

# Phuket Gazette

Volume 13 Issue 37

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

September 16 - 22, 2006

Daily news at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

25 Baht

The Gazette is published  
in association with

**The Nation**

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## Clampdown on tourist visas



Will the Honey Bear Hotel in Kaw Thauang, Myanmar, just across from Ranong, reap windfall business from tourists waiting 90 days to be allowed back into Thailand?  
– Photo by Chris Husted

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Phuket's Immigration Chief has confirmed that Thailand will crack down on foreigners working illegally in the country by ending its policy of issuing an unlimited number of consecutive "visas on arrival" – tourist visas that allow the holder to stay a maximum of 15 or 30 days.

The crackdown is intended to stop foreigners – typically bar owners and other small businessmen without work permits – from using the visas to stay in the country indefinitely while working illegally.

Pol Col Bunphot Kongkrachan, Acting Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Office, told the *Gazette* that, from October 1 onward, Immigration check-

points around the country will limit to three the number of consecutive visas on arrival they will grant a single visitor.

After the third consecutive visa on arrival has expired, the passport holder must leave the country and wait 90 days before being allowed back into Thailand on the same type of visa.

The move effectively limits the length of stay for those entering the country using this visa class to 45 or 90 days.

The 41 countries whose citizens qualify for visas on arrival include Thailand's top sources of tourists, including almost all Western European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore and many more.

Col Bunphot said that all

Immigration chiefs nationwide have been ordered to attend a meeting at Immigration headquarters on September 15, during which the new stricter regulations will be explained to them in detail.

"I will make a more detailed statement about the new situation within a week of returning from the meeting," he said.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's South Region 4 Office in Phuket, downplayed the potential impact of the new rule on Phuket's all-important tourism industry.

"I don't think it will affect tourism revenue in Phuket very much because foreign businessmen holding work permits will still

Continued on page 3

## Married couple busted for sex show

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Phuket Tourist Police on September 8 arrested six employees of the Hawaii Bar on Soi Royal Paradise for staging a live sex show between a man and woman. After the bust, police learned the star performers in the lewd spectacle were husband and wife.

Pol Maj Jirabhoph Bhuridej told the *Gazette* that officers in plainclothes had been watching the bar for a few months, following reports from tourists and guides that sex shows were being staged there.

"We sent in undercover officers a few times, but were unable to catch them in the act. But this time four doormen approached the officers, asking for a 200-baht cover charge [per person].

"Once inside, our officers saw a large stage, surrounded by chairs. At about 10 pm, the sex show began. We quickly moved in and arrested the performers and the four doormen," he said.

The couple performing on stage were named as Chaiyuth Chutibundith, 25, and his wife Chayuda, 22.

Before the sex show began, the entertainment consisted of an erotic dance performance by ladyboys, he said.

Most of the customers in the bar at the time were foreigners, he added.

Phuket Tourist Police have asked the provincial government to close the venue permanently.

Maj Jirabhoph said the bust was important because a "boom" in such sex shows could jeopardize Phuket's image among tourists. He called on business owners and the public to report any such shows to the police.



*Your Piece of Paradise*



# Hotels facing staff crunch in high season

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: The island's tourism industry faces a shortage of labor in the coming high season and the Phuket Provincial Labor Office (PPLO) has warned that new hotels opening in Phang Nga are likely to draw more workers away from Phuket.

PPLO Chief Decha Preukpatanarak told the *Gazette*, "We are chronically short of labor in the high season, with hotel occupancy so high that hotels have to manage with a few people to serve many guests."

"In Khao Lak, another 2,000 hotel rooms will be opening [for the high season]." This, he said, would place added strain on the ability of Phuket hotels to find, train and retain new staff.

In Phuket, he added, demand depends less on the level of employees' qualifications than on what they are trained in.

K. Decha said the PPLO is now cooperating with schools and colleges to send students to work as trainees in local establishments, both private and state.

The establishments pay the students, or at least cover fuel costs and pay for lunch, along with insurance for hazardous jobs.

In return, the schools or colleges agree to send their students during the high season – the time the hotels need professional workers the most.

The Phuket Provincial Employment Office – a related government department – posts lists of job openings in its office at 38/27 Rattanakosin 200 Phi Rd, Phuket City, and on its website at <http://doe.go.th/phuket/>

It also organizes monthly "Labor Markets" to bring potential workers and employers together. Details may be obtained by calling the PPEO at Tel: 076-219660.



This month marked the first anniversary of the Royally Sponsored Wedding of Khun Niyom and Khun Natruethai 'Amy' Tassaneetipagorn. The ceremony was presided over by HRH Princess Soamsavali, on September 2, 2005, at the Suan Kularb Palace in Bangkok. Khun Niyom is Assistant Vice-President of Laguna Resorts & Hotels PCL, Phuket.

## Veg festival to go yellow

PHUKET CITY: Organizers of this year's Vegetarian Festival have urged those taking part to wear yellow shirts on the second day of the festival, October 23, to celebrate HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Diamond Jubilee.

Participants traditionally wear white throughout the festival as a sign of purity.

The request came during a meeting of the event's organizing committee at the Phuket Town Inn.

Vice-Governor Pongsak Praivet chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office, and Prasert Fukthongphol, Chairman of the Phuket Shrines Association.

This year's festival, which will run from October 22 to 30, will once again feature a stage set up at Saphan Hin, the traditional center of Vegetarian Festival activities.

One of the largest street processions will be from Queen

Sirikit Park to Saphan Hin, starting at 1:29 pm on October 23, with vegetarian fare to be served along much of the route.

K. Suwalai said she expected this year's festival to be the biggest and best ever, as it falls in the year of HM The King's Diamond Jubilee.

K. Prasert said the official start of the festival would be at 5 am on October 22, at Saphan Hin.

Seventeen shrines are expected to join the festivities, which will include a special ceremony for HM The King at 5:45 pm at Saphan Hin on October 23.

Those attending will be expected to kneel for one hour, he said.

## 'Burmese cemetery' claims another victim

KOH SIREH: The body of a man, thought to be a Burmese migrant boat worker, was found near the fishing pier on Koh Sireh at 9:45 pm on September 9. He had been stabbed multiple times in the neck, temple and thigh.

Kusoldharm Foundation volunteers estimated that the man, who seemed to be in his mid-20s, had been dead about 20 minutes.

Pol Lt Theeradet Jeerasa, Duty Officer at Phuket City Police Station, said, "We don't yet know for sure whether the victim was Thai or Burmese. We have sent his fingerprints for examination to see if we can discover his identity."

"We believe that before the killing the man was drinking with friends and then a dispute broke out, leading to his stabbing."

## Long-time Kata bar owner dies

KATA: Barry Christopher Hinson, well-known owner of the European Bar in Kata, died around noon on September 5. Mr Hinson was born in Salford, England, on June 19, 1945 and moved to Phuket some 16 years ago, when he opened his bar. He was 61 when he died.

Friend and regular customer Andy Greenlay met him during his first week in Phuket and recalled how Mr Hinson's bar was then a haven for expatriates on the island.

The bar went through many revisions over the years, Mr Greenlay said. There were originally bar girls and music, but after a while it became a place for friends to visit.

"There was a table by the door that he always joked was to block the tourists from coming in," Mr Greenlay said. "The bar was a place where guys living here could go and have a chat. He had



Barry Hinson: his bar was a 'haven for expatriates'.

this great view of life and just living it."

Funeral rites for Mr Hinson were held at Wat Kata on September 12 and 13.

Mr Hinson is survived by his son, Fred, 12, from Phuket (Mr Hinson never married); two sisters, Maria Brett and Marilyn Bithell, of the UK; Maria's children Cheryl, Dionne, Brian and Hayley; Marilyn's children Michelle and Grant; and his mother, Doris, also in the UK.

## Poor get solar power

PHUKET CITY: Solar power generation systems have been installed in the homes of 351 poor families in Phuket as part of a nationwide project to bring power to areas not yet connected to the main grid.

Announcing this at a meeting at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel on September 4, Prawat Siripatrodorn of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEC), said that a further 100 householders have applied for solar power but were disqualified because they lack house registration documents.

The PEC and district authorities will work together to try and solve that problem, K. Prawat said. He explained that the Solar Home System project has a bud-

get of more than 5 billion baht from the central government, sufficient to install solar power in about 203,000 households around Thailand.

"So far we have installed systems in 180,000 homes. The remaining homes are mostly in the North and the Deep South," he said.

"It costs around 25,000 baht a house to install a Solar Home System. When fully charged the battery can power two neon lights and a 14-inch TV set for around four hours."

"The systems have a working life of about 20 to 25 years. For the first two years, the company that installed them, Thailand Electric, will be responsible for their upkeep. After that, maintenance will be the responsibility of the local Tambon Administration Organization."

K. Prawat also spoke about a plan to install submarine power cables to Koh Maphrao and Koh Naka Yai in Phang Nga Bay. The plan is expected to cost between 30 and 40 million baht for each island, he said.

He added that a proposal to bury the power cables along Thalang Rd in Phuket City is still under review.

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# Vendors on Bang Tao Beach face eviction

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

**BANG TAO:** People operating 48 businesses on Bang Tao Beach were told on September 8 that they had until September 15 to vacate the beach – or face having their premises demolished.

At a meeting at Provincial Hall, Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat told beach stall vendors that they must move out because the provincial government wants to clean up the area.

He said the vendors would be provided with a new site, though he admitted that a suitable new locale had yet to be identified. *Palad* Nivit called on the local community to help find a solution, and to understand what the government is trying to achieve.

“If anybody wants to help, please let us know. We promise to find the best place for all of you [vendors], and you will be a priority for us. If you find a place that is not public land or beach area, please let us know,” *Palad* Nivit said.

“We – both the government and the people – should come to

a compromise. If not, many problems will arise,” he added.

However, *Palad* Nivit was firm about the decision. “The beach is public land,” he said, “and it is illegal to set up stalls there – they must be moved.”

At least one vendor was not convinced of the government’s goodwill. He urged *Palad* Nivit to leave the businesses where they are – on the beach – until a new site has been found. He added that the vendors did not fully trust the government to let them set up somewhere else nearby.

As a compromise, the vendor suggested that stall operators bring their goods to the beach every morning and take them away again every evening.

A posse of officials – including the Thalang District Chief, the Chief of the Provincial Land Office, the Vice-President of the Cherno Talay Municipality, the Cherno Talay Village Chief and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization councilors for Thalang were set to inspect the beach on September 12, before Governor Udomsak Usurangkura who was due to make his own inspection the next day.

## Crackdown on tourist visas

From page 1

be able to work. The only ones who will be affected will be people who are working illegally and prolonging their stays by making visa run after visa run,” she said.

“I sympathize with Immigration, which has too few officers. I’m afraid they will be swamped with work and there will be a slowdown in service [at Immigration checkpoints],” she said.

Executive Visa Run conducts visa runs to Ranong and recently started a service to Penang in Malaysia. A representative of the company, who requested anonymity, said that word of the new regulations had created a great deal of confusion.

“Immigration here in Phuket doesn’t know what’s going on because they’ve not yet received any guidelines from Bangkok ... Yesterday when we made inquiries, nobody there could tell us anything,” he said.

When asked if there were a lot of people making “visa hops” to get new visas on arrival, he said, “Oh, there’s a lot. Really. It’s unbelievable, the amount.”

He added, “I think it will have a huge impact. There are a lot of people who stay here on low incomes – and they cause no problems, they just get on with their lives,” he said.

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## Tuk-tuk driver denies raping tourist

**PATONG** (*Gazette*, *Kom Chad Luek*): A tuk-tuk driver arrested on September 7 has denied raping a 20-year-old Australian tourist in the early hours of the same day.

Pol Col Teeraphol Thipjaroen, Superintendent of Kathu District Police Station, told the *Gazette*, “The suspect has admitted that he took the woman back to her hotel on the night in question but he denies raping her.”

Col Teeraphol declined to comment further.

However, Thai-language daily newspaper *Kom Chad Luek* reported that a friend of the alleged victim had told police that, before the incident, they had been drinking around Soi Bangla.

Just after midnight they hailed a tuk-tuk from the end of the soi and lifted the woman, who was having difficulty walking, into the back of the vehicle, the report said.

The friends gave the driver 500 baht, telling him to take the woman back to the Merlin Beach Resort at Tritrang Beach, where they were staying.

When they arrived back at the hotel later on, they knocked on the woman’s door to check that she had arrived safely, said the report.

In tears, she told them that the driver had taken her to a secluded spot at Tritrang Beach and raped her. After he had finished, he took her back to her hotel, the report said.

The report said that doctors at Patong Hospital, who also declined to give comment to the *Gazette*, had examined the victim, and told police that the woman had grazes on both elbows and traces of semen in her vagina and underwear. A sample of the semen was taken as evidence.

Two of the woman’s friends who had hired the tuk-tuk for her were asked by officers at Kathu District Police Station to try to identify the assailant from a book of photos of Patong tuk-tuk drivers, the report said.

One of the friends was able to pick out the alleged attacker and photos of the man were distributed to police throughout Patong, leading to his arrest.

– *Sompratch Saowakhon*

## 4 teens held for murder of Belgian tourist

**PHI PHI ISLAND:** Four teenagers allegedly involved in the murder of a 24-year-old Belgian man after a fight have been arrested, police reported.

The man, Gregory Vanderwaeren, had been on the island only three days when he was shot early Sunday morning.

Police said that Mr Vanderwaeren was involved in a fight with the teens before one of them used a gun to shoot him.

Krabi Police Station Superintendent Pol Col Boontawee Toruksa told the *Gazette* that reports by four witnesses to the attack led to the teens’ arrests.

“The problem was that the teenagers were not from the area,” Col Boontawee said. “People who live here know that tourists are important for business and take very good care of them.”

Representatives from the Belgian Consulate were scheduled to arrive September 11 to assist in repatriating Mr Vanderwaeren’s remains.

## Patong, OrBorJor win awards from think-tank

**PHUKET:** Patong Municipality’s “transparency, environmentalism and involvement of its citizens” were cited by the King Prajadhipok’s Institute, a think-tank, as reasons why the authority was one of just 14 nationwide to receive recognition and an accolade on September 5 in an annual awards ceremony. The Phuket Provincial Organization Administration (*OrBorJor*) received a gold award for its work.

The Institute, which received applications from 600 municipalities and government agencies, awarded Patong a second-level certificate based on its Paradise Project, an environmental conservation program; its *Rakbankerd* scholarship to send local children to university with the understanding that they will return to Patong after graduation; and its cooperation with citizens such as the committees – comprising, among others, *kamnan* (village chiefs) and *phu yai baan* (village headmen) to monitor best financial and other practices.

The *OrBorJor* received the gold award for its work in bring-

ing a number of state schools under its control – in an effort to promote educational excellence – thereby taking them out of Ministry of Education jurisdiction; for its “Halal Food, Hilal Town” festival; and for the creation of the Phuket Tourist Marine Rescue Center (PTMRC), based beside Chalong Bay.

Suthin Uthathumrong, a Vice-President of the *OrBorJor*, received the award from Senate President Suchon Chaleekrue on the eighth anniversary of the institute’s founding.

K. Suthin said that the *OrBorJor* was recognized as one of seven organizations in Thailand that “excelled in the transparency of [its] work and cooperation with the local population.”

He said that the *OrBorJor* deserves the award because the “Halal Food, Hilal Town” is well-known to Muslims at home and abroad and because the PTMRC’s life-saving work is important in presenting a good image to tourists.

– *Jenjira Ruengjarus & Natcha Yuttaworawit*

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An official TAT release explaining why Thailand Unforgettable was chosen as the latest slogan to be used to entice tourists to visit the country is somewhat vague.

Outgoing TAT Governor Juthamas Siriwan was quoted as saying that only the upcoming public relations campaign will "focus on delivering an unforgettable experience to visitors." That's all.

Panu Maswongsa, Vice-President of Phuket Tourism Association (PTA) and Deputy General Manager at Patong Resort Hotel, told the *Gazette* that TAT marketing plans – particularly its slogans – tend to confuse those in the tourism business. "In the past four years, the TAT has launched at least four new campaigns to attract tourists, including Be My Guest, Thailand Grand Invitation, Unseen Thailand and now this newest one: Thailand Unforgettable," he explained.

K. Panu said that he expects the Thailand Unforgettable slogan to resemble its immediate predecessors in two regards: it will meet limited success and – perhaps ironically – will be quickly forgotten.

He said that one of the TAT's previous slogans, Amazing Thailand, hit the mark and should have been continued indefinitely, rather than adopting an ongoing series of slogans, many of which have little relevance to major tourism destinations, including Phuket.

"Amazing Thailand was sufficiently broad and easy enough for travel agents to use when packaging tourism products.

"Slogans such as Be My Guest, used to promote homestay

# Unforgettable? Or

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) recently announced that the Thai tourism industry will soon be marketed under a new campaign, 'Thailand Unforgettable', which it says will run for at least three years.

The launch of the campaign coincides with another development, described as a 'major departure' from previous policy, whereby TAT targets will now be 'revenue-based designed to achieve a revenue target' rather than based solely on arrivals targets.

Here the *Gazette's* Sangkhae Lee-lanapaporn and Stephen Fein look at what the new initiative means for Phuket.



tourism, along with Unseen Thailand [and its sub-theme Unseen Paradise], are of little relevance to a destination such as Phuket, which has more than 30,000 guest rooms and whose tourism assets are well-known," he said.

"As we sell Phuket, the theme we could have used indefinitely was Amazing Thailand. Why did the TAT choose to discontinue a perfectly good brand name?" he asked.

He said that there is a danger that the Thailand Unforgettable theme could flop, given that traumatic experiences can just as easily be "unforgettable" as wonderful ones.

"Unforgettable can mean two things ... Tourists who come here and survive a tsunami are

just as likely to describe their experience as 'unforgettable' as those tourists who have a good time here and leave impressed by the island," he said.

K. Panu also expressed concern that the slogan conjures up the "been there, done that" sensibility that tourism professionals on the island would like to avoid. "Does that mean the TAT is targeting 'once-in-a-lifetime' tourists? What about repeat tourists?" he asked.

He said that one problem with the Unseen Thailand campaign stemmed from a failure by the Bangkok-based authorities pushing the nationwide campaign to communicate effectively with local administrative bodies, especially in the rural areas that the TAT was promoting.

"Sometimes tourists visit there and come back unimpressed, saying, 'I don't see what is unseen about it – it all looks normal to me,'" he said, adding that some local authorities didn't even know locations in their jurisdiction were being promoted.

"We aren't that interested in the new campaigns the TAT launches because they are formulated for the country on the whole and do not really match with Phuket's needs," he said.

"We have to maintain our existing market in order to survive in an increasingly competitive industry. I think that when



tourists plan a trip, three factors figure into their selection process: price; political stability and personal safety. Phuket, along with other major tourist destinations in Thailand, needs to consider these factors first in order not to lose its base of repeat visitors to rival destinations in the region," he said.

"We might lose our existing market share to places such as Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, which has its own natural attractions and unique culture. Also, more airlines are starting to fly there direct. We shouldn't forget that Phuket is not the only place that can use sea, sand and sun to attract tourists," K. Panu added.

"Other rivals to watch out for include locales in China and Indonesia as well as Halong Bay, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam, which recently opened tourism promotion offices in Tokyo and Paris," he said.

Despite the limited ability of TAT promotions to meet Phuket's specific needs, K. Panu said that local organizations have effectively picked up the slack.

"We all know that the first key to success is maintaining our base of high-season tourists from European markets. We also want to thank the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization for its very successful effort in boosting the number of arrivals from the Middle East during the green season.

"Phuket is lucky that most of the private sector, along with the provincial and most local administrative bodies, understand the need to keep our existing markets while looking for new ways to promote the province," he said.

Michael Ayling, Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH), admitted that he did not closely follow what the TAT does. When asked if he thought the TAT's shift from arrival-based target figures to revenue-based ones reflected a positive change, the former accountant was cautiously optimistic.

"Sometimes tourists visit there and come back unimpressed, saying, 'I don't see what is unseen about it – it all looks normal to me,'" – Panu Maswongsa, Phuket Tourism Association



# incomprehensible?



Sun, sea and sand on Kata Beach. But Phuket has much more than that, giving it an edge over would-be rivals.

“Yes, it would be, for us, a better way of measuring,” he said.

The real test would be whether the TAT could turn using measurement by income, rather than body count, into some kind of real action.

LRH’s main markets during

the high season are in Europe, but in the low season it turns to Asian regional markets. Mr Ayling said that as far as LRH is concerned, the lack of direct flights to Phuket, particularly from Japan and Hong Kong, is still the biggest problem.

Asked how much the aver-

age Laguna guest spends a day, he noted, “We don’t really track the total spend per guest, though I could easily work it out.”

Mr Ayling was not as concerned as K. Panu about losing tourists to the sun, sea and sand of places such as Kota Kinabalu.

“Phuket is moving into a different product. It’s East meets West. If you want wilderness and to lie on a beach for two weeks, that’s maybe what our market was 20 years ago. I think with the infrastructure here – Central Festival and so on – Phuket has become more than that.

“It’s also a question of accessibility: direct flights. If a place is easy to get to, that’s always going to help. I agree that we should preserve our culture and so on, but Phuket has a number of dynamics over and above those of remote beach destinations.”

Asked what he thought the TAT should be doing as a priority for Phuket, he said, “Direct flights. Full stop. More regional direct flights.

## ACHIEVABLE

“When people are coming long-haul and staying longer, [changing planes] doesn’t have quite so much impact but when they are coming for a four-day holiday and they end up spending two days traveling, then it really does have an impact on us.”

To get some insights into the TAT’s inner workings, the *Gazette* contacted Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, Director of the TAT’s International Public Relations Division in Bangkok, who said the TAT goal of 13.8 million tourists for 2006 still stands.

“I believe it is achievable, unless there is a crisis that affects the tourism industry, such as a natural disaster or political instability,” he said.

When asked how and by whom the TAT revenue targets would be set, he said the TAT’s domestic and overseas directors brainstorm to set the revenue tar-

gets, with final approval from the TAT Governor.

Asked how the TAT arrived at the average daily expenditure figures for tourists, by country, that it regularly posts on its website, K. Chattan said, “The figures are assessed by making a statistical analysis of results from a survey, which is the same method used by the WTO.”

“Of course, there is no possible way to ever truly know how much a tourist spends when he or she is here. The best we can do is conduct random surveys through a questionnaire given to tourists at tourist destinations,” he said.

“These figures are reasonably reliable as we coordinate the information and cross-check with other agencies such as Bank of Thailand, National Statistical Office, and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board.

“The ‘nightlife’ spending is categorized in the Entertainment category.”

K. Chattan, who has been with the TAT for 17 years, said that the TAT’s specific goals for Phuket include “encouraging more tourist spending by promoting activities that will entail spending money to join – or use those activities [in combination with others] that require some time to do.

“That is to say, more time on the island equals more income for businesses. These include spa and wellness treatments, diving, golfing, medical tourism, wedding and honeymoon packages, shopping tours and luxury island-hopping charters.

“I believe that we have to get visitors to take part in activities and not just sunbathe all day if we want to increase spending in Phuket.”

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## Queer News

# BUGGING OUT

Public Health officials in Saraphi District, Chiang-mai Province, issued a public warning for villagers to stop eating *malaeng laay* ("striped bugs", scientific classification not provided), after a middle-aged man died after downing three of the insects during a whiskey drinking session.

News of the death was reported by Taan Jongkham, headman of Tambon Chompoo Mu 9, on August 25.

Gaen Thep-phanom, 47, and two friends were drinking whiskey at a local shop in the early evening of August 24 when a woman arrived and gave them a bag of the roasted insects, Taan said.

Villagers commonly pick the large bugs and roast them in a pan before eating them, often as an accompaniment to whiskey, he explained.

"They are edible – I know because I have eaten them myself," said the village headman.

After a few hours, Gaen had eaten three of the insects, savoring the bitter taste. His drinking buddies, less impressed with the flavor, consumed one apiece.

After two or three hours, the two other men left for home, but K. Gaen stayed on, drinking on his own until about midnight. That's when he started to get stomach pains – bad ones.

The shop owner heard his agonized groans and cries for help coming from the shop's bath-



**HINT, HINT:** The orange and black stripes on the *malaeng laay* are a health and safety advisory. Ignore this warning at your peril.

room. Entering, he found K. Gaen ashen-faced, his innards in spasm. The shop owner and some other villagers rushed K. Gaen to nearby Banthi Hospital, but he was declared dead on arrival by doctors; his heart had stopped beating en route.

An autopsy was performed on the his body and samples of the roasted insects were sent to the lab at the provincial medical science center for analysis.

Village Headman Taan said that the other two men who had eaten one bug each also reported suffering from headache, stomach ache, intestinal spasm and vomiting.

Wira Dechakij, an official at the Saraphi District Public Health Office, said his agency was working with local village heads to educate people about the dangers of snacking on poisonous insects.

He said that a survey of local residents indicated that people knew they were dangerous to eat, but that sometimes people under the influence of alcohol felt emboldened and gave in to the temptation to eat the bugs.

*Malaeng laay* are commonly found living among the many agati, or *ton khae*, trees growing in the area, he added.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*



## TRASHING Phuket



A reader who preferred to be known only as "Fed Up" sent in these photographs of Soi Hopeland in Kathu. There are bins for garbage, but the sofa, strangely, would not fit in them.

"We have lots of garbage along the soi, along with stray dogs making a mess and, recently, burglaries.

"Phuket has a problem with crime, dogs and dumping. Goodbye Phuket; we are going to a better part of Thailand."



WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

*When the taste is perfect,  
it can be the start of a friendship.*





By Janyaporn Morel

Teatime is not simply an exercise in imbibing liquid. In many countries, the art of teatime displays the culture, lifestyle and flair of the person who takes the time to relax and enjoy a cup of the ancient brew.

Tea ceremonies that have arisen around the world are as varied as the cultures themselves. Japan has its complex, highly formalized yet serene tea ceremony while the British have traditionally used Afternoon Tea as a time to relax, drink tea and snack on slices of cake, scones with clotted cream and jam, and cucumber sandwiches. It was also a semi-formal chance to socialize.

Tea drinking is believed to have begun in ancient China more than 5,000 years ago. According to legend, the early Chinese Emperor Shen Nung, known for his inquisitive nature and love of science, issued a ruling that required all drinking water be boiled as a precaution against disease.

While traveling about China one summer day he and his court stopped to rest. As his court prepared his boiled water some leaves fell into the pot, turning the water brown. The Emperor, intrigued with the brown liquid, drank some and found it very refreshing. Tea drinking was born.

Tea is the second most popular beverage in the world, second only to water. It is made by steeping the processed leaves, buds or twigs of the tea bush, *Camellia sinensis*, in hot water for a few minutes.

There are four types of true tea: black tea, oolong tea, green tea and white tea, all from varieties of the same plant, but processed in different ways.

Tea is a natural source of caffeine, theophylline (used in asthma therapy) and antioxidants, and has almost no fat, carbohydrates or protein.

About 3.2 million tonnes of tea were produced worldwide in

# Time for a cuppa



Above: Tea is not tea without a tiered cake stand. Left, Thai desserts are included in the T-Bar menu.

2004. India, China, Sri Lanka and Kenya are the most prolific producers.

Tea may have been around for centuries, deeply embedded in many cultures, but in the past few years it has seen a spike in popularity as it has become trendy to drink. It has also become a staple in spas, and has medical and ceremonial applications.

In Phuket, tea lovers can experience some of the flavor of

ceremonial tea-drinking at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, where the newly-launched Dilmah's Teatime Rocks "T-Bar" offers an afternoon tea service.

The T-Bar has a selection of 45 different types of hot, cold, iced or blended teas and "tea-inspired" drinks. All the teas are individually selected by Merrill J Fernando, founder of Dilmah, a Sri Lankan gourmet tea company.

TeaTime Rocks is a combination of a traditional British (and by extension Indian Subcontinent) High Tea with a twist, in that it includes Thai desserts and an all-important chocolate section, along with other beverages.

The café is open to the public and hotel guests from 3 pm to 5 pm daily. Customers can opt for one of the tea drinks, or from a selection of coffees and smoo-

thies, with Thai desserts, small cakes or chocolates for a set price of 320 baht a person.

*The T-Bar is located in the shopping arcade on the ground level of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa at 231 Moo 3, Mai Khao, Thalang. For more information call Tel: 076-338000; Fax: 076-348360; website: www.marriott.com*

Spoiled for choice: the T-Bar has 45 teas and 'tea-inspired' beverages.



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## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

**P**onlert Uncharoen, Vice-President of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Southern Region Division 5, recently said that neither the continuing conflict in the South nor the political instability in the nation has affected the numbers of tourists visiting Koh Samui and her sister islands.

August is traditionally one of the island's busiest periods and some local business people had expressed concern that many European tourists, particularly Italian visitors, might be put off by Thailand's much-publicized political woes.

Although the official hotel occupancy figures have yet to be assessed, K. Ponlert and many others in the tourism industry say the island has suffered no ill effects whatsoever.

"Initial figures suggest that visitor numbers were similar to last year," said the Vice-President. "There were large numbers of Italian tourists as usual, as well as plenty of people from other European countries, such as France and Germany."

"Many hotels on the island enjoyed almost 100% occupancy throughout August."

These figures bode well for Samui, which has recently suf-



Business people fretted about negative perceptions of Thailand keeping the tourists away but August saw hotels full to capacity.

# Tourists not fazed by political instability

fered from a series of negative reports in the national and international media, focusing mainly on over-development. The tourists, however, keep arriving, which many see as a sign that the island has not lost its appeal.

**Checking out:** On the morning of August 11, while conducting a routine body search, guards at Samui Prison found one of the inmates to be in possession of marijuana and a mobile phone.

The guards made the discovery as prisoners were returning from the breakfast annex, a separate building where inmates with a record for good behavior are allowed to cook their own food.

Inmates are routinely frisked for utensils and other prohibited items before being allowed back into the prison building, but in this case the man is believed to have actually taken the drugs with him to the kitchen, only to be caught on the way back into the main wing of the prison.

The prisoner in question, a 23-year-old man convicted for bag snatching in August 2003, ran for the gate and managed to escape before the guards could catch him.

A manhunt followed, with local police and volunteers joining the search. The man was eventually found the next day in Nam Muang District and returned to the prison.

The Samui Prison is a modern building located in a remote area to the south of the island and surrounded by forests and hills. The local island media recently criticized the design of the building, likening it to a resort.

The prison also has several entry and exit points, which some people feel increases the threat of breakouts. This is the second escape attempt since the prison opened last year.

**Samui Regatta goes pro:** The Koh Samui Regatta, now known on the Southeast Asian yachting circuit as "The Tropical Island

Regatta", was launched five years ago to promote sailing in the seas around Samui and also to establish the southern Thai Gulf as an international yacht racing destination.

The regatta has enjoyed enthusiastic support from its very beginning, not only because of its unique location, but also thanks to a well-organized committee and generous service support from major hotels such as the Central Samui Beach Resort.

In addition, for the past two years, Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd has handled the event's marketing and sponsorship support, bringing in major international companies and raising the profile of the event.

Peter Plant, who has been Regatta Secretary since its inception, recently announced that the job of organizing the next international regatta has been handed to Image Asia Events, the company behind the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) and Evason Phuket Race Week.

Image Asia's Events Director Andy Dowden is also a former President of the Phuket King's Cup.

"We all feel that the tie up with Image Asia Events presents a great opportunity," said Mr Plant, "A chance for the Koh Samui Regatta to move forward

and to strengthen its place as one of the highlights on the Asian sailing calendar."

**Fair flair:** The fourth Koh Samui food and product fair was held from September 6 to 14, with stalls set out along the recently-completed municipal esplanade next to Chaweng Lake.

More than 100 restaurants and small businesses offered the best in local and international food and local products to a continuous stream of tourists and local visitors. The main stalls were divided into four zones: seafood, local food, international food and island products.

Participants from both the public and private sector worked together to provide a week of festivities.

There were daily competitions, such as photography and painting contests, as well as demonstrations of monkeys harvesting coconuts and other diversions.

A large stage was also set up with live music provided in the evening by some big Thai stars. The annual Miss Samui beauty pageant also took place during the festival and there was an exhibition of local fishing boats on the nearby lake.

The festival was hailed a success – the only drawback being heavy traffic around the entrance to the venue, which made parking difficult and at times caused lengthy queues.

**Security workshop:** On August 22, Pol Col Chaityut Ninwong, Samui's Superintendent of Police led a workshop on anti-terrorist measures attended by representatives from Bangkok Airways, as well as the island's main ferry and bus operators.

At the workshop, police officers stressed the need for vigilance and offered practical suggestions to help staff identify potentially dangerous individuals.

All major tourist destinations in Thailand are considered possible targets, so Samui Police conduct regular checks and are keen to guarantee security for people traveling to and from the island.

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# Songkhla student's killers caught

**T**wo Prince of Songkhla University (PSU) students have confessed to the killing of fellow student Nawaphat Krainara, whose stab-wound-riddled body was found in Haad Yai on August 29.

Phuriphong Thawon-phat-phong, from Surat Thani, and Likhit Nintharat, from Maha Sarakham, were arrested by Haad Yai District Police on the evening of September 7. Both men are 20 years old and second-year students in the Natural Resources Faculty of PSU's Haad Yai campus.

Police questioned the two suspects for more than eight hours until they finally confessed to Nawaphat's killing.

According to police, Phuriphong said that he had football betting debts of more than 60,000 baht with Nawaphat.

Nawaphat had come to demand the money, Phuriphong said, and when he couldn't pay an argument broke out which resulted in Nawaphat slapping him in the face. Nawaphat then threatened him, "If you don't pay your debts, I'll have the leader of the syndicate sort you out", Phuriphong said.

Phuriphong continued that following the incident he was very angry and worked out a plan to get back at Nawaphat. He arranged another meeting with Nawaphat on the pretense of settling the debt and also talked Likhit into going along with him, he said.

Phuriphong said that when they arrived at the meeting place, Nawaphat had demanded the money he was owed. Phuriphong then pretended to have dropped his motorcycle keys and asked Nawaphat to help him find them, he said. While Nawaphat was off guard, Phuriphong drew his knife and slashed him across the face before stabbing him repeatedly in the abdomen until he was sure he was dead, Phuriphong said.

The two then fled the scene taking Nawaphat's phone with them, which they later dumped in a water tank on campus, he added.

After they had finished questioning the two suspects, police took them to retrieve the knife used in the crime before charging them both with pre-meditated murder.

**Calling cards:** Trang Town was hit with a spate of burglaries in the early hours of September 4 with four break-ins reported in quick succession.

Apart from making off with valuables and cash, the robbers also left something of their own;

they defecated at the rear of all four houses.

The first house belonged to Maheson Phakdikhong, 51, a government officer. The thieves found a key that K. Maheson had hidden on a beam above the door and used it to open the front door. K. Maheson reported that although his possessions had been rifled and scattered around the house, nothing had actually been taken.

The second house belonged to another government officer, Precha Damsri, 43. The robbers pried open the back door and made off with 20,000 baht in cash and a mobile phone. At the time of going to press police were still unsure of the identity of the owner of the third house and what had been taken.

The fourth house was that of Somneuk Chuaysong, 53. The thieves again got in through the back door and managed to get away with 1,000 baht in cash and two mobile phones.

Police reported that the break-ins occurred while the residents were asleep and that at the back of each house they found human feces.

**Whale meet again?** More than 100 people gathered to save a whale that had beached itself in the Koh Sarai area of Satun Province on September 6.

The whale, estimated to weigh around three tonnes, had become trapped on a rock by the beach and had a large cut on its left side. Rescuers poured water over the stricken animal to keep its skin moist until it could be taken back out to sea.

Samat Natma, leader of a local conservation group reported, "When my fellow conservationists and I heard about the beached whale, we went to mobilize villagers to help. We managed to find more than 100 people. We carefully dragged the whale off the rock, trying not to cause any further injuries. We then loaded it onto a large boat and sailed out to deep water. After we released it it swam round the boat for a while and then swam off out to sea."

**Fatal felling:** A lumberyard worker was stabbed to death in the Thung Song District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the early hours of September 6.

The incident was witnessed by a security guard, Sathit Homprasit, who reported it to the police.

When officers arrived at the scene they found the body of Somphon Jitrawut, 40, from

Trang Province. He had been stabbed 13 times in his shoulders and abdomen.

Police believe that a leather knife sheath and a cap recovered from the scene were left behind by the attackers.

K. Sathit told police that he saw three motorcycles coming down the road together. K. Somphon, who had a woman riding pillion, stopped to let her get off and she started walking down the road. K. Somphon rode alongside her.

"It looked as if the two were arguing," Sathit reported, adding, "The other two bikes were still following close behind."

K. Sathit said he then heard a woman scream and when he looked back to where the bikes had been, he saw two of them being driven off at high speed. When he got to the scene, he found the body of K. Somphon and the unconscious form of Somphon's wife, Uchukorn Rakchatthai, 48, who had, according to K. Sathit, apparently fainted.

Pol Col Yanphat Narasing, Superintendent of Thung Song District Police Station, said that K. Uchukorn had given a statement reporting that she had been drinking spirits with her husband and three other men, Min and Tai, both Burmese, and a man from Isarn, named "Thai". K. Uchukorn said that her husband had then taken her to a local restaurant to retrieve a Buddha image which he had pawned there.

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HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn takes part in prayers led by Muslim leaders during his visit to a mosque in Yala on September 6. (Photo: The Nation)

"She said that she felt nauseous as they approached the restaurant and asked her husband to pull over. She stated that two youths then pulled up on a motorbike and stabbed her husband to death," Col Yanphat said.

Police said that they had instructed K. Uchukorn to come back for further questioning as her statement conflicted with that of K. Sathit, adding that, at the time she was interviewed, K. Uchukorn was still drunk and was having difficulty describing the course of events to the police.

Police speculated that the motive for the crime was likely to be adultery as the victim was not known to have had any disputes with anyone.

**Satun tourist boom:** Tourism authorities in Satun are predicting that this high season will bring a record number of tourists to the province.

Samat Jaroenrut, President of the Satun Tourist Business Association, believes that the numbers of tourists visiting the prov-

ince during the high season starting at the end of this year will increase by 35% to 40% compared with figures for the previous high season.

He added that the amount of investment in tourism infrastructure, particularly resorts, had greatly increased.

Plans are also underway to upgrade the province's Tarutao National Park. Narubet Chuthong, the Park Chief, said that for the year 2007, the park had been given 6 million baht by the National Parks Department as well as a further 10 million baht from the Satun Provincial Administration Organization.

"We have upgraded the facilities and accommodation in the park and believe that the number of tourists visiting will be higher than in previous years. We believe 2007 will be a golden year [for tourism in the province.]" K. Narubet said.

*Around the South news round up is sourced from Kom Chad Luek newspaper.*

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# Death toll in South tops 1,700

The death toll in the protracted insurgency in the Deep South has topped 1,700, according to Srisomphop Chitpiromsri, an Assistant Professor in the faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus.

"Over the past 32 months, 1,730 people have lost their lives and 2,513 people have been injured. Altogether, 4,243 have been physically affected by the violence," he told a seminar organized by the university, the Issara News Agency, the Thai Journalists Association, the Southern Teachers Network and the Thai Southern Journalists Association.

"Individual violent incidents amount to 5,460, with Narathiwat leading with 2,074. Pattani is next with 1,656 incidents and Yala has had 1,412 incidents. Songkhla had the fewest, with 318 events," he added.

While there have been fewer violent incidents in the past eight months of this year compared with the previous year, the use of explosives had increased dramatically since June 2005, he said.

The organizers of the seminar also established a knowledge center to track violence in the region.

**Alarming re-arming:** The National Buddhism Bureau (NBB) has reported that criminals posing as monks are taking advantage of merit makers, bilking them out of cash, food and other donations.

Kanok Saenprasert, Direc-

tor of the NBB's Buddhism Protection Office, told a seminar on monastic conduct at the Buddha Monton Complex in Bangkok that "recycling" of alms is the most common offense.

The scam operates as a co-operation between the fake monks and food vendors, with impostor clergymen lingering near stalls so that passersby purchase offerings, which are later returned to vendors for re-sale.

"The same food is sold over and over, increasing profits," K. Kanok said.

This practice is so profitable that some food sellers have their sons ordained so they can attract merit makers to their stalls. The fast pace of life in Bangkok contributed to the problem, as city residents are in such a rush that they seldom stop to consider if monks are genuine, he said.

The problem was evident at almost all markets and communities in greater Bangkok, where impostors – many of them former convicts – commit 80% of offenses.

**Water mark:** Three marinas capable of serving a total of 1,000 yachts are expected to open in Krabi Province by 2008.

Ittirit Kinglek, President of the Krabi Tourist Association, said the estimated 1 billion baht needed to build all three marinas by 2008 would come from both government and private sector funding.

The largest, a 500-million-baht marina to be developed jointly by the Krabi Provincial Administration Organization and



**WHITE MEAT PROTEST:** Bikini-clad Canadian activist Ashley Fruno, 20, crouches in a cage as a part of a protest led by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) outside a KFC restaurant on Silom Road in Bangkok.

The group claims KFC's suppliers treat chickens inhumanely.

foreign investors, will have capacity for 150-200 yachts, he said.

The second, a 300-million-baht marina for 50 yachts on the Krabi River at Thara public park, would be funded jointly by Krabi Municipality and private investors. Private investors are also planning to build a 200-million-baht marina, he added.

It is hoped that Krabi will become a major destination for high-end travelers within one to two years, he said, as this type of traveler tends to stay at one destination for a long time and spends more than other groups.

**Commodity controls:** In order to ease concerns among small retailers who have protested against the spread of multinational

retailers, the Commerce Ministry has ordered all superstores to suspend immediately any expansion plans they may have for Thailand.

The halt order will apply until a new retail business bill is approved and implemented.

The order came just days after a group of provincial shop owners submitted a petition to the ministry asking it to take action – or risk having hundreds of protesters surround the ministry.

Siripol Yodmuangcharoen, Director of the Internal Trade Department, said if any giant enterprises disobey the order, their representatives would be subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years or a 50,000 baht fine, under the Commodity Act of 1952.

To curb the expansion of giant superstores, the ministry decided to exercise the power included in the Act, which governs retail and wholesale business expansion, sets restrictions on opening times and sets limits on retail areas.

**Dementia danger:** One in every 10 Thais aged 60 or over has some form of dementia, according to the results of a study by the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association of Thailand.

In the study, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, 40,000 men and women aged 60 and older were voluntarily tested on their brain ability, including long- and short-term memory and general intelligence.

The results showed that the incidence of dementia in the Thai population over 60 is about 10%, close to rates in the West, which are between 5% and 10%.

There are about six million people over the age of 60 in Thailand, which, according to the results of the recent survey, could mean that 600,000 have some form of dementia. Of these, about 16% would have Alzheimer's disease, 17% vascular dementia and the rest would come from other factors, including alcoholism, brain injuries or brain tumors, the research found.

**Is it safe?** New Yorker Robert Ramos, 56, is preparing to sue a Pattaya dentist for 10 million baht in damages for allegedly allowing a one-centimeter-long screw and a piece of dental implant material to slide down his throat and into his stomach during a root canal operation.

Ramos said he developed a severe case of diarrhea and noticed a small piece of metal in his excrement. He became so weak that a friend had to rush him to a hospital, where an X-ray found some medical instruments in his stomach, he said.

The dentist admitted that a one-centimeter-long screw and part of a dental implant had fallen into Ramos' digestive tract. The dentist said he did not use a rubber dam to block the patient's oral passage, as normal, because the man was old and had trouble breathing, he said.

**Age of reason:** Children under 12 years of age should be exempt from legal prosecution for whatever crime they commit, Probation Department Director General Wanchai Roujanawong said at an academic seminar on how to develop the justice system for children and youths. Current Thai laws provides total immunity to criminals younger than seven years old only.

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

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Returning to Hong Kong in November, the exhibition is evolving to meet changing times. With Hong Kong bombarded with property shows in recent years, new formats and new names are needed to maintain the interest of potential investors.

At the year's most successful exhibition in Hong Kong, the regional Tropical Asia-Pacific Property Exhibition held in May in the Renaissance Harbour View Hotel, it was seen how Hong Kong buyers react positively to new destinations and new investment opportunities.

This long-established exhibition will thus evolve, introducing a wider mix of Thai destinations offering new property choices. With the inclusion of these new destinations, the exhibition returns as the :

## PHUKET, SAMUI, THAILAND PROPERTY EXHIBITION

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A walk along the Patong seafront can be a hot, tiring experience, but happily the Patong Merlin hotel recently opened a tastefully-decorated, air-conditioned café at the front of its property on the beach road.

The Café del Mar offers a choice of delicious pastry items baked in the hotel's kitchens, ice cream, a range of hot and iced coffees and a selection of snacks and main courses.

Group Executive Chef Franz Estermann came to Phuket six years ago from Shanghai, where he had worked for the Gate Gourmet Catering Company.

In 2004, the company in Shanghai asked him to lend his expertise once again. Franz obliged, but returned to Merlin hotels earlier this year.

"I enjoy my work here," he

# BEACH ROAD RELIEF

## Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

says. "Apart from the challenge of opening the Café del Mar, I'm able to change menus in all the hotel restaurants every three months, so there's always something new to focus my creativity on."

On this page are three of his favorite recipes, which are all fairly simple to make, though they require some preparation beforehand. They also complement each other well to impress dinner party guests.

### Pumpkin Cream Soup To serve 10 people



#### Ingredients:

75ml corn oil;  
200gm mirepoix (mixed diced celery stalk, onions and leeks);  
600gm orange pumpkin flesh, cut into pieces;  
50gm white flour;  
2½ liters vegetable stock;  
Salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste;  
200ml whipping cream.

#### To garnish:

10 spring onions, peeled down at the tops to resemble flowers;  
10 small pumpkin shells with the tops cut off and flesh removed, attractively carved if you can.

#### Method:

Sauté the mirepoix in the corn oil until it is lightly brown. Add the pumpkin pieces and flour.

Stir well to ensure the mixture doesn't become lumpy, then add the stock and the seasoning.

Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and skim off surface froth. Continue simmering until the pumpkin is tender. Remove from heat and blend well. Strain through a fine sieve.

Stir in the cream before serving in the pumpkin shells and garnish with spring onions.

#### Ingredients:

10 Laffas (Arabian flat bread, available in most supermarkets);  
600gm shredded iceberg lettuce;  
800gm beef tenderloin, thinly sliced;  
100gm onion, thinly sliced;  
100gm shredded cucumber;  
100gm tomato julienne;  
10gm bird's eye chili, chopped small;  
50gm celery stalk, sliced thinly;  
100ml Thai fish sauce;  
100ml fresh lime juice.

#### For the side salads:

300gm mixed young salad leaves;  
100gm shredded red cabbage;  
100gm carrot julienne;  
100gm cherry tomatoes;  
150ml vinaigrette dressing.

#### Method:

Put the Laffa bread into a low oven to warm gently. Sauté the sliced beef and combine with the

### Phuket-Style Laffa Wraps To serve 10 people



onion, cucumber, tomato, chili, celery, fish sauce and lime juice. Leave to marinate for a few minutes before spreading over the

breads. Roll up tightly and cut into halves. Arrange on plates with the side salads, and French fries if your guests are very hungry.

### Chilled Tofu with Plum Sauce, Bonito Fish Flakes and Pickled Ginger To serve 10 people

#### Ingredients:

10 rolls of soft tofu (the standard size available in supermarkets: about 4 inches long);  
30 spring onions, cut as for pumpkin soup;  
300gm pickled ginger pieces;  
50gm katsuobushi bonito flakes, dried (available in the Japanese section of any large food store);  
400gm cherry tomatoes, halved;  
1 liter chilled plum sauce.

#### For the plum sauce, blend together:

300ml sweet Thai plum sauce;  
500ml cooled vegetable stock;  
200ml Mirin rice vinegar;  
30ml white soy sauce.

#### Method:

Prepare the plum sauce and leave to one side. Cut each tofu roll into seven slices and arrange on plates. Pour plum sauce over



the tofu and arrange the tomato halves, spring onions and pickled ginger on each plate. Top with bonito flakes and chill before serving.

*The Café del Mar is open seven days a week from 10 am to midnight. Tel: 086-34003741.*



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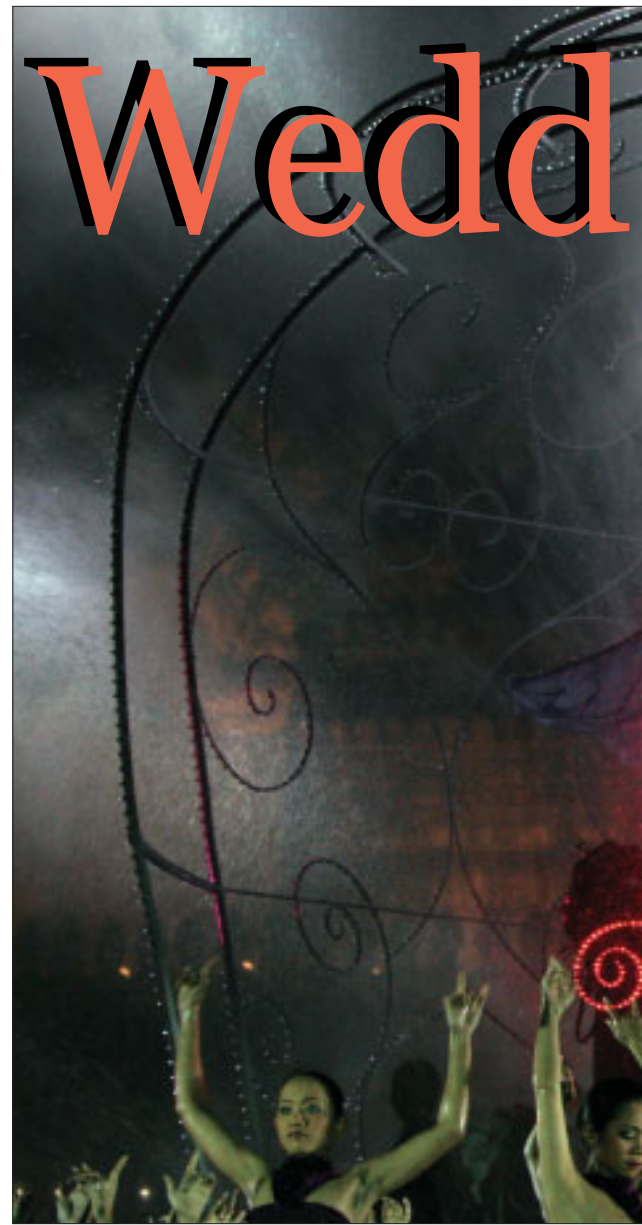
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Left, the bride and groom.

Above, the spectacular stage show.


Below, left, 'angels' greeted guests.

Below, K. Pin (right) and family members.

Top right, the food was exquisite.

Photos by Dan Miles and Sangkhae Leelanaporn


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The staff of Phuket FantaSea helped create a truly memorable wedding party at the theme park on September 7 for their Chief Executive Officer, Kittikorn Kewkacha, 36, and his bride, Ratikorn Aungsuchetthanon, 26, who is studying for a master's degree at Ramkhamhaeng University.

The celebration featured an eight-meter-high "wedding cake" from on top of which the couple, guest of honor Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura and the groom's father, Pin Kewkacha made their speeches to the thousands of guests.

The cake and the surrounding stage then became the venue for a grand finale show, of the kind that only FantaSea could have put on, complete with winged singers, dozens of dancers and more than a hundred fountains.





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## This week



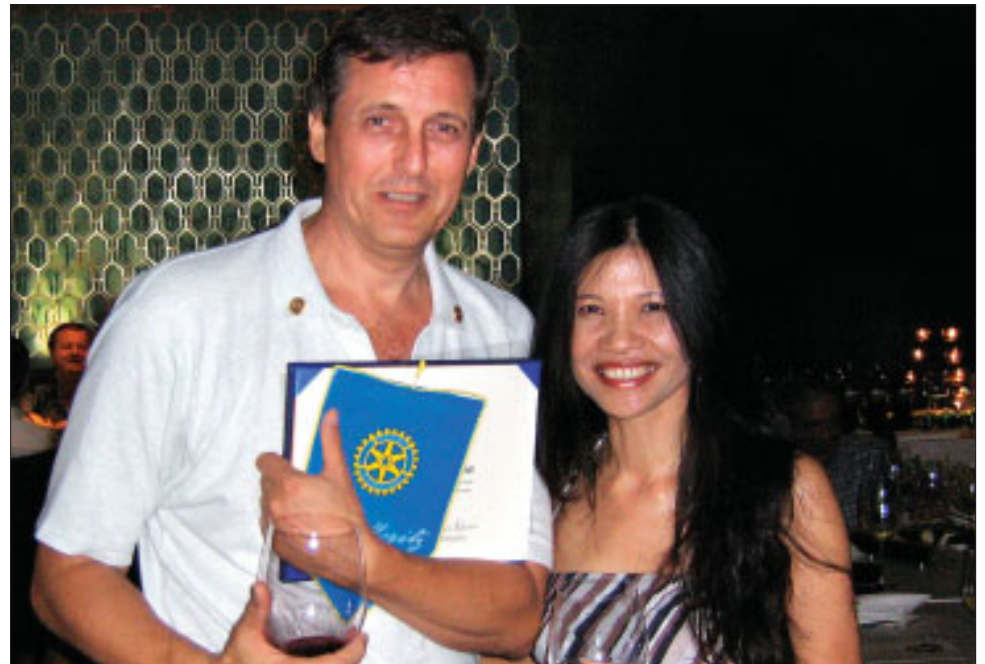
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Plaivej cuts the cake to celebrate the second anniversary of the opening of Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, watched by Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasupana (left) and Thanapon Tungkhananun (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Central Department Store's Deputy Managing Director Of Business Development.



Thai stars Apissada Khruengkongkha (left) and Thrisadee Sahawong (right) entertain guests with a stage game during the second anniversary celebrations before announcing the opening of Central's traditional Midnight Sale.



**YUMMY!** Mattayom 4 (grade 10) students from Cherngtalay Wittayakom School get to sample the fruits of their labor at Dusit Laguna Resort during their recent Thai Food and Culinary Professions field trip, during which they learned to prepare, cook, decorate and serve Thai food in Royal Thai style.



**WELL-ROUNDED:** Chutimon 'Helen' Srithep, General Manager of Phuket Gazette TV, congratulates Rotarian Brad Kenny of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach on being awarded the Multiple Paul Harris Fellowship (Pin Level 1) for his tsunami recovery work. Mr Kenny received the award at the Club's annual dinner at the Holiday Inn, in Patong, on August 29.



**BE SWIFT:** Christopher Swift celebrates the September 2 grand opening of his "Abstract of Industry" art exhibition at Phuket Art Gallery on Thalang Rd, Phuket City, with his wife and children. The exhibition runs until September 30.



**ROARING:** Piya Issaramalai (center), owner of Tiger Discotheque in Patong, welcomes tsunami researcher Hiroyuki Nobuto (right) and Japanese contemporary artist and DJ Hirofumi Tanigami, who was invited to entertain club's patrons on August 29.

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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

The novelty of the Alfa Romeo 156, when it was first launched, was that while there were four doors, there were apparently only two door handles. The secret was simple: the recessed rear door handles were located at the trailing edge of the rear door glass.

This design quirk survives in the latest incarnation of the car, which was initially introduced in the late '90s. The 156 received a facelift in 2003, after more than half a million cars had been sold in more than 80 countries.

The odd placing of the door handle was probably not a major factor in the 156 being voted Car of the Year in 1998 by a panel of 56 influential motoring journalists, though it is an indication of the thought that went into its design.

The car went on to rack up more than 30 other awards around the globe.

There are a number of engine options available elsewhere for the 156, but for Thailand the most sensible choice is the 16-valve, two-liter Twin Spark –



Nice, but how do I open the rear doors?

there are two spark plugs per cylinder to aid combustion.

Power output is quite impressive for the size of the motor, peaking at 150 bhp (110 kW), while maximum torque is a respectable 181 Nm at 3,800 rpm. Counter-rotating twin shafts, an idea pioneered by British engineer Frederick Lanchester around 1905, are fitted to offer "the smoothness of a six-cylinder and the fuel economy of a four".

The claimed top speed is 214 kmh, while the 0-100 kmh time

is a rather tame 8.8 seconds, but the new 156 feels more sporty than the figures suggest.

It is styled by renowned Italian designer Giorgetto Giugiaro, who says the 156 represents "an ideal marriage between sportiness and elegance, performance and formal balance". On top of its striking good looks, the 156 is an immensely strong vehicle with the passenger compartment designed as a non-deformable structure, protected by intrusion bars and crumple zones.

The 156 is available in Thailand with the unique Selespeed gear shift system, which dispenses with the clutch. Developed by Italian company Magneti Marelli, it is described thus in the Alfa Romeo Thailand website ([www.alfaromeo.co.th](http://www.alfaromeo.co.th)): "Selespeed is a way to operate your gearbox which makes it possible to change gears without taking your hands off the steering wheel."

"The gearbox is a manual one, with a robotized clutch. To

change gears, you just press on a paddle located at the steering wheel, like in Formula 1. No clutch pedal, no need to move the gear lever. Alternatively, you can use a joystick to go up and down between the gears.

"Finally, when traffic is dense or you just feel like having a relaxed driving style, you can opt for 'City' mode, [in which] the car will choose and engage the most appropriate gear for your speed and drive pattern."

In addition to its unusual technical aspects, the 156 is surprisingly well equipped, with a full leather interior in a choice of three shades; six airbags, including full-length window bags; and a quality audio system comprising six speakers and a 10-disc CD autochanger in the trunk.

An analog clock is a pleasant change from the ubiquitous digital fitting usually found in this class and, uniquely in this or any other segment, the car has a built-in fire protection system.

There are currently no dealer outlets in Phuket, but Alfa Romeo's sole distributor for Thailand, Thai Prestige Auto Sales, plans to rectify this.

There is, however, 24-hour emergency assistance available by calling a toll-free number should you break down anywhere "up country".

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



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Pruerk-Saran	216	11,860,000	100,000	5,930,000	5,830,000
Pruerk-Pirom	99.6	9,900,000	100,000	4,950,000	4,850,000

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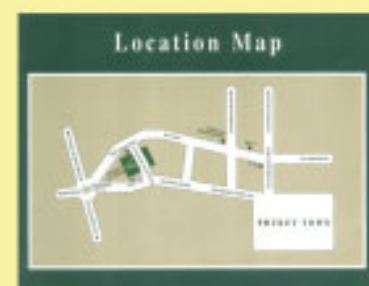
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Working in many a youngster's Christmas stocking in 1983 was a double-cassette or LP – depending upon how large your stocking was – titled *Now That's What I Call Music*.

Parents may have disagreed that it was music, and I would rather – but only just – have had Siouxsie Sioux in stockings wanting to pull my Christmas cracker and showing me her plum duff, but it was not to be.

I accepted the double vinyl album as graciously as one could considering we had only a Teac reel-to-reel tape recorder and a massive valve radio so old that it could still pick up Alvar Lidell's broadcasts. The radio was so sensitive to atmospheric interference that the beast would produce a diabolical *sssczhweeeeeee-uuwooooooo* noise every time my mother's poodle broke wind, which was often.

The *Now That's What I Call Music* album, as with virtually all such compilation albums since, trod a nifty path through the minefield of tastes and genres, the memorable and the artists now known as "Who?"

Balancing *Down Under* by Men At Work, *Total Eclipse of the Heart* by Bonnie Tyler, *Temptation* by Heaven 17, *Safety Dance* by Men Without Hats and *The Love Cats* by The Cure on the 31-track original were *Candy Girl* by New Edition, *Big Apple* by Kajagoogoo, *Only For Love* by Limahl, *New Song* by Howard Jones and *Tonight I Celebrate My Love* by Peabo Bryson and Roberta Flack.

And Phil Collins, who somehow seems to appear on almost every compilation.

The concept – not an original one; Ronco and K-tel had released similar compilations for years – was a success and spawned licensed versions in at least 10 countries or regions, including Arabia (*Now That's What I Call Arabia*) and the Czech Republic (*Now Hity*).

# When we're 64



**Ear Candy**  
By Andy Johnstone

Some 23 years later, and having spanned musical genres from New Wave to New Romantic, Goth to Garage, House to Hip-Hop, Acid to well, Asinine, bags of others and squillions of sales, *Now That's What I Call Music!* has reached its 64<sup>th</sup> release.

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed the exclamation mark, which was added to Volume 18 in December 1990 as "*Now! That's What...*" moving to "*...Call Music!*" with Vol 20 in November 1991. The series had a mascot of a pig listening to a whistling cockerel, but that disappeared after Vol 5.

Phil Collins was on those three albums, too, though few see that fact as significant.

What is significant, however, is that *Now! 64*, a 43-track double-CD released at the end of July, will be almost as familiar to the parents of the children buying it as to the children themselves.

This is not because of how many cover versions that *Now 64* contains – I counted just two



**Best track on the album: Cee-Lo is one half of Gnarls Barkley.**

"pure" cover versions: Beverley Knight's *Piece Of My Heart* and McFly's *Don't Stop Me Now* – or even because of the number of remixes or tracks featuring the original artist. No. It's because of how derivative most of the songs are, derived in particular from early-'80s New Wave. Yes – the genre dying out just as the first *Now...* was released.

Musical purists – they are easy to spot from their frequent knee-jerk reactions to anything that does not contain 12 bars and hoary old rockers – may deride such derivation and the rise of the producer as evidence that music is in terminal decline.

Perhaps yes, perhaps no.

Take McFly's nearly-identical cover of the Queen hit *Don't Stop Me Now*. Mums and dads drive around singing along to this as much as their children, who tend to be surprised at first by their parents' knowledge of pop music, then stunned to learn it's a 28-year-old song and finally vaguely interested, perhaps, to hear a little more of Queen's back catalog.

(It isn't only in music that this phenomenon is prevalent. Watch, for example, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* with your children twice, the second time pointing out all the literary references – most of which are relevant to the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum as taught in a certain school in Phuket. But I digress, hence the parentheses.)

Disc 1, Track 1 – *Crazy* by Gnarls Barkley – became a classic seemingly moments after it was leaked onto the Internet in late 2005 before becoming the

first single to top the UK charts on download sales alone.

The song – about the perception that true artists might be a little unhinged – is a collaboration between producer Danger Mouse and rapper/singer Cee-Lo – who possesses a voice not unlike Terence Trent D'Arby and therefore also not unlike Sam Cooke.

Despite sounding like a classic Atlantic song, it samples heavily from that Italian hit of 1968 *Nel Cimitero Di Tucson* by the Reverberi Brothers (students of Ennio Morricone), which featured in the Mario Girotti spaghetti Western of the same year *Django, Prepare a Coffin* (Preparati la Bara!). That rustling sound is not a gentle breeze passing through the pages of the *Gazette*, but the sound of my anorak.

Opening a compilation album with the best song of the year so far is a brave gambit, but what do you follow it with?

Sensibly, the compilers chose Nellie Furtado's *Maneater*. Although not a cover of the 1982 Hall & Oates song of the same name, it covers the same ground albeit from a gal's – the maneater's – perspective.

The "punk-hop" track gives more than a nod in the direction of The Eurythmics *Here Comes The Rain Again*. Incidentally, Furtado – well known for *I'm Like a Bird* – has covered *Crazy* in concerts. So too have The Kooks, The Zutons, folk singer Ray LaMontagne, Paris Hilton, The Raconteurs, Billy Idol, The Academy Is... (with Schleprok of Gym Class Heroes), The Roots, Texas and The Twilight Singers.

Track 3 is *From Paris To*

Berlin, a pleasantly poppy slice of Danish dance music from Infernal. It begins like Hot Butter's *Popcorn* and ends like every Giorgio Moroder track with some rather risqué, raunchy and raspily-delivered lines by the not-unattractive Lina Rafn. There's a chap in the band, too, but who cares?

Elvis Costello – well, the anthemic Hammond organ riff from *Pump It Up* – rerecorded by the band Rogue Traders recurs through their predictably punk offering *Voodoo Child*, with vocals supplied by Neighbours actress Natalie Bassingthwaite. According to band member, James Ash, "The Sex Pistols were the biggest influence for *Voodoo Child*." Hmm...

McFly's energetic and respectful rendition of *Don't Stop Me Now* is Track 5, which is followed by Pink's *Who Knew*.

That, sadly, is the last decent track before Dirty Pretty Things' *Bang Bang You're Dead* – it sounds just like every track by The Libertines, but then, singer-songwriter Carl Barât was in The Libertines, it's hardly surprising – at 15 and Primal Scream's *Country Girl* at 19.

A trio of cynically derivative songs – the worst on the album – make up Tracks 10, 11 and 12.

Track 10, *Is It Any Wonder* by Coldplay wannabes Keane, begins with a riff taken from U2's *The Fly* from 1991; last year's great white hopes Snow Patrol lift the opening riff from U2's *Bad* to their *You're All I Have* while Razorlight's *In The Morning* borrows the stomping drums from U2's *Sunday Bloody Sunday* before sliding into sub-Franz Ferdinand territory.

The opening lyrics to Razorlight's effort are either an exercise in how to be ironic or an exercise in the art of self-criticism:

*I don't know what I'm doing wrong  
Maybe I've been here too long  
The songs on the radio sound the same...*

And singer-songwriter Johnny Borrell should know: accusations in the media that he borrows tunes, stage set ideas and even sartorial influences from other bands are legion.

The best tracks on CD 2 are *SOS* – not a cover of the ABBA song, although it uses the Soft Cell classic *Tainted Love* as its basis, even some of the lyrics – by Rihanna; *Pump It* by Black Eyed Peas; *Mas Que Nada* by Sergio Mendes featuring Black Eyed Peas and er... that's about it.

The rest, even the ones by names such as Sugarbabes, The Pussycat Dolls/Snoop Dogg, Busta Rhymes are a little flat. Not bad, just flat, although the younger ones will enjoy them all.

*Now! 64* has the same proportion of catchy tunes by forgettable artists and great songs as the very first one, but at least there are no Phil Collins tracks.

*Now That's What I Call Music! 64. EMI Records. Playing Time: From Nai Harn Beach to Sarasin Bridge and Back*

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Above: hookah enthusiast Mohamed Al-Gehiny, left, and his younger brother Medhat display two of the decorative pipes at Mohamed's Patong restaurant and shisha bar, Cairo. Right: More pipes await customers.

# HUBBLE BUBBLE

Nestled on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong, Cairo restaurant offers a watering hole within the main oasis of Phuket. The restaurant and hookah lounge allows tired and hungry travelers to relax with Arabic, Indian and Thai food, as well as puff on one of the 13 flavors of *shisha* imported from Egypt.

There are many misconceptions about hookahs and *shisha* in Thailand. To set the record straight, this smoky delicacy arose in the Middle East and is widely enjoyed in the Indian Subcontinent as well.

The pipes, or hookahs, are ornately decorated water pipes through which the smoke from *shisha*, a flavored mixture of tobacco and molasses, is drawn, passing through the base where it is filtered and cooled by the water.

The result, aficionados say, is a smooth smoking sensation that avoids the harshness of cigarettes and traditional pipes.

It is also much lower in tobacco strength because the mild tobacco is heated, not burned. No hashish or other illegal drugs are involved. It's almost like breathing in a lungful of good-tasting incense.

Perhaps the best difference between hookahs and other smoking methods is the flavors that can be incorporated into the smoke. At Cairo, grape and apple are the favorite *shisha* flavors, but orange, cappuccino, mango and a mixture of strawberry and banana are also on the menu.

Mohamed Al-Gehiny open-

ed his first hookah lounge in Cairo but, after visiting Phuket on vacation, decided the market was ripe for another restaurant as there was only one hookah lounge in Patong at the time.

Four years ago he handed over the restaurant in Egypt to one of his younger brothers and opened his first Cairo restaurant in Phuket. Three months ago he expanded to a larger, 24-hour site just down the street.

## RESTAURANTS

Both Cairo restaurants serve *halal* meat and have separate chefs for the Arabic, Indian and Thai food. Mr Al-Gehiny himself prepares the Arabic food, which includes kebabs and the most popular dish, lamb.

The restaurant also offers appetizers ranging from 100 to 200 baht, and drinks such as mint tea and Arabic coffee to accompany the hookah.

Mohamed and another of his younger brothers, Medhat, have created a relaxed atmosphere for visitors, who are primarily Qataris and Saudis. While the seats

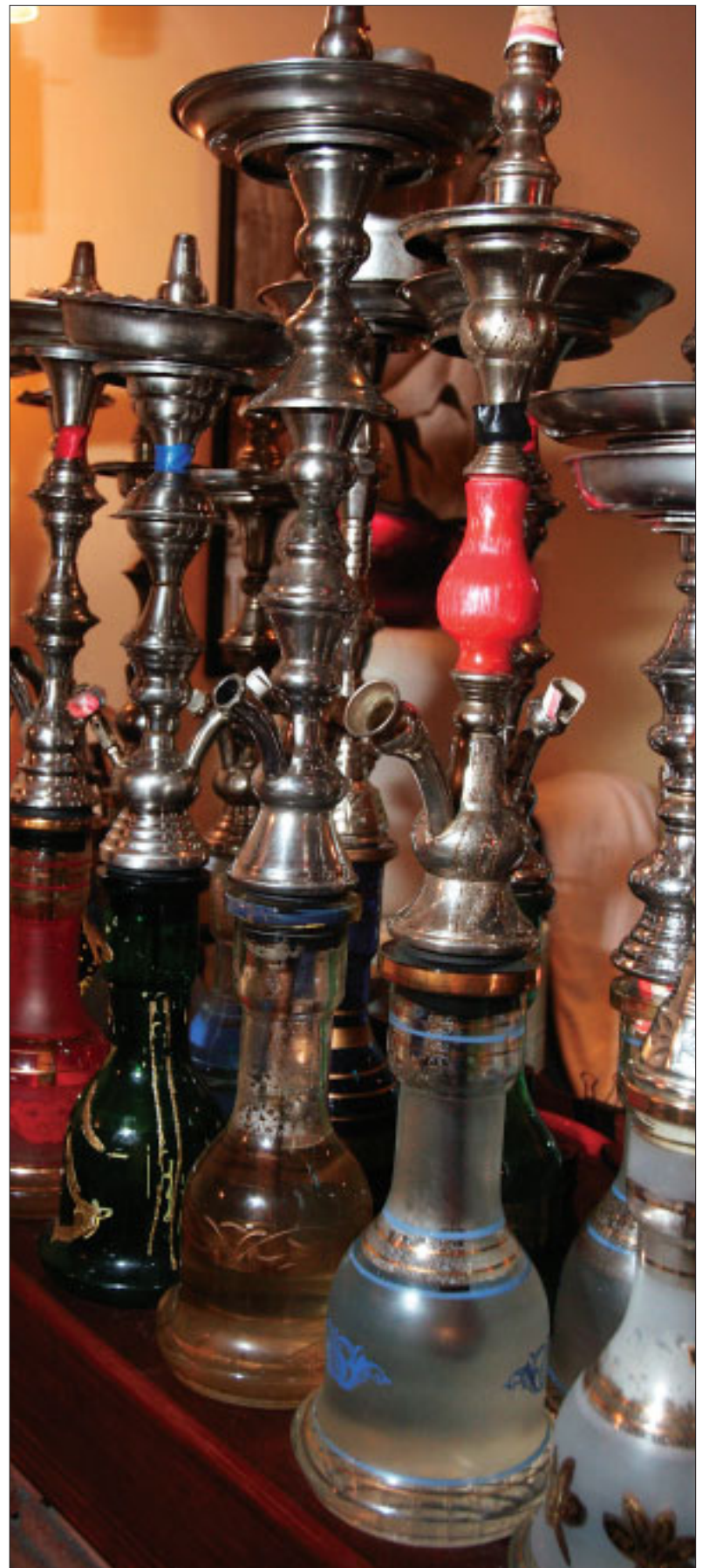
around the low tables in the middle of the room are a little too far apart for easy conversation, the cushions surrounding a TV in the far corner form a good area to enjoy a relaxing smoke.

But if Double Apple shisha is all you're looking for, Dubai Restaurant, also on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, serves many of the same Indian, Arabic and Thai foods in a smaller setting, along with hookahs, though *shisha* flavors are limited to a pple, which staff say is the most popular.

Several types of *naan* bread and *roti*, along with tandoori prawn and chicken tikka masala are served at this *halal* restaurant, with prices ranging from 60 to 200 baht for appetizers.

• **Cairo Restaurant.** 204/15 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong. Open noon to 2 am daily. Tel: 086-9466143. Also at 210 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. Open 24 hours. Tel: 084-8506475.

• **Dubai Restaurant:** 206/13 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong. Open 11 am to 1 am daily. Tel: 081-4869866.



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By Marque A. Rome

Sometimes even the best ideas take an absurdly long time to make an impression. In marine design, the lag has been more often measured in centuries than in decades. Square sails were all the rage for roughly 3,000 years – till it finally dawned on mariners during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that gaff rigs handled better in crosswinds and required far fewer crew to manage.

An aspect of boats that has hardly changed since the Athenians fought the Persians at Salamis in 480 BC is hull-shape: most boats are monohull “displacement” craft, meaning that the hull stays in the water, displacing it. With such vessels, speed is determined by length at waterline; the longer the vessel, in other words, the faster it is, up to a certain point. After that, increased power results in little – if any – increase in speed.

### IGNORED

Early last century, marine designers realized that by bringing the hull out of the water greatly increased maximum speeds. Sir John Thornycroft, while developing the first successful hydrofoils, employed a “stepped hull” to create relatively short vessels that could exceed 40 knots. Although they were used successfully during World War I, naval architects largely ignored their implications. They still do. Today, ironically, neither of the two companies associated with the Thornycroft name markets a stepped hull.

But that doesn't mean the concept is dead. In fact, its time has probably come and, amazingly, Phuket is on the cutting edge of the revolution in hull design. “You do double the speed; you have the social space of a 50-footer in a 38-footer – and for one-third the price,” said Haken Lange of the swift X-40 stepped-hull power catamaran marketed by his company, Derani Yachts, at Phuket Boat Lagoon. A typical monohull uses “two to three times the fuel” to attain the same speed, he stressed.



A fish's-eye view of a stepped-hull catamaran. The step creates a cushion of air, reducing drag.

# The shape of things to come

Sailboat and sailboard builders are also experimenting with stepped hulls. An 18.28-meter, 5.5-ton French catamaran with stepped hulls, the *Médiatis Région Aquitaine*, set a 24-hour speed record in the 60-foot solo-sailing class by traveling 585.5 nautical miles, averaging 24.39 knots, on May 19 this year in the Canary Islands.

The *Médiatis*' speed record is particularly amazing as the best 24-hour time for the fastest clipper ever built, the 243ft *Lightning* from famous Boston designer Donald Mackay, was 436 miles on a run from Boston to Liverpool in 1854. *Médiatis*' Yves Parlier went nearly half again as far, carrying only a fraction of the canvas, sailing alone.

But the real advances so far are in power boat design: at 40 knots, a stepped hull's coefficient of drag is a quarter of that of a displacement hull; and 40 knots is just scratching the surface. Some power cats with stepped hulls reach nearly 160 knots – which should be no surprise as flying boat designers have always employed the stepped hull to get

their craft out of the water and into the air. It was the stepped hull that gave flying boats their unique appearance. The design only partly resembled a boat, and the stepped hull was why.

In the forefront of stepped hull development is North Sea Boats, whose X-40 power catamaran with single stepped hull and dual Suzuki four-stroke outboards aims to revolutionize Phuket boating – and the exclusive dealer in Asia is Phuket's own Derani Yachts.

Started in 2002 by Swede John Lundin and located in Banyuwangi on the eastern tip of Java, North Sea is in the final stages of building the X-40, designed by Swedish company Marine Dynamics. The 38ft craft is expected to weigh in at about five tonnes.

According to Lange of Derani Yachts, the typical V-shaped 50ft monohull powerboat requires 1,200hp and uses 160 to 180 liters of fuel an hour to travel at 25 knots. The X-40, on the other hand, will use perhaps 60L while traveling at 30 knots.

The trick to the stepped

hull's success is that the step leaves it riding largely on a cushion of air, thus minimizing “sticking” in the water. “If you reach your hand down [towards the stepped section] during operation, you'll feel it sucking air in,” observed Hamann.

The X2K, for example, planes on just three sections totaling perhaps 1.5 meters of hull length; the rest of the hull, fore and aft, is out of the water. Strakes along the hull, notched transom and pad keel, facilitate stability while allowing elevated drive heights “without sacrificing control, low-end torque or mid-range pulling power.”

The stepped bottom has other less obvious advantages: “With a traditional hull shape,” said Lange, “shallow channels can present a big problem.” That's because the propellers, normally, are the deepest part of the vessel.

With a stepped hull, however, the forward step is the deepest point; so, by fitting a hydraulic “jack plate” on the boat, the propellers can be lifted vertically and thus remain clear of the bottom while still providing full directional power.

Raising the engines higher in the water offers a significant fuel saving. Generally, a one-inch rise gives another ¾ knot in speed; and a three-to-four knot gain can be achieved by trimming the boat properly.

Fuel advantage is important: the yacht market in East Asia thus far “is probably 80:20 in favor of powerboats,” said Lange, adding however that the figure “may change” owing to rising fuel prices. “I think we're lucky to have the X-40 and X2K now,” he said. The 34ft X2K, already in production, is a double-stepped monohull and comes in dive boat,

sport boat and armed patrol boat configurations and is capable of 51 knots using two Suzuki 250hp four-stroke outboards.

The top model X-40 will use new, lightweight 300hp V6 Suzukis with stainless-steel, counter-rotating propellers and “fly-by-wire steering”. Both feature ultra-light, multi-layered, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) construction, with carbon-fiber strengthening and balsa wood core.

North Sea Boats' “sandwich” construction reduces weight by some 63%, while increasing panel stiffness “and maximizing hull integrity in the event of a collision.” The X-40 uses the latest “core infusion technology” from materials supplier DIAB, a leading firm in resin infusion and vacuum production systems, which reduces weight and increases strength by 25% compared with more conventional techniques.

### EFFICIENT

The Suzukis are among the most efficient boat engines produced. “Two-strokes have a near monopoly [powering tourist speedboats] in Phuket,” said Derani Chief Mechanic Markus Hamann, “but they are expensive to operate, noisy and smoky.”

Ease of repair and availability of parts have sustained their popularity, but the fuel penalty looks sure to take its toll in the near future.

Four-strokes are roughly 40% more economical at cruising speed, and a whopping 70% more economical at idle, as tourist boats often are. A 140hp Suzuki four-stroke ekes 2.11 kilometers from a liter of fuel at 4,500 RPM, while its two-stroke counterpart makes just 1.29km – a difference speedboat operators will ignore at their cost.

In response to a controversy over fast rescue boats, the Swedish Sea Rescue Society, which maintains 57 rescue stations around Sweden, decided that the new X-40 cat was the safest boat in the water, putting paid to speculation in some quarters that stepped hulls are less stable than displacement hulls. “The highest rating ever awarded before was a 4,” said Lange, “but our new catamaran received all 5s [on the five-point scale].”

Other than the Swedes' fast rescue boats, the X-40 catamaran will be made only in Java and be easily available only in the East. “The X2K fits into a container,” said Lange, and thus can be shipped anywhere. “But the X-40 is a little too wide...” Thus for the foreseeable future, Phuket is likely to be the best place to pick up one of the revolutionary US\$200,000 craft.

Imagine if you can: Phuket – where boat builders still make wooden speedboats (artfully disguised as fiberglass) – in the forefront of marine design. Who knows? Maybe, with scads of svelte new X-40s doing donuts around them, even the island's longtail operators will be inspired to step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## Spa MAGIC



By Janyaporn  
Morel

### Patong Medical Spa

**A**s I drove up to the Patong Medical Spa I wondered whether I had come to the right place.

Marketing executive Worranart "Kung" Phomjan had invited me to review the spa, but instead of a spa located at a pleasant hotel or tourist location, I was looking at the outside of a clinic behind Patong Hospital.

Without the sign that read "Patong Medical Spa", I would have mistaken it for one of the other buildings in the complex.

After I had entered the building, however, all my doubts were assuaged.

The interior of the building was filled with a beautiful aroma and flowers decorated the tables.

I was handed a wet towel soaked with lemon grass scent and a fresh blue drink made from flowers of the butterfly pea plant and pandanus leaves.

By the deep-sea color of the drink I expected it to be salty, but it proved to be sweet instead.

K. Kung introduced me to Siriwat "Ae" Choorat, a Thai Ayurvedic therapist. K. Ae explained that the spa initially offered only traditional Thai treatments and had just one masseur, but in December last year was expanded to include spa beauty and relaxation treatments.

The spa, managed by Sawasdee Spa Co Ltd with cooperation from Patong Hospital, was opened with the main purpose of treating patients and relaxing them.

"We have separated the spa section from the rehabilitation section, but we still work together to treat patients who need physical therapy. Some of the treatments can be combined with modern medicine, though we try to avoid patients having to take too many drugs, and offer them a choice of alternative treatments instead," K. Ae said.

The spa bases many of the treatments on what kind of person you are according to the four primary elements – earth, wind, fire, water. Your type is determined not by the month you were born, but the month you were conceived. I was born in January so nine months previous would be April, which makes me a fire person.

Each of the elements has a

# HOSPITALIZED



Thai traditional massage is just one of the treatments offered at the Patong Medical Spa.

different scent and combination of essential oils associated with it. The oil for earth element is made from kaffir lime, lemon grass and Borneo camphor leaves, which will help the body relax and feel confident.

The oil for the water element is made from orange and lemon essential oils to help to refresh the body. The wind element uses essential oils made from ginger, clove, licorice and kaffir lime to help cleanse the body.

And for the fire element, the essential oil is made from jasmine and rose, which help to relieve stress.

The spa has about 20 employees, including three Ayurvedic specialists, an acupuncturist and eight therapists for both Thai traditional treatments and the spa section.

"Our customers are mainly patients from the hospital. We check with the patient's doctor before offering any treatment. We do not give massages to people who recently drank alcohol or to anyone suffering from cancer because a massage improves circulation, and cancer cells and toxins will move more easily through the entire body," said K. Ae.

"Our spa also aims to educate customers about their health. While they come here expecting only a spa and massage, we also advise them on how to exercise according to which element that person represents, and we can also give them a diet based on their date of birth," he added.

After slipping into something more comfortable in the ladies' changing room, complete with a steam room, sauna and toilets – K. Kung told me that the spa also has the same facilities for men – I began my treatment in the foot treatment area.

K. Nok, one of the therapists at the spa, began cleaning my feet using spa salt and a bowl of warm water with rose petals and slices of kaffir lime.

"Cleaning and scrubbing the feet helps blood circulation and makes guests feel more comfortable before the treatment," K. Kung said.

She explained that most of the spa products used are made at the spa, and all are made from natural ingredients.

Next I was taken to the foot reflexology area, where my feet were examined to determine if I suffered from any internal health problems. Jarus Taenkeaw, a traditional Thai masseur who has been working in reflexology for

seven years, started the examination by pressing his fingers into the soles of my feet, which he said would allow him to detect future health problems.

"The feet are the focus of the internal organs; all of the organs are represented by points on the feet. For example, the left side has the focal points for the heart, kidney and bladder, and the right

side shows the condition of the pancreas," K. Jarus said.

Good news: I have no serious ailments, though I should drink more water to keep my kidneys and bladder in good order.

Next was my aromatherapy massage with oils for a "fire" person such as myself.

The therapist started by applying the oils to my legs and then my back. After my back was done she told me to turn over and again she applied the oils, this time to my arms and chest. She ended by massaging my head, which made me feel very relaxed.

The spa has eight different treatment packages, all served with Thai herbal tea and snacks. Prices range from 1,200 baht to 3,500 baht. The one-hour foot reflexology treatment cost 900 baht, and the 90-minute aromatherapy massage cost 1,100 baht.

I left the spa feeling fully relaxed; the tension from my long work week was gone. And although some parts of my feet were still feeling a little sore, I told myself that it was better to know what ails my inner self might have been suffering.

*Patong Medical Spa. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 8:30 pm. For more information call Tel: 076-344855 ext 175 or visit [www.patonghospital.com/mb/](http://www.patonghospital.com/mb/)*



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Puzzles

### Spot the Difference



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



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

EACV

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.

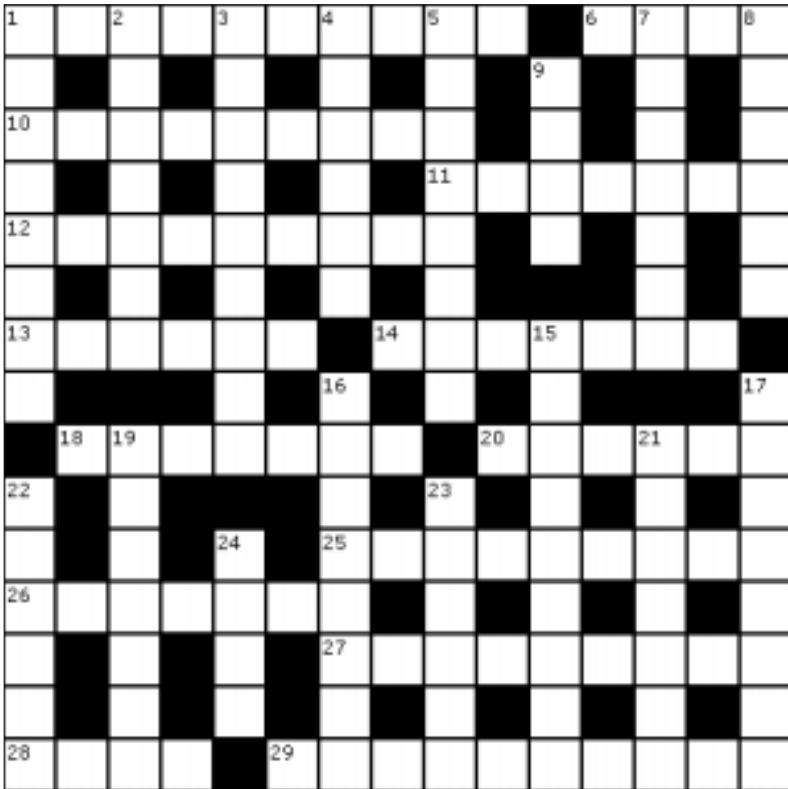
# The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

- Cheer inn to make muddled. (10)
- Strike breaker’s wound covering. (4)
- Widening divorcée with cooking utensils and particle. (9)
- Tempts medical specialty with summer coolers. (7)
- Before the cardinal, I make depression for leader. (9)
- In Virginia, what to do with laurels. (4,2)
- Thickness of lair town, they say. (7)
- Gives way to belt parts. (7)
- In poor writing, direction for swimming style. (6)
- Without fire, without peer. (9)
- Inn fury leads to artillery bombardment. (7)
- Argue to change Kate, so to speak. (9)
- Home to two points of the street. (4)
- News-bearers, oddly, sense germs. (10)

DOWN


- Clumsy in the formerly saucy. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

- Crisp, he makes numbers. (7)
- Product of efforts sounds useful for the job. (9)
- “Train guide,” Ed ranted. (6)
- Less than 20, mix six directions with it. (8)
- Game insect. (7)
- Ordered Des to moan back. (6)
- Apparently, court orders hotel. (4)
- For a sweetener, reorder China cars. (9)
- Trickle through for me, consumed. (8)
- 100 desire queens in tight groups. (8)
- United Nations doctors take directions to disrobe. (7)
- Hail fashion that’s nothing special. (7)
- Zero swamp returns to evil elf. (6)
- Says cardinal can be seen in the numbers. (6)
- Beach back at a thousand. (4)

### Scribble Space



### EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

- Who was King of Siam from 1851 to 1868?
- What are the names of the three Powerpuff Girls?
- In the 1976 remake of *King Kong*, the giant ape climbs which New York City building?
- Which US university has sports teams known as the Jayhawks?
- Ted Kaczynski was better known by what FBI code name?

- Which is the longest river in Asia?
- Where is the Sea of Tranquillity?
- Pluto was recently downgraded to what status?
- What is the most important document in Judaism?
- Which board game was invented in the early 1950s by the French movie director Albert Lamorisse?

Answers on next page

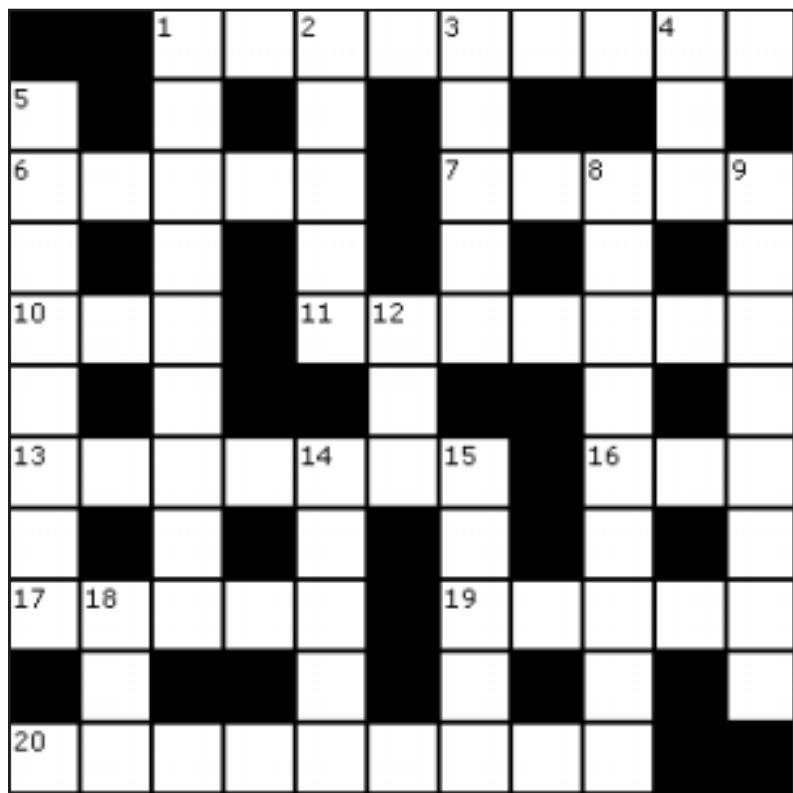
### Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with ‘start’.  
What are they?

- Male red deer.
- Acidic.
- Move quickly.
- Leave.
- Skill.
- Center.
- Impertinent.
- Unemployed actor’s need.
- Philosopher.
- Wound medal.

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

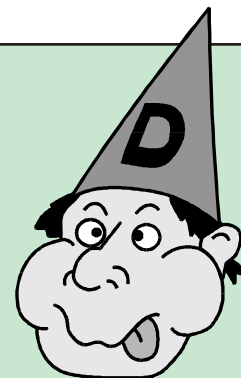
1. Full of elaborate detail.
6. Escapade.
7. Homer's Trojan tale.
10. Rowing tool.
11. Milk product.
13. Away from the wind.
16. Dreadful row.
17. The same again.
19. Eight-piece musical ensemble.
20. Dodges.

### DOWN

1. Flawed.
2. Topsy partner.
3. Cake topping.
4. Beverage.
5. Trained.
8. Flood.
9. Set off explosion.
12. Belonging to us.
14. Tiny particles.
15. Male bees.
18. Three, in Roman times.

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 seminal TV series, directed by Michael Mann, first aired on September 16, 1984?
2. Which British glam rock singer died in a car crash September 16, 1977?
3. What was his band's final hit single?
4. Which Netherlands-born British businessman initiated The Eden Project in Cornwall?
5. Which botanical gardens did he "find"?
6. Who created the first-person computer shooter game *Counter Strike*?
7. The evil Dr Hans Reinhardt commanded which space vessel in the Disney film *The Black Hole*?
8. Cathédrale Saint-Front, one of the World Heritage Sites of the Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France, is in which commune?
9. Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia are the three fictional states in which 1948 novel?
10. Where is Momchil Peak located?
11. "Half of what I say is meaningless, but I say it so that the other half may reach you" is from which poem by which Lebanese writer?
12. The line above was adapted by John Lennon to become the opening lines to which Beatles' song?
13. Ralph and Piggy are two of the main protagonists in which 1954 novel?
14. Shinji Hirako is a character from which manga series?
15. What sort of creature is the *Elaphe flavolineata*?
16. Who invented the spinning jenny, the multi-spool spinning wheel?
17. In which country is the province of Töv?
18. Who wrote the plays *Black Mischief*, *Equus* and *Amadeus*?
19. What, in kelvins, is the Curie point of nickel?
20. Through which university's grounds does the River Kelvin run?

Answers below, left

# Puzzle Solutions

### EZ Trivia Answers

1. HM King Mongkut (Rama IV); 2. Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup; 3. The World Trade Center; 4. University of Kansas; 5. The Unabomber; 6. The Yangtze River in China; 7. On the moon; 8. Dwarf planet; 9. The Torah; 10. Risk.

### Monster Quiz Answers

1. *Miami Vice*; 2. Marc Bolan; 3. *Celebrate Summer/Ride My Wheels*; 4. Tim Smit; 5. The Lost Gardens of Heligan; 6. Minh "Gooseman" Le and Jess Cliffe; 7. *The USS Cygnus*; 8. Périgueux; 9. 1984; 10. In the Breznik Heights (Brezhnev Heights), Greenwich Island, Antarctica; 11. *Sand and Foam* by Gibran Khalil Gibran; 12. *Julia*; 13. *The Lord of the Flies*; 14. *Bleach*; 15. A snake; 16. James Hargreaves; 17. Mongolia; 18. Peter Shaffer; 19. 627K (353.85°C); 20. The University of Glasgow.

### Rhyme Time Answers

1. Hart; 2. Tart; 3. Dart; 4. Depart; 5. Art; 6. Heart; 7. Smart; 8. Part; 9. Descartes; 10. Purple heart.

### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



### Cryptic Crossword



### Quick Crossword



### Sudoku





Chris Patten is best known as the last British governor of Hong Kong. For five years, he made a name for himself as a staunch defender of democracy against an obtuse and overbearing Chinese communist government. A former Tory politician, he took the side of the people of Hong Kong with wit and flair and staunch conviction.

Beginning in 1999, he took up another five-year post at the EU as European Commissioner for External Affairs. *Not Quite the Diplomat* (Penguin Books, London, 2005-2006, 329pp) is his story of those years, and a damnation of the current American leadership.

A main theme is that just when the world most needs American leadership, the country has run off the rails. After World War II, the US led the formerly fractious countries of Western Europe into peaceful union through the Marshall Plan, NATO, the Treaty of Rome. But now their teacher has wandered off on a solitary power-drunk path.

"Is not the real thing we need to know simply this – does America still believe in the world she created, and encouraged, and led the rest of us (to our vast benefit) to accept? (...) So under

# Somewhat undiplomatic



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

American tutelage, we in Europe turned our backs on the bellicose, nationalist politics of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and through our own modes of cooperation – imperfect, sometimes clumsy, even vainglorious – are now bent on coping with the problems of the twenty-first.

"Meanwhile, America seems intent on going back to the politics of the century we were previously urged to abandon. Back to gun-slinging Teddy Roosevelt ... with precision-guided missiles. Is that past to be all our futures, or can we now, by greater European exertion, help to avoid it and save our great friend from herself?"

Another issue he tackles is

Great Britain's identity and its role in the EU. Patten asserts that modern British identity is based on Winston Churchill and the victory the country enjoyed in World War II.

He also has high marks for Margaret Thatcher. Though he finds that she got a lot wrong, he ends up judging her as a force for good. Her successor, John Major, was not Margaret Thatcher – "Two in a row might have been terminally exhausting" – but Patten credits him for being a nice man. "To be absolutely honest, John Major is certainly one of the nicest men I have ever met and arguably the nicest prime minister in my political life."

Plenty of politicians aren't, and Patten delights in offering up thumbnail portraits of those he despises. Take France's Jacques Chirac:

"Observing President Chirac provided hours of innocent

entertainment: he is to body language what Shakespeare is to the spoken word. Like President Mitterand before him, he usually made a point of arriving late, surrounded by saturnine courtiers ... Part emperor, part ham."

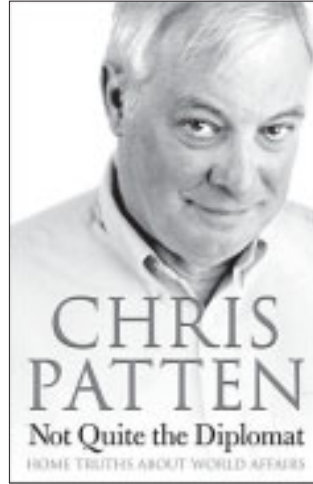
Describing President Putin of Russia at an EU meeting in Helsinki, he writes:

"We knew that Putin was lying. He knew that we knew he was lying. He did not give a damn, and we all let him get away with it."

In contrast to his dislike of Bush, Patten exposes himself as a complete and dogmatic believer in the integrity of Bush's closest ally, Tony Blair.

But Patten doesn't have all bad things to say about US leadership. In fact, he is a big fan of former President Bill "Bubba" Clinton.

"I have met some people in politics whose choice of career has surprised me: they clearly do



## PHUKET DIARY

[www.phuketgazette.net/calendar](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

### September 16: International Cleanup Day dive.

The Phuket Dive Society is calling on volunteers to mark the Year of the Turtle by joining a cleanup of dive sites off Koh Khai Nok and Koh Hei, also known as Coral Island, on International Cleanup Day, September 16.

Leaving Chalong Pier at 9 am, divers will remove debris known to be harmful to sea turtles and other marine creatures.

Last year the group staged a cleanup off Koh Racha, where nearly 800 kilograms of rubbish was collected. Before the tsunami, the group collected more than 1,000 kg of trash in a single day.

In conjunction with this year's event, the Phuket Marine Biological Center will install mooring buoys at Koh Khai Nok to encourage boat operators to protect the underwater environment by using moorings instead of anchors.

All divers must confirm participation in the cleanup and their equipment requirements before September 14. They will also be required to bring their dive certification card.

Drinks and meals will be free. A full set of rented diving equipment will cost 500 baht.

For more information, or to join the event, contact phuket.diver@gmail.com or contact Dive Asia (Kata), Sea Bees (Chalong), Sea Fun Divers (Kata Noi) or Westcoast Divers (Patong), all of whose contact details appear in the *Gazette Guide* and the *Gazette Online* at: <http://www.phuketgazette.net/guide/index.asp>

### September 24: Ramadhan.

Beginning of Ramdhan fast period. Muslim holiday.

### September 30: 7th Phuket International Beer Festival.

This year The Phuket Inter-

national Beer Fest will take place on the opening day of Munich Oktoberfest. The venue? Where else but Watermark Bar Restaurant at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina.

It is a festival that involves drinking copious quantities of the amber nectar; to avoid it seeming a mere slosh-up, it is loosely disguised as a competition. A competition of beer hyping, heckling, drinking & sloppy judging.

Entry fee: 800 baht, includes 12 beers. Entry registration: [www.watermarkphuket.com](http://www.watermarkphuket.com)

### October 14: Wine Tasting Event.

Wine Connection again welcomes the Paso Del Sol and Ter-

ra Mater winemakers from Chile from 7 pm to 10 pm. On this special occasion, we will be trying their latest vintages.

Six wine tastings, an hors d'oeuvre buffet and live music all for 350 baht.

Please join us in welcoming the guys from Chile. Hope to see you here; it will be an exceptional evening.

For more information call Paul Clark at Tel: 076-282411 ext 16.

### October 22: 2nd Phuket International Mountain Beach Marathon.

Full 42-km marathon, half-marathon, mini-marathon and 5km fun run/walk.

There are special hotel

not like people very much. But there was no questioning why Bill Clinton was a politician: he loved us all to bits, all God's children. Big, beefy, brainy – he could not get enough of people."

Now contrast Clinton to the neo-con creeps surrounding George W Bush. One example picked out in the book is John Bolton, US ambassador to the UN.

"Mr Bolton is the Pavarotti of neoconservatism; his views have taken the roof off chancelleries around the globe. For him there is no United Nations, there is only one nation that counts. Cooperation is for sissies."

Many issues facing the EU – the admission of Turkey, Eastern Europe, education reform – force Patten the policy wonk to bloviate, but his fun writing style prevents the book from becoming mired in the mundane.

His conclusion is heartfelt and optimistic: the next century will not be an American century, but will instead belong to all mankind.

"It will be a century dominated by the values that American history enshrines and that American leadership at its best embodies and defends without bragging or blustering: democracy, pluralism, enterprise and the rule of law."

packages, with 2-5 star hotels, especially for participants in this event.

Along with food and drinks we also will have raffle draws with prizes such as hotel stays, dinners at restaurants and bar vouchers, and much, much more.

For information contact K. Jeerasak at Tel: 081-8912663 or by email to: [info@katakaron.com](mailto:info@katakaron.com)

### October 22-30: Vegetarian Festival.

This nine-day festival is renowned for its colorful, noisy processions and Chinese temple ceremonies during which *mah song* (mediums) pierce their faces with a variety of sharp objects while "possessed" by Chinese gods.

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- Since 1994 -

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## Not everything must change

Every year in August, experts from Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) offices worldwide converge at a luxury hotel, usually in Bangkok, for a self-proclaimed 'brainstorming session' aimed at creating the TAT's Marketing Activity Plan (MAP) for the coming year.

One of the less-than-surprising results of this year's meeting of the minds was the unveiling of the TAT's latest marketing slogan: *Thailand Unforgettable*, which the TAT says it plans to run for "at least" three years.

*Thailand Unforgettable* is actually *not* a typo; it's just the latest addition to a long-running list of nebulous branding buzzphrases that include *Happiness on Earth*, *Unseen Paradise*, *Amazing Thailand*, *Treasure of the Kingdom* and many more.

*Thailand Unforgettable*, which seems to have sprung from the same noun-before-adjective fountain of errors that gave the English language "taxi-meter" and "bar beer", contains a potentially humorous double entendre, as pointed out by Phuket Tourism Association Vice-President Panu Maswongsa [see Inside Story, pages 4 and 5].

However, smiles will turn to frowns when Thais consider that this slogan will feature in the TAT's latest overseas advertising campaign, a black hole into which their taxes flow.

And, like previous attempts, it will likely fall far short of Malaysia's simple yet effective *Truly Asia*, which successfully branded the multi-ethnic country's many attractions without leaving room for misunderstandings or cynical comment.

Unfortunately, the only Thais who will get a chance to see how the TAT is squandering their tax baht will be those wealthy enough to afford UBC TV, where TAT ads now appear as controversial "pass throughs", which the government has actively tried, without success, to block the network from showing.

Whatever the case, K. Panu is correct to point out that it is difficult for tourism businesses here in Phuket to do much with the TAT's never-ending series of re-branding exercises. Much like the football team forced to play under a new manager every year, there is not enough time to adapt to the new regime before it is changed again – and again.

Branding is important in a market full of basically similar products. But Phuket's remarkable post-tsunami recovery has proved beyond doubt that all the inaccurate, negative press in the world can't destroy the attractiveness of this unique destination, whose fundamental allure remains intact. Can't the same be said of Thailand generally?

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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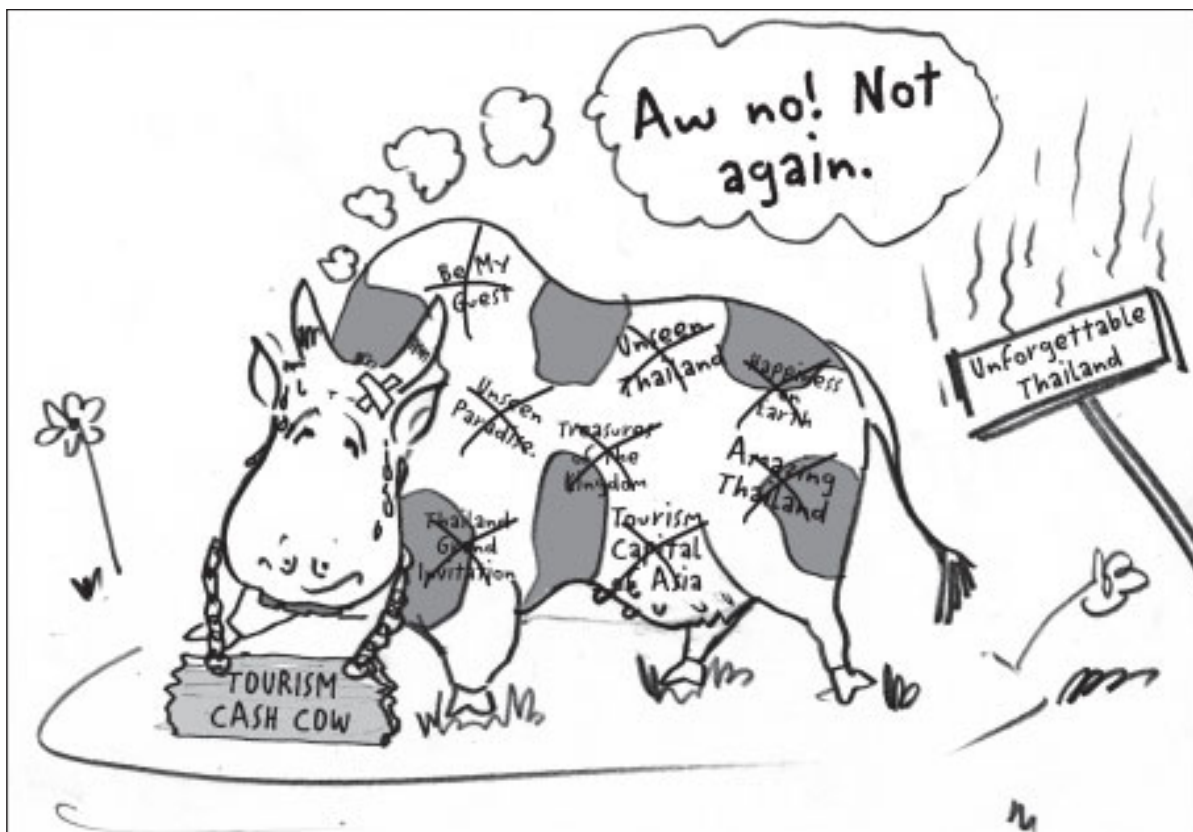
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## Letters

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

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

### Card sharps

I, too, have recently returned from Phuket and have fallen victim to a fraudster.

I used my debit card on only five occasions and I am confident that it was not the tailor, Ocean Plaza shoe department or the restaurant that took my money, so that narrows it down to the two occasions I accessed the ATM near the Horizon Beach and Holiday Inn Hotels, where I withdrew cash.

My bank in Australia detected what they thought was unauthorized activity and promptly contacted me. Immediately following that discussion the bank canceled the card, thereby stopping any further damage from being done.

What I have learned from the experience is to be careful where I use my cards and to check balances regularly to ensure that withdrawals are in line with known spending patterns.

John Dedman  
Perth, Australia

### Clone card con causes concern

I have read in the *Gazette* over the past few weeks about the problems that residents and tourists have had with credit card fraud.

Even the most diligent individual can become a victim. This is because cloning machines can be very discreet and it takes only a second to swipe a card through a cloning machine set up next to the genuine payment device for a card holder to become a victim.

I would like to suggest a simple method that I follow to

reduce to a minimum the risk of becoming a victim.

When I want to pay for any item by credit card – whether it be a tour, a computer printer at my local department store or food at my local restaurant – I decide what I want, then walk to an ATM and draw the cash from my credit card to pay for it.

This incurs a 2.5% cash advance fee from my credit card company, but I feel this is a small price to pay to know that the only person "swiping" my card is me.

Greg Richardson  
Patong

*Readers should be aware that there have been cases in Phuket of "skimming" of card details at ATMs.*

*A device installed in the card slot reads the card details, while the PIN number is harvested either by someone standing in the queue behind the user, or by a miniature camera.*

*It pays to change PIN numbers frequently.* – Editor

### Red light spells danger – for all

I'm writing in regard to the letter from SS in Chalong (*Gazette* issue of September 9) about the traffic lights on Chao Fa West Rd.

A friend of mine was recently involved in an accident at that junction, where you have to be ultra observant to notice the traffic lights at all. My friend was on a motorbike with her young nephew when she stopped at the junction at a red light. A pickup truck followed behind, but the driver, not seeing the lights and not seeing my friend at all – in bright daylight at that – crashed into her rear. It sent both the motorbike

and people flying; A few broken bones, but thankfully that was all.

But when the authorities consider doing something vaguely considerate, they have to consider whether it will catch on, because if some people do follow the system and some are ignorant of it, then what is the point? And as SS said, maybe it's not worth risking one's life to follow the rules.

Others will not, and I might end up putting my life in danger, just like my friend.

Mayrene Chester  
Wichit

### Answer from SFX is no answer at all

The reply from the Manager of SFX Cinema Coliseum in Bangkok was the lamest I have seen ("Inappropriate cinema previews", Issues & Answers, *Phuket Gazette*, issue of July 1).

The writer complained about excessive violence in movie previews shown before children's movies at the SFX cinema.

He asked why there seemed to be no policy to match previews and commercials with the age rating of the main feature being shown.

The manager simply replied that SFX does not have a specific policy on advertisements or previews shown before films, and that all advertisements and previews are checked by the Censor's Department of the Royal Thai Police before they can be screened.

So, in short, SFX has no concept of responding to its customers' concerns. Just do your own preview rating.

Petter Hallonen  
Phuket

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



# Dive industry overwhelmed and confused by new rules

**T**he new regulations are a good thing, we should have rules to control dive operators – but the government shouldn't have double standards. These rules should not be applied only in Phuket, but also in Krabi, Phang Nga, Surat Thani or even nationwide, because it is not only Phuket that has dive businesses.

In addition, the regulations should come from a central authority, otherwise dive operators who want less regulation can register their businesses somewhere else in Thailand.

However, this is apparently a pilot project being launched in Phuket. It is a positive development but lacks input from related organizations, especially from dive operators.

The regulations are apparently aimed at protecting the environment, but the information the government wants us to give is not related to environmental protection. The aims stated by the government do not match with what the regulations will require us to do.

We had heard that the new regulations would include practical steps for environmental protection, such as having dive operators join beach and underwater cleanups, take all their garbage back with them from dive sites and dispose of engine oil properly, but in all of these we already comply with the rules laid down by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

We often do things to help protect the environment; on September 16 we are having a cleanup day at Koh Hei.

We also do other projects that help promote marine tourism in Thailand, such as staging dive site cleanups and promoting these all over the world. These measures improve Thailand's image abroad.

Many operators have said

**D**ive operators in Phuket have until September 30 to register their businesses at Phuket Marine Office in compliance with controversial new dive rules that require dive operators to report extensive business information each month to the provincial government.

Those that do not comply stand to lose their operator's license.

**Pragon Geatgun**, Vice-President of the Thailand Diving Association (TDA), here raises the dive operators' concerns and offers suggestions on how the new regulations might be improved to the benefit of all people involved.

## FIRST PERSON



they can comply with the new regulations, but have complained that it will not be easy. We will have to report the number of tourist bookings. Sometimes bookings are made at the last minute, so the numbers will not always be accurate. Also, if we have to file reports all the time, operators will have to hire an extra person just to cope with the increased workload.

The new regulations also include redundant requirements. For example, we now must register with the provincial government the documents issued to us

by the TAT proving we are registered as well as documents issued to us by the Excise Department proving we have paid tax. We were already required to comply with many government regulations which were complicated enough.

To an outsider it may seem that dive businesses make a huge amount of money, but actually there are very high costs, including boat maintenance, salaries and the expensive dive equipment we have to buy and maintain.

From my experience, we earn a lot of income, but we have to pay out a lot, too. If any dive operator can make 10%-15% net profit from their income, then that business is doing very well and must be very good at marketing.

The new regulations will cause added costs, which will be passed on to customers, who might then choose to visit other diving destinations, such as the Bahamas or Australia because we are not the most beautiful diving destination in the world.

Before we were in the top 10 diving destinations in the world, but now we're not because we have not done any-

thing new. The Australian government, for example, set up a government agency solely to take care of the dive industry.

We already pay a lot to the government and the new regulations just confuse us and make us feel like it is very difficult to be in this business. Other countries are watching what's happening here but they do not fully understand. News in the *Phuket Gazette* is watched worldwide and many people are asking what is going on with the diving industry in Thailand now.

The new regulations have caused a slowdown in investment because potential investors are not sure about the situation. Even existing dive operators have delayed their expansion plans.

This is causing a recession in the dive tour industry.

If we want to help the dive industry we should support Thai operators because they are disadvantaged in language, though we must also accept that the dive industry needs foreign instructors and dive masters because it is a special business.

Diving requires high safety standards, and almost all learners want to be taught in their native language. This makes them feel

safer and is one of the reasons why we have to hire foreign dive masters and instructors.

Temporary work permits should be issued to dive masters and instructors who come to teach for three months. The government can collect tax on their income and fees from their registration, and dive operators will not need to modify their companies or invest more money in hiring Thais just to get permission to hire more foreigners.

In addition, many foreigners want to come to Thailand to complete a dive master or instructor course, but we don't have a "student visa" for them.

If there were, the TDA could organize student exchanges with many countries for people to come study for diving qualifications here.

The government should also be involved in regulating dive course standards. There should be one agency set up to check and respond to problems.

The TDA and its members plan to suggest to the provincial government to postpone the enforcement of the new regulations.

Many companies are confused and are not sure whether or not they can stay in this business. This is causing major concerns as high season is rapidly approaching.

The new regulations should have input from dive operators. They want to share their ideas and want some help from the government. For example, they would like the government to help come up with solutions to problems facing the dive industry. They also want the provincial government to set up a "one-stop" service center and to enforce the new regulations throughout the Andaman provinces.

I would like the Governor to postpone the introduction of the new rules until the province has revised them and dive operators have had the chance to make their suggestions to the government.

We are currently forming a petition. We agree with the idea of taking better care of the environment, but we need to work together with the government. The TDA is willing to be the mediator and offer suggestions to the government about which rules need to be revised.

I think this would improve the government's image in that the new rules would be drafted with input from every side.

We want the government to review the new rules. Although the TDA agrees with them, we want them to be clearer and acceptable to everyone.

## How do I register a go-cart?

I imported a go-cart from Shanghai through Bangkok and paid all duties. What documentation do I need and how do I register it for use in Thailand?

It is for my personal use while I am in Koh Pha Ngan.

It has EEC certification for road use but, obviously, this would not be valid in Thailand. Hopefully you can help me with this.

Barrie Singer

Charnchai Chartsiri, Chief of

## Issues & ANSWERS

### Vehicle Quality Checking, replies:

"The Department of Land Transport, Ministry of Transport, does not permit the use of such vehicles on the road. You can use it in your personal area such as a golf course, resort or farm. If you drive it on a public road you may be fined or arrested.

"You need the documents to prove that it was imported legally, and that you have paid the import taxes, but you do not need to register it."

Other countries are watching what's happening here, but they do not fully understand.



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You can look forward to some golden moments this week. The person who has captured your heart has a surprise up their sleeve; if your birthday falls during the coming days, expect to receive a present more romantic than your wildest dreams. Practical matters bring you briefly down to earth midweek. Thursday is the best day for successful appointments concerning finances. The color sapphire blue brings luck.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Trouble can be avoided this weekend by taking the buffalo by the horns and confronting someone you suspect of plotting against you. If you find it difficult to make demands you will receive astral support on Sunday. Reflect on past mistakes before embarking on a new romantic voyage. Financial security appears to be getting nearer, but there is one more obstacle to overcome.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): If you took sensible advice recently, life should be running more smoothly. If you insist on pushing yourself to the limit you are asking for burnout; there's no reason why you can't offload at least one responsibility in order to devote more time to relaxation. Leo is ready to show serious interest – don't reject this until you've thought things through properly. The number 8 can bring luck this Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Preserving your own identity while getting more involved with another person will prove to be a challenge. From now until the end of this month, you should focus on reaching sustainable compromises to give this relationship a chance of working. At work, new possibilities are about to be revealed; the only question is how much effort you are prepared to make.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A shopping spree is forecast for this weekend. You could easily spend more than you can realistically afford. If this sounds like you, leave your credit card at home. It's too soon to tell whether a new colleague at work is playing fair, but keep any suspicions to yourself for the time being. Gemini is attached, no matter how much they flaunt a single status.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Some soul-searching should show you that your recent actions have not been entirely honest. If you would like to maintain your good reputation you are strongly advised to come clean. The person concerned will respect this gesture and you will feel better after doing so. A long walk on the beach will clear your head this weekend and could lead to an interesting meeting. Wear the color amber to soothe stress.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you feel stuck in a rut, spicing up your style is recommended; the image you've been projecting is not conducive to attracting exciting company. If you're already involved with someone, they will jump at the chance to help with a makeover. If you are single you will find the right help where you least expect it. Money matters look healthier, with cash predicted to flow your way on Monday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your luck in love hasn't been good lately, but all this is about to change – someone you thought had other fish to fry reveals that this is not the case. Business, however, will be subject to ups and downs until the end of September. Don't allow the gloomy atmosphere to get you down too much; concentrate instead on taking small steps and wait until later in the year before expecting to leap ahead.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Positive days lie ahead for you. Your social life sparkles and there is real opportunity to fulfill your dreams of marketing your creativity. On Tuesday Aries needs careful handling when there is pressure at work to bite off more than you can digest. Make your feelings known politely rather than emulating a bull in a china shop. The number 5 can bring good fortune this Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): A sudden outburst from your partner clouds the weekend. You are advised to listen sympathetically, rather than storm off. Your confidence at work pays dividends; an important agreement will be signed towards the end of next week. Changes in your living situation are brewing; the chance to move to a more desirable residence is about to pop up. Don't leave travel arrangements to the last minute.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Pooling resources is the only way to get an innovative scheme off the ground. If you can't wait to start work on this commitment you should gracefully accept support from someone who has proved their trustworthiness in the past. Brainstorming is best done next Tuesday when the stars are likely to shower you with good ideas. Capricorn has started to see you in a new light and a hot date makes your night on Saturday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Monitor your moods carefully this week; you will probably discover that emotional ups and downs are happening too frequently. A quieter lifestyle is the recommended cure for this problem. Put yourself first and make relaxation a primary focus until the end of this month; it really is high time you avoided family members who love to drive you crazy – they will soon find another target. The color ice blue encourages tranquility.

# ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN

## Why music is the food of life

Some people might say that human beings are animalistic, and on a basic level, of course, we are. We "hunt" for food – although shopping malls bear only a very slight resemblance to the African savanna – we live in family groups and we fight over territory and partners.

But there the similarities end, because humans have a whole other dimension to our brains – we have the capacity to be creative. It is called "imagination", and it is arguably the trait that distinguishes us from our bestial cousins.

Imagination gives us the ability to create, to invent, and to consider our world in a spiritual and more open-minded way. Animals do not have this ability. Yes, one or two mammalian species exhibit behaviors that show ingenuity and resourcefulness, like the chimpanzees that use sticks as tools to extract ants from their nests. And as we all know, dogs can be conditioned to help blind people navigate the dangers of roads, pavements and traffic lights.

But while these behaviors show a degree of intelligence they are not a product of imagination, only of observation, memory and the ability to understand the immediate environment.

Humans, however, are endowed with varying degrees of

imagination, and this facet of our brains has allowed us to create music, literature, art and drama. There is no other mammalian species that has managed to make up a system of letters, a system of musical notes or a system of images to express itself and its spiritual and personal beliefs.

Music is arguably the greatest achievement, or at least the most complex, because whereas

art is a visual representation of already-existing shapes and spaces, and literature and drama are simply different ways of using words and our own bodies, music has involved not only the creation of

notes but also the manufacture of specially crafted instruments to play these notes.

Music had its primitive roots, but over the centuries it has been nurtured and developed to the point where there are a myriad varieties of music and a vast, impressive array of instruments that have been invented to play it, in different pitches, timbres and keys.

Nowadays there are so many different forms of music it boggles the mind. There's rock, rap, pop, blues, soul, classical, opera and country-western (the latter two tend to make teenagers moan with disgust).

Then there are the sub-categories of music within a particular genre. Take rock as an example. A musical layman might

Try to imagine, for a moment, a world without music. It would be a hellish world – boring, stressful and sad.

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## Youth 'n ASIA

By Amy  
Van de Castele

consider all rock to be a medley of crashes, bangs and incensed yells.

But in fact there are different types of crashes, bangs and yells – there is metal, heavy metal, soft rock, emo rock, indie rock, electro-pop rock... there's even a rather daunting concept called doom metal, probably the easy listening staple of people with masochistic or suicidal tendencies.

With all these different genres of music to listen to, it's easy to find something that caters to your individual taste. That works both ways: the music you prefer can offer other people insights into your character.

Often, music can reveal a whole new dimension of your friends, colleagues or relatives that you never knew existed. For example you might think that that quiet studious girl who sits at the back of the English classroom must listen to saccharine-coated Britney Spears hits like *Baby One More Time*, but in fact her earphones could be filling her head with the screaming guitars and soaring vocals of the granddaddies of rock, Judas Priest.

### MUSIC RUT

The point is, now that you know that the shy mousy girl loves heavy rock, you realize there is a whole other side to her character you wouldn't otherwise know existed. This can create bonds of friendship and lead to countless hours of conversation.

In this music-saturated world, it is a sad fact, however, that some people prefer to listen to the same material over and over. This could be defined as falling into a "music rut" and it's a pity to fall into such a monotonous pattern when there are so many beautiful and stimulating pieces of music available.

Consider this – you wouldn't want to fall into a "rut" at school or at work would you? You'd find it boring doing the same old thing day after day, year after year, and you're missing out on all the other great opportunities the world has to offer.

The same is true with music. Why listen to the same old rap, the same sappy romantic pop songs, when there is so much more music out there?

Go on - be adventurous! If you're a James Blunt fan – and let's face it ladies, who isn't? –

then the next time you go to the music store, buy Green Day's *American Idiot* album. You might find their skillful guitar riffs and Billie Joe's distinctive voice refreshing.

Visa versa, if you are addicted to *Boulevard of Broken Dreams* and can sing *Holiday* in your sleep, try calming down with *You're Beautiful*; the song beloved of insecure women and teenage girls the world over.

Or, to be even more adventurous, go out searching for new music you've never heard of before. At [www.pandora.com](http://www.pandora.com) you can enter in your favorite artists or songs to create a customized radio station that will play songs similar to the ones you like.

The site compares your favorite tunes with a huge database of music and, based on a complex algorithm of key, harmonics, vocals, etc., returns something that you may like. It may be terrible, and you skip to the next, or it just may turn out to be your new favorite band.

### NEW DOORS

If you enter in James Blunt, you may come across the excellent Death Cab for Cutie, and then discover the melancholy Broken Social Scene. You can open endless new doors to music you would otherwise have missed.

One of the best things about music is that it has a wonderful way of affecting – or expressing – your mood. If you're feeling dejected because the light of your life just dumped you for someone thinner or more muscular, a healthy dose of unrequited-love songs (Nick Lachey's new album for example) can reassure you that you're not alone.

Or if you're experiencing typical teenage angst, as we all do at some point, it can be helpful to channel your frustrations by head-banging to Metallica's *Enter Sandman*.

In short, music helps us communicate our complex emotions and expresses them in an audibly pleasing way. It brings people together and it enriches our lives, because it is at once primal and yet also innovative.

Try to imagine, for a moment, a world without music. It would be a hellish world – boring, stressful and sad, and there would be a lot of unexpressed emotions seething beneath the surface.

It's not worth contemplating really...so, to banish that frightening thought from your mind, off you go now and listen to some Metallica – or Justin Timberlake, depending on your preference...



# Coconut milk and funerals

Dear Momma Duck,

Some Thai friends of mine were joking about my sunburned face. At the same time, they were cracking open coconuts for the milk and the flesh inside.

One of my friends joked that I should put the coconut milk on my face, which sent my other Thai friends into fits of laughter.

Apparently the joke had something to do with the Thai tradition of putting coconut oil or milk on the face of a person "dearly departed" just before he or she is cremated.

I have been to a Thai funeral at a *wat* and do not remember this happening. Is this still a common practice? Do only certain groups of Thais do this? Why do they do it?

I hope you shed some light on this for me.

Burned in Phuket City

Dear Burned in Phuket City,

This tradition is actually derived from Brahmin rituals and is still widely practiced among Buddhists in Thailand, but not at all funerals. I assume you realize that Buddhism arose out of Hinduism as a sort of "back-to-basics" reformation, eventually becoming a separate religion. One



## Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
[momma@phuketgazette.net](mailto:momma@phuketgazette.net)

result of this is that there are still rituals used that are more Hindu than Buddhist.

Coconut milk is used in this ceremony because we believe that the milk is a pure form of liquid, which is suitable to cleanse the corpse just before the cremation.

As the lid is removed from the coffin, the family members take one last look at their deceased relative.

Then a man uses an ax to open a coconut and pour the milk from the coconut over the body. Coconut milk is used because it

is something fresh and it is poured over the body in the hope that relatives will have a pleasant final memory of the deceased.

Since the practice takes place in the crematorium after most of the formal ceremony has finished, and before mourners place paper flowers and other ceremonial objects in the coffin, you may not have noticed it.

It would typically occur with just the caretakers and relatives present. Next time you're at a funeral, try to spot when it happens, although, as I said, it is not always performed.

Another funeral tradition is to wash your hands and face before you enter your house when you return from the funeral.

This will wash away the dust and dirt from the cremation area, which we believe may be bad luck for you.

Your Thai friends probably made a silly joke because of your pale face and your sunburn, linking it to the paleness of a corpse about to be cremated.

Please don't take offense at this – Buddhists accept death as a natural part of life and do not treat funerals and other references to death as seriously as Christians and other religions.

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# Google, eBay and Skype come up with a clever new wrinkle

## IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

**Y**ou may have read one of my earlier articles about Skype, which is the most popular method for making international calls over the Internet.

This company was started by two guys who made a strategic business decision to develop the technology and then give it away. Not exactly the smartest two guys on the planet, right?

Well... within nine months of releasing the free service they had a couple hundred thousand users and were awarded US\$10 million in venture capital to continue building their free user base. Six months after that, they were bought by eBay for more than US\$2.6 billion. Not such a bad business decision after all, eh?

Now Google has taken Internet telephony one step further, into a system its has dubbed Click-To-Call. It has teamed up with Skype and eBay to add Internet telephony to its search engine results.

What does all this mean? Well, let's start with the basics:

What are search engines? Search engines, like Yahoo and Google, find websites based on words or phrases that you enter into the search box.

When you press Enter, the search engine uses a very sophisticated set of algorithms to scan millions of web pages that contain your search word or phrase.

It then displays a list of the pages and you can click on them



Having bought Skype, eBay is pushing the Internet phone service hard. The involvement of Google will soon offer another dimension.

to view the ones that seem relevant. The challenge for advertisers is to edge their web pages to the top of the results list that appears after the search for given criteria (ie, a plumbing company would want its results to show up first if you typed in "broken sink").

Manipulating search results to favor a certain business has become a technical art form, for which some companies charge more than 80,000 baht a month.

Alternatively, you can pay

the search engine directly to be guaranteed a spot in the results page or rent space on the side of every page. This is called Pay-Per-Click, and as the name implies, you pay a set fee every time someone clicks on the link to your page or advertisement.

Our company has used this service and still does on occasion. But one has to be careful; not everyone who clicks is actually interested in your product or service, and you can end up spending a lot of money without much benefit in return.

What is Click-To-Call? Similar to Pay-Per-Click, this newest addition to the Google suite of services places a telephone icon next to the advertisement or the listing on the search results page. A user simply clicks on this icon – and then it gets interesting.

Rather than calling the advertiser from the computer, a screen pops up asking you to enter your telephone number. Within seconds, your phone is ringing and, when you answer it, you will hear the advertiser's telephone ringing as if you had just dialed it yourself. From there, the advertiser will answer and you can discuss the product, ask about the services or order via telephone.

One useful thing about this is that the advertiser never knows your phone number because everything is controlled by the Google system. Google promises not to display or share your telephone number and to delete it after a few days so you can be assured of your privacy.

How much do you pay for the call? Are you sitting down? Notta, zippo. The call is 100% free, even if it is international. Since Internet telephony costs next to nothing, and because Google charges the advertiser each time someone clicks on the icon, you pay nothing.

Google is now getting ready to release its own version of video telephony, which has been available with Skype for some time.

The challenge in implementing new telephony services – especially with video – is that users have to have enough bandwidth for the services to work properly.

Bandwidth is, effectively, the amount of speed you have available through your Internet connection. Telephone quality alone is usually acceptable over the average Internet connection, but voice and video at the same time is another story – that takes serious speed, and that means serious money here in Thailand.

However, all that is changing with the new, relaxed Internet regulations, along with our developing infrastructure here in Phuket and the surrounding region.

Is there really a need for all this? That depends on your lifestyle. Many people still prefer to use the Internet search engines as a way to browse web pages – as a sort of an electronic magazine where we view the products, but when it's time to shop, we go to the store.

However, if you are like me and a growing number of people around the world, you are too busy to go shopping, not to mention that many things we want or

need are not sold here in Thailand.

Take the example of eBay, the world's largest auction website, where you can bid on everything from antique baby shoes to real estate; from vacation packages to legal services.

The reason I mention this is because part of the deal between Google, Skype and eBay is that eBay is offering the Click-To-Call service on its international on-line auction site.

Now there's an application for using this new technology. Just imagine calling the company that is offering an on-line vacation package for less than 20% of what you would pay at the travel agent.

In a future article, I will explore this all in more detail. Over the next few weeks, my own firm will place one of its newest products on eBay and subscribe to both the Pay-Per-Click and the Click-To-Call services.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like to join us by putting your product or service out there using this new service, drop me an email (nope, you can't Click-To-Call me yet) and we'll see what we can work out.

*John Seebach has 25 years' consulting experience in information and Internet technology and infrastructure development. His company, Island Technology, offers IT solutions and broadband services throughout SE Asia. Contact john@islandtechnology.com for more information.*



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## ON THE MOVE

**Steven William Church**, 43, from England, has been appointed Country Director of Courts Megastore (Thailand) Ltd. Mr Church began his career in the UK with Courts plc in 1980 as a Store Manager. In early 1992, he was posted to Courts (Singapore) Ltd as Furniture Buyer. In late 1992, he was promoted to Operations Director in Papua New Guinea, where he remained for three years. In 1996, he returned to Courts Singapore, working in a variety of positions. In December 2002, he was posted to Courts Megastore (Thailand) as a Commercial Director, in charge of buying and marketing teams.



**Debbie Chee**, 36, from Kuala Lumpur, has been appointed Director of Sales and Marketing at Le Méridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. She is a graduate in revenue management and also in strategic hospitality marketing from Cornell Nanyang Technological University. She has worked as Sales Manager at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, as Senior Sales Manager of the Hotel Equatorial in Melaka and as Assistant Director of Sales & Marketing at the Hotel Equatorial in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Before moving to Khao Lak she was Director of Sales & Marketing at the Duxton Hotel Saigon in Vietnam for three years.

**Picharn "Rick" Yaemying**, from Phang Nga, has been appointed Chief Maintenance and Property Manager of The Mangosteen Resort & Spa Group. He holds a degree in electrical engineering from Rajamangala Institute of Technology and has more than 12 years' hotel experience in Bangkok and Phuket. Before joining The Mangosteen he was Chief Engineer with the Baan Yin Dee Group. He has also worked with the Sheraton Krabi Resort & Spa and the Patong Beach Hotel. He will oversee and supervise daily maintenance and engineering work at The Mangosteen, at The Sands in Nai Harn, and at other future properties such as The Mangosteen Suites Estate and The Mangosteen Pool Villas.





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# Investment banks' rise highlights Phuket's maturity

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: As testament to Phuket's burgeoning economy, there are now three investment banks on the island.

The first to arrive, just before the Asian economic crisis of 1997, was Tisco Finance Co, which recently opened new premises on the bypass road, not far from another investment bank, Thanachart Bank. The third is Kiatnakin Bank, at the Slaughterhouse Intersection in Phuket City.

Tisco, originally standing for Thai Investment and Securities Co, was established in 1969. It was the first company in Thailand to offer provident fund management, it pioneered the local retail finance market with hire purchase (installment plan) business, offers loan syndication services, and helped develop the secondary market for trading debt instruments, including government bonds and treasury bills.

After the 1997 economic crisis, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) upgraded some finance companies to investment bank status, with Tisco being the first to be upgraded to a commercial bank in October 2004. On July 1 last year it opened 14 branches nationwide, including Phuket. It plans to open another 11 branches next year.

Thawan Wichitwatee, Vice-President and Manager of the Phuket branch of Tisco Bank pcl, explained, "Tisco Bank is part of the Tisco group, which also includes Tisco Leasing; Thai Technology Information, which supports the Information Technology for the group; Thai Commercial Auto (TCA), which has a cooperative association with the Yontrakit company, supporting hire purchase for BMW cars; Hiway Co, for motorbike hire purchasing; Tisco Securities; and Tisco Asset Management, which runs provident funds."

"We also have 30% share of AXA Phuket for insuring against vehicle and property loss, and we offer life insurance in cooperation with Ayudhya Allianz CP Life (AACP)," he said.

Although now involved in retail banking, Tisco Bank continues to provide hire purchase services for vehicles. "We also offer financial support for the purchase of commercial products such as office equipment and we also have a re-finance service for cars," he said.

"Our latest project is cross-selling. For example, for customer who is financed by us, we can suggest insurance options or provident funds."

He noted that becoming a commercial bank had made transactions more convenient; the bank can serve the customers faster than when it was a finance company only. "For example, we no longer need to buy checks from other banks; we can carry out all the same transactions as any other commercial bank. We have a bank service counter, and we are now offering 3.5 % annual interest on saving accounts – a higher rate than other banks offer," he said.

Although most of Tisco's business is still in hire purchase, K. Thawan believes that there are many more opportunities for the company in Phuket's growing economy.

"Phuket's economy will continue to grow. We will see more property developers, franchise companies and tourism businesses. We are currently waiting for our head office to formulate policies that will allow us to expand our product lines into providing finance for investment in businesses," he added.

Another bank offering hire purchase services is Thanachart Bank, which has 120 branches around Thailand, 60 in Bangkok and another 60 in the provinces.

Thanachart's roots go back to a Phuket-based garment export company called Leekuam-ging Co which, on October 28, 1980, became the National Finance and Security Co (NFS), owned by local businessman Bantthong Tantiwit and Tharin Nimmanheaminda, who at that time was President of the Thai Commercial Bank and who later became Finance Minister in the Democrat government. NFS opened its first office in Phuket in 1994.

At the beginning of 1998 NFS divided into two, with the new National Financial Bank (NFB) emerging with capital of more than 10 billion baht.

In the same year, NFB took over three smaller finance companies and then merged with Eakachart Finance and Security Co in order to increase capital to the 70 billion baht required for the

new entity, still called National Financial Bank, to apply for commercial bank status.

NFB's name was changed in 2004 to Thanachart Bank, offering a full range of retail and commercial banking products. However, said Phoosin Sinthana-phat, a Vice-President of the Phuket branch, "Automobile finance is still our No 1 business."

The third investment bank in Phuket, Kiatnakin Bank pcl (KB), has followed a similar path, upgrading to commercial bank status in September last year.

KB's main products are consumer loans, loans to property developers, and commercial and industrial loans for certain industries, including transportation, packaging and printing.

Watthana-pong Phoowattana, Phuket Branch Manager, said, "We upgraded from finance company to bank status to help make doing business easier.

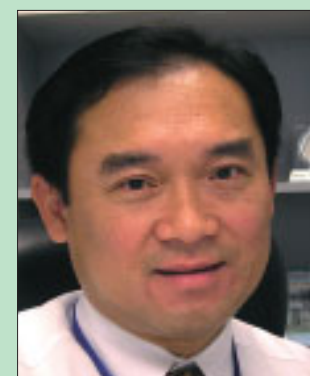
We have 16 branches country-wide and will open another five at the end of this year. Each branch has the same policy, focusing on loans business," he said.

"Our skills derive from our experience as a finance company, so although we are now a retail bank we still continue with our traditional business – hire purchase for automobiles and loans to developers. We have been very successful at the latter in Phuket. We have given financial support to about 20 residential developments.

"In the country as a whole, hire purchase is a more important business [for Kiatnakin] than property, but in Phuket loans to the real estate industry have outstripped hire purchase loans.

"I think business in Phuket is still growing; it's not going to collapse any time soon." As evidence, he cited the property industry and the increasing number of foreigners looking to invest in businesses of many kinds on the island.

"Our bank will be continually looking for new markets to serve," he added.



"Phuket's economy will continue to grow. We will see more property developers, franchise companies and tourism businesses." – **Thawan Wichitwatee, Vice-President and Manager of Tisco Bank, Phuket branch.**



Many people I meet in the course of my business share one achievement; they have acquired money over many years. They also share a problem: how to retain that acquired wealth.

They seek either to maintain this position and make their money grow, or to use it to fund an income while simultaneously making some capital gains to counter the effects of inflation.

Rising residential property prices have led many people to believe that investment in this area is the safest route to accumulating wealth.

Many others believe holding multiple residential properties and renting them out not only supplies income but also guarantees capital gains as well. The theory sounds attractive, but the reality is very different.

Property is an asset class, just as equities are an asset class. Often, investors hold the view that property is much safer than equities. This may be true in some cases. But in others the reverse applies.

The US provides a perfect example of the dangers of equities. Stock market prices surged in the 1990s to record levels before crashing in the new millennium. They have since recovered, in general, to a great degree.

The big exception is tech stocks. Valuations had gone to absurd levels and the shake-out that followed was so severe that, if measured by the Nasdaq Composite Index, investors are still nursing losses of almost 60% from early 2000 highs.

As an independent financial adviser, one of the most difficult things I face is trying to convince investors to beware of over-exuberance in any asset class and to reassure them when the situation becomes gloom and doom.

In the late 1990s, I met many people who were convinced that the technology boom was going to be a never-ending source of increasing wealth. They had only to tune their televisions to business channels to see earnest but extremely enthusiastic faces assuring them that this tech boom was completely different from any other boom in history.

It would be ceaseless, the faces said, moving from strength to strength. The business cycle was no more – we had arrived in financial Nirvana. The average age of these new prophets seemed to be about 23.

The knee-jerk reaction after the financial market crash was the familiar back-to-basics approach of investing in real estate. The notions that “There is nothing safer than bricks and mortar” and “They don’t make land anymore” prevailed. In the US and many other countries, a real-estate boom ensued.

# In the long term, the middle path is best



Harvesting sugar cane in South America: The increased use of sugar for making ethanol drove prices up fiercely. Thanks, ironically, to a drought in Brazil, they have since fallen back. – Photo EPA/Cezaro De Luca

We are now starting to see this unwind. Just as in stock markets, real estate in the areas where prices have risen the most, are the most likely to suffer the highest losses.

The old chestnut, “What goes up, must come down” is true only when dealing with the law of gravity. When it comes to markets, it is more correct to say, “What goes up to irrational levels must come down.” In Buddhism, the philosophy of the middle path or way is preached; it is also relevant to the world of investment.

Energy and commodity prices have risen substantially in the past few years. High global economic growth, combined with the recent entrants to the world economy, such as China, India, Russia and Vietnam, have significantly increased demand.

We have probably not yet seen the peaks in these areas. However, prices have risen substantially and there are bound to be some downward corrections.

The oil story is of particular interest. Traditionally safe sources of oil, such as the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea, have limited life expectancies. New sources are going to be mainly in areas of the world that are politically unstable or climatically challenging.

An important new source of substantial size is the “oil sands” in Alberta, Canada. The process of extracting oil is technically complex and there is an acute shortage of skilled manpower available.

Some analysts believe Canada has the highest potential oil reserves in the world, easily surpassing Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this year, sugar prices leaped alarmingly and many governments found that they were having to ration supplies and also having to counter international smuggling of this commodity.

This situation has resolved

itself – at least temporarily – and ironically, because of drought.

Brazil, a major producer, found a drought affecting the sugar crop and reaped the harvest earlier than usual. Supply, on a massive scale, then became available.

Sugar is no longer just a food. It is also used in the production of ethanol. In some areas, soft commodities are far more flexible than hard commodities in terms of supply.

When a shortage occurs, extra acreage can be planted to meet demand.

Hedge Funds have been widely touted as the safest way

to invest money. However, as Alan Greenspan observed a few years ago, “The hedge funds have picked the lowest hanging fruit”.

There are, unfortunately, very few investments that take the middle path and deliver unexceptional but nevertheless good returns, regardless of the economic cycle.

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: 081-0814611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th).



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

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# American triumphs in battle with Brit

By Stephen Fein

PATONG: In a riveting card of Thursday Night Fights at Patong Boxing Stadium on September 7, the near-capacity crowd was treated to a number of exciting Muay Thai match-ups, including a successful title defense by Patong Stadium International Heavyweight Champ Jon Nut of Salem, Massachusetts, over tough London-based brawler Gaz Roriston.

In fight four on the undercard, Adam Rawai Muay Thai of Australia, fighting at 132 pounds in his first-ever Muay Thai match after just a month of training, lost on points to 29-year-old fighter Kiatisk Patong Gym, who stymied the young Aussie with numerous kicks to the midsection, not allowing him to use his longer reach or punching skills.

In fight six, another Rawai Muay Thai fighter, 135-pound Angelo Veniere from Italy, had a quick first-round knockout win over Smingpetch Sor Wongchaiya, felling his smaller opponent with a surprise right knee to the nose half way through round one.

In the first of two "sub main events", Kamarl Sor Abdul of Patong Gym outpointed Rawai Muay Thai trainer Yuthajak, winning 70,000 baht for his camp in a highly charged 124-pound event. Many thought that Yuthajak should have won the fight, blaming the referee for assisting Kamarl by repeatedly breaking up the fighters when, in their opinion, Yuthajak was pressing his attack.

In the second sub-main event, at 126 pounds, Bailay Sitchaiya of Songkhla used his reach advantage to outpoint Smingkaw Sor Chaiwongchaiya of Surat Thani in a win by decision.

In the main event, a 136-pound rematch between Thanufai Sarawut gym of Satun and Chokthavee Kiatbuan of Nakhon



Jon Nut ended up with a bloody nose and the 22,000-baht winner's garland.

Sri Thammarat, the 125-fight veteran Thanufai used strong kicking skills to win the decision, taking control of the fight in the second round and wearing down Chokthavee with a series of hard, straight right kicks to the abdomen in the third and fourth rounds before moving upstairs with a hard right kick to Chokthavee's head near the end of the fourth.

He had no trouble keeping Chokthavee at bay in the final round to clinch the win and collect the 60,000 baht winner's purse for his camp.

But it was the match between Heavyweight Champ Jon Nut and London-based "cage rage fighter" Gaz Roriston in a 198-pound showdown that was the most intriguing.

Gaz, who usually trains at London Shootfighters and has a number of mixed martial arts (MMA) fights under his belt, is in Phuket to improve his Muay Thai skills.

In an unorthodox round one, Gaz twice used his MMA skills to take down his heavier oppo-

nent – but under Muay Thai rules was forced to stop.

In round two it began to look as though the fight would never go the distance. Jon – undefeated in six Muay Thai fights in Thailand going into the match – used elbows and knees, while Gaz preferred striking, landing several shots, including a hard combination to Jon's head.

The power of the shots seemed only to enrage Jon, who continued to press his attack with hard right knees, then grappling with Gaz and hitting him with straight elbows down to the head.

Neither fighter seemed to have either the Muay Thai ability or the strength to keep his opponent locked up or at bay.

Halfway through round two, Jon suffered a shot to the groin that left him doubled over for several minutes, the ref stopping the fight to allow him to recover.

He did, but Gaz seemed to take control after that, landing another good combination and a right kick to the head – but Jon still didn't go down.

Round three was an all-out war, with both fighters landing big shots. It finally ended after Jon, blood streaming from his nose and desperate to end the affair as quickly as possible, landed a hard right knee to Gaz, which left the tattooed Brit doubled over in his own blue corner. The referee stopped the match, and Jon – looking dazed – was awarded the winner's garland, composed of 22 one-thousand-baht notes.

Other bouts: 55lb (10-year-olds): Jawvaha Or Pakpligym def. James Bond OrBorTor Kamala (points); 110lb: Kongpipop Sor Yuthisak def. Khunpol Sityusop (TKO Rd 1).

Patong Boxing Stadium is on Sai Nam Yen Rd, Patong. For more information call Tel: 076-345-578/345165 or 081-7377193.



I don't like that loud noise ... a small relay competitor in the Kajonkiatsuksa-Kajonkiatpattana Schools' September 7 sports day for the youngest students covers his ears while waiting for the starter's gun. – Photo by Sompratch Saowakhon

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| ● Mae Luan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket City | ● Monthana Rd, Patong                                     |
|   | ● Colisiem Mutiplex, Phuket City                          |
|   | ● Soi Paneang, Samkong                                    |
|   | ● Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong                              |

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Didi's win another to strengthen lead

PATONG: With all Week 14 games played – including postponed matches – Didi's are still looking strong at the top, swiping another three points at home against Valhalla.

Coyote are now in second place overall, after beating Off-Shore at home and picking up two more points from a make-up game against Dog's Bollocks.

Piccadilly sunk to third place after their third consecutive 5-4 loss, this time to Shakers. Olivier and Chris teamed up to win the deciding doubles match.

**September 5 results:** TaiLife 5 Amigos\* 4; Footrot Flats 2 Queen Mary\* 7; Shakers 5 Piccadilly\* 4;

Jungle Juice 4 Dog's Bollocks\* 5; Didi's\* 6 Valhalla 3; Coyote Bar 6 Offshore\* 3. August 29 make-up match: Dog's Bollocks\* 3 Coyote Bar 6 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (35 points); 2. Coyote Bar (30); 3. Piccadilly (27); 4. Offshore (24); 5. = Amigos, Dog's Bollocks (22); 7. Queen Mary (20); 8. Shakers (19); 9. Valhalla (18); 10. Jungle Juice (15); 11. = Footrot Flats, TaiLife (10).

**September 19 matchups:** TaiLife v Valhalla; Footrot Flats v Piccadilly; Shakers v Dog's Bollocks; Jungle Juice v Queen Mary; Didi's v Offshore; Coyote Bar v Amigos (home teams first).





Dancers from Phuket technology College entertained runners and spectators before the prize-giving.

## Suwat wins mini-marathon

NAI HARN: Phang Nga-born Suwat Paiboon was first across the finish line, winning the men's open category of the "Nai Harn Mini-Marathon", held at Nai Harn lake on September 10.

A total of 137 runners took part in the 10.5-kilometer mini-marathon, which was organized by the Rawai and Chalong Tambon Administration Organizations, the Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa and Phuket Rajabhat University.

Another 368 people took part in a 4.8-kilometer fun run staged at the same time.

Suwat beat 27 others in the men's open class. Second was Sitthipong Chenglai from Cherng Talay, with Kitisak Chooprasit from Rawai third.

In the women's open category, Karuna Nakara beat 32 other runners to take the trophy.

Winners in each class received 1,000 baht, with 700 baht for second and 500 baht for third. The top five also got trophies.

### RESULTS:

#### 4.8-kilometer Fun Run:

**Men:** VIP: Sin Pholrob; Open men: Ekamut Phanthip; Men over 35: Paiwan Eimkaew.

**Women:** Open: Leena Dewis; Over 35 year old: Anong Piriya-preuk.



Fastest runner Suwat Paiboon (gray shirt) with other class winners.

**Family event:** Sasaluck Ekvanich family.

#### 10.5-km Mini Marathon:

**Men:** Under 16: Oran Leelasinlapasart; Open: Suwat Paiboon; Aged 30-34: Uthain Thonnam; Aged 35-39: Jai Pudchuay; Aged 40-44: Eddy O; Aged 45-49 year: Udomsak Chanyam; Aged 50-54: Pinyawat Chodchoi; 55-plus: Rungsan Rakbamrung.

**Women:** Under 16: Siriya-korn Kamlai; Open: Karuna Nakara; Aged 35-39: Sunisa Bangnuan; Aged 40-44: Saibua Ninsang; Aged 45-49: Ketsara-

porn Boonkao; Aged 50-54: Jiradee Bamrungsook; 55-plus: Ploypaitoon Yooyen.

— Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

## South African makes mark in Phuket surf

KATA: South African Tristan du Preez won the short board competition in the Fourth Annual Phuket Surfing Contest 2006, which took place at Kata Beach from September 8 to 10.

Mr du Preez, who has been surfing for seven years, told the *Gazette* that this was the second time he had taken part in the contest; he failed to win in 2004.

"I tried to do the best I could. I was really happy to get into the short board final," he said.

The competition was difficult, he added, because the waves were constantly changing size, requiring surfers to concentrate hard.

But, he added, "If they hold the competition next year, I would like to come again."

The tournament was divided into five divisions: long board open, short board open, grommet, beginner and bodyboard.

The monsoon winds produced waves of three to four feet. The 20-minute-long heats tested the surfers' patience and style, both of which became key factors in deciding the winner.

Chanin "Joob" Aiyarak, the main organizer of the competition, said the organizers received positive feedback from competitors.

The popularity of the tournament is growing, he added. Last year there were 120 competitors. This year there were 150 – 90 Thais along with foreign entrants from the US, the UK, Japan, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.



Constantly changing conditions called for serious concentration.

K. Chanin added, "We would like this to become the biggest tourney in Phuket."

The winners were: long board open Chalee Yampleum; short board open Tristan du Preez; grommet Kit Donahue; beginner Kitisak Suthuprapa; bodyboard Boonyarit "Max" Madsatoon.

The winners each received a surf board and a cash prize.

The event was organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (Region 4), Karon Municipality, and the Kata Karon Beach Surf Club.

— Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

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## Construction Update

by Suganya Semacote



Top, water features large in the project, even in the entranceway. Above, clean design is a keynote. Right, developers Thanakorn Prakaisriroj and his wife Panarat.

# The Lantern makes light of high-end urban living

Following on from his Grace Gardens Tropical Residence and Grace Gardens Masterpiece projects, developer Thanakorn Prakaisriroj is continuing to create modern private communities.

This time, however, he is aiming squarely at the high-end urban living market with The Lantern, located 1.5 kilometers north of Boat Lagoon.

Construction of The Lantern began earlier this year, and the show home is scheduled for completion in December.

The first eight units are expected to be ready to move into by April next year.

The Lantern is being built on four rai and will comprise 16 modern three-story homes, each with a total living space between 334 and 418 square meters.

Each of the twin semi-detached units will feature three bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, built-in kitchen, private 20sqm swimming pool, covered parking space for two cars and a private lift that can carry up to four passengers. The upper floors can also be reached via a spiral staircase.

The homes have been designed using Feng Shui and Zen design principles to encourage a maximum flow of harmony. "We emphasize nature within the house," K. Thanakorn said.

One element well used is water. The split-level "ground floor" has a pond at the front of the property, overlooked by the main living area. Another pond nearly dissects the unit, separating the entrances from the more private kitchen and terrace to the rear. A 20sqm swimming pool runs along the property's rear boundary.

Surrounding the indoor space with ponds also helps keep the house cool in the strong Phuket sun, K. Thanakorn explained.

The use of space is another striking feature. Ceilings 3.5 to 4 meters high and a central open-air area transform the second floor into a mezzanine.

A company will be set up to manage communal property services, including 24-hour security, maintenance of communal garden areas, garbage collection and ensuring that common road lighting is functioning.

The units are available at 13 million to 16 million baht each. The target market for The Lantern is young businessmen up to 40 years old, K. Thanakorn explained.

For more information contact call 085-2111107, 085-211-1198, or 081-8779292. Email: [info@gracegardensphuket.com](mailto:info@gracegardensphuket.com). Website: <http://www.gracegardensphuket.com>

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Folding hardwood chairs and table from Island Furniture.

# All decked out

With thousands of pool decks, terraces and patios around Phuket, finding good patio furniture rates high on the list for many homeowners on the island.

Island Furniture, owned by Alan Cooke of England and his partner Siriporn Chumrak of Phuket, is one of the island's longest-serving purveyors of outdoor chairs and loungers, kicking its doors open in 1997.

All the outdoor furniture sold by Island Furniture is made of stainless steel or teak, selected for their ability to withstand the wet months in Phuket. For covered patios there is also a selection of rattan and other furniture.

The store has its own factory but imports most of the furniture from other countries, Mr Cooke said.

A teak sun lounger without a cushion costs 22,500 baht, and a sun lounger with two wheels at one end for easy relocation is 25,500 baht.

The Suwan Supply Cast Alloy Art Forever Co Ltd store, as its name suggests, offers a different type of outdoor furniture: alloy swing chairs, chair and table sets, and benches.

A set of four chairs and a table in white costs 13,000 baht, painted in gold color is 28,000 baht, a small white bench is 9,500 baht and a dark green bench costs 16,000 baht.

*Island Furniture is located at 90/4 Chao Fa West Rd, opposite Phuket Villa 5. Open Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-263707. Website: [www.islandfurniture-phuket.com](http://www.islandfurniture-phuket.com).*

*Suwan Supply Cast Alloy Art Forever Co Ltd is located at 100/504-6 Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd (the bypass road). Tel: 076-261261-2.*



Below: Modern metal furniture from Suwan Supply. Right: Essential for hot days, a cold box from Island Furniture.



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## Home of the Week

Pa Khlok



Above: The house is nothing if not impressive. Below: The study and exercise room are through the archways from the living room. Right: The comfortable dining area.



# Family living on the coast, with golf just down the road



**T**his large mansion, with 520 square meters of interior space, stands proud not far from the Mission Hills Golf Course, in the less-developed northeastern part of the island.

Built on one rai, the property features landscaped gardens and a 130-sqm swimming pool with a tiled mosaic of swimming dolphins on the pool bottom and a children's wading pool with water jets at one end.

Nearby, adjoining the pool terrace, is an outdoor shower area and separate bathroom.

Inside the home, which has

ducted air conditioning throughout, are four bedrooms each with built-in wardrobes and en-suite bathrooms. The bathroom attached to the master bedroom has a Jacuzzi.

On the ground level is a large Western kitchen fitted throughout with matching wood cabinets above and below.

## COMFORTABLE

The higher-set glass-door cupboards serve as display units, and there are two overhead wine racks built into the design.

The divided breakfast bar

spans the width of the room, separating the cooking and food preparation area from the comfortable dining area.

All upstairs rooms on one side of the building have access to a huge terrace.

The main rooms downstairs all feature recessed ceilings and ceiling fans. The living room, with its large plasma-screen TV and no fewer than four ceiling fans, has double sliding glass doors that open onto the gardens.

Through an arch leading off the main living area is the study. A small room currently doing duty as an exercise room is through another arch alongside.

There is a separate bungalow on the property for the maid, and a separate laundry, and the grounds are maintained by a pool cleaner and gardener.

Other utilities include UBC TV, a telephone line, independent well water supply and a solar-powered hot-water system.

The property is available fully furnished and freehold with Chanote title at 19 million baht.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com) or email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)

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## Gardening

## with Bloomin' Bert

# WEIRD BUT WONDERFUL

I am not very good with weirdos. I know that's hardly the most enlightened view of the world, but that's the way it is. I am willing to admit that I'm not exactly the most progressive of individuals, and I am hardly likely to win any Snappy Dresser of the Year awards, though at least I don't wear socks with sandals.

I'm talking about people who choose to dye their hair shocking pink, or shove lumps of stainless steel – large and small – through various holes made in their anatomy.

Some choose to cover their entire bodies with tattoos, or personalize themselves in even more distinctive ways. That's all well and good, but these are the same people who object vehemently to being stared at by the public at large. What else could they possibly expect?

We come to the point when I simply have to own up – I have to admit to having had a single piercing myself. It was a few years ago, when I was young and as cool as it's possible for a Yorkshireman to be.

It was the thing to do at the time I suppose. I know, I'm a little odd. Most people know that already, of course. I digress.

## DEVIL'S HORNS

I saw a bloke on television the other day who was steadily turning himself into a rather bizarre devil-type character. He decided to go one stop beyond the obvious body adornments, and he underwent a procedure to split his tongue in two, straight down the middle. He also had a pair of silicon devil's horns implanted below his scalp.

One simple question sprang to mind. Why?

What about the Trekkies of the world? They're hardly the sanest bunch of people on the planet. For the uninitiated, Trekkies are a group of like-minded individuals who get together at conferences to discuss the merits of the *Star Trek* TV series, and dress up as Captain Kirk or a Klingon or Mr Spock – the truly gifted ones can do that separated-fingers salute too.

Some devoted Trekkies dress up as Lt Uhura, which moves them from the realm of weird to the realm of a bit scary, when in normal life they're happily married plumbers from Leeds.

It's probably a little unfair to call all these people weirdos, as I don't know them by name or have any idea what kind of people they really are. Like the vast majority of the population, they're probably very pleasant, but I sometimes wish they could be pleasant without having a Day-Glo green Mohawk.

Inevitably there are weirdos in the botanical world, too. Flowers are predictable – the pollen bits are surrounded by petals. Easy.

Not the golden candle plant,



The golden candle: the little white flowers soon fade but the yellow bracts last much longer.

though. Also known as the golden shrimp plant, lollipop plant or *leuang khiriboon* in Thai, it's a bizarre creation, though it does add a splash of bright yellow to your garden.

Originally from Peru, it's one of those plants that looks almost too good to be true. Instead of the traditional green leaves with the odd flower dotted around here and there, the golden candle takes the idea of color one step further. It cheats.

It does have the traditional leaf arrangement that it shares with many members of the plant kingdom; large, deep-green oval leaves with prominent veins. But they're not all green. Some of them modify themselves to form bright yellow bracts – just like the red leaves of the poinsettia, or the colored parts of a bougainvillea – that mimic the appearance of

flowers.

From a distance these bracts look like seven- to 10-centimeter-tall candles. They almost hide the true flowers, which contain all the reproductive bits for fertilization of the plant.

The actual flowers look like tiny white shrimp, which is where it gets its alternate name: golden shrimp plant.

The flowers last only a few days, but the yellow bracts can stay there for weeks, resulting in a continuous display of these impressive vertical candelabras. After all, fertilization by insect and bird pollinators is the main reason that flowers exist, so why shouldn't they cheat and have some of the leaves help them a bit?

Golden candle plants are perfect for pots on pavements and patios – sorry about the allit-

eration – and, with their dramatic yellow splashes, look brilliant in borders and flower beds. Put them against a dark background and they really stand out.

They can grow to about two meters tall, but to reach that height and still look as if someone cares they need regular, sensible pruning. All you need to do is cut the plant back by about half a couple of times a year. It may

look a bit brutalized at first, but it will bounce back.

These things are sun worshippers, but they don't get into the same state as their human counterparts who visit Phuket with the same intention. While tourists in Patong steadily turn pinker by the hour, resulting in the familiar "lobster" look at the end of their two-week stint, these permanent residents just look healthier.

The golden candle's leaves become greener, and the half-dozen "candles" you have when you originally bring the plant home from the garden center will quickly multiply in number. Lots of sun, humidity and a fair amount of water is all the golden candle requires. Nigh perfect for Phuket.

Another bonus of the golden candle plant is how ridiculously easy it is to propagate. Just cut a 20- to 25-cm-long stem and strip off the lowest set of leaves. Put it in moist potting soil or sand, keeping one or two sets of leaves above the soil line. Place it in the shade initially and it should root easily, after which you can plant it outside where it can enjoy the sun.

The weirdo of the plant world probably has very little to do with odd American gentlemen with split tongues and silicon horns, or even Trekkies. I'd like to think that the golden candle plant is actually quite proud of its weirdo status, although quietly.

Let's start to worry about it when we see it dressed as Lt Uhura.

Now that would be weird.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at: [bloominbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bloominbert@hotmail.com)

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# Property Gazette

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in Nai-Harn near main road good for business and development. 1 rai. Decide and call us. Tel: 087-8938747.

### PATONG VILLA FOR SALE



Very exclusive completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three baths, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining. Living area 200sqm, freehold land 150sqm. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8526. Please see our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### PLOTS NEAR LAGUNA

Chanote plots on Pasak hill-top. 1,000-1,600sqm. From 3 million baht. Tel: 081-893-0692 or 081-9798685, or Email: mervowen@vol.net

### BIG VILLA HIGH END

4 bedroom, pool, living space 520sqm come and see, no better house on island. Great price, includes car. Tel: 089-6525664.

### SEAVIEW DESIGN

Top designed appartments never seen, great views. Can be owned. Big roof terraces. Only 2 left from 4. Go for quality. Tel: 087-8938747.

### LAND IN RAWAI

524sqm, quiet area, good for building house. Asking 2 million baht. Tel: 086-2670898.

### RAWAI SHOP HOUSES

Top location drive-in houses. Full seaview, park your car or start business. Only 3 left, amazing spot, come look. Tel: 089-6525664.

### SEAVIEW RAWAI

20 rai almost beachfront, great for appartments, yellow zoning. You invest, we build, manage, and sell. Guaranteed to triple your money. Call for talk. Tel: 087-8938747.

**PHUKET ANDAMAN REAL ESTATE**

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**Chalong Bay - New house 220 sqm**  
Thai modern-style house on the South of Phuket. Peaceful and relaxing with beautiful landscaped garden and swimming pool, 2 bedroom, 3 bathroom, Western kitchen, open living room with dining area, 2-car parking, 2 story or one story, furniture spaces.  
Price: 6.77 to 7.65 million baht

**Rawai - New house 255 sqm**  
Beautiful, tasteful, contemporary tropical house, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully furnished, 30 sqm pool, optional extra guest house 850,000 baht.  
Price from 8.9 million baht.

**Karon - New condominiums, 88 sqm to 177 sqm**  
Tropical dream village. Fabulous sea view, 500 m to white sand beach, pool and clubhouse. Near a restaurant, bar, gym, spa. Karon shops, bars, restaurant and nightlife less than 10 minutes away.  
Price: 5.53 to 9.9 million baht.

**Patong - 2 studios, sea view. 35 sqm and 36 sqm**  
Condominiums are located on a headland overlooking Patong's white beach, colorful sunset. Fully furnished, quiet area, just a few steps to swimming pool and short walk to shopping and nightlife, aircon, parking.  
Price: 3.1 and 3.05 million baht

**Kata - Block 32 rooms**  
Built on a gentle slope overlooking Kata beach. Very convenient location in town, near supermarkets, markets, etc. Opposite hotel, needs taking over. 3 years old.  
Price: 15 million baht.

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phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com

**Phuket Real Estate** THIS WEEK'S HOT PROPERTIES

*Real Estate - Construction - Architects - Legal*

**Beach front Villa in Rawai**, with great views to Chalong Bay and islands. It comprises, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen, living and dining room, maid's room, laundry and store room, pool with jacuzzi, and a nice garden with a sala. Price: 25 million Baht

**Kho Yao Yai Land** - 30 Rai (48,000 sqm) of land on Koh Yao Yai with beautiful white sandy beachfront and magnificent Phang Nga Bay views. It is very interesting for a resort or villa project. Price: 90 Million Baht

**Layan Land** - One of the last stunning sea-view plots located in Layan. It is only 2 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, 5 minutes to Laguna and 15 minutes to the airport. It has potential for a high-end villa project. The land size is 13 Rai, 3 Ngan, 60 Talang Wah. Price: 98 million Baht

**Phuket Real Estate Partners Co., Ltd.**  
111 Rte-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150 Thailand  
Tel: 076-346346 Mobile: 06-272 6508, 09-871 5192  
Email: info@phuketrealestate.com www.phuketrealestate.com

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# Property Gazette

## CONDO FOR SALE



Rawai sea view, 126sqm living space, common pool. 4 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

## HOTEL FOR SALE



Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas, total 120 rooms. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

**PRIVATE BUNGALOW**  
Koh Lanta, Klong Dao beach. Wooden bungalow 50m from the beach. Quiet and shady 32 sqm, car park, cable TV. Call Mr Marco for details. Tel: 081-9680571.

## SAIYUAN LAND

2,324sqm with Chanote title on Soi Khokmakham, Saiyuan. 5.4 million baht. Whole plot. Tel: 089-729-8365.

## LAGUNA 2.9 RAI

Next to Laguna, hilltop, Chanote. 4.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 076-325411, 081-979-3369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

## KATHU HOUSE

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, secure estate, lovely hill views, garden. 4.75 million baht. Tel: 076-321-138, 087-8876101.

## LAND FOR SALE

31 rai on Koh Yao Yai & Noi. Next to Paradise Resort, 5-star hotel. 400m beachfront. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Beautiful view. Electricity 2.5 million baht per rai. Call K. Mard. Tel: 085-8881079. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketlandboom.com

## PATONG, 3 RAI, 12 M

Nor Sor 3 Gor. Just off Sai Nam Yen Rd. Sea view from half of land. Already split into smaller land titles, so good for development of small homes. Can sell in smaller plots from half a rai. Tel: 085-8882022. Email: slees@slees.com For further details, please see our website at: www.slees.com

## 300M BEACHFRONT

22 rai with 300m of beach front in Sichon District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat. 1.5 million baht per rai. 30 minutes from Samui Ferry to Sichon. 40 minutes by speedboat to Samui. Tel: 076-273494, 089-7294773. Fax: 076-273495. Email: supanidac@hotmail.com

## PATONG ANANTHA

Beautiful 2-bedroom homes 3-story, 2 Pools, Sala Modern Architectural Design Stunning sea views over Patong 7,900,000 baht, fully furnished

"BUY NOW OFF THE PLAN AND SAVE"

EASY REAL ESTATE  
Tel: 076-221595

Email: info@easythailandproperty.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Rawai. 150sqm, communal pool, 3 bedrooms, absolute privacy and security. 6.2 million baht. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

## RAWAI SALE

2-story house with pool plus guest cottage. Very private 900 sqm of walled gardens. Woodland views 10.2 million baht ono. Please call Tel: 087-2730141.

## LAGUNA, 1 RAI

Next to Laguna, Chanote, full infrastructure. 4.2 million baht/rai. Tel: 076-325411, 081-9793369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

## CHALONG, TOP SEA

view. 1 to 10 rai. Great price direct from owner. Low-season price: will go up in 2 months, so make a profit now. Tel: 087-8938747.

## KATA, BE QUICK!

Top sea view, unique. 3.2 million baht. You build or we build your house for you. This is the last top view in Kata so take this opportunity. Feel free to take a look. Once you see, you'll want to buy. Building guarantee. Tel: 089-652-5664.

## KATA APARTMENT Private Sale



4 Storeys/406m2 area! Panoramic Seaviews!

- Huge open-plan lounge
- 3 double bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms / jacuzzi
- Separate guest studio
- Rooftop sun terrace
- Swimming pool/jacuzzi
- Completion next month

Buy now at pre-completion price  
**14.5 million baht.**

Call Mike on 06-2776698

## LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht/rai. Tel: 087-889-6074. Email: info@sea-property-phuket.com

## RAWAI LAND & HOUSE

327sqm house. Land area: 800sqm. Includes pool. Great views. 13.5 million baht. Finance available. Please call Tel: 089-6525664.

## LAND IN RAWAI

11 rai 2 ngan in Soi Pattana Siyon. Rubber free on this land. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-6939571.

## AO MAKHAM, 25 RAI

Stunning view. This is the last big plot. Good zoning from owner. Only 2 million baht. Guaranteed development. Tel: 089-6525664.

## CBRE CB RICHARD ELLIS

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## Properties for Sale



- Modern villas on the east coast
- 2-4 b/r, 850-1,840 m<sup>2</sup> land plots
- Sea views over Phang Nga Bay
- Full use of Cape Yamu facilities

**Baht 32-66 Million**



- 2 b/r, 183 m<sup>2</sup> condominium
- Integrated landscape w/ 2 pools
- 5 minutes walk to Kata Noi Beach
- Ready to move in

**Baht 12.9-14.4 Million**



- 2 & 3 b/r town homes
- On the east coast of Phuket
- Large roof top terrace w/ sea view
- Large common pool

**From Baht 19.1 Million**



- 23 rai of land on the east coast
- 200 metre waterfront
- Nor Sor 3 Kor title, suitable for villas & project development

**Baht 3.5 Million/Rai**

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## Seaview Condominiums for Sale Rambutan Residence An Investment in Paradise



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury freehold fully furnished apartments for sale. Located in Soi Playbay just off Nana Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay.

Prices start at 2.7 million baht.

Please contact Peter at Tel: 01-8928526

For details please see our website at: www.phuket-besthomes.com



## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE - CHERNG TALAY

Cherg Talay area. 61 sq wah, 2 floors with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 200 meter from Redroom Restaurant. Price: 4.2 Million Baht. Tel: 09-9089829. Email: jitboon\_19@yahoo.com



**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Property Gazette

## DETACHED HOUSES



Four new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626.

## CLASS SEAVIEW

villa rental. Available November! Views do not get better. Very safe and quiet. 5 bedrooms total. Alternatively, rent 3-bedroom house or 2-story bungalow-apartment separately. Private entrances and pool access. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

In Kata-Karon. Located on Patak Rd, near PTT gas station. Furnished. Aircon, TV, freezer. 2 bedrooms. Tel: 086-9544155, or 084-060-0972.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Nanai Rd, good views, 1 bedroom, Thai style, short or long term. Cheap. Please Email: cosmicrhythms2003@yahoo.com

## KAMALA

apartment. 150m to beach, 10,000 baht per month incl Wi-Fi. Please contact for details. Tel: 081-5385285. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

## RAWAI SEAVIEW

Apartment. Luxury studio, full kitchen, hot water, cable, etc. All new 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

## SERVICED CONDOS

and apartments for rent long term or short term. Tel: 076-292628, 089-4912496. Please see our website: www.bluewaterphuket.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at 40,000 baht per month or for sale at 6.7 million baht. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## APARTMENTS

Patong. Rent out for long stays. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon. Same apartment with good sea view. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-2909567. Please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

## OFFICE SPACE

Just 2 km from Tesco-Lotus on bypass road. Office space of 240 sqm for rent in new 2-story building. Tel: 076-238-777 or 081-7371678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

## LUXURY HOUSE

3 bedrooms, near Laguna, furnished, spa pool, poolside bar, garden, aircon. 11 rai. 29,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-5944067.

## CHALONG NEW HOME

Perfect Western-style home for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon and telephone. Tel: 089-6521473, 076-280-466.

## KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, Wi-Fi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 086-2718254.

## LARGE VILLA

Kamala. 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, separate granny/maid accommodation, beautiful real teak furnishings, plasma TV, full-size snooker table, UBC, ADSL, 2-/3-car garage. Set on 11 rai with tropical garden. 60,000 baht per month, minimum 1-year let. Tel: 081-8111067.

## PATONG APARTMENT

Sea view, kitchen, cable TV, 10 min to beach. 600 baht a day, 12k a month. Please call Alan at Tel: 087-2635735.

## DISCOVERY GARDENS

Near Laguna. 2-bedroom, newly-built, fully-furnished houses with large communal pool. Available short/long term. Tel: 076-271544, 089-1956722. Fax: 076-271545. For more info contact via Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

## RAWAI HOUSE

For rent, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-8081804.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in the popular and secure Chaofa Thani estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, etc. ADSL, UBC TV, garden, furnished, air conditioned. Rent: 36,000 baht a month. Long-term rental. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

## NEW HOUSE

for lease or rent at Nai Harn Beach, before the lake. 2 minutes to the beach. Safe area. 600sqm with swimming pool. Tel: 089-6492947.

## PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, nicely furnished, UBC, DVD, aircon, pool, parking, sea view, only 300m to the beach. Central Patong. 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8473304.

## BOAT LAGOON

and Patong. - 17 rai: Boat Lagoon, sea view, 2.5 million baht per rai. - 5 rai: Patong, 5.5 million baht per rai. - 3 rai: Patong, 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-8942337.

## FOR RENT PER DAY

or per year. Luxury apartments: 35-75sqm, with pool, at Residence Edouard in Soi Veerakit in Patong. Tel: 076-296800 or see: www.residence-edouard.com

## PATONG SEAVIEW

Condo. Newly remodeled 1/1 condo, 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Spectacular sea view. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-159-0501, 081-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

## APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Please contact for more details. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

## BEACH HOUSE

The one and only house directly on Kamala beach. 2 bedrooms w/aircon, 2 bathrooms, fans throughout, home office w/ADSL modem, European kitchen, fully furnished. UBC and electricity extra. Available immediately. 50,000 baht per month, 12-month lease. House photo at online Gazette advert. Tel: 01-894-3839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

## GUEST HOUSE

and restaurant in Kamala. Beachfront view. Long-term lease. Tel: 081-8918085. Email: thaixin@e-mail.in.th

## NAI HARN

Sweet home for rent. Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-851-9072. Email: goodtastefor goodlife@yahoo.de

## KATA LUXURY

apartment. 2 bedrooms, furnished, ADSL, aircon, teak kitchen, huge terrace, 2 bathrooms, quiet area. Available Sep-Oct. Fully serviced @ 1,800 baht/day; or available non-serviced. Tel: 089-592-6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

## BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen, etc. Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong. Month rent: 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-4717629. Email: maxgmuender@hotmail.com

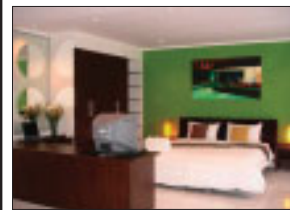
## KAMALA, LONG LET

2-bedroom house, 3 aircons, furnished, UBC, phone line, parking. 11,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-1789273.

## TOP VIEW, TOP VILLA

for rent. Overlooking Loch Palm golf course. 5 bedrooms, furnished. 95,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492. Email: paularen@gmail.com

## KARON STUDIO APARTMENT



Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Western-style kitchen, pool, near Karon Beach. Free Wi-Fi (ADSL), good price. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-398436-7, 086-9062220. Email: karonstudio@hotmail.com For more information please visit: www.karonstudio.com

## CENTRAL KAMALA

Large 2-bedroom apartment. All modern conveniences, UBC, etc. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Home and office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkhram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 084-062.9587.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Nanai Rd, good views, 1 bedroom, Thai style, short or long term. Cheap. Please Email: cosmicrhythms2003@yahoo.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

A superb 2-story house, with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living areas, kitchen and a large 8m x 4m swimming pool, is now up for rent, partly furnished, ready to move in. A nice area of Cherng Talay. 5 mins from Bang Tao Beach and Laguna. Very private, long-term rental only to a respectable person or family. Soi Pasak 13, Cherng Talay. Please call for viewing or inquiry. Tel: 081-7344324.

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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## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

**K.L. Mart**  
Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3  
Fax: 076-280403

**Earth Language School**  
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9  
Fax: 076-232398

**Sin & Lee**  
Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369  
Fax: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel**  
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2  
Fax: 076-344523

**41 Minimart**  
Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312



# Property Gazette

## Property Service

### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

I am a UK-registered electrician. Should you have any needs at your home, I would be happy to hear from you. Tel: 081-6919907. Email: phuketelectrician@yahoo.co.uk

## Property Wanted

### GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

### SHOP IN BANGLA ROAD PATONG

I am looking for a shop on Soi Bangla. Must be at least 4.5m wide and 5m deep, and near the beach. Prefer long lease (3+3 years). Will be prepared to fly in from Australia after talking. Call Tel: +61 425 7778-98 (Australia). Email: madler51@hotmail.com

### WANTED: SHOP SPACE IN KAMALA

I need to rent a shop for a restaurant in Kamala. Must be in a good location. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7866596. Email: roger\_sommer1@hotmail.com

### BEACHFRONT WANTED

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Tel: 089-0543505.

### LARGE-SCALE LAND

Wanted: Big piece of "rough" land, size approx 50-150 rai, minimum 400m x 400m. Phuket or Phang Nga. Must be in a remote area or former open-cut mine. Valley site preferred. Should be suitable for outdoor sports field. Land titles must be ready for purchase. Email: jibjoyly@hotmail.com

### 1-STORY SHOP

We are looking for a 1-story building suitable for a small shop. Seeking locations in Phuket City, Kathu, Chalong and Patong. Please contact us if you have property like this available at very reasonable rent. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-214000. Email: info@siamquick.com

### LAND IN KATA/KARON

I am interested in buying 1.5-2 rai of land in Kata or Karon. Must be suitable to build house on. Email: sverker\_gustafsson@yahoo.com

### LAND WANTED

Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10-100 rai. Tel: 081-6936437, 086-6841260.

### HOUSE WANTED

Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

### BUNGALOW RESORT

or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong areas. Please contact by email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

### SEEKING HOUSE

to rent. German family is looking for house to rent near international school. Min 1 year. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-188922.

### LAND TO BUY 1 RAI

I would like to buy a plot of about 1 rai in a nice, quiet area. Price should not be over 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Email: idcpetere@csloxinfo.com

### SEAVIEW LAND

wanted. I'm looking for 1-2 rai of seaview land in the Ao Makham area. Tel: 085-032-7100. Email: saze@gmx.net

### HOTEL WANTED

Small hotel/resort wanted on Phuket or nearby island. Email info/pics to Alan. Please contact by email: movinlos@yahoo.com.au

### 1 RAI +

Looking for Chanote land with a sea view, up to 2 rai, preferably on the west coast of Phuket. Must have road access and utilities. Email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

### NEED SEAVIEW LAND

I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must overlook the bay and town. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

### HOTEL WITH BEACH/SEA VIEW

Looking for a hotel to buy. Must have a beach or an amazing sea view. Email: franco@lemonsurf.com

## Accommodation Available

### HOUSE OR APARTMENT

At Nai Harn 1 or 2 bed/bath, fully furnished, TV and music. For rent long or short term. Near the beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

### PATONG

Good rooms still at low-season prices. Price depends on length of stay. Tel: 081-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com. Please see our website at: www.southernfriedrice.com

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Long stay incl ABF: 18,000 baht monthly. Beachfront, pool & spa, free Wifi internet. Tel: 081-8920038. Email: anthony\_sharman2006@hotmail.com

### HOME ON LARGE PROPERTY

6-bedroom, partially furnished house on 4,700 sqm land plot. For lease at 500,000 baht per year. Includes all pool and lawn maintenance. Just 2 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 076-288495. Email: leachbrian@hotmail.com

### APARTMENT KATHU

- 1 apartment, 58 sqm. 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, pool, fan, aircon, ADSL available. Price: 600 baht per day, longterm 12,000 baht per month.

- 1 apartment 85 sqm. 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, pool, telephone. Price: 800 baht per day or 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

### APARTMENT PATONG

1 bedroom near the beach for short-term. Aircon, TV/DVD, pool. Please contact for more information. Email: phuket-apartments@hotmail.com

### NAI HARN SWEET HOME

Fully furnished, short/long term, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, TV/music. Move in! Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

### LOFT STYLE

apartments Kathu. 4 large apartments, 6,000-15,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9684230. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

### 4-BEDROOM HOUSE + OFFICE SPACE

Luxury 2-story building - 4 bedrooms, 3 aircon, 3 toilets, kitchen. Office space. 13,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-288542, 086-683-7162. Email: somthawin\_pvw@hotmail.com

### LUXURY 3/4-BEDROOM HOUSE W/POOL

Private luxury house with private pool, tropical garden, fully-fitted Western kitchen, etc. Tel: 081-7722300, 081-6764849. Fax: 076-378360. Email: w\_amonoo@yahoo.com

### PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO

New remodeled 1/1 condo, 14th floor. Spectacular seaview. 100 meters to beach, Soi Bangla. Full kitchen, granite floors. All amenities, maid service. Short or long term. Tel: 084-1590501, 081-3753970. Email: patongcondo@yahoo.com

### SERVICED APARTMENTS

in Chalong. Spacious studio suites with rooftop spa and pool garden. Aircon, Wi-Fi, sat TV, kitchenette, house-keeping. From 9,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2826221, 081-8938592. Email: sanerod@yahoo.com

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### KATA BEACH

New guesthouse with everything. Facing the beach, only a 5-minute walk, without traffic, to beach. Please see: www.southernfriedrice.com. Tel: 081-8948446.

## Accommodation Wanted

### WANT TO RENT

I want to rent 2 bedroom/2 bath accommodation in the Kata-Karon area for 3 months, Jan-Mar 2007. Tel: 903-8832384. Email: white\_tome@gmail.com

### 4 OR 5 BED HOUSE DECEMBER WANTED

4 or 5 bed furnished house for rent for all of December. Good price paid for the right property, up to 150,000 baht or more if non-estate with view and nice garden. Email: andy@abairflow.co.uk

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King size bed with sheets, Cane 3 seat sofa and 4 chairs. Wooden box unit 2m x 80cm. Good for seating/extra bed, has hinged lid for storage space inside. Large open-faced wooden unit with shelves for kitchen or whatever. Wardrobe with shelf, drawers and built-in lock-up box. Two-ring upright gas cooker with 2 shelves and full bottle. Everything new in March and in perfect condition. Tel: 084-6597694.

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Email: charter@asia-marine.net

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Wood core/fiber/epoxy, in and out. Built March 2006. Yamaha 85 (30 hours). Teak deck, fast (26 knots), fuel efficient, strong. 880,000 baht. Thai registered. Please contact for more info. Tel: 087-132-3150. Email: skiyemen@yahoo.com

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Jet cruise 1. 244 passenger capacity. Length: 30.73m. Gross: 322 tons. Two 1,540KW MTU engines. Docked at Rattanachai slipway. Phuket price: 12.2 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-4084991.

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40ft charter boat, 2x185hp inboards, powerful generator, boatyard re-fit completed August 2006. Air conditioned, TV, DVD, galley, 4 cabins, sleeps 8 in comfort, power shower, electric toilet, large fishing deck, fly bridge fitted with seating, GPS, fish-finder, VHF. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 085-7143656. Email: crev@cruise Phuket.com Please see our website at [www.cruise Phuket.com](http://www.cruise Phuket.com)

### RUBBER DINGHY 12 FT

With 50 hp, new engine, excellent condition rarely used. Price: 95,000 baht. Tel: 081-8951724.

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With 5 hp engine, good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-8951724.

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Length: 18m. Beam 4.5m, hyno 6 cylinder 300hp turbo diesel engine, isuzu 80hp 20kw generator, just out of refit. Fully licenced 35 persons, crew on standby. 3.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel. 084-8451208, 076-381877.

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Sails masts booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282-864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

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### 27FT SPEEDBOAT

Located in Chalong Bay. Wood/epoxy covered, bottom renewed and Mercury 225hp engine, fully repaired in Feb 2006. Thai captain takes care of the boat. Price: 850,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-628-8630. Email: vesa.ankio@suomi24.fi

### SILVERTON 40FT

family boat, 2 twin bedrooms, two bathrooms + shower, saloon, dinette, galley kitchen. Two years old but with complete interior refurbishment within 12 months. Twin Volvo Penta engines + turbo, dinghy. New Mercury outboard used regularly, very reliable. Sale due to owner upgrade. Viewing at Ocean Marina Pattaya. 5 million baht. Tel: 02-6777555 ext 238, 081-8335750.

### SEA-DOO JET BOAT

5-meter speedster, 1997. Twin 85hp, trailer, GPS, fishfinder, fast, completely overhauled, cover, new upholstery, in excellent condition. Price: 465,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-871-3086.

### DIVING BOAT

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Suzukis. Four-stroke engines with gauges, etc. Still in boxes 1.35 million baht ono. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2781291.

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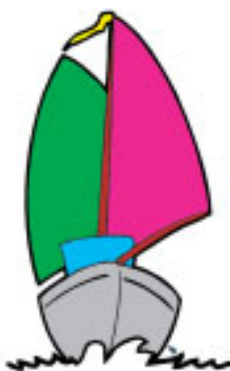
Fishing boat in good condition. Jim Young's "Vindex" design. Built-in cedar strip/epoxy, 35ft long, 12ft beam 300hp Cummins 6BTA diesel ZFHG, hydraulic steering from main cabin or fly bridge. Sleeps 2 couples in forward cabin or conv. area, WC/shower/hand basin. Including berth until Oct 06. Contact Peter for details. Tel: 01-8166940. Email: peterhae@e-mail.in.th

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# Island Job Mart

**CENTRAL**  
Krabi Bay Resort  
Krabi

## Central Krabi Bay Resort

**BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE! AT CENTRAL KRABI BAY RESORT**

Central Krabi Bay Resort is bringing together a team of warm, caring people who regard hospitality as a joy and who will receive in return first-class remuneration and benefits packages. We are now inviting capable candidates with suitable experience to join our dynamic team in the following positions:



### Marine Operations Manager

\* Thai Nationality

### Sports & Recreation Manager

\* Thai or Foreign Nationality

### Front Office

\* Front Desk Agent, Call Center Agent, Reservation Supervisor

### Food & Beverage

\* Artist, Supervisor, Captain, Waiter/Waitress, Bartender, Sommelier

### Kitchen

\* Executive Sous Chef, Chef de Partie, Demi Chef de Partie, Commis

### Housekeeping

\* Executive Housekeeper, Assistant Executive Housekeeper, Supervisor, Laundry Supervisor, Laundry Attendant

### Spa

\* Therapist

### Engineering

\* Technician

### Marine Transportation

\* Marine Mechanic

### Sale & Marketing

\* Sale & Marketing Manager

### Administration & Accounting


\* Financial Controller, Secretary of Executive Office, Secretary, Cost office, Receiving officer, Storekeeper

### Qualifications

- \* Excellent communication skills
- \* Extensive experience and knowledge
- \* Able to work individually and as part of a team
- \* Energetic & hard-working

Please apply in person or send your application with complete resumé and recent photo to:

**Central Krabi Bay Resort**  
Personnel & Training Department  
334 Moo 2, T. Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000  
E-mail: ptkbr@chr.co.th Tel: 075 637 789 Fax: 075 638 182



**Open Day - Phuket**  
Date - 17th September 2006  
Time - From 9:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Venue - Holiday Inn Resort  
Phuket, S2 Thawee Wong  
Road, Patong Beach,  
Phuket 83150

Kindly be in smart casual attire and bring an updated CV along with passport size and full-length photographs. For details, visit [emiratesgroupcareers.com](http://emiratesgroupcareers.com).

**Seeking Flight Stewardess.**  
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**PHUKET ANDAMAN**  
REAL ESTATE



**The worldwide real estate company in Phuket is currently seeking the following qualified candidates:**

### 1. Sales & Marketing Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook Express)
- Pleasant personality, organized and can work independently
- Able to work overtime if needed
- Own car
- Experience in sales will be an advantage
- Good salary for the right candidate

### 2. Administrator

- Bachelor's degree or higher in secretarial, management, business or related fields
- Computer literate
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Pleasant personality, organized and a team player
- Knowledge of accounting will be an advantage

Please send your CV with a color photo, current salary & expectations to [Info@phuketandamanrealestate.com](mailto:Info@phuketandamanrealestate.com)

Tel: (076) 245966

[www.phuketandamanrealestate.com](http://www.phuketandamanrealestate.com)

Walk-in interview at 17/11 Chaofa Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000

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Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to growth within the expanding Ocean Resort Group

- Chef De Partie
- Kids Program Attendance
- Cook
- Waiter/Waitress
- Restaurant Manager
- Show and Entertainment Staff
- Captain/Bartender
- Accountant
- Guest Relations/ Reception
- Hotel Service Trainee
- Pool Attendance
- Minimarket Head

### \*APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME\*

Candidates should send a detailed resumé stating current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

### Personnel Department

Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177  
Email: [wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com](mailto:wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com)



**LIFESTYLE & LEISURE (Thailand) LTD.**

## Real Estate Sales & Marketing Manager

We are a successful high-end villa development company based in Phuket. Currently, we have developments under construction, and are in the design stage for our newest project. As a result of continued expansion, it has become necessary for us to set up a broader sales and marketing department.

The successful candidate will be responsible for setting up this department and would be responsible for selling the remaining units of Laemsingh Villas, and all the units of the new development. You would also be involved in marketing including property exhibitions, advertising programs, etc.

All our villas are in the high-end market, therefore require a sophisticated individual with experience and an understanding of the clients in this range of the market.

The financial gains are very attractive. The person we are looking for should be:

- Female
- English as a first language
- Minimum 3 years experience in real estate sales
- A captive personality and presentable appearance
- Possess Management Skills
- Able to live in Phuket
- Speaking Thai would be an advantage

Interested candidates should send their resumé to [hr@lifestyleandleisure.com](mailto:hr@lifestyleandleisure.com)  
website: [www.lifestyleandleisure.com](http://www.lifestyleandleisure.com)  
Developer of LAEMSINGH VILLAS



# Island Job Mart

**TRISARA**

Phuket's leading 4-star international resort and spa and residential villa development is currently searching for the following people to join our team for the coming season. Well presented and motivated candidates with excellent English will be considered. A 5-day working week and excellent benefits apply to all employees.

**PERMANENT EMPLOYEES**

<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>	<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b>
Front Office Manager Library Attendant Reservation Officer Assistant Manager (reception)	Administrative Assistant Restaurant Supervisor Bar Hostess
<b>HOUSEKEEPING</b>	<b>ENGINEERING/LANDSCAPING</b>
Room Attendant	Pool Attendant Gardener
<b>SALES &amp; MARKETING</b>	<b>HUMAN RESOURCE</b>
Marketing / P.R. Executive	English Teacher (Expatriates are welcome to apply)
<b>SPA</b>	<b>SEASONAL EMPLOYEES</b>
Spa Therapist	

A high season contract with good service charge and excellent salaries are being offered with potential for conversation to permanent employment.

<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>	<b>HOUSEKEEPING</b>
Bell/Driver	Room Attendant Laundry Attendant
<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b>	<b>SPA &amp; RECREATION</b>
Pool & Beach Service Attendant Restaurant Service Attendant Bar Attendant Private Dining Attendant Commis - Western kitchen Bakery 2nd Chef Steward	Recreation Attendant/beach/tennis/gym Spa Housekeeping Attendant Beautician / hairdresser

Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to

**TRISARA**

60/1 Moo 6 Srisoomthrn Road, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076 310100 Fax: 076 310299 or via e-mail to: hr@trisara.com

We are international property consultants with over 200 offices worldwide, property agency service, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to a rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follow:

**Knight Frank**

<b>Estate Manager:</b>	<b>Administrator:</b>
• Age over 28 yr • BA in management or related fields • At least 2 yr experience in building/estate management level or 3 yr in management level • Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage • Strong leadership, good problem-solving skills and able to work under pressure	• Age over 22 yr • BA in related fields • Basic computer and office automation skills • Good interpersonal skill, detailed, service-minded and well-organized
<b>Chief Engineer:</b>	<b>Technician:</b>
• Male, age over 25 yr • BA in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering • At least 2 yr experience in building services • Knowledge of systems maintenance management is an advantage	• Male, age over 25 yr • Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical • At least 1 yr experience in system maintenance
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>Remark:</b>
• Age over 22 yr • BA in related fields • Self motivated and possess good coordinating and problem solving skills with service-mind	• Thai national only • Position 1-4 a good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential • Male applicants must have completed or be exempt from military service • Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

**Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.**  
1 Piazza Del Mar Building Room No. 109-111 and 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 0-7631-8151-58 Ext. 102 Fax: 0-7631-8159-60 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

## British International School, Phuket is now seeking:

### Lifeguard 1 Position

- Male, age not over 35 years
- University Degree, Physical Education Major or related fields
- Must satisfy standards laid down by the Head of PE
- Be strong enough and confident enough to reprimand students who are not adhering to pool rules
- Be able to communicate to students and staff in English and Thai
- Be able to work as an important part of the boarding team
- Be flexible in terms of working hours

### Nursery Assistant 2 Positions

- University degree - Thai national
- A high level of English fluency
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care/teaching preferable

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket.



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand

Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992

**ONLINE JOB APPLICATION**

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[www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm](http://www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm)

## Professional Property Management Solutions



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

- **Area Managers (2 Positions)**
- **Operations Secretary**
- **Villa manager**
- **Receptionist**

PIPS offers an attractive salary & service charge with good career development opportunities.

- Experience in hotel or property management and good computer skills an advantage.
- Good command of written and spoken English essential.

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.  
Phuket Island Property Services Co., LTD (PIPS)  
452 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 076 270 750 Fax: 076 270 751  
Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

### SECRETARY

needed: Thai female with English and computer skills. Call Brian. Tel: 087-06-73360. Email: brett@phuketrealestate.com

### HOUSEKEEPER

and cook wanted urgently. Prefer live-in. If interested, please call K. Nee at Tel: 081-9281530 for more information.

### SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

If you are a highly motivated, well presented Thai national with an excellent command of English and a Bachelor's Degree or above in marketing we want you to join our dynamic team.

- Able to develop & execute marketing strategies.
- Computer literate (excel, word, PPoint, Outlook)
- Organised and able to work independantly.
- Experienced in tour operations is an advantage.
- Own car

A good salary, benefits & commission incentives to the successful applicant. Please send CV with colour photo, current and expected salary by email or to our office at: 16 Soi Tueson, Hong Yok U-Thit Rd, Samkong, Phuket 83000 or contact for more information. Tel: 076-354- 074, 081-8945822. Fax: 076-354074. Email: manager@coralseekers.com

### MARKETING

We are looking for open-minded people who are looking for a career in marketing. You need to have good spoken and written English and experience in the tourism industry. Own transportation and computer skills needed. Tel: 084-8490443.

### FARANG CHEF

The Harvest Bar & Restaurant is searching for a European Cook/Chef to join our Thai staff and kitchen team to develop/manage our catering/events dept and restaurant. Email: theharvest\_foods@yahoo.com or theharvest\_food@gmail.com

### ONLINE SALES

is fun. Advance yourself in a fun, friendly, smart office. Must have good English skills. Salaries from 12,000 baht plus commission. Start now. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-236616, 081-8952206. Email: jobs@globalonlinereservations.com



# Island Job Mart

## CENTRAL Karon Beach Resort Phuket

Central Karon Beach Resort is a modern mid-rise resort with panoramic views of Karon Beach which is currently undergoing a major renovation programme.

We are looking for highly motivated and service-minded individuals, who are committed to grow within the expanding group of Central Hotels & Resorts, to fill in the following positions for the exciting re-opening of the resort in a few months time.

### Purchasing Manager Recreation Manager

### Assistant Chief Engineer Assistant Front Office Manager

### Guest Service Supervisor Call Centre Supervisor/officer Restaurant Supervisor Chef de Partie

### Waiters/Waitresses Cocktail Waitress Bar Staff Commis 1, 2, 3 Engineering staff Gardener Account Receivable Officer Cost Officer Bell Boys Minimart Attendant Pool/Sports Attendants Kids Club Attendant Room Attendant Public Area Attendant

### Qualifications required:

- At least 1-3 years experience in position applied for
- Experience in hotel industry is an advantage
- Good command of written and spoken English
- All positions are applicable to Thai nationals only

We offer attractive remuneration packages to the successful candidates. Interested persons should send a detailed resumé stating current and expected salary, contact telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

### Personnel and Training Manager

Central Karon Beach Resort, Phuket  
502/3 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Muang Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 7639 6200-5 Fax: +66 (0) 7639 6491 E-mail: ptckr@chr.co.th  
Website: [www.centralhotelsresorts.com](http://www.centralhotelsresorts.com)

**We create the great places to be** - Great resort destinations with the goal to become the best recognized brand name leisure real estate company in Southeast Asia, building, owning and operating great resort hotels, spectacular golf club resorts and magical resort communities across Southeast Asia. We are expanding and we are looking for dynamic team players to join us:



### Real Estate-Sale Manager (Based in Samui)

You must be a dynamic self starter with excellent presentation skills and ability to sell our product with confidence to a sophisticated customer base. Must be able to think on your own, develop sales strategy to achieve targets, generate new business opportunities and build longterm sales distribution networks in Thailand and abroad. At least 5 years experience in airline, hotel, or travel industry is preferable.

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the qualified candidate.

Please send your resume to  
[hr@destination-properties.com](mailto:hr@destination-properties.com)

or 191/36 CFI Tower  
23rd Floor,  
New Ratchadapisek Road,  
Klongtoey, Bangkok or visit us at  
[www.destination-properties.com](http://www.destination-properties.com)

## HERMAN'S RESTAURANT AND LIPS-BAR



Located close to Rawai Beach with an excellent reputation and nice atmosphere. Searching for an attractive, charming lady for our reception. If you are highly motivated, well-presented with a good command of English, we want you to join our dynamic team. We offer a good salary, benefits & commission as well the opportunity to get a professional training on the job. This is an excellent chance for your future. If you are interested, call "Herman" at Tel: 081-8940570. Email: [hsiegner@hermanns-phuket.com](mailto:hsiegner@hermanns-phuket.com)

### LIVE-IN MAID RAWAI

Must speak English and be able to cook Thai food. Good location near to shops and safe area. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388012, 081-081-6862. Email: [belindarevett@hotmail.com](mailto:belindarevett@hotmail.com)

## INDIGO PEARL phuket

### Not all gems come in a little box

Indigo Pearl is a unique design hotel in Phuket, Thailand. Architecture inspired by Phuket's tin mining past. Modern décor evoking a Thai factory of a century ago. Extensive, imaginative gardens.

The resort is currently seeking professionals who share enthusiasm for creating a one-of-a-kind experience for all guests – an experience as rare as an indigo pearl.

Join our Team Saturday 23rd September, 2006 9 am to 4 pm At Pearl Hotel, Phuket Town

### Positions Available:

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Assistant Manager Front Office | - Chief Concierge                 |
| - Recreation Manager             | - In Room Dining Manager          |
| - Room Attendants                | - Sommelier                       |
| - Public Area attendants         | - Waiters/Waitresses              |
| - Valet/Laundry Attendants       | - Guest Relations Officer         |
| - Bar Supervisors                | - Guest service Agents            |
| - Stewards                       | - Sous Chef                       |
| - Chefs de Partie                | - Assistant Executive Housekeeper |
| - Training Manager               | - Public Relations Manager        |
| - Restaurant Manager Grill       | - Reservations Manager            |

### Applicants should also demonstrate the following:-

- Positive attitude-Excellent grooming and presentation
- Good communication and leadership skills

Competitive benefit including service charge.

### Enquiries:

Director of Human Resources

Indigo Pearl, 116 MI T. Sakoo, A. Talang, Phuket 83110  
E-mail: [samran@indigo-pearl.com](mailto:samran@indigo-pearl.com) Web: [www.indigo-pearl.com](http://www.indigo-pearl.com)

## PEERAPAT BUSINESS CENTER

is urgently looking to fill the position of Accountant/Inventory Controller. Female age 22-28, *PorWorSor* or higher, familiar with accounting software and gifted with a great sense of responsibility. Please contact K. Chitrada for an appointment. Tel: 081-5385032. Email: [jack@peerapatholding.com](mailto:jack@peerapatholding.com)

### RESTAURANT STAFF

needed for well-known restaurant in Nai Harn. Front (2 positions), kitchen (1 position). Salary about 10,000 baht a month. Tel: 08-19560204.

### ACCOUNTS

Accounting background with good English, some secretarial experience, loves to meet people, self-motivated, able to handle charter work. Tel: 076-239423, 083-1805069. Fax: 076-239424. Email: [k\\_kueyong@yahoo.com](mailto:k_kueyong@yahoo.com)

## UK RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Native English speakers with degree required for the Phuket office of an international recruitment agency. Experience in sales preferred. Excellent basic salary, uncapped commission earnings, plus 7 weeks holiday per year. Apply with cover letter & CV to: [lan@evocation.net](mailto:lan@evocation.net) Website at: [www.evocation.net](http://www.evocation.net)

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## Green Heritage (Holdings) Limited,

A Phuket-based property developer and management company is looking for the following staff:

- 1. Sales staff.** Senior and junior positions, with good salaries and sales commissions. Good English and office skills essential.
- 2. Receptionist.** Some hotel/hospitality and office experience required. Must speak English well.
- 3. Pool technician, gardener, cleaner.**

Please email resumé/C.V., with photo, to [marketing@katamanda.com](mailto:marketing@katamanda.com) or call 076 333251 for further details.

## RAILEI BEACH CLUB

is looking for excellent people for the following positions:

- Accountant
- Front Desk/Office Assistant

The qualified candidates will have a diploma or degree, or equivalent experience. Must also have excellent English skills (both spoken and written). We offer a competitive salary and compensation package. Contact K. Anurat. Tel: 075-622582, 086-6859359. Fax: 075-622596. Email: [sunny@raileibeachclub.com](mailto:sunny@raileibeachclub.com) [www.raileibeachclub.com](http://www.raileibeachclub.com)



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## Business Opportunities

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### MITSUBISHI FRIDGE-FREEZER

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### DRAEGER RAY SCR

Draeger Ray semi-closed circuit rebreather for sale, complete without the tank. Very good condition. Seldom used. 40,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 086-660987.

## 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  
(Scandinavian Meeting)  
**Karon Wat Karon School**  
on Tue, Sat at 7 pm  
For Phuket info, Please call 08-19564031, 08-18912895 or 08-12732053 (Scandinavian)  
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @: 02-231-8300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org



A high-end property developer, with offices in Laguna area, Phuket, seeks a dynamic and self-motivated person for the following position:

### Senior Accountant

#### Qualifications:

- Thai national male or female
- University degree in accounting / CPA certificate
- Minimum 3 years experience in senior account level and able to handle accounts independently
- Knowledge in local required laws including VAT, WHT, income tax, etc.
- Experience in property development is a plus
- Familiar with accounting software and have working knowledge of Windows and MS Office
- Excellent communication skills and command of spoken and written English
- Able to live in Phuket

Attractive salary and fringe benefits will be offered to the right candidate. Please submit a CV stating education, background and working experience, as well as current and expected salary to Khun Thitiporn at thitiporn@lifestyleandleisure.com



### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

We are seeking the services of an experienced Thai-national Human Resources Manager to take up a newly-created position with a well-established restaurant group in Phuket. The successful applicant can be assured of an excellent salary and other benefits commensurate to his/her abilities.

#### Requirements:

- Able to organize and develop the current employees and assist in improving work quality
- Handle staff welfare with labor department
- Have an understanding of current Thai labor laws
- Organize all the staff records and paperwork
- Have very good communication skills in handling problems between employees
- Computer literate
- A undergraduate degree in political science, with major in personal management or similar
- Written and spoken English skills

Resumé with full details and photograph should be sent to Email: das@baanrimpa.com



### Senior Reporters - Phuket Television

The *Phuket Gazette*, publisher of Phuket's weekly English-language newspaper, has launched PGTV on all Phuket cable television networks and on the Web, reaching up to 60,000 viewers a day - locally and worldwide. Our content focuses on Phuket NEWS and includes daily information on the development of the island province in all aspects.

We are seeking energetic and well-rounded Senior Reporters, as follows:

- Male/Female, Thai nationality
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in NEWS reporting
- Inclined to work with a high sense of urgency
- Focused on quality
- Reliable and pleasant personality
- At least a Bachelor degree and fluency in English
- Ability to relocate to Phuket immediately

Multimedia skills would be an advantage. Salary is negotiable.

Please submit resumé and photo to:

#### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Road, Muang, Phuket 83000

Fax: 076-213971

Phone: 076-236555 (10 lines), attn K. Chutimon, ext 122

Email: Chutimon@PhuketGazette.Net

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- Administrative Assistant
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- Spa Therapists
- Spa Receptionists

Good command of English language and spa experience would be an advantage.

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### TEFL LANGUAGE

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### SIMPSON MARINE

Phuket requires the services of a Sales/Marketing and PR lady. The ideal candidate will be a Thai national with a strong background in sales and marketing. Good command of English both written and spoken is essential. Previous experience in marine industry would be a bonus. Apply initially in writing or via email to: phuket@simpsonmarine.com Interview appointments will be confirmed by telephone.

### ADMIN ASSISTANT

(Thai only). International recruitment company based in Phuket City requires Thai admin assistant for general office duties. Excellent opportunity for young, university-educated person to work in an English-speaking environment with a dynamic team. Unbeatable working conditions and salary, 5 days a week, 6 weeks holiday a year. Suitable for graduate with BA in English or equivalent. Email: ian@evocation.net

### RENTALS MANAGER

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai rentals manager for holiday and long-term rental business. Must have good English, sales experience, and own car. Must also know the island and be computer literate. Good salary and commissions. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

### TROPICAL HOMES

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### OFFICE ASSISTANT

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### SALES & MARKETING

assistant. Real estate company urgently requires an active and motivated sales & marketing assistant. Good knowledge of written and spoken English is a must. This person should be computer literate (MS Office and Email), be able to organize and work independently, be service-minded, willing to learn and have excellent communication skills both in person and by Email. Thai nationals only. Good salary for the right candidate. Please contact. Tel: 076-340792, 087-882-2856. Fax: 076-340693. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

### SUPERVISOR

foreman. We are looking for a male who is fluent in English and Thai for our modular building dept. Applicant must have leadership and hands-on experience. Contact. Tel: 076-281283, 081-8924804. Please see our website at: www.safewayphuket.com

### KATA RESTAURANT

Restaurant at Kata Beach for sale, with cheap rent. 30-year contract possible. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

### SMALL GUESTHOUSE

Nanai Rd, Patong. Long-term rent (2-5 years). 7 rooms, all have aircon, cable TV, fridge. No key money. Example: 5 years is 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8469029.

### GUESTHOUSE

for lease on Nanai Rd, Patong, close to new shopping mall. 5 rooms; has bar and kitchen. 30,000 baht a month until March 2008; then 35,000 until 2011. Key money: 1.5 million baht ono. Tel: 087-038-2627. Email: sasithorn\_chbkk@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT & BAR

for rent. Klong-Dao Beach, Koh Lanta. 27 seats inside, 12-16 outside. 20m from main road, 140m to the beach. Lease is until March 31, 2009. Rent is 200,000 baht a year. The price includes the 1st-year's rent. Asking price: 450,000 baht. Contact Conny for more information. Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

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