan Thansiroj (red jackets) display their medals.

## Brothers take soft tennis crown

YASOTHORN: Two brothers from Phuket were crowned champions of the Thailand Open Soft Tennis Invitation Championship 2006 after beating off their Filipino opponents 3-0 in the final on May 14. It is the third competition they have won this year.

Ithi and Sakan Thansiroj, from Phuket City, were representing both Phuket Provincial Soft Tennis Association and Thammasat University, where they are studying law.

The competition, held from May 12 to 14 at Yasothorn Pro-

vincial Stadium, was arranged jointly by the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), Yasothorn Province, and the Soft Tennis Association of Thailand. Entrants came from across Southeast Asia.

The competition, held in honor of the 60th anniversary of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne, also aimed to promote soft tennis, which differs little from regular tennis except that soft rubber balls are used instead of conventional tennis balls.

# Rugby 10s moves to Phuket City

By Chris Husted

PHUKET CITY: The 8th Molly Malone's Phuket International Rugby 10s, originally to be played at Karon Municipal Stadium this Saturday and Sunday (May 27 and 28), will now be held at Sanam Chai, located opposite Phuket Provincial Hall on Narisorn Rd in Phuket City.

Rugby 10s organizer Patrick Cotter, of the Phuket Vagabonds FC, told the *Gazette* that at about 3 pm on May 22 he received confirmation from the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) that the event could be held at its Sanam Chai ground.

"The pitch at Karon Stadium is unplayable. It has not been renovated since the tsunami. Kata-Karon Municipality, which has always been supportive of the event, told us that they have been allocated the budget to re-turf the pitch, but that money has yet to come through

"They said we could get the ground re-turfed for 670,000 baht, but we don't have the funds for that," Mr Cotter said.

Mr Cotter explained that players, including the Thai national squad members who will be joining the event, had expressed concern about being injured by the poor-quality pitch.

The search for an alternative pitch has been a saga. An application to use Surakul Stadium, filed on April 7, was officially denied two weeks later on the grounds that the *OrBorJor* "didn't want the pitch damaged."

He was told to wait, however, until the following week for the denial to be reviewed by senior *OrBorJor* members. Later that week they backed the denial of permission.

Attention then turned to other grounds.

The British Curriculum International School denied use of its pitch. "The pitch at Saphan Hin is in a similar condition to Karon. I had a look at it and about three quarters of it was bare sand, so there was no point in even applying for that," he said.

"We were finally offered Sanam Chai, but we had to apply again, and go through the whole process again," he said.

A disappointed Mr Cotter pointed out the poor facilities at the Sanam Chai. "There is one men's toilet and one women's toilet," Mr Cotter said. "What could pass for a changing room is used as a storeroom. There is no seating and no cover – we will have to provide all that."

About 2,000 people watched the grand final at last year's event. "With confirmation of the new venue at such a late date, we now expect a lot fewer than that. But there are 28 teams coming. That means in players alone we're looking at 400 people, not including supporters and family members who come and extend their stay so they can also spend a holiday here," he said.

Mr Cotter explained that the Phuket Rugby 10s has been growing in popularity in recent years. "Last year the event generated about US\$500,000 in Phuket, as well as international publicity," he said, adding that it was also featured in ESPN's *The Rugby Show*, whose host Justin Sampson will be playing for the Bangkok Bangers in this year's event.

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- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong



# Badminton boys set to do battle in Brunei



Eam Thavornwongwongse, President of Phuket Sport Association, gives words of encouragement to Kiattisak (left) and Maneepong.

PHUKET CITY: Two students from Phuket selected to represent Thailand at the Youth Badminton Asia competition in Brunei from June 3 to 11 are making their final preparations.

The boys, Maneepong Jongjit, 15, and Kiattisak Daramuth, 16, both pupils at Phuket Wittayalai School, are to compete in the doubles competition, facing opponents from 11 countries. Thailand is sending 16 players in total, the other 14 from Bangkok.

On May 17 the duo were taken to meet Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and Eam Thavornwongwongse, President of the Phuket Sport Association.

The Governor and K. Eam encouraged the boys to do their best and also contributed funds for the trip.

Maneepong nodded as Kiattisak told the *Gazette*, "We are worried about our studies because we have to go to many competitions and miss a lot of school time."

"We are also worried about the food over in Brunei, we are not sure if we will like it."

Kiattisak added, "We leave Thailand for the competition on June 2. We would like people in Phuket to cheer us on when we go to compete in Brunei, or anywhere else."

— Nattamon Ratcharak

## Navy golf attracts big guns

PHANG NGA: The Rotary Andaman Team of Prachuab Pan-chai, Satchapol Thongsom and Channarong Pichalai made the best of rainy conditions at the Tab Lamu Golf Course in Phang Nga to win a charity golf event organized by the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Area Command (TNAC).

Coming in second in the event, held on May 20 to raise funds for Navy welfare projects

in the region, was the Toyota Pearl Phuket team of Capt Kridsana Thikulya, Lt Ruangsak Noktaisong and Sub-Lt Chuan Noy-ma.

Trophies were presented to the winning teams by TNAC Commander Vice-Admiral Thana Bunnak.

Some 180 golfers took part in the fun tournament, which was delayed until mid-day due to heavy morning rains.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

## Didi's clinch league title

PATONG: With one week remaining in the 22-week season, Didi's have clinched their first-ever title in the Patong Darts League with a 3-point walkover against the now-defunct Two Black Sheep.

The boys from Soi Saen Sabai got a little help from Dog's Bollocks, who took all three points at home against OffShore, who were mathematically eliminated as a result.

Any bars wishing to field a team in the next league competition, which starts in a few weeks time, are encouraged to contact Terry at Amigos in Soi Sea Dragon.

**May 16 results:** Dog's Bollocks\* 5 Offshore 4; Amigos\* 3 Piccadilly 6; Valhalla 4 Queen Mary\* 5; Shakers 5 Boss Bar\* 4. (\* = winner of beer leg)

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (48 pts.); 2. Queen Mary (43); 3. Offshore (42); 4.= Dog's Bollocks, Piccadilly (41); 6. Amigos (37); 7. Coyote Bar (35); 8.= Shakers, Valhalla (30); 10. Boss Bar (21). (note: one game outstanding).



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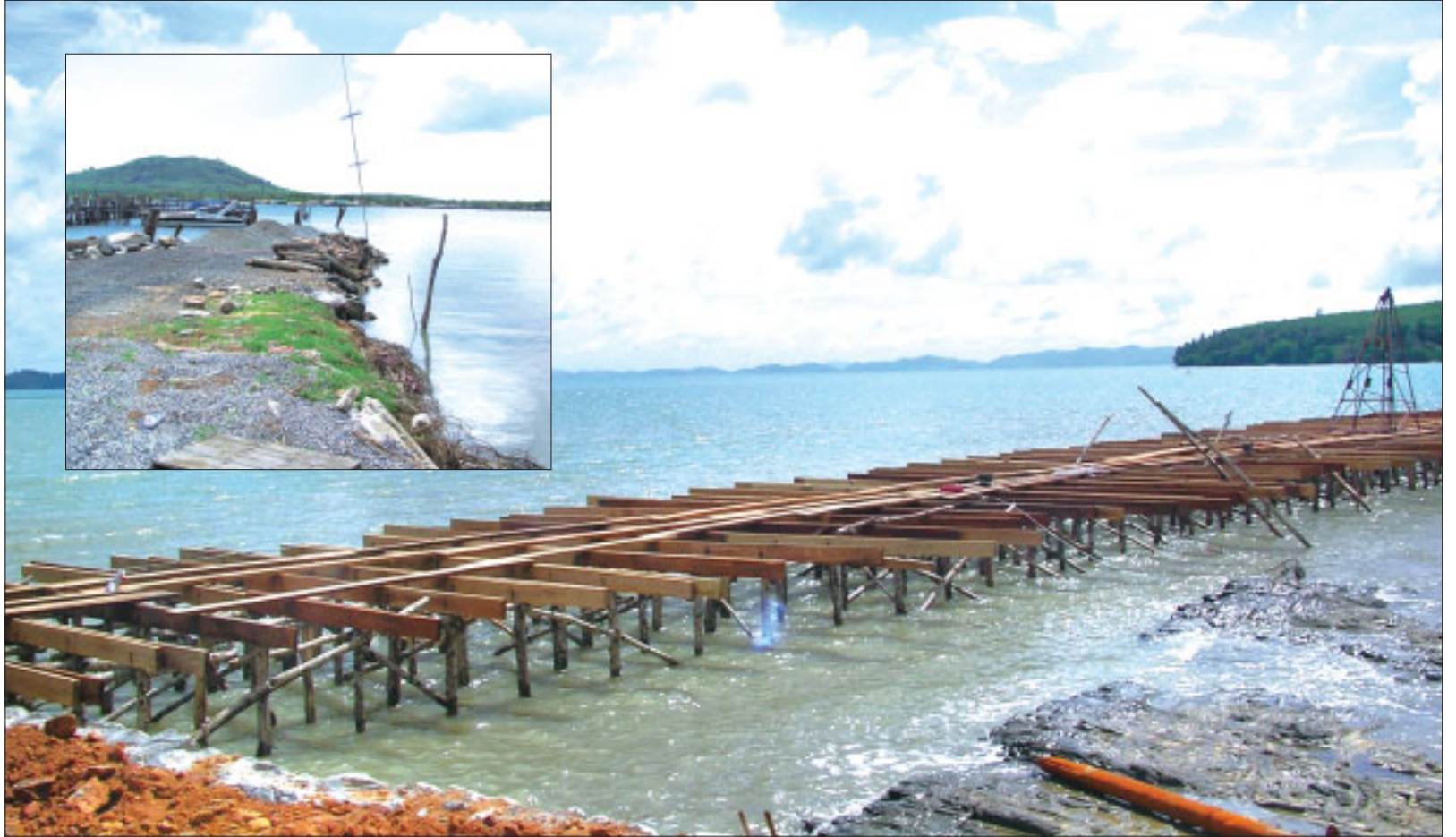
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Above: Prapit Noopech, Chief of Public Works at Koh Kaew OrBorTor.

Construction work on the new pier (right) is now around 30% complete. Inset: The old pier.



## New Laem Hin pier 'ready in September'

KOH KAEW: Despite hard rock delaying work installing the foundations for the new pier at Laem Hin, the pier is about 30% complete and is still expected to be finished on schedule in September.

"The project is now behind schedule. Some of the area where we had to sink the foundations has rock that was very difficult to penetrate.

"Fortunately it was not too hard, so we succeeded in the end," Prapit Noopech, Chief of Public Works at Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), told the *Gazette*.

"However, I think we can finish the project on time in September," he added.

K. Prapit explained that the new pier, being built by Trang Thong Co Ltd, follows requests from people in Laem Hin and on Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island) that transport links between the two be improved.

"People currently have to rely on two private, wooden piers, one of which belongs to a restaurant and the other belongs to a construction company.

"Although most people prefer to use the restaurant's pier, sometimes people have to take bodies from Phuket back to Koh

Maphrao for funerals. It is not good for the restaurant to have bodies carried through it, so those people have to use the other pier."

K. Prapit said that people traveling to or from Koh Rang, Koh Yao and Koh Khai will also benefit from the new pier. "At present the private piers are not big enough to handle the volume of traffic between Laem Hin and the surrounding islands, especially as the number of tourist boats using the existing piers is increasing," he added.

The project includes a 20-meter by 30m parking area with room for about 30 cars. The pier

itself will be made of concrete, and will be three meters wide and 328m long.

"We were given a budget of 11.5 million baht from the provincial authorities and most of that will be spent on building the pier itself.

"The car park is just a patch of land; we have not surfaced it. If later we feel that it would be better to pave it, we will have to request more funds from the OrBorTor," K. Prapit said.

He added that when the pier is complete, many longtail boats and speedboats will use it to ferry passengers to Koh Maphrao and the many seafood restaurants on

the island. Local fisherman will also be able to moor their boats at the pier.

K. Prapit said that the Koh Kaew OrBorTor will also have the small wooden pier that was destroyed by the tsunami rebuilt using concrete. The pier will be 60m long and 2.5m wide, and built with a budget of 2.6 million baht. The OrBorTor is currently looking for a contractor for the project, and hopes to start building in June and finish by the end of this year.

"The provincial government has plans to build a bridge to connect Phuket and Koh Maphrao.

If this plan goes ahead, we expect that it will connect the new concrete pier being built at Laem Hin with the 300m long pier at Koh Maphrao. This means that only a 700m-long bridge needs to be built to connect the two," he added.

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## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

# COOL BRICKS, MON!

WICHIT: As a result of their durability and attractive earth tones, clay bricks have been used as a building material since ancient times.

In most tropical regions of the world, the wet, humid climate produces a red soil, laterite (*din daeng* in Thai), which is perfect for brick-making.

This fact was not lost on our ancestors. A trip to the former capital, Ayudhaya, reveals that the city – or at least what remains of it today – was composed entirely of red brick.

Likewise, most of the Khmer temples at Angkor were built with laterite and have survived for more than 1,000 years.

Incorporating attractive used brick into contemporary villa design in Phuket is the expertise of Chiang Rai native Jiroj Khundejmak, Managing Director of Amandari Design, who has been all over Thailand sourcing used bricks; new, factory-produced bricks fade over time and lack the character and durability of used bricks, he says.

## TRADITIONAL

K. Jiroj specializes in highly-prized Mon-style oven bricks. These he collects by first locating a 30- to 40-year-old Mon-style traditional brick oven, used to make charcoal, then painstakingly dismantling it with hammer and chisel and transporting the spoils back to Phuket.

K. Jiroj, a landscape architect who graduated with top honors from King Mongkut Institute of Technology in Bangkok, has been in the brick business on the island for 18 years.

His most visible work is in front of his office on Chao Fa West Rd, where distinctive spiral pillars made of the Mon brick are clearly visible to passing motorists.

“Designing and building these pillars and structures from Mon brick is just a part of my business,” he told the *Gazette*. “Another building material we work with is colored cement, which is available in hundreds of different colors.



“I spent some time in Bali, so I can recreate authentic Balinese designs, either in brick or concrete, whether it be for walls, pillars, flooring tiles or even spiral pillars.”

Prices depend on a number of factors, including design and labor costs, but the Mon bricks are priced reasonably at just six baht each.

K. Jiroj's shop, Garden World, also stocks a wide range

of other products for home and garden, including Balinese-style sandstone sculptures, ventilation blocks, and water jars in ceramic, terra cotta and clay.

*Garden World is on the east side of Chao Fa West Rd, just south of the Kwang Rd intersection. For more information contact K. Jiroj at Tel: 09-7240493 or visit the website at [www.amandaribalidesign.com](http://www.amandaribalidesign.com)*

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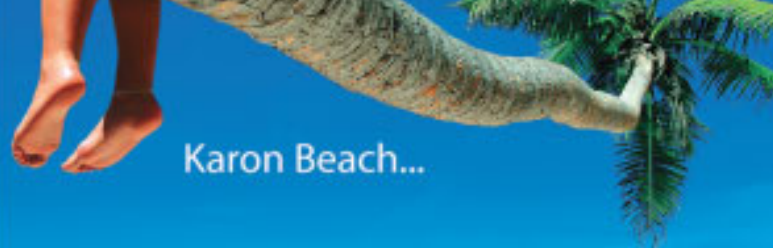
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## Gardening

## with Bloomin' Bert

This week we're going to start with a little pronunciation lesson. Strangely enough, this has absolutely nothing to do with plants – or any aspect of gardening whatsoever. I just feel that it's incumbent on me to clarify a word in the English language that has been overlooked for some time, and consequently is often mispronounced.

It concerns that particularly distinct group of people who were blessed at birth with the gift of red hair, or more specifically, ginger. Now this is where many people get it wrong. These individuals are collectively known as "ging-ers". Their epithet, correctly pronounced, is with the "g" as in "girl" and the "inger" as in "singer". Does that make sense?

Ging-ers are everywhere. You can't escape them, and more are born every day. I can't give them too much of a hard time as my niece is a full-blown ging-er. What's interesting is that her mother (my sister) is quite insistent that her daughter's hair is auburn, and horrified at the fact that I should have the audacity to describe her daughter as a ging-er.

Ging-ers are a proud lot, though. A mate of mine – a ginger himself – was telling me over a beer recently how he and some carrot-topped friends got together and formed a ging-er hockey team for a game. They lost, but even sadder is that one bloke even dyed his hair so that he could get on the team.

I did a bit of research about this and found discussions galore on the subject – even in *The Times Educational Supplement*. It



REDHEAD: The showy 'flowers' – bracts, really – last a long time, bringing color to your garden.

# GINGERING UP YOUR GARDEN

was an exchange there between a genetics teacher and a medium-blond wife who was somewhat concerned about the chances of her offspring being redheaded, as her husband's crown is "an odd ginger-brownish color".

The expert explained that red hair results from a recessive

gene. When combined with genes for brown or black hair, the red gene is obscured and often goes unnoticed. But combined with genes for lighter hair shades it produces strawberry blond or auburn hair, or even flaming orange carrot tops. He was probably making it up, but now she's petrified that she's likely to bear a ginger.

I recently discovered that people have devoted whole websites to ging-ers. These people probably need to get outside, off the computer and get some exercise and sun on their skin. Except for those with red hair, obviously, as should they choose to do so they will just get sunburned and more freckled. They should probably just stay inside; it's safer that way.

Getting to the point, the ginger-er of the plant world is much happier in the heat of the day. It's also a flaming redhead, but it seems much prouder of the vivid

splash of color that sits on top of it than its human counterparts.

The red ginger is known as the *alpinia purpurata* by scientific types. I have no idea why there would be an Alpine reference in the name of a tropical plant, but I'm sure they have a very good reason. Thais call it the *king daeng*, anyway. It's distantly related to the ginger that went into the biscuits we ate as children – and still goes into many Thai dishes – but this member of the family is inedible.

Even though you can't eat it, it looks spectacular and will always brighten up a corner of the garden. As it's attractive to bees, butterflies and birds, that corner will attract some extra attention too.

Originating in the Pacific islands, it's an odd plant. It looks a lot like zingiber, which is the "real" ginger that we eat. However, red ginger grows in clusters made up of stems of up to two

meters, with long leaves up to about 40 centimeters in length.

The most conspicuous part of the plant is its flowers, which aren't actually flowers at all. The bright red bracts that appear on the ends of the stems, or inflorescences as they're properly known, last much longer than regular flowers. They don't come and go overnight like many other more fickle members of the plant world. This makes the plant ideal if you don't want to work too hard in your garden.

The true flower of the red ginger is a tiny white thing, hidden away in a sea of waxy red. You'd hardly know it was there. It's almost as if the red bits are cheating. In reality, that's probably the function they serve on the plant, as the flowers themselves aren't up to the job of enticing the pollinating insects in, so they need a bit of help.

The deep-red heads are abundant on plants that will bloom even in pots. Red ginger in the wild tend to gather together like giggling schoolgirls to produce a heavy bush kind of appearance.

The red ginger doesn't require much to be happy, apart from fairly rich, constantly moist soil. Try not to let it dry out between attacks with the hosepipe, and with enough water it will bloom to its heart's content. Expect more impressive blooms if its home is relatively shaded.

Many people grow red ginger because its inflorescences maintain their color for a couple of weeks after they are cut from the plant. Stick them in a vase and leave them to it.

Propagation of ginger plants is done by dividing the rhizomes; those tuber things that produce the food flavoring in its cousin. Just dig down below a healthy plant until you find something that looks a bit like a giant peanut, and break a bit off. Throw that in some of that coconut-based compost for a while, keep it damp, and something green should appear above the surface before too long.

Ginger has to be the plant for ging-ers. It could even become a ginger mascot. Thankfully, ginger plants are more suited to the Phuket sun than their human counterparts, and have considerably fewer freckles. They don't usually form hockey teams either.

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## Rawai



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# Property Gazette

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### CHALONG - LARGE HOUSE

Double-story large house with 4 bedrooms, large living and dining area, new kitchen and office with separate entrance. This European-style house is 6 years old, all fenced in and sitting in a mature garden. Located in a quiet location in Soi Bang Rae, with concrete road access, underground electric and telephone cables. Close to shopping centers & schools. This property is realistically priced at 5.4 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-8951826, 076-289656. Fax: 076-289656. Email: [info@far-away.net](mailto:info@far-away.net) For further details, please see our website: [www.homesinphuket.com](http://www.homesinphuket.com)

### 3 BEDROOM HOUSE

Kathu 3 bedr detached house in quiet village in Kathu. 64.4 sq/wah with Chanote title. 3 aircon units and fitted curtains. 2 bathrooms (master bedroom with en suite). Not far from Patong and Phuket City and only 5 mins to Phuket Country Club. Offers in region of 3.6 million baht. Pls contact for full details. Tel: 076-203-064, 01-0876702. Email: [davestacey16@hotmail.com](mailto:davestacey16@hotmail.com)

### BARGAIN HOUSE

for sale. Kathu, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, aircon, Western kitchen, garden, carport, etc. Needs a little TLC, but a bargain at 2.95 million baht o.n.o. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-3074710. Email: [cawleym@loinfo.co.th](mailto:cawleym@loinfo.co.th)

### 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](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### NEW HOUSE PATONG BEACH

Located on small development in the hills at the north end of Patong beach, very quiet and natural setting, and only 2 minutes to the beach. Only 5 out of a total of 8 plots left. House can be custom built, by an English mastercraftsman builder to your requirements. We are so sure of our quality, if you can show us a better-built house, in our price range, we will give you a house for free. Price range from 10 to 15 million baht. Contact Andy. Tel: 01-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: [antc@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:antc@phuket.ksc.co.th)

### 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](http://www.bangtaobeachgardens.com)

### TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

in Kathu. Beautiful location opposite golf club. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 floors. 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-273-324-5, 01-8920404. Fax: 076-238261.

### SMALL PLOT - RAWAI

Area 180 sqm only 500 m from beach. All facilities. Chanote title. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

### RAWAI BEACH FRONT

Big plot of land in the best location in Rawai. Good for development project. Pls contact. Tel: 07-0630700. Email: [yuthana@juslaw.com](mailto:yuthana@juslaw.com)

### 9 RAI CHANOTE TITLE



Panoramic sea view, Makham bay. Only a few kilometers from Phuket City ideal for resort or villa project. 4.5 million baht/rai. Contact owner. Tel: 01-8948321, 01-8935314.

### CONDO & VILLA

sales. We have more than 140 freehold condos, apartments and villas for sale in all locations of Phuket. Please visit our website below for full details. Email: [cv@phukets.info](mailto:cv@phukets.info) For further details, please visit: [www.phukets.info/re/c&v.html](http://www.phukets.info/re/c&v.html)

### 3 BEDROOMS

Beautiful house in Chalong. Fully furnished, 3 bathrooms, aircon. Quick sale required. Consider offers around 5.3 million. Tel: 06-2790837.

### ANDAMAN SEAVIEW

plots. 3-phase electricity, water, Road access. 1,100sqm. 3 million baht. Ready to build. Tel: 06-2670157, 06-267-0157. Email: [bannuaton@yahoo.com](mailto:bannuaton@yahoo.com)

### RAWAI CONDO

for sale/rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell at 450,000 baht. 400m from beach. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@hotmail.com)

### RAWAI, STUNING

plot. Very beautiful plot in Rawai. 2 rai near Laem Ka beach. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

### CHALONG SEA VIEW

Only 200m from the beach. 1 rai, Chanote title. 4 million baht. Nice and quiet. Tel: 01-5376866.

### 680 SQM PLOT

in Rawai. Good location to build. 2 million baht. Come and have a look. Tel: 01-5376866.

## RESORT SETTING

Owner selling, near Laguna, Chanote title, both have exotic furniture, big spas, each on 1/2 rai of landscaped land.



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Spa, pool. Asking

8 million baht



New 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spa. Also nanny house and work shop. Asking

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### A RARE OPPORTUNITY



to acquire an end-of-row townhouse at the Boat Lagoon. This centrally-located position is handy for most things on Phuket. 2 large bedrooms, 1 ensuite. Mooring for a boat directly behind the house. Full freehold title for foreigners. 7.5 million baht. For further details, call K. Ju at Tel: 09-6522458 or see our website at: [www.baansiamrealty.com](http://www.baansiamrealty.com)

### PHUKET CITY CONDO

32sqm, freehold, brand-new, furnished, 550,000 baht. Close to Central Festival. Tel: 01-4763623. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@hotmail.com)

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## ECO-COOL THAI HOMES IN RAWAI



Visit this award-winning energy-efficient Thai-style home. It's true, you can beat Phuket's tropical heat without aircon. 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (220sqm) home on 400sqm plot. Includes pool, pond, hard wood and many extras. Priced at only 9.5 million baht. Call Gary at Tel: 07-8987062.

## 700 SQM VILLA

Newly built, Bali style. Valued at 25 million baht, selling at 19 million baht. Stunning sea view. Kata. Tel: 01-5376866.

## 3 RAI, RAWAI

Chanote, road, electricity. Top spot, great price: 3.2 million baht. Call Tel: 07-8938747.

## FULLY FURNISHED

2-story house, parking for 2 cars, 81 sq wah (300sqm) useable area, 2 large balconies, 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 aircons, large European kitchen, cable TV, etc. Tel: 076-383959, 01-693-1386. Fax: 076-383959.

## BEACH RESORT

on Koh Yao. 4,400sqm, 75m beachfront, 22 bungalows, restaurant, bar, shop, speedboat, Chanote title. Email: han@yaoyairesort.com www.yaoyairesort.com

## CHALONG LAND

5 rai. Can subdivide to any size, or partner for development. Contact owner. Tel: 076-280440, 06-6831964. Fax: 076-280-440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## HALF-RAI, SEAVIEW

In Rawai, perfect location for apartment or villa. Road and electricity. Chanote title. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 06-267-0898.

## RAWAI PRIME LAND



2 rai 41sqm in developing quiet area close to Chalong. Chanote title with thai company. Electricity, water, flat land. Tel: 01-4776662. Email: verndono@yahoo.com

## KATA GARDENS

penthouse. The condominium has 278sqm of private living space, including 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a sunken bath, living and dining room, kitchen, large terrace, rooftop garden and plunge pool, parking and communal facilities. Tel: 076-398106, 07-2837161. Fax: 076-398-517. Email: jon.gibbons@karonproperty.com Please see www.karonproperty.com/kata\_gardens\_penthouse.html

## VILLA 3

Attractive 2-bedroom house for sale. Quiet, safe neighborhood. Corner location. Asking 3 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 09-8751154.

## PATONG TOWNHOUSE

x 2 for sale. Each has 2 bedrooms with en suite bath. A third bathroom downstairs. Open-plan living, dining & kitchen area. Features telephone line ADSL & UBC to both homes. Both currently tenanted. 9 million baht, offers invited. Tel: 076-296072, 01-7196088.

## PATONG TOWNHOUSE

For sale, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Large courtyard. Underground water tank, UBC, ADSL telephone line. 10 meters away from large communal swimming pool. Beautifully decorated and fully furnished. 5.5 million baht. Offers invited. Tel: 076-296-072, 01-7196088.

## 1 RAI, YANUI

500m from beach, stunning view. Only plot with Chanote, perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

## CHUAN CHUEN

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

## 1 RAI - YACHT HAVEN

1 rai of excellent flat building land at Yacht Haven Phuket, 200m from clubhouse facilities. This plot is opposite newly-built homes on the water-view side, and from the 2nd and 3rd levels will also obtain views. Accessible from 3 sides and would make an ideal villa development. Chanote land title, 6 million baht. For many other plots please contact us. Tel: 076-388685, 01-6776103. Fax 076-388684. Email: info@andamanthaiproperty.com or see www.andamanthaiproperty.com

## LAND FOR SALE

in Cherng Talay 130 talang wah. Soi Pasak, nice view. Sale by owner. Please call K. Ann at Tel: 01-8933571.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

3-story detached house, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Asking 6.5 million. Call Tel: 01-5358555 or 01-3700660.

## SMALL PLOT - RAWAI

Perfect for small villa. Chanote, road, electricity. 200,000 baht. Don't wait. Tel: 01-5376866.

## IDYLIC COUNTRY VILLA IN RAWAI



Charming, 3-bedroom home, carefully built by owner, set among trees in 1,000sqm of walled garden with an attractive swimming pool and separate guest/granny bungalow. Private plot in a quiet country area, but handy access to Nai Harn and Rawai Beaches, and Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (master en-suite), pool shower and separate toilet in garden, Western-style fitted kitchen, dining room, living room, front and rear terraces, laundry/store-room, carport and parking. Guest bungalow: 1 bedroom, bathroom, living/dining room, kitchenette. All utilities; underground power and 2 phone lines. Full Chanote title. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 01-4774792. Email: sybil@loxinfo.co.th

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## An Outstanding Lifestyle Investment Starting from 3,250,000 Baht

All apartments are built around an open living concept. All offer incredible pool views. Lush tropical landscaped gardens surround the entire development.



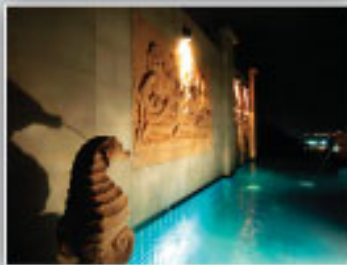
## Cape Panwa 2-2-45 rai Total price 31,000,000 Baht

Fantastic seaview land located on the hillside.



## Kaokad 20 rai

Total price 310,000,000 Baht. Price per rai: 15,500,000 Baht. An impressive site high above Makham bay with panoramic 45 degree. A good opportunity for developing a luxury villa, private house.



## High and luxury homes perched on a hillside of North Patong Starting from 29,100,000 Baht

The villas contain ample living area within and have been situated with much space among each individual residence.



## Ao Makham (Near Conrad hotel) 3-3-30 rai

Total price 47,000,000 Baht. A residential plot with a great view of Makham Bay.



## Chalong 5 rai

Total price 29,600,000 Baht. Located on the hillside in Chalong bay. Plot sizes range approx 5 rai. (Please see the layout in the picture folder)



## 6 new villas at Boat Lagoon for sale Starting from 12,000,000 Baht

A pretty, small and exclusive project where all houses have their own infinity pool and their own water supply. 24 hours security and even a little gym.



## Palai 3-3-28 rai

Total price 42,000,000 Baht. In a prime location with magnificent view. Ideal for development of small estate.



## Kamala (Lam Son) 15-2-92 rai Total price 222,500,000 Baht

Price per Rai: 12,500,000 Baht. The plot comprises of beach and gentle-sloping mountain land. It is overlooking the picturesque Kamala Bay. Surrounded by rich, pristine rainforest. Offers privacy and tranquility.



## The culmination of visionary island living Starting from 18,000,000 Baht

On the island of Phuket amidst lush tropical forests with stunning views of crystal-clear aqua-marine seas.



## Rawai 1 rai 78 tarangwah Total Price 15,500,000 Baht

Very beautiful land, with a nice seaview at Chalong bay.



## Kata Noi 40 rai

420,000,000 Baht price per rai: 10,500,000 Baht. Undeveloped land on the hillside of Kata overlooking the Andaman sea and the charming beachside of Kata that evokes an atmosphere of calm and peacefulness.

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

### WANTED: OFFICE FOR RENT

Want to rent a small office with a/c in the area of Phuket City, Lotus or Central. Walk-in with some promotion space on the window/door. Need approx 30-40 sqm, ADSL line, bathroom and additional storage room. From 1st of June 2006. Tel: 01-8926019. Email: bogbank@hotmail.com

### BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Email: tomdexter2001@yahoo.de

**LONG-TERM RENTAL**  
in Kathu. 1- or 2-bedroom house in Kathu required as soon as possible, preferably semi-furnished but not important. However, it must have a phone line and a small garden. Addition to family forces move from Patong. Can provide reference from present landlord for past 17 months. Tel: 01-8022800. Email: markbowen@ji-net.com

**HOUSE WANTED**  
in Kata, Karon or Chalong. I am looking for a house with 2 to 3 bedrooms at a maximum price of 3 million baht. If you have one. Tel: 01-8948588. Email: bennob@diveasia.com

## Accommodation Available

### LAKE VIEW APARTMENT



Lake-view apartments in Kathu. Fully furnished with aircon, fridge, cable TV, hot water and car park. Rent 183 baht a day (minimum 1 month). Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Fax: 076-202911. Please Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

### NEW BUNGALOW

Available 1 June to 30 October: New bungalow in a quiet cul de sac. 2 double bedrooms, 2 shower rooms, full inventory. All you need is beach towels. 11,000 baht per month, or 18,000 to include four door Isuzu pick-up with 1st class insurance. No deals; this is a good offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-388657, 07-8917408. Email: moonrakermanagement@hotmail.com

**KARON APARTMENT**  
Center Karon 50m from beach 2 rooms, 2 balcony, cable TV, wifi, aircon. Only long term. 17,500 baht per month. Tel: 06-2718254.

### PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to the beach, clean and comfortable, with air conditioning, TV, a big fridge, double bed, pool and parking. For more information, please call Tel: 01-0825707 or see our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

### BIG NEW APARTMENT

for rent, just 5 minutes to the beach. Only 500 baht per day, or 9,000 baht per month. Fully furnished for maximum of 4 persons. Contact for full details. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

### PATONG LUXURY

1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Central Patong. Please email for more information and photos. Email: suites@yahoo.com

### 2 NICE HOMES KAMALA

2 beautifully-appointed, fully-furnished homes 250m from beach. See 02R & 03R houses icon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8931360. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

### 2 NICE HOUSES

Kata & Rawai 6 months plus. Low-season bargains. Serious inquiries only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-0633185. Email: friendlyfrog43@yahoo.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### 3-BDRM FURN. HOUSE, 20-25K

Family of 4, seeking a 3 bdrm house in a quiet and safe area for July 1st. long-term. Near Brit. Int'l school. Furnished w/yard. Screened doors/windows. 20-25k. Please contact K. Robert - 09-652-1799, 09-6521799. Email: robbiesan2@yahoo.com

### HOUSE OR APT WITH ADSL / PHONE

I'm looking to rent a house for at least 1 year. I require air conditioning and ADSL or a phone line that can have ADSL quickly. I have two small parrots. ADSL is a must and is needed 100 percent without exception. Tel: 610-8532828. Email: howardbloom@pc-man.com

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Documents: 200 baht per month, - 20 container: 4,200 baht per month, - Self store: from 650 baht per month, - Site office: 5,200 baht per month, - Mobile toilet: 2,200 baht per month. Tel: 076-281283, 01-1251873. For further details please see our website: www.safewayphuket.com

### MOTHER & CHILD

international. Childcare center "Aiming for Excellence for all Your Child's Needs" Opening in Rawai (near Don's Mall) 12 June 06. Accepting children aged 18 months to 5 years. Enrolment now available. For information, please contact 07-1069890 (for English) or 01-6532122 (for Thai). Email: charliecooke@btinternet.com

### ONLY EVE VISA RUN

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### SONY WEGA 28" TV

with home theatre system, surround sound, stand and 2 DVD players. One year old, never used, still have receipts for 60,000 baht. Will accept 30,000 baht. Genuine bargain. Tel: 05-7862404. Email: looster69@hotmail.com

### KING SIZE BED

Metal frame with mattress. 4,000 baht. Please contact me for more information. Tel: 01-8919461. Email: coconutgrove707@hotmail.com

### BOKHARA STYLE

Carpet Size 4' x 6'. In good condition. 4,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2658801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com

### SUPER KING BED

Teak wood frame with head and footboard. British sprung mattress with extra firm support. Easily transportable. Only 3 months old. Best price at 20,000 baht. Various items of old English silver, need to be viewed. Large collection of Beanie babies suitable for little girl. All have labels. Best offer. Tel: 76-062712758. Email: davidandannatandy@hotmail.com

## Household Services

### LOCKUP STORAGE

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## Household Services Needs

### CHILD MINDER

Positions available for 2 persons. Friends and/or family members. 10,000 baht per month. Please contact via. Email: ir@dubaiwebcity.com

## Property Services

### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

UK certified electrician. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-6919907. Email: phuketelectrician@yahoo.co.uk

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22/22A, Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand.  
Tel: +66 76 239 768 Fax: +66 76 239 927 Email: phuket@simpsonmarine.com

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# Island Job Mart



**31 ft Chris Craft Scorpion**

We're upgrading to a bigger boat! Classic hull. Recent full renovation. New electricals, GPS/fish finder, fuel flow, stainless 316, Bose speakers, stereo CD, teak accents, etc. Top speed 42 knots. Thai flagged. Bt4 million incl. VAT. Call 01 801 5068 or email [ftbowers@yahoo.com](mailto:ftbowers@yahoo.com).

**GoBoating Thailand**  
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**Monterey 214 FS Ready to go with trailer!**

**Monterey 214 FS** **Stock Boat**

Cover the waterfront. The 214 FS Monterey bowrider has got what it takes to get you wherever you want to go...and enjoy every minute of it. It's packed with conveniences that make it easy to handle a big crew in plenty of comfort and style.

**Asking price :2.3 Million**

**Sea Breeze 33** **Sold**

**Sea Breeze 26** **Sold**

**Dolphin SD 31** **Sold**

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Tel: +66 (0) 7623 9966 Fax: +66 (0) 7623 9967 Mobile: 07 056 6301  
Email: [goboating\\_th@yahoo.com](mailto:goboating_th@yahoo.com)

## BEACH CAT WANTED

Wanted: sailing catamaran up to 20 ft. Hobie, Nacra, AHPC, etc. Fixer OK. Tel: 03-1725610. Email: [fullcave@mailcity.com](mailto:fullcave@mailcity.com)

## 25FT CUSTOM FISHING/DIVE BOAT

Marine ply/fiber/epoxy, teak deck and woodwork, center console, hard roof, new Yamaha 85hp, steel trailer. All US/EU standards. Speeds to 26 knots. Must see! 900,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-1323150. Email: [skiyemen@yahoo.com](mailto:skiyemen@yahoo.com)

## PHUKET RACEWEEK KING'S CUP

Crew needed for Phuket Raceweek (27-30 July) and King's Cup (2-9 December). Experienced or not, let's talk. Tel: 66-76383080. Fax: 66-76381934. Email: [bigasail@samart.co.th](mailto:bigasail@samart.co.th)

## FIBERGLASS BOATS FOR SALE



20ft Bayliner Trophy on tandem-axle trailer, no engine, very good condition. 16 foot Banliner ski boat with 85hp engine + skis on trailer. Please call Tel: 09-4731165 for more information.

## TAYANA 55 SLOOP

1993 model in excellent condition full aircon and Genset. Recently refitted teak decks and rigging and many other extras. For more information and an inspection call Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

**NEW 2006 FIRST 7.5**  
Beneteau's latest design yacht for the sailing enthusiast. Just arrived. See it at the Boat Lagoon or call for more details. Simpson Marine. Tel: 076-239768.

**LAGUNA**  
RESORTS & HOTELS

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the following position:

## WEDDING SERVICES MANAGER 1 POSITION

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- \* Capable of establishing and marketing packages for chapel weddings
- \* Experienced in planning and executing weddings
- \* Experienced in hotel sales and marketing
- \* Fluent in spoken and written English, and computer literate
- \* Excellence in client service, self-motivated & an enthusiastic professional
- \* Capable of working independently

We offer an attractive remuneration package and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

The Group Director of Human Resources  
LAGUNA RESORTS & HOTELS PCL  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonforn Rd, Chermg Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110  
Tel: (66-76) 324444 ext. 16, 17 Fax: (66-76) 271718 Email: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com)

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**I:3**  
ISLAND Building Co., Ltd

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)

## Taillard Electricity Co., Ltd. Looking for staff as below.

### Sales and marketing 1 position

- Female 28 yrs.
- 3 years experience
- Good command of spoken English
- Driving license

### Accounting assistance 1 position Store 1 position Electrician 2 position

- 2 years experience

Interested please contact.  
Taillard Electricity Co., Ltd.

14/4 Moo 5 Chafa-nok rd., T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-383793 04-6267752 Fax: 076-280023  
E-mail: [accounting@elec-pro.com](mailto:accounting@elec-pro.com)

## CLEANING STAFF

for guesthouse in Karon. Must speak some English. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-2718254.

## LAW FIRM

seeks an accountant, secretary and lawyer. Please send resumé to: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)

## TEFL TEACHER

required. Lovely teaching position off Phuket Island. Contract available, good wages and conditions. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-346 188, 01-2728805. Email: [director.school@gmail.com](mailto:director.school@gmail.com)

## TROPICAL HOMES

Sales-orientated staff required for rapidly expanding real-estate company. Driving license and good command of written and spoken English is a must. Basic salary plus commission. Please see our website at: [www.tropical-homes.net](http://www.tropical-homes.net)

## PATONG INN HOTEL

Staff wanted for hotel bar and restaurant on Patong Beach. Must speak some English. Please call K. Nim at Tel: 07-8914894.

## CASHIER AND WAITRESS

required at Kamala sauna and garden restaurant. Salary approx 5,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Taa for more details. Tel: 076-279223, 09-019-7163. Email: [websteram3@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:websteram3@tiscali.co.uk)

## F&B MANAGER WANTED

Sunset Beach Resort is looking for an F&B Manager. Please send CV or contact for more information. Tel: 076-342482-5. Email: [info@sunsetphuket.com](mailto:info@sunsetphuket.com)

## M&E TECHNICIAN/ SITE SUPERVISOR

required for large residential development at Baan Yamu, Phuket. Send details of qualifications and previous experience to the above email. 01-9062942. Email: [siteoffice@baanyamu.com](mailto:siteoffice@baanyamu.com)

## PART-TIME WORK

available. No fixed hours. Pay by commission. Prefer English-speaking females. NOT selling timeshare! Tel: 07-8973108. Email: [dx24@hotmail.com](mailto:dx24@hotmail.com)

## THAI FEMALE MODEL

Dutch female lingerie and swimsuit model will be in Phuket from July 11 till 21 for a private photoshoot. She is looking for a Thai model to join the photo session (no experience required). Contact directly. Email: [natnylons@yahoo.com](mailto:natnylons@yahoo.com)

## REAL ESTATE SALES

Due to expansion, Siam Real Estate requires experienced, independent, self-starting, self-employed farang sales persons. Must have personality and must know the island. Enjoy independence, high commissions, quality leads and full back-office support. Require Thai company, work permit and car. It's up to you how much you make! Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: [richard@siamrealestate.com](mailto:richard@siamrealestate.com) Please see our website at: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

## HOUSEMAID

Housemaid with some English. 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, 1 hour for lunch break. 6,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info. Tel: 01-0816862. Email: [belindarevett@hotmail.com](mailto:belindarevett@hotmail.com)

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# Island Job Mart

INDIGO  
REAL ESTATE

## Immediate Appointment : In-house Senior Accountant

### Responsibilities

- Monthly submission of government filings
- Timely production of monthly accounts
- Invoicing and payments documentation
- Daily journal entries

### Required Experience

- Min. 3 years' experience in similar position, with full responsibility for all aspects of company accounting and reporting
- University degree with accounting certificate
- Strong references are required

• Relocation expense covered • Generous package • Fast growing very high quality lifestyle and real estate company • Regional opportunity

Please send your CV in English, photo, current salary and expected salary to [suwanna@indigoRE.com](mailto:suwanna@indigoRE.com)

For more information, please call 076-271 614



The Racha is Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway, where people can balance body, mind and spirit in an environmentally friendly space. We are now looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the team of our 5-star deluxe 70-villa resort.

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Executive Sous Chef             | - FB Attendants          |
| - Staff Canteen Chef              | - Bartenders             |
| - Chef De Partie                  | - Restaurant Manager     |
| - Commis I or II                  | - Spa Therapists         |
| - Pastry Chef                     | - Reception Supervisor   |
| - Chief Steward                   | - Guest Service Officers |
| - Steward Attendants              | - HR Officer             |
| - Mechanical Technician           | - Accounting Officer     |
| - Sport and Recreation Attendants | - Laundry Attendants     |
| - Gardener                        |                          |

You should be able to live and work on Racha Island, which is around 35 minutes away from Phuket by our own speedboat. You should have a good command of English and service mind. We will provide training for candidates with no experience.

Our team is young, open-minded, flexible and creative and we share the same passion for true hospitality.

The Racha aims to be one of the premier resorts in Southeast Asia and we provide a competitive remuneration package and benefits.

Please submit your letter of application together with your CV and a recent photograph to:

**The Racha**  
General Manager  
[gm@theracha.com](mailto:gm@theracha.com)  
42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130  
Phone 0 76 355 455 Fax 0 76 355 637  
[www.theracha.com](http://www.theracha.com)



LAGUNA  
RESORTS & HOTELS

[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the positions below:

### Corporate Affairs Executive Legal Property Officer

1 position  
1 position

- ✓ Female, Thai Nationality, age not over 28.
- ✓ Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Hotel Management or any related field.
- ✓ Good command of written and spoken English.
- ✓ Excellent in computer literacy: Word and Excel essential.
- ✓ Self motivated, well-organized with good interpersonal skills.

Applicants are invited to send a full, detailed English resumé stating current and expected salary, together with recent photo, to:

**The Group Director of Human Resources,  
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd**  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthon Road, Chergthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-324444 #17, Fax: 076-271718 Email: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com)

A well established European Manufacturer of Sun Protection Fabrics and Systems, with a manufacturing and distribution network in Asia is looking for immediate placement in Phuket/ Krabi/ Phang Nga areas.

## Area Sales Manager

### Qualifications :-

25-30 years  
Thai Nationality  
Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design  
Willing to travel upcountry  
Driving License, preferably with own car  
English proficient  
Experience in hospitality industry or sales  
Computer literate

The company offers potential growth with an attractive package of salary and bonuses

Please email your application together with your resume and expected salary to: [kib@bvzf.com](mailto:kib@bvzf.com)

Qualification	Degree
Yr(s) Exp	2 year(s)
Job Location	Phuket/ Krabi/ Phang Nga
Salary	Negotiable
Employment Term	Full Time, Permanent

## CLOTHING DESIGNER

Clothing designer/pattern maker required for new business venture. Must be qualified, experienced and speak fluent English. Please contact for more info. Tel: 04-8373870. Email: [domtaylor@mac.com](mailto:domtaylor@mac.com)

## TRAINER/

bodyguard wanted. Lady, 23, 163cm, 45kg, fit and very pretty, looking to hire black, white, Thai, or any male who is physically strong to be coach/trainer/bodyguard. Please email photo and description. Pay is negotiable. Email: [cylu@pacific.net.hk](mailto:cylu@pacific.net.hk)

## 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 info. Tel: 076-236637-8.



Paradise Group Limited, a Developer • Property Management • Architecture • Interior Design • Entertainment company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for a qualified and energetic person to fulfill the position below:

## OPERATOR / PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ▶ Female, aged between 22 years and 30 years.
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Marketing or related field.
- ▶ Pleasant personality, service-minded with excellent communication skills.
- ▶ Good command & understanding of the English language.
- ▶ Self motivated.
- ▶ Energetic and willing to learn new challenges.

Interested candidates, please send full resumé & expected salary by fax or email to:

Chaiyan Saehang, Human Resource Manager  
Paradise Group: The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo 3,  
Cherngthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Fax: 66 (76) 271242  
Email: [pam@paradisep Phuket.com](mailto:pam@paradisep Phuket.com)

## Employment Wanted

### LADY WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH

Looking for work in Phuket. Please call K. Aum for more information. Tel: 01-084-9918. Email: [aumlopuri@hotmail.com](mailto:aumlopuri@hotmail.com)

### HOUSEKEEPER

available. For foreign clients only. Fair spoken and written English. Please call for more information. Tel: 06-9469997.

### BA DEGREE

in intr'l tourism. Dutch female, 26, looking for office job in marketing, e-commerce, management. Email: [suzanne@suzannessource.com](mailto:suzanne@suzannessource.com)

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\*Ads may be submitted in person or online ([phuketgazette.net/classifieds](http://phuketgazette.net/classifieds)), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

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367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City  
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### O2 POCKET PC FOR SALE

Like new, 17,000 baht; and new Sony Cybershot. Please call K. Giorgio. Tel: 01-2945441.

### GUITARS FOR SALE

Takamine 12,000 baht. Epiphone Les Paul 6,000 baht. Squire strat 10,000 baht. Fender amp 5,000 baht. F/Case 2,000 baht. Tel: 01-5379196.

### 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

### COFFEE MACHINE

for sale. Complete set. Call Tel: 07-8930847.

### PRO BODYBOARD

New Mike Stewart Comp 42" + Balin cover. only 14,000 baht. The best bodyboard in the market. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-592-6482. Email: ant\_maluca@yahoo.com

### SUPER KING-SIZE BED

- Teak frame with headboard and footboard. British spring mattress with extra-firm support. Easily transportable. Only 3 months old. Best price at 20,000 baht.

- Various items of old English silver, must be viewed.

- Large collection of Beanie babies suitable for little girl.

All have labels. Best offer. Contact. Tel: 06-2712758. Email: davidandannatandy@hotmail.com

### TITLEST GOLF BAG

Big size, as new. Maroon and black. I am asking only 5,500 baht for it. Tel: 06-5952833. Email: ukdj007bond@yahoo.co.uk

### BABY COT, STROLLER

Solid timber cot with innerspring mattress, matching change table and 3-wheel stroller. All Australian Safety Standard approved. 3 years old. Great condition. Tel: 06-9537624. Email: michaela\_trigg@yahoo.com.au

### KITEBOARD

for sale. I have two kiteboards for sale urgently. Both are Airush brand. Never used. Will go to best offer. Tel: 01-8235410. Email: frank@bathline.info

## 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),  
019564031 or 018912895

## Business Opportunities

### Alfs, Fish and chips shops for sale:

2 shops, Kata and Patong. Silent owner relocating. Good quality product. Qualified, loyal, NFFF certified staff. Need a Brit to give tender loving care and move the business forward.

E-mail: poi@pjp-intertrade.com  
Tel: 01-8226570

### BAR ON BANGLA

Sportsbar located on Soi Bangla, not on one of the side-sois, for sale. Quick sale, moving back to Europe. Tel: +46-709588-444, 07-2661571. Email: carl@banglabar.se For details, please see our website at: www.banglabar.se

### FOR SALE IN PATONG

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, in total more than 100 seats. Kitchen with all equipment, pool table, 7 TVs, fan coolers, cabins and more. Very nicely decorated. Contract for 3 more years. Rent 85,000 baht per month. Take over a running place. Email: patong-bar-for-sale@hotmail.com

### PHI PHI ISLAND

Great business for sale in the best location. 14 years contract. First to see will take. Please email for more info. Email: patong05@gmail.com

### KATHU, HAIR SALON

Lease for sale modern air-conditioned shop. Located near main-road junction. Has living accommodation at rear. Fixture and fittings: 130,000 baht for quick sale. Tel K. Araya. Tel: 07-9996621.

### GUESTHOUSE

w/ land for sale, Patong. 10 ground-floor rooms, close to beach. Approx 1 rai. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-342280, 01-978-1956 or send Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

### BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful bar in Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. 5-year lease. 5.7 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 07-8838721.

### BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Going cheap. Tel: 07-8930847.

### PATONG

Guesthouse in Patong, 13 rooms plus owner's unit. Large kitchen, reception, office, bar. 5 years old, fully furnished and equipped. Quiet location, main road. Direct from owner, 5-year contract, 3.6 million baht. No key money. Contact for info and photos. Tel: 076-344707, 01-6916147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

### FOR SALE

German carwash technology. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

### 2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht per year. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-8924311.

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nice office located in a business area. 50sqm, fully furnished with all office equipment and ready to start. 1.8 million baht. Company car is available if required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8750017. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### FOR THE SERIOUS INVESTOR

Location Koh Lanta, Krabi. Pub and restaurant for sale with 11-year lease. Theater, cooking area and garden. In a plaza on the middle of Klong-dao beach main road. Some shop units available, 1-3-year lease. Call K. Natchara. Tel: 06-9998767. Email: spencerviltshire@hotmail.com

### INVESTOR SOUGHT

Housing project in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Site already has roads, electricity and water supply, plus planning permits. Project already has 30 million baht invested, and has 3 houses sold. 6 remaining plots. Looking for silent partner for investment of 15 million baht. Please contact Andy. Tel: 01-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### 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

### 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@katabeachproperty.com

### KAMALA

restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex: 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock, and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Call after 5 pm. Tel: 03-1753996.

### SHOP FOR RENT

Patak Rd, Karon Beach. West of central Karon, 50sqm, no key money. 200,000 baht per year. Tel: 06-2718254.

## Business Products & Services

### Phuket Alarm Center.

Farang Patrol Stet Units.  
Wireless Alarm Systems.  
Video Surveillance.  
Car Tracking System.  
Personal Tracking System.  
Tel: 076-203-487 Mob: 047-086-456



WWW.PHUKETSECURITY.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 low prices 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

### EVE VISA RUN

to Andaman Club. Promotion price until August 2: 1,650 baht, includes lunch at the hotel, transfers, insurance, breakfast, soft drinks, visa, aircon. Call K. Eve at Tel: 076-289201 or 01-5352637.



### MOTHER & CHILD INTERNATIONAL CHILDCARE CENTER

"Aiming for Excellence for all Your Child's Needs". Opening in Rawai (near Don's Mall) June 12. Accepting children aged 18 months to 5 years. Enrolment now available. Please call 07-1069890 (English) or 01-6532122 (Thai). Email: charliecooke@btinternet.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 and Saturday. Please call for more information. Tel: 04-745-7024.

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

#### 41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherno Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet



**COCONUT HEAD**  
Reggae Band  
(voted best in SE Asia)

For contract starting Nov 2006.  
For details contact Rick Chaney.  
Email: rickchaney6565@yahoo.com.sg  
Website: www.coconutheadband.com

**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 de ses départements d'activité. Email: interall@gmail.com Please visit: www.interall-thailand.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale

**TELEPHONE LINE**  
for sale Chalong area 10,000 baht. Tel: 06-2699484 Asap.

## 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

### OSTEOPATH D.O.

Specialist for back problems. Deep tissue massage manipulation, Acu-pressure. Contact Kevin. Tel: 04-6433915.

### ANXIETY

fear, depression. Free English language support group. Email: lobroadway2004@yahoo.com

**PERSONAL TRAINING**  
Tailor-made physical training at all levels. Scheduled sessions at home or outside area. First lesson free. Tel: 07-2808077.

**HEALING & PSYCHIC**  
Readings in the comfort of your home. Please call Alexander for more information. Tel: 09-7367148.

### PERSONAL TRAINER

C.T.S sessions available. Contact Ben Dunnet. Tel: 03-1905007. Email: profile@bbpics.com

### CARPETS & SHAWLS

Handmade carpets, kilims & real pashmina shawls (we can wash & repair too). Please contact. Tel: 07-8187591. Email: jkashmiry@hotmail.com

### GIFT OF MYSTERIES

Tae Raenon Veenae Albama, American mystic, invites communion with English-speaking farang and Thais interested in studies of ancient mysticism on Phuket. All religions accepting mystic thought are invited to seek the gift. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-3965824.

### THAI COOKING

classes. Do you want to learn how to cook Thai food? We will teach you in English, German or Thai. Price 1,600 baht per lesson, incl. lunch for two. For more information call Mr Sasha, of Thai House Phuket Co Ltd, at Tel: 09-7257814.

### NURSING CARE

Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

### COMING SOON! KIDS CENTER

Over The Moon activity center for children.

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Location: Cherng Talay, close to Laguna Phuket. Please contact Barbara for more information. Tel: 09-6472651.

### LEARN THAI PRIVATELY

One-on-one lessons with qualified and experienced teacher in the privacy of your home or office. Read it, hear it, ask about it, and absorb it online. I speak English comfortably and will answer your questions clearly and precisely. I offer a free online lesson to show you how it works. All you need is MSN messenger. Simply add me - ajarn44@hotmail.com - and then phone me to set a time for your free trial. I am happy to provide references from successful students, but serious inquiries only, please. Tel: 09-7482572.

## Personal Services Wanted

### MIDWIFE, NURSE OR MAE BAAN

In early August I will give birth to my fourth baby, and I would like to do this at home. Is there any midwife, nurse or doctor in Phuket interested in natural birth who would come to our home? Also looking for a "mae baan" who knows how to take care of mother and baby after birth in traditional Thai style. if you know somebody, please let me know. Thank you. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-270027, 01-0827703. Email: suntree@phukethomemassage.com

### DOG TRAINER

Looking for a German-speaking dog trainer for my Thai dog of about 5-6 months old. Please call Tel: 01-2596052.

### 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

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

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### UK MAN SEEKS

Thai girl. UK male, 39, seeks Thai penpal. All emails answered. Email: hanson7@hotmail.co.uk

### MAN FROM USA

I am looking for an attractive, slim Thai girl, age 25-40, for companionship. I am in Patong for 3 months. Email: soinanai@yahoo.com

### FUN DATING

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Male Cocker. Brown. One year old. All jabs up to date. Friendly and great with kids. 2,000 baht. Must go to good home. Tel: 076-203064, 01-0876702. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.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. Tel: 076-282542, 01-4767806. Fax: 076-282542. Email: hiromi\_niederhauser@hotmail.com

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### PCC WANTED

We want to buy a Phuket Country Club golf membership. If you have one or know somebody who is selling one, please email details to me at: jahellner@yahoo.com

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