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## Foreign teacher checks continue

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Foreign teachers will continue to be the target of Immigration crackdowns, Thai Immigration Chief Pol Lt Gen Suwat Tumrongsiskul confirmed during a recent visit to Phuket. His agency, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education (MoE), will continue to conduct strict background checks on all foreigners applying for teaching jobs in the Kingdom.

Gen Suwat said Immigration agreed with the MoE that such a crackdown was necessary to prevent crime and to protect students from unqualified foreign teachers and those with deviant sexual behavior that could put children at risk.

Gen Suwat, in Phuket to attend a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the new Phuket Immigration Office, confirmed that the new measures stemmed from the deportation last year of American John Mark Karr, a former suspect in the 1996 murder of six-year-old JonBenét Ramsey in Colorado who was found teaching in Bangkok last year.

Gen Suwat told reporters said that random checks of 1,000 foreign teachers had turned up 65 whose academic credentials had been forged.

"This convinced us of the need to be more strict in checking teachers' qualifications. We don't want unqualified teachers or sexual deviants teaching Thai children. This crackdown will help us to better screen the backgrounds of people coming here to teach," he said.

Gen Suwat admitted that it is difficult to ascertain a person's sexual proclivities though such



**DESPERATE VOYAGE:** On February 1 the Third Naval Area Command intercepted this small boat about three kilometers off the coast of Ranong. The vessel was crammed with 92 Rohingya men trying to get to Malaysia. The men were taken to Ranong Police Station and deported back to Burma.

checks, but said that police could gain valuable information about applicants by checking to see if they had criminal records back in their home countries.

On October 1, Immigration began enforcing a measure limiting to 90 days [over any 180-day period] the length of stay of tourists entering the country on successive "visas-on-arrival". When asked if the new regulation had caused confusion and delays at Immigration checkpoints, Gen Suwat said the counting process was "no problem" for his officers, who could use a computer to help them add up the days.

He defended the new measure by saying it had little impact on legitimate long-stay tourists but was an effective way to prevent foreigners from using the free visas to stay in the country

and work illegally. "The 30-day tourist visa allows enough time for a tourist to travel around the country. If people want to work here, they should apply for a [non-immigrant] visa from the Thai embassy or consulate in their home country before coming here," he said.

When asked about the interception of several vessels carrying Burmese nationals in Thai territorial waters in recent months, Gen Suwat said the passengers were poor people only passing through Thailand on their way to find work in Malaysia.

Nevertheless, they needed to be deported as a security risk, he said.

A bigger concern is posed by foreign criminals and money launderers who come to Thailand to escape criminal prosecution in their own countries, he said.

## Suspects cleared of goldshop heist

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Two suspects in last month's armed robbery on a Chao Fa East Rd gold shop have been cleared by police after they turned themselves in to the authorities to proclaim their innocence.

Sketches of the two men had been released by the police because they had visited the gold shop earlier in the week.

Pol Maj Sompong Boonrat, Deputy Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, said that police have checked the two men's alibis and found them to be watertight.

"The people in the sketches we released are the wrong people. We have investigated where they were at the time of the robbery and they could not have done it; they are innocent," Maj Sompong said.

The artists impressions of the two men wanted in connection with the January 27 robbery of Thongroj gold shop in Dowroong Villa were released January 30.

A 300,000 baht reward was also offered for information leading to the arrest of the armed robber, who made off with gold jewelry worth more than a million baht in the heist.

"We have warned all gold shops in Phuket and in major cities in the South to be on the lookout for any gold they suspect may be stolen. We have also set up checkpoints to catch the robber if he is still in Phuket," Maj Sompong said.

"We think that he is not from this area, and he may well be from Patthalung or Nakorn Sri Thammarat," Maj Sompong added, without specifying what led police to this conclusion.

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## IN BRIEF

## Reinforcements still on hold

PHUKET: The 150 police officers from the Deep South have yet to arrive, despite Royal Thai Police Headquarters in Bangkok having approved the request, Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Decha Budnam-etch has told the *Gazette*.

"It will not be a permanent move, just a temporary measure to assist us as Phuket is always short of police," he explained.

"I think the arrangement will be good for both of us... it will give Region 9 officers a chance to relax from the stressful situation in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat," he added.

## Ao Phuket project survey completed

PHUKET CITY: Public opinions of the 70-billion-baht convention center and hotel project proposed to be built on reclaimed land off Saphan Hin have been surveyed, but the results have yet to be analyzed, researchers Dr Aree Tirasatayapitak and assistant Kamontorn Prompitak have reported.

Opinions were gathered from 600 people in Phuket, 300 each in Phang Nga and Krabi provinces, as well as from a public hearing.

The results will be released "within a couple of months", Dr Aree said.

## Heartthrob shot dead

PHUKET CITY: Sombat Arem-samkok, 25, a popular DJ renowned for his good looks, died after being shot in the heart at point blank range January 26.

K. Sombat was shot in the back at Takhrat restaurant, where he worked as a DJ, in Phun Pol Night Plaza.

The bullet passed through his heart and exited from the left side of his chest. He died on the way to hospital.

Two dark-skinned, Southern-Thai-looking men with long hair are wanted for the shooting.

## New District Chief tackles Thalang traffic

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

THALANG: Newly-appointed Thalang District Chief Samart Waradisai plans to request a budget to build a tunnel and more dedicated U-turns in order to improve traffic flow and safety on Thepkrasattri Rd.

Thalang District Office, working with the Phuket Provincial Highway Office (PPHO) and Thalang Police, has already taken steps to improve traffic flow at Heroines' Monument.

During peak hours, from 7 am to 9 am and from 5 pm to 7 pm, vehicles arriving at the circle from the west and wanting to con-

tinue east or south now must first turn left and drive north about 600 meters before making a U-turn.

Vehicles arriving at the circle from the east and wanting to continue west or north must first turn left (south) and make a U-turn near Wat Koh Kaew.

Both U-turn areas are marked with traffic cones, allowing the turns to be made without having to stop for oncoming traffic. The changes allow north- and south-bound traffic to continue unhindered through the circle and reduce gridlock during peak periods.

A similar system is also in place near Baan Kian market in Tambon Thepkrasattri.

The change in traffic flow forces people to drive further, but increases safety and saves time and fuel, K. Samart said.

K. Samart also wants to introduce a controlled U-turn in front of Thalang Hospital.

"I have heard that at least 10 people have been killed while trying to make a U-turn there. It is very dangerous because of the curve; drivers cannot see oncoming vehicles there," he said.

Long-term planning for this area should include a tunnel and U-turn points similar to those in Bangkok, K. Samart added.

A proposal seeking funding for these projects will be submitted, he said.

## Eight disaster-alert stations plundered

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY: Thieves have stolen copper cable from lightning rods at eight of the island's 11 emergency radio network repeater stations, forcing the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) to spend some 2.7 million baht on repairs.

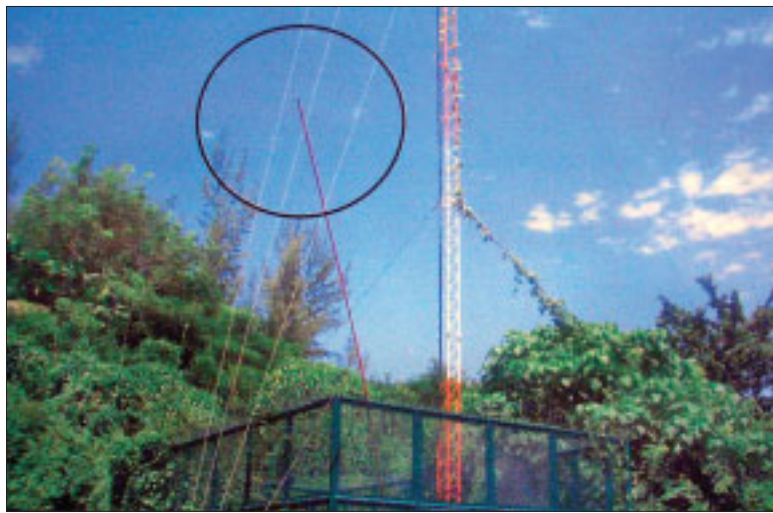
News of the vandalism was reported by *OrBorJor* Vice-President Suthin Uthathamrong at the January 30 meeting of provincial office chiefs.

To steal the copper, thieves broke into padlocked enclosures around eight towers, all in remote, high-elevation locations, K. Suthin explained.

Sites at Laem Phromthep, Sapam, Tah Chat Chai, Nai Thon, in front of Veerastree Anusorn School in Thalang, in front of Kamala Police Station and two sites in the Nakkerd Hills were hit.

The lightning rods are used to protect repeater stations of the *OrBorJor*'s emergency radio network.

They were built after the tsunami at a cost of more than 8 million baht to allow communica-



Thieves stole the copper cable from this lightning rod (circled) – and seven others like it around the island. Photo: Phuket *OrBorJor*

tion in the event of another disaster that would cause mobile phone networks to fail.

The network is the brainchild of *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, who after the tsunami found herself unable to co-ordinate emergency response efforts because the mobile phone system she used was jammed.

The repeater stations allows users, including members of the *OrBorJor* beach guard and the

cal storms and left them vulnerable to lightning strikes, he said.

The damages have been repaired at all locations, at a cost of about 50,000 baht each, out of the *OrBorJor*'s emergency fund.

The first thefts were reported in mid-2006, with three thefts – in Kamala, Sapam and the Nakkerd Hills – carried out over the New Year holidays.

Padlocked enclosures with chain-link fencing 2.5-meters tall did not deter the thieves, who left behind some of the cutting equipment they used at some sites, he said.

K. Suthin blamed second-hand shops that deal in stolen goods for creating a market for thieves. Copper of the same quality as that stolen could fetch up to 1,000 baht a kilo, he said.

In response to K. Suthin's report, Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima, who chaired the meeting in place of Governor Niran Kalayanimit, instructed Phuket's three District Chiefs to crack down on secondhand shops that receive stolen goods.

Bantoon Thongtan, Head of the Phuket Attorney's Office, told the meeting that he will recommend prison terms, not just fines, in cases of theft of government property – especially in cases where public safety is jeopardized.

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## Surayud, Badawi to play a round in Phuket

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi are scheduled to meet in Phuket on February 11 to play a round of golf and stay one night, before heading to Bangkok the following day.

The stately visit was announced by Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha at a meeting on February 5 at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Citing a draft itinerary, V/Gov Tri said that PM Badawi is scheduled to arrive in Phuket around 11 am, just after Gen Surayud's flight is scheduled to land.

The Prime Ministers will

play golf in the afternoon, then dine together in the evening.

The venues the PMs will visit have yet to be confirmed, though more details are expected to be released tomorrow.

In the afternoon of February 12, PM Badawi and Gen Surayud will leave Phuket for Bangkok on different planes. Both will arrive Bangkok around 2:30 pm.

At 5:40 pm that day both Prime Ministers will attend meetings at Government House, and at 7:20 pm they are expected to make an announcement together. More details were not available.

PM Badawi will leave Bangkok February 13, although a departure time has yet to be confirmed.

# Glue-sniffing youths arrested over brutal stabbing, beating

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Phuket City Police have arrested five of nine suspects wanted for the savage murder of Keittirat Longnawa, a 31-year-old transsexual and glue addict who was beaten and had his throat slashed in Rassada on January 31.

Police announced the arrest of the five suspects at a February 5 press conference at Phuket City Police Station.

They are still searching for four more suspects in the case. All nine suspects, including two girls, ranged in age from 14 to 21, police said.

Phuket Police Station Superintendent Pol Col Nos Sawetalek told reporters that around 8 pm on January 31, a group of 10 youths gathered to sniff glue in a

forested area about 100 meters off Soi Honsaitong in Rassada Village 3.

While intoxicated, one of the teens, a 16-year-old, became incensed at K. Keittirat.

Taking a kitchen knife carried by one of the girls, he stabbed the transsexual, a native of Ao Luk District in Krabi.

Police said they could not confirm a report in the Thai-language press that the reason for the youngster's anger was that he was convinced that the lady-boy, a native of Krabi, had used witchcraft to put a spell on him that caused stomach pain.

Whatever the motive, after the teen attacked the victim the other teens all joined him in a frenzy, taking turns stabbing, kicking and hitting the victim with sticks, Col Nos said.

The initial assailant was one of the youths arrested.

K. Keittirat's bloody corpse was discovered the following afternoon by a villager, who informed police.

The victim was clad only in jeans, with a brassiere, address book, sandals and two bloodied bags containing glue nearby.

Police said the body was later identified by one of K. Keittirat's friends, who revealed that K. Keittirat had lived in Soi Mordoo ("Fortune teller Street"), also in Rassada.

All of the suspects were known to police as habitual glue users, although none had been convicted of a violent crime before.

The five arrested have been charged with conspiring to commit murder.

## Phuket investors implicated in human trafficking bust

MAE HONG SON (*The Nation*): Twenty long-neck Karen (Paduang) women arrested while crossing the Thai-Burmese border on January 31 allegedly were to be sold to a group of Phuket investors for 10 million baht, police said February 1.

Mae Hong Son Provincial Governor Direk Konkleeb urged officers to extend the investigation to arrest those behind the alleged human trafficking.

One of the women, identified only as "Som-O", told police that they had come from Doi Kor province's Ti Mo So District in Burma to stay with Karen residents in Mae Hong Son's Huai Pukaeng Village.

Som-O said that she had heard that the Karen at Ti Mo lived in harsh conditions, so she invited them to cross the border

with her to live in Thailand.

The woman appeared to be very stressed, so police placed her under close watch to prevent her from committing suicide.

Another Paduang told police that Som-O early last year had married a Bangkok businessman – although he was allegedly already married to a Thai woman – and had built a resort in Baan Huai Deu to support Som-O's relatives.

The woman added that the businessman wanted 20 Paduang from Ti Mo So sold to a group of Phuket investors for 10 million baht.

The Paduang, currently being held for further questioning at Mae Hong Son's Muang District Police Station, would later be handed to Immigration police for deportation.

## Thai youth: Clever, constructive... copulating

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Health Office PPHO Chief Dr Wanchai Sathayawuthipong said that as Valentine's Day is a time of high risk for youths losing their virginity and contracting STDs, the PPHO will hold educational campaigns at schools throughout Phuket in the week leading up to the day of love.

Citing a 2005 survey of teens in Bangkok, the office reported that 29% of youths between 15 and 24 years old have had sex, while 7.5% intentionally have sex on Valentine's Day.

The study also found an increase in STDs such as gonorrhea among teenagers and called for more sexual education throughout the country.

The slogan this year is "Thai youth: Clever, constructive, and protecting against sexually contracted diseases and Aids".

## Phuket 'bird flu free' – Livestock Office Chief

PHUKET CITY: Phuket is free of H5N1 bird flu, says Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) Chief Dr Sunart Wongvorachart.

Last month the PPLO began an inspection and sterilization program at 17 local poultry farms, where samples were collected and sent for laboratory analysis. Thus far, all results have been negative for the H5N1 virus that causes the disease, he said.

There are 500,000 chickens on the island, of which 300,000 are laying hens. As this is insufficient to meet demand, birds are imported to the island.

However, bird flu has never been a problem in Phuket, Dr Sunart said. "For chickens imported from outside Phuket, we have vet officers standing by 24 hours a day at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

We have maintained strict checks since January 2004, so we are confident that Phuket is free from bird flu."

## Johnnie Walker Classic to get security boost

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Vice-Governor Vorapoj Rattasima on February 2 supported the call by Ministry of Tourism and Sports Permanent Secretary Sakthip Krairiksh to ensure increased security at the Johnnie Walker Classic golf tournament.

The event, which has attracted international players, will be held at Blue Canyon Golf Club March 1 to 4.

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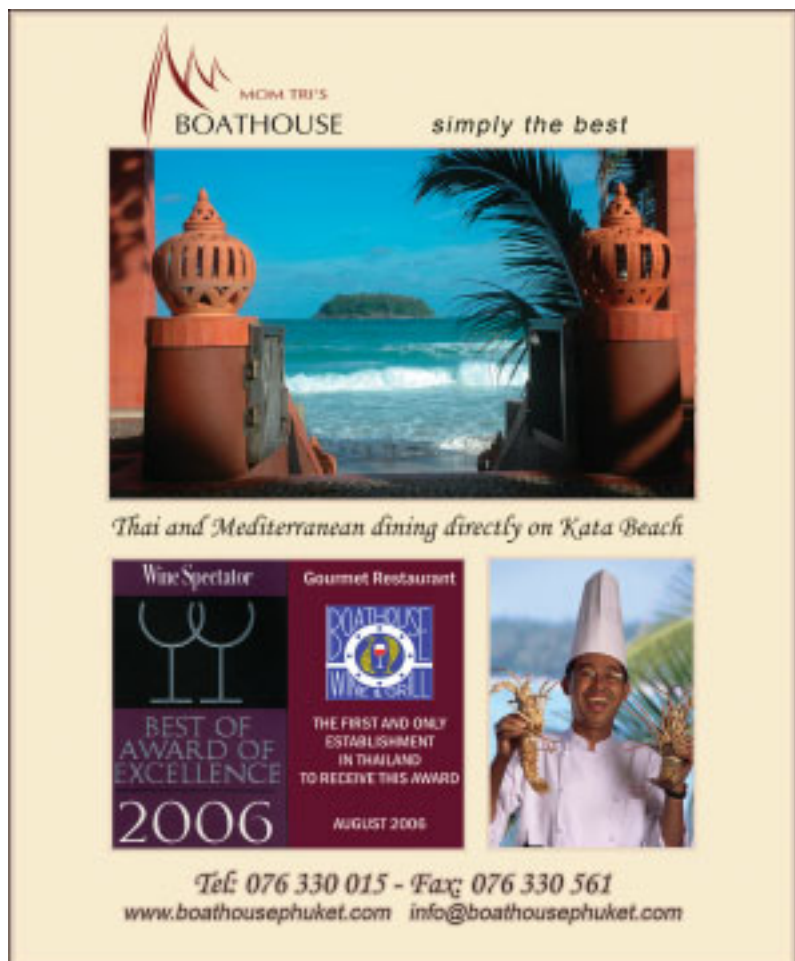
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# Phuket's fight

As of November 2006, Phuket Province had the fourth highest per capita incidence of Aids in Thailand, and was ranked second among the southern provinces.

Eam-Orn Kittitornkul, Chief of the Aids/STDs Section of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), said that 4,214 people have been found with HIV at Phuket's public hospitals – Vachira, Patong and Thalang – since 1989.

Of those patients, 3,315 people have developed Aids: 2,300 males and 1,015 females. The year 2006 saw 233 new HIV cases, and by the end of that year 1,062 people had died of Aids in Phuket.

"Before, the main risk group for HIV in Phuket was 'bar girls'. Our public relations effort has involved teaching them how to protect themselves. We have mobile clinic teams that go out to take care of them.

"It's also a direct way to research their behavior to identify risks, such as by asking if they use condoms.

"Sometimes they incorrectly use condoms by coating them with a lotion or an inappropriate lubricating gel, which can make condoms leak," said K. Eam-Orn.

The mobile clinic team, started in November, goes out twice a month. The mobile clinic is set up to provide pelvic exams, voluntary counseling, STD/HIV testing and treatment, health education, and condom promotion, said K. Eam-Orn.

It has 64 regular patients, 56 of whom have had blood tests for HIV. Of these, three have been found HIV positive.

K. Eam-Orn went on to explain that the health office has set up an agreement with bar workers to provide free blood tests for HIV and other infections every three months.

The workers who take these tests will then be provided with a card that identifies their HIV status. The office also provides free condoms.

After the test results come back, someone from the health office meets with the patient and explains the outcome; if the test is positive for HIV they help treat the patient.

K. Eam-Orn said that she is not too concerned with the incidence of HIV in bar workers as she feels that her program is getting the problem under control through education and counseling. However, she has identified another section of the demographic where the outlook is more bleak.

"The problem group is teenagers and students. It's so hard to test because they move so fast in a very active sexual culture. There is also a lack of Aids in-

formation and awareness among teenagers.

"The concern stems from our research, which has revealed that very few Phuket teenagers use condoms with their partners."

Perhaps most worrying is that fact that just one HIV-infected teen can spread the virus to many others before his or her HIV-positive status is known.

"H I V sometimes doesn't show up in teenagers because the incubation period can take years. This is why the teenage group is not suffering at this time. But in the future, this group will certainly be a problem generation for Thailand... They have immoral behavior, wanting to compete over sex with their friends. It's so dangerous to think like that," she said.

The health office has made attempts to educate students about their sexual health and HIV, but their suggestions have been turned down.

"We have met with schools about finding ways to help stop unsafe sex among students, but teachers don't accept that HIV is a problem. We want them to increase sex education classes, but some teachers think it's not proper to talk with students about this because they are young. But actually if we give them knowledge about it when they are young, those children will protect themselves."

Another idea was to set out "condom boxes" in schools so sexually-active students would at least have access to protection. But it also failed because teachers raised concern that it would be bad for Thai culture and would

encourage students to have sex.

"It's a difference in opinion because we think of the students' health and the teachers look at Thai students' image."

Apart from promiscuous teens, Thai society has at-large recognized the threat of HIV/AIDS and responded to it, she said.

"Overall, condom use among Thai people is better now than in the past. In our research, we found that about 97-98% of prostitutes use condoms during sex," she said.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told the *Gazette* that the number of HIV patients in Phuket is increasing because it is a tourist destination.

"We have to make it more clear to the public to use protection [if we are] to reduce the number of patients, especially among teenagers," he said.

"We met with the PPHO and asked them to arrange seminars and condom distribution at schools, but some of the schools were against that idea," he added.

Patong Hospital Director Dr Thaweesak Netwong said that because of the social stigma attached with HIV infection, the actual numbers of infections could be higher than the official number.

He cited the lack of a system to integrate data from government hospitals with those from private-sector institutions as another obstacle to obtaining more comprehensive figures.

"Patong is one of the biggest tourist entertainment spots in Thailand, and of course directly and indirectly offers sexual ser-



Soon, if entertainment businesses fail to co-operate in getting staff tested regularly for HIV infection, they may very face closure, says Patong Hospital Director Dr Thaweesak Netwong.

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# against HIV



Members of the PPHO's mobile clinic team talk to patients about their sexual health. Of the team's 64 regular patients, 56 have had blood tests and three patients have been found HIV positive.

vices, as most bar workers are willing to do that. They have the opportunity for several partners each day.

"So this group is high-risk, which is why we are paying them the most attention. The number of this group is high also," he said.

Male sex workers have the highest rate of infection, more than double that of female sex workers, he added.

Patong Hospital, together with the Patong Health Office, is trying to make a physical check-up every two weeks and a blood test every three months mandatory for all bar staff and sex workers. Kathu Police and other

involved organizations are helping to implement the plan, he said.

"Bar girls are still a problem. All bar workers must register and provide a personal profile and health record. Whoever is in this business must be registered. If they aren't, we have to force them to do so.

"They have to take responsibility for their health in order to be responsible to society and help to prevent a social problem," he said.

Dr Thaweesak said that so far the entertainment businesses have been co-operating with the health office in having their staff take the blood tests. If these busi-

nesses cease such cooperation in the future, more drastic measures could be imposed.

This might include having the Governor issue an order revoking a venue's entertainment license if it fails to comply, he said.

"We have already been working on this for two months. In Patong, there are about 300 entertainment venues. Beer bars, go-go bars, massage parlors and discotheques are our main targets.

"Strict measures will be taken if this has to be enforced. If bar owners don't co-operate, their bars will be closed and their li-

Eam-Orn Kittitornkul, Chief of the Aids/STDs Section of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, says that these days the problem group is teenagers and students.

'It's so hard to test because they move so fast in a very active sexual culture. There is also a lack of Aids information and awareness among teenagers,' she says.



censes withdrawn," he added.

Dr Thaweesak seemed little concerned with human rights issues that might arise from mandatory testing.

"We have a different point of view in terms of human rights. For the whole society to be safe, some individual rights must be given up. People should not only take, they should give something back to society," he said.

"Aids prevention is important... Everybody has to help each other. We do not mean to cause any problems for bar own-

ers... we just want to prevent risk, otherwise our society will not be safe or survive.

"If we know the cause or can stop HIV at the beginning, the problem will not occur. The night-spot regulation arrangement is an important preventative tactic."

Comparing the uncontrolled spread of HIV/Aids to a doomsday scenario, he said, "If we do not make people pay attention today, it will be too late, and we will be sorry one day. We, or our family, may be next. We just don't know."







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## Queer News

# Icy-cool safe-cracker

WICHIT: Thieves in Phuket are becoming more brazen these days, to the point that one burglar stopped to enjoy an ice cream while trying to break into an ATM machine – and still got away scot free.

At 1:30 pm on February 4, the manager of an EZ-Video rental shop branch on Chao Fa East Rd called Phuket City Police to report a break-in at the shop, located in a double shop-house opposite the entrance to Suan Luang Park.

The manager, Yupha Nontri, 41, said that a person or persons unknown had broken into the shop, stolen money from the cash register, and tried to break into an ATM machine there.

Responding to the call were Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Somphong Boonrat, Duty Inspector Lt Col Sien Kaewthong, of Phuket City Police Station, and other investigation officers.

K. Yupha told them that when she arrived with three other staffers to open the store as normal at 1 pm, they immediately noticed that the BankThai ATM machine inside the shop was unplugged and that its control panel had been forced open.

K. Yupha, who lives with other employees in staff accom-

modation right above the store, said that she immediately went to check the shop's cash drawer.

It had been forced open and the 6,000 baht left there the night before was missing. Also missing was 600 baht in cash from a box used to collect money from the sale of mobile phone top-up cards.

A subsequent check of the crime scene indicated that the intruder had climbed onto the roof of a storeroom at the shop's rear, then removed some wall tiles to gain access.

From the evidence at the scene, police believe the thief unplugged the ATM machine and then pried open its control panel.

He was unable to gain entry to the ATM's safe, however, and after repeated attempts failed, he probably felt hot and tired.

This was when he took an ice cream from the Wall's ice cream freezer next to the machine and ate it, likely pondering how to breach the safe.

Unfortunately for him, the frozen confection did not help his efforts to crack the ATM safe. He eventually called it quits, disappearing with the cash he had managed to swipe.

Source: Siang Tai



Reader JB emailed this picture to the Gazette with a note reading, "We live in Soi Kokmakham 3 in Rawai (the road between Naihan Road and Rawai Beach). Every day we have to face the garbage dumped at the entrance of our Soi."

"There is another dump at the entrance of Soi Kokmakham on Rawai Beach side, not far away from Nikita Bar."


"The problem is that the [garbage

## TRASHING Phuket




truck] comes only once every 10 days. What a shame."

Rawai Tambon Administration Organization, please note.




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The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Germany recently supported Khao Lak's comeback with nationwide media coverage informing travelers about the quick recovery of Khao Lak and its neighboring beaches.

One of Germany's most successful online newspapers, www.n-tv.de, with the headline "On offer again: Khao Lak" reported that shortly after the tsunami Khao Lak had become a household name due to the extensive media coverage of the large number of German travelers killed in the region.

In 2005, many leisure industry experts feared Khao Lak had been wiped from the tourism map. Yet Khao Lak made it back into the travel catalogs of Germany's leading tour operators in only two years, the report said.

In an understatement, TAT Germany representative Bettina Kraemer said to n-tv.de that there were about 40 hotels and bungalow resorts with about 4,000 beds available in Khao Lak in December 2004 (there were actually more than 5,000 beds waiting to accommodate visitors in 2004) and that the same number had almost been reached, although not all resorts had been rebuilt yet.

"The year 2005 was the cleanup year, 2006 was the reconstruction year and by January 2007 all resorts that are under construction will be ready," Ms Kraemer said late December.

Well, anyone who passes through Khao Lak with open eyes and ears knows that this is not exactly true. Construction is going on year round all over Khao Lak, and with huge reconstruction projects such as the Khao Lak Laguna Resort being about half-complete it will be at least 12 to 18 months before Khao Lak is back to 2004 pre-tsunami status.

Khao Lak today is as it was in 2003. Sedat Tatli, Regional Manager for Asia at Meier's Weltreisen, one of Germany's leading tour operators, agrees.

In a www.n-tv.de feature, Tatli said that from a tourism perspective Khao Lak is where it was one year before the tsunami. He described Khao Lak as

# Germany loves Khao Lak



'It is expected that Khao Lak will soon be again the most important destination in southern Thailand,' says Stefanie Berkin of tour giant Neckermann Reisen.

"an up-and-coming destination with a lot of busy construction sites".

He said that the Kempinski Group is reconstructing and redesigning the former Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort and that it is inevitable that more and more big resorts will be built in and around Khao Lak as wealthy investors have put Khao Lak back on their agenda.

The article also cited Khao Lak expat and travel guide author Richard Doring, who promotes the area on his website www.khaolak.de, where he says, "Tourists visiting Khao Lak are surprised to see that Khao Lak is almost back to normal after such a short time."

The online magazine also said that Khao Lak has regained pre-tsunami status with travel agents and operators. For example, travel service TUI listed sev-

en Khao Lak resorts in their *Asia Beautiful Holidays* summer catalog.

Similarly, FTI travel service listed eight Khao Lak resorts, Meier's Weltreisen listed nine and Neckermann Reisen listed seven. Neckermann Reisen Director Stefanie Berkin said that Khao Lak bookings for 2007 were far above average.

"It is expected that Khao Lak will soon be again the most important destination in southern Thailand," she said.

FTI reports that Khao Lak has regained 50% of its pre-tsunami status, but predicts that it will be back to normal by the 2007-2008 season.

Bettina Kraemer said that overall hotel occupancy reached 80% in the 2005-2006 high season and 90% this high season.

"In the long run it is not expected that the tsunami will have

any negative impact on tourism in Khao Lak, since our German clients have no negative associations regarding Khao Lak and prefer Khao Lak's tranquility over the crowded and busy Phuket," she said.

**Main course or just desserts?** In homage of our local restaurants, I'd like to recite the 2006 top restaurant menu bloopers.

For starters, my favorite breakfast joint has enriched my mornings with "Serambled Eggs", a "Gheese and Ham Banquette" along with "Sguezdz Juices".

However, I sometimes opted for a simple "Sandwish" instead of that huge "banquette" to leave some room for lunch.

Another restaurant at Bang Niang Beach offered "Sandwitches". They arrive on broomsticks, presumably. A small res-



## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

taurant near the highway serves one dish with a rather alluring name: "Chicken with Prench Deaw".

Other lunch favorites of mine have been "Pad Tha", explained further on the menu in brackets "(That noodles)".

When tired of Thai food, a "Viena Schitsal", "Cordanblue", "Spagatti" or "Fried Magarone" has given me enough power to work into the late hours.

My girlfriend prefers "Seafoof" and thus had a wide spectrum of choices, from "Shirmp" and "Sguids" to "Fish in Cocowut Savce" to "Steamfish in Banana leave". Bye.

Corny I know, but I have never had the stomach to try the "Sweet and Sore Vegetables". My preferred starter is the "Mishroom Soupe", though exactly what a Mishroom actually is I have yet to discover.

Not one for something fishy, I like the classics such as "Prok with fried Grass Noodle", "Fied Rice with Bork or Beff" and the traditional "Bahed Currie".

To round out a meal there is nothing better than "Banana Flitters and Isecream" followed by a couple of "Scoth Wishies".

As you can see, not only can wining and dining in Khao Lak be a tasty experience, but also a lot of fun. Bon appetif.

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# Former MP's son jailed for rape

**S**aengrot "Ouan" Kanchana, son of a former Surat Thani Democrat MP, was sentenced on January 29 to 19 years and six months in prison for the rape and imprisonment of a Burmese woman early last year.

Saengrot, son of former Surat Thani Region 3 constituency MP Chumphol Kanchana, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for the rape of "Miss Ya", a Burmese laborer.

He was also sentenced to eight years for grievous bodily harm and two years for wrongful imprisonment of his victim.

The total 26-year sentence was then reduced by a quarter in recognition of his cooperation with police.

Saengrot also had a six-month suspended sentence from a previous case added to his jail sentence, leaving a total of 20 years in prison to be served.

Saengrot, who showed no reaction to the sentence as it was read out, was escorted by guards to Surat Thani Provincial Prison. About 20 friends of Saengrot came to hear the sentence being handed down.

**Transport troubles:** Members of the Haad Yai Small Cars Co-operative staged a protest January 31 after the cooperative increased the number of *songtaew* (pickup trucks converted to carry passengers) serving the route between Haad Yai City and Haad Yai Airport without first consulting its members.

Claiming that more *song-*



**WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE:** Muslim women surrounded Nong Jik District Police Station, Patani, January 28 to demand the release of Namadi Sama who was being held on suspicion of terrorism- and cannabis-related offenses. After about three hours, police gave in and released the suspect on bail.

*taew* would lead to a fall in their income, about 100 *songtaew* and tuk-tuk drivers protested outside the co-operative's offices on Niphat Songkroh Rd.

A *songtaew* driver, who asked to be named only as "Chai", said that the co-operative's decision to increase the number of vehicles on the route from central Haad Yai to the airport was making life difficult for drivers who already work that route.

The protesters sent a representative to negotiate with the

co-operative's leaders, K. Chai said.

If they could not reach a solution acceptable to the drivers, they would hold more protests, he said.

**Automatic arrest:** Thirayut Sri-muang, 29, a wanted *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealer, was arrested in possession of a loaded M3 submachine gun as he was taking his wife to Phatthalung Provincial Hospital.

Phatthalung Governor Suthep Komlaphamon and Phatthalung Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Kittisan Dechsunthawat on February 2 went along with Khao Chaison District Police, whose officers made the arrest.

Thirayut was arrested for selling *ya bah* in 2005, but was released on bail. Police said that he resumed selling the drug and had managed to elude drug suppression officers who had been hunting for him since the end of 2006.

On searching Thirayut's car, police discovered the gun behind the driver's seat. The magazine was loaded with 28 bullets.

Thirayut confessed that he

had bought the gun for 6,000 baht in Patthalung's Kong Ra District to defend himself while dealing *ya bah*, police said.

**Playing nooky:** The Head of the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Center for Improving the Student Behavior along with Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police raided a hotel room in the city on January 30, after receiving a tip-off two students had rented a room for sex.

After a passer-by reported seeing a male vocational-school student and a female high-school student going into the Bua Luang Hotel in Tambon Khlang, provincial truancy officer Somphong Yuthao called for police back up and rushed to the scene.

The hotel receptionist told the officers that a male student had just rented room 502. Police knocked on the door, then opened it to find a girl and a boy, both naked and scrambling for their clothes. After the pair ran into the bathroom and locked the door, officers ordered them to dress and come out for questioning.

The 18-year-old male student attended a private vocational college in the city. The girl, 14, was a student at a school in a

neighboring district, police said.

In the room police found and confiscated a pack of cigarettes and a box of birth control pills, of which three were missing.

K. Somphong said the pair told him they had both put on their uniform that morning as if they were going to school. After asking for some money from their parents, they then went to meet each other in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City, where the boy rented the hotel room.

The boy entered the room first, while the girl waited until the hotel receptionist was distracted before sneaking up to join him, he said.

They started to have sex, but were interrupted by the officers knocking at the door, he added.

The pair were taken to Nakhon Sri Thammarat Area 1 Education Office and their parents were called. When the girl's parents arrived, however, a fracas broke out. Officers had to step in to stop the parents, a teacher and a soldier, from beating their daughter, K. Somphong added.

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

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# Pet dogs to fight terror, drugs

**B**angkok police have invited people who own German shepherds and Labradors to bring their pet dogs for training as bomb and drug detectors.

Special Operations Police Division Commander Maj Gen Vimoon Pao-in said patrol dogs were now in high demand because of the heightened threat of bombs and the increased number of reports of suspicious items around the city.

Police have an inadequate number of sniffer dogs due to a lack of budget to recruit and train more, so they are calling on the pet dogs of Bangkok to do their duty, he said.

The project, launched January 26, began with a two-day training course in trailing and sniffing skills.

"The two breeds have special skills, so I want to ask owners to bring their pets to help with official tasks. At least, the training will help increase the capability of the dogs. Your dogs can be more than pets," said Gen Vimoon.

Dog owners will be trained in medical care for their pets as well as techniques in dog massage.

Both dogs and owners who pass the course will receive certificates.

**MoW?** Within the next few weeks the government is expected to scrutinize a blueprint for bureaucratic restructuring that will include the creation of a new ministry to provide integrated management of national water resources.

PM's Office Minister Dhipavadee Meksawan said that, as ordered by Cabinet, the Public Sector Development Commission had completed outlining flaws



**A Customs official shows some of 1,455 protected turtles that were smuggled into Thailand.**

**Thai Authorities confiscated the animals during a raid at a house in Prachuab Khiri Khan's Pranburi District.**

*-Photo by Supachai Petchtewee*

detected in the administrative system.

"Most administrative problems have been found at the ministerial level and many shortcomings stem from overlapping jurisdiction and poor departmental coordination," she said.

The Ministries of Information and Communications Technology, Culture, and Tourism and Sports, which are most affected by globalization, are slated for internal restructuring, she added.

**Defrocked:** Police have arrested a defrocked abbot for allegedly raping an 18-year-old Australian.

The suspect, 59-year-old Munee Waewnokyoong, was defrocked by the monastic authorities as soon as the allegation was made against him.

Munee, formerly the monastic head of Bangkok's Dusit District, denied the allegations.

His alleged victim, who is of

Vietnamese descent, visited Munee on January 25 during her vacation. Munee is renowned among foreign tourists for his fortune-telling services.

When Munee saw the victim, he claimed bad luck had befallen her and that she should undergo a "ritual" to avoid "bad things". The girl followed him into his quarters, where he allegedly raped her. The victim reported the incident to the Australian Embassy, who then brought her to lodge a complaint with police.

Kanok Saengprasert, a senior official at the National Buddhism Bureau, said there were 300 complaints about monks' behavior last year, including five involving women.

**Teaching travails:** When it comes to careers, the nation's overworked teachers do not wish to see their children follow in their

footsteps, a survey by the Teacher Watch project has found.

Among the findings: 29% of teachers and 37% of school administrators wanted their children to take up teaching jobs; 62% of teachers and 43% of school administrators wanted early retirement; and 48% of teachers and 34% of school administrators had considered changing professions.

The Teacher Watch project conducted the nationwide survey between July and August last year. It covered teachers and school administrators in 1,350 schools. Project head Dr Amornwich Nakhonthap urged political parties to make education a priority, saying the future of the country did not lie in short-term economic needs alone.

He also expressed concern that "teacher" was no longer in the top 20 "dream careers" of children.

"The country needs wisdom and virtue from its population and a good education system will help. But without good teachers, the education system can't be good."

**Just the facts:** The number of websites blocked by the Informa-

tion and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry has risen 500% since the coup, according to campaign group Freedom Against Censorship Thailand (FACT).

The "blocklist" numbered 13,435 websites as of January 11, compared with 2,475 on October 13 last year, the group said.

The huge jump showed "a frightening increase in thought control and abrogation of civil liberties and human rights in Thailand," FACT said in a statement.

The group said that the ICT, which does much of the censorship, has a budget of five billion baht.

"It would appear Internet censorship is the only function of the Ministry of 'Information' yet the ICT [Ministry] discloses no information to the Thai taxpayers."

The group is currently running a campaign against Internet censorship and has urged the public to take part by joining them at: [www.factthai.wordpress.com](http://www.factthai.wordpress.com)

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



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By Mick Lennea

**T**he second annual Phuket International Blues Festival will take place at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa at Karon Beach on February 16 and 17, with profits from the event earmarked for charity.

The 2007 festival, presented by HotelTravel.com, will again feature international artists including the Rich Harper Blues Band from the US, UK blues legend Victor Brox and his critically-acclaimed daughter Kyla Brox.

Thai bands scheduled to perform include Bangkok-based Cannonball, Soi Dog Blues Band and Blue On Blue.

Also scheduled to be on stage are The Blues Machine from Pattaya and Phuket's own Groove Doctors.

In December, festival organizers Phuket Music Production Company announced that profits from this year's fest would be donated to two local charities which fund children's education: the Phuket International Women's Club and the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

Despite having to be moved inside because of torrential rain, last year's festival generated a lot of buzz with a combination of styles rarely seen in a blues show anywhere, let alone music-starved Phuket.

Rich Harper told the *Gazette* that as he had such a good time last year he couldn't wait to

return to Phuket and meet up again with Victor Brox, Jeff (of the Soi Dog Blues Band) and everyone else involved in Phuket's first festival. He said he really enjoyed that event due to the great location and the people involved.

Rich and his band have been touring Thailand and Swe-

den in recent months, as well as working on a new CD.

Fellow-headliner Victor Brox has played with nearly everyone, including Eric Clapton, The Yardbirds, Tina Turner, Jimi Hendrix, and Screaming Lord Sutch.

He also played on the original cast recording of Jesus Christ

Superstar. Tina Turner and Jimi Hendrix both described him as their "all-time favorite" white blues singer.

Victor's daughter Kyla Brox has just finished a new album, *Gone*. Paul Jones of BBC Radio 2 raved about her music, calling it, "Very good indeed!"

Kyla follows in the footsteps of her illustrious father, but has a style all her own. She got her start singing in her dad's backup band at the tender age of three and now sings simple yet powerful songs, usually accompanied by just a guitar, or sometimes a horn.

This year's festival will see a big pavilion to cater to the unlikely event of a February rain shower.

Helicam Asia will provide

aerial photography, so audience members are advised to come early if they want to get their faces on video; the copter can be flown only in daylight.

This year there will also be a raffle of such items as autographed memorabilia from famous musicians.

The show starts at 6:30 pm on Friday and Saturday, running to just after midnight. For those who just can't get enough, Sunday will see a jam session at the Saxophone Jazz and Blues bar in Patong at 9 pm.

Tickets are 500 baht per night, or 800 for both nights. Also on offer are VIP passes, with backstage access, at 3,000 baht apiece. They are available through the website at [www.phuketbluesfestival.com](http://www.phuketbluesfestival.com)



Rich Harper – whose band is the headline act on the second night of the Phuket Blues Festival – wows the crowd at the Byron Bay II Festival, at Byron Bay, on the New South Wales coast, Australia.

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# Accessory to a crime of fashion

**R**ecently I read an article on the topic of men's accessories. I wasn't sure at first what "accessories" meant, but the examples the columnist cited – rings, cufflinks, ties, watches, PDAs, mobile phones – made it pretty clear.

Accessories are things you don't really need, but you wear or carry them anyway, for reasons of convenience or style.

Excited by this concept, I did a check of my own accessories, just to see how I measure up.

It turns out that I am pretty much an accessory-free dude. I don't carry any electronic toys, but I do wear a ring – a silver one engraved with the Sanskrit syllable "Om." That cost me 350 baht on Khao San Rd, but it's actually worth more, because I bargained the vendor down from 450.

I wear it because "Om" is the Hindu symbol of the Absolute, and in these uncertain times the Absolute needs all the help it can get.

I also have a watch – a black plastic digital Casio watch that cost a hefty 650 baht. I've put a little compass on the watchband, so that whenever I get lost I can tell which direction I'm getting lost in.

In addition to being stylish and cool, my watch functions as a thief repellent. One glance at it and potential thieves move on to greener pastures.

I don't have a PDA, but I do carry a little pocket notebook and a pen. In the notebook I record how many drinks I've had on any given night. That way, when I wake up the next afternoon with a Force-Ten hangover, I can consult my



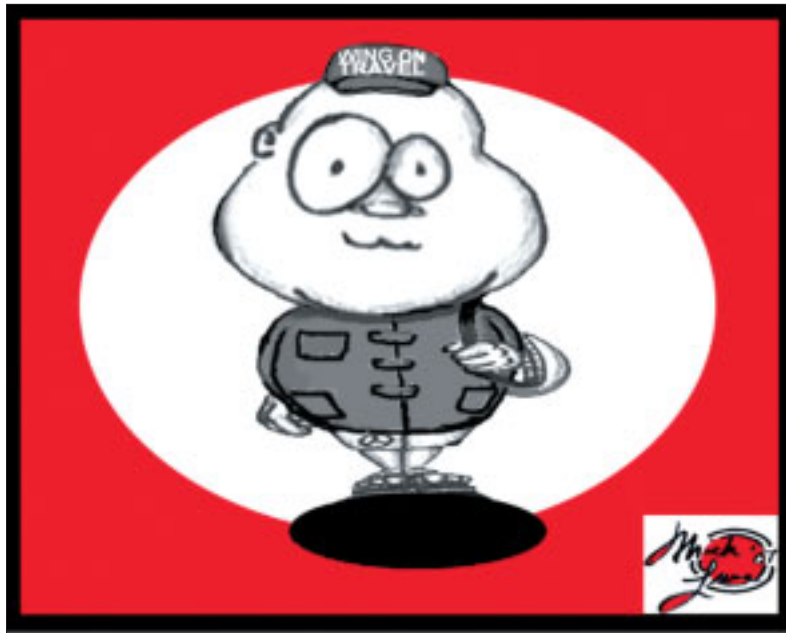
notebook and remind myself why. The pen is a prestigious Lancer ballpoint that cost five baht.

All this may give you the idea that I am pretty much an ascetic when it comes to accessories. But in fact I am a closet accessory addict, for I carry a nerd bag.

Yes, it is true. In my youth I was a backpacker, and I carried my valuables in a shoulder bag. After getting my pocket picked a few times on Bangkok buses, I resumed this wise habit.

My shoulder bag, affectionately dubbed a nerd bag, contains my wallet, coin purse and keys. But it also harbors a wealth of nerdy equipment, mostly related to Bangkok's horrendous heat: a hand fan, a towel and a yellow "Wing On Travel" cap, which I purchased by the roadside many years ago for an economical 10 baht.

I also carry earplugs, for the noise; toothpicks, in case restaurants don't provide them; toilet paper, for those embarrassing peristaltic rushes that occasionally strike after eating too many chillies; my personal chopsticks; and my lucky rabbit's foot. In the rainy season I add a folding umbrella.



So I may look like an accessory-deprived dinosaur hopelessly out of the fashion loop, but my nerd bag makes me King of the Accessory Freaks.

Aside from being rich in accessories, I am a pioneer and a trend-setter in the field of men's fashion. You can even go so far as to call me Mr Trendy.

Eschewing expensive shoes by Gucci or Wal-Mart, I

wear rubber shower sandals by Bata. At a cost of 65 baht, they are sturdy and have a good tread, and are excellent for wading through flooded streets in the rainy season.

Expensive shirts by Pierre Cardin or Yves St.-Laurent are not my style. I wear collarless cotton shirts with three pockets, like the shirts worn by farmers upcountry, except that mine are made of lighter material.

Nowadays, sidewalk vendors sell them for a pricey 99 baht. Thais think they're low class, but they're the most comfortable shirts in town.

When I was an *ajarn* I used to wear long pants. Now I don't need to impress anybody, so I wear shorts. But these are not ordinary shorts. No, indeed. These are high-class shorts imprinted with a Mercedes-Benz logo. They give me great status.

I buy them off the street at the Sri Yaan intersection in Bangkok for 99 baht. I don't need to wear a belt, because they have a drawstring at the waist.

I believe that my wardrobe, which is elegant yet frugal, costing a total of 263 baht (273 if you include the cap), will blaze new trails in men's fashions. Now that I've set the trend, I'm just waiting for the masses to follow.

*You can add your praise to the universal acclaim S. Tsow is receiving as a fashion guru by emailing him at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com)*

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# THE HEART OF A

By Supanun Supawong

**T**hirty-three years ago, Phuket-born Banjong Damklam, now 63, had a dream that set him on his way to being the administrator of the well-known Boon Tao Kong Shrine on the hill between Kathu to Patong.

The dream involved Chinese gods as well as spirits sitting on a tree that had fallen on a broken-down wall, he says, though at that time he had no idea what it meant.

The dream disturbed him enough that he sought the counsel of friends, who sent him to a medium at a Kathu Shrine.

After hearing K. Banjong recount his vision, the medium told him, "Go and take care of the Boon Tao Kong Shrine." But K. Banjong was worried that he had no experience and would not know how to manage the shrine.

"Just go and do it. Decide for yourself what needs to be done, and you will have no problems," he was told. And do it, he did.

Today, thousands of people each day pay their respects by honking their horns three times as they drive past the temple at the top of the hill.

The honking is to pay respect to Boon Tao Kong and to ask for safe passage over the mountain.

The dramatic location of the shrine was selected for its high elevation and windy setting,



which were hoped would bring good fortune. The shrine is named after the Chinese god it

was built to honor, Boon Tao Kong – a powerful deity that rides a tiger.

Upgrading the shrine was no easy task and has been his life's work, says K. Banjong. When he started, the road over Patong Hill was dirt and the shrine itself was small and dilapidated. It took him many years of slow progress to build it to its current size and beauty.

Initially, there was no money to get the job done. However, the Kathu medium suggested he put up a sign requesting donations,

and that was all that was needed to get things going. After that, donations of work and money began to arrive.

Among the donations, a millionaire's wife gave 70,000 baht and Patong Mayor Pian Keesin helped build the stairway up to the temple.


In addition to his shrine-keeping duties, K. Banjong has also had to work to provide for his family.

When he took up his role at the shrine, he was working for a company selling agricultural fer-

tilizers and chemical insect repellents.

After the owner of the company died, he started his own business, also in fertilizer and agricultural chemicals. However, his business started failing, so he prayed to Boon Tao Kong. "Success soon came my way," he says.

Many others have had similar success at the shrine, says K. Banjong. People pray for a job, the return of a stolen motorcycle, and sometimes just for good luck. By his reckoning, some 80% of



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# TIGER



**Bangjong Damklam at the Boon Tao Kong Shrine at the top of the hill between Kathu and Patong. He says that 80% of those who offer prayers at the shrine have their prayers answered.**

Kathu and to various foundations.

The meat products are brought to the shrine as they are thought to please the tiger that the God rides.

One story the administrator tells is of a devotee who returned to the shrine with garlands of flowers instead of the meat that was promised, and the flowers burst into flame. The person was terrified, but K. Bangjong calmed the anxious devotee through guidance, telling him to explain to Boon Tao Kong why he could not do as he had promised in his prayers.

Another of K. Bangjong's talents is the interpretation of the fortune-telling sticks used at the shrine. Each stick contains a message for the devotee. They are shaken about in a small container and the first one that falls out brings a message.

The messages are written in poetic form and K. Bangjong helps people read and understand the meaning of their fortune and what they should do about it.

K. Bangjong is semi-retired now as he closed his business six months ago, though he still looks after the shrine and supervises the two other junior shrine keepers – his son and his son's wife.

He finds administering the shrine tiring as he needs to collect and keep track of the donations and often doesn't get home to bed until about 2 am.

A strong believer in karma, K. Bangjong says, "If people do good things, they will get good things, and if you do good things, you don't need to pray."

the people find their prayers answered with success.

To repay for their prayers being answering, people bring meat, pig heads and chickens to the shrine – and

sometimes set up movies for passers-by to watch. K. Bangjong donates the goods to local schools, poor people living in



Waranya Nawaluck receives her prize from *Gazette* Editor Parichat Utintu, watched by (from left) *Gazette* General Manager Oranee Pienprasertkul, Uthid Kamler and Taksinan Podsalee.

## Kathu students win awards

Three students from Kathu Wittaya School have won prizes in the Southern Regional Division of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand. The topic of this year's contest, open to Thai students aged 14 to 18 years, was: "A Tale of Thai Grace and Compassion".

Eligible students were invited to write real-life or fictional accounts reflecting on Thai people's grace and compassion. All entries needed to be written in English and from 800 to 1,200 words in length.

The overall winner for the entire Southern Region was 17-year-old Waranya Nawaluck, whose story was judged to be the best of some 30 entries. She received a 10,000-baht cash prize for her essay.

Merit prizes of 5,000 baht each were also awarded, to runners-up Taksinan Podsalee and

Uthid Kamler, both also of Kathu Wittaya School.

Like Waranya, Taksinan wrote about her post-tsunami experience, while Uthid wrote about the kindness of Thais in welcoming foreigners who adopt Thailand as their second home.

This was the first year that any of the three students had taken part in the annual competition. They received prizes at the *Gazette*'s offices on January 30.

"I wrote about the real experience that my sister and I shared during the tsunami in December 2004. Both of us were affected because we happened to be exercising at Patong Beach at the time.

"We received such great support and kindness from so many people... I think that my story won because it came from my real experience and expressed my deepest feelings," said Waranya.

She is now a contender for the Thailand national IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. As guests of the contest's sponsors, Waranya, her father Pipat, and her English teacher Ajarn Dilaka Jaeng-iam, will attend the national Awards dinner, at which the winner for all of Thailand will be announced, in Bangkok on February 12.

Thailand's national winner will then enjoy a free trip to Dublin, where he or she will attend the Senior International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony.

On that occasion, the Thai winner will meet, and take part in a reading with, the senior winner for the worldwide IMPAC Dublin contest.

The Dublin Literary awards are sponsored by international productivity consultant IMPAC, Enterprise Ireland, The Embassy of Ireland, *The Nation*, *Citylife* and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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## This week



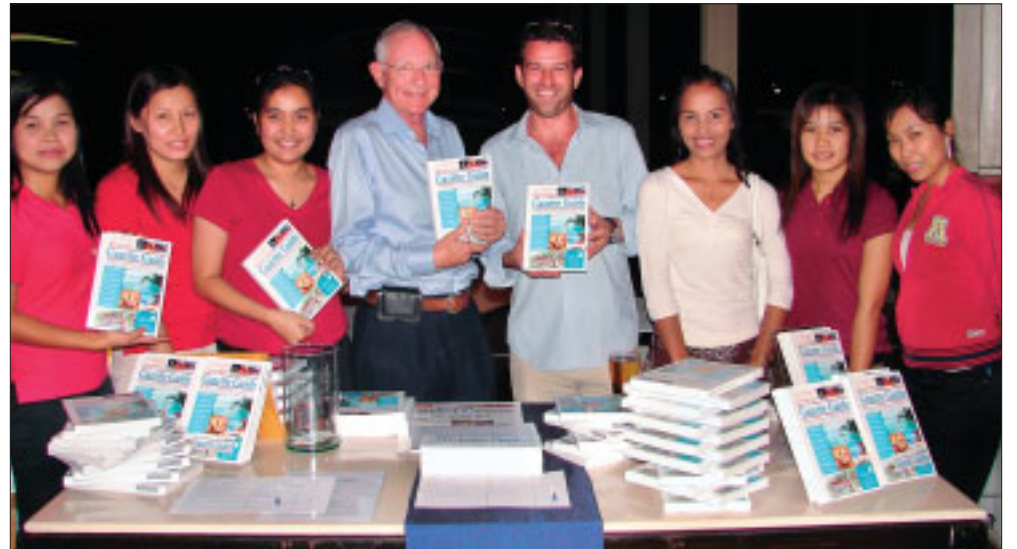
**AUSSIES ON TOUR:** Jaroonrat Tandavanitj (back row, 4<sup>th</sup> from right), owner of Baan Chin Pracha house in Phuket City, welcomes professors and students from Sydney's Macquarie University during their tour of Phuket's cultural attractions. Leading the tour was Macquarie University's Museums Education Officer Dr Andrew Simpson (back row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) and Phuket Rajabhat University Assistant Professor Pranee Sakulpipatana (right).



**HILLTOP HOMAGE:** His Holiness Somdet Phra Buddhacharya (center, in saffron robe), President of the Executive Committee of His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch, visited the huge Mingmongkol Buddha image atop the Nakkerd Hills dividing Kata and Chalong on January 17.



**DOUBLE THE BEAUTY:** Two former Miss Thailand World winners visit the *Gazette Guide* launch party at the Watermark. Janpen Magee (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) welcomes 1993 winner Maturose "Cherry" Lersakda (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and 1994 winner Pathinya "Eve" Thongsree (5<sup>th</sup> from left) with Phuket Laser Center staff (blue shirts) and the *Gazette* team (red shirts).



**GAZETTE GUIDE NIGHT:** John Magee (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Publisher of *Phuket Gazette*, and Stuart Bird (5<sup>th</sup> from left), General Manager of the Watermark, celebrate the launch of the *Gazette Guide 2007* with *Gazette* staff on January 31.



**WELCOMING WISHES:** Courts Megastores Country Director Steve Church (left) and Operations Controller Passaraporn Kaotan congratulate Piya Bharatasilapin on his promotion to Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) with a New Year gift.



**LAVISH LUNCHEES LAUNCHED:** Suwalai Pinradab (center), Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Phuket office, joins the launch of the Indigo Pearl's Lavish Sunday Brunches at its new Tin Mine restaurant. From left: Indigo Pearl Sales & Marketing Director Laddawan Somniyam, General Manager Anthony Ross, Tourism Council of Thailand President and Indigo Pearl Managing Director Wichit Na Ranong, and Indigo Pearl Assistant Managing Director Prakaikaew Theerathada.

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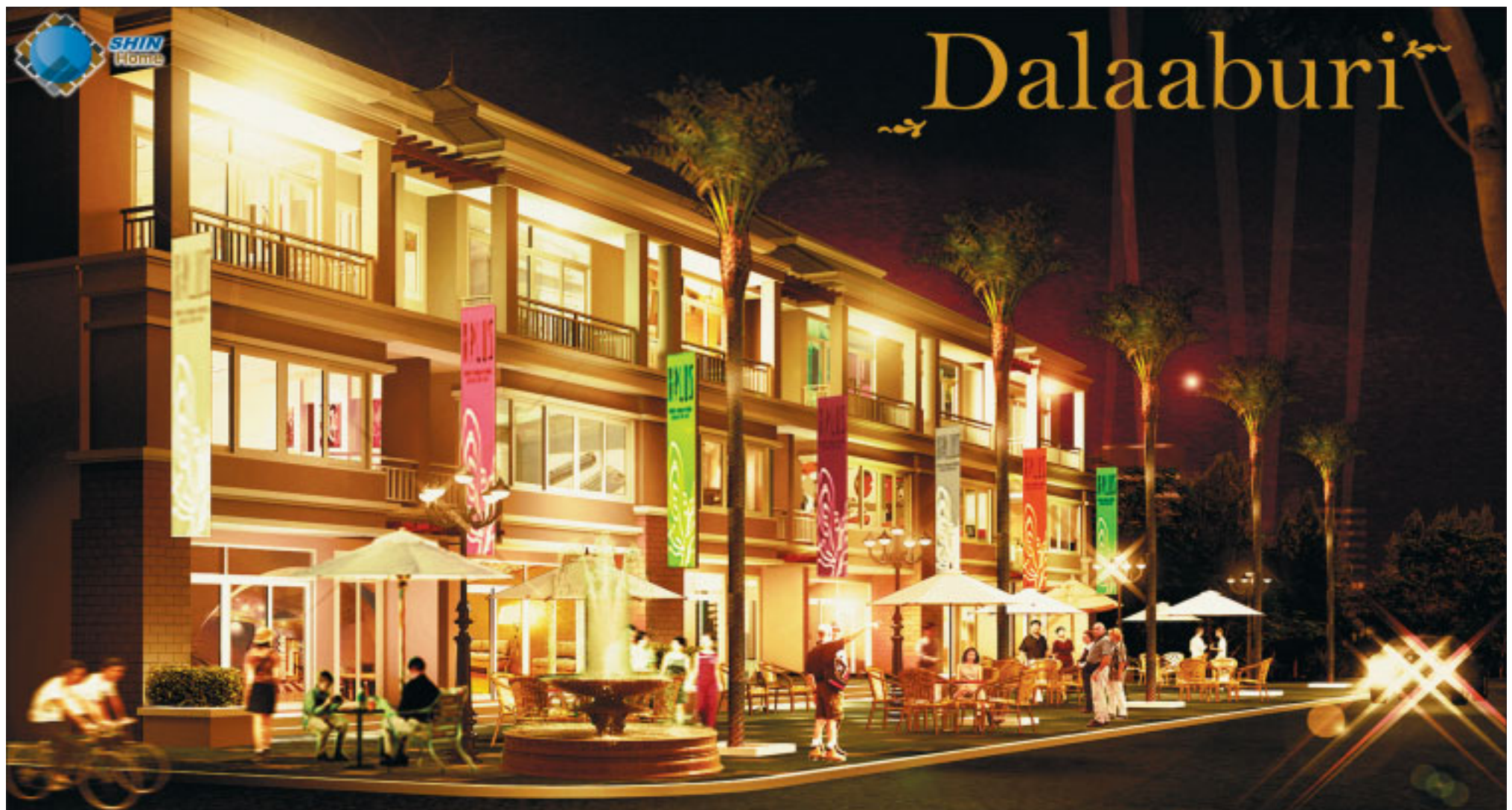
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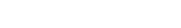
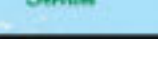
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I knew it wouldn't work, him and I. To begin with, his dress sense would be weird in public – all those skimpy loincloths and armor. But that didn't stop me from fantasizing. What is it about gladiators? Their reckless bravery, the sexual charge of survival against all odds?

You will of course be thinking of Russell Crowe. Nice body, great special effects. But my admission is much more shameful – my gladiator was old enough to be Crowe's father.

But we are talking pre-pubescent passion here. I was about 11 when I first saw *Spartacus*. Kirk Douglas must have been pushing 40. If I press the right button in my memory I can still taste the excitement and hopeless longing of it all. Maybe you have similar memories? The first teenage crush that gets out of hand and threatens to drown you.

It all started in the front room of our house in London. When, at the end of his magnificent, doomed slave rebellion, *Spartacus* died on the cross, I cried for hours. Family legend has it that I was inconsolable.

When they repeated it again I cried from the opening credits – we're talking a three-and-a-half-hour epic here – because I knew what was going to happen. My mother described it as high-voltage hysteria, but I loved every minute of it.

I didn't see it as obsessive, of course. I probably didn't even understand the word. But obsessive it was, in its own nauseous, teenage way. Within a week I had written a groveling letter to the film company, which duly sent me a set of stills from the movie. My room became a shrine to the doomed slave rebellion of 73 BC.

I saw the movie a dozen times. I knew Douglas's scenes by heart. When I wasn't watching it, I was reliving it. I sat in school daydreaming of *Spartacus*. I read and re-read the Howard Fast novel on which the film was based. At night I would fantasize about the scene in the cell where he was given a woman for the night, but is too chivalrous to touch her. "We're not animals." "Oh I don't know, Kirk, I don't mind."

# Truly, madly, deeply...

I wanted so bad to be Jean Simmons, his co-star, that for months I went to bed every night repeating over and over, "I have high cheekbones too", because someone told me about the power of suggestion. Was anyone ever so young? It appears I was.

My passion seemed to last forever. I think the corners on the photographs started to curl around the time Paul Weller tore into the early 1980s music culture, sweeping me and a generation of pre-pubescent girls with him. No false chivalry there.

Looking back, I feel a certain fondness for all that passion, all that lack of control. The sweet pain of unrequited obsessive love. Because that's just what it was. A dress rehearsal for the real thing. A rite of passage as important as boys' wet dreams.

By the time it passed I was exhausted and post-pubescent. If I couldn't have sex with Kirk Douglas I could at least have sex with someone else. It's a strange thing, obsessive love. On one level it's a state to aspire to. Glamorous. Poetic. Dramatic. Technicolor – the stuff of art. While you probably wouldn't want to end up under the 11:15 to St Petersburg, who hasn't had just a touch of envy for Anna Karenina? Or wished to experience the kind of love affair where the voltage is so high you singe the world around you as you burn?

Except Anna was lucky in

some ways – at least Vronsky loved her back, even if he couldn't live up to it. But then, who can? That's the built-in fault line of this kind of love. Where obsessive love is truly reciprocal it moves into another genre altogether.

Troilus and Cressida, Abelard and Heloise, Romeo and Juliet – not a lot of happy endings there. Equally obsessed, equally doomed.

In real life, of course, most of us experience the Mark II level. Not fatal but just as painful – the unrequited version. If you've ever been the object of it, you may hardly have noticed: the guy who doesn't let up, the sad, even mad, idiot who can't take a hint. An object of ridicule rather than tragedy.

When you are the one doing the loving it's earth-shattering. Even the humiliation is epic. It's not easy to admit to, even when time has grafted new skin over the wound. Writers, of course, have the art of fiction through which to process their experiences and those of others. Recognize any of the feelings in the following story?

"He was different from anyone she had ever met, a man of the world who had gone places and written about them. His eyes shone as he spoke of what he had seen and they continued shining when he looked at her. Understandably, perhaps, she mistook this glow for something special.

## AMBROSIA'S



ambrosia@phuketgazette.net

## SECRETS

patience. It had – as one said to her – grown out of hand. Of course she knew that, knew that somehow she'd fallen victim to a capricious heart disease, though by now its symptoms were more like advanced emotional cystitis – all irritation and itch, with the very act of scratching bringing more pain than relief.

"She was moving from mania into decline when finally fate intervened. She was offered a job abroad and packed her illness with her clothes. But somewhere under different skies, meeting different people, the symptoms started to fade.

"When she returned, winter had turned to spring and none of the messages on her answering machine were from him. She sat in her living room and laughed before she cried, for there was loss as well as relief. She had left her job and bought a ticket to a continent she'd never visited. When she came back she wrote a novel about it. While it's possible that none of these events were connected, she chose to believe that they were. But when you think you're going to die, getting better is a serious as well as a joyful thing."

The "she" of this story is not me, in case you were wondering, but she does come pretty close in many – mostly embarrassing – details. Reliving some of them for this column I was struck by how fresh their memory is, the pain unwithered by age or time...

*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 first novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com*

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Looking for forgiveness? A bouquet may soften her up.



Roses fit just about any occasion – but choose colors carefully if you want to send a precise message.

## Sending the right message

By Laura Schafer

**Y**ou bring home a bouquet of flowers for that special someone on that special day, but are you sending the right message?

Blossoms don't just say, "I remembered today is Valentine's Day." There is also significance

in the type, color and even the number of blooms you give. To avoid a potentially thorny situation, read on.

Roses, of course, are classic. Send these buds to your sweetheart, any time, in any color, any number – they should keep you out of the doghouse.

A single red rose betokens passion and love everlasting, but bring a bundle of 15 and you're apologizing for something. Who knew it could be this complicated?

To show lasting affection give white roses, but if you're trying to spark ardor, choose orange. If you want to show that her friendship means the world to you, bundle up a bouquet of yellow roses. But to signify admiration, choose pink.

Carnations are one of the world's oldest cultivated flower types. These blossoms traditionally convey the meaning of love and fascination. Red carnations mean love; white ones signify purity or luck; and pink blooms communicate gratitude.

Unless your sweetheart's absolute favorite flower is a poppy or a lily, you might be better off giving them a miss. These blooms are both associated with

death and mourning – not exactly the mood you want to evoke on a romantic evening.

In classical Greece, orchids were symbols of virility, while to the Victorians they were a sign of luxury. Today these blossoms represent rare and delicate beauty and as such come with flattering implications that few women can resist.

Tulips can be a tricky bud to pull off. Red or yellow blossoms are declarations of love, but if you select a white tulip you're conferring forgiveness.

The implication that your better half has done something that requires forgiveness may not be welcome. But if she really loves you she will have to forgive you, perhaps even by giving you a white tulip. See how tricky it can be?

If she truly is the apple of your eye, perhaps it is better to pick a variegated tulip to intimate the beauty of her eyes.

Whatever bundle of posies you choose to present on that special day, the most important point is that you were thinking of her when you saw them – no girl can resist that. But if in doubt, you can always pick a simple – and safe – long-stem rose.

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# DR LOVESICKNESS

**Y**our husband's cheating on you. You are too shy to ask the girl you've had your eye on out for a date. The nice young lady you met in a bar in Soi Bangla has cleaned you out and run off with another man. These are all problems that Silvia Fauck can help with.

Of course, you'll have to fly to Germany, where the 53-year-old psychological counselor operates that country's only therapy center for lovesickness.

"If your partner suddenly leaves you for no reason at all, it can be as bad as losing a dear friend or relative. Lovesickness is with you every waking hour of the day," she says.

Fauck knows what she's talking about. Not long ago she was sent a fax by her partner of four-and-a-half years, telling her he was ending their relationship.

"Of course, now it would be an SMS," she says. "That's often what I hear from young people coming to me for advice," she said.

She has just moved to Berlin from Hamburg, where she opened a center in 2001, advising people how to deal with personal crises caused by the loss of a partner, bullying, burn-out or the illness of a loved one.

She soon discovered that 90% of the people who came to see her were experiencing problems in their personal relationships, mostly lovesickness.

That's when she decided to concentrate on mending broken hearts.

"It's not just a matter of talking and listening. In many sessions dealing with this topic it's important to sort out the feelings and the thoughts of my clients.

"Once the head is clear you can move on to the next step - removing self-doubt, providing encouragement and rebuilding self-confidence."

She says it is important for the lovelorn to ask them-



Helping to cure for lovesickness: psychological counselor Silvia Fauck.

selves what caused the break up of their relationship, whether they failed to spot any warning signs, are they are being honest with themselves and what they can learn for future relationships.

Her clients range in age

from 21 to 70 and come from all walks of life, including students, politicians, doctors and actors. She has noticed lately that more men than women are seeking her advice.

"Men don't like to talk openly about their personal

problems. If something's wrong, a woman might discuss it with her hairdresser or her mother. A man won't tell anyone close to him," she says.

"You might have a man coming to me saying, 'I'm happily married, but I've fallen for my secretary. My wife suspects that something's up. I don't know what to do.'

"Another manager complained that he was having problems with his job. It soon became clear that everything was okay at work; it was his personal life that was a mess."

Fauck, who has two grown up daughters, says her clients fall into three groups. The first are those who have just been abandoned by their partners and don't know why. Bad sex, she says, rarely causes the break-up of a relationship.

The second group concerns women and men who are in a relationship, but who have started an affair and don't know what to do about it.

The third group are in

their 30s, educated, good looking and successful in their jobs, but incapable of maintaining a relationship.

This, she believes, has something to do with the changing roles of men and women.

"The roles used to be clearly defined. The woman needed a man as a provider, they had more time for each other. It's often the case today that the relationship starts to crumble when the daily routine sets in. Many people feel there has to be something better."

Some clients need just one or two sessions, others several months of counseling. The longest has been with her for two-and-a-half years. She also has a telephone hotline that people can ring.

Fauck, who claims to have salvaged countless marriages with her advice, has just written a book. It's called *Lovesickness* and offers tips on how to cope when your heart threatens to break.

- Mike Swanson, dpa



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# The other Mission Hills

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

**Y**ou don't have to like golf to visit Mission Hills – which sprawls north of Shenzhen just over the border from Hong Kong – but it certainly helps.

This – and the chaps at Guinness will vouch for it – is the world's largest golf course, with 216 holes, which even the most arithmetically challenged should be able to deduce works out at a dozen 18-holers.

They've been put together by the Who's Who of modern golf designers. Nicklaus, Duval, Faldo, Leadbetter, Dye, Ozaki, Olazabal, Els, Singh, Norman, Sorenstam and home-grown champion Zhang Lian Wei. Check in for a week or a tad longer and, given enough energy, you might just be able to play the lot, especially as three courses are floodlit till 2 am.

If you have the money to spare, and this is the case for quite a few mainland Chinese, you don't have to bother with staying at the Mission Hills hotel. Stately residences, complete with huge reception rooms, swathes of bedrooms and bathrooms, private swimming pools, gardens, and of course, servants' quarters, are dotted about the courses. The going price is roughly 157 million baht. Quite a few have been bought with cash.

A current aphorism doing the rounds in China is that you talk golf in the office and business on the course. Hence the hordes of eager young and old



The Duval course, one of 12 18-hole courses at China's Mission Hills golf club – the world's largest. (Photo by Richard Castka Sportpix International). Inset, the clubhouse at dusk.

executives at Mr Leadbetter's celebrated academy frantically polishing their swings.

Their spouses – sometimes daringly referred to as “golf widows” – shouldn't want for entertainment off-course. They can spa themselves from top to toe non-stop in tailor-made and sparkling facilities, or simply give the credit card a bit of a going over among the designer labels at Mission Hills' retail arcades. There are also 51 championship tennis courts, as well as facilities for

squash, badminton and basketball, and a gym that fairly bristles with the latest work-out gizmos.

Golf might be the new craze in the People's Republic, but food remains one of its strongest cultural anchors. The latest addition to the Mission Hills' empire is the grandiose Dongguan Clubhouse, featuring – among a bevy of other facilities – a food court that embraces Chinese, Italian and Asian cuisines, whose tables are packed with hungry diners all hours of the day.

So Mr Golfer has a good round, Mrs Non-Golfer maintains her body beautiful, they both dine well in the evening, and everybody's happy. Even children, if they've been brought along for the ride, should be moderately content here as they can romp about a Swedish-designed playground.

Happiest of all must be David Chu Shu Ho, the visionary Hong Kong tycoon who put Mission Hills together. And here's the amazing thing. A few decades

back these pristine greens and beautifully landscaped courses were all paddy fields and forest. Golf was a four-letter word in China, regarded in every sense as vastly inferior to ping-pong.

So take a quick pass through Mission Hills nowadays, and you are not simply seeing some of the world's biggest and best in the way of golf, but precisely how China has picked itself up by its boot straps and the way its going to be forging ahead for years to come.

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# Pizzas with Thai pizzazz

By Supanun Supawong

**F**or a new twist on pizza and pasta, The Cook restaurant in Phuket City offers some tasty Thai fusion options as well as traditional local and European dishes, all at reasonable prices.

Located on Phang Nga Rd, just down from the On On and Sinthavee hotels, the eatery is a favorite of locals, expats and backpackers.

The owner and chef is Bultham Bulrid, 40, who opened the restaurant in December 2005. Before then, he had worked for more than a decade as a baker at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, and worked part-time in an Italian restaurant run by his brother-in-law.

He left the Meridien in 2004 to run a pizza stall at the old night market near the bus station in Phuket City. The stall lasted only about six months, so K. Bultham tried the same concept at Bar Tango in Soi Pattana, but again was unsuccessful. He tried again near Kajonkietsuksa School on Chao Fa West Rd, but couldn't make a go of it there, either.

His travails finally led him to rent his present shop, where he has made a hit with his inexpensive traditional Italian pasta and Thai dishes.

The classic pasta dishes, such as Spaghetti Bolognese and Carbonara, are priced at 60 to 90 baht.

K. Bultham also offers Thai variations on pizzas, such as Green Chicken Curry, Red Chicken or Pork, Chicken Basil Leaf, Spicy Muslim Chicken, Tom Yum Seafood, most priced around 120 or 130 baht.

Also with a local twist are his desserts, such as Corn Pizza and Banana Pizza (recommended with ice cream) and Durian Ice Cream.

K. Bultham explains that he wanted to create some distinctive Thai variations on Western food, offering something uniquely local.

The food is consistently good here, as affirmed by the steady flow of regulars. Also a nice touch is the complimentary watermelon and baby bananas offered après meal.

*The Cook is open daily 8 am -9:30 pm, except the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Tel: 076-258375. Fax: 076-258376.*



Main picture: Bultham Bulrid, after years of trying, has finally found a place to sell his culinary ideas.

Above: just one of those ideas – Banana Pizza.



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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 20 pests. The names may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 10 or more, good; 13 or more, very good; 17 or more, excellent.

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

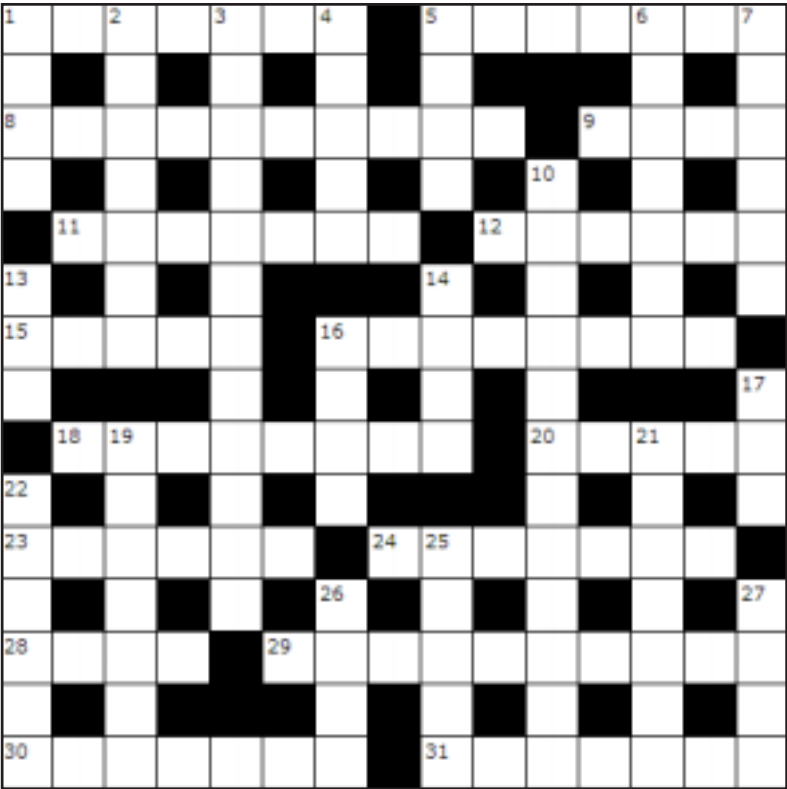
Solution on next page

### ACROSS

1. Travel to reduce sentence. (7)
5. Fall for each medical device. (7)
8. Launderers, so badly defamatory. (10)
9. To leave the country. (4)
11. Decorated commercial, or Edward. (7)
12. To pay, it's said, for rug. (6)
15. Vera takes direction to vice partner. (5)
16. Insults about British gong – sleeps. (8)
18. Confused, I slam sin in the islands. (8)
20. Pampers? Sleep quietly, yes. (5)
23. Chaps get older in household. (6)
24. Each rear end direction. (7)
28. Small chap's average. (4)
29. Seen mice, or weird formalities. (10)
30. Great passion in garden, Cyrus. (7)
31. Arrange Diana's attitude. (7)

### DOWN

1. Are the actors plastered?
2. Wander with me and Cockney woman. (7)
3. Funeral director's promises? (12)
4. Spooky direction to lake. (5)
5. Beat 500 to difficulty. (4)
6. In favor of cardinal, for each to get wealthy. (7)
7. Ump goes back to marsupial and high worker. (6)
10. Results of putting together safe numbers. (12)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

13. No Virginia eggs. (3)
14. Young scouts and bears. (4)
16. Fake Cardinal, bad actor. (4)
17. General Manager? Yes, in exercise room. (3)
19. Paid no attention, I speared around direction. (7)
21. I and company chase drink in entranceway. (7)
22. Confuses man and woman. (6)
25. Fix? So be it, note. (5)
26. Burrow, yes? Say it isn't so! (4)
27. I'll say land offshore. (4)

Solution on next page

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Who was king of the Norse gods?
2. Where does Thursday get its name?
3. In which country is the city of Bandung?
4. Which country's flag has a white circle on a blue background between red bars?
5. Which singer's name is an anagram of "And Moan"?
6. The banyan is a member of which family of trees?
7. By what name is the Universal Product Code better known?
8. What instrument measures atmospheric pressure?
9. What is the capital city of Uganda?
10. What grain is macaroni made from?

Answers on next page

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

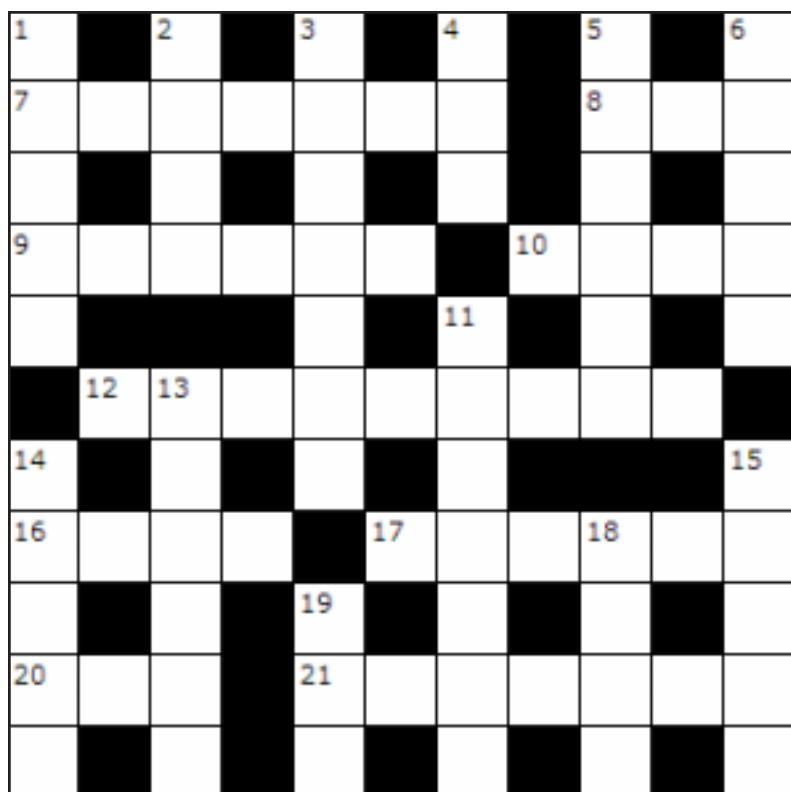
## Rhyme Time

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

1. Made a picture.
2. What a stink!
3. Forbidden.
4. Drumbeat or bugle call.
5. Tallest member of grass family.
6. Got larger.
7. Take to court.
8. Not false.
9. Adhesive.
10. Footwear.

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

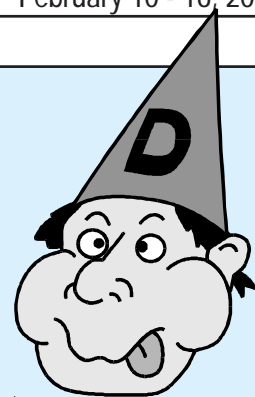
7. Place to raise plants or babies.  
8. Conclusion.  
9. Poisonous vapor.  
10. Havana is its capital.  
12. Bones of the spine.  
16. Former ruler of Venice.  
17. Pointed double-bladed knife.  
20. Type of poem.  
21. Most famous vampire.

### DOWN

1. Dwarflike creature.  
2. Bear in the night sky.  
3. Motorcyclists' headgear.  
4. Coloring for cloth.  
5. Cloud-like mass of stars.  
6. Perfect!  
11. Ancient Jewish leader.  
13. *Hotel California* band.  
14. Stupid person.  
15. Frog noise.  
18. Melancholy.  
19. Not even.

*Solution below right*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Which kind of animal may be a gilt or a barrow?   | 8. In which body of water might you find the Runan-shah, or "man of the sea"?   | 15. North Island Brown, Okarito Brown, Great Spotted and Little Spotted are all species of which bird? |
| 2. What is the correct adjective to use when referring to thrushes?                                    | 9. Members of which group of animals deploy bufotoxin as a defense?             | 16. If you cut off a cockroach's head, what does it die from?  |
| 3. Smuth, smuck and fluther are all collective words describing a group of what creatures?             | 10. What do bladderworts, butterworts and pitcher plants have in common?        | 17. Where on your face might you put fish scales?  |
| 4. How many neurons are there in the brain of a typical honey bee?                                     | 11. Genetically speaking, what is the manatee's closest living relative?        | 18. If a group of geese on the ground is a gaggle, what is it in the air?                              |
| 5. And in the brain of a typical human?  | 12. Which are the only two mammals that lay eggs?                               | 19. Which type of lizard can run across the surface of water?  |
| 6. The hibagon, the Fear Liath and the Maricoxi are all types of what?                                 | 13. Which is the world's largest rodent?  | 20. Roughly how much of its life does a sloth spend sleeping or dozing?                                |
| 7. What type of fish is being used in the US to detect possible terrorist poisoning of water supplies? | 14. Which rodent can jump three meters from a standing start, and never drinks? |  |

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pig; 2. Turdine; 3. Jellyfish; 4. 850,000; 5. 100 billion; 6. Possibly mythical beasts similar to the Bigfoot or Yeti; 7. The bluegill; 8. Caspian Sea; 9. Toads; 10. They are all carnivorous plants; 11. The elephant; 12. The duck-billed platypus and the echidna; 13. The capybara; 14. The jerboa; 15. Kiwi; 16. Starvation; 17. On your lips - many lipsticks contain fish scales; 18. A skein; 19. The Jesus Christ lizard, or basilisk; 20. 80%.

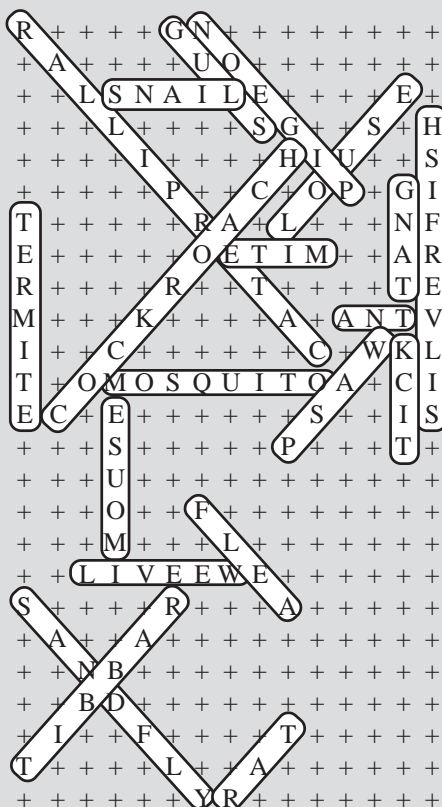
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Odin; 2. Thor's Day, after the Norse god of thunder; 3. Indonesia; 4. Laos; 5. Madonna; 6. Figs; 7. Bar code; 8. Barometer; 9. Kampala; 10. Wheat.

## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Drew; 2. Pooh!; 3. Taboo; 4. Tattoo; 5. Bamboo; 6. Grew; 7. Sue; 8. True; 9. Glue; 10. Shoe.

## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# Paradise found – with beers

It's a great job if you can get it. Travel writer Stu Lloyd convinced his publisher to send him around the world in search of Paradise.

The result is *Gone Troppo* (Monsoon Books, Singapore, 2006, 304pp). Stu Lloyd is the right man for the job, author of the three-volume *Hardship Posting series: True Tales of Expatriate Misadventures in Asia*. Furthermore, he spent a third of his life in Africa, a third in Asia and a third in Australia.

His first stop is South Africa, where he grew up. This country of beaches and mountains is as beautiful as ever, though troubled by a huge surge in street crime: muggings, shootings, carjackings.

Still there are signs of hope. Lloyd revisits his old primary school: "And I immediately noticed the ratio of black kids to white kids. About 90:10, respectively, whereas in my day it was 0:100.

"The Africans are much better students," said the headmaster. "They value education more."

Then he's off on a very rough, accident-prone sailboat trip from Phuket to Langkawi. This makes for high comedy, dominated by the colorful Captain Horst of Big A.

But he finds Langkawi boring and gratefully heads back to Thailand and Koh Samui. Despite the island's hideous over development, he attains days of tranquility at a little resort.

"I sat in the sala, watching pink fingers of light massage the sky," he writes.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

"Soon they became golden, like a kaleidoscopic image changing position, and the whole sky seemed to sit lower. The water went out in sympathy, creating a floor, wall and roof of gold leaf. One hundred meters down the beach, a solitary lithe female appears on the sand reaching for the heavens in angular yet graceful tai-chi poses. As I sipped my chilled Singha, the smoldering orb gradually tucked itself in behind the dinosaur spines of the Marine Park on the horizon. The world was a perfect place."

His Filipina wife flies up from Australia to join him for a homecoming to Manila.

I should mention here that Lloyd is an Aussie and beer-drinking is a serious concomitant to any version of paradise. His wife's relatives lead him on many a happy chase via San Miguel. The couple take off on a jeep trip to the north of Luzon. Off another island, Bohol, they scuba

dive down glorious coral reefs and take in the sights such as the Chocolate Hills:

"Hundreds and hundreds of perfectly conical mounds of varying size stretch beyond the horizon. Like Toblerone chocolate bars. I imagined that this is how a fly – with its many, many sets of eyes feeding simultaneous visions to the brain – might view Dolly Parton."

Why he chooses the hellhole of Delhi in his search for paradise beats me but Goa does give him scope to combine the lyrical and the ludicrous.

"Farm buildings in violent dashes of greens, blues, pinks, splashed the countryside, most sporting unevenly pitched tiled roofs. Elegant-looking women in a jubilee of graceful blue and purple saris, gold necklaces and hoop earrings, sought out a suitable place on the riverbank for their morning dump."

Similarly, why he picks the awful Tijuana as a candidate for paradise is a mystery, unless he had already written the sto-

ry and figured, what the hell, I'll toss it in.

But he is on solid ground in Hawaii and Costa Rica where he makes the case for Corcovado National Park with its combination of lush primary forest and turquoise water teeming with manta rays and whale sharks.

His traveling companion is another beer-guzzling Aussie and after one hilarious night of singing karaoke, they bid farewell to their newfound friends and waltz out into the night.

"We were so delightfully, deliriously drunk, Hunter S. Thompson could've been our designated driver."

But he finally finds true Paradise in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. While kayaking near the beach he spies a

Polynesian princess, dressed in denim shorts and a floral bikini top, who favors him with a dazzling smile.

"That was it. Eureka! It was like a spiritual epiphany. I didn't know exactly what defined Paradise, but I felt like I was in it right there and then."



## PHUKET DIARY

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

### To March 30: REWIND at The Watermark.

Watermark and Tommy Double T 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.

On the first Friday of each month at Watermark we will rewind to the best sounds of the '70s, '80s and '90s, from the Sex Pistols to the Chemical Brothers. Happy hour 5-7 pm; REWIND 7 pm to midnight. Admission free.

For more information call Stuart Bird at Tel: 076-239730 or 081-737-6184 or email info@watermarkphuket.com

### February 14: Valentine's Day special at Wine Connection.

Treat your partner and yourself to a sumptuous set dinner including a bottle of sparkling wine. 1,250 baht for two persons.

For more details, or to book, contact Pascal Laigle at Tel: 087-889474 or 076-282411/2, or by

email to FB.Phuket@wineconnection.com, or visit the website at [www.wineconnection.com](http://www.wineconnection.com)

### February 16-17: 2nd Phuket International Blues Festival.

Eight to 10 Thailand-based acts will perform at the festival during two nights of great blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll.

The headline band on the first night will be British legend Victor Brox, while the second night will be headed by the Rich Harper Blues Band from the US.

Other acts already confirmed include Kyla Brox, Phu-

ket's own Groove Doctors, The Blues Machine from Pattaya, and Blue on Blue, Cannonball and the Soi Dog Blues Band from Bangkok.

Tickets are 500 baht for one night or 800 baht for both nights. For more information see the events website at [www.phuketbluesfestival.com](http://www.phuketbluesfestival.com) or contact Andy Andersen by email at [phuketmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketmusic@yahoo.com).

The festival is presented by HotelTravel.com.

### February 16-22: Wat Chalong Fair.

The annual Wat Chalong

Fair this year will be held February 16 to 22. Each day of the fair, which was first held in 1954, will feature a sermon by monks, live entertainment and hundreds of stalls selling food and all kinds of wares.

The fair is free to enter and will start at 4:30 pm each day.

Thai country music (*look thung*) stars, including Roong Suriya, Araporn Nakornsawan, Bew Kalayane and Jingreedkhao Wongtewan, will perform live at the fair from 10 pm to midnight as follows: Feb 16 Mangpor Chonthicha; Feb 17 Bew Kalayane; Feb 18 Ying Thi-

tikarn; Feb 19 Jingreedkhao Wongtewan; Feb 20 Rung Suriya; Feb 21 Lew Arjareeya; and Feb 22 Araporn Nakornsawan

Before the stars take to the stage local students will perform live on stage.

Each night of the fair Asian and European movies will be shown at an outdoor cinema from 8 pm, and there will be live performances of traditional Thai shadow plays (*nang talung*) from 9 pm to 2 am as well as traditional Thai music.

For more information call Opas Chobdee at Tel: 086-9533199.

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## Aids threat remains

It has been almost a quarter of a century since the human-immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (Aids) was first identified. When US basketball legend Magic Johnson bravely announced he was HIV-positive back in 1991, how many people thought he would still be alive and healthy in 2007?

Increased public awareness about HIV/Aids and the high-risk behavior that spreads the disease has helped to prevent HIV from becoming the doomsday killer that many had predicted it would be back when it was first isolated. Also, the continual development of effective anti-retroviral therapies has helped those already infected with the virus from developing the disease.

Over time, HIV/Aids has developed into a global pandemic, but one with high infection rates in areas with poor standards of living and low literacy rates.

Thailand's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has for years run one of the world's most effective HIV/Aids awareness campaigns, leading to a dramatic reduction in the incidence of HIV infection in the country. More recently, the government took the bold step of allowing generic versions of the anti-retroviral drugs Kaletra and Efavirenz, over the strong objections of their international patent holders, so that sufferers in Thailand could afford them.

However, the current government has slashed funding for its nationwide HIV/Aids awareness campaigns to 20 million baht in 2007. This is a steep reduction from the 50 million baht earmarked to HIV/Aids prevention in 2006, though some of this funding has been re-directed to local administrative bodies as part of the governments decentralization plan.

While the *Gazette* generally supports decentralization, this is a poor development given the MoPH's excellent track record in HIV prevention. Can we really expect local agencies to come up with something better if they directly receive the funding?

Local public health officials now fear that HIV could stage a comeback through sex among teenagers and young adults, who are less likely to practice safe sex [see Inside Story, pp 4-5].

Being a tourist destination with a renowned nightlife industry offering pay-for-play sexual services, it is perhaps not surprising that Phuket has the second highest per capita incidence of HIV infection of all the southern provinces.

For this reason alone, it is necessary not only to keep up the MoPH's good work with its traditional target groups, but also to take the battle against HIV into the schools – even if it is against the wishes of conservative school administrators.

With a killer such as HIV, there is never room for complacency.

– The Editor

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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.

### Tuk-tuks: the fewer the better

I thought it was a very good idea to have the tuk-tuks park on the football field in Patong [during their recent protest of the new one-way system], but I'm disappointed that there were only 40 and not more. Maybe all tuk-tuks can find a new parking place so there is not so much traffic in Patong.

I like the new one-way system, too. Many tourists don't like the tuk-tuks. I think that the number of tuk-tuks needs to be cut.

Thorsten Prinz  
Just visiting

### Patong: one-way is the long way

I must congratulate the local administration on its one-way traffic system.

Motorbike taxis and tuk-tuks are reveling in their extra income, and for me to travel from my home in Phisit Gorani Rd to the beach seems like a road trip to Udon Thani.

By the time I get there I have a backside as flat as a dunny carter's hat. Bollocks.

Brian Forlonge  
Patong

### Why didn't the tourist cross the road?

I recently read about the tuk-tuks' protest over the new traffic system in Patong, but I am a tourist and I would like to see some action taken for our benefit, as tourists spend a significant amount of money in Thailand – especially in Patong.

With the new one-way traffic system, the speed of the traffic has increased, and the poor pedestrians have to risk their lives to cross the road.

No drivers respect the pedestrian crossings where pedestrians should be able to cross safely. All round the world drivers stop at such crossings to let pedestrians cross, but this rule does not seem to exist in this country.

Can someone please do something, maybe even invite police to help tourists and local people alike to cross the road.

Luciano  
Italy

### Infected by association?

What is going on? I am Australian and my girlfriend of two years is Thai. She works for a magazine company in Phuket. She has never been a bar girl or a prostitute.

But now if she is seen walking with me the police can stop her and ask her for her bar ID and her health card? If she doesn't have them, they can arrest her?

Is it true that Thai ladies are now going to be treated the same as prostitutes if they are seen with their Australian boyfriends?

Allen Clark  
Patong

See also pages 4 and 5 of this issue – Editor

### A heroic bit of work by the Traffic Police

As a resident of the Surin Beach area who regularly has to drive into Phuket City, I would like to

comment on the changes the police have made at the Heroines' Monument. Thank you! They have taken a dangerous gamble – the circle during rush hours – and made it much safer.

The tailbacks have been significantly reduced. The scary dash when the rare opening showed up has been eliminated, so now we can arrive at our destinations without fearing for our lives.

The new routing that the police have organized to improve the situation took a bit of thinking as there were no real easy solutions to the problem. The new system is not ideal, but it is probably the best that can be done until a major rebuild of the intersection is done.

Those of us who drive through the circle daily appreciate the effort the police have made. Again, thank you.

Jenny JJ  
Surin

### Saphan Hin: not a good site

I differ with the Governor about siting a convention center off Saphan Hin. The Governor mentioned in his most recent letter that the water off Saphan Hin is already "degraded" and that such a project could "improve the area".

I urge the Governor to study the city's canal system, almost all of which drains into the sea at Saphan Hin. The sea there will not be helped by land reclamation. Rather, the proposed construction will stir up sediment in the area, killing off marine life and further reducing the tidal mixing that carries our wastewater deeper out to sea.

Alphas Nevihorn  
Phuket City

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.



# Phuket's cultural heritage is sorely undervalued

**W**hen I go to other countries, I like to learn about their cultural and social origins; which is what impressed me about Australia, especially the Immigration Museum in Melbourne.

They have so many different nationalities living there – it's like if the map of Australia was a big plate of salad, you could see the color of each vegetable so clearly, such as the green lettuce, red chilli, white onion and orange carrot, but it's all joined together by the salad dressing of Australian nationality.

So all these cultures are living together, individually distinct but united by their Australian nationality. This is better than a melting pot of soup, each culture retains its individual value.

Many people who travel are intelligent and educated, so we shouldn't look down on all tourists as just being interested in sun, surf and [partying]; many want to learn about the people and culture of Phuket, which doesn't mean just Patong.

Look at Singapore, an island about the size of ours, with a population [of only about four and a half million], but richer than the whole country of Thailand.

We have to ask ourselves if the Singaporean government is stupid or intelligent to always be building more and more muse-

## FIRST PERSON

**P**huket is known for its natural beauty – sea, sand and sun – but few know of its cultural heritage. Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana, a Phuket native, is a local historian and Assistant Professor at Rajabhat Phuket University. She explained to the *Gazette* the value of Phuket culture, why it needs to be preserved, and how it can be exploited as a year-round tourist attraction, independently of special events or the high season.



ums. They try to sell everything about the culture of their country, they have Little India and Chinatown for tourists to see...

I think it is time to take action before it's too late. Local people, besides Patong business owners, should have income from tourism. What do local people get from tourism in Phuket?

My idea is that if we are making money from cultural heritage tourism, we will also get in-

tangible rewards, such as communal pride in Phuket.

Young people will then be motivated to maintain our cultural traditions because they will see our actions and the practical rewards. This is much more effective than just telling them to remember their heritage.

Most people in the tourism industry overlook this because Phuket has so many beautiful and interesting things. We can't blame

anyone for this – we have beautiful beaches so tourists usually head to the beach.

Don't forget the tsunami...Many Phuket people banded together to transport victims and offer food, water and clothes to tourists and take them to the airport.

Foreigners have told me that locals kept asking, 'Do you need anything, money, clothes or food?'

Culture-based tours should be started soon, especially in Phuket City where we have so many good places to see; such as Phra Phitak Chyn Pracha house, Thai Hua Museum and Pud Jow Shrine.

I think Singapore is a good example of a country with the intelligence to market its culture, even though it is a newer country with a relatively small population. Phuket has a culture that is very old and interesting, but we never present it.

It would be good if all of the younger generation in Phuket started to wear sarongs; it would be better than everyone wearing jeans.

I can remember when, just 50 years ago, Phuket had a population of only 65,000, but look at how it is increasing with the influx of foreign residents, Burmese workers and people from other provinces.

For me, it's like I'm trying to blow the whistle to warn people that our Phuket heritage will be forgotten, but nobody is interested. But I will keep blowing until I can't do it anymore.

Businessmen are always thinking about businesses that could make money, but I think if they tried to sell our outstanding and unique culture, they could make money from that too.

*Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

## How can I become the legal guardian of my child?

I am the European father of a five-year-old boy. My name is listed as the *natural* father on the birth certificate and I was the person who registered his birth. His Thai mother, whom I never married, left us long ago and is nowhere to be found, although I believe that she may be abroad.

Before she left, she changed the boy's family name. In a court filing at the time, she acknowledged that I was the natural father. Now I would like to change his name back as it was.

Meanwhile, I would like to travel abroad with my son, who has a Thai passport, without encountering any problems at Immigration. How do I go about this? I have asked two lawyers and received two different responses. I would appreciate any help on this matter.

Toine van Beek  
Netherlands

**Suksan Siang-ake, Chief Registrar of Kathu District Office, replies:**

## Issues & ANSWERS

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As you and your son's mother were not married when your son's birth was registered, the mother has sole rights as his guardian. You may be the boy's natural father, but you have no legal right to take the child out of the country or to change either the boy's given or family name.

To do either, you must be his registered guardian. For you to become the guardian, you and the mother must go the district office where the child is registered on the house registration document (*tabien baan*). The mother must provide written permission and

testify in person before you can become his guardian.

If she refuses, or if you are unable to contact her, you can apply to the Provincial Juvenile and Family Court in the same province where the boy was registered on the *tabien baan* for permission to become the sole guardian of the child. You will need to take your son, your passport, your son's birth certificate and the house registration document on which he is registered, as well as a person willing to testify in support of your application.

The court may ask for additional supporting evidence and will allow 60 days for the lodging of objections to your application.

If the court finds you to be a suitable guardian, it will issue a written permission that you can take to the District Office to apply for sole guardianship.

Once your application to be the boy's legal guardian has been approved, you may then take your son out of the country. You may also change his name.

## Why do I have to leave Thailand after 90 days?

I recently went to the Immigration Office in Phuket City to extend my non-immigrant O visa after staying 80 days in Phuket.

I was told that I could not – even though the visa is valid – and that I must leave Thailand and then re-enter the country in order to be issued a new 90-day permit to stay.

I knew the tourist visa laws had changed but was unaware that non-immigrant O visa rules had changed as well. Can you clarify this for me?

Tom Farnham  
Kathu

**Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, replies:**

It seems that you did not qualify to have your permit to stay extended, for example by being married to a Thai or by qualifying as a person wanting to stay

here on retirement [ie, having enough money in a Thai bank – *Gazette*].

A person who has a multiple-entry non-immigrant O visa and does not qualify to have his permit to stay extended must leave the Kingdom at any border, such as at Ranong or Sadao, and re-enter the country in order to be permitted to stay a further 90 days.

You, as a person with a non-immigrant O visa, will be permitted to re-enter the country repeatedly until the visa expires.

However, a person staying in Thailand on a tourist visa issued on arrival is currently allowed to stay no more than 90 days within any period of 180 days.

Once the 90 days have passed, the person will not be permitted to re-enter Thailand for 90 days.



The tuk-tuks of Phuket can really be a pain in the backside. I haven't seen another group of people who try to dominate events on this island to suit their own interests at the expense of anybody else to the extent that they do.

There is no doubt that the one-way system in Patong is a huge improvement, even if you do get the odd confused chappie who can't cope with driving on the right-hand side of the road in a left-hand drive country.

The system has worked in Pattaya for as many years as I can remember, and guess what, the taxis manage to go much longer distances for much less money than we cough up here in Phuket.

The argument put forward against the one-way system was that the tuk-tuks are losing money because the traffic goes too fast. Another was that local businesses are losing money, again because the traffic goes too fast.

# One-way? It's okay

This is quite extraordinary, even for me who has lived here for more years than I care to mention, because as far as I can see, most of the tuk-tuks don't seem to be going at all, just sitting in rows along the beachfront.

I suppose it's the same as the taxis who sit outside hotels in Bangkok hoping for one 500-baht trip instead of ten 50-baht trips.

One driver said that he was losing 400 to 800 baht per day due to the one-way system and some days not making anything at all. That sounds to me like one 400 to 800 baht fare lost per day.

I cannot see the point to the argu-

ment that local businesses are losing money. As far as I can see, local businesses can't have been affected by the speed of traffic because their business doesn't come from people in cars.

If you did want to stop at a local business you couldn't anyway, as the majority of the parking is taken up by tuk-tuks.

I understand that the old two-way system meant a driver could pick up passengers going either direction and do a quick U-turn if necessary. Now it means he has to go around the block, which I imagine is the reason behind the claims of higher fuel costs.

In Pattaya, if you are too lazy to walk

to the next road to catch a taxi going in the right direction then expect to pay 20 baht more. In Phuket the extra distance will probably only be a couple of hundred yards anyway.

Let's hope that the authorities stick with this. It is a massive improvement and should be maintained. The time saved in passing through Patong is considerable, and the jumble of motorcycles and tuk-tuks going in every direction is a thing of the past.

If this can work here we may even be able to see further advances, such as traffic lights instead of dangerous U-turns on the main road between the Heroines' Monument and the bypass road. One lives in hope.

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

# DANCES WITH CANINES

My follow-up article on Thailand's endangered tigers has been postponed for a month due to illness.

But the delay gives me a good excuse to promote a very worthwhile event on March 3 at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon. The Soi Dog Foundation Dinner Dance promises to be an excellent value night out, whether you are an animal lover or not.

Kick-off is at 6:30 pm with a "Welcome" cocktail hour, followed by a delicious four-course dinner with live background music; and finally a let-your-hair-down 70s/80s disco provided by Kaleidoscope Sounds, with a top British DJ. Drinks will be available at special prices all night.

At 2,000 baht per ticket, spots are selling fast. Overnight accommodation has also been negotiated at special rates.

The event is sponsored by The Hilton, Laid Back Cruises, Kaleidoscope Sounds and Wang Thalung duty-free shop.

Why not kick up your heels and support a very worthwhile



**WAIT FOR IT...** A dog undergoes training in the Soi Dog Foundation facility. The foundation is looking for part-time volunteers to help train and exercise animals.

cause at the same time? Tickets can be bought at: The Green Man in Chalong, West One Hairdressers on the second floor of Cen-

tral Festival, Desjoyaux Pools on the bypass road near Central, Baan Yin Dee at Patong Beach, or contact Joan Watson at 087-

2820422 or Maxine Kent at 086-9447721.

The Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) isn't just a good cause for dog-lovers – the group plays a vital role in keeping down the number of stray and potentially dangerous dogs on Phuket.

The foundation started just over three years ago, inspired by indications the island was fast becoming another Bali, which had an estimated half a million stray

dogs in an area twice the size of Phuket. Since then, they have neutered more than 15,000 animals. Counts show that although the number of stray dogs is falling, much more needs to be done.

Rising costs have forced reduction in the number of sterilizations, so the foundation needs increased support if it is to get closer to its goal of making Phuket stray-free.

Aside from sterilization, the foundation provides ongoing care and treatment to the strays – in a joint operation with the government, they run the Phuket Stray Dog Shelter and Re-homing Center north of Thalung [formerly called Mid-Road Dog Shelter], as well as a feeding program at temples and other locations, helping keep dogs off the streets and beaches.

Additions to the shelter are nearing completion. Just completed is the agility course, designed and built by volunteers to provide well-needed exercise and fun for the dogs, as well as obedience training.

Visitors are always welcome, whether just for a look around or to adopt a dog; animals are always available in just about every shape and size.

Volunteers with a few hours per week to spare are needed to help train and exercise the 350+ dogs currently housed there. For directions contact Ina at 081-7884222.



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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Be realistic when expecting support from others this week. A Piscean friend in particular has other fish to fry and won't appreciate being put under any kind of pressure. Drawing from your well of wisdom will reveal the obvious answer to a personal problem. If your birthday falls during the coming days, the year ahead will offer new career challenges in previously unexplored areas. Number 9 can bring luck next Thursday.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you have been hooked by a tempting offer that isn't turning out to be quite what was promised you must make serious decisions this week. A shift of fortune is indicated to take place before the end of the month. In the meantime, keep unnecessary spending under control. Personal relationships will benefit from auspicious astral conditions; a bone of contention should be buried and forgotten.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Where work is concerned, there are no immediate clouds on the horizon, but you should ensure that brewing deals are signed and sealed by the end of this month. If you insist on asking others' opinions of a relationship that is bringing you more trouble than pleasure, be prepared to listen to what they say. If you are single, you will be blown away by an encounter this weekend. The color deep rose will enhance your appeal.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Expect a surprise this week. Someone who has taken a shine to you is about to make an approach. Even if you don't think there's time for love in your busy life, there will be no harm in accepting a platonic date. Thursday is the best day for instigating important discussions; others concerned will be in a more receptive mood then. The color lavender encourages tranquility.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Possibilities could easily pass you by this week. If you aren't prepared to remove your shades for long enough to see what's really happening you are likely to miss out on a golden chance to boost your assets. Romance is susceptible to misunderstandings; make sure you don't take your partner's agreement for granted. If you are single, you will enjoy meeting an interesting Scorpio this weekend.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): The sun is shining on your attempts to get ahead. Be prepared to stay out of your shell for long enough to put your ideas forward to someone with influence. Aries is certainly able to pull strings on your behalf. Tuesday is the most productive day for financial discussions; try setting your sights higher than planned. A lost item comes to light early in the week.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): It usually takes a lot of provocation to rouse your temper, but when this happens, your roar can wake up the jungle. During the coming days, try to see things calmly and others are more likely to provide the support you need. Expect to receive positive financial news toward the end of this month, but don't rock the boat by demanding answers before they come naturally.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): It's difficult for you to accept that there's nothing you can do to change a situation that is not to your liking. This week you should be prepared to accept what's on offer. Capricorn is about to start a flirtation campaign to get your attention. This could be the relationship of your dreams. Wear bright colors to encourage a less black and white perspective.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You are likely to fall hook, line and sinker for a plausible story this week. You should be on your guard against a smooth-talking Scorpio in particular. This is not the right time to jump in at the deep end as far as romance is concerned. If you are already in a committed relationship, you will be taken aback by news from your partner.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): The horizon is clear for you to see your way toward a bright, new future. Career changes are highlighted in the coming weeks, and relocation can't be ruled out. If you seriously want to boost your financial security, be ready to move quickly. Creativity is your key to success, but beware of those who would steal your ideas. The number 5 can bring luck on Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You will have the ability to make good decisions by following your instincts this week. If you are tempted to listen to others who appear to know what they're talking about, you could be disappointed. Aries, in particular, can lead you up the jungle path. A love affair that took root early last month will be subject to ups and downs; how you handle them will dictate the course of this relationship.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): It will be easy for others to get your goat this week. If you know you are suffering from stress you should get away to a peaceful place, even if it's only on a day trip. Work-related irritations are forecast to dissolve by the end of February, but you will need to stay on the ball until then. The color light gold can encourage a more tranquil outlook.

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# KEEPING THE SPIES AT BAY

I recently received an email from WM in Bangkok with advice on how to make your computer run faster.

Although WM means well, the advice is simply wrong – and it worries me that there are still many people out there who believe computer “urban myths” that should have been dispelled years ago.

In the email, WM advised: “Download a spyware removal program such as Ad-Aware 6.0.

“If you surf a lot, many websites leave pieces of spyware on your computer that report back to the site you visited. This takes a lot of time and your Internet browser won’t work properly until it’s done.

“[Scan] your computer every week or more often if you use the Internet.

“Porn sites are the worst. If you do these things you will notice a large improvement in your connection speed. Happy surfing.”

Apologies, WM, for printing this tip verbatim, but I’ve done so because it contains many misconceptions that confuse people here in Phuket.

Spyware is a huge problem, right up there with spam, but it doesn’t just lazily infect your computer when you visit a lot of websites.

Apart from some very rare exceptions, which I could count on one hand, the only way you can get spyware on your com-

puter is if you deliberately install it.

Unfortunately, the cretins who make spyware have come up with very sneaky ways of convincing you to install their programs, and they rarely give you fair warning.

Spyware can cause all sorts of problems. It might even cause halitosis, but it doesn’t significantly slow down your day-to-day web surfing.

Even third-party cookies, which are similar to spyware, have a minimal effect on Internet speed (see [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP\\_cookie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie)).

Ad-Aware used to be the top choice among anti-spyware products. I recommended it in several books years ago, but it hasn’t kept up. At this point, there are two better alternatives.

The first one, I hate to say, is Microsoft’s Windows Defender. It’s free for owners of genuine MS products.

Many people (present company included) don’t trust anti-spyware software from a company that’s played footsie with big-time spyware companies.

That’s why I don’t recommend Windows Defender. That said, it is a credible product that does a decent job protecting you from most spyware from most scummy companies.

If you want to use Windows Defender, your computer must clear the “Windows Genuine Advantage” (WGA) hurdle. In or-

## KHUN WOODY’S COMPUTER

Woody’s choice for keeping his computer free of spyware is Spy Sweeper, which can be downloaded from [webroot.com](http://webroot.com)

der to clear that hurdle, you must download and install the latest WGA software – the notorious phone-home version, which I call “Windows Genuine Spyware”.

If you feel confident that you have a copy of Windows XP that passes (this week’s version of) the WGA test, and you don’t mind setting up your copy of Windows XP to contact Microsoft periodically so the ‘Softies can keep track of your computer, go to [www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.aspx) to download and in-

stall the latest versions of both WGA and Windows Defender.

I use and recommend Webroot Spy Sweeper. It costs about 1,300 baht. You can download a trial copy from [www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com) and see if it works for you.

Windows Secrets Newsletter publishes a constantly-updated list of recommended security products at [www.windowssecrets.com/reviews/security-baseline](http://www.windowssecrets.com/reviews/security-baseline). If you want to protect your computer, that’s a great place to start.

If your Internet is slow –

especially in Thailand – you probably want to look toward the ISP for an explanation before you go scouring your hard drive.

On a cheerful note, CAT has lowered prices for EV-DO service.

I didn’t believe it either, but if you drop by your friendly local CAT office (in Phuket City on Phang Nga Road, or in Patong’s Aroonsom Plaza near Andaman Beach Suites), you can see for yourself.

CAT will sell you the Sierra Wireless AirCard 580 for 15,990 baht. That’s expensive, the card has been discontinued by the manufacturer, but it works, and works well.

When you buy the card, you get free, unlimited service until the end of April. Starting May 1, you pay 590 baht per month. That’s about half what CAT used to charge – and it compares very favorably with similar 3G service anywhere else in the world.

You need a PCMCIA slot in your computer to plug in the AirCard. Most laptop computers have PCMCIA slots. Some newer laptops don’t, so be careful when shopping for a new laptop.

If you have a desktop, it probably doesn’t have a PCMCIA slot, so you need to install an adapter. I picked up a few of them on my last trip to Bangkok, and have them available at my Sandwich Shoppe, while they last, for 1,500 baht.

As far as I’ve seen, CAT’s EV-DO service still runs rings around every ADSL package on the island, except for CAT’s direct lines (which run faster, but cost 2,600 baht per month).

I’ve heard from many readers who see “real” 400 to 800 K bits per second download speeds in most parts of Phuket, and many other places in Thailand.

One reader says he even got a signal at the Andaman Club in Burma, off Ranong. Many readers found there was little slowdown after the earthquake in Taiwan. I have no idea why.

Considering my TOT ADSL line currently runs about 30Kbps on a good day with a stiff tail wind, EV-DO makes a whole lotta sense.

I’m putting together a new presentation on local Internet alternatives called “Connecting in Phuket.” I’ll be giving the presentation at the Rotary Club of Patong Beach meeting on February 20. Everyone’s welcome: if you would like to attend, drop me a line. As always, I particularly welcome comments and suggestions from Internet service providers with competitive offerings.

When he isn’t writing computer books, Woody Leonhard ([woody@khunwoody.com](http://woody@khunwoody.com), website: [www.askwoody.com](http://www.askwoody.com)) runs Khun Woody’s Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.



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Expatriates often find that the bank they use on an international basis is so large that dealing with it is a disturbingly impersonal experience.

Depositors are merely numbers in a gigantic entity that never offers much in the way of assistance or personalized service.

Most people are aware that alternatives such as private banking exist but often the size of assets required to deal with a private bank limit the customer base to only the rich or to the tiny percentage of the mega rich.

Many of the world's private banks cater only to those with seven-figure assets and even at that level mere millionaires, that is single-digit millionaires, are less important than decamillionaires, centimillionaires and billionaires. (Thanks to the *Asian Wall Street Journal* for the words to describe these new categories.)

However, the benefits of private banking can be accessed at much lower levels, and not with any new entrant to the field of private banking but with a long-established banking group.

The bank is Close Private Bank, which is the largest of Britain's private Merchant Banks and was established in 1878. The bank is rated independently as being of "Highest Credit Quality" by Fitch and Intertest Bankshares Corporation (IBCA) ratings and offers its services to both corporate and private clients.

The Close Group is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a constituent of the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 250 index.

Outside of the UK, the bank maintains branches in Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. I had a meeting in Bangkok with one

# Up Close and personal: New private bank has big pluses

of the directors and the new regional manager for Asia.

The bank has found that demand for its services in this region is so large that it is establishing an office in Singapore.

It has received accreditation from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the new office will open later this month.

Having been involved in private banking earlier in my career, I found it pleasant to be in the company of two well-informed and experienced bankers who were enthusiastic about their profession.

Close Private Bank offers a full range of services from deposits linked to wholesale money market interest rates, gold debit cards and private wealth management.

One of their main services is the provision of pension planning and here the solutions that are offered are far more attractive and personalized than the general offerings of the insurance companies.

In previous articles I have clearly stated my personal dislike of the savings and pension plans offered by the insurance sector. In these areas, the insurance companies are expensive and I have recommended that people wanting to accrue capital would be better advised to keep their money in the bank or use an investment trust.

This is not the case with the pension options available via Close Private Bank. These plans are known as Close Opes – opes meaning wealth, abundance, riches and resources in Latin.

The words of Rex Cowley, Director of Products and Services, Close Private Bank Group of Companies, bear repeating: "Close Opes represent the next evolutionary step in the development of a 21st-century wealth-management solution.

"This we have achieved by consolidating many of the individual advantages of offshore life, pension, trust, banking and collective offerings under a single wrap to meet the real requirements of clients in today's ever challenging environment."

They have created a truly flexible and fair investment vehicle that offers an unparalleled range of benefits.

There is no cap on contributions, no penalties to stop, start or amend contribution levels, and benefits are interchangeable. Currency choices are Pound Sterling, US Dollar and Euro.

There are pre-approved loan and credit facilities, it is not subject to the EU savings tax directive, and it is tax efficient.

They have also included as standard the use of an offshore trust, without the need to incorporate the expense of having to create one individually.

This offers potentially great benefits as investors and their beneficiaries can use the trust to legally avoid taxation in many countries.

The underlying assets are invested on a multi-manager basis using the principle of the best of the best on a global basis.

There is also close, no pun intended, attention given to the risk profile of every investor.

Questions are asked to assess the risk attitude of investors and different asset mixes are used to cater for every possible situation. There is no

question of it being a "one size fits all" situation.

The pension service is provided under Guernsey, Channel Island, law and this gives far more flexibility than would be the case under the legislation of most countries.

The legal standard is extremely high but does not seek to limit investor flexibility or to tax the investor at all.

In the event of a client moving to a different country or beneficiaries changing domicile, Close Private Bank will give the relevant tax advice at no extra charge.

For the many British residents in Thailand, Close also offers a full professional service in respect to existing UK pensions.

Before drawing down on any existing plan, Close will give a full range of the options available and will implement the whole transfer if requested.

Close is, naturally, also regulated by the Financial Services Authority in the UK and is highly experienced in this sector.

Many people would rather deal with a private bank than an insurance company. There are also greatly increased benefits and options due to new UK laws introduced in 2006.

The Singapore office will be the base for Asia, but the regional manager will be traveling throughout the region, including Phuket. True private banking is now available right here on the island and elsewhere in Thailand. Their website address is [www.closepb.com](http://www.closepb.com) and please telephone me for further information.

A bank account can be opened with a minimum deposit of 1.75 million baht. Minimum balance thereafter is 700,000 baht.

Pension contributions can be from 400,000 baht a year upward. There is no requirement for pension fund holders to also have a bank account and vice versa.

Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 0810814611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th)



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

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## ON THE MOVE



**Nungruthai "Bee" Sontiprasat**, from Maha Sarakham, has been appointed Vice-President of Corporate Planning of Raimon Land Public Co Ltd. K. Bee has an economics degree from Thammasat University and a master's degree in economics and finance from the University of Bristol in the UK. Before joining Raimon Land, she was a senior manager with TSEC Securities. K. Bee has also worked with KPMG International.



**Pol Col Ittipon Atchariyapradit**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Superintendent of Phuket Immigration Office. A graduate of the Royal Police Cadet Academy, Col Ittipon was a Crime Suppression officer in Bangkok for 17 years. Before moving to Phuket, he was Deputy Superintendent of Crime Suppression Region 6, based in Narathiwat, for two years, and responsible for the three provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.



**Samart Waradisai**, from Songkhla, is the new Thalang District Chief. He has a master's degree in public administration from the National Institute of Development Administration, a political science degree from Chulalongkorn University and a law degree from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. Before moving to Thalang District, K. Samart was Chief of Rassada District in Trang for almost a year.

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# SilkAir inks US\$1.3bn deal to expand fleet

SINGAPORE: SilkAir has signed an agreement with Airbus to buy up to 20 new A320-family aircraft: 11 on firm order and nine on option. At list prices, the order is worth US\$1.328 billion (46.7 billion baht). Deliveries are scheduled from 2009 through to 2012.

SilkAir Chief Executive Mike Barclay said the orders put SilkAir in a good position to expand the airline in the next few years.

"We see good opportunities for profitable growth in our region. Increasing prosperity and rapid economic development are providing many opportunities for people to travel, and SilkAir is pleased to be playing a role by connecting South Asian regional centers with Singapore," he said.

The orders also signify SilkAir's intention not to bow to pressure from low-cost carriers' entry to the market three years ago.

Other moves to secure their market have included refitting cabin interiors, introducing new uniforms and stepping up customer service training.

By focusing on flight timings and connectivity, meals, and in-flight service, SilkAir over the past three years has seen passenger numbers increase 100%, with a 125% increase in the number of business-class passengers.

Mr Barclay added that not dropping any services to Phuket after the tsunami has put the airline "in good alignment" with many travel agents in Singapore and Phuket, which has in turn facilitated the airline's recent good performance.

"Post tsunami, we never dropped a flight to Phuket. In the short term, we had to bear the low loads, but it has paid back. We had lots of new customers who had never flown with us... The agents also appreciated our support of the route and we're still doing lots of promotions with them," he said.

In its latest move to expand services in the region, SilkAir in November added a fifth service that allows late arrivals to Singapore, and connections with flights to Japan as well as long-haul connections to Australia, Europe and the US.

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# Thai teams top Viets in invitational tourney



The PEA team (in purple) pose with their opponents, Bangkok Bank Club (red) after beating them 3-0.

PHUKET CITY: Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) beat Bangkok Bank 3-0 to win the final of an invitational tournament at Surakul Stadium on February 1, wrapping up three days of play by three Thai Premier League teams and top Vietnamese club Hoang Anh Gia Lai.

The tourney, organized by the Phuket Sports Development Association (SDA), kicked off January 29.

The other Thai Premier League club taking part was famed Osotspa M150 FC.

Phuket SDA President

Wongvara Saghunsak told the *Gazette* that the tourney was held so Phuket people would have a chance to see professional teams playing on the island.

Some of the profits from the tournament will be donated to the Phuket Football Association to aid in development of the sport on the island.

Vietnamese media recently reported that former Thailand coach Chatchai Paholpat has signed a three-year deal to train the top Hoang Anh Gia Lai squad. Chatchai is leaving Thai

Premier League 2006 runners-up Osotspa M-150 FC.

K. Wongvara said that the next invitational tournament will be in February 2008. Teams from Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand have been invited.



Posing with cup and medals are the winner of the 13-year-old girls pétanque competition, from left: Aungkana Uthaitas, Marisa Na Thalung and Nanchanok Saithong

## Local students score medals in Lampang

LAMPANG: Junior athletes from five schools in Phuket City Municipality picked up a total of 18 gold, silver and bronze medals at the 24th Kai Khao Municipality Student Games, held in Lampang from January 18 to 25.

Nanchanok Saithong, Aungkana Uthaitas and Marisa Na Thalung took gold in the girl's pétanque under-13 team competition, and Thanakorn Auakhuntol received top honors in the boys under-13 table tennis singles.

Local athletes picked up silver medals in pétanque, high jump, male and female volleyball, and the 100-meter dash, which saw second-place finishes for Phuket under-13 girls in both the relay and individual races.

Phuket's bronze medals were won in the futsal and pétanque competitions, high jump, 100-meter individual and relay runs, doubles and a singles table tennis, beach and regular volleyball, and *sepak takraw*.

## TriBallistic goes 'extreme'

MAI KHAO: Athletes competing in the third TriBallistic triathlon have a more adventurous race to look forward to at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa, as the organizers have put together an "Extreme Triathlon" for the February 25 competition.

The Silk Triathlon Series is composed of six races throughout the year for athletes from six years old to 60 and older.

Junior events for the third triathlon will include a 200-meter ocean swim, a three-kilometer off-road mountain bike trial and a 1.5km run. The senior events will include a 750m ocean swim, a 10km off-road mountain bike trial and a 5km run. Registration will start at 7 am on race day and the first race at 8 am.

The ocean swim competitions will be held in front of the

resort, the run will be through its paths and parks; and the mountain bike race will start and finish in the resort and wind through the National Park around the resort.

"This is the first 'extreme' or 'adventure' triathlon we've held. We had a lot of competitors who had mountain bikes and were having to put road tires on for the event. The JW Marriott Resort offers access to some fantastic trails and tracks, and we are confident that competitors will enjoy the race course," said event co-ordinator Hugo Jones.


"We have a lot of the same athletes returning, so we're expecting a pretty big turnout," he added.

The athletes' accumulated points from their best four races in the series will be totaled to determine the series winners. The top three males and females in each age category and the best overall competitor will receive awards at the TriBallistic annual dinner in June.

The TriBallistic Triathlon series is presented by SILK restaurant, hosted by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, and sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

Interested athletes are encouraged to register online before the competition at [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com).

Early-bird registration fees will apply until February 12. The fourth TriBallistic event will be on March 24.

  
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# Phang Nga Bay Regatta already 'booked solid'

By Chris Husted

PHUKET: Organizers of the Phang Nga Bay Regatta (PNB) have closed the entries list for this year's event, to be held from February 16 to 20. Some 50 boats pre-registered and the regatta's maximum of 45 boats have already paid and confirmed entry.

Simon James, long-standing Race Officer for the PNB, told the *Gazette*, "We set an initial limit of 45 boats, but we will be flexible. Of course, the boats that have already paid are already included."

The volunteer organizing committee this year set a limit for the number of entries at 45 boats as the logistics of having so many yachts, and the hundreds of crew members sailing on them, arriving at a new anchorage each day poses difficulties.

James confirmed that this year yachts will race in five classes: one Racing class, two Cruising classes and two Multihull classes – the Firefly 850s will have a class of their own.

Scott Duncanson, who won last year's PNB on *G4S*, better known as the locally-built Phuket 8 *Somtarn Express*, will be back to defend his title.

"He has threatened to race with trapezes to get the across-the-bay record back," said James.

Last year Roger Kingdon's *Firefly Moto Inzi* screamed across the bay from Phi Phi Don to Ao Chalong in an unofficial record time of 2 hours 13 minutes.

Notably missing from the King's Cup Regatta (KCR) in



Tall masts rival the karsts in one of Asia's most spectacular events, the Phang Nga Bay Regatta. – Photo by John Everingham

December, John Vause will be back racing on *Ruby Tuesday*.

There are also rumors that David Lindahl, who missed the KCR due to poor health, will return to racing at the PNB Regatta. However, it has not been confirmed whether he will sail on *Phoenix* or *La Samudra*, on which Lindahl finished second in the Racing class last year.

*Minx* will also be back to defend its title as Cruising A class winners, though *Cinders* and *Simba*, which finished second and third respectively last year, have not entered.

reaching skyward as the backdrop.

Although the traditional clockwise round-the-bay series of courses will remain, new venues mean slightly different courses to last year.

The regatta begins with the Raimon Land opening party at the Chandara Resort on Ao Por. The next morning the fleet will race to Koh Yao Noi, where the evening party will be held at The Paradise resort.

The second day's racing, the SEA Yachting Around The Islands Race, will test the fleet's skills, winding their way past the islands off Krabi, where the evening party will be held at Krabi Resort in Ao Nang.

The third day will see the boats head downwind to Phi Phi, where four adjacent resorts on Phi Phi Don's northern tip will welcome the hundreds of sailors with a beach party.

The final day, the Puravarna Sea Race, will take the fleet back to Phuket, finishing in Nai Harn Bay right off the Puravarna Phuket Yacht Club Hotel.

Puravarna, the regatta's principal sponsor this year, has planned a huge final party, a combination regatta finale and Chinese New Year bash for which they have chartered a special plane to fly in stars, models and press from Bangkok.

The famed Bed Supper Club of Sukhumvit has been hired to organize a huge beach party with DJ music, dance, shows, fireworks and a dinner banquet, which is expected to be one of the most memorable party events on Phuket's calendar this year.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Piccadilly shoot back into lead

PATONG: Piccadilly overtook Queen Mary with a three-point win at home. Christa of Sweden was the hero, flipping in the match winning dart and also checking out the beer leg as well.

His teammate Mats, also of Sweden, scored a 180 to take the high score on the evening.

**January 30 results:** Dogs Bollocks\* 2 Didi's 7; Piccadilly\* 6 Queen Mary 3; Offshore\* 7 Beach House 2; Funky Monkey 5 Valhalla\* 4. (\* = winner of beer leg)

**Standings:** 1. Piccadilly (25 pts.); 2. Queen Mary (23); 3. Coyote Bar (21); 4. Didi's (19); 5. Offshore (16); 6. Dogs Bollocks (15); 7. Valhalla (11); 8.= Beach House, Funky Monkey (7).

**February 13 matchups:** Didi's v Funky Monkey; Offshore v Dogs Bollocks; Queen Mary v Coyote Bar; Valhalla v Beach House; Piccadilly = bye week. (home team first)

### Volunteers needed for Walker Classic

THALANG: The Blue Canyon Country Club is seeking volunteers who can commit at least two days to assist with essential duties, such as crowd control, at the Johnnie Walker Classic golf tournament, to be held from March 1 to 4.

Each volunteer will be given food and beverage vouchers and two event shirts and caps for helping out.

They will also have the chance to meet top international golfers, including Ernie Els, Adam Scott and Paul Casey.

Prospective volunteers are asked to apply by email to jamie@bluecanyonclub.com

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## Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

The one-billion-baht, five-star Best Western Premier Supalai Resort and Spa Phuket is 90% complete and scheduled to have its soft opening on February 14, with the grand opening following in April.

The resort will be managed by Best Western International, which manages more than 4,100 facilities in 78 countries.

The 182-room boutique resort sits on 58 rai of hillside land and includes four hotel-style accommodation buildings, a main lobby building, a convention center and 38 pool-side villas – all with views of Phang Nga Bay.

The villas are built down the side of the hill from the hotel and are designed to offer sea views.

Prateep Tangmatitham, President of the Supalai group of companies, told the *Gazette*, “I designed the hotel myself. We are lucky to have a location where each room has a sea view; everyone can enjoy the view, even while brushing their teeth. We can see the sailboats, yachts and ferries cruising along the bay in the morning and evening,” he said.

“We believe in Best Western management and that its marketing will help this project set the standard for the eastern coastline,” he added.

Accommodation at the resort is of four types: 80 Deluxe Sea View rooms, 40 Super Deluxe Sea View rooms, 24 Grand

# Supalai Resort set for Valentine's Day opening



Left: The site where Supalai is nearly complete has sweeping views across Phang Nga Bay.

Above: Prateep Tangmatitham, President of the Supalai group, says, ‘Everyone can enjoy the view, even while brushing their teeth.’



The hotel also boasts a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions) convention center that can seat 400 people.

The main lobby building includes the “Pano-Restaurant”, named after the panorama it offers, where people can dine in air conditioning or in the open air.

The ground floor of the lobby building has a fitness room and a fully-fitted spa, including steam and sauna rooms and a Jacuzzi, and a large outdoor swimming pool with a pool bar where the guests can enjoy the sea view.

“Our concept is an exotic boutique resort of the Andaman, and our lobby features Southern-Thai architecture and is decorated with Southern-Thai-style paintings and sculptures. Pro-Space Co Ltd helped us with the interior design,” K. Prateep said.

“We can also expand our resort as we have developed only about 70% of our land, and our facilities can cater to guests in about 400 rooms,” he added.

Being built beside the resort is a residential development that will comprise 35 two-story pool villas.

Five of the villas, which each occupy 200-300 square wah of land, are already complete. Each villa, designed in Southern-Thai style, will have five bedrooms, six bathrooms, 1,000 square meters of usable space and a 4.5-meter by 9m swimming pool. The units will be for rent, or for sale at 18 to 25 million baht.

Deluxe Sea View rooms and 38 Pool Side Villas.

“Our hotel is five-star but we have four-star prices. Our prices are average compared with other hotels on the east

coast. It costs about US\$100-130 a night for rooms and about US\$140 to US\$160 a night for pool-side villas during opening period,” he said.

“We offer full in-room fa-

cilities, such as a sofa that can be converted into an extra bed, a breakfast table, ceiling fan, rain shower and so on. Our service will be innovative and even start at the airport,” he said.

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## Design

by Suganya Semacote

# Effective illumination

**J**ust up the hill behind Baan Chalong School is a house blending Thai tradition and Western innovation. It is the creation of Ian Potter, an English creative lighting designer and owner of Andaman Lighting, and his wife, K. Sutisa, an interior designer.

Mr Potter explained that his business has exposed him and his wife to the interiors and exteriors to some of the finest contemporary tropical houses on the island, providing the main source of their inspiration.

They have taken that inspiration and adapted it to the locale – almost every facet of the house incorporates some aspect of sun, sea or verdure.

Indeed, loving attention to detail is evident throughout the home from the multi-colored levels, the ponds and waterfall pool, to the fabric on the sala cushions to the rustic guest house bathroom backed by jungle greenery.

Of course, the Potters gave special attention to the lighting. Among the illuminated features is a covered walkway of hand-made bricks linking the living and guest sections of the complex. Niches in the brick wall contain Buddha images that are spotlighted at night to dramatic effect.

On the roof, the ornamental curved barge boards are lit from behind to project the shadow of the decorative shape onto the house opposite.

Round wooden pillars on the ground level are lit by two boxes at the top of both sides of each pillar, creating beams of light that pool at the base.

The square brick pillars are lit from below by lights in the pond, accentuating the rough texture of the brick.

The curved, paneled teak ceiling is floodlit from below to highlight the feeling of immense space. Lights are positioned on top of beams running across the width of the room at the point



Lights turns the pool sala into something magical at night (above) while the lighting of the main house (below) makes it warm and welcoming.



where wall meets ceiling; while spot lights at the top of the curtains run light down their length.

Bedrooms feature niched lighting running up textured traditional wall hangings behind the beds.

The benefit of well planned,

appropriate lighting, said Mr Potter, is that it creates harmony between the exterior architecture, the interiors and the landscape.

"The placement of spot lights and lamps brings warmth and dimension to the house," he said.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

**W**hy are we fascinated by smells? The sense of smell is a weird thing – it doesn't matter whether the odor that hits your nostrils is sweet and pleasant or totally minging (that's unpleasant, by the way, before any Americans start reaching for their dictionary), we are somehow drawn to smells of all kinds.

You know how it works. Your flatmate/wife/husband/one-night-stand goes into the fridge and comes out with something that is more than a little past its sell-by date. It absolutely honks, as proved by the look of total disgust on their face when they give it a good sniff. It's nasty.

What happens next? "Sniff this," they say, "it's absolutely foul." Of this there is no doubt – you've just watched their face screw up in disgust. So what do you do? Obviously you give the nastiness a hearty inhale for yourself. We all know how we'll react, but we do the deed anyway. Madness.

Then there's the old night-gift syndrome. The sort of smells that are somehow only produced once you get into bed at night. Why is it that we really want to know the magnitude of the gaseous emission we've just produced under the covers? We know it's quite likely to be unpleasant, but the truth must be known. Up come the covers, to find out for sure.

Unfortunately, the wife finds this fascination somewhat less appealing. It doesn't matter how many times you lift the sheets, give them a waft and say to her "Get a load of this one love, it's a cracker"; she's quite unlikely to

# Sniff this

share your enthusiasm. The "Dutch oven", as a friend of mine refers to it. He really knows how to charm the ladies.

Then there are other smells, which are totally subjective. Personally I consider durian to be one of the most odious substances on the planet. To me it smells like molten, moldy cheese festering in a nylon footballer's sock that he's been wearing non-stop for a year. You get the idea.

Yet there are others who think the smell of freshly-cut durian is immensely pleasant, and are instantly drawn to the source of the stench (often up to 100 meters away, I've found), so that they can sample this incredible fruit for themselves as soon as possible. It takes all sorts, I suppose.

Smell is probably the sense we take most for granted, as we often don't even realize we're using it. Have you ever tried eating spicy food with a cold? You can't taste it. I remember as a child being forced to eat Brussel sprouts. I hated them; the only way I could bring myself to swallow them was to hold my nose as they went through. I have no idea how that worked, but it seemed to.

Onto a far more pleasant olfactory sensation, anyway – flowers. Specifically, jasmine. Back in sunny England, I used to rely on one of those ludicrously-expensive plastic air fresheners



**AROUSING AROMA:** Unlike the writer of this column, jasmine gives out a heavenly odor at all times. It is also rumored to have aphrodisiac properties.

to bring a vague sense of normality to the usual pong of my car interior.

In Thailand, I just wind down the window at any reasonably-sized junction, and somebody will appear out of the blue to sell me a jasmine garland to hang from my rear view mirror. Ten baht buys a couple of days' relief. They're made mainly from two flowers – jasmine and michelia, or champaca.

Jasmine flowers emit an incredible smell – a bit like the perfume you'd imagine that Sophia Loren would wear. I once had about a dozen of these plants on a balcony in pots, and the smell that greeted me first thing in the morning was amazing.

Jasmine is a universally popular flower, especially in this corner of the globe, mainly due to that unique fragrance. The jasmine is native to tropical and warm regions of the old world. Jasmine flowers are white in most species, with some species bran-

dishing yellow flowers. Jasmine is believed to have originated in the Himalayas, in western China. Quite how anyone would claim that they know that is beyond me though.

Growing jasmine flowers doesn't exactly need the horticultural skills of Percy Thrower on steroids. Most jasmines grow well in moist, well drained, sandy to clayey soil (is "clayey" a word? I'm sure an English teacher will tell me). They prefer full sun to partial shade – they're sun worshippers.

They like gallons of water too (especially when they're younger), though don't let the soil get waterlogged. If they're in a pot, they will inevitably need to be re-potted every year or two to keep them from getting root-bound. Jasmine is also a very talented climber, and can be used to cover fences and walls.

Growth can be a bit sluggish to start with – they don't seem to be in any particular rush

to get going. Having said that, once they've got a bit of confidence there's no stopping them, so you might want to plant them a meter or two apart to try and stop them interfering with each other. As it were.

If you want to get serious, the tips of the plants at the top should be pinched fairly regularly, to stimulate sideways growth, and should get frequent attacks with the pruning shears. Also, with younger plants tie the wandering, reaching branches to the stem, to give it a bit of extra support. Kind of like the Playtex approach to gardening.

There is actually a true jasmine and a false jasmine; the two are commonly mistaken for each other because both plants release pretty impressive smells. The genuine jasmine belongs to the *Oleaceae* family, is primarily a bushy shrub or climbing vine, and is non-poisonous. This type of jasmine has oval, shiny leaves and tubular, waxy-white flowers. The impostor, the false jasmine, on the other hand, is in a completely different genus and family, and is thought to be too poisonous for human consumption.

Some people claim that the daily consumption of jasmine tea is effective in preventing certain types of rather nasty diseases. Many species of the plant, and the essential oil extracted from the flower are used extensively in cosmetics and perfume, and as a calmativ (relaxing properties, sedative) and even as an aphrodisiac. There you go, gents.

Thankfully, should your better half ever pull the Dutch oven stunt on you, you can always sprint out to the car to retrieve one of those jasmine garland things to try and counteract the effects. Better still, munch on one and enjoy the night of unbridled passion that will inevitably ensue. Gentlemen, start your engines...

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# Krabi: on the edge of a boom

By all reports, Krabi is about to experience a boom in the property market. Out of curiosity I set out with a map, a small list of developments, and three days to find out more.

The search was not an easy one. Unlike Phuket, there are no offices of internationally affiliated property agents such as CBRE or Knight Frank, or any large local agencies.

First stop was Robert "Gus" Reynolds of Krabi Consultants, who, with 12 years in the area, proved to be a great resource.

Tourism is an excellent demand generator for property so I checked out two of the newest branded resorts in the area: Central's Krabi Bay Resort, which has been open a year, and the newly opened Sofitel Phokeethra Resort.

Together with the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort, which has been operating five years, these are the only brand-managed properties in the area, as the long-standing, up-market Rayavadee, formerly a Dusit, is now independently operated.

According to General Managers of hotels in the area, annualized occupancies are now around 60%, with average room rates at upper-tier hotels surpassing similar products in Phuket.

While Ao Nang and Railey Beach are well established with the heaviest concentration of hotels in Krabi, Klong Muang and Tub Kaek are emerging with a number of up-market boutique hotels such as the Tub Kaek Resort and Nakamanda Resort & Spa.

There are also new entries opening this year, such as Phulay and the Vogue Pranang Bay Resort & Spa. The Phulay, designed by renowned Thai architect Lek Bunnag, is reputed to be in the same league as the Amanpuri and Trisara.

Major investment in this area is with significant groups

such as MBK and Boon Rawd Brewery. Talking to hotel owners and managers, I heard two overriding themes. First is the desire to learn from Phuket's mistakes, which is evident in the underground power lines along the beachfront, the ban on jet-skis and sun loungers on public beaches, and the emphasis on maintaining a natural environment.

Second is the sense of pride you hear in discussions about assets that make Krabi a unique destination. Among them is the new airport. It's modern, well planned and in many ways superior to Phuket's. With direct international flights from Singapore on Tiger Airways, along with

THAI and a variety of low-cost carriers, the facility will significantly enhance demand for the destination.

Reviewing my list of property developments turned out to be no small task. Roads are not well marked; developers have yet to use directional signs;

and in most cases even projects underway do not have signs or sales offices.

In Klong Muang, Phulay Heights' 52 villas look out over Phang Nga Bay. On the beachfront at Nammao Bay, near Fossil Beach, is Amatapura with its 29 pool villas.

At Haad Yao (Long Beach) lies Krabi's most touted project: The Cove, where more than 1,000 rai is being developed to provide more than 1,200 residential condos and villas, branded hotels and an 18-hole Colin Montgomerie-designed golf course.

With long stretches of beachfront and stunning views of distant islands, this is one of the Thailand's largest developments. Located nearby is Le Kiri, a boutique beachfront development of eight villas.

While there are a few smaller, mid-range projects in the 2-to-4 million-baht range focusing on buyers from Scandinavia and the UK, Krabi, in terms of



The beaches and stunning views of islands are part of Krabi's draw.

residential product, is where Phuket was 15 years ago.

But despite the limited product range and lack of international agents – although it is rumored that CBRE will open an office there soon – land in Krabi is not cheap.

Large lots of prime land were snapped up years ago, mainly by wholesale buyers from

Bangkok, so this may explain the lack of smaller developments. For golf courses, there is only the Pakasai Golf Club, which recently upgraded to 18 holes, and there are no major marinas to speak of.

Given the rise in tourism, hotels, and ease of access, Krabi appears to be on the cusp of great things. Property development will

most likely follow the branded hotels in Klong Muang and Tub Kaek and will evolve over time in the Haad Yao area simply because this is where the undeveloped land is.

Thalen Bay, with its proximity to the new five-star hotels and stunning views would seem a likely candidate for longer-term development.

It's going to be an interesting ride to see how Krabi's tourism visionaries stick to their plans and integrate with the property market.

In the meantime, if you head off to Krabi looking for real estate, take a good map and lots of patience and time. The market is pretty much a blank page at present, but that looks set to change rapidly in the very near future.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks ([c9hotelworks.com](http://c9hotelworks.com)), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES



2 new, connected shop-houses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd are for sale. Ground floor: sales office, staff room, kitchen, dining room and toilet. Second floor: master bedroom with separate bath and 2 separate bedrooms with connecting bath. Third floor: living room and en-suite bedroom. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 100sqm. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8526. For further details please see our website at: [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### KOH SAMUI LAND PLOT



7-3-94, NorSor 3 Gor, huge development starting nearby, promising investment. 7.5 million baht. Contact for details. Tel: 076-381490. Email: [info@sea-property-international.com](mailto:info@sea-property-international.com)

### FOR SALE

Bali/Thai-style house. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, near Laguna. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 089-8686842.

### VILLA FOR SALE

Near Laguna area. 2-story, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, big pool with 2 car parking spaces. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: [phuketmat@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketmat@yahoo.com)

### MUST SELL, KAMALA

New house in Kamala. 4 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Master bedroom has Jacuzzi. Quality build inside & out. Solid wood floors & ceilings. Western kitchen, pool. Detached 2-car garage with studio above. Interior over 300sqm, walled-in plot. 50% financing over sale 15.5 million baht. Rent (min 6 months) 90,000-120,000 baht a month. Contact Boomer. Tel: 086-2878966. Email: [boomerkamala@hotmail.com](mailto:boomerkamala@hotmail.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Patong. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big living room and kitchen. On private land and soi. Tel: 081-7879627. Email: [gerar@patongfamily.com](mailto:gerar@patongfamily.com)

### SEA VIEW TOP LOCATION



Sea view is great, bay view is nicer. You have the beauty of the sea in daytime and the lights with atmosphere in the evening. So here you have both. A tall house with many large balconies to enjoy the scenery. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan, green and relaxed neighborhood at the south end of Patong bay. This (freehold) house (5 levels) has a private pool with nice garden (Chanote land). Take a look at the website or pass by. Call owner Edwin for more info. Tel: 086-7866350. For more details, please see our website: [www.patongbluepoint.com](http://www.patongbluepoint.com)

### PATONG NEW VILLA WITH POOL 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. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. [www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### RAWAI 3-BEDROOM, 3-BATHROOM



New traditional Thai-design home with large patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Home is 240sqm, sits on a 400sqm lot and features modern kitchen & many upgrades. Priced at only: 7.9 million baht. Contact Gary. Tel: 087-8987062.

### CONDOMINIUM FREEHOLD

Cape Panwa, 106sqm living space, ground floor, open-plan dining and living area with direct pool access, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-279280, 086-2821172, 089-8746054. Email: [apawann@hotmail.com](mailto:apawann@hotmail.com)

### PATONG CONDO

Mountain and sea view. 36sqm, best location, newly remodeled, furnished, kitchen, pool. Freehold. 2 million baht. Tel: 081-2731332. Email: [guntmit@aol.com](mailto:guntmit@aol.com)

### EAST COAST OFFICE

Or shophouse near Mission Hills. 100sqm. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 081-8918689.

### MAI KHAO VILLAS



Resort-managed, seaview pool villas, only 11 luxury units, more than 5 rai of prime real estate. Start at 15.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490 Email: [info@sea-property-international.com](mailto:info@sea-property-international.com)

### INVESTMENT

Guesthouse in Patong for sale with Thai company. 208sqm with Chanote title, 150m from Jungceylon, on the bypass road. Option to open 3 shops, extension to 7 floors. Reasonable price: 25 million baht. Tel: 086-1062566. Fax: 076-345554.



### Kata apartment, 4-story, sea view

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 406sqm. Huge open-plan lounge. 4 double b/r 3 bathrooms. Separate Guest Studio. Rooftop Sun Terrace. Swimming Pool.

Price  
12.9 million baht



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Email: [info@phuketandamanrealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketandamanrealestate.com)  
[www.phuketandamanrealestate.com](http://www.phuketandamanrealestate.com)

### INVESTMENT

Two for the price of one! Two unfinished building projects on Country Club. Near club house. 3 bedrooms on 336sq wah. Inside 386sqm. Swimming pool 31sqm. Price: 15 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8929031. Email: [meadymo@hotmailed.com](mailto:meadymo@hotmailed.com)

### PA KHLOK LAND

1rai 79sq wah in Point East State. 4km away from Heronines Monument. Chanote title. Good price for very nice land. Tel: 081-8953649, 089-8718327.

### MULTIFUNCTIONAL

building in Kamala. 5 minutes to the beach. 300sqm, 3 shops, 3 apartments, fully-furnished, 60sqm terrace. Price: 1.9 million baht. Long-term lease 3 + 3 years, price includes rent until March 2008. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: [bbq@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:bbq@loxinfo.co.th)

### FOR SALE OR LEASE

Transferable lease, 30 + 30 years. 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bathroom, fully-furnished Balinese-style villa located in Kathu hills. Price: 5.5 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-386-5200.

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# Property Gazette

## RAWAI VILLA



6 bedrooms, 250sqm living area, 1,064sqm land plot, swimming pool, guest bungalow, quiet and safe cul-de-sac, ADSL, 2 telephone lines, 16 million baht. Best value for money. Tel: 076-381490 Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## TWO RARE INVESTMENTS



Opportunities for investors and/or builders now exist for purchase in Patong.

1/2 rai with outstanding sea view, existing plans with building license for 3-story luxury complex with 9 apartments with a total covered living area of 900sqm. Covered area, roof terrace and space for a swimming pool. Driveway entrance from main road, 3-phase electricity, and water. Price for quick sale: 12 million baht (approximately 250,000 euros).

Patong land with panoramic sea view, 1,300 sqm (almost 1 rai). Driveway entrance from main road, 3-phase electricity and water. Price for quick sale: 5.5 million baht (approximately 117,000 euros).

Obvious high returns can be expected from both purchases. Contact for further information. Tel: 081-087-3033 (Swedish, English) or 089-6524090 (German, English, Thai). Email: patongseaview@gmail.com

## NAI HARN HOUSE

2 floors, 170sqm, 6 bedrooms. Can be cut in 3 apartments. 3.9 million baht. All new. Tel: 076-288070, 089-0813183.

## PHUKET BARGAINS

PATONG HOUSES, SEA VIEWS. 3 x from 6.5 million.  
NAI HARN, BRAND NEW, 2 B/R + MAIDS' FLAT, POOL. 6.3 million.  
CHALONG TOWNHOUSES FROM 1.4 million.

PATONG SEA VIEWS, 2.5 RAI. 8.5 million per rai.  
1/2 RAI PLOTS FROM 960,000 Baht. 10% Discount for 2. Golf Course 1km.  
14 RAI WITH VIEWS, FRESH WATER CREEK, PEACEFUL LIVING. Only 580,000 per rai.

WAANN MARKETING. Phone: 0865150234.  
Email: royalprestige1776@yahoo.com

## STYLISH NEW HOUSE

for sale in Kathu: 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, living room, kitchen, laundry room, walled garden, private parking, modern design, located near international school, golf courses, supermarkets. 9 mins drive to Patong beach. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-843-9579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somsrj@aol.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story house in Chalong. Aircon, 4 bedrooms, Western kitchen, 2 bathrooms. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

## SHOP HOUSE

New and fully furnished. Good location on Prachautit Rd near Tesco Lotus. Urgent sale: only 3.7 million baht. Tel: 076-248639, 081-7195102. Fax: 076-248639. Email: orapar@hotmail.com

## URGENT SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 97sq wah. New house at Garden Place Muang Thalang. Tel: 085-8877414. Email: chon\_thira@hotmail.com

## STEAL THIS VILLA!

4-bedroom, 5-bathroom, Thai pool villa with sauna. View Kamala. Chanote. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-8162066. Email: coney beezo@aol.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketlandforsale.com

## PLOT IN PATONG

A rare opportunity! 12x19m, Chanote. Close to police station. 2.9 million baht ono. Tel: 083-1061099, 081-6936099.

## SENSATIONAL OFFER



2- and 3-bedroom pool villas, close to Bang Tao and Layan Beaches. Fully-managed development. Prices from 3.9 to 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490 Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## THALANG CHANOTE

land plots. With electric & water in residential area near Ton Sai Waterfall. Start from 450,000 baht. Tel: 089-291-1112.

## LUXURY HOUSE

For sale in Chalong. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Teak curved staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. Or see our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

## 2 BUNGALOWS

for sale. 2 single-room bungalows with big terrace, aircon, hot water. 1.7 million baht for both. Tel: 076-202644, 087-8867279. Email: pschoepfel@yahoo.de

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## NAI HARN/RAWAI SEA VIEW



2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Tel: 081-9583513. Email: rayt.mg@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.houseforsaleinphuket.com

## PATONG NEW SEAVIEW

apartment with swimming pool. 30+30-year lease. Start: 2.5 million baht. Chanote land plots with electric and water from 450,000 baht. Tel: 081-6917241, 089-5896144.

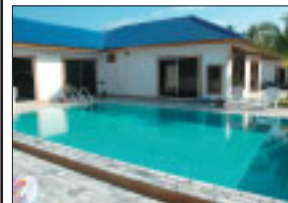
## SUPERB DEAL!

New 2-bedroom, 100sqm apartment in Surin Beach area. Fantastic resort facilities, best price in development. 5.95 million baht. Tel: 085-787-1320. Email: kez\_turn@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at: http://www.thai-visit.se/album/app

## KATA CENTER

apartment. New one-bedroom apartment for sale includes kitchen, bathroom + aircon. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.kbpm@gmail.com

## PHUKET VILLAGE



Villa for sale. European standard, fully furnished. Price from: 3.9 million baht. 50% loan for foreigners. Tel: 086-4704691. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se For further details visit our website at: www.phuketvillage.se

## KARON BEACH

house with pool & small garden. Good sea view, 2 bedrooms/bathrooms. End of terrace, tastefully furnished. Available now at 7.5 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 081-7888280.

Email:

david.kbpm@gmail.com

## 23 RAI SEA VIEW

Partial sea view. Developed close to Mission Hills Golf & Resort. 23 rai plot next to the main asphalt public road. Chanote. Perfect for development. Sale: 2.7 million baht a rai (from owner). Tel: 076-316000, 081-9580546. Fax: 076-316095. Email: kit\_phuket@arahmas.com

## BEST SEA VIEW IN PHUKET



The Doa Tiam project above Mission Hills Golf Course. The only land I know of with a complete view of Phang Nga bay. 2-rai lots available. Chanote title. 4 to 5 million baht a rai. You can play all year on Phang Nga Bay when the west coast is closed for 6 months due to storms. Close to schools, shopping, hospitals, major golf courses, airport, beside a park. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## 1-RAI PLOT RAWAI

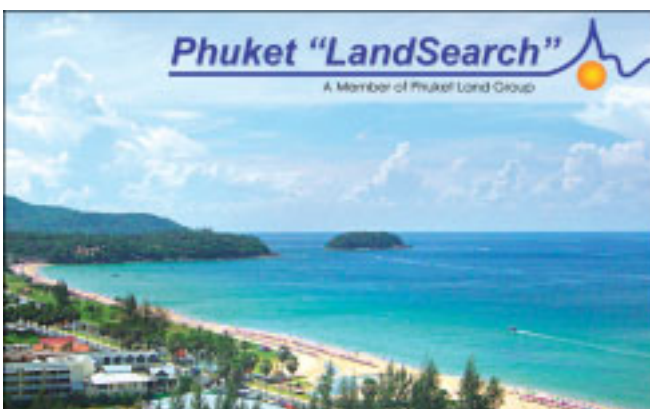
Surrounded by hill views. Square plot. Concrete road. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-652 5664. Email: info@phuketlanddeals.com

## RAWAI SEAVIEW LAND

540sqm plot 200m from main road. 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-8938747. Email: info@phuketlanddeals.com

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## "The Waterfront Condominium, Karon Beach"

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Contact Jeremy 076-290509 or Nida 089 470 7591 at Phuket Land Search. www.phuketland.com

## FOR SALE

Stunning top-floor seaview apartment at Kata Beach. This apartment comes with its own private infinity edged pool, 3 large bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with 283sqm of total living space. All balconies have stunning sea views over Kata Bay. This beautiful apartment provides spacious living and style, with all the modern fixtures and fittings to create the ultimate in tropical living.

Price: 26.5 million baht.

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# Property Gazette

## NAI THON BEACH VILLA FOR SALE



130 + 120sqm on 150sq wah of land. European standard, fully furnished, swimming pool. 2km from beach. Price: 6.9 million. Tel: 086-4704691. Email: phuketvillage@yahoo.se

## NAI THON BEACH LAND PLOT FOR SALE



100sq wah. Ready to build with permit, electric, water drainage. 2km from beach behind Sakoo School. Tel: 086-4704691, 086-686-5304. Email: phuketvillage@yahoo.se

## KATA BEACH

New townhouse for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, European-style kitchen, a great bargain. 4.95 million baht. Tel: (Thai) 081-271-4261, (Eng) 089-2905594.

## SEAVIEW PLOT

Bang Tao. 1,100sqm. Infrastructure complete. Chanote title. 3 million baht. Tel: 086-267-0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## CHEAPEST THAI

pool villa. 4.9 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, sold "as is" bargain. Kamala. Urgent sale. Tel: 081-8162066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketlandforsale.com

## 200SQM PLOT

Rawai. Chanote title. Perfect for single house. 750,000 baht. Tel: 081-537-0866. Email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

## OCEANFRONT HOME

in Chalong. Unique opportunity to purchase a spectacular villa right on the sand for only 34 million baht. Call Chuck for more details. Tel: 076-271-544, 087-2095174. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

## NAI HARN LAND FOR SALE

Great 2x800sqm plots. Electricity + water. Chanote. 3.2 million baht each. No brokers Tel: 081-8940580.

## FULLY-FURNISHED

house for sale. 67sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, located in Patong. Tel: 086-5962035.

## FOR LEASE

3.25 rai of cleared flat land. Suitable for stables, etc. Good location in Rawai. Tel: 081-0825707.

## FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, pool 5m x 10m. Usage area: 310sqm. Land: 1,200sqm. 13 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-8738295. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

## TWIN HOUSE 2.95M

New 2-story house in Bann Manee-kram. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 44sq wah. Great value. Tel: 089-7292313.

## 4 SARABURI VILLAS

For sale/barter, 180sqm on 100sq wah guarded estate. 4.75 million baht. Or barter with seaview plots. Tel: 081-8142040. www.ziam.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Ban Sai Yuan Phuket 320, 187 & 80sq wah. Tel: 081-5386829.

## URGENT SALE

Rawai. House with pool, 250 sqm, includes company. Make an offer. Contact for details. Tel: 086-5041407. Email: nella\_aguf@hotmail.com

## HOUSES FOR SALE

Or rent. 2 or 3 bathrooms and bedrooms. 5km from Heroines Monument toward Mission Hills Golf Course. Tel: 089-7298009. Email: clickphuket@gmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, phone, UBC. Fully furnished. 4.2 million baht. In Land & House. Tel: 076-378-140, 081-3619277.

## OFFICE BUILDING IN CHALONG



High-tech office building in central location close to Chalong circle. 2 stories with a total of 102sq wah (408sqm) with sea view in quiet residential area.

- Central aircon system
- Complete security system
- Contact-less door access system
- CCTV with remote access
- Server room with armored door and CAT5 cable system for computer network and phone switchboard
- Private carport

Perfect for companies that need an attractive office with high standards. Price: 15 million baht ono.

Tel: 076-282211, 081-9580815. Fax: 076-283-251. Email: moo@mintcard.net

## Properties For Rent

### PATONG SEAVIEW



2-bedroom apartment in Baan Suan Kamnan. Nice green and quiet neighborhood just outside Patong. Long term only. Price from 20,000. Has ADSL, UBC, and is safe. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

By Kasina location. Varanee Villa on by-pass road, Phuket. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, hot water, 2 air conditioners, garden, parking area, refrigerator, ADSL. 11,000 baht a month. Long term (minimum 1 year): 10,000 baht a month. Move in! (This price is not including ADSL) Tel: 0819796134. Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

## CHUAN CHEN

Lagoon. Near British school, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished available from Febuary. Tel: 084-0651133.

## CHALONG NEW

home. 2 bedrooms, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC & aircon. Tel: 089-652-1473.

## RENT SURIN

2 bedrooms. In Lersuang. Furnished, quiet, cable TV, swimming pool, ADSL. Available short or long term. 27,000 baht per month or 1,100 baht per day. Tel: 081-5399269.

## BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim, Patong. High standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920038.

## RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Rent room. Daily or monthly 3,000 to 9,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC. Tel: 084-3079909. Email: dyotachan@yahoo.com

## LAGUNA AREA

Discovery gardens. New fully-furnished, 2-bedroom houses. Large pool, WiFi, cable TV, maid service. Excellent rates for 1 night or 1 year! Tel: 076-527594, 084-8661965. Email: jziment@yahoo.com www.phuketmarbella.com

## PATONG TOWER

Seaview. 1-bedroom apartment. 100 meters from beach. UBC, parking, pool. Tel: 084-8473304.

## SHOPHOUSE PATONG



Freehold, 3 floors, 200sqm living space, front building, rental income 60,000 baht a month, 300m to Bangla. 13.5 million baht. Tel: 076-381490 Email: info@sea-property-international.com

## PATONG KALIM



Only the best for you. 2-bedroom apartment with big pool. Close to Patong and almost on beach. For long term only (from 1 month). Price depending on length of stay: 40,000-60,000 baht per month. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

## HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, European kitchen. Please contact us for further details. Tel: 076-333292, Fax: 076-330895. Email: nichaboon@peach-hill.com

## KATHU 3 BEDROOMS

House for rent fully furnished. 2 bedrooms with aircon, 1 without. Cable TV, garden, secure estate, telephone. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8876101.

## FOR RENT LAND & HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in Land & House. Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedroom, 1 aircon living room. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-544-0571, 087-1745511.

## LARGE HOUSE

For rent, Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom furnished house for long-term rent. Telephone line, UBC, garden, etc. Close to golf course & international school. Located on quiet private road. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-8752532. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, living room. Sturdy fenced garden, UBC, ADSL. Long-term rental: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-843-9579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

## KATHU WATERFALL

2-bedroom bungalow, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, furnished. 975,000 baht. Tel: 084-848-4212.

## KATA SEAVIEW

land. We have several plots available from 6 million per rai. Call Chuck. Tel: 087-209-5174.

## NEW HOME

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Single level, garden, aircon, ADSL, UBC cable, 42" entertainment center, cabinets, king beds, large kitchen, bar, 24-hour security. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 076-323-749, 085-7834025. Email: captron@romar23.com

## IMMACULATE VILLA

Very private location, tropical lush garden, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully furnished, 450sqm living area, 1,500 sqm land, Chanote. Near Heroines' monument, Thalang. Tel: 084-6907057.

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## BARGAIN VILLA

Unfinished villa, 4.9 million baht. 80% completed. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Kamala views, pool, sauna. Chanote. Tel: 081-8162066. Email: coneybeezo@aol.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketlandforsale.com

## READY TO BUILD

10m x 20m (50 talang wah), great view, clear and level with retaining wall, dirt. Only 1.2 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-323-749, 085-7834025. Email: captron@romar23.com

## VILLA IN KATA

beach. Quiet location approx 900m from the beach. Brand new villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Unfinished. Land 240sqm. Sell at 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-891-5343. Email: g\_mainardis@hotmail.com

## 2 RAI SEAVIEW

Bang Tao. Sea and Waterfall view. Infrastructure complete. Call to view. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## PATONG TOP DUPLEX FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, top furnished, pool, secure estate. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-8940580.



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# Property Gazette

## PATONG TOWER CONDO – A BEAUTY

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## HOUSE IN RAWAI

2 stories, 2 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished. For rent at 9,500 baht a month. Tel: 081-5376866.

## FURNISHED HOUSE

for rent. Located in the popular and secure Villa Dowroong, Phuket City. 60sqm 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, 4 air conditioners, ADSL, UBC TV, big equipped European kitchen, washing machine, parking space, etc. Long-term rental: 28,000 baht a month. Contact Rose. Tel: 081-8943673. Email: rosie\_sa@hotmail.com

## LUXURY SEA VIEW

Large private villa, with amazing views in every direction. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's quarters, snooker room, large kitchen, dining room, study, fully furnished, swimming pool, sauna, all set in gardens. 10 minutes to BIS. 80,000 baht a month. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Land & Houses Park Chalong. New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, aircon, free access to pool, fitness at 400 Gym. Tel: 081-788-4655.

## CHALONG BEDSIT

Kitchen and hot-and-cold water bathroom. Call or email for further details. Tel: 081-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

## LARGE HOUSE

for rent, Kathu. 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom furnished house for long-term rent. Telephone 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

## ONE-BEDROOM

condominium in Patong Tower with beautiful hill views. Fully furnished, cable TV, telephone, etc. Available for long-term let. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-6519872. Email: oswald.spiess@aon.at

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly built, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1km to Phuket City & 7km to Phuket Country Club. Available Feb 1 for 1-year rent. 27,000 baht a month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0904786. Email: malkham0614@yahoo.com

## RENT A 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. Tel: 081-2711082. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

## 1 BEDROOM

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## LONG-TERM RENT

Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, car park, furnished. Tel: 089-7288311.

## BUNGALOW, RAWAI

2 bedrooms, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. Quiet location. Tel: 086-2790837.

## KATA EXOTIC

Oceanfront. 5-star luxury 1-bedroom apartment. Spa, pool, quiet area, ADSL, sea view. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-9171161. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com See our website at: www.koumbele.com/kata1

## HOUSE NEAR AIRPORT

House at Wong Chalerms Villa for rent, fully furnished. Aircon, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. Tel: 081-5696086.

## 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

in Patong. Sea view, 2 bathrooms, lounge + kitchen. For rent from February 4. Please call for more information. Tel: 087-8700434.

## LAGUNA TOWNHOME FOR RENT



4 bedrooms. 90,000 baht per month. Contact Amber. Tel: 089-2001681. Email: aabsxx88@truemail.co.th

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

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## PATONG STUDIO

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## BUNGALOW

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## BRAND-NEW VILLA

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## PATONG HOLIDAY

Studio apartment close to beach. Nice decor, clean and comfortable. TV, fridge, double bed, new aircon, pool, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Please see: www.phuket-accommodation.info

## NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms at Pa Khlok, close to monument. 15,000 baht per month. Unfurnished. Tel: 084-8449568. Email: Wazbec@hotmail.com

## FOR RENT IN KATHU

2-story aircon restaurant with seating outside in busy area opposite Caltex garage. Fully equipped with modern appliances. 1 year old. Contact for more details. 300,000 baht + 12,000 baht a month rent. Tel: 084-1935124.

## BUNGALOW

1-bedroom bungalow on Chalong Bay beachfront for rent. Terrace, kitchen, aircon, car park 15m from house. Fully furnished. 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 084-6584437, 089-7297978. Email: property1998@hotmail.com

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# Island Job Mart



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Inviting Candidates to apply for the following positions.  
**OPERATIONS OFFICE - PATONG**

### 1. ACCOUNTING OFFICER, AGE: 23-40

Male/Female. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. 2-4 years experience in General Book-keeping, familiar with the various Taxations in Thailand, Staff Payroll, Budgeting, Monthly-1/2 Year and Year end reports. Computer-literate and basic English.

### 2. OFFICE AND FOOD & BEVERAGE COORDINATOR, AGE: 22-35

Male/Female. 3-5 year Office and Restaurant/Hotel experiences. Assisting the CEO on a daily basis in the Office as well as outside. Be able to communicate in "Good English" with the Restaurant Manager and the CEO of the Corporate Head Office. Be knowledgeable of various Government Offices in Phuket and computer-literate.

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- Needs to have a strong influence in landscape design
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- English is an advantage
- Flexible and outgoing approach to work

#### Site Engineer

##### Requirements

- Male, Thai national, over 25 years old
- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field
- Proven experience of at least two years in construction management
- Good command of spoken and written English

#### Admin's assistant

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- Female, Thai national, over 25 years old
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# Island Job Mart



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### 3 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 8 -12 years of experience working as project manager in construction projects. Experience in managing hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Good knowledge in project management is required.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering, Architecture, or QS.
- \* Thai or expatriate

### 2. Construction Manager

### 4 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 7 - 9 years of experience working as construction manager or site manager in construction projects. Experience in managing hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Good knowledge in site management is required.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering or Architecture.

### 3. Structure Engineer

### 4 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as Structure Engineer in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Professional registration license is required.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Civil or Structural Engineering.

### 4. M&E Engineer

### 3 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as M&E Engineer in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Professional registration license is required.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in M&E Engineering or related fields.

### 5. Architectural Supervisor

### 3 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as site architect in construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Architecture or related fields.

### 6. Project Accountant

### 3 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4 - 6 years of experience working as project accountant on real estate or construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* In charge of one of our projects overseeing A/R, A/P, project reporting, monitoring budget, and financial draws
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Accountancy or related fields.

### 7. Site Administrator

### 3 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 3 - 5 years of experience in construction site administration. Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Able to work as a team and good in document control knowledge.
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills.
- \* Academic requirement: A degree any field.

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 Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

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## TIGER MUAY THAI

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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For sale. Jeep Willy, totally renovated and modified 1 year ago. White mother-of-pearl color. Servo steering. Price: 350,000 baht or best offer. Need to sell urgently. Call Alexander. Tel: 081-6666622.

## 2002 FORD RANGER XLT 4X4

4-door, turbo, farang-owned, only 19,600km, with Carry-boy, silver, immaculate condition, looks and smells like new. 490,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 077-248188, 086-2689460. Email: sateebonsamui@yahoo.com

## HONDA CRV 34,000KM

Black metallic. 800,000 baht. Woman owner, first-hand. Call for more details. Tel: 087-8822462.

## Motorbikes

### SUZUKI GSX-R 2005

600cc. 3,000km. GPR, Exhaust, excellent condition. 480,000 baht. Please call for details. Tel: 089-9715664.

### YAMAHA FAZER 2003

1000cc, 19,000km. Akrapovic, perfect condition. 375,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 089-9715664.

## BMW K1200S MOTORBIKE

BMW K1200S motorbike for sale. Brand new, only 6,000 km driven, in excellent conditions. Color blue/white with side cases and original BMW helmet. 850,000 baht or the existing finance can be taken over. Tel: 081-8317112. Email: frank@krabibiz.com

## HONDA CHOPPER

For sale. Honda VLX 400. New engine, perfect condition with book. 150,000 baht. Tel: 083-3908639.

## CUSTOM HARLEY



Chopper 300, back tire, 6-speed gearbox, 80 cubic motor. Good condition with green book 1.65 million baht ono. Tel: 087-8910515.

## HONDA CB 1000

Top condition. Ups/down fork, 98 HP, green book. 115,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 089-6487547. Email: Damianlivesey@gmx.net

## 2005 HONDA WAVE

125cc, electric start, black/yellow, disc brake. Price: 26,000 baht. Tel: 089-4746602. Email: mejlatilanders@hotmail.com

## HONDA CBR 400 RR

for sale. Green book, 1995, taxed & insured, pristine condition, 1 farang owner, new Dunlop tires, needs nothing. Tel: 084-8425920. Email: khao\_lak@hotmail.com

## JRD FOR SALE

Nice motorbike: JRD JT 125 T Typhoon, 12/2003, titan gray, only 15,000 km: 23,000 baht ono. Contact for more details. Tel: 084-6032490. Email: pointner@edendivers.com

## Vans

### VIP MINIBUS

Toyota commuter, 2002, grade A, 97,000km. Price: 790,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 076-388256, 089-5941540.

## Rentals

### A1 CAR RENTAL



Cars, trucks, jeeps - fully insured for rental. Best prices for long-term rental: 12,000 to 20,000 baht a month. Toyota Altis 1.8G, top model, long-term only. Please contact for details. Tel: 089-8314703, 076-200900. Email: a1carrent@myway.com

### P.M.P. CAR RENT

And taxi service. Toyota Wish, Camry, Vios, Yaris and Honda Jazz for rent. Short term or long-term. Minibus for tour, taxi service. Call for more details. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

### NEW MITSUBISHI

For rent. For long or short-term rental. Tel: 076-263169, 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

### CAR FOR RENT

New Jazz for rent. Short or long-term. Tel: 084-8516121, 087-3829407 (Thai).

### NEW NISSAN TIENA

4 rent. Long or short-term, fully insured. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-263169, 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

### NEW CAR FOR RENT

New car for rent. Special price for long-term rental. Tel: 081-5388567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### HONDA DREAMS

3,000 baht a month. Discount for long-term rental. Tel: 089-4727304.

### BP RENTALS

Suzuki Caribians for 10,000 baht a month. Discount for long-term rental or limited mileage. Full insurance. For more info, call Tel: 089-4727304.

### JIKKY CAR RENT

Many types of cars for rent; good price for long-term. With automatic gear, CD player, insurance. Contact us for more info. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: jikkycar@yahoo.com

### MITSUBISHI TRITON

for rent. 4WD/4 door. Also have a Honda Phantom 200cc, year 2006. Good price! Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: goodtaste@goodlife@yahoo.de

### RENT NEW YARIS

Auto, CD, aircon, fully insured, 19,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-282781, 081-1965212.

## Wanted

### WANTED: CHEROKEE

And Grand Cherokee. Please call K. Puk with any information. Tel: 081-6774545.

### MOTORBIKE WANTED

Must be automatic. Runs and looks good. Tel: 085-8863398.

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