

# Phuket Gazette

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# Water supply woes continue

By Janyaporn Morel

KARON: As Patong, Kata and Karon begin to suffer water main supply shortages, the desalination plant being built to supplement supply to those areas has been hit with a procedural delay that will not allow it to return unused water to the sea.

Sayan Wareearoonroj, Manager of Phuket Provincial Work Supply (PPWS), told the *Gazette*, "The PPWS is trying to solve [the water shortage] problem, that's why we built the desalination plant. We are doing our best to have the plant up and running as soon as possible."

The delays have meant that the annual high-season water shortages in key west coast tourism areas have returned. Residents on Patak Rd and the beach road in Karon have been suffering from insufficient public water supply for more than three weeks.

"We are under a lot of pressure from both hotel operators in the areas who need the water and the province but we cannot do anything until we have official agreement from the central government agencies concerned," said Jaturong Saduagkarn, Manager of REQ Water Service Co Ltd, the contractor responsible for building and operating the plant.

The plant, which will produce about 12,000 cubic meters of freshwater a day by reverse osmosis (RO), was initially expected to be on stream by July this year. However, its construction has suffered a series of delays. K. Sayan said, "We could not conduct the tests of the system we had scheduled for De-



**STILL DRY:** The desalination plant being built to serve the west coast is nearing completion, but even when it is finished it will face procedural delays before becoming operational.

cember 10 and 11 as electricity supplies are not yet in place."

However, K. Jaturong told the *Gazette* that the only construction work remaining was some internal pipelines and part of the plant's control system.

Regardless, although the plant is now almost complete, the plant operators must wait for government permission before it can begin water processing.

"We still can't say when we will start supplying water until we have special permission from the Interior Ministry, the Industry Ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) to operate the plant.

This is because some parts of the plant's operations may not be in accordance with some as-

pects of the law, for example we need to release water remaining after the reverse-osmosis process back into the sea," K. Sayan said.

"The problem is that by law we cannot release more than 1,000 cubic meters of water into the sea from the plant as it is considered wastewater by the Industry Ministry. We expect to produce 12,000 cubic meters of freshwater a day, which means we will have to release 7,200 cubic meters of water a day back into the sea.

"The Pollution Control Department [of the Industry Ministry] knows about this problem and we have to wait to see if they will give us special permission or if they will amend the law," K. Sayan said.

## Officials buoyant about DART success

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CAPE PANWA: The Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis II (DART2) tsunami-detection buoy – now anchored about 1,100 kilometers off the west of Phuket, near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands – has been tested and found to be functioning properly, broadcasting readings of seabed water pressure to research centers on-shore.

MV *Seafdec*, the Royal Thai Navy vessel responsible for deploying the buoy, returned safely to port at Cape Panwa on December 6.

Dr Smith Thammasaroj, head of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), used the occasion to allay concerns in the Thai press that the Japanese system was far better.

Dr Smith said that the Japanese system, aside from its cost of about one billion baht, was impractical for local conditions.

The Japanese system uses a cable attached to land, and since the buoy is located more than 1,000 kilometers from Phuket, the length of the cable would be logistically impractical and could interfere with shipping traffic.

He went on to say that the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had used the DART system for more than 30 years in the Pacific without any problems.

Dr Smith said that the transmitter relayed information to the NDWC headquarters in Nonthaburi every hour, but once it detected tsunami activity, it would begin constant transmission.



## Fraud arrests on the rise in Phuket

PHUKET: While gambling remains Phuket's top vice, white-collar crime seems to be on the rise with 14 cases of fraud reported with five arrests made, and 10 cases of embezzlement with two arrests made.

From November 1 to 30, 188 people were arrested for gambling offenses with 39 of those coming from the sale of illegal lottery tickets.

Three murders were reported, with two arrests made; three reports of rape, with one arrest; 10 cases of attempted murder, with five arrests; and 23 cases of assault with 18 people arrested.

There were four reports of snatch thefts with four suspects apprehended.

Thirteen motorcycles were reported stolen, with nine suspects arrested, but not one car was reported missing in November.

There were 114 drug-related cases in which 131 people were arrested. Forty-nine of those cases involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine), with 65 suspects arrested and 9,904.5 pills seized.

Twenty people were arrested for glue sniffing and other forms of substance abuse, 39 for possession of marijuana and two for possession of Ecstasy. Five people were arrested for possession of *krathom*, with 530 leaves seized – 35 times the volume seized last month.

Police also arrested 69 people for offenses related to prostitution and five for the possession and distribution of pornographic materials.

Twenty-three people were arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms.

# 87 Burmese arrested off Koh Racha Yai

By Noolek Karaket

PHUKET: Marine Police have arrested 87 Burmese nationals who were discovered in the hold of an old wooden boat about eight nautical miles west of Koh Racha Yai.

Police said that they believe the Burmese, several of whom were in their early teens, were on their way to find work in Phuket's fishing industry.

Following a tip-off, Marine Police patrol vessel *Tor 629*, under the captaincy of Pol Maj Panya Chaichana, intercepted the old wooden boat about 6:30 am on November 29, asking the two members on deck to board for an inspection.

About 10 Marine Police officers, along

with eight Immigration Police, found a total of 87 illegal immigrants on board. Almost all were crammed into the hold of the aging 50-foot vessel.

The Burmese on board were taken to Chalong Police Station, where they were charged with illegally entering the country.

The 32-year-old leader of the group, Mong La, told police that they were Arakan people from Myanmar. He said the group had sailed from their native Rakhine State in west Myanmar and had been on board the vessel for 11 days before their arrest.

The group were taken to Phuket Immigration Office, where deportation orders were issued.

The Arakanese have been deported to

Burma via Ranong, an Inspector at Phuket Immigration Officer confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Marine Police Sub-Division 5 Superintendent Pol Col Anun Huengsaitong said that he was under orders to strictly monitor waters in his area of command as boats smuggling illegal immigrants into Thailand were expected to arrive, with most bound for Phuket.

Thai fishing vessels have been asked to keep a watch out for and report any unfamiliar vessels they notice in Thai waters, he added.

Col Anun said he suspected a people-smuggling ring involving Burmese nationals already in Phuket was helping other Burmese to enter Thailand illegally.

## Phang Nga politician avoids assassination

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RASSADA: A Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) President from Phang Nga survived what appeared to be a bungled attempt on his life on December 2, after he wrestled the gun away from his would-be assassin at the Phuket Rajabhat University campus.

Pol Maj Sarit Butnongsang told the *Gazette* that Sunit Vora-kit, 41, President of Tai Muang *OrBorTor*, reported to Phuket City Police Station that he had finished a class in the university's science building about 2 pm and

was about to get into his Mercedes-Benz when two men rode up to him on a black Honda Wave motorbike.

The man riding pillion got off the bike and called out to him in southern Thai dialect before pulling a 9mm pistol out of a bag and pointing it at him, he told police.

Knowing he would be unable to get his own gun from inside the car in time, K. Sunit grabbed the man's arm and wrestled for control of the weapon, causing both men to fall to the ground, Maj Sarit said.

K. Sunit then managed to

stamp on the arm of his attacker, preventing him from firing, before running away. As Sunit fled, his attacker squeezed the trigger, but the gun misfired, Maj Sarit said.

K. Sunit told police that he is enrolled in a master's degree in public administration in the university's weekend program.

Maj Sarit said that police are now looking for his two assailants, both described as dark-skinned and heavy set, and hope to arrest them soon.

As the intended victim was an *OrBorTor* President, work or politics are the suspected motives for the attack, he added.

## El Niño increases risk of Phuket forest fires

PHUKET: The Phuket Environmental Health Center has issued a warning that global weather changes resulting from El Niño and increased global pollution will increase the risk of forest fires

on the island during the coming dry season.

Ongart Chanacharnmongkol, Director of the Phuket Environmental Health Center, said, "We will be at the greatest risk of forest fires that we have been for the past nine years.

"If the El Niño effect does not diminish, the forest fire season next year will continue through to June."

Although Phuket rarely experiences natural forest fires, he said, the island is at risk of blazes igniting from November to May, with the peak danger period being during the island's driest months – from February to April.

To help control the forest fires, the Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department request that people refrain from starting fires near any forest.

For controlled burns, the department recommends creating a backfire to control the spread of the flames.

To report a forest fire call the 24-hour hotline at Tel: 1362.

– *Supanun Supawong*

## Soi Dog charity Christmas party

BANG TAO: The Soi Dog Foundation will hold its fund-raising Christmas party at Nok & Jo's Beach Bar at Bang Tao Beach on December 15.

The event will start at 6:30 pm with a free welcome drink.

There will be a buffet, live music and other entertainment, Christmas carols, raffle prizes and lots of surprises.

Tickets are 1,000 baht each.

From each ticket sold, 650 baht will go directly towards supporting the SDF's neutering program.

For more information or to book a ticket contact Jenny Gardner at Tel: 076-317937 or 086-0174525, or Email: jennifergardner@email.com

## Scheduled blackout

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced a scheduled blackout in order to continue its work on high-voltage power lines.

The blackout will occur at the following locations:

**December 19, from 9 am-5 pm.** Chalong: West side of Chao Fa West Rd from Wat Chalong to Chalong Circle including Soi Klumyang, Soi Baan Klang, Soi Yodsanae, Soi Pradthana and Soi Anusorn.

Note: This information is subject to change without notice. For more information or to check the latest status, call Tel: 076-211663.

## Another Burmese fisherman murdered near port

PHUKET CITY: The body of a man who had been stabbed to death was found floating near the fishing port at Koh Sireh on December 8.

Pol Lt Apichart Rainchana, Duty Officer at Phuket City Police Station, said that the man had been stabbed about seven times with a sharp implement and had been dead for less than five hours when his body was discovered about 7:30 am.

The victim was carrying no identification and was wearing only a black T-shirt and black underwear, Lt Apichart said.

Police believe the victim was a Burmese crew member on a fishing boat and was killed in a fight, Lt Apichart added.

"The body is now being kept at Vachira Phuket Hospital. If anyone thinks they may have known the man, they can come and identify him at the hospital," he said.



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## Island matriach passes away

PHUKET: Khunying Kanchana Na Ranong died about 1 pm December 6 after suffering a heart attack at a Samitivej Hospital in Bangkok. She was 84.

A well-known and much-respected figure on the island, Khunying Kanchana was Chairwoman of the Pearl Group of Companies, which includes the Indigo Pearl resort at Nai Yang, Toyota Pearl Co and the Pearl Hotel in Phuket City.

She also held many other prestigious positions, including Chairwoman of the Phuket branch of the Royal Chitlada Projects shop and a member of the Phuket Provincial Red Cross committee.

Previously she had been President of Lay Judges at Phuket Juvenile Court.

Khunying Kanchana, a recipient of the Phuket Mother of the Year Award, leaves behind four children: sons K. Wichit, President of the Tourism Council of Thailand, and K. Wiboonchai; and daughters Wipapun Kusawan, President of the Phuket Professional Business Women's Association, and Wimonwan Banreangjit.

K. Wipapun told the *Gazette* that her mother in recent years had been suffering from



Khunying Kanchana Na Ranong.

increasingly severe allergy attacks, which had become more tiring for her to recover from

Khunying Kanchana also had been receiving treatment in a Samitivej Hospital in Bangkok for more than a month after suffering a back injury before the heart attack.

Khunying Kanchana's body was brought back to Phuket and was interned at Wat Wichit Sangkaram on Narisorn Rd, in Phuket City, until her funeral, which will be held 1 pm, December 16, at Wat Chalong.

The funeral will receive a royal blessing.

# Foreign labor faces curfew

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET: Provincial authorities have announced plans to introduce tough new measures to curtail the freedom of movement of certain classes of foreign workers on the island.

At a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Council held November 29 at the Thavorn Grand Hotel, Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima said that he had received many reports that large numbers of foreigners were working in department stores and markets around the island and that the province should deal with the perceived security threat that this posed.

He added that he had also heard that alien workers had been seen riding motorcycles on the island. "Alien workers in Phuket are not allowed to own motorcycles. We must start punishing Thai people who allow their name to be used on the registration

documents of vehicles owned by alien workers," V/Gov Vorapoj said.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit urged for measures to be rapidly brought into place and said that authorities needed to be careful of diseases that have disappeared from Thailand being brought back into the country by alien workers as well as making sure that island residents' safety was not threatened by the migrants.

Boonchoke Maneechote, Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office, explained in a telephone interview December 8 that he is drafting the structure of the measures the Province will announce on the issue.

Once the draft is complete, it will be sent for approval by the Phuket Provincial Attorney's Office before finally being handed to the Governor to sign, he said.

"We plan to publish the announcement in three languages,

Thai, Burmese and Mon. I think the announcement will be ready within a month because we don't want to waste any time on this issue.

"This announcement will cover many issues but the major clause will be an 8 pm curfew for alien workers. After 8 pm alien workers will not be allowed to leave their registered place of abode. If they have to work after this time then their employer must be with them at all times.

"The provincial authorities have the right to implement these measures for security reasons. The punishment for alien workers who violate these rules will be cancellation of their work permit," K Boonchoke said.

The new measures, if passed, will apply only to workers from Burma, Cambodia and Laos. Foreign workers of other nationalities will not be affected by the move.

## Four undersea volcanoes discovered off Phuket

PHUKET (*The Nation*): A team of Thai and German marine geologists have discovered four volcanoes under the sea about 200 kilometers from Phuket, the team leader announced December 11.

Dr Anon Sanitwong na Ayutthaya of Chulalongkorn University headed a 15-day survey that ended on December 6. It was conducted with support from the German government and from the National Marine Geology Institute in Kiel, Germany.

The team surveyed 1,500 square kilometers of seabed at depths of 1,000 to 2,800 meters at the continental rim, about 300km off Phuket.

Dr Anon said the team had detected four mud volcanoes in the area. The first volcano is about 200km west of Phuket and has a base about 1km in diameter. The volcano reaches 100m from the seabed, which is 650m under the surface.

The second volcano is located 50km west of the first volcano and is about 1,000m under the sea. The third and fourth volcanoes are located about 60km northeast of the second volcano and are about 800m under the sea.

Dr Anon said the survey was carried out after the 2004 tsunami, but added that the volcanoes had no apparent relation to the tsunami.

He said the temperature of the water around the volcanoes was about 100°C, while the surrounding water was about 5°C.

He said that the public should not panic about the volcanoes as there are no indications they will erupt, adding that the existence of the volcanoes should bode well for the country as they could be homes to rare living creatures and might be indicators of oil resources in the area.

## Brit drowns off Kata beach

KATA: David Jeremy Cowen, 34, from the UK, drowned while snorkeling off Kata Beach on December 10.

His body was found by a fisherman at 9:50 pm, who brought him to shore and contacted the police.

Pol Lt Col Chokechai Suthimek, of Chalong Police Station, said that police presume that Cowen was knocked unconscious after being thrown onto rocks by waves while snorkeling, but have yet to conclude their investigation into the death.

Col Chokechai said that Cowen came to Phuket alone and has no relatives here.

Cowen checked in at the Orchidacea Resort on December 9 and had booked to stay until December 12. According to the hotel's registration records, he checked in with "media" as his occupation.

Verapol Chuayneam, Room Division Manager at Orchidacea Resort, said that the hotel had contacted the British Embassy to collect his belongings and to contact his relatives in the UK.

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- Colisiem Mutiplex, Phuket City
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- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong



# THE END OF AN ERA –

The last of the 110 unidentified bodies of the 2004 tsunami were buried December 8. The next day, one of the bodies was exhumed, positively identified and repatriated to Turkey.

Of 3,777 victims who remained unidentified in Thailand as of February, 2005, all but 410 were identified and returned to relatives. The remaining bodies were buried at the Tsunami Memorial Cemetery in Baan Bang Muang, in Phang Nga, after samples of their DNA and dental records were recorded.

The cemetery, three kilometers from Khao Lak Beach, will have its official opening December 26, including Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Sikh and Hindu ceremonies for the victims.

Creating the cemetery proved difficult in itself. The villagers near Khao Lak were skeptical of the cemetery's location and worried that wooden coffins would deteriorate quickly, leaving the remains to seep into their ground water.

In response to their concerns, and because it would make future exhumations easier, each of the bodies was buried in an aluminum coffin, which was placed inside a two-ton concrete box.

Numbers and markers mark each grave so they may be located and victims identified if any DNA or dental matches are later found. Each coffin is also tagged with GPS markers so they can be easily located even if rain causes the ground to shift.

DNA samples from each of the bodies was sent to Chiang Mai University, where a database is being constructed to attempt to tell the ethnic origin of the unidentified remains. Most of the remaining victims are presumed to be either Thai or Burmese, and

As Phuket and the other tsunami-affected provinces prepare to mark two years since the 2004 disaster, what remains of the Thai Tsunami Victims Identification Center (TTVI) has been burying the last unidentified victims at the Tsunami Memorial Cemetery in Baan Bang Muang, in Phang Nga.

The mass burial marks an end to a sad chapter in the region's history, though a ray of light has shone with the discovery of the identity of one of the unidentified victims: Yasemin Seda Tekoz, a 29-year-old Turkish national. Her body has been exhumed and returned to her family.

The *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon and Noolek Karaket report.

by using a sample of 100 genetic lines from each country, researchers hope to narrow down the origin of each body.

Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri, head of the TTVI, said, "The software cannot tell us 100% what country the body came from, but it will at least give us an idea, and give us a chance to identify the bodies as Asian or from other regions."

The cemetery has been designed to show the effects of the tsunami, to commemorate the nations that assisted after the wave and to educate visitors about the identification process that was undertaken.

Col Khemmarin said there will be a sculpture of a wave in the middle of the cemetery, with graves on either side. At the entrance to the cemetery will be lush vegetation to represent what the area looked like before the tsunami, but as visitors walk past the wave sculpture the cemetery will change to have twisted metal

and representations of broken buildings.

There will also be four buildings at the rear of the site that will house educational material about the impact the tsunami had on the region and about the bodies buried there.

"The cemetery will be taken care of by the province, but it is not yet agreed upon which department will be responsible for it. It's possible that in the future they might turn this into a center where students can learn how to identify bodies."

Col Khemmarin spent part of his career teaching in such a classroom as a trainer for the Royal Thai Police, as well as an active murder investigator, before being reas-



Inset: TTVI workers continue the soul-burdening task of placing unidentified tsunami victims into aluminum coffins (main photo).

signed to the TTVI.



"If a mistake has already occurred then the next thing we want to do is correct the mistake."

– Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri, head of the Thai Tsunami Victims Identification Center.

"This duty is very challenging for me. It's a little different from my previous work because before I knew who the victim was but not the cause, but now I know the cause of death but I don't know the identity of the victim."

He said that finding workers for the project, and morticians, was particularly difficult.

"In my opinion the biggest problem was the lack of staff. Right after the tsunami we received profes-

sional help from around the world, and we had more than 200 officers, but about half of them left. We also had about two Thai staff for every doctor, but when we requested the staff to stay on, instead of 400 staff we got 50.

"Some people may not understand why you need so many people to work on this project, but the job is very complicated and it takes a lot of time to process."

"On top of that, people get bored in this job, and it causes very difficult spiritual problems," he said. "We have had people who have had the dead victims come back to visit them in their dreams, demanding to have their legs back."

Col Khemmarin said that his office will send an additional 600 DNA samples from victims who have already been identified visually by their families to Chiang Mai University and two hospitals in Bangkok to double-check their identity.

"In the first week after the tsunami, there were a lot of people who came to see the bodies and

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# AND NEW BEGINNINGS



Unidentified bodies at the Tsunami Memorial Cemetery are placed in aluminum coffins and concrete boxes before they are buried.

occurred then the next thing we want to do is correct the mistake. We need more time to complete that and it may take two months, but once we get the results we can compare with information we have received and with the database."

The process for identifying a body requires the family to come forward with some sort of identifying information, either a dental record or a direct family member that a DNA sample can be taken from.

After the first level of identification is conducted the body is exhumed and a second positive identification is made using the dental records.

On December 9 the body of Yasemin Seda Tekoz, a 29-year-old Turkish national, was exhumed and sent with her family, through work by the Turkish Embassy. Her body was found near the Phi Phi Islands after the tsunami.

Because of the possibility of families identifying loved ones at any time, Col Khemmarin said he keeps his cell phone on all the time (Tel:081-4999767) in case anyone needs to reach him to identify a relative.

But for now, the count is down to 409.

identified their loved ones or relatives using a visual comparison. In studies it has been shown that bodies identified by visual identification might be mistakenly iden-

tified 10% of the time. We have released 2,000 bodies to families, mostly using visual comparison, so that means there could be 200 bodies with the wrong families.

"The bodies taken in the first two days should have no problems because the remains were still in good condition then, but after three days when the

bodies became swollen and the families identified just by looking at the clothing, there might be some mistakes.

"If a mistake has already

## Le SUNDAY BRUNCHEON



Relive those long lazy afternoons of self-indulgent delight on the Quarterdeck overlooking Nai Harn beach and enjoy a celebration of gourmet delights. The brunch's culinary highlights include rich appetizers and the sweetest treats, a carving trolley and a special selection of main dishes from our a la carte menu.

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## Queer News



IS THAT A 6 OR A 9? A punter studies the lucky tree at Koh Sireh for a number to play in the lottery.

# Going bananas

KOH SIREH: For almost the past month, fortune seekers from as far away as Phattalung, Phang Nga and Krabi have been traveling to Koh Sireh in the hope that a uniquely-shaped banana tree will somehow convey to them the winning digits in the upcoming lottery draws.

Word of the tree's miraculous ability to predict winning lottery numbers began about a month ago, when punters began asking it for the winning digits – and then hit it big in the national lottery.

A woman who sells drinks near the tree, located

across from the “monkey viewpoint” on Si Sena Rd, said her business has been brisk ever since, with 100 to 200 people visiting a day.

People who win lottery prizes from numbers they discovered on the tree return to pay their respects to the plant, which has a unique cluster of flowers thought to resemble lotus leaves.

Lottery luck is obtained from the tree by rubbing a mixture of powder and water on the tree's stalk, then waiting for an image resembling a number to appear as the solution dries. – *Noolek Karaket*



## TRASHING Phuket



KARON: This new garbage dump near the Phuket Island View Hotel and Andaman Seaview Hotel was created a week ago by departing construction workers who decided that people in the area might appreciate their donation of debris, carefully packed in used cement bags.

The soi is used regularly by tourists on their way to Karon beach, who are certain to appreciate this recently installed work of art.

Got a favorite dump? Let us know and we'll tell the whole island. Send a pic and short description to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net).




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# DSI to investigate drug war killings

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is poised to intervene in four cases of alleged "silence killings" during the previous government's "War on Drugs" in 2003, Justice Minister Chanchai Likhitjitttha said December 7.

The four cases are expected to pave the way for further intervention by the DSI to resolve 2,596 similar killings under the Thaksin regime, he added.

K. Chanchai was replying to a query on silence killings raised from the floor by National Legislative Assembly member Praphan Koonmee.

K. Chanchai said police currently has sole jurisdiction over the unresolved cases, unless fresh evidence was uncovered to warrant the DSI's intervention. He urged families of victims to help supply pertinent information on the cases.

Of the 2,596 cases, 1,164 are reported as drug-related.

**Spineless corruption?** The spine boards supplied with 232 high-performance ambulances that were bought in an allegedly-corrupt deal might need to be replaced, a Public Health Ministry panel said after finding a sample to be substandard during checks on December 7.

The panel found that the spine board in a Nong Khai ambulance bent when a 97-kilogram official laid on it. It had no polyurethane filling to strengthen it as specified in the supplier's terms of reference.

Panel chairman Dr Panya Sornkom said the spine boards on the other vehicles might also be substandard and the ministry would have to either check each one or change them all, he said.

Chulalongkorn University lecturer Dr Tul Sittisomwong said the neck braces supplied with the ambulances, which the US Embassy has said might be patent-violating counterfeits, were of the wrong brand and looked fake as the logo was on a sticker instead of being stamped into the metal.



**TRUE MOVE:** Driver Phichet Saengnong, whose first name roughly translates as "the most outstanding", had a narrow escape after reversing his company pickup through the crash barrier at Zeer Rangsit shopping center in Bangkok December 6. No one was hurt in the accident though 15 meters of crash barrier was severely damaged.

**Army Aids worries:** About 0.5% of Army conscripts have HIV or Aids, with most based in Bangkok and Rayong, a military report has revealed.

The Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Science and the Royal Thai Army Medical Department report states that 4,152 of the 29,540 conscripts and 4,299 volunteers who have joined the Army since May 2004 are HIV-positive. The number was found to be increasing in Bangkok and Rayong.

"However, the study found that an increasing number of those having their first sexual encounters were using condoms," Lt Gen Boonlert Chantrapas, chief of the department, said.

Lt Gen Boonlert said most of the conscripts were infected with HIV before they were recruited into the Army. "We are doing the utmost to prevent Aids among soldiers," he said.

Lt Gen Boonlert said the

Army distributes condoms to soldiers in all military units before they leave camp and advised them to always carry them.

The Army was also continually providing doctors to educate Army trainers and soldiers about HIV/Aids.

"The Public Health Ministry should give importance to educating youths in schools about sex to try to reduce the problem," he said.

**Highway horror:** Ten people were killed and two severely injured on December 6 when two vehicles crashed into an 18-wheel trailer truck, which had overturned and blocked the road, in Buri Ram province.

The accident happened about midnight on the Chokechai-Dej Udom road in Ban Nongman village, Tambon Nongki of Nongki District.

Police said the 18-wheeler, carrying rice from Nakhon Sawan

to Nakhon Ratchasima, apparently skidded on the slippery road following rain and overturned, blocking the road.

A van with five passengers and a pickup truck with seven passengers, which were following close behind, crashed into the truck, instantly killing nine people, including the van driver, Nava Boonleum, 35.

The pickup truck driver, Siriwut Passada, 49, later died in hospital while his wife, Oranuj Passada, 34, and their three-year-old son, Santiham, died at the scene.

Police were hunting for the truck driver who fled the scene.

**Just reward:** Electrician Thong-

bai Tardyoo received a 20,000-baht reward and is to receive a plaque for his honesty in returning a bag containing 500,000 baht to Swiss tourist Ramseyor Ronnial on December 7.

Thongbai, who works at the Metropolitan Electricity Authority in Watliab District, found the bag in a taxi.

Thongbai said he took the bag with him because he mistakenly thought it was his raincoat.

On learning that it was Ronnial's bag, Thongbai attempted to trace him to tell him to collect it from the Phra Rachawang Police Station in Bangkok.

Ronnial collected the bag and gave Thongbai 20,000 baht as a reward.

Thongbai will also be awarded a plaque for being a "good citizen", said Pol Col Wicharn Borirakkul of Phra Rachawang Police Station.

**Sex-ed shakeup:** The Education Ministry has set a new sex-education curriculum as a pilot project at select schools where students are at greater risk of becoming HIV-positive.

The curriculum will involve four books for students from Prathom 1 to Mathayom 6 (about six to 18 years old). Each book has six units: sexual development, relationships, social skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and social and cultural matters.

Teachers will be provided with details on teaching techniques and activities for sex education classes.

The project will be introduced at 80 schools around the country. A revised version is expected to be online next year.

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

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# South faces re-emergence of polio

**T**he violence-plagued Deep South is considered the highest risk area for a re-emergence of polio in Thailand, the Public Health Ministry has announced. No cases of polio have been reported in Thailand since 1997.

Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat are of particular concern because the situation there has made it inaccessible to the nationwide "supplementary" polio immunization program, said Thawat Suntrajarn, head of the ministry's Disease Control Department.

The area is also next to Songkhla and Satun provinces, where fishing boats arrive from particular islands in Indonesia where polio re-emerged last year after an absence of a decade, he said.

The ministry plans to carry out a nationwide polio vaccination program twice, on December 13 and January 17, to further safeguard against the viral disease resurfacing.

Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and India are the four countries in the world where polio is endemic, and found to be persistent sources of polio infections in 12 other countries, including Indonesia, where the virus had been successfully eradicated years ago.

"We don't know if the three southernmost provinces will follow the scenario of [those four countries] or not," said Dr Somchai Peerapakorn, the World Health Organization's Thailand National Professional Officer.

However, Dr Somchai said, health workers in violence-affected areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoyed better working conditions than those assigned to vaccinate children in the violence-plagued three southernmost provinces. In Afghanistan, for ex-



**A LITTLE FISHY:** Locals in Surat Thani scale fish removed from aquaculture cages on the Tapi River following reports that a large number of dead fish were seen floating along a stretch of about 100 kilometers of the river.

The fish were being prepared for cooking despite warnings by provincial authorities that fish from the river may contain toxic chemicals. The cause of death had not yet been identified, but Sayan Eamrod, head of the provincial fisheries office, believes it might have been caused by polluted water discharged from a palm oil factory in Krabi.

ample, temporary cease-fires were agreed upon to allow the polio immunization program to reach the target population, unlike in the Deep South, he said.

**Thi Wang wipeout:** The President of Thi Wang Tambon Administration Organization (*Or-BorTor*), Thung Song District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was shot dead while being driven back from a funeral in the early hours of December 5. The victim's driver was also killed and another passenger was seriously injured in the professional-style hit.

At the scene of the crime,

police found tens of cartridge cases littered around a metallic-gold-colored Honda Civic. The car's windscreen had been shot out and the side was peppered with bullet holes.

In the back seat police found the body of the car's owner, Phirom Ratnaphan, 45, President of Thi Wang *Or-BorTor*. He had been shot in the back of the head.

The two other passengers, K. Phirom's driver, Bunpha Wanmook, 54, and friend, Phitun Kaeowudom, 37, had already been sent to Thung Song Hospital.

K. Bunpha, however, died of his injuries en route to the hospital. K. Phitun, who was shot in the abdomen and right leg, is in a serious condition.

Witnesses reported that an Isuzu pickup truck pulled up along side K. Phirom's Civic and a gunman in the back opened fire with an M-16 rifle, causing K. Bunpha to lose control of the vehicle, which came to a halt by the side of the road.

The gunman then reportedly jumped out from the back of the pickup, walked over to K. Phirom and shot him in the head with a pistol before getting back in the pickup. The attackers then drove away in the direction of Huay Yot District.

Aphai Khiriwong, K. Phirom's Deputy at Thi Wang *Or-BorTor*, said that K. Phirom was a widely loved figure in the area, a hard worker and had never had any problems with anyone. Shortly before his death, K. Phirom had said that he had heard news that someone had paid a gang of professional killers 600,000 baht to take his life, K. Aphai added.

"Before this incident, someone shot me, leaving me with a crippled leg. The police never caught the perpetrators. I can say for sure that K. Phirom's death came from his involvement in local politics because now Thi Wang *Or-BorTor* has a budget of about 30 million baht, and if the *Or-BorTor* is upgraded to a mu-

nicipality the budget will be increased to about 100 million baht.

"This has led to another group wanting to take over the administration. This group, however, knows that they could never get enough votes to beat K. Phirom at the polls so they hired a gunmen to kill him instead," K. Aphai speculated.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sutjai Yannarat said that he had ordered a special investigations task force to be set up to solve the case. Special attention was being paid to the weapons used in the attack and forensic officers were examining the cartridge cases left at the scene, he said.

In the local area, shotguns have been the weapon of choice in similar attacks, Gen Sutjai said, adding that the use of an M-16 implies that the attackers were not locals and are likely to have come from Trang, Pattalung or Songkhla, where the use of such weapons is more common.

The motive for the crime is likely to have been local politics or a contracting dispute, he said.

**Self-service:** A day earlier in Haad Yai, Songkhla Province, Trithep Mukem, the deputy head of the Southern News Department of *Inside Police* newspaper was shot by a man on a motorcycle as he was driving back from Songkhla Provincial Court.

Despite being seriously injured he managed to drive himself to the Prince of Songkla University Hospital, where he was admitted to the emergency room.

K. Trithep had been at the court as part of proceedings against a police officer who allegedly ate at his wife's restaurant but had refused to pay the bill.

K. Trithep had previously been accused of obstructing an officer in his duty following a dispute with the policeman but had been acquitted.

*Inside Police* is owned by Deputy Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, Pol Gen Achilawit Subarnbhesaj.

*Around the South* is taken from the pages of *The Nation* and *Kom Chad Luek*



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## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

# HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

**A**fter an agonizingly slow rainy season, with lots of rain and very few tourists, Khao Lak residents find themselves on a steep uphill ride since the beginning of December.

The amount of tourists flooding the center of Khao Lak is reminiscent of the crowds seen just before December 2004.

It was then that everybody believed Khao Lak would have its best high season ever, after morphing from a dreamy backpacker haven into one of Thailand's most popular tourism destinations in less than five years.

Full restaurants, bars and souvenir shops and endless queues in the Nang Thong supermarket suggest that Khao Lak has recovered well from the 2004 tsunami.

All this, plus the fact that now more than 60 hotels and resorts (21 on the beach, with a combined total of 3,000 rooms) are operational again should fill the hearts of Khao Lak residents and business people with pride. We finally made it!

Of course, when there is light, there is always shadow. Many expats say that Khao Lak is losing its flair due to the heavy construction going on at the major beaches, Nang Thong and Bang Niang.

In the rainy season, not a single day passed that I didn't hear expats complaining about the three-story resort construction projects near the beach and their fears that Khao Lak would never

be as tranquil and innocent as it used to be.

Well, what can I say – after what happened in December 2004, how could any area remain tranquil and innocent?

However, these ongoing discussions frightened even me. "Perhaps they are right", I thought, even though I knew that the first three-story buildings were erected on Nang Thong beach half a year before the tsunami, so they weren't a symptom of the profit-mad post-disaster era.

Negative, destructive and aggressive comments of some "Stone-age Khao Lak lovers" in Khao-Lak-related forums did their bit to push old Franky's patience to the edge.

I researched further and found that there were just two individuals posting the same stuff over and over again. Their theme was that they had been coming to Khao Lak since the early '90s and they were angry about all the development going on in and around the area.

In their opinion it would be best for Khao Lak if it was pushed back to the stone-age.

Well, I wonder what all the local Thai people whose families depend on tourism dollars would say about that. It always fills me with anger when I hear these

senseless "back then everything was much better" phrases.

Such people are always acting and talking like they own Khao Lak, yet are nothing but

ignorant egomaniacs who feel that they are the only ones with the god-given right to discover Khao Lak and that there should be a single standing beach hut only for them ready each year – just for them, but for no one else.

Let's get real; my mom and dad taught me that shared fun is double fun. Please allow others to enjoy Khao Lak as well!

Surprisingly, in talking to tourists and visiting friends who knew Khao Lak before the tsunami, the overall feeling regarding the reconstruction of Khao Lak is much more positive.

Most said that they understood that resort owners had to increase the amount of rooms because the banks were breathing down the back of their necks; but they also said that Khao Lak still has the flair and the overall friendly atmosphere of pre-tsunami times, and that they would certainly continue to return despite the obvious changes along the beachfront.

All were impressed by the speed and determination of the reconstruction efforts. Most said that they believed it would take at least four years to get Khao Lak back on its feet again, and were astounded to find it back in such good shape after only 24 months.

This is my 60th column of *Andaman Coasting* – five years of ranting, praising, complaining, reporting and philosophizing about Khao Lak.

I hope that readers have enjoyed my Khao Lak-related articles and photos as much as I have enjoyed providing them. I want to thank the staff and management of the *Phuket Gazette*, my friends in Khao Lak, Phuket and around the world, as well as all *Phuket Gazette* readers for their continued support and friendship.

A new era begins for Khao Lak in 2007 and I am looking forward to guiding *Gazette* readers through the exciting future that lies ahead.



The tsunami warning system has been installed and tested throughout Khao Lak. Pictured above is one of the newly-erected warning towers near the Khao Lak Merlin Resort.





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# True colors for HM the King

By Tanisa Bunyasiwa

The "Painting for Our King" competition at The Metropole hotel, in Phuket City, on December 2 to 4 brought together 210 students from across the island, with the aim of creating the best street art with the theme of His Majesty The King.

A total of 70 teams each of three students competed in three education-level groups: primary school, high school, and vocational college or higher. Prizes to

be won included trophies and awards for the paintings and a total of 104,000 baht in education scholarships.

By the final day of the competition, 18 teams were selected to compete in a wall-painting contest based on their drawings. Finalists had from 9 am to 3 pm to transform a blank concrete fence panel in the car park behind the hotel into a vision of homage and beauty.

Winners of the high school category – and winners of the "best of the best" award for the

best painting overall – were the all-girl "Team 35" from Satree Phuket School. Kadsaree Koson, Kadkaow Sinkrajang and Amornchada Choorat, all 13 years old, won a trophy donated by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and a 15,000-baht scholarship for the team.

The girls' winning creation is an image representing Thailand encircled by the Thai national colors, above which are common people's hands joining together to hold a sod of earth. From the earth grows a bubble that envelopes HM The King's Royal Emblem, together symbolizing the embracing support of the Thai people for His Majesty.

"We're really proud of our work. We thought a lot about our painting and practiced hard in our spare time, which resulted in our excellent painting today. None of us studies fine art at school, but we like to draw and paint," said Amornchada.

"Next year, we want to de-



fend our title and win the 'best overall' for our school again."

Winning the vocational college or higher education category was all-boy Team 66, comprising Apichart Chumpong, Anoosorn Boonto and Poramate Anantayanukoon – all 16 years old – from Phuket Vocational College.

"We're really excited about this award because it's from our efforts in studying art. We have never won a competition before, so this award is the best prize we've had from our education," Apichart said.

"We created the concept together. In our painting we used

the number 60, the number of years since His Majesty's accession to the throne, and we used a silhouette of His Majesty instead of painting a full portrait of him, which is much harder.

"We have never done a wall painting before, so this competition was very difficult for us. The wall we had to paint had a crack in it, which was very difficult to work with. We had to make sure that the paint wasn't too thick or too thin," Apichart said.

"We hope that an activity like this becomes a regular event for Phuket's young people," he added.

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# PIMEX – Showboating a success

By Janyaporn Morel

For anyone in Southeast Asia thinking about buying a boat, the 2006 Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX), staged at Boat Lagoon from December 7 to 10, was a must. In its fourth year, PIMEX attracted more than 100 exhibitors from 16 countries and more than 4,000 visitors.

Grenville Fordham, Managing Director of Image Asia, the show's organizer, said that in the days leading up to the expo the number of boats on display and the advance registrations from international visitors were at record levels, with 600 visitors registered and another 5,500 expected.

Mr Fordham said that there was a good response to the first PIMEX preview in Bangkok, in October. Although the preview did not attract huge crowds, he said, it did generate a lot of interest as well as some sales.

As one of the major marine expos in Southeast Asia, PIMEX featured more than 100 international boating brands, mostly represented by local and national distributors. Visitors and exhibitors came from all regions and marine trades, with boat builders and charterers comprising the bulk of industry representatives.

The countries and regions represented include Thailand, China and Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the UK, the Middle East and the US.

PIMEX 2006 had more boats on display than any other expo in the region, with 57 boats, including 20 in the water. They ranged from fast rigid inflatable boats priced at US\$10,000, through small trailer-boats at US\$30,000-50,000, all the way to prestigious luxury motor yachts

ticketed at US\$1 million or more, and most everything floating in between.

From power boats to sailboats, the marine expo had something for every budget and taste; some deals were limited to the duration of the show, such as a Range Rover/trailer boat combination.

Natthapat Vanichnat, General Manager of Phuket-based NavAsia, which sells marine instruments such as radar and depth and wind gages, said that it was the first year his company exhibited at the show, but he expected to garner a lot of business from the event.

As most of his customers

were foreigners, the international nature of the expo was a major draw, he explained.

Rene Stoltz from Luxembourg was selling his year-old Taiwanese Vitect boat, as he wanted to upgrade to a larger vessel. He said the expo was a good opportunity to show off the boat builder's work as well.

Tony Nixey, Managing Director of *Go Boating* (Thailand), which imports boats from Dubai, enjoyed his third year at the show – he sold a boat on the first day.

Tony explained that his boats were popular with expats because they were affordable; his company has outlets in Phuket, Pattaya and Hua Hin; and it of-

fers warranties of one year or more.

Thitipong Lorlowhakarn, Technical Sales Executive of the Southern Region for Sika, which deals in imported bonding and sealing products, said that the boating market was enjoying a boom, and that its expansion had necessitated opening an agency in Phuket.

David Wood, National Sales Manager of Boating's Leading Accessories (BLA), which distributes marine instruments, said that although his company had three or four dealers in Phuket already, he was hoping to find more through the expo.

A natural corollary to a

day's boating are quayside sun-downers, for which it was no coincidence that the Watermark bar and restaurant was only an anchor line away.

Expo participants became patrons at the end of each day, enjoying the atmosphere with the showboats as the backdrop.

Before the exhibition wrapped up December 10, the setting of the Boat Lagoon Marina offered many opportunities to lunch or have a drink by the waterside and soak up the cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Mr Fordham said that he expects PIMEX to grow in size and popularity, and looks forward to organizing the expo next year.



ON SHOW: Classy interiors, exteriors and wheelhouse posteriors were all to be seen at this year's PIMEX at the Boat Lagoon.



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The photos on these pages are from the Royal Phuket Marina party and the final-day Raimon Land party at Kata Beach Resort.

All photos by Alasdair Forbes/Full Point Services.



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## This week



**TOUR THE TOWN:** Thai Peranakan Association members from Penang, Malaka, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore wave before embarking on a "Punde City Tour" of Phuket City on December 3. More than 100 members rode local buses around Phuket City to view historical sites, such as Chinese shrines and Sino-Portuguese buildings on Thalang Rd.



**SOULED:** Elisabeth Cassegrain Thomas-Smulders (center) and Eric Smulders (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) hosted a reception with music last week in their newly expanded Soul of Asia gallery at The Plaza Surin. Well known to local residents, Soul of Asia is a top-end dealer in master paintings and fine antiques, sold through six gallery locations throughout Phuket.



**PEARLS OF HELP:** Parents of three handicapped children accept donated wheelchairs and a stroller from the Lions Club of Phuket Pearl as they celebrate International Lions Day with community activities.



**STARRING ROLES:** Amari Trang Beach Resort & Spa and Amari Emerald Cove Resort & Spa on Koh Chang were awarded five-star status by Thailand Standard Hotels on November 28. From left are Amari Trang's General Manager Andreas Mueller, Ministry of Tourism and Sports Permanent Secretary Sakthip Krairiksh, and Amari Emerald Cove's General Manager Alexander Frenkel.



**CAMP CONSERVATION:** Students from Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and Trang take part in the Marine Resources Conservation Youth Camp, held November 18 to 20. The camp was organized by the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and Coastal Habitat and Resources Marine Management at the PMBC, Cape Panwa.



**THANKS:** Katathani Phuket Beach Resort Chief Executive Officer Sombat Atiset (left) and Chief Operations Officer Suchart Vikittipong (right) welcome Frank Hoppe, Resident Manager of TUI Germany, and Andrea Kotas Tammathin, Destination Manager of Tischler and Tourasia, to a "thank you" party the resort hosted for travel agencies and tour operators.

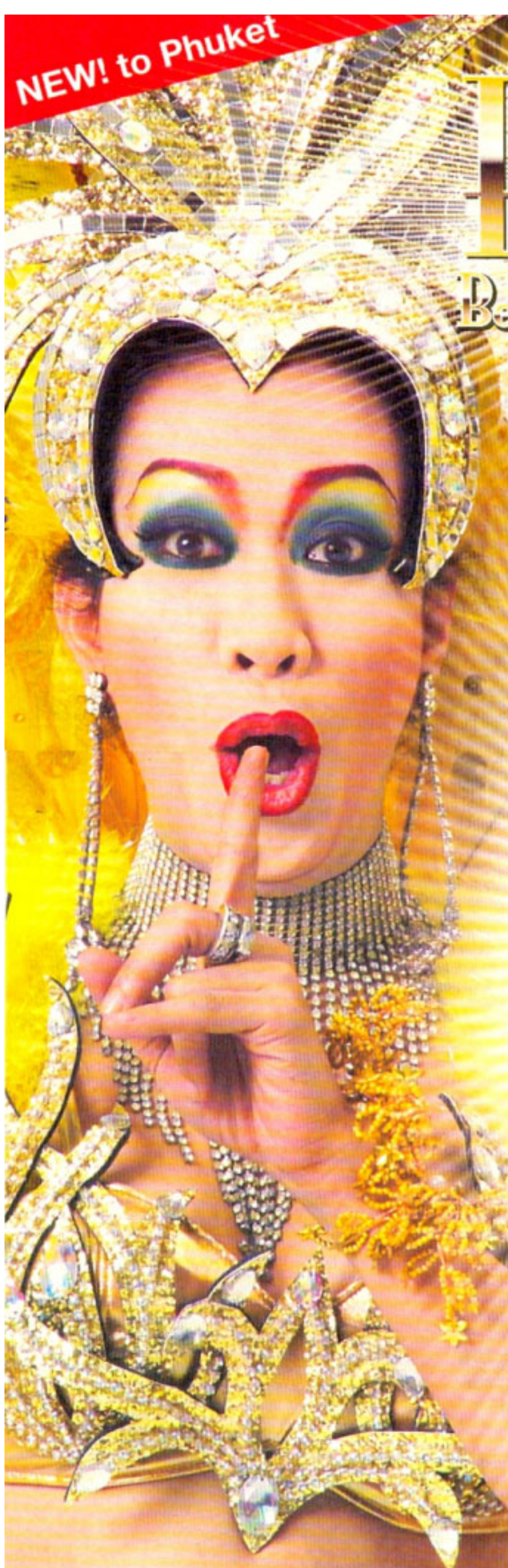
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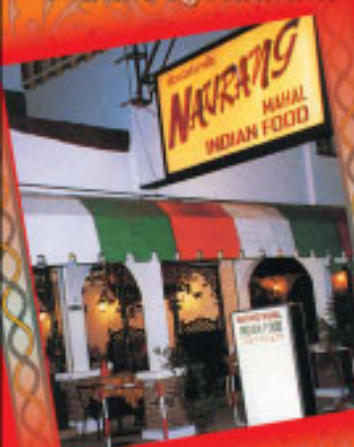
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# Giving in to Jack Nicholson

Something peculiar happens to my feet when I enter an art gallery anywhere. I should be attending these things every other day – after all I'm a Fine Arts graduate. But a leaden feeling generally comes over me as I struggle inside, invite in hand. It takes all my strength not to skip the exhibition altogether and go for a drink instead.

"No one will ever know," a devilish Jack Nicholson sort of voice whispers in my ear. I force myself not to look for the bar. "Which would you rather have?" he whispers. "High culture or a G&T?"

Hyperventilating a little, I just about make it to the first room of the exhibition. There are people everywhere, trying to look cultured and serious. The only sounds are whispers and a muffled shuffle of sensible shoes accompanied by the clicking of stilettos.

Half of these people don't even know what they are looking at and the other half are pretending... Meanwhile, I feel as though I've been injected with buffalo tranquillizer, and start looking for a seat – anywhere I might lie down for three hours until it's acceptable to go home again.

It's then that I remember why the last time I "did" art was at an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London. At least there you don't have to spend your time with a bunch of boring people pretending to like whatever has been hung on the wall.

There is a halcyon period in your twenties when you ignore any pretensions to clever stuff. You're past the university project stage, and life is a merry-go-round between the pub and the wine bar. You're too busy falling in love, falling into debt or falling over to care about the latest retrospective at the Tate.

Then you become settled.

## AMBROSIA'S



## SECRETS

You've got the partner, the mortgage, the job. The kitchen extension is finished. You're all grown-up. Suddenly, spare time is for self-improvement.

There is an assumption that people actually want to visit obscure old churches while on holiday in the south of France, watch video BBC documentaries about global warming or book tickets for the latest Sam Beckett revival at the Barbican when in London.

Being older and wiser means turning off the television when your favorite soap opera comes on, and retiring to the sala or the bedroom to read a book instead.

In Grown-up World, the 30-something should have passed seamlessly through the "Let's just get a cheap last-minute deal to Bangkok" phase and taken up picture-framing holidays in Tuscany instead.

Not wishing to appear a complete dimwit, though, I do love doing many so-called cultured things, but there's a time and a place for everything. I just wish some people would let their hair down and stop pretending once in a while.

My father for one, although educated and well-traveled, wouldn't be seen dead at the opera. I once took him with me to Covent Garden. He fell asleep

halfway through act one, woke up just before the interval and missed the second bit trying to find the bar. His philosophy is simple: "Why spend your life pretending to know stuff you don't?"

I agree. Grown-up parties – as opposed to "drinking copious bottles of wine and talking about nothing in particular" parties – can be terrifying. To grease the social wheels you have to spend the whole time feigning knowledge about politics when all you really want to talk about is who's bonking whom.

Entire areas of chitchat – the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, French grapes, Ingmar Bergman films – can be saved for more appropriate places, such as funerals. I have been to many a "do" where I would have preferred to have spent the night in the loo clutching a bottle of Bolly instead.

Don't get me wrong – I don't actually want to be friends with some of these people. I've made that mistake in the past, most memorably with a guy who liked jazz. You know the type – builds his own turntable and flatly refuses to use his CD covers as beer mats.

I do like jazz, but there's love and there's *luurve*. He once forced me to go to a jazz gig and spent the entire night with his eyes closed in a semi-orgasmic state while tapping his fingers on the table top.

Meanwhile, I spent my time wondering when the hell each tune might end. Jazz, in my opinion, would be greatly improved if each piece was limited to precisely four minutes.

The jazz fan told me on the way home that the trio were improvising – in other words they were making it up as they went along. But I'd already figured out that one for myself. I never saw him again.

Admit it – where would you

rather be if you had the choice: Sitting on a wooden bench watching a modern dance workshop about the deforestation of South America or sitting in a hot bath with your partner drinking ice cold G&Ts?

Why do you think Stephen Hawking's philosophical tour de force, *A Brief History of Time*, remains one of the greatest unread blockbusters in living memory? Or why annual membership of a film institute is like joining the gym? All those good intentions of watching obscure foreign films with subtitles soon evaporate, and before you know it, you're back to buying pirated blockbusters in Patong.

Sometimes I'm too exhausted after a day's work to read the instructions on the side of a packet of pasta, let alone tackle a one-man rendition of *Under Milk Wood*. Surely I can't be the only one?

Of course, if my parents hadn't had to work so hard and late when I was growing up in London and I had more time to listen to classical music and go on watercolor courses in north Devon, maybe all this cultural stuff would have seemed more important to me.

I would have known before the age of seven that "Le Nozze di Figaro" is not, in fact, a new ice cream with caramel topping and dark chocolate, and when I

reached 30 all the highbrow stuff would have come back to me – in the same way that I can recite all the actors in *The Godfather*, except the good-looking one whose name I can never remember.

I'm not a complete culturephobe, I just wish some people would relax a bit at "arty" events and not pretend to like things that they obviously don't.

By the time we reach our mid-twenties, he argued, we think we know what we like and what we don't, and are disinclined to budge. This makes perfect sense to me, and explains why you never see old people in sushi bars.

I did hear of an American psychologist who discovered that for most people the urge to try anything new stalls at the age of 24. By the time we reach our mid-twenties, he argued, we think we know what we like and what we don't, and are disinclined to budge.

This makes perfect sense to me, and explains why you never see old people in sushi bars.

Personally, I think there should be a self-help group for people with culture phobia. People could meet in each others' houses, drink gin and confess – "My name is Louise and last night I watched *The Oprah Winfrey Show* on cable. The repeat. And I found it funny."

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her new novel, *Greek Girls Don't Cry*, is now available from amazon.com and amazon.co.uk

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# A-GO-GO GONE GOOD

By Zach Fridell

Think of a go-go bar where the girls keep their clothes on, and make you smile as much as they make you leer. It may sound like a bizarre twist to Soi Bangla's average venues, but the new Erotica bar on Soi Seadragon has found a good balance, where the girls are pretty and sexy, but the emphasis is on choreographed entertainment.

At Erotica the dancers are not synonymous with "sex" but "sexy". Think of it as a bar where you can take a cool date or even your friend's bachelor party.

The trick is in the presentation. While many of Patong's go-go bars feature bored-looking "ladies" jiggling while waiting for their number to be called, Erotica is a bouncing, vibrant place where the dancers look like they're having fun. They trained for three months before the bar's opening, with assistance from a choreographer who worked with Thai pop star Tata Young.

Erotica is also a go-go for the MTV generation. Girls dressed as sailors not your thing? The next show may have a



**NICE CHAPS:** A dancer gets to grips with *Rawhide*.

French maid in lace, an all-female construction crew or a routine tailored to Madonna's hit – you guessed it – *Erotica*. There are currently 25 routines in the repertoire, with more to come. The ones currently performed run the gamut from hilarious – including a "Japanese tourist" running around taking photos of the girls to the classic *Turning Japanese* by the Vapors – to a wipe-the-steam-from-your-glasses shower scene, using a real shower in the middle of the stage.

Audience participation is key to the performances. If you sit by the stage, you are liable to be fed an ice cream cone during one act, or pulled on stage to be



"whipped" by dominatrix cops during another – both pleasant experiences, I'm happy to report.

Before this sounds too raunchy, it should be restated that there is no nudity. Indeed, the girls all wear tights. Manager Daniel Gibson explained that the dancers wear flesh-colored stockings "because it makes them feel more comfortable dancing". They also wear pasties, ensuring that the performances are legal and that the girls are free to dance their hearts out.

Erotica also distinguishes itself from its peers on Soi Seadragon by having a superb sound system, high-end LED lighting and will even feature ice sculptures on a regular basis.

The fully-stocked bar serves, among other drinks, small bottles of Heineken at 140 baht a throw, Singha 120 baht and gin and tonics at 150 baht.

**NAVEL CAREER?** Erotica's dancers perform a routine to the Village People's disco classic *In The Navy*.

**TEAM SUPREME:** Erotica's Directors (from left) Daniel Gibson, Steve Jordan and Steve Fineburg, along with Jeremy Seear (not pictured), have put the girls through their paces to develop 25 'go-go' routines.



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# Phuket pooches, eat your heart out

By Max Blossche, dpa

While dog lovers in Phuket City are busy getting their pooches spruced at high-end canine-only spas, canine customers at a dogs-only German bakery are getting a choice of minty biscuits, muesli bars, tuna cakes, garlic cookies and other creations for the affluent, urban dog.

Former florist Janine Saraniti-Lagerin set up the business in the German city of Wiesbaden three months ago, and says delighted dog owners often drop in to stock up before flying out of nearby Frankfurt international airport to distant parts of the world.

The confectionery makes a nice coming-home present for man's best friend, though it's even more fun to take a dog shopping at Dog's Goodies, as the shop is called. A wag of the tail indicates approval after the dog has nibbled at the range of tidbits on offer.

Saraniti-Lagerin, 28, is not the first baker to cater exclusively to dogs: she was inspired by a television report about similar shops in the US, and there are several other dogs-only bakers in Germany.

She says her bank was even more gung-ho than she was after she presented her business plan.

"They said, 'This is so nutty that it's bound to succeed,'" she added.

Customer Jutta Schneider said, "The doggy bakery is what we owners have all been talking about when we walk our dogs." Schneider says she brings her Havanese-breed male, Amor, to the shop once a week for his favorite snack, potato balls.

Schneider is sure the tidbits are non-fattening and free of chemical attractants, which might harm her sensitive little dog. The vet has warned her that Amor's liver is no longer healthy.

"So many people today are anti-dog, but when I come in here, I feel as a dog-owner that I am understood," she explained.

Saraniti-Lagerin says she knows that dogs in the US, Canada, Thailand and Latvia have already tried her cookies,



Janine Saraniti-Lagerin and her golden retriever Ronja show off some of the muffins on sale at Dog's Goodies in Wiesbaden, Germany.

thanks to departing passengers taking purchases with them when flying out.

She bakes and serves customers at the same time in Dog's Goodies, which used to be an ordinary bakery for humans and still had the oven and counter. The recipes come from an American canine cookbook but she has been experimenting with her own ideas too.

She consults veterinarians about what is healthy and also tests the cookies on her own Labrador bitch Ronja.

"If Ronja likes it, I put it on sale," said the baker, who describes Ronja as part of the sales team: customers often stop at the

window to stare at the Labrador frisking inside the bakery.

While customers praise the products, there has been criticism from those who think confectionery for dogs is ridiculous.

"Some people stop at the window and shake their heads, meaning they think I'm out of my mind," said Saraniti-Lagerin.

Some veterinarians are also lukewarm. "Dogs are carnivorous animals," said Wolfgang Altstaedten. "Baked tidbits don't

harm a dog, but they don't bring much benefit either. Call them mouth-fillers or entertainment. They're not really nourishment."

Saraniti-Lagerin says she makes no claim that the cookies provide essential nutrients.

"You could not use them as the only thing a dog eats. They're snacks to give as rewards or while you're out and about."

She insists there is nothing harmful in her cookies, which contain no fat, salt, sugar or

chemical additives. She uses wholemeal flour.

"Each week, I use about 25 kilograms of ingredients," she said. Sampling is encouraged when dogs and their owners come shopping.

Prices are calculated by the 100 grams on the scales, and range from 1.90 to 3.20 euros (about 89 to 150 baht) depending on the product. In the run-up to Christmas, she will be offering Christmas stockings of cookies.

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# Everest hits new heights

Ford of Thailand recently launched the all-new Everest, Thailand's first mid-sized SUV with a five-speed automatic transmission.

The new Everest offers a choice of two turbocharged, common-rail diesel engines and either two- or four-wheel drive. The 3-liter TDCi unit produces 156bhp (115kW) at the low engine speed of 3,200rpm, while a 2.5L model gives out 143bhp at 3,500rpm. Maximum torque for both engines is impressive: 380 Nm and 330 Nm respectively, both produced at just 1,800rpm.

The five-speed auto transmission features an innovative system that monitors both engine speed and road conditions. It keeps the transmission in its most efficient gear, making the vehicle more responsive. This allows the Everest to perform well in urban or highway driving, as well

as off road. With the two all-wheel-drive models, automatic and manual, the system can be switched from 2WD to 4WD on the move, at speeds up to 100 kilometers an hour.

The new automatic transmission is housed in a one-piece, die-cast aluminum casing, reducing transmission noise and vibration. Ford claims the combination of its "intelligent" transmission and the frugality of the 3.0 and 2.5 liter engines give improved fuel economy of up to 22%.

On the safety side, advanced dual-stage front airbags are complemented by side airbags. Three-point seat belts with load limiters are also fitted.

Braking performance is outstanding, incorporating ABS and electronic brake force distribution (EBD), as well as a load-sensing proportioning valve to ensure optimum stopping distances.



By Jeff Heselwood



Prices for the Ford Everest start at just under a million baht.

The cabin is more spacious in the new Everest, with ample head, shoulder and leg room. The front seats feature a new sculpted seatback, wider shoulders and a large headrest to reduce travelers' fatigue.

The second row of seats can be folded with one hand to

allow getting in or out of the third row of seats.

Greater storage space has been incorporated into the new model and includes the industry's first pull-out tray within the front instrument panel. An audio system is fitted, complete with a six-disc CD auto-changer.

With annual mileage increasing, maintenance schedules are becoming shorter, but Ford of Thailand offers an innovative package that provides a free five-year or 150,000-kilometer warranty, free five-year scheduled maintenance and free five-year roadside assistance.

The latter includes technical and other assistance when unexpected incidents occur.

Services covered in the program range from a towing service, an on-site maintenance service, 24-hour technical consultants and a replacement vehicle for use while your own vehicle is undergoing maintenance or repairs.

The new Ford Everest is now available throughout Thailand, with prices starting below one million baht.

The top-of-the-range Everest 4x4 3-liter with automatic transmission sells for 1.2 million baht, while the entry-level manual 4x2 2.5-liter is 999,000 baht.

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

Toilets are important to humans. Unlike animals, humans do not have the luxury of allowing their natural bodily processes to take place wherever and whenever they feel the urge.

Because a visit to the "loo", as the English call it, or the "dunny" in Australia, requires the removal of certain items of clothing, the process is generally performed in private.

This is not normally a problem, as our home, hotel, workplace or favorite restaurant or pub usually has a respectable lavatorium, restroom, or "comfort room" (CR), as they call it in the Philippines.

Those of us who live in Thailand and believe ourselves to be knowledgeable about things Thai refer to it as the *hong nam*.

## BOGGED DOWN

An English translation makes that the "water room".

Luckily, in most of the areas of Thailand frequented by Westerners or tourists, the ablution facilities are fairly adequate. This is not the case, however, in the rest of the country.

In most public or private facilities throughout the Thai countryside, and indeed SE Asia, the toilets are a dreadful hole in the floor or "squat toilet" – unless you are lucky enough to be at Bazaar Market in Patong that recently won an award for the best market toilet in Southern Thailand.

I am not grumbling about

squat toilets. Many Thai people are accomplished squatters, but most Western and international tourists are squatting virgins, a fact that was overlooked for many years by international companies and shopping centers.

In recent years, however, many of those big shopping complexes have begun to provide international-standard toilet facilities, including toilet paper and clean, dry stalls.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand announced last year that it was requesting roadhouses and service stations to provide clean international-standard toilets.

Despite the recognition that

new toilet facilities are needed, most toilets are still holes in the floor and are either filthy or completely wet, which makes it difficult to find both a place to keep your roll of toilet tissue dry and a place to hang your pants.

Once you accomplish those tasks, you have to negotiate the bowl itself, avoiding the possibility of flailing arms, thrashing legs and a broken tail bone as your feet slide on the slippery tiles.

Even at the biggest, newest roadhouses operated by international companies, with KFCs, 7-Elevens and banking facilities, it is still next to impossible to find a Western-standard bowl.

One big roadhouse at Chumphon, as part of its upgrading, has built a very nicely-designed toilet block with fishponds outside the entrance, stainless steel wash basins, full-time cleaning staff and even a plastic toilet tissue dispenser (free of charge) near the entrance.

In spite of this, although the facility was only finished last month, there are still only holes in the floor.

Many websites refer to these toilets as "traditional Thai", but this is incorrect.

The culprits, my source says, are actually the French. They, who consider themselves to be the bastion of culture and civilization, are responsible for this abomination. Here's an authori-

tative extract from a Dutch website, *Het Hurktoilet*, or *Squat Toilet*:

"Dutch displeasure in France reaches its peak at this one place both French and Dutch must visit: the toilets. According to the Dutch, squat toilets are typical French. That's why this site is called *Het Hurktoilet* or *Squat Toilet*.

"Just when you think you've finally found the toilets, there's only a black hole in the white floor.

"Welcome to French toilets (or Turkish toilets, as the French call them), probably the most reviled piece of French furniture. Men can use the hole as an urinal, but for the rest it remains a problem."

Another website referring to a French public toilet informs:


"Put in your change, and wait for the door to automatically open. Step in, and the door automatically closes. If you are there 15 minutes or more, the door WILL open. These seem dirty, but they actually are disinfected after each use."

This version would have pleased my mother no end, as it would have put a stop to my father's habit of reading the paper from back to front in the loo.

Anyway, this is my advice, as I do a fair bit of driving around Thailand: Take a toilet roll with you. It does wonders for your peace of mind, especially after a big night. Even if you can't find a roadhouse in time, there is always the jungle.

And really, there isn't much of a difference.

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The mother of rude awakenings came at 11 am during my stay at Nasa Vegas Hotel in Bangkok.

It was delivered by one of the receptionists asking if I plan to stay one more night, and if I could pay my bill for the day, which had just begun, although not officially for another hour according to hotel time.

I had been happy with everything until that point. Minus this intrusive call, the Nasa Vegas is not bad value at 590 baht a night for a budget room.

The view from my window overlooks Ramkhamhaeng Road at the Klong Tan end just around the corner from Soi 71, which leads to the Phrakhanong end of Sukhumvit. Nasa Vegas is not a new hotel (I'm guessing it has been here since the early '70s) and has a sister apartment block opposite, sandwiching the Bang Sue railway line which cuts between the two huge beige blocks and the newly-erected monoliths parallel to the track, which will become one of the new BTS routes.

I was not in Bangkok for long and was on a mission to try somewhere new in the city, a mission which started and ended at the Tango Bar on Soi 43. I arrived before anyone else and supped on a small Singha as I watched HBO on the big screen at the end of the impressive lounge.

I hadn't come all this way to watch TV, so after establishing that there had been no mistake and that my small Singha did cost what is said on the receipt, I reluctantly parted with 330 baht and thought better of leaving a tip.

I was obviously well out of my depth and if I had known upon asking the taxi driver to stop at Soi 43 what I know now, I would have stuck to what I comfortably know when it comes to deciding where to go for a good night out.

So Nana Plaza it was to be, "sinners heaven" is an oxymoron not far off the mark, though tonight the gateway was filled with a soapbox for three sweaty and red-faced Americans in shirts and ties, shouting with passion that all sinners within could be saved if they, like them, could see the light.

Anyone after the light would be spoiled for choice as Nana Plaza is an orgy of neon, but tonight I knew what I wanted.

# A whole load of bull

## CAPITAL Letter

By Stiffy Rectangle

In Nana Plaza, Stiffy makes a beeline for the Carnival Bar and a date, not with alluring danceuse in minimalist costume, but with a rodeo bull. Will Stiffy stay on? Or will he (as so often) end up spreadeagled on the crash pad of life? Read on...



ed. I required more than just alcohol and boobies: I was in the mood for rodeo, and Nana Plaza is to my knowledge the only place in Bangkok, perhaps even Thailand, where one can ride a mechanical bull.

Carnival is situated on the third floor of Nana Plaza on the right hand side. It is famous for its mechanical rodeo bull, which is the main attraction in the elongated bar. As you enter, there is a rotating carousel of pole dancers on the right and the famed circular rodeo arena is to the left.

Drunken farangs try their luck at staying on for one minute, the reward being a free Heineken, though the real reward is the kudos of having been as skilled as the hot-pants-and-bra-clad expert who is only too willing to show off her skills. She will even join you for the ride if you so wish.

After a couple of Sang Som and Cokes I try my luck, swaying and rotating with one arm raised with all the grace and beauty of a chainsaw. I briefly make eye contact with the girl at

the control panel and she gives me a wink, which tells me I won't be on for long.

Before I know it I am clinging on for dear life, leaning fully forward with my arms around the "bulls" head, until G-force gets the better of me and I end up on the red inflatable crash mat below.

It turns out I was just nine seconds away from a free beer, but what the hell – the ride was good and I got a round of applause from the gutless onlookers who sat ringside, supping their paid-for Heinekens and happy to be voyeurs rather than contestants.

I dizzily retire to my seat and order another drink while I watch some cocky young show-off try his luck, only to be catapulted off by the girl at the controls. This spectacle is far more satisfying and I find myself happy to join the onlookers.

After paying my bill and having a wander round, I see the preacher men have gone and are now replaced by ladyboy street walkers and fried insect vendors at the mouth of the plaza. A little further down Soi 4 I treat myself to some grilled prawns from one of the many food stalls that adorn the street.

Gone are the days when a

night at Nana Plaza went beyond 2 am, though there is always the pavement. The pavement is not a bar as such; it is actually a stretch of pavement between Sois 3 and 5 and serves as post-work dining for bargirls, as well as providing pirate DVD shopping for tourists and after-hours drinking for anybody who requires it.

On the pavement you can meet all sorts of characters or simply people-watch as the morning approaches 3 am. It is a friendly place and on many occasions I have been invited to share a steaming pot of TYG (Tom Yam Goong) with a gaggle of girls. This time, however, fatigue has superseded the dizziness and the night is at an end for me.

Though I hope to explore the secrets of Bangkok's night life beyond 2am in more detail and report back to you stories and reviews of backstreet haunts sometime in the future, alas my time in the big mango has yet again come to an end and such stories will have to wait.

And so it comes to be that I enjoy, as always, a front seat ride in a taxi – this one bright orange all over – and a friendly, albeit tipsy conversation about football with the driver on my way back to Nasa Vegas where, for the first time, I actually request a wake up call for the following morning as I must go to that big grey shopping mall with the attached airport – Suvannabhumi.

It is from there I will depart to a city I may not love as much as I do Bangkok, but nevertheless a city that is, in my view, Bangkok's closest competitor. A city that could give old Bangers a run for its money. A city where you can still party 24 hours a day: Hong Kong.

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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

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

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

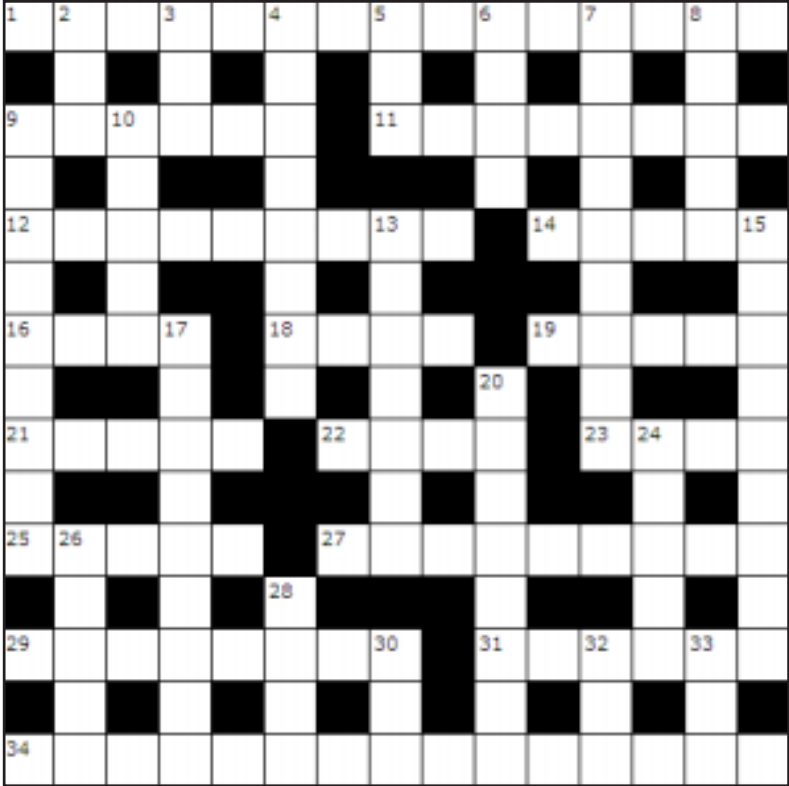
Solution on next page

### ACROSS

- House of salesmen? (15)
- Metal coin. (6)
- Can specialty. (8)
- No dreamer in charge, it's lifelike. (9)
- Brag about cardinal in boat. (5)
- A man of color, we hear. (4)
- Al's got nothing, too. (4)
- Point into coconut tree to get church chant. (5)
- A foot ailment seed. (5)
- Bird on a string? (4)
- Not mad about point and an alternative. (4)
- I'm in rocky outcrop and island. (5)
- Theater alarm demo fouled up. (9)
- Rates, with 501 and a letter in glows. (8)
- Consent to account with letter of the French. (6)
- Failure to understand mission in most of catch. (15)

### DOWN

- Samuel's teacher gets lie wrong. (3)
- Korean initials sound like they are okay. (1, 1, 1)
- Sal points to man: one of 1. (8)
- Little sleep; give bad review back. (3)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

6. Type of power Ed passed easily. (4)

7. Back use; is echo of cold stores. (9)

8. First lady's roof parts? (5)

9. Not the southwest, nor the letter to saint. (9)

10. Jackie takes key to get beer. (5)

13. Breathe in and enthuse. (7)

15. Strengthen and consumed, but exercising moderation. (9)
17. Small organ? Ha! Romeo and Monica! (9)

20. Set off school in date. (8)

24. A boat's path is not asleep. (5)

26. Ira question: "I Arab?" (5)

28. Pets up to dance move. (4)

30. Haggard's one who must be obeyed. (3)

32. Disks and certificates. (3)

33. Pair take Arabic instrument back. (3)
- Solution on next page

## Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with "string". What are they?

- Take part in opera.
- Get water out of the wash.
- Billy Jean.
- Chinese capital.
- Surround.
- Flying equipment.
- Playground equipment.
- Love affair.
- Hold on tight.
- Rebellion.

Answers on next page

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In which northern province of Thailand is Doi Suthep?

2. How many legs does a spider crab have?

3. Who stars as Ben Randall in the movie *The Guardian*?

4. Which motorbike company makes the Smash?

5. What color do you get if you mix red, blue and yellow?
6. Who presented the 2006 MTV music awards – and won two awards?

7. Who currently tops the Billboard Hot 100 with *My Love*?

8. What color boat did the owl and the pussycat go to sea in?

9. Where is the volcano Mt Etna?

10. What is the capital of the Czech Republic?

Answers on next page

## su|do|ku

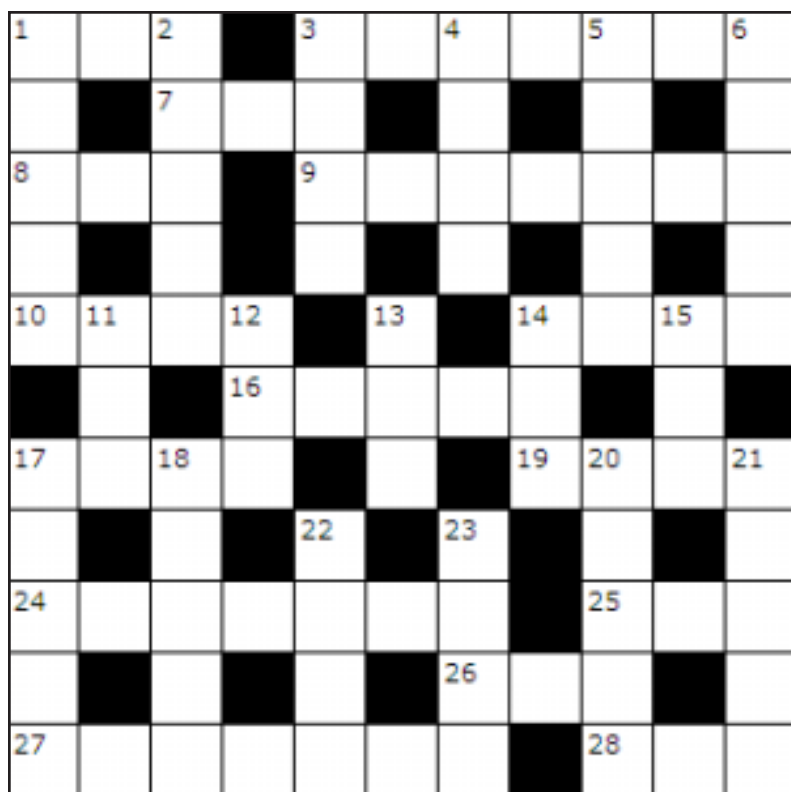
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.





## Quick Crossword

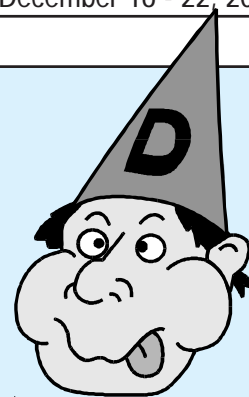
### ACROSS

1. American soldiers.
3. Flower.
7. Golf teacher.
8. Fuss.
9. Makes a tape of.
10. Body of fresh water.
14. Join metal.
16. Constellation.
17. Cow meat.
19. Garden entrance, eg.
24. Tenth month.
25. Father.
26. 33 divided by 33.
27. Wizard of Oz character.
28. Down in the mouth.

### Down

1. Object of quest.
2. Ghost.
3. Drill a hole.
4. Killer whale.
5. Heavy suit material.
6. Pondered.
11. Beer.
12. Santa's helper.
13. Japanese belt.
14. Dog tail movement.
15. Allow.
17. Think obsessively.
18. Come in!
20. S American mountain range.
21. Finished.
22. Assist.
23. Ancient city.

## 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 was the ancient Egyptians' name for Hermes Trismegistus?
2. In 13th century Europe, Conradin was king of which two places?
3. How old was Conradin when he was executed?
4. Sir Francis Walsingham was spymaster to which British monarch?
5. In which year was the first Harley Davidson motorcycle introduced?
6. Which word can mean a fish, an insect and a curve in a sail?
7. How fast can a road runner run?
8. How many *Road to...* movies did Bob Hope and Bing Crosby make?
9. Which British military unit, formed in 1859, became the 21<sup>st</sup> Special Air Service Regiment?
10. Who commanded the New Model Army, with Oliver Cromwell as his deputy?
11. Which movie won the Best Picture Oscar in 1992?
12. What is the old name for Ndjamen, capital of Chad?
13. How many years are there in a lustrum?
14. In which country would you find the city of Lutsk?
15. In which year was Pathé News launched?
16. Who wrote the novel *The Princess Casamassima*?
17. Who was the first Whig president of the USA?
18. Who was known as the Manassa Mauler?
19. What is the original meaning of "avatar"?
20. In which constellation would you find the Crab Nebula?

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Thoth; 2. Sicily and Jerusalem; 3. 16; 4. Queen Elizabeth I; 5. 1903; 6. Roach; 7. About 24 kmh; 8. Seven; 9. The Artists' Rifles; 10. Sir Thomas Fairfax; 11. *Unforgiven*; 12. Fort-Lamy; 13. Five; 14. Ukraine; 15. 1910; 16. Henry James; 17. William H. Harrison; 18. Boxer William "Jack" Demsey; 19. An incarnation of a Hindu deity; 20. Taurus.

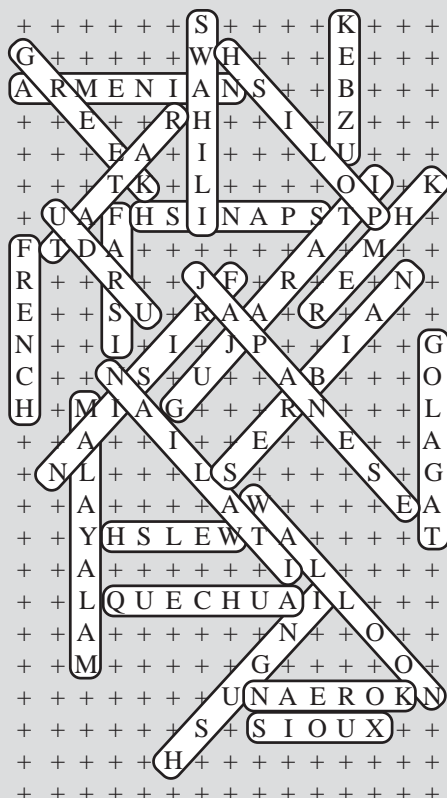
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Chiang Mai; 2. 10; 3. Kevin Costner; 4. Suzuki; 5. Brown; 6. Justin Timberlake; 7. Justin Timberlake; 8. Pea-green; 9. Sicily; 10. Prague.

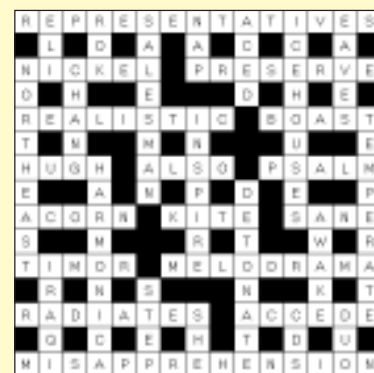
## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Sing; 2. Wring; 3. King; 4. Peking; 5. Ring; 6. Wing; 7. Swing; 8. Fling; 9. Cling; 10. Uprising.

## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





William Boyd is one of a trio of British novelists born within a few years of each other in the 1950s – the others being Martin Amis and Ian McEwan – who represent the best of their literary generation.

Boyd grew up in colonial Ghana and used that site for his first novel *A Good Man in Africa* and he returned to the continent for *Brazzaville Beach* and the *Ice Cream War*.

Without straining any grand literary effects, he writes novels of great historical sweep – most notably, *The New Confessions* – and is particularly good with female characters.

Two women, a mother and daughter, are the narrators of Boyd's latest novel, *Restless* (Bloomsbury, New York, 2006, 324pp).

The scene is a secluded hamlet near Oxford, the year 1976. Single mother Ruth Gilmartin has come to pick up her four-year-old son Jochen from his widowed grandmother's house. Sally Gilmartin gives her daughter a manuscript entitled *The Story of Eva Delectorskaya*.

Unknown to her daughter these 28 years, Sally Gilmartin is actually Eva Delectorskaya, a Russian who fled the 1917 communist revolution in Moscow to Shanghai and then made her way with her family to France.

In Paris in 1939, her brother Kolia is assassinated by fascist thugs, leading her to join the British intelligence service.

After training in remote Scotland, rechristened Eve Dalton, she will pass for an upper class English woman for the rest of her life.

Eva's story is alternated with Ruth's.

# A Tale of Two Women



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

After graduating from Oxford, Ruth went to Germany to study for her master's.

There she fell in love with a married German history professor and political activist who fathered her son.

She returned to Oxford much changed, bolder, more aggressive, untroubled by fears or doubts.

She is troubled, however, by her mother's apparent paranoia: she's bought a shotgun, she's constantly scanning the woods with binoculars.

Eva's account continues with her stationing in Ostend, Belgium, shortly before the war. Her small team of propagandists – Actuarial and Accountancy Services or AAS Ltd – work under the man who recruited her, Lucas Romer.

Her eyewitness report of the Prenslo Incident on the Belgium-Germany border, in which a British agent was lured to a meeting and kidnapped, is received well

by London headquarters and the AAS team is dispatched to New York to join in a huge effort by the British Secret Services to draw America into the war.

AAS arranges for a German courier in Brazil to be killed in a motor accident while carrying a map of how Germany plans to divide South America into five countries.

President Roosevelt mentions the map in a speech, prompted by his chief adviser Harry Hopkins who in turn was prompted by his press secretary Mason Harding who had been seduced and blackmailed by Eva Delectorskaya.

She was encouraged in the mission by Romer, who became her lover in London. Whenever they can, they sneak off for weekend trysts but otherwise keep their affair a strict secret.

Then Romer has another job for her: to courier a parcel to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On the train, she spots two FBI agents on her tail and ditches them in Den-

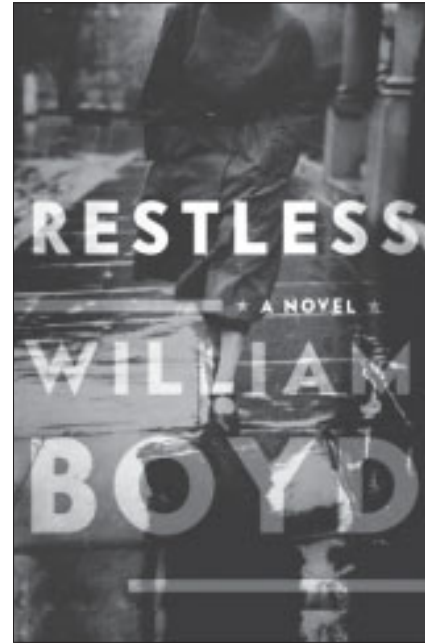
ver. She winds up in a diner in Las Cruces asking herself: what am I doing here?

"She experienced a strange form of inertia, an almost palpable heaviness, as if the world had stopped turning . . . What

particular destiny am I playing out? She felt she could sit on here in this diner in Las Cruces for all eternity – the Indian man would be sweeping the floor, her hamburger would remain half eaten, the thin jazz would continue to play. She allowed the mood to linger, steeping herself in it, finding it oddly calming, this late-afternoon stasis, knowing that whatever she did next would set a new chain of events in motion that would be out of her control. Better to savor these few moments of stillness

where apathy ruled unchallenged."

This would be her last moment of peace. She has been set up and barely survives an assassination attempt. Her revenge, aided by her daughter, would not come until 35 years later. And it is very sweet.



## PHUKET DIARY

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

### Until March 30: Rewind at Watermark Bar & Restaurant

Watermark and Tommy Double T (Soundwaves) hook up once again to bring you more sleeve-rollin', fringe-flickin', tramline shavin', ass-shakin' good times.

Rewind – something new by way of something old taking it back to where it all began.

Every Friday at Watermark we will Rewind to the best sounds of the '70s, '80s and '90s, from the Sex Pistols to the Chemical Brothers. Disco classics? New Romantics? A journey thru New Wave, ska and disco. Duran Duran, Madness, Soul II Soul, Motown, Philly Soul and sooo much more.

Happy Hour 5 pm-7 pm. Rewind 7 pm-midnight. Admission free.

### December 16 and 17: Jazz Royale Festival.

The Jazz Royale Festival – organized to honor HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 79<sup>th</sup> birthday – will be held at Karon Beach.

Among the big names to perform in the show are Kenny G, The Dizzy Gillespie All Star Band and jazz great Ahmad Jamal.

Tickets are priced at 1,500 baht and are available from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office on Thalang Rd, Phuket (Tel: 076-211036), or Thai Ticket Master at Tel: 02-2623456 or online at [thaiticketmaster.com](http://thaiticketmaster.com).

The schedule is as follows:

December 16: James Moody with the Roberta Gambarini Quintet, Georgie Fame, Paquito D'Rivera/Claudio Roditi, Ahmad Jamal and Kenny G.

December 17: Marta Topferova, the Regina Carter Quintet, McCoy Tyner and The Dizzy Gillespie All Star Big Band.

### Starting December 16: Wine Connection's Live Music Series.

Wine Connection's High Season Live Music Series starts again on night, December 16. Live music, a buffet dinner and wine specials. We'll have them just once a month, don't miss out!

Be sure to book ahead. Buffet opens at 7 pm, music starts at 8 pm and goes until midnight. Tickets are 349 baht.

For details see [www.wineconnection.co.th](http://www.wineconnection.co.th) or contact Paul Clark at Tel: 076-282-411 or Email: [gmpuket@wineconnection.com](mailto:gmpuket@wineconnection.com).

December 17: Marta Topferova, the Regina Carter Quintet, McCoy Tyner and The Dizzy Gillespie All Star Big Band.

### December 13 and 20: Peppers Monster Christmas Quiz.

The Peppers Bar, in Cherng Talay, Wednesday night pub quiz landlady's question is now a 6,000-baht prize. If this is not won before the Monster Xmas Quiz on December 20, it will definitely be won on that night as a prize of 7,000 baht.

Entry is free, alone or as a team. Contact Gordon at Tel: 087-1241706 or Email: [peppers@banglaroad.com](mailto:peppers@banglaroad.com)

### December 22: Christmas Carol Service.

Add love, peace and joy to your Christmas this year and join us in singing carols and watching our Christmas show with a difference!

Come together with people from all over the world at Phuket Christian Centre, 74/123 Phunphon Rd, Phuket City, on December 22, at 7:30 pm (Traditional Carol Service) and December 24 at 10:30 am (Christmas Celebration Service).

For more information contact Jill Robson at Tel: 076-246380 or Email: [bell\\_jidapha@yahoo.com](mailto:bell_jidapha@yahoo.com)

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**The Phuket Gazette**  
- Since 1994 -

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## Necessary illegals

Earlier this month 87 Burmese discovered in a hulk off Koh Racha Yai were brought in to Chalong Police Station, charged with illegally entering the country, and trucked to Ranong to be marched back across the border. A fine catch for an Immigration officer looking to bulk up his resume.

Police alleged that the floating border runners were bound for work in Phuket's fishing industry, which is hardly surprising as the port area is known for its sheer number of Burmese workers and the stream of notorious murders that take place there.

The Burmese have long been a source of cheap labor in Phuket, filling large segments of the job market that are of little-to-no interest to Thais – well, at least not at the wages on offer.

Yet for some reason the Koreans accused of working illegally as tour guides seem to be immune to the same summary proceedings that so often befall the Burmese. Governor Niran Kalayanamit, following the policies of several of his predecessors, opines that there's little a governor can do about the Koreans as they have a right to apply for work permits.

Does this mean that the same right should apply to the hapless Burmese off Koh Racha? If so, and bearing in mind they'd not yet even made it to port to apply for jobs, it seems they were unlucky indeed to have been handed a "no vacancy" notice so quickly.

The "double standard" in enforcement policies makes us wonder why, if rules are to be bent, they are not uniformly bent to the host nation's benefit.

Foreign investors large and small have for years circumvented Thai law by using nominees to achieve effective ownership over their businesses, thereby enabling massive capital inflows that could not have occurred were the "nominee route" not available.

It seems that almost everyone, and particularly the national government at senior level, acknowledges the benefit to foreign investor and host nation alike. And so the law is allowed to languish in impotence.

So why not benefit more openly from the Burmese as well? The booming construction industry has for years been fueled by Burmese labor. Few would argue that this has not benefited Thai property owners, local and foreign developers, buyers, Thai professionals in the job market, and, of course, Thailand itself in terms of GNP and Gross National Happiness. It has all happened because of "pragmatism", or enlightened self (national) interest, in law enforcement.

So why should the fishing industry not benefit from the same? Perhaps the double standard should be allowed to flourish there as well, but only for violations of the labor law – not for murder.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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## Letters

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

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

### Power to the PPEA

I have an office located in Patong. The other day the electricity company came by our office to remove the electricity meter due to what they claimed was an unpaid bill of 8,500 baht.

I looked through our paid bills and found a slip of the original invoice that was signed and dated in handwriting. I found that strange because that is not the normal way a receipt of a paid invoice is done.

I sent a staff member to the electricity company office in Patong to get a clarification of this matter.

The manager told us that it was no problem and they would not need to remove the electricity meter from our office.

Here is what the manager from the electricity company said about this matter: during a period of three months, one of their staff had been putting money into his/her own pocket by claiming that the computer system was down, signing the original invoice by hand and receiving the cash settlement.

Amazing!

Petter  
Patong

real chips, mushy peas, pickled onions and baked beans. Down it went, along with a couple more beers, and sent me to the land of contentment. I'm definitely going back and I must try the cottage pie.

I've been living in Phuket now for just over a year and I love Thai food, which I eat most days of the week. But every now and then, like most expats, I crave the food I grew up with.

So I would like to say a big thanks to your snout, and keep up the good work.

Mike Salans  
Phuket

### Rap, roads and ruckus rant

I thoroughly enjoyed the volleyball tournament, of which you were a sponsor. Except for one thing – the music. Do we really need to hear such degrading and obscene lyrics every other set? My wife was appalled.

On the Friday there were many young Thai groups there, nine- to 12-year-olds doing their routines and they could hear this rap. It got so bad that about 4 pm the Chinese team that was trying to play stopped the match and asked the officials to turn down the music.

Why would you have rap at an event such as this? It presents an awful image of Phuket to the spectators from around the world.

At next year's preliminary meetings I hope that someone brings this up and changes the music for next year.

Next on my list is one-way roads: the beach road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd at Patong. Is no one thinking about what this is going to do?

It's going to dump all the commercial traffic from south of the island – Karon, Kata, Rawai and Chalong – onto the beach road, which is already so overcrowded with tuk-tuks, buses, motorbike and car rentals, and tourists walking everywhere.

On top of all that, it's going to dump everyone who lives on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd unnecessarily onto the beach road, when all they wanted to do was go three blocks the other way now they will have to go 10 kilometers to get there.

Then you dump all of Nanai Rd onto the beach road when drivers are trying to get to somewhere on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. For example, let's say you live near the Sea Sun Sand Hotel and you want to go to Jungceylon, you will now have to go down to the narrow crossroad, back up the beach road (and after 5 pm Soi Bangla will be closed), past Soi Bangla to the next road and back down Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, about 10km.

I'm glad it's a temporary proposal. If it works I'll be amazed. I don't know who came up with this proposal but of course one group will benefit greatly from this project, and I will leave that to your imagination.

Next, the advertising trucks. Before it was only boxing stadiums, but now we have the movie theaters doing it and other businesses as well. A new law needs to be passed quickly about advertising trucks or there will be hundreds out there making the streets a nightmare.

Last but not least is the installation of surveillance cameras all over Phuket, taking everyone's picture hundreds of times per day at every corner. It's just another

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.



# Tough time for Thai guides

**A**t a meeting at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on October 27, Suwalai Pinradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 office, offered a solution to the problem of Koreans working illegally as tour guides in Phuket to Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rathasima, Thai Ambassador to Korea Vasin Teeravechyan and other officials.

For the past two years K. Suwalai has supported issuing work permits to Koreans so they can work in Phuket as interpreters, which has meant less work for Thai nationals working as Korean-speaking tour guides.

The Thailand Professional Guide Union (PGU) and the Phuket Professional Guide Association (PGA) disagree with this and have suggested other ways to solve the problem. On November 30 a group of tour guides and travel agents marched to Phuket Provincial Hall to demonstrate their frustration with the TAT.

There are now around 200 Thai Korean-speaking guides in Phuket, but most of them don't have work. Some of them are fed up. They can speak Korean but don't have work to support themselves, which is disheartening, so they do not want to work as Korean-speaking tour guides.

Since 1998 the PGA has held Korean-language courses for Thais who want to be tour guides for Koreans. All the tour guides who have completed our Korean-language courses have already passed the TAT's English course and have guide permits issued to them from the TAT Southern Region 4 office.

We have developed two Korean-language courses: 180 hours and 80 hours. Some years we hold both courses. At first many people were interested in joining, but now that Thai Korean-speaking guides don't have jobs, fewer guides are taking the courses because they know it is useless if there isn't work to support them.

I don't understand why for more than 10 years Thai Korean-

## FIRST PERSON

**P**anomphol Thumma-chartniyom, President of the Phuket Professional Guide Association (PGA) and Vice-President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, says that the Thailand Professional Guide Union (PGU) and the PGA have complained of Phuket not having enough Korean-speaking tour guides for more than 10 years.

Here she explains her take on the problem, and offers a few solutions.



speaking tour guides have had such little work although they can speak Korean. Or why other guides, such as Chinese-speaking guides, Russian-speaking guides and so on, have enough work to support themselves but Thai Korean-speaking guides don't.

The TAT Southern Region 4 office and Korean tourism operators say that Thai Korean-speaking guides cannot speak Korean. Many other languages are more difficult to speak than Korean, and there are guides who can speak those languages. It doesn't make sense to say that Thai Korean-speaking guides cannot speak Korean.

TAT region 4 often says there are not enough Thai Korean-speaking guides in Phuket, but why don't they say that Korean tourism entrepreneurs don't give Thai Korean-speaking guides a chance to work. This is one reason we have made de-

mands for more than 10 years in related sections but TAT Region 4 still says that only about 20 Thai guides can speak Korean.

I understand that the TAT is responsible for bringing as many tourists to Phuket as they can. The TAT, like a salesman, has to offer and sell tourism to tourists to make them come to Phuket or Thailand.

I think TAT should tell the PGA or governmental tourism organizations in Thailand how many Korean tourists are expected to come to Phuket or Thailand in the next year.

An announcement like that would give Thai guides time to prepare so they can serve that number of tourists. But TAT doesn't do that; they just suddenly announce when the tourists are here that there aren't enough Thai Korean-speaking guides.

The TAT has tour guide training courses, but some of the guides who complete the courses

aren't quality guides because some courses are only a week or two long. But the guides who complete the courses still get a certificate for completing the course. Do you think those people are quality guides? I don't think so.

We want quality tourists, not quantity. I mean tourists who come to Phuket or Thailand and spend money in local areas, use Thai guides and enjoy services such as spas, restaurants and accommodations. I think this type of tourist can boost the income generated in Phuket – and even Thailand – but if tourists use services provided by foreigners, such as using a Korean tour guide instead of a Thai Korean-speaking guide, this will reduce our income-making potential.

All Korean guides working in Phuket do not have permits [issued by the TAT] to work as tour guides. They come to Phuket on a tourist visa but in fact they come

to work. Thailand does not allow citizens of other countries to work as tour guides. To be a tour guide in Thailand you must be Thai. If people break this law they are supposed to be deported, but Korean guides continue to work in Phuket.

Illegal tour guides come to Phuket or Thailand and their histories have not been checked. Most of them come here to work. Some of them have a criminal record. They bring nothing but they benefit from Thailand.

I don't know if the local TAT office is ignoring this problem or not, but whenever we talk about this problem they act as if they don't hear us.

Just last night I saw a quote from the Region 4 office in a local newspaper saying that a lot of Korean tourists are coming to Phuket now and that there are not enough Thai Korean-speaking guides to support them, so we have to use Korean interpreters.

Some tourism businesses use illegal Korean tour guides. I guess there are nearly 1,000 of them in Phuket. Some guides who have passed language courses to get their tour guide certificate can only find work as a "sitting guide", who just sit on the bus and don't say anything.

I think the way to solve all these problems is for the TAT to order tourism companies to employ Thai guides who have the right permits. At the moment they employ Thai guides, but employ them as sitting guides only.

If the TAT Southern Region office supports the Thai Korean-speaking guides, it will motivate other guides to learn Korean because there will be work for them. But also Phuket Immigration should carefully check the background of Koreans before allow them to come to Phuket.

We are not prejudice against Koreans. I know that some Koreans are good and, some are not. But if bad people come do this, it is bad for Thailand. However, some Korean companies are good and we appreciate and welcome them to live in here.

case of privacy being taken away in the name of everything else. It seems to me the island governing group is trying to run tourism away rather than attract it.

You can call it by any other name, but to me it's all crap, and not the Thai version of the word either.

Mr and Mrs Aggravated  
Karon Beach

## Cultural conundrum

Google "Phuket museum" and the results you are likely to encounter are the Thalang National Museum, the Phuket Sea Shell Museum and the esteemed lobby of the Thavorn Hotel. Now search for "Phuket resort," "Phuket bar" or "Phuket beach".

To little surprise, the results are lopsided.

Now it's clear that Phuket has a long and interesting history, with many wats and temples serving as reminders, but for the average tourist visiting the island, cultural sites are few and far between.

Where are our art museums? Where are our theaters full of shadow plays and traditional dances? In their places we have copy-artist painters and little girls in traditional dress selling noisy trinkets on Soi Bangla.

This island is well known for its vibrant nightlife and beautiful, albeit somewhat polluted, beaches.

However, the TAT and others have said that they are now

## Letters

aiming for a family-friendly atmosphere in many of Phuket's tourist areas. What better way to do that than to incorporate some cultural sites among the hedonistic delights?

All it would take is a few converted buildings away from the noise of the discos to draw more discerning and perhaps more wealthy tourists to the region.

There is no reason to suppose we will rival the Louvre or Grand Ole Opry, but it's bound to turn a few heads.

Steven Clevins  
Kata

## Thanks for checking the facts

To my dismay, I read in several newspapers, including *People's Daily Online*, that a British man drowned in the Laguna triathlon. As a regular reader I also checked your website, which instead reported that he had suffered a heart attack.

As I am a triathlon participant (although I was forced to sit out this year's event due to injury), it piqued my interest.

Although the unfortunate result is the same, there is a world of difference between the causes.

To me, a drowning in a triathlon usually means poor management or oversight as the rac-

ers enter the water. With so many people it is sometimes easy to overlook a struggling swimmer and lose sight entirely as he falls beneath the waves.

But a heart attack, on the other hand, is very hard to prevent, let alone stop once it has begun.

So I called the race organizers and found out that indeed, the *Gazette's* reporting was accurate. The man suffered a heart attack while he was in the water, and did not suffocate under the waves.

Thank you for getting it right, even when the rest of the papers relied on inaccurate information.

Jennifer Rose  
Thalang



# Local veterinary clinics revisited

Well over two years ago, in response to a reader's query, I gave a list of all recognized veterinary surgeries in Phuket and their opening hours.

Since that time there have been many changes, so I thought it was time for an update.

Below you will find a list of every practice that I know of on Phuket that is operated by qualified vets. This is an important point, because it is quite legal to open a veterinary clinic here without being fully qualified, and such clinics do exist.

I have asked each practice to quote me for a standard surgical procedure, (in this case the sterilizing of a female dog); it is noticeable that fees charged vary considerably. It is probably fair to say that the costs quoted reflect the overall pricing policy of that clinic.

Why the big differences? While the desire of some clinics to make bigger profits than others is clearly a factor, readers should be aware that while some clinics are quite simple, and have little more than basic equipment, others have invested heavily in creating modern practices and buying the latest equipment. Others have also invested in additional staff as well, so clearly their overheads are higher. However, that is not the whole story, as the cheapest clinic on the island uses gas anesthesia, while some of the pricier ones do not.

Nearly every vet has quoted more than one price. The lower price is based on a dog weighing 10 kilograms or less, the higher on a dog weighing about 25kg. This is fair as the heavier the dog, the more anesthetic is required.

I have also listed where a clinic has X-ray facilities and provides gas anesthesia. Gas anesthesia has only appeared recently in Thailand and requires a substantial investment. Gas anesthesia is regarded as much safer, with faster recovery. I can vouch for this, having just had a young male dog sterilized under gas at the Thalang clinic. Three hours after surgery he was running on the beach as if nothing had happened.

There is still no 24-hour emergency vet service on Phuket, although as I mentioned in the previous article, many vets will give clients their mobile numbers and say they will respond out of hours to genuine emergencies.

I would also recommend, particularly in clinics open seven days a week where there is only one vet, that you call before visiting to ensure the vet is there.

## Talang Veterinary Clinic.

Traveling north on the airport road, turn left at Thalang lights, then take the first right by the market. Clinic is situated 200 meters on the right hand side. Recently expanded and modernized.  
Tel: 086-6822557  
Opening hours: 9 am-9 pm Mon-Fri, 9-5 pm Sat and Sun

Number of vets: 1  
X-ray: yes. Gas: yes  
Cost of surgery: 600-1200 baht

## Cherng Thalay Clinic

On Soi Cherng Thalay 10. A branch of the Thalang Clinic.

Tel: 081-3406127  
Opening hours: 8:30 am – 8 pm Mon – Sat, closed Sun  
Number of vets: 1  
X-ray: no. Gas: no  
Cost of surgery: 600-1200 baht

## Tanut Clinic

At 23/75 Prachautit Rd, Samkong. Turn left at the new lights just past Tesco's side entrance. Small clinic 50m on the right.  
Tel: 081-8099010  
Opening hours: 9:30 am – 8 pm Mon – Sat, 9:30 am – 1 pm Sun  
Number of vets: 1  
X-ray: no. Gas: no  
Cost of surgery: 800-1800 baht

## Matta Clinic

Yaowarat Rd, virtually opposite Vachira

Hospital.

Long-established clinic.

Tel: 076-237385

Opening hours: 9 am – 7 pm Thur – Mon, closed Tue and Wed

Number of vets: 1

X-ray: yes. Gas: no

Cost of surgery: 800–1500 baht

## Raksat Animal Hospital

Large modern clinic on Mae Luan Rd near Khao Rang Intersection.

Tel: 076-211549

Opening hours 9 am – midnight, Mon – Sun

Number of vets: 4

X-ray: yes. Gas: yes

Cost of surgery: 800–2000 baht.

## Dr Manosh

At 20/6 Komarapat Rd. Turn left at lights at Vachira Hospital coming from Tesco. Approximately 400m on right.

Tel: 076-236078, 076-236341

Opening hours: 9 am – 7 pm, Mon – Sun

Number of vets: 1

X-ray: yes. Gas: no

Cost of surgery: 1500 baht.

## Patong Clinic

On Phra Barami Rd about 200m east of the beach road on the right hand side. A branch of Raksat Animal Hospital.

Tel: 076-340773

Opening hours: 10 am – 9 pm, Mon – Sat, closed Sun

Number of vets: 1

X-ray: no. Gas: no

Cost of surgery: 1200–1800 baht.

## Phuket Animal Hospital

On Chao West Fa Rd, next door to Phrompan supermarket. Long-established clinic.

Tel: 076-222362

Opening hours: 9 am – 7:30 pm, Mon – Sat, 9 am – 2:30 pm Sun

Number of vets: 3

X-ray: yes. Gas: no

Cost of surgery: 800-1200 baht.

## Ao Chalong Vet Clinic

On Chao Fa West Rd on right hand side just after Wat Chalong and PTT station. Very modern clinic.

Tel: 081-8953277

Opening hours: 9:30 am – 8 pm Mon – Sat, 9:30 am – 2 pm Sun

Number of vets: 3

X-ray: yes. Gas: yes

Cost of surgery: 1200–1800 baht.

## Chalong Clinic

Just past Chalong Circle on the Rawai road; a branch of Raksat Animal Hospital. Tel: 076-281232

Opening hours: 9 am – 8 pm Mon – Sat, closed Sun

Number of vets: 1

X-ray: no. Gas: no

Cost of surgery: 800–2000 baht.

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): If you have been slow off the mark to plan for the holiday season you stand a good chance of being left alone under the mistletoe. Ask a Leo friend what they'll be doing and you will be invited to join in. If it's your birthday this week, you can expect to profit from the stars' generosity in the coming year. The number 7 could bring good luck this Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): You will be disappointed by the lack of cooperation this week. A Virgo, in particular, is unlikely to meet their obligation with you. This is a good time to practice being more flexible as your high standards can be difficult for others to live up to. Where personal relationships are concerned, if you are single, you can look forward to a romantic encounter this Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Try as you may, it will be impossible to determine the cause of someone's odd behavior this weekend. What's at the root of this will not be unearthed for a while, so focus your attention elsewhere in the meantime. Invest cautiously; Cancer is about to come up with a scheme that is purely pie in the sky. Wear pastel colors to mellow your mood.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you haven't done your Christmas shopping yet you will receive an invitation to go bargain hunting this weekend. If you thought you could pretend that Santa doesn't exist, think again. Someone close to you has other ideas. A difference of opinion with Taurus on Tuesday leaves you gasping with frustration. The number nine can bring luck this weekend.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your good intentions to maintain an exercise regime and healthier eating plan are about to be put to the test. Many of you will start celebrating Christmas early as surprise visitors appear on the horizon. Romance with a Gemini is looking more promising by the minute, but you shouldn't count on commitment too quickly. A mislaid item causes panic on Wednesday; trace your tracks back carefully and you will see it.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Your fraught mood early in the week could easily cause a misunderstanding. If you have been galloping around trying to get everything done at top tempo, you need to sit back a while. Your good intentions are not appreciated by everyone and there is no valid reason not to put yourself first for a change. Wear a piece of jade to encourage a wiser perspective.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your tendency to focus firmly on the big picture is a drawback to progress. If you can slow down and examine the boring but essential details, you will have the best chance of success. This advice should apply to all areas of your life; on a romantic level, your partner will appreciate your taking time to smell the frangipani. Next Thursday is the most auspicious day to chase unpaid debts due from a Cancerian.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Your usual relaxed approach to doing business won't work as well with an ongoing agreement. The person concerned expects you to shape up to their demands, or there's a good chance they'll be shipping out of the deal. The sandal's on the other foot when an Arian who recently rejected your advances decides that they would like to get together after all. Money is tight later in the week due to an unexpected meeting.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your lazy nature becomes a bone of contention this week. If you know you haven't been pulling your weight at work or at home, you should take a realistic look at how often you're to be found doing nothing. The stars are smiling on your efforts to impress a certain Capricorn – a hot date should take place this weekend. The color tangerine helps release dormant energy.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You attempt to over-dramatize a minor matter this weekend and you will need to summon all your patience to bring this situation down to the molehill it really is. A magnetic attraction keeps you spellbound and you find it difficult to think of anything else. Your financial luck is boosted by the stars until the end of this month. Wear an onyx stone to help stay grounded.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You won't like all that you hear this weekend, but are advised to make allowances for the unreliable island grapevine. If you want to get to the truth, try asking a straight-talking Capricorn. Your romantic bubble could be burst by your partner's jealous streak. Don't stir the pot by talking about your past relationships. An interesting meeting on Tuesday makes up for last month's business letdown. Number 8 may be lucky on Monday.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Your ability to be as quick as lightning will be useful this weekend. Watch out for a rare opportunity to boost your financial status on Saturday. A Virgo proves to be helpful when you have a tricky problem on Wednesday; take care to express your gratitude appropriately. Romance is well-starred for the rest of this month, especially for those who have despaired of meeting their soul mate.



By Top Dog

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# IT'S A DRUNK, IT'S A SLOB, IT'S... X-PAT!

My friend Fardley Nerdwell wants to promote expats as cult figures. "You know, like cowboys," he elaborated. "Star trekkers. Kung fu fighters."

I was doubtful. "None of the expats I know could qualify as cult figures," I said.

"That is because of the squalid nature of your acquaintances," Fardley rejoined, a bit testily. "The only expats you know are pathetic old broken-down drunks. But the average expat has an excellent chance of becoming a cult figure among the pop-idol worshipers and hero-seekers of the world."

"Think of what a compelling figure the expat is! Here is a modern nomad: a man who lives anywhere, yet belongs nowhere; an enigmatic figure who roams the earth, settling down wherever the fickle winds of fate may drop him; a rootless man of infinite adaptability."

"In that case, some of the pathetic old broken-down drunks I know might qualify after all," I suggested.

"Here's a potential hero for a TV mini-series. Call him Xavier Patrick—hence his nickname, and the name of the series: X-Pat."

"He embodies the noble expatriate, a tragicomic anti-hero who straddles two cultures. In the words of the poet Robert W. Service, he's one of 'the men who don't fit in.'"

"He's been in Asia so long his blood contains 2% soy sauce; and his eyes, in the immortal words of the Duke of Edinburgh, are getting 'all slitty-looking.' He knows Thai kickboxing, Chinese calligraphy and Ayurvedic medicine, and speaks three languages fluently."

"Most of the expats you know don't even speak one language fluently," Fardley interrupted.

"Pish! Tush! Don't be a cynic," I scolded him, warming to my theme. "This is an ideal expat we're talking about here. He bestrides two cultures, hence he is a conflicted individual."

"His own cultural norms are always at war with the norms of his adopted land. If he were to encounter Pol Pot in the jungle, he wouldn't know whether to shoot him dead or say 'mai pen rai.'"



"When he meets somebody, he doesn't know whether to shake hands or wai. In any restaurant, he has to struggle with his inner demons before he can decide whether to order a steak or tom yam kung."

"Yet his ambivalence is part of his charismatic appeal."

"Actually, local authors like Christopher G. Moore have already apotheosized the expat," Fardley mused. "Look at Vinnie Calvino, the legendary Bangkok

expat and private eye. He's already a cult figure."

"I've always wondered how Vinnie Calvino manages to get a work permit," I remarked. "Do they give work permits to foreign detectives in Thailand?"

"Vinnie must have connections," Fardley said. "The ideal expat cult figure knows the ropes of living in a foreign culture. He negotiates the byzantine intricacies of Oriental bureaucracy with the skilled ease of a mandarin."

"He snacks on grasshoppers, beetles and larvae with insouciant aplomb. He welcomes insufferably hot weather, rejoices in horrendous traffic jams and de-

lights in inhaling a rich blend of death-dealing carcinogens from the polluted air."

"He contemplates with stoic detachment the necessity of dragging his wasted body out of bed in the morning with a Force-Ten hangover and staggering

down to Immigration to sign in every 90 days."

"When the maid doesn't show up for a week, he surveys the wasteland of dirty laundry that engulfs his apartment with the imperturbability of a Buddhist saint."

"He does not flinch from impenetrable language problems and incomprehensible customs; he faces every rip-off, scam and con game with a rueful smile."

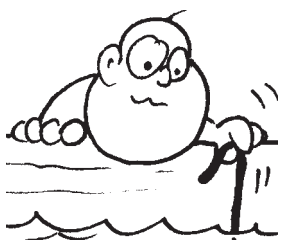
"Truly a Renaissance Man," I murmured. "Let's make him an English teacher."

"No!" Fardley protested. "He has to be a detective or a spy. Something mysterious and romantic. There's no adventure to being an English teacher."

"Ah, you're wrong," I retorted. "What could be more thrilling than battling the evils of native-language interference? What war is more worth fighting than the war against the mispronunciation 'nowsaday'? What hero is greater than that noble English teacher who finally succeeds, after Herculean struggle, in getting a student to pronounce a final 's'? You'll find more expats teaching English than doing anything else in Thailand. If an expat is going to be a cult figure, he's got to be a teacher."

"Okay," Fardley conceded. "With a little detective work and spying on the side."

S. Tsow can be flamed at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com), except when he's trying to promote expat English teachers as cult figures.



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# WinXP means no more WinDVD

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

**Q** Your article on WinDVD in the *Phuket Gazette* was just what I needed, as ever since my operating system was changed from Windows 98SE to XP I have not been able to watch a DVD, although I have a DVD optical drive.

When I try to play one, I get a message saying I need a decoder so I think WinDVD is the solution. The problem is that when I tried to download the free copy it said it would take eight hours and 36 minutes on my slow dial-up connection.

Today I went looking for the program at the PC shops at Big C. None of the shops had it so my question is: do you know where it is available in Phuket? Many thanks for any advice you can offer, including any alternatives. One shop wanted to sell me a DVD drive complete with Nero software.

RB

**A** Buying a new DVD drive is overkill. Although Nero is a good package, if you already have a DVD drive there's no reason to buy a new one.

As far as the download speed – if your computer has a wireless card, when you have big files to download you ought to go somewhere with a fast connection – we have free fast connections at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, but many Internet shops will hook you up for a modest price.

Go in the morning, when everything works much faster. In fact, if you get on a fast line, you can download the WinDVD program from [www.intervideo.com](http://www.intervideo.com).

A free 14-day trial is available and the full WinDVD 8 Gold package is on sale for US\$39.95.

**Q** I tried to send a selection of piano music to my old pi-



**If upgrading to Windows XP means that your version of WinDVD no longer works, just download a fresh version – but it might cost you.**

ano teacher with a real-time playing length of about 10 minutes. It took me two hours to upload it only to get a message that it could not be sent unless it was broken down into fragments of 256kb or less.

Instructions on how to do this were given. I set the limit at 210kb but now cannot remember how I did it.

Now if I try to send a joke that has four or five photos it gets broken into parts that the recipient cannot decipher. I would like to find the place I selected 210kb and un-check it so my sent mail will go complete. Any ideas?

RB

**A** As far as breaking a message into chunks... I've always

had problems with that. You can't even do it in later versions of Outlook.

Here are the instructions for earlier versions. Just follow these instructions and un-check the "Break Apart Messages Larger Than" box.

To break apart large messages when you send them in Outlook 2000 or Outlook Express: (This procedure only works if the recipient of the message uses Microsoft Outlook 98 or later)

1. On the Tools menu, click Accounts.
2. Click the Mail tab.
3. In the Account box, click the account you want to change.

## ARE YOU HOT?

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**If you're hot – and free – just drop Woody an email at: [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com)**

4. Click Properties, and then click the Advanced tab.

– but if it gets in your way, get rid of it.

5. Select "Break apart messages larger than" check box, and enter a number in the box.

**Q** I have been using computers a long time and am still stuck on some old MS DOS programs. Is there an easy way I can run them on a Win XP computer?

BS

However, the only real solution for sending large files is to get hooked up to a faster line.

**Q** I recently bought a Dell 510 that came with a lot of software that I don't intend to use. One of the programs is Trend Micro PC-cillin Internet Security, which appears to only scan programs for viruses.

I had a Norton AV subscription on my old PC and re-downloaded it from Symantec to my new one. The problem is that PC-cillin occasionally won't let me access email and I have to exit that program to read my mail. Do I really need this program as I have the XP firewall and the Norton AV?

DH

**A** If you have Norton and XP's firewall is enabled, you don't need Trend PC-cillin. It is good to have a second anti-virus program – and the outbound firewall in PC-cillin is worthwhile

**A** Running old DOS programs shouldn't pose a problem. Try copying the .EXE file (and supporting files) to a folder. Right-click on your desktop, choose New | Shortcut, and follow the steps to create a shortcut to the EXE file. Double-click on the shortcut, and your program should run.

Admittedly, you may have problems with programs that do weird things to, for instance, your video mode. But most DOS programs run without a hitch.

Currently, Woody Leonhard ([woody@khunwoody.com](mailto:woody@khunwoody.com), [www.askwoody.com](http://www.askwoody.com)) spends all of his waking hours slaving away on two new Windows books, *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies*, and *Windows Vista Time-saving Techniques For Dummies*. They should be available worldwide in January.

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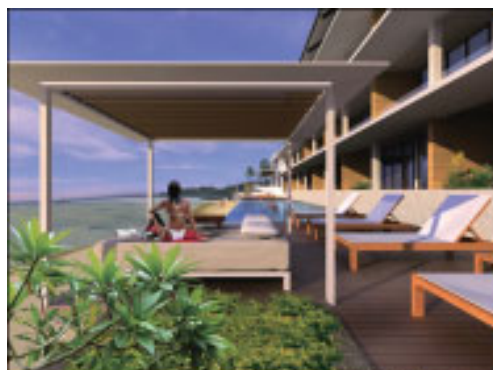
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## ON THE MOVE

Indigo Pearl, Nai Yang, has announced the appointment of **Samran Chaisornsarayuth** from Chiang Mai as Director of Human Resources.

He has an MBA in international business from Pacific States University, Los Angeles, and has held similar positions in a number of luxury resorts in Thailand such as Executive Assistant Manager of Anantara Resort & Spa, Human Resources Director of Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel in Phuket and Personal & Training Manager of Holiday Inn, Phuket. Before moving to Indigo Pearl he was the Operation Logistic Manager of the Four Seasons Golden Triangle Tented Camp, Chiang Rai.



**Nicole Scheidegger**, 30, from Switzerland, has been promoted to Customer Relations Manager at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort. She has a diploma in teaching from Baldegg Institute in Lucerne, Switzerland.

She speaks fluent German, English and Italian. Before her promotion she was Katathani's Chief of Service Center for two years.



**Marco Osterwalder**, 30, from Switzerland, has been appointed Food and Beverage Manager of Baan Yin Dee, Patong. He holds a degree in economics from University Lucerne, Switzerland and a degree in hospitality management from the Belvoirpark Swiss Hotel Management School in Switzerland.

His work experience includes more than 12 years in hotels and restaurants in Europe and Thailand. Before moving to Baan Yin Dee he was the Food and Beverage Executive Assistant Manager at Blue Lagoon, Chaweng Beach, and the Beachcomber Hotel in Koh Samui for a year.



# Auto dealer SEC opens in Phuket

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET CITY: SEC Group Co Ltd last month inked a deal with local Volvo and Land Rover dealer Life Style Auto Co Ltd to open an SEC dealership next to Muang Mai Motors on Thepkasatri Rd in January.

The move is SEC's first venture in Phuket, adding to its four dealerships in Bangkok and others in Khon Kaen, Hua Hin and Prachuap Khiri Khan. Pre-empting the showroom's opening has been a campaign of mini-car shows at Central Festival Phuket and the Tesco-Lotus supercenter in November.

Another promotional show is planned to be held at the new Jungceylon complex in Patong from December 20 to 29.

The Phuket dealership is SEC's first move in targeting tourism centers outside the capital. Dealerships in Chiang Mai and Chon Buri are planned for



SEC recently displayed a couple of shiny Lexus cars in the Tesco-Lotus mall.

the future, said Life Style Auto Sales and Marketing Manager Pongnarin Srisombut, who is

also responsible for Sales and Marketing at the SEC Phuket dealership.

"In the tourism cities [in Thailand] people have quite high incomes, so SEC Group believes that people who live in those cities have enough money to buy premium cars," he said.

In particular, K. Pongnarin explained, SEC is looking to attract car buyers who are willing to travel to Bangkok to acquire the cars they want, or have independent agents source the cars for them.

"There are a lot of customers from Phuket and nearby provinces who come to Bangkok to buy premium cars. Each year SEC Group in Bangkok and other premium car sales agents sell hundreds of premium cars to customers from Phuket and other southern provinces," K. Pongnarin said.

"This is the main reason that SEC Group wants to open a dealership in Phuket. SEC Group con-

tacted Life Style Auto to form a joint venture in order to ensure quality after-sales service for their customers.

"The 16-person after-sales service team is currently being trained in Bangkok," he added.

To tap that market, SEC Phuket will be offering a select portfolio of makes and models previously not available on the island. Initially, SEC Phuket will have a total of 52 models available on list, but will carry a separate catalog of cars costing 20 million baht or more, namely Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz and BMW models, that can be sourced from SEC dealers in Bangkok.

K. Pongnarin estimated that SEC Group's annual income is around 3 billion baht from selling premium cars alone. The group was enjoying annual car sales of more than 3,000 units in the years before the tsunami. This year sales have slumped to about 1,400 cars so far.

However, he added, SEC expects to sell at least 50 cars in Phuket next year.

K. Pongnarin said, "The benefits of SEC Group opening in Phuket are that it created jobs, and customers who want to buy premium cars won't have to travel to Bangkok any more."

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Type	Nov 2004	Nov 2005	Nov 2006
Companies registered	104	117	108
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Companies restructured	340	306	364
Partnerships registered	19	26	62
Partnerships deregistered	3	14	7
Partnerships changed	44	32	37

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office



# Greedy speculation will not hold the US dollar down

Foreign exchange markets can be one of the most difficult areas in which to predict trends, and it was merely a matter of time before the US dollar came under pressure. America is running a vast current account deficit, accounting for 6% to 7% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The International Monetary Fund has for decades warned that a current account deficit exceeding 3% of GDP for an extended period of time would put any economy at risk.

The first signs of real trouble emerged in the first quarter of 2005, when heavy speculation pushed the US dollar down against many other currencies. However, the US economic situation at that time was very different. The US Federal Reserve was increasing interest rates – a positive sign for any currency. In early 2005, pressure eased against the dollar, and as interest rates climbed, the dollar was able to recover.

The fall of the dollar in the last quarter of 2006 has coincided with a continued massive current account deficit. Interest rates have apparently peaked and the economy is slowing.

Oil prices have fallen, which has helped reduce inflationary pressures in the US. Combined with an economic slowdown, this has made it more likely that US interest rates will either stabilize or even fall in coming months.

All these factors combine to make the US dollar vulnerable.

Across the pond the situation is very different. It appears that the European Central Bank



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

is still in an interest-rate-increase cycle and economic growth appears to be improving. Even the UK is still showing fairly robust growth and the Bank of England recently raised interest rates.

Any yachting is familiar with an old definition of a yacht being “a hole in the sea that you fill with money”. A current account deficit is also a hole that has to be filled – with foreign money.

It would help America if it had significant domestic savings, but it does not. In general, the corporate sector has healthy balance sheets with significant cash on hand, while the average consumer is under a mountain of debt. The latter outweighs the former as individual consumers account for 66% to 70% of the economy.

Ideally, this would be of little concern as the dollar weakened against most other major currencies – imports would slow, exports would increase and the trade deficit, which is the largest component of the US current account deficit, would move in a favorable direction.

However, the world is not

ideal. China, for example, does not have a convertible currency as it states that it is too early in its economic development to allow this to happen. The yuan has appreciated from a fixed exchange rate of 8.28 some 15 months ago to around 7.82 at the beginning of December.

The Americans are trying to allow for greater and more rapid appreciation from China. China is cooperating, to an extent, but national interest comes first. China's economy must maintain its rapid growth to avoid social problems and a “cheap” currency – although heavily undervalued – is an easy route.

China has adopted a creditor's mentality regarding the US. A large part of its trillion dollars in foreign exchange reserves is invested in US bonds. This allows China to say that the yuan is not undervalued but the US dollar is overvalued.

China does not want its currency to strengthen rapidly; this would make it vulnerable to competition in exports to Vietnam, India and other competitors, mostly in Asia.

Even Thailand is feeling the impact of the rising baht, and the Bank of Thailand has accused foreign financial institutions of colluding with Thai banks in speculating. In 1997, foreigners were blamed for speculation that forced down the baht. Now they are accused of the opposite.

The reality is that when a situation, in this case the US dollar, becomes a target, speculation runs rife. American politicians also bear responsibility, at least in

part, for this situation.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which came about because of corporate malfeasance in the US (the collapse of ENRON), was designed to make US-listed companies act more responsibly.

The problem is that complying with this legislation requires an huge amount of time and expense – a classic case of over-regulation. The reaction of many smaller firms has been to “de-list” and become private companies.

Fewer US companies are willing to list their shares on any US stock exchange – and if they have chosen to list, the most popular choice has been London.

Just when America needs to increase foreign investment in its

domestic markets, over-regulation is having the opposite effect, as are strict immigration procedures that are affecting tourism.

But everything has its price and the dollar can fall only so far. At some stage it will rebound sharply. To speculate in currency markets is always dangerous, especially when the pendulum has swung too far. Greed must be combined with a healthy dose of fear to ensure survival.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.*

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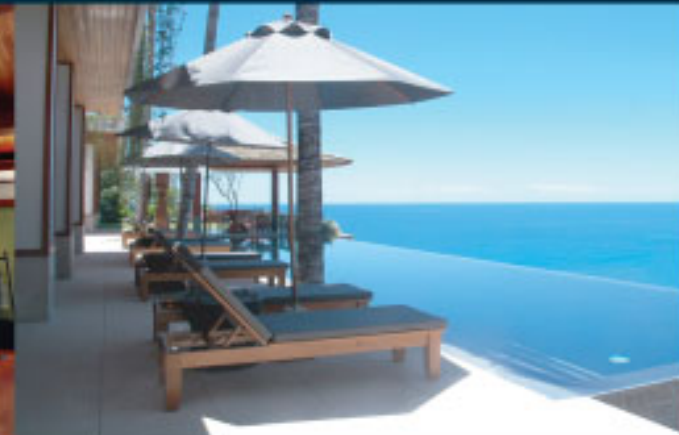
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# Local boy Suwat wins Kathu mini-marathon

By Supanun Supawong

KATHU: Local runner Suwat Phaibul, representing Cherg Talay Club, took first place in the 2006 Kathu Mini Marathon on December 10. A total of about 800 runners hailing from Phuket, Phang Nga and Surat Thani took part in the day of races.

The competition was divided into three race categories: 13 kilometers for runners 15 years old and older, a 6km race for runners 6 to 15 years old, and a 2km race for runners younger than 6.

Suwat took home a trophy, a medal and 3,000 baht for his first-place finish. In second, with 2,000 baht, was Sittipong Cheng-lai, from Cherg Talay Municipality, followed by Sinchai Sarikha, from Pearl Phang Nga Club, who received 1,000 baht.

In the female category, Matika Rakkhapan won first place and received 2,000 baht, along with a trophy and medal. Nom Rakkhapan came in second for 1,500 baht while Karuna Nicha finished third and received



**Phang Nga prevails:** Three runners from Pearl Phang Nga Club beat out the local talent to take the top three places in the women's category of the 2006 Kathu Mini Marathon on December 10.

1,000 baht. All three top women were from the Pearl Phang Nga Club.

All other winners received a medal and a trophy for their finishes. They were:

Six kilometer, male: 1. Aphi-

chart Wongjarern; 2. Sittisak Prabkeaw; 3. Thawatchai Dedduang

Six kilometer, female: 1. Suwannee Huadsrithai; 2. Phattama Keawluan; 3. Pharichat Yodkul.



South Hunter dance team from Surat Thani receive a check for 20,000 baht for winning the teenage division of the regional round of the To Be Number One Teen Aerobics and Dancercise contest, held December 9 and 10 at Central Festival Phuket. The team is one of four that will represent the south at the national competition in Bangkok in February.

## Phuket triumphs in beach volley

KARON BEACH: Phuket volleyball players topped a field of players from Bangkok, the US, Switzerland, Russia and Canada in the Amateur Beach Volleyball Tournament on December 9.

In an all-Phuket championship match, the first place prize was awarded to Anan Rompo-

chee and Chinnakorn Intharaphet, while second prize went to Tassani Wadtakee and Sampang Thongsan.

Phuket Amateur Beach Volleyball Tournament was organized by Mathew Perry of the Kata-based Phuket Beach Volleyball Association.

## Blind Games set for Feb

PHUKET CITY: The Andaman Games for the Blind will be held at Sapan Hin Stadium on February 7 and 8. The games, organized by the Thailand Association for the Blind, Southern Region, will include competitions in futsal, tug-of-war, relay race, checkers, a 100-meter dash and "goal ball".

Goal ball is a three-a-side game developed for blind players using a rubber ball with a bell inside. The aim is to score by taking the ball across the opposing team's goal line.

The competition is open to any blind person in the 14 southern provinces. Organizers expect 200 participants this year, including some 160 from Phuket.

Winners of the futsal and goal ball competitions each will receive 5,000 baht, with second and third places in both competitions receiving 3,000 and 1,000 baht, respectively.

Winners in the 100m run, 4x100m relay race and the tug-of-war each will receive 3,000 baht in prize money, with 2,000 and 1,000 baht as second- and third-place prizes.

There will also be prizes of 1,000 baht, 700 baht and 500 baht for the top three places, respectively, in the checkers competition.

For more information call Samran Chantalee at Tel: 086-6846933.



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# Two in a row for Drumstick

By Alan Parkhouse

KATA: After five days of racing in frustratingly variable winds, Toby O'Connell's *Dhevatara Drumstick* won the 20<sup>th</sup> Phuket King's Cup Regatta, held off Kata Beach from December 2 to 9, after a protest.

Three-time King's Cup winner Neil Pryde protested against the race committee after the wrong flag was put on one of the marks on the course as the Racing 1 class results went down to the wire.

Pryde's boat *HiFi* finished level on points with Toby O'Connell's *Dhevatara Drumstick*, but according to regatta race rules the winner is decided on the last race result.

Pryde and his crew on *Hi-Fi* finished fifth in the last race, while O'Connell finished second, leaving *Drumstick* as the overall winner before the protest was lodged.

However, Pryde's protest was dismissed by the jury, giving O'Connell overall first place and the coveted King's Cup.

Ray Roberts skippered *Drumstick* to victory in the Racing class last year.

Peter Winklemann's *Island Fling*, which crossed the finish line two seconds behind *HiFi* on the final day, finished third in the class. Frank Pong on *Jelik* finished fourth.

The final day started with good wind followed by flat spots of no wind, which led to some boats jumping to a big lead only to stop dead in the water while the rest of the fleet caught up.

There were some upsets in the rest of the classes as the patchy and light winds threw some of the favorites off course.

Geoff Hill's *Strewth* took top honors in the Coutts Premier class after two first places and two seconds from the six races contested.

Peter Churchhouse's *Moon Blue II* finished in second place.



From the opposition's angle, an all-too-familiar view of Drumstick.

— Photo by Guy Nowell

Andrew Richards on *Moon Blue* finished third.

Peter Dyer steered his boat *Madam Butterfly* over the line and into first place overall in the Racing 2 class, while Niels Dgenkolf on *Phoenix* finished second. Skipper Jonathon Mahony was, well, happy when his boat *Happy Endings* finished in third place.

Japan's Kenichi Takahashi pulled off one of the biggest upsets by sailing *Motornet* into first overall in the Sports Boats class. Class favorite Scott Duncanson on *Somtarn Express* was relegated to second place.

Shuji Hagihara finished third in the class on *Just*.

To underline the strength of the Chinese contingent this year, Ryuji Nakata sailed *Rhythm Stick* into first place overall in the IRC1 class. Thai boat *Octopussy*, skippered by Jaray Tipsuk, finished second overall, while Peter Winkle's *Sita* finished third.

There were no surprises, however, in the Firefly 850 class with Marc Cudennec's *Chi Machine* finishing first overall after winning four of the seven races.



**PRETTY IN PINK:** Members of the Pinky Punk team strut their stuff during the opening ceremony of the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket Campus sport competition for students, on December 11. The students were divided by major into five color groups and competed in basketball, soccer, futsal, volleyball and track.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Coyote scramble to a win

PATONG: Coyote just managed to salvage two points in the last double in December 5 play in the Patong Darts League, while Didi's lost to the Queen and Funky Monkey got their first point.

**December 5 results:** Queen Mary 6 - Didi's\* 3; Piccadilly\* 6 - Beach House 3; Offshore 7 - Valhalla\* 2; Shakers 6 - Funky Monkey\* 3; Dogs Bollocks\* 4 - Coyote Bar 5; (\* winner of beer leg)

**Standings:** 1. Coyote Bar (11 points); 2.= Piccadilly, Queen Mary (8); 4.= Shakers, Didi's (7); 6. Offshore (6); 7. Valhalla (5); 8. Dogs Bollocks (4); 9. Beach House (3); 10. Funky Monkey (1).

**December 19 fixtures:** Didi's vs Beach House; Valhalla vs Piccadilly; Offshore vs Coyote Bar; Shakers vs Queen Mary; Funky Monkey vs Dogs Bollocks. (home team first.)

### SP Property win PSU sevens

KATHU: After a month of competition, the SP Property Team has pocketed 40,000 baht from the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) seven-a-side soccer tournament.

The third annual sevens competition, which ran from November 4 to 26, featured more than 20 teams.

Games were played daily at PSU's Phuket campus with the competition open to any teams that cared to register.

A total of 78 games were played during the month to determine the winners.

Second place went to Nongmark Team, third to Tungtong A Police Station and fourth to Thaoruamjai Team.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# New home for medical science

Construction is now underway on a new building for the Regional Medical Science Center Phuket (RMSCP) on 10 rai of public land at Baan Bang Jo, Thalang District. The new building will house offices and laboratories to conduct food and public health inspections.

The building will be single story in Sino-Portuguese style. Construction started in September and is about 30% complete. The project is due to be completed in March 2007 and the basement, foundations and frame are already built. A budget of 13.58 million baht was provided by the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health.

RMSCP Director Thariya Saowarun told the *Gazette* that the main work of the center is to analyze food to ensure it complies with food safety requirements.

"Our clients are mostly from the private sector. We have about 30 companies that are our regular customers, including environmental companies and the Airport Authority of Thailand. We also analyze samples of food and water taken by the Phuket Provincial Health Office from hotels, restaurants, food shops, factories, schools and other establishments. On average we get about 10 samples a day," she said.

"Since its establishment, the RMSCP has also played a role in helping the province promote tourism. We have taken part in diarrhea control and helped food producers to ensure that their food is safe for consumers. We also help with science education and research at Phuket Rajabhat University and Prince of Songkla University," K. Thariya said.



The new building will house a laboratory area and administration offices. It will be 42 meters long and 19m wide with a usable internal area of 603 square meters.

The laboratory area will include two chemical labs, two microbiology labs and a media preparation room. There will also be one room designed for using

special scientific instruments such as an atomic absorption spectrometer, a high performance liquid chromatography machine and other equipment.

"Right now we're located at Vachira Phuket Hospital. Due to space restrictions, we cannot expand our work in our current location. Only some of our researchers work with the hospital, so there is no need for us to stay there.

"RMSCP was established in 1999 and we now have a staff of 13, but we still can't deal with all the work in the province. At present we have to have chemical testing done at another laboratory but with the completion of the new building we will be able to do more chemical work ourselves.

"We will also expand the microbiological and pathology work," she said.

When the new building is finished all the instruments will be moved from the existing office. The RMSCP is still awaiting funds to buy additional instruments.

The 13.58-million-baht budget includes the cost of a wastewater treatment system, and next year a further 11.2 million baht will be spent on landscaping the area around the building. This area will also include an herb garden, which will provide plants for research.

"We will have to employ about seven additional staff mem-

The structure of the new building (above) is nearing completion. Below, The center's Director, Thariya Saowarun



bers when we move to the new building and, if need be, we may hire some temporary workers as well," K. Thariya added.

Phuket Public Works Office

designed the building and is in charge of overseeing the construction. The contractor is Sahayothasathapat Ltd Partnership.

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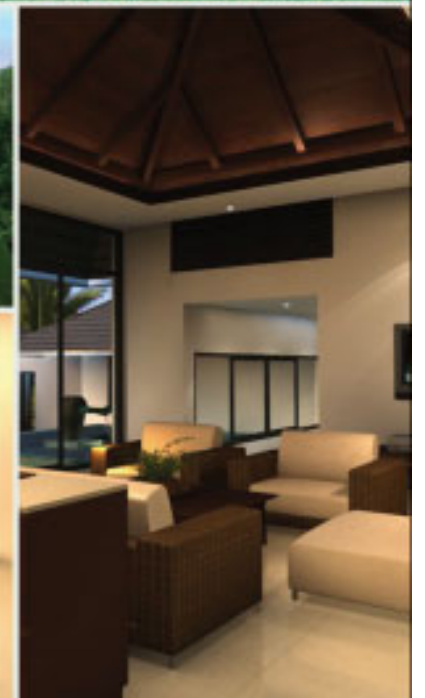
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## Decor

by Suganya Semacote

Tibetan *gaam* (right) – chest or box – are traditionally marked by distinctive arrowhead metal fittings on the corners and sides to strengthen the box.

It is believed that if the doors of a *yangam* (below) are opened more than once a year the good luck and prosperity will escape.



# Tibetan treasures

**S**uriya Thamrangsri, proprietor of Fine Orient on Chao Fa West Rd, is offering colorful furnishings from Tibet, Mongolia and China that he has personally selected and imported from the respective lands.

These include reproductions and restored antiques of 100 to 200 years of age, and range from large trunks and chests of drawers to wardrobes and doors.

Available are examples of the Tibetan *gaam* (chest or box), used to store domestic goods and valuables not in everyday use. The earliest forms were made in thick leather on a wooden frame, with later versions made of cedar or pine, usually lined with simple trade cotton.

They are marked by distinctive arrowhead metal fittings on the corners and sides which strengthen the structure. *Gaam* are the earliest forms of Tibetan furniture, some dating from as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

*Gaam* are commonly embellished with a dragon emblem superimposed on a geometrically drawn background, not dissimilar in design to the fashionable Chinese brocades of the day.

One early *gaam* design that is frequently copied is the *dzong*. With a simple lift top and sloping sides, its design is said to have derived from the Potala in Lhasa, the traditional seat of the Dalai Lama.

The most dramatic type of Tibetan furniture would be the *thorgam*, a cabinet used for storing ritual implements and *torma*, flour and butter sculptures used in place of animal sacrifice when

making offerings to *Mahakala* (the demon protector of dharma in Tibetan Buddhism, an ogre with bulging eyes and green scaly skin) and other wrathful deities.

The typical form is a cupboard with a single pair of painted doors, usually depicting *Mahakala* surrounded by grisly offerings of flayed skins, human skulls and wild animals; along with *Citipati*, the Lords of the Funeral Pyre, depicted as two dancing skeletons, and symbolizing ultimate enlightenment and renouncement of all things worldly.

The *yangam*, from *yang* (luck) and *gaam* (box), is similar to the *thorgam*, a cupboard with a single pair of painted doors, but in keeping with its name is adorned with more tranquil and auspicious imagery.

It is used to store precious family valuables, such as vases and other ritual items with which to evoke peaceful deities. Tibetans believe that their good luck is

contained in the *yangam* and that if the doors are opened more than once a year, the good luck and prosperity will escape.

Although similar in appearance, the Mongolian pieces available are discerned from their Tibetan counterparts by their darker hues.

Tibetan furniture has seen a rapid rise in value over the past few years due to fashionable demand; but good value can be found in many Mongolian designs, which may soon see a similar rise in value.

These fine pieces will enliven and add character to any room. Prices range from 24,000 to 300,000 baht.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Not so mellow yellow

I know you'll find this difficult to believe, but I have on occasion been known to be a bit cynical. I just don't trust people. I don't trust mechanics who tell me that my whole gearbox needs replacing when there's actually a loose nut inside that needs tightening. I'm wary of anyone who assures me that my giving them several thousand baht is a sure-fire way to make millions more.

I don't believe the photocopier repair man at work when he says that he'll be round within the hour to fix the same problem he's been out to fix several hundred times before. Inevitably, his declaration that the fault has now been cured once and for all falls on deaf ears. He means well, but I know he'll be back next week.

Then there are the people you know you just can't trust. World leaders who try to convince the rest of the world that certain countries deserve to be invaded because they might, just might, be hiding the odd weapon of mass destruction that nobody has been able to find.

My most vivid memory of a man not to be trusted was my childhood dentist. He was afflicted with a medical condition that gave him uncontrollable shakes. Every time he pronounced that a filling was in order, his oscillating hand of doom containing genuine weapons of mass destruction entered my mouth, with malice aforethought.

**Yellow terror:** Despite its pretty appearance, the yellow oleander conceals a poison that packs a serious punch.

"Just a few seconds," he would always say, as that awful sounding torture device burrowed its way through the enamel, tunneling down the nerve that was very much doing its job, and communicating his actions in no uncertain terms. Unfortunately, the Novocain was always distributed around various random areas of my palate, with the exception of the spot that really needed it. It hurt. A lot. "A few seconds"? Bollocks.

It didn't take long for a deep feeling of distrust to develop there. So much so that I didn't even bother with the Novocain – it was easier. I'm not sure that I have any faith in anything a dentist has said to me to this day.

There are many plants you shouldn't trust any more than photocopy repair men, world leaders or dentists. They may



look spectacular, and do a wonderful job of just doing the plant thing, sitting in a corner and brightening up the garden. But there's a dark side to their character.

Despite their style and good looks, many of the plants we have here are poisonous, and are just itching (inevitable, I know) to get you. One of the more malevolent good lookers in Phuket, found all over the island and Thailand in general, is the yellow oleander. It's also known as the lucky nut, and really is out to get you. There's nothing lucky about this insidious plant.

Just about every part of it is extremely poisonous. Its forebears have certainly created some positive PR for the plant, as the almost continuous displays of bright yellow flowers are always spectacular. That's the catch – it just doesn't look as if it would harm a hair on your head. At least poisonous toadstools do a reasonable job of warning you off; they work on the premise that something as ugly as that should be avoided.

As a colorful addition to your garden, the yellow oleander does the job very effectively. It's another easy-care shrub that requires minimal maintenance. There's a whole row of them

near some apartments in Rawai that I'm sure nobody has done anything to for years – no water or pruning or any degree of care whatsoever, but they still look amazing.

The yellow oleander can be trained into an impressive small tree if you remove the suckers that regularly appear at the base – there's a bit of a warning about this later. It also does well as a quick-growing screen. Plant a few of them on five- to seven-foot centers, and a row of oleander makes a rather effective barrier between you and your too-inquisitive-for-his-own-good next-door neighbor.

The bright yellow flowers that decorate the plant almost non-stop are funnel-shaped, and appear at the ends of stalks sporting long, shiny leaves. This is a clue. Generally speaking, if you see a plant with smooth, shiny leaves it's very likely to be poisonous. I'm not sure why, but it seems to be the case. I'm sure that someone who understands these things would explain.

And this one is very poisonous. The nastiest parts of the plant are the leaves, the small green fruit that appears after the flowers and the white rubbery latex that oozes from cuts in the stem. Come to think of it, you can't re-

ally trust any part of it. The sap is not nice stuff, so you definitely need to wear gloves when pruning it, which it will need on a regular basis.

Someone with far too much time on their hands came up with a whole list of really stupid things you shouldn't do with oleander. Please bear in mind that these are all things you shouldn't do. Neither I, nor the publishers of the *Gazette*, will listen to anyone who chooses not to read it.

Please, don't use stripped oleander twigs to barbecue your sausages at your next barbecue. Don't whittle whistles out of the branches. Don't let your dog or cat get its roughage intake from the oleander. Don't put a bee hive next to a yellow oleander and harvest the honey. Don't burn the cuttings, as even the smoke produced is still poisonous.

## EVIDENCE

You may snigger in disbelief, but all the above incidents are on record as having happened. Even the honey story is true – there is evidence that a woman nearly died from honey poisoning; all down to the yellow oleander.

If you have kids who would like to collect the cute "lucky nuts" that appear on the yellow oleander, or a pet that has a heart of gold but is totally clueless, then the yellow oleander isn't the ideal addition to the garden. If neither of these apply, and your idea of tending the garden is to sit back with a beer and admire it, it's perfect.

The yellow oleander is sneaky, and will inflict harm upon you at every given opportunity. At least when the yellow oleander delivers the blow, it won't, like your friendly state-licensed dental torturer, hand you a bill for the privilege.

**Want to know more about a plant in your garden?**

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Home of the Week

Surin

# PURE STYLE

Master craftsmanship is revealed in this home, capturing a blend of Thai architecture and contemporary Asian interior design for a modern lifestyle. The layout provides a variety of private and common areas throughout. The home comprises a number of pavilions on two main levels. One level is clearly for entertaining, the other for living.

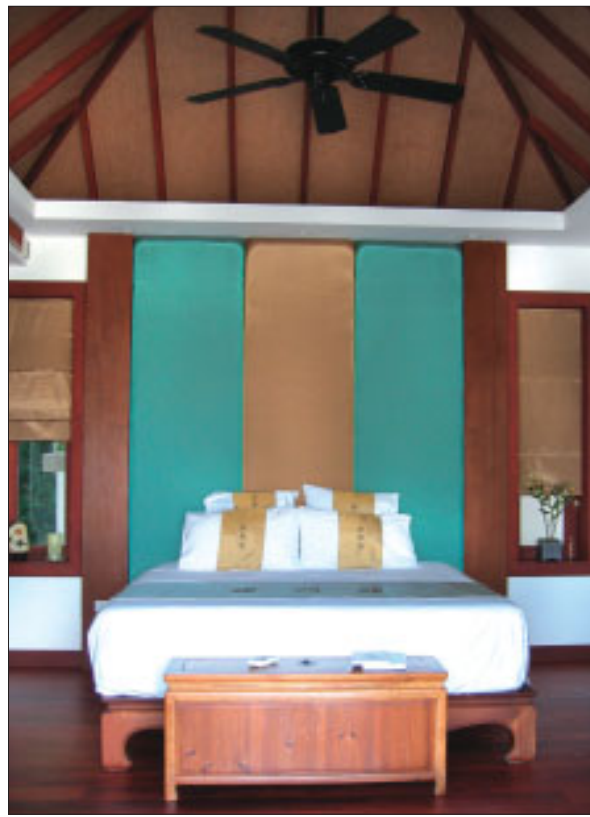
The property is entered at its highest level, which has a two-car carport. An open-air stairway leads down to the upper of the two main levels – the “entertaining” level.

This level comprises two guest bedrooms (5 meters x 4.5m) with en-suite bathrooms, poolside bar and barbecue area, swimming pool, outdoor shower, wooden deck and seated patio/balcony. A stairway leads up to a maid’s quarter with large bedroom, laundry and storage.

On the living level are two master bedrooms (5.6m x 5m) with en-suite bathrooms, living room, 13m x 5m Western-style kitchen-dining area, study, swimming pool, outdoor shower and a shaded wooden deck with sala. A stairway leads down to the pool pump, mechanical room and extra storage.

The interior area totals 611 square meters. Each pavilion, including each bedroom, living, dining and study, has solid *maka* flooring with teak-framed glass patio doors leading out to a balcony or wooden deck.

The en-suite bathrooms, with slate, pebble wash and ceramic tiles, have a dressing area with one or two washbasin bowls, American sanitary products and handmade terrazzo sunken outdoor whirlpool bathtubs. A walk-in wardrobe and vanity area can be found in each. All curtains throughout the home are made from 100% silk. Extensive use of



*dang*, teak and *maka* woods add to the exquisite look. The property is wired with a top-of-the-range sound system.

The slate-floored kitchen includes an American-style fridge with filter for instant drinking water. The cabinets are solid wood and plywood framework with teak veneer and have black granite work tops.

The external area totals 777sqm. The water features, terraces, deck and stairs have pebble wash and are patterned

with natural tiles or cut stone panels, providing an excellent mix of rough and smooth textures. Tropical-style landscape with spotlights make the house stand out day or night.

This home is in Surin – 20 minutes to Phuket International Airport, five minutes to the beach, 10 minutes to Patong and 20 minutes to Phuket City.

The home is part of Bann Thai Surin Hill project, developed by Surin Hill Development Company. It is complete and ready to

move in, with 24-hour security, communal fitness room and tennis court. The present owners have maintained and added some extra touches to enhance the home even further.

The asking price is 75 million baht and the home is being offered freehold.

For more information or to arrange a viewing contact Morna Mackintosh at CB Richard Ellis at Tel: 085-7829544 or Email: [morna.mackintosh@cbre.com](mailto:morna.mackintosh@cbre.com)





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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### PATONG VILLA FOR SALE



Very exclusive, completely-furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three bathrooms, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Please see our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### CHALONG HOUSE

For sale. 3 bedrooms, maid's flat, aircon throughout, 2 carports and spacious garden. Tel: 085-7819961.

### HOUSES FOR SALE PATONG

Land plots with house designs in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Only four plots remaining. Quiet, natural location. The house can be designed and built to your own specifications. For details and price, please contact Andy. Tel: 081-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: [antc@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:antc@phuket.ksc.co.th)

### 4 BEDROOMS & POOL

New 4-bedroom house. Large living and dining room with furniture, 5m x 10m swimming pool. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: [beaver@tstf.net](mailto:beaver@tstf.net)

### APARTMENTS

For sale. Chalong Bay Sea view. Good rental income. Prices start from 2.5 million baht. Call Tel: 089-5319987. Email: [ed2thai@gmail.com](mailto:ed2thai@gmail.com)

### RAWAI 2-STORY

160sqm, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for sale at 1.8 million baht. 400 meters from the beach. Tel: 086-6865567. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### LUXURY VILLA

Magnificent new 2-story hillside villa featuring 3 bedrooms with en-suites, infinity pool, maids' quarters. Tastefully finished and furnished in traditional Thai style. Spectacular views of Patong. Please contact for more info or to view. Tel: 081-6911580. Email: [homeinphuket@gmail.com](mailto:homeinphuket@gmail.com)

### SEAVIEW HOUSE

In Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, views of Koh Phi Phi. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th)

### PATONG BEACH CONDO

Sea view, freehold. 1.2 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-686-5567. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### VILLA FOR SALE PATONG PHUKET



Has private swimming pool. Tel: 086-2791602. For more details, please see our website at: [www.thai-norwaymansion.com](http://www.thai-norwaymansion.com)

### KATA SEAVIEW LAND

Unique opportunity to buy 4 rai of seaview land overlooking Kata beach along with Thai company, 2 foreign directorships and 2 work permits. Only need to transfer share ownership. In secluded location in select area with electricity and town water on site. Ideal for seaview project. 32 million baht. Also available, 0.5 rai building plot in select development surrounded by secure stone wall and mature trees with excellent sea views. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 081-2735047. Email: [houseinphuket@hotmail.com](mailto:houseinphuket@hotmail.com)

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

3 bathrooms, aircon, big European kitchen, big living room, 2 carports, Internet, mature garden. Land & Houses Park, 464sqm, Chanote. Only 7.9 million baht. Tel: 076-283-235. Email: [sanaralang@yahoo.de](mailto:sanaralang@yahoo.de)

### NICE BIG VILLA

For sale. A well-designed villa with 4 bedrooms, fully furnished with teak wood indoor decoration, Thai & European kitchen. Large swimming pool with outdoor fresh water shower. Big garden with well-landscaped design. Located in quiet and secure area. Please contact now! Tel: 081-892-1108. Email: [info@grottino-beach-inn.com](mailto:info@grottino-beach-inn.com)

### RAWAI ECO-COOL THAI HOME



The open-air design of this award-winning home affords a truly tropical lifestyle. Traditional Thai design and modern materials are combined to beat Phuket's heat without aircon. A large, naturally cool patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Priced at only 9.9 million baht, this large 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom, plus office area (240sqm) home sits on a 400sqm lot. Features modern kitchen, designer bathrooms and hardwood floors. For more information contact Gary at Tel: 087-8987062. For further details please see [www.ecocoolthaihomes.com](http://www.ecocoolthaihomes.com)

### HOTEL AND RESORT FOR SALE



Hotel in Patong, near Soi Bangla, 50 rooms, large beer garden, contracted with European tour operators, one of Patong's most reputable flagships. 98 million baht.

Well-booked resort in Rawai/Yannui, 4 huge villas, 2 guesthouses, 2 apartments, swimming pool. 34 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 076-381490. Email: [info@sea-property-international.com](mailto:info@sea-property-international.com)

### SEAVIEW LAND

In Nai Harn. 640sqm with Chanote, views to Koh Phi Phi. 3.0 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th)

### JUST COMPLETED KATHU



House for sale in great location, small development, rural atmosphere. Close to international school, Patong and two golf courses. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, laundry room, large internal veranda, walled garden, parking space. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: [somlerdee@yahoo.com](mailto:somlerdee@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE



Chalong, Land and Houses Park Estate, 250sqm living space, 620sqm land plot, comfortable open-plan dining and living, European kitchen, 3 bedrooms, open study area. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: [info@sea-property-international.com](mailto:info@sea-property-international.com)

### CHALONG FOR SALE

Superb 1-story house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, interior Thai style (Swiss quality), nice garden, safe area, ready to move in. Price: 6.2 million baht (owner going back home). Tel: 087-2833482.

### KATHU HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, very large living room, kitchen, walled garden, space to build swimming pool, private cul de sac, convenient for Patong, international school, golf courses. Price: 5.25 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: [kittisakdj@yahoo.com](mailto:kittisakdj@yahoo.com)

**GOLF VILLAS FOR SALE**

Large 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom houses fronting hole 7 fairway at Phuket Country Club. Swimming pool, maid's quarters, lifetime membership. Perfect central location. 18 million baht, negotiable.

**086 277 2691**

### BEACHFRONT VILLA



3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, infinity pool, 20m ocean frontage. Beautiful view of east coast islands. Located in Ao Poh bay. 20 minutes to Phuket shopping centers or airport. For sale only 19.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343-0777. Email: [montha\\_phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:montha_phuket@yahoo.com)

### TWO SHOPHOUSES

Samkong area. 5 minutes to Tesco. 3 floors, 1 with modern shopfront, 3 years old. 2.8 and 3 million baht. Tel: 076-254063, 087-2652889.

### MODERN 270 SQM

home. Two story, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, spa, aircon, telephone line, pool, garden and 804sqm. Great location in Chalong. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 086-281-7605. Email: [nigelnpxie@yahoo.com.gu](mailto:nigelnpxie@yahoo.com.gu)

### KATHU HOUSE

For sale. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, & kitchen. Close to golf courses & international school. Has rental tenant until Mar 2009. Ideal investment! 4.6 million baht. Tel: 076-342-750, 086-2672462. Email: [shall@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:shall@loxinfo.co.th)

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## Seaview Condominiums for Sale Rambutan Residence An Investment in Paradise



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## LARGE HOUSE

Large house in Chalong area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western-style kitchen. Quiet street. 4.2 million baht ono. Tel: 081-7475293, 085-7839285. Email: chillhouse@hotmail.com

## CHEAP LAND RAWAI

Chanote title. 540,000 baht. Approx 12 x 14 sqm plot. Good access, and in a convenient, quiet residential area. Tel: 087-2806275. Email: zeno1109@yahoo.co.jp

## LANTERN PROJECT

near BIS. Must see showhouse! 450sqm, water concept, 3 bedrooms, private lift and pool. SMEG kitchen, penthouse office with panoramic view. Completion: June 2007. Available for rent at 70,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-877-9292. Fax: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For details, please. see our website: www.gracegardensphuket.com

## GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Furnished guesthouse at Paradise Complex, Patong Beach, for sale or long-term lease. Please contact me by email or mobile phone for details. Tel: 076-290393, 086-5888383. Fax: 076-290393. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE



Chalong, 3 plots each 468 sqm, 1.5 million baht per plot.

Chalong, 4,272sqm, perfect for development, 10.5 million baht.

Rawai, 3,000sqm, direct beachfront, 34 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

2 en-suite bedrooms, big living area, pool. 4 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

## CONDO PATONG

A most stunning, beautifully styled and furnished apartment is available in a small, select complex overlooking Patong Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full kitchen, dining area, large balcony and shared pool. Only 35 million baht. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further info, see our website at <http://www.ayudhya.net/english/condos/index.php>

## MODERN VILLA FOR SALE



Private sale in Thalang. Built to the highest standard. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7272822. Email: tonpa@gmx.net

## CHALONG HOUSE

New 3-story house with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, private pool/jacuzzi, 350sqm usable area, 350sqm land, own water supply and hot water. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 081-7782979. Email: teeradejr@hotmail.com

## SEA VIEW HOUSES

With 2 bedrooms, large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17,500,000 baht. Tel: 086-2706454, +44 77 8 999 5522, 089-4727588. Email: djudges@hotmail.com

## HOT DEAL!

Beautiful, 3-bedroom house, open kitchen, marble floor, separate office, 2 telephone lines, high speed Internet, 5 aircons, includes furniture. Quiet location, 5km to the beach. Only 3.9 million baht. Tel: 086-2740010. Email: scorp64Ch@yahoo.de

## NAI HARN BEACH

condos. 60-sqm, fully furnished 1-bedroom condos. Full aircon, fully equipped kitchen, spa bubblebath, cable TV, DVD, large terrace, swimming pool in tropical garden, parking. 10-minute walk from beach. Ready to move in. Only 2 units left. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 087-2815795. Email: chaussecyril@yahoo.fr

## KALIM SEAVIEW

9.5 rai. Chanote, road access, great value, only 10 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-729-2313.

## PATONG, BAAN SUAN KAMNAN



Very nice house with super sea views in Baan Suan Kamnan (meaning hillside area from the mayor), which is a quiet, green and residential area just outside Patong. It is located at the south end of Patong Beach. The houses are close to and overlooking the sea (80 meters from it). If you like it green, clean and quiet then come and have a look around here. We offer a tall house (5 levels) with private pool and nice garden. The land title is Chanote and the house is freehold (or take over company). If you want to rent a separate block with two apartments standing next to main house with garden, we can offer these with a long-term lease-contract. Baan Suan Kamnan, is close to lively Patong and the new shopping center Jungceylon but enjoys the silence and the beauty of nature. We call it busy over here when 10 cars pass in a day.

Tel: 086-7866350.

Email:

buurmanb@hotmail.com

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[phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com](mailto:phuketandamanrealestate@hotmail.com)

## 2 HOUSES FOR SALE



Tranquil Chalong area, cul-de-sac, very modern and stylish, 280-350sqm living space, 800sqm land plot each, 3-4 bedrooms, swimming pool, 9 to 11 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## NICE PATONG HOUSE

With pool. 200sqm, 3 bedrooms, 500sqm land, 900 meters from beach. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-292596, 086-267-8477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

## VILLA FOR SALE NEAR LAGUNA



Newly-built. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. With open plan kitchen, living room. The villa is fully airconditioned and furnished. Built on 360sqm, with 176sqm living area, and a beautiful garden. The location is only 10 minutes to Bang Tao Beach and 5 minutes to Laguna. Price 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-8131447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

## PATONG BEACH

Fully-equipped beauty salon and two 2-room flats above. All aircon, furnished. Main road position. 450,000 baht ono. Tel: 085-7845236, or 087-3825637 (Thai).

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# Property Gazette

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baht. Tel: 076-238-777, 081-  
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rious house with pool. For fur-  
ther details, please see  
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Swimming water, white sand,  
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tel. Chanote, 2 rai. Tel: 089-  
6525664.

### KARON SEAVIEW

apartment. Great design,  
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stunning sea view, Top quality.  
Tel: 087-8938747.

### SEAVIEW LAND

For sale. Rawai location, ur-  
gent sale. Half rai: 3 million  
baht. 1 rai: 6 million baht. Sale  
by owner. All land perfect sea  
view. Please call for more  
details. Tel: 089-7291391.

### LAND FOR SALE

In Mai Khao area. - 10 rai on  
the beach. Price: 170 million  
baht. - 1 rai 72 sq wah sea  
view. Price: 3.2 million baht. -  
7.3 rai 500m from the beach.  
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Price: 2.7 million baht. Please  
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### NICE BIG VILLA

For sale. A well-designed villa  
with 4 bedrooms, fully fur-  
nished with teak wood indoor  
decoration, Thai & European  
kitchen. Large swimming pool  
with outdoor fresh water  
shower. Big garden with well-  
landscaped design. Located in  
quiet and secure area. Please  
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### HOUSE FOR SALE



Located in Pa Khlok area,  
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house with 3 bedrooms and  
2 bathrooms. Ready to  
move in. For rent at 20,000  
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2.45 million baht (nego-  
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### HOUSE FOR SALE -

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tral. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 076-  
323192, 01-4998719. Email:  
marshall\_hugh@yahoo.co.uk

### STUNNING KATA

seaview. 400sqm, the last  
plot in Kata, Chanote title,  
asking 3.8 million baht. Tel:  
089-6525664.

### SMALL PLOT RAWAI

320sqm. Chanote title, square  
plot, nice & quiet. Perfect for  
villa. Tel: 081-5376866.

### RAWAI, 1 RAI.

Beautiful. Land nice & quiet.  
Chanote title, road, electric.  
4.3 million baht. Tel: 087-893-  
8747.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

New 2-story house, 3 bed-  
rooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen,  
garden. Price: 4 million baht.  
Please contact for more infor-  
mation. Tel: 083-1743880,  
087-2646808.

### BEST SEA VIEW, RAWAI

9 rai. Beautiful, inspirational.  
Triple your investment, call to  
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information. Tel: 089-652-  
5664.

### PRIME LAND IN NAI HARN AREA

Plot 1: 25 sq wah (100  
sqm), approximately 2km  
from Nai Harn Beach, close  
to the main road. Ideal for a  
business location or for  
shophouses. Price: 1 mil-  
lion baht. Land with title  
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Plot 2: 90 sq wah (360  
sqm), approximately 1km  
from Nai Harn Beach. Per-  
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home. Price: 2.4 million  
baht. Land with title deed.

Plot 3: Square plot of land of  
80 sq wah (320sqm), ap-  
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### 900SQM, RAWAI

Reduced again. Motivated  
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Bordered by creek with nice  
palm trees. Thai company also  
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baht. Tel: 076-346346, 086-  
2726508. Email: info@  
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### KATA SEAVIEW

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### RAWAI, HALF RAI

Asking 3.2 million baht. Nice  
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ply, 300m from the beach. Tel:  
081-5376866.

### 320 SQM IN RAWAI

Quiet, good for house. 1.25  
million baht. Chanote title.  
Near center. Tel: 081-537-  
6866.

### 40 RAI BEACHFRONT

Koh Yao Yai. Chon Lat Beach  
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meters of white sand  
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### SMALL PLOT, RAWAI

208sqm only 700,000 baht.  
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beachfront. 1.4 rai with 50m  
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baht. Tel: 089-4731165.  
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million baht / rai.

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bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood,  
oven and dishwasher. Land area 175 sq wah with Chanote title,  
7.3x12 meter pool & jacuzzi. Nice & quiet, beautiful golf views, 17  
million baht.

Please contact: Mr. Geoff Curry

Mobile: 08-8540061.

Tel: 076-323214, 08-0803414. (K.Ning)

Fax: 076-323215.

Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### LUXURY PENTHOUSE BUNGALOW KATHU



Stunning view overlooking a lake and golf course  
European kitchen, aircon **29,000 baht/month..**

Tel: 076-202585, 085-5071216.  
Email: lakeviewapartment-phuket@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSE

Near SuperCheap. 4 stories (300 sqm) with 5 rooms, 7 aircons and 5 phone lines. For rent at 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-238777, 081-7371-678. Fax: 076-239739. Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

### SURIN APARTMENT

Modern, well-furnished, 2-bedroom 100sqm apartment including: 42" Plasma TV, washing machine, SMEG ceramic hob, breakfast bar. Great Views. Available long term for 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 085-8882022. Email: sleeves@sleeves.com For further details, please see our website at: www.sleeves.com/photos/LersuangApartment

### RENT YOUR HOUSE

Beautiful house, views of elephants and nature, big terrace, 130sqm basement, garage, full aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European style. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht a month. Come look! Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

### NEW HOUSE

For rent or sale. In Kathu. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, garden, aircon. Near Lotus, Central and Patong beach. For rent at 25,000 baht a month. For sale at 4.5 million baht. Contact K. Yupa for further information. Tel: 081-7356684, 084-187-1939.

### KATA PENTHOUSE

And rooms to rent near beach. Swimming pool, cable, TV fridge, etc. Clean views. 7,000 baht per month. 400 baht per day. Tel: 086-276-6597.

### LAGUNA AREA

House with pool, spa, poolside bar, aircon, large garden, like resort. Lease: 39,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-5944067.

### BANG TAO

Bungalows for rent at 15,000 baht per month + utilities (6 month minimum) or 22,000 baht per month or 7,000 baht per week, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with hot water, telephone line. Car park, gated, quiet 3km from Surin Call Khun Tee Tel: 06-2786465 or Barry Tel: 076-270377.

### KOH LANTA - LAND

For rent. 10 rai of land for short- & long-term rent at Business Center. Call Ratree, Tel: 085-8885143. Email: lanta\_greatland@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Aircon, phone, 2 bedrooms, near Chalong. 6,000 baht per month. Please call for more details. Tel: 087-2929967 081-7425884.

### COMMERCIAL

Building. Chalong. Near traffic circle, 3 stories. Tel: 081-9895487. Email: aasvogel06@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT



Kata Beach, perfect sea view, 3 bedrooms, open-plan living/dining, swimming pool, sundeck, garden, separate guesthouse with rooftop sala. 140,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

### BUILDING SHOP

For rent. 1,000sqm, fully furnished & has car parking area. Located near Heroines monument. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-4711585. Email: theveewan@yahoo.com

### ROOM + APARTMENT

Patong. For short- and long-term rent from 800-2,000 baht a day. 13,000-25,000 baht a month + electricity. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290-9567. Please see our website: www.brommathaihouse.com

### LARGE HOUSE

For rent. Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, furnished house for long-term rent. Phone line, UBC, garden, etc. Close to golf course & international school. Located on quiet, private road 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-8752532. Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

### OFFICE SPACE

Lovely office on Nanai Road. Contact Paul (English) or Noy (Thai). Tel: 076-292133, 086-9520088. Email: paulcamo@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

7 rooms, 540sqm, on 1 rai in Sapam, Phuket City. Looking for long-term rent. Tel: 086-6893289, 084-0651133.

### STUNNING SEA VIEW

A villa with 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a maid's room. Location: Cape Yamu, elevated, east coast, providing some of the prettiest views on Phuket. Furnished and has a pool and gardens in a very quiet, exclusive estate, 10 minutes to BCIS/Laguna. Asking only 80,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

### PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY

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### CENTRAL KAMALA

2-3 bedroom apartment fully furnished, UBC, phone, etc. 25,000 baht a month long term. Tel: 081-8111067.

### BEACHFRONT

Nice bungalow for rent. Fully furnished and has kitchen. Front of the beach at Chalong Bay. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-7297978, 084-658-4437. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

### LUXURY PENTHOUSE



Bungalow Kathu. Stunning view overlooking a lake and golf course. European kitchen, aircon, Cable TV, telephone line. 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-202585, 085-5071216. Email: lakeviewapartment-phuket@hotmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

In Boat Lagoon, furnished, serviced. Short term: 40,000 baht a month. Long term: 35,000 baht a month. Now available. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-2820567.

### PROPERTY FOR RENT

Beautiful new 2-bedroom villa fully furnished with aircon. 2 minutes to Rawai beach. Private pool in walled tropical gardens. Available early January. Minimum 6-month let: 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9701716.

### QUIET HOUSE

For rent, Bang Tao. 2 bedrooms, secluded mountain setting near waterfall, quality furnishings, kitchen, appliances, plates, linen, Internet, cable TV. 25,000 baht a month or 9,000 baht a week. Tel: 086-2670157. Fax: 076-324493. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT



Chalong, direct beachfront, 3 bedrooms, open-plan living/dining, large garden, no swimming pool, furnished, 75,000 baht, min 12-month contract, Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

### 4-BED, LONG TERM

Spacious home, 4 bathrooms, spa, pool, aircon, phone, garden, great location. Chalong. 65,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2817605.

### EXOTIC KATA

Oceanfront, 5-star, luxury 1-bedroom apartment. Spa, pool, quiet area, sea view, available December. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website: www.koumbele.com/kata1

### 3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd, 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For rent at: 40,000 baht a month. Or for sale at: 6.7 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5978315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

**LOOKING FOR LAND**  
Phang Nga or Krabi area. Best with river and jungle access. Need 2 to 4 rai. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8942908. Email: beatduss@orchid-services.com

## LOCATION FOR RESTAURANT

Our firm needs a location in Kata for a restaurant of about 400 to 600sqm. Contact for more info. Tel: 47-90585925. Fax: 47-381-78043. Email: rkristiansen@phileasfogg.no

## 1 RAI + SEA VIEW

Looking for up to 2 rai of Chanote land with a sea view, preferably on west coast of Phuket. Must have road access and utilities. Email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

## RESTAURANT

Wanted. Surin. I am interested in renting a restaurant in Surin/Bang Tao Beach area. Open to all suggestions. Have a great day. Email: mostlind@hotmail.com

## 1-5 RAI WANTED

On 3- to 30-year lease. Any beach, prefer Bang Tao. Suitably dry for horses. Water, electric, small home welcome. Please contact with details. Tel: 084-8424581. Email: andamanhorsespa@yahoo.com

## BEACHFRONT

Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-0543505.

## Accommodation Available

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in Kathu 1 bathroom, 1 bedroom, fenced garden, fully furnished, phone line. Seeking long-term renter 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-1896700. Email: leekuab@hotmail.com

### HOTEL WITH INTERNET

And pool. Hotel rooms for monthly & daily rental including free in-room Internet (optional), breakfast, UBC TV & swimming pool. Tel: 076-292907. Email: clubcoconut@phukets.info See our website at [www.phukets.info/ccr.html](http://www.phukets.info/ccr.html)

### U KSENII GUESTHOUSE

Kata. Located at Kata Night Bazaar. New guesthouse "U Ksenii" has 7 fully-furnished rooms with aircon, TV, hot & cold shower. Call Tel: 076-284238. For further details, please see our website at: [www.ksenia-guesthouse.com](http://www.ksenia-guesthouse.com)

### PATONG LUXURY

Apartment. Central Patong 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. For info and photos email: [suites247@yahoo.com](mailto:suites247@yahoo.com)

## Accommodation Wanted

### ACCOMMODATION

Rent or buy reasonably priced unfurnished house, 2-3 bedrooms, Western kitchen, covered car park, Chalong/Kathu area, from April 1. Tel: 087-2705754. Email: [serweswiss@hotmail.com](mailto:serweswiss@hotmail.com)

### NANAI ROAD

Apartment. Nice apartments available now. Contact Paul (English) or Noy (Thai). Tel: 076-292133, 086-9520088. Email: [paulcamo@hotmail.com](mailto:paulcamo@hotmail.com)

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### BIG HOME

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## CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

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  - Strong leadership, good problem solving skills
  - Able to work under pressure
- 2. Chief Engineer:**
  - Male, age over 25 years
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  - At least 2 years experience in building services
  - Knowledge of system maintenance management is an advantage
- 3. Project Coordinator:**
  - Age over 22 years
  - BA in related fields
  - Self motivated and possess good coordinating and problem solving skills with service mind
- 4. Accountant:**
  - Male or female, age 25-30 years
  - BA in Accounting or Finance
  - At least 3 years experience in related fields
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  - Should be strong literacy in MS Office (Excel)
  - Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- 5. Receptionist:**
  - Female, age over 22 years
  - Vocational or higher in related fields
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- 6. Technician:**
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Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resumé, present and expected salaries, and a recent photo to:

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Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

## OFFICE STAFF WANTED

Our office in Chalong is looking for a Thai English-speaking person with computer skills. Interested candidates please send full CV by fax or email. Tel: 076-282425, 081-8454667. Fax: 076-282425. Email: prapaipit@octopuswetsuit.com

## ACCOUNTANT/SALES

Some English experience, good knowledge of Phuket projects, flexible. Good salary, great future. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-5376866. Send CV to email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

## BARTENDERS

Qualified bartenders needed. Thai ladies for elegant bar near the beach at Patong - Dolphin Bar. Good salary, lady drinks, tips & commissions on sale. Call Richard for more information. Tel: 087-2677965.

## BAR MANAGER

Thai lady, some English, good customer care to lead team of six girls. Dolphin Bar, near beach at Patong. Good salary, commission on daily income basis. Please call Richard for further information. Tel: 087-2677965.

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All 65 baht import shop open in Phuket City. Wanted: 6 cashiers. Must be Thai nationals with pleasant personalities. Please contact Daiso Phuket for further information. Tel: 076-345998.

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A recent promotion creates an opening for a Girl Friday to do sales, administration and assist the operations manager in a Charter/Cruise Business. Tel: 087-8866919. Email: Neil@SpaBoat.com For further details, please see our website at www.spaboat.com

## O'MALLEYS PHUKET

The new management of O'Malleys Irish Pub in Phuket is looking for an experienced cook for its new Irish menu! We are also looking for musicians: solo performers, small jazz or blues bands, acoustic guitarists and so on, for Tuesday open mic nights. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7840608. Email: derek@omalley'sphuket.com

**YACHT SOLUTIONS**  
marine consultancy

**1) Vessel Manager**

Long-term position available for male, under 40 yrs

- Excellent English
- Speaking Thai preferable
- Excellent communications skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Marine industry experience
- Computer literate

Please contact Gareth at Gareth@yachtsolutions.net

**2) Positions Available**

- Experienced engineer
- Experienced fiberglass and painter
- Experienced electrician
- Thai national
- Basic English skills
- Marine experience

Please contact Nicolas at Projects@yachtsolutions.net

**job opportunity**

Legal & Property Consultancy Firm in Phuket urgently requires

**Executive Secretary**  
(Personal Assistant)  
with these qualifications:

- > Thai National with Bachelor Degree.
- > Good spoken and written English.
- > Able to translate Thai-Eng & Eng-Thai.
- > Computer Literate: MS Word, Excel.
- > Knowledge of legal work an advantage.

**excellent benefits for the right candidate**

**SV**  
20/44 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Road, T. Taladrua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.  
Tel/Fax: (076) 234-074  
Mobile: 081-892-0031  
svone@loxinfo.co.th  
www.phuketstlegalervices.com

## OFFICE SECRETARY

Real estate agency's Chalong branch requires female for office. Good written and spoken English, computer skills and results oriented. Duties will be property scouting, telemarketing and following up listings for our properties. Salary up to 15,000 baht + incentives scheme. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

## SALES ASSISTANT

Wholesale food company is looking for a sales assistant. Basic knowledge of English required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1893070.

**Online Classifieds**  
**10,000 readers every day!**



# Island Job Mart

for the perfect trip...just click!

**HotelTravel.com**

The Hotel Travel Network is an international and multicultural company employing experienced and knowledgeable staff from six continents. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled service in a different languages.

Applications from candidates with the following qualifications are now being taken for our Phuket Call and Reservation Center.

**System Engineers / System Developers / Technical Coordinator**

These positions seek individuals with at least 3 years experience in Microsoft Windows technologies. System Engineers must possess sound knowledge and experience of administering a Microsoft Windows Domain Architecture and have experience of Exchange mail systems. Candidates aiming toward full MCSE status have a distinct advantage. System Developers at all levels are being sought, but must possess experience in Microsoft web development technologies, including, but not limited to ASP, ASP.NET and MSSQL. Technical Coordinators must have sound IT knowledge and have excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English.

Qualifications for the above positions:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Pleasant, outgoing personality, positive attitude, reliable, good communication skills and systematic thinking
- Thai National with good command of English
- Team player

Interested applicants please submit your application including resume / CV or employment certificates to email: careers@HotelTravel.com or call Tel: 076-282808 Khun Annupab Satakorn, Personnel Manager for further information

**We're looking for 2 people to join our team in the Tourism Industry Company.**

- Marketing (Russian/Australian national, at least two years' Thailand experience, must be very sales orientated especially in tourism & property, own personal transportation)
- Sale Coordinator & Secretary (Thai national with Bachelors Degree, excellent spoken and written English, able to translate Thai-Eng & Eng-Thai, good sense of responsibility)

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume + photo with expected salary to us.

**Contact Person: Mr. Dechrit Homhuan**  
**Mobilephone: 084 849 0443**  
**Email: dech-rit@hotmail.com**

**LAW FIRM PHUKET**  
 Looking for lawyer & secretary. Send resume to Email: scphuket@yahoo.com

**OFFICE STAFF**  
 Receptionist, admin & secretary. Good English & computer skills. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: admin@tacticalcapital.net

**FOREMAN**

- Thai national, Male
- Bachelor's degree
- Age over 25
- 2-3 years' experience in related field
- Basic English
- Can work at Klong Kien site in Phang Nga

Please send CV and current photo to email: info@stoneymonday.com, or contact K. Sao in office hours 9 am to 6 pm at Tel: 087-2658865 or 076-296321.

**RECEPTION / MANAGER**  
 Guesthouse/restaurant/tour in Krabi Town needs receptionist. You must have spoken and written English skills. Will train. Great salary, medical benefits, and bonuses. Please contact for more information. Tel: 075-622993, 081-4778786. Email: krabidream@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR MAID**  
 Foreign couple is looking for a long-term maid with basic English. Working location: Kamala, in a new house. Must be honest and self-motivated. Maid has to stay at our place for cleaning and cooking. Good salary for the right candidate. We offer private maid room with bathroom, TV, etc. Please call or email for interview. Tel: 086-1727974. Email: rene.koller@bluewin.ch Please see our website at: www.romsai.ch

**RESORT IN BANG TAO**  
 Looking for staff. Good English speakers for restaurant/kitchen/bar/cleaning /more. Please call K. Cim. Tel: 087-1887518.

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE**  
 Highly-motivated Thai national with excellent spoken English required for busy real estate office. Previous sales experience not necessary. Good salary plus excellent commission. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Email: cv@phuketocceanvillas.com

**RESTAURANT MANAGER & CHEF**  
 Sunset Beach Resort is looking for a restaurant manager & European chef. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-342482-5. Fax: 076-342500. Please send CV to: info@sunsetphuket.com

**PART-TIME WORK**  
 Promotional staff needed in Patong for brochure distribution on Soi Bangla. Can be students. Please contact K. Jony at Tel: 087-8817600.

**WORK CS @HOLYCLOTHING.COM!**  
 Customer service agents needed for expanding Internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, hard working, a team player, computer savvy with fluent English? Superior salary + bonus. Thai or foreigner. Tel: 085-7899249. Email: gstephenkay@yahoo.com Please see our website: www.holyclothing.com

**Paradise Group** is the Developer • Property Management • Architecture • Interior Design • Entertainment company located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket, is seeking for a qualified and energetic person to fill in the position below

**SENIOR PURCHASING**

- Male or Female, Thai National
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Administration Management or related field
- Minimum 5 years' experience in Costing, Purchasing Management
- Strong analytical and problem-solving ability and proven team leadership skills
- Positive attitude, pleasant personality, with attention to detail, service-minded, energetic & hard working
- Ability to communicate effectively in English
- Excellent computer skills (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook)
- Able to work in Phuket, own personal transportation

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or email to:

Chaiyan Saehang, Human Resource Department.  
**PARADISE GROUP**  
 The Plaza Surin, 5/50 Moo. 3, Chermthalay Sub-District, Thalang District, Phuket 83110  
 fax: +66 76 271242 email: parn@paradisephuket.com

**SOUS CHEF**  
 Young ambitious sous chef required to work with internationally known celebrity chef Keith Floyd at Floyd's at Burasari. Send resume now to Chris Green. Email: chris@burasari.com

**INTERNET CAFE**  
 Full- or part-time staff wanted to work in trendy Internet cafe and restaurant in Phuket City. Tel: 076-223210, 084-0143121.

**SOLAR TECHNICIAN**  
 and sales. Wanted: Technicians, sales and fitters for PV & solar hot water systems. Diploma or experience with solar energy is required. Please contact. Tel: 076-378361, 081-7722300. Fax: 076-244652. Email: info@phuketsolar.com

**RESTAURANT STAFF**  
 A new Indian restaurant called Little India will be opening mid-December and needs the following experienced staff: manager, waiter, waitress, cashier. Please send CV (email or fax) with details of experience as well as previous and expected salary. Tel: 076-254827, 01-8937028. Email: Sutisa.potter@gmail.com

**PROJECT MANAGER**  
 Engineer. Need good architectural skills, perfect English, experience with big projects. Good salary & willing to work for a good future. Please contact by email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

**WORK FOR INTERNET SHOP**  
 We're looking for:  
 -Women, Thai nationals, to work as cyber cafe receptionists. Full time or night time (18:00 to 24:00). Possibility of lodging. Patong, Phuket City or Kata.  
 -Men, Thai nationals, to do computer maintenance work.  
 Please contact K. Yupha by email or by phone. Tel: 076-341255, 089-471-9712. Email: leco@liontchai.com

**NIGHTCLUB**  
 Manager. Established nightclub in Phuket City is looking for a manager. The successful applicant will be male, a Thai national and fluent in English. Previous experience is essential. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb\_18@hotmail.com

**SALES DIRECTOR/ SALES STAFF**  
 Required: Excellent English, experience in real estate a must. We want only the best. Excellent pay plan + benefits. Phuket based. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-1068593.

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING ACCOUNTANT**  
 Wanted min 2 years' experience. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-280447, 081-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: info@no1visa.com

**STAFF REQUIRED**  
 To work with new company. All positions require a good command of English. Thai nationals only.  
 - Secretary/Research officer (marketing)  
 - Computer system operator  
 - Designer (web and print)  
 - Accounts clerk  
 Tel: 085-7962880. Please send CV and salary details. Email: hr@auchencain.com

**OFFICE STAFF**  
 Wanted: Thai female with very good communication skills in English. Good personality, self motivated, service minded. Tel: 076-264773. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

**RECEPTIONIST**  
 Guesthouse needs receptionist. English required. Salary: 6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-340677. Fax: 076-340584. Email: seafonthome@yahoo.com

**HOSTESS/COOK**  
 Hostess/cook wanted for sailing boat. Experience required. Please call for more info. Tel: 081-9701260.

**OFFICE STAFF**  
 We are an Internet travel agency and need a Thai female with good communication skills in English. Good personality, self motivated. Experience with MS Word and Excel would be an advantage. Tel: 076-342750, 086-2672462. Email: shall@loxinfo.co.th Please visit: www.tropicalgolf-spa.holidays.com

**ACCOUNTANT**  
 Accounting manager to be responsible for accounting activities for mid-size company. Required: Accounting degree, more than 5 years' experience, familiar with Peachtree accounting program. Working directly with managing director, providing financial planning and reporting to all of us. Strong written and spoken English skills required. Email: pat@destinationair.com

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 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City  
 Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### SCUBA CONSOLE

Has depth gauge pressure and compass. 12,000 baht. Tel: 085-7855365.

### SCUBA BCD

Sequest raider, 9 months old. 12,000 baht. Tel: 085-7855365.

### MUSIC EQUIPMENT

Guitars, amps, drums for sale. Leaving Phuket. Call for details. Tel: 081-5379196.

### MARES DIVE

equipment. Mares Vector 1000s BCD with weight pouches, large size. Mares Proton Metal Regulator, V32 first stage, Proton alternate, 3D console with depth and compass. All with boxes, manuals and warranty cards. All in like new condition! Moving, must sell. Tel: 087-0071755. Email: jeremyloud@yahoo.com

### POOL TABLE

Like new, less than one year old, hardly used. Excellent condition. Paid 55,000 baht when new. Will sell for 39,000. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-8947983. Email: kangalooest@yahoo.com

### FOR SALE FISH TANK

Beautiful fish tank. New, 40,000 baht, sale price 15,000 baht. Tel: 087-1466622.

## Articles Wanted

### POOL TABLE

Wanted: Secondhand pool table for personal use. Please call if you have, or know of, one for sale. Tel: 076-260468.

### POOL TABLE

Used 3.5 x 7ft pool table in good condition wanted. Also need cues, balls, light, etc. Tel: 087-6289349, 087-277-0672. Email: dr\_alfred33@yahoo.com.au

## Bulletins

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Is holding meetings in English at the following places in Phuket:  
**Mission Hospital Phuket City**  
 Wed and Sun 7 pm  
**Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City**  
 Fri 7 pm  
**Patong Hospital Patong**  
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
 For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895  
 Scandinavian speaking Group  
**Wat Karon School-Karon**  
 Tue and Sat 7 pm  
 Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
 087-2795636 (Nor)  
 086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

Add love, peace and joy to your Christmas this year and join us in singing carols and watching our Christmas show with a difference! Come together with people from all over the world at Phuket Christian Centre, Phuket City, on Friday, December 22 at 7:30 pm (Traditional Carol Service) and December 24 at 10:30 am (Christmas Celebration Service). Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-246381. Email: Fisherbernadine@yahoo.com

### PHUKET CHESSCLUB

Saturday from 2 pm. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8948446. Email: info@southernfriedrice.com

## Business Opportunities

### EJECTION SEAT FUN RIDE

Ejection seat bungee fun ride machine, imported from Austria. Full working machine and operating site, in Kathu next-door to go-cart track. This ride launches 2 people in a safety cage 60m into the air at a speed of 100kmh, in 1.8 seconds. I am looking for a working partner to invest and help run the ride. For full details contact Andy. Tel: 081-891-3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### BEAUTY SALON

Beauty salon for sale in Kathu 150,000 baht or rent for 8,000 baht a month. You can live inside. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8448589. Email: bb-anaiya@hotmail.com

### GREAT MESSAGE

And beauty. Big massage and professional beauty salon, 3 staff in salon and 4-6 in the massage parlor. Up and running very well. Everything brand new, no key money, 6-year contract. Selling for family reason. Best location on Nanai Rd. Selling price only. Investment back quickly. Tel: 089-8093566. Email: lennartviberg@hotmail.com

### KAMALA

Restaurant & bar. Famous for pizza + Texmex. 40 seats, air conditioning, equipment, stock and furniture. For sale at 500,000 baht + rent 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2878966, 086-9451642. Email: boomeekamala@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT KATA

Restaurant in Kata for sale. 60 seats, quiet location, cheap rent, 30-year contract possible. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-1203660. Email: chiligarden@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE



Promising business location, very close to Chalong circle, large shop/office area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, toilets, perfect for business and living in one. 3 units, from 5.5 to 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490. Email: info@sea-property-international.com

### PATONG BAR(S)

Wishing to concentrate on one bar, have the option of either GoGo on Seadragon (6-year lease) or Beer Bar (2-year lease) on Happy Rd (next to Seduction disco). Tel: 089-9546433. Email: kjralph@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Soi Gonzo, Bangla Road. 2 years left on lease. Genuine sale. 800,000 baht. Tel: 085-7826492, 085-7571301.

### KATOYS'R'US

Famous Patong cabaret bar. Tel: 081-8955242. Email: junaworn@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website: www.katoysrus.com

### KATA BEACH

Resort & spa 12-year leasehold for sale. Cafe, restaurant and subleases included. Zero rent, no key money: 12 million baht. Next to beach and city center too! House included & can get 1-year visa and work permit. Tel: 086-5413629. Please see our website at: www.phuket-massage.com

### BEACH RESTAURANT

Surin beach. Own beachfront, long lease. 700,000 baht. Email: swisstreff@gmx.net

### BUSINESS IDEA

Looking for a business idea or opportunity? Email: admin@no1phukethomes.com For further details please visit: www.no1phukethomes.com

### DIVE SHOP IN KRABI

Mantapoint Khao Lak is looking for an ambitious instructor or instructor couple who are willing to become either a 50% partner of our brand-new Ao Nang branch or who perhaps are looking for 100% ownership. Become a part of our Mantapoint network now! Tel: 081-2739279. Email: info@landportal.com

### FUN DATING BIZ

For sale. Unlimited income potential! Price for quick sale: only 500,000 baht. Please email for information. Email: info@fun-dating-thailand.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Prime location Kamala beach, well established with seating for 100. Owner retiring. Tel: 081-6777185. Email: resortinvestment@hotmail.com

### BUSINESS OPP

Ready to run. Business opportunities: hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and bars for sale and lease. Ready to run. Tel: 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php

### FOR SALE/RENT

Restaurant, Koh Lanta. Seats 27 inside, 12 outside. Lease contract to Mar 31, 2009. Rent: 200,000 baht per year. Asking price: 150,000 baht. Rent until Mar 1, 2007 included in the price. Please contact K. Conny for more information. Tel: 089-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

### INTERNET-CAFE-BAR-

Snacks. Directly on a beautiful beach. 14kms from Chumpon. 600,000 baht. Rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8497208. Email: franckphuket@hotmail.com

### INVESTOR/PARTNER

wanted. For real estate project with excellent return! Tel: 084-0572743. Email: admin@no1phukethomes.com

### INTERNET CAFE

Big office with 11 desks, 8 PCs, fax, ADSL fully equipped, parking. 300,000 baht. Tel: 086-154-6097. Email: didier55@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Popular and successful Amigos bar on Soi Seadragon for sale. Pool table, darts, own sound system. Price negotiable dependant on length of lease required. Tel: 087-883-8721.

### BUSINESS IN PHI PHI ISLAND

Now for sale in a top location. Popular fast food corner and Internet business, plus owner's room with balcony. 14-year contract and low monthly rent. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-0820039. Email: asiantips@gmail.com

### BAR BANGLA RD

Main road top location, food license, draft beer. Price: 4.4 million baht ono. Email: thomaspatong@gmx.de

### BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Patong. Sea view, pool, VIP restaurant, 23 rooms complete. Tel: 084-6301770.

### TIME IS MONEY!

Farang offer for Thailand. Applications from Thai women are welcome, too! Establishment of new Thai Ltd company. Visa and work permit no problem! No competition, no wasting time, clients enough! Start-up investment: 30,000 euros. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

### BAR/RESTAURANT

Including two rooms for rent. Nanai Rd, Patong. Tel: 081-0809802.

## Business Products & Services

### VISA RUN TO RANONG

Now every day. Tour bus or new minibus. Fully inclusive: boat, Myanmar visa fee, lunch, water, DVD, movies, music. Only 1,500 baht. Tel: 084-7457024.

We sell  
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**LIVE AND WORK LEGALLY OWN A TSBA FRANCHISE.**  
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 A number of Franchised Areas Available in Pattaya, Phuket, Samui. Full Training and Support for Successful Applicants.  
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 038 415 316 - 8 www.tsba.info

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 in all the resort destinations you want to be.  
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### TITLE SEARCH

Protect your investment. Check the land title before you buy. We offer full legal services including purchase agreement, lease and land registration. Free consultation. Tel: 076-345277. Please see www.siam-legal.com/land

### JEAB'S JUMPING CASTLES

8 different models available for children's parties.  
 Tel: 081-8939742.  
 www.phuketjumpingcastles.com

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

#### 41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

#### Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

**NEW SHOP OPEN THIS WEEK**

**Daiso Phuket Town (Near Robinson)**  
is Japan's No.1 ranked homeware supplier.

**ALL 65 B**

**Daiso has 90,000 product lines!**

**Cosmetics**  
**Pet accessories**  
**Daily necessities**  
**Clothing**  
**Health & Beauty**  
**Fake flower**  
**Crafts**  
**Electrical**  
**Stationery**  
**Japanese tableware**  
**Wrapping materials**  
**Cleaning & Janitorial**

**Interior goods**  
**Natural material goods**  
**Glasses**  
**Gardening**  
**Plastic goods**  
**Kitchen utensils**  
**Tableware**  
**Food**  
**Computer supplies**  
**Car maintenance goods**

**Penang Visa Run**  
**4,900 baht**

**Non-immigrant B and O visas**  
**(90-day stay, multiple entry)**  
**60-day tourist visas**  
**(1, 2 or 3 entries)**  
**4,900 baht - includes hotel,**  
**food and drink (NOT INCL VISA FEE)**

Travel by 9-seat VIP minivan - movies, music, etc  
Departs from Tesco-Lotus on Sundays, 11:30 pm

**Tel/Fax: 076-263475, 076-264476**  
**Mobile: 081-892 9960**

Month	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007
Date	3,10,17,24	1,8,15,29	5,12,19,26	17	7,14,21,28

**Kaleidoscope Sounds**  
**MOBILE DJ**

**Sunset Chillout sessions**  
**Weddings**  
**Theme Nights (60s, 70s, 80s, 90s)**  
**Corporate and Private Events**  
**Party boat cruises**

**Tel: 0878 899064**  
**Email: kaleidoscope.sounds@hotmail.com**

**EZY viza**  
VISA RUN SERVICE

Visa runs everyday. Big bus or mini-bus services available. Personal DVD players and entertainment included. 1,500 baht all inclusive. English staff available 24 hours a day.

**Tel: 083-1057398**  
**085-7855389.**

**BEST VISA & ACCOUNTING**  
prices in Thailand! With guarantee!

Tel: 081-0808557.  
Email: info@no1visa.com

**FLYING TRAPEZE**  
Lessons for all ages. Fly one x one HR Patong, near Rock 'n' Bowl. Open 10 am-12 pm, 3 pm-6 pm. Unique birthday parties, corporate events. K. Pee. Tel: 084-8375726, 084-8517705. Email: kidzsole@kidzsole.com

**"ONLY EVE GETAWAY"**  
\* 3 days/2 nights Andaman Club. \* 18-hole Nicklaus golf course. \* Casino: cards, slots, roulette, blackjack. \* Spa/Fitness center. \* Massage/Karaoke/Billiards. \* Myanmar village tour. \* Visa stamp/all transfer. Price: 6,999 baht. Tel: 083-3455540.

**VISA & LEGAL SERVICES**

**Siam Legal**

Company registration 2,229 baht; one-year visa 5,999 baht; retirement visa 5,999 baht; work permit 5,999 baht; UK & US visa 16,999 baht. No more visa runs - get a one-year visa for only 5,999 baht. Establish your Thai company today buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht! Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's largest legal service network. Always low prices by our licensed Thai lawyers. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 076-345277.  
Email: info@siam-legal.com  
www.siam-legal.com

**Computers**

**XDA 2 MINI O2 POCKET PC**  
Seldom used has retractable keyboard case adaptor. 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-8404300.

**COPIER SALES + Repair.** Farang fixes printers & copiers: laser, refills & toners. Call George. Tel: 086-972-4805.

**CHEAPEST TONER**  
PC devices. Phuket-based online computer store. Cheapest toners in Phuket. HP toners (remanufactured) for A4 printers: 730 baht! HP toners (remanufact.) for A3 printers: 995 baht! Second-hand computers for 3,000-5,000 baht. To-your-door delivery. Credit cards accepted. Email: info@phuket-computers.com Please see our website at: www.phuket-computers.com

## Miscellaneous for Sale

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN DRIVERS LICENSE**

< 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years  
< 6,000 baht, valid up to 20 years  
< 100% legal  
< Sole agent in Thailand Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suan Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yai, Phuket.  
Tel: 084-0068736 Fax: 076-209058.  
Email: iaa@intllicense.com  
www.intllicense.com

**BAR STOOLS**  
12 barstools for sale. Good condition. 400 baht each. 4,000 baht for the lot. Tel: 087-8895736. Email: huvw williams@hotmail.com

**WILSON STAFF**  
Golf set. Wilson Staff golf set, Nano Tech with Ignite + woods and Odyssey XG putter and bag - all brand new. Price: 40,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-2739279. Email: info@landportal.com

**BEER BAR AWNINGS**  
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Nonsmoker, likes sports, looking for young, good lady 20-30 years old, sms. Tel: +467-03407279, 084-60407079.

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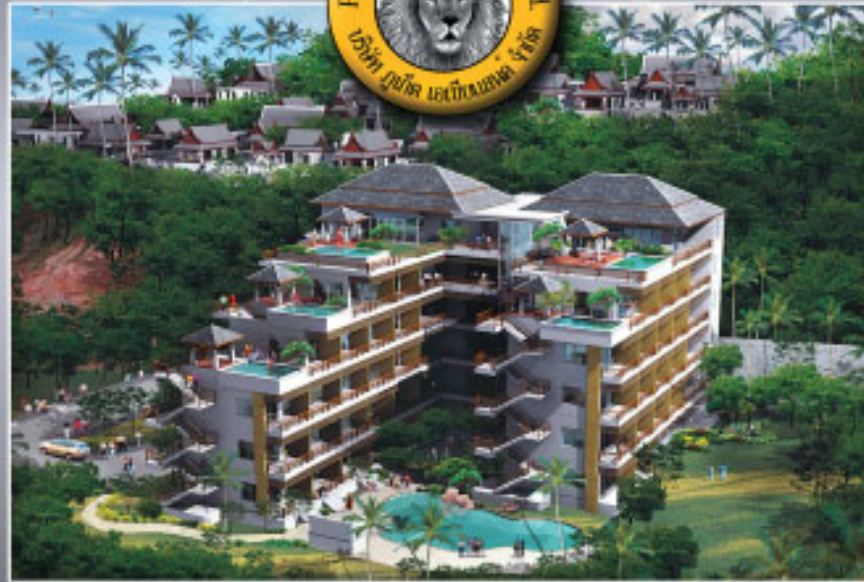




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