Patong waste plant online

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Noolek Karaket

PATONG: The drive to keep Patong Bay free of seaweed in the upcoming high season took a big step forward with the opening of a new wastewater treatment plant on October 12.

The center, built by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment’s Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) with 13 million baht from Danish International Development Assistance (Danida), uses a constructed wetland to filter wastewater before it flows into the sea.

WMA Director Sarawut Sriskunaka explained, “After the tsunami we received a message from the Danish ambassador saying that he wanted to help us improve our wastewater treatment capability by using ‘subsurface wetland’ technology developed in Denmark.

The WMA saw the opportunity to use land next to the existing sewage treatment plant to build a second treatment system in the hope of preventing the high-season seaweed growth in the bay untreated,” he said.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairoat Sukbal said that the system is already working very well, but will take time to reach peak effectiveness at reducing the biological oxygen demand (BOD), a key indicator used to determine water quality calculated as milligrams of organic material per liter of water.

“The system is not yet 100% effective because we must wait three months for the system to reach maximum efficiency. Before we began using the system, the BOD value of the water dumped into the bay was measured at 40 mg/l. After the water first passed through the system, it was reduced to 3 mg/l. After three months it should go down to zero,” he said.

Moderately polluted rivers typically have a BOD range between 2 mg/l and 8 mg/l. Sewage is considered treated if it can be reduced to a BOD of 20 mg/l. Since this water flows directly into Patong Bay, the goal has been set at zero.

“This system is built specifically to absorb phosphorus and nitrogen, which spur seaweed to grow in the bay. Small amounts of other chemicals might make it through, but it won’t be dangerous for people,” Chairoat said.

Sarawut said, “The system will pump water from Pakbang and Paklak canals back to the station for treatment before it is released into the sea. The pumping system automatically turns off during high tide, when the sea water contains a high concentration of organic wastes and chemical substances, such as detergents and shampoo. These are the nutrients the seaweed in the bay feeds on during the high season. Using the new plant we can treat much more of this water, which otherwise would flow into the bay untreated,” he said.

Patong’s wastewater can be treated by the old system, but the other 30% comes from Klong Pakbang and Klong Paklak. This water contains a high concentration of organic wastes and chemical substances, such as detergents and shampoo. These are the nutrients the seaweed in the bay feeds on during the high season. Using the new plant we can treat much more of this water, which otherwise would flow into the bay untreated,” he said.

SEAWEED DIET: At the 13-million-baht natural wastewater treatment plant, Canna plants will absorb much of the organic waste that used to flow into Patong Bay, feeding the seaweed there.

Continued on Page 2

Kiwi tourist killed in bar brawl

KARON: New Zealand tourist Warwick Button, 32, died in the early hours of October 12 during a fight with bar owner Wayne Robinson, 40, and Anthony Quinn, 56, both from the UK.

Chalong Police Inspector Pol Lt Col Chokchak Suthimek said that he was informed of an altercation among foreigners at the Dimension Bar on the access road to the Karon Whale Resort at about 1am on October 12.

Arriving at the scene 10 minutes later, Col Chokchak found bar owner Robinson sitting on the victim’s neck and back area and Quinn sitting on his posterior, both apparently trying to restrain the New Zealander, with whom they had been fighting.

Seperating the men and turning over Butler, who was lying face down, Col Chokchak found he had already died. Apart from a bloody nose and some bruises on his mouth and chin, there were no other signs of injury to the victim, he said.

Button’s body was sent to Patong Hospital for examination.

Col Chokchak said that the victim’s girlfriend, also from New Zealand, said her and Button had had an argument earlier that night, and he dropped her off at their hotel room about 11pm before going out on his own.

Button was already very drunk, she told police, adding that she learned of her boyfriend’s death only after waking up the following morning.

Chalong Police, treating the death as accidental, charged both men with manslaughter and released them on bail, the total amount of which was reported as 600,000 baht.

Continued on Page 2
Chalong residents face year-long wait for flood works

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

CHALONG: Parts of Soi Sainam-uyen, behind Baan Chalong School, have flooded to a depth of one meter several times since August, say local villagers, and the road has been unusable for long stretches even when the rain has stopped.

The problems began when a local landowner landscaped his land, blocking the water flow out of the area. The road has been temporarily diverted through pri- vate property. One villager said she has contacted the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (OrbToor) for the past two years, but received assistance only in the past week, when govern- ment workers came to sprinkle gravel on the drought. The Chief Administrative Of- ficer (Palad) Dechakane Leelanoot of OrbToor Chalong told the Gazette, "If we dig a two-meter-wide storm drain beside the road to release the water, we will have to dig about three or four meters deep. But the land next to the road belongs to some- one who will neither give us con- sent to dig nor sell the land to us, so we will have to dig the drain directly into the road, which is only four meters wide."

If that happens, the drain will have to be covered by a metal grate to allow cars to pass. "That looks dangerous, but it is the best way. We do not have any choice because this problem has been recurring for a long time," he said.

"However, I am afraid that if a truck drives on the grate, it will collapse. Also, if we use gravel to raise the road, people will have to build their walls even higher to protect their houses from floods," he added. "We have a budget of about 2 million baht for road construc- tion and I anticipate we will be able to solve the problem by the end of next year. We can’t start construction yet because the weather is making it very hard for work to be done."

Palad Dechakane said that the diversion will have to suffice until the water dries up on its own and more permanent measures can be implemented.

Local firms to pay for security boost?

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: In a bid to increase security on the island, four of the island’s top tourism business as- sociations are planning to estab- lish a fund to help pay for extra police work and equipment. The Phuket Tourist Association President Maithree Narukhat- pichaisak told the Gazette that the idea sprang from widespread concerns about the possible ef- fects of a terror act on the island’s all-important tourism industry. "It’s just an idea at the moment, but I would like to see it realized. We can see the effect the Bali bombings had on the tour- ism industry here... Hotel occupa- ncy is still down because tour- ists are not confident to travel there," he said.

Many Australian tourists who used to vacation in Bali now come to Phuket, he noted. Representatives of the four groups – the PTA, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Hotel Association and The Federation of Thai Indus- tries, Phuket Chapter – will meet next week to discuss details of the scheme. The first meetings will be held between the Phuket Provincial Police and Patong Municipality to take over the fund’s operations, he said.

"We received 13 million baht in support for the Phuket project from Denmark, which is also supplying an annual management budget of 500,000 baht for three years, a total of 1.5 million baht. During that time they will train Patong Municipality to take over system operations," he said.

Dech paris has funded a simi- lar system in Phang Nga, at a cost of 4 million baht, and is providing 28 million baht for a third system now under construction on Koh Phu Don.

"It is much more expensive there because we will have to ferry all the construction equip- ment to the island," he said.

The project in Phang Nga has reduced BOD levels to less than 5 mg/l after in months.

Spa exhibition in November

PHUKET: The Phuket Spa Business Club (PSBSC) will from November 16 to 19 hold its “Andaman Spa Invitation 2006”, an ex- hibition of the island’s top spas and spa product suppliers. The exhibition, with 38 booths for exhibitors, will be on the first floor of Central Festival Phuket from 10 am to 10 pm daily.

PSBSC President Pakin Raktae-ngam said that the spa industry in Phuket is booming, with about 100 spas on the island.

Of roughly four million tour- ists who visit Phuket annually, some 1.5 million have a spa treat- ment, costing on average about 800 baht. This generates more than one billion baht annually for the local economy, he added.

Andaman Spa Invitation 2006 is intended to help bring the entire industry up to top interna- tional standards, introduce the slogan “Andaman Spa Retreat” to promote spa treatments unique to Phuket. Some 2,000 people a day are expected to visit.

For more information, contact Sirivan “Bee” Tongtong. Tel: 083-1829002; Fax 076- 22925; Email: prett21@hotmail.com.

Deadline for local telephone book


Business owners are urged to update their listing details now in order to avoid the server overuses experienced last year in the run-up to the deadline. This year’s deadline cannot be extended as the Gazette Guide printing date cannot be altered.

The Gazette server has seen heavy traffic recently because of the need to revise more than 3,000 mobile phone numbers to comply with the new format requiring an “8” after the leading “0”.

The Gazette Guide will be available in guestrooms of the island’s leading hotels from January 12. It will go on sale at shops from Janu- ary 15. As has been the case since the launch of the Gazette Guide 10 years ago, standard listings are free of charge.

To enter or update a listing, business owners or managers should access the form appropriate to their location – Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga or Samui. The form is located at www.phuketgazette.net/guide. To ensure that all listings are correct and current, only listing “owners” are allowed access to their data. Staff at the Phuket Ga- zette are not allowed to enter or make changes to listings.
Dive operators fight new rules in the courts

By Janyaporn Morel
PHUKET: After hearing opening arguments in a case lodged by the Thai Diving Association (TDA) against Phuket Province, the Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on October 12, requested more evidence from both sides.

The TDA is seeking a court order that would force the province to rescind strict new regulations that went into effect October 1. The new rules allow the province to closely monitor the business activities and environmental impact of dive companies operating in the province.

TDA Vice-President Pragom Geatgun told the Gazette that the TDA represents about 60 dive operators in Phuket.

These firms agree with the stated aim of the regulations – to protect the environment – but feel the reporting requirements fail to reflect this, are too time-consuming and infringe on privacy rights.

TDA attorney Pongsawan Sathatham told the Gazette that in its opening statement the TDA requested a letter from the court ordering a temporary suspension of the regulations until the court rules in the case.

The TDA also agreed to give the TDA more time to prepare its case but deferred its decision to issue the requested letter, he said.

“At the hearing, I was asked by the judge what the effect of the new regulations would be on Phuket dive operators. I said that the main problem is that the reporting requirements are too detailed, making it impossible for the dive operators to comply and therefore putting them at risk of having their licenses revoked.

“The second reason is that some of the information that must be reported is private business data. We question whether the province has put sufficient measures in place to ensure that it remains confidential. This is very important. We think the regulations infringe on individual privacy rights,” he said.

The judge also requested more information from the province. Pongsawan added. Once all the information is submitted, the court will decide whether or not to suspend the regulation while the case is being heard, he said.

“If the court rules in favor of the province [and throws out the case] we can appeal the ruling,” he said.

Provincial Attorney Aekachai Soonthorn, who also serves as secretary to Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Nivit Aroonrat, insisted that the regulation will remain in force until such time as the court issues an injunction.

“The court is still considering the case and has yet to make a judgment. But the court understands why the province has issued this regulation,” he said, citing the need to protect the environment.

Even if the court rules to rescind the regulations, the province will still maintain the authority to check licenses, work permits and tax payment information of all dive operators, he said.

Price freeze ordered for Vegetarian Festival

PHUKET CITY: To prevent price-gouging in the upcoming Phuket Vegetarian Festival, the Phuket Internal Trade Office (PITO) has announced that they will inspect shops to ensure that prices of vegetables and other supplies are not above current market prices and that prices are clearly marked on all products.

Phuket Commercial Affairs Chief Thada Pyaporn said that more vegetables will be eaten during the festival, but that supplies may be limited because of flooding in north and central Thailand, tempting shop owners to raise their prices.

K. Thada said that the maximum penalty for selling produce at prices higher than the set ceiling is a fine of 140,000 baht. Shop owners who do not clearly label prices face fines up to 400 baht for individuals, and 2,000 baht for businesses.

The PITO will also host a daily fresh produce market October 20 to 30 at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd to allow farmers to sell their products directly to the public.

The price of vegetables, fruit and other products used in cooking vegetarian fare will be 10%-15% lower than market price, said PITO Chief Sompoch Sungkapon.

For more Festival details see http://www.phuketgazette.net/news/index.asp?ID=5286
For a list of the festival procession routes see www.phuketgazette.net/bulletins

Phuket IT icon John Seebach dead

CHERNG TALAY: Island Technology founder John Seebach has died of heart failure at the age of 48.

John, who also wrote a bi-monthly column on information technology issues for the Phuket Gazette, died after giving his wife Autschawarn “Gay” Pratumwan a swimming lesson at the Banyan Tree resort at Laguna Phuket.

“He was teaching me how to swim like a professional, because he had a [swim coach],” Gay told the Gazette through tears.

“After he sat down and just passed out. I tried to help him, do CPR, everything... called the ambulance. The doctors tried to help for about three hours. Finally they had to let him go because his heart was not working any more.”

Bangkok Hospital Phuket’s Canal Village Clinic, an emergency medical response center based at Laguna, responded to the call at 7:05 pm on October 11.

Mr Seebach was taken to Thalang Hospital, then transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket City, where he was pronounced dead. He had previously undergone heart surgery.

Tsunami orphanage remains open while fraud probe stalls

THALANG: The Barnhem Thai-Swedish Children’s Foundation home for tsunami orphans in Mai Khao will continue to operate as an investigation into fraud claims against the project has stalled, awaiting the return of the home’s founder Narin Dangtakote.

The investigators are now coming under pressure from the Interior Ministry to produce results following the Swedish Embassy last month urging the Thai government to discover the fate of millions of baht donated by Swedes to the center.

Complaints of fraud against the project emerged after Swedes who donated money came to see the shelter, established in early 2005 by Narin and his Swedish wife Maria Floren.

Claims were made that children at the shelter were not tsunami orphans, just underprivileged children from Isarn and, according to some reports, relatives of Narin.

Nikorn Tothirunyapreuk, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of Thalang District and head of the non-criminal investigation, on October 17 said that officials had questioned about 10 people, but have yet to contact the man in the center of the scandal, Narin.

“We heard that he is still in Sweden and all we can do is await his return. We can’t prevent him from leaving Thailand or travel internationally because he has not been charged with anything. We will keep our eyes open for him and investigate him further when he returns,” Palad Nikorn said.

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THE GREAT BANG

Scared by decades of tin mining, land along Bang Tao Bay was, just a few decades ago, deemed to have 'no potential for tourism development'. That was before Laguna Resorts & Hotels arrived in 1984 and invested 200 million baht, transforming the ravaged landscape into what is now Phuket's premier resort complex.

Business has boomed, and in Bang Tao this has taken the form of almost 90 illegal vendors who now encroach along the public beach, the worst cases blocking access to the beach by guests staying at Laguna Beach Resort.

With the formation of a provincial committee, new efforts are underway to move the vendors to new sites back off the beach. Will the start of the next high season see an end to beach encroachment at Bang Tao?

The Gazette’s Jenjira Ruengjarus and Stephen Fein report.

Santi Korkarvee, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorTor) member for Cherng Talay, said, “We should approach this seriously. The government should clear the beach and allocate areas (for vendors), and create a walkway about a meter wide (along the beach). That would make it a great place to relax.”

Cherng Talay OrBorTor Vice-President Wiwat Dorktien suggested that at least some of the operators may be able to relocate to a nearby plot belonging to Laguna Resorts & Hotels (LRH). “Government officers should talk to [LRH] and survey the recommended sites,” he said.

Representative of LRH said at that time that the request to have the vendors relocate to the plot belonging to the resort would be brought to his superiors’ attention, though he added that consideration had to be given as to whether vendors at the suggested plot would annoy guests or spoil the view.

Vendor on Bang Tao Beach

‘I have to comply because I don’t want to get taken to court or thrown in jail.’

The Gazette’s Jenjira Ruengjarus and Stephen Fein report.
bar, told the Gazette she had drawn one of the sites furthest from the beach, meaning that now tourists would have to walk past all the other vendors selling soft drinks before arriving at hers.

She explained that about four years ago she had paid 180,000 baht to the previous “owner” to take over the spot she now occupies. In the past, the OrBorTor had not only allowed, but even encouraged locals to set up their shops in the area, and a sort of “licensing system” had been in effect, she said.

She admitted that the stalls blocked ocean views from ground-level hotel rooms and gave the area a cluttered appearance, and she agreed that it was unfair to Laguna that hotel guests left the hotel to buy from the vendors at cheaper prices. The Gazette noted that a can of Heineken at her bar cost just 50 baht at the hotel’s poolside bar, compared with 195 baht from the hotel’s poolside bar.

In the end, the committee realized that most of the vendors were unhappy with the single-walkway plan and agreed to go back to the drawing board.

Rather than one walkway, with all the choice spots at one end, an alternative scheme was to be drawn up. The new plan would rearrange vendors selling similar wares in four or five rows, all running perpendicular to the beach, so that people shopping there could not only compare prices easily, but do so while still enjoying a sea view.

As this article went to press, however, the new plan had yet to be drawn up and there was still a great deal of confusion among the vendors and the committee members, not only about the exact shape the new plan would take, but also who would pay for the construction of the new stalls.

“At the last meeting, we agreed with the vendors’ request to build it before the arrival of the high season, but we have a problem with the construction budget,” said Palad Nikorn, estimating that the new structures would cost about 50,000 baht each.

“We will try to fund the budget for them, but that is the best we can do,” he added.

Most of the vendors agreed that it was time to clean up the area and said that they would go along with the plan, though many said they expected the change and the small stall size to make their lives more difficult.

“I have to comply because I don’t want to get taken to court or thrown in jail,” said one.

“I work every day and live from hand to mouth, making just 400 or 500 baht a day, which isn’t even enough to take care of my three children, but it is better than nothing and I don’t have any alternative,” she said.

One of the vendors, who identified himself only as “Daeng”, said that his business, the “Armani Fashion” tailor shop as well as a tour company, has been operating on the beach for about 12 years and occupies the best spot, right at the entrance from the beach to the hotel.

“I’m not sure when the shops will be moved or when the government will have the new site ready. I went to the OrBorTor meeting that the Governor attended, when we were told we would have to move only after replacement stalls were built.

“But I didn’t go to draw lots, because I thought it might be like past government announcements about cleaning up the beach. It’s all talk and no action. This type of thing is almost getting to be like an annual festival, and I am getting sick of it,” he said.

“I agree with the government that the beach should be cleaned up and I will agree to move, but they should have everything ready before they call us to come and draw lots – otherwise the whole thing is just a pie-in-the-sky dream,” he said.

Kontee Warapitayut, who works for LRH’s corporate arm and serves as its liaison with the government on this issue, said that he had passed along a request to help fund construction of the new stalls to LRH’s management.

LRH is enthusiastic about the project, he said, but wants more specific information before it will commit funds.

“Do we know exactly what will happen with the money? The plan and information they have sent us so far is still somewhat unclear,” he said.

Ironically, his concerns aren’t much different than those of the vendor Daeng. “The deadline the committee set previously has already passed, but nothing has happened.

“I told my boss that all the vendors would be gone by now, but they aren’t, so I am not so sure about this matter. What if we provide them with a budget and nothing happens then? What will we do?” he asked.

“However, if they come to us with a clear and specific plan about what they want to do, they can get the answer from us as soon as they want,” he said.
A trio of transgressors

Three monks welcomed the end of Buddhist Lent, called Ork Pansa, with an overindulgence in bad habits this year: one crashed his pickup drunk-driving, one forced himself on a young woman, and another shot and killed a fellow monk... all on the nights of October 7 and 8.

The first, a monk from Buri Ram, celebrated the end of Lent by drinking and driving to see his girlfriend in Nondang District. He ended his festivities in hospital after crashing his pickup into trees while fleeing from a police checkpoint.

Pol Lt Praman Junpakwan, duty officer of Laharnsai Police Station in Buri Ram, and his Superintendent, Pol Col Prung Nakapok, arrived at the scene to find a gray Isuzu pickup that had crashed into trees about 500 meters from the Ban Kongmaidang police checkpoint.

LOST CONTROL

The front of the truck was crumpled and the driver still stuck inside. His body was covered in blood, his face and lips had been smashed on the steering wheel, several of his teeth were broken and his right leg was seriously injured.

Police at the checkpoint said they flagged the truck to pull over, but the driver ignored them and sped off. Officers saw that the driver was wearing a monk’s robe and gave chase. The driver lost control on a curve and careened off the road. A search inside the truck turned up the monk’s student ID card from a Buddhist university, a check for a large amount of money and a teen romance novel.

After questioning by police, the driver confessed that after Buddhist Lent ended, he had a few beers and decided to drive to see his girlfriend, but he panicked when he saw the police checkpoint and tried to drive away.

About 2 am the next day, Pol Lt Col Atikom Janin of Saraburi province, responded to a report that a girl’s cries for help were heard coming from inside a monk’s room at Wat Phuttanikom. Police arrived at the wat and heard a girl screaming for help inside the room of Suttichai Jankeuw, a 23-year-old monk, who was with another man named only as “Sayan”, and a young woman.

The girl explained that she had helped with a funeral held earlier at the wat, but could not go home after the ceremony because it started to rain. Sayan, whom she knew, suggested she stay in the monk’s room until the rain stopped, she said, but once she was in the room the monk locked the door. He told her that he was afraid that they would get wet.

The girl said that Sayan told her to take off her clothes so they could dry. Then Sayan and the monk repeatedly attacked her and tried to undress her, she said, but she kept fighting them and screaming for help.

Suttichai later confessed that he had been a monk since the start of Lent and was supposed to end his monkhood with a ceremony at 5 am that morning. Police said that he will be charged with indecent assault and deprivation of liberty.

At 8 pm that night, 2/Lt Somran Wongchuya at Pakhai Police Station in Ayutaya province, responded to a call and arrived at nearby Wat Pailom to find the body of a 38-year-old monk, Phra Nikorn, lying in the prayer room. He had been shot once in the chest. A shotgun cartridge was found near his body.

FIST FIGHT

Police later arrested Suchart Kongkatong, 37, a monk at temple, for the shooting. Police said that Phra Nikorn had earlier that evening stopped a fist fight between Suchart and his friend Prateung together against a third monk at the temple.

The temple abbot heard of the fight and summoned all monks involved to “receive instruction” from him in the prayer room.

During the instruction Suchart turned his anger to Phra Nikorn and attacked him, but was soon pulled off by other monks.

His ire not slaked, Suchart stormed off to his room and returned with a shotgun and blasted Phra Nikorn once in the chest.

Suchart and Prateung minutes later left the wat on two motorbikes brought by friends.

Source: Kom Chad Leuk

Once one of the loveliest pieces of road on the island, the seaside stretch of the Patong-Karon Rd just north of Relax Bay and Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort now features this unsightly mess, which even includes a broken toilet bowl.

Got a place where you dump your garbage at midnight (or midday)? Don’t be secretive. Share it with the rest of us. Email a picture of it and a short description to dump@phuketgazette.net
By Supanun Supawong

Thailand Glider Club members came to test the winds above Phuket during a paragliding demonstration at Laem Phromthep October 12 and 13, hoping to encourage paragliding tourism and to increase the awareness of their sport.

The demonstration was led by Narin Lotong, paragliding instructor and a founder of the Thailand Paraglider Club, along with two other instructors. The club is now headed by Khayan Suthumma in Bangkok.

Among the onlookers on the ground were Suwalai Pinpradub, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Region 4 office, and representatives from the Phuket Provincial Organization Administration and the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization.

The Phuket Paragliding Club currently has two members, Somnuek Chuepoo and Dr Prasert Theplaong. It was founded by Narin, who years ago could be seen with fellow enthusiasts gliding around Laem Phromthep and the promontory with the windmill generators just to the north.

Dr Prasert, who spends his working hours as a local dentist but his spare time in the skies above Phuket, said that he hopes the demonstration would at least educate more local people about the sport – perhaps even inspire them to take it up.

“...”

Dr Prasert said that the demonstration was well-attended, but did not go exactly as planned.

“Many people, both Thais and foreigners, came to see our demonstration. On the first day we were able to fly, but [the next day] it was pouring rain so we couldn’t go up again,” he said.

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Paragliding is a sport that uses large kites attached to the flyer’s body and relies on the wind for lift because there is no engine used. Paragliding therefore depends entirely on the weather, which must be slightly windy with no rain.

In learning how to paraglide, the club strongly recommends having an instructor accompany you on at least your first few flights. Equipment required for paragliding includes a helmet, rucksack, harness and, of course, a “wing”. Gliders should also wear boots and trousers with thick fabric to protect themselves during the landing.

The club rates Laem Promthep as one of the best sites in Thailand for takeoffs and landings, along with Phureua in Loei province, Khao Sadao in Nakhon Si Thammarat (rated the best site by local gliders), Khao Son in Ratchaburi, Khao Den in Phetchaburi, Khao Prang in Chumphon, Khao Prahah in Nakhon Ratetashima and Khao Phanghai in Chaiyaphum.

K. Narin offers gliding lessons in Rayong, considered one of the best places in Thailand to learn to paraglide. The Full Certification Flight Package costing US$800 (32,000 baht) gives you the skills and flight time needed for to fly solo at most of the prime sites in the world.

For those looking to just enjoy the ride, a tandem flight costs US$80 (US$100 on weekends).

For more information, call Prasert Theplaong at Tel: 076-253336 or 09-4695571, Narin Lotong in Bangkok at Tel: 081-8152702, or visit the website at www.thaiparagliding.com.
Some Khao Lak expats asked me recently, “Franky, why don’t you write something positive about Khao Lak? Why do you have to write about accidents, flooded roads and bad stuff all the time?”

To one I replied (that was some weeks ago), “Tell me something positive that has happened in the past four weeks then!” He stood there, gasping for air like a fish in a dried-out lake.

“So?” I said. Let’s be honest. During low season, especially one as bad as this one, there is hardly anything positive to write about.

Frequent flooding of roads or whole villages is just something that happens, and why should I stay silent about the fact that Bangniang Rd is a total disaster during off season? Go and have a look yourself. One needs either a jet-ski or a 4WD adventure truck to get through from Petchkasem Rd to Bangniang Beach.

The sidewalk is collapsing due to supporting gravel and sand being washed away from under it as result of a non-existent drainage system. The trees planted in the sidewalk (or what’s left of them) simply pose unnecessary obstacles to pedestrians.

So what positive things should I write about then, especially when it comes down to the Bangniang area these days?

I know. Maybe I need to view things from a different perspective. Well, when I look at the sinkholes in pavement, the patterns might be considered a type of modern art. Hmmm, let me see... bumpy, curved, wet in most places, with holes and cracks in between. It looks a bit like rotting dinosaur skin, doesn’t it?

An Irish pub and a cinema?
Things are surely looking up

Green and orange – it must be Irish. The interior of the new O’Connor’s Irish Pub in Khao Lak.

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Green and orange – it must be Irish. The interior of the new O’Connor’s Irish Pub in Khao Lak.
Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol Na Songkhla has announced that the 30-baht universal health care scheme introduced by the deposed Thaksin administration will be renamed and changed.

Dr Mongkol said that he wanted to do away with the scheme’s “30-baht cures all diseases” slogan, which he views as a marketing gimmick used by the Thai Rak Thai Party.

He saw no good reason to charge a patient a 30-baht fee, as the money was “almost nothing to hospitals in the scheme.”

“They collect the 30 baht and have to write it down in three accounts while other patients wait in a long line,” he said. “It’s not worth it. Let them save time to treat more patients.”

Dr Mongkol noted that some small health-care centers collected only 120 baht to 150 baht a day, yet had to spend a great deal of time doing the accounts.

He said he was would discuss the matter with the National Health Security Office, which oversees the scheme.

Asked when the scheme would stop charging patients 30 baht per hospital visit, Dr Mongkol said, “Very soon.”

The ministry is also considering canceling use of the “gold” ID card for patients registered in the scheme. Instead, people would just show their normal ID cards, he said.

Curtained retail: The Internal Trade Department expects the new Cabinet to soon approve legislation aimed at curbing the expansion of retail giants nationwide.

The department has drafted a bill to be presented for Cabinet approval, which the department expects to present for Cabinet approval. The law will be an amended version of a draft first drawn up in 2002, but which never became law because the former Cabinet did not approve it. It calls for the Ministry of Commerce to issue eight regulations as urgent measures to protect small manufacturers and suppliers from retail giants.

A source from the private retail enterprise sector expressed concern about the legislation, calling on the government to hold a public hearing.

The legislation will affect all members of society – not only small retailers, but also consumers and multinational investors, the source said.

Keeping abreast: A private hospital in Bangkok specializing in cosmetic surgery lost an appeal in a defamation case against a woman who accused it of botching a breast augmentation.

The Court of Appeal Region 1 upheld a Civil Court ruling to dismiss Bangmod Hospital’s libel suit against 44-year-old Yasiné Thongsubibod, who had complained to the media about the breast job.

In its suit, Bangmod accused Yasiné of causing damage to its reputation through the media. Earlier, the Civil Court had ruled that Yasiné’s interviews with press were legitimate.

Six years ago, Yasiné told a newspaper she had a breast augmentation and surgery to correct inverted nipples at Bangmod Hospital in 1998. Her breasts later developed an infection, which eventually cleared up – but the breasts were not the same afterwards, she told the paper.

Last call: All alcohol advertising and marketing campaigns will be banned beginning December 5, His Majesty the King’s birthday. Manit Arunakul, Deputy Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Administration, said the Ministry of Public Health would approve the ban and issue the new regulations by October 21.

The measure would ban alcohol advertising in all media, except sports events broadcast on television and radio. Posters, signs and other materials would be pulled down.

Young women working at restaurants and bars to promote beer or liquor sales would be banned, with offenders facing legal punishment.

The new laws are expected to put alcohol industry players in the same boat that cigarette companies have found themselves in.

In showing his support for the proposal, Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol Na Songkhla said the ban is needed because of the toll alcohol abuse has taken on society.

“Alcohol has caused social losses to the country for a long time. It kills and maims people from road accidents. The ads prompt more youths to be new drinkers…When the laws are enforced, the death toll from road accidents during New Year and Songkran will definitely decrease,” he said.

Critics have countered that the ban is needed because of the toll alcohol abuse has taken on society.

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Another mayor shot dead

The caretaker mayor of Tha Phae in Nakhon Sri Thammarat was shot dead at a gas station as he was filling up his Mercedes-Benz on October 8.

A gas pump attendant reported that the victim, Capt Wacharasak Anaswan, 65, drove into the Nakhon Service Oil garage in Muang District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, and filled up with 1,150 baht of petrol.

When he got out of the car to pay, two men on a Suzuki moped with no license plate pulled up next to him. The pillion passenger then opened fire with a pistol at close range.

When police arrived at the scene, they had to push their way through a crowd of onlookers to where Capt Wacharasak’s body was lying in a pool of blood.

He had been shot with a .357 round in the crown of the head; in the neck, rupturing a major artery, and in the left ear, with the bullet exiting through the right.

On Capt Wacharasak’s waist police found a magazine for a 9mm pistol and an empty holster. Police suspect the killers took the weapon with them after the killing. However, inside the car they also found another pistol, fully loaded.

When Capt Wacharasak’s wife, Sub Lt Siriphon, saw the body she broke down in tears before fainting and had to be assisted by relatives.

Capt Wacharasak’s term in office as Mayor of Tha Phae ended on September 20 and he was campaigning for a second term, said Pol Maj Gen Sudjai Yannarat, Commander of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, adding, “This is extremely sensitive for Thailand. The issue is one of internal disagreement.”

A prominent Muslim activist in the Malay-speaking south, Munsoe Saleh, said European countries with experience in mediating talks between rebels and governments would be a better mediator than Malaysia.

Bull’s-eye: The owner of a bull-fighting stadium in Trang was gunned down at the wheel of his pickup truck while driving back from a ceremony at a local temple on the evening of October 11.

Police at the scene found a body in the right shoulder, while another passenger, Sayan Sukwattana, 60, had been shot once in the right shoulder, while another passenger, Thanee Chanasak, was unharmed.

Witnesses reported that a motorcycle pulled in front of Ko Jui’s pickup truck and the pillion passenger fired five shots from a pistol into the driver’s side of the windshield. The motorcycle then turned round and the passenger fired another four shots into the driver’s window. Police collect nine 9mm cartridge cases and five bullets at the scene.

Police said that they believe the motive for the assassination to be a personal dispute and not connected to the victim’s bull-fighting stadium.

Tanyongpao road the following morning and reported their find to the local authorities.

When officials arrived at the scene in their vehicles a bomb exploded. No one was injured. Police later found a two-meter wide crater, three meters from Yao’s head.

Among the shrapnel, police found pieces of a gas cylinder and 50 meters of electric wire that led off the road to a forested area.

Officials also found a leaflet stating, “All military must leave this region. Otherwise an innocent will be killed every week.”

Yao was believed to be the 20th victim of decapitation since the new wave of violence broke out in the three southernmost provinces in January 2004.

Police believe Muslim insurgents are behind all the attacks. More than 1,700 people have died in bombings and shootings in the region over the past two years and nine months.

On the same day as the explosion, Malaysia’s Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said that Malaysia would consider hosting peace talks between the Thai government and separatist organizations.

“If only we are invited: then we might consider it,” said Najib, who is also the defense minister.

However, representatives of the Thai government remained non-committal about the future role of the neighboring country.

But senior Thai security officials and rebel sources said the government did not consider Malaysia, or former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, to be a neutral third party, due to the geographical proximity.

Past meetings between Thai officials and separatist leaders, facilitated by former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, were conducted in an informal manner.

Future discussions beyond this informal setting would have to be done outside Malaysia and from a personal, face-to-face basis.

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Another mayor shot dead
Central Festival Phuket

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Guam, they say, is where America’s day starts. But for first-time visitors, it is also where an entrancing conundrum begins.

Is Guam really part of the US? The malls, fast food outlets and roaming military seem to say yes. Or is it actually a Pacific Island, as the rotund, easy-going, Chamorro islanders would have it? Or more improbably, an offshoot of Japan, as the flurry of kanji characters on storefronts and in hotels suggests?

You could drop Guam’s 551 square kilometers in the middle of the US and it wouldn’t even make a blip; the island is closer to Tokyo than to Washington DC; and its swaying palms and sandy beaches say “altered states” rather than “United States”.

There is probably no definitive answer to Guam’s elusive identity, but there is certainly much to be gained by searching for it.

Many of the threads of this quirky island’s current persona run back through its history, which is one of recurrent migration at this Pacific crossroads.

Portuguese navigator and explorer Ferdinand Magellan made landfall in the 16th century, reporting that the laughing, carefree Chamorro men were handsome and powerful and that their women were “opulent, voluptuous and graceful”.

Jesuit missionaries arrived in 1688, intent on proselytizing and restraining anybody who looked too carefree and voluptuous at the same time.

By the end of the 19th century the Americans had moved in, only to be dislodged by the Japanese invasion shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. They, in turn, were driven out three years later.

The Japanese still come to Guam in their hordes, but armed only with camcorders and intent on carrying off booty that’s duty free. Getting married also ranks as one of the more popular souvenirs.

Thus was the stage set for Guam’s multi-cultural image today, one whose facets are reflected wherever you go on the island. Touring round, the road loops over bridges built two centuries before, past splendidly verdant golf courses of rather more recent construction, and waterfalls which have cascaded down mountainsides for eons.

One of Guam’s mini landmarks is the cave in which Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi of the Imperial Japanese Army spent the best part of three decades hiding and waiting for news of victory. Emerging in 1972, probably to a certain amount of disappointment but with a unique CV, he returned to Japan a hero. The tools he made to help him survive remain on display at a museum in Agana.

There is one place to stop for lunch in this neck of the woods, the slightly kitsch Jeff’s Pirates Cove, a souvenir shop-cum restaurant-cum bar with Jolly Rogerish overtones. The best spot to sit is outside, with a view of the sea which covers the bottom of the Mariana Trench just offshore. The bottom of the trench is some 11,000 meters from the surface of the Pacific.

This also marks some of the best of Guam’s scuba diving, with some 300 species of coral and more than 900 varieties of fish to be seen, including whales, sharks, and dolphin. Naturally, the fishing is good too – a record marlin caught here in 1969 weighed an astonishing 528 kilograms.

For all the outward vestiges of Americana, Guam still has a strong grip of its own history, and the natural attractions of the island are its greatest draw.
August 8, 2001 was a monumental day for Singapore’s vibrant lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community. It was the day that the city state saw its first private, well-publicized party for the LGBT community, the Nation party.

Last year the party, frowned upon by Singapore’s straitlaced leaders, was staged in Phuket. This year it’s back. The CEO of organizers Fridae.com, Dr Stuart Koe, spoke with the Gazette’s Andy Johnstone in advance of the Nation VI party in Karon, and explained why this will be the last one.

From 2001 until mid-2005, the Nation party was the highlight of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) year in Singapore. “A gay party? Big deal,” a person from the liberated Occident or indeed elsewhere in the Orient might be forgiven for thinking.

Yet homosexuality – described in Section 377 of the Singapore Penal Code as “…voluntarily…carnal intercourse against the order of nature”; that is, any form of sexual intercourse which does not have the potential for procreation, is illegal in the city state.

“Are you English, Andrew?” Stuart asks. “Well, Statute 377 – the anti-sodomy laws – are actually a hand-me-down from the British,” he says politely, without any hint of recrimination.

I find myself mulling a bumbling-Brit apology, although Stuart readily says none is necessary.

“It’s a throwback law; variably interpreted in from from Hong Kong, Australia, the US, Thailand and many other Asian countries, as well as Europe,” says Stuart.

A squad of uniformed police officers made a one-off visit during the course of the evening, saw that there was nothing dreadful happening and left the 1,500 revelers to enjoy themselves.

There was some concern that, despite police acceptance of the first Nation party, and the big business sponsorship the event, the second Nation party might not go ahead.

Such fears were, in fact, unfounded; Nation.02 received some 2,500 guests and had sponsorship from such corporations as Qantas and Pepsi.

Nation.03 was an even bigger success. Figures for partygoers ran to some 4,500. It was also a watershed in terms of acceptance in Singaporean media.

Scenes from the bash were shown on Singaporean TV and the event was portrayed in a positive light, with one TV station stating “Nation.03 can be seen as a gauge of Singapore’s tolerance.”

All went well until a few months after Nation.04, which attracted 8,000 fun-seekers, when the Public Entertainment Licensing Unit (PELU) of the Singaporean police refused to grant a license for the SnowBall party, which was due to have been held on December 26.

Remarks were made about the hypocrisy of the refusal, particularly as Nation.04 was nominated for “Best Event Experience” in the 2005 Singapore Tourism Awards.

In April 2005, the PELU rejected Fridae’s application to host Nation.05, claiming the party to be “contrary to public interest”.

Fridae upped sticks and brought the party – as well as more than 1,000 revelers – to Phuket.

Despite some initial reluctance from the Kata-Karon Municipality, the party went ahead and was a success – all the more welcome for the island in the lean post-tsunami year.

Although Stuart says that the government’s attitude toward the LGBT community in Singapore has not worsened, he explains that the community has been testing the waters and trying to be more visible.

“But we’ve found that there are limits as to how much public space the government is willing to allow us to have. [The government] has not clamped down on the community – so long as we are not too visible about it,” he says.

“Nation was very visible, Fridae has been very vocal and I think the government was uncomfortable with that. The [gay] bars and clubs are still in existence, still operational…So long as the gay community doesn’t have a voice in the public arena, then the government is fine with that.”

In Stuart’s words, “[The government] has actually gone ahead and silenced us in the media. For example, I specifically am not allowed to be interviewed by journalists [for broadcast in Singapore] on any subject. If I am interviewed, then I’ll usually be cut out of the story. The media are not allowed to run any positive stories about the gay community.”

“Even Nation.04 – with
Dr Stuart Koe: ‘Nation was very visible, Fridae has been very vocal

8,000 people attending – was not
and I think the [Singapore] government was uncomfortable with that.’

The attitude from the government appears to be rather confused, says Stuart, with Fridae enjoying good working relationships with the certain agencies.

“We’ve worked with the Singapore Tourism Board, the Ministry of Health, the National Arts Council… I suppose that these bodies are more pragmatic, and understand what the world is like.”

The problem in Singapore, he states, is that, “Different groups, different people do not have a voice to represent them. The gay community is disenfranchised; we don’t really have a ‘champion’ to help us seek redress or get legal reforms.”

“When we first started, 8,000 people attending – was not mentioned in The Straits Times.”

Despite this, Stuart is confident that the first four Nation parties demonstrated that Singapore is a different country from what most people outside the nation believed it to be.

“It has an awful reputation of banning chewing gum and canning vandals… Those are the soundbites you get outside Singapore.

“But [the Nation parties provided] a breath of fresh air. Things were happening in Singapore that nobody expected.”

Stuart describes those years of the Nation parties as “…great PR for Singapore [outside the country],” before suggesting, “but I don’t think that Singapore itself viewed it quite the same way.”

Another obstacle for the gay community, Stuart said, were the Christian fundamentalists. “I’m not really sure how large that group is, or how powerful its voice is, but it is certainly a loud voice.”

But this, argues Stuart, is in contrast to what he views as a “surprisingly laissez-faire attitude” to homosexuality held by the majority of Singaporeans.

“I think that Asian culture – generally – views sexuality as a very private issue, not something that they talk about. In [Fridae’s] dealings – as a company – yes, we have come across some individuals and companies that are uncomfortable with the topic, but none that have demonstrated outright discrimination toward us,” he adds.

Any change, he says, will come from the top down. “It will probably be a rather arbitrary decision by someone in the government who says, ‘You know what? This doesn’t really matter and we should move on.’

“It won’t come through the voting process or by voices being heard. I don’t think that any change will come within the next 10 years, but who knows?”

Yet the gay community does require its voice to be heard. Stuart revealed that Nation VI will be Fridae’s last event – the end of an era.

“When we first started throwing parties, the concept of a multi-day gay party with international DJs and punters flying in from around the world was fairly novel in Asia. Now, there are a number of impressive party organizers in the region – it is time for Fridae to focus on empowering the Asian gay community through other means.

“Meanwhile, Fridae will remain committed to supporting and working closely with party organizers in the region as we have been.”

Fridae will focus on building its portal, with Version 5 and a new women’s portal, Friday, due for launch in early 2007. Version 5 is expected to integrate many “Web 2.0” features such as blogging, photo and video sharing, as well as “innovative features to enhance the experience of Fridae’s members”.

Based on audited traffic data from Nielsen/Netratings, Fridae.com attracts 380,000 visitors and 50 million page views every month.

“I think that this kind of traffic makes us the largest [gay interest] portal in the region, and the project that this will grow ten-fold in the next few years,” adds Stuart.

In addition, Fridae plans to launch a new advocacy network of activists, legal counselors and support groups.

“Gays and lesbians in Asia continue to be subjected to institutional and political discrimination, homophobia and stigmatization. One way to overcome this is for the various stakeholders across Asia to come together, learn from one another, and collaborate,” says Stuart.

A smiling Stuart says, “Nation VI will be the grand finale – going out with a bang.”

Nation VI is being held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, 1000p.m. until October 22. Visit www.fridae.com/nation and www.twqueensparty.com for more information.
This week

HIGH-SPEED TALKERS: Jirayut Rungsritpong (center), Assistant Managing Director of Finance, and Marut Buranasettakul (left) Assistant Managing Director of Marketing and Sales of CAT Telecom help to launch the company’s new CDMA high-speed wireless multimedia system at Central Festival on September 30.

MAN! ARE YOU HOT! Watermark General Manager Stuart Bird is chatted up by VJ Alex at an MTV Thailand event at the restaurant on October 6.

JEWELS IN THE CROWN: Hajo von Keller (center), Managing Director of The Mangosteen Resort & Spa; Azuan Noordin (left), the resort’s General Manager; and John Sears, Chief Operations Officer of Boutique Hotels & Resorts International (BHRI), celebrate the resort being designated a BHRI Diamond Collection Hotel.

MOUNTAIN OF WINE: Snapped at the launch of the Sawasdee Khao Yai wine brand in Phuket are winemaker BB Groups Trading CEO Sorapat Tongprasroeth (left); WINE Co General Manager Thitima Tantivit (2nd from right); and Eakat Sunthonnon, Chief Marketing Officer of BB Group (right), with wine-tasting guests. The launch took place at the Patong Resort Hotel on October 8.

HOPE FLOATS: Ian Marsh, Executive VP and Managing Director, Asia Pacific, of Western Union, hands over a symbolic model boat to a fisherman’s representative in Klong Tom, Krabi. After the tsunami, Western Union set up the Thai Tsunami Long Tail Fishing Boat Relief Fund, raising money worldwide to replace boats destroyed by the wave.

STARS AFLOAT: Singer Patiphan ‘Mos’ Pataveekarn (2nd from left) and Actress Primmada ‘Pim’ Boriraksuppakorn (right) arrived at the Royal Phuket Marina on October 3 to film a segment of their lifestyle show, Island Traveling. They are pictured receiving welcome gifts from the marina’s Director of Operations, Andrew Jordan (left) and PR & Events Manager Jeanette Skelton.
I tell myself that punching the ATM won’t help, but I do it anyway. I have just 518 baht to my name. I will have to budget fiercely and stop going out, it is time to be sensible and first thing tomorrow I must find a job.

About an hour and a half later I am dancing, pissed out of my noggins, next to a heavily-tattooed prostitute on a table at Lucifer Club on Patpong Rd.

Suddenly, I turn to find myself facing a very attractive, very well proportioned young Thai woman.

Of course, to the newcomer, almost all Thai women are very attractive.

But the bar is raised considerably when Thailand has been home for almost four years and you’ve become used to beautiful women being the norm.

**OBSESSION**

The type of women I find attractive are those who are objects of obsession with backpackers and objects of lust with expats.

They are heart-breakers and holiday spoilers – fashionably arrogant, cool-headed, cold-hearted bitches who know the final score before the game even starts.

This femme fatale looking at me across at the bar with a weary smile appears to be no exception.

She is eggshell-skinned, round and buxom where women should be round and buxom, her provocative “come hither” eyes look hungry for adventure and give her face the kind of recalcitrant look that suggests that she was more than likely expelled from school.

“I’ve got no money and I’m not on holiday!” I shout above the din, hoping that I am not slurring. I don’t think I am, but hey, who am I to judge?

She shrugs her shoulders and puts her mouth to the straw taking a slow slurp of her Bacardi Breezer without breaking eye contact.

“I just come here with my friend, I am not working every girl,” she says, lighting a cigarette.

“I never said you were.” I reply, confidently sharp and pleased with my confidence and sharpness.

And so begins a conversation of sorts, a flirtatious but moderately intelligent conversation that is cut short some 20 minutes later when the lights go up and the music stops.

“Where are you staying?” she asks, and I realize with horror that I am wearing the oldest, ugliest, most wash-faded set of underwear that I own.

“With my friend,” I reply, “Do you have a number – maybe we can meet for lunch tomorrow?” I cross my fingers hoping it works, it usually does… and it does.

“I am renting apartment not far from here,” she says, looking over her shoulder at her friends who are waiting for her. “Wait for me downstairs. Five minutes, ok?”

Now this is great, but a little too good to be true so I don’t expect her to be there five minutes later. Yet there she is, and five minutes after that we arrive at her modest rented apartment.

I take a shower while she nips out to 7-Eleven, returning with two bottles of Spy Red and two toothbrushes.

What happens next is par for the course yet relentlessly baffling for one such as I who deep down longs to be a caterpillar but always ends up a butterfly.

**MATING RITUAL**

This is not so much out of choice but because it takes two to tango, and the dancing that goes on in Lucifer’s is not the tango, more of a mating ritual, though to be fair this is true of discotheques the world over.

I live in hope that some kind of relationship could blossom from a one-night stand, and yet despite her ardor when we awake in the early afternoon, I have a hunch she will not be at her friend’s café later – where we have arranged to meet at 5pm.

Sure enough, she never does show.

I figure that she is probably so modern that she’d simply wanted a one-night stand; a shame because she would have made a great 28-night stand or a stand for however long I was going to be stuck in this city while looking for a job.
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM HITS PHUKET

By Tanisa Bunyaswi & Janyaporn Morel

Ice cream lovers may think that their delectable delight would be hard to find during these rainy, dreary months when demand is low and sun-baked beach tourists are scarce.

But if they are under that mistaken impression, they are missing out on Re Gelato, an Italian ice cream shop in Patong. The Italian ice creams found in Re Gelato are homemade in the same style as the thick treat that can be found in Rome.

Re Gelato owner Andrea Boulos told the Gazette that there are about 50 different flavors of gelato available at the shop, which uses many different kinds of raw ingredients.

“It’s not difficult to make the Italian-style ice cream here because we only had to import the machines, creams and powdered milk from Italy. The other ingredients, such as fresh fruits, we can easily find here.

“We use mango, banana, passion fruit, coconut, lemon, orange and other fruits that are available seasonally, and we also use non-native fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and kiwi fruit, as well as chocolate,” he said.

Andrea said that the Italian ice cream tastes different from its American cousin because it has less fat. Gelato has a maximum of only 9% fat while American ice cream has about 13% fat. The gelato, however, is sweeter as it has more sugar.

Another difference from market ice cream is that less air is added into gelato, only about 30%, compared with the 100% to 200% increase in air that regular ice cream includes. This means that gelato is thicker than American ice cream, said Andrea.

Re Gelato is in Patong, just in front of the Paradise Complex on Rat-U-Thit Rd. Outside it offers two sets of tables and comfortable chairs, while the inside features large windows to enjoy people-watching while you eat. Andrea said he hopes to open a second location in Patong within a few months.

In the shop freezer, there are 35-plus flavors to choose from, ranging in price from 60 baht to 200 baht, depending on the size of the order. One kilo takeaway orders are available at 500 baht.

Re Gelato allows its customers to mix and match their orders, and since the store uses a spoon instead of a scoop to dish out their desserts, any number of flavors can be mixed for either immediate consumption or take-away.

Re Gelato is open daily from 9 am to 1 am, and will stay open until 3 am in the high season. At night it is very popular with tourists as well as regular customers.

Another line of ice cream homemade in Phuket is produced by ViVa for wholesale, and then sold at hotels and stores across the island. ViVa uses an ice cream recipe from Vienna, Austria.

The ViVa homemade ice cream emphasizes healthy ice cream made from the many fresh fruits found in Thailand, much as Re Gelato does.

ViVa wholesale sales to restaurants and four- and five-star hotels on Phuket, including Pan Yaah Thai and Baan Rim Pa restaurants in Patong. Don’s Cafe in Rawai, Wan Jai Restaurant in front of Phuket Rajabhat University, Tropical Kata Hotel and Surin Beach Resort.

ViVa Managing Director Jiravud Silpasophon has more than 50 flavors that can be made on demand. All fruits are frozen so they can be prepared in individual batches in order to keep the ice cream fresh.

“Thai fruits were selected as the core concept of ViVa, and now our Ka Torn (Thai fruit) Sorbet is a hot order,” said Jiravud.

“ViVa flavors tend to be more sour, less sweet, but very good smelling,” K. Jiravud said.

ViVa also has many flavors of sherberts and other colorful desserts such as bombs (a combination of ice cream flavors) and puddings.

Customers can taste the deliciousity at the mentioned restaurants or can buy it in bulk directly from ViVa.

Prices for the individual scoops depend on the venue serving it, but Jiravud hopes to open a retail store soon.

ViVa Vienna Ice Cream. 12/47 Moo 2, Thapansuor Rd, Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel. 081-7470971 (Jiravud Silpasophon). Email: sophonexport@hotmail.com Website: www.viavicecream.com
The catty website thesuperficial.com says it all: “Our goal is to make fun of as many people as possible.”

Many of these websites derive their information from the traditional gossip venues and the hordes of paparazzi they employ to track the every move of the beautiful people.

Newspapers such as the New York Daily News, the National Enquirer and the British tabloid The Sun can never get enough juicy stories about the stars. Then there are magazines such as People, Us Weekly and Life & Style that also have a voracious appetite for celebrities.

But while many of these publications work hand-in-hand with Hollywood PR honchos and publications work hand-in-hand with Hollywood PR honchos and actually taking place in the world.

The misleading information about her relationship signified a much deeper problem of mainstream media outlets spinning headlines of their own.

‘Instead of being these puff pieces about how wonderful everyone is, it shows the stars as the conceited egotistical maniacs that they probably are. That’s what gossip’s all about.’

– Andy Goldberg, dpa

They enlist the cellphone camera fans to send in sightings of stars going about their everyday lives.

Gawkers go a step further, by embedding the celebrity sightings into a Google map of New York City that shows at a glance where the stars are hanging out.

The loose standards and sarcastic style of the celebrity watching blogs allow them to publish unsubstantiated rumors and hear say with little danger of legal action.

The problem is when more reputable outlets seek to grab headlines by following the same stories and end up repeating fabricated nonsense.

According to Jennifer Aniston, the false report of her engagement to her Vince Vaughn, co-star in The Break Up, is typical of the symptom.

‘When it starts to travel over into the Today show and CNN, and supposedly reliable and accurate news programs, then you just go, “This is insane. People are getting fed a lot of bull,”’ she told People recently.

The misleading information about her relationship signified a much deeper problem of mainstream media outlets spinning headlines of their own.

‘If we’re listening to the news, we’re supposed to be believing in the news,’ Aniston said.

‘We need to trust what our newscasters are saying, when we have this horrific situation that’s actually taking place in the world. I mean, we are getting [told] the truth, right?’

– Andy Goldberg, dpa
Jean-Marie Tilleul is almost as passionate about sailing as he is about baking. He sold his long-established and highly successful bakery La Bastogne in Brussels 12 years ago to sail around the world.

He began baking when he was 14, and went on to become a master baker. “That’s 44 years ago,” teases his bubbly wife, Josie “Josie” Ramaye, from Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

The two met in Mauritius two years into Jean-Marie’s voyage. It was love at first sight and two years into Jean-Marie’s voyage, they opened La Bastogne, opposite Wat Chalong on Chao Fa West Rd. To listen to the constant Gallic chatter, you could be forgiven for thinking you were actually in Brussels.

Jean-Marie and Josie decided to give their sea legs a rest when they landed on Phuket’s shores three years ago. About 18 months ago, they opened La Bastogne, making and selling a wide range of breads, pastries, cakes, tarts, biscuits, chocolates, baguette sandwiches and quiches.

Their fare is best washed down with one of their delicious expressos or cappuccinos. Jean-Marie named his bakeries after his hometown of Bastogne, which was destroyed during the eponymous battle of December 1944 to January 1945 that was part of the larger Battle of the Bulge.

Jean-Marie and Josie hope that readers of the Gazette and patrons of their bakery will not have their own “Battle of the Bulge” to contend with.

Here are three recipes from Jean-Marie. La Cramique, Belgium’s famous loaf, is traditionally accompanied with a cup of hot chocolate and is a typical indulgence at Christmas or Easter.

La Bastogne, opposite Wat Chalong on Chao Fa West Rd, Chalong. Open 7 am to 6 pm, closed Sundays and Mondays. Tel/Fax: 076-381461.

### Mousse aux deux Chocolats
(Sponge cake filled with 2 chocolate mousses)
Serves 8 people

**Ingredients for one mousse:**
- 300g chocolate (white or dark, depending on which mousse you are making)
- 300ml whipping cream
- 300g sugar
- 6 egg yolks
- 300g Gruyère or Emmenthal cheese, grated

**Method:**
Melt chocolate in a bain-marie (a Pyrex bowl floating in a pan of gently boiling water will do) and leave to cool. In a mixing bowl, whisk the egg whites with a third of the sugar until stiff. Then beat whipping cream with another third of the sugar until thick, and beat the egg yolks with the remaining portion of sugar until they become glossy and slightly frothy.

In the mixing bowl, add the melted chocolate mixture to the egg yolks and mix with a spatula before adding the whipping cream. Mix them all together by hand before gently folding in the egg whites.

Cut the cake into three layers, pouring the dessert wine – if used – onto each layer of sponge as the cake is built up before sandwiching them together again with the two chocolate mousses.

Cover the top and the sides with the remaining mousse and decorate with shavings of white and dark chocolate.
October 21 - 27, 2006 PHUKET  GAZETTE 21

Laugh? I could have cried

O

K, guys, tell us the truth. What do you think was a woman in the sexy category? being a model? An actress? Having a Lara Croft body complete with matching collagen lips?

What do females really need to do to grab a guy’s attention? Phuket has an abundance of women sitting prettily in hotel restaurants, spending hours in the spa, and driving round in fancy cars. Does this impress you and send your pulse racing? Is it enough to put a woman on your “most wanted” list? I think not.

The sexiest women in Brit-ain, apparently, are comedienne Dawn French and Jennifer Sav-unders. Why? Because they are funny. Nothing is more appealing than a funny woman, according to a survey of British men in their 30s. Laughter is apparently a much deeper thing than, for ex-

ample, saying a woman has the perfect bottom or is really stun-

ning.

If a woman can’t make a man laugh she’s got no soul. I think it’s easier to impress a man by making him laugh than it is to spend hours looking perfect and then not having anything interesting to say all night.

The following is from an official Malaysian government document called The Malaysia My Second Home Program:

The Malaysia My Second Home Program is an immigration scheme open to nearly all foreign citizens wishing to retire or live in Malaysia on a long-term basis. Your 18-year-olds and children can also immigrate.

“Here are some of the key benefits of the program:

- You can buy two houses or apartments with a free-hold title.
- You will receive a 10-year Visit Pass and Multiple-Entry Visa, renewable every ten years.
- You can purchase a new car, tax-free and enjoy other tax incentives.
- You can invest and own businesses in Malaysia.

- You can enjoy a luxury lifestyle at a fraction of the cost of living in the West. It is a very affordable place to retire early.
- You maintain your original citizenship and are free to travel as often as you like.

It’s interesting to have a country right next door to Thailand that is inviting foreign investment – and foreigners – to enjoy the benefits of a sophisticated, modern country with an equally sophisti-
cated, modern foreign investment scheme that is already both im-

plemented and guaranteed.

The male is a simple competitive being, like a greyhound – he just wants to catch the rabbit, eat it and then go to sleep.

AMBROSIAS' SECRETS

SECRET

The male is a simple competitive being, like a greyhound – he just wants to catch the rabbit, eat it and then go to sleep.

SECRET

SATIRE, PARODY, RIBALD THYME, WIT AND JOKES ABOUT A CERTAIN PART OF THE ANATOMY ARE DEFINITELY ONE WAY TO A MAN’S HEART. THE KEY IS NOT BEING AFRAID TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK. ISN’T THAT WHAT A SENSE OF HUMOR IS, THE FREEDOM TO RECOGNIZE THIS AND TO CRACK A JOKE, NO MATTER HOW INAPPROPRIATE?

WOMEN ALSO PUT HUMOR HIGH ON THEIR LIST WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY WANTED IN A MAN. YOU CAN’T ADMIRE SOMEONE FOR A LIFETIME JUST FOR HIS OR HER LOOKS. TAKE GRETA GARBO, FOR EXAMPLE. SHE MAY HAVE BEEN A SCREEN GODDESS, BUT GRETA WASN’T EXACTLY KNOWN FOR HER HILARIOUS PARTY PIECES. SHE JUST “VONTED” TO BE ALONE. AND YEN YOU’RE ALONE, THE WHOLE WORLD DOESN’T LAFF VISS YOU.

HOWEVER, SOME GUYS FEEL THREATENED BY A WOMAN WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR: MEN OFTEN SEE HUMOR AS A WEAPON. THIS IS BECAUSE THE MALE IS A SIMPLE COMPETITIVE BEING, LIKE A GREYHOUND – HE JUST WANTS TO CATCH THE RABBIT, EAT IT AND THEN GO TO SLEEP.

I SUPPOSE SOME BOYS CAN’T DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SOME WOMEN OUT THERE WHO ARE FUNNIER AND MUCH MORE SUBTLE THAN THEY ARE. MEN ARE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT BEING LAUGHED AT. EACH POSSESS A LARGE AND FRAGILE EGO, MUCH LIKE A MING VASE, BUT NOT AS RARE OR AS PROBLEMATIC. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY WANT TO HOLD THEIR VASES, FONDLE THEM, AND PRAISE THEM FOR BEING SO BULBS.

I REFER TO CHAPS WHO GUZZLE CHANG, WEAR FOOTBALL KIT IN PUBLIC AND HAVE SHAVED HEADS. THEY ONLY HAVE MEK DOOMAT GIRLFRIENDS. MY ADVICE IS TO GIVE THEM A MISS. SUCH MEN ARE BOUND BY OUTDATED TRADITION AND ARE AFRAID OF STRONG WOMEN.

YOU CAN SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF LAUGHTER IN A HAPPY RELATIONSHIP.

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT, SAY, A PRENUP – AN AGREEMENT – THAT I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD. WE GET MARRIED AND IF I DON’T LIKE YOU IN TWO MONTHS, I STILL GET TO KEEP THE MERC. HARDLY THE STUFF OF TRADITIONAL ROMANTIC NOVELS, IS IT?

A PRENUP – AN AGREEMENT – MAKES MUCH MORE SENSE. I HEREBY PROMISE TO STOP DOING THE SQUIRELLING THINGS AFTER TWO YEARS AND YOU SWEAR TO COME UP WITH NEW JOKES TO REPLACE ALL THOSE VICARIOUSLY TOLD STORIES.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a London-born Greek Cypriot and gradu-

ate of Central St Martins Col-

lege of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and news-
paper columnist.

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- You can invest and own businesses in Malaysia.

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plemented and guaranteed.

“Why would you want to live in Malaysia?” says the odd inbiber in the local. It’s a funny thing, people who say they wouldn’t live in Malaysia have a

Is Malaysia truly Asia?

LARGER

THAN

LIFE

By Graham Doven

This is supposed to be aimed – partly – at the owners, who stay here on tourist visas and don’t have work permits or pay taxes. The authorities have a point, but let’s not lose sight of the fact that the bars are a major attrac-
tion and a major source of jobs and foreign exchange earnings.

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KARON BEACH, PHUKET
01.–05.11.2006
WOMEN COMPETITION

LOCAL SPONSORS:
Take a Break

October 21 - 27, 2006

PHUKET GAZETTE

TAKE A BREAK

The Cryptic Crossword

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

PPPPPUZZLESUZZLESUZZLESUZZLESUZZLES

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

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

EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with “boat”. What are they?

1. Fill up with gas.
2. Express malicious glee.
3. Weasel relative.
4. Make your mark.
5. One way to remember.
7. Castle defense.
8. TV controller.
9. Spying to.
10. Young pig.

Answers on next page

Answers on next page

Solution on next page

Solution on next page
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. What is the correct term for singing without musical accompaniment?
2. How many meters per second per second is acceleration expressed as 1G?
3. Gabbro, also known as norite, is a type of what?
4. In which island group would you find Texel?
5. Which form of poetry has three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables?
6. Who said, “You can’t be a Real Country unless you have A BEER and an airline”?
7. What was actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr’s father noted for?
8. Which region of Antarctica is between Queen Maud Land and Wilkes Land?
9. Who played Al Pacino’s love interest in Sea of Love?
10. The Hadith is a collection of what?
11. Otto Hahn won a Nobel Prize in 1944 for his work on what?
12. In which country would you hear Chagga spoken?
13. In Islam, what is a Hakim?
14. What style of architecture did Inigo Jones introduce in England?
15. Which was the first asteroid discovered?
16. The sextant replaced what earlier instrument?
17. In which modern country was the ancient state of Latium?
18. Who wrote Desolation Angels?
19. How many grands prix did Jackie Stewart win?
20. Name Carol King’s 1971 hit album.

Answers below, left

Quick Crossword

Across
1. Shake with cold
2. Dominican Republic’s neighbor
3. On which grapes grow
4. Impolite
5. Language of India
6. Striped horse
9. Gratitude
10. Green legume
11. Japanese currency
12. Where the cat sat?
13. Reservoir wall
14. Unhappy
15. Mix of metals
16. Rub out
19. Brought to heel
22. Go away!
23. Informer
24. Tree output
25. Hello! at sea
26. Essential gas

Down
1. It causes poor visibility
2. Big cat
3. On which grapes grow
4. Impolite
5. Language of India
6. Striped horse
9. Gratitude
10. Green legume
11. Japanese currency
12. Where the cat sat?
13. Reservoir wall
14. Unhappy
15. Mix of metals
16. Rub out
19. Brought to heel
22. Go away!

Solution below, right

Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

EZ Trivia Answers

Rhyme Time Answers

Hidden Words

Solution to this week’s Cryptic Crossword

Solution to this week’s Quick Crossword

Solution to this week’s Sudoku puzzle
Burned-out Son of the South

As a young Newsweek reporter at its Atlanta bureau in early 1961, native Georgian Karl Fleming found himself enmeshed in the heady early days of the American civil rights movement, living daily on an intimate basis with Martin Luther King, James Forman, John Lewis, James Bevel, Medgar Evers and the other giants of the era.

Subtitled “An Uncivil Memoir”, Son of the Rough South (Public Affairs, New York, 2003, 432pp) is his personal account of a turbulent, inspiring, violent and highly dangerous time.

Over the next seven years, he would cover marches and street demonstrations in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi before being badly beaten – ironically enough – by a black mob during a street riot in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles in August 1965.

“I’d worked on four Southern newspapers before going to Newsweek and my private sympathies were entirely with the black people,” he writes in his first chapter.

“I had from my earliest days seen the humiliation and cruelty visited upon them. I was some- times sick with shame and anger at what I saw and what I knew was happening out of my sight. I was proud to be a reporter...

“Reporters were outsiders, a special breed, poorly paid and proud of it, poorly schooled, usually, but highly educated in the school of hard knocks – hard-drinking, hard-living ‘ink-stained wretches’ on the side of the underdog and the outcast but ruthlessly fair.”

For the next seven years Fleming would cover the rise and fall of the civil rights movement. The first thing he did in Atlanta was to befriend the leaders. This led him to his “first man-to-man conversation with a black person, one equal professional talking to another.”

That person was James Foreman, executive secretary of the year-old Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), founded by the leaders of the first student sit-ins. Forman immediately attacked him for working for newspapers without a single black reporter. Eventually they would become friends.

“He could be just as abrasive and confrontational as I was turning out to be.”

Fleming was there for the first unsuccessful civil rights demonstrations in Albany, Georgia.

In a little church in Albany, New York, he has an epiphany: “Something was pulling me back to childhood and the small country churches where I had sat among poor white people as they sang songs of hope and listened to promises of a better life.

“I felt something else, too: a sudden strong recognition of how much I identified with these people and their yearnings and how much I actually envied them...”

Fleming was there for the fall of the civil rights movement. It was an end of an era for Karl Fleming too: “I was just sick of it all. I was totally burned out.”

In Mississippi in the summer of 1966, for the aftermath of the shooting of James Meredith who had integrated Ole Miss – the University of Mississippi – three years earlier.

The subsequent March Against Fear provided the launch pad for Stokely Carmichael’s Black Power movement which capped an era of peaceful protest with mass riot igniting across the major cities of the North.

The irony was that all the turmoil in 1968 to the election of Richard Nixon “who had run a ‘law-and-order’ campaign and talked about ‘the forgotten middle class’ (translation: white people).

Karl Fleming was in Mississippi that year. He was there too for Mar-

tin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech in Washington, DC.

Two years later, he was in Selma for the March on Montgomery when state troopers gassed and clubbed peaceful demonstrators on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This widely tele-vised horror led to the passage of Lyndon Johnson’s National Voting Rights Act in August, 1965, which enfranchised many black citizens and led to the redrawing of America’s political map.

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Keep the ball rolling at Bang Tao

The positive thread running through this week’s Inside Story (see pages 4 and 5) is that all sides involved agree that something must be done to improve conditions on the beach in front of Laguna Beach Resort, where encroachment by vendors has left the seaside looking more like a third-world bazaar than the natural wonder it is.

Given that the vendors themselves have – albeit reluctantly – agreed to be moved, the high-profile committee appointed by Phuket’s Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Aoornrat has no time to lose in pressing forward with the relocation as quickly as possible. Any delay in action could allow inertia to set in, consigning the matter to the back burner of bureaucratic limbo, like so many other contentious issues that the province has taken on but failed to resolve over the years. These include, but are not limited to, the diving industry regulations, the shanties along Soi Phra Barami 8 in Kalim, the investigation into alleged improprieties at a tsunami orphanage in Thalang, and the now 15-year-old blight of jet-skis off the island’s beaches.

Unfortunately, there now seems little hope that the relocation can be carried out before the start of this year’s high season, as originally hoped. The plan hit a major stumbling block when the committee agreed to two demands made in mid-October by the vendors: first, that the relocation site be ready to occupy before their existing stalls are demolished; and second, that the new site create not just an orderly appearance, but also be a level playing field, whereby vendors’ livelihoods will not be badly compromised by an unfortunate result in any future “lucky draw” used to assign stall locations.

It is in the nature of compromise in contemporary Thailand to allow those encroaching on government land to lay down demands to stop doing so, as is abundantly evident in the current situation at Bang Tao Beach. It is understandable, then, that Laguna, having invested hundreds of millions of baht to be on Bangtao Beach, wants the view over, and unfettered use of, that strand returned to the tourist vested hundreds of millions of baht to be on Bangtao Beach, wants to stop doing so, as is abundantly evident in the current situation at Bangtao Beach. It is understandable, then, that Laguna, having invested hundreds of millions of baht to be on Bangtao Beach, wants the view over, and unfettered use of, that strand returned to the touristists – even if it means paying out a few million more baht to fund the construction of stalls at another location.

But Laguna is reluctant, also understandably, to simply hand over a blank check to the committee, especially given that some of the committee members come from the same local administration organization whose neglect allowed the existing illegal structures to spring up in the first place.

Perhaps the best way forward would be for the committee to propose the plan; to have the vendors agree to it in writing; and then to allow Laguna to provide the new site(s) and build the stalls themselves. – The Editor
A challenging time for the nation

I

Leading Phuket businessman Phummisak Hongsyok is the CEO of Anuphas group of companies, President of the Phuket Real Estate Club and has served three terms as Mayor of Phuket Town.

He has now been selected by the Council of National Security to serve on the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), the new body acting as house of representatives while a new constitution is drafted.

Here he explains what his role will be.

Is it possible to hangar my aeroplane at a local airport?

Can a private pilot hangar or “tie-down” a private aircraft at either Phuket International Airport (PIA) or Krabi Airport?

In the US, pilots can pay a monthly rental fee to keep an aircraft at an airport.

The rental arrangement is either with the government entity that runs the airport, or with a private operator who holds a master lease enabling him to operate a business on a part of the airport.

I am moving to Thailand next month, and would like to buy an airplane for private use in the region, provided I can keep it at one of the two airports.

Bill McDougall US

Phuket Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree replies:

PIA does not accept long-term parking for any private aircraft because we do not have enough space.

We suggest you ask the airports at Hua Yai, Ranong or Surat Thani.

In the past we allowed big aircraft, such as Boeing 737s, to park for a maximum of about 15 days. They have to pay a daily fee; we do not allow monthly rental.

Regardless, we do not have the capacity to allow private aircraft to be kept at the airport long term.

Krabi Airport Director Pisan Jinacharn replies:

Krabi Airport is currently under expansion, which is due to be finished within two years. We currently do not have space to keep aircraft here long term.

We can allow private aircraft to park at the airport for short stays only, say, a maximum of one week.

Overcharged for my electricity?

My monthly electricity bill was 21,000 baht, yet the average is around 1,200 baht. I think it is wrong. What can I do?

Frazzled Phuket City

Ladda Pattaratamrong, Administrative Assistant, Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority, replies:

Report the bill at our office as soon as possible, and we will check it out as quickly as we can.

It might have been a mistake by the officer who wrote down your meter reading, or your meter might be broken. If that is the case we will fix it.

Please do not hesitate to report this bill by either calling us at tel: 076-223726 or in person at our office at 58/16-20 Thepkrastrit Rd.

Letters write to this newspaper to declare that Patong Beach is now the same as Pattaya Bay.

It will be just as toxic and no longer safe to swim in. That is, unless you people who depend on the beach for a living wake up to the problems and do something about it.

The cost of beach chairs is irrelevant when the beach is too filthy to be a tourist attraction.

Take a break from your moneymaking and take a look at the disrespectful condition of the beach that you have relied on for so long.

Also, can the Phuket Gazette please ban adverts from people who are trying to make money breeding and selling “pedigree” dogs? This is ridiculous given the number of stray dogs on the island.

Who are these soulless people anyway? What makes someone so snotty they need a pedigree dog under these circumstances?

A stray dog is no longer a stray if you give it a home. Stray dogs turn into great pets. You can even go on to one of the organizations who will give you a clean, sterilized and vaccinated pet, and there are hundreds to choose from. Shame on you if you do anything else.

Finally, because of the consistently filthy state of Patong Beach, my girlfriend and I often prefer the resort pool next to our condo to the beach.

It’s even possible to buy an overpriced breakfast at the resort for less than breakfast and chairs at the beach. If they can double overpriced breakfast at the resort for less than breakfast and chairs at the beach, my girlfriend and I often prefer the resort pool next to our condo to the beach.

It’s even possible to buy an overpriced breakfast at the resort for less than breakfast and chairs at the beach. If they can double it, they should pay it.

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Learning about Birds and Bees

Today I’m going to tell you how I learned about the birds and bees, a phrase that is a euphemism for: sex.

I did this not for purposes of titillation, but as a matter of historical interest.

All you young whoopersnappers out there need to know how I learned about this important topic way back in pre-Jurassic times, even before the Rolling Stones.

Nowadays it’s easy for a young person to learn about sex. All you do is log onto the Internet and download porn. But I grew up in the 1940s, when we didn’t have the Internet. We didn’t even have television. All we had was the radio.

In case you don’t know what a radio is, young people, it is a machine that produces only sound. All we had was the radio. When we didn’t have the Internet, there was no such thing as a machine that produces only sound. We had to use our imaginations to fill in the blanks.

I know that is unbelievably primitive. You cannot download porn from a radio. That was one of the many areas in which my peers and I were culturally deprived.

Information about sex was hard to come by in those days, partly because I lived in New England. My ancestors were the Puritans.

These were the guys who burned the witches. They were stern, puritanical people who forbade smoking, drinking, dancing and music, and spent eight hours in smoking, drinking, dancing and burned the witches. They were not a happy bunch.

I was horror-stricken and disgusted that, since I had a younger brother and sister, it was likely that my father had not done “that” to my mother once, but three times at the very least, and possibly even more, just for the fun of it.

I returned home in shock, my prepubescent perspective shattered.

No, it was not true about the stork! Parents in those days told their children that babies were delivered by a stork, who pre-wrapped them in swaddling clothes and deposited them on the relevant doorstep.

In case you don’t know what a stork is, young people, it is a bird that flies very high, and sometimes delivers babies to unsuspecting mothers. Babies are not delivered by storks.

Thai would be a far more moral society if the Puritans were in charge. Everybody would leave.

My parents had come a long way from the days when our ancestors burned witches. My father had an earthy sense of humor, smoked a pipe, liked his beer and loved to sing.

From what I recall, there was a residual Puritanism in the New England air, and my parents were reticent about sex.

They figured I’d find out about it by talking to my dirty little friends. And that’s exactly what happened.

I had a dirty little friend named Bobby Wentworth, and when I was nine or 10 years old, Bobby undertook to bring me up to speed on the disgusting aspects of human nature.

He had two older brothers who had passed their sophisticat-ed knowledge on to him. One day Bobby explained to me, in graphic detail, how humans reproduce.

I was so shocked I didn’t know what to say.

He told me that human beings commit this re-volting act whenever they wished to reproduce – they did it with un-speakable frequency just for fun.

I could not imagine how anybody could derive pleasure from such filth.

Later I grew up and found out. It is true. The trauma of discovering our true origins is quickly dispelled when we make fur-ther discoveries of an entirely benign nature in this fascinating field.

So that’s how I found out about the birds and bees. It would have been a lot easier if I could have downloaded porn.

S. Tsow can be flamed at strow@phuket.com, except when he’s trying to download porn from his radio.
The price of progress

By Top Dog

This month I take a final look at the effects of development and progress on Phuket’s environment.

That development and the growing tourism industry have affected marine life is indisputable.

The dozens of shrimp farms along the eastern coast have caused irreparable areas of mangrove to be destroyed.

Increasing demand for seafood has led to overfishing and the virtual disappearance of some species.

The famous Phuket lobster (tasteful, I am told) you see offered for sale at many seafood restaurants at exorbitant prices is unlikely to have originated from the sea around Phuket.

Ask any diver how often they see a lobster on the reefs around the island, and I can guarantee the answer will be “rarely”.

Illegal fishing – including dynamiting – in national parks continues as fishermen seek out ever-dwindling supplies.

The use of very fine mesh fishing nets sees millions of young fry that would have developed into larger fish hauled out of the water each year.

Fishing nets are not designed to be selective, and countless species, such as sharks and dolphins, are also victims.

Coral reefs are under pressure.

The southern end of Bang Tao Bay formerly had a thriving reef, and although there are signs of recovery it still resembles a coral grave yard.

Similarly, I am told that believe it or not – 20 years ago there was a beautiful reef in Patong Bay.

Deforestation also has a big impact on offshore reefs.

Take a flight across Sabah in Northern Borneo and you will see that every river is disgorging vast quantities of mud miles out to sea covering everything in its path. Although the felling of trees for development on Phuket is on a much smaller scale, it adds to the pressure, as does the increasing amount of waste that ends up in the sea.

The increasing popularity of scuba diving provides mixed blessings. On one hand, the demand for good dive sites puts pressure on the authorities to protect them; on the other, damage caused by inexperienced divers is increasing.

One misplaced kick of a diving fin can break off a piece of coral that has taken years to grow.

By improving regulations, some of the issues mentioned above can, hopefully, be reversed.

Nature seems to have amazing powers of recovery.

One species for which the future looks very bleak, certainly in Phuket, is the sea turtle.

Turtles are born in clusters of 80 to 100 in a nest dug by their mothers on deserted beaches.

Only two or three will survive until adulthood.

The lucky ones will spend the next 30 years or so wandering the world’s oceans.

Homing breeds, females will, through means discovered only recently, find their way back to the same beach where they were born, and repeat the cycle.

Herein lies the problem.

Even if she can get past the batteries of fishing nets lying off Phuket’s coast, and does not mistake it for a jellyfish, eat a plastic bag which will choke her, she will come ashore only if the beach is dark and quiet.

Laguna Resorts & Hotels holds an annual sea turtle conservation day, where young turtles are released into the sea off Bang Tao Beach, and the Phuket Marine Biological Center raises young turtles at its facility until they are six months to three years of age, in the hope that their chances of survival are increased.

It is these turtles that are released at the Laguna event.

Whether turtles released at this age still return to the beach where they are released is not yet clear, and if they do, then I cannot imagine any turtle coming ashore on bustling Bang Tao Beach.

The benefit of such events for the long-term future of sea turtles is questionable, to say the least. I believe it equally unlikely that all other developments will show the same concern as the Marriott resort.

Real conservation of sea turtles can be so believed, but it requires government intervention.

A classic model of this can be seen in Malaysia off the northeast coast of Sabah.

Selingaan Island is one of three tiny islands comprising a protected national park, and I mean protected. It is a great example of eco-tourism in action.

Malaysia’s army guards the islands. Visitors are welcome and are allowed to sunbathe and snorkel among the coral offshore, but at night a strict curfew is enforced, and after dinner it is a case of waiting until a guide comes to collect you to witness the first of that night’s turtles laying eggs. The eggs are collected and taken to a hatchery to protect them from monitor lizards and other predators.

Because turtles come ashore at Selingaan almost every night, baby turtles are also hatch ing every night and you get the privilege of helping release them into the sea. This, too, is done at night to give the young turtles the best chance of survival.

This tour is recommended to anybody interested in sea turtles or wildlife in general. The fees paid by tourists pay the running costs of the park and it is a great example of how tourism can benefit the environment rather than destroying it.

Sadly, preserving the environment for future generations appears to low on Phuket’s list of priorities, and the days when turtles were regular visitors here seem to be gone forever.
EV-DO is hot, but does it work?

Q I read your last column and can’t wait to get my hands on an air card. Wireless broadband would really help me. I live in between Kata and Chalong.

Do you have any info if CAT’s EV-DO service is available all over Phuket? Where do I buy an air card?

I use GPRS now – via dial-up Internet over a mobile phone – and it drives me crazy. I get maybe 30 Kbps, which is painfully slow.

The CAT air card should run 600 to 800 Kbps. Back home in Sweden they talk about having 100 Mbps (100,000 Kbps) connections, but I can’t even get a phone line. It’s not fair.

MK Kata

A I dropped by the news conference at Central Festival Phuket last week and had a chance to talk with many people from CAT who are involved in the 7.2-billion-baht project rolling out EV-DO wireless broadband.

They advertise the service by its generic name, CDMA. Bob Metcalfe, the guy who invented the idea, would get a chuckle out of that.

The people in charge say that Phuket has “quite good” coverage, which is why they staged the first publicity event here. In particular, the folks at CAT say you can get EV-DO signals at the airport, in downtown Phuket and along main roads.

I’m skeptical, although I’ve verified that many parts of Patong can get EV-DO. CAT says that it will be deploying EV-DO service inside buildings in the next round of expansion.

However, CAT doesn’t yet have a service plan in English that describes the services offered and the prices.

The flier I’ve seen lists unlimited international telephone service at 1,290 baht a month, which is reasonable – if the service works at all, which is very unlikely. CAT describes the services offered at 1,290 baht a month, which is very unreasonable – if the service works at all, which is very unlikely.

The service bogs down, it will be because CAT’s network cannot handle the load. For now, at least, that isn’t a problem, and I’m optimistic that they’ll be able to keep up the demand.

As I understand it, you just get the air card itself from CAT. The card plugs into a laptop computer’s PCMCIA slot. CAT is currently offering only the Sierra Aircard 580 (See www.sierrawireless.com/products/ac580.aspx), which is the least-capable Aircard that Sierra sells, but it has a good reputation as a reliable workhorse.

You can buy the Sierra 580 from CAT at 15,990 baht, but there appear to be cheaper options that involve signing up for a fixed period.

The flier I’ve seen lists unlimited Internet usage at 1,290 baht a month, which is very reasonable – if the service works at all, which is very unlikely.

I don’t understand the price sheet that CAT distributed, but I hope the English-language web page will bring sudden enlightenment.

CAT has just teamed with Hutch to start 3G telephone service in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Khon Kaen and Phitsanulok, since 3G telephones and EV-DO air cards use the same network. 3G phones will be expensive, but if the initial three-month experiment works, you may discover that you won’t need that telephone line in Kata after all.

A 3G base station inside your house would look and work just like a regular phone, except you will not have to plug it into a phone jack. No doubt CAT will have a few tricks up its sleeve too – with 3G telephones and CAT’s connections, very-low-cost international telephone service might just be on the drawing board. Think Skype, using your home or office phone.

You will also be able to use a 3G phone as a “modem” for your computer, similar to current GPRS connections, but at 20 times the speed – and 100 times the reliability. CAT advises that the 3G “modem” service will be billed by the byte, which is nice.

The face of 3G – and thus of EV-DO – is changing rapidly. Last month, Thailand’s National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) was given the go-ahead by the current government to start granting 3G licenses.

That is a remarkable development. Thailand has been sty- ing itself as the place to be for Internet business – and it will need that telephone line in Kata after all.

Some 3G phones will be unleashed an enormous volume of spam, using Internet address- es owned and controlled by Loxinfo. Anti-spam companies block incoming messages based on all sorts of criteria. Some anti-spam software blocks email from specific IP addresses – particularly those known to generate spam.

Most ISPs can work with the anti-spam software makers and get their IP addresses taken off the blacklist. But some anti-spam vendors are inflexible, particularly if they and their customers have been burned many times. And some ISPs won’t institute spam controls on their broadband software vendors insist upon, rightly or wrongly, to prevent future abuses.

On the bright side, no anti-spam software company domi- nates the market, and in most in- bound mail isn’t subject to block- ing. With luck, I’ll also have a defini- tion of how to advertise that it won’t do much good: everybody knows that spam is a problem, and everybody knows that the spam- blocking companies blacklist ISPs with thousands of “good” customers.

Your friend has a valid beef, too: if your mail isn’t getting through to him, he should wonder what other valid email also gets zapped.

I don’t want to use a free online service such as Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo Mail, and your friend doesn’t want to use your broadband. There are many benefits to be- ing able to access email from any- where, on any PC, and Gmail works great.

I can do what I do – get your own domain (such as KhanWoody.com) and take your mail into your own hands. It’s easier and cheaper than you think.

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LYNX management group

Q For years I have been send- ing emails to the same US address, but every mes- sage to this address has been re- turned undelivered. I phoned the intended recipient and he told me his address is the same.

I have complained to my ISP, CS Loxinfo, which I have used for six years with pre-paid accounts, and usually about August 15 they told me that the re- ceiving ISP has blocked the CS Loxinfo mail server but they would co-operate with the re- ceiver to unblock it.

On August 24, after further complaints, I was told that the other ISP will not unblock its serv- er, with no explanation, and that I should use a free email service to get through. I find it unaccept- able that after taking my money, CS Loxinfo cannot supply a ba- sic email service. Is this a common problem? Is there any reg- ulatory body to ensure that ISPs deliver the service paid for?

WP, Patong

A I feel your pain, but I also sympathize with Loxinfo’s problem.

Apparently somebody has unleashed an enormous volume of spam, using Internet address- es owned and controlled by Loxinfo. Anti-spam companies block incoming messages based on all sorts of criteria. Some anti-spam software blocks email from specific IP addresses – particularly those known to generate spam.

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Gordian knot by declaring the new government simply cut the maneuver, tinged no doubt with thousands of “good” customers.

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If an event isn’t listed in the Gazette’s Events Calendar it probably isn’t one. List your event now.

phuketgazette.com/calendar
Martin Raich, 39, from Austria, is the new Hotel Manager of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach and Spa Resort. Among his credentials, Mr Raich has a Master Certificate in Essentials of Hospitality from eCornell University.

His experience includes working as F&B Manager at Sheraton Heathrow in London, as Director of F&B at Sheraton Amsterdam and at St Regis Beijing, and as Executive Assistant Manager at The Westin Bellevue Dresden for five years.

Before moving to Khao Lak, Martin was Director of F&B for The Westin Denarau Island Resort & Spa, Sheraton Fiji Resort and Sheraton Denarau Villas, all in Fiji, where he lived for over two years.

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Austrian Michael Vorderleitner, 33, has been appointed Director of F&B at Dusit Laguna Resort. Mr Vorderleitner, who holds a master’s degree from the Bavaria College for Tourism, has 15 years’ experience working on cruise ships and in five-star hotels in Europe and the Middle East.

Before joining Dusit Laguna, Michael was F&B Director at Iberotel Hotels and Resorts and with InterContinental Group of hotels in Egypt.

Waraporn “Lek” Phetdecha is the new Executive Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Managing Director of The Mangosteen, Waraporn Karon Village. Before joining including working at Central Surat Thani and Phuket, in-12 years’ hotel experience in Thani, K. Lek has more than University campus in Surat

The resort features 79 suites in three room types: junior suite, one-bedroom suite and two-bedroom suite. These range in size from 65 to 113 square meters. All suites have a sofa-bed and can accommodate four to six guests, depending on room type. All suites overlook the Laguna Phuket golf course and have separate living and dining areas, as well as a fully-equipped kitchen, allowing guests to prepare meals themselves or use the resort’s restaurant and room service.

Resort amenities include a swimming pool with waterslide, pool bar, restaurant, kids’ area, game room, and Internet access in every suite plus free wireless Internet connection in the lobby area. The resort’s restaurant, named “At Seventeenth” because it faces the 17th hole on the golf course, will be managed by Banyan Tree Phuket and have a 114-guest seating capacity. Of-

LAGUNA: On October 15, Laguna Phuket opened the Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort, a new resort dedicated for members of the Laguna Holiday Club.

The resort is the sixth hotel situated within the 600-acre Laguna Phuket complex, joining Banyan Tree Phuket, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Dusit Laguna Resort, Laguna Beach Resort and Allamanda Laguna Phuket.

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The resort’s restaurant, named “At Seventeenth” because it faces the 17th hole on the golf course, will be managed by Banyan Tree Phuket and have a 114-guest seating capacity. Offering all-day dining, the restaurant features a tapas bar during dinner, as well as hot stone plates on which guests can cook their own meals. In addition to the extensive wine list, guests may bring their own wines without having to pay a corkage fee.

Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort has been designed as a family-friendly venue, with the Kids’ Club play area open from 8 am until 10 pm daily, entertaining children with games and activities.

Roland Svensson, Laguna Phuket’s Assistant Vice President Hospitality Services, said that in addition to the offering high-end accommodation and resort amenities, the resort takes pride in providing personalized service to its guests. “Being an all-member resort, there’s no VIP category. Everybody is on an equal footing,” he said.

“We have a very strong guest history database. We have so much information about our members that we can really personalize our service. We’ll treat them so they feel that this is their home away from home,” he said.
Guinness Flight fund a consistent star

By Richard Watson

Guinness Flight may not be one of the giants of the industry, but it is nonetheless well respected. Every offshore company includes it on its list of approved fund managers and many of the offshore insurance companies also created “mirror fund” links with Guinness Flight to enable their pension and regular savings customers to access Guinness Flight products.

Tracking the performance of the fund from September 2001 reveals the history both in good and bad times. Whereas the average fund in its sector lost 13.83% between mid-2001 and mid-2002, this fund fell only a modest 1.14%. Each year thereafter the fund has outperformed its peers by a substantial margin. Looking at the cumulative results over the past five years, the fund has gained 121.93% to August 31 this year compared with an average return by its peers of 43.25%. This is an independent assessment from Lipper Analytical Services.

The fund is spread widely on a geographical basis: USA: 36%; Europe (excluding UK): 31%; Japan: 12%; UK: 10%; emerging markets: 7%; Asia: 3%; and cash and others: 1%. By sector breakdown, the largest holdings are in: financials: 25%; non-cyclical consumer goods: 21%; cyclical services: 13%; and resources: 13%.

The entry charge is 5%, but this can be discounted to almost nothing by using an institutional entry approach. It is a sensible addition to any balanced portfolio.

Standard & Poor’s opinion as of July 2006 was, “This fund has one of the strongest track records in our global equities peer group... The fund comfortably retains its AA status.”

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

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Money Talks

By Richard Watson

Few readers may have heard of the Investec Global Strategic Value Fund from the Investec Group. Investec was, originally, a South African bank, although not the type of bank with a large network of branches providing, for example, basic savings and current accounts.

It specialized in certain areas, such as corporate finance and lending to professional people including doctors, dentists and lawyers.

These days it also finances property development and it is involved in such activities as trading in gold. Its involvement also stretches to wholesale money market investments and it has extended its South African operations to include asset management. Investec has also been running a number of mutual funds and unit trusts with a great deal of success.

The company has been a quoted share on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange for several decades, and for its shareholders, it has been a pleasant experience. Investec is a well-managed group and profits were always noted for rising at a much higher rate than most of its competitors. They rapidly gained a reputation for being a competently-managed group. My business dealings with Investec started in the early 1980s.

In Britain, also several decades ago, Tim Guinness and Howard Flight formed an asset-management company – Guinness Flight. It too quickly gained a reputation for being a well-managed company with above-average investment abilities. From its operations in London and Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, it concentrated on managing a range of unit trusts with a great deal of success.

The other founding partner, Howard Flight, well before the Investec takeover, had decided that a career in politics was more appealing and could be found on the front benches in Westminster. No prizes for guessing his political party.

He was a Conservative MP for eight years before falling out with the party’s leaders last year. The then-leader of the party, Michael Howard, announced that Flight was no longer an approved candidate and could not contest the Arundel and South Downs seat as a Tory candidate at the 2005 general election. Flight is the author of All You Need to Know about Exchange Rates and is a contributor to the book The City in Europe and the World. – Ed

I began my business dealings with Guinness Flight some 15 years ago and have always found our interactions to be both pleasant and profitable.

During the 1990s, I was in frequent contact with Saunders, who specializes in currencies and bonds and has always been a very helpful and insightful person.

Guinness Flight was considered by the industry as not only a good asset manager, but also a good company in every respect.

The Bank of Yokohama (BoY), Japan’s largest regional bank and at that stage the 19th largest bank in the world, took a 20% shareholding in Guinness Flight.

Intrigued, I asked the marketing director what role BoY played. His answer was to the effect that the BoY had several staff from Japan in Guinness Flight’s offices, but nobody knew what they actually did.

This is quite typical in the financial world; large institutions take a financial interest in another group then tend to forget what rationale was behind the decision.

But I returned to one of the group’s funds: the Investec Global Strategic Value Fund.

Each prospective investment needs to meet the fund’s strict criteria of a history of value creation, attractive valuation, an improving earnings outlook and upward momentum in the share price.

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New game, same results

THALANG: The most recent week of play in the Nike Golf Team Challenge involved an interesting event called “Flag Day.” The idea was to carry your team’s flag as far as possible using only a specified number of shots. Although the concept was different, the results remained the same. Winning their third event out of the four played thus far were the Fabulous Fore, who managed to carry their flag past the 18th hole back down the first again. The only team to give them a run for their money was the Arahmas Killer Bees, who finished second again this week. There are two events left on the schedule, but it looks like Fabulous Fore have stitched up the win unless they decide to not show up for one of the final events. The other eight teams are still fighting it out for one of the final events. The Piccadilly side noted that the meatballs served were absolutely delicious, or, the dog’s bollocks. Coyote, the only other team left with a shot at the championship, were set to play Didi’s last week. The results of that match will be included in the next edition.

Entry to the tourney costs 2,600 baht for BCCC members and 4,300 baht for non-members, and includes greens fees, dinner and caddy fees.

For more information and entry details of the event, send Emailto: childwatchcharitygolf@bluecanyonclub.com.
AO CHALONG: Light breezes, gusting up to seven knots at times but dropping to zero air movement at others, made for some interesting battles on Chalong Bay in Race 12 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series on October 15.

Race officials chose wisely to keep the regatta confined within the bay.

In the Multihull class, Mark Pescott on Summersalt showed his experience with the fickle breezes on the bay, crossing the finish line ahead of X-Catriot, though only seconds ahead on corrected time.

Charro, once she resolved her helming inadequacies by putting seven-year-old William Smit in charge, finished third.

Harry Usher’s Eos flies her new Lady Pie spinnaker on her way to winning the Cruising class in the ACYC regatta on October 15.

Light winds add edge to ACYC regatta

Fidji edged out season hotshots Minx in Racing class to take top honors, winning also by seconds after handicaps were applied.

John Fenn on Four Winds was given a special mention for having hauled himself out of bed at 4 am to single-handedly launch his yacht from the beach. Despite his huge effort, he failed to outclass Harry Usher’s Eos sporting a new Lady Pie spinnaker in the Cruising Class.

The next ACYC Race will be on October 29, but those who can’t wait till then can take part in the next of the Family Sailing Days on October 22.

ACYC have assembled four dinghies for the event. All members and their guests are welcome to join in.
The 46.7-million-baht “Gateway” project by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) is now 95% complete, with the entire six-building complex expected to open in time for the celebrations of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s birthday on December 5.

No official date for dedicating the complex has yet been set, however.

Project contractor DN Constructor Co Ltd began work on the project November 29 last year. The originally scheduled completion date of September 24 this year was pushed back due to construction delays resulting from rainy weather.

Built on 25 rai of land near Sarasin Bridge at the northern tip of the island, the complex comprises six buildings, 29 seven-meter-tall concrete pillars arranged in a straight line, and a larger 21.8-meter granite pillar, the top of which will be sculpted to resemble a lighthouse. Behind the buildings will be a large parking lot to provide room for cars and tour buses. It was decided to build 29 smaller pillars because 2 represents Phuket’s two heroines, Thao Thepkrasatree and Thao Srisoonthorn, while 9 was chosen in honor of HM The King, the ninth ruler in the Chakri Dynasty.

Each of the 29 pillars will be inscribed in Thai and English with information about the island’s history, going back to the colonial-era tin mining days and extending through to the island’s emergence as a major tourist destination in the closing decades of the 20th century.

The information to be used will be provided by Phuket Rajabhat University Professor Sommai Pinphutthasin and members of the Phuket Historical Society.

The first of the six buildings will serve as a tourist information center.

The second will be a meeting room, designed to accommodate one large meeting or two smaller gatherings.

The third building is a double shop house, where products manufactured under the government’s One Tambon One Product (OTOP) project will be put on sale. Next to this is a large public restroom facility. This will comprise separate restrooms with four stalls for men, six for women and one for disabled people.

The fifth building will house OrBorJor administrative offices, while the sixth building will have a first aid facility and offices for the Tah Chat Chai Police and Phuket Livestock Office, both of which operate checkpoints to inspect vehicles coming onto the island.

OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, for whom the construction of the Gateway was a key campaign promise in her 2004 election victory, said that the only work remaining involves interior design, landscaping, exterior electrics and lighting, completing pillar inscriptions and associated work, building access roads to the nearby highway, and work on parking and traffic flow, such as line painting.

Most of the project will be in southern “Taksin” style. Other aspects of the design are described as “unique”, including the landscape design and sculpture work by Thana Laohakaikul, Dean of Silpakorn University’s Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts.

OrBorJor will also spend an additional 10 million baht to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras around the complex for security purposes.
When moving house means moving the house

Building a home in Phuket is a dream for many – but it can also be a nightmare come true for those who don’t take the time to research, plan and find the right people to do the work.

For those who want a little place to call their own, but who don’t want to deal with all the related hassles, a prefabricated home might be just the answer.

Ready after only 15 days from the date of order, a prefabricated home by island newcomer CEC-Phuket in Chalong can cost as little as 450,000 baht and comes with a three-year performance warranty.

Perhaps best of all on an island where laws prohibit foreigners from owning land is the fact that these prefabricated homes can be moved easily – or even warehoused – when circumstances demand.

Find your 30-year lease isn’t being rolled over as promised? Wife run off with a jazz musician? Find your new neighbors unbearable? Just pack it up and move on with your life – and your home. For just 60% of the original purchase price, CEC-Phuket will take care of everything for moves inside Phuket or to a surrounding province – though there may be an additional fee if you decide to move to, say, Isarn.

Made of a special steel alloy and rust-proofed, the funky-yet-durable dwellings resist damage from the elements, including corrosive sea spray.

Three models are available, all of which can be converted for use as an office, guesthouse, coffee shop or other small business, depending on the need.

As this goes to print, several units are being prepared to be sent to Koh Yao Yai, where they will serve as rental bungalows. Prices for a model with a total area of about 43 square meters, including a balcony, start at about 450,000 baht and range up to 590,000 baht, depending on the model chosen.

CEC-Phuket is a subsidiary of Bangkok-based Civil Engineering Company Co Ltd, which spent about three years in product research and development before launching its prefab home business here in Phuket.

For a look at how cool and comfortable a prefab home can be, just stop by CEC-Phuket’s sales office, which also serves as a model home.

CEC-Phuket Marketing Manager Patcharit Rattirawiroj told the Gazette that initial response has been good, with 10 homes already sold. A marketing campaign beginning in January will include expansion into nearby provinces such as Phang Nga.

For more information contact CEC-Phuket (Tel: 076-891424-5; www.cec-phuket.com).
I like a good mystery. The old Loch Ness Monster theory is all well and good, but you know that regardless of how many years they spend looking and how many millions of pounds they spend on the latest high-tech monster-spotting gadgets, they’ll never find a thing.

Some mysteries are solved, though. Going back a few years, Britain was plagued with crop circles that appeared in the middle of corn fields all over the country seemingly overnight. Aliens were initially blamed, as they were an easy target – no aliens popped up to deny it.

It wasn’t until a bunch of university students admitted to trampling cornfields with wooden boards that people realized they’d been completely fooled. Aliens from outer space coming down to earth? Total bunkum.

It wasn’t until a bunch of university students admitted to trampling cornfields with wooden boards that people realized they’d been completely fooled. Aliens from outer space coming down to earth? Total bunkum.

But what happens? The noise finally reaches breaking tolerance for this interminable source of your misery once and for all. You then drive away feeling more than a little ridiculous, as you drive in, and all that you can really say is something pathetic like, “Well it normally makes this loud ‘eek eek eek’ kind of sound.”

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There are more mysteries in the field (sorry) of gardening than I’d dare to consider, but there is one, involving the omnipresent coconut tree, that has only been solved for me in recent years. I could never work out why the base of a coconut tree often has the start of its roots above ground.

The answer to this question became apparent after I conducted a small experiment in my front garden a few years ago. I claimed a couple of coconuts that had fallen from a nearby fully-grown tree, and dug a hole for one and put the other on top of the ground.

With nothing more than water, both grew, but the difference was that the roots of the tree that appeared from the buried coconut were below ground, and a lot nearer; the one that started off above ground had six inches to go down first, which is where those weird, bicycle spoke roots appear from. That’s the way they grow in the wild, of course – mystery solved. Obvious when you think about it.

This plant probably best symbolizes tropical spots such as Phuket. Picture a beach anywhere in the world, and what’s drooping majestically over it? A coconut palm.

In the race to develop the island, build bigger and more palatial hotels and to construct more holiday homes for our visitors, what’s the first thing to go? The trees that have happily sat there for years making the island look like a tropical paradise – precisely why we came here in the first place.

It’s a serious shame, but everyone here can help redress the balance by planting a coconut palm in their own yards. It can be anywhere to be honest, in your own garden, the unattended garden next door, or even in the corner of your landlord’s garden – I’m sure he won’t mind.

It’s not exactly a complicated process – here are some instructions:

1. Go outside.
2. Find the nearest coconut that has fallen from the nearest tree.
3. Shake it and make sure it makes a swishing sound.
4. Take it home.
5. Put it on a wall or in a corner on the floor – it doesn’t really matter.
6. Do absolutely nothing.
7. Wait for a shoot to appear, which will rise naturally skyward.
8. Wait a bit longer, and another shoot will start to grow downwards.
9. Put it in a hole in the soil. If you can’t be bothered with the exertion of digging a hole, then don’t. Just leave it on the ground. It’ll grow anyway.
11. Water it (the coconut, not the beer).
12. Keep watering it (if you can summon the energy).
14. You’ve got a coconut tree.

There isn’t anything more to it. The hardest thing you’ll need to do is walk out of your front gate, bend over (watch your back – you don’t want to over-exert yourself) and pick up a coconut. Those with heart conditions will probably want to do a health check before undertaking strenuous activity, but this part of the process should be delegated.

Long-term, your biggest consideration won’t be the maintenance of the coconut palm, as it pretty much looks after itself. The main problem will be where the coconuts will fall if they’re not regularly harvested. How many cars, buildings and Phuket residents will suffer from falling coconuts over the years? Countless.

Full sun? No problem. Sandy soil, or soil lacking the nutrients for most normal plants to grow? No problem. High winds? These will survive a hurricane, and still come out smiling.

Plant a coconut tree for yourself. Sorry if you sound like one of those really bad DIY TV programs, but Phuket will look all the better for it.

You’ll probably have to stock up your fridge with beer though, as you’ll have plenty of spare time. No mystery there.
Kata viewpoint

 Positioned high on a hillside in Kata, this villa overlooks one of Phuket’s most popular and picturesque beaches.

 The rear of the property makes full use of the view, by incorporating a 41-square-meter swimming pool and surrounding terraced area of 40 square meters.

 A sala, built so that it is suspended over one end of the pool, allows people to swim underneath or rest in the shade.

 The 396sqm interior area includes a living and dining area that open onto the terrace through several sets of floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors. White-tiled floors help to keep the house cool, as does the ducted air conditioning throughout the home.

 The villa has four bedrooms – three with en-suite bathrooms – all with wooden flooring and built-in furniture. Bedrooms are on both levels, with rooms on the top floor enjoying views. On the lower level is the entertainment center.

 The Western kitchen, which is on the main level, features a gas cooker, white cupboards and black granite counter tops, along with a water-filtration system. The home also features UBC TV, an Internet connection and a single carport.

 The property is located within an estate that features a gym, communal swimming pool and estate security.

 The property has Chanote title and is available freehold, unfurnished, at 34 million baht.

 For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908 or by email to: info@siamrealestate.com or visit the website at http://www.siamrealestate.com
Property Gazette

THAI VILLA FOR SALE

Thailand, villa located down the Panwa Peninsula overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay. This Thai-style residence has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a Western-style kitchen, living room and a large swimming pool. 15.9 million baht. Tel: 081-897-4180. Email: gay@islandtechnology.com

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For further details, please see our website: www.patongbluepoint.com

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In Karon Beach, long or short term. Tel: 089-491-2496. Email: mailijc@gmail.com

DETACHED HOUSE FOR RENT/Sale

Located at Pa Khlok area, just 7 minutes from international school. Fully-furnished house with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Ready to move in. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month or for sale at 2.4 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269.

KARON APARTMENT

Central Karon. 50m from the beach. Newly furnished and renovated 2-room apartment with 2 balconies, cable TV, WiFi, aircon. 20,000 baht per month. Long term only. Tel: 086-2718254.

FREEDOM

Apartments. Near Wat Patong, Soi Khunyaiyow, 290. Small kitchen, cooker, fridge, fully furnished, European style, balcony, aircon, fan, cable TV, safety box, hot water bath room, cleaning twice a week. 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-950461, 081-8941561.

HOUSES ON MY ISLE

I have a big website with properties for sale and rent on the island where I was born. Welcome to Phuket! Please contact. Tel: 081-9683039. Email: info@houseinphuket.com

www.houseinphuket.com

PATONG APARTMENT

Rent: 36,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-5967540, 076-333292. Email: somsrijnern@lycos.com

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW

100 meters from beach, long or short term. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-877-3004.

KARON STUDIO APARTMENT

Large studio apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath room. New. 36,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5399269.

Houses for rent/sale. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180m on 2-open-plan floors. Suitable for commercial use. Unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: pacigu89@yahoo.com

BEACH HOUSE

Architect-designed, direct access to Kamala Beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living room, open-style European kitchen, home office. Fully furnished, fans throughout, large decks facing beach on both floors. Available immediately. Minimum 6-month lease required. 55,000 baht per month. 12-month lease rate is 50,000 baht. Tel: 081-8943839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Kathu. 4 large, quiet, central flats. 6-15,000 baht a month long term. Tel: 081-8688843. Email: hkmmsn@yahoo.com

NEW 2-BEDROOM

apartment. In Karon Beach, long or short term. Call for more details. Tel: 086-281-7605.

DESKET HOUSE

For rent. A must-see. 9 months old. In an excellent location, minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. High quality with beautiful & modern design and 162sqm of living area. The house has 2 large bedrooms, 2 private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, a large living/dining room, terrace, storage room, 1 air conditioner, private car parking space, free water and garbage service. The house is furnished with 1 set of king-size bed & mattress, 5-door wardrobe, a vanity set, a dining table, fridge and curtains. Asking 22,000 baht per month or nearest offer. Please call K. Nui for more information. Tel: 089-5940887, 076-285-611.

2-BED BUNGALOW

Rawai, quiet location, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 9,000 baht. Please call for further details. Tel: 086-2790837.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, aircon, new. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2852107.

APARTMENTS

In Karon Beach, long or short term. Tel: 089-491-2496. Email: mailijc@gmail.com

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NEW 2-BEDROOM

apartment. In Karon Beach, long or short term. Call for more details. Tel: 086-281-7605.
Property Wanted

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: urlickuhl@gmail.com

1 RAI IN NAI HARN OR RAWAI
Need 1 rai in Nai Harn or Rawai (anything south of Kata). It should be either very secluded or have sea view. Chanote title only. Please contact via email: tembusas@gmail.com

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: jbjjoyly@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE and restaurant in Patong, Karon, Kata or Phuket City. Please email if you have or know of something appropriate. Email: chrillearninge@hotmail.com

Shop and Living Wanted

Small office/shop with living area wanted to rent or buy. Tel: 085-7955353.

LAND IN KATHU
Wanted: 1 rai in Kathu or close to Phuket City. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2121794. Email: iam@evocation.net

LANDANTED
Seaview, beachfront land in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi. 10 - 100 rai. Tel: 081-6936437, 086-6841260.

WANTED: SHOP SPACE IN KAMALA
I need to rent a shop for a restaurant in Kamala. Must be in a good location. Tel: 085-7866596. Email: roger.sommer1@hotmail.com

NEED SEA VIEW 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.marketer@Gmail.com

BEACHFRONT
wanted looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Tel: 089-0643506.

Accommodation Available

LUXURY APARTMENTS
New 1- & 2-bedroom apartments with sea view, pool, parking. 18,000 - 28,000 baht a month. Min 12 month contact. Tel: 081-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website: www.orcella.com

PATONG BAY GREAT SEA VIEW
If you want the best location in Patong, come to Baan Suan Kamiran, just outside Patong on the hill above Amari hotel and next to the Bluepoint viewpoint. Green, quiet, clean and secure area. ADSL connection, aircon, UBC gold package, big balcony, maid service. Awake to the sound of birds instead of city noise. Long term only. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurnanbi@hotmail.com

ROOMS IN PATONG
Ground-floor rooms and your own hot shower close to beach. Tel: 081-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

KATA BEACH
New guesthouse with everything. Facing the beach, 5-minute walk, without traffic, to beach. Tel: 081-8948466. Please see our website at: www.southernfriedice.com

LONG-TERM RENT
Only near Heroines’ Monument. New, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, tastefully fully furnished, 2 phone lines (ADSL optional), UBC, aircon, entertainment system, private garden. Near Boat Lagoon, international school, Surin Beach, golf courses, airport. 25,000 baht a month firm! Tel: 084-8395447. Email: hugbox@yahoo.com

KATHU APARTMENT
- 1 apartment 58sqm. 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, pool, fan, aircon, ADSL available. Price: 600 baht per day. Long term: 12,000 baht a month.
- 1 apartment 85sqm. 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, pool, telephone. Price: 800 baht per day or 15,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

HOLIDAY HOMES, NAJ HARN
Fully furnished new house (2 bedrooms/bathrooms) and apartment (1 bedroom/bathroom) near beach/lake. Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: gostafortasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

LIVE ON THE BEACH
Large 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house, on the beach near Cha-long Pier, for long-term rent from mid-October. 15,000 baht a month (negotiable). Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-0779816. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

ROOMS IN THE CITY
Rooms with beds, cable TV, aircon and hot water for 6,000 baht a month (including internet, with common kitchen). Tel: 076-243118, 089-1885300. Email: passakorn_hongsyok@yahoo.com

FUTURE NETWORK SOLUTION
Make your home into a smart house.
- Wired system for home and small offices, indoor and outdoor design and installation
- IP Star Internet, IP camera
- Website development and graphics
Tel: 086-7432011. Email: woong_bank@hotmail.com

KATHU APARTMENT
- 1 apartment 58sqm. 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, pool, fan, aircon, ADSL available. Price: 600 baht per day. Long term: 12,000 baht a month.
- 1 apartment 85sqm. 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, pool, telephone. Price: 800 baht per day or 15,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

Roller Blinds
Four new roller blinds for sale. Navy-blue cotton, 80cm wide by 195cm long. Still in packing, 1,000 baht each. For sale because I bought incorrect size! Tel: 087-2747648.

Electrical services UK registered electrician available to help you. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6919907. Email: phuketelectrician@yaho.co.uk

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

Then hand it to any of our agents.

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 85 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm. Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Live in Chalong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
K L Minimart

PHUKET TOWN

K.K.A. APARTMENT

Simply write your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Laddawan (076-280403)

Gazette classifieds - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of ads in print every weekend, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette is always on top in Google!
Boats & Marine

4M FIBERGLASS BOAT
with console and steering wheel, ideal for sportfishing or to tender professionally. Only 6 months old, 70,000 baht. Tel: 085-7947332.

12-FOOT DINGHY
Rubber dinghy with new 50hp engine. In excellent condition, rarely used. Price: 95,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8851724.

GAME FISHING
Aussie custom 6-meter Centre Console, Thai “Flagged”, in commercial survey! Import docs 100% correct. See website for all information. www.kohjoy.com/makocraft

STEPPA 36 FOR SALE
Due to an increase of our boat capacities, Sub Aqua Khao Lak is selling its speed-boat fleet. Blue Sea 1 (a “Steppa 36” fiberglass hull built by Phuket Water Taxi) is still available for sale. Best offer gets it. Tel: 076-485165, 081-7874043. Fax: 076-485165. Email: khaolak@subaquadivecenter.com

WINDSURFING EQPT wanted. Sails, masts, booms and boards wanted. Can collect. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282-864, 084-8501340. Email: southseasurf@gmail.com

8-FOOT DINGHY
Rubber dinghy with 5hp engine, in good condition. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-895-1724.

NEW 35’ SPEEDBOAT FOR RENT
Luxury fiberglass boat with head, shower, cabin, etc. Rent to hotels, dive shops and private day trippers. Tel: 46-704534768. Email: info@swedcraft.com

SAIL & KAYAK
Big boat, shade, good food. Captain + 12 people for day trips, 8 overnight. Tel: 081-6771641.

140’ Schooner
She has magnificent deluxe, fully air-conditioned accommodation for 10 guests in 5 double cabins, and twin 540 Hp engines build to highest standards under Turquoise 1AS classification.

DIVER BOAT FOR SALE

2 YAMAHA 200HP 2 STROKES
2003, good condition. Incl accessories. 250,000 baht each. Tel: 076-3811010. Email: dsa@evasonphuket.com

RUBBER DINGHY
2.5m: 20,000 baht. 3.5m dinghy : 40,000 baht. 5hp engine: 15,000 baht. Price: 95,000. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-8951724.

2 YAMAHA 200HP 2 STROKES
2003, good condition. Incl accessories. 250,000 baht each. Tel: 076-3811010. Email: dsa@evasonphuket.com

FIND MORE CLASSIFIED ADS
"Boats & Marine"
at www.phuketgazette.net!
**Island Job Mart**

### Digital Media Technology

**Digital Media Technology Co., Ltd**

- Customer Service (20,000+)
- Data Controller (10,000+)

**Responsibilities:**
- A/K Customer support in English
- Correspondence with foreign clients
- Customer service
- Invoice issuance

**Requirements:**
- Thai female/male
- Bachelor degree in English or Accounting or Related field
- Ability to work in a team and good communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be able to cook and write English fluently

*Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications together with resume expected salary and recent photograph or copy in person to this address as shown below.*

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<tr>
<th>Phone: 076 210910, 560167</th>
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### Island Job Mart

**Island Job Mart**

- Tel: 076 2792801, 081-3977899. Fax: 076-279282.
- Email: lyndon.phillips@engelvoelkers.co.th

**SALES AGENT**

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good computer skills, good command of Thai, have good computer skills, own vehicle
- Sales experience would be an advantage

**Assistant Property Manager / Site Adminstrator**

- Bachelor’s degree in Accounting or any other related field, or from secretarial college
- Good command of English and computer literate
- Hardworking, good interpersonal skills, team player and service-minded

**Applicant should send full CV to:**

- Tel: 081-8937028. Fax: 087-254827. Email: sutisa.pent@yahoo.com or call Mr. Jock Adams at Tel: 081-8937028 or email: jockadams@yahoo.com

### Classifieds

**Work in the Internet Shop**

- We’re looking for female Thai nationals, to work as cyber cafe receptionists. 1 full time, 1 night time (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodging. The applicant needs to speak English, Patong area. Please contact K. Yupha. Tel: 076-341255, 089-4719712. Email: leco@kittcat.com

**New Restaurant**

- Experienced English-speaking bar/restaurant manager required for new Indian restaurant in Laguna area. Good salary and share of profit for the right person. Please apply with your details, including current and expected salary. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: suita.potter@gmail.com

**Karaoke Host**

- Required. Karaoke presenter/personality. We are looking for a star to shine in our new Western music karaoke wine bar and restaurant. This is a great opportunity for the right person to join a growing, thriving company in the heart of Patong Beach at the Tai Life complex. You must have the ability, confidence and the willingness to sing, engage the customers and encourage them to sing, enjoy themselves and perform to the best of their ability. We will provide you with an extensive, quality menu, great sound and video equipment, and effective marketing support. All you have to do is shine. Apply by email with a brief summary of your experience and achievements. Tel: 076-340904, 087-2834860. Email: info@yorkshireinn.com

**Sales Representative**

- International real estate company is seeking a dynamic listing agent for the above position.
- Applicants must be fluent in both written and spoken English and have good computer skills and own vehicles. Sales experience would be an advantage, but not necessary. Interested applicants should send full CV with current salary to email: cv@phuketocevillas.com or call Tel: 076-527565 for more info.

**Office Clerk**

- needed for new pool company. Must have good command of English, basic accounting skills, computer literate (Excel, Word, Internet), driving license. Please contact Gary. Tel: 085-7825552. Email: warton.gary@gmail.com

**Part-time Work**

- Promotional staff needed in Patong for brochure distribution on Bangla Rd. Can be students. Contact Jony at Tel: 087-8817600.

**Rainai Norbus’ Steakhouse**

- We are now looking for staff:
  - 1. Thai Chef
  - 2. Assistant Chef
  - 3. Waitress
  - 4. Room Maid

- We provide excellent working conditions and salary. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-2768628. Email: jockadams@yahoo.com

**Private Villa**

- We have openings for the following positions:
  - 1. Thai Chef
  - 2. Assistant Chef
  - 3. Waitress
  - 4. Room Maid

- We provide excellent working conditions and salary. Contact Catherine. Tel: 086-2716850.

**Maid/ Housekeeper**

- Foreign couple is looking for a long-term maid with basic English and written/English. Working location: Kathu, in a new house in a nice community. Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Saturday 8:30-12:00 am. Honest, self-motivated, sincere and easygoing and with soft personality. Reasonable salary for the right candidate. Call or email for interview.

- Tel: 086-742-8968. Email: fima168@yahoo.com

**SALES**

- For Art Class

- Excellent local international school needs someone to sit naked for older art students to draw. Required for 2 hours every Monday, 3-5pm. Good rates of pay. No time wastings please. Tel: 084-849-1323. Email: sfurn@bcis.ac.th

**Model for Art Class**

- Perfectly good looking, male, unattached, with and without clothing. Good performance skills and experience wanted to promote products/services of Phuket-based company. Must speak English and have a good track record and customer base. Self-motivated & adaptable. Excellent salary + commission for suitable candidate. Full or part time. Send CV with photo to: phuketmarket@hotmail.com

**Digital Media Technology**

- Digital Media Technology Co., Ltd

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**Image asia**

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- One of Phuket’s fastest-growing publications & events companies. Following the promotion of one of our young Thai designers to Executive Director, we are building our editorial/design team. See positions below.

- You must be able to work independently but as part of a hardworking team and you must be able to read & write some English.

**Layout Artist for print media**

- Must have experience with Adobe InDesign, Illustrator & Photoshop. Familiarity with Dreamweaver & basic web publishing will be an advantage.

**Web Programmer/Developer**

- To develop & maintain database-driven E-commerce web applications. Must have sufficient experience with web publishing & programming. Must have knowledge of HTML, PHP/MySQL, HTML CSS, JavaScript & Dreamweaver. Must be able to work independently, but as part of a hard-working team to develop web-based solutions including analyzing requirements, design, implementation, as well as maintenance & troubleshooting.

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Island Job Mart

A career or a lifestyle...

Phuket Branch.
We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging role within their career. Join our extensive international team and work for one of the world’s market leaders in real estate. Our Overseas Chain Of Estate Agents Network gives you the chance to enjoy both a successful career and a dynamic lifestyle. You will be working with our worldwide offices and global property exhibitions programme.

Opportunities Available:

- **Sales Executive**
  - 2 Positions
  - Responsible for one-to-one selling to multi-national clients. You need to possess excellent communication skills and be willing to go the extra mile for our clients. Excellent earning potential for both dedicated and enthusiastic sales people. Basic salary + commission + company vehicle.
  - Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: sanda@oceanestates.com

- **Sales Support Executive**
  - 3 Positions
  - An exciting position with the opportunity to travel worldwide and with high earning potential. You will be expected to liaise with new and exiting clients via telephone (no cold calling) and at international exhibitions. You need to have a positive attitude and be a team player. Basic salary + commission.
  - Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: saab@oceanestates.com

- **F & E Exhibition Coordinator**
  - 1 Position
  - We are welcoming applications from males and females over 25 years old who meet the following requirements:
    - Creative/Artistic
    - Proven organisational skills
    - IT/Computer Literate
    - Able to meet deadlines
    - Coordinating between graphic designers, printing companies, exhibition project managers, Photographic/Light Organiser
    - Good command of English language
    - Driver’s Licence
  - Email your CV, with photo if possible, to: susanne@oceanestates.com

COOK + WAITRESS
1 cook (5 pm-10 pm) and 1 waitress needed. Please contact for more information.
Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

OFFICE STAFF
Must have very good English communication skills. Tel: 076-2847702, Fax: 076-284773. Or email: info@kajonkiet.com

NEW TOUR-TRAVEL agency in Kamala. We have a prime location and the money. You will need the knowledge & experience to build up the business and make it a success. We offer a good salary plus uncapped commission. Tel: 089-5918105.

STAFF FOR INTERNET CAFE
Rawai. Thai female, basic English knowledge and computer skills. Good salary. Tel: 076-288808, 087-2650652. Email: rudi542001@yahoo.de

ENGLISH WRITER
A new web hotel-booking company is looking for a part-time Phuket-based English editor, who has excellent English writing and computer skills. Email: vw.suvarhian@hotmail.com

SWEDISH & GERMAN speaking PADI instructor. The ideal person can teach in both languages. Suitable candidate will be offered a work permit, a good salary & commission. Tel: 089-511-6105.

HOTEL Management Group
We provide construction and villa management services for clients and currently seek candidates for many positions on our team.

Construction Management Division
1. Construction Manager
2. Structure & MEP Supervision
3. Structure & MEP Engineer
4. Structure Designer
5. Architect
6. Project Assistant
7. AutoCAD Operator

Villa Management Division
1. Villa Manager
2. IT Manager (Tele-communication System)
3. Computer Engineer
4. Maintenance Engineer
5. Guest Relation Manager
6. Bartender
7. Chef
8. Maid
9. Driver
10. Receptionist

Please send your CV with photo to:
KMD Management Group
07/10 Moo 1, T. Thaepkaset A. Talang, Phuket 83110
Email: RTK@KMDMGMT.COM

Employment Wanted

2 SWEDISH GIRLS
We are 2 girls from Sweden, age 33, going to Patong in January. We are looking for almost any kind of job except dishes, laundry, cleaning, etc. Can start next February. Please email if it sounds interesting.
Email: pillan30@hotmail.com

HOUSEKEEPER
Part time. Available for European clients only. I speak English and work Monday to Friday 9 am till 3 pm. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-9469997.
Have something to sell? Tell the WORLD!

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette appear FREE OF CHARGE in the Phuket Gazette Online

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Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds
Focused exclusively on Phuket - and delivered to the world!

SONY 42” TV
Projection TV, boxed as new, can be delivered, 25,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 081-906-6243. Email: joni@freedomsurfing.com

POOL TABLE
12,000 baht for quick sale. Tel: 080-1263860. Email: chilligardener@hotmail.com

ROLLER BLINDS
Four new roller blinds. Navy blue cotton, 58cm wide by 195cm long. Still in packaging, 1,000 baht each. For sale because I bought wrong size. Tel: 076-274674. Email: debpsatterson@gmail.com

FURNITURE
Concrete furniture. 8 sets consisting of 1 table, 2 two-seater and 2 one-seater chairs. Available at less than a third of the original price. Can be viewed at the Islander Bar in Rawai, or contact Neil at Tel: 076-289182, 084-8507206. Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

DIGITAL SCALE
Bizerba 8000 with printer. 18,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-1263660. Email: chilligardener@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE
In Nai Harn on October 28th.
- Siemens fridge: 350
- Wall fans: 300/500
- Mattress: 750
- Bosch drill: 1,000
- High chair for child: 2,000
- Siemens fridge: 12,500 baht
- Nightstands: 18,000 baht. Call for details.

**For Sale**

**RECLINING CHAIR**

**Business Opportunities**

**KITCHENS**

Showroom renovation. Must sell old kitchens now as new ones to arrive in October from Malaysia and Germany. Hurry. Tel: 081-8905205. Email: rs Ventura Phuket.

**GUESTHOUSE**

In Patong for sale with compound. 208sqm with Chancery title, 150m from Jungceylon. Option to open 3 shops. Can be extended to 7 floors. Reasonable price at 25 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-345554. Email: philippk@konvio.co.th

**BAR / RESTAURANT**

and guesthouse. In Kata center, 40 seats, fully furnished + 3 rooms for rent. ADSL/cable TV, 2.5 million baht for quick sale. Must sell. Tel: 084-6894033 (French), 081-9560024 (English).

**CABARET BAR**

We NOT sell all, but will sell up to 50% to a suitable partner as Ning Kong will stay to ensure Katoys’R’Us Cabaret & staff continue. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8955242. Email: jnawnosom@hotmail.com

**BUSINESSES IN PHI PHI ISLAND**

Now for sale in a top location. Fast food corner and internet business, plus owner’s room with balcony. 14-year contract and low rent, 49% share. Tel: 089-2892287. Email: peter.jones100@hotmail.com

**BAR / RESTAURANT**

for sale on Nanai Rd. All fittings and furniture just 6 months old. 20% left on lease with further options. Very profitable business, genuine reason for sale. 1.7 million baht (negotiable). Buy now and enjoy the high season. Contact for more information. Tel: 084-8478468. Email: ppbbr@yahoo.com

**RESTAURANT**

for sale on Nai Harn beach road, 22 rooms, fully furnished and guesthouse. In Kata center, 40 seats, fully furnished. Very profitable business. Tel: 081-7977199, 086-8830786, 076-2944082.

**MASSAGE / NAIL SALON**

for sale. Busy massage and nail salon near Bangla. Thai owner moving to America. Tel: 089-046-8630. Email: chokdeemak@yahoo.com

**MUSIC LOUNGE/BAR**

for sale due to owner’s sickness. Tel: 089-8603. Email: strom@hotmail.com

**RESTAURANT & BAR**

in Patong. Newly-renovated restaurant. Tel: 084-8478469. Email: ppbbr@yahoo.com

**MASSAGE**

in Patong. Newly-renovated massage and nail salon near Bangla. Thai owner moving to America. Tel: 089-046-8630. Email: chokdeemak@yahoo.com

**CASH INVESTMENT**

for the moment (divorce). European needs 250,000 baht till end of the year. I will pay back from my fixed deposit/savings book. I have evidence of these. Good interest and lawyer contract. Living over 6 years in Thailand I can get ahead now! 800,000 baht. Tel: 076-321402, 081-7337309. Email: nikki@siamsi.com

**VDL RENTAL**

business for sale. Established business, good location. 695,000 baht, one year lease. Tel: 061-7423014, 061-0672129.

**RESTAURANT & BAR**

for rent. Khlong 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 200,000 baht a year. This includes the 1st year’s rent. Asking price: 450,000 baht. Please contact K. Conny Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

**HOTEL FOR SALE**

in Patong. Swimming hotel is up for quick and urgent sale due to owner’s sickness. Email: info@thaioriental-inn.com

**SUCCESSFUL BIZ**

looking for total investment of 6 months. Tel: 084-8401304. Email: pmamorales83@yahoo.com

**NEW COMPANY**

Looking for investor/s. Profit: 3 million baht per month. Contact for total investment of 6 million baht. Tel: 086-888-0636.

**BEAUTY SALON**

Beauty salon for sale, Kathu. 150,000 baht or for rent. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: bb-anayas@hotmail.com

**RENOVATION OPPORTUNITY**

in Patong. Newly-renovated music lounge & bar for sale in Patong. Tel: 089-2706297. Email: ptnbbr@yahoo.com

**RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

in Patong. Include the 1st year’s rent. For sale at 1 million due to relocation. Tel: 076-280447, 081-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@thaioriental-inn.com
We make & fit wardrobes, kids. Price: 40,000 baht, no of-
Pickup Trucks

- **MAZDA FAMILIA TRUCK**
  - Very good condition, 10 years old, arcon. 125,000 baht. Tel: 081-5396162.

Cars & Motorbikes

- **FORD LASER**
  - 72,000 baht.
  - GL 1998, 5 doors, 1.500 CC.
  - Dark purple, asking 72,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-2489869.

- **HONDA JAZZ, BRAND NEW**
  - Price: 1.4 million.
  - Very, very sporty, only one of its kind in Thailand. Fully serviced car. In Chalong. Must see!
  - 155,000 baht. Tel: 087-0245906.

- **NEW TOYOTA YARIS**
  - for sale, 5,400km, 600,000 baht or rent long term. Black.
  - Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-2514024.

- **TOYOTA CROWN 4 DOORS**
  - 2005, 4 door, manual, original parts, good condition.
  - 125,000 baht. Tel: 081-5396162.

- **TOYOTA ALTIS 1.8 TOP MODEL**
  - August 2002, black, automatic, only 1 owner, full insurance. 740,000 baht.
  - Tel: 07-2849080. Email: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com.

- **HONDA CITY 1-DSI**
  - 1995, green, 5 doors, GL.
  - Air conditioning and CD player.
  - 130,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-6882619.

- **FORD ASPIRE FOR SALE**
  - 1995, Green, 5 doors, GL, auto.
  - Air conditioning and CD player.
  - 130,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-6882619.

- **DAEWOO FANTASY**
  - 125,000 baht, 1996 silver, CD/MP3, excellent condition.
  - Call or email for details. Price: 480,000 baht.
  - Tel: 081-9489139. Email: aladin@net.com.

- **BMW 318 E-30**
  - 1995 dark blue van. 5 doors.
  - 280,000 baht. Tel: 086-2849080.

- **LANCIA 1800 BETA**
  - 1975 Coupe. 1800cc, 5-speed manual, original parts, good condition.
  - Price: 150,000 baht. Tel: 087-3539248 or 084-1598873.

- **TOYOTA RAV 4**
  - 1999 silver, 4 door, manual.
  - 125,000 baht. Tel: 081-5396162.

- **LANCIA 1800 BETA**
  - 125,000 baht. Tel: 076-345018, 081-3038962. Email: yuyphatsara@hotmail.com.

- **FORD ASPIRE**
  - 1995, Green, 5 doors, GL.
  - Auto.
  - Air conditioning and CD player.
  - 130,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-6882619.

- **HONDA CIVIC 1.8**
  - 1995, Green, 5 doors, GL.
  - Auto.
  - Air conditioning and CD player.
  - 130,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-6882619.

- **NISSAN NV AUTO**
  - 2003, 34,000 km, alarm, very good condition.
  - Price: 280,000 baht. Tel: 086-274030.

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Wheels & Motors

FORD RANGER TDSL 38,000km, 2003, 4-door. Full history + insurance + extras. 500,000 baht. Farang owned from new. Tel: 087-8831756.

ISUZU 4-DOOR pickup for sale. 3.0 diesel, 15,000 km, full guarantee, quick sale. Tel: 088-433915. Price new 690,000 baht, be quick.

NISSAN NV 2002 Farang-owned, 5-speed manual, Carryboy, electric windows, aircon, Queen Cab, 64,000 km, excellent condition. Price: 245,000 baht. Tel: 086-7392220.

NISSAN NV FOR SALE/RENT 75,000km, year 2000, alloy wheels, stereo, 230,000 baht, or rent long term at cheap rate. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-3670991.

NISSAN NV 2001 model with low km. Queen Cab. Good condition, lady owner. CD player. First-class insurance ‘til Sep 07. Sell 250,000 baht or trade for bigger truck up to 350,000-375,000. Tel: 081-8954840. Email: Guardian@koino.co.th

MAZDA TRUCK 93 Small, reliable, economical. 1 year’s tax & insurance, 95,000 baht. Tel: 089-882563.


FORD RANGER TURBO 37,000km, 5 years old, 4 doors, full history and insurance. Farang-owned. Immaculate, with extras. 500,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2732429.


MITSUBISHI STRADA 2.5 turbo, 2-door pickup. Sept 2002 - 67,000km. Good condition. 375,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0987993.

HONDA CRV Auto, 2003, 1 careful lady owner, black, 70,000 km. Full insurance, no accidents. 750,000 baht. Call K. Yao. Tel: 081-0790686.

CARIBIAN FOR SALE Suzuki, 1994, gray, 110,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2712758. Email: davidan@danntandy@hotmail.com

NISSAN NV AUTOMATIC Expedit owner. Year 2002. 1.6 SLX, Metallic gold. Very good condition. 57,000 km. 2-door Queen Cab. Price: 250,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2712758.

NISSAN NV 2002 model with low km. Queen Cab. Good condition, lady owner. CD player. First-class insurance ‘til Sep 07. Sell 250,000 baht or trade for bigger truck up to 350,000-375,000. Tel: 081-8954840. Email: Guardian@koino.co.th

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