

# Phuket Gazette

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# Crackdown on property firms

By Gazette Staff

BANGKOK: The Ministry of Interior has ordered a crackdown on property companies attempting to circumvent Section 74 of the Land Act in order to allow foreigners to control land ownership.

Section 74 states (unofficial translation): "In the process of registering [land] possession rights and contracts between parties ... officers have the power to investigate both parties and call them for questioning or have them send relevant documentary evidence as is necessary. Officers will proceed as is appropriate to the case."

"In cases where there is reason to believe that the request to register possession rights will evade the law or where there is reason to believe that land is being bought for the benefit of foreigners a request for an order from the Minister will be made. The Minister's order will be final."

The crackdown will target Thai partners in Thai-foreign ventures, examining their income, their professional qualifications or experience, and their credit history.

In an order dated May 15 and issued to all provincial governors, the Deputy Permanent Director of the Ministry, Sura-art Thongniramol, notes, "The Ministry of Interior has received reports that there are foreigners working with Thais or [engaging] Thais to register a company with the aim of buying and selling immovable property as a business venture."

"At the initial stage a house and land are purchased for resi-



The Phuket Provincial Land Office is expected to become the focus of attention when the Ministerial Order takes effect locally.

dence or [for use as] an office and later [the aims are changed] to selling and subdividing for sale to foreigners ... which is illegal."

Provincial officials are ordered, "as protection against bypassing the law", to examine limited companies, limited partnerships and general partnerships "having the aim of carrying out business in immovable property."

The order continues, "If it appears that an alien holds shares or is a director, or if it is reasonable to believe that a Thai holds shares as a representative of an alien, the officers shall investigate the income of Thais holding shares, delving into the number of years [they have been] in [their] current profession, and their income. The provision of necessary evidence is required."

"If a loan was taken [by the Thai] for the purchase [of shares] evidence of the loan is required."

The order does not specify

which officials will be responsible for investigating suspect companies, nor does it set out, except in the vaguest of terms, what will happen after the "investigation".

All it says is, "If after due investigation it can conceivably be believed that the request for registration ... is to bypass the law or [it can be believed] that [those involved are buying] land for the benefit of an alien as defined in Section 74 ... the officers who undertook the investigation shall forward the findings to the Land Department to await the order of the Minister."

Local reaction was hard to come by. The Phuket Provincial Land Office was not aware of the new order. However, one person involved in the property industry, who asked not to be named, said that it seemed "like a good thing, as long as the application is fair". He added that he worried it might be used by some "for their [own] benefit".

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**Austrian**



## Hotel buying spree continues

PHUKET: Central Hotels & Resorts (CHR), which last month announced its purchase of the Islandia Park Resort in Karon for more than a billion baht, has also bought the Jiva Resort & Spa in Kata.

This most recent purchase brings the number of properties it owns in Phuket to four; the company's other properties in Phuket are the Central Karon Village and Central Waterfront Suites in Karon. The company has a further 10 resorts and hotels in Thailand.

Although a representative of CHR would not disclose size of the deal for the 128-room resort, the *Gazette* understands that the price paid was around 400 million baht and that global investment firm Lehman Brothers is also a party to the deal.

Elsewhere on the island, a plot of beach front land at Emerald Bay – which is south of Patong – is in the process of being sold by its current owners, Taiwan's Evergreen Group, which has shipping, airline and hotel interests.

The details on this deal have yet to be made public.

## Waitress in acid attack

PATONG (*Kom Chad Luek*): Tassaya Wanich, a 24-year-old waitress at the Seagull Home Hotel, has been badly disfigured after acid was thrown on her, allegedly by her jealous ex-boyfriend. She has traveled to Bangkok with her mother to seek help from the Paweena Hongsakul Foundation for abused women and children.

K. Tassaya met K. Paweena on May 26 and explained that Booin-wiwat Iat-talod, 23, with whom she had lived for four years and has a three-year-old daughter, started physically abusing her three years ago, when she was nearly strangled to death with the electrical cord of an iron and forced to beg for her life.

She left Booin-wiwat to live with her aunt after he followed her to work in a jealous rage and sliced her ear with a knife, she said.

"On April 6 he came to try and make up, but I refused and asked to end the relationship. When I turned to walk away, he splashed acid on my head, face and body. My aunt then rushed me to Vachira Phuket Hospital," she said.

K. Tassaya said she filed a complaint with the Kathu Police, who issued an arrest warrant but have been unable to find Booin-wiwat.



Tassaya Wanich shows her acid burn scars to Paweena Hongsakul. – Photo courtesy of Nation Group.

## Villa Santi project resumes construction

By Janyaporn Morel

PATONG: Construction has resumed on the 800-million-baht Villa Santi project in Kalim, but the developers are still waiting for Patong Municipality to review and approve revised plans for the project's restaurant and condominium block.

Work on the project was halted by the Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura four

months ago for alleged failure to comply with stipulations in its Environmental Impact Assessment.

In February, Gov Udomsak appointed a provincial panel chaired by the Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Assistant (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat to investigate the project. The committee concluded that Patong Municipality had failed to follow up on the developer's application and in allowing construction to proceed without approval.

The committee also ordered the Municipality to conduct an internal investigation into why the project was allowed to continue without proper oversight.

However, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin has confirmed that the Municipality has approved all work on the villas, but that his staff were still reviewing revised plans for the condominiums and restaurant.

Bart Duykers, Executive Director of Villa Santi, on May 30 said, "I just had a meeting with the Municipality this morning and it looks like they are helping us to get everything done."

"Now we are working on all 26 villas and we have submitted all the requested information to the Patong Municipality. Now we are just waiting for them to review and approve," he said, adding that he did not know how long the review would take.

However, he expects work on the villas to be fully complete in about four or five months, at which time owners can begin moving in.

"How fast the project proceeds will depend on when the [local] government approve all of our project. We have already submitted the new plans, so now it's in the hand of the Municipality. We can't control how fast they do that," he said.

## Governor moves to unite dog groups

PHUKET: Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura has set up the new Stray Dog Committee to promote coordination between the various government bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who, he believes, are not cooperating efficiently.

Dr Prasit Koeysiripong, the newly-appointed Chairman of one of the NGOs, the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF), along with Sunart Wongvorachart, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO), met with the Governor May 26 to discuss how they might encourage all the organizations to work together to solve the stray dog problem.

The Governor, who will chair the committee, appointed Dr Prasit and K. Sunart as his deputies and called for other organizations such as the Phuket Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) to join in.

Dr Prasit told the *Gazette* that, for a long time now, Phuket has had many organizations looking after stray dogs, both private foundations such as SDF and PAWS, and public bodies such as PPLO and the *OrBorJor*. Each, he explained, has a different view of how to carry out their work and this has led to disagreement, with groups unable to cooperate.

"It is not a good situation if the leaders of each organization are not cooperating with one another. They have also faced communication difficulties because of language problems. Now we hope that each organization will work to understand the others."

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**Reserve  
water  
pipeline to  
be complete  
by end  
of June**

KATHU: The 17-kilometer pipeline to tap water supplies from the Hitlor and Manik lagoons in Tambon Srisoonthorn is now about 80% complete and should be finished by the end of June.

The 60-million-baht pipeline is part of the Phuket Provincial Water Supply's (PPWS) short-term plan to fight water shortages on the island.

PPWS Manager Sayan Wareearoonroj told the *Gazette*, "The pipeline will be able to supply water to Phuket City and surrounding areas in case of shortages in the Bang Wad Reservoir.

"The pipeline runs along Srisoonthorn Rd to the Heroines' Monument, then along Thepkrasattri Rd and the bypass road as far as the Tesco-Lotus superstore. There, it turns west along Phra Phuket Kaew Rd to the Excise Department lagoon in Kathu," he added.

When the project is finished, water will be pumped from the Manik and Hitlor lagoons to the Excise Department lagoon, where it will be stored. The Manik and Hitlor lagoons have a combined capacity of 2 million cubic meters. — **Janyaporn Morel**

# Chetwynd-Talbot gets 10 years for murder

By Alasdair Forbes  
& Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY: Briton Paul Chetwynd-Talbot was sentenced to 10 years in jail on May 24 for the murder of his girlfriend, Debra O'Hanlon, on July 31 last year in the Patong room the couple shared at the time.

The 32-year-old accused and his lawyer, Somsak Chattay, had hoped for a reduced charge of manslaughter, arguing that Chetwynd-Talbot had not intended to kill Ms O'Hanlon.

Judge Nopparat Suwannakorn, however, pointed to forensic evidence indicating that Chetwynd-Talbot had hit Ms O'Hanlon very hard in parts of the body.

Judge Nopparat then sentenced him based on a charge of murder according to Section 288 of the Thai penal code. This offense carries a penalty of 15 to 20 years in jail.

The sentence was reduced because Chetwynd-Talbot had surrendered to police after the murder and had admitted in court

that he had killed Ms O'Hanlon.

However, after the hearing, Chetwynd-Talbot said, "I threw one punch that I shouldn't have thrown and this resulted in the girl's death. 'I wasn't expecting to be charged with murder. It seems there is no way of bringing that charge down.'"

He noted, however, that given good behavior, he could be out of jail in five years. The time he has already spent in jail awaiting trial will also be deducted from the remainder of his stay in jail.

To the family of Ms O'Hanlon, he said, "I'm incredibly sorry. Please know that it was an accident. We were due to fly back to England to try to start again. There was absolutely no malice or premeditation involved whatsoever."

He paused, then added, "There aren't enough words to express the guilt I feel, or the sorrow I feel for her family. There is no doubt in my mind that it was my fault. It's something I'll regret for the rest of my days."

Chetwynd-Talbot gave some



Paul Chetwynd-Talbot waits in the police wagon for the trip back to jail after being sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

insights into prison life in Phuket. "The food is atrocious. People can bring food for you when they visit, but I don't have anyone visiting me ... The showering conditions — we can go down once a day to empty bowls of cold water over our heads. The place is full of rats."

Medical facilities are rudimentary, he said. "They are run by a nurse, I suppose you would call him, but he has no formal medical training whatsoever. Paracetamol seems to be the order of the day. I caught scabies, which I understand is fairly common, and the embassy got me to see a real doctor, so I got some cream for it." He has also had recurring infections in the scars on his wrists, self-inflicted after the murder of Ms O'Hanlon.

Sleeping conditions are similarly basic, he said, with 143 men sleeping together on the floor of a single room. "We're locked up

in the room at 4:15 pm. We're let out again at about 7:15 am."

However, life in prison is not dangerous, he said. "There is no hassle, very little violence. If the Thais step out of line the officers beat them with sticks. They don't touch us. Generally we are left to our own devices..."

"The only other English guy was Michael Taylor [who was also awaiting trial for the murder of his girlfriend]. But, as you know, he absconded while on bail."

Chetwynd-Talbot sounded slightly envious. "Michael's technique was to wait until his bail came down. It came down to 500,000 baht and then he walked — and ran. If I appeal my case now, I can get out on bail of 500,000 baht. I could walk out the door tomorrow."

"It seems that if you have the money you can make pretty much anything disappear. But I don't have the money."

Will he appeal? "I very much doubt it. I'll look at the paperwork, but probably not."

His other options include applying to be transferred to Britain to serve the latter part of his sentence. "I have to serve a third of my sentence here then I am eligible to apply for transfer to [a jail in] the UK. Then I'd have to do another five years in the UK."

The other possibility he is mulling, he said, is a request to transfer to a jail in Bangkok.

## Illegal gibbon problem returns to Patong

PATONG: The problem of gibbons being hawked around Patong for photo opportunities has returned after a two-year absence.

The Wildlife Conservation Office (WCO) staged a campaign to confiscate illegally-held gibbons two years ago, explained Awat Nitikul, the Chief of the WCO in Phuket. He added that as the gibbons used in the tourist trade are all young animals, they are most likely to have been caught illegally in the wild since then.

"We know the animals used in the tourist trade are not held legally because they are not old enough. We are hindered in our work by owners who claim that they have permits even though we are sure the permits they have are for different animals. We then have to take the owners to court."

He also complained about the lack of assistance from police. "The WCO cannot catch all the offenders itself. The police have the power to arrest offenders, but they do not seem to have

the will to do so," he added.

"We hope conservationists will put their trust in us. We will try our best to solve this problem. We need people to help us by informing us immediately if they encounter wild animals being used illegally."

"We do not have a policy to install microchips in protected

species, but we can inspect them and if they are being kept illegally we can confiscate them. If the owners surrender their animals willingly, they will not be prosecuted," K. Awat concluded.

To contact the WCO, call Tel: 076-311998 during government office hours or K. Awat at Tel: 06-6897040 after hours.


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# The resurrection of Soi

José L. Gay bought a small building on Soi Rommanee last year and has turned it into the House of the Beautiful Images – a photograph and film gallery and café.

“I love this part of Phuket Town. I think it has enormous potential to become a very exclusive and up-market area because it is unique,” he said.

“Specifically, Soi Romanee attracted me because it is very quiet, with nearly no traffic and most of the houses have preserved their old facades. It reminds me a lot of Spain in the '60s, with its small, quiet back alleys, restaurants and cafés. It's like living in a small village in the middle of Phuket City.

“I believe it's the perfect location [for the gallery café] because people who visit Phuket City are interested in culture and Thai life. Our business is not just a café – all the profits from it and the handicrafts sold here go to support the Life Home Project,” he said.

“I think that making Soi Rommanee a ‘walking street’ is a great idea. Phuket City needs to enhance its image and make itself more tourist-friendly. A walking street will help give the place a special character – with shops, small cafés and art galleries – and it will certainly benefit the city.”

Mr Gay called for Phuket people to cherish the island's Sino-Portuguese buildings and to take better care in preserving them. As the building that is now home to House of Beautiful Images hadn't been occupied for the past 10 years, there was a lot of work to do to bring it up to scratch, he said.

“Residents should be given help to renew the facades so the

Soi Rommanee, off Thalang Rd, is in a quiet little corner of Phuket City that is undergoing a lot of changes.

There are fewer than 40 buildings in the small soi, some more than 120 years old. About half of them are used as residences, while the rest are warehouses, hotel staff dormitories, restaurants and small hotels. Many buildings in this fascinating Phuket backstreet have been renovated, and the whole area exudes a “step back in time” quality.

The word *rommanee* translates as “joyful” or “happy-go-lucky” – apt monikers for an area that used to be Phuket's “nightlife center” or to put it bluntly, the tin miners' version of Patong's Soi Bangla many years ago.

Times may change but men's free-time wants and needs certainly haven't.

The area's future is now up for grabs. Emulating many European cities with clearly marked “Old Towns”, Thalang Rd and Soi Rommanee are slated to be pedestrian zones where artisans and handicraft makers can ply their wares. The *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Janyaporn Morel spoke with several locals in the area for their take on what will become of Phuket City's old quarter.

street becomes a nice place to walk down. It really is a shame to see all these magnificent buildings hidden behind ugly plastic signs and fake facades. These buildings are unique; the plastic is not,” he said.

“They should ban any through traffic after 6 pm so we can put tables outside and make it a more pleasant place,” he added.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that Phuket City Municipality already has plans for the area. “Walking ar-

reas on Thalang Rd and Soi Rommanee can be instrumental in helping people understand [Phuket's] past. I think they're charming roads, and the area is complemented by people of different cultures, such as Thai, Chinese, Sikh and Muslim.

“There are also religious attractions in the area, such as the beautifully designed Saeng-Dhamma Shrine on nearby Phang Nga Rd and there is the Christian church that has been on Thalang Rd for more than 50 years.

“In addition, the area has many places where tourists can try genuine Phuket food, which I think is an important factor in the area's charm,” K. Somjai said.

She went on to explain that a pedestrian zone is indeed im-



minent, but the project must be undertaken step by step.

“We need cooperation from the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand] and from people who are living in the area. We still cannot fully stop traffic yet because it might affect some businesses adversely, so we will need time to explain and help people to fully understand the concept.

“The Phuket City Municipality and the Old Phuket Town Foundation has been trying to get people on Thalang Rd and Soi Rommanee to understand that if we make these roads pedestrian zones, they will gain from it, but some of them do not agree.

“Some of them, such as

building supplies merchants, have explained that they cannot sell their goods when the streets are closed to traffic, such as during the Old Phuket Festival,” she explained.

“Before we can pedestrianize the streets we must have everyone's agreement,” she added.

“We are also preparing to have the electricity cables along Thalang Rd and Soi Rommanee installed underground, and many buildings in the area are being renovated in their original Sino-Portuguese style.

“Property owners in this area understand and want to make it lively again and even new

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# Rommanee



owners want to preserve the old style. This makes me happy because I'm a Thalang Rd 'native' and I think that Soi Rommanee is charming.

"Thalang Rd in the old days had many stores selling very different items; everything from nails to expensive jewelry, and once again this road is experiencing diversification. Some buildings are guesthouses and others are restaurants."

Mayor Somjai said that the

pedestrian shopping zone would be promoted to tourists along with the option of taking an old-fashioned *Gor Jaan* boat along Klong Bang Yai.

The municipality is to promote the two attractions as interchangeable activities in the city traveling program.

"The *Gor Jaan* boats can be used to ferry tourists along Klong Bang Yai, and to take them to nearby islands such as Koh Pee and Koh Tapao [near the

mouth of the Klong Bang Yai]," she said.

Wichit Tantiwit, whose family has owned nearly half the buildings down the east side of Soi Rommanee for generations, said, "I've been living in this area all my life. I'm 68 now, so at a guess some of these buildings have been here for at the very least 80 years.

"At about the time of World War II, this soi was a red light district. Most of the prostitutes came from China because at that time Thai women didn't want to do anything like that," he recalled.

K. Wichit explained that all the buildings belonging to his family have been renovated and are currently being let out as coffee shops and restaurants.

"We renovated the buildings because we knew that Phuket City Municipality will make this soi a pedestrian area; not only Soi Rommanee, but Thalang Rd, too. I also heard that electricity cables will be laid underground at about the end of this year," he said.

He added that he would like to see a mass restoration of the area because of its historical value. "I would like the theme of the businesses to stay conservative and to reflect the area's past. It depends on the tenants of course, but I don't really expect people to open 'boisterous' businesses," he said.

"The buildings on the other side of the road don't belong to my family. Some of the owners rent out their buildings, but some of them will not, maybe because they know that this area is slated to be a walking street and they may want to open a business here themselves," he said.

Fellow Phuket native Puchong Tiratana, however, has plans to open a new pub and café called Glasnost, as well as an international law office.

"I decided to rent this building a year ago after I heard that the area would be renovated and that there might be a walking



**'Some people say that Soi Rommanee is too quiet and that it's difficult to park your car there. I think that these are good points, and when it becomes a walking street there won't be any cars here at all.'**

— Puchong Tiratana

street. I love the Sino-Portuguese style; I grew up with it."

He added that when he was young he often visited Soi Rommanee because there was a small Chinese shrine there, and he has been returning to the area to visit lifelong friends ever since.

The lifestyle years ago, as he remembers, was very simple but after the older generation died off the younger people moved away and the area's buildings gradually became dilapidated.

"Soi Rommanee was called *Hang Ar Lai* by the Chinese and it used to be the playground of the tin mine workers, some of whom were earning a fair bit.

"This was the place to 'meet women'; at that time the rest of Phuket didn't have much by way of entertainment or places to go out to," he added.

"I've noticed that a lot of foreigners want to buy Sino-Portuguese-style buildings along Thalang and Dibuk roads, as well as

on Soi Rommanee, because they love this design.

"Some people say that Soi Rommanee is too quiet and that it's difficult to park your car there. I think that these are good points, and when it becomes a walking street there won't be any cars here at all.

"I plan to talk with Phuket City Municipality about this. I have already talked with locals and they say that it's a good idea because they can literally do business in front of their homes. I'd love to see more small pubs and jazz and blues venues in the area."

Bandit Saephu, known in the street for his homemade *salapao*, which that he sells from his front door, said he has no problems with plans for pedestrianization.

"There are actually not that many people living here and this shouldn't have too much negative effect. One thing's for sure, though, I'll never sell my house here," he smiled.

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# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket

Wilaiwan Kirichote and Watcharakorn Solos were married at The Metropole hotel on May 9. Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangura was president of the ceremony.



Courtney Wells and Brett Lier, both from Australia, were wed at the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort on May 1.

# Queer News

## BLANK CREDIT CARD SCAM GOES ALL WONG

Preparation is everything, even in the criminal world. And that's where a gang from Hong Kong came a cropper recently, when one of their number tried to buy mobile phone top-up cards worth a million baht using a suspiciously clean credit card.

Although the card had a working magnetic strip, it lacked such basic information as a signature, account holder's name and bank logo. In fact, it was just a blank piece of plastic.

Wong Gok Pang and his Thai accomplice, Sanya Dornchai, were turned in to police by a shop owner who had talked them into coming back later in the day, telling them that he didn't have cards worth a million baht in the shop at that time.

He then called the police, telling them that a shifty-looking foreigner was trying to use a fake credit card.

Shortly before the men were due to return to collect the cards, undercover police officers entered the shop, mingling with customers and admiring the selection of phones. When Mr Wong returned and presented the credit card in question, they arrested him and his Thai companion, startling customers in the busy Central Kad Suan Kaew shopping center in Chiang Mai.

They searched the two men and found another 17 cards on Mr Wong – all similarly blank. Chiang Mai Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Jirut Prommobol told reporters that K. Sanya cracked under questioning, confessing that he had been hired to take Mr Wong to the mobile phone shop in return for a cut of the phone cards in payment.

In the face of overwhelming evidence, Mr Wong also confessed, admitting that he and accomplices got the cards from friends in Hong Kong and that they had a group of Thais helping them to arrange "suitable" places to use the "credit" cards in Chiang Mai.

Police reported that they had so far established that 16 card-holders had had their card details stolen, and that the other members of the gang were being sought.

The gang had had a golden run up to that point; police confiscated fraudulently obtained goods worth some 18 million baht, and believe that the gang has more still stashed away.

Gen Jirut went on to say that investigators would expand their inquiries to cover shops where the gang had successfully used the cards; the perceptive General said that he thought the shops must have been involved in the scam, as even the dopiast staffer

should have noticed that there were something a bit odd about the cards.

Praphan Sujarit, Deputy Manager of the Chiang Mai branch of Bangkok Bank, told reporters that credit card fraud has become highly sophisticated, especially in Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia, where criminals have become expert at using high-tech equipment to steal the codes off people's credit cards without being detected.

"Business" is so good, he added, that it has spawned a secondary industry: underground schools training future con artists in the use of the latest technology. *Source: Kom Chad Luek*



## TRASHING Phuket



**UNWANTED OFFERINGS:** One has to wonder what the spirits make of this delightful pile of waste on the road just behind the Loch Palm Golf Course, near the new Loch Palm Suan villas.

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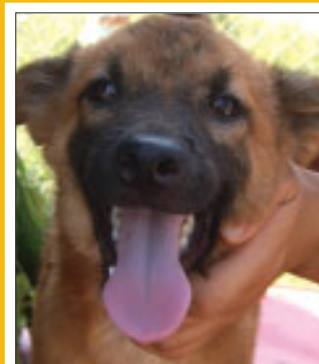
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# Illegal labor seen as Aids threat

Thailand's HIV/Aids prevention program has gone into hibernation and the general population is paying for it, said HIV prevention pioneer Mechai Viravaidya.

Noting that migrant workers have HIV infection rates about twice that of Thais, a panel of HIV/Aids experts concluded that without prevention mechanisms in place for the workers, the disease would continue to spread to the general population through sex.

Citing official statistics, Ministry of Health HIV/Aids expert Dr Petchsri Sirinirund said there were about two million migrant workers living in Thailand. Of these, only about 700,000 were registered with labor authorities, she said.

K. Mechai said condom use among young people has dropped to only 20% from about 70%, with a resulting 30% increase in the rate of sexually-transmitted diseases among young people.

Noting that official figures show Thailand has lower rates of new HIV infections, he said, "How on earth could this be? I have the feeling the figures have been window-dressed to satisfy the government."

He also charged that [caretaker] Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had reneged on promises made at the International Aids Conference in Bangkok in 2004.

"Thailand's acclaimed achievements in HIV prevention are history. In the past three years, people working in the field have realized the epidemic is back," said K. Mechai.

**Girls' night out:** A survey by advertising agency Far East DDB revealed that getting ready to go out nightclubbing is seen as equally important as other social events by female university students and young career women in Bangkok.

A survey of 200 women 16 to 25 years of age revealed that getting ready for a night out on the town meant finding clothes, putting on makeup, even having their hair done professionally. About 80% of those surveyed reported trying to dress "just right" for a night out – not too covered up, but not too daring. Most women were willing to spend 300 baht to 500 baht getting ready for a night out; some up to 1,000 baht.



Mine victim Ma Nguay Lo, a bull elephant from Burma, receives a lethal injection from veterinarians at the Elephant Hospital in Lampang. The pachyderm sustained untreatable injuries from stepping on a land mine.

Most of the respondents agreed that going out at night was a good way to relax. But they also had concerns for their health and were afraid of losing control from drinking alcohol or taking drugs, which could lead them to being abused sexually. Although their worst fear was that they could end up with an unexpected pregnancy, only 15% take condoms with them when they go out, the survey revealed.

**Betting binge:** A poll by Assumption University has revealed that some 800,000 Thais intend to bet on the 2006 World Cup, more than twice the number that gambled on the 2002 event. However, average wagers will be far smaller, the survey predicted, amounting to just 2.1 billion baht compared with 9 billion baht in 2002.

Head researcher Nopphadol Kannikar attributed the expected drop in overall wagers to the worsened economic and political situation.

Most of the 1,584 respondents (61%) said they were not

worried about being arrested by police.

Many people who intend to bet will borrow money from parents and friends (12%) or obtain loans from lenders (9%). Asked how often they bet on soccer, 11% said they did so on a regular basis, while 10% said they used to, but have now given it up.

Some 25% of respondents said they had skipped work and classes due to tiredness and lack of sleep related to football gambling. Another 25% said they had experienced stress disorders, with 3.6% needing medical treatment and 1.6% contemplating suicide.

**Primates in peril:** Three more orangutans smuggled from Indonesia to a Bangkok zoo have been reported dead.

The animals, part of a group of about 50 due to be sent back to Borneo, were being held at a

research center in Ratchaburi Province. Staff at the center, controlled by the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, have been unable to say what caused the latest deaths.

Edwin Wiek, a representative of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF), said the deaths meant that some 24 apes had died here in recent years. Thailand is waiting for financial support from Indonesia and wildlife groups to examine the primates and send them back to where they belong after being smuggled to Safari World in Bangkok a few years ago.

Mr Wiek said his group was paying to repatriate the animals, plus the cost of their check-ups. The primates have become the source of anti-Thai protests in Jakarta and Europe because the government has taken so long to return them since they were seized from the zoo.

**Wildlife threat:** A group of Chiang Mai residents has petitioned the Royal Thai Army (RTA) to help stop the building of a major road through Sutheph-Pui National Park.

Maj Gen Suppha-aksorn Sangprakul said the construction of Route 121 had not received approval from the RTA, which had also told the Highways Department not to build on RTA property.

The 10.5-kilometer road encroaches on areas belonging to two local RTA units, as well as the national park.

Prof Chalermphol Samphet of the "Lovers of Chiang Mai" group, said the Highways Department began work without either the mandatory environmental-impact assessment (EIA) or staging a public hearing.

A source said there are

plans to build a golf course inside the national park after Route 121 has been completed and that the project's 513-million-baht construction contract has been allegedly awarded to a company owned by the father-in-law of a minister close to caretaker PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

**Under fire:** Ten firemen were injured in Bangkok's Sathon District when the warehouse in which they were tackling a large fire collapsed on them. The collapse was caused by cracks in the building and the excess strain on the structure created by the weight of water used to fight the blaze.

The fire, which caused damage put at an estimated 10 million baht, is thought to have originated in an elevator after a suspected electrical short circuit.

Most of the firemen were ordered out of the building after severe cracks began to appear about four hours after the early-morning fire started. Some of those left inside reached safety by jumping or climbing down fire hoses.

**Megaprojecting:** In spite of some remaining construction problems, caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra insists Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport will open for commercial service before October.

"There shouldn't be any problem [with opening the airport by late September]," he said while inspecting the airport's readiness after a meeting with the Suvarnabhumi Airport Development Board.

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

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## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

**T**he low season has held Khao Lak in a tight grip since mid-May, with heavy rains and high winds battering the coastline. The gusts have caused trees to fall and damaged property. Several road accidents occurred when vehicles crashed into fallen branches on the highway near Lamru National Park.

As the Andaman Sea has been a frightening maelstrom of brownish-green water, most of the remaining tourists have chosen to leave. Sun-hungry tourists hoping for better weather have mostly headed to the gulf coast, knowing that Phuket is also taking a beating weather-wise.

**The forgotten island:** I had the pleasure to visit Koh Phra Thong, one of the two large islands north of Khao Lak, before the weather conditions made such a journey impossible. I was there to investigate the reconstruction efforts on the "forgotten island", as some cynics in the area now call it.

Koh Phra Thong had been a promising new tourism destination before the tsunami, with just a few private dwellings and bungalow resorts settled amid the lush tropical forest. Post-tsunami, however, Koh Phra Thong appears more like a ghost island.

The few reconstruction projects there are mostly financed by Christian organizations. While these are a good sign, there are still vast stretches of washed out roads and broken bridges that serve as grim reminders of the tragedy. Compared to Khao Lak, where reconstruction is apparent all over the place, a trip to Koh Phra Thong gives the impression of traveling back in time.

**Lady Luck lives:** On our way to Koh Phra Thong on a longtail fishing boat, a Thai friend of mine asked me to have a look into the skipper's ice box. He said that the captain, a local fisherman, has just reeled in a fresh catch. Perhaps



Lady Luck the leopard shark slowly re-acclimatizes after spending three hours in an ice box.

I would like to take a few fish back home for a nice, fresh seafood dinner, he suggested. When I opened the ice box, however, I was struck in horror.

Being a passionate diver with over 3,000 dives under my belt, I was sickened by the sight of a baby leopard shark lying in the ice box on top of a tuna and some red snappers. Seeing a leopard shark in the wild during a dive is every diver's dream.

With the exception of the whale shark, I believe the leopard shark is the most loved shark species among divers. Seeing a baby version of this shark stuffed into the ice box of a fishing boat is a very sickening sight for any diver.

My sadness, however, turned into excitement as I realized that the baby shark was still alive.

Unlike many other shark species that need to swim constantly to breathe, leopard sharks are a bottom-dwelling species that have evolved the ability to

breathe while lying motionless on the ocean floor.

I asked the fisherman how long the shark has been in there. "Two or three hours," he replied, adding, "but they are strong and can stay alive for a whole day like this."

Knowing that the baby leopard shark might die from the shock of changing temperatures too rapidly, I decided to buy the shark and try my best to return it alive to where it belonged. Removing the shark from the ice box, I realized that it was a female – so I named her Lady Luck.

The big tuna below had prevented the lucky lady from getting into direct contact with the ice, which increased her chance of survival.

After holding her for a few minutes in the water, with the boat cruising at low speed, she slowly regained strength and started to move. After about 20 minutes, I got the impression that

she was strong enough to swim on her own and let her go. With elegant strokes of her long tail, she slowly disappeared into the Andaman Sea. It was one of the most joyful moments in my life.

The fisherman gave me a good price when he realized that I would not eat the shark, but would do what the Thais call *tamboon* (merit-making) with her.

Although I paid only 100 baht, I would have paid thousands, as a living shark is a priceless treasure. I told the fisherman that it is *mai dee* (not good) to catch sharks and rays, and that it would be very good for his karma to set sharks and rays free in the future.

The guy has to make a living from fishing, feeding a family of five, so it is questionable whether he will remember what this crazy *farang* guy said – or whether he will suddenly become a conservationist. For my part, I at least can rest assured that I

tried my very best to save Lady Luck that day.

**Khao Lak's people hailed:** Despite the current low-season slump, very good news for Khao Lak is coming in from Europe.

Many Scandinavian travel agents have already agreed to send tourists to Khao Lak again starting in the upcoming high season. Now, a leading German travel magazine, *Touristik Aktuell*, has praised Khao Lak and its people for outstanding achievements in regard to the speed of reconstruction. They have also noted the determination and emotional strength locals – Thais and foreigners alike – have shown during post-tsunami times.

The magazine concluded that German travel agents will certainly follow the Scandinavian decision, making it possible for German, Austrian and Swiss tourists to return to Khao Lak on package tours.

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Young Blue Eyes: K. Julairat with one of her kittens.

## Positively catty

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

They say the key to a successful business is doing something you love. That has certainly proved true for Phuket native Julairat Jiraphurk, whose love for cats has grown into what is probably the island's largest cat breeding facility, the Yayee Cat Farm in Rawai.

K. Julairat, better known by her nickname "Jurai", knows every one of her 70 adult cats by name – and is still in the process of naming some of the kittens.

"Hello Jul-i-a! Good morning Natalie! How are you today, handsome Mr Pra-ake? And you Mali?" calls out K. Jurai.

"I have to say hello to every cage I walk past because they seem like they are waiting for me," she explains. "If I ignore them, they call 'meow meow' and paw at their cages, trying to get my attention," says K. Jurai, who also works for a tour company when she is not with her precious feline friends.

Her husband's family shares her love of cats, so K. Jurai decided to give the business her husband's family name, Yayee.

Explaining how the cat farm came to be, she explained, "One day many years ago, a lost cat came up to my door, so I began to take care of it. Gradually I began to love that cat. It seemed like it had six senses, always knowing exactly how to cajole whatever it wanted out of me," she says.

She collected others. "Before long, I had so many beautiful cats that people came around asking if they could buy one from me. At first I wasn't interested. I just wanted them for myself because I loved them so much."

Eventually, however, she realized there was a real demand for Persian cats among foreigners living in Rawai. Three years ago she began breeding them – sometimes mating them with Siamese breeds to get long-haired cats with the dazzling blue eyes of the Siamese.

"With their long hair and affectionate nature, Persian cats need a lot of care and attention. Siamese cats tend to be more active and brave – like warrior women," she says, adding that they have even been known to stand up to dogs if threatened.

But you won't find any dogs at the Yayee Cat Farm, a large open-air facility which is not only cool but spotless; it is continually cleaned by two full-time staff, whom K. Jurai refers to as "baby-sitters".

K. Jurai says that about half of her customers are foreigners. "Thai customers usually go for white cats, whereas foreigners more often prefer striped ones," she says.

Whatever the request, plans are afoot to ensure that none of her customers ever has to go away empty-handed. "I intend to expand the cattery, making it bigger and adding to the number of breeds available," she says.

The cost of a kitten at Yayee ranges between 2,500 baht and 3,500 baht, depending on its age and breeding. The cost of larger cats for breeding usually go for about 6,000 to 7,000 baht. In a typical month, the cattery sells about 10 to 15 cats.

*Yayee Cat Farm, located off Saiyuan Rd in Rawai, is open daily from 7 am to 9 pm. For more information call K. Julairat (Tel: 076-259699; 01-370-5425).*

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# Coming and going – and coming again

**O**ld friends. New friends. Departing friends. Recently, I've seen good friends who remind me how nice it has been to live on our island. Some are leaving while others have returned, ready to start yet another chapter of life on Phuket.

Recently, I spotted Giovanni Durante on the ground floor of Robinson's in Phuket City, where he's opened a gourmet gelati bistro featuring only the finest Italian ice creams and yogurts. He's supplying most of the high-end resorts and restaurants with his products.

I first met Giovanni when he arrived in Phuket 12 years ago. He had been an investment banker in his native Genoa when his blood pressure soared and his heart began to fail.

"My doctor told me that I didn't have long to live and that I should go somewhere to enjoy what was left of my life, so I came to Phuket," Giovanni remembers.

As I said, that was all of 12 years ago. After some time in Phuket he moved to Phi Phi Island, where over the years he opened six businesses including

restaurants, bakeries, souvenir shops and his signature Pluto Elite gelati shop. With a hopeful view to the future, he married a local lady and had a son – but it was all washed away in the tsunami of 2004.

"I was standing on the beach with my wife and son and three friends visiting from Italy when the first wave picked us up and carried us 500 meters before dropping us on top of a guest-house where we were trapped under a mountain of garbage and

debris. It took two hours before rescuers could reach us," he continues, "I lost my businesses, but feel very fortunate to have saved my family."

As Giovanni could not rebuild his businesses on Phi Phi Island without an official land title, he decided to tackle the market in

creamy, low-fat ice cream in Phuket. So far, his extensive offerings of gourmet yogurts and gelatis with flavors including tartufi, cassata and tiramisu, have proved a big success with international visitors.

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**Off the WALL**

With Bruce Stanley



Above, Bolek and Tommy make beautiful music. Below, Giovanni makes beautiful ice cream.



with Tom McNamara, who holds court most nights surrounded by old and new friends. Tom is celebrating a special birthday this week; one that marks 60 years of living life on his own terms and showing other people how to have a good time.

Upstairs at Baan Rim Pa, Tommy Doyle has invited his old friend and my new friend, Bolek Peplowski, to join him on saxophone as the duo translate classic popular music with their own delightful style.

"Tommy and I first played together in 1959 when we were with the United States Navy Band. We have played for American Presidents at the White House and we've performed in Carnegie Hall. Between us, we have played with many of the best-known names in popular and jazz music, such as Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie," says Bolek.

For over 45 years, whenever Tommy and Bolek's paths have crossed, they have played a stimulating mix of music including classical, Dixieland, old standards and bebop.

"Every night at Baan Rim Pa holds musical surprises as we go through out unrehearsed repertoire. Tommy has now added a trumpet into the mix. It's hard to believe that he can play the bass line with his left foot, the piano with his left hand and trumpet with his right and he plays them all very, very well," Bolek tells me.

You can catch this inventive and entertaining team nightly except Mondays.

**Battling on:** I ran into another old friend down in Rawai when checking out the Saturday night barbecue at Don's Café. Don Battles was visiting Phuket from his new home up in Chiang Rai.

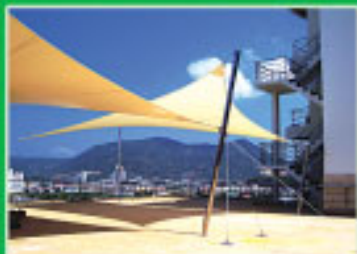
This former NASA space engineer's eatery has been the epicenter of good, home-cooked food and wine events for many years. Not long ago, he decided it was time to find a retreat where he could relax with his elder brother Earl.

"It took me three years, but I've found a piece of paradise up in Chiang Rai, where I have two large ponds loaded with fish," Don

visit a five-star resort. Simply drop into Robinson, where you'll probably see Giovanni's ever-smiling face, a smile perhaps for that doctor who gave him such bad news all those years ago.

**Upstairs, downstairs:** I must admit I've become a fan of Joe's Downstairs, the stylish bar attached to the legendary Baan Rim Pa. You can't beat the sunset views or the opportunity to chat

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tells me with his trademark smile. "And at night, it gets so cold I have to use two blankets. It's a great place to relax."

But Don has not exactly retired. He's busy in Bangkok with his new factory, which produces five different kinds of cheeses that he is supplying to outlets all over Thailand. Many of us were delighted when Don produced the first batch of his feta cheese on Phuket.

"My wife will take care of Don's Mall to ensure we maintain the same level of quality and service and I'll be here every month," he reassures me. But in the meantime, he'll be watching the fish jump in his new ponds.

### CHARM

More good friends leaving us are James and Angie Batt. After 10 years of making Phuket a better place for all of us to live, this charming couple has decided to seek other adventures beyond our shores.

James has been Joint Managing Director of Laguna Phuket for many years.

The other day I saw him coming from Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he had been visiting a staff member who had suffered a serious accident.

James' talent has been to deal with the demands of government officials, beach vendors, taxi mafias, SARS, the tsunami, bird flu and the whole raft of challenges that are part of managing five of Phuket's top resorts. And he's done it with a smile.

We should not forget that it was James who inspired us to organize large-scale charity events to help those who were left behind in the wake of Phuket's prosperity boom.

And he has been cheerfully aided by his wife, Angie, who always manages to put a smile on the face of those of us fortunate enough to call her a friend.

Old friends. Good friends. Wishing you all the best.



Above, James Batt's successor as Mayor of Laguna, Michael Ayling, pours on the compliments at James's farewell party. Below, the Cherg Talay community made a special presentation to James.



Above, Meria 'Nat' Benedetti entertained those at the party. Below, left and right, friends old and new came from around the island to see the grand man off in style.



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Peter Gabriel's latest compilation album – the two-disc, 30-track *Hit* – begins with the earliest days of his solo career, 1977's untitled album. It then carries the listener through his next three similarly untitled albums – respectively 1978, 1980 and 1982 releases – and on to the 2002 release *Up*.

Anyone who has followed Gabriel's solo output should be able to identify his first quartet of untitled albums by the images on the sleeve. Any numerical distinction such as *I, II, III* and *IV* being seemingly too obvious, they are therefore known as *Car*, *Scratch* and *Melt*, with the fourth album remaining untitled except in the States, where it is known as *Security*.

Gabriel maintains that they were untitled, but bore his name in identical typeface, because he wanted them to be considered as issues of a magazine instead of individual works.

*Hit* also includes tracks from Gabriel's albums *So* (1986), *Us* (1992) and *Up* (2002) as well as a generous sprinkling of material from soundtracks and other works.

The brevity of these album titles is, supposedly, Gabriel's cheeky response to his record company's insistence at – would you believe it? – having easily-identifiable albums; he chooses the shortest possible names.

CD 1 – the “hit” side; CD 2 is referred to as *Miss* – opens with Gabriel's first solo single, *Solsbury Hill*.

Gabriel wrote the bouncy *Solsbury Hill* after spending a moment of reflection atop the hill – where King Arthur supposedly beat the Saxons – following his departure from Genesis, the band he had founded and led since its inception, and the song gives rise to his reasons for leaving:

*To keep in silence I resigned/My friends would think I was a nut...*

This line alludes to his deci-

# A fine introduction to Peter Gabriel



**Ear Candy**  
By Andy Johnstone

sion to begin a period of self-exploration and reflection, while he grew vegetables, playing the piano, practicing yoga and spending quality time with his family.

*So I went from day to day/Though my life was in a rut/Till I thought of what I'd say/Which connection I should cut...*

*have us/don't give up, we don't need much of anything/don't give up 'cause somewhere there's a place where we belong.*

The moving video – shot by Godley & Creme of 10cc fame – consists of a single take of the singers in an embrace, as the sun enters total eclipse and re-emerges.

The song, with the video, remains one of the most memorable of that decade.

The compilation jumps back to Gabriel's 1980 album and the song *Games Without Frontiers*, which takes the idea of the popular pan-European TV game show called *It's A Knockout* in the UK and



*Hit* jumps nine years for Track 3 to 1986 and what became Gabriel's most commercially-successful recording, the album *So*.

*Sledgehammer*, the Motown-tinged song with that video by Aardman Animations (creators of Wallace and Gromit, Rex the Runt, et al) is here, but more interesting is the next song, also from *So* – *Don't Give Up*.

This is a duet, a conversation between Gabriel and Kate Bush. Gabriel takes the role of an unemployed man, once the breadwinner, in what was for many the dark days of Thatcher's Britain in the mid-1980s. He is in despair, contemplating suicide and is brought back from the brink by the tender counsel of his wife:

*No fight left or so it seems/I am a man whose dreams have all deserted/I've changed my face, I've changed my name but no one wants you when you lose.*

*Don't give up, you still*

*Jeux sans Frontières* (of which “games without frontiers” is a direct translation) and turns it into something more sinister.

However, anyone who remembers the cackle of Stuart Hall, one of the presenters, would find the idea of anything more sinister hard to accept.

The idea of *Jeux sans Frontières* came from Charles de Gaulle, whose wish it was that French and German youngsters would meet in a series of “amusing” games to reinforce the friendship between France and Germany.

*If looks could kill, they probably will/In games without frontiers – war without tears...*

The song *Biko* – with the opening lines *September '77, Port Elizabeth weather fine/It was business as usual in police room 619 – about the murder of anti-Apartheid campaigner Steve Biko*, follows.

This song perhaps marks the most obvious transition of

Gabriel from experimental musician to both a devotee of world music and human rights issues, a move reflected a few years later when Gabriel set up the Real World studio and label.

Gabriel was instrumental in organizing WOMAD, the World of Music, Arts and Dance festival, in 1982.

These days an average of 20 WOMAD festivals are put on each year in places as diverse as Reading in the UK, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

*Hit* moves on to the 1992 album *Us*, an album in which he deals with the pain of his previous years: his failed first marriage, and the growing distance from his first daughter.

Gabriel's introspection within the context of the album continues in *Digging in the Dirt*, an extended metaphor that Gabriel uses to describe his process of trying to unearth the things inside of him that cause him trouble.

Accompanied by a graphic and disturbing video featuring footage of Gabriel covered in worms, this song also made reference to the way media coverage seems to wallow in the foibles and mistakes of high-visibility artists.

Gabriel describes his struggle to communicate with his daughter in *Come Talk To Me*, which features backing vocals by Sinead O'Connor. *Us* was one of his most personal albums, and had limited popular success.

The standout track from *Us* featured on *Hit* is the haunting and the haunted *Blood of Eden*.

*I caught sight of my reflection, I caught it in the window/I saw the darkness in my heart/I saw the signs of my undoing/They had been there from the start/And the darkness still has work to do...*

*In the blood of Eden lie the woman and the man/With the man in the woman and the woman in the man/In the blood of Eden lie the woman and the man/We wanted the union, oh the union of the woman, the woman and the man...*

Painful – and recognizable – ground for many.

Where this compilation fails, if anywhere, is that no tracks from Gabriel's 1989 release *Passion* – an album of music for the Martin Scorsese film *The Last Temptation of Christ* – are on *Hit*.

*Passion* has been described as a pivotal recording in the canon of world music, and one track – *Zaar* – was included on the 1990 Gabriel compilation *Shaking the Tree*. One wonders why even this one track failed to make it onto *Hit*.

Although *Hit* functions perfectly well as a standard compilation album, it must be viewed as an introduction – a sampler of Gabriel's work rather than the only release of his one needs to buy.

Hit Peter Gabriel Geffen Records 5952372 Playing time: approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes.

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By Janyaporn Morel

**D**on't be a damp squib this "Green Season" – get yourself kitted out in colorful rubbers and plastics while toting a bright umbrella to let the world know that anticipation of precipitation causes you no consternation.

Phuket City has no shortage of shops selling motorcyclist rain ponchos and eye-catching umbrellas. From Bangkok Rd to Samkong, you'll see plastic motorcycle gear hanging outside many a roadside establishment.

Sizes range from "this'll do" to tiny tot models. The color options are also endless, from sexy see-through to ubiquitous orange, green and blue ponchos with multi-colored "you-can't-miss-me" combinations as options.

Yet you don't have to be dripping with cash to protect yourself from the elements. Kiddie's umbrellas start at a modest 45 baht; adult umbrellas go for 65-150 baht.

Ponchos and rain coats cost 45-65 baht for kids and adult rain gear runs from the plastic bag-like 60 baht to more sophisticated rain gear for which you'll have to splash out 390 baht. So don't let the rain be a pain; get with it and get into plastic.

The rain gear shown here is available at Arawan Shop, 32/1-2 Bangkok Rd (opposite Saeng Damrong Kitchen-ware), Phuket City. Tel: 076-211260.



# WET WET WET (but who cares?)



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By Jeff Heselwood

**F**rozen Switzerland at the beginning of March was the setting for much automotive activity at the prestigious Geneva Salon. For after a winter's hibernation, Geneva is the first important European motor show of the year – and everyone in the business is there.

As with many of its rivals, Mercedes-Benz had to come up with something new for the 2006 show, but with no new products scheduled for early this year, the Stuttgart company had to rely on exotic variants instead. That's not to say that the two models it chose for the limelight were not worthy of the accolade – the CLS 63 AMG and CLK 63 AMG are dramatic by any standards, not to mention a little exclusive.

#### TOP SPEED

Both models are powered by the AMG version of the magnificent eight-cylinder engine developed entirely by Mercedes-AMG. Displacing a hefty 6.3 liters, power output is a strong 514bhp (378kW), making it the most powerful normally-aspirated V8 production engine in the world. Mercedes-Benz claims a benchmark 0-100kmh in just 4.5 seconds, with an electronically limited top speed of the European-wide accepted 250kmh.

The outstanding V8 is mated to an AMG 7G-tronic transmission, offering the driver the choice of fully automatic or manual shifting using beautifully crafted aluminum paddles behind the steering wheel.

Mercedes-Benz, itself a subsidiary of German-American giant DaimlerChrysler, now owns AMG outright, but the company began as a small tuner of engines in Grossaspach, Germany.



Both models are powered by the AMG version of the magnificent eight-cylinder engine developed entirely by Mercedes-AMG.

Formed by Hans Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher in the 1960s, AMG teamed up with Mercedes in 1988 to enter the German touring car series, before a full merger in 1999. Today AMG designs and builds the performance versions of a number of Mercedes-Benz products, and is now at Affalterbach, where it moved after expanding in 1978.

Mercedes-Benz calls the CLS “one coupé generation ahead”. It is essentially a four-door coupé with beautifully balanced lines.

Although its sloping rear might be expected to compromise headroom in the passenger compartment, in reality this does not present a problem, as there is more than ample room between the front and rear seats.

The front seats feature power adjustment and are available with “active ventilation” as an option.

Safety is a prime requisite on all Mercedes cars, and the CLS has adaptive front air bags, side bags and full-length air curtains.

These vehicles are very expensive, but they respond to a steady demand in some markets



It also features the unique occupant-protection “Pre-safe” radar system, which detects an impending impact and reacts accordingly. The measures the system adopts include split-second tensioning of the seat belts, bringing the driver and front-seat passenger into a more upright

position before a potential collision, allowing the air bags to do their job more effectively.

The AMG version, as well as the engine modifications and the seven-speed transmission, boasts highly sophisticated sports suspension, based on Mercedes' Airmatic system, incorporating an

adaptive damping control. In addition, composite front disc brakes and perforated and ventilated discs all round ensure more than adequate stopping power.

Meanwhile, on the coupé or cabriolet CLK 63 AMG the V8 is slightly milder, but still chucks out 481bhp (354kW) and a massive 630 Newton meters of torque – again, more than any other vehicle in its class.

These AMG vehicles are understandably extremely specialized – and very expensive – but they respond to a steady demand in some markets. The company, as AMG-Mercedes, is still involved in the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters (DTM – German touring car race series) this year, with former DTM champion Bernd Schneider, Britain's Jamie Green, rapid 21-year-old Canadian Bruno Spengler and twice Formula One world champion Finland's Mika Hakkinen as drivers.

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

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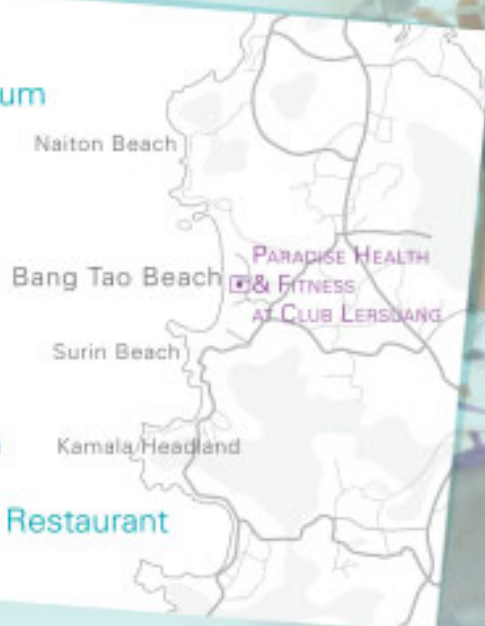
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## This week



**RASSADA RHYTHM:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr beats a drum to mark the opening of the Rassada branch of the Credit Union Cooperation (CUC) as CUC Thailand President Supachai Srisupauksorn (wearing tie), Rassada branch President Apinan Supasuwan (orange shirt) and guests look on.



**PARADE AND PROTECT:** Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima (front, left) and Dr Annop Pongprapar (front, right), President of the Thai Motorcycle Entrepreneur Association, get ready to start a motorcade through Phuket City to promote the 'Ride Safe' road-safety campaign on May 13, aimed at getting motorcyclists to turn on their headlights and wear helmets.



**CHARITY BEGINS AT THE HOME:** Life Home Project (LHP) founder Jose L Gay (4<sup>th</sup> from right) and helpers take time out from the construction of the new LHP center on Koh Sireh to give a tour to visitors including the Lady Mayoress of London, Tessa Brewer (3<sup>rd</sup> from right); former Tesco UK executive John Purnell (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), who donated UK£5,000 to the LHP; and Sasiporn Sardswatsophit (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Store Directing Manager of Tesco-Lotus Phuket, which donated household items to the LHP.



**THREE FOR ONE:** Kata Group MD Pamuke Atchariyachai (center) opens the 'Power of Imagination' exhibition of works by brothers Tawatchai, Maitree and Rittee Homthong at the Phuket Art Gallery, on Thalang Rd, Phuket City, on May 20. Phuket Senator Thanyarat Atchariyachai (left) and Phuket Chief Attorney Bantoon Thongtan (rear, in white shirt) look on. The exhibition will run until June 12.



**GROWING GREEN:** Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort GM Rudolf Borgesius (left), Chief Engineer Kittikorn Poolsin (rear) and Purchasing Manager Dusadee Hirunyalekha, both of the resort's Environment and Energy Conservation Committee, plant one of many fruit trees at the resort to mark Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day.



**GOING TROPPO:** Hans Gompf (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Managing Director of the Tropica Bungalow Hotel at Patong Beach, celebrates his birthday and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the resort with friends Gottsmann Tassilo (left); incoming president of the Lions Club Phuket Andaman Sea Helmut Goergen (2<sup>nd</sup> from left); and Giulio Genco on May 19.

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## Wet Dream Ends In A Nightmare

From the Phuket Gazette, issue of June 1996

PHUKET: On 12 May, the Phuket Police were informed about a "drug trick" which took place at the Khun Phra Hotel in Phuket Town.

A tuk-tuk driver, Mr Narong Saenchai, told police that shortly before midnight on 11 May, while he was driving his taxi and looking for passengers in front of Montri Hospital, a "nice-looking" lady stopped him and jumped into the front seat of his vehicle.

After a "rather friendly chat," the passenger asked the driver to take her to the Khun Phra Hotel. She then showed her appreciation and hospitality by inviting him up to her room, number 307, where she very graciously ordered a beer from room service. The last thing Mr Narong remembered was drinking from a "special glass" and then having a "wet dream" (literal translation).

The next morning when Mr Narong woke up, the 'girl of his dreams' had mysteriously disappeared, along with his gold necklace, (valued at about 15,000 baht). The duped driver then went to report the incident to the police at Amphur Muang Station.

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

## Koreans arrested for selling animal parts

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

CHALONG: Two men, 45-year-old Chun Mo Yang, 35-year-old Lee Chund, and one woman, Yun Komja, 26, all from South Korea, were arrested on May 18 at a farm on Soi Taead, Chalong.

The arrests came after officers discovered caged animals and a grisly array of animal parts there.

Somsak Sanyanuphap, chief of Muang District, along with officers from the Phuket Provincial Forestry Office and Chalong Police Station, raided the small farm

after receiving several complaints from people living in the area.

The complaints alleged that guides were bringing Korean and Chinese tourists to tour the farm and to sample the exotic food.

Four pythons, some baby crocodiles in a glass tank, 12 king cobras and one mangrove snake were found, all still alive.

Officers also found a number of souvenirs made from

snakes, 428 packs of herbal cobra soup, two freshly-cut feet from an Asiatic black bear – each estimated to be worth 40,000 baht on the illegal food market.

There were also capsules made from snakes, 13 frozen king cobras, 13 packs of horns, five boxes of snake fat, a number of boiled cobras, a big vat of fresh snake fat, and cobras and king cobras in brine.

Altogether, the animals and parts were estimated to be worth 5 million baht.

In the house, officers found a Korean man boiling a snake in the small kitchen. He tried to escape, but the police arrested him, along with the other two.

All three Koreans were charged with possessing endangered animals and failing to obtain a license from the Phuket Provincial Health Office for serving food. They denied the charges.

If convicted, each faces a fine of 40,000 baht and a jail term of four to 10 years. The three were placed in custody at Chalong Police Station.

## PHUKET DIARY of coming events

### June 5: Patong Beach clean-up.

The Royal Paradise Hotel invites everyone to join 30 of its staff members in the hotel's first beach cleanup on June 5.

The hotel hopes to restore Patong Beach to its former beauty by picking up litter and removing the piles of rubbish that have built up since the tsunami.

For more information call K. Svansan at Tel:01-9684541.

### June 26 to July 26: Free judo course.

Phuket City Municipality is offering a free judo course taught by a Prawat Chanasen, who represented Thailand at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

The course, to be held at Saphan Hin, is open to everyone over 10 years old, whether Thai or foreigner.

For details contact the Phuket City Municipality Youth Center at Saphan Hin (Tel: 076-216866, 076-250163 or 076-266-0451).

Another course will be held from July 28 to August 28.

### July 2-30: Sports and Adventure Camp.

The British Curriculum In-

ternational School is organizing its annual Sports and Adventure Camp, which includes team sports, individual sports, water sports and adventure training such as survival skills, rock climbing, abseiling, life saving, horse riding, mountain biking, trekking, camping.

For more information email: summer@bcis.ac.th

### July 10: Asarnha Bucha Day (public holiday).

Asarnha Bucha marks the anniversary (determined using the lunar calendar) of the Buddha delivering his first sermon to five disciples at the Deer Park in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, more than 2,500 years ago.

### July 10: Khao Phansa Day (public holiday).

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

### August 12: HM The Queen's Birthday.

This day is also marked in Thailand as Mother's Day.



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By Patsya Chongtong

Streets in the town of Phuket are still lined with shabby, termite-eaten old houses built round the last century's dawn, when haggard coolies rubbed elbows with Chinese tin barons.

A number of these houses have been carefully restored, their owners hoping to revive the splendors of a bygone era – but plenty of eyesores remain.

What can be done with these ruins aside from tearing them down? Rebuilding them, alas, is somewhat less than satisfactory. Those on Dibuk Rd, for example, are impressive, but nonetheless anachronistic. They cower, almost, behind their gaudy iron gates, from the broad expanse of asphalt that lurks outside.

Perhaps the answer is not to recreate Old Phuket with all its horse-and-buggy-day motifs, but to turn the colonial-era shophouses into post-modern showcases of the hip, the high-tech and fanciful.

### DESIGNER

That's what Malida Vaidyanuvatti and her partners at design firm Be Gray did at The Taste Phuket, an old shophouse near Suriyadej Circle they took over three years ago.

Malida, better known by her nickname, Chompoo, is an interior designer by profession; her partners in The Taste include an architect and a resort owner. She describes the chic hotel/restaurant/nightclub/cocktail lounge as their "living portfolio".

"We used to have a portfolio on paper; now we have a live one — and a business we put our hearts into as well," she said.

Being an old Chinese shophouse, The Taste is long and narrow – but not an exercise in retro design. The decor incorporates the building's antique character while using new or old materials to create a unique atmosphere, one just right for Friday night's unplugged music scene.

Floors are white; the ceiling is black; black lacquer tables stand before white cloth-covered loungers; diners have the option

# Taste Phuket's several flavors



Well-known pianist Jeffrey Sevilla performing during Jazz Night.

of sitting in chairs or relaxing on white sofas that line one wall. A metal ring three meters in diameter, with long strings of white shells hanging from it, is attached to the ceiling just inside the door, and hangs over a shaggy burlap rug. It is the first notable object one encounters; what is it for? A conversation piece for melancholy lovers? A clever disguise for tiny listening devices planted by government spies?

If anyone knows the answer it is K. Chompoo, who took cooking courses at Le Cordon Bleu London Culinary Institute, then studied jewelry design and pottery-making in that city before moving to Singapore, where she practiced interior design for six years. "All that," she confessed, "was to design my restaurant."

The Taste is the result. It might have been different, though, had she stuck to her original career plan: "When I was

young, I wanted be ticket collector on a bus," she confessed.

In one corner of The Taste is a mechanical dulcimer, a black half-sized upright piano. This modest yet delightfully acoustic piano is the basis of The Taste's musical scene – and that makes all the difference. The piano requires rather more cleverness, more knowledge, and more fingers to play than its usual fellows – guitar, bass, drums and sax. That's why early jazz pianists were usually referred to by their band-mates as "Professor". At The Taste, the atmosphere is intimate and patrons are seated only a few feet away, so the professor's "lessons" are easier to take in.

One recent evening found a pianist whose name in Thai means "Mr Entertainment" ravishing the ivories. Accompanied by a guitarist on each side and a drummer who set up in the hall,



The partners in The Taste are an interior designer, an architect and a resort owner.

the rollicking, dark-skinned, deep-toned man reminded one of a Thai Fats Waller – but thinner – while reeling off one modern beer hall favorite after another.

Mr Entertainment and his boys have a keen sense of humor: "I feel good!" he sang out – the words open a James Brown R&B classic – and his pals sang along. But when they reached the second verse, they shifted to Thai, and the phrase became "look poochai" ("baby boy"), with appropriate lyrics for a few bars, before finishing up in English.

"Not bad," said my date, herself an accomplished singer. I thought it was all pretty stylish and really fun. Evidently the crowd agreed, freely joining in on the choruses. Conviviality and a ritzy kind of informality commonly reign at The Taste.

"You come here to find something different," said K. Chompoo, "something you don't find at a five-star hotel." She regards The Taste as something more than a hotel but she's not sure what: "Maybe it's a hip residence," she averred.

The following Friday it was jazz night, with well-known pianist Jeffrey Sevilla performing. The rhythm section was manned by veterans Franco Payao on bass and Edgar Casisiempre on drums. Collectively, the trio have about a century of jazz on their hands, having played all over the East and in Europe for decades.

Little did the quartet know that sitting in the audience was

Finnish/German jazz artist Tuija Komi. On holiday in Thailand, Tuija is a local singing sensation in Stuttgart, fronting the Jumpin' Jazz Horsemen while also leading her own trio.

Jeffrey started off with a heavily syncopated version of the Dave Brubeck Quintet's *Take 5*. Tuija liked his rhythmic variations and nodded approvingly. After, Jeffrey took a solo, testing the composition's harmonic possibilities with mesmerizing two-handed chords and melodic runs, and Tuija decided to sit in on the next tune.

It was both unexpected and unamplified, which passes for daring in this switched-on world of ours. The group had a fine jam session, the audience thereafter showing its approval with demands for "encore!"

One of the aims K. Chompoo and her partners had in creating The Taste Phuket was to provide options lacking elsewhere, in an atmosphere where people can let their hair down. It's classy, dazzlingly different and fun, and – in my humble opinion – just the right thing to do with an old shop-house in Phuket. Oh yes, and it certainly is hip.

*The Taste Phuket: 16 Rassada Rd, Phuket City. Open daily for cocktails 6 pm to 1 am. Also features a restaurant and a 12-room hotel. Live music Fridays. For more information call Tel: 076-222812 or visit the website: [www.thetastephuket.com](http://www.thetastephuket.com)*

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I still remember vividly the day back in 2002 when my Thai friend Noy handed me a copy of LoSo's *Red Album*. She had bought it for me moments earlier, as a parting gift as I made my way to the end of Samui's Nathon Pier.

It was three years later on the outskirts of Pattaya that I eventually got to meet the band's lead man, Sek Loso. Had I known it would be so easy to do so, I would have arranged an interview before.

I had kicked myself for missing his intimate gigs on the London circuit, where he'd been relatively unknown, and I had wrongly assumed that a meeting without an appointment in his homeland would be nigh on impossible.

A casual chat with a guy selling T-shirts, however, had resulted in a personal backstage introduction to the man who is Thailand's most successful rock star, which was a bonus considering I'd only popped out the gates for a green tea and a pee.

If you don't know who Sek Loso is, then chances are you have either just arrived in Thailand or you live with the hill tribes; either way you have probably heard his music in a bar or on a radio. If you're in the UK, you could well be hearing it there soon.

The man has come a long way since his days fixing air conditioners in Isarn. His roller-coaster journey to stardom is the stuff young musicians' dreams are made of and he has influenced many young Thais along the way.

He started gigging in Bangkok, playing indie and rock covers of both Thai and Western songs, before gradually starting to introduce his own material. His infectious style of nonsense, meat-and-potatoes pop/rock songs instantly impressed. He compiled a demo and sent it to Assinee, who was the wearer then of Thailand's pop crown. The tape was subsequently released and went on to sell 1½ million copies.

Eight albums later he is on the verge of entering the international spotlight. His potential was recognized by former Capitol and

# Sek's appeal

Warner A&R man and *Rolling Stone* writer Tim Carr. Having studied and lived in London, Loso has gained the kudos to recruit former Oasis bassist Paul "Bonehead" Arthurs and producer Owen Morris to help cut his first English album, *For God's Sake*. With a growing fan base in Japan, the US, Singapore and Australia, it is only a matter of time before Sek Loso, born Sekson Sookpimai, has the world at his feet.

So here I am awaiting my call to join the press conference at a private room behind the Coco Blues Bar, Samui's popular live music venue. The bar is overflowing with people eager to see Thailand's biggest star. Well, not biggest physically – the man himself is quite short – but he nevertheless radiates a celebrity quality that fills the room; whatever "it" is, he has it.

Sek is very approachable, confident and friendly, giving my hand a warm shake as I join him on the sofa. He offers me a drink, impressing me with his down-to-earth demeanor. In spite of his status, he remains true to his self-adopted stage name, Loso, an abbreviation of "Low Society" – a middle finger raised to the status-obsessed culture that grows like a cancer the more Thailand becomes richer and the more culture contamination from the West brainwashes far less-talented singers into preaching the importance of being sexy, naughty and bitchy.

God forbid Sek Loso should ever release a song proclaiming he was a horny, disorderly asshole. I doubt his appeal would match that of Tata Young, although, that said, in a world where popular rappers claim to be pretty

Our Man in the Big Durian finally gets to meet one of his musical heroes, Sek Loso, and finds him totally down-to-earth.

## CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle



much horny, disorderly assholes, who knows?

Fortunately, he doesn't subscribe to rap or hip-hop and his genuine love for good old-fashioned rock shines through his music, making it all the more honest and appealing. It is this that

has made him a working class hero in the Land of Smiles.

"So who would you most like to jam with?" My first question is met with a pause, photographers snap away casually and tape recorders at the end of outstretched arms are pointing at us.

I feel I have asked a good question.

"Rolling Stones or Guns 'n' Roses," he replies with a nod and a smile. I can see now that he was born for rock and roll, the clichés – the Raybans, the leather jacket, the big hair, the Jack Daniels – are everywhere. He loves his job and he has earned the trimmings.

As I make my way through the remaining six questions, he goes on to reveal that his favorite pub is in West Hampstead, London, that he is a fan of Newcastle Brown Ale, that his album of English-language songs is due for release in the summer and that Liam Gallagher from Oasis and Richard Ashcroft, frontman of the now-disbanded Verve, are among the celebrity friends he has made.

When I ask if he has a *farang* girlfriend he peers at me over his Raybans with a wry smile then jokingly starts to count using both hands, but it's the more serious reply to my next question that I find surprising.

"Is it difficult being a Thai trying to break into the UK market?" His reply implies that skin color is still an obstacle.

Regardless, I believe that real talent, which Sek Loso undeniably possesses, will overcome any obstacle.

It's time for him to take the stage, I have just enough time for my final question, "Is there a song you wish you had written?" He ponders while removing his jacket and slinging on his trademark white guitar and then replies, "Imagine."

I am back in the bar, shuffling through the crowd trying to get a good spot when he emerges on stage. I have no idea how many gigs he has done, hundreds I would presume, but he charms the audience and breaks into the first song with the energy and enthusiasm of somebody playing his first.

I have just met the quintessential rock star.

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Good headline, but it's not *that* funny...

# China's BBC

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

age. All in all, Yantai is a very Chinese seaside resort. The beaches throng with holiday-makers in the summer, the restaurants make a big thing of their seafood menus and there are plenty of marvelously kitsch souvenirs for sale.

Visiting here as a foreigner, you will almost certainly be in a unique position, as few people venture here from overseas.

The city museum and the Temple to the Goddess of the Sea are both worth a look. Yantai's also an excellent base to cruise around the nearby countryside. About an hour away by road, Weihaiwei, or Port Edward, was also leased to Britain, from 1898 until 1930. Like Yantai, it has that intriguing old colonial seaside feel to it.

Some 45 miles away from Yantai is the 1,000-year-old Penglai Temple on Danya Hill. The pavilion, which is built in the style of a castle, has great views and for generations has attracted poets and scholars, who have come to enjoy the scenery or to sing its praises. If you miss the Penglai Mirage – an island floating in the sky which supposedly appears every few decades – you can catch it on video in a specially designed room inside the temple.

Film buffs might like to know that Eric Liddell, the Scottish Olympic sprinter who was the hero in the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire*, died of a brain tumor here in 1944 while interned by the Japanese in the China Inland Mission Boarding School. History and architecture buffs should get hold of a copy of *Far From Home* by Tess Johnston and Deke Erh. It contains scores of photos of Yantai in former times.

Finally, don't come expecting any super-luxury seaside resorts; the hotels here may sport a lot of "stars", but lag a long way behind international standards.

Yantai is the Brighton, Bondi and Coney Island of China. It is situated on the Gulf of Bohai, which is the sea gateway to Beijing.

The name means "Smoke Tower", as in the olden days the inhabitants would burn wolf dung from a signal station to warn of raids by pirates or other hostile forces. In the past, when it was Britain's major trading post in the region, the port was also known as Chefoo, although that was really the name of the offshore anchorage.

Yantai, opened up to the West by the Treaty of Tientsin in 1859, continued to grow until the 1920s, when other ports such as Qingdao and Dalny overtook it.

At its zenith, Yantai was home to 150,000 people. The Brits were joined by Belgians, French, Germans, Japanese, Russians, Swedes and Americans, all of whom were represented by their own consulates.

Yantai expanded haphazardly, so there were no "concessions" as there were in Shanghai.

Wealthy Chinese built their houses next to foreigners. As a result, while everybody led separate lives, there was little racial friction.

Nowadays, many of the buildings dating from colonial times survive, although most of them are pretty dilapidated and are dwarfed by the usual phalanx of unsightly skyscrapers.

Yantai has a bit of a chip on its shoulder. Qingdao, just down the coast, is better known thanks to its brewery and more popular due to Mao Tse-Tung's patron-

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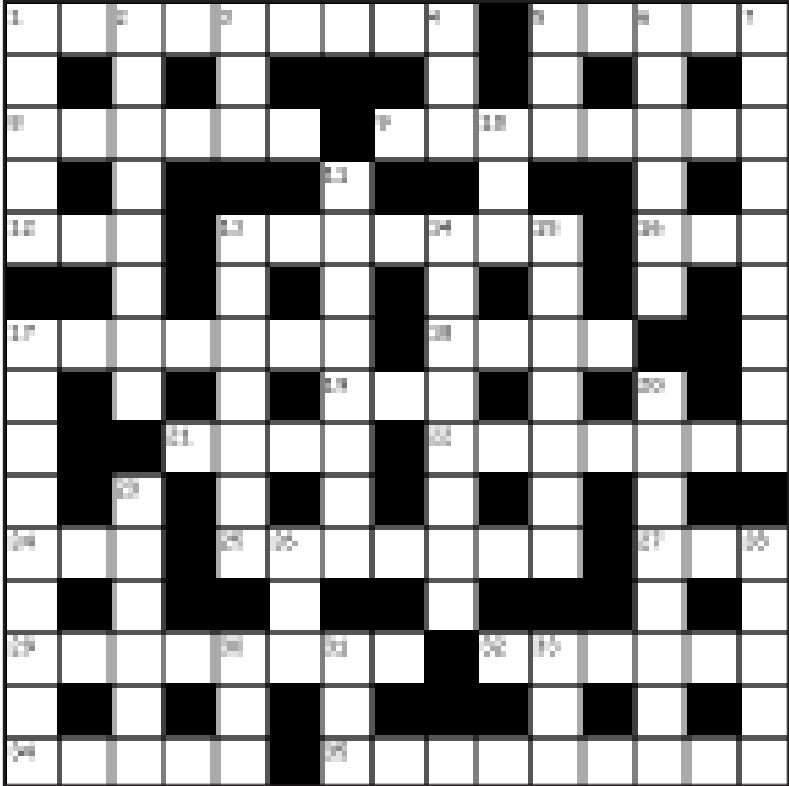




# The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Short for Satan or Lucifer, perhaps. (9)
- 6. United Nations agent goes hungry. (5)
- 9. Poison victory east of Parisian name. (5)
- 10. Tube close to bull. (5)
- 11. In the middle, Bella's 45 inches. (3)
- 12. Ann goes into pier for basket. (7)
- 13. Girl cut? Move fast! (6)
- 16. Shield strangely tense couch. (10)
- 18. She returns to dine. (4)
- 20. After South Africa, lieutenant may be worth this. (4)
- 21. Oppose secret, taking on treasurer. (10)
- 23. Post Office created hairy stuff. (6)
- 24. Fighting weight of warship. (7)
- 28. Circle turn I agree in France. (3)
- 29. A small shoot – it's nearly Spring. (5)
- 30. Every year, take out a void. (5)
- 31. Each decade consumed. (5)
- 32. Beating and preparing fish for frying. (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

Down

- 1. We hear Jack's in church. (4)
- 2. Dance drum. (5)
- 3. Note about Mina: enter! (8)
- 4. Unmarried state over, with no runs to headgear. (10)
- 5. Stars of the family, it's said. (4)
- 6. Yes vote in Egypt and Syria at one time causes a lot of noise. (6)
- 7. Out of jail, Lance is a writer. (9)
- 8. Edit a plaid ruin. (10)
- 14. She was abducted by underworld boss through southeast phone. (10)
- 15. Scottish river hand is plain-spoken. (10)
- 17. Writer includes most of ex-pupils in cost. (9)
- 19. Give incentive to Thai ant four consumed. (8)
- 22. Inventor gives direction to Diana and offspring. (6)
- 25. Three directions turn – I find boredom. (5)
- 26. Food for creepy-crawly. (4)
- 27. Promote tobacco twist. (4)

Solution on next page

## EZ TRIVIA

- 1. Rock band Lordi, which recently won the Euro-vision Song Contest 2006, is from what country?
- 2. Which is the only US state that sanctions same-sex marriages?
- 3. Which Brazilian Formula 1 driver died in a crash while leading the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola in 1994?
- 4. Which region of Serbia this month declared independence?
- 5. Our solar system's largest "asteroid belt" falls between the orbits of which two planets?
- 6. What was the code name of the US-led effort to build the first nuclear weapons during World War II?
- 7. Who was the host of US talk show, The Tonight Show, before Jay Leno?
- 8. What treaty officially ended World War I?
- 9. Which Rolling Stone was recently cleared to tour after suffering a head injury in Fiji?
- 10. The egg of which bird is often used to refer to the number zero?

Answers on next page

## Hidden Words

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

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

Solution on next page.

## su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

## Scribble Space



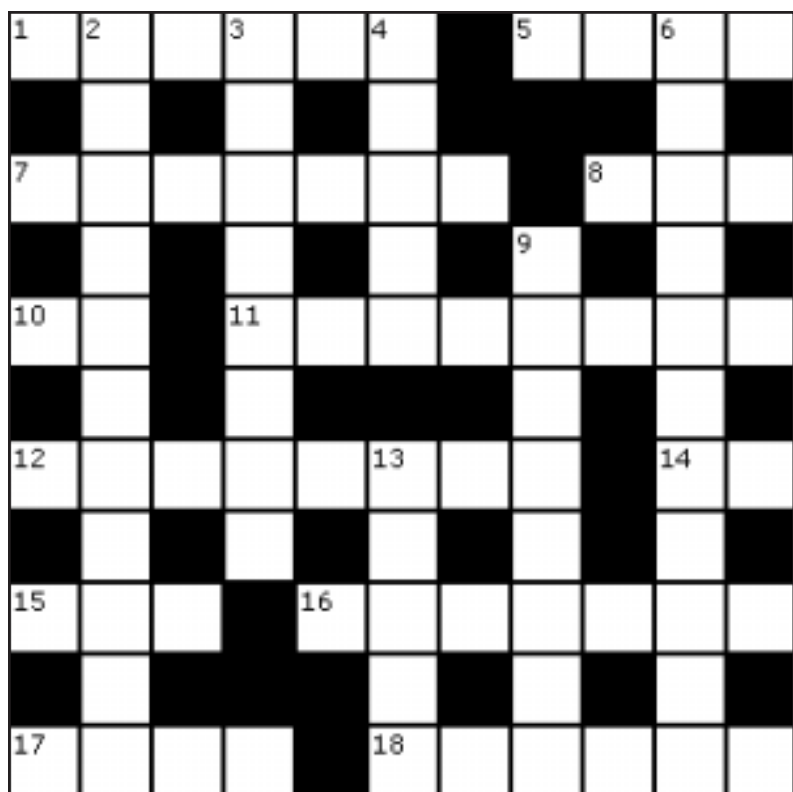
## Brain Buster!!

Three boats – one red, one blue, and one yellow – were out on the river. Using the following clues, can you tell the color and type of each boat, who is on each boat, and which country's flag each boat carries?

- 1. The woman is not in a yellow boat, which is not from Thailand.
- 2. The red boat is not from Italy.
- 3. The children are in a blue boat, which is not from Italy or Sweden.
- 4. The man is on a yacht with an Italian flag.
- 5. The longtail boat is from Thailand, while the canoe is red.

Answer on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Island in the Andaman Sea.
5. Piece of hair.
7. Voices opposition to.
8. Code of life.
10. Either partner.
11. Snakes.
12. Tennis shot.
14. Ego partner.
15. Seamstress's equipment.

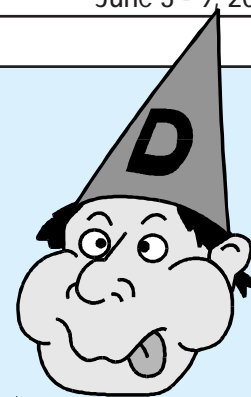
16. Rats, for example.
17. Not at all beautiful.
18. Gobi, for example.

### DOWN

2. Sleeping through the winter.
3. Memento.
4. Teacher.
6. Python or boa.
9. Recklessly uncaring.
13. Dodge.

*Solution below, right*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Which country is currently the world's ice hockey champions?
2. Who was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany?
3. Which type of British biplane was deployed in World War II's Battle of Taranto, resulting in the destruction of half the Italian fleet?
4. Which former heavyweight world champion boxer died on May 11 this year?
5. What is a Boca Burger made of?
6. *The English Patient* is a sequel to which other Michael Ondaatje work?
7. Whose wartime memoirs are entitled *Quartered Safe Out Here*?
8. Which 20<sup>th</sup> century African observer wrote "Natives dislike speed as we dislike noise"?
9. Why was world champion boxer Marion D'Agata so distinctive?
10. Which World Cup 2006 team's moniker is the "Black Stars"?
11. During the First Crusade, which city fell on June 3, 1098?
12. The ruins of this city are now to be found in which country?
13. Which Austrian novelist died June 3, 1924?
14. Which sonnet by Shakespeare ends *But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, All losses are restor'd and sorrows end*.
15. How many branches do the *menorah* and *chānukkiyah* candelabras have respectively?
16. With which religion are they associated?
17. Who wrote the standard *I'll Be Seeing You*?
18. "Be seeing you" was a catchphrase from which popular 1960s fantasy-espionage TV series?
19. In Hindu astrology it is the called *trishanku*, in Maori, *Te Punga*, in Latin, *Crux Australis*. What is it in English?
20. By what other name is Jean Grey known in *X-Men: The Last Stand*?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Sweden; 2. Martin Luther; 3. Fairey Swordfish;
4. Floyd Patterson; 5. Soy protein and wheat gluten;
6. *In the Skin of a Lion*; 7. George MacDonald Fraser;
8. Karen Blixen (aka Isak Dinesen); 9. He was a deaf-mute;
10. Ghana; 11. Antioch;
12. Turkey; 13. Franz Kafka; 14. Sonnet No 30;
15. Seven and nine; 16. Judaism; 17. Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal;
18. *The Prisoner*;
19. The Southern Cross; 20. Phoenix.

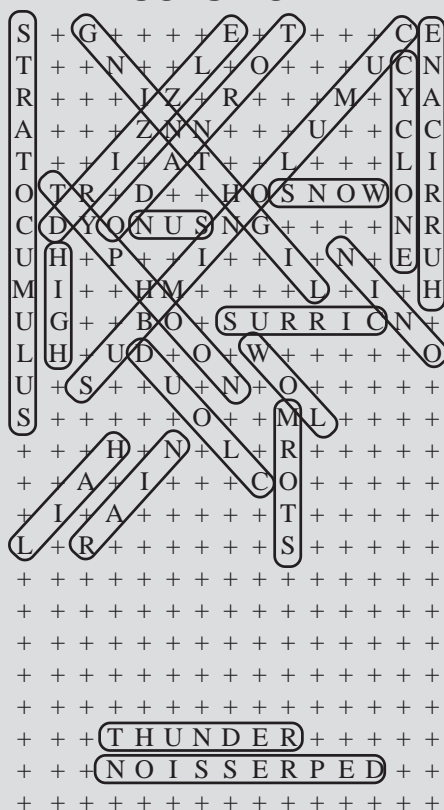
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Finland; 2. Massachusetts; 3. Ayrton Senna;
4. Montenegro; 5. Mars and Jupiter; 6. The Manhattan Project;
7. Johnny Carson; 8. Treaty of Versailles;
9. Keith Richards; 10. The goose.

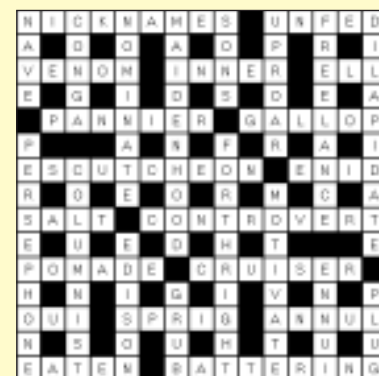
## Brain Buster Answer

The man is Italian and is in the yacht, which is yellow; the woman is Swedish, and is in the canoe, which is red; the children are in the longtailboat, which is blue and carries the Thai flag.

## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

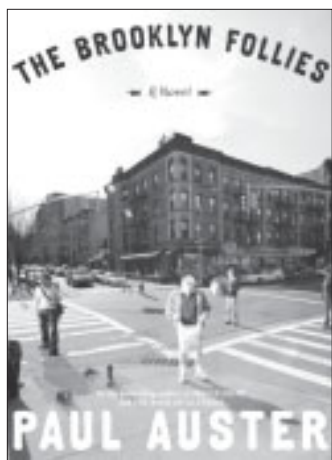


## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





"I was looking for a quiet place to die. Someone recommended Brooklyn and so the next morning I traveled down there from Westchester to scope out the terrain. I hadn't been back in fifty-six years, and I remembered nothing. My parents had moved out of the city when I was three, but I instinctively found myself returning to the neighborhood where we had lived, crawling home like some wounded dog to the place of my birth."



# Chick lit in Brooklyn

Everything is wrapped up in a tight happy bow



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Thus opens Paul Auster's *The Brooklyn Follies* (Faber & Faber, London, 2005, 304pp) with just the right world-weary note of narrative authority.

The narrator is Nathan Glass, a retired insurance salesman pushing 60 and recovering from a bout of lung cancer. He is recently divorced and estranged from his only daughter.

He takes to wandering the streets of Park Slope, near Brooklyn's Prospect Park. He befriends a lovely married Puerto Rican named Marina who works as a waitress at local Cosmos Diner. Other than her, he is friendless.

Late in the book, he reflects: "I have only recently begun a new life of my own, and I'm perfectly content with the decision I made to settle in Brooklyn. After all those years in the suburbs, I find that the city agrees with me, and I've already grown attached to my neighborhood, with

its shifting jumble of white and brown and black, its multilayered chorus of foreign accents, its children and its trees, its striving middle-class families, its lesbian couples, its Korean grocery stores, its bearded Indian holy man in his white robes bowing to me whenever we cross paths on the street, its dwarfs and cripples, its church bells and ten thousand dogs."

Then one day he runs into his long-lost nephew, Tom Wood, son of his much-loved sister, living in the same Park Slope neighborhood.

Once a brilliant English graduate student, Tom has come down in the world. He drove a taxi for several years, then took a job as a clerk at Brightman's Attic, a secondhand bookstore run by a flamboyant homosexual named Harry Glass. Tom has put on weight (always a sign of moral failure in modern America) and gone dateless for years. The woman he worships from afar he calls B.P.M. (Beautiful

Perfect Mother) who sits with her two children on the stoops of her brownstone every morning, waiting for the school bus to come.

Nathan strikes up an acquaintance with her and introduces her to Tom. A native Brooklynite, Nancy Mazzucchelli makes jewelry in her basement. With all these characters set in place, Nathan gets the plot rolling when eight-year-old Lucy Wood knocks on his apartment door. The daughter of Tom's wild sister Aurora, she has been dispatched from her home in North Carolina where Aurora lives with her fanatic Christian husband. Aurora had run away from home as a teenager, done porno movies, drifted around as a singer in a rock band and wound up over her head in drugs. She met her husband in a California rehab.

Now Lucy is a real charmer and a schemer too. To prevent Nathan and Tom from dumping her at Tom's stepsister's

home in Burlington, Vermont, Lucy empties half a dozen cans of Coke in the gas tank.

Stranded in a hotel in a small upstate New York town, Tom falls into a romance with Honey, the hotel owner's daughter. Nathan falls in love with Lucy and decides to keep her. I was beginning to suspect that I'd fallen into a species of chick lit and I was right. Chick lit is a highly lucrative genre appealing to modern women who want happy romantic tales more literate than bodice rippers.

And sure enough, everything is wrapped up in a tight happy bow. Tom and Honey marry. Nathan rescues Aurora who goes to live with Nancy Mazzucchelli, whose husband has conveniently left her. Nathan starts an affair with Nancy's mother. Nancy and Aurora fall in love and raise their kids as a lesbian couple.

And everybody's happy except this disgruntled reader.



## Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

# The dark history of Kuman Tong

First, the corpses of stillborn males who died in their mothers' wombs on Saturday or Tuesday would be grilled until dry...

Dear K Wanida,

Over the years I have read several stories in the Thai press about people stealing stillborn children's corpses for use in the black magic rite *kuman tong*.

Can you tell me about the religious and historical antecedents of this practice? What is its prevalence today? Where would one find the so-called "witch doctors" that perform these rites? What benefits do the people who undergo them expect to derive?

Stephen  
Phuket City

Dear Stephen,

*Kuman Tong* is not really a "rite", but rather a kind of Thai spirit that appears in the form of a small boy, usually with a top-knot on his shaved head.

Shirtless, he wears only *Jung Krabane*, the traditional Thai trousers, and a long chain across his chest and back.

*Kuman Tong* would usually appear in a standing position, his right hand waving to invite wealth

while his left hand holds a golden bag. You may have seen him floating in the sky in some Thai dramas (*lakhon*) based in antiquity.

*Kuman Tong* was first described in an Ayudhya-period poem by Phra Surinreuchai, better known as Khun Pan.

Supposedly based on a true story, the poem mentions the magic used in creating this first *Kuman Tong*.

First, the corpses of stillborn males who died in their mothers' wombs on Saturday or Tuesday would be grilled until dry, then lacquered and covered with gold leaves.

The shamans who could create a *Kuman Tong* using an incantation had to be specialists; otherwise they would inevitably be cursed and destroyed by the black spell.

This traditional way of creating a *Kuman Tong* is not performed nowadays, as it is not only complicated but probably illegal, not to mention immoral.

Ancient clergymen later modified the process to capture the *kuman tong*'s magical power in an amulet form.

They would do this by reciting an incantation over a combination of the following: salt lick, soil taken from graves, clay from caves, and bone ashes from corpses that died on Saturday and were cremated on Tuesday.

Nowadays, it is possible to buy *Kuman Tong* charms. These

are usually made of wood, silver, ivory, soil from seven graves, and plaster.

Although much easier to produce, they are still believed by many to bring power and wealth to their owners.

Among the most highly prized *Kuman Tong* amulets in Thailand are those that were made by famed monk Luang Por Tae, of Sam Yam Temple in Nakhon Pathom.

It is important to "raise" your *Kuman Tong* as you would your own baby, such as by offering him sweets and special foods and telling him when you are leaving home and why – in baby-talk. The owner has to pray and invite *Kuman Tong* to eat the food, and should treat him as part of the family and shower him with toys such as racing cars, guitars or whatever he asks for.

If you do not raise your *Kuman Tong* the right way he can, just like a real child, turn on you and bring unhappiness and bad luck. More powerful "killer"

*Kuman Tong* can also be created by invoking the spirit of a deceased warrior to reside in the talisman, but this is far less common.

It is important to "invite" a new *Kuman Tong* talisman into one's home by lighting a joss stick and giving him a nickname. In some cases the spirit may be able to tell the owner what name he desires. He must also be given a special place in the house, such as by making a shelf and decorating it with a little bed and pillow.

Nowadays, there are still people who worship *Kuman Tong*, though instances of people trying to create one in the "traditional" way are rare enough to be considered newsworthy.

If you want to learn more, there is a whole website on the topic: [www.gumanthong.com](http://www.gumanthong.com)

Board & Bread

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur  
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Email: info@phuketgazette.net

## Gentle approach is best to revive old city center

In many countries it is known as “gentrification”, the transformation of rundown city centers by the arrival of adventurous new money.

Its advocates claim that it rehabilitates communities, reversing the descent of once-prosperous areas into urban slums. Opponents argue that the process comes at too steep a social cost, destroying relationships forged over generations to form tightly-bonded communities. As the work of the pioneer “gentrifiers” is noticed and admired, others follow. The locale becomes more desirable and prices rise, driving out the original, poorer inhabitants.

In Phuket City’s century-old center, however, there are no signs of this happening. In many cases, the once-graceful Sino-Portuguese buildings are occupied by tenant shopkeepers. Others are occupied by the owners who, although they may not be wealthy, still manage to make a comfortable living.

Some of these owners (see pages 4 and 5) have sold out; others are following the pioneers’ lead and refurbishing. The remainder are carrying on with life as they have lived it for decades. Gradually and gently, the improvements are spreading along Thalang Rd, Soi Rommanee, Rassada Rd and Yaowarat Rd.

The city’s administrators may not be moving fast enough for some people’s tastes. Pedestrianization of these roads has been discussed for a long time, but has thus far only taken place during special events. The burying of the power cables that deface the elegant facades has also been discussed, but has yet to be realized.

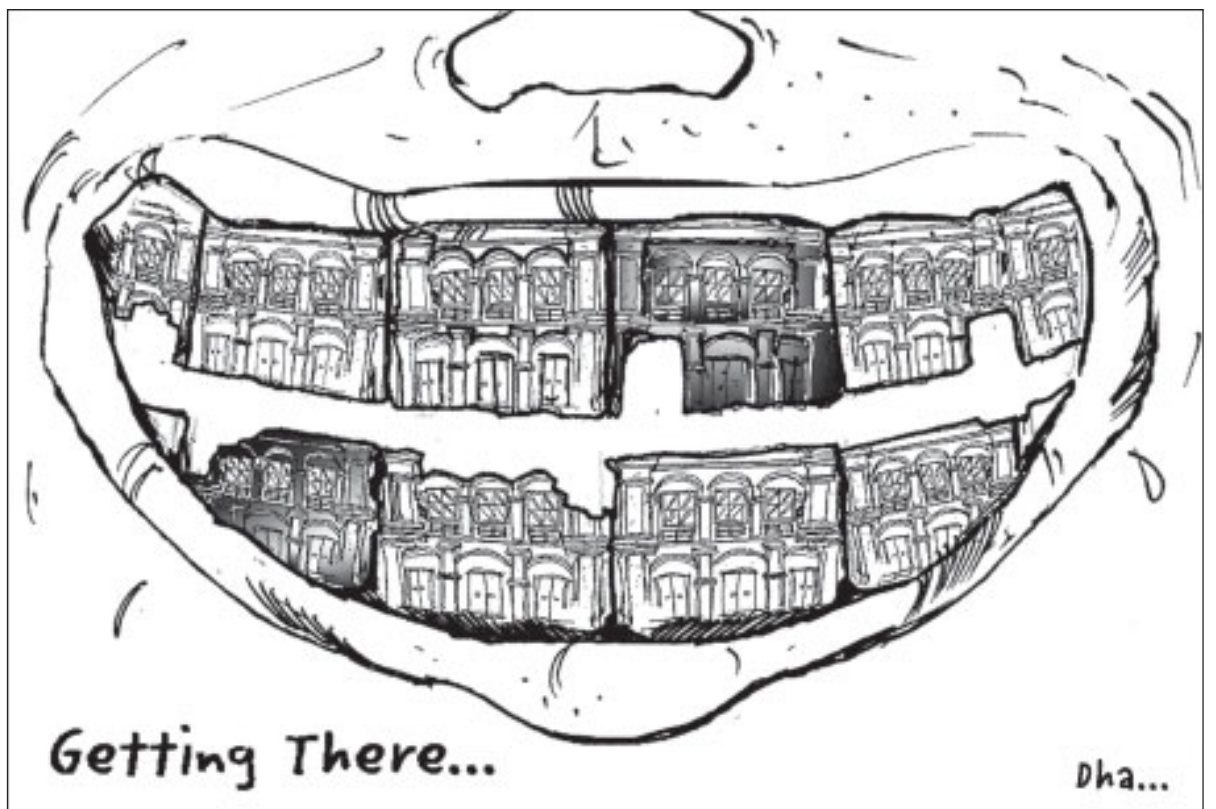
But City Hall’s approach takes cognizance of the needs and opinions of old-timers in these streets. Indeed, the Mayor herself was brought up in the Sino-Portuguese streets of the city, and so understands better than most the dynamics of the neighborhood.

In the long run, the gentle approach will work far better than any plan that rams through changes aimed primarily at drawing more tourists away from the beaches and into the city center.

One element lacking from plans put forward so far is incentives that might persuade less wealthy residents or owners to join in the area’s rehabilitation. This, the *Gazette* suggests, could make a considerable difference in how fast the old town is improved. Grants toward the cost of repairs, tax breaks and other incentives could give a big lift to the historic center of the town.

That said, however, the *Gazette* applauds the work done so far by the pioneers and the enlightened, gentle approach taken by the City. The improvements are already noticeable, and we look forward to more.

— The Editor



## 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.

### On the road

My name is Xanthos Paphitis and I participated in the Gumball Rally 2006 (Team 25 Lamborghini Diablo).

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in Phuket for making our time extremely enjoyable and for making us feel very welcome.

My experience of driving through Thailand was nothing short of spectacular, and I have been left with some truly amazing memories to treasure.

I hope to visit again soon.

Xanthos Paphitis  
London

to worry about avoiding the authorities.

The announcement is particularly timely given the recent arrival of another 15,000 refugees at the Thai border following Burmese army offensives against Karen rebels. Some of these will inevitably filter out of the refugee camps and into the workforce.

Let’s hope that the government does indeed go through with the changes thereby giving a boost to the economy and hope to the thousands toiling away in fear of arrest and deportation.

Saw Ba U Gyi  
Sangkhlaburi

in the US are treated as if they were US citizens, except they do not have the right to vote.

Therefore, a US citizen [in Thailand] should have all the rights of a Thai citizen [in the US] including the right to buy and sell land, easily acquire residence visas and live anywhere they wish without reporting to Immigration. Americans in Thailand do not have these rights.

It is, for example, usually more difficult for Americans to go through the immigration process than it is for Australians, British, French and the numerous other countries that have no treaty.

Why don’t the US and Thai governments enforce the treaty?

Michael Weldon  
Udon Thani

### Hugh and cry over potholing daughter

I must agree with Sir Hugh Creighton-Ward of the danger of the potholes indicated in his letter (*Gazette* May 27).

However, I was a witness to his daughter, Penelope’s, accident and feel that she would have been injured less if she had been wearing a crash helmet rather than trying to preserve her tonorial elegance.

Furthermore, she was actually the passenger. The driver, Parker, was clearly intoxicated.

Instead of gallivanting around India perhaps Sir Hugh should pay as much attention to his daughter’s upbringing as he does to the condition of the roads.

Jeff Tracy  
Rawai

### Forcing friendship

According to the Treaty of Amity between the US and Thailand, US citizens [in Thailand] are to be treated as Thai citizens are treated in the US. Thai citizens

### The road to reality

Over the years, various schemes have been hatched to address transport issues, some of them – such as building a monorail and boring a tunnel under Patong Hill – quite fanciful. All Phuket really needs is an efficient system of buses and *songthaews*, such as can be found in just about every other Thai city. The current situation makes it imperative for every resident to own a car – or take their chances on a motorbike.

Given the island’s ever-increasing population, it won’t be long before Phuket’s traffic problem will start to resemble Bangkok’s. Phuket Provincial Administration Organization should stop wasting taxpayers’ money on fanciful projects such as the “Welcome Gate” and start focusing more on the real needs of Phuket residents.

Wheelhead  
Phuket

### Better the life of immigrants

I was pleased to read about the relaxation of rules regarding the hiring of migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. Migrant workers play an important role in the Thai economy, Phuket included, and this should be recognized by the authorities. Keeping the registration process for workers complicated, expensive and bureaucratic does no one any good.

As long as Thailand is drastically better off than its mainland neighbors, immigrants will keep coming, and as long as employers can pay these immigrants less than Thai nationals, then they will keep employing them. No regulations will change this.

The simpler the process for workers to work legally is, the more people will take this option. This is better for both employees and employers; legal immigrants are less open to exploitation and mistreatment and employers hiring legal immigrants do not have

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Editor: Parichat Utintu

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Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

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

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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

#### Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

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



# Phuket's property industry 'will continue to grow'

Over the past three years, property prices in Phuket have increased about 33%. With most prime beachfront land already developed, there is now a greater demand for land near the coast with sea views.

Price rises in real estate are not completely demand driven, however. They are also due in part to the global rise in fuel costs, which has resulted in a higher transport costs for building materials, such as cement and steel, which have gone up about 25% [over the past three years].

The tsunami did little to affect demand for property in Phuket; in fact, a few luxury villas were sold within days of the disaster. However, [the tsunami] may be responsible – to some degree – for an increase in demand for land further from the beach and on hillsides.

A good example of this trend is in areas on the east coast, such as Pa Khlok and Ao Por, where land was considered practically worthless in the past.

I owned an 11-rai plot of land on Koh Sireh and was offered 500,000 baht for it about 10 years ago. I sold that 11 rai a couple of years ago for 30 million baht. There is similar trend along much of the east coast, including Rawai and Ao Makham.

The main reason for the continued growth in the property

## FIRST PERSON

Real estate prices in Phuket continue to rise, reflecting high demand in all market segments, from affordable housing for lower-income families through to luxurious villas for the mega-rich.

Here Phuket Property Club President and former Phuket City Mayor **Phummi-sak Hongsyok** explains why he thinks the property boom is likely to continue.



market are the traditional factors that draw foreigners to Thailand, such as friendly people, nice food and warm weather.

Combining this with the fact that Phuket has a lot of natural beauty and modern facilities, such as a major airport and international schools, makes Phuket a very attractive choice among foreigners. Continued investment by people seeking holiday and retirement homes shows that there is

still a great deal of long-term confidence in the island internationally.

Another factor keeping land costs high in Phuket is the simple fact that only 52% of the island's total 543 square kilometers is privately-owned, transferable land. The remaining 48% belongs to the government.

This is what has caused some of the choicest plots, such as along the Patong seafront, to

skyrocket to as much as 30 million baht a rai.

Statistics show that the Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) issued permits for development of 42 plots last year and 30 plots so far in 2006.

Taxes and fees collected by the PPLO amounted to 900 million baht in 2004 and about 1 billion baht in 2005. Less than half way through 2006, they have already collected 750 million baht

and expect to take in about 1.2 billion baht by year's end.

Much of the investment, both Thai and foreign, is from people building luxury houses or villas to rent out. You can see new projects like these all over the island.

Negative factors affecting the property business are high fuel costs, high interest rates, inflation and concerns about political instability and domestic unrest. But for foreign buyers, the economic factors have hardly any effect; Phuket still offers very good value for the money for overseas buyers.

I think the trend away from the immediate coast to elevated areas further inland will continue. Such developments do have an advantage in that they are less vulnerable to salt corrosion; a disadvantage, however, is that they face greater water supply problems than other areas.

I believe the property business in Phuket will continue to grow. While there seems to be no end in sight, two limiting factors directly related to population growth – traffic and water supply – could become obstacles in the future.

Both of these problems can be solved, however, by piping water to Phuket from the Lamroo Reservoir in Phang Nga, for example, and by establishing a good mass-transit bus system.

## Does size matter when registering a boat?

Is it necessary for me to register a rubber inflatable boat with a length of around three meters that has a 10hp engine?

DK  
Phuket

**Surin Theerakulpisut, Chief of the Phuket Marine Office (PMO) replies:**

Yes, it must be registered. In order to do this bring a copy of the records stating where the boat and engine were acquired, your passport and an alien-resident registration document – the latter is issued by the Immigration Office in Phuket City – to the PMO at Ao Makham, Tel: 076-391174.

## Is it legal to dump untreated foul water into a klong?

Is it legal to pump wastewater from toilet tanks into public water channels?

I live on Nanai Rd in Patong and the landlord of one of the buildings there has many rooms that he rents out to Burmese workers who regularly empty the toilet tanks into a nearby klong.

First, the smell is terrible. Second, such waste contains a lot of bacteria, which is not healthy if it becomes airborne or in any other way comes in contact with people.

What about the children who play near this water channel? Who will pay their doctor's

bills should they happen to fall ill?  
Concerned resident,  
Patong

**Priroj Tonglepan, Chief of Sanitation, Public Health Department, Patong Municipality, replies:**

If you can tell us the exact address of the building or buildings in question, we can then determine precisely who the landlord is. Once this is known, we will order him to fix the problem within 15 days.

However, if 15 days is not sufficient time, the officer may allow more time to carry out the

work. How much time is given is up to the officer who inspects the site.

If the problem is not fixed within the given time, then we will file a complaint with police, and fine the landlord between 2,000 and 10,000 baht. The amount of the fine is also up to the officer who inspects the site.

If the landlord continues to ignore the problem, we will then begin proceedings to petition the court to issue an court order to force him to fix it.

Parents who believe their child has fallen ill because of dirty water can file a complaint with either Patong Municipality or the local tambon administration organization, depending on where they live.

If it can be proved that the child became sick because of the wastewater that the landlord put or allowed to be put into the klong, then the landlord will have to pay for any medical bills.

You can contact me in confidence at Tel: 076-344106.

## Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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



## In The Stars

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Give the best you can this week and the stars will ensure that you are justly rewarded. If you are celebrating coming of age, you are set to enjoy a productive year with things finally going the way you've planned. Friction in a close relationship should not be blown out of proportion. Remember, it's natural to have differences of opinions sometimes and remind yourself of the qualities in your partner that you were first attracted to.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): A mellow period lies ahead for you. A hint of good news to come will drift your way midweek; don't give in to the temptation to let the cat out of the bag until you receive concrete proof. Where romance is concerned, Scorpio has what it takes to set your senses on fire. An imminent introduction could lead to the relationship you've been seeking.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Unresolved financial issues take up much of your attention this week. The most auspicious days for having a meeting with the other person concerned will be after Wednesday, as an important piece of paper that you lost should come to light by then. You are advised to implement a more efficient filing system to help the wheels of administration turn more smoothly. The number 4 can bring some luck on Thursday.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): On Monday someone's excuses are as flimsy as paper underwear. Don't be fooled for a second into thinking that this leopard has changed its spots. If your inspiration is at a low ebb, you should seek a quiet, natural setting this weekend. Your thoughts will start to flow productively and there's a chance of a new venture beginning before the end of this month.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you've been thinking it will take nothing short of a miracle to change your personal situation, expect the impossible to happen. At work, an opportunity to climb up the career ladder will be dangled in front of you; be on the alert for a colleague's jealous reaction. Problems with property dealings are highlighted on Tuesday. It would be wiser to wait until the middle of the month before committing.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Take a leaf out of a close friend's book and seize the moment. If you have started to feel weighed down by responsibilities, you will find a way to attain more freedom. The stars will support efforts to delegate; you should plan to please yourself more. Pisces impresses you with a romantic gesture this weekend, but make sure that there's no one else in the picture.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you are basking in the glow of newly-found love, you will receive even more proof that the person in question is taking this relationship seriously. Family support may not be as forthcoming as you would like, but rest assured: they will gradually come around. At work you must weather an ongoing storm until the middle of this month. The color ruby red will encourage level-headedness.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Diving into the unknown is not normally your first option, but this month you will feel a new desire to explore. An adventurous Aquarius may have something to do with this transformation. Money matters take a turn for the better when a golden opportunity appears early next week. Expect to hear promising news from overseas, but be prepared to react quickly.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Your ability to make hay while the sun shines comes in very useful this week. While others are struggling to keep their heads above water, you should be cruising along quite comfortably. However, there is a slight danger of getting too complacent; beware of taking a certain financial situation for granted. The color olive green will help keep your feet firmly on the ground.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You could lose your cool this weekend when people seem to expect you to be in two places at the same time. Blowing a fuse will do nothing to solve the problem, but explaining calmly why you're so busy at the moment will work wonders. By Monday your impatient mood should have passed and relationships will be back on an even keel. Another Pisces has an interesting tip next Wednesday.

## GETTING TICKED OFF

Ticks are a common sight on cats and dogs on the island. In the main, they are just an unsightly irritation. Recently though, there has been an increasing number of mysterious deaths of dogs reported. In all cases, the dogs had been behaving normally – showing no signs of illness – only to be found dead just a short time later.

Having witnessed several such cases, Soi Dog Foundation had an autopsy performed on one of the unfortunate victims. This confirmed the cause of death as a tick-borne blood disease. Not all ticks are disease carriers, but those that are can pass on diseases very quickly because of the parasite's fast breeding cycle.

Ticks have been described as "the product of one of Nature's fouler moods." They are small blood-sucking arachnids related to spiders.

Adult ticks live primarily in grass, though they can also be found in houses and on walls.

They can survive like this for up to three years without any sustenance whatsoever.



## MAKING TRACKS

By Top Dog

When a potential host passes by, they simply drop onto the host and find a suitable spot on the body. On dogs, they are most commonly found on the ears, on the face and between the toes.

Once situated, a tick will bury its head in the skin of the animal and proceed to gorge itself on the victim's blood.

After several days, the tick drops off. If female, it will then lay its eggs and die. Six-legged larvae eventually hatch from these eggs, waiting for the a suitable host from which to feed. They also then detach, molt and become eight-legged nymphs.

These nymphs wait for a host, in turn gorge themselves, and then drop off, molting again into an adult male or female.

It is not unusual to find ticks at all stages of development living on one dog.

**Prevention:** There are several products available to protect your animals from ticks.

Frontline Plus is available here, and is effective, especially when used in conjunction with a protective collar. Note, however, that not all flea collars available here are effective against ticks.

Some veterinary clinics now offer a monthly ivomectin-based tablet that seems to be effective.

If your dog lives in your garden and regularly has ticks, then clearly you have a problem.

This can easily be overcome by hiring a pest control company to spray your property, including the house if necessary, with a chemical called Permethrin. This is extremely effective and will not harm your pets. Simply keep them away from treated areas for about three hours after spraying.

**Tick removal:** If your dog does have a tick and you remove it within 24 hours of discovery, the chances of it transmitting a disease are slight.

Put on some latex gloves, then pull the surrounding hairs away from the tick's body. Take some tweezers and grasp the tick as close to the buried head as you can. Do NOT squeeze; pull gently and slowly away from the dog, to be sure not to break the head off the tick.

Toss the tick into the toilet or into a bottle of surgical spirit. Ticks are notoriously difficult to physically kill. I have seen people attempt to crush them and they still crawl away. Give the dog's skin a good clean, preferably with antibacterial soap. If you suspect you may have left a piece of tick still embedded in your pet's skin, seek veterinary care immediately or a nasty infection may develop.

## Maximize maturity

Not long ago, two columnists in *The Nation* wrote about aging. They both disliked the idea of getting old – and especially looking old. They praised the benefits of laser dermatology, face lifts, wrinkle-removers, medical spas, fitness training, skin creams, and Botox injections.

Both embraced the heresy that even when you get old, you should try to look young.

Well, this is Thailand, where image is God and substance is but a figment of the foreign imagination. So I don't blame those two writers for their adolescent views.

The truth is, youth sucks. When I was a teenager, I was nothing but a quivering mass of seething hormones. I was ignorant, naïve, a giddy prey to every passing fad, and I had zits. I doubt that today's youth is any different and I wouldn't want to relive any part of my teenage years. Especially the zits.

Age mellows us, cools us down, and gives us the balance, perspective, and wisdom to sleep like a pig all day without feeling the slightest twinge of guilt. While youth charges forth in full armor to joust with the dragons of the world, old age is smart enough to lie back in its pajamas and wait for the dragons to die of natural causes or get run over by a passing truck. "By doing nothing, you accomplish everything," sings Lao Tzu – and we vintage venerable veterans are experts at doing nothing.

Well, you may bleat about it, but grizzled geriatrics are UGLY. Yes, we are, and we get even uglier after we die. In fact, the longer we're dead, the uglier we get. There is also the problem of smell.

But there are ways in which



we can exploit our ugliness to create an eye-catching ambience. Without kowtowing to the shallowness of the youth-and-fitness crowd, we can craft a new image for persons of maturity that will stun the world.

## REVOLUTIONARY

My new company, Tsow Makeovers, Ltd., has identified 12 important Maturity Medals that nature awards us for living so long. These are capitalized below. Ordinarily, people think they're ugly. But I've designed a revolutionary new program whereby senile seniors can transform their Maturity Medals into marks of transcendental beauty. I have called this program "Be Bold to Be Old".

We specialize in treating old men. Here are a few novel ways in which preternaturally primeval patriarchs can enhance their wizened features:

**Warts, moles, cysts, blemishes, blotches and liver spots** are major Maturity Medals. I myself have so many warts and moles I look like a toad. Solution? Dye them different colors. A tasteful array of green warts, red moles, blue liver spots, and orange cysts will brighten the most sallow complexion. Instead of thinking, "Oooo, he looks like a toad," people will think, "Oooo,



Siam International  
38/54 Nanai Road,  
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

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by Isla Star

# Our shameful legacy of marine garbage

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Surprises are in store for you. A friend who you've never seen in a romantic light could be about to reveal their hidden desires. You are advised to think carefully before taking this relationship to the next level. Remember that being right isn't the same as doing the right thing. If low-season blues are starting to affect you, it's time to consider taking a break.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Romance continues to flourish even though distance could be an obstacle. You should use your communication skills to good advantage this week, both on a personal and business level. You will receive a sign that you've been selling yourself short and others are willing to pay more for your services. React accordingly to ensure that your financial situation becomes more buoyant. Wear jade green to promote wisdom.

## medals

he looks like a toad lit up like a Christmas tree."

Old men tend to sprout hair in, on and around their ears. This looks disgusting. But it looks far less disgusting if you dye it. Clumps of **ear hair** dyed scarlet, lemon, and chartreuse will arrest the attention of all but the most jaded passers-by.

Accentuate your **wrinkles** with eye liner or mascara. If it makes eyes look good, think what it will do for wrinkles. Multi-colored eye liner is even better. You'll look spectacular with crimson, pink and lime-green wrinkles.

If you have **bushy eyebrows**, shave off one and dye the other. One upraised red or aquamarine eyebrow will give you a quizzical look that will slay the ladies. The shaven eyebrow will give a striking contrast suggesting an inspiring yin-yang dualism.

If you have a **double chin**, dye it red. If you have **bags under your eyes**, dye them green. A red double chin and green eyebags will give you a Christmas look that will make you immensely popular with reindeer, elves, and small children.

Many old men develop visibly **sagging breasts**. Lift those boobs with a male bra: the Macho Bra, designed by Tsow Makeovers for men with tits. To assure the world that you're not kinky and affirm your masculinity, the Macho Bra comes in three manly colors: camouflage, khaki, and SWAT-team black.

All this will create an exciting new image for doddering dotards that will humble the callow worshipers of youth and put an end forever to the craze for youthful beauty.

S. Tsow can be flamed at [stow@yahoo.com](mailto:stow@yahoo.com), except when he's dyeing his warts and ear hair.

Until the 20th century, our oceans were convenient garbage pits. There was no plastic, everything was biodegradable, ships were wind-powered, and there fewer than 2 billion people on the planet.

People threw rubbish everywhere, and it didn't much matter. We were animals using animal things, throwing them away so archaeologists could find the rubbish that didn't rot.

Times have changed, but habits have not. We have invented plastic, styrofoam, steel ships with motors, and there are 6.5 billion of us – an increase of 4.5 billion in the past 45 years alone – throwing anything we can into the sea.

I manage to pick up an insignificant amount of this rubbish in Phang Nga Bay, arguably Thailand's most beautiful location. My compensation? The satisfaction that every plastic bag, bottle, drinking straw or water cup that goes in my kayak won't be going into a sea turtle or a cetacean such as a porpoise or a whale.

### UNBELIEVABLE

It feels good to know that those cigarette lighters won't end up inside an endangered albatross, and that the shrimp farm where the non-degradable Styrofoam came from is going out of business. Maybe the mangroves can reclaim their home.

What ends up in my rubbish bags? Some items are unbelievable – bleach bottles, used diapers, styrofoam lunch boxes. And what may seem perfectly innocent can be a ruthless killer, such as small plastic bags and rubber bands.

John Gray's Sea Canoe pays an "Ocean Tax" of two large rubbish bags each day for making our living in Phang Nga Bay. My crazy mind tells me that sea-kayaking operators should actually be sea kayakers, so I av-

erage three days a week paddling around Phang Nga Bay and collect six bags of rubbish a week.

When I'm not on the trip, our guides pick up what they can, so only one company averages 50 black plastic bags of marine rubbish per month – and from only two islands in the bay.

As a bonus, I develop great boat control when finding floaters in the most incredible places – paddling sideways, listing to capsize levels, zigzagging in reverse to collect chemically-created crap in a tidal current. I also make remarkable friends, such as monitor lizards – until the poachers descend and turn my friends into shoes, belts and handbags. Each water monitor has its own personality and it can be taken away in just one day.

These shy creatures saw trash patterns change. Mainstream sea-canoe owners realized they could save a few baht by eliminating staff lunches, so overnight, styrofoam lunch boxes became a big problem. Half-liter plastic bottles gave way small, clear plastic cups with tear-away metallic lids – smaller, more numerous, almost invisible – and just what a whale wants to suck up.

Phang Nga's rubbish comes from three main sources – tourism, shrimp farms, and locals – in that order.

Somebody on James Bond Island must have the full-time job of lugging half of all the vendors' plastic bags into the sea. It's bad enough that the seashell trade destroys our oceans, but wind and tides take hundreds of plastic bags straight to Koh Hong and Koh Penak every day, and then on their way to the open ocean.

Elsewhere, several species of albatross are now endangered thanks to cigarette lighters from central China.

Lighters float down the Yangtze River to the sea, where ocean currents deposit them on remote, uninhabited Central Pacific shoals that just happen to be the albatross' primary nesting

### THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

grounds. Baby albatross love the pretty colors, eat the lighters and die.

Chinese rice farmers, who have never seen the ocean, are killing off these majestic sea birds without even realizing it. Every day we pick up a couple dozen of the colorful "meals", wondering where they could end up and what might eat them.

Marine rubbish is everybody's problem, so our guides join in, even when paddling those unwieldy inflatables. It's an awareness thing, and sometimes our guests get in on the act.

There's so much rubbish that is harmful to wildlife; rubber bands, for example, on a beak or snout slowly starve the victim.

We all know plastic bags kill turtles – and Thailand's addiction to plastic encompasses both sea

and land. Styrofoam ranks with guns and jet-skis as one of mankind's worst inventions. Terribly polluting in the manufacturing process, the white stuff never decomposes – we overuse, and then toss.

Marine mammals fall victim to any form that floats; pump a dead whale's stomach these days and you'll discover the equivalent of a city dump.

We are still shocked when an "eco" sea-canoeing company boat dumps its rubbish bags as it heads for the dock – claiming to "Keep The Bay Clean". At least it's easier to collect it in one bag.

### WITHDRAWALS

However, the sea-canoeing industry is only one contributor. Credit locals (albeit unaware) with 25% of Phang Nga's rubbish "bill". Shrimp and fish farms another 25% (totally non-biodegradable), sea canoeing companies 25% and mainstream tourism detritus with another 50%.

And if that's more than 100%, it's because our consumer society withdraws more from the environmental bank than we return.

Maybe you don't care about a tree hugger's rant, so consider this: Back on the boat, when we talk about rubbish, endangered wildlife, or global warming, children are the most enthusiastic.

Kids inherently know what is wrong, and they know who will inherit our legacy – and they care. After all, they will have to deal with our mistakes.

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## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

**Q** I hope that you can help me out a little. I am moving into a house in Kamala Beach this month and I need guaranteed uninterrupted Internet service 24/7 without downtime that can sustain approximately 5 Mbps download and 478 Kbps upload speeds continuously. I've heard that TT&T can slow down to about 140 Kbps for download speeds in the evenings. Any recommendations you may have would be greatly appreciated.

JG, Kamala

**A** You're moving to the wrong country.

If you really need 5 Mbps, 24/7, 100% of the time, you need to live in North America, some parts of Europe, Hong Kong, South Korea, or maybe Singapore.

I'm using a 1,000 baht-a-month service from TT&T that gives a fairly reliable 400 to 500Kbps down during the day, but it slows to 80Kbps – maybe twice the speed of a standard dial-up line – in the evening.

How fast is that in real world terms? I just downloaded Windows Vista Beta 2, a big 3.5Gb file. That download would've taken an hour in the US or Singapore on a typical ADSL line – maybe just 10 minutes in Hong Kong or Korea. It took me two full days, including the backtracking necessary because of system outages.

The standard offerings from TOT and TT&T are getting better, but it's not unusual for some services to dip to 50 Kbps or less during the afternoon and evening. Results vary all over the place, primarily dependent on how many people attached to your specific phone company port are using ADSL at any given moment. You can buy much more expensive lines, but nobody can deliver 24/7, or anything close.

Some people swear by the iSTAR satellite system run by Shinawatra, er, Temasek (an investment company owned by the government of Singapore). I hear



Getting important stuff blocked by your ISP? GoDaddy could be the answer.

## ADSL and the knock-on consequences of spam

that speeds are around 700Kbps down, but there are service interruptions during bad weather – as you would expect with any satellite-delivered service.

There's a new company called WIDE that is offering WiFi access at 150 baht per hour. They claim to have a reliable 1Mbps down ADSL service, over TOT lines, at 4,500 baht a month. I wrote to WIDE, using the address on their website, but they haven't written back. WIDE has a very flashy Web site at [www.wsociety.net](http://www.wsociety.net), developed by a firm called Express Data, [www.expressdata.co.th](http://www.expressdata.co.th).

Express Data, in turn, advertises ADSL from KSC on their home page.

You might try the traditional ISPs around the island – Loxinfo, KSC and JI-Net are the big ones.

I've had very little luck with any of them, but then again I balk at paying thousands of baht per month for, uh, leisurely Internet speeds. Some of them, for example KSC, will disconnect you after 15 minutes of idle time, or 8 hours whether you're idle or not. Somehow, the concept of "always-on" hasn't sunk in with many of the traditional ISPs.

Island Technology may be able to help with specific packages: [www.islandtechnology.com](http://www.islandtechnology.com). They offer 256Kbps for 3,500 baht/month. If you want to use Skype, though, the price goes up to 10,750 baht a month.

Recently I had a chance to look at the CAT telecom switching center in Patong. I ran some tests and came away impressed: at their office, using the 2,600 baht/month Hi-Net ADSL ser-

vice, they're pulling 1,500 Kbps down and 600 Kbps up. CAT can't give you regular voice telephone service (due to regulatory restrictions), and they don't run lines everywhere on the island. But if you live within their service area, and you don't need local voice access, they're certainly worth considering. I was so impressed that I ordered a line for the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. I'll keep you posted on the results.

**Q** I belong to a non-profit organization here in Phuket and we are having a huge problem with sending out our newsletter. All our email is sent using our ISP's domain name. Some of our members, particularly on AOL, Hot-mail, Yahoo and a few others are not receiving our newsletters. We found a workaround, where one individual sends copies of the newsletter to people who didn't get theirs. She sends the follow-up newsletters from her email address, and those seem to get through.

This is a real pain, as we are unsure who received newsletters and who didn't. As I have always enjoyed working with computers, I found this problem a challenge and have tried to resolve it but

with no success. Having investigated further, it appears to be a problem that many people are having: our ISPs are "protecting" us from unwanted mail, but not giving us the option to allow mail we want.

I have tried "whitelisting" as well as changing different settings on my email address, but nothing has yet worked. Have you any advice?

SC, Rawai

**A** You've hit a real sore spot with me. Yes, many ISPs take it upon themselves to "protect" their customers by deleting inbound email without allowing their customers to see it. In most cases the ISPs get rid of junk. But in some cases they delete important, worthwhile mail. I've been bit by this problem many times, both as a sender and as a receiver. Frankly, in my opinion, ISPs that keep blocking mail after they've been asked to stop should be barred from conducting business: they're ruining the Internet.

If the mail is truly being blocked – that is, if your members check and make triply sure that the mail hasn't ended up in a junk mail folder – you can try two approaches. First, you can blast the ISP that blocked the mail. Each ISP has some mechanism for complaining, but it can be very difficult to find out how and where to get something unblocked. (Hotmail, in particular, doesn't block based solely on your ISP's domain name. They have a very intricate spam filtering system.)

The other alternative is to stop using your ISP's domain name, and get one of your own. I know it's tantamount to giving in to the ISP bullies, in the grander scheme of things, but it's probably a good move for you anyway.

GoDaddy.com, which is the largest registrar of domain names, has excellent bundled packages, so you can set up your own MyOrganization.com.

It'll cost you a grand total of 350 baht a year. Some individuals find that they can do it themselves, but if you need help, many Internet companies in Phuket are very, very capable in that area.

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## ON THE MOVE

**Sasiporn Sardawatso-phit**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Store Directing Manager of Tesco-Lotus Phuket. A graduate from the Faculty of Communication Arts International Program at Bangkok University, K. Sasiporn has worked with Tesco-Lotus for 12 years. Before moving to Phuket she was Store Directing Manager of the Tesco-Lotus Rama IV branch in Bangkok for 10 months.



**Somjai Thungkoo**, 31, from Phuket, has been promoted to Hotel Manager of the Twinpalms Phuket resort. K. Somjai graduated from Phuket Rajabhat University with a degree in human resources and management. She joined Twinpalms in September 2003 as Sales & Public Relations Manager, and was soon promoted to Sales and Service Manager. Before joining Twinpalms she worked at Le Royal Meridien Phuket Yacht Club.



**Shananporn "Jill" Lerlertkul**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Sales Manager of Asia Properties Inc. After graduating from high school in the US, K. Jill graduated from Assumption University in Bangkok with a degree in marketing, and went on to complete an MBA at the London School of Business Administration. Her broad experience in sales and marketing includes working in Thailand, Singapore, England and Japan in the education, tourism, hospitality, real estate and property industries.



## TML rebrands, aims at regional market

By Chris Husted

PHUKET: Complete with a new website, Thai Marine Leisure (TML) has rebranded under the name Asia Marine in order to capture a broader market of clients, Managing Director Vincent Tabuteau told the *Gazette*.

Although TML offered charters worldwide through its offices, Asia Marine offers a greater range of boats and destinations, all available for booking through the new website, [www.asia-marine.com](http://www.asia-marine.com).

"We now have a network of suppliers around the world, offering about 40 destinations, including the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and the Seychelles."

"So we are acting as a yacht travel agent and we recommend destinations and boats to our clients if they want to visit, say, the Mediterranean or the West Indies," said Mr Tabuteau.

He explained that the expanded services are the result of

year-long negotiations with other agents in generating an extensive pool of suppliers.

"It's a long history of meeting with other companies through boat shows," he explained.

"We think that the Asian market – especially the big metropolitan cities of Asia, from Beijing to Singapore – has huge concentrations of hard-working expats and upper-segment Asian nationals who would like to charter boats."

"They would probably go to Phuket first, but then next would probably want to go to Turkey, the West Indies or the Seychelles," Mr Tabuteau explained.

"We would like to offer more than Thailand as a destination, and we would like to attract clients from outside Thailand. We are broadening our appeal and expanding our operations in Malaysia, and throughout Asia."

"If we manage a boat in Langkawi, for example, we would like to be an Asian com-

pany, not just a Thai company," he said.

The company also hopes the name change will help attract more business through the Internet, as "Asia marine" is expected to generate more hits than "Thai marine" by prospective customers using search engines to locate vessels to charter.

"We hope to become the one-stop shop marine leisure provider worldwide," Mr Tabuteau said.

Asia Marine, in its former incarnation as TML, has been based in Phuket since 1989, with operations in Phuket, Samui, Bangkok and on the Mekong River in Laos.

The company will continue to be the regional sales agent for Nautor's Swan Charter; and Thailand representative/exclusive dealer for Dufour Yachts, Fountaine-Pajot Catamarans, Trawler Catamarans, Nautitech, White Shark, Hanse Yachts and Ocean Concept yacht brands.

## Destination Britain fair 'a great success'

KARON: Destination Britain, an annual travel fair to promote tourism in Britain, held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, Karon beach from May 23 to 25, brought in 58 travel and tourism companies from the UK and more than 100 buyers from around the Asia-Pacific region.

Pheeraphon Nonthasoot, Thailand Country Representative of VisitBritain, the British tourist board, told the *Gazette*, "The event was a great success, better than in previous years. All the suppliers were very happy with the results."

He added that in previous years the fair had resulted in business deals worth more than 10 million pounds (720 million baht) and he expected the figure to be even higher for this year.

The fair aims to promote business-to-business meetings between travel firms from the UK and travel agents from the Asia-Pacific region.

This year buyers came from Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and the Philippines.

Keith Beecham, VisitBritain's General Manager for the Asia-Pacific region said, "Destination Britain was first held in September 2004 in Langkawi, Malaysia, and then in Singapore last year. Buyers come from all over the Asia-Pacific region to

**Mongkol Subsakul: 'Europe, especially the UK, is a very important destination for Thai tourists.'**



**Keith Beecham: 'The Asia-Pacific region is a key market for us.'**

attend the annual business-to-business travel exchange fair.

"The Asia-Pacific region is a key market for us and one that is providing some of our best growth. Of the 29.7 million visitors to Britain last year, 2.43 million, or 8%, were from the Asia-Pacific. The Asia-Pacific is a region with enormous growth potential, which means that businesses from the region are very valuable customers for Britain," he added.

Peter Clarke, International Sales and Marketing Manager of Hosting International (England and Wales) said as the fair opened, "I think nowadays people want to learn more about other cultures. I came to Destination Britain because Southeast Asia presents fantastic opportunities for the world tourism industry."

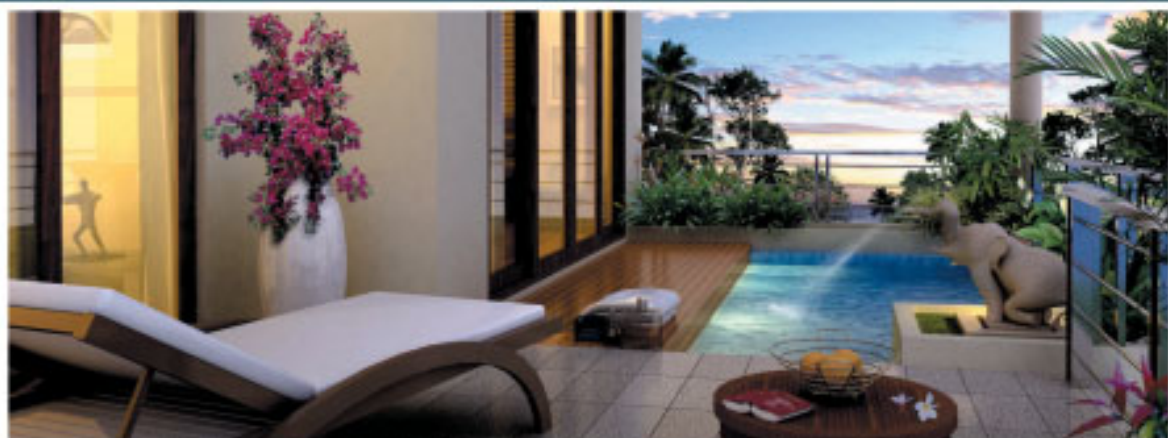
"I am looking forward to meeting lots of new agents and establishing new relationships. We have fantastic educational activities and summer camps. Our main target groups are young people between 16 and 27 years old. We are also looking to build up the number of school groups we have coming to Youth Hostels in Britain," Mr Clarke added.

Mongkol Subsakul, Director of Superior Tour, Bangkok, a buyer at the event said, "This event is very useful for me. I gained a lot of new knowledge and information. In my opinion Europe, especially the UK, is a very important destination for Thai tourists."

– Nattamon Ratcharak

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## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

# Hedging your bets can sometimes be the wrong move

**T**he recent worldwide volatility which affected not only financial markets but also virtually every commodity and currency market has made investors confused about the future.

Even hedge funds are often found to be positioned on the "wrong" side of the market.

Although this column has featured the use of hedge funds in the global financial arena and even though Alan Greenspan has commented that hedge funds have made markets more efficient, they do have their disadvantages.

The manager of one of the largest pension-fund companies in the US recently commented that the trustees of the fund include hedge funds as part of the assets. However, they were experiencing a problem; all of them were extremely expensive, regardless of their track record.

Hugh Hendry, who owns and manages the UK-based hedge fund Eclectica, once commented on TV business channel CNBC that where once parents may have wanted their daughters to marry a top lawyer or surgeon, today – if they were wise – the best catch would be a hedge-fund manager.

### EXPENSIVE

Hedge funds as a group are hideously expensive entities when their fee structure is examined. Typical fees are a 1.5% annual-management fee plus 20% of the annual "high-water mark" results.

The term high-water mark requires close examination.

Assume that you have just invested US\$100,000 (3.8 million baht) in a typical hedge fund and by midyear the genius who runs it has doubled your investment.

However, the fund then declines by year end back to exactly where it started from. The manager is still entitled to his 20% of the high-water mark – US\$20,000 (770,000 baht) – plus the annual fee of 1.5% normally deducted monthly but of course, due to the mid-year rise, in real terms 2% plus.

Therefore, the investor could easily end the year with a fund valued in real terms at US\$78,000 (2.96 million baht) while the hedge-fund manager made a 22% return.

However, hedge-fund managers do face difficult decisions at year end; it is not an easy business and these decisions – should the new Jag be red or yellow or perhaps they should be considering a Lamborghini? – require

much thought. Buying farms is in vogue for British hedge fund managers, although there is no intention to actually soil their hands.

The huge growth of the hedge-fund industry provides investors with another quandary: How does an investor select which funds to invest in? Not exactly an easy choice with more than 8,000 funds in the range, and the choice is made even more difficult because of the huge variations in investment approach.

Also, part of some hedge funds are allocated to a macro-economic approach and the approach to this sector is going to be essentially different with each manager.

This has created a new industry "A fund of hedge funds" (FHF) in which each manager of these new entities promises to select the best of the bunch or the cream of the crop. Naturally, this incurs a whole new layer of costs on top of an already burdensome load.

Among government regulators in some countries there is a move to restrict the activities of FHF operators – not surprising, as they never seem to be able to give their clients much of a return.

It becomes a bit like driving a Mercedes-Benz with a 125cc motorcycle engine.

There is another option – absolute return funds – which offer the same fundamental approach as hedge funds, but at a far more reasonable fee structure.

The aim of these funds is to make a positive return, regardless of market conditions. They will, however, represent a bias. Usually, they make more money in falling markets than rising markets and they do not encompass high-water marks.

Absolute return funds can be used as a sole investment approach and, where an ideal investor, if there is such a creature, will be satisfied over the longer term,

the average investor will no doubt experience periods of frustration. The only problem with absolute return funds is that, generally, in the good years of investment their returns are modest and this conflicts with human nature.

Human beings, in general, are herd creatures and as such want to be part of whatever is in fashion. When stock markets are rising at 20% to 30% or more in a year, people simply do not want

to miss out on this bonanza. They feel increasingly isolated and foolish for not having joined the party and that is why history always shows us that the retail investor starts to invest close to the end of the party.

The old adage, "When taxi drivers and secretaries start giving stock market tips, it is time to sell" is true.

However, there is one strategy that is successful in allowing investors to have the best of both worlds.

Combine the "long" approach, that is to invest in stock markets, with the hope and anticipation that they will rise in value but keep money in an absolute return fund. When the stock market turns down as it does periodically, the returns on the absolute return fund start rising dramatically.

### PRUDENCE

If a reasonable measure of prudence has been employed in the overall allocation of assets a sensible investor makes money in all market situations. In other words, you can have your cake and eat it.

However, investors must take care that they recognize the subtle but essential difference between an absolute return fund and a hedge fund. One of the easy ways to spot the difference is in the charging structure. There are no high-water marks or large percentage fees. In reality, there are very few true absolute return funds, but many hedge funds do use the same terminology.

This is not surprising when one considers that many hedge funds promise absolute returns.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-081-4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*



Hedge fund manager's dilemma: 'Should I buy the XK, or should I go for the Ferrari?'

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# Sharks chew up champs Rams to take 10s title

By Chris Husted

PHUKET CITY: The "Fifteen 7 Sharks" from England entered Phuket rugby history books on May 28 when they won the Clive Williamson Memorial Trophy in the 8<sup>th</sup> Molly Malones Phuket International Rugby 10s final with a 24-12 victory over former champions Moorabbin Rams from Melbourne, Australia.

For the first time the two-day tournament was played at Sanaam Chai in Phuket City. The move was much appreciated by many players who feared being injured on the pitch at Karon Stadium, which is currently as hard as concrete.

Both the Sharks and the Rams usually play in white so, to avoid confusion, the Sharks took the field wearing the shirts of the local heroes, the Phuket Viagrabonds. This was undoubtedly the best game – and the hardest – the shirts had ever been in.

Fired up for the final, the Rams forwards started the match with charging runs up the middle, making good yards and setting the backs up to score a converted try within the first two minutes of play.

After the restart the Rams continued with big hits up the center and set up camp in the Sharks' 25-meter danger zone. Not willing to concede another try so early in the match, the Sharks managed to secure the ball in broken play and send a huge clearing kick down field.

After a long return run by the Rams' right winger, the Australian forwards continued their assault. Again, the Sharks' defense refused to yield, and their

consistent solid tackling finally paid off with a turnover giving them the ball to work their way slowly back upfield.

Several phases of working the ball and maintaining possession eventually gave the Sharks' fullback enough space to bust through the Rams' backline and run wide to score down the left wing.

Inspired by the change on the scoreboard, the Sharks scored again less than a minute later with another unconverted try.

The Rams replied with some hard-hitting tackles, but the Sharks were now in top gear – moving the ball and linking up well – probing the line from wing to wing.

Some outstanding, if not scrambling, Rams cover defense stopped several Shark attacks that could easily have been converted to points, and restricted the Brits' lead to 10-7 at half time.

The Sharks started the second 12-minute half with drives up the center that finally created space on the left wing for a break that was stopped only by some superb one-on-one tackles by the Rams.

With players tiring in the midfield rucks, they began lifting in the tackles, but some good refereeing soon saw both sides stop this potentially dangerous tactic.

This, in turn, created gaps around the rucks, which the Rams were quick to exploit. After several phases of play, the Rams finally snuck through a gap to score under the posts.

Proving that the best defense is offense, the Sharks went

Right: Sharks and Rams grapple for the ball during the Cup final.

Below: The Bedock Kings pack drive through the Southerners during their Plate victory.



straight into attack after the restart and scored through "Goose", who received a well-timed pass 15 meters out to charge over the line unchallenged. The try was converted for the extra two points.

After five minutes of the forwards battling it out yard by yard for territory in the midfield, the Sharks' backline started quickly moving the ball wide to where space was being created on the wings, though excellent

cover defense by the Rams made it difficult for the Sharks' wingers to make headway towards the try line.

Quick passes soon paid off, however, and the Sharks secured victory with a converted try, scored through a break wide on the right wing.

**Final score: Sharks 24 Rams 12.**

Fast play, big charges and hard tackles were also a feature of the

Plate final, in which the Bedock Kings from Singapore beat Bangkok-based Southerners RFC 19-15.

The multinational Flying Pelvises proved they were too much for Bangkok's British Club B to handle in the Bowl final, with a convincing 22-10 win.

In a surprisingly energetic and entertaining Old Codgers final, Bangkok Bangers beat old rivals Old Bill from Hong Kong 24-17.

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## PCC team win Red Cross Golf

KATHU: A foursome representing Phuket Country Club (PCC) took top team honors in the Phuket Red Cross Golf Tournament 2006, which raised 700,000 baht for the Red Cross Society's Phuket branch.

The PCC team of Rewat Kopol, Somboon Nakchaineramit, Sombat Tantivit and Wittaya Tantipiriyakul scored 207 to take the first prize in the team competition, held on May 27. In second place with 213 was the Vasi 1 team of Loesak Ubonsathit, Sittichai Aupmarat, Saman Chainarong and Anan Chuchuy.

Leading the PCC team and top player of the day, Sombat who won the individual overall low-

gross category. First in the overall low-net category was individual entrant Pimporn Wong-Supphachart.

More than 100 golfers took part in the tournament, which was organized jointly by the Phuket Red Cross and the Phuket Golf Association.

Large corporate and group donations to the Red Cross were made by Anuphas Pramualkit Co, Phuket Tourist Association, Phuket Provincial Police, Maduro Co, Layan Marina Co, Radi Medical Systems Co, Vasi Construction, Anuphaspirom Resort and the Manora Hotel.

## Judo course is a hit with kids

SAPHAN HIN: The first of the free judo classes on offer at Saphan Hin Youth Center was greeted enthusiastically, with all 20 places filled for the first day, May 22.

Prawat Chanasen, a former Thai Olympic athlete who is instructing the courses, told the *Gazette* that the aims of the courses are to motivate Phuket teenagers to play more sport and to keep them away from drugs.

The new students said they were happy to have the chance to take up a new sport and were keen to go on to represent Phuket in national competitions.

Tanongsak Rattanadilok Na Phuket, an 18-year-old vocational school student, said, "This is my first time training here. My parents always support me in playing sports. I hope that judo will improve my fitness and can teach me to protect myself."

"In future I'd like to become a judo representative for Phuket."

"I would like to say to other



Why isn't this working? Two girls get to grips in the opening class.

teenagers that everybody should play some kind of sport or take part in other worthwhile activities," he added earnestly.

Kanokon Hutangkul, 17, from Phuket Wittayalai School, agreed. "This is my first lesson here. I want to become healthier and be able to defend myself. I would also be happy if I was able to become a judoka."

— Nattamon Ratcharak

## Change of dates for BCCC Nike Canyon team tourney

MAI KHAO: The Blue Canyon Country Club (BCCC) fortnightly Nike Canyon Team Challenge, originally slated to begin May 30, will now begin June 13.

Tim Haddon, Director of Golf at BCCC, told the *Gazette* that the revised schedule for the tournament – to be played in a variety of formats – is as follows:

June 13: Scramble; June 27: Stableford; July 11: Best Ball; July 27: Scramble; August 8: Scramble; August 22: Stroke play and the final of the Challenge.

The competition is open to all businesses who wish to put a team together. The first 10 teams to enter will be accepted into the competition.

Those who wish to take part in the event but are unable to field a full team of four should make their interest known Jamie or Tim at BCCC, who will combine individual players into teams. Entries close on June 10.

Email: jamie@bluecanyonclub.com or Tel: 076-328088 ext 187 and ask for Jamie or Tim.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

## Nailbiter decides second place

PATONG: What a finish! Although Didi's had already clinched first place, they added another 2-1 victory to end on 50 points, five points clear of Queen Mary and Dog's Bollocks, both on 45 points.

Those two teams met in the final game of the season, with Dog's Bollocks winning 5-4, but Queen Mary taking the beer leg.

Breaking the deadlock came down to the number of singles and doubles wins throughout the season, 131 for Dog's Bollocks to Queen Mary's 127.

Queen Mary were able to comfort themselves with the knowledge that they had won more beer legs – 17 – than any other team this season.

At the end-of-season captains' meeting it was decided that in the future if any team drops out, all games involving that team – for the entire season – go down as 3-point walkovers.

Also, it was agreed that players wishing to change teams will be allowed to do so only once per season, and that those who do change cannot go back to play for their former teams.

This is mainly to prevent people from playing for more than one side.

It was also unanimously agreed that the rules regarding postponements have been effective, and thus will remain in force throughout the upcoming season.

After the season-ending party at Didi's on May 30, the new season starts on June 6 and will see three new bars joining the league. They are Jungle Juice (formerly Boss Bar), Footrot Flats (Nanai Rd) and TaiLife (next to Didi's on Soi Saen Sabai). This will bring the number of teams back up to 12.

**Final standings:** 1. Didi's (50 points.); 2. Dog's Bollocks (45); 3. Queen Mary (45); 4. Piccadilly (44); 5. Offshore (43); 6. Amigos (39); 7. Coyote Bar (36); 8. Shakers (31); 9. Valhalla (31); 10. Boss Bar (26).

**June 6 fixtures:** Queen Mary v Coyote Bar; Dog's Bollocks v Footrot Flats; Amigos v Shakers; Valhalla v Jungle Juice; Piccadilly v Didi's; OffShore v TaiLife (home team first).

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## Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

One of the big winners at the recent Phuket & Samui Property Exhibition in Hong Kong was Mangosteen Resort & Spa, which picked up three orders for homes in its new residential development.

When complete, the Mangosteen Suites Estate and Mangosteen Pool Villas will consist of more than 50 resort-serviced apartments and villas, which can be used as permanent homes or rented out through the resort.

Hajo Von Keller, Managing Director of Mangosteen Resort & Spa, told the *Gazette*, "The Mangosteen Suites Estate is a development with 24 apartments, or 'suites' as we call them. We started the development in 2004, but it was delayed because of the tsunami. We had other priorities and so we stopped work on this project.

"After the tsunami we found that demand was picking up very quickly. We are surprised at how quickly demand has returned and have sold the penthouses and two other units from this project. I also have three or four more buyers now; that is why we decided to go ahead and build the project."

The Mangosteen Pool Villas development will have 29 independent villas built on 14 rai of land behind the main resort.

"Our existing resort has a beautiful sea view and the Mangosteen Suites Estate will also benefit from this. The villas are at the back of the resort and will have a mountain view. Our concept for the pool villas is not based so much on the views. The villas will offer more privacy and each one will have its own private pool," Mr Von Keller said.

The four-floor Mangosteen Suites apartment building will be divided into four one-bedroom suites, 18 master suites with two bedrooms each, and two penthouses. According to the designers, the layout of the suites makes use of changes in seasonal wind patterns to help cool the homes.

Units will be fully furnished with high-quality materials in a simple, modern style. The architect has planned the suites so that different areas will take on difference facades during various times of the day.

"The villas will be on plots



Architect's impression of the exterior of the Mangosteen Suites development.

## Mangosteen Suites to start this month

of between 500 and 650 square meters. The two-bedroom villas will each have an area of 230sqm and the three-bedroom villas will be 267sqm. Each villa will have a large pool, 15 meters by 3m for the three-bedroom villas and 12m by 3m for the two-bedroom ones," Mr Von Keller explained.

"We have altogether 29 villas, 25 will be the standard design and the remaining four can be individually designed. The buyers will be able to build up to an eight-bedroom villa if they like, but they have to use GFAB architects. Of the 29 villas, eight are already sold and I'm expecting to sell another two or three very soon," he added.

"The main focus of the concept for the villas is really the management. The villas will be managed through the Mangosteen Resort & Spa as a resort-managed property. You can buy a villa and move in, and then our maid will clean your house, our gardeners do the garden and the pool and the engineer will come to change the light or take care of maintenance tasks – it will be fully serviced," said Mr Von Keller.

Investors in Mangosteen properties who choose to rent out their homes are able to use their apartments for up to 60 days yearly under the management contract with a gross variable 9% to 13% rental return. An annual rental return of up to 7% can be guaranteed – depending on the terms of owner occupancy.

"Buyers can also choose to rent the property out through the hotel instead. We will market it in the same way as we market our guest rooms. If the buyers rent it out through us, they can choose between having 30 days a year for their own use or 60 days. If they want only 30 days and don't need to come during peak season, then we guarantee a 7% return on the investment."

For those who opt for 60 days, Mangosteen will guarantee a 4% return.

"If they don't want to rent it out at all, then they can move in and use it just for themselves. We offer a great deal of flexibility," Mr Von Keller added.

The developments are being designed by the Bali-based architects GFAB Architects, who also have an office in Bangkok.

"The architects are doing a great job. They have projects in Bali, Samui and Cambodia, but this is their first project in Phuket," Mr Von Keller said.

The construction is due to start on the suites this month, and work is slated to begin on the villas within the next six months.

"The villas will be sold in four phases. Phase 1 is already sold out and we are now selling Phase 2. Therefore we have to start building as quickly as possible and are hoping to start construction within the next six months; we still have to go through legal procedures such as environmental studies and building permits. For the suites, however, all the groundwork is done," Mr Von Keller added.

Construction work on the villas is expected to take from 12 to 14 months, so the project should be completed in about 18 to 20 months' time.

"As for the price, Phase 1 buyers received a discount because they advanced the money and will have to wait a long time until they can move into their house. In Phase 2, the price is already up a little bit and we are

expecting the price to increase by 10% to 20% during the next year.

"The earlier you buy, the cheaper the price. The price of real estate is rising quickly, due to rising construction costs. I have had buyers coming back wanting to buy a second property.

"Our architect, Gary Fell, is a complete perfectionist. The plans he delivers are incredibly detailed; they show every plug and every light. He always stipulates high quality, expensive materials, so these villas are not cheap to build at all," Mr Von Keller explained.

"The land for the Suites development is already cleared. We want to start quickly because we have several buyers waiting and we want to have work well underway before the next high season starts," he added.

The one-bedroom suites are on sale at between 13 and 14 million baht. The two-bedroom master suites are priced between 13.6 and 16.8 million baht each and the three-bedroom penthouses have both been presold at 25 million apiece. The villas are priced at 18 million baht to 25 million baht.

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## Decor

by Jenjira Ruengjarus



## Rugs for the house that's seriously floored

**R**ugs have long been more than just something to trap dirt from the soles as one enters the home or to keep warm feet from touching a cold, bare floor. They can liven up a room by adding a touch of individual flair – be they large or small, plain or intricate, bright or subtle.

Arguably the best examples still come from Iran, where the art of weaving rugs of distinction has been traced back some 2,500 years. Jamras “Tar” Daengpradab of Francis Carpet on Chao Fa West Rd, Wichit, has been importing rugs from there, as well as Saudi Arabia and Turkey, for seven years.

K. Tar’s shop, which is named after her husband, sells rugs of all sizes and colors. There one can find a range of Persian and Arabian creations made from silk or cotton, by hand or machine, from 40 centimeters to four meters wide.

Prices start at 6,000 baht for a 3m-by-1.5m cotton-weave rug, and can reach as high as 100,000 baht for a handwoven rug of gold-color wool mea-

suring 3m by 6m. That is not necessarily the limit, however, K. Tar will accept orders to have rugs tailor-made to individual customer’s preferences.

“Most of my customers buy rugs to decorate their homes, such as the living room, study, bedroom or dining room, but we also have many customers who are in the hotel business. We take a range of samples to show them at their offices or their homes, but if they don’t like what they see we’ll happily return with a different range of samples,” she said. “Bulk orders are offered at discount rates,” she added.

The shop also offers after-sales services, such as repairs and cleaning. For machine-woven rugs cleaning costs 300 baht a square meter.

*Francis Carpet. Open Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. 50/5 Moo 2 Chao Fa West Rd, Wichit, Muang, Phuket. Contact Jamras “Tar” Daengpradab at Tel: 076-356172 or 09-5897515. Prices include delivery.*

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

I don't know what I'd do if I were a rock musician. Thankfully, for the rest of the world, there's little chance of Bloomin' Bert bursting onto the music scene. I have all the musical ability of a wounded cat with appendicitis. I even managed to empty a bar recently after being persuaded to "sing" on stage with the band. I haven't been back.

If by some freak chance I did have a scrap of musical ability and was, perish the thought, thrust into the limelight, as it were, I'm sure I wouldn't behave in the same way as many of today's musicians do.

What are they on? They seem to think that their fame allows them to conduct themselves in ways that their mothers most certainly would not have approved of. Some of them even fall into the category of being famous for being famous, without anyone (even themselves, probably) quite understanding why.

According to the British news services, there's a bloke over in Blighty called Pete Doherty, who, I believe, is quite well-known in that part of the world. I'd never heard of him, but it turns out that he's a singer with a very mediocre band. The weird thing is that he's more famous for what he does than what he sings.

He keeps on getting arrested for various alcohol and drug-related offenses, destroying hotel rooms and attacking perfectly innocent photographers. Not once have I heard one of his songs as far as I'm aware (I'm quite convinced that I wouldn't

## Hard rockers and early risers

like them anyway), but the reporting of his antics seem to be fairly consistent. He's even known to have gone out with Kate Moss – at least I understand that bit.

Apparently he's on record as having recently said, "I'm the most important rock star now." I'm a little cynical in this regard, as I think it could well have been misconstrued by the interviewer. What he's more likely to have mumbled, from the little I've heard about him, is, "Any... imported... rocks? Ta, now". A true legend in his own lunchtime.

Oasis was the last band that I remember to have gained this infamous reputation, but at least they had musical talent, and lots of it. My favorite album of theirs is the classic: What's the Story,

Morning Glory?, which not surprisingly leads us in a particularly protracted fashion into something green and growing.

The morning glory has a number of entities in Thailand. There are the varieties you can eat, such as the water morning glory, or *phak thot yot* in Thai, also known as water spinach in some circles. It's a vine that trails along the ground near marshes and moist-to-wet soil.

The hollow stems are glabrous (an impressive word that just means hairless) but ooze water when you squeeze them, which may be why this version of morning glory is so common on menus in Thailand.

It's often fried with oyster sauce and huge chunks of garlic.

I'm no veggie, but this dish is *aroy mahk*.

Then there's the climbing morning glory, or *dok phak boong* in Thai. Proper gardeners refer to it as the *ipomoea purpurata*. These morning glories are a favorite not only because they're ludicrously easy to care for, but also for their incredibly rapid growth – as high as five meters in practically no time at all.

You often see these plants climbing up trellises, providing shade for balconies and porches or decorating chain link fences not known for their beauty or charm. They don't need much encouragement, either – put them in the right spot and they'll do all the work. They have heart-shaped leaves, bright white, pink, or purple flowers and small, black seeds.

These blooms are certainly impressive. They consist of a single petal about two inches across, with several darker veins running down towards the center. There are literally hundreds of these flowers per plant, which is probably why most gardeners don't mind too much their weed-like tendencies. Once planted they have a mind of their own. They do their own thing but they look great in the process.

So why are they actually called morning glory? Because their flowers open as the first hint of sunshine appears over the horizon, first thing every morning. Mind you, by late afternoon, they get a bit bored and close up again.

They look superb all day and don't require a lot of effort, but families with young children or inquisitive pets should be aware that morning glory seeds are considered poisonous and may cause digestive upset, stupor, hallucinations or even coma if enough are ingested.

The hallucinogenic properties of the morning glory didn't go unnoticed in the Good 'Ole US of A back in the '60s, when morning glory seeds were not sold because it was feared that hippies would use the seeds as a hallucinogen, as the Aztecs did in ancient times. I think it's fair to say that it's advisable not to ingest any part of this plant.

It's probably a good idea to check carefully which variety you have before cooking morning glory – hallucinating guests don't make for an ideal dinner party.

The beach-dwelling morning glory is the *ipomoea pes-caprae*, or in Thai *phak boong talay*. *Pescaprae* is Latin for "goat's foot", which exactly describes the shape of its leaves.

Without this plant, many of the beaches in Phuket would look very different. Karon, for example, has many thousands of *phak bung talay* on its dunes. At some times of the day, all you can see along some parts of the dunes is a sea of purple.

In many coastal areas, trees are nature's way of binding the beaches together, so that the sand at the top of the beach stays put. So how come huge chunks of Karon Beach haven't migrated to Australia by now? Well, Karon doesn't need anything as big or butch as a tree to do the job – it uses the sea morning glory instead.

Should you be unfortunate enough to be stung by a jellyfish at the beach, one remedy is the sea morning glory. Wash the affected area with freshwater then press crushed sea morning glory (mixed with alcohol – even whisky) to the wound.

Alcohol neatly brings us back to Oasis. I doubt very much that they were considering Phuket beaches or tropical plants when they were singing *What's the Story, Morning Glory?*, but at least they put some musical effort into it. From what the papers say, Pete Doherty is usually too drunk or stoned to care.

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## Home of the Week

## Patong



The house is one of five Thai-style houses in the complex above Patong.



The Western-style kitchen is equipped with modern appliances.



The complex has a 60sqm communal swimming pool.

# A TRADITIONAL TEAK TREASURE IN PATONG

Up on a hillside above Patong, this Thai-style house brings a touch of tradition to contrast with the development below. It is only three-minutes' drive from the beach, but is still far enough away to be removed from the crowds and maintain an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

The 10-year-old property has three floors and offers stunning views over Patong Bay.

It is one of a group of five

Thai-style houses all built to a high standard. The five-rai complex has a 60-square-meter communal swimming pool and a security post at the entrance.

The internal area of 300sqm is arranged in traditional Thai style with a large Thai roof and teak and stucco decoration. The construction is steel and concrete.

The villa has three bedrooms with built-in closets and en-suite bathrooms. The master bedroom

comes with a Jacuzzi, elegantly finished in marble. There is another bathroom on the first floor and a toilet on the ground floor.

The large, Western-style kitchen has brick-and-tile walls and is equipped with all modern appliances along with a breakfast bar. It is a cook's delight.

The living room leads out onto a terrace and has spectacular views. The property also has a dining room and study. The teak windows open out completely,

giving an airy feel to the living space and allowing in cool sea breezes.

Teak is used throughout the property, including the walls, stairs, terraces, and floors, which are a mixture of dark teak and terracotta tiles.

The car port is below the main house, which is supported by teak pillars. The villa is surrounded by mature tropical gardens and has a sala to the side of the property.

This is a delightful, well-finished property, conveniently located and within easy reach of local amenities.

The property is for sale at 16 million baht and the land title is Chanote.

For more information contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com), [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**Mobile : +66 (0)1-8927406**

**THE Beach POOLVILLA**  
KATA PHUKET THAILAND

Every day is a holiday at The Beach Pool Villa.

8 units of detached two-story homes on 1.1 rai of land. Only 400m from Kata Beach. Feel the warm ocean breeze and enjoy the uniqueness of being in a tropical paradise.

A social modern-style home with some local touches. The overall design emphasizes simplicity. An L-shaped unit allows more space for family activities or a party. Glass walls make it possible to view all areas of the house. A private swimming pool with salt water has therapeutic benefits. It is located in an enclosed area adjoining the unit and can be viewed from two master bedrooms on the second floor. To increase privacy, the garage is specially designed to stand in a spot that partly covers the pool.

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

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

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

**www.phuket-goldenplace.com**



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### 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

**10 million baht**

OR  
Buy both, 1 rai, 3 buildings

**17 million baht**

**Tel: 095944067**

### 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)

### 3 BEDROOMS

Beautiful house in Chalong. Fully furnished, 3 bathrooms, aircon. For quick sale: will consider offers around 5.3 million baht. Tel: 06-2790837.

### RAWAI: SALE/RENT

New detached villa: 10,000 baht/month or will sell for 5 million baht. 400 meters from beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@hotmail.com)

### APARTMENT IN PATONG



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61sqm) for sale or lease (60-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nanai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. All apartments are fully furnished with a built-in kitchen and bathroom. The bedrooms are equipped with high-quality hardwood floors. The apartments offer air conditioning, safety box, 24-hour security, high-speed Internet, telephone and cable TV connections. The common area includes: garage, elevator, corridors and garden. The construction will be completed by December 2006. Prices start at 2.6 million baht. Please contact Khun Peter at. Tel: 01-8928526 or visit: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### NONE CHEAPER IN KATHU

Building-ready, flat, on 2 streets, 20mx23mx29m corner land. 504sqm with extension plot of 400 sqm (20mx20m). Price, area and quality the best. Near Kathu Waterfall. 5,750 baht per sqm. Tel: 09-9728544. Email: [av58phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:av58phuket@yahoo.com)

### RAWAI CONDO

for sale/rent. Freehold studio 2,500 baht/month or will sell at 450,000 baht. 400m from beach. Please contact. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: [chotip\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:chotip_5@hotmail.com)

### OVERLOOKING PATONG BAY



This is TOP. Yes "Top" in many ways. A beautiful tall house in Art Deco style on top of a hill. It is overlooking Patong bay and has great sea views. It is great in size and really outstanding in location. Baan Suan Kamnan a nice, unknown, quiet green and residential area just outside Patong. Next to viewpoint "Bluepoint". Enjoy lively Patong with out the disturbance of it. When the former mayor (Kamnan) of Patong bought this hill 15 years ago he really knew what he was buying for himself! The best spot of the island! He created a quiet green and relaxed oasis for himself and some happy few around him. About the house: 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. It has a pool with a whirlpool bath next to it. Great sea views in the daytime and beautiful scenery from the lights in Patong in the evening. Many features and extras included like TV-Satellites, professional camera security system with camera's system. Huge water storage tanks and lovely garden. For serious candidates only the following invitation; Come and See what you can get for your money instead of buying from plans, with promises. (House can be bought with several options like neighboring leased rental apartments/offices with makes it a very profitable investment and or with adjoining extra land. Price depending on your wanted "options"; but for house and belonging land only 30 million baht. Higher depending on take-over of separate rental business). Directly from owners, Please contact K. Edwin at Tel: 06-7866350. or Email: [buurmanb@hotmail.com](mailto:buurmanb@hotmail.com)

### LAND PLOTS, HOTELS

Various land plots in top locations: Patong, 30-, 50- and 8-rai plots; Kathu, 45-rai plot. Chanote title. 2-3 million baht/rai. Hotels in Phuket, different locations, sea views, between 20 million and 1.6 billion baht. Fully operational. Tel: 07-894-2337.

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



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

### NEW HOUSE IN PATONG



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

### 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)

### 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/storeroom, 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](mailto:sybil@loxinfo.co.th)

### 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.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

2-bedroom house, 4 bungalows, sala and pool, 800m from beach. Company included. 5 million baht ono. Email: [mjplumb@mwweb.co.za](mailto:mjplumb@mwweb.co.za)

## CBRE

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Property Management



- 2 b/r pool villas, lagoon frontage
- Golf membership
- Hotel management
- 6% rental return for 6 years

**Price: Baht 32 Million**



- 2-3 b/r apt. & 4 b/r T/H w/pool
- Sea views from roof terrace
- Gym, restaurant, bar, lap pool
- 10 min from marinas & intl school

**Baht 6.5 - 15 Million**



- Modern villas on the east coast
- 2-4 b/r, large open areas
- Sea views over Phang Nga Bay
- Full use of Cape Yamu facilities

**From Baht 26 Million**



- 39 rai of land on the east coast
- 100 metre sea frontage
- Views over Phang Nga Bay
- Nearby the future deep sea port

**Baht 90 Million**



- 2 b/r apt., fully furnished
- 225 sq.m. built up area
- Stunning sea view
- Common pool, gym & library

**Baht 90,000 / Month**

## OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

**076 239 967**

[phuket@cbre.com](mailto:phuket@cbre.com)

[www.cbre.co.th](http://www.cbre.co.th)

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# Property Gazette

## LARGE HOUSE FOR SALE



Amidst natural forest on Rang Hill, beautiful city view, quiet and safe. Land area: 512sqm. Living area: 550 sqm. 3 floors, 3 big bedrooms and bathrooms, 3 parking spaces, swimming pool area reserved. Price: 15.5 million baht. Tel: 01-958-5865.

## PATONG TOWNHOUSE

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Large courtyard. Underground water tank, UBC, ADSL telephone line. 10 meters from large communal swimming pool. Beautifully decorated and fully furnished. 5.5 million baht. Offers invited. Tel: 076-296-072, 01-7196088.

## BEST SEA VIEW

11 rai behind Mission Hill Golf Course. 4.6 million baht per rai. Call Joe at Tel: 01-693-6437, 06-6841260. Email: joe\_mooky@yahoo.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.

## 4 HOMES FOR SALE

Held by a Thai company. 3 homes in Patong and 1 home with pool in Kathu. Monthly income of 120,000 baht guaranteed for 1 year. No property transfer taxes apply. The company and assets are free of debt or liens. 21 million baht ono. Tel: 076-296072, 01-7196088.

## CHAOFA THANI

2-story, fully furnished, semi-detached house in secure estate. 45 talang wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, study, small garden & big storeroom. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 01-893-6630. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

## PATONG LARGE

house. 285-square-meter house, Patong hillside with partial sea-views, 3 bedrooms all with balconies and Air-con, large lounge, large diner, Euro kitchen, small garden. For sale at 7.9 million baht. Call Mike. Tel: 07-2681170.

## NAI HARN BUNGALOW

for sale on 261sqm plot. 3 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living/open kitchen. Nice garden with Jacuzzi, UBC, phone line, aircon, nice family home. Only 4 million baht. Tel: 09-731-0283. Email: yalikaahome@yahoo.co.th

## EXCELLENT

location & views. Located in a quality sea-view estate. Sunsets and seaviews. Perfect for building a luxury villa. Tel: 05-7867005. Email: irakagan@gmail.com

## KATHU, 2 BEDROOMS

2 aircons, 61 talang wah. Chanote. Near "Central" Moo Baan Ketho. No agents. Tel: 01-0826801.

## ISLAND FOR SALE

1 million baht per rai. Beach front. Tel: 01-5376866.

## 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

A perfect, 5-bedroom house, ready to occupy, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 01-8915296. For further details, please see our website at: www.jikkycar@yahoo.com

## AO MAKAM, 2 RAI

50m from beach. 5.5 million baht. Chanote title. Tel: 01-5376866.

## NAI YANG, 6 RAI

2.5 million baht. Great for investment. Tel: 09-6525664.

## SMALL PLOT

680sqm in Rawai, easy to build on. Good location. 2 million baht. Call Tel: 01-537-6866 to inspect and buy.

## YANUI, 1 RAI

500m from beach, stunning plot, Chanote title. Perfect for small resort or big villa. Tel: 06-2670898.

## RAWAI STUNING

plot. Very beautiful plot. In Rawai, 2 rai near Lamka beach. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 07-8938747.

## SMALL PLOT

in Rawai. 480sqm. Only 500m from the beach. All facilities. Chanote title. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 09-6525664.

## 5 RAI, RAWAI

Soi Samakkee. Last plot in the area. Asking 5.5 million. Great for development. Tel: 09-6525664.

## NAI HARN SEA VIEW

200m from Nai Harn Beach. Asking 5.5 million baht. Chanote, water, electricity, last plot. Tel: 09-6525664.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

in Kata. Kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 sat TVs, aircon, water tank. Furnished. All included. 1.45 million baht. Tel: 09-591-2813.

## 1 RAI, RAWAI

Square plot, Chanote title, water, perfect access. Only 4.4 million. Tel: 07-8938747.

## STUNNING SEAVIEW

Kata, 3 rai. Unbelievable, most beautiful. Asking 5.9 million baht a rai. Tel: 06-2670898.

## 20 HOT PROPERTIES AND NEW LISTINGS



- House in Kamala, walk to beach, great views, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Only 1.9 million baht.

- 2 rai, Cherng Talay. 1 million baht.

- 4 rai, Cherng Talay Manik. 1.3 million bath per rai.

- 8 rai Kamala. Sea view, near beach. 4 million baht per rai.

- 2 rai Chalong. Sea view. 3.8 million baht.

- 12 rai, Kamala. Sea view. Only 2 million baht per rai.

- House in Kamala, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, great views. 3.7 million baht.

- 4 rai, Ao Por. 2 floors, sea view. 3 million baht per rai.

- 24 rai near golf course. 1 million baht per rai.

- 50 rai near Laguna and golf course. East/west-coast sea views. 2 million baht per rai.

- 2 rai, near waterfall and with sea view. Kamala. 5.5 million baht per rai.

- 21 rai Kamala-Nakalay-Patong. Sea view, on main road. 5.5 million baht per rai.

- 7 rai, sea view. Kamala. Only 4 million baht per rai.

- 1 rai 216 sqm. Spectacular Patong sea view. Only 11 million baht.

- 4 rai, Baan Manik. 1.3 baht per rai.

- Highest house in Patong. Best views, Thai style. Only 14 million baht.

- 31 rai, Kamala. Sea view. 3 million baht per rai.

- Kamala. Flat land near beach. 1 rai, 2- and 3-rai plots. 3.5 million baht per rai.

Tel: 01-8162066.

Email:

coneybeezo@aol.com

## 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.

## 200 SQM, RAWAI

Near beach. Chanote title, very quiet. Only 650,000 baht (13,000 euros) great spot for 2-story house. Tel: 06-267-0898.

## VILLA 3

Attractive 2-bedroom house for sale. Quiet, safe neighborhood. Corner location. Asking 1.3 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 09-8751154.

## NEW VILLA FOR SALE



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

## 3 BEDROOM HOUSE

Kathu 3-bedroom 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

## 2 RAI, RAWAI

50m from beach. Make apartments and profit 50 million. Invest 3.6 million, great deal. Tel: 01-5376866.

## LAND FOR SALE

27 rai on Koh Lanta, Krabi (no brokers). 40 minutes from Krabi Airport. 13 rai on a hill with a panoramic sea view and an adjoining 14 rai below. Absolute beach front of 235 meters in length. Asphalt road and electricity. 2 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-5350060. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

## NEW VILLA FOR SALE



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

## NAI HARN HOME WITH BIG GARDEN

2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house in a lovely private setting. A perfect family home, now for sale at only 6.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-893-8592, 06-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

## RAWAI BEACH FRONT

Big plot of land in the best location in Rawai. Good for development project. Tel: 07-0630700. Email: yuthana@juslaws.com

## BEACH RESORT

on Koh Yao. 4,400sqm, 75m beachfront, 22 bungalows, restaurant, bar, shop, speedboat, Chanote title. Email: han@yaoyairesort.com www.yaoyairesort.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Up to 5 rai. Can subdivide to any size, or buy the lot. Call the owner at Tel: 04-9940027.

## CHALONG - LARGE HOUSE

Large 2-story 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 and 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 For further details, please see our website: www.homesinphuket.com

## BARGAIN HOUSE

for sale. Kathu, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, aircon, Western kitchen, garden, carport, etc. Needs a little TLC, but a bargain at 2.95 million baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-3074710. Email: cawleym@loinfo.co.th

## CHALONG LAND

5 rai. Can subdivide to any size, or partner for development. Contact owner. Tel: 076-280440, 06-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. 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.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!



**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

  
Garden Island Co., Ltd.  
Phuket's Premier Real Estate & Insurance Consultancy

We offer professional real estate and insurance advice to those looking for property or a business in Phuket. All enquiries, large or small, are welcome.  
**Please contact:** 076-296072, 01-7196088, 09-6498703

Our office is situated at: 38/56 Nanai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket  
Email: [info@gardenislandphuket.com](mailto:info@gardenislandphuket.com)  
[www.gardenislandphuket.com](http://www.gardenislandphuket.com)  
**Do you have adequate insurance? Because we have Phuket covered.**

**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. Email: [markbowen@ji-net.com](mailto: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](mailto:bennob@diveasia.com)

**CONDOMINIUM**  
I am looking for a condominium (studio, 1 or 2 bedrooms) in Patong to buy freehold. Purchase can be made quickly. I am able to pay up to 2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: [feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:feyeswide@yahoo.co.uk)

### WANTED: OFFICE FOR RENT

Needed immediately: a small office with aircon in Phuket City, Lotus or Central area. Walk-in with some promotion space by the window/door. Need approx 30-40sqm, ADSL line, bathroom and storage room. Tel: 01-8926019. Email: [bogbank@hotmail.com](mailto:bogbank@hotmail.com)

### LAND WANTED

Sea view and beach front; Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi; 10-100 rai. Please contact Contact K. Joe. Tel: 01-6936437, 06-6841260. Email: [joe\\_mooky@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_mooky@yahoo.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](mailto:tomdexter2001@yahoo.de)

## Accommodation Available

  
**Special Monthly Rate**  
April to October 2006 - 29,000 baht per month  
"A Kata Hideaway... a place to relax"

CC Bloom's Hotel, located on Phuket Island, is a twenty bedroom boutique hotel located in a secluded and quiet area (5 minutes to the Kata and Karon beach and 20 minutes to Patong).

Please call 076-333-222, email [sales@ccbloomshotel.com](mailto:sales@ccbloomshotel.com) or visit our website [www.ccbloomshotel.com](http://www.ccbloomshotel.com) to confirm availability of rooms, this is a limited offer.

With this promotion, you will receive the following:

- ♦ Free Breakfast
- ♦ Free Wireless Internet Service
- ♦ Free transportation to Kata and Karon areas

We now have a full service restaurant, Beaches Café, for your enjoyment.

### APARTMENT

for you. Soi Nanai 2, Patong. Bedroom, small kitchen, bathroom, aircon, fridge, safe, cable TV, cleaning, all included. Special offer 12,500 baht per month. Tel: 01-5362954.

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay inc. ABF 18,000 baht monthly. Beachfront, pool & Spa free, with Internet. Tel: 01-8920038. Email: [anthony\\_sharman2006@hotmail.com](mailto:anthony_sharman2006@hotmail.com)

### 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). Tel: 076-202-585, 09-1968449. Fax: 076-202911. Or email to: [ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com](mailto:ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com)

### ROOMS IN PATONG

Ground floor rooms and your own hot shower. Low-season specials. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: [palm@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:palm@phuket.ksc.co.th)

### NEW BUNGLAOW

Available July 30 to October 30: 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 a month, or 18,000 to include 4-door Isuzu pickup with 1st-class insurance. Not neg; this is a good offer. Tel: 076-388657, 07-8917408.

**KARON WATERFRONT**  
apartment. Available in June for one month. Fantastic view. Tel: 01-8928208.

### OPPOSITE BOAT LAGOON

Exclusive and secure detached house. Fully furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 30,000 baht per month, minimum 1-year lease, available July. Tel: 076-261271, 01-891-5324. Fax: 076-261272.

### 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](http://www.phuket-accommodation.info)

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14m wooden dive/tour boat with Hino engine. Cabin with 4 berths, toilet, covered sun deck. Please contact for more information. Tel: 077-456216, 07-9700913. Email: [charlott\\_ragnarsson@hotmail.com](mailto:charlott_ragnarsson@hotmail.com)

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- Bungalow Attendant
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- English Teacher (Verbal Communication)
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- © **Dusit Club Agent**
- © **Restaurant Manager**
- © **Beverage Manager**
- © **Captain**
- © **IT Manager**
- © **Cost Controller**

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1. Thai female or male with certificate in college or Bachelor's degree in related field from recognized university
2. Excellent Computer literacy and English communication skills.
3. Pleasant personality & attitude
4. At least 2-3 years in 5-star hotels is an advantage
5. Possess strong leadership, interpersonal and communication skills

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumé with recent picture and references to:

**Human Resource Department**  
**Dusit Laguna Resort, Phuket**  
390 Srisoonthorn Rd., Talang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 66076324324 Fax: 66076324174  
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available. No fixed hours. Pay by commission. Prefer English-speaking females. NOT selling timeshare! Please contact for details. Tel: 07-8973108. Email: [dx24@hotmail.com](mailto:dx24@hotmail.com)

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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)

### 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. Please contact for full details. 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 Tel: 076-236637-8.

### PATONG INN HOTEL

Staff wanted for hotel bar and restaurant on Patong Beach. Must speak some English. Please call K. Nim. Tel: 07-8914894.

**Gazette Online Classifieds**  
**10,000 readers every day!**



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## SUNWING RESORT, RESTAURANT

Fully-contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages. We are looking for a highly motivated and service-minded individual committed to grow within Ocean Resort Group.

### RESTAURANT SERVICE MANAGER

- Degree from restaurant school or similar
- Experience with Western & Thai a la carte service
- Restaurant manager, head waiter or similar experience
- Experience with/knowledge of bar service
- Hotel knowledge and/or experience
- Leadership and organization skills
- Fluent English

\*APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME\*

Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-396600, 01-6913362. Fax: 076-396177. Email: wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com. For further details, please see www.sunwingphuket.com

## CHEF WANTED, SUNWING RESORT

Fully-contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages. We are looking for a highly motivated and service-minded individual committed to grow with the resort.

Qualifications:

- Degree from cooking school or similar
- Documented cooking skills & experience
- Experience with Western & Thai a la carte kitchen in managerial position
- Hotel knowledge and/or experience
- Leadership and (kitchen) organization skills
- Fluent in English

Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-396600, 01-6913362. Fax: 076-396177. Email: wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com. For further details, please see www.sunwingphuket.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

## Articles for Sale

### COFFEE MACHINE

for sale. Complete set. Please call for more info. Tel: 07-8930847.

### MOBILITY SCOOTERS

Latest models. Portable 3-wheel and 4-wheel 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

### PRINCESS BREADMAKER

for sale. As new. Please call. Tel: 076-288426.

### 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.

### WASHING MACHINE

Top loader with spin dry. The machine is nearly new! Cost 3,500 baht; will sell for 2,000. Tel: 01-4154043. Email: neil\_skeldon@hotmail.com

### FISH TANK

We have a semi-circular fish tank for sale, complete with pump, light, etc. This tank costs 9,000 baht new. We will sell for 3,000. Tel: 076-289244. Email: lamsai@yahoo.com

### NEW 21" TV

RCR brand from Tesco Lotus. Cost 3,900 baht; will sell for 1,500. Tel: 07-2702276. Email: paradizo247@yahoo.com

### MINI FRIDGE: 2,900

baht. New, unpacked mini refrigerator for hotel or guesthouse room. Haier brand, 50x50x50cm. Price: 2,900 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 07-2702276. Email: paradizo247@yahoo.com

### CONCRETE FURNITURE

Table and four chairs. As new. 1,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-321402, 01-9683120. Email: nikki.indigosiam@gmail.com

### 7" LCD PORTABLE

DVD player. Worldtech portable DVD player you can watch and take anywhere. Or you can plug into your household television. Less than 4 months old. Comes with original wrapping and box. Only 3,500 baht! Worth 7,900 baht new!!! Tel: 06-5969601. Email: richjford@yahoo.co.uk

## 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

### HOTELS FOR LEASE

We have 4 hotels in Patong Beach: 12, 19, 20, and 26 rooms. Each is now available for long term lease. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-341372 Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net

### DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS

business. Newspaperdirect licence with limited company and work permit. Great opportunity. Please contact. Tel: 09-9085990. Email: krabi@newspaperdirect-thailand.com

### BEACH RESTAURANT

For sale Patong. 40 seats. Good location. Tel: 07-0786696, 07-0145817.

### HOTEL FOR LEASE

This hotel (22 rooms) 100 meters from the beach has had the same owner for 4 years with good repeat business. It is in superb condition with 7 years left on lease. 7-million baht key money required to take over this gem. Email: tatummansion@hotmail.com

### SHOP FOR RENT

Karon beach Patak road west 50 sqm. No keymoney. 200,000 baht per year. Tel: 06-2718254.

### 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

### KATOYS 'R' US

After 6 years, Patong's famous cabaret bar for sale. 4 million baht. Genuine owner retiring. No info by email. Personal calls only, please. Call Nick at Tel: 01-8922824 or K. Nong at Tel: 01-8955242.

## 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: pui@pjp-intertrade.com

Tel: 01-8226570

### CHALONG RESTAURANT

Large restaurant Chalong circle + internet cafe for rent or sale, 2 shop houses. Fully equipped. Rent only 36,000 baht. Tel: 09-593-4193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

### BAR ON BANGLA

For sale, sportsbar located on Soi Bangla, not on one of the side-sois. Quick sale, moving back to Europe. Tel: +46-709588444, 07-2661571. Email: carl@banglabar.se For details, please see our website at: www.banglabar.se

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

### FOR SALE

German carwash technology. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash-phuket@hotmail.com

### HOTEL FOR SALE



Nakha Island. 200m beach front, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 07-8896074.

### PHI PHI ISLAND

Great business for sale in the best location. 14-year contract. First to see will take. Please email for more info. Email: patong05@gmail.com

### 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

### 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.

### SHOP/OFFICE

for rent. 50sqm located in Patong condo skyinn. Ground floor 47/17 monthly 6,000 baht. Tel: 06-6865567.

### 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 information. Tel: 01-892-4311.

### 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 more info and photos. Tel: 076-344707, 01-6916147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

### BUSINESS PARTNER

A unique opportunity to Join a rapidly expanding company that has nothing to do with food, tourism or accommodation. Capital required 5 million baht. Genuine inquires only. Call Gordon. Tel: 01-8924804.

### O' MALLEYS IRISH PUB

Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400 sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (inc. pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, kitchen equipment and over 300 taxi-bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

### LOOK / ENTREPRENEUR

5 shop houses with four businesses in Chalong circle. Fully equipped no good-will or key money. Sell all at plant value only. Reduced from 2.3 million baht now 1.75 million baht comes with new clean company. Best opp in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

### BAR FOR SALE

in Patong. Going cheap. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8930847.

### PATONG BAR

Bar in busy Tiger complex off Soi Bangla 1.4 million baht for quick sale. Contact me for further details. Tel: 66-048495788. Email: curtains\_unlimited@hotmail.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: spencerwiltshire@hotmail.com

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Great businesses in one of the best locations in Patong are for sale, including:

- a 15-room guesthouse
- a tour agency
- a 60-seat restaurant
- a rental business
- an Internet cafe

Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-082-0039, 01-0911662. Email: ilan\_75@hotmail.com

### SMALL INVESTORS

Patong commercial property. Great returns. Be part of Phuket's property boom. Freehold. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-8817600.



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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to Andaman Club. Promotion price until August 2: 1,650 baht, includes lunch at the hotel, transfers, insurance, breakfast, soft drinks, visa, aircon. Call Eve at Tel: 076-289201 or 01-535-2637.

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"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

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for children's parties. 7 models to choose from. Tel: 01-8939742. Email: zimbo@netvigator.com Please see our website at: www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

**JAPANESE TEACHER**

Japanese teacher (TEFL) is seeking a full- or part-time job at local schools in Phuket. I speak & read Thai. Private lessons welcome too. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282542, 01-476-7806. Fax: 076-282542. Email: hiromi\_niederhauser@hotmail.com



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## Club Memberships Wanted

**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

## Computers

**PRO DATA RECOVERY**

All kinds of computer magic. Tel: 06-6827277, 01-5819782. Please see our website at phuket-data-wizards.com

**COMPUTER**

1) Biostar iDeq-200T SFF. Intel P4 3.0, 512MB memory, ATI 9600 PRO graphics card, 80GB HDD, Sony DVD burner. 18,000 baht.  
2) XFX 6600GT AGP graphics card. 4,000 baht.  
Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-2839806. Email: leonsk@yahoo.com

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Private lessons online with a qualified and experienced teacher in the comfort of your home or office. Read it, hear it, ask about it, and absorb it. 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 enquiries only, please. Tel: 09-7482572. Email: ajarn44@hotmail.com

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Private and group teaching home and office by graduate and experienced teacher. Translations, private and commercial mail, English, French, German. Tel: 01-4775517. Email: jittraming@gmail.com

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fear, depression. Free English-language support group. Email: lobroadway2004@yahoo.com

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Tailor-made physical training at all levels. Scheduled sessions at home or outside area. First lesson free. Please call Tel: 07-2808077.

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Readings in the comfort of your home. Please call Alexander for more information. Tel: 09-7367148.

**GIFT OF MYSTERIES**

Tae Raenon Veenae Albama-cia, 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.

**PERSONAL TRAINER**

CTS 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). Tel: 07-8187591. Email: jkashmiry@hotmail.com

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Nursing care offered at your residence or hospital. Fluent in English, available day or night. Tel: 01-8912112. Email: wadee@csloxinfo.com

## Personal Services Wanted

**MIDWIFE, NURSE  
OR MAE TAAN**

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 suitable, please let me know. Thank you. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-270027, 01-0827703. Email: suntree@

**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

**DOG TRAINER**

Looking for a German-speaking dog trainer for my Thai dog of about 5-6 months old. Please call Tel: 01-2596052.

## Personals

**BACKGAMMON**

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

**YOUR FUTURE  
FORETOLD**

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## Pets

**CATS AND KITTENS  
ANYONE?**

I have 3 unwanted kittens that are healthy, have hunting skills akin to Atilla the Hun, do not have wonky tails, and like to eat. They all require homes as well as their mother, who is, with record-breaking speed, pregnant again. Not wanting to simply drop the cats/kittens off at the temple in the dead of night, should anyone be interested in a kitten, or their serial-dating mum, please contact us immediately. Any serious offers would be incredibly welcome. Tel: 076-200204, 05-2121794. Email: lan@evocation.net

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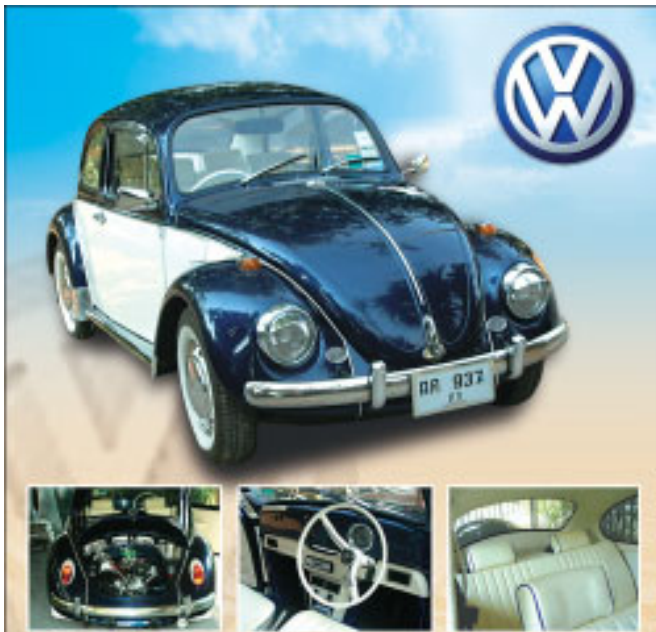
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# Wheels & Motors

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3.6 million baht. 3000cc V6. Only 9,000km. Black, 9 air bags, red plate. Max tires 20". Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-8731841.

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1.6 GLXi. Good, clean, reliable car. 1994, 122,000km, silver color, new battery, new tires. 220,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-239408, 05-8186065. Email: nicola\_rumsey@yahoo.co.uk

### MAZDA 3 SPORT

Must sell - I'm moving. 7 months old, never in an accident, as new, under warranty, metallic silver paint, 880,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-388465, 06-7421780. Email: graham@thai-connexion.com

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Full options, in top condition. Metallic satellite-silver paint. Only 55,000km. Tel: 07-2801390 (Thai), 01-8935709 (English). Email: pichy@loxinfo.co.th

### TOYOTA VIOS IVORY

Automatic, 10 months old, 20,000km, leather seats, many options, gold color. Price: 530,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-3670991.

### HONDA CITY 2003

1.5 S-i-DSI (Auto) Max, CD/MP3 player. 437,000 baht. Tel: 09-6520694. Email: cherrypuffgirl@hotmail.com

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**1995 Mitsubishi Pajero**, diesel engine, high-lo range 4wd, only 2 owners, full maintenance records, no accidents, stripped & re-sprayed 2004, engine re-built in 2006. This is a beautifully maintained classic car. 350,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 076-271006, 01-8931002. Email: anglebath@hotmail.com

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### CARS FOR SALE

Willys 1942 Ma2 jeep. 100% original, 4-speed 4WD submersible. Please call Tel: 06-2766626.

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

1991, white, stereo, aircon, new tax and insurance. 75,000 baht. For further details. Email: mercedesbenz.thailand@gmail.com

### CARIBIAN JEEP

An 8-year-old Caribbean jeep for sale. Green. Good condition. Asking 145,000 baht. Tel: 01-2715291. Email: bertrandroggo@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA VIGO 3.0

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## Pickups

### FORD RANGER

3 years old, 50,000km. Dark blue, four doors, electric windows and mirrors. 395,000 baht. Please call after 1 pm or any time on weekends. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5891124.

### ISUZU D-MAX 3L

Turbo SLX Jan 2004, 2WD, 4 door, manual, gold color, full service history, expat owned, Canvas Creations tonneau cover, load bay liner. No accidents. Excellent condition. 25,000km. Selling at 550,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-238231.

### 1999 ISUZU SPARK

Dark green, 250,000 baht. The pickup is now in Surat Thani. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-6506221. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

## Motorbikes

### HONDA CB750S SPORT

Krauser bags, 2 engines, many spare parts. Runs ok. 45,000 baht. Please call Tel: 01-0868500.

### BMW MOTORBIKE

for sale 22,000km R1100R model 9 years old, good condition. 250,000 baht, have all papers. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2525665.

### HONDA PHANTOM

Year 2005. Only 3,800km. Blue custom paint job, many chrome extras. Mint condition, as new. 75,000 baht. Tel: 05-7862404. Email: looster69@hotmail.com

### HONDA PHANTOM

Black, 2004 model, only 4,000 km. Good condition. 67,500 baht ovno. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8426126. Email: lombardo24@hotmail.com

## Rentals

### A1 CAR RENT

Best prices for long-term deals. Prices from 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-8314703.

### BP RENTALS

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## Wanted

### WANT TO BUY CAR

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### HONDA PHANTOM

or bigger bike wanted. Also have Honda Wave 125 for sale. 20,000 baht. Call Tom at Tel: 07-1789273.

### TOYOTA FORTUNER

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